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THE POWERS OF A GRAND MASTER.

By CIPES.

There is nothing in Freemasonry concerning which misapprehension seems more extensively to prevail among Freemasons, than the office and the powers of a Grand Master. On the one hand, a Grand Master seems often to be regarded as if he were merely regarded as the Master of a Grand Lodge, whose office derives its existence from that of the Grand Lodge; on the other, it appears to be supposed that he possesses an absolute power, which he may exercise in the most arbitrary manner and without control. Both of these notions are utterly erroneous, are contrary to the whole spirit of Freemasonry, and betray great ignorance at once of its nature and of its history.

The office of Grand Master existed long before there was any Grand Lodge, and derives its origin from the very constitution of the Masonic Fraternity. His powers are great, but they are limited by the very landmarks of the Order, as well as by the regulations of the Grand Lodge over which he presides; and in the exercise of them he is subject to the control of assembled brethren, according to that principle of liberty and brotherhood on which the whole system of Freemasonry is based.

The fourth landmark of the Order is the government of the Fraternity by a Grand Master, elected from the body of the Craft. "No brother can be a Warden, until he has passed the part of a Fellow Craft; nor a Master, until he has acted as Warden, nor Grand Warden, until he has been Master of a Lodge; nor a Grand Master, unless he has been a Fellow Craft before his election." The fifth landmark is the prerogative of Grand Master to preside over every assembly of the Craft, wheresoever and whensoever held. It is in virtue of this landmark, derived from ancient usage, and not of any special enactment, that the Grand Master assumes the chair, or, as it is called in Scotland, the throne, at every communication of the Grand Lodge, and that he is also entitled to preside at every communication of any lodge holding charter of the Grand Lodge, when he may happen to be present. The sixth landmark

is the prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for conferring degrees at irregular times, without the usual probation, so that a candidate may be initiated at once. This prerogative anciently belonged to all Masters, before the enactment of a law requiring probation. The R.W. Masters of lodges no longer possess it, although an assembled lodge in a case of emergency may, but the Grand Master possesses it unimpaired. The seventh landmark is the prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for opening and holding lodges, "lodges under dispensations," which are created by him at his pleasure, and which he in like manner can dissolve. The eighth landmark is the prerogative of the Grand Master to make Freemasons at sight, which follows of necessary consequence from that just noticed, for whenever a Grand Master grants his dispensation to an unchartered lodge to dispense with the necessary probation, and personally presides at the conferring of the degree, he virtually makes a Mason at sight.

Such are the powers of the Grand Master; ancient and unquestionable powers, secured by the very landmarks of the Order. Beyond these, however, he has no power but what is conferred by special statute or regulation of the Grand Lodge over which he has been elected to preside. Nothing can be more contrary to all principles of Freemasonry, than the notion apparently entertained by some, that the Grand Master can make a Freemason "at sight," without the presence or concurrence of any of his brethren; that he can, if he so chooses, retire with the candidate into a private room, and there at once confer the degrees of Freemasonry upon him. A Freemason can only be made in a lodge, and the Grand Master's only mode of exercising his prerogative of making Freemasons at sight, is by summoning to his assistance at least six other Masons, constituting a lodge by which the degrees are then conferred *on sight* of the candidate, without any previous probation. This commonly takes place when sovereigns or princes are admitted into the Masonic body. When the purpose for which the lodge has been constituted is fulfilled, it is dissolved by the Grand Master. A lodge thus convened and constituted for a special purpose, is called an occasional lodge. The Grand Master's prerogative, according to the seventh landmark, entitles him to convene such a lodge at his pleasure, but he has no right to confer Masonic degrees except in a lodge duly constituted. Individually, he has no more power in this matter than any other member of the Craft; he must act with the concurrence of a number of brethren sufficient to constitute a lodge. The power of convening an occasional lodge for a special purpose has been often exercised, especially in England, when a member of the Royal Family was to be made a Freemason, but it has never been exercised otherwise than in the manner just described. The Grand Master's prerogative of making a Freemason at sight, is thus subject to a most important and necessary limitation, a limitation without which it might be abused to the entire subversion of the first principles of the Order, and would in fact be, in its very nature, inconsistent with them.

The Grand Master presides in the Grand Lodge at any communication of a lodge holding charter from it at which he may happen to be present. But he presides because his brethren have appointed him to preside. He is elected to his office, which may be likened to that of the President of a Republic, rather than to that of an

absolute monarch, who occupies his throne by right of conquest or by hereditary descent. He has no despotic authority. In the lodge, he is amongst brethren, not amongst subjects. He is the chairman of the meeting, and it belongs to him to maintain order. He may call a brother to order who is guilty of any irregularity in conduct or in speech, and he is entitled to expect the fullest support of the assembled brethren in doing so. He is entitled to interrupt any brother who, in speaking on any question, introduces things plainly irrelevant to it, and, if necessary to compel him to be silent. It belongs to him, also, to put questions to the vote, and to declare the result, but he has not the power of preventing a question from being brought before the lodge. When the nature of the question is such as it is proper for the lodge to consider, he has not the power of preventing the fair discussion of it; he has not the power of determining it himself, but must put it to the vote; and if there is any uncertainty as to the mind of the lodge, the roll must be called, that each brother present may vote in answer to his name. The Grand Master has not the power of refusing to allow the roll to be called when there seems to be a difficulty of ascertaining the judgment of the assembled brethren, for this power, if admitted, would make him virtually despotic, and the bringing of a question before the lodge at all, would be a mere farce. In like manner, if a pretext is taken by any brother against the decision of the lodge, it must be taken. It is THE PRIVILEGE OF EVERY BROTHER TO PROTEST WHEN HE THINKS IT NECESSARY TO DO SO, and the Grand Master has no more power than any other member of the Craft to shut his mouth, and to refuse him the privilege of protesting.

Nothing could be more fatal to the interests of Freemasonry than to invest the Grand Master with despotic power, or in other words with power to debar the members of the Fraternity from the exercise of the rights which belong to them as such. It would, in fact, be a subversion of the whole system of Freemasonry. The Grand Master is the officer and organ of the Craft, and is responsible to his brethren. He is placed at the head not merely of the Grand Lodge, but of the whole Craft. He is never styled "Grand Master of the Grand Lodge," but always "Grand Master of Masons." The election of the Grand Master by the Grand Lodge, is a mere arrangement of convenience, which was first adopted in England in 1717, and has since been adopted in Scotland and other countries. The power exercised by the Grand Lodge in the election of Grand Master is to be regarded as a mere delegated power. As to his responsibility to the Craft for the discharge of the duties of his office, nothing can be plainer than the language of one of the regulations adopted in 1721:—"If the Grand Master should abuse his power, and render himself unworthy of the obedience and subjection of the lodges, he shall be treated in a way and manner to be agreed upon in a new regulation; because hitherto the ancient Fraternity have had no occasion for it, their former Grand Masters having all behaved themselves worthy of that honourable office." No new regulation on this subject, however, has yet been made or found necessary. Grand Masters having always conducted themselves in a manner generally satisfactory to the Craft, showing respect to the landmarks, and duly recognising the rights and privileges of their brethren.

Freemasons are free men. Their whole system

is one of liberty, although it is one of order also, and in no community have order and liberty ever been more perfectly reconciled. Their office-bearers, particularly Masters and Wardens, Grand Masters, and Grand Wardens, are appointed for the maintenance of order, and to secure to every member of the Craft the full enjoyment of his rights and privileges. The Freemason is under no monkish vow of absolute obedience, he is not like a Jesuit bound to obey the commands of a superior, in whose hands he is taught to regard it as his highest merit to serve as a mere tool—as a stick in a man's hand. The Grand Master of Masons does not occupy a position in the least degree resembling that of the General Order of the Jesuits.

The views which we have stated as to the office, powers, and responsibilities of the Grand Master, are founded on the essential principles of Freemasonry and on its ancient landmarks. The regulation of 1721, just quoted, affords the strongest possible confirmation of them. It might not have been necessary to state them at all, if notions very opposite to them were not prevalent, notions the prevalence of which is extremely to be regretted, because they are inconsistent with that sense of liberty and dignity which every Freemason ought to possess; and because, if the Grand Master himself in any measure adopt them, they necessarily lead him to an extreme and arbitrary exercise of authority, on occasions such as must sometimes arise in every lodge or Grand Lodge, the very occasions on which a full recognition of the rights of every individual member is most important.

CIPES.

NEGLECT OF GRAND VISITATIONS.

By Bro. J. B. TAYLOR.

Among the many causes which have operated to reduce, as it were, the standard of Masonic principles among the Craft, there is, perhaps, no single cause which has exerted a greater influence than the neglect of the Gr. Officers to visit and instruct the Lodges, thereby encouraging them to raise their standard of work high, and lead them to seek for and practise the moral principles of our institution.

Is it reasonable to expect from a lodge that has not been visited for years, perfect work—in some lodges which have been in operation two or three years and have not received an official visit from a Grand Officer since the installation of their first W. Master, and he was, perhaps, a novice, having the responsible duties of his office to learn, and that without a competent instructor or one duly authorized?

To such an extent has this prevailed in some sections of our country, that some Masters are so imperfectly qualified in the lectures and charges that they are driven to the expediency of postponing them to a future occasion, and so, gradually falling into a disuse of them. The result is, the work of such a Lodge becomes gradually imperfect, and its members are not able to work their way into strange Lodges, from defective instruction, when there is no voucher at hand.

Is this as it should be? Certainly it is not, and the remedy at once suggests itself—let it be applied where needed and the result will be welcomed by all.

Let the Lodges look to the proficiency of the applicant for the second or third degrees in the preceding one, and we shall soon see a marked difference in work wherever this is attended to.

INFORMATION WANTED.

In July, 1868, Joseph Palmer, who was made a Mason in Gibraltar, and subsequently affiliated with the Downshire Lodge, No. 594, in Liverpool, England, left the latter port for the United States, in company with a servant woman. His wife was left without means, and has not heard of or from him since his desertion. As it is possible he may visit some Lodge in this country, any brother who can give information of his whereabouts to Mrs. Palmer, care of Mr. Scott (Past Master of Downshire Lodge), No. 92, Pitt street, Liverpool, England, will confer a great favor and forward the ends of justice.—*Pomeroy's Democrat*, New York.

[We believe the above-named individual was relieved at the October meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence with £20.]—ED. F.

THE INTERNATIONAL MASONIC FETE AT LIEGE.

We have great pleasure in placing before our readers a translation of the Minutes of the Lodge la Parfaite Intelligence et de l'Etoile Reunies at Liege, under whose auspices the brilliant *fête* to the foreign brethren was held during the late Tir International. The friendship which exists between the British and Belgian nations is clearly exemplified by the reception accorded to King Leopold II., who is now in this country, and we trust that such feelings of amity and mutual respect may ever prevail amongst the two peoples. For the original minutes we are indebted to our accomplished Bro. Captain Francis George Irwin, Provincial Junior Grand Warden, Somersetshire, and P.D.G. Warden, Andalusia.

In the name and under the auspices of the Grand Orient of Belgium.

To all Masons spread over the surface of the earth—Unity, Fraternity, and Health.

The 19th day of the ninth month in the year of the True Light 5869, the respectable Lodge of St. John, regularly constituted at the Orient of Liege under the distinctive title of the "Parfaite Intelligence et de l'Etoile Reunies," held a special assembly, duly convoked and fraternally gathered together, in a very secure and enlightened place where silence, peace, and charity reign, at the hour of mid-day.

The lodge was opened in the usual manner in the first degree by Bro. Lafontaine, W. Master, illumining the East; by Bro. Marquet, S. Warden, and Bro. Bonniver, J. Warden, illumining the West; by Bro. F. Grün, Orator, Bro. Docteur, Secretary, and all the other officers and members of the lodge, duly clothed and occupying their respective places. * * * *

The *fêtes* at Liege have not passed over without Freemasonry deriving some advantages therefrom. The Lodge *La Parfaite Intelligence et l'etoile reunies* of this Orient having resolved to hold a solemn and especial meeting in honour of the foreign masonic volunteers and riflemen present at Liege, and this *fête* having been announced in the principal journals of Europe, the brethren assembled in great numbers at the place of meeting of the Lodge, on Sunday, the 19th of September last, about six o'clock p.m. At seven o'clock the W.M., Bro. Lafontaine, opened the lodge in the presence of a large number of Belgian brethren assembled from all the Orients of the country. The foreign brethren were then introduced in the customary manner under the arch of steel, preceded by the Master of the Ceremonies, the gavel sounding the usual Masonic battery.

The W. MASTER bade them welcome in the name of the lodge of Liege in particular and of Belgian Masonry in general, with affectionate sentiments impressed with a frank cordiality and the purest Masonic spirit. He said it was the province of Freemasonry to unite, without cessation, nations the most widely separated, in order to make them understand that all men are brothers. In this, the lodge of Liege only followed the example formerly given by the Lodge of Berne at the Congress for the Promotion of Social Science, by the lodges of Paris during the Exhibition of 1867, and finally by the Lodge of Brussels at the last international rifle meeting. In spite of the obstacles which politics and even nature raised between nations, sooner or later they remembered that they are sisters, and it is the mission of Masonry to prove that such is the case. He therefore invited the brethren to consider themselves at home, and thanked them for having responded with so much promptness to the summons of the Lodge of Liege.

The foreign brethren replied with a Masonic fire.

The visitors who were Past Masters took their places in the East, and all the brethren then seated themselves. The room presented a fairy aspect—the French national guard, the Belgian civic guard, the *chasseur éclairé*, officers of the volunteers of Brussels, Ghent, &c., were mingled with English and Scotch volunteers in their brilliant and varied uniforms. Upwards of 600

brethren of various nations were present, the English, French and Belgians predominating in numbers.

The W.M. then called upon Bro. KARL GRÜN, jun., the Orator of the Lodge of Liege, who expressed himself as follows:—

Very dear and very illustrious Brethren,—Those who have the gratification of being present at a meeting like this, where the Masonic deputies of several great European nations are assembled, can return in spirit to the profane world with a legitimate sentiment of pride. They will be able to contemplate with unmingled satisfaction this great Masonic Association which covers like a vast network the whole of the globe. Wherever civilization has planted its standard, wherever the human race has pushed its conquests, Masonry has cast its mighty anchors. France reckons at the present time 220 lodges, Germany 287, England 1200, Belgium and the Netherlands 80, Switzerland 27, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark 12; the United States shine in the first rank by the number of their temples, they have 4000, Brazil has 65, Italy 45, Egypt and Tunis 7, Persia, Turkey, China, and the Indies have also their lodges: besides which a multitude of islands and sea-ports have erected columns in order to build the Temple. The entire globe actually contains nearly 9000 lodges, and several millions of brethren. The vivifying institutions of Masonry extend from pole to pole. The gavel of the W. Master, the joyous "battery" of the two columns, the words of peace and concord of the brethren, everywhere resound. Masonry girdles the earth with a fraternal chain. If after having yielded to this sentiment of pleasure, based on the knowledge of our strength, we ask ourselves what can be the reason of this cosmopolitan nature of Freemasonry? Oh! then a subject of satisfaction much greater still is reserved for us. It is, that Masonry by its own essential merits elevates itself above all barriers, and overleaps the narrow limits which separate nationalities, in order to proclaim this axiom—that human nature is one; that all men are equal, and respect themselves from the moment that they have felt vibrate within their hearts that principle of human dignity which constitutes man, in the fullness of his development, the crown and summit of the creation. And this unity of human nature is shown externally in the normal man by that instinctive cry which the great poet Goethe uttered when dying, "Light, more light!" Light should take the place of darkness; thus do we see the sun of truth illumining with its thousand rays human existence in general, and individual life in particular. It penetrates the most secret recesses of the heart, as well as the cabinets of statesmen and the laboratories of art and science. Frequently the light shines suddenly like a flash of lightning, and burns to the very root the ruins of the past. But it often proceeds, with a quiet and sure progression, to blaze eventually in power and to scatter far and wide its marvellous lustre. Sometimes error disappears in a night, and when we awake we ask ourselves with astonishment how we have been able to tolerate it so long, sometimes it gives way but slowly, with a kind of obstinate rage, but it is finally obliged to succumb. Wherever this truth shines, light progressively increases, and liberty is the spontaneous cry of those who at one time groaned in the bonds of error, falsehood, prejudice, and superstition. It is this tendency to liberty which constitutes the progress of humanity; and who dare deny this progress? Do we not see incessantly new ideas more nearly allied to truth overthrowing former ideas? And if we look back to the right or the left, one step behind, do we not find the new shoot of the human tree producing branches still more verdant? Thus it is that reform has not only abolished a part of the errors which with many men were sacred dogmas, but it has again revived religious spirit, and produced liberty of conscience. This is what even the enemies of reform cannot deny. Onward, onward! Such is the thought of the lodges, and under this powerful impulse all the brethren set to work; each one brings his stone to the edifice, which is ever rising without ever being finished. It is progress which we elaborate in our lodges; always in advance of the profane world by several stages, we prepare the realities of to-morrow by our theories of to-day. It is the fever of work, the incessant march towards the promised land, so beautifully described by the great Victor Hugo, thus—

O'er the vast earth, through barren wastes of sand,
Or charmed with odours from the meadow'd land,
Linked in procession under heaven's blue arch,
Behold the race of man in endless march;
Eternal travelling spirits bound to roam,
And yet on earth they never find a home.
One lifts the banner, others rear on high
The holy ark of godlike liberty;
Thought answers thought, in voices like the roar
Of giant waves upon a rock-ribbed shore:
But still in their career they bear along
Laws, manners, customs, science, art, and song.
What means this sacred journey? It is known

As Human Progress. From the frigid zone
Of ignorance and vice the pilgrims haste
To one with knowledge, light, and wisdom graced;
From time to time, o'ercome with solemn fear,
They falter in the race, but soon appear
Again in motion. By their mutual cries
And mutual help they win the victories.
Onward they go—scene following after scene,
And Alps succeeding Alps, with vales between,
While new horizons rise before the view
They still pursue their march in order due;
But at the summit, or the wished-for goal,
When shall arrive the restless Human Soul?*

It is this tendency towards perfection in one's-self, the interest which we take in all real progress, and the struggle undertaken for the conquest of intellectual liberty which constitute the wisdom of which we Masons call ourselves the disciples. Far from placing itself in the same narrow point of view with religious and political parties, on the contrary, Masonry advances to the conquest and maintenance of intellectual liberty, systematically setting aside those points of view. Humanity, at first sight, appears only a prey to the contentions of a hundred different parties. But if the picture be examined more closely, it will be discovered that humanity no longer presents itself as the reunion of pieces of a broken mirror, but much rather as an organization in which the parties are in agitation, but perfect themselves reciprocally in order to form a harmonious whole. It is the consciousness of this ideal unity of humanity which is the true basis of Freemasonry, and it is this idea which she should always seek to preserve. The lodges of all Orients include aristocrats and democrats, pietists and free-thinkers, monarchists and republicans, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Mahometans, and Hindoos; Liberals and Conservatives—in short, the representatives of all religious and political shades. Whence, then, in spite of this apparent disunion, comes the intelligence of the Lodge? From the intellectual liberty of each of the Brethren! Freemasons raise themselves above the narrow platform of the profane world; they set aside the domestic struggles of nation with nation, faith with faith, and party with party; they study all the great questions of morals, philosophy, politics, and religion from a superior point of view, and with the light of reason; they seek truth with an eye to general interest without preconceived opinion and without partiality. Thus, by elevating themselves in a vigorous manner above profane spheres, all the brethren can shake hands. It then follows that they no longer acknowledge more than one religion—that of the heart; and have but one divine service—that of truth and love, which they owe to their fellows. They form but one political party which demands everywhere and always, the rights of man and intellectual liberty, by which alone we can hope to draw near the truth. The convictions which we do not share—and here I would be understood to say, honest convictions, acquired by a sincere search after truth—have not only a right to our tolerance but also to our respect, and we ought properly to admit them to the same title as our own. Intellectual liberty understood in this manner is the most precious jewel of lodges; it constitutes in itself the whole secret of Freemasonry. Let it then be the device inscribed on the banner around which all the friends of the true light have just fraternally assembled; let them be nevertheless in politics and religion, what their individual conscience directs them to be. It is the universal nature of Masonry, viewed in the light that I am about to demonstrate it, which renders our association eternal, and which has made it accomplish so many great things in history. It is this nature which since the constitution of York in 926, has made it in Germany and England, first a sanctuary where the artistic ideal was cultivated, and which afterwards caused all those fine Gothic cathedrals to rise which cover Europe; and also at a later period developed a school of moral philosophy, unique and sublime. It is this which has made it in the United States a feature of the union amongst a thousand modes of worship opposed to each other. It is this which under different aspects has exalted Italy above the yoke of all other powers. It is this which for forty years has saved Belgium from clerical domination, the spectre of the middle ages, which utters cries of rage from the gulf into which it has been precipitated; it is, in fine, this influence, which by an almost marvellous concurrence of circumstances produced that great and admirable French revolution, which has been the most splendid practical consecration of Masonic ideas the world has ever beheld. If it were permitted for me to frame a wish as to the way in which I should wish to see modern Freemasonry engaged, I would say, let us occupy ourselves above all things with education and peace. Instruction, my brethren, is the knot of all the pending questions of the day; it is the hinge especially of that terrible social question, which rises up anew on the horizon of nations. Let us then educate the

* We are indebted to Bro. R. Wentworth Little for this paraphrase of Victor Hugo's lines.

masses, both men and women, especially the latter; let us enlighten them again now and for ever, let this be the care of every moment. We have seen with pleasure, France stirred at the voice of Bro. T. Mace, and actively engage herself with this popular question of instruction still so neglected. Seven years ago we founded in Belgium, that *line of teaching*, which Bro. Mace has succeeded in introducing into France, and the model of which we ourselves had taken from the Dutch society, "*Tot 'A' nut vant algemeen.*" Italy has just entered, likewise, into this path. Here at Liege, in our limited circle, we hold conferences every winter, forming complete instruction. These conferences create a neutral ground, my brethren, a ground which shall be Masonic in every country, for where is the Mason who would ever dare to deny the necessity and utility of instruction. Education is that light of which I spoke just now, by which we can overcome and disperse the darkness which surrounds us. The second point to which I desire to call your attention is peace! Let us employ our thousands of lodges and millions of brethren to one mighty effort to render the sanguinary butcheries of war henceforth impossible; the recurrence of which we still dread, even in the middle of the nineteenth century, and which are a shameful anachronism at our epoch of civilization. Let us fight against national prejudices, and eradicate those secular antipathies amongst peoples which nothing can justify. Let us teach a lesson to men who injure all, especially the conqueror, and let us proclaim that there is only one just and holy war—that which a people undertakes to defend their liberty against oppression. Here again, we shall all be able to tender the hand to each other and act in concert, for war is a most anti-masonic practice, it is the reverse of that law inscribed in all morals and in every religion,

"Love each other as brothers and sisters."

The most precious result of the cosmopolitan nature of Freemasonry, is the solidity which unites all the brethren, the fraternity which makes them all as the members of one and the same family; the fraternity which knows how to redress gently the wrongs of the brother, without feebleness, but also without asperity. Masonry knows no such word as "stranger" a Mason is everywhere at home; in every clime where a Masonic hand meets his, when travelling, he repairs to the Lodge of the East, where he finds himself as much at home as in the house of his parents. Does he want information, aid, help? he knows where to find it, and have we not seen in the thickest of the battle, when two hostile armies precipitate themselves on one another to exterminate and destroy; have we not seen, I say, the sign of distress appear, and the soldier just before ready to slaughter his adversary, offer a friendly hand and save him? The reason is that the Masonic fraternity is not one of command or interest, as in certain religious orders; it is a real fraternity, based on the esteem that the brethren have for each another. An Indian proverb says,

"The greatest enemy of mankind is man."

The Redskin who utters this exclamation, without discussing the matter further, can perhaps be excused up to a certain point. He knows no other humanity than that in the far West, where man is obliged to dispute his dinner with his fellow with the tomahawk or the carbine. Unfortunately, this deplorable philosophy has found its way into Europe. How many wealthy men are there not who affirm, without knitting their brows, that fraternity does not exist, and that the most generous men are moved only by ideas like these. "Go away from there, that I may take thy place; each for himself, and God for all." Now it is incumbent on us masons, who have sworn to aid and succour each other in every circumstance of life, to oppose a barrier to this demoralizing tendency which is spreading more and more. It is incumbent on us to show by our acts that we believe in fraternity, and that we repel egotism. Humanity is bound up in common interests, my brethren; and evil can but result to her when she forgets that devotedness, charity and mutual assistance are necessary to her existence and her development! And you, very dear and illustrious brethren, who have come to us as visitors from the lodges that circle the earth, do you not feel happier than the profane friends who have accompanied you in your excursion. You not only have come to rejoice in your skill as marksmen, but also to fraternize with the Liege branch of our great Masonic family, and when you return you will carry back to your hearths (at least such is our fervent hope), the remembrance which a brother bears who has pressed the hand of a well-beloved brother. Let us concentrate for a moment all our attention on this point. What is perhaps to day the highest and best justified ambition of a well-thinking man, is to be able to live happy and free in a free state, not only in a political view, but especially above all in a moral view of the philosophical family. No where has this ideal been better realized than in Freemasonry; it is a free state in the midst of human struggles, and all its citizens are happy and free. It will be still a long time before the profane world

attains the Masonic ideal, even if it ever does; let us therefore congratulate ourselves on possessing a safe retreat, where we can live in the plenitude of our liberty and cherish this Masonic Institution, venerable in its age and human principles. Let us love it with all our strength, let us ameliorate and develop it unceasingly, for only that which improves and transforms itself can exist in perpetuity. As for those who excommunicate, scoff at and calumniate us, and as for all the emanations of the evils pertaining to our persecution, while we march, let us content ourselves with answering them by our ancient rallying cry *Semper vivat!*

The Worshipful Master interrupting the applauses which had been several times repeated, ordered a Masonic fire of thanks to the Orator. Then, on a sign from the Worshipful Master, the door at the end of the room opened and one could see beyond a second double folding-door open, the banqueting hall brilliantly illuminated, and where were placed four long series of tables covered with shrubs and flowers.

The Orator preceded by stars, led the way to the banqueting hall, and his colleagues formed in procession behind him.

During the whole of the time that the ceremony of drinking toasts in honor of the foreign brethren lasted, the greatest fraternity and the most perfect order prevailed.

The following are the toasts which were given on this occasion:—1st. The toast of the Worshipful Master to the foreign brethren, a toast of thanks, hope and fraternity. This toast was answered by an English Brother and a French one.

The English Brother, Capt. IRWIN, Prov. J.G.W. Somersetshire, congratulated himself on having his ideas in perfect accordance with his brother orator, and should be happy if he were able to communicate this impression to the brethren in England; he thanked the Lodge of Liege for the fraternal reception which it had given to the English riflemen, and as a proof of gratitude he would propose to the lodge of which he was a member to name the Worshipful Bro. Lafontaine an honorary member of the lodge.

Brother ROY-GUIBER, on behalf of the French Masons thanked, in his turn, the Lodge of Liege. He expressed a wish that the fête might soon be returned at Paris, and added that the French intend not only to imitate the Belgians with respect to an International Shooting Match, but also to follow them in the path of liberty. (Enthusiastic and long-continued applause). He too, would propose to the lodge of which he was a member to receive Brother Lafontaine as an honorary member, out of gratitude for the brilliant reception made to the French brethren by the Lodge of Liege.

Brother VAN DAMME, from the Lodge of Ghent, returned thanks on behalf of the Belgian visitors.

Brother DE LEAN D'ANDREMONT, from the Orient of Brussels, proposed a hearty toast in honor of Brother Oscar Masset, a member of the Lodge of Liege, and to whom the town owed the shooting fête. It was he who had been the promoter and mainspring of this great event.

Brother LAFONTAINE drank to the health of Bro. Henry M'chet, of the Orient of Paris, the promoter of the movement which had brought the National Guards to the Liege Shooting ground. Brother MICHEL expressed his thanks by a few cordial words.

Finally, the WORSHIPFUL MASTER gave the usual toast to all Masons spread over the surface of the two hemispheres; he then circulated the Almoner's box for the poor, and closed the lodge.

All the English speeches were translated into French by Brother Forgeur, of the Lodge of Liege.

This fraternal International Fête will remain engraven in the remembrances of all those who took part in it, as much on account of its humanitarian objects, as by the complete success and unexceptional beauty which attended the entire proceedings.

THE FREEMASON'S CALENDAR for 1870 is now ready, and may be had at the Grand Secretary's Office, Freemasons' Hall, and of all Booksellers.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Grand Stewards' Lodge.—This lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, the 17th inst., Bro. Henry Norman, W.M., E. J. Page, S.W., and March, pro. J.W. Six new members were separately balloted for, and unanimously elected, viz., Bro. Warr (No 23) N. Claridge (No 6), Meggy, G.S. (No. 21), Maxwell Head, G.S., and Francis, respectively of (No. 8). Bro. Page was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Spencer, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treas., and Bro. J. S. Ranning was in like manner, elected Steward to represent this lodge at the ensuing annual festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The lodge afterwards had its usual banquet. This lodge is restricted to Present and Past Grand Stewards. The joining premium is one guinea, and the annual subscriptions two guineas, including in both cases, G. Lodge dues.

Tuscan Lodge, No. 14.—This lodge met on Tuesday, the 23rd inst., under the presidency of Bro. Frank Richardson, W.M.; Cornwell S.W., and Walter Richardson, P.M., as J.W. Bro. Cornwell was unanimously elected W.M. for the year ensuing, Bro. Glover, P.M., was also unanimously re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Wm. Bristow, J.W., was in the like manner elected Steward for the Boys' School, at the next annual festival. The W.M. proposed two candidates for initiation at the next lodge and also a joining brother and there being time, the lecture on the tracing-board in the second degree was given. The members afterwards adjourned to the tavern and partook of the customary banquet.

Old King's Arms Lodge, No. 23.—The second regular meeting of this old and influential lodge took place at Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 22nd inst., Bro. E. Farmer, W.M., in the chair, supported by Bros. G. H. Wright, I.P.M., and his officers; C. Tighe, S.W.; J. Horwood J.W.; S. H. Miller, J.D.; H. B. Dunn, I.G. There was also present a goodly number of old and well-known P.M.'s, viz., Bros. W. Paas, Treas.; W. Jaques, Sec.; J. G. Marsh, and Geo. Gurney, including also Bro. R. Farquharson, a respected Hon. Member of nearly twenty years' standing, some minor matters of business having been disposed of, the lodge proceeded to the election of Master for the ensuing year, which resulted in the election of Bro. Tighe, S.W., being carried *nemine contradicente*, and Bro. Paas, who has filled the office of Treasurer for many years so much to the satisfaction of the brethren, was again re-elected to that responsible office, there being no other business, the lodge was closed in ample form. The brethren then retired to refreshment, under the presidency of the W.M. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to with much effect, including one for the Masonic Charities, which was ably responded to by Bro. Patten, P.G.S.B., and the respected Sec. of the Girls' School, who happened to be the only visitor present, and who was successful (as is usual in this lodge), in obtaining the name of a brother to serve the office of Steward to that institution at the forthcoming festival, in the person of Bro. Horwood, J.W. During the evening, Bro. R. Farquharson delighted the company with his usual talent, in singing several beautiful songs, with the piano-forte as an accompaniment, which added much to the enjoyment of the evening. In the course of the evening Bro. J. Wheeler, P.M., presented to the lodge a handsome album, which is intended to contain the photographs of all the members, and which we trust will be carefully presented and handed down as a memento to future generations. The brethren retired from the festive board at an early hour, after having spent a delightful evening.

Lodge of Temperance, No. 169.—The usual monthly meeting of this old lodge was held at the White Swan Tavern, 217, High Street, Deptford, on Thursday, Nov. 18th. Bro. J. D. Woodland, W.M., presided, and in an able manner initiated Mr. Cole into Freemasonry. Apologies were received from the other candidates for their absence, and the lodge was then closed. There were present Bros. A. Pulley, S.W.; Marshall, J.W.; G. Brown, P.M., Treas.; J. T. Tibbels, P.M., Sec.; J. Rosenstock, S.D.; Tipsett, J.D.; T. Littlecot, I.G.; G. Bolton, P.M.; J. Barrett, P.M.; N. Wingfield, P.M.; and others. Visitors: F. Walters, P.M. (73), W.M. (871); R. G. Batt, W.M. (147); C. G. Dilley (147); J. Roper (147); J. Carver (1153); and others. The proceeds of the charity box were given to the unfortunate Tyler, Bro. J. L. Winn, P.M. (147), who lies in a dying state.

Oak Lodge, No. 190.—On Wednesday evening, 17th inst., this lodge (removed from Radley's), held its first meeting for the session, at the Freemasons' Hall, under the presidency of Bro. H. W. Hemsworth, W.M., who was re-elected Master for the ensuing year. Bro. T. D. P. Jones, cashier of the Union Bank of London, was elected Treas. Mr. W. J. Philp was then initiated, and Bros. Kembell and Hogg were passed to the second degree by Bro. Morris, P.M., in his usual efficient manner. Bros. Cuthbert, Bisson and Mercer were subsequently admitted as joining members; the W.M. in presenting the latter to the lodge, expressed the pleasure he felt in introducing him. This brother is at the present time well-known as the Hon. Sec. to the committee for the reception of their majesties the King and Queen of the Belgians, he had likewise acted in the same capacity to the Anglo-Belgian Committee at Liege. Bro. Mercer is one of the most eminent public portrait painters of the day. His last great work was a portrait of Wright, the philanthropist, painted for the city of Manchester. Sir Charles Barry, the celebrated architect of the Houses of Parliament, was formerly a member of the Oak Lodge, and the W.M. hoped that Bro. Mercer would move as great an honour to the lodge as that distinguished gentleman. After four hours' work, the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and it is but due

to Bro. Gosden to say that the banquet was served in the most *recherche* style to the satisfaction of all present.

Lodge of Israel, No. 205.—This numerous and influential lodge held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday last, in the lodge room at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, when the highly efficient Master, the Worshipful Bro. J. Chamberlin, ably supported by Bros. M. J. Emanuel, S.W.; H. M. Harris, J.W.; A. M. Cohen, P.M., Sec.; Turner, S.D.; Van Denbosch, J.D.; Hogard I.G., and P.M.'s Stanton Jones, J. M. Harris, Coote, and P.M. Harris, who, in his usual impressive manner, initiated Messrs. Donald, Deacon, Richardson, Collins and Willing into our mysteries; conferred the degree of F.C. on Bro. Mawbey, and that of M.M. on Bro. Cohen, after which a long and tedious debate ensued respecting an alteration in the by-laws. A poor brother (after a strict examination) who was going to a situation in the country was liberally assisted, and the lodge was closed in the usual form with solemn prayer, and adjourned to Thursday, the 2nd prox, when an emergency meeting will be held for the initiation of several gentlemen on the list of candidates, and other business. The only visitors present were the W. Bros. Weaver, Master of the Whittington, and H. N. Levy, P.M. Joppa. We cannot conclude without bearing testimony to the careful attention paid to the requirements (in the shape of refreshments), of the brethren by the W. Bro. J. Hart's nephew and his assistants.

Whittington Lodge, 862.—The Installation Meeting of this united and prosperous lodge was held on Monday, the 15th, at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet Street, when a very large number of brethren attended to welcome the accession to the royal chair of Brother James Weaver, whose abilities in the musical profession are so well known, and whose masonic acquirements and gentlemanly demeanour are equally appreciated by his brethren in Freemasonry. Among the visitors were Brothers Col. Burdett, P.G.W. representative from the Grand Lodge of Ireland; John Hervey, P.G.D., Grand Secretary of England; E. H. Patten P.G.S.B.; J. Smith P.G. Furst; F. Binckes P.G. Steward; C. Coote, Sen.; C. Coote, Jun.; E. Stanton Jones; H. Johnson, C.C., and about twelve other brethren. Brother D. J. Davies, W.M., passed Brother Waither to the second degree, and Brother Brett, P.M., Asst. G. Adutt, P.M., initiated Mr. Leon after which he proceeded with the installation of Brother James Weaver, W.M. elect who was installed in the presence of about eighteen Past Masters. On the re-admission of the brethren the usual salutes were given, and the Officers for the ensuing year were then appointed or invested as follows:—Bros. S. S. Davies, S.W.; J. Salisbury, J.W.; J. G. Thompson, P.M. Treas.; R. W. Little, P.M. Sec.; Rev. J. W. Laughlin, P.J. Chap., Herts, Chaplain; W. J. H. Jones, S.D.; A. Frickehaus, J.D.; W. F. Smith, I.G.; B. Sceleg, D.C.; J. Brett, P.M., Wine Steward. The installing Master then delivered the addresses in the style for which he is so renowned in the Masonic world, and after the transaction of some formal business the Lodge was closed. The brethren then adjourned to the banquetting room, where a sumptuous dinner was provided under the immediate supervision of Brother G. Smith the efficient manager. Ample justice having been done to the good things provided, and the cloth having been removed, the W.M. gave in happy terms our gracious Queen's health, which was loyally received. A similar compliment was accorded to that of the Grand Master, whose popularity was perhaps never so great as at present. The Dep. Grand Master, Lord de Grey, and the other Grand Officers is a toast always well received, and no deficiency in this respect can be laid to the charge of the *Whittingtonians*; on this occasion, however, the presence of such esteemed brethren as Col. Burdett, John Hervey, E. H. Patten, and Joseph Smith as representatives of the Grand Lodge stimulated the enthusiasm of the brethren to fever heat, and quite a demonstration of applause ensued. A suitable response having been returned, the W.M. in appropriate terms proposed the health of the "Initiate," and Brother Adutt replied with evident feeling. Bro. Davies, I.P.M., then introduced the toast of the "W. Master," whose name elicited loud cheers from all parts of the room. When the applause had subsided the toast was drunk with all the honours, and one of the musical brethren favoured the company with a choice *morceau* on the piano-forte. Brother Weaver then rose and said:—Brethren, I thank you very sincerely for having drunk my health; believe me I feel the compliment you have paid me to night greatly. Indeed I think the greatest compliment that could possibly be given to a brother is to elect him unanimously Master of his lodge, more especially if there is not a blank in the ballot box when opened. This, brethren, is the manner in which you have elected me, and again I thank you sincerely. Our worthy Bro. P.M. Laughlin, Chaplain of our lodge, has told you that I have gone through the whole of the offices, commencing from the very bottom of the ladder. He is quite correct, and as we have several young Masons here to-night, it may not be out of place to give you my Masonic career in this my mother lodge. I was initiated in March 1833, passed April, and raised in May, in the same year. My first appointment was that of Organist, which I have retained throughout the whole time; having once been appointed an officer of our lodge, my ambition then was to go up the ladder until I reached the roof of the building. I was informed that the post of Organist was stationary. However in due time I held my first progressive appointment as Wine Steward, a very honourable office, and the easiest of any, for, I assure you brethren that I never ordered a bottle of wine for the Banquet Table during my year of office, Bro. P.M. Brett, took special care of that, and quite right to, because I being inexperienced in my duties I might have flourished the wine vouchers in such a manner as to get myself into disgrace and the lodge into difficulties, (no, I do not mean difficulties, we are to well amused with

experienced and careful Past Masters to allow that, I should have said debt) thanks to Bro. Brett, I steered clear of that difficulty. My next appointment was that of J.D., (I did not fill the office of I.G.), then S.D., J.W., S.W., and now W.M. I have to-night put my foot on the roof of the building and it shall not be through my own folly or wantonness that shall cause me to fall, but the ladder still reaches beyond the roof, and it is my intention to endeavour to get to the top round, but of course must wait for time and circumstances, during the years of my several offices I have done the best that laid in my power, to fulfil the duties appointed to each. It is very difficult for a musical man to keep any but business appointments in the evening, as his profession always occupies him at that time, but during my year of office as W.M. I shall not neglect the lodge, and it will be some very important circumstance that will keep me away from our happy and united little lodge. The health of the Past Masters followed, and was received with great cordiality especially when the W.M. affixed a P.M.'s jewel to the breast of Bro. D. J. Davis the outgoing Master, as a mark of esteem and in recognition of his services to the lodge, Bro. Davis suitably responded. The "Visitors" the "Officers," and the "Masonic Charities" were given in due succession, and the last toast elicited a powerful speech from Bro. Binckes, who appealed warmly on behalf of the Boys' School. The Tyler's toast, at 11 o'clock, closed the proceedings of this highly successful meeting.

New Concord Lodge, No. 813.—This lodge was held on the 20th inst., at its usual place of meeting, Hoxton. The lodge was opened in due form, all the officers being present. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for the following gentlemen, Messrs. Gabb, jun., Hofbauer, Shellard and Phillips. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Mountford having shown his proficiency, retired, and the lodge being opened in the third degree he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The lodge was resumed to the first degree, and Bro. Cain being a candidate, answered the usual questions and retired, and the lodge being resumed to the second degree, he was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. The Master again resumed to the first degree, and Messrs. Taylor, Gabb, Hofbauer, and Shellard were severally initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Ancient Freemasonry. An application was made for the sanction of this lodge to a petition for a warrant for a new lodge at Canonbury, which was unanimously granted. The S.W. (Bro. Bartlett) being the Steward for the Aged and Decayed Freemasons and their Widows, was granted five pounds to be placed on his list, and the brethren very heartily responded to this appeal on behalf of the Charity. The lodge being closed in solemn form, the brethren adjourned to a very excellent supper, provided by the host, Bro. Gabb, presided over by Bro. J. Hart, W.M., assisted by his Wardens, Bros. Bartlett and Atkins. Among the visitors were, Bros. Forbs (65), Wild (172) Sheppard (27), Linn (871), Harman (73), and Muerca (27). After the cloth was withdrawn, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. Bro. J. Funnens, P.G.P., founder, and P.M., replied on behalf of the Officers, and afterwards in proposing the health of the W.M. dilated upon the very efficient manner he had performed the ceremony in the third degree. The W.M. in acknowledging the toast, expressed his pleasure that his working had given satisfaction and instruction to the brethren, and wished to convey to his officers his gratitude for their able assistance, also to Bro. Main, P.M. and Hon. Sec. The visitors severally expressed their delight at the working of the lodge in every particular. Bro. Wm Davitt, Organist, officiated during the evening, and enlivened the company with some excellent playing and singing assisted by Bros. Blyth, J.D., Taylor Wyld, &c.

PROVINCIAL.

BRISTOL.—*The Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 68.*—A meeting of this old lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Bridge-street, on Monday, the 22nd inst., and a large number of brethren were present, and the lodge was honoured with a visit from the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, the Earl of Limerick, W. A. F. Powell, S.G.D., D.P.G.M., and other members of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The various ceremonies were well worked, and the lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

IPSWICH.—*British Union Lodge, No. 114.*—The usual monthly meeting of this old established lodge was held on the 18th, at the Masonic Hall, Ipswich. Present Bros. W. Baby, P.M., W.M.; A. J. Barber, S.W.; P. Cornell, J.W.; Spalding, Sec.; and Spalding, Tyler; P.M.'s R.W. D.P.G.M. Rev. J. Lockwood, C. Schulen, and H. G. Moore. Visitor Bro. C. Davy, P.M., (225). Owing to ill health and other circumstances several brethren were prevented attending. The only business on the summons being the election of the W.M. for the ensuing year, when Bro. A. J. Barber was unanimously elected. The Treasurer (Bro. P.M. Schulen) was re-elected and Bro. Spalding, Tyler. The lodge closed and the brethren retired to the banquetting room.

SCARBOROUGH.—*Old Globe Lodge, No. 200.*—This old established lodge met on Wednesday, the 17th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Globe-street, the following officers and members being present Bro. William Peacock, W.M.; R. H. Peacock, S.W.; D. Fletcher, J.W.; H. C. Martin, P.M., P.P.G.D. Cer., Sec.; G. H. Walshaw, S.D.; W. Pattison, J.D.; G. Rudlock, I.G.; Ash, Tyler; Williamson, P.M.; S. Purr, P.M.; Groves, Green, Garnet, Harvey, We-tlake, Kendall Allen, Jay, and Armitage. Visitors, Bros. Sleela, P.M., P.P., S.W., Gloucester; Major Smythe, P.M., Deputy P.G.M., Lincoln; Captain Looock, P.M., P.P.G.S.W., Lincoln, Surtess, W.M., 1243; Stewart, 1248. The lodge was opened at 7.30 p.m. The minutes were read and confirmed. Bro. Jay passed an examination in the first degree, and retired, the lodge was opened in second degree, and Bro. Jay was re-admitted and passed to the second degree, the ceremony being most ably

and correctly rendered by the W.M. and his Officers, to whom too much praise cannot be awarded for their successful endeavour to maintain the prestige of the lodge, and keep it equal to former years. Bro. Sleede explained the tracing-board in a faultless manner which well merited the warm applause of the brethren. The lodge was then closed to the first degree, when it was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed, that five guineas be given out of the funds of the lodge, in aid of the distressed widows and orphans of the fishermen who were lost in the late gale. Hearty good wishes were expressed for the welfare of the lodge by the distinguished visitors and brethren. After which it was closed in due form and the brethren retired to refreshment. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly responded to, including the W.M.'s of the two Scarborough Lodges, 200 and 1218, to both of whom high tributes were justly paid for their many excellent qualities, the exertions they had used in bringing their lodges to their present prosperous condition, and in having so harmoniously, and ably assisted, in the getting up of successful Masonic demonstrations for the benefit of the Masonic Charities. The W.M.'s both returned thanks in a very able manner, both stated that what they had done was with a willing heart, and that they sincerely hoped their successors would do likewise, of which they had no fear. The Tyler's toast brought a very agreeable meeting to a close.

IRSWICK.—*St. Luke's Lodge No. 225.*—A special lodge was held on the 4th inst., to raise Bro. Griffith and pass Bro. Edwards. There were present Bros. C. Davy, P.M., as W.M.; J. W. Robb, S.W.; J. Turner, P.M., as J.W.; A. Barber, Sec.; T. Prentice, I.G.; and Syer, Tyler; P.M.'s J. Whitehead, A. R. Taylor, W. T. Westgate, and S. B. King, Bros. Lewis, Faver, Griffith, and Edwards. The lodge was duly opened, and Bro. Edwards was examined, prepared, and passed to the degree of F.C. and retired, the lodge was opened in the 2nd degree, when Bro. Griffith was examined and raised to the sublime degree of M.M. the ceremonies being performed by Bro. P.M. C. Davy, assisted by P.M.'s Whitehead and Westgate. The lodge closed in peace with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.—On Nov. 10th the regular monthly meeting took place. Present Bros. P. Whitehead, W.M.; J. W. Robb, S.W.; F. Turner, P.M. as J.W.; A. Barber, Sec.; C. Byford, S.D.; G. Golding, J.D.; T. Prentice, I.G.; and Syer, Tyler; P.M.'s J. Whitehead, C. Davy, Garwood, Westgate, and King; Bros. Jackson, Pratt, Meek, Griffith, R. Dance, Jackson, Honey, Skimmer, Lewis, C. W. Godball, and others. Lodge opened in 1st degree, and the minutes were read and confirmed. Bros. Dance, Jackson, and Faver were examined, prepared and passed to the degree of F.C., the ceremonies being conducted by P.M.'s J. Whitehead, Westgate, and Davy. The next and most important business was the election of the W.M. for the ensuing year, when the suffrages of the brethren fell upon Bro. J. W. Robb; the present Treasurer and Tyler were re-elected. The lodge closed down in peace, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, the usual loyal Masonic, and complimentary toasts being given, and honoured.—Nov. 17th. A lodge of emergency was called by summons, to ballot for, and if accepted to initiate Mr. G. Lance (leaving the neighbourhood), and Mr. W. Adams, Master Mariner (leaving for sea). Present, Bros. P. Whitehead, W.M.; J. W. Robb, S.W.; J. Turner, P.M. as J.W.; A. Barber, Sec.; C. Byford, S.D.; Golding, J.D.; Prentice, I.G.; Syer, Tyler; P.M.'s J. Whitehead, Taylor, Westgate, and Davy; Bros. Griffith, Dance, Godball, Lewis, Tallot, and others. The ballot being unanimous, Messrs. Dance and Adams were duly initiated, the ceremony being ably performed by P.M. J. Whitehead, the working tools explained by P.M. Westgate, the charge and lecture on the tracing board by P.M. J. Whitehead. The lodge closed in peace and the brethren retired for refreshment, and small hours were reached before all separated.

LEICESTER.—*John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 523.*—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 18th inst., under the presidency of their excellent W.M., Bro. Geo. Toller, jun., who most efficiently conducted the ceremonies of the evening. The first business, after the confirmation of the minutes, was to ballot for four gentlemen, proposed at the last lodge as candidates for Freemasonry, viz., Rev. John Halford, M.A., of Wistow, Rev. William Target Fry, M.A., curate of St. Andrew's, Leicester, Mr. Charles Whitaker, of Leicester, colonial merchant, and Mr. F. J. Smith, of Oadby, farmer, all of whom were unanimously elected. The first two gentlemen were prevented attending on this occasion, but the others being present, were severally introduced and initiated into our mysteries. On the conclusion of the ceremony the lecture on the tracing-board was delivered by the W.M., and the charge to the candidates by the D.P.G.M. The lodge was then opened in the second and third degrees, when Bro. Fletcher, who passed a most satisfactory examination as a Fellow Craft, was regularly raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the impressive effect of the solemn ceremony being greatly enhanced by a full musical service conducted by Bro. Charles Johnson, on the organ. On the lodge being closed down to the first degree, several matters of business came before the brethren, *inter alia*, a long discussion took place on a motion by the Rev. Bro. Hayercroft, D.D., on the expediency of either having the present organ, (which was purchased by subscription, on the erection of the hall, ten years ago,) put into thorough repair, or of replacing it by a more efficient instrument. This resulted in a committee being appointed to ascertain the cost of efficiently repairing the present organ. On the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent an hour or two most harmoniously and pleasantly. The attendance at lodge was numerous, and comprised the following members, Pros. Toller, W.M.; P.M.'s Kelly, D.P.G.M., and W.M. 279; Dutt, W. B. Smith, Treas.; and C. Johnson, Org.; Buzzard, S.W.; Scalthorpe J.W.; Baines,

Sec.; Rev. Dr. Hayercroft, S.D.; Partridge, J.D.; Atkins and Sergeant, Stewards; Lewin, I.G.; C. Spencer, Marr, Richardson, Fletcher; Dunn and Bembridge, Tylers. The visitors comprised Bros. Pettifor, P.M.; Weare, P.M. and Treas.; Miller, Pegg, Ride, Palmer McAllister, and Davisthorpe, of St. John's Lodge No. 279, the most fraternal feeling existing between the members of the two lodges.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTER.—*Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007.*—This once prosperous lodge, after being dormant for two years or more, has just resumed work with, it is hoped, a good prospect of permanent success. A lodge was summoned some weeks ago for the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, which resulted in the election of Bro. John Wilson, a Past Warden of the lodge, and a meeting was summoned for Thursday, the 18th inst., at the Bull's Head Hotel for his installation, &c. There was a good attendance from the Leicester lodges. The chair was taken by Bro. Major Brown, one of the P.M.'s, and P.M. of No. 523, and P.P.G.S.W., who performed the ceremony of installation in his usual impressive manner, assisted by Bros. Pettifor, P.M. 279, and P.P.G.S.W., and Weaver, P.M. 279, and P.P.G.S.D. and others. The newly-installed W.M. having appointed and invested his officers, a ballot was taken for two candidates, viz., Mr. William Grimes Palmer, jun., surgeon, Loughborough, and Mr. Arthur George Chamberlin, Poor Law Auditor, Leicester, who being unanimously elected, were afterwards duly initiated. On the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to a banquet, under the presidency of the newly-installed W.M.

GUILDFORD.—*Royal Alfred Lodge, No. 777.*—A meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on the 18th inst., at the Angel Hotel, when a large number of brethren mustered. The lodge was duly opened, and two brethren having proved themselves proficient in the first degree were subsequently passed to the rank of Craftsmen. The chief business of the evening, however, was the presentation of a magnificent gold jewel to Bro. J. Nealds, P.M., in recognition of his valuable services as Treasurer, and also in the capacity of Secretary for a very lengthened period. The jewel itself was of exquisite design and workmanship and gave the greatest satisfaction to the members of the lodge, and we may add that it was manufactured by Bro. George Kenning, of 3 and 4, Little Britain, London. This presentation was quite unexpected on the part of the worthy brother who received it, thus rendering it doubly pleasurable. Bro. Nealds expressed his acknowledgments for the handsome gift in feeling terms, and said that he accepted it as a proof of the good will of the brethren. (applause) He had endeavoured to do his duty in a masonic point of view, and rejoiced to find that the lodge with which he was so intimately associated, was so united, prosperous, and happy. The lodge was then closed with the usual solemnities.

ORKHAM, RUTLAND.—*Val of Catmos Lodge, No. 1265.*—This newly-established lodge held its second meeting since its consecration, at the Agricultural Hall, on Wednesday, the 17th inst. The lodge having been opened and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, a dispensation was read for the initiation of Mr. William Hibbit, of Orkham, baker, as a serving brother, and the ballot being in his favour, he was afterwards duly initiated. The Rev. E. Hawley, of the Pelham Lodge, No. 939, (a native of Orkham,) was elected a joining member of this lodge. Bros. Morris and Fisher, were then examined in the first degree, and having been approved and entrusted retired, and the lodge having been opened in the second degree they were passed thereto; after which the D.P.G.M., (who presided during the ceremonies) delivered the lecture on the tracing-board. Some business relating to the by-laws having been transacted, and several propositions of joining members and candidates having been made, the lodge was closed by the W.M., and the brethren adjourned to the Crown Hotel, for refreshment. Amongst the members present were, Bros. Kealy, D.P.G.M.; Brown, W.M., P.G.J.W.; the Revs. W. Langley, W.M. 1130, and P.G.S.W.; W. K. Robinson, P.M. 1130, and P.P.G.C.; and Frederick Orme, Prov. G.C., and P.P.G.S.W. Herts; Dr. Ashforth S.W.; Markham, J.W.; Bennett, Sec.; Kew, S.D.; Hardy, J.D.; Capt. Bailey, Org., (who performed on the harmonium during the ceremonies), Crowson, Morris, Fisher, and others.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

Sunderland Strict Benevolence Chapter, No. 67.—A regular convocation of this chapter was held in the lodge-room, Bridge Hotel, on Thursday the 18th inst., at 4 p.m. M.E.Z. Comp. R. Levy, was supported by E. D. Davis, P.Z.; W. H. Crookes, P.Z.; Jas. Hamilton, P.Z.; J. Doxford, H.; Exlt. Comp. Evans, J.; Geo. Lord, E.; Heron, acting N.; W. Skelton, P.Z.; W. Liddell, and Cunningham, Ass'ts.; W. M. Laws, Jan. There were also present Comps. Zillman, Humphrey, Austin, Younger, Meir, Allison, Craven S. J. Wade, P.S., St. John's (80) Bro. W. H. Dixon who had been balloted for at the last convocation was present, and was exalted. This being the time for the election of officers for the ensuing year a ballot was taken, when Comps. Dixon was elected Z.; Stainsby, H.; Geo. Lord, J.; Allison, E.; Liddell, N.; Skelton, P.S.; Laws, Jan. There being no other business, the chapter was closed with the usual solemnities, after which the comps. dined and spent a most agreeable evening.

PROVINCIAL.

LEICESTER.—*Chapter of Fortitude, 279.*—A quarterly convocation of this chapter was held on Wednesday the 10th instant, at the Freemasons' Hall, the officers present being the Rev. John Spittal, M.E.Z.; L. A. Clarke, H.; Pettifor, P.Z. as J.; Kelly, P.Z. and P.G.H., Treas., S'retton, E.; Partridge, N.; Tollex P. S.; Buzzard A. S.; Bembridge, Janitor, and a number of other companions.

The minutes of the last quarterly communication and also of a chapter of emergency held last month were read and confirmed. Two candidates were due for exaltation, but neither of them being in attendance there was no further business before the chapter, which was closed in ancient form at an early hour.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*De Mowbray Chapter, 1130.*—A convocation of this recently formed and flourishing chapter was held at the George Hotel, on Thursday, the 18th instant, when the following companions were present:—Rev. W. Langley, M.A., M.E.Z.; Frd. Pern Newcome, H.; W. Kelly, P.Z., 279 and 779, P.G.H., J.; Geo. Brown, E.; Rev. W. K. Robinson, B.A., N.; G. M. Ashforth, M.D., A.S.; Adcock, Treas.; Chester, P. Newcombe, and several other members. A ballot having been taken and three out of five candidates being in attendance, viz., Bros. Letty, No. 1130; J. Clarke Duncombe, No. 466; Stamford, and J. M. Kew, No. 1265, Cakham. They were duly exalted by the M.E.Z., assisted by E. Comp. Kelly, as P.S. in the deeply regretted absence of Comp. Douglas, M.R.C.S., through severe illness. The M.E.Z. subsequently gave the introduction to the lectures which were afterwards delivered by Comp. Kelly. On the conclusion of the business the chapter was closed in solemn form and with prayer, and the companions adjourned to refreshment.

MARK MASONRY.

IRSWICK.—*The Albert Victor Lodge of M. Masons.*—This Lodge held a meeting on Monday the 22nd instant, which meeting was well attended by the members. After the preliminary business had been disposed of, Brother George Cresswell, of the Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 959, was regularly introduced and advanced. Brother Henry Thomas, the W.M. elect, was installed into the Chair of Adoniram by Brother C. T. Townsend P.S.G.D., and Brother the Rev. R. A. Ganderson, Grand Chaplain, who having appointed and invested his Officers congratulated the Lodge on its present prosperous state as shown by the auditors' report, and returned thanks to the brethren for the honour they have done him in electing him to the important office. Brother Emma Holmes, Junior Warden of the Electric Lodge of M.M., No. 39, was proposed as a joining member.

INSTRUCTION.

Prestonian Club for M.M.'s.—The usual weekly meeting of this excellent club of instruction, which is held every Tuesday evening at 8, at Bro. Hunt's Lyceum Tavern, Strand, took place on Tuesday the 23rd inst. Bro. W. Saeger worked the first, Bro. G. Pym the second, after which Bro. William Watson rehearsed the ceremony of installation in such a masterly manner as to elicit the warmest expressions of approbation from the brethren and a unanimous vote of thanks, after this Bro. Calong went through the ceremony of raising in a very impressive style. Taken altogether we are assured there is no Lodge of Instruction in the Metropolis, where Officers of of Lodges can acquire more Masonic knowledge and good practice as they can at the Prestonian Club.

ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.

RED CROSS OF ROME & CONSTANTINE.

BIRMINGHAM.—*Rose of Sharon Conclave, No. 19.*—An assembly of emergency was held at the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday the 18th inst. Sir Knight the Rev. W. B. Smith, M.P.S., presided, supported by Sir Kn. Thomas Partridge, V.E., the other officers of the conclave, and a goodly number of Knts. Companions. The conclave was opened in Imperial form and then in the Priestly order, when Colonel John Machen, D.P.G.M., was duly consecrated R., and afterwards enthroned as an honorary M.P.S. The Knts. on re-entering the conclave saluted him as Sovereign of the Order and Inspector General for Warwickshire, six candidates were in attendance, and the ballot proving unanimous in their favour, they were admitted, properly prepared, and installed as Knights of the Order. At the conclusion of the work five more brethren were proposed for installation the conclave was then closed, and the Knts. adjourned to the banquet room and after the usual toasts had been proposed and responded to, they separated highly pleased with the success attending this newly-formed conclave, sixteen candidates having been installed since the first meeting in July last.

GRAND LODGE.

Motion on the Agenda for Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, Dec. 1st. 1869.

By Bro. JAMES STEVENS, P.M., P.Z., &c.

"That with a view to securing greater uniformity of working and observance of the 'same usages and customs' throughout the several lodges held under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, a committee of Past Masters be appointed to enquire into the merits of the respective systems of working now in practice, and to report to Grand Lodge thereon, with such recommendations as they may think necessary to prevent deviation from the established mode, such deviation being according to the Constitution of Freemasonry improper and not to be justified or countenanced."

BRO. T. ROBERTS, late acting manager of the Theatre Royal Princess's, announces his benefit for the 13th and 14th December. It is expected from the numerous friends of that well-known and popular Brother, (being a member of the Lodge of Israel, No. 205), that he will have a bumper. Tickets can be had at the Box Office, and at Bro. T. Roberts' address, 95, New-bond-street.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We have great pleasure in announcing that we have decided to publish THE FREEMASON—commencing with Volume III., January 1st, 1870—on toned paper, and with old-faced type, similar to that used by the Pall Mall Gazette and other high-class publications.

The size will also be permanently enlarged to Sixteen Pages, and, with other improvements contemplated, THE FREEMASON will then be the leading weekly organ of the Craft throughout the globe.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

SHIELDS.—On the 16th Nov., at Lee-road, Blackheath, the wife of Bro. F. W. Shields, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BOLLAERT—MACHADO.—On 26th Sept., at Rosario, Argentine Republic, Chas. William, son of Bro. Wm. Bollart, 31, of Hanover-square, W., to Dona Dolores Machado, of Rosario.

MACMULDROW—HART.—On 19th Nov., at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Douglas, Isle of Man, Bro. Peter Macmuldrow, Neptune Lodge, No. 1264, Liverpool, to Julia Eliza, youngest daughter of Capt. William Hart, of Douglas.

LEESON—SQUAREY.—On the 9th Nov., at Trinity Church Marylebone, by the Rev. W. Cadman, M.A., Henry Beaumont Leeson, M.D., M.A., F.R.S., &c., and P.M.P.S. Commander 33, of Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, to Maria Jane Squarey, of 13, Upper Wimpole-street, London.

DEATHS.

ADAMS.—Mrs. Sarah Ann, at the Union Tavern, Airstreet, Regent-street, W., aged 54, Nov. 22, widow of the late much-esteemed Bro. Jas. Wilder Adams, P.M. and P.Z., 25, and 145.

DOBIE.—On Sunday, 21st, Elizabeth Evelyn, the wife of Bro. Alexander Dobie, Prov. G. Master for Surrey, of 4, Hyde-park-terrace, Kensington Gore, and Lancaster-place, Strand.

Answers to Correspondents.

PARACELUS.—The English Rosicrucian Fraternity is not, we believe, a proselytising body, but if you write to Dr. Woodman, Victoria Villa, Stoke Newington-road, N., that very obliging Brother will give you every information. The Fraternity has no connection with the Red Cross Order, although it is true that many gentlemen are members of both societies, just as a man may be a Freemason and also a Civil Engineer.

NUMA.—According to the strict letter of the law, the W.M. was right, his decision, therefore cannot be questioned, although his demeanour in announcing it may be open to objection. Some men however, hide under a very rugged exterior a true and kindly heart. "Let it slide," as our New York cousin says.

J.C.—We duly received the Programme of the Ceremony at Stockton, but irrespective of the late period—nearly a month after the event—at which it came to hand, we really cannot undertake to manipulate reports out of such scanty materials. If brethren desire such reports to appear in THE FREEMASON we shall at times be glad to give them the benefit of our large circulation, free of charge, but if the proper officials neglect to send a fair account of the proceedings it is impossible for us to supply their deficiencies. The vast increase in the circulation of this Journal now necessitates our going to press by mid-day on Thursdays.

Obituary.

BROTHER AUGUSTUS UNION THISELTON.

The late Brother Augustus Union Thistelton, whose death we recorded last week, was initiated in the Vitruvian Lodge, now No. 87, in the year 1823. He joined St. Thomas's Lodge, No. 142 on the 21st June, 1824, and continued a member for many years.

Brother Thistelton occupied the post of Secretary to the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2, for a considerable period, his connection with the Lodge dating from the 22nd November, 1837. He was also a member of the Lodge of Hope and Unity, No. 214, Romford. Our deceased brother held the position of Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys for more than thirty years, and retired on a pension of £100 per annum about nine years ago.

Another link in the chain which binds the present generation of Masons to the old worthies of the past is broken by the death of Augustus Union Thistelton.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 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.

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The Editor will pay careful attention to all MSS. entrusted to him, but cannot undertake to return them unless accompanied by postage stamps.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED IN GRAND LODGE.

THE next meeting of Grand Lodge will be in many respects a remarkable one. In the first place, the M.W. Grand Master will confirm personally, the announcement we made last week, that his lordship intends to retire from the sovereignty of the English Craft. This in itself opens out an unknown vista—for no man can pierce the depths of the future, or predicate the results of time or change.

To the Earl of Zetland we have already expressed our sentiments of fraternal regard and affection, in which every English Freemason who is worthy of the name will most heartily join; but we have now to turn to the rising sun, and to consider calmly and impartially the path that spreads itself before us. One of the first problems to be solved is the term of office of the Chief of the Craft, and upon this subject no less than four notices of motion stand upon the agenda paper for the next quarterly Communication, thus clearly evincing the importance which is attached to a limitation of the period in future.

These notices range from three to seven years as the limit, and no doubt each view will be supported by plausible arguments. We, however, unhesitatingly declare ourselves in favour of the shortest term proposed, which is promulgated by Bro. J. Rankin Stebbing, P.G.D., an old and esteemed Mason, and we are satisfied that the weight of opinion in Grand Lodge will incline to his side. It is generally conceded that the Grand Mastership should not be held for an indefinite period, and the reasons which are adduced in favour of restricting the term to a certain number of years all tell in favour of an infusion of new blood as frequently as possible. When the Earl of Zetland was elected Grand Master, there was, certainly, no Brother then living with greater claims to the distinction, or one more justly entitled to the confidence reposed in him. However, with the great increase of lodges, and the enormous multiplication of the Craft in numbers and influence, it has followed as a natural result that we have now amongst us many able men—statesmen and senators—leaders in the social and political world; men in every respect qualified by their position, ability, and zeal for the high station of Grand Master of England. We will take for example the Earl de Grey and Ripon, whose services to Freemasonry as Deputy Grand Master, have been manifold and brilliant. Is there a member of Grand Lodge who would gainsay the claim of such a brother to succeed Lord Zetland in the Oriental chair? We anticipate the answer; but at the same time we are bound to maintain that there are also other noblemen eminently fitted for the post; men who are sterling Masons, and who rule the provinces over which they preside with admirable impartiality, integrity and success. To all such brethren we would open the door of preferment. We would say, "The Grand Mastership of England is the legitimate object of your

ambition—your labours in the provinces are not unnoted by the brethren at large, and the zeal that you have shown to advance the interests of the Order has not been exhibited in vain."

But if we extend the duration of the Grand Master's term of office to seven years, we shall be practically excluding distinguished brethren from the post; because, as a rule, efficient Deputy Grand Masters may confidently rely upon being elected Grand Masters in their turn, and the prospect of succession to the chair would thus be really closed to all other brethren for fourteen years.

We are satisfied that such experienced Masons as Bros. John Savage, Joseph Smith, and Raynham W. Stewart, who have adopted a longer period than three years as their peculiar views of the desired limitation, will be easily led to reconsider the question, and to support the proposition of Bro. Stebbing. In any case, we prognosticate for the latter motion a complete victory, for in this instance, as in many others, it will be seen that when a reform is considered advisable, it will be accomplished thoroughly, and unmistakably. The feeling of the London brethren below the dais is unanimously in favour of the period named by Bro. Stebbing, and we cannot imagine that it will be seriously opposed by any considerable section of the Craft.

Let us now turn to the nomination of a successor to our present revered Chief, and in this respect we may safely prophesy the name of the future Grand Master of England. The whole fraternity, wheresoever dispersed throughout the globe, respects and esteems the Earl de Grey and Ripon. In the Grand Lodge of England, over which he has often presided in the unavoidable absence of Lord Zetland, there is but one opinion as to his merits, and in his own especial Province, West Yorkshire, we are well assured he is venerated and beloved. It would be out of place to expatiate upon his lordship's abilities as a statesman, but it is not too much to say that we are all proud to see him holding such an exalted position in the national Councils. Yes, with one voice and one soul, the Freemasons of England are ready to attest their estimation of Lord de Grey's services by electing him to preside over them as Most Worshipful Grand Master.

We may now glance at the other business which will come before Grand Lodge. The report of the Committee on the Fund of Benevolence will be further considered, and we trust the various recommendations to extend the powers of the Lodge of Benevolence, and those of the Grand Master, in the award of grants to petitioners, will be carried unanimously. We shall also be glad to find instituted a more rigid scrutiny into the personal character of each applicant for relief, as we are decidedly of opinion that many undeserving cases are relieved under the present system. To quote a recent instance we may state that a man who received £20 at the October meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence, is advertised in the American papers as having absconded with a servant woman, leaving a wife and children to mourn his loss. It is possible that a stricter investigation of this and other similar cases would have elicited the truth. We may also refer to Bro. Raynham W. Stewart's proposal to discontinue the issue of free votes to lodges and chapters in connection with the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, a measure which has our hearty support.

There is likewise an important notice of

motion by Bro. James Stevens, in reference to uniformity of working. Bro. Stevens asks for a Committee of enquiry, and this modest request we are sure will be granted by Grand Lodge. Recent events have shown that ignorant men presume upon the differences which now exist between the two systems of working, known as the "Emulation" and "Stability," in order to raise a clumsy and ludicrous superstructure of their own. Educated brethren will not suffer Masonry to be thus travestied; and the least we can do is to take the various modes of working into consideration, and devise means to check such presumption in future. English Freemasonry has a glorious mission—through her instrumentality the light of truth has been scattered over distant lands, while at home she cements the bond of unity between men who, to use the language of our ancient charges, "might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance." Without encouraging the extravagancies of extreme political parties, English Freemasonry has ever stood forth as the champion of the oppressed, and the palladium of the free. By a moral influence, which is not surpassed by that of any human organization, English Freemasonry asserts itself over the entire globe, marching steadily onward, undismayed by the paper pellets, of priests, or the discordant diatribes of foolish and factious men. Such has been our career in the past—may such be our course in the future. Consistency ever wins respect—and we have but to persevere in the good work of toleration benevolence and mutual friendship, to retain for the Masonic Order in England the esteem and admiration of the world.

Multum in Parbo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

FREEMASONRY AMONG THE NATIVES OF VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

The following extract will, I think, be found interesting to your readers:—

I should not omit in this account to mention that there is a secret association or fraternity among the Aht natives, composed of persons who are united for some purpose which has not been discovered. Meetings are held at different places about once a year in a house covered round inside with mats. All non-members and women are excluded. As many as seventy natives from various tribes on the Vancouver shore, and also on the American side, have been known to attend one of these meetings. It is not a tribal affair, chief's affair, nor a medicine man's affair; these persons may or may not be members of the association, but unless they are members they are not permitted to enter the house, and seem to be quite ignorant of what is going on. The members wash and paint themselves and wear their best blanket, and now and then come out of the house to wash and put on fresh paint. The proceedings inside the house are conducted in silence, there is no singing nor noise during the meeting of this secret association. Is this fraternity likely to be in any way connected with Freemasonry? Freemasonry has been displayed in quarters least suspected.—From "Scenes and Studies of Savage Life." by G. M. Sprout.

VIATOR.

Can an Entered Apprentice propose for affiliation a brother Mason who is a F.C. and M.M., nothing being said to the contrary in the Constitutions; if the W.M. thinks the E.A. is not entitled to do so, whether the W.M. can properly refuse to allow the E.A. to propose a F.C. or M.M. for affiliation? P.M.

[Yes; an Entered Apprentice has as much right to propose members as the oldest P.M. in the lodge.]—Ed. F.

EASTERN STAR LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 95, Royal Hotel, Mile End Road.—The fifteen sections will be worked at the above Lodge on Monday evening next the 29th inst., commencing at 7 p.m. precisely. Bro. Thomas Austin will preside.

NOTABLE ROSICRUCIAN WORKS.

By WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

* "The Rosie Crucian Infallible Axiomata; or General Rules to know all things past, present, and to come: usefull, pleasant, and profitable to all, and fitted to the understanding of mean capacities. By JOHN HEYDON, Gent., a servant of God, and Secretary of Nature. *Penes nos unda Tegi.* London. Printed in the year 1660. (Preface, &c., and 126 pages.) Dedicated to the Most Honourable, Valiant, and Successful, his Highness, James Duke of York."

John Heydon states that "being bound to the Duke of York, by the band of these his great virtues, he is so far a debtor as to communicate without envy by the true account of all opinions these *Rosie Crucian Infallible Axiomata*, which we have read and learned, especially their precious medicines and their greatest secret, the *Pentarva*, with their gift of healing, according to our complexion and capacity." Heydon, it seemed, expected to suffer for loyalty to his sacred Majesty the King, for John Hewitt, "Doctor of Divinity, and others who were spitefully thrust into jail with him, were cruelly murdered by the tyrant Oliver Cromwell, because they loved our sovereign lord the King," by his estates procured his ransom. The epistle dedicatory was written 4th August, 1660.

The preface reveals the fact that the author was not a Rosicrucian, although profoundly acquainted with its principles and philosophy. He narrates the generally-received account of the origin of the society, and of their actions, which were accounted fabulous, and in many respects accepts the version of "Fama Fraternitates" to be the correct version of so extraordinary an institution. The work itself is veiled in allegory, and to any but the diligent and careful student it is, without doubt, either a sealed volume or a stumbling-block. He describes the *Pentarva* of Rosicrucians to be "a water and no stone, it after night discovers a fire as bright as day; and if you look on it in the day-time it dazzles the eye with certain glances or corruscations, for in it is a spirit of admirable power to long life, wisdom, and virtue."

A diagram of peculiar construction, displaying much ingenuity and considerable knowledge of the cabalistic philosophy. Its study is a most interesting and curious one, but its character is unfitted for reproduction here. The work is mainly an elaborate treatise on the signification of numbers from one to twelve:—"Of the wonderful secrets of numbers, of their signification; how Moses, showed so many signs by them, how Joshua made the sun stand still by numbers, how by numbers Elijah called down fire from heaven upon his enemies; how by these following numbers the Rosie Crucians foreknow all future things, command whole nature, have power over devils and angels, and do miracles, &c.; how by this number a river spake to Pythagoras (i.e., one). *Two* is called a number of memory and of light, and the number of man, who is called another and the lesser world. *Three*, Justice, which is the highest perfection, and is not without many mysteries; it is an unpounded number, a number of perfection, and most powerful, for there are three persons in one God, there are three theological virtues in Religion, hence it is that number conduces to the ceremonies of religion, and the Pythagoreans use it in their sanctifications and purifications, and it is most fit in bindings and legations. The number *Four* is the four square plain, which consists of two proportions, whereof the first is one to two and two to one. *Five* is of no small perfection or virtue, being the great middle of the universal number ten; five senses, five powers in the soul, five fingers on the hand, name of God expressed with five letters, *Blain*; name of Christ with five, *Jhesu*; in the elementary world five kinds of corruptible things, water, air, fire, earth, and a mixed body. *Six* is called the balance of the world. *Seven*, the hebdomad or septenary, is a fit symbol of God, as he is considered, having finished these six days' creation, for then, as this

* I am indebted to my friend Bro. Captain Irwin, a most zealous Mason, for the favour of perusing this work.

infallible Axiomata intimates, He creates nothing further, and therefore His condition is then very fitly set out by the number *Seven*. All numbers within the Decad are cast in the three ranks, as Plato observes: 'Some beget but are not begotten, others are begotten but do not beget, the last both beget and are begotten;' the number 7 is only excepted, that is neither begotten nor begets any number, which is a perfect emblem of God. The number *Ten* is called every number compleat, signifying the full course of life, for beyond that we cannot number within itself or explain them by itself and its own by multiplying them."

Original Correspondence.

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

THE GRAND MASTER.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR,—A paragraph has been going the round of the papers announcing the resignation of our revered chief, Lord Zetland, after a reign of 27 years over the brethren of the mystic tie, and it has been stated that Lord de Grey and Ripon is to succeed him, as the Prince of Wales is too young a Mason to occupy that position.

I should like to know on whose authority this statement was made.

Might I ask if Her Majesty were suddenly called from hence [may Heaven long avert so great a calamity] would it be said that His Royal Highness was too young to ascend the Throne of England? The Prince of Wales, afterwards George the 4th, was elected G.M. on the decease of his uncle the Duke of Cumberland in 1790, though he had been only *three years* a Mason, and his accession to the throne of the wise king was hailed as an augury of a bright future for Masonry.

Is there any one will say that our Prince of Wales will not as worthily fill the throne as his great uncle did before him?

When H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland was elected Grand Master in 1782, he appointed the Earl of Eflingham, acting Grand Master, and the Book of Constitutions expressly provides that if a Prince of the Blood Royal is made Grand Master, he may appoint a peer of the realm as his substitute, with the title of Acting Grand Master. Let the brethren elect the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of England, and no doubt he will willingly nominate Earl de Grey and Ripon, to that office.

I venture to make these remarks on behalf of a large number of provincial Masons who believe that the best interests of the Craft will be served by the elevation of the Prince to the Masonic Throne; who feel that there should be no politics in Masonry, no suspicion of Whig influence in the government of Grand Lodge; who would rather see a change in the aspect of affairs at head quarters; and who cannot but feel that there are other eminent noblemen who have as good a claim for the Grand Mastership, as the Lord President of the Council.

Where is my Lord Carnarvon, P.G.M., of Somerset, that he should be passed over? where the Dukes of Manchester and St. Albans, the Earl of Limerick, Lord Holmesdale, and a host of others too numerous to mention? As a country Mason I ask, why is the Prince of Wales to be slighted? and, like Brutus, "I pause for a replay?"

Yours fraternally,
Æ, 31^o P.M., &c.

"FREEMASONRY AND THE LAWS OF THE LAND."

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—In your last impression, in an article headed "Freemasonry and the Laws of the Land,"—"Cipes" speaks of "Christian Orders of Freemasonry." I always understood and rejoiced, that Freemasonry ignored and discountenanced all sectarianism, that it unites "man of every country, sect and opinion," and that it is well calculated to "bind man in mystic ties of fellowship as in a bond of paternal affection and brotherly love." Indeed, I humbly opine that its chief value, beyond its mission of benevolence, consists in having been foremost, and in now being instrumental in aiding to rid the world of the still formidable remnants of prejudice and consequent persecution, induced through difference of opinion, particularly on theological questions.

Wishing "God speed" to every association having for its object the cultivation of those paternal feelings which our Order so persistently inculcates, I venture to submit that there is and ought to be a marked distinction between "Freemasonry proper, and those societies who will admit as members none but those, who have gone through the ordeal of being made Freemasons," and that to speak of "Christian,"

"Jewish," Mahometan, and other Orders of Freemasonry is totally incompatible with the true principles of our institution.

All who have the real interest of the Craft at heart should zealously guard against the slightest encroachment on the ancient landmarks of our Order, and especially prevent the baneful influences of sectarianism to take root and eventually spread destruction amongst us.

I am, &c.,
E. GOTTHEIL.

"A CAUTION."

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—It appears to me of the utmost importance that some of the cases that come before the almoners of the different lodges should now and then be "reported" for the guidance of others. Within the last fortnight application has been made to me by two persons, and I beg to forward to you a short statement of the particulars of each case. The first called himself Louis Gouart, and said he was a Frenchman, he had been many years in New Orleans, was a merchant there at one time, had served as a soldier in the Southern army and was badly wounded on several occasions, he determined to return to his native country, and left Quebec (so he stated to me) not long ago in the ship *China*, bound from Quebec to Liverpool with timber, but the ship was wrecked near the Isle of Wight, he saved himself by clinging to a piece of the wreck, and after much exposure he was picked up by a Prussian ship, the *Minna*, bound to Sunderland, she put into Burlington Bay from stress of weather, and he was landed there. He at once (so his story goes) went to the W.M. and brethren of the lodge there, they, pitying his wretched and forlorn condition, at once sent him to a temperance hotel where he remained for three days to recruit his strength, they paid all his expenses and also his railway fare to Hull. He waited upon me and stated that he was desirous of getting to London and from thence to Paris, his mother who lately lived there was dead and had left him property, but he had not the means to pursue his journey. I put a series of questions to him, the answers to which were not quite satisfactory to me, and I determined to make enquiries respecting him, and therefore told him to call again. I then consulted a worthy brother here, the Secretary of a society for the relief of really destitute foreigners. I found that he had been to him before he came to me, representing himself to be a German and that he wanted to go to Mayence. I then wrote to the Almoner of the Burlington Lodge, he in reply stated when he presented himself to them he said he had come from a "ship in the Bay," he had no papers or documents of any kind to prove this, he was given three shillings and sixpence and told to make his way from there as soon as possible, he also got a shilling from some one else. Some days after that he presented himself again to the Almoner with a message from the W.M. that he, the Almoner, was to lend him five shillings, and that the Master would make it "all right," this he declined to do, at the same time giving him to understand that if he did not go away soon he might be getting into the hands of the police. He told them he was wrecked in a ship bound from New York to Liverpool. He had the appearance of a Frenchman, he is clean shaven except a very large moustache and imperial, he is also lame of one foot the shoe of which has a thick sole, he has a walking stick which he related he had saved from the wreck. When I found that the several accounts he had given of the same circumstance varied considerably I of course declined to help him, and as I consider it very probable that he will still be "working his way" I trust these few notes may be of service to those whom it may concern. The other case only occurred to-day, a person calling himself John Anderson, Master Mariner, late of Halifax, Nova Scotia, waited upon me with the following statement: He had been master and part owner of the brig *Rose* of Halifax, Nova Scotia, she was run down off Beachy Head on the 27th October last, he and part of the crew had only just time to save themselves in the jolly boat, they were picked up and taken to Hamburg and landed there, he had no documents to show any of those circumstances, the only proof he could give was a letter containing a statement signed by several persons who had put their names down for donations from £2 to £5 each; he further stated that he had come from Hamburg to Lynn in a Dutch galliot, but on looking over his paper with an expert brother I found he had been to Norwich to East Dereham, to Lynn, to Boston, and Grimsby, the lodges of which places appear to have given him assistance; on being pressed he said he had landed at Yarmouth, he was then asked how long it took him to go from Hamburg to Yarmouth, he said twelve hours, and as the passage by steam is generally forty-eight hours it struck me that he must have been on board of the "Flying Dutchman" to have made so wonderful a passage. The result of my examination was that I declined to add my name to his already too long list of sympathizing brethren. No doubt he also will be "working his way." If he had been the

person he represented himself to be I feel sure the English Consul at Hamburg would have sent him to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and not suffered him to be begging his way through Masonic England.

I am, Sir, yours fraternally,
P.M., 57,
And Almoner for the Hull Lodges.

ANCIENT AND MODERN MYSTERIES.

By BRO. ROBERT WENTWORTH LITTLE,

President of the London Literary Union, Editor of
"The Rosierucian," &c.

(Continued from page 229.)

The Rev. Dr. Henry has collected all that is interesting or valuable respecting the doctrines of the Druids, which he asserts were much the same with those of the Gymnosophists and Brahmins of India, the Maji of Persia, the Chaldeans of Assyria, the priests of Egypt, and all the other mystagogues of the ancient world. Their public theology differed from the dogmas revealed to the initiated, the one being used as the means of attracting the superstitious multitude, while the secret rites bound their disciples to the system by awful and irrevocable vows. I have already mentioned that the Sun may be considered the earliest and most universal object of worship, and it will be found that the Druids were not exempt from this particular form of idolatry. Like the Shebers celebrated in Moore's poem, they worshipped extinguished fire which was tended with the greatest care.

Higgins in his "Celtic Druids," page 283, refers to one of the chief seats of this Sun-worship being at Kildare in Ireland, where a famous round tower still exists in proximity to the ruins of an ancient abbey, part of which is now used as the parish church. I have had an opportunity of inspecting this marvellous structure, which has for so many ages withstood the ravages of time and decay, and the impression it produces on the mind is melancholy in the extreme. Few can view so stately a relic of antiquity without reflecting on the past history of humanity, on the constant succession of races and religions, dynasties and empires which time has now almost utterly swept into oblivion, leaving but here and there a sculptured stone or marble column, to attest that such things were. The height of the Kildare round tower is in itself most remarkable, and it must have been a most commanding post for the Druids or rather Druidesses, as it was a female order of priests that officiated here as guardians of the sacred fire.

In later days a sisterhood of nuns flourished in their turn; now, all around bears the impress of ruin and desolation. A short account of the dress and customs of the Druids may be found useful in tracing the resemblance which, as many writers have professed to prove, is to be perceived in the observances of Freemasonry at the present day. The garments of the sacerdotal priests were extremely long, and when engaged in religious ceremonies they invariably wore a surplice of the purest white; they carried a wand in their hands, and their necks were decorated with gold chains, and while their hair was clipped very short, their beards, on the contrary, were of immense length.

They worshipped the Supreme Being under the name of Esus or Hesus or the god of strength, symbolised by the oak, and their temples, as I have already indicated, were simply woods or groves, unless on special occasions when they resorted to vast upathric temples like that on Salisbury Plain.

No person was permitted to enter their sacred recesses, unless he carried with him a chain as a token of his entire dependence on the Deity. The consecrated groves in which they performed the exotic religions were guarded by inferior Druids, who suffered no stranger to intrude upon their privacy. By these means they maintained their hold over the minds of the people, and were enabled in secret to perfect their knowledge of the arts and sciences then practised amongst the wise and learned few.

After the Roman invasion of Britain, Mona or Anglesey became their head quarters and seat of government, until the island was attacked by Suetonius Paulinus in A.D. 61. This general having utterly defeated the Britons who attempted to defend the island, cut down the sacred groves, demolished the temples, and burned the Druids and Druidesses in the fires which it is said they had kindled for the sacrifice of the Roman prisoners, if the Britons had proved successful. After this event the power of the ancient British priesthood was effectually broken, and they became merged in the Welsh Bards, whose subsequent slaughter by Edward I. has been referred to previously. It is a curious fact that modern or convivial Druidism is founded upon a legend in which Suetonius Paulinus plays a conspicuous part.

(To be continued.)

RED CROSS OF ROME & CONSTANTINE.

INAUGURATION AND DEDICATION OF THE KENLIS CONCLAVE, No. 20, AT KENDAL.

For some time past a general desire has existed amongst the leading members of the Craft in Westmorland, for the establishment of a Red Cross Conclave at Kendal, in the vicinity of which town is situated Underley-hall, the seat of Lord Kenlis, who is the Chief of the Order, and also Provincial Grand Master for Cumberland and Westmorland. It was therefore resolved to confide the preliminary arrangements to Bro. Edward Busher, whose high position in the chivalric Order as G.S. General of England, and Inspector General of the local division, eminently qualified him for the pleasing task.

With his usual zeal and ability Bro. Busher left nothing undone that might add to the success of the conclave. The magnificent room at the Albert-buildings, the property of Bro. Busher's firm, was fitted up superbly for the Inauguration Ceremony, which it was arranged should take place at one o'clock on Thursday, the 18th instant. Accordingly at the hour appointed a Grand Conclave was opened by the M. Ill. Lord Kenlis, G. Sovereign, assisted by the V. Ill. Edward Busher, G.S.G., Inspector General for Cumberland and Westmorland, Robert Wentworth Little, G.R., Inspector General for Middlesex, and Ill. J. Daniel Moore, M.D., Inspector General for N. Lancashire.

The following brethren being in attendance were then admitted, received, constituted, and installed Knights of the Order and founders of the Kenlis Conclave, viz. :—

Colonel John Whitwell, M.P. for Kendal, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Cumberland and Westmorland.
Samuel Iredale, P. Dep. Prov. Grand Master for Cumberland and Westmorland.
Lieut. Samuel Gawith, W.M. 129, P.S.G.D.
John Holme, S.W. 129, Prov. G.D.C.
Dr. Robert T. Leeming, J.D., 129.
Dr. William Jones, 371, Prov. G. Steward.
John Pearson, P.S.W. 1002, P.P.G.D.
Henry Ranthmell, S.D., 129
James Summers, I.G. 129, P.G. Purst.
Richard Robinson, W.M., 1002.
Thomas F. Taylor, S.W., 1002.
William Taylor, S.D. 1002.
Edward Friend, P.M. 1013, W.M. 1289.

Nearly all these brethren hold office in the Prov. G. Lodge. Lord Kenlis conferred the accolade of Knighthood in each instance.

The formal inauguration of the Conclave was then proceeded with, under the presidency of the Grand Recorder, R. Wentworth Little, assisted in a most masterly manner by Inspector-General Moore, of Lancaster, who acted as High Prelate, and delivered the prayers and orations in a faultless perfect style; in fact we may say with truth, that the working of this important ceremonial on this interesting occasion has never been excelled.

The Conclave was then dedicated and constituted as No. 20 on the roll of the Grand Council of England, and the members were called upon to name the first M.P.S. and V.E., when Col. Whitwell, M.P., was unanimously chosen for the post of Sovereign, and John Holme, for that of V.E.

A College of Viceroys was then opened for the reception of several candidates upon whom the G. Sovereign proposed to confer the second grade of the Order, and after the usual preliminaries, seven Knights were admitted to the rank of Viceroy, after which a Senate was held for the enthronement of Col. Whittle as M.P.S. of No. 20, honorary rank being also conferred upon other representatives of lodges in Cumberland and Westmorland.

The Conclave was then resumed.

It was proposed, seconded, and carried by acclamation, that the Ill. Bros. Little and Moore, be elected Hon. Members of the Conclave for

their services during the various ceremonies of the day.

Lord Kenlis then announced that the Executive Committee of the Grand Council having elected Col. Whitwell a member of the Grand Senate, his lordship had resolved to appoint that distinguished brother to the office of Grand Preceptor, an intimation which was received with great satisfaction.

The Conclave was then closed, and the Companions adjourned to the banqueting room, under the presidency of Lord Kenlis, where an admirable repast was prepared under the superintendence of Mr. Hincks, manager of the Keswick Hotel, to whom the *cuisine* for the Masonic Ball which took place the same evening had been entrusted.

We must not omit to mention that to the musical talent of Dr. Jones, one of the newly-installed Knights, much of the success of this inaugural meeting is due, as he presided at the harmonium at the proper intervals, with consummate judgment and effect.

The ball was given for the benefit of Masonic charities, and nothing on the part of its promoters (Brothers Busher, Holme, Atkinson, Ranthmell, and S. Gawith, W.M.) was omitted that could impart "eclat" to the festival, or give satisfaction to the brilliant company, including the "elite" of the county, and many of the most distinguished brethren of the Craft. It was under the immediate patronage of the Provincial Master (Lord Kenlis), whose reception at the entrance of the ball-room took place under the arch of steel. At the upper end of the hall there was a "dais," beautifully adorned by Masonic emblems, where the youthful Lady Kenlis, dressed in exquisite taste and resplendent with diamonds, occupied the seat of honour. The remaining seats and the steps leading to the throne were filled with a bevy of her ladyship's fair friends, producing altogether a most effective "coup d'œil" of female loveliness. Never before was seen a brighter cluster of terrestrial stars. The brethren, attired in the costly clothing of the order, and glittering with badges and jewels—the ladies young, blooming, and animated, clad in toilets of the most "recherche" description—the enlivening strains of sweet music—the graceful motions of the dance—the subdued lustre of the lamps—the rich decorations of the assembly room—all combined to awaken agreeable sentiments, and to bring to mind those happy associations which, in the spring-tide of youth, strewed the path of existence with thornless flowers. The attendance was so good as to leave nothing to be desired. The dancing terminated at about half-past three in the morning, and all present seemed highly gratified with the style of the entertainment, voting it unanimously to have been a most brilliant "reunion," honourable alike to the Masonic spirit by which it was animated, the liberality of its promoters, and to those who by their presence showed that they could appreciate meritorious efforts, and impart to it the vital element of success.

We were glad to notice that the Grand Lodge of Ireland was represented in the person of our eminent Bro. James Vokes Mackey, 31°, the confirmation of whose election to the Lord Mayorship of Dublin last year was opposed, as our readers may remember, by Cardinal Cullen and the Romish party, as an indication, we presume, of their tolerance and liberality.

It only remains to congratulate the Masons of Westmorland upon the formation of the Kenlis Conclave, and to assure our brethren of Cumberland that on the following day when Bro. Busher and Little, called on Lord Kenlis, at Underley-hall, his lordship was pleased to approve of the establishment of another conclave at Cockermonth, which is to be named the "Dykes" Conclave as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Provincial Grand Master; and we are satisfied that under the auspices of such good Masons as their present P.G.M. and his Deputy Freemasonry and its appendant Orders are destined to flourish exceedingly in the united Provinces of the North of England. With a word of praise for Bro. Edward Busher, whose Masonic honors as Past Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Lodge of England, and

Provincial Senior Grand Warden of his native Province, are well known to our readers, we must close this notice. To his untiring perseverance, kindly courtesy, and fore-seeing tact, the brethren of Kendal are greatly indebted for the pre-eminent position in which the Union Lodge, No. 129, now stands, and we trust he may have a long career of usefulness before him. The various representatives of the Grand Council of the Red Cross and the candidates for the order from distant parts experienced, we need hardly state, at Bro. Busher's hands, a hospitable and genial reception, which will form a bright link in the chain of memory in connection with the auspicious Inauguration of the Kenlis Conclave.

GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND.

A special meeting of the Grand Lodge was held on the 10th inst., at the new Masonic Hall in Molesworth-street, Dublin, on which occasion the splendid hall devoted to the purposes of Freemasonry was filled to overflowing by members of the craft, each vying with the other to do honour to the noble Duke, who for nearly sixty years has presided over the Order in Ireland. Peculiar circumstances tended to enhance the interest felt by the Brethren on this occasion. The meeting was convened at the special request of the M.W. the Grand Master, who had expressed his intention of being present, in order to announce to the Grand Lodge the gratifying intelligence that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had, in the most gracious manner, consented to accept the position of Patron of the Masonic Order in Ireland, the highest honour the body had it in their power to bestow, and one which had in bygone days been held by many of her Most Gracious Majesty's predecessors on the throne of England.

Among the Grand Officers present were:—Robert W. Shekleton, Dep. Grand Master; Right Hon. Lord Athlumney, S.G.W.; Sir Edward Grogan, Bart., J.G.W.; Arthur Bushe, Grand Treas.; Rev. J. J. MacSorley and the Hon. and Rev. W. C. Plunket, Grand Chaplains; C. A. Cameron, and E. R. D. LaTouche, Esqrs., Grand Deacons; C. D. Astley, G. Sup. of Works; Alderman J. Manning, G. Dir. of Cer.; Theophilus E. St. George, Grand Steward; George Hepburn, Grand Sword-bearer; S. N. Lane, Grand I. Guard; Charles T. Walmisley, Dep. G. Sec.; Samuel B. Oldham, Secretary Masonic Female Orphan School; A. Maxwell Harte, Secretary Masonic Orphan Boys' School; Professor Wilkinson and Humphrey Minchin, M.D., Secretary of G. Lodge of Instruction; Philip C. Smyly, Rep. G.L., Prussia; the Right Hon. Major-General F. P. Dunne, P.G.M. of Midland Counties; Andrew Browne, P.G.M., S. Connaught; Rev. Henry Westby, P. Grand Chap.; John Cottle, Rep. G. L. Virginia; Richard B. De Burgh, Rep. G.L. Illinois; Henry B. Hatfield, Rep. G.L., Tennessee; John H. Goddard, Rep. G.L., Lisbon; Captain Vesey Davoren, Rep. G.L., Spain.

Amongst the assembled brethren we noticed:—Sir John Barrington, D.L.; the Lord Mayor Elect; George Woods Maunsell, D.L., Lowry V. T. Balfour, the President of the College of Surgeons, the President of the College of Physicians, Colonel Snow, Major Adams, Edward H. Kinahan, J.P.; Dr. Beatty, Dr. Tuffnell, Dr. Owens, J.P., &c.

Precisely at four o'clock his Grace entered the Grand Lodge-room, attended by the Grand Officers, several Provincial Grand Officers, and representatives from foreign Grand Lodges, and assumed his place on the throne. The Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, the Grand Master stated that the Grand Lodge, being desirous of bestowing some mark of distinction on his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, had referred the matter to him. In accordance with the usual etiquette, he had, in the first instance, consulted the wishes of his Royal Highness, and had been favoured with the most gracious answer, saying that his Royal Highness would gladly accept the intended honour. He had very great pleasure in making this announcement, and proposing that the Grand Lodge should confer on his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the title of Patron of the Order in Ireland. This title, which had been held by his Royal Highness's grand-uncle, his late Majesty King William IV., would not confer upon him any Masonic rank that would in the slightest interfere with the rights or privileges of their Grand Master; but if his Royal Highness should ever come amongst them, he felt sure that they would all be glad to see him, and receive him with all the honour and respect to which he was entitled.

His Royal Highness was then proclaimed and saluted with full Masonic honours.

The Right Hon. Lord Athlumney, who occupied the Senior Grand Warden's chair, stated that the

Portrait Committee were desirous of submitting to the Grand Lodge a report of their proceedings.

Lucius H. Deering, Esq., one of the honorary secretaries, then read the report of the Committee appointed by order of the Grand Lodge (dated the 7th of November, 1867,) for the purpose of having portraits of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, His Grace the Duke of Leinster, the Right Worshipful the then Deputy Grand Master, the Hon. Judge Townsend, and the Right Worshipful the then Grand Treasurer, Thomas Mostyn, Esq.

While the report was being read the three pictures were uncovered, and their striking appearance in the very beautiful and massive frames, which had been specially carved for them by the Messrs. Strahan, of Leinster street, elicited loud and long-continued applause; all the brethren rising simultaneously.

The R. W. Rev. J. J. MacSorley, Senior Grand Chaplain, moved, and the Rev. W. Sir John Stewart, Bart., Provincial Grand Master of Tyrone, seconded that the report now read be received and adopted.

The Grand Master, in putting the resolution, congratulated the Grand Lodge on the magnificent hall in which they were now assembled. It was, indeed, a credit to their Order, and he hoped the Grand Lodge would long continue to prosper and flourish therein.

On the motion of the Hon. Judge Townsend, P.D.G.M., a vote of thanks was passed to the Grand Master for his attendance on the occasion, and for the deep interest he has at all times manifested in the welfare of the Order.

The proceedings then terminated.

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

The Quarterly Communication of this body was held in Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on the 8th current, having been postponed from the 1st in consequence of the local Sacramental Services. The Most Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., G.C.B., &c., &c., M.W. Grand Master, on the Throne, supported by Henry Inglis, Esq., of Tusance, R.W. Sub. Grand Master. The R.W. Bro. W. Mann, J.G. Warden, Actg. S.G. Warden, W. Officer, R.W.M., Lodge No. 1, Actg. J.G. Warden, the Most Hon. Lord Erskine, J.G. Deacon, W. A. Laurie, W.S. Grand Secretary, A. J. Stewart, Esq., G. Clerk, &c., &c., and a very large attendance of the members of Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge having been opened in the sublime degree, various Proxy Commissions were sustained and presents from Sister Grand Lodges received.

The minutes of Grand Lodge and Grand Committee having been approved,

Charters to new Lodges, "St. Munn," Ardnamadam, and "St. John," Catrine, were ordered, to be expedite, and dormant Lodges, "St. David," Tarbolton, and "St. Lyle," Anstruther, were on petition duly recommended by Grand Committee, reponed to their former position on Roll of Grand Lodge. The Office Bearers and Grand Stewards for the ensuing year were nominated for election on the 30th current, as per following list:—

The Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., &c., M.W. Grand Master;
The Earl of Rosslyn, Deputy Grand Master;
Henry Inglis, Substitute Grand Master;
William Mann, Senior Grand Warden;
Colonel A. A. Campbell, Junior Grand Warden;
Samuel Hay, Grand Treasurer;
William A. Laurie, Grand Secretary;
A. J. Stewart, Grand Clerk;
Rev. David Arnot, D.D., and Rev. B. Grantham Faithfull, M.A., Grand Chaplains;
The Lord Erskine, Senior Grand Deacon;
William Officer, Junior Grand Deacon;
David Bryce, Grand Architect;
Alexander Hay, Grand Jeweller;
Daniel Robertson, Grand Bible-bearer;
Captain William Hamilton Ramsay and Charles Stuart Law, Grand Directors of Ceremonies;
James Ballantine, Grand Bard;
Major St. George, Grand Sword-bearer;
Charles W. Maxwell Muller, G.D. of Music;
Robert Davidson, Grand Organist;
Murdoch Mackenzie, Chief Grand Marshal;
John Laurie, Grand Marshal;
W. Miller Boyce, Grand Tyler; and
James Baikie, Outer Guard.

The resignation of the Hon. Alexander Keith, M.W. Grand Master of Nova Scotia, tendered in consequence of the formation of an independent Grand Lodge for that Colony, was accepted, and it was unanimously agreed to hold out the right

hand of fellowship and recognition to the new Grand Lodge.

On the motion of the R.W. Substitute Grand Master, Bro. Walter Montgomerie Wilson was appointed Prov. Grand Master for Glasgow (city province).

The other business was of a routine character, being the discussion of notices of motion continued from last meeting and those tabled then.

One of these being a resolution that in future all lodges dormant for a period of twenty-five years should only be resuscitated on the understanding that they be placed at the bottom of Grand Lodge Roll, was carried.

The arrangements for the celebration of the Festival of St. Andrew, on the 30th current, was remitted to the Board of Grand Stewards, and thereafter the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DURHAM.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham was holden in the Freemasons' Hall, Gateshead, on Tuesday, 26th October, when the following brethren were present:—R.W. Brother John Fawcett, Esq., P.G. Master; R.W. Brother Sir H. Williamson, Bart., M.P., D.P.G.M.; Bros. Rev. J. P. De Pledge, P.S.G.W.; George Canney, M.D., P.J.G.W.; Rev. G. P. Wilkinson, P.G. Chaplain; Rev. John Cundill, P.G.T.; John Trehitt, P.G.R.; W. H. Crookes, P.G.S.; William Morrow, P.G.S.D.; John Potts, P.G.J.D.; John Tillman, as P.G.S. of W.; S. J. Wade, P.G.D. of C.; Joseph Stainsby, P.G. Sword Bearer; Joseph Walton, as P.G.O.; Joseph Robertson, P.G.P.; William M. Laws, P.G. Tyler, and many Past Provincial Grand Officers and Brethren.

The Lodge was opened in due form. The minutes of a Provincial Grand Lodge held in Wetherall's Assembly Rooms, Durham, on Tuesday, 27th October, 1868, were read and confirmed. The Treasurer's accounts were read, approved, and signed by the R.W.P.G. Master. The Fund Committee's report was read, which stated that the sum of £5 had been granted for the relief of the widow of a deceased brother of St. John's Lodge; also £5 to the widow of a brother of the Phoenix Lodge—but considering this a case of extreme necessity they recommended a further grant of £5 for her relief, to which the P.G. Master cordially assented. They also reported that the sum of £5 had been granted for the relief of a brother of the Granby Lodge, and recommended that the following donations be given to our great Masonic Charities, which on the proposition of the R.W. Sir H. Williamson, Bart., M.P., D.P.G.M., seconded by the Rev. John Cundill, P.G.T., was agreed to unanimously by P.G. Lodge, viz:—

To the Boys' School	£52	10	0
„ Girls' School	10	10	0
„ Royal Institution for aged Freemasons and Widows, Men's fund	10	0	0
„ Royal Institution for aged Freemasons and Widows—Widows	10	0	0

The Fund Committee's report also recommended that £100 in the Treasurer's hands be funded as heretofore; which proposition having been moved and seconded was agreed to unanimously.

The roll of lodges was then called, when all appeared by their representatives, who gave satisfactory accounts of all their lodges, and the R.W.P.G.M. expressed his satisfaction at the same. One subject he thought worthy of his congratulation, and that was the efforts making throughout the Province to build Masonic Halls, where the brethren could meet under their own roof. He was pleased to learn that eleven out of nineteen lodges would meet in halls of their own.

The R.W.P.G. Master thanked the Provincial Officers for the past year for their services, for which he had had more than ordinary need.

Brother Rev. John Cundill was re-elected treasurer. The R.W.P.G. Master then appointed and invested the following officials:—Sir H. Williamson, Bart., M.P., Lambton and Palatine, D.P.G.M.; Rev. G. P. Wilkinson, 1121, P.S.G.W.; John Stokoe, 48, P.J.G.W.; Rev. G. R. Bulman, 124, P.G. Chaplain; Rev. John Cundill, 124, P.G.T.; John Trehitt, 949, P.G.R.; W. H. Crookes, 80, P.G. Secretary; John H. Jackson, 940, P.G.S.D.; R. Stephenson, 424, P.G.J.D.; John Tillman, 949, P.G.S. of W.; S. J. Wade, 80, P.G.D. of C.; George Lord, 97, P.G.S.B.; Joseph Walton, 910, P.G.O.; W. A. Malcolm, 124, P.G.P.; W. M. Laws, 80, 97, 661, and 949, P.G. Tyler.

Stewards:—Thomas Henderson, 94; W. Skelton, 97; John Morrell, 111; E. Sellentine, 424; W. Harrison, 764; John Wilson, 111.

The Lodge was then closed in due form. The brethren afterwards dined together at Brother Carmon's, Queen's Head Hotel.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

WILLIAM DE IRWIN CHAPTER OF SOVEREIGN PRINCES, ROSE CROIX, H.R.D.M., WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

This new Chapter held its first Convocation in the Chapter-rooms, Carnarvon Hall, Weston-super-Mare, on Wednesday, the 17th inst., under the presidency of the Ill. Bro. Francis George Irwin, 30°, Past M.W.S., who was assisted in the business of the Chapter by Bro. Joseph F. Starkey, 30°, of the Metropolitan Chapter (the fitting up of the Chapter-rooms were under the superintendence of Cox and Gregory, and whose arrangements were highly approved by the Supreme Grand Council 33°, on their visiting this Chapter the following day. Of the 14 Master Masons mentioned in the agenda paper for exaltation, nine were in attendance. The Ill. Bro. Irwin opened a Council of Princes of Jerusalem, and conferred the degrees from the fourth to the sixteenth inclusive. After which he opened a Rose + Chapter, and exalted Bro. Major-Gen. G. B. Munbee, (Royal Engineers), J.P. (Senior Grand Warden of Somerset); Capt. Townsend, R.N., F.R.G.S., &c.; Rev. J. C. Pigot, B.D.; Rev. R. C. Browne, B.A.; F. Vizard, P.M.; B. Cox, Sec., 1222; T. Clarke, S.W., 1222; E. Gregory, Org., 1222, and J. G. Matthias. Each of the recipients was created and duly constituted a "Knight of the Eagle and Pelican, and Prince of the Order of Rose Croix Heredom." The ceremonies of the degrees were beautifully rendered by the Ill. Bro. Irwin, being of the most imposing and impressive character, while the symbolic teaching was not only pleasing, but consistent with the Christian faith, figuratively expressing the passage of man through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, accompanied and sustained by the Masonic virtues, Faith, Hope and Charity, and his final reception into the abode of Light, Life, and Immortality; in short, from beginning to end, everything bore the impress of Christianity and truly deserves the significant designation of "Ne plus ultra" of Masonry.

The M.W.S. having informed the Knights of the intended visit of the members of the S.G.C. on the following day, and invited all to be punctual in attendance, then closed the Chapter.

The William de Irwin Chapter of S.P.R. X, again assembled in Convocation on the 18th inst., and was inaugurated in full form, when there were present some very distinguished brethren connected with the high degrees of the Order, viz., C. J. Vigne, J.P., P.P.G.W. of Somerset, Prov. Grand Commander of Dorset, M.P. Sov. G.C. of 33°; Col. H. C. Vernon, J.P., P. Prov. G. Master, and Prov. Grand Commander of Worcester, Lieut. G. C. of 33°; Capt. N. G. Phillips, Prov. G. C. of Cambridge and Suffolk, member of S.G.C. of Rites of Ireland, G. Treas. General, H.E. 33°; Capt. Alex. Wm. Adair, M.A. P. Prov. G.M. of Somerset, G. Sec. Gen. of 33°; Ill. Bro. Hyde Pullen, 32°, P.G.S.B., and Past D.P.G.M. of Isle of Wight, Asst. G. Sec. Gen.; Major-General Doherty, 32°; F. G. Irwin, 30°, (Junior Grand Warden of Somerset), M.W.S., (designate); Major-General G. B. Munbee, J.P. 18°, (S.G. Warden of Somerset); Col. Ford, J.P., 18°; Bro. J. P. Starkey, 30°; Capt. Phayre, R.N., J.P., 18°; Capt. J. Townsend, R.N., 18°; Rev. J. C. Pigot, B.D. 18°, (Prov. G. Chap. of Somerset); Rev. R. C. Browne, B.A. 18°; T. R. Lord, 18°; F. Vizard, 18°.

The first business of the chapter was the perfecting and exalting three candidates, viz.—Bros. W. H. Davies, E. T. Inskipp, and S. Jones. After the M.P. Sovereign, C. J. Vigne, 33°, had expressed satisfaction as to arrangements made in reference to furnishing this new chapter, he requested the Ill. Bro. Hyde Pullen to enthrone the Sov. Prince Rois Croix, F. G. Irwin, 33°, as M.W. Sov., and this ceremony was most effectively delivered by the illustrious brother. After which Ill. Bro. Irwin appointed the officers of the chapter as follows:—

E. & P. Princes, Rev. J. C. Pigot, High Prelate; Major Gen. G. B. Munbee, 1st General; Capt. J. Townsend, R.N., 2nd General; Rev. R. C. Browne, G. Marshal; F. Vizard, Raphael; E. T. Inskipp, Treasurer; B. Cox, Recorder; T. Clarke, Capt. of Guards; T. J. Mathias, Herald; E. Gregory, Organist. From the known and recognised Masonic

ability of the M.W.S., F. G. Irwin, and the zeal and position of his officers in regard to Masonry generally, we have every reason to hope that the William-de-Irwin Chapter of Rose Croix, H.R.D.M., will be a complete success, and thus religiously and numerically be a lasting honour to its promoters, who by every means endeavour to extend the principles of Christianity, by giving a greater prominence to its pillars of Faith, Hope, and Charity than is to be found in Craft Masonry, for all the pomp, all the glitter, and all the distinctions of life appear despicable as the plaything of a child, when amid the sublimities of nature, we commence with our Creator and his works.

"For in heaven there's a lodge,
And St. Peter keeps the key;
But none shall enter there,
Except they are good and free."

COURT OF BANKRUPTCY, Nov. 29th.

(Before Mr. Registrar Roche).

RE WILLIAM SMITH.—This was a meeting for choice of assignees. The bankrupt was a Civil Engineer, and newspaper proprietor, and editor. His debts amounted to several thousands of pounds, and the creditors have a prospect of realising tenpence in the pound, a resolution to pay that amount of dividend having been come to. Mr. Evans, and Mr. Dubois were chosen assignees.

Messrs. Walker and Sons appeared for the creditors and Mr. Maynard for the bankrupt.

We are informed that the eminent artist Bro. Sigismund Rosenthal, of Red Lion-square, is engaged upon a large picture of the Inauguration Ceremony which took place at Freemasons' Hall last April. From the marvellous fidelity of Bro. Rosenthal's portraits, as well as from the artistic skill displayed, this great work will possess an historical value, and we trust it will be reproduced in photography for the benefit of the Craft.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—Grateful and Comforting.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favourite. The *Civil Service Gazette* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homoeopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctor's bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only, in ½ lb., ¼ lb. and 1 lb. tin-lined packets, labelled JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London.—ADVT.

The New Yade Meeum (invented and manufactured by Charles H. Vincent, optician, of 23, Windsor-street Liverpool) consists of a telescope well adapted for tourists, &c., to which is added an excellent microscope of great power and first-class definition, quite equal to others sold at ten times the price. Wonderful as it may seem, the price of this ingenious combination is only 3s. 6d., and Mr. Vincent sends it (carriage free) anywhere, with printed directions, upon receipt of post-office order or stamps to the amount of 3s. 10d.—ADVT.

TO CONSUMPTIVES.—A grateful father is desirous of sending by mail, free of charge to all who wish it, a copy of the prescription by which his daughter was restored to perfect health from confirmed Consumption, after having been given up by her physicians and despaired of by her father, a well-known physician, who has now discontinued practice. Sent to any person free.—Address O. P. Brown, Secretary, 2, King-street, Covent garden, London.—ADVT.

THE BLOOD IN OLD AGE.—As age advances, the blood becomes thin and cloudy—or, in a full habit, thick and cloudy. The failing of the powers of life requires extra nutrition and support, and the blood yielding the excess required is soon overcharged with carbon, which gives to it the cloudy appearance. Being then impure, day by day the vitiated matter increases, and the body suffers from a thousand ailments. "The Blood Purifier"—Old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla—supplies the extra nutrition to the blood, and restores to it its florid hue, and then the progress of decay is arrested, and the ailments disappear; man lives out his days, and the sunset of life is unattended with suffering. Testimonials with each bottle from the Hon. the Dean of Lismore, General Wm. Gilbert, of the Indian Army; and Rev. Francis Monck, of "The Gospel Evangelist." Ordered also by the Apothecaries' Hall, London. Sold by all Druggists, in bottles 2s. 6d., 4s., 4s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 11s. Pills and Ointment each in boxes 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d.—Caution, Get the red and blue wrappers, with the Old Doctor's head in the centre. No other genuine.—ADVT.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Lives Saved.—How happy would those sufferers be whose whole system is in danger of breaking down through the daily drain of discharges from ulcerations and skin diseases, if they only knew, that a day rarely passes without new cases of cure being brought to the knowledge of the discoverer of these peerless remedies. For ulcers, sores, burns, bad legs, skin diseases and similar maladies, the insufficiency of ordinary applications is admitted by all; but none, thus afflicted, have been disappointed in their expectations when a fair trial has been given to Holloway's Ointment and Pills. The pain and swelling usually attending this class of ailments will diminish daily under the cooling and soothing unguent.—ADVT.