

OUR ARCHITECTURAL CHAPTER.

WE are glad to find, that the materials which we have brought together as to Masonic Halls and Grand Superintendents of Works, and which for the first time lay before the Brethren some information on the subject, are receiving due attention. Thus we are glad to find the Secretary of No 153 giving a very interesting account of the Freemasons' Hall, Southampton; but he must not think us ungrateful if we tell him now that we want more, and ask him for more. Though our correspondent gives his official designation, and not his name, we believe we are right in stating him to be Bro. G. W. Clarke, who has held the office of Secretary for some time, and who is well known as a zealous Mason in the province, and a public spirited citizen; and therefore we ask him these questions, which will apply to some of the other cases, where we want the like information.

When was the Freemasons' Hall built?

Is it freehold; or on what tenure?

Who are the proprietors?

In what way is it secured to the Craft?

What is the area; how many rooms are there; the dimensions of each room?

The cost of the building.

Yearly outgoings and income.

Is the building let for other than Craft purposes?

Are banquets held in the Hall?

Is there any library?

Who has the care of the building, and what remuneration is given?

Any description of the rooms and furniture will be of interest.

We likewise ask Bro. Clarke to obtain for us particulars as to the Masonic Halls at Portsmouth and Portsea named by him.

Another brother from Manchester contributes further information

respecting the Masonic rooms there. He says that in addition to Nos. 89 and 245, Nos. 52, 177, and 399, meet there; No. 399 was formerly held at a small inn, the Park Hall, or Freemasons' Tavern. Now none of these Lodges meet in a publichouse or building devoted to other than Masonic uses. No. 399 has greatly benefited by the removal, and is now increasing in numbers and respectability.

The premises in Manchester consist of a Lodge room, supper room, and Tyler's room in the centre, all of moderate dimensions; and connected with these is a room of the size of the whole three, which the Craft are trying to let, but which they hope to be able eventually to occupy—and if so, it will become the Lodge room, and the present Lodge room will be converted into a Chapter room. By means of a back staircase refreshments are supplied from the tavern below; and altogether the Brethren find it much better than meeting in hotels; but still they look forward to obtaining a Masonic hall, which shall be their own property.

The Brethren pay sixty pounds a year, exclusive of taxes, and the whole of the Manchester Lodges meet there, except the Warborough and Social Lodges, which are dinner Lodges. One set of furniture is used by all the Lodges.

This is a very interesting account of a temporary arrangement, which may be used by the Lodges of a large city pending the establishment of a Freemasons' Hall. The accommodation stands the Lodges in an average expense of one pound per meeting.

The account of the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge for Bristol came too late to enable us to include in our list of Provincial Grand Superintendents of Works, and to notice an admirable appointment in that province, of Bro. Thomas Bell, P.M. of No. 886, who is a civil engineer. It is very evident, from this, and like appointments, that a move is being made in the right direction.

We are not at all surprised to find the D. Prov. Grand Master, and Provincial Grand Senior Warden engaged in a most laudable undertaking for holding a Masonic Ball on a grand scale, the proceeds to be applied in aid of the fund for the restoration of St. Mary Redcliffe. It is by showing the deep interest of Masons in noble works of architecture, that public respect will be earned for the Craft; for it will be believed that such men are earnest in their love of art, as of knowledge generally.

A very useful step has been taken by the Oak Lodge, No. 225, where a committee has been appointed to consider the circular from the Board of General Purposes, relative to Freemasons' Hall, and to report thereon at the next meeting of the Lodge. That important measure should be seriously considered; for it is most desirable that every Brother should properly understand it, and be prepared to give it his support.

The practice of having separate Masonic Halls is very ancient. We find that, in 1744, permission was granted by Grand Lodge for the formation of a hall in Antigua. We may mention further, that the

first recorded initiation in London, that of Elias Ashmole, in 1644, took place, not in a tavern, but what was then a public building, Masons' Hall, near Basinghall-street. It was only towards the close of the seventeenth century, that as a matter of convenience the Lodge concerned in the building of St. Paul's met in a tavern in the neighbourhood of the works, and this unfortunately became an evil example for meeting in taverns. This matter has not been properly investigated; but it is most likely, that as soon as the works of the cathedral were properly advanced, that the business of the Lodge was conducted on the works, and that adjournment only took place to the tavern for refreshment. Still it will be observed, that on the restoration of the Craft to vigour, the meetings were held in halls and public buildings.

At the present time, when so many endeavours are being made to establish Masonic Halls, some account of the Hall now in progress under the direction of the Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works, and the spirited Brethren at Leicester, will be of interest. They grounded their plan on the fact that many towns of less importance than Leicester had provided themselves with a hall, and that such measure had been followed by highly satisfactory results. The property purchased is in Halford-street, a central yet quiet locality. The estimated cost of the site, including a house now let out on lease, and of the erection and decoration of the building, is only one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds.

The building will consist, on the ground floor, of an entrance hall and staircase, Tyler's parlour, kitchen, bedroom, and offices; and on the upper floor, of a supper room, which may be used at other times as a Masonic library and reading room, an ante-room, closets, &c., and a hall, which includes a gallery placed over the ante-room. The hall is lighted from the roof, and is sixty feet long by twenty-five feet four inches wide, and twenty feet high. The supper room is twenty-six feet six inches by seventeen feet; the height not stated, but we presume of the same height as the hall.

It will be seen how much accommodation is got for such a small sum, and that in the course of a few years, if properly applied, the contributions of the brethren will leave the building free. Seven hundred and fifty pounds has been provided by mortgage, and five hundred pounds is to be contributed in one pound shares.

This is the general basis of the plan, but the ultimate design is to make a free Craft property by the provision of a sinking fund. The Grand Officers of the province very liberally came forward; the Earl Howe, Prov. Grand Master, giving one hundred pounds, and others contributing sums by way of shares, as Bro. Kelly, D. Prov. G. M., twenty pounds, Bro. J. Underwood, Prov. G. Treasurer, thirty pounds; Bro. R. Brewin, jun., Prov. G. D. C., twenty pounds; Bro. H. Kinder, P. Prov. G. Reg., ten pounds; and various other Past Grand Officers, ten pounds. The Worshipful Masters of the several Lodges in Leicester likewise freely contributed. The most liberal contribution

is however that of Bro. W. Millican, Prov. Grand Superintendent of Works, who freely gives his time and talents for this labour of love.

The sinking fund is formed by each Lodge in Leicester appropriating one pound out of every initiation fee. This will be applied in discharge of the principal sum, and further, any surplus after the payment of interest, dividends on shares, and all other current expenses upon the building. We sincerely trust that no Brother will consent to receive dividend on his shares, and that measures will be taken to make the debenture debt free of interest, so that, except the current expenses, the whole revenue may be appropriated as a sinking fund. The revenue, we resume, will be chiefly obtained by a charge upon the several Lodges and Chapters, in proportion to the accommodation they obtain. The library and reading-room will be enjoyed free by the Brethren, or at the expense of a small optional subscription for supplying periodicals. A good library will, in time, be formed by donations and bequests, so that only the current expenses will have to be provided. In time an organ will be obtained by special subscriptions, and by concerts in the hall.

The way in which the building is to be made perpetual Craft property, is by means of the appropriation of a one pound share, to a Lodge for each one pound contributed from initiation charges towards the sinking fund ; so that on the final discharge of the whole outlay the building will become the property of the Lodges, in proportion to these contributions. In the further arrangement of the details two things should be laid down ; one, that no Lodge shall receive dividend or interest on its shares ; and, next, that all contributions made through a Lodge, as donations for hall purposes, shall be put to the credit of the Lodge. We presume that all private shares held by Brethren will be liable to redemption by the Lodges. The organization of such arrangements being rather new, we think it desirable to call attention to the subject, as in time a system may be laid down for the convenient working of such institutions, and thereby the establishment of Masonic Halls be facilitated.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to Masonic libraries and reading rooms, as we propose to take up that subject, and are desirous of information as to what Lodges have libraries, and the arrangements made.

The eminent architect, Mr. George Gilbert Scott, A.R.A., a great master of mediæval art, was, it will be remembered, proposed by the Rev. Bro. Portal to be the architect for the extension of the Hall in Great Queen-street. It is evident that Mr. Scott has not been unmindful of this hint, and is not wanting in respect for the Craft, as an allusion in the course of lectures he is now delivering before the Royal Academy proves. We are not aware whether Mr. Scott is a member of our body; in the lecture he gave on the 27th of last month he made a distinct reference to the Craft, for he said, speaking of the internal proportions of Westminster Abbey, "They seem to me to surpass those of any other I have seen. They appear to

be generally founded upon the equilateral triangle, and a comparison of this with many other churches will confirm the truth of what I have heard has been stated by an eminent Freemason—that the square will furnish good proportions, but the equilateral triangle much better.”

To those Brethren who are fond of symbolism, very interesting lectures could be given by some of the distinguished men who now study or practice mediæval art with so much success among us. This is a branch of symbolistic learning little cultivated in Masonic Lodges, and which would afford intellectual exercise.

We are requested to notice that the Mariners' Lodge (No. 310), as well as its Lodge of Instruction, meet in the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool. The members of the Mariners' Lodge subscribed above three hundred pounds towards the purchase and decoration of the Temple; and were the first to hold a meeting within its walls.

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## THE SECRET SOCIETIES OF THE MIDDLE AGES

### THE VEHMIQUE TRIBUNAL.—NO. II.

(Continued from vol. v. p. 490.)

THE accusation was then read, and the accuser further asserted its truth by a solemn oath. The opinions of the assessors were then taken by means of a string, which was touched by those in whose judgment sentence of death ought to be passed. The accused was permitted to declare the injustice of his sentence, did he think it unjust, and witnesses were sometimes called to support the accusation, till whose arrival the proceedings were suspended; but there was no appeal except to the superiors of the Vehmique tribunal itself. It was necessary that the judge who passed sentence, as also the assessors who assisted at the trial, should be fasting, and bareheaded, without a robe, gloves, or any species of arms.

We here give a short extract from the scene of one of these Vehmique trials, which may serve as another illustration of the arbitrary nature of the proceedings of the Vehm. It is taken from an author of considerable powers of description, the generally questionable tendency, however, of whose writings has been so often remarked on by the public press that we quote no more than is absolutely necessary for our present purpose (in which passage, however, we assure our readers that there is nothing questionable), and consider that any further notice would be out of place. We shall necessarily abridge the account. It in some respects resembles the description of a like scene by Sir Walter Scott.

A young traveller is represented as arriving at a country inn in Germany, the landlord of which, who is attached to the Vehmique



supreme "justice," near to it, lay the "wyl," or coil of cord, emblematic of the power which the tribunal assumed of life and death.

The hall was lighted with numerous candles, placed in rude iron branches fixed against the wall.

"Peace!" exclaimed the free count; and in an instant the din of voices which had at first prevailed sank into low whisperings.

"Peace!" said the free count again; and the whispering subsided into indistinct murmurs.

"Peace!" said the free count, the third time; and the most solemn silence instantly prevailed.

"Let the individual cited stand forward," said the free count, after a short pause.

"I am here," answered the stranger, advancing into the middle of the semicircle.

"Why are you here?" asked the free count.

"In obedience to the summons of the cord and dagger," was the firm reply; for the young man had now recovered his wonted self-possession.

"Then you are aware of the power and competency of that tribunal which the cord and dagger represent?"

"I am aware of the power of this tribunal," answered the stranger.

"Do you deny its competency?" demanded the free count.

The young traveller made no reply.

"We will endeavour to teach you whether we be competent or not," said the count. "What is your name?"

"Nay, surely you must know me," exclaimed the stranger, "or else why summon me hither?"

"We do not put replies into your mouth," observed the free count. "In what character, and under what name are you travelling? if that mode of interrogatory suit your purpose better."

"As a simple citizen; and my name is Charles ——."\*

"As a simple citizen!" exclaimed the free count ironically. "And yet that reply suits us as well as any other, for all are equal in the presence of the *Vohngerichte*. Whither were you proceeding?"

"To the Castle of ——," was the answer.

"Read that document," continued the free count.

A messenger handed a large sheet of parchment to the prisoner, who immediately began to peruse the lengthy document with profound attention and interest.

This task occupied nearly a quarter of an hour, during which the countenance of the young man became red and white by turns, in accordance with the various emotions that agitated his breast.

"I have read it," he said at length; and he tossed the document indignantly upon the floor.

\* It is unnecessary, in a brief extract or abridgement like the present, to enter into the details of a long story, or to give names more than is requisite to illustrate this portion of our sketch. It will therefore be sufficient to inform the reader that the prisoner was a person of rank, travelling under an assumed name.

"You are required to sign that document, and you will then be free," observed the president.

"And if I refuse?" demanded Charles.

"Death is the only alternative," answered the free count solemnly.

"Know you whom you thus threaten? Are you aware whose life you thus dare to menace?" cried the prisoner, drawing himself up to his full height, and speaking with an air of proud authority.

"We know all," replied the free count, laconically. "It is not for us to implore or beseech; our function is to command. Nevertheless, I, the free count of this tribunal, earnestly pray you to accede to the conditions named in that document which you so unwisely spurn."

"Never!" exclaimed the young man, in a tone of gallant resolution.

"Then must the law of the holy Vehm take its course," cried the president. "Once more—reflect."

"I have no need of reflection," said the prisoner firmly. "It is for you to reflect whether you dare to perpetrate this atrocity, which will make every echo of vengeance ring against you throughout the Germanic empire."

"Stubborn boy!" ejaculated the free count; "you drive me to a cruel necessity. Nevertheless, seeing that you are confirmed in your wilful obstinacy, the law of the Vehm must take its course. The sentence of the tribunal must be pronounced."

The president paused for a few moments, apparently to take breath, but in reality to give the prisoner an opportunity to recal his refusal to comply with the conditions proposed to him; but the young man maintained a firm and dignified silence.

Then, while the eye of every one present was fixed with extraordinary interest upon the prisoner, the free count passed the terrific sentence of the Vehm upon him in the following terms.\*

"Whereas a certain individual, who chooses to pass by the name of Charles ———, has been cited, prosecuted, and adjudged before me, he having appeared in obedience to a summons of the cord and dagger; and whereas he is so indifferent to the vital interests of this empire, as to object to certain proposals made to him in writing, in the presence of certain competent members who have all been made cognizant of those conditions: whereas, moreover, he will render deference neither to honour nor justice, and holds in contempt the highest tribunal of the holy empire—I hereby denounce him, by all the royal power and force,† as is just and proper, and in accordance with the imperial and royal ban. I declare him to be an outcast, unworthy of the peace, justice, and freedom which he has enjoyed ever since he was baptized. I declare him unworthy of the four elements, which God made and gave, as a solace to human nature; I denounce him as a being without right, without law, without peace, without honour, without

\* Our readers will observe the similarity between the form of sentence here given, and the one quoted in the last paper, from Archdeacon Coxe's letter to the Countess of Pembroke. It is scarcely necessary to remark on the utter lawlessness of the whole of the proceedings, in the scene here quoted.

† The reader should here be informed that the prisoner was himself a member of the royal family.

security. I declare him to be condemned and lost, so that any man may act towards him as towards any other capital criminal; and I herewith pronounce the curse of the Vehm upon his flesh and blood. May his body never receive burial, but may it be borne away by the wind, and may the ravens and crows, and wild birds of prey consume and destroy it. And I hereby adjudge his neck to the rope, and his body to be devoured by the birds and beasts of the air, sea, and land: but his soul, I commend to the Lord of Heaven, if He will receive it."

Having pronounced this awful sentence, which the young man heard without dismay, the free count took a rope from behind his seat, and threw it into the midst of the semicircle.

Six servants of the Vehm rushed forward, and while one took up the cord, the others seized upon the condemned prisoner.

"I command you," said the free count, addressing himself to the servitors of the tribunal, "to lead the criminal forth into the forest, and then, within the hour, to fulfil this most just sentence. And according to usage, I do ordain, that as a sign of his having been executed by the holy Vehm, and not put to death by banditti or private enemies, ye do stick a dagger, bound with a cord, into the tree, whereto he shall be suspended by the neck."

Then the prisoner raised his voice and said,—

"I protest by all laws, human and divine, against this most foul and atrocious wrong, and I pray to Almighty God, that he will so move the heart of some good knight now present, as to induce him to report the deed —"

"Silence, criminal!" ejaculated the free count, "The members of the Vehm dare not mention what occurs in the holy tribunal, even though the condemned were their brother, son, father, or dear friend. Away with him."

The servitors of the Vehmgerichte hurried the young man from the apartment, and this time, as they led him down the spiral staircase of the donjon, they did not bandage his eyes. There was no necessity for concealing the seat of the tribunal from a man about to die!

All hope of escape seemed now vain: his own rapier had been taken from him, and six drawn swords formed an impenetrable fence around him.

He accordingly resigned himself to his fate, and now prayed fervently, but inaudibly, as he proceeded to the place of execution. The portcullis was lifted up once more; the massive gates were thrown open; the drawbridge was lowered, and the mournful procession passed beyond the precincts of the castle. The foremost of the servitors of the Vehm carried a torch which shed a lurid glare around, and the black smoke of which ever and anon swept over the countenances of those behind. Not a word was spoken as they thus pursued their way. In a short time, the party reached the open space where the little chapel stood.

"It is here that you are to die," said the officer who commanded

the band, as he pointed to a tall tree; "and at that shrine you can pay your last devotions."

Charles made no reply, but walked with a firm step to the front of the altar, which was protected by a range of solid iron bars.

There he knelt for several minutes, his guards forming a semi-circle behind him.

At length he rose, and said, in a tone which neither trembled nor expressed the slightest fear, "I am ready."

The officer could not help exclaiming, "You are a brave man!"

"I know how to die rather than succumb to the tyrants of your tribunal," answered the victim.

One of the men now threw a long cord over a branch of the high tree which the officer had already indicated, and the noose was slipped over the neck of the condemned, while another of the band pinioned his arms. And now all was in readiness for the consummation of the tragedy, and the condition of the prisoner appeared beyond the hope of human relief.

But at the very moment, when two of the servitors were about to run the young man up to the bough which waved so ominously over his head \* \* \* \* \*

We need not further continue the narrative, as what follows has no connection with the Vehm tribunal; we have continued it up to this point, as giving an excellent and certainly a most circumstantial account of the very decided actions of this wonderful and most arbitrary society.

Several other illustrations of the tribunal, and its manner of proceeding and other characteristics, are to be found in the same work from which the above narrative is taken. In another passage, it is related that a baron of the German empire was summoned to the tribunal, when seated at the head of his own table, and engaged in entertaining the chief judge of the neighbouring city, and a large company of guests.

"Attention to his excellency!" the noble had just said, in reference to a story which the judge was at the moment relating.

But scarcely had he uttered these words, when some one rushed from behind the high back of his chair, and struck a naked dagger forcibly into the table.

So suddenly was this deed performed, and such a sensation did it create, that the individual who had perpetrated it, disappeared before any one thought of even looking for him. The baron uttered an ejaculation of furious rage; and the guests gave vent to a simultaneous cry of horror. For around the handle of the weapon was twisted the cord—dread emblem of the Vehm; and to that cord was attached a slip of parchment, whose significant signature consisted of three daggers.

"By the Virgin!" exclaimed the baron, "he must be a bold man who hath done this. Ho, there! let the drawbridge be raised; let the sentinels be doubled round the walls, and see that no one leaves

the castle, on peril of your lives. And now let us see what this insolent missive contains."

But though he spoke thus boldly, the lord of the castle could scarcely subdue a shuddering sensation, nor entirely suppress a quivering of the lip, as he read aloud the contents of the slip of parchment:—

"By the cord and dagger, you are commanded to appear beneath the lime-tree on ——— Hill, at mid-day on the Sabbath ensuing the receipt of this summons; and thither you are ordered to repair, unarmed and unattended. Wherein see that you fail not.

"† † †."

Search having been made for the perpetrator of the outrage, and that person having been detected and secured, the baron demanded of the chief judge his opinion as to how far a self-constituted tribunal was justified in sending its murderous agents to menace the lives of the chiefs of the German empire in their very halls.

"As a superior of one of the legally constituted courts," answered the chief judge, "I cannot do otherwise than detest proceedings which take the functions of justice from the hands of those tribunals which rightfully exist; and I consider the members of the holy Vehm as opponents to the sovereign privileges of our glorious emperor."

Although the chief judge spoke these words with great firmness, they were, nevertheless, heard with a shudder by many present; and the blushing cheek of beauty, and the contracting brow of the knights, bore testimony to the alarm excited by so audaciously expressed an opinion of the tremendous tribunal of this bloody league.

"Of a surety," said the baron, "the violence of these secret assassins passes all bounds. There can be no doubt that this summons emanated from the Count of —, who is well known to be a chief among the members of the Vehm. The proud noble, unable to conquer me in fair fight, seeks my life, by the means of the cord and dagger. Say, my lord," he continued, addressing himself to the chief judge, "what punishment should I inflict upon the wretch who has dared to mar our festivities this evening?"

"Is the accuser well prepared to prove that the prisoner is the person who did really and truly perpetrate that outrage?" asked the judge.

"He does not deny the fact; he rather glories in it," said the person who had taken the offender; "moreover the secret instructions which he received from his superiors have been found upon him."

"In that case," continued the judge, "we may spare this fair company the pain of gazing upon a member of a fraternity of assassins; we will not have him brought hither; but do you, my lord, command that he be forthwith hanged over the principal entrance of the castle, as an example to all those who venture to obey the behests of this bloody league."

"Let the prisoner be forthwith punished as his excellency has ordained," cried the baron; "and hesitate not—pause not, show no mercy, be he who or what he may."

"Such is also my command," exclaimed the chief judge, who was ever anxious to adopt proceedings which might impair the influence and weaken the authority of the Vehm—a feeling in which all the legally appointed judicial authorities in Germany shared. "Hesitate not—pause not—show no mercy!" he continued; "and should there be any member of that unholy and illegal confederation now present," he added, "let him take warning from the course which the only true justice recognised in the land is now about to take."

So profound an impression of terror had this bold proceeding on the part of the baron and the chief judge produced amongst the guests, that not a voice—not even a female voice—was raised to implore mercy for the prisoner.

The next portion of this terrible drama is to be found in a scene on the ramparts of the castle.

"Thus does justice overtake the cowardly menials of the Vehm!" said a voice close by the count.

"True," replied the count, who immediately recognized the chief judge. "But methinks, you should know the wretch that is hanging there."

"I!" ejaculated the chief judge: "nay, that is scarcely probable, my lord."

"Approach, and let us see," said the count, and hastened up the steps leading from the rampart to the top of the tower.

The chief judge followed him.

"Now caust thou obtain a full view of that pale and ghastly countenance," said the count, in a tone of malignant, infernal triumph.\*

The chief judge drew near, cast one look upon the face of the corpse, and uttered a piercing cry, exclaiming, "My son! my son! my only son!"

We have quoted the above story as an illustration of the secrecy with which this terrible association conducted its proceedings, public as were the fact of its existence and the fear of incurring its displeasure; and in many instances those who thus feared and privately hated the Vehmique tribunal, were not in the slightest degree aware that their most intimate friends or dearest relations were among the number of its members.

We have found a few more accounts of some of its customs and forms, which may be interesting to our readers.

The custom of secret judgment, says Litzuar,† in his history of Charlemagne, was from Westphalia introduced into the county of Wolperthen. When the secret judges and assessors knew of any one within their jurisdiction whose conduct was not altogether regular, they first gave him a private (!) and friendly warning, either by fixing

\* The reader should be informed, that some time previously the judge had inflicted a severe injury upon the count.

† History of Charlemagne, chap. 15.

a placard on his door at night, or by some other signal. But if he paid no regard to these warnings, and did not mend his ways, they held the tribunal in the open air, and both judges and assessors came to him with halters in their hands, and walked three times round him, repeating together the words, "Who is a good man, he sits still."

Should the man have been guilty of any crime, he got up and walked away, and no one was permitted to pursue him, but his goods were confiscated, partly to the sovereign, and partly to the secret tribunal. But if he continued sitting, and the judges and assessors returned a third time, they threw a halter round his neck, and hanged him on the nearest tree; after which they returned and declared that the man whom they had just hanged was justly put to death; yet no one knew who performed the office of executioner, neither did any one dare to condemn, or even to censure the judges. The judges and assessors, moreover, he continues, must be men of discretion and taciturnity, and never betray their proceedings, or they would assuredly be put to death. On account of the unjust and nefarious proceedings of these courts, Eric, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburgh, abolished this secret tribunal within his jurisdiction.

Schottelius also\* gives the following account of the proceedings at Zelle, taken from an ancient manuscript. When the secret judgment is proclaimed, all the inhabitants of the place above twelve years of age repair to an open square, and sit down upon the ground, while the prince, and his councillors and bailiffs, range themselves round a table. The secret judges† then first announce the delinquent and the offence of which he is accused; they then walk round him in procession, and strike him with a white stick on the legs. If he has committed a capital offence he is commanded to rise, and in a day and a night to go into banishment. If any one is struck once or twice it is considered as a friendly warning to amend his ways; but if he is summoned the third time the priest administers to him the last rites, and the executioner hangs him on the nearest tree. William, Duke of Lunenburgh, was the last sovereign of that house who was present at this ceremony at Zelle.

Pffeffel, moreover, has given an account‡ of the enormities and cruelties of this dreadful tribunal, and of its subsequent suppression. The judges and assessors, he says, who were unknown, discovered, either themselves or by spies, the most secret actions, and struck with dread persons of all ranks and conditions. Their trials became so much the more terrible, as they judged without appeal, and without any known forms; their mode of proceeding was always enveloped in the most impenetrable darkness, and the assessors paraded with the axe and the halter, and carried into execution their own sentences.

\* *De Singularibus quibusdam et Antiquis in Germania Juribus;* cap. xxix.

† It will be observed that though the proceedings are public, the trial which had preceded them (if any) was secret enough.

‡ *Histoire d'Allemagne;* vol. vi. p. 18.

It is indeed matter for wonder that such crying abuses should have existed for so many centuries. The German princes found no other means of escaping than by affiliating themselves with the judges of Dortmund, by obtaining from the emperor the right of holding within their own territories the secret courts of justice; or by acquiring letters patent exempting them from the jurisdiction of the Westphalian tribunals.

The whole nation assembled in the Diet attempted to abolish or to reform these formidable tribunals, but for a long time without effect, neither the most positive laws, nor their privileges or exemptions, Nor even the confederacies which several princes and states concluded in opposition to the secret tribunals, had any effect; they even ventured to denounce the emperor, Frederick the Third himself, for having published an ordinance against their abuses.

Although the establishment of the circles, the institution of the imperial chamber, and the reformation of the courts of justice under Maximilian I. concurred to diminish their influence and authority, yet they continued to subsist in some places, with all their original abuses; and the final abolition of this absurd and cruel jurisdiction, throughout all Germany, was not consummated before the middle of the seventeenth century.

In 1535, an edict, issued by Charles the Fifth, condemned the abuses indeed, but did not venture to abolish these courts; and so lately as 1640, Thomas Schlisstein, councillor of state to the Elector of Brandenburg, drew out an accusation against the city of Herforden, for the injustice and cruelty of their secret tribunals, in which he describes the dreadful enormities practised in their criminal trials, displays their extraordinary modes of proceeding, and exhibits a curious specimen of the mysterious expressions which were used on those occasions.

The burgomaster (he says), assessors, and councillors, continue to this day the use of the secret tribunal. They employ certain marks and signs by which they understand one another, as "S.S.G.G.," *Stock, stein, gras grün*—stock, stone, grass green—(vide last paper). The accused persons are brought to trial without being permitted to have any communication with the witnesses against them, and without being allowed any counsel to defend them, except a servant of the magistracy: persons of property are often arrested, and tried for a capital crime (our readers will remember that though we are using the present tense the narrative refers to the year 1535, a year, by the way, in which an important act, showing the difference of the English government, even at that period, is on record, viz., the taking of the celebrated "Valor Ecclesiasticus") on the oath of one of their debtors, or any person indeed who comes forward as accuser. Their information and examination are conducted by unknown signs and mysterious words, and the unfortunate prisoner is subjected to ordinary and extraordinary torture, contrary to the nature of criminal justice, and the constitutions of Charles the Fifth. What also renders the mode of trial the more unjust and terrible is, that the assessors are for the

most part manufacturers and apprentices : men who are sworn to a system—men who are totally ignorant of the law, and who, indeed, invert the legal mode of proceeding. For the purpose of extorting confession torture is applied, and repeated without any fresh witnesses if it fail to produce the required information ; and to such an extent has it been carried, that many persons, found innocent of the accusations brought against them, have died from the consequences, if not under the infliction.

Such is one of the many accounts of the atrocities practised under the sanction of the *Vehmgerichte*. Shocked at these enormous abuses, as well he might be, the great elector, Frederick William, abolished in 1650 the tribunal of Herforden, but still this monstrous jurisdiction was continued in some parts of Germany ; nor is it positively ascertained at what precise period the final suppression of the association took place in every part of the empire. It is conjectured by many, that the once formidable Inquisition took its rise from this society : it is certain, however, that in the present day no traces of either association are to be found anywhere, and that their names only exist in the history of past ages.

## SYMPATHY.

BY CHARLOTTE BRONTE.

## I.

THERE should be no despair for you  
 While mighty stars are burning :  
 While evening pours its silent dew,  
 And sunshine gilds the morning.  
 There should be no despair, though tears  
 May flow down like a river—  
 Are not the best beloved of years  
 Around your heart for ever.

## II.

They weep, you weep—it must be so ;  
 Winds sigh as you are sighing ;  
 And winter sheds his grief in snow  
 Where autumn's leaves are lying.  
 Yet these revive, and from their fate  
 Your fate cannot be parted :  
 Then journey on—if not elate,  
 Be never broken-hearted.

## THE BRIDES OF QUAIR.

BY ISA CRAIG.

A STILLNESS crept about the house,  
 At evenfall, in noontide glare ;  
 Upon the silent hills looked forth  
 The many window'd house of Quair.

The peacock on the terrace screamed,  
 Browsed on the lawn the timid hare ;  
 The great trees grew i' the avenue,  
 Calm by the shelter'd house of Quair.

The pool was still ; around its brim  
 The alders sicken'd all the air ;  
 There came no murmur from the streams,  
 Though nigh flow'd Leithen, Tweed, and Quair.

The days hold on their wonted pace,  
 And men to court and camp repair :  
 Their part to fill, of good or ill,  
 While women keep the house of Quair.

And one is clad in widow's weeds,  
 And one is maidenlike and fair,  
 And day by day they seek the paths  
 About the lonely fields of Quair.

To see the trout leap in the streams,  
 The summer clouds reflected there,  
 The maiden loves in happy dreams  
 To hang o'er silver Tweed and Quair.

Or oft in pall-black velvet clad,  
 Sat stately in the oaken chair,  
 Like many a dame of her ancient name,  
 The mother of the house of Quair.

Her daughter broider'd by her side,  
 With heavy drooping golden hair,  
 And listen'd to her frequent plaint,—  
 " Ill fare the brides that come to Quair."

" For more than one hath lived to pine,  
 And more than one hath died of care,  
 And more than one hath sorely sinn'd,  
 Left lonely in the house of Quair."

" Alas! and ere thy father died  
 I had not in his heart a share ;  
 And now—may God forbend her ill—  
 Thy brother brings his bride to Quair."

She came, they kiss'd her in the hall,  
 They kiss'd her on the winding stair,  
 They led her to her chamber high,  
 The fairest in the house of Quair.

They bade her from the window look,  
 And mark the scene how passing fair,  
 Among whose ways the quiet days  
 Would linger o'er the wife of Quair.

" 'Tis fair," she said on looking forth,  
 " But what although 'twere bleak and bare—"  
 She look'd the love she did not speak,  
 And broke the ancient curse on Quair.

" Where'er he dwells, where'er he goes,  
 His dangers and his toils I share."  
 What need be said—she was not one  
 Of the ill-fated brides of Quair!

## ONCE MORE.

Once more! Words of high heart to all who hear  
 Them worthily through life's great enterprise.  
 Whate'er their lot, all kingly souls despise  
 The immoralities of dull despair;  
 Burdened, betrayed, giddied with wrong and care,  
 Refuse to fall—fall fighting—fall to rise!  
 Fight the more sternly, if some dread surprise  
 Tread on the ruins of the Past, to reach  
 A better Future. Failures do but teach,  
 To such, their strength, their call to glorious strife,  
 The aims, the deep requirements of life;  
 And till they front the far time-closing shore,  
 Their hope is staunch, their watchword still—*Once more!*

THE SECRET.—The real secret of Freemasonry, consists in the exercise of every social and moral virtue, not only in the ostensible actions of our conduct, but also in private life; our latent springs are science and truth; our Craft is reason and good sense; our cunning is justice and humanity; our plots and contrivances are sincerity and benevolence; our revenge against our enemies is, by labouring to convert them into friends.—*American Craftsman.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[THE EDITOR *does not hold himself responsible for any opinions entertained by Correspondents.*]

### ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

SIR AND BROTHER,—Like many others, I was much struck with some observations that fell from the chairman of the festival held on Wednesday evening, in aid of the funds of the Royal Benevolent Institution. I then heard that our asylum at Croydon is not properly looked after, that the walks are neglected, and that there are no gates where gates ought to be. I have since made inquiries on the subject, and I find that a gardener is paid to keep the place in order, and that a large bill has recently been paid to a member of the committee of management, and who is moreover an auditor of the accounts, for goods supplied; and yet we now hear that the building has no gate, and that there is no gravel on the paths called gravel walks. This is too bad. I can only attribute it to one cause. The institution has no secretary whose whole time is devoted, as it ought to be, to the performance of his duties. If Bro. Farnfield's time is occupied in discharging his duties as Assistant Grand Secretary, why does he not resign his connection with this institution? Why should not Bro. Moss, (who it is said does nearly all the work, and receives for this but a scanty pittance from the secretary) why should not Bro. Moss, or some other qualified Brother, be at once appointed secretary, and be required to devote his whole time to the service of the institution? The duties devolving on the secretary are so considerably on the increase, and it is sincerely to be hoped that they will increase still more, that it is essential for us to have an officer belonging solely to the institution, and not to have the duties imperfectly performed by a clerk in the Grand Secretary's office. The secretary of the institution ought to visit the asylum at least two or three times in the week. It is stated that the visitors' book shows that less than a dozen brethren have been down to Croydon, during the past twelve months. Our Girls' School is well looked after, because the secretary gives up all his time to that institution. Why is the Benevolent Institution to be neglected? That the hearts of the fraternity are warmly interested in this institution, is proved by the very large sum of money collected on Wednesday. Let us then have a secretary belonging to it. Let Bro. Farnfield at once resign either the appointment he holds from it, or his place as one of the clerks in another office. He cannot hold both and do the duties of both. That we pay a good salary is proved by the numerous letters that have during the past week been put before the public in the morning papers, from those

employed in other offices. Let that salary command as it ought to do the entire services of some Brother able and willing to devote his whole time and all his energies to promoting the welfare of the Royal Benevolent Institution.

I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,  
AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIBER.

[We cannot altogether agree that it is the duty of the secretary to look after the gravel walks of the asylum, as we have a warden, who monthly makes a report to the committee, as to the state of the institution. With regard to the secretary's salary we are not going to express any opinion; but our correspondent is mistaken in supposing that the secretary of the Girls School is called upon to give up the whole of his time to the interests of that institution—Bro. Crew being also the secretary of the Royal Caledonian Asylum, an office in which he gives as great satisfaction to the Governors as he does to the Governors of the Freemasons' Girls School. With regard to Bro. Moss, he, like Bro. Farnfield, also holds a situation in the Grand Secretary's office.—Ed.]

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### MASONIC CHARITIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Fully agreeing with the remarks in your article on the late festival for the Annuity Funds, on the value and importance of the festivals to our several charities, may I, through your columns, remind the provincial brethren, that much may be done by a persevering canvass in our several Lodges. Three years ago, our Lodge, just then emerging from the neglect and supineness of many years, did not number a subscriber to either charity, among its members. The exertions and example of a few brethren have, I am happy to say, brought about a very different state of affairs; and this year, besides the Lodge annual subscription of two guineas to each of the four charities, we have amongst us twenty-one annual subscribers to the Widows, and twenty-four to the Male Benevolent Fund. Last year we were respectively four and sixteen to the same funds.

Similar exertions throughout the country would soon place our charities in a position unequalled by any institutions of a like character.

I remain, dear sir and Brother, yours fraternally,  
The W.M. of No. 45.

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### MASONIC HALLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I read with pleasure the letter of your correspondent, "J. O. E.," at p. 161 of the *Magazine*, on the subject of holding our Lodges at taverns and publichouses. It has long been my settled

conviction that this practice is the one great hindrance to the more extensive spread of the principles of the Order in the provinces; and while it keeps many a worthy man from joining our ranks, it is, unhappily, the means of doing incalculable injury to many young men who become Freemasons. This should not be so. If Freemasonry is by any man suffered to become an excuse for mere eating and deep drinking, it is to him a sham and a delusion; and instead of making him a better and more virtuous man, it will have just the opposite effect, and will sink him lower in the depths of immorality and sin. I know several Freemasons, good and consistent ones too, who are tectotallers—and all honour to an honest tectotaller; and I find by the *Magazine*, that in one Lodge in my own country two members of the Society of Friends have recently been made Masons. Could these men, in a small town, where the eye of jealousy and suspicion is ever upon them, consistently with their profession attend two or three nights a week at an hotel, and escape scathless? I say—and I think you will echo—“decidedly not.” Their intentions may be good, and their motives pure, but the tongue of scandal will surely blast their fair fame; and, sir, it is this that keeps hundreds of men, who would be bright and shining lights amongst us, from ranging themselves beneath the Masonic banner.

In the next place, as to the temptation to which Masons, young Masons especially, are subjected by attending Lodges held at taverns. The duties of their Lodge are ended; everything has passed off in a most agreeable and satisfactory manner; the Brethren are all pleased and elated; we must have one glass and one cigar before we part, to talk over matters and for the good of the house; supper follows—then another glass and another cigar; oh, sir, it is the old tale—and poor Freemasonry gets all the blame. Yonder brother surely has forgotten that he has to be up and at his work to-morrow (or rather this) morning by seven, or perhaps six o'clock, and that his trade, or it may be his profession, demands a clear head and a steady hand. Yonder other Brother cannot be aware that it is well nigh two o'clock, and that there is waiting up for him at home, pale, and shivering over the expiring fire, one who ought to be nearer and dearer to him than Freemasonry, or even life itself. Both must have utterly forgotten what they heard so lately, that Freemasonry is not a selfish system of eating and drinking and smoking and carousing, but a pure system of morality. For my own part I am no tectotaller, neither do I in moderation shun the pleasures of the festive board, or of convivial society, but I do maintain that no drunkard or swearer, or neglecter of his home and family, is or can be a true Freemason.

Well, now Sir, briefly to point the moral, let those Lodges which have their own halls, lend their surplus funds on proper security to those Lodges which have none; let the Lodges which now meet at inns, make an effort to get a home and a house of their own—and they will find themselves much happier and more comfortable, far more prosperous, and much more respected.

I find I am trespassing too much on your space. I wanted to say something about the Freemasons' Hall and the proposed alterations, but I must defer that to a future opportunity.

I am, Sir and Brother, your obedient servant,  
A YORKSHIRE MASON.

## "THE BEAUTIES OF MASONRY,"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have just received the current number of your interesting periodical, in which I find a letter under the above heading, bearing the signature of "Z." As the evident intention of the writer is to throw ridicule upon your humble servant, I feel it my duty to enter the lists and break a lance in self defence. As, however, I have an objection to bush fighting, perhaps your correspondent "Z" will have the manliness to forward me his real name and address without delay; and I promise him on the word of a Mason, that if he wishes others to remain ignorant of his "whereabout," I will not divulge it; but I cannot tilt with windmills, like Don Quixote, nor will I wage war with shadows.

By inserting this brief note in your next number, you will oblige,

Yours fraternally,

GEORGE MARKHAM TWEDDELL.

*Industrial School, Bury, Feb. 3rd, 1859.*

## MASONIC DUTIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In answer to your reply to the "Widow's Son," I beg to state that the Lodge in question is one that stands foremost in the province of West Yorkshire for its officers and the working. The Tyler, I must say, is a young Brother, having only been in the situation about a year and a half; nevertheless he is a very zealous Mason, and one who I have no doubt will soon be an ornament to the honourable society to which he belongs. If he had interfered with the party who had thus improperly acted, no doubt he would have made an enemy; therefore he thought it best to say nothing, as there were several senior members and a Past Master sitting in the ante-room at the time the preparation was going on.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

*Dewsbury, Feb. 2nd, 1859.*

A WIDOW'S SON.

[We regret to hear that the Tyler would have been likely to make an enemy by the strict performance of his duty. With the explanation now given it would appear that the brother originally complained of was not so much to blame as the first letter we received made him appear. Those who were in the room at the time and made no protest were equally, if not more to blame than the young Brother, who doubtlessly thought he was rendering a service and expediting the business of the Lodge. This, however, does not excuse his subsequent refusal to obey the orders of the W.M.—Ed.]

## THE GRAVESEND LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

SIR AND BROTHER, — It is very amusing to see how emphatically the above Lodge “stirs up other Lodges” of Instruction to take in the *Freemasons' Magazine*. It would appear that the Kent brethren have only just been restored to light, or they would have found that the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out is a very absurd thing. No Lodge of Instruction is complete without the *Magazine* and a goodly number of books, especially Dr. Oliver's, Preston's, &c., &c.

Yours fraternally,  
P.M.

*Liverpool, Feb. 3rd, 1859.*

## VISITORS TO LODGES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

SIR AND BROTHER, — The Book of Constitutions enjoins upon Masters and Wardens, that so often as convenient they should visit other Lodges; but does not state whether, when they do so, they shall wear their collars. Many brethren, therefore, assume that they should not. I will now, as briefly as possible, state the reasons that are given for that opinion and also my own views upon the matter. Firstly, they say, that upon entering a Lodge they always look for the collars to denote the officers, and that if visitors also wore them great inconvenience would be the result. For myself, I always look for his situation in a Lodge to denote an officer, and we all know that visitors have a distinct place assigned to them. Secondly, I am told that the apron and jewel upon the breast are sufficient to denote the rank of a Brother. I question much whether such can be the case, when I find that in the Grand Lodge of England the collar alone marks the rank; for instance, Prov. Grand aprons are admitted, but a brother must wear his collar as Master, Past Master, or Warden, otherwise he would be refused admittance, as not being in proper clothing. Thirdly, it is said that there can be but one Master in a Lodge. True, but I have yet to learn that it detracts from the authority of the master of a house for masters of other houses to visit him; or, that in order not to take from the dignity and authority of a Master in the chair, the Masters of other Lodges when visiting his Lodge, should divest themselves, not of their rank, which remains the same, but of a portion of their proper clothing. During the last three years, as W.M., I have visited many Lodges, both in the metropolis and also in the provinces, and I have always, during that period, worn my collar, and never, save once, has it been objected to. I have done so, considering it far more complimentary to the Lodges I visited; and I must confess that I have also felt it as a mark of respect when visitors to my Lodges have done the same.

I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,  
*London, February 5th, 1859.* A W.M.

# THE MASONIC MIRROR.

## ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

At a Meeting of the General Committee of this institution, held at the office, Great Queen-street, on Saturday, the 5th instant, Bro. John Hervey, *V.P.*, P.G.S.D., in the chair, the report of Bros. Lyall and Symonds on provincial organization was presented; authority was given to the sub-committee to print and circulate the same; and it was resolved that the report should be taken into consideration at a Special Court, to be held on Thursday, 31st March, immediately after the close of the Special Court of the Girls School.

## METROPOLITAN.

### APPOINTMENTS.

*Wednesday, February 9th.*—Lodges, Fidelity (3), Freemasons' Tavern; Enoch (11), ditto; Union of Waterloo (13), Freemasons' Tavern, Woolwich; Kent (15), Three Tuns, Southwark; Royal Athelstan (19), George and Blue Boar; Royal Naval (70), Freemasons' Tavern; Vitruvian (103), White Hart, Lambeth; Eastern Star (112), Wade's Arms, Poplar; Justice (172), Royal Albert, New Cross; Pilgrim (289), Ship and Turtle; Belgrave (1051), Gun Tavern, Pinlicko. Committee Royal Benevolent Institution, at 3.

*Thursday, 10th.*—Lodges, Friendship (6), Thatched House Tavern; Regularity (108), Freemasons' Tavern; Friendship (248), Ship and Turtle; Bank of England (329), Radley's Hotel; Polish (778), Freemasons' Tavern; Canonbury (955), Canonbury Tavern, Islington.

*Friday, 11th.*—Lodges, Britannia (38), Thatched House; Caledonian (156), Ship and Turtle, Freemasons' Tavern; Bedford (183), Freemasons' Tavern; Union (195), London Tavern; High Cross (1056), Railway Tavern, Northumberland Park, Tottenham.

*Saturday, 12th.*—Lodge, Phoenix (202), Freemasons' Tavern.

*Monday, 14th.*—Lodges, St. George and Corner Stone (5), Freemasons' Tavern; Fortitude and Old Cumberland (12), ditto; St. Alban's (32), London Coffee House; Domestic (206), Falcon Tavern; Confidence (228), Anderton's Hotel; St. Andrews in the East (269), London Tavern. *Chapter.*—Mount Zion (169), Radley's Hotel.

*Tuesday, 15th.*—Lodges, Old Union (51), Radley's Hotel; Mount Lebanon (87), Green Man, Tooley Street; Cadogan (188), Freemasons' Tavern; St. Paul's (229), London Coffee House; Camden (1006), Assembly House, Kentish Town. *Chapters.*—Enoch (11), Freemasons' Tavern; Mount Sinai (49), Anderton's Hotel.

*Wednesday, 16th.*—Lodges, Grand Stewards, Freemasons' Tavern; Royal York (7), ditto; United Mariners (33), Three Tuns, Southwark; St. George's (164), Globe, Royal Hill, Greenwich; Sincerity (203), Cheshire Cheese, Cratched Friars; Nelson (1002), Red Lion, Woolwich. General Committee of Grand Lodge, and Lodge of Benevolence, at 7.

*Thursday, 17th.*—Lodges, Globe (23), Freemasons' Tavern; Gihon (57), Bridge House, Hotel; Constitutional (63), Ship and Turtle; St. Mary's (76), Freemasons' Tavern; Temperance (198), Plough Tavern, Rotherhithe; Manchester (269), Anderton's Hotel; Westbourne (1035), Manor House, Westbourne Terrace. *Chapter.*—Yarborough (812), George, Commercial Road East. *Encampment.*—Observance, Thatched House. House Committee Girls School, at 12.

*Friday, 18th.*—Lodges, Middlesex (167), Thatched House; Jordan (237), Freemasons' Tavern.  
*Chapter.*—Moira (190), London Tavern.

*Saturday, 19th.*—Lodge, Honour and Generosity (194), London Tavern.

[The appointments of Lodges of Instruction will appear in the last number of each month.]

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 118).—The installation meeting was held on Tuesday, February 1st, at Bro. Painter's, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street, Bro. Henry Hastelow, W.M. The Lodge was opened at four p.m., and Messrs. Gideon, Lawrence, John Scott, and James Perrin, jun., were initiated. Bros. Booth and Sisson were passed to the second degree. Bro. Wynne, P.M., then, according to long custom in the Temple, was requested by the W.M. to take the chair, and Bro. Hastelow presented Bro. Charles Aldridge, W.M. elect, for installation. The imposing ceremonial was performed with Bro. Wynne's accustomed steadiness, and the W.M. was duly installed in the presence of several P.Ms. of the Lodge and Bros. Dr. Hinxman, P.M. No. 27, P.G.S., and J. How, Prov. G.D.C. Herts; and afterwards proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees. The W.M. then appointed and invested as his officers, Bros. Alfred Day, S.W.; Edmund Farthing, J.W.; Thos. Beard, Sec. and S.D.; William Southall, J.D.; Henry Burnett, I.G.; Perrin, P.M., and Dir. of Cers; Bros. John Keast who had been re-elected Treas., and Rice, the Tyler, were also invested. At seven o'clock, the Brethren present, about fifty in number, assembled at the banquet, and after honouring the loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. presented to Bro. Hastelow the jewel voted by the Lodge, saying that to his predecessor's excellent conduct in the chair, the success of the past year was mainly owing. The admirable manner in which Bro. Hastelow had discharged his duty, entitled him to the esteem in which he was held by his Brethren. Among the P.Ms. of No. 118, present, were, besides those named, Bros. Henry Weedon, Bettger and Scott; and Bros. Hudson, No. 3, and Perkins, No. 11, were also visitors.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The monthly meeting of this excellent Lodge was held on Tuesday, Feb. 1st, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Bro. Maney presiding as W.M. for the first time since his installation, when Bro. Dunham was raised to the sublime degree of M.M.; Bros. Sinclair, Bryant, Crosley and Edmonds passed to the second degree; and Messrs. Sumnock, Dixon, Allison, Bragg, and Edwards initiated into Freemasonry. Bro. Waters, S.D., moved "That a committee be appointed for the purpose of revising the by-laws of the Lodge, and also the rules and regulations of the benevolent fund." Bro. Emmens seconded the motion, which was carried, and a committee was formed. Bro. Emmens, P.M. and Sec., said he had great pleasure in informing the Brethren that their annual ball had proved very satisfactory, and that it would be in their power very materially to aid the Masonic charities. By the Old Concord Lodge balls they had already been enabled to give £20 to the Annuity Fund, £20 10s. to the Widows', £21 to the Girls School, £21 to the Boys School, and to the Old Concord Benevolent Fund £81 1s., making a total of £163 11s. They now proposed to give out of the proceeds of the last ball, £10 to the Annuity Fund, £5 to the Widows', £5 5s. to Girls School, and £5 to the Boys School. Bro. the Rev. J. Lachlan, J.W., proposed the thanks of the Lodge to the Brethren who had officiated as stewards, which was unanimously agreed to. The W.M. in acknowledging the compliment, said that any trouble they had taken in such a cause was really a pleasure, and he felt highly pleased that what they had done had given satisfaction. The Lodge was then closed and the Brethren retired for refreshment. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and heartily responded to. The W.M. then gave "The Initiates." Bro. Dixon returned thanks on behalf of the newly initiated Brethren, and said the beautiful ceremony which they had gone through that evening had made an impression upon their minds which they could never forget. Bro. Emmens having obtained permission, said he had to propose a toast, which he felt sure would be heartily responded to, and that was "The health of the W.M." They had seen the able manner in which he had discharged his arduous duties, having three times gone through the second degree, one raising, and several initiations, with an ability seldom witnessed, and he thought they would heartily join with him in drinking

his health. The W.M. thanked the Brethren sincerely for the manner in which they had drunk his health, and for their kind expression of feeling towards him. That was his first attempt in the chair, and most happy was he that he had given them satisfaction; it should be his constant study, as Master of the Old Concord Lodge, to perform its duties. He concluded by proposing "The health of Bro. the Rev. J. Lachlan, J.W.," who, having a large and populous parish to attend to, had yet qualified himself to carry out his duties in Freemasonry. Bro. Lachlan said, having a parish with 8,000 persons requiring his ministerial duties, he had not much time to devote to the routine duties of Freemasonry, but he had read a good deal respecting it, and he found it a most excellent institution, almost coeval in its existence with the foundation of the world; the more he knew of it the more he was delighted. "The health of the P.Ms. of the Lodge," was given, for which Bro. Emmens returned thanks. Several other toasts were given, and the evening was most harmoniously spent.

**LION AND LAMB LODGE (No. 227).**—At a regular meeting of this Lodge, held on Thursday, February 3rd, at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, Bro. Joseph Goodechild, W.M., Bros. Chipchase and Gurney were raised to the third degree; Bros. Charles Swan and James Francis Wallace were admitted as joining members; and two gentlemen were proposed for initiation. Bro. Goodchild, who presided for the first time, went through the duties of the chair most admirably. The Lodge having always an early and good attendance of Past Masters, there is nothing wanting in the working. Bros. Moore, of Lafayette Lodge, New York, Townend, Davis and How, were visitors. Bro. H. Thompson will represent the Lodge as steward at the Boys School Festival.

**JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).**—This Lodge held its anniversary meeting on Friday, January 21st, 1859, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Bro. Robert Watts, W.M. Bro. James Law Cuthbertson was passed to the second, and Bros. James John Farnham and Robert Brabham, raised to the third degree, both of which ceremonies were extremely well worked by Bro. Watts, who afterwards installed his successor, Bro. James Robinson, in a manner which showed that his working capabilities were of the highest order. The following were the officers appointed:—Bros. Laughton, S.W.; Goldsboro, J.W.; Dyer, S.D.; Swan, J.D.; Spalding, I.G.; E. Spooner, Sec. The Brethren of the Lodge, to evince their appreciation of the zeal and ability of Bro. Watts, as well as his kind and courteous demeanour shown towards them during his year of office, voted him a Past Master's jewel. The visitors present were Bros. Burton, Watson, Underwood, Galli, Goring, Ferriman, Mitchell, Cottrell, and Sheen. In this Lodge there appeared to be a praiseworthy desire to give support to the Masonic charities, a sum of money having been voted from its funds towards the Aged Freemasons' and Widows' Fund, in addition to annual subscriptions to the other charities. This no doubt may be attributed to the exertions of the newly installed W.M., Bro. Robinson, and Bro. Arliss, P.M., who acted as stewards at the festival on the 26th ult.

**SALISBURY LODGE (No. 630).**—A meeting of the Lodge was held at the German Club, Dean Street, Soho, on Monday, January 24th, Bro. J. M. Baab, W.M., in the chair. Mr. Sigismund Rosenthal was duly initiated into the order; Bro. Reutlinge passed to the second degree; and Bros. Spyr, Forster, Baab, and Weil, raised as M.Ms. The Brethren afterwards adjourned to the festive boards, there being several visitors present, including Bros. Hopwood, (P.M. No. 7) J.G.D.; Adlard, P.M. No. 7, P. Prov. G.D.C.; Potts; &c., &c. Bro. Hopwood returned thanks for the Grand Officers, and afterwards proposed the health of the initiate, giving him a beautiful description of the order he had just entered. Bro. Adlard acknowledged the toast of "The Visitors," and congratulated the Brethren on being presided over by so old and highly respected a member of the Craft, as the W.M.

## PROVINCIAL.

### BRISTOL.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, February 14th, Royal Clarence (81), Freemasons' Hall, at 7; Wednesday, 16th, Colston (886), ditto, at 7; Friday, 18th. *Instruction*.—Ditto, at 7½.

### CHESHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, February 16th, Zetland (782), Park Hotel, Birkenhead, at 4; Thursday, 17th, Unity (834), Macclesfield Arms, Macclesfield, at 7; Industry (465), Norfolk Arms, Hyde, at 7; Combermere (880), Seacombe Hotel, Seacombe, at 6.

### CORNWALL.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Wednesday, February 16th, Cornubian (650), Crotch's Hotel, Hayle, at 7.

CHACEWATER.—*Boscawen Lodge* (No. 1000).—The brethren of Chacewater celebrated their second anniversary of the festival of St. John the Evangelist, at their rooms, on Monday the 20th ultimo. This Lodge was established about two years since, and is now one of the most flourishing in the province. The brethren meet in their own rooms, which are well supplied with the furniture and regalia required in the different degrees. The Craft is principally indebted to Bro. John Moyle, of Chacewater, Asst. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., and a Past Warden of the Phoenix Lodge, Truro, No. 415, for the establishment of the Boscawen Lodge, of which he was the first W.M. It is intended, we believe, to hold the Prov. Grand Lodge festival this year at Chacewater, where the provincial Brethren will be received by the Boscawen Lodge. The Lodge was closed tyled about two o'clock p.m., and the business of the day being restricted to the installation of the W.M. elect, and a board of installed Masters being constituted, viz.:—Bros. W. H. Jenkins, Wing, Mills, M'Lean, Moyle, Mayne, Gilbert and E. T. Carlyon—Bro. W. Gundry Powning, the W. M. elect, was duly installed as the W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. C. R. Webb as Treas., and Bro. Lean as Tyler, invested with their jewels of office. The W.M. appointed as his officers, Bros. John Moyle, jun., P.M.; Petherick, S.W.; S. G. Moyle, J.W.; W. Bray, Sec.; J. Bawden, S.D.; Paull, J.D.; Nimis and Tonkin, Stewards. The Brethren afterwards dined together, under the presidency of the W.M., the banquet being supplied by Bro. Paull, of the Britannia Hotel. The various loyal and Masonic toasts, including the healths of Bro. Sir Charles Lemon, the Prov. G.M., Bro. Augustus Smith, the D. Prov. G.M. of Cornwall, and "Success to the Boscawen Lodge," were given, and duly responded to, and the Brethren separated about nine o'clock, after a day spent in the utmost harmony and good fellowship.

HELSTON.—*True and Faithful Lodge* (No. 400).—On the 14th ult., an elegant banquet was given at Bosahan House, by the W.M., Bro. Capt. Grylls, to the Brethren of the True and Faithful Lodge, Helston. At four o'clock the Brethren assembled in the drawing room at Bosahan, in full Masonic costume, where they were received by the W.M., who was decorated with the insignia of his rank in the Craft. Lodge was not opened, but the W.M. entertained the brethren at dinner. On the removal of the cloth, the usual Masonic toasts were given, and in the course of the evening, the W.M., spoke at considerable length on the beauties and duties of Masonry; after which Mrs. Grylls honoured the Brethren by her presence, and expressed herself pleased at having a Lodge of the ancient and honourable fraternity at her house. About ten o'clock the Brethren took leave of the W.M. and his lady, and returned to Helston highly delighted with the entertainment.

REDRUTH.—*Druids Lodge of Love and Liberality* (No. 859).—On Wednesday the 12th ult., the Brethren celebrated their festival of St. John, at their own Lodge rooms, Redruth. There were one passing and two raisings. The W.M. and P.Ms.,

assisted by brethren from the Fortitude Lodge, Truro, and Boscawen Lodge, Chacewater, formed a board of installed Masters, when Bro. W. Semmons was duly installed as the W.M. for the ensuing year; Bros. T. Mills, were installed as Treas.; W. G. Congdon, D.C.; and John Hosking, I.G. The W.M. appointed Bros. W. Nancarrow, S.W.; Absalom Bennett, J.W.; W. Michell, S.D.; J. Runnalls, J.D.; and John Hocking, Sec. We are glad to learn that this Lodge, which during the last three or four years has fallen into abeyance, is now resuming its former vigour, and bids fair to take a prominent rank in the province.

TRURO.—*Fortitude Lodge* (No. 153).—On the 10th ultimo, the Brethren of the Lodge of Fortitude, No. 153, celebrated the annual festival of St. John, at their Lodge rooms, Globe Inn, Truro. The Lodge was close tyled at one o'clock, the first degree conferred on a candidate for Masonic honours, and two brothers were passed to the second degree. The W.M. assisted by the P.Ms. and the W.Ms. of the Phoenix and Boscawen Lodges, opened the Lodge with a board of installed Masters, when Bro. N. Gilbert was duly installed as W.M. for the current year; Bro. Bodilly being elected Treas., and Bro. Cock, Tyler. Bro. Gilbert appointed Bros. Hugill and G. Clyma, as S.W. and J.W.; Bros. Chirgwin and Scantlebury as Deacons; Bro. Mann, Sec., and Bro. Oke, I.G. Amongst the many pleasing features of the evening, was the presentation by Bro. McLean, of a handsomely bound Bible, with Masonic gilt tooling, on his vacating the chair of W.M., which he had filled for two years. The Masonic charities were advocated, and hopes expressed that more attention will be paid to their claims than heretofore. This Lodge is in a good state of working, and has a goodly number of contributing Brethren.

TRURO.—*Phoenix Lodge of Honour and Prudence* (No. 415).—The Brethren of this Lodge, celebrated the annual festival of St. John, at their rooms in Pydar-street, on the 17th ultimo. The Lodge was tyled at noon. The following were present:—Bros. Mayne, Harris, Jenkins, Rogers, Prov. G. Sec.; Passingham, Moyle, Marshall, Gilbert, McLean, Harvey, and Wing; the installing Master being Bro. Mayne, the W.M. for the preceding year. Bro. Edward Trewbody Carlyon, S.W., was installed as the W.M. for the ensuing year. The W.M. invested as the officers, Bros. Mayne, junr., P.M. and Treas.; Thomas Solomon, S.W.; Robert Bell, J.W.; J. Hamilton, by Bro. William Michell, Sec.; Hannibal T. Ellis, S.D.; W. H. Christoe, J.D.; S. Harvey, I.G.; W. Rooks, Tyler. The Lodge was visited officially by the Prov. G. Sec., Bro. Reginald Rogers. Upwards of thirty of the Brethren afterwards dined at the Royal Hotel, under the presidency of the W.M. The V.W.D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Augustus Smith, sent a present of game for the occasion. The evening was spent with the utmost harmony, and frequent allusions were made to the very flourishing state of the Lodge, now numbering forty subscribing members. Especial attention was drawn by Bro. Mayne, P.M., to the claims of the Masonic Schools, and to the fact of a son of a late P.M., Bro. Martin—Coode Michell Martin—having been elected at the last election to the Masonic Boys School. He expressed his confident hope that the Cornish Lodges—of which the Phoenix Lodge may be considered as the first—will respond to these appeals, and will be found handsome contributors to this and the Girls School. The Brethren of this Lodge are about to remove to their new Lodge rooms, which will be handsomely decorated. The suite of rooms will consist of a Masonic Hall, 33ft. by 16ft., and 11ft. high, laid out and decorated with strict Masonic propriety; a banqueting room, 23ft. by 16ft., and 11ft. high; a preparing room, reception room, &c. This Lodge is rapidly increasing in numbers, and the interests of the Craft in Cornwall are likely to be much advanced by the example of the Brethren of this rising and flourishing Lodge.

#### DENBYSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Monday, February 14th, Devonshire (908), Norfolk Arms, Glosnop, at 7.

#### DEVONSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, February 14th, Sun (123), Globe Hotel, Exmouth, at 5; Sincerity (224), St. George's Hall, Stonehouse, at 7; Tuesday, 15th, Charity (270),

King's Arms, Hotel, Plymouth, at 7. *Chapter*.—Monday, 14th, Fidelity (280), Three Taus Tiverton, at 7.

## DORSETSHIRE.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—*Lodges*.—Monday, February 14th, Mcntague (963), Lion Inn, Lyme Regis, at 7; Wednesday, 16th, Amity (160), Masonic Hall, Poole, at 7. *Chapter*.—Faith and Unanimity (605), Freemasons' Hall, Dorchester, at 6.

## DURHAM.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—*Lodges*.—Monday, February 14th, Fawcett (959), Lord Seaham, Seaham Harbour; Thursday, 17th, St. Helen's (774), Masonic Hall, Durham, at 7½. *Chapter*.—Thursday, 17th, Strict Benevolence (114), Bridge Hotel, Sunderland, at 11.

## ESSEX.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—*Lodges*.—Monday, February 14th, Star in the East (935), Private Rooms, Harwich, at 7; Tuesday, 15th, Angel (59), Cups Hotel, Colchester, at 7; Thursday, 17th, Good Fellowship (343), White Hart, Chelmsford, at 7.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

**APPOINTMENT.**—*Lodge*.—Wednesday, February 16th, Cotteswold (862), Ram Hotel, Cirencester, at 6½.

## HAMPSHIRE.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, February 16th, Royal Sussex (428), Freemasons' Hall, Portsea, at 7; Thursday, 17th, Southampton (555), Freemasons' Hall, Southampton, at 7.

## ISLE OF WIGHT. ❏

**APPOINTMENT.**—*Lodge*.—Wednesday, February 16th, East Medina (204), Masonic Hall, Ryde, at 7.

## KENT.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, February 16th, Royal Naval, (621), Royal Hotel, Ramsgate, at 7; Friday, 18th, Union (149), King's Head, Margate, at 7. *Mark*.—Tuesday, 15th, Adam's (L.C.), Masonic Hall, Sheerness, at 6.

**ASHFORD.**—*Invicta Lodge* (No. 1011).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, there being present Bro. B. Thorpe, W.M.; Bro. J. S. Eastes, S.W.; Bro. B. K. Thorpe, J.W.; Bro. Hallowes, P.M.; Bro. Sheppard, Sec.; Bro. G. W. Greenhill as S.D.; Bro. Springett, J.D.; Bro. Warrington, I.G.; Bro. Collins, Tyler; Bros. Laud, Maund, and Fresson. Bro. Fresson having proved himself proficient in the first degree, was duly passed to that of Fellow Craft. The Lodge being closed down, Mr. G. W. Oliver was introduced, and regularly initiated as a Mason. Bro. J. S. Eastes said he had the pleasing duty to perform of presenting the Lodge with a handsome gift from a Brother who was unavoidably absent. Although he regretted the brother was not present to do that which he would have done much better himself, still he felt proud of the commission, and would discharge his trust to the best of his ability, by presenting the Lodge with a handsome set of tracing boards from Bro. R. C. May. It would be needless to mention the interest he took in the welfare of the Invicta Lodge; he would read an extract from a letter he had received from him—"Be good enough to present the tracing boards to the Lodge next Wednesday, with my best wishes for its prosperity as a Lodge, and for the welfare of its members as individuals; at the same time, express my regret that I could not be present to do it in person, being obliged to go into Scotland on that day." Bro. Eastes further added that he hoped the time was not far distant when every member would be capable of illustrating them in a manner that would do honour to themselves, reflect credit on the Lodge, and prove to Bro. May that his gift had been duly appreciated. Bro. Hallowes proposed that a vote of thanks to Bro. R. C. May should be recorded in the minutes for the very handsome present he had made, and that a letter should be written to him, expressing the thanks of the brethren. The W.M. called the attention of the Brethren to a communication from the President of the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. Hallowes said he considered the communication of great importance to the Craft, and as sufficient time at that late hour of the evening could not be given, as the subject justly merited, he proposed that a Lodge should be specially convened to take it into consideration. The W.M. decided that a Lodge for that purpose should be held on the 16th instant. The business being ended, the Lodge was closed in due form, and adjourned.

#### LANCASHIRE (EAST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, February 16th, Limestone Rock (481), Brownlow Arms, Clithero, at 7; St. John's (288), Commercial Hotel, Bolton, at 6½; Friendship (344), Angel Hotel, Oldham, at 7; Faith (847), New Inn, Openshaw, at 7; Friday, 18th, Virtue (177), Masonic Rooms, Manchester, at 6. *Chapter*.—Monday, 14th, Perseverance (432), Old Bull, Blackburn, at 8.

#### LANCASHIRE (WEST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, February 14th, Unity (889), Scarisbrick Arms, Southport at 6; Tuesday, 15th, Selton (980), Queen's Hotel, Waterton, at 6; Wednesday, 16th, Loyalty (101), Royal Hotel, Prescott, at 6; Harmony (945), Wheatsheaf, Ormskirk, at 5; Thursday, 17th, Ancient Union (245), Masonic Temple, Liverpool, at 6; Friday, 18th, Mariner's Instruction (310), Masonic Temple, Liverpool, at 7.

ROBY.—*Alliance Lodge* (No. 965).—On Tuesday the 1st instant, the Brethren of this Lodge met to celebrate the rite of installation, &c., at Bro. Trews, Stanley Arms Hotel. The Brethren assembled to the number of forty at half-past four o'clock, and after the usual preliminaries Bro. Pepper, P.M. Prov. G.S. proceeded to install Bro. G. A. W. Phillips, assisted by Bro. Wylie, Prov. G. Sec., and Bro. Hamer, Prov. G.D.C. The ceremony over, the W.M. appointed and invested the following officers; viz., Bros. Witter, S.W.; Stephenson, J.W.; Yeatman, Treas.; Erlam, Sec.; Smith, S.D.; Urmson, J.D.; Winkup, I.G. Bro. Hughes was unanimously elected Tyler. The W.M. then initiated two gentlemen into Masonry, in a manner that drew forth the high commendations of the Lodge. The Brethren were called from labour, and sat down to banquet; after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, as Masons only know how to respond, during the evening the W.M. presented in the name of the Lodge a P.M.'s jewel to Bro. Evans as a testimony of esteem and respect from the Brethren, and as a grateful tribute for his services as W.M. during the two last years. Bro. Evans replied in feeling and appropriate terms. The pleasures of the evening were much enhanced by the vocal powers of Bros. Yeatman, Wright, and Horsley, and the excellent arrangements of the Stewards (Bros. Pickup and TOWNDROW), contributed greatly to the comfort of the Brethren. Among the visitors we noticed Bros. Wylie, Prov. G. Sec.; Hamer, Prov. G.D.C.; Pepper, Prov. G.S.; Turner, P.M. No. 101; Wright, P.M. No. 294; Heyer, Prov. P.M. No. 864; Griffiths, P.M. No. 701, &c. &c. In due time the Brethren resumed labour, and the Lodge was duly closed.

#### LEICESTERSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Thursday, February 17th, John of Gaunt (766), Three Crowns, Leicester, at 7.

#### NORFOLK.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Monday, February 14th, Faithful (100), Exchange Rooms, Havleston, at 7.

#### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Monday, February 14th, Fidelity (652), Talbot Inn, Towcester, at 6.

#### NORTHUMBERLAND.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, February 14th, St. Peter's (706), Catwick Buildings, Newcastle, at 7; Friday, 17th, De Loraine (793), Freemasons' Hall, Newcastle, at 7. *Mark*.—Wednesday, 16th, Newcastle and Berwick (F. L.), Newcastle, at 7.

#### OXFORDSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, February 14th, Cherwell (873), Red Lion, Banbury, at 7; Tuesday, 15th, Alfred (425), Masonic Hall, Oxford, at 7.

## SOMERSETSHIRE.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—*Lodges.*—Monday, February 14th, Honour (528), 42, Milson Street, Bath, at 8; Wednesday, 16th, Brotherly Love (412), Three Choughs, Yeovil, at 6. *Chapter.*—Tuesday, 16th, Royal Cumberland (49), Masonic Hall, Bath, at 8. *Encampment.*—Friday, 18th, Bladud, Milson Street, Bath.

## STAFFORDSHIRE.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—*Lodges.*—Tuesday, February 15th, Abbey (907), Private Rooms, Burton-on-Trent, at 6; Wednesday, 16th, Sutherland (680), Town Hall, Burslem, at 6; Thursday, 17th, St. Martin's (115), Freemasons' Arms, Burslem, at 6; Friday, 18th, Sutherland of Unity (674), Castle Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyne, at 7; Noah's Ark (435), Navigation Inn, Tipton, at 9.

**BURTON-ON-TRENT.**—*Abbey Lodge* (No. 907)—The anniversary of this Lodge was held at the offices of the Burton Brewery Company, Burton-on-Trent, on Tuesday, February 1st. At two p.m. the Lodge was duly opened in ancient form by Bro. Bowley, P.M. and his excellent staff of officers. After the transaction of business the Brethren adjourned until four o'clock, when they again assembled and partook of a capital banquet. On the present occasion, the chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. Bowley, supported by Bro. E. Mammatt, and Bros. Bobart, P.M., of Ashby-de-la-Zouch; Butel, P.M.; and Bloor, P.M. of Derby. We also noticed amongst the company present, Bros. Hancock, W.M., No. 920, Stoke-upon-Trent; Smith, London; Jobson, Giles, and Smith, of Derby; T. W. McCallum, Maxwell, E. Noon, and J. Winson, of Belper; Goodger, Bellamy, Thompson, Sherwin, Upton, Gothard, Birch, Alcock, Whittingham, Clark, Anderson, and Stanley, of Burton. The toasts peculiar to the Order, and many others, were given in quick succession, and suitably responded to. The visiting Brethren were much pleased to hear that the Lodge is in a highly prosperous state, and bids fair to become one of the best in the provinces. The evening's enjoyment was also considerably enhanced by the singing of Bros. Maxwell, Mammatt, Sherwin, Smith, Butel, Noon, and Upton.

## SUFFOLK.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—*Lodges.*—Monday, February 14th, Providence (544), King's Arms, Halesworth, at 7; Tuesday, 15th, Apollo (383), White Lion, Beccles, at 7; Wednesday 16th, Perfect Friendship (622), White Horse, Ipswich, at 7.

## SUSSEX.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—*Lodges.*—Monday, February 14th, Derwent (47), Swan Hotel, Hastings, at 8; Thursday, 17th, Wellington (426), Crown Inn, Kye; Friday, 18th, Royal Clarence (338), Old Ship, Brighton.

**BRIGHTON.**—*Royal York Lodge* (No. 394)—The brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting, on Tuesday, February 1st, under the presidency of Bro. C. Woollven, W.M. The minutes of the last Lodge having been read and confirmed, the election of W.M. for the ensuing year (delayed by Bro. Cherriman, having, at the last Lodge, though previously elected, declined, unexpectedly, to fill the office,) was proceeded with, when the unanimous choice of the Lodge fell upon Bro. Moppett, J.W. The installation will take place at the next meeting, March 1st. The report of the General Purposes Committee was presented, read, and confirmed, showing a balance of about £50 in favour of the Lodge. A special committee was appointed to enquire into a case of recent imposition. Bros. Russell and Smith were passed to the second degree. Bro. W. R. Wood spoke of the success attending the festival of the Benevolent Institution, and acknowledged the pecuniary assistance afforded through him as Steward. The Lodge was closed in perfect harmony.

**LEWES.**—*South Saxon Lodge* (No. 390)—The Brethren of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Hall, Lewes, on Wednesday, February 2nd, for business under the able presidency of the W.M., Bro. W. Verrall, P.M., No. 338, and Prov. G. Treasurer for Sussex. The Lodge being opened, one passing and one initiation followed, when it was proposed and carried unanimously, that next Lodge night,

the 2nd of March, a testimonial should be presented to the much respected P.M., Bro. Pocock, (P.M. of No. 338, and Prov. G. Sec. for Sussex); and also that a banquet should take place at Bro. Wingham's, Crown Inn, Lewes, and that all the Brethren in the province be invited to attend.

WALES.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Tuesday, February 15th, St. David (540), British Hotel, Bangor, at 6.

WARWICKSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, February 14th, Rectitude (739), George Hotel, Rugby, at 6½; Howe (857), Masonic Rooms, Newhall Street, Birmingham, at 6.

WILTSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Tuesday, February 15th, Concord (915), Court Hall, Trowbridge, at 7; Thursday, 17th, Fidelity (961), Town Hall, Devizes, at 7.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, February 16th, Worcester (349), Bell Hotel, Worcester at 6½; Vernon (819), Old Town Hall, Dudley, at 7.

WORCESTER.—*Worcester Lodge* (No. 349).—This prosperous Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 20th ultimo, at the Masonic Hall of the Bell Inn, when there were present, Bros. John Barber, W.M.; C. C. W. Griffiths, P.M. and Treas.; S. Purchase, S.W.; M. M. B. Cooper, J.W.; W. H. Wood, H. Hill, and R. P. Hill, P.Ms.; R. Woolf, S.D.; E. W. Emslie, Sec.; W. Haigh, W. Meredith, W. Knott, W. Archer, G. Hall, and other Brethren. The visitors were, Bros. J. O. Saunders and F. W. Dyer, P.Ms. of No. 772; Harry Winton, P.M. Nos. 45, 390, &c., and P. Prov. Dir. of Cers. of Sussex. The W.M. after opening the Lodge, passed Bro. W. Archer to the second degree, and raised Bro. W. Knott as a M.M., very impressively and with deep feeling. It was truly gratifying to hear the excellent report of the worthy Treas., Bro. Griffiths, P.M., which was ably brought before the Lodge by the S.D. Bro. Woolf, and by him heartily dilated upon, moving a further increase on their subscriptions to the charities, which on being seconded by Bro. Haigh, was carried unanimously. The Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to supper, the W.M. presiding, supported by his officers. The usual loyal toasts were briefly, but most feelingly given, and were followed by the healths of the "Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.," "Lord Panmure, R.W.D.G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers," "Bro. Henry Charles Vernon, Prov. Grand Master," the "Prov. Grand Officers of Worcestershire," all with true Masonic honours. Bro. Griffiths, P.M., then prefaced the health of the W.M. with remarks of high eulogy for his uniform urbanity to all, and on all occasions, also for his Masonic worth and ability in the discharge of the duties of the chair, remarking that they were in every sense worthy of imitation. The W.M. thanked the P.Ms. for their constant and ready assistance in the discharge of his duties; to them he felt himself under lasting obligation, as must every member of the Lodge; he felt pleasure in proposing their healths, and this having been ably responded to by the immediate P.M., there followed "The Officers of the Lodge," and "The Visitors," in proposing which, the W.M. was pleased to make some flattering remarks towards Bro. Winton as an old, worthy, and distinguished Mason. Bro. Winton returned thanks for the visitors, and observed that, during his forty years' experience it had seldom been his lot to have attended a Lodge where the ceremonies were so effectually performed, or where true Masonic sociality was more pleasingly observed. During Lodge hours and at the banquet, it was truly a happiness to hear the Brethren, one and all urging the claims of the charities, not only Masonic but local.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, February 14th, Royal (326), Bellerue House, Filey, at 7; Tuesday, 15th, Camolodunum (858), Freemasons' Hall, New Malton, at 7.

## YORKSHIRE (WEST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges.*—Thursday, February 17th, Harmony (871), Freemasons' Hall, Bradford, at 7; Three Grand Principles (281), Masonic Hall, Dewsbury, at 6; Harmony (312), Masonic Hall, Huddersfield, at 7; Friday, 18th, Zetland (877), Royal Hotel, Cleckheaton, at 7; Holme Valley (937), Victoria Hotel, Holford, at 7; Alfred Instruction, (381), Griffin Hotel, Leeds, at 7. *Chapter.*—Tuesday, 15th, Fidelity (361), Freemasons' Hall, Leeds, at 7. *Incampment.*—Monday, 14th, Faith, Bradford.

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 ROYAL ARCH.
 

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## SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

A quarterly convocation of Grand Chapter was held in the Temple attached to Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, February 2nd, Comps. F. Pattison, officiating as M.E.G.Z.; W. H. White as H.; H. L. Crohn as J.; W. Gray Clarke, G.E.; Pullney Scott as N.; John Hervey as P. Soj.; Potter and Le Veau G. Assist. Sojs. There were also present Comps. Havers, J. White, Symonds, Gole, Walmsley, Farfield and others.

The Chapter having been opened, and the minutes of the preceding Chapter confirmed—

The G. Scribe E. read a statement of accounts, from which it appeared that after adding a further sum of £200 to the funded stock, there remained a balance of £218 16s. 6d. in the Grand Treasurer's hands.

The general committee reported that a petition had been received for a charter of constitution, for a Chapter to be attached to the Royal Brunswick Lodge, No. 1034, at Brighton, the Old Ship Hotel, and to be called the Royal Sussex Chapter, to be holden on the fourth Thursday in the month, with Comps. Peter Richard Wilkinson as Z.; Gavin, E.; Pocock, H.; and John Bacon, J. A petition had also been received for the renewal of a charter for the Old Globe Chapter at Scarborough, to be holden on the first Wednesday in every month, of which Comp. William Bean, was nominated as Z.; W. E. Richardson, H.; and E. W. Prichard, J. These charters the committee recommended should be granted, the applications being perfectly regular.

The motions being put the charters were granted.

Comp. Hervey rose and moved that in those colonies where there was no Grand Superintendent the Principals of a Chapter should be permitted to exalt Brethren who had taken the third degree at a period of four weeks instead of twelve months, urging the necessity of such a measure, as in consequence of the present restriction of time many Brethren are induced to enter Chapters holding under the constitutions of Ireland or Scotland. This resolution through some irregularity was not brought forward at the convocation in May last, when it was recommended by the committee, and he therefore now brought it before the Grand Chapter for adoption.

The motion was seconded by Comp. Le Veau.

The venerable P. G. Scribe E. (Comp. White) said, however desirable it might be, the motion then was irregular, as notice of it had not been given in the summons agreeably to the law.

Before the acting M.E.G.Z. had decided on the point at issue, Comp. Havers rose, and energetically protested against the proposed alteration, urging that by adopting it the Grand Chapter would be doing that which the Grand Lodge resisted. They had heard much of the mode of conferring degrees in other countries, but he could see no reason why in a period of only five weeks a Mason should be raised and exalted to the R.A. degree. They had heard that a Mason might cross the water and obtain a number of degrees in course of three or four days. Considering that nothing more creditable to Masonry existed than the system of the Grand Lodge of England, he did not think it desirable it should enter into competition with the sister Grand Lodges. The English Masons required that

initiates should serve a certain time before they are passed to another degree. That system had worked well. He warned the Grand Chapter against delegating the power now sought for to their subordinates, as he was sure it would be productive of evil. He sincerely hoped that the proposed alteration would never be adopted, but that, no matter what others might do, the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of England would hold by the landmarks of the Order, and preserve the high character they had hitherto held throughout the world.

Comp. Hervey in reply, acknowledged that the motion was irregular, and said he would give due notice for its being brought forward at the next convocation.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in ancient and solemn form.

ST. JAMES'S CHAPTER (No. 2).—This Chapter held its usual meeting on Thursday, February 3rd. The Principals, Comps. R. Warner Wheeler, M.E.Z.; W. Pulteney Scott (P. G. Assist. Soj.), H.; and Dr. Tulloch, J.; were present, supported by their officers, Comps. Crew, E.; W. R. Wood, N.; Col. Western, P. Soj.; Capt. Creaton, 1st A. Soj.; Ambrosini, 2nd A. Soj., &c., &c.; and many other Companions; Bro. Capt. Welstead Reade, of No. 317, Richmond, having been balloted for and unanimously elected, was in due and solemn form exalted to the sublime degree of the Royal Arch. This being the evening for the election of officers for the ensuing year, a ballot took place, which was unanimous, as follows:—Comps. W. P. Scott, M.E.Z.; Dr. Tulloch, H.; W. R. Wood, J.; S. Tomkins, Treas.; F. Crew, E.; Col. Western, N.; Capt. Creaton, P. Soj. All business being concluded the Chapter was closed in solemn form, and the Companions adjourned to the banquet, and passed the evening most pleasantly under the presidency of the M.E. Comp., R. Warner Wheeler. The usual toasts were given and duly honoured. Comp. Neate, P.Z., said he was persuaded the Chapter would allow him to propose the health of their M.E.Z., and in doing so he felt he could not find adequate language to do him justice for the able manner in which he had discharged the duties of the First Principal's chair during his year of office, as well as of the other offices he had previously so regularly and successfully filled with so much ability and credit to the Chapter, during which he had sustained its reputation. Indeed, as an old Companion of the Chapter, he felt he might say, that he had observed Comp. Wheeler's truly Masonic career with very great regard and satisfaction. The M.E.Z., in a modest speech, replied, that he had always taken great interest in the Chapter, and endeavoured to the utmost of his capabilities to properly discharge the duties he undertook. He felt it was no small compliment to receive such warm encomiums from the father of the Chapter, which had been so enthusiastically responded to by the Companions. He had been a member of the Chapter for many years, and the kindness he had received on every occasion had more than amply repaid him for any exertions he might have made; and although he had received from them the highest honours he could obtain, he hoped he might be permitted to remain amongst them for many years to come. The M.E.Z. proposed the health of Comps. W. Pulteney Scott, as H., and Dr. Tulloch, as J. Comp. Scott returned thanks in a very appropriate speech. The M.E.Z., in proposing the healths of the Past First Principals, said that the Chapter highly appreciated the services that they had rendered. Such names as those of J. Henderson, W. Stuart, Panson, &c., would always command the esteem of the Companions; and though the number present was small, he knew that they all had at heart the interests of the Chapter; he would couple with that toast the name of the father of the Chapter, Comp. Neate, P.Z. Comp. Neate in returning thanks said, that it was forty years ago that very day since he had been exalted in the Chapter, and during that period he had witnessed many fluctuations. He mentioned that on one evening he had assisted at the exaltation of the late Duke of York, the Marquis of Cornwallis, and Lord Kingston. In this Chapter also he had frequently met the Duke of Sussex, their former revered Grand Master. There had been another period when their number had been very few, but now he considered that the St. James's Chapter, the premier Chapter of England, was in a high state of prosperity. This desirable result he believed was owing to the exertions of their excellent Officers; and he was glad to hear their M.E.Z. declare that

he hoped to remain in the St. James's Chapter for many years to come. For the compliment paid to the P.Zs. he thanked them, as well as for the honour they had done him personally. The healths of the visitors, Comps. F. Slight and Major Beard were most cordially drunk for which Comp. Slight returned thanks, saying it always afforded him great gratification to attend the St. James's Chapter, the premier Chapter of England, where he had ever experienced great hospitality, and had been gratified at the manner in which the work had been performed. He sincerely wished continued prosperity to the St. James's Chapter. After a very pleasant evening the Companions separated about half past ten o'clock.

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## SCOTLAND.

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### THE BURNS CENTENARY.

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#### GLASGOW.

##### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On the 25th of Jan. about five hundred Brethren of the various Lodges in the province of Glasgow, met at the Trades Hall, in honour of the Ayrshire bard, Bro. Donald Campbell, Substitute Prov. G.M., occupied the chair, supported by Bros. John Deuchar, of Morningside, Grand Bible Bearer; Councillor McCulloch; J. W. McGregor; David Sutherland, Prov. G. Treas.; Rubenstein; N. B. Dalveen; George McLeod, *M.D.*; James Cruikshank, Prov. S.G.W.; R. E. Simpson; F. A. Barron, Murray, Stout, Muir and Park. Bro. A. R. McDiarmid acted as Prov. J.G.W.

The Lodge having been opened in due form, the Brethren were called from labour to refreshment. An excellent banquet was served by Bros. McCorkendale and Macree.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly honoured, Bro. McCulloch sang "There was a lad was born in Kyle."

The Chairman then rose to propose the toast of the evening, "The Immortal Memory of Bro. Robert Burns." He said—"The song which has just preceded my toast was, as you no doubt are well aware, one of the earlier effusions of our brother, and alludes to his birth, which took place exactly one hundred years ago, on the banks of the Doon, closely adjacent to the 'auld Kirk Alloway,' both of which places have been rendered so famous by his poetical descriptions. It would, my brethren, I am sure, be considered out of place were I to attempt any sketch of his life, the more especially so, when that has been done so often, and by so many distinguished and able biographers. But, brethren, there is no biographer, however exalted be his position in literature, poetry, or eloquence that I will yield the palm to, in honouring the name of Bro. Robert Burns." The R.W. brother, in a speech of great length, characterised by eloquence and apt illustration, sketched the early life and struggles of the poet; and after some critical remarks upon the wit, pathos, and beauty of description which abound in the works of Burns, proceeded as follows—"Having, brethren, thus made some remarks on our departed Brother, as a man and a poet, I have now to advert to him as a Brother of the mystic tie. From the records of St. David's Lodge of Tarbolton, we learn that Bro. Robert Burns first saw the light on the 4th July, 1781, and was passed and raised on the 1st October of the same year. He was initiated by Bro. Alex. Wood, of Tarbolton; and from the fact of his having been the means of enlightening the poet, the probability is that his name will live in the remembrance of the Craft, while others, possessed of far higher titles, honours, and distinctions in the neutral world, are alike forgotten and unremembered. Bro. Burns has always been associated in name with the St. James Tarbolton Lodge, and I think it

necessary to explain how it is. The Lodges St. James and St. David were both held in Tarbolton, and the members saw fit to make a junction of the two. This was accordingly effected, under the appellation of the St. David's. Some years after Bro. Burns's admittance some matters in connection with their internal government caused them to be disjoined, and Burns left it, and associated himself with those who resuscitated the St. James, most probably from the circumstance that those who seceded were his personal friends, with whose opinions he coincided, and with whom, while resident in that part of the country he ever remained in close connection. He was, at the period of his initiation, twenty-three years of age, and took a warm interest in everything relating to the Craft. He became expert and zealous in the ceremonials of the Lodge, and the first person brought by him from the darkness of the outer world into Masonic light was Matthew Hall, a musician who was wont to accompany a noted character, James McLachlan, in his excursions over the country. Burns never appeared to have attained higher rank in the Lodge than that of Depute Master; but during his visits to Edinburgh he was made poet laureate of the Canongate Kilwinning Lodge, of which honour he was very proud. Many of you must have seen engravings from the beautiful picture painted by Bro. Stewart Watson, the present highly esteemed Secretary of that Lodge—the scene of which is laid in the St. John's chapel, and is familiar to every Mason. Burns is seen standing on two of the steps in front of, and leading up to the altar, with his right hand placed on his left breast, clothed with his apron, on the flap of which is his Fellow Craft mark; the Master, at that time Bro. Alexander Ferguson, of Craigdarroch, being about to encircle his noble brow with the wreath of laurel. While lately at Eyemouth, I learned that Burns had been made a Royal Arch Mason. Since then more ample information has been obtained by a zealous Brother in Edinburgh, the facts of which he has now placed in the hands of the public. In his own Lodge he was the able, acting head; and from his wit, his intelligence, his zeal, and his capability of expressing his ideas with elegance and propriety, he was universally beloved and admired by the Craft. In conclusion, allow me to use our bard's own words—

“ A last request permit me here,  
When yearly ye assemble a',  
One round I ask it with a tear,  
To him, the bard that's far awa'.”

The toast was then pledged with all the honours, the Brethren remaining upstanding, amidst continued cheering and waving of handkerchiefs.

Song by Bro. David Winton—“ A man's a man for a' that.”

Bro. J. W. McGregor gave, “The descendants of Bro. Burns, the bard o' Scotia,” in a few eloquent and pithy remarks, which elicited loud approbation.

Song by Bro. A. G. Burns—“ O a' the airts the win can blaw.”

Bro. McCulloch then called upon the Scottish Craft to toast “The Poets of England.”

The Chairman next gave “The Spirit of the Craft,” apologising for the absence of Bro. the Rev. Dr. Graham, who was to have given this toast. He alluded to the universality of Masonry, the unbounded influence which it possesses, the bonds of affection which it cements, regardless of the country or the clime to which the brother belongs, or what sect of religion he professes.

Bro. Thomson gave the “St. James's Lodge, Tarbolton.” He said, in the combined Lodge of St. David and St. James in 1781, Robert Burns first saw the light of Masonry. Harmony seems not to have existed in that body, for they agreed to differ, and the dormant Lodge of St. James was resuscitated, to which Lodge Burns and a number of others adhered. It continued to exist up to the present time; but the St. David's, Tarbolton, was struck off the roll of the Grand Lodge in the year 1843. You will see from this that the first is last, and I take it now to be that the last is the very first Lodge now in existence, for when I look around me here, I can see a Lodge which boasts of its high antiquity, having got a charter from Malcolm Canmore, in the year 1057. If we were to investigate, I have no doubt but we should find in every Lodge a somewhat, a distinctive mark that no

other Lodge has—but sir, who can boast of a Robert Burns! It is only the St. James's, Tarbolton; in that Lodge he lived and wrought as a Craftsman. Burns was a great and enthusiastic Freemason; it was his pride and his pleasure to instruct and enlighten that favoured few, and it was whilst he was one of the most active members of that Lodge that he gave forth the brightest and best of his poetical effusions to the world. The St. James Tarbolton Lodge thus becomes imperishably associated with Robert Burns, Scotland, and Freemasonry. We have dedicated a bumper to the memory of Robert Burns. We have paid our respects to his descendants, and since we prize the smallest relic of him as a gem above all price, it becomes us as Freemasons to nourish and cherish this Lodge, St. James, Tarbolton, as a landmark of him that was a true Brother.

Bro. Carnduff, a member of the St. James's Lodge, replied.

Song by Bro. Boyd—"Burns's Farewell to the Brethren of the St. James Lodge, Tarbolton."

Bro. David Sutherland, Prov. Grand Treas., then claimed a bumper to "The Poets of Ireland," and in doing so he paid a high tribute to the genius of Thomas Moore.

Bro. J. Cruikshank, Prov. S.G.W., gave "The Clergy of Scotland."

Bro. Dalveen (No. 333) gave "The Poets of Scotland." He said, those who are included in this toast are, many of them, men of the most eminent genius, of the highest literary attainments; many of them have filled the most prominent niches in the temple of fame, and among those who are still alive there are a goodly number who will yet occupy the same honourable position in the lyric history of their country. Can any one forget—among the many who are to-night assembled in open Lodge, to celebrate the centenary of the birth of the man who was pre-eminently the bard of Scotia, Bro. Robert Burns—that the world famed author of the "Lay of the Last Minstrel," and the "Lady of the Lake," Sir Walter Scott, was a Scotchman? Who can fail to remember, that we can also claim the great author of the "Pleasures of Hope," of "Ye Mariners of England," and the "Battle of the Baltic"? Besides Thomas Campbell, in the west of Scotland, we claim Pollok, the author of the "Course of Time;" Wilson, the world renowned Christopher North of Blackwood, whose "Isle of Palms," for beautiful imagery, and his "Defence of the Reputation of Burns," stamp him high in the list of poets and of critics. These, and many more who might be named, trode the higher walks of Scottish poesy and literature; but while they may be looked at as the more effulgent stars, we must not forget that there are others to whom we must pay our homage and respect, even should it be only to their memories. I ask you to recall to your minds Allan Ramsay, and his "Gentle Shepherd;" Alexander Wilson; McNeill; Robert Ferguson, the predecessor of Burns, to whose poetic genius the bard paid the tribute of erecting at his own expense a monument in the Canongate churchyard of Edinburgh; Robert Tannahill, whose "Jessie, the flower of Dunblane" and "Loudon's bonny woods and bres," have rendered his name imperishable. Dugald Moore was a worthy brother of the Lodge to which I have the honour to belong. In speaking of the poets of Scotland, we are able to rank among them a portion of the fair sex, and those not amongst the least of the galaxy of poets belonging to our country. Who would not revere the memory of Lady Anne Lindsay, for her "Auld Robin Gray;" Miss Elliott, for the "Flowers of the Forest;" Miss Blamire, for "Ye shall walk in silk attire;" or the old school mistress in Greenock, who gave us "There's nae luck about the house;" and many others, who have added to the poetry of Scotland some of its brightest gems. And here I may be permitted to add, that the deep pathos, rich imagery, and homely feeling of the Scottish lyric have never yet been equalled, and hold the pre-eminence over the civilized world. Among the living poets and nature's bards, let me mention James Ballantine, William MacLaggan, Bro. Andrew Park, and poor Willie Miller. I cannot, however, omit mentioning Alexander Smith, Hugh McDonald, James Hedderwick, and the author of "Will ye go to Kelvin grove," Dr. Thomas Lyle. The extent of the list of our local poets must, I hope, excuse my brevity in enumerating them, although perhaps of superior merit to those which have come to my recollection. In conclusion, permit me to enter within the walls of this tyled Lodge

of Free and Accepted Masons, where, I am proud to say, we have more than one son of the Scottish muse present. We have Bro. Ewart, author of "*Memories dear,*" and other poems, which show that he has taken no mean position on the mount of Parnassus. We have others also present; but there is one I intend to bring specially before your notice, by joining his name with my sentiment; the individual I allude to is our respected Brother, William Cameron, whose songs will, in years to come, when he has mixed with his kindred dust, cause his name to be emblazoned among the poets of Scotland. I give you "The Poets of Scotland and Bro. Cameron."

Bro. Cameron replied in a neat and appropriate speech; after which, Bro. Jack sang "the Burns Centenary Song," entitled, "There's a nicht to Scotland, dear," written by Bro. Alexander MacLagan.

Bro. McDiarmid, Prov. J.G.W., gave "The visiting brethren from a distance," which toast he coupled with Bro. Rubenstein, of the Robert Burns Lodge, London.

Bro. Rubenstein briefly acknowledged the compliment.

"The Lassies," was then given in a humorous speech by Bro. Robertson.

"The Lodges of the Province and their respective Masters," was given by the Chairman, and acknowledged by Bro. Walker, No. 117.

Bro. Dalveen gave "The Prov. Grand Wardens;" and Bro. Cruikshank replied.

Before the last toast, Bro. J. Muir, Prov. J.G.D., claimed a toast, "The Committee, and Bro. Campbell, their Chairman, whose labours merited their highest commendations."

Bro. Campbell thanked them for their good wishes. He then called on them to pledge him in the last toast of, "Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again."

And thus ended one of the most numerous meetings of the Brethren of the Province of Glasgow.

## DUMFRIES.

### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Tuesday, 25th instant, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dumfriesshire held a meeting for the purpose of joining the magistrates of Dumfriesshire in doing honour to the memory of the poet. The R.W. Bro. John Stewart, of Nately Hall, Prov. G. Master, presided at a Prov. Grand Lodge which was opened in the Freemasons' Hall, the following Lodges being present:—the Thistle, St. Michael's, and Operative Lodges of Dumfries; St. Peter's, Mouswald, and St. John's, New Abbey. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland sent representatives, headed by the R.W., Bro. Croft Morgan Dew, M.A. Among the Brethren from Cumberland, we observed Bros. Lemon, Prov. S.G.W.; Jackson, Prov. J.G.W.; Fletcher, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Dees, Prov. S.G.W.; Sawyer, Roper, &c. The Lodges represented were—the Union Lodge, Carlisle; Unanimity, Penrith; St. John's, Wigton; Sun, Square and Compass, Whitehaven; Holy Temple, Longtown; and Perseverance, Maryport. We also noticed the R.W. Bro. Chas. Stewart Law, Grand Secretary of Scotland, present.

The Prov. Grand Lodge of Dumfries having been opened in due form, and having received the representatives of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Cumberland, the Prov. Grand Master intimated to the Brethren that they had been called together to do honour to their national bard, as well as to lay the foundation stone of the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Mechanics' Institute. After a short address to the Brethren, the Prov. Grand Lodge was adjourned to join the procession, which was on a scale of magnificence never before witnessed in Dumfries. The magistrates, clergy, and local dignitaries swelled the ranks, which were closed by the Masonic Lodges, numbering in all one hundred and forty-two. Brethren.

On arriving at Nith's Place, the procession halted, and allowed the members of the Craft, the magistrates and councillors, and members of the institute to enter the grounds. All having taken up their respective positions, the Rev. J. J. Dick-

son, of Kirkbean, officiating Chaplain, offered up a solemn and suitable prayer. The operative Freemasons spread the lime upon the stone. The Treasurer, Bro. John Forbes, deposited in its cavity a copper case containing the usual coins and documents; the stone was laid in position, and the R.W. Prov. G.M. Bro. Stewart, called upon the office-bearers to apply the emblems. Bro. Thomas Dickie having reported that the stone had been tested by level, plumb-line, and square, the R.W. Prov. G.M. struck the stone thrice with a mallet, declaring at the same time that it had been laid in due Masonic order, a statement which elicited loud cheers. He afterwards poured corn, wine, and oil upon the stone, emblematic of the blessings conferred upon us by divine providence. The band in attendance then played the national anthem.

R.W. Bro. Stewart then said:—I have now the pleasure to inform you that I have laid the *foundation-stone of the Mechanics' Lecture-hall* in our ancient Masonic manner. It has given me much pleasure in being present here to-day, and in officiating as Provincial Grand Master on such an occasion—more particularly as I am convinced that such institutions are the means of promoting much useful information among the middle and lower classes of society.

Dr. Browne, President of the Mechanics' Institute, in the name of that body, tendered thanks to the Masonic Brethren for their services. He then spoke as follows:—"I cannot claim these gentlemen as "brothers by the mystic tie;" but although not a Mason, I know enough of Masonry to understand that it has light, the sunshine of knowledge, as its sign and significance—that it claims, from its origin in distant and dark ages which even its history cannot reach, to be the depository of principles of order, harmony, and brotherhood, and to have the keeping of secrets above all price. You will see, then, the fitness, the seamliness that they should co-operate with us upon such an occasion as this, when we commence an undertaking calculated to diffuse the means of mental illumination, to facilitate access to the sources of moral strength and growth and grandeur, and to give stability and permanence to those efforts hitherto made under less favourable circumstances, and to carry opportunities of self-culture to every man's door. We have selected this day that our enterprize may be connected with that unanimous feeling of love and honour to one of Scotland's worthiest sons which now prevails—and also because Robert Burns has an especial claim upon our gratitude. Estimating the value and blessing of learning, he founded and successfully carried out a parish library, or union for mutual improvement, at Friars' Carse—enshrined in his verse for its beauty, as it is now in the record of charity—and which was called the Markland Friendly Society—because, in the words of one of his biographers, "he advocated intellectual improvement of the humbler classes long before it had become a national movement"—and, in my opinion, at a time when such advocacy was crime, when learning was a thing of caste and proscription, when the diffusion of knowledge was regarded, even by the good and gentle, as the diffusion of disloyalty and disorder, and a little knowledge (in certain ranks) was a dangerous thing."

Prorost Leighton then, in a few excellent remarks, expressed his satisfaction at the work which had just been accomplished; and stated that the magistrates and town council of Dumfries were thoroughly alive to the importance of the undertaking, believing that the Mechanics' Hall would not only be useful for lectures, but an ornament to the town.

The proceedings then terminated, and the Prov. Grand Lodges of Dumfries and Cumberland marched to their respective Lodge rooms, where they were closed in proper form. A ball was afterwards given by the Brethren of the Thistle Lodge, which was numerously attended.

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#### ALLOA.

##### FESTIVAL AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

A banquet was given at this place in celebration of the centenary of the poet, at which a hundred and fifty gentlemen assisted. The dinner took place under the

auspices of the Alloa St. John's Lodge, but was not restricted to Brethren of the mystic tie—the public having been invited to be present. The meeting was held under the presidency of W. Downing Bruce, Esq., of Garlet and Kilbagie, who was supported by R. O. Arnot, Esq.; the Rev. P. Stewart, M.A.; Charles Peuney, Esq., jun.; Master Robt. Dalrymple B. Bruce; Mr. James Fairlie; Mr. John Younger, &c. the croupiers were Mr. Watson, Mr. W. McQueen, and Mr. S. N. Morison. The room was very elegantly decorated with flowers, evergreens, pictures, and armour, and numerous relics of interest, among which was the sword of King Robert the Bruce.

The healths of "The Queen" and "The Royal Family," "The Army and Navy," &c., having been duly honoured.

The chairman rose to propose the toast of the evening. He said—In rising to call your attention to the event we are assembled to commemorate, I feel oppressed with a sense of my own unworthiness to fill so exalted a position as you have called upon me to occupy to-night. I am aware that no language I can find can be adequate to set forth the merits of that unrivalled poet, of that real true hearted Scotsman who, one hundred years ago to-day, first opened his eyes upon a world which should henceforth cherish his name among its choicest recollections. If I could catch one spark of that heavenly fire with which he was so prodigally endowed, if I could borrow some of his charm of language, some of his grace and power of expression, I might then set forth, in language worthy of the theme, the eminent obligation that Scotland—that the whole civilised world—are under to Robert Burns. How grandly shows the unity of Scotland's sons, the innate affinities which bind them into one great brotherhood. There is scarcely a village in the land which is not, on this remarkable evening, holding high revel with the poet, singing his songs, and listening to the praises of his genius, and not alone throughout Scotland, but everywhere where Scotchmen are located—and where, I ask, throughout the wide world, where dangers are to be dared or glory is to be won, are they not to be found first among the foremost? Everywhere is this day being kept as a day of festivity, held sacred to joyful though chastened recollections. In the metropolis of the south there is a celebration on a scale befitting the dignity of that city; and on the continent of Europe, in Ireland, Canada, in the United States, in far-off New Zealand, in Australia, men are keeping the Burns' Centenary with a fervour equal to that which is distinguishing the anniversary at home. Nay, even under the burning sun of India, our gallant fellow-countrymen who have been cheered by the matchless melodies of the bard when in bivouac, or inspired by them with fresh courage when on the battle field, seek an evening's relaxation from the toil of war to think of home and Robert Burns." After an eloquent tribute to the transcendent genius of the bard, Mr. Bruce continued:—"While the love of Burns resides in the souls of the people, this country can never retrograde, can never sink into effeminacy, can never lose the high position it has won against such overwhelming odds in the strife of nations, for no one can love Burns's works without loving what is noble, what is generous, what is manly, what is truthful and exalting. Gentlemen standing before you as I do this evening, not merely as chairman of this meeting but as Master of the Alloa St. John's Lodge, recollecting the auspices under which this gathering is held, and seeing around me so many of my Masonic Brethren, I cannot omit an allusion to what was a distinguished feature in Burns's career—his genuine devotion to Masonry. A heart like his, perpetually yearning to draw the bonds of human brotherhood closer—an intellect like his, ceaselessly thirsting for more light upon the abstruse problems which encircle humanity—could not fail to seek early admittance into the Order, which joins the search after occult knowledge with the liveliest exercise of practical friendship. To that Order he solicited and gained admission, in the bloom of his manhood, and to that Order he remained a devotedly attached adherent to the day of his death. It is but fair to state that his devotion to the mystic brotherhood, like virtue, brought with it its own recompense, for to that Order he owed some of the brightest friendships and nearly all the success he obtained through life. It may interest my non-Masonic friends to know that Burns was first initiated into the mysteries of the Craft at Tarbolton when in the twenty-third year of his age. So congenial to his enthusiastic disposition was the performance of the customary

exercises of Masonry, that for years he was scarcely ever absent from a Lodge meeting. He was raised to a post of dignity and honour in the Craft, and in the course of one of his poems he alludes with much complacency to the fact that he

" Oft, honoured with supreme command,  
Presided o'er the Sons of Light."

Distinguished men from afar would visit his Lodge to see how the poet performed the duties of the chair, and Professor Dugald Stewart, amongst others, has left on record a testimony of the pleasure he experienced in observing the tact, discretion, and ability with which the poet went through the duties of that arduous post. When Burns first went to Edinburgh his Masonic character made him at once free of the world of literature and fashion, for nearly all the men of rank and the literary men then resident in the capital were ardent Masons. Within the circle of the fraternity his rare poetical gifts were at once most warmly acknowledged. The Canongate Kilwinning elected him their poet laureate, and a full length portrait of the bard is now placed above the seat of honour reserved for him by the side of the Master's chair in the interesting hall of that ancient Lodge. For myself, when I remember the enthusiasm with which the immortal bard devoted himself to advance the interests of the Craft, I feel myself more and more encouraged to follow so eminent an example, and you who, while professing your admiration of Burns, yet shrink from associating yourself with the fraternity to which he was so proud to belong, I would urgently advise you to free yourselves from such inconsistency, and seek the earliest opportunity of becoming in form and reality what every true Scotsman must be in heart, a sincere Mason." The president here introduced an interesting account of Burns's visit to this part of the country, taken from Dr. Adair's notes of a tour made in company with the poet. He concluded in the following words:—"Gentlemen, I fear I have trespassed too long on your attention. But when the subject is one so dear to the Scotsman's heart, as that of Burns, the temptation to be prolix is almost irresistible. Burns is not like most other great poets, a cold abstraction, in whose personal history we cannot feel more than a limited interest. The brief tragic story of the life of the Scottish bard goes direct to our hearts. We follow the poet from his lowly birth in the humble cottage on the roadside not far from Ayr, through the loves and disappointments, the joys and sorrows and struggles of his youth, till that dark hour when, in the bitter gloom of his misfortunes, he had resolved to seek, in a distant land, those means of subsistence which seemed to be denied him at home. When the subsequent treacherous gleam of sunshine crossed the path, and he seemed to be entering on the high road of temporal prosperity, with the temple of fame opening its shining gates to the proud tread of the peasant poet, we watch his splendid and dazzling career with feelings of interest and concern. In the dismal struggle that ensued, our hearts overflow with sympathy for the sufferer, sinking under accumulated disappointments and writhing under the consequences of those errors of conduct, which the very brilliancy of his genius had led him into. When the strong man sank in solitude and suffering, struck down in the very prime of his manhood how it would have cheered him on his melancholy deathbed to have foreseen that his country would have been kind to his feelings, and just to his memory, and would keep the centenary of his birth in a way that no other poet's centenary had been kept before. Gentlemen, I maintain that this great celebration is most honourable to the Scottish people, as a proof of their hearty sympathy with all that is upright, manly, noble, and truthful in the character of one of the best, noblest, and most famous of their representative men; and, as a patriot, I can entertain no higher wish for my country than that the spirit which has prompted this great Burns Centenary of 1859, may survive in this beloved land for ever, to stimulate all coming generations to high thoughts and heroic acts. Gentlemen, I now invite you to join with me in drinking, in solemn silence, to the memory of our great national bard—Robert Burns. (Loud cheers).

Several appropriate toasts followed, among which were "The Poets of England and Ireland," "The Poets of Scotland," "The Scottish Peasantry," &c.

Bro. Farlie, in proposing the health of the chairman, said, he thought it most

appropriate that they should have a Bruce presiding at this great demonstration—the more especially as Mr. Bruce had interested himself so much in the Alloa Lodge of Freemasons—first, when he was an officer in the Highland Borderers, afterwards as Proxy Master, and now as Master of the Lodge.

Mr. J. Y. S. Kirk, from Canada, gave the “Alloa Lodge of Freemasons,” replied to by the Chairman.

This was followed by the song—“Hey the merry Masons,” followed by “Auld Langsyne,” by the vocalists, the company appropriately joining in the chorus—and thus closed a very happy and agreeably meeting.

**ABERDOUR.**—This ancient barony exhibited a spirit of enthusiasm on the 25th unrivalled since the time when Mortimer Vipont and the Monk of St. Colme held high festival in the castle of Aberdour. Callon's Hotel was filled with an enthusiastic company. The chair was occupied by Bro. Goodsir.

**BATHGATE.**—The brethren of the mystic tie held a meeting and supper in their respective Lodge rooms, to commemorate the centenary of Bro. Burns.

**CUPAR.**—The festivities connected with the centenary commenced on the night of Monday the 24th. The Masonic Brethren of St. John's Lodge supped together at a late hour on that evening, with the view of sitting until the advent of the great anniversary, and welcoming it with the earliest honours. When twelve o'clock struck, the R.W.M., Bro. Nicholson, proposed “The Memory of Robert Burns,” remarking that, if not the first, they were certainly among the foremost, in celebrating the centenary of the poet's birth.

**DUMFERMLINE.**—The Masonic bodies dined in Saint John's Hall—Bro. A. Beveridge, Depute Master, in the chair, supported by Bro. Thomas Stevenson, sen., Master of the Union Lodge, and Sir Arthur Halket. About fifty dined together.

**DUNBAR.**—A meeting was got up by the Dunbar Castle Lodge. Bro. Alexander Wood, R.W.M., occupied the chair, supported by Bros. John Anderson, W. H. Mitchie, Alexander Lindsay, Robert Cossar, Drs. Turnbull, Dunlop, &c. The toast of the evening was proposed by the chairman in an excellent speech. The other gentlemen intrusted with toasts acquitted themselves in a most creditable manner. The proceedings terminated at twelve o'clock by the whole company joining in “Auld Lang Syne.” No similar meeting, in respect of numbers or enthusiasm, has taken place in Dunbar for many years, and none has given greater satisfaction to all concerned.

**HADDINGTON.**—There was a dinner in the George Inn, at which Provost Roughead presided, and Bros. Robert Richardson, Master of the Mason Lodge, and Hope Fentonbarns acted as croupiers. A considerable number of the company wore the insignia of the Masonic body, and nearly eighty gentlemen were present. Provost Roughead passed some high encomiums on our national bard, and stated how glad he was that Haddington was not behind the other towns in the kingdom in doing homage to his genius, particularly as the poet's brother Gilbert resided long in the immediate neighbourhood; and his mother's last resting-place was at Bolton.

**ROTHESAY.**—The Burns Centenary was here celebrated by the Brethren of the St. John's Lodge of Freemasons, who commemorated the day by a supper in Bro. Grieve's hotel—Bro. Robert Crawford, R.W.M., in the chair.

**STIRLING.**—The Stirling Lodge, in all about forty, dined together in their Lodge room. Particulars have not been received.

## INDIA.

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LAHORE.—A meeting of Free and Accepted Masons was held on Wednesday, December 8th, to consider the advisability of opening a Lodge in the Punjab, and the result has been an application to the Provincial Grand Master for a warrant. The new Lodge will indulge in the euphonious title of Hope and Perseverance, Bro. H. D. Sandeman being nominated W.M., and Bros. Ball and Egerton, Senior and Junior Wardens for the first year. We are given to understand that the W.M., above named, besides being a P.M. of other Lodges, holds high rank as a Royal Arch Mason, and is also the Provincial Head of Knights Templar, Rosierucians, and 30th degree Masons of Bengal. He has also served the charities, and is a Past Grand Steward of England.—*Lahore Chronicle.*

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## TURKEY

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CONSTANTINOPLE.—*Oriental Lodge* (No. 988).—The usual monthly meeting of this rapidly increasing Lodge was held on the 27th December, 1858, St. John's Day, when the installation of the W.M. for the succeeding year was most correctly and efficiently performed; the officers of the Lodge were duly invested, and took their chairs of office accordingly. After the usual business was transacted, the Brethren assembled at the banquet. Amongst the visitors present, were six French Brethren from the Lodge *l'Etoile de Bosphore*, headed by their worthy and talented W.M.; Bro. Goodall, of an American Lodge, and Bro. J. P. Brown, American Consul. The evening was enlivened by songs and speeches from the Brethren. Bro. Goodall, in the course of the evening, in returning thanks for the toast "Our Visitors," gave one of the most excellent lectures on the noble institution of Masonry that ever fell to a brother's good fortune to listen to. Bro. Scribe, W.M. of Lodge *l'Etoile de Bosphore*, also gave a truthful disquisition on the manifold beauties and benefits of our noble Order. The banquet closed in perfect harmony, the Brethren having passed one of those soul cementing evenings in which Masonry is so fruitful.

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## MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

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### MASONIC BALL AT HANLEY.

This event passed off on Thursday night last, with very great *éclat*, and to the entire approval of the visitors; and from the fact of its being the first ball the Hanley Lodge has held on its own responsibility, augurs well for the promoters, and must give them confidence for another at some future occasion. It was particularly noticed there was none of that exclusiveness that so often spoil the pleasures of a ball, but that each vied with the other to make it agreeable. The arrangements of both music and dancing were perfect. This must have been highly satisfactory to the committee, who are in high glee at their success, and at the prospect of a handsome surplus. The committee also express themselves much obliged to C. Meigh, Esq., and Mr. Whittingham, for the use of part of the decorations that graced the room at the breakfast of the late Mayor. The appearance of the room was all that could be desired, nor could we have conceived that the dingy and dirty walls and sombre appearance of the Town Hall could have been so metamorphosed. The dancing was kept up with very great spirit until four a.m., and the invariable impression of the visitors was, that they never spent a more pleasant evening.

## THE WEEK.

On Wednesday, Her Majesty and the Prince, with the two Princesses, went to the Haymarket Theatre. On Thursday, after the opening of Parliament, the Queen, accompanied by her family, returned to Windsor. On Saturday, the Queen received the gratifying intelligence that the recovery of the Princess Frederick William was so far advanced, that no more bulletins will be issued.—In France, the preparations for war are going on with increased energy in every department of the naval and military services. The Emperor is evidently bent on war somewhere, while his ministers are anxious to preserve peace, no doubt being fully convinced that their individual interests point out a pacific course. The *Daily News* having asserted that France could only spare 130,000 men for an expeditionary corps, the *Constitutionnel* has been ordered to prove that the Emperor has a disposable force, for foreign service, of half a million. It is said that the Duke de Montebello, not Count de Persigny, will replace the Duke of Malakoff at the Court of St. James's. It seems to be certain that Pélissier is about to assume the command of the army of Paris. Prince Napoleon having distinguished himself so greatly as a Crimean general, will now, it appears, receive the title of High Admiral. A pamphlet has just appeared, destined to make a considerable sensation. The title is "L'Empereur Napoléon et l'Italie." The writer is announced to be M. de la Guéronnière. The moral of it will be, that although the Emperor desires peace, things in Italy cannot remain as they are; *ergo*, no alternative but war. Prince Napoleon and the Princess Clotilda arrived at the Tuileries at half past three o'clock on Thursday afternoon. A cabinet council was held at the Tuileries on Saturday the Emperor presiding, at which his Majesty's speech for the opening of the legislative body, was communicated to the ministers. The speech itself, as a literary composition, is as unlike a Queen's speech as imagination could conceive, and has entire reference to the government of other countries. The Emperor begins by alluding to disquietude which prevails, but which is not shared in by the great bulk of his people. He defends the policy of France, and re-asserts the Bordeaux declaration about peace. He boasts his steady adherence to the English alliance, and speaks with great favour of Russia. But of Austria, he does not hesitate to say how much he has been at variance with that power. His reference to Piedmont justifies all that has been said concerning the close union between himself and the government of that country. Then came Italy. The emperor believes Italy is in an anomalous position, but that no sufficient motive exists for war. He hopes that peace will not be disturbed; and, in conclusion, he appeals to God, his conscience, and posterity.—The generalissimo of the Austrians, in the anticipated struggle in Italy, will be, it appears certain, the Archduke Albert, son of the celebrated Archduke Charles, who gives every promise of worthily following in the steps of his father. He commands at this moment the army of Hungary. Numerous arrests have been made at Venice. Nevertheless, there has not been any attempt at disorder. On the 26th ult. two fresh battalions of Croats arrived there; they were immediately despatched into the interior. The Messrs. Rothschild have issued propositions for an Austrian loan of £5,000,000, at the price of £80 for every £100 stock, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum; and English capitalists have so poor an opinion of their security, that they will not give more than 78½ for it. Reinforcements continue to pour into the Austrian garrisons in Italy. Meantime, troops are being withdrawn from Hungary, to strengthen the Italian corps, which would seem to indicate that the government have no fear of a rising of the Magyars. The union of the German states against the common enemy is a popular topic in Vienna.

The *Austrian Gazette*, in an article headed "Peace or War?" says—"We will defend ourselves to the best of our power, for that is our right and our duty, and we have the means of doing so. We shall know how to fight, to conquer, or die like men."—A rumour is current that the King of Sardinia is about to marry a Russian princess. The *Pays* publishes a letter from Turin, which states the fact positively. The name of the princess in question is the Grand Duchess Maria Nicolaievna, the eldest daughter of the Emperor Nicholas, and widow of the Duke de Leuchtenberg, who died November 1, 1852; the Grand Duchess is now at Rome, where it is alleged the Marquis Alfieri has succeeded in negotiating the marriage. The government continues the most active preparations for war, which is considered at Turin to be inevitable. The Sardinian ministry has presented to the chamber a project for a loan of 53,000,000 lire, to enable the country to meet the extraordinary armaments of Austria in Lombardy, the concentration of troops on its frontiers and on the Po and the Ticino, and the provisioning of many localities near those of Piedmont.—A despatch, dated Corfu, January 29th, says—"The members of the Ionian parliament have handed over to Mr. Gladstone the address of the committee to the Queen, with the request to lay before the great Powers their desire for union with Greece."—One of the Madrid journals having asserted that Spain cannot avoid taking part in the conflict which appears not unlikely to arise in Europe, especially if England interferes in it, the semi-official *Correspondencia* asserts that the present cabinet is determined to maintain the strictest neutrality. The journals contradict the report that the Duke of Montpensier contemplates leaving Spain. A telegram of the 3rd states that the law on the press had been presented to the chamber. The security required from the journals varies from 3000 to 6000 piastres.—News has come from Naples of a conspiracy in the fleet there, not quite so alarming as the mutiny at the Nore in 1798, but of sufficient dimensions to occasion the seizure of twenty naval officers, who have taken the berths lately vacated by Poerio and his eighteen companions. The jewels and other precious objects of the royal palace of Naples have been sent no one knows where. The king's brothers have become excessively familiar. They evidently wish to grow popular. Several officers of engineers and of the navy have been arrested and confined in the new castle of St. Elmo. The military club at the Gigante has been closed, and General de Agostinis, the king's secretary, has been disgraced. The king is better. Mines are said to have been found under the Swiss barracks.—In the Prussian chamber of deputies, on the 3rd, the president stated that the Count Pourtales had resigned his seat, having been appointed ambassador to Paris.—In the free city of Hamburg there has been a union of the conservative and democratic party, who, in two meetings that were called by the leading members declared their determination to obtain the recognition of the constitution of 1812.—A letter from Rome, of the 23rd ult., says,—"The event of the day in this city is the address of the students of Padua and Pavia to those of the Roman university. The corridors and vestibule were covered with copies of this document. The address is an appeal to union, in view of great coming events, in which all young Italians ought to take part. It concludes with *vivats* for Italy, and Victor Emmanuel II.—According to advices from the Caucasus, an attempt of the Russians to take the town of Gelendshik on the Circassian coast, by surprise, has failed.—A letter from Berno, dated January 29th, says:—"The Federal Assembly has been closed. The president, in his speech, said—'We will maintain our independence as a united and armed people, but without giving offence to neighbouring states.'"—A telegraphic despatch informs us that the Portuguese chambers have unanimously voted ninety contos of reis to the Infanta Mary Anne, and thirty contos of reis for the celebration of the marriage.—A letter from Munich announces that the session of the chambers of Bavaria was opened on the 20th by Prince Luitpold, brother of the king. No speech was made on the occasion. The real opening took place a fortnight before, as, according to the constitution of Bavaria, the chambers first assemble to form their bureau, after which they are convoked for the royal sitting.—The *Dresden Journal* contradicts the news of the Saxon ministry having resigned, and declares that there has not been, and will not in its opinion be, any ministerial crisis during the present parliamentary session.—Two principal ringleaders in the massacre of the Christians at Jeddah

the chief of the police and the chief of the Adramonts, having been condemned to death, were executed on the 12th of January. The Kaimakan and the others accused have been sent to Constantinople, where their fate will be decided upon. Advices from Constantinople, to the 26th ult., state that the report lately current respecting the dismissal of the minister of finance was premature, and it is asserted that the publication of the decree dismissing him was prevented by Riza Pasha. Three hundred merchants have signed a petition against stock-jobbing, which petition will be upheld by the ambassadors of foreign powers. Hostilities have broken out between the Montenegrins and the Turks.—By a telegram from Bucharest, of the 5th, we are informed that Prince Alexander Couza, the newly elected hospodar of Moldavia, has been elected hospodar of Wallachia also.—In the American senate a resolution has been introduced for the transport of the mails between New York and Liverpool, and New York, Bremen, and Havre, *vid* Southampton. The president had sent in a message in reply to the resolution calling for copies of any correspondence in relation to the purchase of Cuba, which has not been made public. He says that no such correspondence has taken place which has not already been communicated to congress. The message was referred to the committee on foreign relations. A general impression prevailed that congress would place \$30,000 at the disposal of the president for diplomatic purposes connected with the acquisition of Cuba. Also that an appropriation would be made for a large increase in the United States navy; and that these two measures would necessarily involve a loan. On the 21st ult., Mr. Farnworth, of Illinois, failed to obtain leave to introduce a resolution contemplating the annexation of the British American provinces, and instructing the committee on foreign affairs to inquire into the expediency of initiating measures to secure them by honourable treaty. In Washington a collision had occurred in the street between the Hon. G. Taylor, of the house of representatives, and Mr. C. C. Walden, late of the New York custom-house, in consequence of an offensive remark made by the latter. Blows were exchanged. Later dates from New York announce that both the senate and the house of representatives of the United States had reported in favour of the purchase of Cuba.—A riot has occurred at Callao in consequence of the opposition of a great number of carpenters, builders, &c., to the landing of a number of readymade houses, which had been brought from the United States for the erection of certain streets and squares to be built at Chorillas by the contractors for the Chorillas Railway. On the 15th a mob of many hundreds assembled to prevent the landing of a portion of these houses, but General Castilla having arrived with troops from Lima, order was restored. Business was entirely suspended in consequence of the riots. The *Callao Shipping List* has gone dead, and the editor has gone on a fishing tour, that being probably the most profitable.—The latest private advices from Hayti, mention that the Emperor, Solouque, after having advanced with his army within two leagues of St. Marc, had been twice beaten by the republican army under General Geffrard, and forced to retreat into Port-au-Prince, which he entered on the 10th ult. His proclamation confirms this intelligence, and, we think, speaks the language of despair. From Jaemel the intelligence is, that at the last moment the news had reached there that Solouque was on the point of abdication, which he was willing to do by convention; but it was thought that, the republican forces having the entire ascendancy, he would be dethroned unconditionally, with, maybe, his life as the forfeiture.—The receipt of papers and letters from India by the overland mail, gives us details of three defeats of the rebels under Tantia Topee, Feroze Shah effected a junction with Maun Singh at Syepore. Lord Clyde had advanced on Baraitch, and, having driven in the advanced guard of the rebels, entered it on the 20th December. On the following day the Begum offered to surrender, but Lord Clyde finding she was prevented by her troops from doing so, advanced and encountered Beni Madho, and dispersed his force. Lord Clyde met with a serious accident; his horse stumbled under him, threw him, and dislocated his shoulder. The limb, however, was soon restored to its position, and the gallant general, carried in a doolie, followed Beni Madho to Medjidiah, from whence he drove him with great loss. The papers contain accounts of several other successes of our troops. Calcutta telegraphic despatches mention a total defeat, with great slaughter inflicted on Tantia Topee by Colonel Benson, at a place called Zagapore,

after a hot pursuit of one hundred and forty miles in five days, but the telegram does not say that the slippery rebel chief was captured. The Kirwee rebels had been dispersed by Genl. Whitlock, and their leaders Rajah Govind and his brother, were slain. The China news is very meagre.—A fire has occurred in the factory of Hine, Mundells, and Co., at Nottingham, the flames lighting the country for many miles. The damage sustained is immense; all the machinery is destroyed, together with the factory and the unfinished goods. Several hundreds of work-people are thrown out of employment.—An inquest was held last week at Camberwell, on the body of Mary Ann Hearn. James, the brother of the deceased, being about to go out shooting, had laid a gun loaded on the table, and while in the act of lifting it, the weapon went off. The sister received the contents in her head, and expired. The jury returned a verdict of "death by misadventure."—A Court of Criminal Appeal sat on Saturday to hear the case "The Queen v. Skeen and Freeman." The prisoners had been convicted at the Central Criminal Court of feloniously appropriating bills of lading, in reference to a quantity of timber, and this was an appeal against the conviction, on the ground that the "disclosures" which they made before the Court of Bankruptcy, and which they were obliged to make under the Bankrupt Act, had been, in violation of that act, used against them, and that therefore the conviction was bad. The judgment of the Court was delivered by Lord Campbell in favour of the conviction, and as the majority of the judges were in favour of the conviction, it was affirmed.—The application for a new trial on the ground of misdirection as to the law of condonation in the extraordinary case, "Keats v. Keats and Montezuma," was heard before a full bench in the Divorce Court on Saturday. The Court affirmed the direction of the judge and the verdict of the jury, and refused a new trial. A decree of dissolution of the marriage was then ordered to issue.—The Court of Bankruptcy was occupied on Saturday with a petition to wind up the affairs of the British and Foreign Smelting Company (Limited), under the Joint-stock Companies' Act, 1856-57. After hearing counsel in the case the commissioner said he entertained no doubt of the insolvency of the company, and the order must go. Order to wind up accordingly—costs to stand over until the official liquidator has surplus assets in hand.—A man has been arrested for the murder of Wilson, at Sheffield, which we mentioned last week. He is a brewer's traveller, named George Plant, and is said to have been drunk at the time. The coroner's jury have found a verdict of "wilful murder" against him.—At Manchester a beer-shop keeper and funeral mite, named Robinson, has murdered his wife, hanged himself, and attempted to set fire to his house, under the combined influence of drink and jealousy. When the crime was discovered the man and his wife were quite dead.—At the Central Criminal Court, Thomas Williams and Robert Frost were indicted for burglary and wounding Alfred Evershed, a policeman, in the house they had broken into. The constable had discovered them in the act of robbing the house, and he at once seized Williams, when both the prisoners made a most savage attack upon him, cutting and wounding him so severely, that, becoming faint from loss of blood, he was forced to let them go. They were speedily apprehended, however, and were now found guilty; they had also been previously convicted. The judge ordered sentence of death to be recorded, intimating that they must suffer ten years' penal servitude. His lordship ordered 20*l.* to be given to Evershed for his gallant conduct on the occasion.—Thomas Birchmore, the St. Pancras defaulter, was tried on several counts. On some he was acquitted, and on others found guilty. He was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.—At the adjourned inquest on the body of Mr. Burrows, killed in a quarrel with Mr. Pews, in his own shop in the Hampstead-road, the jury returned a verdict of "manslaughter." Pews was at once taken into custody, and brought before Mr. Long, at Marylebone police court, when he was committed for trial on the charge, bail to the amount of £200 being accepted.—Colonel Sir Henry Knight Storks, K.C.B., is appointed to succeed Mr. Gladstone as Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, and will, it is said, set out this week for his destination. Sir Henry was Assistant Adjutant General at the Cape of Good Hope during the Kaffir war in 1846-7, and was commandant at Scutari; he was recently secretary

for military correspondence to the secretary of state for war.—On Wednesday, at the London Tavern, a dinner was given to Mr. C. Davis, the huntsman of the Queen's staghounds. About two hundred and fifty gentlemen were present in hunting costume. William Vansittart, M.P. for Windsor, occupied the chair.—Mr. Commissioner Phillips expired this day week, at the age of seventy-two. On Monday he sat in the Insolvent Court, and was seized with a fit of apoplexy on that day. He died without recognising the members of his family. Charles Phillips will be known by his "Recollections of Curran," a work on which he bestowed much labour. His "Visitation Thoughts on the Abolition of Capital Punishment," has been very successful, having gone through several editions.—The address in both houses of parliament, in answer to the speech from the throne, was carried without opposition. In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Earl Granville observed on the absence in the speech of any indication of the policy ministers intended to pursue as to the Ionian Islands. Lord Brougham spoke at some length on the state of the continent. The Earl of Derby ably and eloquently defended the policy of his government, which is one of neutrality as far as concerns Italy. On Monday, the Lord Chancellor introduced an instalment of the government measure for effecting an alteration in the law of debtor and creditor. It is proposed to abolish the present distinction between insolvency and bankruptcy; and other important alterations are intended, to which Lords Brougham and Campbell gave a general but not unreserved approval. In the House of Commons, on Thursday, Mr. Disraeli said that the government measure of reform would be brought forward after the disposal of other important questions, particularly the state of the national defences. He affirmed his belief in the wish of the emperor of the French to preserve peace, if possible. Lord Palmerston approved the foreign policy of the government. On Friday, there was an interesting debate on India, and its capabilities of supplying the demand for cotton in this country. Lord Stanley said that notwithstanding the deficient revenue of the Indian empire, the government were determined to continue the construction of railways and other works of public utility. On Monday, Mr. Disraeli announced the intention of government to bring forward their reform bill before Easter. Mr. Walpole said that government would not be justified in remitting any part of the sentence on Strachan and Paul, the fraudulent bankers. Mr. Bright moved for a return of various statistics illustrative of the representation. Mr. Walpole explained that it was not proposed to alter the Prayer-book, but only the occasional services appended to it.

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#### PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

WE do not hear any further report of Mr. E. T. Smith opening Her Majesty's Theatre; on the contrary we are now told that it is definitely settled that his Italian opera will be given at Drury Lane. It is said that Mlle. Titjens has been engaged for his company.—At Covent Garden we hear of the American opera "Rip Van Winkle" being in active rehearsal; the music is said to be agreeable and original. Mr. Gye resumes operations at this theatre on the 19th of March with a magnificent Italian company, and the finest band in Europe.—At the Princess's, "Louis XI" and "Midsummer Night's Dream" have been the latest revivals. The management of the theatre passes, as has been stated, to Mr. Augustus Harris, on the approaching termination of Mr. Kean's tenancy. The new lessee has already made some engagements of importance, among which are those of the favourite actress Mrs. Charles Young and Mr. Walter Montgomery, an actor from Manchester.—Mr. Tom Taylor's comedy "An Unequal Match," has been reproduced at the Haymarket; the pretty spectacle, "Undine," continues to attract. A new three-act comedy, by Mr. Stirling Coyne, is understood to be in course of preparation, and will be produced early in March.—To make up for what we fear must be considered the failure of "The Borgia Ring," Mr. Webster has put forth some attractive announcements. Mr. Wright will make his first appearance since his illness, on Monday, and Mr. and Mrs. Wigan are engaged. Planché's delightful

burlesque, "The Invisible Prince," is to be produced with great splendour.—Madame Celeste has announced her benefit for this day week: a new play will be among the attractions offered. Mr. Falconer is also engaged upon a new comedy for the Lyceum.—Mr. Robson has been obliged to discontinue playing in two pieces on the same evening, the exertion being too great for his strength. On Monday was acted for the first time, a new farce, "I've written to Brown." we have seen many better, and a few worse. It is of course from the French.

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### NOTICES.

THE Brethren and others are requested to notice, that George W. Bower has no connection with the *Freemasons' Magazine*; and all persons are cautioned against paying him anything on our account.

Emblematic covers for the last volume of the *Magazine* for 1858 are now ready, price 1s.; or the volumes (containing twenty-six numbers) may be had bound, price 14s. 6d., or with gilt edges 15s. 6d. Brethren can have their volumes bound at the office if they desire it, for 1s. 6d., or with gilt edges 2s. 6d.

Advertisers will oblige by forwarding their favours at the latest by 12 o'clock on Monday morning.

We shall be happy to receive essays or lectures on Masonic subjects<sup>4</sup> returning them (should they not be accepted) if desired.

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### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"H. T. B."—There are Freemasons' Lodges in the Isle of Man, but they do not appear in the English Calendar, because they do not hold under the English constitution. There is no list published of all persons who have been initiated into Masonry; and such a work, if desirable, which we very much doubt, would never be correct for a week at a time.

MASONIC HALLS.—A correspondent writes:—"If the *plans*, and a perspective view of new Masonic halls were given, in wood engravings in the *Magazine*, they would be very interesting. The architect, or the Lodge, would generally go to the expense of the wood block, from which you could have a metal cast taken." If any of our correspondents will forward us the plans and views, with proper explanations, we shall be happy to engrave them.

PROV. GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.—In our list of these officers last week, the name of the Prov. G. Supt. for Durham was wrongly spelled. It should be "Bro. George Andrew Middlemiss."

BRO. JOSEPH BRAITHWAITE informs us that he is no longer a member of the Pannure Lodge, No. 1025, as stated in our report of the Mount Zion Chapter last week. The brother is a member of the Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 227.