

MASONIC MIRROR:

APRIL, 1855.

THE GRAND LODGE AND THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

The Grand Lodge have adopted the proposition of the M.W.G.M., of which notice was given in December, and voted £1000 to the Patriotic Fund—though not with that unanimity we could have desired. Though we sincerely honour the opinions of those who felt themselves constrained to vote against the motion, on the ground that the funds of Grand Lodge were only applicable to the promotion of purely Masonic purposes, we yet agree with the G.M. that the Patriotic Fund is an exceptional case—and one which we think the Grand Lodge have done well, in not only taking into consideration, but most liberally supporting. It may be, that some of our Masonic brethren or their families will become partakers of the advantages offered through the Patriotic Fund, and should they do so, their gratification we are sure will be enhanced by the knowledge, that amongst the Subscribers, the Freemasons form no inconsiderable body. True it is, that many private Lodges (to say nothing of individual brethren) have liberally subscribed to the Fund—but the support so extended, would in a great measure have lost its importance and character, had the Grand Lodge not placed its seal of approbation upon what had been done, by most liberally heading the list with a subscription of sufficient amount to prove to the world the liberality and the power of Freemasons in their corporate capacity.

THE ASYLUM FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

A circular has been issued to the various Lodges of England, under the signature of Br. White, the G. Sec., calling for a little additional aid towards paying off the debt upon this building, and putting it in such a state that it may be referred to with pride and pleasure by the brethren—which cannot be the case whilst it is known that there is a debt against it. As we stated in our last, less than £1 per Lodge will be sufficient for the purpose, and any surplus obtained beyond the amount required will be devoted to the general objects of the Institution. Our advertising pages to-day,

show that the subscription has been well commenced—and we hope that in our next we may be enabled to state it has been successfully completed. Those of our brethren who intend to subscribe to the Fund, should recollect that their donations will assume the greater value in accordance to the promptitude with which they are forwarded to the Secretary.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The festival of the Boys' School, which took place on the 14th ult., may be regarded as extremely successful, notwithstanding the attendance was not so numerous as we could have wished, and the banners of some of the stewards were altogether unsupported. A better chairman than the R.W.D.G.M. could not well be found, and sure we are that no brother could have heard his well-timed and judicious observations to the children without feeling an inward satisfaction that we have amongst the heads of the Craft, a nobleman who so truly understands and acts upon his Masonic obligations. The festival was well arranged, and did great credit to the stewards for the order with which everything was conducted, but we wish to persuade future stewards to abolish the glee-room as altogether an unnecessary surplusage to the entertainment of the evening. Let there be well-regulated tea rooms provided, in which the ladies can meet their friends at the close of the proceedings, but let the music cease with the chair being vacated—not to be renewed that evening. If, however, the stewards will persevere in keeping up what is felt by everyone to be little short of a positive nuisance, at least let them do away with, or abridge the half hour during which the brethren are not allowed to enter the glee-room after the chairman and his officers have quitted the hall. At the festivals of the Benevolent Institution and the Girls' School, last year, the time was reduced to five minutes, and was shown to work advantageously. In the course of the proceedings of this festival, the R.W.D.G.M. recommended that a second festival should be held towards the close of the season to aid the building fund, in order that the boys may be brought together under one roof, and their education be thereby placed under the closest supervision. We have no doubt, from the manner in which it was hailed, the proposition will be carried out and the second festival held, when the noble Earl has promised to head the subscription list with a donation of £50. We trust, when we get the school completed, the boys will not be marked with a badge like that, which in our opinion, it is a degradation to the brethren to let the girls wear. We should equally know them to be the children of the Freemason's school without the badge as with it, and we never see the red patch like a newspaper stamp on the sleeves of their frocks without a blush mantling on our cheeks, that the children of our brothers, because they may not have been quite so fortunate in the world as others, should be subjected to continually bear a degrading badge of charity about them. The holding of the second festival, when the stewards need not be trammelled by the useless forms of custom, will be also a good opportunity for trying the experiment of dispensing with the glee room. We warrant its success.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 202.

On the accession of James I., the great alteration in the style of building introduced in the former reign, became more generally adopted; the Gothic, which had been brought over by the Saxons, and in use for upwards of a thousand years, now gave way to the Italian or Augustan style, an innovation no doubt caused in a great measure by increased intercourse with the Continent; and it having become a general custom for gentlemen to travel for improvement; during which they could not fail to be fascinated with the remains of the noble works of our ancient Roman and Greek brethren, which caused them to imitate, if not to endeavour to excel them. To such an extent was this enthusiasm carried, that the word Gothic became almost synonymous with barbarism. But, perhaps, the greatest cause of the change, was the appointment by the King (who was a great patron of Masonry), of Br. Inigo Jones, as his acting Grand Master. This extraordinary man was born in London, 1572, and was the son of Mr. Innatius or Inigo Jones, a citizen and clothworker. He was educated at Cambridge; and first displayed his genius in the art of designing and landscape painting. Under the patronage of the learned William Herbert, afterwards Earl of Pembroke, he made a tour of Italy, during which he suffered no work of merit to escape his observation. Architecture at length engrossed his attention, and he displayed such extraordinary ability in it, that Christian IV., of Denmark, appointed him his architect-general. After enjoying this post for some years, he returned to England, and was made architect to the Queen. He afterwards took a second tour in Italy, where he stayed some years, still improving his taste and perfecting himself in his favourite art. On the place of surveyor-general, of which the King had promised him the reversion, becoming vacant, he returned to England, and commenced ornamenting and enriching his native country with the fruits of his genius and industry; the great elegance and beauty of his classic designs, together with the increased security of the times, which rendered fortified dwellings unnecessary, and the improvement of all classes in arts and civilization causing a greater demand for ease and comfort. This being afforded by the Roman and Grecian style of architecture, was the principal reason of its great popularity; for although in the Gothic of the reigns of the VIIth and VIIIth Henrys', called Tudor, the most successful attempts had been made to adapt it to the increased luxury of the times, the majority were of opinion that it thereby lost its greatest beauties.

James employed the new surveyor-general to plan a palace at Whitehall, worthy of the residence of the Kings of England; and when the old banquetting house was pulled down, the King, with his Grand Master, Jones, and his Grand Wardens, William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, and Nicholas Stone, Esq., Master Mason to His Majesty, attended by many brothers in due form, and other eminent persons, walked to Whitehall gate, and levelled the foot stone of the new banquetting house with

“three great knocks,” loud hussas, and sound of trumpets. At the conclusion of this ceremony, a purse of broad pieces of gold was laid upon the stone, for the masons to drink to the King and the Craft.

The want of parliamentary funds prevented more than the banquetting house (which contained the finest room, of the extent, since the times of Augustus,) being built. It was a magnificent building of three stories, and the finest piece of architecture executed in this reign. The beauty of its proportions were not to be surpassed, and its projections produced those happy effects of light and shade so highly esteemed in the best specimens of architecture. The ceiling of the grand room was richly painted, by the celebrated Sir Peter Paul Rubens, who was ambassador to the court of Charles I. It was considered one of the best performances and not to be surpassed by any in the world.

The Grand Master, Jones, was much esteemed by his craftsmen for the excellence of his government of the Lodges, which he constituted with bye-laws calculated to render them like the schools or academies of the designers, in Italy. He allowed good wages, and was much resorted to by Masons from all parts of the world. He held quarterly communications of the Master and Wardens, and an annual festival on St. John's day, when he was annually rechosen Grand Master, until 1618, when William, Earl of Pembroke, was elected in his stead; and being approved by the King, he appointed Br. Inigo Jones, his Deputy Grand Master. In this reign Masonry flourished exceedingly, and many eminent, wealthy, and learned men were accepted as brothers, who, by their works, reflected great honour on the Craft.

Charles I. became Grand Master, by prerogative, A.D. 1625, and was well skilled in the science of Masonry. He much encouraged foreign brethren, but none at that time were so distinguished for the beauty of their works as Inigo Jones and his disciples.

Henry Danvers, Earl of Dauby, succeeded the Earl of Pembroke, in Solomon's chair, by the King's approbation, in 1630; and at his own cost, according to the design of Jones, his deputy, erected the beautiful gate of the physic garden at Oxford.

Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel, afterwards became Grand Master, and appointed Inigo Jones his deputy. Indeed, he was never out of office, being employed under this and the succeeding Grand Master, the Duke of Bedford, in many great works.

Inigo Jones again succeeded to Solomon's chair, and was employed by the King to build the stately gallery of Somerset House, fronting the Thames. It was also intended to carry on Whitehall, according to original Jones's plan, but this was prevented by the civil war, during which the King unhappily lost his life, A.D. 1649.

The unfortunate death of his Royal Master, closed with sorrow the last days of Inigo Jones; he died in the eightyeth year of his age, after a life of great usefulness, during which he reflected great honour on the land of his birth, and no more than justice has been done to his memory in styling him the *British Vitruvius*.

During this interval, between the death of Charles I., and the

Restoration of his son, much damage was done to many of the most beautiful works of art in different parts of the country, through the mistaken zeal of the puritans, who then governed the nation. As must be supposed, such destructive feelings were ill calculated to encourage masonry, consequently, all the information we can gain of this period, is, that the pupils of Inigo Jones met privately for their mutual improvement, and preserved their drawings and designs until the Restoration.

Charles II. was restored to the throne with great magnificence, on his birthday, the 29th of May, 1660. In his travels he had been made a Freemason, and having been a great observer of the finest buildings on the Continent, resolved to encourage the arts and sciences as much as possible in his own kingdom. The return of regal government was peculiarly favourable to the encouragement of Masonry, as the majority of mens' minds were tired of looking on the gloomy picture which had been *so long held up to them, by those whose religious fears prevented their enjoying the beauties of nature and art which the Great Architect had bestowed on man.* Their narrow minded bigotry also made them shrink from holding out the hand of fellowship to any but those of their own peculiar tenets, and rendered them incapable of understanding those vast conceptions and wonderful works of art, which claim our admiration, and are but blessings bestowed by the Great Creator on his creatures, who, in endowing them with the faculty of communicating their thoughts to each other, but enables them to perform the duties assigned to each in completing the vast machine, the wonders of which are not to be measured by the conception of the human mind, unless assisted by the emanations of Divine Wisdom.

Under the royal favour and protection, Henry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans, was chosen Grand Master. He appointed Sir John Denham, surveyor-general of the royal works, of which office he had been previously granted the reversion, by Charles I., after the death of Inigo Jones. Br. Christopher Wren, and Br. John Web, were appointed Grand Wardens.

According to a copy of the old constitutions, this Grand Master held a great assembly and feast on St. John the Evangelist's day, 27th December, 1663, when the following regulations were made:—

“ 1st. That no person of what degree soever, be made or accepted a Freemason unless in a regular Lodge, whereof one be a Master, or a Warden, in that limit or division where such Lodge is kept, and another to be a Craftsman in the trade of Freemasonry.

2nd. That no person shall be accepted a Freemason, but such as are of able body, honest parentage, good reputation, and an observer of the laws of the land.

3rd. That no person hereafter, who shall be accepted a Freemason, shall be admitted into any Lodge or assembly, until he has brought a certificate of the time and place of his acceptation, from the Lodge that accepted him, unto the Master of that limit or division, where such Lodge is kept; and the said Master shall enrol the same in a roll of parchment to be kept for that purpose, and shall give an account of all such acceptations at every general assembly.

4th. That every person who is now a Freemason, shall bring the Master a note of the time of his acceptance, to the end the same may be enrolled in such priority of place as the brother deserves, and that the whole company and fellows may the better know each other.

5th. That for the future, the said fraternity of Freemasons shall be regulated and governed by one Grand Master, and as many Wardens as the said society shall think fit to appoint at every annual general assembly.

6th. That no person be accepted unless he be twenty one years old or more."

Br. Wren, afterwards Sir Christopher Wren, who, from his great abilities and the great solicitude he displayed to promote the interests of Masonry, and the prosperity of those Lodges which met in his time, more particularly the old Lodge of St. Paul, now the Lodge of Antiquity, of which he was a member for upwards of eighteen years, was no doubt the principal originator of these laws. This distinguished Mason was the only son of Dr. Christopher Wren, Dean of Windsor, and was born in 1632. His genius for arts and sciences was exhibited early, for when very young he invented a new astronomical instrument, by the name of Pan-Organum, and wrote a treatise on the origin of rivers. He also invented a pneumatic and a peculiar instrument in gnomonics, to solve this problem, viz.—“On a known plane, in a known elevation, to describe such lines with the expedite turning of rundles to certain divisions, as by the shadow of the stile may shew the equal hours of the day.”

In 1646, Mr. Wren was admitted at the age of fourteen, a gentleman commoner of Wadham College, Oxford, where he profited greatly under the instruction and friendship of Dr. John Wilkins, and Dr. Seth Ward, who were both gentlemen of great learning, and afterward promoted by King Charles II. to the mitre. His other juvenile productions in mathematics, are highly worthy of attention, and speak this Grand Warden, a scholar of a most exalted genius, but they are too many to be here recapitulated. He assisted Dr. Scarborough in anatomical preparations and experiments on the muscles of the human body, from whence are dated the first introduction of geometrical and mechanical speculations in anatomy; and wrote discourses of the longitude; the variations of the magnetical needle; *De re nautica veterum*; to find the velocity of a ship in sailing; of the improvement of galleys; of an instrument perpetually noting soundings in shallows; to recover wrecks; a convenient way of using artillery on ship board; to build in deep water; to build a mole into the sea, without Puzzolan dust, or cisterns; and of the improvement of river navigation, by the joining of rivers.

His works altogether appear to be rather the united efforts of a whole century, than the productions of one man; whilst the patient perseverance he displayed in after life, in not only overcoming the difficulties incident to the working out of his great undertakings, but in combating with the selfish and ignorant obstinacy of those who were unable to understand the emanations of his great mind, but more particularly his attention to the interests of Masonry, by improving its constitutions, and studying the

welfare of the Craftsmen employed, prove that the great honours paid to his character by the brethren, have not been misapplied.

St. Albans was succeeded as Grand Master by Thomas Savage, Earl Rivers, who appointed Sir Christopher Wren his deputy, and he with the assistance of his wardens, "mannaged all things." The Grand Wardens were Br. John Web, and Br. Grindin Gibbons.

(*To be continued.*)

BROTHERLY LOVE.

BY ALEX. HENRY GIRVEN, AUTHOR OF "REGINALD SELWYN," &c

(*Continued from p. 167.*)

CHAPTER IX.—NEW FACES AND OLD SCENES.

THE society in which Ida had been passing her time since her departure from her mother's, was by no means congenial to her taste. Her hostess had at one time been her most intimate acquaintance, and closely resembled her in character; but having married a gentleman of fortune, and mixing continually with only the gay world, she had lost those traits which recommended her to Ida, and from the modest and retiring maiden, had become a confident and dashing woman. But the kindness with which Ida was welcomed, and the desire displayed to render her stay agreeable, made her overlook the alteration in her early friend and associate. Besides, there was a something in Madame Lefebre's manner occasionally that induced her to suspect she was not as happy as she appeared to be in society. She thought she detected a pensiveness underlying the surface of her levity of manner and seemingly high flow of spirits, and an absence of mind amid the glitter and gaiety by which she was surrounded, that showed her spirit was not altogether absorbed by the artificial life which she was leading.

It had been whispered abroad that Monsieur Lefebre, who had formerly been a *roué*, had begun to treat his wife with indifference, and that she still retained an attachment for a young Lutheran minister in the neighbourhood, named Jeune Grace, a cousin of her husband. However, they appeared to live on fair matrimonial terms, rather at variance with this rumour; and the gay circle in which they moved were too much occupied in pursuing their own enjoyments to trouble themselves with the joys or sorrows of their fashionable acquaintances.

Ida had now been three months with her friend, and she determined to quit society which had no attraction for her unsophisticated mind. She considered the atmosphere she respired as artificial—a region of exotic and scent, not the fresh life to which she had been accustomed, and for which the grace and refinement that mingled with its constitution could not compensate.

But there was another circumstance which made her extremely desirous

of quitting the château of Monsieur Lefebvre. At this period, the taint of infidelity was rife in the coteries of France, and the spirit of Voltaire still impurified the sentiments of the fashionable and philosophic world. The grave dogmas of Christianity, which she had been accustomed to revere as sacred from human doubt, were treated with a scepticism or derision that made her shrink with horror from the conversation to which she was sometimes compelled to listen.

However, there was one visitor at Monsieur Lefebvre's who was the very reverse of his other guests, and from whose society Ida derived the greatest enjoyment. It was the young clergyman already mentioned, who officiated in a small chapel in the vicinity—for at that time religious toleration in France was extended to Protestants and Dissenters so far as permitting them to the exercise of their religious worship without any very stringent limitations. Ida was a constant attendant at service, and accident made her still further acquainted with the cousin of her host, who was prepossessing in manner and person, but chiefly distinguished for the zeal and piety with which he discharged his sacred functions. His religious feeling displayed itself not only by fervid eloquence in the pulpit, but by the energy with which he entered into the concerns of his flock, administering religious consolation and affording pecuniary relief as far as his circumstances permitted, where it was required.

Ida met him frequently in her visits in the neighbourhood where indigence or disease prevailed, and very shortly a friendly and unreserved intercourse sprang up between them.

She related to him the particulars of her father's fate, and described the different subjects of interest in her own locality. He appeared greatly interested in the unfortunate maniac, whom he advised her to visit as often as was consistent with her convenience or personal safety, and he spoke with something like confidence of her presence and conversation being not only the means of ameliorating his condition, but perhaps of eventually restoring him to reason. He spoke with enthusiasm on this subject, and expressed a regret that the scene of his ministry was too remote to permit of his assisting her in this work of mercy and love. On one occasion there was an earnestness in his manner, when he spoke of the latter, that made Ida raise her eyes involuntarily to his; but she encountered so much ardour and sensibility in his glance, that she immediately bent them down, and felt her cheek blushing. She subsequently perceived a constraint in his manner for which she was at a loss to account, and which extended itself to her while in his company.

This circumstance induced her to take farewell of him by a letter, in which she expressed the pleasure she derived from his society, and her wishes for the prosperity of himself and his little flock.

On the morning of her departure, Ida rose early, and the carriage that was to convey her to the next post-town not being ready, and the morning being very fine, she resolved to walk some distance, and gave directions that the vehicle should follow her. She had proceeded a short way along the main road, when she perceived the figure of a man leaning against a

tree, apparently lost in thought. As she approached, he raised his head, and she perceived that it was Jeune Grace. His features had undergone a change since she had seen him last, for he was thin and pale, and appeared as if he was suffering from mental anxiety or bodily disease. He approached her, and said in a tremulous voice :

“I could not suffer you to depart without taking leave of you personally, and saying how much I shall miss your society.”

There was a despondency in his look and tone as he uttered these words, and Ida scarcely knew in what terms to reply. At last she said :

“I should be ungrateful if I did not also express thanks for your kindness during our short acquaintance.”

She was about to add, that his society was her chief pleasure during her stay in the neighbourhood; but she checked herself, for her Christian sentiment would not permit her to say anything uncharitable respecting others, while her sense of propriety suggested that it would be indiscreet to express herself in such terms to a person of the opposite sex.

“Believe me, Miss St. Claire,” he said, “that, whatever may be my destiny, I shall reflect on our intimacy as one of the happiest incidents of my life.”

The warmth with which he spoke made Ida blush, but she made no reply, and he proceeded.

“*My secluded life, the dangers that encompass my flock from war, the presence of a lawless soldiery, and a possible eruption of popular prejudice against my creed, make the future an uncertainty, and have hitherto prevented my cultivating female society. I knew not my loss till I saw you, Miss St. Claire.*”

Ida bowed to the compliment, and he said :

“It may be that I see you for the last time.”

“I trust not;” said Ida, earnestly.

“Should it be so,” he added, “it may be for the better. God’s will be done! I do not murmur at His decree.”

The sound of the carriage approaching prevented further conversation. Ida held forth her hand; he pressed it warmly, and departed without a word.

Ida was quite at a loss to what the manner of the young clergyman was to be ascribed. At first she thought his despondency resulted from ill health, arising from a delicacy of constitution, for he had often expressed a fear that his physical strength would prove unequal to the efficient discharge of his pastoral duties. Our female readers, no doubt, have discovered the real cause of his manner towards Ida, and must consider her rather deficient in feminine perspicuity in not ascertaining it also. Indeed, a suspicion of the truth flashed across her mind, but she could scarcely credit that so short an acquaintance, without any encouragement on her part, could have produced a deep or permanent affection in one whom she considered entirely devoted to promoting the spiritual and temporal interests of his flock.

Though happy to escape from her recent associations, still it was with a saddened spirit that Ida beheld her native town in the distance, for every

object she encountered was associated with the remembrance of Simon, to whom her affections still clung with all the tenderness and tenacity of a first attachment, which not even the worthlessness of its object can speedily erase from the female mind. Since the unfortunate event that led to their separation, there was much in what had taken place to prevent Ida's feelings towards Simon undergoing any material change. She had received his letter, and though she declined his offer, still there was so much generosity in his act, so much of genuine and enduring affection, that she could not think of it without feeling deeply for one whose attachment was so intense, and whose conduct was so disinterested. She had heard also of his reputed insanity, and from his observations where they last met, and his letter imputing to her venal considerations, she was induced to believe that he was labouring under mental delusion. She then began to reproach herself for having acted too hastily towards him. In this mood of mind she reached her home, and almost her first inquiry was relative to Simon.

Mrs. St. Claire, whose asperity was roused by the mention of his name, replied,

"I have heard nothing further of him—indeed, I do not wish to hear anything more about him."

Ida looked at her inquiringly, and she continued,

"I believe that he has really gone mad, and I believe, moreover, that he is as base as mad and deformed."

"Simon base!" exclaimed Ida, "I do not understand you, mother. I know he was no favourite with you—"

"Favourite, indeed!" interrupted Mrs. St. Claire, "A pretty sort of person you selected to fall in love with—but then I wrong you, my dear. I know, that in entertaining his suit, you were actuated by prudential considerations. A mercenary monster! but I trust we have seen the last of him."

"But mother, you forget his unvarying kindness, from the period of our childhood. Has he not always loved me like a brother? Don't you remember when I was ill, how nothing could tempt him from my side? and—"

"Oh, yes, my dear; and I am only sorry that your father's mistaken kindness should have allowed you such a companion. But it was sufficient for him, poor man, that any one was unfortunate to make him take an interest in him. I have often reasoned with him on this subject, but his reply always was, 'poor little fellow, I cannot see him moping there lonely without any companion of his own age. The same hand created him and Ida, though one is beautiful, and the other the reverse. His very deformity should make us feel an interest in him.'"

This answer bore Ida back to the days of her childhood, and to the many incidents of her intercourse with Simon, and she sighed heavily.

Mrs. St. Claire observed this, and her conviction respecting her daughter was once more disturbed; she mentally ejaculated a fervid

thanksgiving that the object of her aversion was removed from the presence of her daughter, and that he had no opportunity of fostering her "infatuated attachment."

The subject was dropped, and Mrs. St. Claire informed Ida of all that had taken place in the neighbourhood since her departure. It appeared that several of the young men had either joined the army of the Emperor, voluntarily, or been forced into it by conscription. Amongst the former was Alfred Beaufiere, who entered the service in a medical capacity, for which his studies qualified him, and which afforded him an opportunity of indulging his benevolent feelings in alleviating the sufferings of his fellow creatures. Nothing had been heard from him, but a rumour had reached the neighbourhood that he had been dangerously wounded. He had been unable to procure a substitute for André Buffon, who was obliged to depart with a number of his fellow townsmen to join the army. Mrs. St. Claire described the distress of this latter worthy at being compelled to enter on a service of peril, as most ludicrous, and stated that he departed amid the derision of the inhabitants, some of whom had contributed to his enlistment, which they regarded as an excellent practical joke.

Ida did not omit to inquire after the Maniac of the Mount, and she heard with much regret, that since her departure he had been seldom seen. Some were of opinion that he was dead, but as his usual provisions were consumed, and funds which were supposed to have been supplied by him found their way regularly into the civic exchequer, it was generally believed that either the severity of the past season or increasing mental disease, made him seclude himself more than ever from public observation. Ida remembered the words of the young clergyman, which were so much in unison with her own feelings, and the next morning she departed for the Mount.

It may be necessary at this point, to furnish the reader with some information to elucidate the causes that led to Ida's acquaintance with the Maniac. During the epidemic which prevailed in the neighbourhood, her mother had been seized with the disease, and visited by this strange being, who spared no expense in procuring her the best medical attendance and other requisites. His solicitude on that occasion partook more of the character of a brother's than that of a mere benovolent stranger, and the gratitude of Ida was excessive; for when her mother was restored to convalescence, she attributed that result chiefly to his timely assistance. He also appeared to take the deepest interest in Ida herself, and though he had been traced out in other cases of charity, it was to her alone that he revealed himself. From the moment of her mother's recovery, she never failed to visit him at periods when she knew that he was free from the influence of his mental malady, and he treated her with the greatest kindness, and with the affection of a parent. He inquired minutely after all the circumstances connected with her father's last days, and would make her repeat the same over and over again to the most trivial detail. There appeared to be a strange fascination in that subject, though it

was evidently productive of painful emotions ; for he would groan in bitterness of spirit as she related the privations of her father, the meekness with which he endured his sufferings, and his frequent and fervent prayers for the forgiveness of heaven on that friend who had reduced him to the last extremity of distress. He used also to speak much to her about Simon, in whose fate he appeared to take a great interest, and it was this circumstance more than anything else that attracted her towards the recluse. He was the only one, except Alfred Beaufiere, whom she had ever heard speak a kind word respecting Simon ; and it was grateful to the feelings of the young girl to know that if all the world beside reviled or ridiculed the companion of her childhood and the object of the affections of her young womanhood, there was one who, in his moments of sanity, was ready to espouse his cause, make allowance for his defects, and dwell with visible gratification on any revelation of his better nature. What motive tempted him to take such an interest in Simon, she was at a loss to conceive, nor did she seek to trace its source—it was sufficient for her, that he did feel that interest to make his society grateful and her young heart throb with thankfulness towards him.

Never before did Ida seek him with so much of sadness as on the present occasion, for she fancied that the subject which had formed the chief bond between two so dissimilar, was one that she must consider henceforth as interdicted, so far as related to herself, for she had formed the resolution of not introducing Simon's name again into conversation. And yet, such a casuist is the human heart, that although she persuaded herself that her chief motive in visiting the Recluse at this time, was one of mere humanity, she was aware, without avowing it to herself, that the prohibited object would form the chief topic of their discourse, and that it was that conviction which made her seek his abode at so early a period after her return,

(To be continued.)

THE SWEETEST FLOWER.

Some flowers there are of beauty rare,
 We covet them as soon as met ;
 Say, walking down a flower'd parterre,
 Would you not cull the violet ?

I know a flower more fair than this
 With all its perfume and its bloom ;
 I'd wear it on my heart—it is—
 I leave you to imagine whom.—J. W. R.

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The first quarterly communication for the year 1855, was held on Wednesday, March 7th. The M.W.G.M., The Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland presiding, supported by the R.W.D.G.M. the Earl of Yarborough; B. Dobree, S.G.W.; J. Pattison, J.G.W.; Col. Burlton, P. Prov. G.M., Bengal; A. Dobie, P.G.M., Surrey; Purton Cooper, Prov. G.M., Kent; J. Fawcett, Prov. G.M., Durham; J. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M., Essex; J. A. Bowyer, Prov. G.M., Oxford; Rev. J. E. Cox, and J. E. Moore, G. Chaplains; Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, P.G.C.; W. H. White, G.S.; H. S. Crohn, G.S., for German Correspondence; J. Hervey, S.G.D.; H. Faudel, S.G.D.; J. Havers, P.G.D.; G. K. Potter, P.G.D.; G. Leach, P.G.D.; J. H. Goldsworthy, P.G.D.; T. Parkinson, P.D.G.; H. Gireaud, P.G.D.; R. W. Jennings, G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Chapman, Asst. G. Dir. Cers.; G. Biggs, G.S.B.; Br. J. Masson, P.G.S.B.; R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B., Br. W. Farnfield, Asst. G.S.; E. Ransford, Grand Organist; G. G. Elkington, G. Pur.; and others.

The minutes of the Lodge of Benevolence and the Board of General purposes having been read, Br. Joseph Smith, P.M. 206, said, that having had the honour when they met on the last occasion, to put in nomination the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland for re-election as Grand Master for the ensuing year, he had now to propose that the election be at once proceeded with. They all knew the ability, courtesy, and kindness with which the noble Earl had for many years filled the Office, and they could not better shew their confidence in him, or respect for his character than by unanimously re-electing his Lordship; and in doing so, he felt assured they would be studying the welfare of the Craft, and the interest of the brethren at large—(cheers).

Br. Ireland, W.M. 805, had great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The motion having been carried *nomine contra discente*, and the G.M. duly proclaimed, the noble Earl rose amidst loud applause, and begged to acknowledge the compliment paid to him. He could assure them that he felt proud of their having again entrusted him with the office of Grand Master. No higher honour could have been conferred upon him. He knew how important were the duties he had to discharge, but he hoped, notwithstanding he felt old age advancing upon him, to continue to discharge them to the satisfaction of the brethren. He remembered reading in a book, with which he had no doubt they were all acquainted, *Gil Blas*, that when the Author became Secretary to the Archbishop of Toledo, he was strictly enjoined, that should he ever notice any falling off in the powers of his Master through old age or infirmity, he was to acquaint him with it. For a time every thing went well, but when the Secretary felt bound to hint that the Archbishop was falling off in his powers, he grew angry, and drove his faithful servant from his door. Now he could assure them, that he would never need a hint that it was time for him to resign; but the instant he felt that he could no longer, from advancing age, efficiently discharge the duties of the office, he would resign his trust into the hands of the brethren, but in the mean time he would endeavour to do his utmost to promote the best interests of the Craft—(cheers).

Br. Herbert Lloyd, then proposed the re-election of Br. Tomkins, as Grand Treasurer, which having been duly seconded, was put and carried unanimously.

The M.W.G.M. next rose to propose the motion of which he had given notice at the previous meeting, for granting £1000 out of the funds of the Grand Lodge, to the Patriotic Fund. He trusted that the Grand Lodge would be unanimous in carrying the resolution, as, though he was aware some of the brethren held the opinion, that the funds ought to be devoted to the purposes of Masonic charity only, he could not but feel that this was an exceptional case, and that at the present moment, there was no charity having such peculiar claims upon them, as that for providing for the Widows and Orphans of the gallant defenders of the honour of their country now engaged in the war in the East. It might be said, that they should confine their bounty

to the Widows and Orphans of their own brethren, but though on ordinary occasions that might be true, he begged them to remember that the principles of Freemasonry were founded upon universal charity and beneficence, and that an institution so important as theirs should not be behind other Corporations in supporting its honour, and assisting the Widows and Orphans of the soldiers, sailors, and marines, many of whom were, no doubt, members of the Craft. He knew that many private Lodges had liberally subscribed towards the Patriotic Fund, and it was only the other day that he received a letter from the Zetland Lodge, Montreal, inclosing a cheque for £10 in aid of that fund. He was aware that many other Lodges at both sides of the Atlantic had liberally contributed to the Patriotic Fund, and he hoped the Grand Lodge would not be behind hand in endeavouring to support the honour and dignity of the Craft. He would not longer delay the time of Grand Lodge, but at once propose that £1000 be voted from the Fund for General Purposes, as a subscription from the United Grand Lodge of England to the Royal Patriotic Fund.

The R.W.D.G.M. rose to second the motion, feeling quite satisfied that the Grand Lodge would not refuse to vote £1000 to so holy and sacred a purpose. He thought it required but little to prove that it would be unwise to show to the world that they were actuated by feelings of charity only to members of their Order, the more especially at the present moment, when the case before them was so purely exceptional, that it had enlisted the feelings of every class of the community in its favour. He thought that under the circumstances, they might safely so far trench upon their funds as to make this vote to the Patriotic Fund, the more especially as it had gone forth through the columns of the Press that they intended to do so. But he was at the same time of opinion, that the vote ought to be so guarded as not to be drawn into a precedent for the future. He was certain that the M.W.G.M. would not have proposed any motion to them without due consideration, and being fully convinced that they could not only legally pass it, but that it would be of advantage to the Craft—(hear hear). He therefore trusted that the motion would be unanimously carried, feeling assured that it would reflect honour on the Grand Lodge, and their valuable Institution.

Br. Chas. Purton Cooper, Q.C., Pl.G.M. for Kent, next rose, and expressed his opinion that it would be most unbecoming in Grand Lodge to adopt any proposition, merely because it had become known through the medium of the Press that it was to be brought before them. As a Mason, he was determined to exercise his own judgment free and unfettered, without reference to the daily or any other Press—(cheers). The subject now before them, was one of great importance, and he could conscientiously say that it had occupied a large portion of his attention, both by day and by night. He had considered whether they could properly devote any portion of their funds to other than purely Masonic purposes, and whether if they did so, it was likely to tend to any results favourable to the interests of Masonry. He had had grave doubts whether they could so divert their funds, and he had searched through their records for seventy or eighty years back, without being enabled to find a single instance in which such a course had been pursued. The M.W.G.M. had, however, truly stated that this occasion was one of a peculiar and exceptional kind, inasmuch as it was the first occasion in which a Patriotic Fund had been collected under the authority of a Royal Commission, and that Her Majesty had called upon all classes of society to support it. If, therefore, it was not inconsistent with the principles of the Order to vote a sum of money to other than truly Masonic purposes, then ought they to adopt this resolution. In aiding the widows and orphans of those gallant men who might fall in the Crimea, it must be recollected that many of them would probably be connected with their brethren, whom it would be their bounden duty to support, and he asked them whether they might not go a little further to aid the relatives of those, who, if not so immediately connected with the Craft, were fighting the battles of their country in defence of civilization and freedom. Might not such a consideration enable them to resolve their doubts, if doubts they had, as he admitted he had on the subject, and give their vote in favour of the more extended principles of charity—(cheers). He believed that the M.W.G.M. would never have proposed the resolution, had he not been fully convinced that it was consistent with their principles, and with the regulations of Grand Lodge, and therefore after the deepest consideration, he (Br. Cooper), had come to

the conclusion, that he could conscientiously recommend the brethren to support the vote, which with all his heart and all his soul he called upon them to do—(cheers).

Br. Bell, of Manchester, stated that he represented a large number of the brethren in Manchester, and other parts of Lancashire, with many of whom he had spoken on the subject, and all of whom with one exception were in favour of the vote. He should therefore support it, and he might mention that the Lodge to which he belonged, though far from numerous or affluent, had given ten guineas to the fund.

Br. Geo. Barrett, P.M. of No. 188, said he had entered the room with the determination to oppose the vote, but after what had taken place, and the evident feeling of the Grand Lodge, he did not feel himself in a position to go to a division on the question. He hoped, however, that there would never be an attempt made to draw this vote into a precedent, for should there be, they might rely upon it there would be a powerful opposition, organised to prevent what he must consider an illegal appropriation of their funds.

Br. Dr. Rowe, P.G.D., as an old Peninsular officer, supported the motion, feeling assured that the Masonic body could not better carry out their principles, than in aiding by their charity, the widows and orphans of those brave men who lost their lives in defence of the honour of their country.

The motion was then put, when (there being close upon three hundred of the brethren present) about a hundred, or a hundred and twenty voted in its favour, and something like half that number against it, the remainder of the brethren abstaining from voting. The motion having been declared carried amidst considerable applause, Br. Wm. H. White, G. Sec. read the accounts of Grand Lodge, from which it appeared that there was a balance in stock and cash in favour of the Order, of £15,500, of which £6,300 is applicable to general purposes—£30 having been voted to the widow of a deceased brother, on the recommendation of the Board of Benevolence. A report was brought forward from the Board of general purposes, recommending one or two trivial alterations in the Constitutions, and that (the whole of the last edition having been sold) they be re-printed. After a short discussion, the alterations were agreed to, and it was resolved that two editions should be published, one in the usual form, and one in a size convenient for the pocket. All business being ended, the Quarterly Communication was closed in due form.

THE GRAND FESTIVAL.

The annual festival on the installation of the M.W.G.M. takes place on the 25th inst., when we understand every arrangement has been made for the accommodation of those of the brethren and their ladies as can make it convenient to be present. Br. Lewis Solomon has been elected as hon. Sec. The G.O., Br. Ransford, will have the arrangement of the music.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the monthly meeting, on the 28th Feb., £78 10s. was voted to be given between nine applicants, and one for £30 recommended to G.L., which has since adopted the recommendation. On the 28th of March, the relief voted between eleven applicants was £115.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The anniversary festival of this Institution, established for the purpose of clothing, educating, and apprenticing the sons of indigent and deceased Freemasons, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, March 14, the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, R.W.D.G.M., presiding, supported by Br. Bonamy Dobree, G.S.W.; Ed. Baldwin, G.J.W.; J. Hervey, G.S.D.; J.E. Cox, G.C.;—Bagshaw, P.G.M., for Essex;—Spiers, P.G.S. B.; and about 180 other brethren. At the conclusion of the dinner, which was most elegantly served and gave general satisfaction to the brethren, the R.W.D.G.M. said, before they proceeded to the business of the evening they must allow him to express his regret at the absence of his right hon. friend, the M.W.G.M. He knew that the noble Earl continued to take the deepest interest in the welfare of the Institution, but he was advised by his medical attendants to abstain, for the present, as much as possible from attending festivals of the description

which had brought them together, though he was sure that the M.W.G.M., would give them every support in his power—(cheers). In proposing the first toast, he was sure that he need only mention the name of Her Majesty, to ensure its being most heartily responded to, as she has not only shown that she at all times took the liveliest interest in the welfare of all classes of her subjects, but was the Patroness of the Freemasons Boys School, to which she had that day sent her usual annual donation of £10 10s. 0d.—(cheers). He begged to give them the health of “Her Majesty—God bless her.” The national anthem having been sung by Miss Birch, Miss Poole, Miss Clara Henderson, and Mrs. Lawler, King, and Allen, the R.W.D.G.M. said, that having met to promote the interests of an Institution established for the education of youth, he was sure they would drink the next toast with the greatest satisfaction, as they would agree with him that no one had shown himself a greater friend to education, than H.R.H. Prince Albert—(cheers). He therefore begged to give them the health of “H.R.H. Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal family”—(cheers). The R.W.D.G.M. said, the next toast he had to propose was one which, under ordinary circumstances, might be well left out in an assembly like theirs, but were they to do so upon the present occasion, they might, perhaps, be accused of injustice and ingratitude to a large body of men, to whom the country were deeply indebted, and in whose ranks were to be found very many of their brethren. He alluded to the Army and Navy—(cheers). He was sure that they must all have noticed with admiration not only their gallantry, but the patience and endurance the troops had exhibited in the East, under the most trying circumstances, and that they would, therefore, cordially join him in drinking the toast—(cheers). He could not give them The Army and Navy upon the present occasion without also coupling with it the toast the services of their gallant Allies—(loud cheers). He was glad to find that his sentiments met with their approbation; and, trusting that the two countries might continue, in war or in peace, in amity together, he begged to propose “The Allied Armies and Navies of England and France”—(cheers). He was glad to see when he attended Grand Lodge, the other day, that the efforts of their gallant Army and Navy was appreciated, and that £1000 was voted to the Patriotic Fund in Aid of the Widows and Orphans of those who might unfortunately fall in the unfortunate contest in which they were engaged. He knew that very many private Lodges had also come forward in a most laudable spirit to support that fund. He trusted that every success would attend the efforts of their Army and Navy, and that very many of them might be spared to return home and enjoy the remainder of their lives in the full confidence that they had earned, the gratitude of their country. His toast was the “Allied Armies and Navies of England and France”—(cheers). The R.W. chairman, in proposing the next toast, “The health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.,” expressed his regret that the noble Lord was absent from their festival that day—a regret in which he was sure they all deeply sympathised, knowing as they did, from what he had stated in the early part of the evening, that the state of the noble Lord’s health precluded him from attending such festivals as that at which they were then assembled. He was sure, however, that though not present in person, the heart of the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland, was with them, and he held in his hand a note from the noble Lord, expressing his deep regret at being unable to attend, and enclosing a cheque of £10 10s. in aid of the funds of the Institution—(cheers). He was sure it was unnecessary for him to say much in recommendation of the toast, as they were well aware that the G.M. had at all times been ready to set an example in supporting the Masonic charities and upholding those principles which should distinguish Freemasons. He believed that no one could fill the high post to which he had been elected by the brethren more conscientiously, or so as to give greater satisfaction to the Craft, than the M.W.G.M., and he, therefore, begged to propose to them the “Health of the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland”—(cheers). Br. Bagshaw, Pr. G.M. for Essex, had certainly not expected when he entered that room to have to address the brethren. It was the first time he had had the pleasure to meet them since he had been honoured by the G.M. with the distinguished position he now held, and whilst regretting the absence of the M.W.G.M., he had the greatest pleasure in proposing a toast with which he had been entrusted, the health of their noble chairman, the R.W.D.G.M.—(loud cheers). He

was aware that that toast would be most cordially responded to by the Craft, as the Earl of Yarborough was known to them all as one of the warmest supporters of their charities, and as always discharging with the utmost fidelity his duties as a man and a Mason—(cheers). It was a most pleasing duty for him to have to propose the health of the noble Earl—knowing him to be an honour to their noble Craft, and he, therefore, now called upon the brethren to join him in drinking the health of “the D.G.M., the chairman of the evening”—(cheers). The D.G.M. said the very flattering manner in which the toast had been proposed and responded to, rendered it impossible for him to return them thanks in the manner he felt to be due to them. He could assure the brethren it would give great encouragement for the future in the performance of his duties—(cheers). When he was informed that the M.W.G.M. must be unavoidably absent, and he was requested to take the chair at that festival, he at once acceded—(cheers)—and he should be glad at any time to do everything in his power to promote the prosperity of this Institution and the other charities, and show the interest he took in the Craft. He wished to show them that he was not an idle man—that he was determined to do his duty in the high position he had the honour to fill, and the reception he had received that evening would encourage him in his determination—(cheers). He was desirous to see this Institution made as perfect as possible, so that the boys might be educated so as to be not only useful to themselves, but as they grew up they might assist their aged parents—(cheers). It was to support a noble Institution that they had come together that evening, and he hoped they would show by their contributions how anxious they were to carry out the charity to the utmost efficiency—(cheers). He was sure the Committee only required the support of the brethren to make the school second to none in the kingdom—(cheers). The toast having been heartily responded to, the D.G.M. said he was sure the brethren would excuse him if he appeared to press the toasts upon them somewhat quickly, but the fact was they had not yet come to the most interesting part of the business of the evening. He had now to propose to them “the Prov. G.M.’s and the Past and Present Grand Officers,” and he was glad to see by the number of them present, how deeply they valued the importance of the Boys School. Br. Bonamy Dobree, G.S.W., acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the Prov. G. M.’s and the Grand Officers, and assured the brethren that upon all occasions it was most gratifying to the G.O.’s to show, in the discharge of their duties, their attachment to the Masonic charities, in the support of which they were set so bright an example by their noble chairman. The boys were here introduced into the room, and excited much interest from their healthy and genteel appearance. The G. Chaplain, Br. the Rev. J. E. Cox, said it gave him great pleasure to introduce to the notice of his Lordship, the boys, whom as examiner he had had the honour to recommend for prizes viz:—1st Writing—John William Hill; 1st History—John William Hill; 2nd or Junior ditto—Frederick Kisingbury; 1st Geography—George John Crichton; 2nd or Junior ditto—George Bruhl Daly; 1st General Information—William Turner Manger; 2nd or Junior ditto—George John Crichton; 1st Arithmetic—John William Hill; Howlett and Crichton commended; 2nd ditto—Louis Gamauf. He had great pleasure in bearing his testimony to their good conduct, and the general attainments of the boys. He regretted, however, that they had not yet the opportunity of bringing the whole of the boys under one roof, in the same manner as the girls, as they could not have that general supervision over them whilst they were scattered about all over the country, which was desirable; though in London that objection was not so strong, in consequence of the metropolis being divided into sections, and the boys placed in good schools so as to bring them up as nearly as possible on one principle. The noble chairman having complimented the boy, Hill, on the number of prizes he had obtained and advised him to persevere in the course he had begun, as if he did so it would be sure to lead him to prosperity, proceeded to present the various prizes to the different boys, accompanying each with a few appropriate remarks. The noble chairman then proceeded to address the children generally, and said it gave him great pleasure to hear so good a report of them, and he trusted that they would endeavour to continue to merit the kind encomiums of the Rev. Mr. Cox. He hoped they would continue in the course they had begun, and that when they left school they would strive to make the best use of the talents and education with which they

were blessed. If they continued to distinguish themselves and still proved worthy of the prizes he had that day presented, he would be happy if they required it in after life to do everything in his power to assist them. He did not wish it to be understood that if they were comfortably situated and were receiving fair remuneration for their services, that they were to expect him to give them any assistance; but if unfortunately any of them could not find that employment which their friends thought their talents deserved, if they would come to him, and they thought he could assist them, he would do the utmost in his power for the purpose—(cheers). He would now address himself to the company generally. He knew that nothing could be more gratifying to the ladies than to see children brought up in the way they should go. He was gratified to see the ladies honouring their annual festivals with their presence, and he hoped they would take every opportunity of informing their friends of the good that was done by the Institution, and of assisting them to continue that good. The Institution was established in 1798, for the purpose of giving a good education to the children of deceased or aged Freemasons, and he would ask the brethren how could they spend their money better than in giving education to the children of those who were unable themselves to find the means for doing so? They educated and clothed, and he wished he could say, boarded and lodged, the boys. They were, however, as yet unable to do so, though he trusted the day would come when the Institution would be made more efficient than it was at present—(hear, hear). As had been stated by Br. Cox, it was impossible under the present system to have that superintendence over the boys which was desirable. In the metropolis, which was carefully divided into districts, the boys were sent to selected schools in the neighbourhood in which they lived, and everything was done under an understood system to develop their energies and talents. But even this system had its disadvantages when compared with that of bringing the boys together under one roof, and placing them under the eye of one superintendent. It was not only book learning which they wished to give them, but they wished to place good examples of living before them, to teach them when they grew up, how best to expend their time, and impress upon them that, if they expended it properly, they might provide not only for themselves, but their aged friends. He thought they would agree with him, that such an Institution was most desirable, and he would suggest that a committee should be formed to assist in carrying out so desirable an object. They would see by the report that they had £2000 in hand towards a building fund, and what he would propose was, that they might have another dinner some time after the Girls Festival, for the special object of collecting subscriptions in augmentation of that fund—(hear, hear). In the lists going round that evening they would find a column for the building fund, and he hoped that they would not overlook it whilst supporting the general objects of the Institution. He might inform them that the receipts for 1854-5 were less than for 1853-4, and he would urge them, if they wished to give the children of the brethren a good education, to strengthen the hands of the committee by liberal subscriptions. The noble Earl concluded by giving "Prosperity to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," which was drunk with loud applause. The R.W.D.G.M. said that the next toast he had to propose to their notice, was the health of a brother who he regretted was not present to-day, in consequence of illness, but who had always shown himself a most earnest friend not only to the Boys School, but to every charity which had been brought under his notice. He gave them the health of their "worthy Treasurer, Br. Benj. Bond Cabbell"—(cheers). Br. John Hervey, G.S.D., begged, on the part of Br. Cabbell, to return thanks for the compliment paid to him, and to state that he had been instructed by the worthy brother, who regretted he was unable to attend, to hand in his donation of £10 10s. to the Charity—(cheers). The D.G.M. said that though they were assembled especially to promote the interests of one particular charity, he was sure that they would very much regret that the others should be forgotten. The Girls School and the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons, must not be forgotten, and he would therefore, with their leave, propose "prosperity to the Masouic Charities," with which he would couple the name of "Br. Francis Crew"—(cheers). Br. Crew said that though he had been for thirteen years the Secretary of the Girls School, it was the first time that he had been called upon to address the brethren in that room. He was much obliged to the noble chairman for the great

honour he had done him by coupling his name with so excellent a toast. He delighted at all times in witnessing the prosperity of the Masonic Charities, and it was highly gratifying to him to notice the progress making by the Boys School, and he sincerely hoped, that ere long, to see the boys gathered under one roof receiving the advantages which the Girls now derived from one general superintendence. He was sure that no person could visit the Girls School without being delighted with all the arrangements, and here he particularly wished to impress upon the ladies that it was peculiarly their province to watch over, and guard that School—(cheers). He could not conclude without reminding them that the festival of the Girls School would take place in that room on the 16th of May, when he trusted that the brethren would rally round them and show their appreciation of its value, by a numerous attendance—(cheers). The children in that School were of a class that any brother might be proud to call his own daughters, and their health and acquirements were most strictly attended to—(cheers). He thought it was somewhat extraordinary, that looking at the severe winter they had gone through, there had not been a child who had a cough or cold—(cheers). He presumed he was indebted for being now called upon to address them, to the kindness of his Br. Cox, whose many kindnesses he could never forget, and he assured the R.W.D.G.M., Br. Cox, and the rest of the brethren, that he felt deeply grateful for the compliment which had been paid to him, and through him to the Masonic Charities—(cheers). The D.G.M. then proposed the Committee of Management, which was acknowledged by Br. John Hervey, G.S.D., who assured the company that the committee were deeply sensible of the obligations they owed to the brethren for their attendance. Br. A.U. Thisleton, then read the lists of subscriptions to the names of the different Stewards, as nearly as we could collect as follows :—

Br. The Rev. John Edmund Cox, Grand Chaplain, Lodge of Unity, 82, <i>President</i>	42	0	0
„ Walter Prideaux, J. W., Lodge of Friendship 6, <i>Vice-Pres.</i>	39	18	0
„ William H. Absolon, P.M., Mount Moriah Lodge 40, <i>Treasurer</i>	51	9	0
„ Joseph Henry Dart, Grand Master's Lodge	1	50	8
„ Henry Morgan Vane, S.D. Lodge of Antiquity	2	4	2
„ John Collier Shackleton, P.M. 340, and J.W., Lodge of Fidelity	3	77	14
„ Charles Locock Webb, W.M. Royal Somerset House & Inverness Lodge	4	36	5
„ Richard Havers, St. George and Corner Stone Lodge	5	49	4
„ Henry Becher Pigott, J. W. British Lodge	8	14	14
„ James Burton, W.M. Albion Lodge	9	11	11
„ John Scott, Enoch Lodge	11	27	9
„ Henry Browne, P.M. Old Dundee Lodge	18	29	8
„ David Samuels, P.M. 264, and Lodge of Emulation	21	24	0
„ M. P. Humphrey, W.M. Globe Lodge	23	8	0
„ William Croft, S.D. Old King's Arms Lodge	30	13	13
„ Thomas Hutchings, St. Alban's Lodge	32	15	15
„ William Smith, W.M. Lodge of Felicity	66	10	10
„ Lewis Solomons, W.M. Lodge of Regularity	108	14	14
„ G. H. Bascombe, Middlesex Lodge	167	21	0
„ Capt. Thomas Malkin, W.M. Cadogan Lodge	183	84	0
„ John Webber, W.M. Phoenix Lodge	202	17	17
„ William Simpson, P.M., Jerusalem Lodge	233	32	11
„ Joseph D. Rigby, Prince of Wales' Lodge	324	21	0
„ William Barter, Apollo University Lodge	460	16	16
„ Horatio Semon Samuel Polish National Lodge	778	24	3
„ Thomas Campbell Eytton, J.G.W. North Wales and Shropshire. and St. John's Lodge	875	44	0
„ Benjamin Banks, Beadon Lodge	902	10	10

Amongst the subscriptions we noticed, Her Majesty, £10 10s.; the M.W.G.M., £10 10s.; the R.W.D.G.M., £10 10s.; Br. B. Bond Cabbell, Treasurer, £10 10s.; Br. Rev. J. E. Cox, G. Chaplain, £5 5s.; Mrs. Cox, £5 5s.; the *Masonic Mirror*, £2 2s., &c., &c. The R.W.D.G.M. said that though it was late in the evening, he was sure they would be glad of the opportunity of showing their respect for the Stewards of the day, by drinking their health, for it was owing to their exertions they were indebted for so pleasant and orderly a meeting. Br. the Rev. J. E. Cox, as chairman of the Board of Stewards, acknowledged the compliment, and assured his Lordship, that the Stewards felt themselves deeply indebted to him for the readiness with which he had undertaken to occupy the chair upon that occasion. The Stewards

had endeavoured to do their duty and if they had not with the approbation of the Brethren, they felt themselves amply rewarded for all their exertions. He trusted that the suggestion of the R.W.D.G.M., that there should be another festival in the course of the year, in aid of the Building Fund for the Boys School, would be carried out, and that ere long, they might be enabled to refer with pride, to a noble building in which as many as possible of their boys might be educated together on one system. The right hon. chairman was sure that they could not adjourn to the glee room without drinking to the health of the ladies who had honoured them with their presence that evening. The toast having been most rapturously responded to, the D.G.M. again called attention to the propriety of forming a committee to get up a second festival in aid of the Building Fund, promising if the committee would communicate with him, he would obtain the consent of the G.M. to its being held, and head the list of subscriptions with a donation of £50. The company then separated, such of the brethren who had the entree, amusing themselves as best they could, until permitted, under the absurd regulations of the Stewards, to join their ladies in, to us, that abomination of abominations, the glee room. The musical arrangements, under the direction of our worthy Br. Lawler, assisted by the Misses Birch, Poole, and Clara Henderson, and Mrs. Allen, Donald King, and T. Jolly, were excellent, and gave the most perfect satisfaction to every person present. Mr. Higgs was an efficient toastmaster, but though knowing the excellence of his private character, we must protest against non-masons being employed in such an office, where he cannot fail to hear observations and witness signs which should be understood only by the initiated. We the more especially object to the arrangement, inasmuch as we know that many competent brethren would have been glad to undertake the duties.

LONDON LODGES.

GRAND STEWARD LODGE.—Owing to the National Fast, the meeting of this Lodge, which ought to have taken place on the 21st, was postponed until the third Wednesday in the present month.

GRAND MASTER'S LODGE (No. 1).—This highly distinguished and well appointed Lodge, whose splendid Gothic furniture is not only most elegant, but well adapted to modern convenience, held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on March 19th, when the W.M. Br. Potter, in a most able manner, raised a brother to the third degree. Several distinguished visitors were present, who expressed great delight at the excellent government and working of the Lodge.

LODGE OF ANTIQUITY (No. 2).—This Lodge held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, February 28th, the W.M. Br. Pomkin, presiding. The furniture and general appearance of this venerable Lodge, though perhaps ill suited for the convenience of modern rooms, seems, on entering, to strike the mind of a Mason with awe and reverence, when he considers that it is the only Lodge in existence in London which connects us with Masonry in its primitive state. Here, a brother may fancy he sees in his mind's eye, Sir Christopher Wren sitting on the dais, supported by his lords, as they were termed in those days (or employers in the modern), and his well-selected Wardens sitting by their stone pedestals, listening to the report of a brother in the West, or entering into and explaining the details of some of the wonderful emanations of his master mind, or perhaps illustrating the beauty of Masonry by the practice of its greatest ornament—charity. Or he may carry his reflections to the time when our ancient brethren met in Monastic structures, surrounded by the glories of their art, protected against the lawlessness of the times (when men were shedding their blood like water, and seeming only to try how far the power of destruction might be carried), knowing in their sacred retreats, wisdom and skill could alone hold their meetings in security. Again, when a brother looks round the festive board, and hears Mrs. King, Lawler, Genge and others, singing their good old English songs, he may fancy he sits amongst the ancient brethren, after their labours, and looking upon the proud and happy expression of their countenances as they sang the jocund song, and drank prosperity to the Craft, and to those who supported them in the execution of their stupendous works. We trust for the sake of those who prize our ancient traditions, that the members of this Lodge will ever maintain it against the destructive hand of time, and show to the Masonic

world, that though they admit that Masonry is progressive, they will preserve their Lodge from the innovations of modernism, and show a pattern of love for the reminiscences of olden time. Existing from time immemorial, may it ever remain, as it has so long continued to be, a perfect monument of past and present usefulness. On Thursday last, the 29th March, the foundation stone of the Junior United Service Club, Regent Street, was laid by the Right Hon. the Earl of Orkney, with the ancient mall belonging to this Lodge, which was used at the laying of the foundation stone of St. Paul's, by King Charles II. This is the first time the Lodge has ever lent the mall for other than Masonic business; and upon this occasion it was entrusted to the care of Br. Thiselton, the Sec. of the Boy's School, to whom it was returned by his Lordship the instant the ceremony was completed.

ROYAL SOMERSET HOUSE, AND INVERNESS LODGE (No. 4).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on the 26th March, the W.M., Br. C. L. Webb, raised a brother to the third degree.

ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday the 21st February. Br. P.M. Dr. W. Jones, in the absence of the W.M. Br. J. S. S. Hopwood, raised Br. Webb to the sublime degree of a M.M., performing the ceremony with his accustomed ability. Br. Thomas Bohn, P.M. 201, was unanimously elected a member of the Lodge, having been proposed by Br. John Hervey, S.G.D., and seconded by Br. F. Adlard, P.M., at the meeting in January. All Masonic business completed, the brethren retired to refreshment, under the presidency of the W.M., and the evening passed away most pleasantly. Among the numerous visitors were—Brs. Brigg, P.M. 79, Gustavus Hamilton, P.M. 2 (Dublin), S. W. Hopwood, S.D. 329, Lambert, P.M. 234, &c., &c. The next appointed meeting falling on the day fixed by Her Majesty for a General Fast, the Lodge was adjourned by the W.M. until some day later in the season, to be fixed or determined upon by the Lodge. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday the 18th April.

BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).—The members of this distinguished Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday March 19th, when a ballot was taken for several joining members, and for a gentleman to be initiated into Masonry, which proved unanimous.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—This numerous Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, March 14th. The W.M. Br. Spooner (assisted by his officers), in a most able manner passed four brethren to the second degree, and initiated two gentlemen into Masonry; after which, he with great eloquence and feeling invested Br. P.M. Ledger with a P.M.'s Jewel, as a mark of respect for his exertions for the welfare of the Lodge, during his year of office. The brethren to the number of forty adjourned to dine with the Festival of the Boys' School.

TUSCAN LODGE (No. 14).—The members of this Lodge met together on the 27th February, when a gentleman was initiated into the Order, a brother passed to the second, and another to the third degree.

At the meeting on the 27th March, the ceremonies of all the three degrees were ably worked.

KENT LODGE (No. 15).—The monthly meeting of this ancient Lodge was held at Br. Harris's, the Three Tuns Tavern, Borough, on Wednesday, March 14. Br. Henry Smith, W.M., assisted by his Wardens, Brs. Procter and Westley, and the rest of the officers, initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of Masonry. The brethren then proceeded to the installation, which ceremony was most ably and efficiently performed by Br. E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B., who installed Br. J. B. Procter as W.M. for the year 1855. The new W.M. was pleased to invest his officers as follows:—Br. Westley as S.W., Br. Trebeck as J.W., Br. Field as S.D., Br. Gibbs as J.D., Br. Jones as I.G., Br. Rich. Barnes, P.M., as Treasurer (being his thirtieth year of appointment to that office, and father of the Lodge), and Br. R. E. Barnes, P.M., as H.S. At the conclusion of the installation, Br. Barnes, sen., was called on to present a vote of thanks, handsomely inscribed on vellum, embellished, framed and glazed in one of Br. Beckett's emblematic frames, to Br. Henry Smith, now P.M., of which the following is a copy—"Resolved unanimously, That the best thanks of the Lodge are especially due, and are hereby tendered to our highly esteemed and much respected Br. Henry

Smith, W.M., for the urbanity of manners and integrity of conduct evinced to the members thereof during his year of office, also his truly Masonic feeling in kindly considering the necessities of his aged brethren and their widows. That the above resolution be recorded on the minutes of this day; and as a further testimonial of the gratitude of his brethren, that it be inscribed on vellum, framed and glazed, and presented to him at the ensuing Lodge meeting." The presentation was acknowledged in a neat and appropriate speech. The business having concluded, the brethren, about thirty in number, sat down to an elegant supper, supplied by their highly esteemed host, Br. Harris, in his accustomed and liberal manner. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the late W.M., Br. Smith, proposed the health of the newly installed W.M. Br. Procter. In reply, the W.M. assured the brethren he felt deeply honoured for the distinguished position in which the Lodge had placed him, and that his utmost endeavours would be used to further the interest of the Lodge, and to promote that harmony and unanimity for which the Kent Lodge had ever been characterized. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors—Brs. Shepherd, J.W. 29; Davies, P.M. 87; Harris, P.M. 87; Vell, W.M. 87; Lizard, 218; Bromley, 276. In proposing the health of the Past Masters, the W.M. expressed his thanks for their willingness at all times to render their valuable assistance to the Lodge when called upon, more particularly to their S.P.M. and Father, Br. Richard Barnes, whose presence was at all times hailed with delight. In calling upon the brethren to drink the health of the officers, the W.M. expressed his entire satisfaction at the selection he had made. Br. Westley, S.W., and Br. Trebeck, J.W., returned thanks in a very able manner. The pleasure of the evening was greatly enhanced by the singing of Brs. Harris, Hart, Westley, and several other brethren.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This Lodge, so much distinguished for the working of its officers, held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, March 15th. The W.M., in a most efficient and impressive manner, raised two brethren to the third degree, and initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of masonry. The visitors were Brs. Sternberg, from Berlin; Seight, No. 4; Bennet, 25; How, 82; P.M. Shrewsbury, 108, &c., &c.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—Held its monthly meeting on Monday, March 5th, at the Freemasons' Tavern. The business of the evening was three initiations (Messrs. Schaller, Wise, and Walter), and one passing (Br. Hopkins). The W.M. Br. John Dyte, very ably performed the duties of his office. Three gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the meeting in April. Br. Watson, P.M., in a very feeling and impressive manner, spoke of the many good qualities of the late Treasurer, Br. E. Charker, P.M. and proposed that a letter of condolence be sent to his brother, Mr. H. Charker, and that the same be signed by the W.M. on behalf of the Lodge, and entered on the minutes. The motion seconded by Br. Fox, P.M., and agreed to both by old and young members, responded to the late Treasurer's good qualities. The whole of the members wore crape over the rosettes on their aprons, as a mark of respect to departed merit. Br. Aphed, P.M., was elected the new Treasurer. The Lodge was attended by eight of its P.M.'s. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren, to the number of upwards of 50, supped together. Amongst the visitors were Br. Steward, No. 325, Irish Constitution; and Br. Shepherd, 326, Scotch Constitution. Br. Shepherd, who is a colour-sergeant in the Fusileer Guards, in returning thanks for the visitors, briefly alluded to his having recently returned from the Crimea, invalided, and his having fought in the three great battles of the past campaign, at Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman. The company separated at an early hour.

EGYPTIAN LODGE, (No. 29).—This Lodge met at the George and Blue Boar, Holborn, on Thursday the 1st of March, the W.M. Br. Fernandez, presiding. After the business, the brethren sat down to an excellent supper provided by the worthy host, Br. Haynes (who is a member of this Lodge), in his usual style. The visitors were Brs. Stapleton and Clarke, of the Joppa Lodge, No. 223. The cloth being cleared, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts drunk, Br. Todd, P.M., in a neat speech presented to Br. H. G. Buss, P.M. and Sec., a very handsome gold chain, voted by the Lodge in December last, as a mark of esteem, and in acknowledgment of his services as secretary to the Lodge for several years past.

OLD KING'S ARMS LODGE (No. 30).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 26, when the brethren were much astonished and grieved to see a notice in the ante-room, signed by the W.M., requesting all the brethren to appear with black rosettes on their aprons, in consequence of the sudden death of P.M. and Treas. Br. Scrivener, the father of the Lodge, which threw quite a damp over the proceedings of the evening. The W.M. took occasion in the latter part of the evening of alluding to the death of Br. Scrivener in a very feeling manner, and said he was sure the Lodge would feel his loss for some time to come. Br. Barnes proposed a vote of condolence to the widow and family of their late lamented brother, which was unanimously agreed to. There were several visitors from other Lodges present, amongst whom were a Br. who was initiated in this Lodge 24 years ago, and who initiated the late Br. Scrivener into the Order; Br. Gilman, 8; Br. Powell, 109; Br. Freeman; Br. Hutchings, &c., &c. The brethren separated at an early hour. Br. Filer, P.M., has kindly consented to act as steward at the approaching Festival of the Girls' School, to which, on the motion of Br. Barnes, £10 10s. has been voted from the funds of the Lodge.

At the meeting of the 26th March, the W.M. initiated two candidates into the Order. Amongst the visitor were, Br. Dr. Rowe, P.G.D.; Br. Bisgood, D.P.G.M., for Kent; and Br. George Perren, who delighted the company the latter part of the evening, by his excellent singing.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE, (No. 40).—The usual monthly Meeting of this Lodge took place on Wednesday, Feb. 28. The business consisted of three Initiations and one Raising. Two of the Initiations were performed in an admirable manner, by the W.M., Br. Artus; it is seldom we hear a foreigner perform the ceremony so well. Br. Oran, P.M., then performed the other Initiation in his usual able manner. The W.M. then took the chair again, and went through the ceremony of Raising in a wonderfully correct and impressive manner. Br. Peck proposed that a Jewel to the value of £5 5s. be presented to the late W.M. from the funds of the Lodge, for the skill and ability he had evinced during his year of office in the chair, which was carried unanimously. The brethren then adjourned to partake of the festivities of the banquet table. There were several visitors, amongst them were Br. E. Warwick, W.M., 30; Br. Rowe, 183; Br. Balleral, 4, &c. Br. Warwick returned thanks for the visitors, and said he was always delighted to visit his mother Lodge, and was glad to see it in such a flourishing state, remarking also that he was initiated in the Lodge he believed before any brother now a member of it; he was glad to hear they supported the Charities by sending a steward to the Boys School. The brethren then separated after a very pleasant evening.

SPRONG MAN LODGE, (No. 53).—This Lodge met on the 1st ult., at the Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane. As the gentlemen proposed for initiation did not come up for the ceremony, the labours of the brethren were comparatively light. The Lodge having been closed in harmony, the brethren supped together under the able presidency of the W.M., Br. Turner.

GIHON LODGE (No 57).—This respectable and numerous Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Bridge House Hotel, on Thursday the 15th March, Br. G. England W.M. presiding. Four brethren were initiated into the Order, two brethren passed to the second, and two (by blood as well as in Masonry) raised to the third degree. Upwards of 40 of the brethren afterwards dined together.

ROYAL NAVAL LODGE (No. 70).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, March 14, when a gentleman was initiated into the Order; two brethren raised to the second, and one to the third degree.

ST. MARY'S LODGE (No. 76).—The brethren of this Lodge held their meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, March 15, when the W.M., Br. Kelly, raised a brother to the sublime degree of a M.M., in that able manner for which this Lodge is so much distinguished.

PYTHAGOREAN LODGE (No. 93).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge at the Globe Tavern, Royal-hill, Greenwich, on the 26th Feb, Br. Hedley was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. Br. Adams was raised to the degree of a M.M., and all

business being ended, the brethren retired to refreshment, and spent an extremely pleasant evening.

VITRUVIAN LODGE (No. 103).—This excellent Lodge met at the White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, on the 14th March. The W.M., Br. Maudsley, being absent in consequence of a recent death in his family, the P.M., Br. Crosby, initiated two gentlemen into the Order. Several visitors were present, and the true Masonic feeling, for which this Lodge is so much distinguished, was truly carried out.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—The members of this excellent Lodge held their meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, March 8. Br. Crohn, G.S.G.C., in his usual impressive manner raised two brethren to the third degree. Other business having been transacted, the brethren adjourned to partake of an elegant banquet, in honour of the installation (which took place in January) of the new W.M., Br. Lewis Solomon. The health of the Queen, and the Most Worshipful G.M. having been duly honoured, the W.M., in proposing the health of the Grand Officers, congratulated the Lodge in having amongst them so excellent a member of that distinguished body, as Br. Crohn, and thanked him for his readiness at all times to render good suit and service to the Lodge whenever his assistance was required. Br. Crohn, in returning thanks, said he believed that the Grand Officers had on all occasions endeavoured to discharge their duties to the best of their ability, and if, in doing so, they received the thanks of the Craft, it would incite them to still greater exertions. With regard to his assistance to the Lodge, he always felt it as more than sufficient compliment to be asked to render it, though he believed it to be quite unnecessary, for the Lodge, in itself, contained more than sufficient talent to meet any emergency. Br. Johnson, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said that the Lodge felt peculiarly fortunate in having a Master so eminently qualified to preside, as he had not only discharged the subordinate offices with great talent, but at all times shown the greatest interest for its welfare; and as the Lodge was about to celebrate its centenary, it being in May, 1755, in the reign of George II. that it was constituted, they felt great pleasure in having a brother of such talent and excellence to preside over them. The W.M., in a most feeling manner, expressed his thanks for the compliment, and, in proposing the health of the Past Masters, took occasion to thank them for the valuable assistance they were ever ready to render, and more especially to express the pleasure he felt in having to invest the immediate P.M., Br. John Johnson, with a jewel, as a token of respect from the Lodge, for the able manner in which he had discharged his duties while in the chair. Br. John Johnson, in returning thanks, said that he felt that his brother P.M. had more right to reply than himself. For his own part, he feared the Lodge had complimented him too much on what he had done; but his public and private avocations, at some hundreds of miles distance, had often unavoidably prevented his attendance when his inclination would have prompted him to be amongst them not only as a duty, but for the enjoyment he felt in their society. He trusted that such an excuse would not have to be made by any brother holding office in this Lodge, and to show the sorrow he felt for his unavoidable want of attention, whilst in the chair, he would endeavour, by his future conduct, to prove the interest he felt in the welfare of the Lodge. In proposing the health of the visitors, Brs. Bellinger, W.M., 82, and P.G.M.; Vickers, P.M., 83; Anderson, 82; Burton, W.M., 9; Webber, W.M., 202; Butts, 116; and C. Solomon, 223, the W.M. said the Lodge of Regularity always felt the greatest pleasure in being honoured by the presence of visitors, but, if possible, still more so on the present occasion, from the high and distinguished position which they held in Masonry. With the majority he had the pleasure of being personally acquainted, and he trusted that Masonry, that great cement of mankind, would lead to his becoming better acquainted than at present with the remainder. Br. Bellinger returned thanks, and expressed the pleasure he and his brethren felt in visiting the Lodge, and trusted that this would not be the last time they would have that gratification. The W.M. then proposed the health of the officers, and expressed his thanks for their able support. The S.W., Br. Albertz, in returning thanks, said that, although as a foreigner he had had greater difficulties to surmount than others in learning his duties, he felt grateful for the kindness with which he was always treated, and would, in conjunction with his brother officers, ever exert himself

to the utmost for the benefit of the Lodge. The harmony of the evening was greatly increased by the excellent singing of Br. C. Solomon, the Misses Taylor, and Br. Taylor, who presided at the pianoforte.

MOIRA LODGE (No. 109).—This Lodge held its regular monthly meeting at the London Tavern, on Tuesday, February 27, when two candidates were most ably initiated into the Order by Br. Hogg, W.M. The Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to a most sumptuous banquet. There were several visitors present, amongst whom were Br. E. Warwick, W.M., No. 30; Br. Childs, W.M., 13; &c., &c. The brethren, after spending a most delightful evening, enlivened by the vocal abilities of three or four of the members, separated at an early hour.

LONDON LODGE (No. 125).—This Lodge which has long wanted an infusion of new blood, met on Saturday, March 3, under the presidency of Br. Mackintyre, W.M., when five brethren were elected joining members. All business being ended, the brethren, to the number of twelve, adjourned to refreshment.

LODGE OF FAITH (No. 165).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 27th Feb., Br. McManus, W.M., presiding, a duly qualified candidate was initiated into the Order in a very able manner.

St. THOMAS'S LODGE (No. 166).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on Saturday, March 3, Br. Normandy, W.M., presiding, two brothers were passed to the second degree.

LODGE OF PRUDENT BROTHERS (No. 169).—A meeting of this Lodge was held on the evening of February 27, Br. Hewlett, W.M., presiding, when Br. Holman Smith was raised to the third degree, and the bye-laws revised and ordered to be printed.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 172).—The members of this thriving Lodge met at Br. Hall's, the Royal Albert, New-cross Road, Deptford, on Wednesday, the 14th March, when a gentleman was initiated and a brother passed to the second degree. We are glad to see, that through the exertions of the W.M. and the brethren generally, that this Lodge has since its removal prospered so well, and from the brotherly feeling existing among its members it cannot do otherwise. All business being ended, nearly thirty of the brethren sat down to a banquet, and spent a very pleasant evening.

BEDFORD LODGE (No. 183).—This Lodge held a meeting on the 9th of March, when Br. P.M. Cooper presided, in consequence of the unavoidable absence of Br. Sake Deen Mahomed. The business, which all excellently executed, consisted of the initiation of five gentlemen into the Order, and the raising of a brother to the third degree. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren, nearly thirty in number, retired to refreshment, and in the course of the evening, the brethren were charmed with some excellent singing by Br. P.M. Jerwood, and others.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 6th ultimo. The W.M. being absent through indisposition, Br. Kennedy presided, and initiated Mr. Dodswell into the mysteries of the Order, passed Brs. Smith, Carne, and Holden to the second degree, and raised Brs. Edmonds and Nisbett to the degree of Master Masons. These ceremonies were all gone through in Br. Kennedy's well-known able and efficient manner. He then stated to the Lodge that the stewards of "the Old Concord Annual Ball" having met to audit the accounts, it gave him great pleasure to inform the brethren, they had a surplus of twenty guineas, which sum, he was pleased to add, they had voted to "the Benevolent Fund of this Lodge." He wished also to make it known that a unanimous vote of thanks had been recorded to the members of the Lodge for the able support they had given to the ball, and he felt quite sure that this "annual ball" was now so firmly established, it would be the means of augmenting their Funds very considerably, and must add that he felt quite delighted at their continued success. A statement of the receipts and expenditure was now in the hands of Br. Emmens, Honorary Secretary to the Ball; and when he informed the brethren that the expenses incurred amounted to more than £150, he was quite sure they would share his delight and surprise that this Lodge should, without any public appeal have been so successful, through the interest of the stewards, and their friends. All must be pleased at such favourable and happy results. Some other business of the Lodge having been concluded, it was then closed, when the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was served

in Mrs. Watson, Coggin, and Banke's usual excellent style. The evening was spent in harmony and true Masonic feeling, and the brethren separated, highly pleased with their entertainment.

PHENIX LODGE (No. 202).—This now flourishing Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemason's Tavern, on Saturday, March 10, under the able presidency of the W.M. Br. John Webber, when three gentlemen were duly initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The other business having been disposed of, the Lodge voted £2 2s. as a donation to the Boys' School, and £1 1s. towards the fund now raising for relieving the Aged Masons' Asylum at Croydon from debt. At the close of the business the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and the enjoyment of the after part of the evening was much enhanced by the excellent singing of Mrs. Geo. Perren, Geo. Ford, the veteran Beular, and many other brothers.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—A very large muster of the members of this prosperous Lodge met at the Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane, on Monday, the 12th March, under the able presidency of their esteemed W.M. Br. T. Adams, P.M. 196. The summonses to the brethren announced an unusually large amount of business, even for this Lodge, the greater part of which, viz., six raisings and one initiation, was performed by the W.M. with his well-known care and ability, assisted by a very efficient body of officers. At the close of Masonic business the brethren retired to an elegant repast supplied by Br. Ireland, and the happiness which reigned throughout the evening fully evinced the kindly feeling that exists among the brethren of the Lodge. Among the visitors were Mrs. Suter, Wm. Bennett, J. Greenwood, Barker, Murray, &c., &c. During the evening the sum of £5 was voted to the Asylum Fund, on the proposition of Br. Joseph Smith, P.M.

LODGE OF JOPPA, (No. 223).—This highly numerous, respectable, and excellent working Lodge, held its monthly meeting at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate (whence it has removed in consequence of the want of accommodation for its increasing numbers at its former Lodge house), on Monday, March 5. The W.M., Br. Henry Lyons most ably presided, and initiated into the Order two candidates, Messrs. Hugo Cantor, and Kreisner, with a solemnity which we have never seen excelled. On the motion of Br. P.M. Aarons, seconded by Br. P.M. Jones, it was resolved to give £1 1s. from the funds to the Boys' School, as a donation from the Lodge. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren, upwards of sixty in number, adjourned to a very elegant banquet, which did great credit to the establishment of the Messrs. Staples. The cloth having been removed, and grace said, the W.M. proposed the Queen and Craft—and in an appropriate speech dilated upon the virtues of that illustrious and excellent lady—adverting to the kind feeling and anxiety she had shown towards those poor wounded fellows, who had suffered in the cause of their country. The prosperity of the benevolent fund was proposed, the chairman stating, that though it had been established for upwards of five years, there had as yet been no claim upon it. The chairman also alluded to the fact that that excellent charity, the Jewish Soup Kitchen, had been mainly established and supported by members of the Joppa Lodge. The health of the most excellent W.M., of the P.M.'s, and other toasts were drunk and ably responded to. There were several visitors present, amongst whom were Mrs. Warren, P.M., 202; Pyke, 218; Gabriel, 310; Isaacs, 368; Eisenburg, Lowing, &c., &c. In proposing this toast the W.M. referred in very handsome terms to the *Masonic Mirror*, which was acknowledged by Br. Warren, who thanked the members of the Lodge for their liberal support, and assured the brethren that the proprietors were determined to do everything in their power to make the *Mirror* of the greatest utility to the Craft. The proceedings of the evening were enlivened by some charming singing by the Misses Marian and Ada Taylor, Br. G. F. Taylor, presiding at the pianoforte.

JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 7th March, Br. Lewis Crombie, W.M., presiding, a brother was ably passed as a F.C.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting on Friday, the 16th March, at the Freemasons' Tavern. In the unavoidable absence of Br. Spooner, W.M. (who had been re-elected to the office), Br. Sheen, P.M., officiated in passing Br. Robinson to the second degree, and afterwards pro-

ceeded to invest the officers as follows:—Brs. Young, S.W.; Utton, J.W.; Arliss, S.D.; Aznavour, J.D.; Watt, I.G.; Patten, P.M. and P.G.S.B., Sec.; and Scambler, P.M., Treasurer. The business of the evening being completed, the brethren retired to a banquet, the excellence of which fully justified the high character which this establishment enjoys,

LODGE OF TRANQUILITY (No. 218).—This numerous Lodge met on Monday, March 18, for the first time, at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, having removed from the George and Vulture, Br. Saul Solomon, W.M., presiding. There being no business of importance to transact, the Brethren adjourned early to banquet, after which the usual loyal and masonic toasts were proposed, among which was that of the visitors, coupling with it the name of Br. Sternberg, from Prussia. The worshipful Master took the opportunity of saying, that the tenets of Freemasonry allowed neither country nor creed to be studied, but every Mason was received with open arms by all Lodges carrying out the true principles of Masonry. He trusted Br. Sternberg was satisfied with his Masonic reception in England. Now, he would ask Br. Sternberg if he could inform this Lodge why Jews were excluded from the Lodges in Prussia? for such he knew had been the case—thus destroying the universality which was the great basis of Freemasonry. Br. Sternberg, in returning thanks for the visitors, said (through the medium of an interpreter), it was with regret he was compelled to acknowledge the justice of the Worshipful Master's remarks. It was true that Jews had been refused admittance to the Prussian Lodges; it had been caused, he believed, by certain parties inimical to the best interests of Masonry taking advantage of political matters, which, for a time, had prevented the Crown Prince devoting his usual attention to the Lodges (Hear). The moment, however, it reached the ears of his Royal Highness, true to his position as "Protector of the Masonic Lodges in the Prussian Monarchy," he issued an order that no Mason, be his country or creed what it might, should for the future be refused admittance to a Prussian Lodge; and he (Br. Sternberg) had much pleasure in saying, that since then Jews *had* been admitted, the Prince did them honour by being present on the occasion.

ST. PAUL'S LODGE (No. 229).—This Lodge held its ordinary meeting on Tuesday, the 27th of March. The business was conducted in the usual masterly style. The W.M., Br. Randall, initiated a candidate with great ability. The charge was given by the Treasurer, Br. Foster White; and we have seldom listened to this charge, given by this excellent Mason, *without admiration and instruction*,—his clear syllabic articulation and emphatic manner, strongly impresses its force upon all, and we may say, "Can such things be, and overcome us like a summer's cloud, without our special wonder." Our congratulations are due to this benevolent man, not more so as Masons, for he is now of a larger circle, dispensing his patronage over one of the largest institutions of the metropolis, we allude to his election as Treasurer to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; long may he be spared, with health and strength, to carry forward this good work. The Girls' Charity Festival was prominently placed before the Lodge, and, as usual, a liberal sum voted. As this, with the other charities, will be touched upon in a separate article, we decline further observation, than to hope, that our provincial brethren will give them all the support they so much require at this auspicious period. The brethren assembled in good number. We noticed several of the Grand Lodge, and one worthy brother from the Apollo Lodge, Oxford, Br. Wood. The health of this visiting brother was proposed in a separate toast, and received with great enthusiasm. The other usual toasts were responded to with feelings of satisfaction and welcome. This Lodge has amongst its members many who cannot be surpassed for their strong attachment to Masonry, as well as their benevolence; how can we say more than point to a Leonard Chandler, a Wilson, and others always prominent in charity and hospitality, the great "land-marks of the order."

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—This Lodge held its regular monthly meeting at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 13th March, when the W.M. Br. Cooper, in his usual learned manner, initiated Mr. Waterhouse into the mysteries of Freemasonry, and passed his brother, Br. C. F. Waterhouse, also Br. Cowdrey, to the second degree. The other business was only formal. The Lodge being closed, the

brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was favoured by the presence of several visitors, amongst whom we noticed Br. Shephard, who has just returned from the Crimea, and who has been at the battles of Balaklava, Inkerman, and Alma. He returned thanks for the visitors. The Lodge also had the pleasure of the company of the immediate P.M., Br. Alfred Tilt, for the first time since his indisposition. The W.M. proposed the health of Br. A. Tilt, which was responded to in a manner which must have convinced the visitors how much he is respected. The regular routine toasts having been proposed and responded to, the brethren adjourned until the second Tuesday in April, when, we have been given to understand, a great multiplicity of business is to be performed.

ST. ANDREWS LODGE (No. 281).—Br. Dyke, W.M., presided over the monthly meeting of this Lodge, at the Freemason's Tavern, on the 1st of March, and passed one brother to the second, and two others to the third degree. Nearly thirty of the brethren afterwards supped together.

PRINCE OF WALES' LODGE (No. 324).—This distinguished Lodge, which enjoyed the especial patronage of George IV., the Duke of York, and William IV., held its meeting at the Thatched-house Tavern, on Tuesday, Feb. 27th. The W.M., who, on the former meeting was re-elected for the ensuing year, not being able to attend, the Past Master installed and invested the officers.

BANK OF ENGLAND LODGE (No. 329).—The members of this Lodge met on Thursday, the 8th ult., at Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, for the dispatch of Masonic business. Br. Charles Stronghill, W.M. Br. Addison was raised to the third degree. The brethren then retired to refreshment, and concluded the evening with true Masonic good feeling. Br. Thomas Bohn, P.M., 201, was the only visitor. The furniture of this Lodge, and the elegant adornments of the banquet table, have been presented by various P.M.'s of the Lodge, and are worthy of admiration.

ZETLAND LODGE (No. 752).—This Lodge resumed its meetings after the recess, at Br. Cooper's, Adam and Eve Tavern, Kensington, on Wednesday, March 14, when a very handsome P.M. jewel was presented, in the name of the Lodge, to Br. Barfield, by the W.M., Br. Schofield, with a very flattering and well deserved compliment for the manner in which he had filled the chair during his year of office. Br. Copas was appointed S.D., vice Br. Jordan resigned, after which the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by the host, Br. Cooper, in his usual good style. Among the visitors were Br. Fever, from Jersey, and Br. Shepherd, from Scotland.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE, (No. 778).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, of which Br. Ritterbrandt is the W.M., on the 8th of March, a brother was raised to the second degree. There appears to be a long arrear of business on hand in this Lodge, in consequence of brethren not coming up to be advanced to their respective degrees. A Lodge of emergency was also held on the 22nd, for the purpose of initiating a candidate about to proceed abroad.

WELLINGTON LODGE (No. 805).—At the meeting of this Lodge, at the Railway Tavern, Lewisham, on the 13th March, it was resolved to remove it to the Roebuck, as more convenient for the members. A Lodge of Emergency was held at the new place of meeting, on the 26th, when three candidates were initiated into the Order by the W.M., Br. Ireland, in his usual excellent style.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

ST. JAMES'S CHAPTER (No. 2).—This rapidly progressing Chapter held a convocation at the Freemasons' Tavern, on March 1st, when Comp. Wm. Stuart, jun., was duly installed as principal Z.; Comp. Wm. Stuart, jun., H.; and Comp. — HENDERSON, J. The Comps. afterwards retired to refreshment and the proceedings of the evening were enlivened by the excellent singing of Comp. Lawler.

BRITISH CHAPTER (No. 8).—This Chapter met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, 2nd February. Comp. Wm. Watson, P.Z. 25, in his usual efficient manner installed Comp. Stohwasser into the Second Chair, and Comp. Massey Dawson, into the Third. After which Comp. Herbert Lloyd, Z., invested the remainder of the officers, and exalted Br. Maxwell of No. 8, into the Sublime Degree of the Royal Arch. The Companions then adjourned to partake of a splendid banquet. In proposing the health of the G.Z. of the Order, the M.E.Z. said that although he had not had the

honour of meeting him much in Masonry, yet his readiness at all times to render assistance to the Craft either through the Charities or by any other means in his power, was sufficiently known and appreciated to render the toast acceptable to every Companion. Comp. Robinson, P.Z., proposed the health of the Grand Officers, and said that in consequence of the M.E.Z. being a member of that body, he, as P.Z., had the honour of expressing the thanks of the Chapter to the Grand Officers, but more particularly to the M.E.Z. who was so much distinguished by his talents for his eminent services to the Order. The M.E.Z., in returning thanks, expressed the pleasure he felt in being one of the Grand Officers, feeling assured that they endeavoured at all times to discharge their duties to the utmost. Comp. Robinson, in proposing the health of the M.E.Z. and the two other Principals, congratulated the Chapter on having so able and distinguished a member to preside over them as Comp. Herbert Lloyd, whose talents and urbanity, displayed not only on this but on all occasions, could not but render him eminently serviceable in promoting its prosperity, and to whom he felt the greatest satisfaction in resigning the office. With regard to the two other principals, the able manner in which they had hitherto discharged the duties of their various offices was a sufficient guarantee for their future exertions. The M.E.Z. in return said, that in being so soon called upon to speak of himself, he could only say that although at present not in such good practice as he had formerly been, he would take care that during his year of office nothing should be wanting on his part to further the interests of the Chapter, and he felt the greatest reliance on the support of his two Principals and the other officers. He then proposed the health of Comp. Robinson, P.Z., and thanked him on behalf of the Chapter for the manner in which he had discharged his duties during his year of office, and trusted that it would long have his valuable assistance. The P.Z., in return, thanked the Chapter for its support, and said, that although the only P.Z. present, he felt that his predecessors were all animated with the same desire to exert themselves for the benefit of the Chapter. In proposing the health of the visitors, Comp. W. Watson, P.Z. 25, and Comp. Warmington, No. 7, the M.E.Z. expressed the pleasure felt by the Companions in meeting them in their Chapter, and more particularly Comp. Watson, who might justly be denominated the King of Arch Masons, being always able and willing to render assistance in whatever ceremony he might be called upon. The toast having been acknowledged the M.E.Z. proposed the health of the newly exalted Companion, and expressed the great pleasure felt by older members of the Order in seeing younger brethren following in their steps. Comp. Stohwasser proposed the health of the two Scribes, and in doing so paid a just tribute to their great ability and services in Masonry. Comp. Dawson proposed the health of the Officers, Comp. Cotterell, P.S.; Peffer, 1st Assistant, and Baxter, 2nd Assistant, and in his usual eloquent manner acknowledged the merits of the officers of the Chapter generally.

UNION WATERLOO CHAPTER (No. 13).—This Chapter attached to the Union Waterloo Lodge, met at the Queen's Arms Tavern, Woolwich, on Wednesday, the 28th of February, when the principals and officers were duly installed into their several offices. The installation of the 1st Comp. Principal, Hy. Mugeridge, was performed in a very efficient manner by Comp. Geo. Biggs, P.G.S.B. Comp. Mugeridge then proceeded with the installation of Comp. Oliphant, as H., and — Gaird, as I. The other officers consist of Comps. R. E. Barnes, E.; — Weld, N.; G. T. Fox, P.S.; and G. W. Turner, P.Z., as Treasurer. One exaltation took place, which ceremony was well given by Comp. Mugeridge, with the assistance of the officers. A vote of thanks to Comp. Clerk, R.A., was recorded on the Minutes for his handsome present of the Four Principal Banners to the Chapter. At the conclusion of the business the Companions, to the number of about twenty, including as visitors, Comps. — Potter, of Mount Sinai Chapter, and R. B. Newsom, M.E.Z., of the Jerusalem Chapter dined together. The evening was spent in perfect harmony and true masonic feeling.

ROBERT BURNS CHAPTER (No. 25).—This Chapter held its meeting on Monday, March 26, when Comp. Newton was installed as Z., and Comp. Robinson, H. The other officers consist of Comps. Kirby, J; Tombleson, E.; Carpenter, N.; Allan, P.S.; Hewlett and Frampton as As. S.; Goring and Harrison, stewards. A duly

qualified brother was afterwards exalted into the Royal Arch. The visitors present comprised Comps. Haywood, Spencer, How, Cooper, and Bellingcr.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER (No. 49).—The Companions of this Chapter held a convocation at Comp. Rackstraw's, Gun Tavern, Pinlicio, on the 20th of March, when Br. Binckes, S.W., of the Enoch Lodge, was duly exalted into the Royal Arch by the M.E.Z. Comp. Andrew, Comp. Couchman, H. (in the absence of Comp. Jos. Smith), and Comp. Cooper, J., Comp. Mortimer officiating as P.S. After the Chapter was closed, the Comps., about twenty-two, sat down to an excellent supper. The visitors present were Comps. Archer, P.Z. (Chapter 25); Goring, P.Z. (25); Morbey (778), and Haywood (778). The members separated at an early hour, after spending a very pleasant evening.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—This Chapter met on Tuesday, March 13, for the first time, at its new quarters, the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, Comp. Newson, M.E.Z., presiding. There being no other business before the Chapter, the Comps. proceeded to the election of principals and other officers for the ensuing year, when Comp. Scambler was elected Z.; Comp. Thomson, H.; Comp. Sheen, J.; Comp. Manico, P.Z., S.E.; Comp. Levy, S.N.; Comp. McCulloch, P.S., and Comp. Patten, P.Z. and P.G.S.B., Treasurer. The Companions then retired to refreshment, and the remainder of the evening was spent in the most harmonious manner. Among the visitors were three military Companions from the Union and Waterloo Chapter (No. 13); Comp. Richardson (No. 12), and Comp. Thursfield, formerly Companion of this Chapter.

INSTRUCTION.

JOPPA LODGE (No. 223).—This admirable Lodge of Instruction lately removed to the Crooked Billet Tavern, King street, Tower-hill, has just voted £3 3s. 0d., to the Patriotic Fund.

UNITED PILGRIM LODGE (No. 745).—This excellent Lodge of Instruction, ever ready to fulfil an act of charity, has come forward with £5 for the Patriotic Fund, and some few weeks back voted £5 5s. 0d. to the F. M. Widows Fund. The Lodge has not been established more than ten years, and during that time it has contributed £5 to the F. M. Annuity Fund, £10 10s. 0d. to the Boys Institution, and £15 5s. to the Widows Fund, and now added £5 to the Patriotic Fund.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

CHESHIRE.

EATON LODGE, CONGLETON (No. 777).—This Lodge held its quarterly meeting at the usual place, Golden Lion Inn, on the 7th March. After transacting the ordinary Lodge business, the brethren adjourned to the Bull's Head Hotel—of which Br. Ullivero has recently become the landlord—where an excellent dinner was served, to which a godly company sat down, Br. G. C. Antrobus, W.M. of the Lodge, occupying the chair, supported by the Mayor of Congleton, Dr. Beales, and other gentlemen. The customary loyal and fraternal toasts were given, and responded to in true Masonic style, and the evening was spent most agreeably. It was unanimously agreed that the Eaton Lodge should in future be held at the Bull's Head.

DEVONSHIRE.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST LODGE, PLYMOUTH (No. 83).—The regular monthly meeting of the above Lodge was held on Tuesday, the 6th of March. The minutes of the previous Lodge having been confirmed, and some private business transacted, a brother was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. This beautiful and interesting ceremony being performed by Br. Pollard, P.M., P.P.G.T., the Lodge closed in harmony at 9 o'clock.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on the 14th of March, at the Prince George Hotel, when the W.M., Br.

Phillips, initiated Mr. Charles Dyer, auctioneer, &c., of this town, into the Order, the ceremony being performed in a style that reflects great credit on the Lodge, which closed in peace and harmony at 10 p.m., the brethren retired, and supper was served in Br. Killingly's usual style.

LODGE OF HARMONY, PLYMOUTH (No. 182).—The members held their regular monthly meeting on the 5th of March, when Br. Earl initiated three gentlemen into the Order; after which, Br. Gidley passed a brother to the second degree. After the business of the evening the brethren retired to refreshment, and parted at an early hour.

STAR OF BRUNSWICK, STONEHOUSE (No. 185).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at St. George's Hall, having removed from Devonport on the 7th of March. Br. P. E. Rowe, P.M., P.P.G.D.C. for Devon, initiated a gentleman into the mystic art in his usual style. The Lodge closed at 10 o'clock in peace and harmony and good fellowship.

LODGE OF SINCERITY, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, STONEHOUSE (No. 224), removed from the the Royal Hotel, Plymouth.—The members of this Corinthian Lodge held an emergency meeting on Friday, the 9th of March, when Br. Tripe, P.M., P.P.G.R. for Devon, &c., very ably initiated Licut. Pim into the Order. This is a gentleman of whom all the world has heard; one of those brave men sent in quest of Sir John Franklin and companions. There was a very large muster of friends and brothers to do honour to the initiate, upwards of 40 being present. On the candidate's health being proposed at the refreshment table, he made a most interesting statement of his travels in the Arctic Regions.

LODGE OF FRIENDSHIP, DEVONPORT (No. 238).—The members of this exceedingly well worked Lodge met at the Lord Hood, when the W.M. presided at a Lodge of emergency, and most ably initiated and passed two brethren. This, although his first attempt, was so successful as to cause the visitors who were present to wish that the W.M.'s of other Lodges would visit this—take a lesson and profit by it. The regular Lodge was held on the 22nd of February, when the W.M., Br. Richards, raised a brother to the sublime degree of M.M. in such an impressive manner, as induced the visitors to tender their congratulations to one, who, though so young a member of the Craft, has shewn such proficiency. The brethren were then called from labour to refreshment, and passed a very pleasant evening.

DURHAM.

LODGE OF INDUSTRY, GATESHEAD (No. 56).—The Ball.—On Thursday evening, the 8th of March, a ball took place in the lodge-room of the brethren, at the Queen's Head Hotel, Gateshead. The Stewards, Brs. Wm. Morrow, W.M.; E. D. Davis, P.M.; F. P. Tonn, P.M.; H. L. Monro, P.M.; D. Robson; T. Andrews, and W. E. Wilkinson, had been looked upon as a guarantee of a really pleasant ball, and, as was anticipated, it went off with great éclat. The Mayor of Gateshead, R. W. Hodgson, Esq., who wore the insignia of his office, and Mrs. T. Andrews, opened the ball. The rank, fashion and beauty of the sister counties, Durham and Northumberland, assembled on the occasion; the beautiful and artistic decorations of the room, and the magnificent dresses of the lovely daughters of the North, rendered the scene a brilliant one; happiness was in every countenance;—

“ Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
Soft eyes looked love to eyes which spake again,
And all went merry as a marriage bell!”

The graceful waltz and light quadrille were kept up with unabated spirit until an early hour in the morning. Brs. H. L. Monro, P.M., and D. Robson, as Masters of the Ceremonies, performed their duties to universal satisfaction. The refreshments, which were provided by the much-respected hostess, Miss Murray, comprised delicacies to please the most fastidious taste. We understand that, in consequence of the great satisfaction expressed by all, the ball is likely to become an annual one. On Monday, the 26th March, the Brethren of this Lodge assembled in their Lodge-room, at the Queen's Head Hotel, Gateshead, for the installation of Br. Wm. Morrow, the W.M. re-elect for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was ably performed by

Br. Wm. Dalziel, P.M., and P.G.D.C. for Northumberland. On the conclusion of the installation, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest the following Brethren as officers for the year, viz:—A. Stewart, S.W.; W. E. Franklyn, J.W.; J. Potts, S.D.; T. Andrews, J.D.; F. P. Ionn, Treasurer; C. J. Brinton, Sec.; T. Richardson, S.S.; D. Robson, J. S.; H. L. Munro, D.C.; Hy. Dickson, J.G.; Alex. Dickson, Tyler. The Brethren, numbering about forty, afterwards dined together in their Lodge-room, the W.M. presiding, supported on his right by Br. Wm. Dalziel, P.M., and P.G.D.C. for Northumberland, and on his left by Br. H.L. Monro, P.M. The Vice-chairs were occupied by the S.W. and J.W. Amongst the company we observed the following P.M.'s:—Brs. Wm. Punson, F. P. Ionn, J. Donald, — Barker, Benj. Thompson, J. Hopper; also, the following W.M.'s:—Brs. W. Johnson, P. Mork, and P. Holloway. The usual Masonic, loyal, and patriotic toasts were proposed and enthusiastically responded to. In the course of the evening Br. Wm. Punshon, P.M. of Lodge No. 586, rose and said,—being the oldest P.M. in the room, he had the pleasing duty to perform of proposing to them a health which he felt was worthy their warmest approbation, and which he knew they would drink in a bumper, he meant the health of the W.M. (cheers). He (Br. Punshon) begged most sincerely to congratulate the W.M. on his having been re-elected to fill the Chair of Lodge 56, an honor of which he (the W.M.) was richly deserving, for he had won it by the very efficient manner in which he had presided over the Lodge during the past twelve months. Wherever he (Br. Punshon) had met the W.M., whether in the chair of the Lodge of Industry, or “over the water,” he had always met with a true brother. It was unnecessary for him to tell them that the W.M. always welcomed visitors to Lodge 56, with masonic cordiality. He would not say more, but would conclude by proposing, in a bumper, the health of their much-respected W.M. Drunk with enthusiasm and Masonic honors. The W.M. in reply, said:—Br. P.M. Punshon, to you for so kindly and feelingly proposing my health, and to you and my brethren for so warmly drinking the same, I feel deeply grateful. The Hon. Br. P.M. Punshon has paid me many flattering compliments. I assure you I have the interests of Masonry warmly at heart; I can only say that I have, during my year of office, endeavoured to act strictly according to constitutions, and to abide by the ancient landmarks of the Order; any errors I may have committed have been, I trust, rather those of the head than of the heart. It will be my endeavour in the future so to act that my brethren may not have to regret the very high honor they have paid me in re-electing me to fill the chair of Lodge 56—(Cheers). Deeply grateful to you all, allow me in conclusion, again to express my grateful acknowledgments—(Cheers). The proceedings of the evening were much enlivened by several songs from Brs. Dalziel, Stewart, Tullock and Hogan. Altogether the evening was spent in a truly Masonic manner, in every heart that good feeling reigning, so peculiarly belonging to the Craft.

CHAPTER OF STRICT BENEVOLENCE, SUNDERLAND (No. 114).—At the convocation of the Royal Arch Chapter, held at the Palatine Lodge Room, Bridge Hotel, on Thursday evening, the 1st of March, the following Companions were installed officers for the ensuing year, viz:—Edward D. Davis, Z.; Robert Saville, H.; John Crosby, J.; Frank H. Rahn, E.; Edward Evans (as) N.; Edward Smith, Treasurer; Benj. Brooks, P.S.; Edwd. Brown (as) A.S. 1; Benj. Levy, A.S. 1; Wm. M. Laws, Janitor.

KENT.

ADAM'S LODGE, SHEERNESS (No. 184).—The Lodge met at the Fountain Inn on Tuesday, the 6th of February, when two brethren were passed to the Second Degree and three gentlemen were initiated into Freemasonry, in a most impressive manner, by the W.M., Br. J. Whittal. The lectures on the Tracing Boards of the First and Second Degree were delivered by Br. Keddell, to the high gratification and instruction of the brethren. A Lodge of Emergency was held on the 15th of February, to initiate a member of the medical profession about to leave England.

A convocation of Adam's Chapter was held on Friday, the 23rd, where a candidate was exalted by E. C. Keddell, P.Z., assisted by E. C. Townsend, who ably performed the duties of P.S. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the attendance was

limited, but a spirit of harmony and order among the select few compensated, in some degree, for the absence of several Companions.

A Convocation of Emergency of Adam's Chapter was held on the 5th of March, for the exaltation of a brother about to leave England for the Baltic. The Companions assembled at 7 p. m., and the ceremony was conducted by E. C. Keddell, P.Z., and E. C. Townsend, H. as P.S. After the exaltation, the Companions partook of a banquet prepared by Br. Green, of the Crown, and separated after a very cheerful evening.

The Lodge again met on Tuesday, the 6th of March, and three brethren were raised to the S.D. of M.M. by the W.M., Br. Whittall, in a manner suitable for the solemnity of that important degree. Three brethren were also passed to the degree of F.C., and Lieut. J. B. Parkins, R.A., was initiated into Masonry. The whole of the ceremonies were performed with a due regard to order and decorum, so as to impress the recipients of the various degrees with exalted notions of the excellency and dignity of Freemasonry.

At the banquet the W.M., on behalf of the brethren, presented the Secretary of the Lodge, Br. Isaac Townsend, P.M., with a handsome silver watch, as a testimonial of their esteem and regard for his long and valuable services to the Lodge. The W.M. dilated very pleasingly on the claims of the worthy and excellent brother to the gratitude and respect of the Lodge, not only for his faithful services as Secretary, but for the zeal and energy manifested by him as a Past Master, which had resulted in bringing the Lodge into its present state of prosperity. Indeed, the services rendered by Br. Townsend, in keeping alive the sacred flame of Freemasonry when adversity and clouds threatened to overwhelm in its ruin, could not be too highly appreciated; and we are sure that the brethren of No. 184, as well as the brethren of the province of Kent, entertain a due sense of the value of such a Mason as Br. Townsend, sen.

Br. W. F. Keddell, the son of Br. J. S. Keddell, P.S.G.W. for Kent, took his farewell of the brethren, he being about to proceed to the Crimea for the medical department at Eupatoria. Though a young Mason, he will be a valuable accession to the Craft who may be there already, and the brethren took their leave of him with every fraternal wish for his health and success.

LANCASHIRE, EAST DIVISION.

CHAPTER OF HOPE, ROCHDALE (No. 62).—This excellent Chapter held its annual convocation on the 5th inst., at the Spread Eagle Inn, at 6 o'clock, p.m. The Chapter having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the following Companions re-elected officers for 1855:—Com. John Lord, Z.; W. Roberts, H., P.Z.; J. L. Holland, J.; T. Reed, S.E.; G. Hulme, N.; P. P. Baker, P.S.; S. Stott, Treasurer; E. Clegg, Secretary; and R. Nield, Janitor. The bye-laws having been revised by the principals, were presented and read by W. Roberts, H., and, with slight amendments, passed. At the conclusion of the business of the Chapter the Companions sat down to refreshment, and after spending a couple of hours in perfect harmony, retired at half-past nine o'clock, well pleased with the evening's transactions.

KEYSTONE LODGE, FACIT (No. 469).—The Monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Bay Horse Inn, on Wednesday, the 7th inst., at 7 o'clock, p.m. the W.M. Br. Shackleton presiding. The business of the evening consisted of appointing a Treasurer in the place of Br. James Butterworth, resigned. At the conclusion of the Masonic business the Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent a very pleasant evening.

OXFORDSHIRE.

CHERWELL LODGE, BANBURY (No. 873).—The anniversary festival of the Cherwell Lodge was held at the Red Lion Hotel, Banbury, on the 26th of February, when a large number of the brethren attended. The Lodge was opened at three o'clock, when the retiring Worshipful Master, Br. Rev. Vernon Blake, presided. Br. Calcutt was passed, and two candidates, Br. Faulkner, solicitor, of Deddington, and Br. Lampitt, engineer, of Banbury, were initiated. The ceremony of installing the W.M.,

elect, Br. Captain Bowyer, then took place, Br. Blake fulfilling the duties in an impressive and admirable manner. On the conclusion of the ceremony, the W.M. addressed the brethren, and besought their indulgence and support during his year of office.

The W.M. then appointed the following brethren to be his officers for the year, and invested them with the various insignia of office:—Senior Warden, Br. W. J. Birch; Junior Warden, Br. Hayward; Senior Deacon, Br. Clement Cottrell Dormer; Junior ditto, Br. J. Cooke; Treasurer, Br. Bryden; Secretary, Br. J. B. Looker; Director of Ceremonies, Br. Rusher; Organist, Br. Calcutt; Inner Guard, Br. Margetts; Tyler, Br. Moss.

About six o'clock the brethren proceeded in due form and order to the banquet room, where a sumptuous entertainment awaited them. The dinner was succeeded by an elegant dessert, and the wines supplied on the occasion were of a superior character, and such as met with general approbation. The W.M. presided, and was supported by Br. R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; Br. Rev. V. Blake, the late W.M. of the Cherwell Lodge; Br. Beech, P.M. of the Apollo University Lodge; Brs. W. Thompson and J. Wyatt, Past Masters of the Alfred City Lodge; Br. T. Joy, W.M. of the Churchill Lodge; Br. W. W. Harrison, of Brasenose College, Senior Warden of the Apollo Lodge; Brs. Birch, C. C. Dormer; Atkinson, St. Edmund Hall; Bond, Trinity College; Stother, Magdalen Hall; Codrington, Brasenose College; Joseph Prior, of Woodstock; B. W. Aplin, Rowell, Bryden; Foot, Deptford; Cook, Scroggs, Kirby, Gardiner, Rusher, Havers, Perry, Birch, jun.; Margetts, Coleman, G. Druce, Lampitt, Faulkner, Joseph Plowman. &c., &c.

On the removal of the cloth, the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft"—"The Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland."

In proposing "The health of the Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl of Yarborough, and the other Grand Officers," the W.M. begged to couple with the toast the name of Br. Spiers, Past Grand Swordbearer, who, he remarked, was not only a most skillful and zealous Mason, but might be regarded as the great promoter and benefactor of Masonry in this province—(Loud cheers).

Br. Spiers responded to the toast, and observed that the most gratifying circumstance which had occurred in this province, and, he might add, in the Grand Lodge, was the welcoming among the Grand Officers the distinguished brother, Capt. Bowyer, who so ably presided over the Cherwell Lodge, at the present moment. Although the announcement had not been officially made, yet Br. Bowyer was at that time Pro. G.M. of Oxfordshire; for four days ago, he (Br. Spiers) saw his patent signed by the Grand Master, the Deputy G.M., and the Grand Secretary, and it only waited some formal proceeding to constitute him *de facto* Prov. G.M. of this province—(Much cheering). The compliment paid to that brother was enhanced by the fact that the appointment had been made at the earliest possible moment—(Cheers). Although this province had not been accustomed to have Grand Officers, it now possessed two very energetic ones in Br. Bowyer and Br. Moore. He (Br. Spiers) had had great pleasure in being present at the consecration and foundation of the Cherwell Lodge, and the success which had attended it, and the important position which it had attained in four years, were the best proofs that they had laid their lines carefully, and acted wisely in selecting Banbury as the site for a new Masonic Lodge. They had been fortunate in having such good Masters to preside over them, and such efficient officers to carry on the work; but, as in the case of all young Lodges, there was much to be learned, he hoped that the brethren of Banbury would embrace every opportunity of visiting the Lodges at Oxford, where they would meet with a cordial reception, and gain instruction which would be very useful to them; for not only as Masons, but as citizens in the same county, it was desirable that they should know more of each other, and meet more frequently—(Cheers).

Br. Blake proposed "The health of the W.M. and P.G.M. of Oxfordshire, Br. Bowyer," and said that he felt how unequal he was to express their feelings and his own towards that distinguished brother, but he knew how much he was beloved and respected by every one present; his unwearied and continued kindness to every member of the Lodge, and the unexcelled way in which he carried into public and

private life the principles which he inculcated in the Lodge, had won the respect and regard of every member in the province—(Cheers). He felt assured that they would all join with him in sincerely congratulating Br. Bowyer in having received that reward, the appointment of P.G.M. of Oxfordshire, which the Earl of Zetland had bestowed upon him, and which he had so deservedly won—(Cheers). It was not an office which he sought for or had acquired by interest, but it was conferred upon him simply because his fame and his character as a man and a Mason had reached the ears of the G.M. of England—(Cheers). He sincerely hoped, and felt that all the brethren would concur in it, that he might long continue to rule over this province, and to afford to the Craft for many years to come his bright example as a man and a Mason—(Much cheering).

Br. Bowyer returned thanks, and said that it would be the utmost vanity on his part to imagine that he had attained that high standard which the late W.M. and the brethren had given him credit for, nor could he hope to attain it, however desirous he might be of doing so. He had, however, one most grateful reflection, and that was, that he had enjoyed to the fullest extent the kind co-operation and support of the Masons of Oxfordshire ever since he had come among them. It was no merit of his own which had gained for him so much regard and esteem, and which had procured for him the highest honour which could be conferred upon him; and, highly as he valued the distinction of P.G.M. for Oxfordshire, it would have no value in his eyes if he did not believe that it emanated from the kind feeling and expressed wish of the brethren—(Cheers). Although he had long been connected with the Craft, and had many personal friends who held high positions in the Order, he had studiously abstained from putting forward any pretensions to the office, and consequently he valued the honour the more on account of the noble and generous manner in which it had been conferred upon him. On the brethren of the province, through whose instrumentality he had received the appointment, the responsibility devolved; but he could assure them that every talent and energy which he could command should be devoted to their service, and he sincerely hoped that a still closer connection with them might be lasting, and tend to their mutual benefit—(Cheers). In conclusion, he would only add, that whenever he surrendered that office, whether by the will of the Great Architect of the Universe, or through any other cause, he desired no better epitaph or memorial than this, that he had at least endeavoured to do his duty—(Much cheering).

The W.M. proposed "The health of the Past Masters of the Cherwell Lodge," and coupled with the toast the name of the late W.M., Br. Blake, whose services, he said, would long be borne in grateful remembrance, for he had fulfilled all the duties of the chair in a solemn and impressive manner, and in a way which became his sacred character as well as the real dignity of Freemasonry—(Cheers).

Br. Blake, in returning thanks, said, that although it was well known that one of the chief tenets and peculiar characteristics of this Order was good will, yet he felt that on the present occasion the W.M. and brethren had carried it to a greater extent than he deserved, and the terms in which they had spoken of him proceeded not so much from any merit of his own as from their general good feeling towards him personally, and from that excellent spirit which pervaded every true Mason—(Cheers).

The W.M. then proposed "The healths of the newly initiated brethren, Brs. Faulkner and Lampitt," after which Br. Spiers sang, with excellent effect, "The Entered Apprentice's song."

Br. Faulkner briefly returned thanks.

The W.M. proposed "The healths of the Past Masters of the Alfred Lodge, (Br. Wyatt and Thompson), the officers and brethren of that Lodge, and success to it," and adverted to the admirable working which had made it so distinguished in the Craft—(Cheers).

Br. James Wyatt responded to the toast, and expressed his regret that the W.M., Br. J. Thorp, was too ill to be present. He assured them that it afforded the brethren of the Alfred Lodge great pleasure to witness the continued prosperity of Masonry in this part of the county; and he congratulated them on having Masters to preside over them, and officers who could not be surpassed for zeal, energy, and ability—(Cheers).

He alluded to the appointment of Capt. Bowyer as Prov. G.M., and said that it would have been impossible for one to have been made more in accordance with the wishes and feelings of the whole province, and assured that brother, that in Oxford it was hailed with such satisfaction and delight, that he might depend upon every assistance and support which it was possible for the brethren of the Oxford Lodges to give him on every occasion—(Loud cheers).

The W.M. proposed "The healths of the Past Masters, officers, and brethren, of the Apollo Lodge," which, as a working Lodge, was inferior to none in England. He coupled with the toast the name of Past Master Beech, and complimented him on the admirable manner in which he fulfilled the duties of the chair for two years—(Cheers).

Br. Beech responded to the toast, and remarked that he was present at the foundation and consecration of the Cherwell Lodge, when among those who took part in the ceremony was that estimable brother, their late Prov. G.M., Br. Ridley, whose many virtues and truly Masonic character were cherished in affectionate remembrance throughout the province, and their esteemed brother, Br. Burstall, who was now located in a far distant land, but whose dearest recollections of England were associated with Freemasonry—(Cheers). Although these were some of the changes which had occurred since that memorable occasion, he rejoiced to find that no change had come over the Lodge, but that it continued in the same uninterrupted career of prosperity, that it still flourished, and it could not fail to do so under such auspices—(Cheers). It was with sincere pleasure that he and his brethren of the Apollo Lodge heard of the appointment of Br. Bowyer as Prov. G.M., for he was no less esteemed, and no less cordially welcomed, in Oxford than he was at Banbury, where he was more immediately connected—(Cheers). Before sitting down, Br. Beech proposed "Prosperity to the Cherwell Lodge."

The W.M. proposed "The health of the Master, officers, and brethren of the Churchill Lodge," associating with the toast the name of the present W.M., Br. T. Joy.

Br. Joy returned thanks, and said he had reason to be proud of his Lodge, which was making great progress, and where any visiting brother would see some excellent working, and receive a cordial and hospitable welcome.

The W.M. proposed "The healths of the officers of the Cherwell Lodge," and expressed his regret that the late Senior Warden, Br. B. W. Aplin, had declined to take the Master's chair, which had been offered him, and for which he was so eminently qualified.

Br. Birch, S.W., acknowledged the toast, and remarked, that Masonry should be a pattern to all mankind, on account of the sound moral principle which it inculcated. In conclusion, he expressed a hope that all who had taken office would fulfil the duties devolving on them, and that Masonry might not only gain strength among themselves, but that its sentiments and principles might spread all over the world—(Much cheering).

Br. Aplin briefly explained that his only reason for declining the chair at present was, that his engagements would preclude him from fulfilling the duties in the way he wished or was due to the Lodge; but if at some future time he should feel himself more at liberty, he would not shrink from the responsibility.

The W.M. then gave the parting toast, "To all poor and distressed Masons;" after which tea and coffee were served, and the brethren separated.

SHROPSHIRE.

SALOPIAN LODGE, SHREWSBURY (No. 328).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Monday the 12th of March, at the Raven and Bell Hotel. The Lodge was opened in due form at 4 o'clock. The minutes of the former Lodge were read and confirmed. The brethren had the painful duty to proceed to the election of a Master to preside over them, in consequence of the demise of the late lamented and esteemed Br. Benjamin Churchill, the W.M. elect for the ensuing year, being summoned from this sublunary abode, to the Grand Lodge above, the very day on which the ceremony for his installation was fixed. Br. the Rev. G. C. Guise being unanimously elected

W.M., and the Lodge being opened on the second degree, the W.M. was duly and formally presented. Four brothers were passed by Br. W. Brightwell, P.M. The Lodge was then opened in the third degree, and a board of installed Masters being formed, the ceremony of installation was impressively performed by Br. Henry T. Wace, P.M. The W.M. then proceeded to appoint the following brethren as his officers:—Brs. the Rev. — Bluck, S.W.; Robert Haycock, J.W.; Rev. — Elliott, Chaplain; John Leech Rowland, Hon. Sec.; J. C. Randal, S.D.; W. H. Bayley, J.D.; J. P. White, H. A. Jones, Sen. Stewards; S. Wood, for the third time, being unanimously re-elected Treasurer. The Lodge being closed in perfect harmony, the brethren, about 30 in number, proceeded to an elegant banquet. The vice chairs were efficiently filled by the S.W. and J.W. The customary loyal, Masonic, and patriotic toasts were given, and most suitably responded to, and the evening was characterised by that love and harmony, so peculiarly appertaining to the Craft, and to this Lodge in particular. We cannot refrain from mentioning the manner in which the newly appointed Master closed the Lodge in the various degrees, and conducted the proceedings of the evening, which reflected not only great credit on himself, but was also the theme of general admiration. The brethren were happy to congratulate brother Capt. Hubert Fremé, of the 69th Highlanders, on his safe, but temporary, return from the Crimea.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

VALE OF JEROSHAPHAT, HIGHBRIDGE, CHAPTER (No. 367).—The Grand Superintendent of the Province of Somerset, Colonel C. K. K. Tynte, having granted a dispensation to the Companions to meet and reopen their Chapter, a numerous meeting lately assembled at the Highbridge Inn, Huntspill. The Chapter was honoured by the attendance of many worthy companions from Bristol. The ceremonies of instalment into the different chairs were admirably gone through by Comps. Taylor, P.Z.; Page, Z.; and Evans, S.E.; all of the Beaufort Lodge, Bristol. The following are the names of the officers for the ensuing year:—H. Bridges, Z.; J. B. Thwaites, H.; C. H. Gregory, J.; B. T. Allen, E.; W. Harwood, N.; W. Walkley, P.S.; H. Bridges, Treasurer.

YORKSHIRE.

LODGE OF HOPE, BRADFORD (No. 379).—We have been favoured with a summary of the proceedings of this Lodge for the last three months. On the 27th Dec. last, 1854, the W.M. elect, Br. David Salmond, was installed according to ancient custom. He then invested his officers in due form. After which the brethren adjourned to the Bowling Green Hotel, where they partook of a sumptuous repast provided by Br. John Lupton, the worthy host. The evening was spent in true Masonic love and harmony, and was terminated to the pleasure and satisfaction of all. On the 1st of January, a donation of ten guineas was voted from the funds of the Lodge for the Patriotic Fund; also ten guineas for the relief of the suffering poor of Bradford, to be applied through the medium of the Committee of the "Bradford Soup-kitchen." At a meeting on March the 5th, the W.M. Br. David Salmond presiding, agreeably to announcement contained in our monthly summons, Br. P.M. Henry Farrar delivered a Lecture, which occupied an hour and a quarter, the subject being, "What is Freemasonry, considered in its origin and history, its symbolical meaning, and its practical objects?" A great number of the brethren of the Lodge were present, and among others who had come from a distance were Br. Charles Lee, R.W.D.P.G.M., and Br. Dixon, P.G. Treasurer of West Yorkshire; also the W.M. officers and many of the brethren from the Lodge of Harmony, 874, Bradford. The Lecture contained a great amount of valuable and interesting information, and was received with a great demonstration of satisfaction from the brethren present. The Lecturer concluded by saying, "That having very feebly and imperfectly portrayed to you the divine origin of our ancient institution, coupled with an imperfect exposition of its symbolical and emblematical teachings, I solicit your attention for a few

moments only, to their practical or personal objects. I beg sincerely to thank you for the kind attention which you have given me, and in conclusion to solicit your earnest study and meditation of the Principles of our Order; that, by such means, you may add an intellectual buttress, pinnacle, or cape-stone, to our beautiful moral superstructure. Those who have the *will* can always find the opportunity to add their mite to the treasury of Masonic knowledge, for it is in the power of all to give such direction to our Masonic labours as may dignify our profession—invest it with enduring interest—to make it the depository of the arts and sciences, and the bright exemplar of moral power and union throughout the civilised world; so that it may be our boast, that during the revolutions of sixty centuries, amid the fall of mighty empires and the destroying hand of time, it still survives, shedding, though diminished, a halo of light over its votaries, and promising to prolong its benign influence, until all the nations of the earth shall unite as one people in praise and thanksgiving to their Creator—when distinctive unions of men shall be no longer required, but from the Heavens again shall be sung the Angelic Anthem, ‘Glory to God in the Highest—on earth, peace and good will towards men.’ Think not, brethren, for one moment, that you are disqualified to be useful labourers in the Masonic vineyard. All have talents, more or less, and there is ample work for their employment; duties to perform, onerous and extensive, and scope for their full exercise; be it then your task to soften asperities, to promote the adjustment of differences, and to strengthen and otherwise develop our union, by promoting the study of the sacred Law, and the benign principles of our Order, by prudence, fortitude, temperance, and justice, but above all, *charity*. Thus to sooth the afflicted, and aid the distressed, to sympathise with them in the hour of trial, and to join in tempered congratulations in their prosperity; to give to the fraternity the hand of brotherhood, the foot of support; to bend the knee in supplication for their welfare; to offer the breast of fidelity, and to afford them defence and protection when absent, so that we, as an Order and as a Lodge, may exemplify that divine saying, ‘A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another: as I have loved you—that ye also love one another.’ ‘So mote it be.’” At the conclusion of the Lecture, Br. Chas. Lee, R.W.D.P.G.M., proposed a vote of thanks for Br. Farrar, the Lecturer, seconded by Br. Dixon, P. G. Treasurer, supported in a very able manner by the Rev. Br. H. D. L. Willis, chaplain of the Lodge, and unanimously carried.

LODGE OF ST. GERMAN, SELBY (No. 827).—The annual meeting of the brethren of this Lodge was held at Selby on the 2nd of March, when Br. John Fothergill was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, and appointed his officers as follows:—Whitehead, S.W.; Pearson, J.W.; Wright and Richardson, Stewards; Culting, S.D.; Tinkinson, J.D.; Romans, Treas.; Marshall, Sec.; Werry, F.G.; and Hardisly, Tyler. After the ceremony of installation, which was performed by Br. Dr. Bell, of Hull, the brethren adjourned for refreshment, and partook of an excellent dinner at the George Hotel, after which a pleasant and joyous evening was spent. The number present was about 30; several of the brethren being Past Masters of this very flourishing Lodge.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—A Provincial Grand Lodge for West Yorkshire was held at the Old Cock Inn, Halifax, on the 3rd of January (though the proceedings only reached us on the 24th March), when there were present the W. Charles Lee, D.P.G. Master; W. Bentley Shaw, P.S.G.W., 342; W. Richard Carter, P.P.S.G.W., 73; W. James Peace (P.P.J.G.W.), as P.J.G.W., 342; W. Josh. Senior, L.L.D. (P.P.J.G.W.), P.G.C., 727; W. Rev. J. G. Fardell, M.A., P.P.G.C., 298; W. Rev. A. Woodford, M.A., P.P.G.C. for Durham, 382; W. Wm. Dixon, P.G. Treasurer, 529; W. J. A. Unna, P.G.R., 379 and 874; W. James Hargreaves, P.G. Secretary, 384; W. Thomas Dewhirst, P.S.G.D., 379; W. John Lee (P.P.G.R.) as P.J.G.D., 382; W. Wm. Smith, P.G.D.C., 365; W. Wm. Smith, P.G.S.B., 73; W. W. Widdopp, P.P.G.S.B., 342 and 422; W. Solomon Clayton, P.G.O., 379; W. J. O. Gill, P.G. Pursuivant, 251; Brs. Josiah Thomas, P.G.S., 365; R. R. Nelson, P.G.S., 251 and 384; John Becket, P.G. Tyler, 727; and a large number of Masters, Past Masters, officers, and brethren from other Lodges. The business of

the day commence 1 by the W.M. and officers of the Lodge of Probity, No. 73, opening in the three Degrees. The Provincial Grand Officers then entered in due order, and the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in form, and with solemn prayer. Scripture was read. The minutes of the last P.G.L. having been read and confirmed, various petitions were relieved by the votes of sums of money to be given to them in such amounts as their own Lodges might determine. Several truly fraternal letters having been read, it was proposed by Br. W. G. Warriner, P.G.S., No. 727; and seconded by Br. Rev. A. Woodford, M.A., P.P.G. Chaplain of Durham, and chaplain of the Lodge No. 382, Leeds: That it be a bye-lawe of this Provincial Grand Lodge, that a committee of reference shall be appointed at every annual Provincial Grand Lodge, to which committee all doubtful and disputed points relative to the ritual or mode and manner of masonic working, shall be submitted for decision and determination; and every Lodge in the province shall nominate one of its members as a member of such committee, every such member being either the Worshipful Master or a Past Master of such Lodge. Br. James Peace, P.P.J.G.W. was re-appointed a member of the committee for receiving, arranging, and forwarding the voting papers of the brethren of this province to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows, and Br. Peace again impressed upon the brethren the necessity of sending their contributions early, and not later than April. A conversation having taken place on the subject of contributing to the Patriotic Fund, Br. Josh. Batley, W.M. of the Harmony Lodge, No. 342, gave notice of a motion at the next Provincial Grand Lodge to suspend the operation of bye-law 17, in order that the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge may be rendered applicable in suchwise as that a sum therefrom may be granted to the Royal Patriotic Fund. The following additions to the bye-law 1, of the Provincial Grand Lodge, was proposed and seconded:—Then and in such case, notice of such matter shall be sufficient, if transmitted to the respective Worshipful Masters of Lodges in the Province, and it shall not be deemed expedient on such occasions to open the Provincial Grand Lodge, but the members thereof then assembled shall hear and determine concerning any application for relief, and grant such aid as the case may warrant, and the law, as is hereafter set forth, allow. This proposed alteration was negatived almost unanimously, after some discussion. The Lodges were called over in order to ascertain, in accordance with the circular addressed to the several Lodges, what amount each Lodge had subscribed to the Royal Patriotic Fund, and the following Lodges were returned as direct contributors thereto:

						£	s.	d.
The Probity	-	-	-	No.	73	-	-	10 10 0
The Britannia	-	-	-	"	162	-	-	5 0 0
The Hope	-	-	-	"	379	-	-	10 10 0
The Harmony	-	-	-	"	342	-	-	20 0 0
The Alfred	-	-	-	"	384	-	-	10 10 0
The Scientific	-	-	-	"	642	-	-	13 9 0
								£69 19 0

And also in accordance with the request expressed in the circular, the following Lodges stated that the members thereof had contributed, as citizens, to the Royal Patriotic Fund, as respectively set forth hereunder:

						£	s.	d.
The Probity	-	-	-	No.	73	-	-	100 0 0
The Three Grand Principles	-	-	-	"	251	-	about	60 0 0
The Amphibious	-	-	-	"	322	-	-	100 0 0 to £15t
The Royal Yorkshire	-	-	-	"	332	-	-	25 0 0
The Huddersfield	-	-	-	"	365	-	-	30 0 0
The Hope	-	-	-	"	379	-	-	270 0 0
The Harmony	-	-	-	"	342	-	-	350 0 0
The Three Graces	-	-	-	"	591	-	-	7 2 6
The Scientific	-	-	-	"	642	-	-	22 10 0
The Truth	-	-	-	"	763	-	-	105 11 8
The Harmony	-	-	-	"	874	-	-	80 0 0 to £100

Thus shewing that the members of the above-named eleven Lodges, in the West Riding, have nobly contributed as citizens in their respective districts the sum of £1200 and upwards, to the Royal Patriotic Fund, and the brethren of nineteen other Lodges have subscribed to the Fund, but no return made of the amount to G. Lodge.

Another P. G. L. is to be held at Huddersfield, on the 11th inst., when the proposition for suspending the bye-law in order to all the P. G. L. to subscribe to the Patriotic Fund, will be taken into consideration, and the officers for the ensuing year will be appointed and invested. The R.W.P.G.M. the Right Hon. the Earl of Maxborough, is expected to preside on the occasion.

WALES—WESTERN DIVISION.

ST. PETER'S LODGE, CARMARTHEN (No. 699).—At the last meeting of this Lodge two brethren were raised to the sublime degree, and one candidate received into Masonry. We understand it to be in contemplation to establish a Royal Arch Chapter here, with Br. Ribbans 1st Principal. The W.M. of this Lodge has ordered the *Masonic Mirror* to be regularly taken in; and, says our correspondent, if every Lodge in the Kingdom were to follow his example, the little periodical would flourish and grow into a Mosonic library. Br. Ribbans has received the sanction of our M.W.G.M. to dedicate his forthcoming collection of Masonic songs to his Lordship, and we wish him every success. By the way, we may as well mention a suggestion made by our correspondent, that any particular Masonic song, or the source of some of the best songs would be acceptable to the literary brother; and we shall feel obliged by any reference to works of the kind, so as to give Br. Ribbans every facility to make his collection complete.

SCOTLAND.

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

The following are the Grand Officers of Scotland for the year 1855-6:—

The Most Noble GEORGE AUGUSTUS FRED. JOHN, DUKE OF ATHOLE, K.T.,
Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland;

J. Whyte Melville, of Bennoch and Strathkinness, R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Sir Robert Menzies, of that Ilk, Bart., R.W. Substitute Grand Master; Patrick Keir, of Kindrogan, R.W. Senior Grand Warden; Right Hon. Lord Loughborough, R.W. Junior Grand Warden; Samuel Hay (Union Bank), Pr. M. No. 24, R.W. Grand Treasurer; William Alex. Laurie, W.S. Pr. M. No. 342, R.W. Grand Secretary; Jas. Linning Woodman, C.S. Pr. M. No. 20, R.W. Grand Clerk; Rev. David Arnot, D.D., Pr. M. No. 352, V.W. Grand Chaplain; J. H. Erskine Wemyss, of Wemyss, Pr. S.W. No. 43, V.W. Senior Grand Deacon; James Wolfe Murray, of Cringletie, Pr. M. No. 23, V.W. Junior Grand Deacon; David Bryce, Pr. M. No. 165, V.W. Architect; Charles Mackay, Pr. M. No. 116, V.W. Grand Jeweller; John Deuchar, of Morningside, Pr. M. No. 102, V.W. Grand Bible-Bearer; Lieut. P. Deuchar, R.N., Pr. M. No. 66, Grand Director of Ceremonies; Andrew Murray, Pr. M. No. 75, Grand Sword Bearer; Alexander Mackenzie, Pr. S.W., No. 49, Grand Director of Music.

The following comprise the Grand Committee for the year, as elected on 5th February, 1855:—

The Grand Master; Depute Grand Master; Substitute Grand Master; the Masters of all Lodges in Edinburgh, Leith, and Portobello, viz.:—Br. F. D. McCowan, No. 1; Br. W. N. Fraser, No. 2; Br. Thomas Pearson, No. 5; Br. D. M'Ewan, No. 8; Br. Alex. Downie, No. 36; Br. J. Stewart, No. 44; Lodge No. 48, Dormant; Br. Thomas Keith, No. 97 (Dues on Enrolment unpaid); Br. William Millar, No. 145 (Lodge under suspension); Br. William Smith, No. 151; Br. James Knox, No. 160; Br. William Bailey, No. 226 (Dues on Enrolment unpaid); Br. James Dobie, No. 291, Lodge No. 354, Election not intimated; Br. Henry Wright, No. 349.

And the following Proxy Masters:—

Br. P. Hamilton, No. 119; Br. W. Pringle, No. 157; Br. J. Steventon, No. 199; Br. F. S. Melville, No. 225; Br. D. Kinnear, No. 231; Br. A. Trail, No. 120; Br.

James Nairne, No. 114; Br. William Belfrage, No. 30; Br. A. J. Stewart, No. 14, Br. A. Sclanders, No. 37; Br. W. Donaldson, No. 152; Br. George Murray, No. 280; Br. James Laing, No. 63; Br. S. Somerville, No. 248; Br. R. Ramage, No. 3-2; Br. John Cunningham, No. 281; Br. John Kay, No. 356; (One vacant, Brother Wright having, since Election, become R.W.M. 349).

BANFFSHIRE.

We are assured upon the best authority that the St. Andrew and the St. John's Operative Lodge, Banff, have been struck off the roll of Lodges of the G.L. of Scotland, for some years; that their members cannot therefore obtain G.L. diplomas, and ought not to be admitted into any regular Lodge. We trust the members of the Banff Lodges will take an early opportunity of endeavouring to put themselves right with the G.L., and not continue to perform ceremonies without proper authority, and create new members who would not be received in any authorised Lodge throughout the United Kingdom. In the mean time, we publish the following merely because it is distinctly stated on the face of the notice, that the Chapter is held under authority from the G. Chapter, though we cannot understand how irregularly made Masons can be allowed to hold office in a Chapter acting under the G. Chapter Charter.

"BANFF.—The Operative Royal Arch Chapter (No. 4), (under Charter from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland), held a convocation on Thursday, the 22nd of March, for the purpose of electing office bearers for the ensuing year, when the following Companions were unanimously elected, viz.:—James Mason, Principal Z.; William Hossack, sen., Principal H.; James Murray, Principal J.; Stenhouse Bairnsfather, 1st Sojourner; Alexander Greig, 2nd Sojourner; James Simpson, sen., 3rd Sojourner; Adam Mason, sen., Scribe E.; James Wm. Mackenzie, Scribe N.; John McEwen, High Priest; George Watt, Steward; Alexander Mortimer, Treasurer; Alexander Aitken, Janitor."

"Masonic Knight Templars.—St. John's encampment mustered roll at the Seatown, on Thursday, the 22nd day of March, when Sir Kt. Companion James Mason, was installed E.C. for the ensuing year."

EDINBURGH.

BR. THE LATE LORD FREDERICK FITZCLARENCE, G.C.H., P.G.M. of SCOTLAND—On Saturday, February 24, there was a Grand Funeral Lodge held by the G.L. of Scotland, in the Queen Street Hall, Edinburgh, in memory of the late distinguished brother. None but M.M.'s were admitted, each of whom was in mourning, with three black crape rosettes on the apron, and the jewels covered with crape. In the unavoidable absence of his Grace the Duke of Athole, G.M. Mason of Scotland, the R.W. Br. G. W. Whyte Melville, Deputy G.M., presided. Brs. Lord Loughborough and Dr. Mc'Gowan officiated as the senior and junior Grand Wardens. There were upwards of 300 brethren present, comprising Major Nasmyth, the hero of Silistria, Brs. Wm. Hunt, of Pittencreeff, G.S.D., Lieut. Duchar, G.J.D., J. F. Oswald, of Dunnikier, Samuel Somerville, Adolphus Robinow (the two latter representing Foreign Grand Lodges), Rev. Dr. Arnot, Grand Chaplain, J. L. Woodman, Grand Clerk, &c., &c.; with deputations from most of the sister Lodges in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and a number of the adjacent towns. The G.L. having been opened in due form, the service was commenced by the G. Chaplain delivering the following prayer:—

Most Glorious God, Author of all good, and Giver of all mercy, pour down thy blessings upon us, and strengthen all our solemn engagements with the ties of fraternal affection. Let this striking instance of mortality remind us of our approaching fate, and so fit and prepare us for that awful period, whenever it may arrive, that after our departure hence, in peace and in Thy favour, we may be received into Thy Everlasting Kingdom.—Amen.

Grand honours having been paid to the memory of the departed, Br. Kieser played a solemn dirge on the organ, which was followed by Mozart's aria, "O, Isis!" beautifully rendered by Br. Formes, assisted by the chorus.

Then came a service, with responses, as follows:—

Grand Master.—What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of death?

Brethren.—Man walketh in a vain shadow, he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.

Grand Master.—When he dieth he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him.

Brethren.—Naked we came into the world, and naked we must return. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

Br. Reichardt having sung an aria from Mendelsohn's *Elijah*, the service was continued:—

Grand Master.—Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.

Brethren.—God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even unto death.

Br. Formes next gave Handel's recitative and aria, "For behold the darkness shall cover the earth," which was succeeded by an eloquent and powerful oration delivered by the G. Chaplain, after which the following music was performed:—

Duett—"Now we are Ambassadors," by Brs. Reichardt and Gregoria.

Instrumental Quartett—Haydn's Hymn, and an aria of Mendelsohn's by Br. Reichardt.

The service was then resumed as follows:—

Grand Master.—May we be true and faithful; and may we live and die in love.

Brethren.—So mote it be.

Grand Master.—May we always profess what is good; and may we always act agreeably to our profession.

Brethren.—So mote it be.

Grand Master.—May the Lord bless us, and prosper us: and may all our good intentions be crowned with success.

Brethren.—So mote it be

Grand Master.—Glory be to God on high—on earth peace, and goodwill towards men.

Brethren.—So mote it be; now, from henceforth, and for evermore.—Amen.

Br. Formes having sung Mozart's aria, "In deesen Heiligen Hallen," the G. Chaplain delivered the following prayer:—

Almighty Architect of the Universe, unto the grave has been resigned the body of our loving Brother the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland, to remain until the day of general resurrection. We earnestly pray Thee at that great and dreadful day to extend Thy infinite mercy towards all of us, and to crown our felicity with everlasting bliss in Thy Heavenly Kingdom.—Amen.

To this succeeded "The Dead March in Saul," by the band; grand honours; and the National Anthem, sung by the whole of the Brethren in Chorus.

An appropriate address followed from the Grand Master, and the Ceremony having been concluded, the Lodge was closed with solemn prayer.

The ceremony was conducted in a most excellent manner. The stage or platform upon which the readings took place was covered with black cloth, with rich festoons, and in the panels of the platform were delineated the working tools of the Grand Lodge. The silver candelabra, one of five, and two of three lights, were festooned with crape; and the large wax-lights, the exquisite music, and the singing of Herr Formes and the other brethren, added much to the solemnity. A more impressive or truly Masonic Meeting has not been held in Scotland for some years. Indeed, we are informed that this is the only ceremony of the kind which has been celebrated by the Grand Lodge of Scotland since the death of the Duke of Sussex, in 1843.

GLASGOW.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER (No. 50).—This Chapter met on the 2nd of February, when there were present the M.E. Comp., Donald Campbell, Z.; C. J. Hughes, H.; R. M'Kenzie, J., and a large attendance of the members, when Br. John Scott Hamilton was exalted to the sublime degree.

ST. MARK'S LODGE (No. 102).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 5th of Feb., Br. R.W.M. W. B. Huggins occupied the chair at the opening of the Lodge; the Substitute Prov. Grand Master, Br. Dr. Walker Arnott, afterwards took the chair. Six eligible gentlemen, two of whom were clergymen, were initiated in the apprentice degree. On the 12th of February this Lodge met, when Br. D. Campbell, acting R.W.M., passed a reverend brother into the fellow-craft degree. On the 19th of February, being the second regular meeting of the month, the members assembled, and four qualified apprentices were passed as fellow-crafts by Br. Donald Campbell, D.M., who officiated as R.W.M. Br. J. T. Nicholson gave an interesting and able reading from Shakespeare. At the meeting of this Lodge on the 26th February, Br. D. Campbell, D.M., in the chair, nine brethren were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, one brother was affiliated, and the Sub. Prov. G.M., Br. Dr. Walker Arnott, read a learned paper in explanation of the Ancient Mysteries.

THE COLONIES.

AUSTRALIA.

A letter dated Ballarat, Jan. 5, says "a meeting of considerable importance took place last night at Bath's Hotel; being that of the Free and Accepted Masons on the gold-fields of Ballarat. Mr. Henry Harris (auctioneer), was unanimously called to the chair; when it was determined that a dispensation from the Provincial Grand Lodge at Sydney should be immediately applied for; and that under it (pending a warrant from the Grand Lodge of England) a Lodge should be at once opened on Ballarat, under the name, style, and title of the 'Lodge of Victoria,' which would form a nucleus for the meeting of the brethren, and the furtherance of loyal, constitutional, and fraternal principles, which have been much required upon these diggings. The attendance was numerous and respectable, embracing, as it did, the principal Camp officials, merchants, store-keepers, and residents on the township; and I confess, I hail as a boon to the colony in general, such a demonstration with its ulterior views, as took place at Br. Bath's, Ballarat Hotel, last night. It is understood that a Lodge has already been opened, under similar circumstances, at Bendigo, called 'Golden Lodge of Bendigo,' and I can only reiterate my hope that Masonry will act as a healing ointment to mollify our social wounds, and as a tie to cement more firmly together,—unity, peace, and order, wherever it may raise its ancient head; and that brotherly love may continue as of yore."

A letter dated Melbourne, Dec. 13, says the Freemasons had a grand field-day last week, when the foundation-stone of the large chimney-stack of the Melbourne Gas Works was laid, with all Masonic ceremonies, by Br. John Thomas Smith, the mayor.

CANADA.

HAMILTON.—On the late Festival of St. John the Evangelist, the Lodges of Strict Observance and St. John's, installed their officers for the current Masonic years, as follows:—Strict Observance, Brs. Wm. Bellhouse, W.M.; J. Harris, P.M.; J. Osborne, S.W.; E. M. Harris, J.W.; Richd. Benner, Treas.; H. Grist, Sec.; J. M. Rogerson, S.D.; D. Benedict, J.D.; F. J. Rastrick, M. of C.; Samuel Wilson, I.G.; John Morrison, Tyler.—St. John's, Brs. J. W. Baine, W.M.; J. W. Kerr, P.M.; Jas. Jarvie, S.W.; J. F. McCuaig, J.W.; H. Langdon, Treas.; T. B. Harris, Sec.; Brackstone Baker, S.D.; L. Rosenband, J.D.; Wm. Thomas, Organist; W. G. Capp, M. of C.; Albert Drey, I.G.; J. Morrison, Tyler.

TORONTO.—The Ball given by the Masonic fraternity, in aid of the Charities of Toronto, took place in the St. Lawrence Hall, on Wednesday evening, the 14th Feb. The result of the ball was the realization of the handsome sum of £250, which was placed in the hands of G. W. Allan, Esq., for the benefit of the principal charities. The Ball being "Masonic," all brethren were notified of the necessity for appearing

“properly clothed”—*i.e.*, in the insignia of their respective Orders. The effect, of the “proper clothing,” was such as to render the procession the principal feature of the evening, the light blue of the Master Masons, the scarlet of the Royal Arch, the waving plumes and white cloaks of the Knights Templar, and the dark blue regalia of the Grand Lodge, forming a brilliant contrast. The procession was marshalled in the drawing room at 9 30 p. m., and marched from thence up the centre of the Ball room—the band playing the “Entered Apprentice Quick-step”—in the following order:—

Masters of the Ceremonies,	Royal Arch Masons,
Standard Bearer,	Knights Templar,
Entered Apprentices,	Officers of the G. Lodge,
Master Masons,	D. P. Grand Master.

Having reached the head of the room the procession formed in two lines, facing inwards, reaching down the full length, The Master of Ceremonies then proceeded to the foot, and conducted the R.W.D.P.G.M., T. G. Ridout, to the throne, placed at the head of the hall: the two lines filing inwards from the bottom, passed in front. Each Mason saluting the D.G.M. in the usual manner. This ceremony having been performed, the brethren of the Order mingled with the crowd, and the real business of the evening commenced. The first Quadrille was formed at 10, and dancing was kept up with great spirit until half past twelve—when the supper room was thrown open—and although it was not large enough to accommodate the whole the people assembled at one time—the arrangements were such as to render every one satisfied with the treatment they received. After supper dancing was resumed, and continued until half past four next morning, and even then there appeared to be a strong disinclination on the part of many to leave off so soon—thus giving undeniable evidence in favour of the success of the evening, which was in a great measure due to the excellence of the music, conducted by Mr. Harkness, late R. C. Rifles.

MONTREAL. THE ST. LAWRENCE LODGE.—A meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal, and William Henry, on the 26th ult. performed the grand and imposing ceremony of consecration in the case of the St. Lawrence Lodge, which owing to the zeal and energy of its W.M. Br. M. Morrison, has, since the date of its dispensation, about eight months since, so increased in favour and reputation among the Craft, that at present it occupies a position superior to that of many Lodges which boast of their antiquity.

INDIA.

MADRAS.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—At a Communication, holden at the Hall of Lodge, Universal Charity, Esplanade, Madras, at half-past 6 p. m., on Friday, the 12th January, A.D. 1855, A.L. 5855. There were present, Brs. M.W. R. H. Williamson, G.M.; W. W. P. Macdonald, as S.G.W.; W. P. Coultrup, J.G.W.; W. C. A. Roberts, G.T.; W. J. Maskell, G.Sec.; W. J. T. Greatorex, Dy. Sec.; R. T. Laurence, as S.G.D.; R. P. Campbell, as J.G.D.; W. J. Dickson, G.D. of Ceremonies; W. H. O'Hara, G.S.B.; J. Brock, as G.T. And the representatives of the undermentioned Lodges:—Perfect Unanimity, No. 175, (1); Universal Charity, No. 326, (4); Pilgrims of Light, No. 831, (5); Good Will, No. 684 (1). The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form, and with solemn invocation of God's blessing. The Grand Master stated that it was known to most of the Worshipful Brethren and Brethren present, that he had summoned them to meet him on this day in lieu of St. John's day, as the latter occurred during the holidays, when it would have been inconvenient for the brethren to attend. He expressed his congratulations at meeting the members of Grand Lodge at the beginning of the year, and hoped that the New Year had been a happy one to the whole of them. The proceedings of the last Communication of Grand Lodge held on the 24th of June, 1854, were read and confirmed. The Grand Treasurer produced his accounts, which were read, and exhi-

bited the following Cash balances:—In favor of Grand Lodge, Rs. 278-7-6; in favor of G.M.C. Fund, Rs. 4-3-5. The Grand Secretary stated that it was with much regret that he had to report the decease, since the last Communication, of the two Grand Deacons, viz., Worshipful Br. G. M. A. Storey, P.M. of Lodge Universal Charity, and Worshipful Br. George Snelgrove, P.M. of Lodge Pilgrims of Light. He further stated that these brethren were, at their own request, and by dispensations obtained from the Grand Master, buried as Masons. The Grand Master expressed his regret at the loss this Grand Lodge and the Craft had sustained by the death of the two worthy brethren alluded to, and he was sure that in doing so he also expressed the feelings of the rest of the brethren. The following Report was then made by the Grand Secretary on the state of the Lodges in this Presidency. There are three Lodges at the Presidency in a healthy and thriving condition, viz., Perfect Unanimity, Universal Charity, and Pilgrims of Light. Returns and remittances had been received from the first Lodge to 30th Sept., and from the other two to 31st December, 1854. In the Provinces, three Lodges were apparently working (in addition to the one recently revived which will be alluded to presently,) viz., St. John, Rock, and St. Andrew, but they had all, from some unknown cause, ceased to furnish the prescribed returns and payments. St. John was in arrears for two whole years, and the Rock and St. Andrew for eighteen months respectively. No communication of any kind had been received from any of these Lodges, and as they had no representatives at Madras, the cause of their silence may be explained. The Grand Master was concerned to hear so unfavourable a report of the Mofussil Lodges, and directed the Grand Secretary to write a special letter to each of the Worshipful Masters of those Lodges, expressing his particular wish that they would be good enough to favor him with some account of their state and prospects, as he was anxious to ascertain whether the incessant changes and movements at military stations had in any way interfered with their condition and progress. The Grand Secretary reported that Lodge Good Will, Bellary, had been revived, and was now in a highly flourishing condition, under the mastership of Worshipful Br. A. J. Greenlaw, P.J.G.W. He also read a letter from the Secretary of Lodge Good Will, nominating W. Br. W. H. Ross, one of the founders of that Lodge, and at present a resident of Madras to represent the Lodge in this Grand Lodge. The Grand Master stated that he was happy to hear the report just made. He had himself received a letter from Worshipful Br. Greenlaw, in which he informed him that the Lodge had increased from 7 to 27 Members. He was also glad that W. Br. Ross had been appointed representative of that Lodge in Grand Lodge, and would acknowledge him as such. The Grand Secretary read a letter which he had received from the Deputy Grand Secretary at Calcutta, enclosing two copies of the Prospectus of "The Indian Free Mason's Friend," a serial in 12 monthly numbers, to be published from the 1st January, 1855, under the patronage of the Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, at a subscription of five rupees a quarter, or sixteen rupees a year. The Grand Secretary read extracts from the Prospectus, and stated that his object in bringing it before Grand Lodge, was to secure extended publicity by having the subject noticed in the proceedings of this meeting, which would be printed and circulated to all Lodges in the province. The G.M. suggested that as two copies of the Prospectus had been received, one had better be circulated to the Provincial Grand Officers, and the other to the subordinate Lodges at the Presidency. This the Grand Secretary promised to do. Before proceeding to the election of a Grand Treasurer, Worshipful Br. C. A. Roberts, the present Grand Treasurer, observed, that, with reference to the minutes of the last Communication of Grand Lodge, he would feel particularly obliged if the Wardens of the past year would audit his accounts. He would leave Madras for England by the steamer expected next day, but he had delivered to the Deputy Grand Secretary all the vouchers and documents necessary to make over charge of his office, and his accounts. The Grand Master replied that he would be obliged if the Grand Wardens of the past year would comply with the wishes of W. Br. Roberts. A ballot was then taken for a Grand Treasurer for the current year, and on its termination, W. Br. M. McDowell was declared duly elected to that office, the majority of votes being in his favor. The Grand Master was pleased to appoint the undermentioned brethren to

be Grand Officers for the year 1855:—Brs. R. W. J. Ouchterlony, D.G.M.; W. Brs. Coultrup, S.G.W.; W. A. Serle, J.G.W.; Rev. H. Taylor, G.C.; J. Dickson, G.R.; J. Maskell, G.S.; J. T. Greatorex, D.S.; H. O'Hara, S.G.D.; T. A. Chamier, J.G.D.; G. Williams, G.D. of Ceremonies; R. Hunter, G.S.B. The following is a list of Stewards for the current year nominated by the Presidency Lodges:—Lodge Perfect Unanimity, Brs. J. W. Sherman, and H. C. Roberts; Lodge Universal Charity, R. P. Campbell, and W. R. Williams; Lodge Pilgrims of Light, P. G. Winter, and J. P. Waller. W. Br. Macdonald proposed that by a special record on the proceedings of this meeting of Grand Lodge, the attention of Lodges should be called to the impoverished state of the Grand Masonic Charity Fund, in the hope that all Masons will subscribe to the support of that noble Institution. The motion was seconded by W. Br. Ross, and carried unanimously. Before closing the meeting, the Grand Master returned his thanks to the Grand Officers of the past year, for the efficient manner in which they had performed their duties. He alluded to the departure of W. Br. Roberts, Grand Treasurer. He would not, he said, detain Grand Lodge by dwelling upon the manner in which W. Br. Roberts had performed his duties not only in Grand Lodge, but in his own Lodge, as it was well known to all the Members present. The approaching separation was a source of regret to all the brethren and he felt assured that he was only their mouth-piece in wishing Br. Roberts a prosperous voyage, happiness with his friends at home, and health to enjoy his relaxation from official duties. Br. Kenrick was likewise going to England by the same steamer, and the Grand Master availed himself of the same opportunity of wishing him also health and happiness. There being no other business, and no brother proposing anything further for the good of Masonry in general, or this Provincial Grand Lodge in particular, it was closed in due form, and with solemn invocation of the Almighty's Blessing.

UNIVERSAL CHARITY LODGE (No. 340).—A gay ball, given by the Masonic brethren of this Lodge to their friends, came off, on Friday Jan. 5, at the Masonic Temple, on the South Beach. The spacious halls of that beautiful edifice were decorated with festoons of flowers and ever-greens in very good tastes; and the hosts were all gallantry and attention to the fair crowd that thronged them. It is hard to blame the excess of good will; but, had fewer guests been invited to share the hospitality of the brethren of Lodge "Universal Charity," a little inconvenience might no doubt have been obviated.

SINGAPORE.

ZETLAND LODGE IN THE EAST (No. 748).—Wednesday, Dec. 27, being the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, in accordance with established custom, the members of this Lodge assembled in their Masonic Temple, in North Bridge Road, for the installation of the Worshipful Br. W. C. Leisk, the Master Elect, and for the investiture of the other officers chosen for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was conducted by the Worshipful Br. W. H. Read, assisted by the Worshipful Br. C. W. Bradley of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, with the Past Masters of the Lodge Zetland in the East, after which the other officers were severally introduced to their new Master, and by him, in due form, invested with the insignia of their respective offices. The following are the Office-bearers for the present year. W. Br. W. C. Leisk, R.A.W.M.; Br. W. H. Read, R.A.P.M.; Brs. T. Tivendale, R.A.S.W.; C. Frommurze, R.A.J.W.; Rev. F. W. Linstedt, R.A. Chaplain; J. C. Smith, K.C.H., T.M. Treasurer; F. H. Gottlieb, R.A. Sec., J. Webster, M.M.S.D., J. Baxter, M.M.J.D.; H. W. Wood, M.M.I.G.; W. Kraal, R.A. and C. Perreau, R.A. Tylers. The particular business of the day having been concluded, the brethren sat down to their annual Masonic banquet at 6. 30 p. m., when by the kind permission of the Hon. Captain Elliott, the Band of H. M.'s Ship Sybille was in attendance. An excellent spread was laid in the banqueting hall which was tastefully decorated for the occasion with the Masonic banners and various national ensigns—those of England France and the United States being most conspicuous. The duties of president were ably conducted by the W.M., and he was well supported by his officers, so that harmony and good humour never flagged throughout the evening. Some suitable speeches

and good songs were given, but the great enjoyment of the evening was the excellent music of the Sybille band, which performed some admirable operatic pieces, besides the usual Masonic and national airs. The speeches of the W.P.M. Br. W. H. Read were as usual very successful, and his representation of the benign influences of Masonry softening the sufferings and horrors of War, illustrated by the well-known example of the late illustrious Br. Sir Charles Napier at and after the battle of Corunna, was very appropriate, and elicited warm approbation. The brethren separated, rejoicing in the happy evening they had spent together, and proud of the tie which binds them in mutual offices, love, respect and kindness whatever men's relative positions and duties in the world may be.

CHINA.

HONG KONG.

The Zetland Lodge, No. 768, instead of a banquet confined to the brethren, gave on St. Johns Day, Dec. 27, a ball, which afforded the uninitiated, of both sexes, the privilege of participating in the celebration of the festival of St. John. The Rooms were handsomely fitted up for the occasion, and every provision in their power was made by the Masons for the gratification of their guests, the only want being the inevitable one of a disproportion of ladies. They were not the less thought of on that account, and after a splendid supper, afforded the W.M., the Hon. W. T. Mercer, D.P.G.M., occasion for an eloquent and effective speech, in proposing their health, in which he took occasion to defend the principles upon which the Order is founded, and its excellence in extending the hand of Charity, to aid not only the brethren but others who may need assistance. The worthy brother also ingeniously contrived to interlay his theme with an appeal on behalf of the widows and orphans of the soldiers and sailors who may fall in the war with Russia. The Lodge, he said, had that day agreed as a body to contribute £50, and it was to be hoped the example would be followed by the community generally.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE THREE ARTICLES OF NOAH.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER,—Your correspondent, P. M'C., of Peckham, seems wishful to have a "peck" at me, and accordingly charges me with being uncourteous. I don't reply to the charge; but I do wish to say that some of the words he has italicised are not mine, but his. I would also say in answer to his last paragraph, that the "riddle" *does still exist*, though perhaps not in the *books* which he happens to possess. And for his information and yours I would refer him to "The Book of the Lodge," by Dr. Oliver, and published very recently. I have not the book at present by me, but I think the passage reads thus: "They all agree in the three great articles, Noah, enough to preserve the cement of the Lodge."

I have no; only to say that I am greatly obliged to you for your kindness in so promptly attending to my question, but for your trouble in this matter. I am also under an obligation to your worthy correspondent, who has given so able and satisfactory an explanation. Notwithstanding that, I think he is somewhat severe upon a brother, whose only fault (if fault it be) is an anxious desire to attain Masonic knowledge, but who has not the same opportunities for doing so as are possessed by many other brethren and members of Lodges.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

West Yorkshire, March, 1855.

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SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR MARCH.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

During the past month very little of consequence has taken place in either of the Houses, which now stand adjourned for the Easter holidays, beyond the announcement in both, on the evening of the 2nd, that the Emperor of Russia had died the previous day.

In the House of Lords on the 9th Earl Granville stated, in answer to a question, that though the Government had no new plan with regard to ticket of leave convicts, they would endeavour to improve the present system. On the 19th Lord Lucan moved for certain returns relative to the battle of Balaklava, which were agreed to. On the 20th Lord Lyndhurst called attention to the conduct of Prussia, which Lord Clarendon admitted to be vacillating, but expressed a hope that she would yet join in the alliance against Russia. On the 21st neither House met, the day being set aside for a national humiliation and fast; but on the 22nd Lord Stanley of Alderley promised that a Bill for regulating partnerships, with limited liability, should be brought in after Easter. On the 23rd a message from the Queen relative to the Sardinian contingent was received, and considered the 26th. On the following day some Bills were advanced a stage, and the Queen's reply received.

In the House of Commons on the 1st Lord Goderich brought forward a motion against the system of purchase in the British army as injurious to the public service, and unjust to the private soldiers, which was negatived by a majority of 158 to 114. On the 2nd an attempt to make the Sebastopol Committee secret was unsuccessful, and a Bill for doing away with the qualification of members was negatived. On the 5th the Reduction of Tea Duties Suspension Bill was read a second time, and in Committee of Supply a motion against the Government manufactory of small arms was negatived by a majority of 170 to 34. On the 7th the Judgments' Execution Bill was defeated as defective; the Tea Duties and Marine Mutiny Bills passed through Committee, and other bills advanced a stage. On the 8th the House was principally occupied with a discussion brought on by Mr. Malins relative to the conduct of Sir C. Napier, which resulted in nothing, and without at all adding to the reputation for discretion of the gallant admiral. On the 9th the House was occupied in Committee of Supply, and, with the exception of a few questions put and answered, the same business was continued on the 12th. On the 13th Mr. Heywood obtained leave to bring in a Bill to legalise marriages with a deceased wife's sister. On the 14th a few Bills were advanced a stage. On the 15th a Bill of Mr. Locke King's for the better settling the real estates of intestates was negatived by a majority of 156 to 84; a similar fate befel a motion of Mr. Williams' to regulate the probate duty on real property and inappropriate tithes by 84 to 61; and to one by Mr. Cobbett to regulate the hours of labour in factories by 109 to 101. On the 16th Sir John Pakington obtained leave to bring in a Bill for better encouragement and promotion of education, and Sir Benjamin Hall for the better local management of the metropolis. On the 19th the newspaper stamp Bill for enabling newspaper proprietors to use their option with regard to stamping their papers, or such portion of the impression they thought fit, was brought in by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; after which the House went into Committee of Supply. The principal discussion on the following day was on a motion of Sir Joshua Walmsley for opening the British Museum and National Gallery on Sundays, which was negatived by 235 to 48. The Newspaper Stamp Bill was read a first time. The House did not again meet until the 23rd, when the Lord Advocate brought in a Bill relative to education in Scotland, and the House went into Committee of Supply. The Queen's message was also communicated to this House. It was considered on the 26th, and a reply given. The Newspaper Stamp Duties Bill was then taken into consideration and read a second time by a majority of 215 to 161. On the 27th a motion of Colonel Reed to inquire into the system of conferring appointments in the army was rejected by a majority of 104 to 70. On the 28th the bills of exchange and promissory notes bills, by which great additional power are given to the holders, was read a second time, and referred to a select Committee.

THE WAR.

In the early part of the month, the death of the Emperor of Russia, gave rise to hopes of peace, which have since been nearly dissipated, by the Manifestoes of the new Emperor. In the mean time every thing appears to be mending in the Crimea, the works are being pushed steadily on; the health of the men is improving, and the Allied Armies are said to be ready to act on the offensive. There have been some skirmishes between the French and Russians, without any great advantage to either side. The negotiations have been opened at Vienna, and the two first articles of the protocol for peace agreed to; but the Morning Post informs us, that on the third, which stipulates for the entrance of Turkey into the European family, and for the limitation of the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea, a difficulty has been started on the part of the representatives of Russia, which renders it necessary for the plenipotentiaries to communicate with their respective Governments. A large portion of the Baltic Fleet has already sailed.

BENEVOLENT.

The Anniversary Festival of the Royal Medical College (to provide for decayed Medical men or their widows, and afford education to their children, was celebrated at the London Tavern on the 29th Feb., and subscriptions amounting to nearly 2200*l.* announced.

The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, have presented a donation of 100*l.* to that excellent Charity—the Royal St. Anns Asylum.

The City of London Hospital for diseases of the chest, had a dinner at the London Tavern on the 7th, when subscriptions to the amount of 3790*l.* were announced. The Hospital is in want of further aid, to enable the Governors to complete the building in Victoria Park, which is now nearly ready for opening.

On the same day, the Central Association in aid of Soldiers wives and widows, held their first annual meeting, the Duke of Cambridge presiding. Br. the Hon. Major Powys read the report, from which it resulted that the total amount received, up to the 7th inst. was 104,853*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, of which 34,643*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* had been spent in relief, and 5,812*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* in advertisements, printing, &c., leaving a balance in Exchequer bills, and at the bankers, of 64,379*l.* 8*s.* Resolutions in support of the Charity were passed.

A Committee has been appointed to inquire into the position and management of the Literary Fund.

The Seamans Hospital Anniversary Festival was celebrated on the 28th, with Lord Palmerston in the chair, when a subscription list of nearly 2000*l.* was obtained. The subscribers to the Cambridge Asylum are about to elect 10 inmates—being the widows of soldiers killed in the present war.

PROVIDENT.

The Engineer's Masonic, &c., Life Assurance Society held its annual meeting on the 6th, when a report was presented which stated that the total number of proposals received by the directors during the past year has been 207; the annual premiums derivable from which would have amounted to 2,343*l.* 3*s.* assuring the sum of 62,640*l.*; of these, 154, producing an annual income of 1,761*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, and assuring a sum of 45,840*l.*, have been completed. The claims from death during the past year have amounted to 3,750*l.*: these claims have accrued upon the death of 18 members, which is below the average calculated mortality.

On the 7th the Palladium Assurance Company held its 13th annual meeting. The report said the new premiums received in 1854 were nearly 33 per cent greater than those received in 1853; the amount assured was nearly 5 per cent greater; and the number of policies in force about 3½ per cent greater; and the surplus balance larger than that of the previous year by 23,207*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* On the other hand, the amount paid as claims was less in 1854 than in 1853 by 55½ per cent. The policies issued during the year numbered 153, assuring 150,920*l.*, and yielding new premiums to the amount of 5,524*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* The report was adopted.

At the half yearly meeting of the Railway Passengers Assurance Company, the same day, Mr. Vian, the Secretary, read a report which said:—The amount of premiums for the half-year to 31st. Dec. received and due, is 4,394*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, making with that for the previous six months, a total income of 9,488*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* for the year just closed. The amount actually received is 3,516*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, which, with the balance from last half-year, and the interest on investments, makes the sum of 7,294*l.* 6*s.* to credit of revenue account. The disbursements include, besides the ordinary expenses, the large sum of 2,246*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* for compensation, and a charge of 150*l.* towards the liquidation of preliminary expenses, in all 5,424*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* and this leaves a balance of 2,747*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, from which sum your directors recommend the payment of interest of the paid up capital, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, free from income tax. The report was adopted, and the dividend declared. It is astonishing that any one travels without an assurance ticket.

The Conservative Land Society held its quarterly meeting on the 14th. Br. Gruneisen, the Secretary, presented a report, which, after alluding to the eagerness with which the Old Ford estate was taken up, said the total receipts had been 152,730*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, and the shares issued, 10,729*l.* The returns of the register of order of rights are as follows:—Total to March 10, 1855—Completed, 1,462, Drawn, 1,724, Seniority, 870, Total, 4,056; Deduct rights exercised, 1,917; Total, 2,139. The last share to be placed on the list of rights by seniority after the 25th public drawing this day, is No. 1,554. The returns of the sale of land are as gratifying as the general receipts. From Michaelmas to Christmas the amount was 2,985; from Christmas to March 10th, 7,892*l.* 10*s.*; total amount of land sold in less than six months, 10,877*l.* 10*s.* The total amount of land sold by the society up to March 10, 1855, is the large sum of 102,994*l.* The report was adopted, and the quarterly ballot for rights of allotment proceeded with.

On the same day, a special meeting of the Householders' Life Assurance Company was held, and the interest on shares raised from 5 to 6 per cent.

The National Live Stock Insurance Company held its first annual meeting the same day, when Mr. Ryland read the report of the Directors. It stated that the Directors issued the first policy on the 30th of Sept., 1853, and to the 31st of Dec. last, the board had issued 1,855 policies, insuring live stock valued at 285,539*l.*, the premiums upon which amounted to 8,277*l.*, whilst the claims had amounted to 6,377*l.*, exclusive of salvage. The business was increasing, and the board had every expectation of an extended success. The report was adopted.

The Merchant and Tradesmen's Mutual Life Assurance Society held its annual meeting on the 15th. The report, which was adopted, said—"The number of proposals for assurance submitted during the year was 911, for sums amounting to 209,135*l.*; the number of policies issued from February 1, 1854, to January 31, 1855, had been 797, assuring 182,735*l.*; the premiums on which amounted to 5,491*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; the amount assured prior to Feb. 1, 1854, and still in force was, on 1,467 policies, 357,666*l.*; the annual premiums on which were 11,251*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* Sixty-three proposals had since passed the board and been completed, amounting to 17,300*l.*; the annual premiums on which were 520*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*; making the amount of current insurances 557,701*l.*; the number of policies 2,327; and the present income of the society 16,743*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* Claims in respect of deaths, with bonus additions, amounting to 3,441*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, had been duly discharged."

At the annual meeting of the Economic Life Assurance Society on the 24th, it was explained that the total sum at present insured was 5,559,368*l.*, without bonus, so that the present condition of the society might be stated at 6,000,000*l.* of risk, to meet which they had one million and a half of invested capital, and a premium income of 168,121*l.* per annum.

The Professional Life Assurance Company held its annual meeting on the 28th, when the new manager (Mr. Massey) presented a report, which showed that during the past year there had been issued 630 new policies, assuring 263,320*l.*, and producing an income, from premiums, of 7,541*l.*, being a large increase on the business of the previous year. The premium income of the company is now about 30,000*l.*

An inaugural meeting of a new Assurance Company, entitled the British Nation, combining all the late improvements of the young offices, was held on the 28th, Mr. Edward Baylis presiding, when its objects were lucidly explained. A library and reading room is to be attached to the office for the gratuitous use of the proprietors and assurers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A public dinner has been given to Mr. Jacob Bell to console him for his defeat, and another to Lord Ebrington, to congratulate him upon his success at the late Marylebone election.

The Freedom of Edinburgh was presented to Br. Major Nasmyth, the hero of Silistria, on the 2nd March.

Don Carlos, of Spain, died on the 10th.

At the meeting of the South Eastern Railway Company on the 15th, the Board of Directors was remodelled.

The great highway bridge at Bristol has been destroyed by a steamer coming into collision with it.

A subscription has been commenced to raise a memorial to the memory of our much lamented Br., the late Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P.

Henry Garrett, who was concerned in the late extensive bank robbery in Australia, has been arrested in London, having in his possession a considerable portion of the booty.

 OBITUARY.

BR. BENJAMIN CHURCHILL.—We regret to announce the almost sudden death of this worthy Br., the W.M. elect of the Salopian Lodge, Shrewsbury, the melancholy event having taken place on the morning of the day upon which he was to have been installed into the Master's Chair.

BR. THE REV. THOS. GWYNNE.—Lately, at the Vicarage, St. Ishmael, Carmarthen, aged 58, the Rev. Thos. Gwynne, M.A. Oxon, formerly Chaplain to the P.G.L., and a Magistrate for the County. His death was by no means expected, as he had performed the clerical duty at his church about three hours before he departed this life.

BR. PHILIP GRIFFITH JONES.—This worthy brother, many years a member of Saint Peter's Lodge, No. 699, Carmarthen, and W.M. for the year 1848. Br. Jones was very highly respected by the Lodge; he has left a widow and four daughters; his son succeeds to his professional affairs as a solicitor, at Carmarthen.

BR. HENRY VERNON.—The brethren of the Lodge of St. Matthew, No. 786, Walsall, heard with feelings of the deepest regret, on the 22nd of February, a rumour of the unexpected death of Brother Henry Vernon, J.D. of the Lodge, which melancholy intelligence was confirmed by a letter from his uncle, Col. Vernon, R.W.P.G.M. to the W.M. At a meeting of emergency, the same evening, a wish was generally expressed that, as a mark of the respect and esteem in which he was held by the Lodge, a deputation should proceed to Hilton Park to ascertain if there would be any objection on the part of his family, to some of the members paying the final sad tribute of respect to departed merit, by accompanying his remains to their last home. Brs. Wood, W.M.; Thos. James, P.M.; and the Rev. Jas. Downes, Chaplain, accordingly waited on the R.W.P.G.M., by whom they were most graciously and courteously received; but he requested them to assure the brethren of 786 that, though he felt sincerely such a mark of their attention, his brother's wish to have the funeral conducted as privately as possible, would preclude their intention being carried into effect. At the suggestion of Br. Downes, Chaplain, the W.M. convened a special meeting of the Lodge, at which an ancient and appropriate solemn ceremony was conducted, and an oration delivered by the reverend brother, which, at the unanimous request of the members present on the occasion, has been printed. The death of this estimable young brother is not only a loss to the Lodge 786, to every member of which he had endeared himself by his amiable and noble disposition, but to the Craft in Staffordshire in general, as, during his short career as a Mason he evinced so much zeal, that no doubt he would, in due time, have emulated the example of his revered parent and uncle, whose services to Masonry are so universally known. The late Brother Henry Vernon was initiated in the Lodge of St. Matthew, February 1st, 1854.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. B. G.—Is thanked. We shall be at all times happy to hear from him.

Z.—We consider the lectures as much a sealed book as the ceremonies. They are briefly described in Preston. Perhaps Z. will favour us with his address, that we may communicate with him privately.

J. H. requests us to state with regard to our notice of the Burlington Lodge in our last number, that it was at the request of the W.M. elect that Br. Coates waived his right as immediate P.M., of installing his successor, in favour of Br. Dr. Rowe, P.G.D.



It is certainly difficult to define exactly upon what grounds a Lodge of emergency may be held. We consider that all business which cannot well be postponed to the following regular Lodge—such as the initiation of a candidate about to proceed abroad, or the consideration of a communication from G.L.—warrant the W.M. in calling a Lodge of emergency, or he may do so in order to lighten the business of his next regular Lodge.

A FREEMASON at Plymouth calls our attention to an irregularity said to be frequently practised in that town and neighbourhood, of initiating candidates without giving the legal weeks notice, and of not stating in the summons the cause of an "Emergency" being called. Such a course cannot be too severely deprecated, as in all cases were a candidate has not been previously proposed in open Lodge, it is most important that the brethren should have the full notice required by the Book of Constitutions, in order to give ample time for inquiry as to his position and qualifications for admission into the Order.

R.A. Jewels.—The box-jewels, with a glass over the "triple tor," or with the "triple tor" upon enamel, are very commonly used though not in exact accordance with the "regulation jewel," which we much prefer, and which we think every Comp. ought to wear. The "box jewels" are very well for complimentary presentation in order to allow an inscription to be placed upon the back, but if we possessed one we should still wear our "regulation jewel."

A Correspondent, not 100 miles from Plymouth, thus writes regarding a Lodge in the district:—"This Lodge being like the Lodge of Antiquity, independent of the G.L. of England, is not cramped and confined by conforming to the Constitutions, which is a great thing for it, and gives it an advantage over all the others in this neighbourhood, who are obliged by the Ob. to pay respect to those in authority, and advance candidates only after a lapse of four weeks between each degree, and are consequently obliged to refuse candidates who must have the whole done in a month, and be off to sea, or it may be emigrate to a foreign land. In addition to the foregoing advantages, the brethren are not compelled to observe uniformity in costume, but please themselves as to wearing R.A. or any other apron they may fancy." We find the Lodge spoken of in our Calendar as on the register of the G.L. of England, and therefore it is bound to obey the Constitutions. The Lodge of Antiquity claims no advantage, though stated to have existed from time immemorial, like those claimed for the Lodge above alluded to. We see no great disadvantage likely to attend a Br. about to proceed to sea or emigrate, in not being able to obtain more than his first or second degree prior to that event. It being stated on his certificate, which may be obtained from G.L. in twenty-four hours, the degree he holds, he can easily be advanced in another Lodge, or wait till a fitting opportunity for advancement in England. If these irregularities exist in the Lodge, the G.L. could not grant certificates to members so advanced, as may be seen by reference to Art 7, page 80, of the Book of Constitutions, edition of 1853. We trust the P.G.M. or his Deputy will at once look into the matter, and that the good sense of the officers of the Lodge will put an end to the other, but lesser irregularity, of allowing the brethren to appear in other than their Craft clothing.

A TYRO IN MASONIC LORE.—The foundation stone of Freemasons' Hall, in Great Queen Street, London, was laid on the 1st of May, 1775, and the building opened and inaugurated on the 23rd of May, 1776. An account of the dedication will be found in Preston's Masonry.

The Plymouth parcel of the "Mirror" for March was dispatched from our office on the 1st. We are sorry to hear, therefore, that our subscribers could not obtain their numbers until the 5th.

A.B.—In Scotland, and we believe, in Ireland, candidates are sometimes put through the three degrees in one night—though the Scottish Book of Constitutions lays it down that an interval of two weeks shall elapse between each degree, "unless it shall be certified by two brethren of the Lodge in which the candidate is to be passed or raised, that he is about to remove from Scotland within the interval prescribed," or other cases of emergency.

P.M.—The Pocket edition of the Constitutions will be sold at the same price as the larger edition—at least so we understood it to be arranged in G.L.

One of the Number.—We do not know how many G. Stewards attended the last communication of G.L.

We regret that we are again compelled to omit the Reminiscences of a Freemason, and other valuable Communications. Notwithstanding, we present our Readers with four extra pages.