

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 15. 1862.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

On Wednesday evening the Festival in aid of this school was held, and proved what must have been equally gratifying to the Chairman of the evening, the Stewards, and the Secretary, who has been indefatigable in his exertions—a bumper; no less than £3522 6s. being announced as the subscriptions, with nineteen lists to come in. We do not like these lists to come in, they rarely produce anything worth notice, but as a rule only prove that there are brethren who are vain enough to serve as Stewards in order to have their names paraded in print, whilst they take no real interest in the Institution they profess to serve. There may, however, be some exceptions to this rule, on the present occasion, and brethren may have gone away with their lists in their pockets for the want of accommodation, for such a scene we never witnessed as that of Wednesday evening.

In addition to the cross table there were five tables extending down the hall, all of which were literally packed with brethren; not only was the gallery (enlarged for the occasion by Bro. Steps) crowded with ladies, but several were provided with seats below the gallery at the extreme end of the hall, and there was scarcely room enough for the waiters to attend to the wants of the guests, whilst numbers of brethren went away unable to gain admission.

When the ladies retired for refreshments whilst the brethren were enjoying (?) their dinner, there was not a room in the tavern large enough to hold them, and they consequently became distributed all over the house.

On the cloth being removed, and the ladies returning, Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., who had obligingly taken the chair in the absence of Lord Leigh (the regular Chairman of the evening) in consequence of the death of his youngest child, proceeded to give the toasts, but it soon became evident that any attempt to be heard, excepting by the few immediately surrounding him, was perfectly futile, owing to the din and buzz of voices prevailing at every table, which all the efforts of the Stewards failed to quell, if indeed they did not add to, the confusion; and consequently when his lordship came to the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," he proposed it without one word of comment—and properly too, for whatever he might have said would not have been listened to. Then we believe there was music; at least we had a programme—but who heard it? A few, perhaps, at the bottom of the hall, but not the majority of the company.

And whose fault was all this—the Stewards for selling too many tickets? No, they only did their best to serve the interests of the Charity. The lessees of the tavern? No, they did all that they could, under the circumstances, to minister to the comfort of the brethren and their lady friends. To whom then? We answer boldly, to the Board of General Purposes, who have been four years considering the extent of their power, during which time a property which has cost the Craft something like £7000 has been lying almost waste, upon which a noble hall, superior to any in London, might have been raised for the accommodation of the brethren at their festivals; and the present hall would afford ample space for the ladies, and the old custom with regard to music at the close of the festival might be advantageously revived. That custom has been given up because the glee room does not afford space for the ladies—as it used to do, fifty years ago, when the Charities were in their infancy, and the monster meetings of the present day were never dreamed of. And not only is the property allowed to continue a waste, but red tapeism seals the temple, which could accommodate the ladies; because of what?—it would desecrate it. Desecrate it! It has been no more consecrated to Masonic rites and ceremonies than has the Hall, or any room in the Tavern. Desecrate it! By what? By music which is not considered a desecration even in our Cathedrals. Four years ago, when Bro. Warren moved to appropriate the Temple to the use of the ladies on occasion of the Festivals, he was answered that those meetings were nearly over for the year, and that ere long, new property having been bought, there could be no doubt such arrangements would be made as would remove all grounds of complaint; and now at the end of four years the Board of General Purposes have made a move by coming to Grand Lodge for further powers. When they will make their next move it is impossible to say, but this we must tell the Board that if something is not done to provide better accommodation, the charities must suffer, for brethren will not serve as Stewards, and exert themselves to get their friends together; and no man of influence will preside over the festivals if they are to present such bear-garden proceedings as those of Wednesday last. There were several members of the Board present, and we trust that they will be urged by the scene then presented, to see if the property cannot be made available to provide fitting accommodation in the future. The Craft is rapidly increasing, both in numbers and influence, whilst the facility of railway travelling brings so many brethren from the country (there were on Wednesday fifty-five from Warwickshire alone), that the accommodation which was ample ten or fifteen years ago is now altogether inadequate.

LIGHT.

(Concluded from page 122.)

When the divine command for the creation of the world and light went forth, its accents echoed through the vast immense, and the whole universe awoke with the shock. Joy was in Heaven, for

"Nor past uncelebrated nor unsung
By the celestial choirs, when orient light
Exhaling first from darkness they beheld.
Birthday of Heaven and earth; with joy and shout,
The hollow universal orb they filled,
And touched their golden harps."

The material light brought forth when darkness and chaos were dispersed, is a symbol of that intellectual illumination which it is the object of Freemasonry to create in the minds of those enrolled under its banners. Look, says Bro. Mackey, look at the moral and intellectual state of the candidate. *There he stands, without our portals, on the threshold of the new life upon which he is soon to enter, in darkness, helplessness, and ignorance, justly is he called a profane, for he is indeed *procul a fano*. Wandering thus amid the errors, and covered with the pollutions of the outer world, he comes enquiringly to our doors, seeking the new birth and asking a withdrawal of the veil which conceals divine truth from his uninitiated sight. This mental illumination of Masonry, this spiritual light, which, after his new birth, is the first demand of the candidate, is but another name for divine truth—the truth of God and the soul, the nature and essence of both which constitute the chief design of all Masonic teaching. And as the chaos and confusion in which, in the beginning, the earth, without form and void, was enwrapped, were dispersed as they sat brooding over the abyss, and order and beauty were established by the supreme command which created material light; so at the proper declaration and in due form, the intellectual chaos and confusion, in which the mind of the Neophyte is involved are dispersed; and the due knowledge of the science and philosophy—the faith and doctrine of Masonry are developed. "A good Mason," says Bro. Rosenberg, "is necessarily a virtuous man; he searches for instruction in the study of science, because the one will be useful to him in this world, the other in a better one." The light he should look for is that which is presented to him when he passes from the profane world to tread the sacred floor of a lodge. When he first presents himself to be initiated, he is like an infant in the womb of his mother; a mere embryo, with members and organs that can scarcely be discovered until he develops himself and assumes the perfect form of a human being. At this period he feels the need of light, frees himself from the narrow circle that surrounds him, bursts open the prison doors and appears on the stage of the world; although it is not without much pain and trouble that he passes through life. In like manner the initiation is accompanied with pain and difficulty. He enters naked into the world and the lodge, and by the aid of an unknown person who assists and supports him, until he finally overcomes all difficulties. The light of a Masons' lodge consists of three greater and three lesser ones, but the light by which every Mason does, or should walk, is that which ever has been, and ever will be, a lantern*

to the feet of the good and pious of all ages. The most prominent object in a lodge, and that which first attracts the attention, is the volume of Sacred Law. This is especially recommended to the notice and study of the newly-initiated brother, as from it he will learn his duty to God, to his neighbour, and to himself. The three senses most peculiarly essential to a Mason are hearing, seeing, and feeling; by hearing, he acquires a knowledge of the lectures; by seeing, he observes the symbols, which read a silent lesson to the observant brother; and by feeling, he handles the implements of Masonry, and discovers a brother in the dark as well as the light. Of all the faculties, sight is the noblest. The structure of the eye and its appurtenances evinces the admirable contrivance of nature for performing all its various external and internal functions, whilst the variety displayed in the eyes of various animals, suited to their several ways of life, clearly demonstrate this organ to be nature's masterpiece. By this sense we distinguish objects, traverse the earth, and find our way across the ocean; nay more, by it we perceive the tempers and dispositions, the passions and affections of our fellow-men; so that, though the tongue may lie and dissemble, the countenance displays the hypocrisy to the discerning eye. In fine, the rays of light which administer to this sense are the most astonishing parts of animated creation. He who has been temporarily deprived of his sight is reduced to the condition of a new-born babe, or of one of those unfortunates whose natural infirmity renders the presence of a conductor indispensably necessary; but when there are no outward objects to distract his attention, it is then that with the eye of reflection he probes the deepest and darkest recesses of his own heart, and discovers his natural imperfections and impurities. "A man who has been deprived of his sight," says Gadicke, "may be introduced into places where he is surrounded by the strangest and rarest objects, without a possibility of his becoming traitor. At the same time those who are in possession of their sight, cannot feel the care of their guides so much as those who are hoodwinked, and who feel that without the constant attention of their conductors they would be much more helpless than they now are; but however many proofs of attention and care they may receive, there is still something left to wish for, and to the question, what is your chief desire, the answer will ever assuredly be 'light.'" The fixed lights in a lodge were formerly represented by three windows, supposed to be in every room where a lodge is held, referring to the cardinal points of the compass, according to the antique rules of Masonry. There was one in the E., another in the W., and another in the S., to light men to, at, and from, labour; but there was none in the N., because the sun darts no rays from thence. The light of a Master Mason is darkness visible, serving only to express that gloom which rests on the prospect of futurity. It is that mysterious veil which the Eureka of human wisdom cannot penetrate, unless assisted by that light which is from above. One of the ancient names of Freemasonry was lux or light; this luminous principle is represented in our lodges by the first great light, and symbolized by three lesser lights, which, being material, palpably point out a reference to the operation of light on the mind. The lights of Heaven in

their order are all applied to give us conceptions of the power of the Almighty, and to show us the glory of his kingdom. Words are changeable, language has been confounded, and men in different parts of the world are unintelligible to each other; but the visible works of nature speak to us now the same sense as they spoke to Adam in Paradise, and their language will last, without being corrupted, as long as the sun and moon endureth. "If we take the word of God, says Jones (*Fig. Lang. Script.*) we have a sound which gives us no idea, and if we trace it through all the languages of the world we find nothing but arbitrary sounds, with variety of dialect and accent, all of which leave us where we began, and reach no farther than the ear. But when it is said 'God is a Sun and a Shield,' then things are added to words, and we understand that the Being signified by the word of God is bright and powerful; unmeasurable in height, inaccessible in glory; the author of light to the understanding, the fountain of life to the soul; our security against all terror, our defence against all danger. See here the difference between the language of things. If an image is presented to the mind when a sound is heard by the ear, then we begin to understand; and a single object of our sight, in a figurative acceptation, gives us a large and instructive lesson, such as could never be conveyed by all the possible combinations of sounds." Thus every Mason must read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest all that he sees in the lodge; for everything which is there visibly displayed is invested with a moral signification, which may be beneficial to himself and others. The lodge has been compared to the world, and the tessellated flooring to the variegated carpet spread by nature over the earth; as in the lodge, so in the face of nature the true Mason "finds tongues in trees, books in the running streams, sermons in stones, and good in every thing," for as Martin Tupper hath it:—

"That which may profit and amuse is gathered from the volume of creation,

For every chapter therein teemeth with the playfulness of wisdom.

The elements of all things are the same, tho' nature hath mixed them with a difference;

And learning delighteth to discover the affinity of seeming opposites."

To do this, however, we require light; not only the visible material light of day, but also the light which enlightens the understanding, since—

"Wandering oft, with brute unconscious gaze,
Man marks not Thee, marks not the mighty hand,
That, ever busy, wheels the silent spheres."

—THOMPSON.

Masonry unveils this light, and being "the science which comprehends all other sciences," she unfolds to the eyes of her votaries many things which escape the eyes of those otherwise observant. The Light and Redeemer of the world said John (xi., 9, 10) "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day he stumbleth not; because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night he stumbleth, because there is no light in him." Every Mason is early taught how to divide his time; a part for the service of God and a distressed worthy brother, a part for our usual avocations, and a part for refreshment and sleep. Those who walk in the day do not stumble, but those who walk in the night

do stumble, because they have no light. Man is a compound animal; as regards his carnal body he is earthy, like a brute beast, but that which distinguishes him from a beast is the soul, or the light of reason implanted in him by the Divine Creator. All men, however clever they may be, understand things only by the light which God throws on those things, for all knowledge comes from God; he must explain and enlighten us in all things, for without his light men walk in darkness, and must stumble. Are we in the light? if not, alas for us; but how shall we know? St. John says, "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness till now, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because darkness has blinded his eyes." Here let me quote the words of a divine of the present day, I know not whether he be member of the Craft, but I am sure he is a Mason in spirit and doctrine. "Hating our brother, covetousness, which is indeed hating our brother, for it teaches us to prefer our good to our neighbour's good, to fatten ourselves at our neighbours expense, to get his work, his custom, his money, away from him to ourselves; bigotry, which makes men hate and despise those who differ from them in religion; spite and malice against those who have injured us; suspicious and dark distrust of our neighbours and of mankind in general; selfishness, which sets us always standing on our own rights, makes us always ready to take offence, always ready to think that people mean to insult us or injure us, and makes us moody, dark, peevish, always thinking about ourselves, and our plans, or our own pleasures, shut up as it were within ourselves. All these sins, in proportion as any one gives way to them, darken the eyes of a man's soul. "One of the first great principles Freemasonry inculcates is brotherly love; her light is pure, as emanating from the source of all purity and perfection; and Masons, remembering that they are brought out of darkness into light, are admonished to let the light which is in them so shine before all men that their good works may be seen, and the great fountain of that light glorified. Let us then, in the words of the Psalmist, pray to the Great Architect of the Universe, "O send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead me, and bring me unto thy holy hill and thy dwelling," "for with thee is the well of life, and in thy light shall we see light," "and we shall one day, if found worthy, so defined, see our God face to face."—R. B. W. -

MASONIC FACTS.

(Continued from page 188.)

121. John de Ebor, Abbot of Fountains (1203 to 1211), laid the foundations, and began to build the Abbey Church (Choir).—*Leland's Collectanea*, vol. iii., p. 109. Figs. 29-41.

122. The foundation-stone of Whalley Abbey, laid on the morrow of St. Barnabas, in 1296, by Henry de Lacy in person. A great part of the Abbey, and the whole precincts were consecrated by Thomas, Bishop of Candida on 4th of the Kalends of March, 1306.—*Whittaker's Craven*, p. 154.

123. "Fratr Roberto de Ulmo magistro ingeniatori, ad vadia Regis, ix. den. per diem, &c."—*Lib. Garderobæ Edward Primi*, Anno 1299.

124. John de Brampton erected the transept of

FOUNTAIN'S ABBEY.

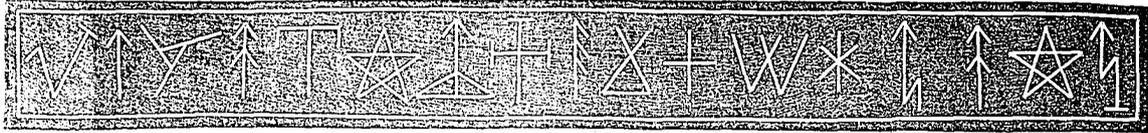


FIG. 30.—NAVE, A.D. 1150. Pillars on North Side.

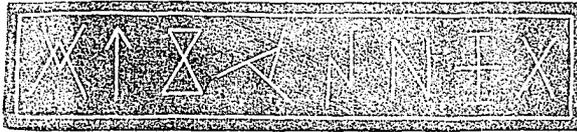


FIG. 31.—LADY CHAPEL, A.D. 1220.

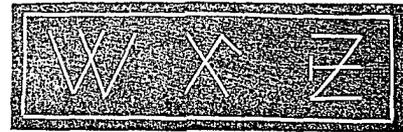


FIG. 32.—TOWER, NORTH TRANSEPT, A.D. 1500.

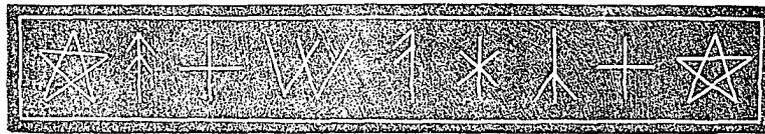


FIG. 33.—CHAPELS IN SOUTH TRANSEPT, A.D. 1146.

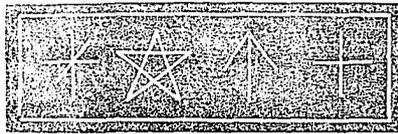


FIG. 34.—SOUTH TRANSEPT, 1146.

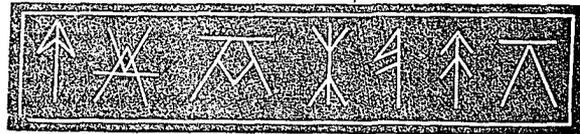


FIG. 35.—SOUTH AISLE OF NAVE, A.D. 1150.

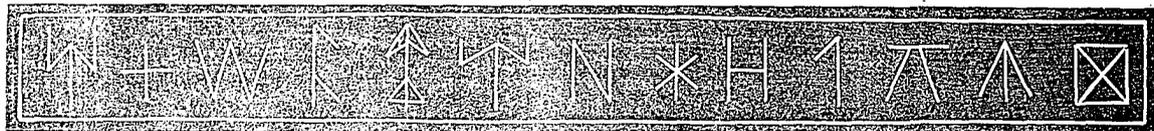


FIG. 36.—REFECTORY, A.D. 1170.

Whitby Abbey about A.D., 1300.—*Young's Hist. of Whitby*, vol. i., note p. 343.

125. "Among the workmen we find the masons or cementarii separated into classes as early as the beginning of the 13th century; they were cutters and sculptors of freestone, layers, or as they were termed vernacularly 'leggeres,' and setters; they either worked by the piece, or at fixed daily wages, with an extra allowance in some cases, as metesilver, but at the highest rate no metesilver or corrody was given. In extensive buildings they worked in gangs of twenty men, whose foreman was called Vintemarius." (See *Account of Works, Carnarvon Castle*, 14 Edward 1st, 1286).—*Hudson Turner's Domestic Architecture*, Introduction, vol i., p. 33.

* 126. Henry, surnamed Lathom, or Latomus, or the Stone-cutter, rebuilt the chapter-house, dormitory, refectory, and other parts of the Abbey of Evesham, at the end of 13th century.—*History of Evesham*, p. 28. Leland says that Henry Latomus rebuilt the Church of Evesham in 1319.—*Collect.*, vol. i. p. 249.

127. The following is a translation of an Ordinance made by the Mayor and the four and twenty Aldermen of the City of London, 31st Edward 1st, 1303.

An Ordinance made in the time of Gregory de Rokesle, Mayor, and by the four and twenty Aldermen as to carpenters, masons, and other labourers.

I. As to carpenters, masons, plasterers, daubers, tilers, and the servants of such and other workmen, it is thus ordained that each carpenter between St. Michel and St. Martin, shall take 4*d.* per day for all things, or 1½*d.* for his money, and the table of the owner of the work; and that this shall be at the will of the owner of the work, whichever he shall prefer. And then between St. Martin and Candlemas 3*d.* a day for all things, or one penny and the table. And then between Candlemas and Easter 4*d.* per day, with all things, or 3½*d.* and the owner's table; and between Easter and the Feast of St. Michel, 5*d.* per day for all things, or 2*d.* per day and the owner's table; and after this form, when the week is wholly a working week, the carpenter is to have from henceforth the Saturday as for a full day. And the Sunday following, when he does nothing, he is to take nothing. And at all solemn feasts when people fast, they are to receive also as for a full day, if they work until the evening, and nothing is to be taken for the feast day following; nor yet upon any other feast day or upon a Sunday, when no work is done, is anything to be taken. These conditions as to journey work and the manner of working aforesaid, are to be also for Master Masons (Mazounes Mestres) and also for master carpenters and others, and master tilers, and master plasterers in plaster works. As to their

FOUNTAIN'S ABBEY.

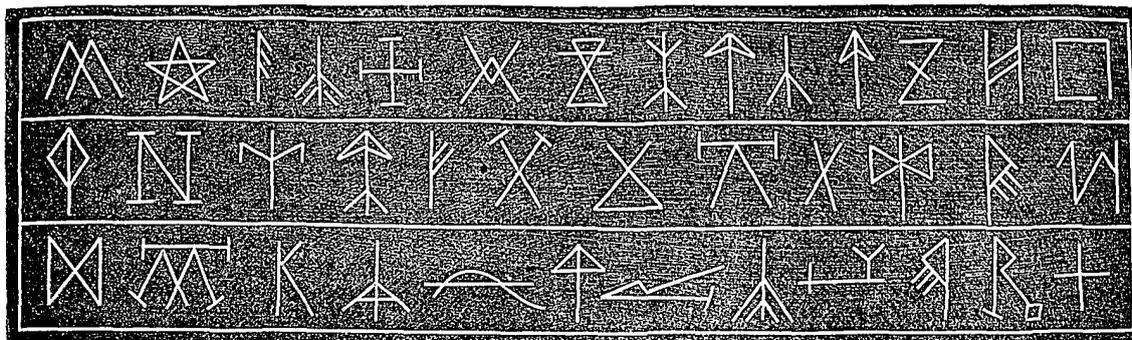


FIG. 37.—CHAPTER HOUSE, A.D. 1165.



FIG. 38.—Cloisters, A.D. 1220.



FIG. 39.—Buttery.

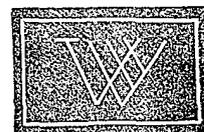


FIG. 40.—Mark on a Coffin Slab.

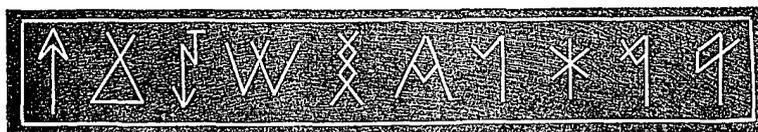


FIG. 41.—West Front, outside, 1150.

BOLTON ABBEY.

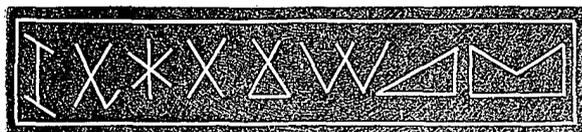


FIG. 42.—Choir and Transept, A.D. 1325.

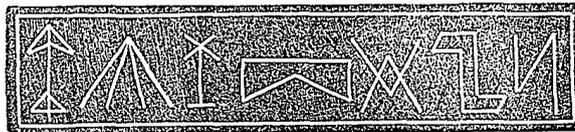


FIG. 43.—Tower, about A.D. 1520—1540.

servants it is ordained that the makers of mortar and the carriers, as well for masons as for plasterers, or for tilers and makers of earthen walls, and who go unto their work shall take between St. Michael and the Feast of St. Martin, and between Candlemas and Easter, each 2*d.* for all things, and between Easter and St. Michael 3*d.* for all things.

II. Pavours are to take at all seasons for making the toise of the pavement well and lawfully—that is to say 7½ft. long, and 1ft. of St. Paul in breadth, 2*d.* and no more.

III. As to the carters who bring sand and argil and gravel, they shall take for each cart 1*d.* and no more. And the cart ought to be of one quarter, full and heaped up, and if it be less let it be forfeited.

And if any man of the city give more to any workman than is here written and commanded, let him be amerced to the city in 40*s.* without having any pardon or any release from the time that he is attainted.—*Liber Custumarum Munimenta Gildhallae, Londoniensis*, vol. 2, pt. 2, p. 541.

The following is the oath made by a mason to do his duty in all matters in reference to his trade:—
Sacramentum Cæmentariorum ad Custodiendum Officium.

Die Lunæ proxima ante festum Conversionis Sancti Pauli anno regni Regis Edwardi, fili regis

Henrici xxix^o. coram Elya Russel, tunc Majore Londoniarum et Aldermannis, Ricardus de Wytham, cæmentarius, juratus est justam considerationem facere omnibus hominibus de civitate et suburbio Londoniarum, de Muris lapideis inter vicinos, divisibus et indivisibilibus, ruinosis et cæteris officium suum tangentibus, etc, quotiens fuerit requisitus, etc.—*Ibid*, vol. 2, pt. 1, p. 100.

128. In the Cathedral of Lincoln, is a curious gravestone, of a Master Mason of that church; the date of his death is obliterated, on each side of him is his trowel and square, and bears the following inscription:—

“Hic jacet Ricardus de Gaynisburgh olyn Cæmentarius hujus ecclesie qui obitt duodecim. Kalendarum Junii. Anno Domini MCCC.

[The stone is at present in the South Cloister, and is in a very dilapidated state. As the memorials of our Mediæval Master Masons are so scarce in England, will not some of our Lincolnshire brethren take steps for its preservation and due care.—*E. W. S.*]

129. The Compotus of Bolton Abbey is preserved, and consists of a folio of about 1000 pages. It commences in 1290 and ends in 1325, the language is a mixture of Byzantine, Greek, Italian, old French, and Latinized English.

The Fabric of the Priory was finished before 1294.
—*Whittaker's Craven*, p. 369.

The following are extracts from the Rolls:—

1305. In constructione pontis dekyldwyk in p'te
xxi. xii. xiii. xiv.

1307. Carpentariis, caementariis, &c., ad cameram
d'ni Prioris xxxii. xiii. v. Pro laticciis ad corum de
Skpton iiii. iv. Pro lineâ telâ ad Naperouns.

1311. Operant apud Boulton circ cap prioris
viii. vis. vid.

1312. Operant ad capel prior in parte viiii. viiid.

1314. Recept de Eva de Land proponte de Boulton
de Rov faciend, vi. xiii. iv. Cementar pro sarco-
fagis faciend in ecclesia xis. xd. (Figs. 42, 43.)

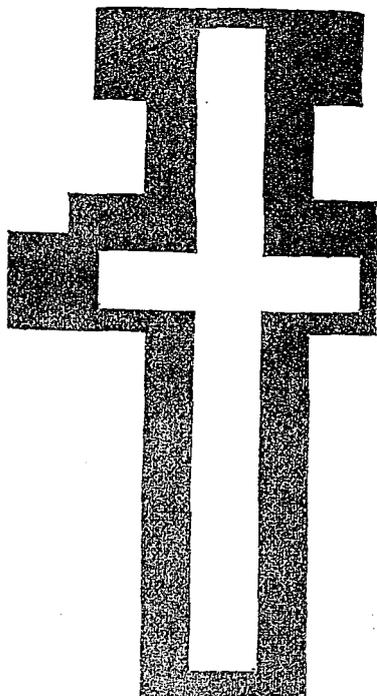


FIG. 29.—FOUNTAINS ABBEY CHURCH.

SCALE—100 feet = 1 inch.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The late hour at which I was enabled to ascertain the result of the Festival of Wednesday evening, rendered the usual detailed announcement of the list perfectly impracticable. It is my intention, therefore, to ask for space in your columns next week for publication thereof.

Additional lists, since received, bring the amount of donations to £3,522 6s., with several returns still outstanding.

I cannot permit this opportunity to escape without tendering the best thanks of all connected with the Institution for the generous aid and support extended by various brethren in many ways, and particularly to the Stewards, for their valuable exertions in producing the above gratifying result.

At the same time I trust that the want of accommo-

—dation so manifest last evening will press upon our rulers the absolute necessity of affording—by the erection of a second and more commodious Hall than the present—the means of making our Festivals not only great demonstrations, but delightful and agreeable reunions, by ensuring comfort for the ladies, and order and regularity amongst the brethren, which, under existing arrangements, it is impossible to secure.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES, Sec.

HER MAJESTY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Anything relative to our beloved Queen will be acceptable to all loyal readers, and who more loyal than the Masonic fraternity?

The little incident herein recorded serves to illustrate how innocently grief may be indulged so as to afford an emblem of strong conjugal affection. On Friday last the Queen and the four Princesses, now at Windsor, visited St. George's Chapel for the express purpose of placing around the mural tablet respecting H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, and immediately over the spot where the remains of the late Prince Consort are deposited, wreaths of the choicest camellias, and upon the tessellated pavement of the aisle may now be seen the delicate tokens of love placed there by England's royal widow and her daughters, to the memory of a much-loved parent and the good Prince Albert.

Yours truly

March, 10th, 1862.

F. R., PAST G. STEWARD.

ELIAS ASHMOLE.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—My letter which you were good enough to insert in your paper of last week contained an error, I should have said that Elias Ashmole was initiated at Warrington, in the year 1646. Will you be kind enough to insert this as a correction.

Yours fraternally,

Warrington, March 5th, 1862.

H. B. W.

THE MASONIC SCHOOLS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I learn with some regret and astonishment that the committees* of the two Masonic Schools have passed resolutions interfering, as I conceive, with the rights and privileges of the individual subscribers to those institutions, forasmuch as it has been determined that any person on the payment of the sum of £250 to either school, shall have a continued right during lifetime to appoint a child to be boarded and educated in those establishments. Now as the means of accommodating children in either school are limited, it follows that for every life presentation purchased the subscribers at large will be debarred from selecting a candidate themselves, and if some half dozen or more of such presentations be purchased by wealthy individuals, the subscribers will have no voice whatever in the selection of children, but will merely have to pay towards the support of those children who are placed on the establishment by other and wealthy persons.

I believe the average expense of each child in the schools considerably exceeds £30 a year. The annual interest arising from the sum to be paid down for a life nomination cannot be estimated at more than £10, the remaining twenty pounds have to be made up by subscriptions from the Craft at large.

I have myself for the last two years been an annual

* The resolutions were passed at meetings of the subscribers, duly convened by advertisement, and have yet to be enforced.

subscriber to these schools, partly from an interest I take in their welfare, and partly from a desire, which is perhaps shared by many, of having a voice in the annual elections. If I am to be deprived of my votes by the introduction of this new rule, it will be for me to consider whether my subscriptions shall be continued, and it will be for the committees of management to consider whether they may not be seriously prejudicing the interests and prosperity of the schools, by doing away with subscribers, and by selling presentations for so insufficient a sum of money.

I append a tabular statement showing the probable duration of life at different ages, compiled from the tables in use by most of the life insurance offices. Assuming £30 to be the cost of each child for board, education, and clothing; the annual cost to the institution for each child during the life of a person buying a continuous presentation will be £20 in excess of the interest accruing from the purchase money, and this must chiefly be made up by subscribers, who will lose their votes. I have added in another column the total amount to be disbursed either out of the funded property of the schools, or by means of subscriptions, to maintain a child, or rather a succession of children. If therefore six presentations should be purchased by persons not exceeding thirty years of age, the school funds or subscribers must be taxed in the aggregate to the extent of considerably beyond £3000, and the subscribers meanwhile will cease to have votes, as there will be no open elections.

Age of the nominor when the purchase is made.	Probable duration of his or her life.	Annual interest on £250 at 4 per cent.	Annual amount to be paid from other sources for each child nominated.	Aggregate amount to be paid by subscribers at large for each child nominated according to the age of the nominor.
25	30	£10	£20	£300
30	28	10	20	560
35	25	10	20	500
40	23	10	20	460
45	20	10	20	400
50	15	10	20	300

In the hope that these few remarks may prevent the sale of life presentations.

I have the honour to be, your most obedient servant,
A SUBSCRIBER.

GRAND LODGE.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Will you allow me to correct two errors in your report of the proceedings of the last Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, which no doubt arose from a bad cold having prevented me from speaking sufficiently distinct to be heard by your reporter.

On the question of appointing a new Trustee, I said that I thought that before Grand Lodge was asked to appoint a Trustee without notice, some reason should be stated why due notice had not been given.

On the question of the Grand Lodge Property I did not complain of the limitation in the powers of the Board of General Purposes, or express a hope that Grand Lodge would not confine them to the words of the resolutions of 1858. On the contrary I stated that, as a

member of the Board, I was satisfied with the powers already given; that it must be evident to Grand Lodge from the request made by the Board that a majority of the Board desired to travel out of the instructions of Grand Lodge, and to consider the disposal of the property with the view of increasing the tavern accommodation instead of devoting so much of the property as might be necessary, exclusively to Masonic purposes; and that I hoped the question would not be referred to the Board again without a definite determination on the part of Grand Lodge, either confirming or contradicting the instructions clearly laid down in 1858.

I am aware that the individual opinion of any member of Grand Lodge is of small moment, but I should be sorry to be supposed to have supported, in Grand Lodge or elsewhere, any departure from those resolutions of 1858, which might prejudice our chances of having for the Freemasons of England a central establishment under our own control and devoted to our own purposes.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,

CHARLES HUTTON GREGORY, J.G.D.

Delahay-street, Westminster, March 11, 1862.

WARDENS AND MASTERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER.—Amongst the answers to correspondents in your number of the 1st instant, I notice a statement that the Senior Warden of a lodge may lawfully conduct the ceremonies of initiation, passing, and raising. I have heard many opinions on this subject, both *pro* and *con*, and particularly the editor of the FREEMASONS QUARTERLY REVIEW in his answers to correspondents in 1847, states positively that such a proceeding is decidedly contrary to ancient usage, and if brought before the Board of General Purposes would lay the lodge wherein it took place open to severe censure and possible erasure. Now sir, I am of your opinion, I think that according to ancient usage a S.W. may legally conduct the ceremonies, and I form such opinion chiefly for the following reasons:—In the last edition of *Preston's Illustrations of Masonry* (1861), edited by our revered brother Dr. Oliver, I find at page 139 the following statement attributed to the learned Antiquary Elias Ashmole:—"I was made a Freemason at Warrington, Lancashire, with Colonel Henry Mainwaring, of Kerthingham, in Cheshire, by Mr. Richard Penket, the Warden, and the Fellow Crafts on 16th October 1646." I also find at page 142, that amongst the resolutions past at a general assembly of the Craft, on the 27th December, 1663, under the Grand Mastership of the Earl of St. Albans, was the following:—"That no person, of what degree soever, be made or accepted a Freemason, unless in a regular lodge, whereof one to be a Master or a Warden in that limit of division where such lodge is kept, &c." I think it is therefore evident that in the 17th century it was legal for a Warden to initiate—I have not heard of any alteration in the law. As this is a question involving considerable interest, especially to country lodges, perhaps some of your experienced readers will kindly favour me with their opinions and also the resolution or experience on which such opinions are founded; perhaps our learned historian will himself express his views on the question.

I would also gladly be informed whether in the event of a W.M. being himself incompetent to conduct the ceremonies, and his Warden being both willing and able, the W.M. has a right to delegate his office to a stranger, or whether the S.W. could not insist upon the privilege of conducting the ceremonies of his own lodge. Of course I presume that there is no P.M. willing or able.

Yours fraternally,

EXCELSIOR.

West Lancashire, 11th March, 1862.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The Annual Festival of the Governors and Subscribers to this excellent Institution was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, Viscount Holmesdale, Prov. Grand Master for Kent, presiding, in the absence of Lord Leigh, Prov. Grand Master for Warwickshire, who was unable to attend in consequence of the death of his youngest child. His lordship was supported by Lord Richard Grosvenor, *M.P.*, S.G.W.; Capt. Bowyer, Prov. G.M. Oxford; Col. Burlton, P. Prov. G.M., Bengal; Rev. W. K. R. Bedford, G. Chap.; Bros. Eaton, P.G.W.; Potter, Udall, Scott, Havers, Slight, Hopwood, Wilson, Patten, P.G.D.'s; Spiers, P.G. S.B., D. Prov. G.M. Oxford; Chas. Elkington, P.G.S.B., D. Prov. G.M. Warwickshire, Sir John Ratcliffe, C. Ratcliffe, and upwards of fifty brethren from Warwickshire; Gooch, P.G.S.B., D. Prov. G.M. Wilts; Bridges, P.G.S.B., D. Prov. G.M. Somerset; Payne, Prov. G. Treas. Somerset; Evans, P.G.S.B., President of the Colonial Board; Harcourt, *M.D.*, P.G.D.C., D. Prov. G.M. Surrey; Dobson, D. Prov. G.M. Kent; Stebbing, P.G.W. Hants, Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes; Bannister, Prov. G.D.C. West Lancashire; Thompson, Prov. G. Reg. Herts; P. Matthews, Prov. G.D.C. Essex; Adlard, P. Prov. G.D.C. Essex; Greenwood, Prov. G. Sec. Surrey, and a number of other brethren—about 350 in all. There were also upwards of 200 ladies present, many of them being seated at the bottom of the hall in consequence of want of accommodation in the gallery.

On the removal of the cloth,

The noble VISCOUNT proposed "The health of Her Majesty," who since her recent calamity had received expressions of loyalty and sympathy from her subjects which must have convinced her that she reigned in the hearts of her people. Freemasons were ever loyal, but never was there an occasion in which more devoted loyalty had been expressed than of late, and he had great pleasure in proposing the health of the Queen.

The toast was, at the request of the Chairman, drunk in solemn silence.

The CHAIRMAN had now to ask them to drink to "The health of the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family." He believed they would drink it with especial favour, it being the health of their future monarch, and though he trusted that it would be many years before the Prince was called to the throne, they had the assurance that when that event did occur, he would be found eminently fitted for his high position by the education he had received, and the example of his illustrious parents. The last time he had to propose this toast it was coupled with the name of the Prince Consort, whose loss they all so deeply deplored, and which loss was a sufficient reason to ask them also to drink this toast in solemn silence.

The toast having been drunk,

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The Health of the M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland." He knew that he need say but little to recommend the toast to their notice, for whoever had attended Grand Lodge, or had an opportunity of coming into contact with his lordship, must acknowledge the courtesy and kindness which distinguished that nobleman, whose devotion to the interests of Freemasonry could not be excelled. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN had next to propose "The Health of the D. Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers." The D. Grand Master had proved himself, both in public life and in Masonry, worthy of his high station, and the success which had attended the volunteer movement under the auspices of the noble lord, was a sufficient proof that their Deputy Grand Master was eminently fitted for the high position to which he had been called. The Grand Master and his Deputy, however, would be as nothing without a good staff of officers: that they had that staff was well known, and he therefore would not pass any eulogium upon them. He was surrounded by many of those officers, including Bro. Lord Richard Grosvenor, Bro. Havers, and others; and in asking them to drink the toast, he would couple it with the name of Lord Richard Grosvenor. (Cheers.)

Lord RICHARD GROSVENOR, *M.P.*, S.G.W., returned his sincere thanks on behalf of the Grand Officers and himself. He only regretted that the duty had not fallen into better hands, but he could assure the brethren that nothing gave him greater pleasure than to meet them in Freemasonry, especially in support of their excellent charitable institutions. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN having appealed to the brethren for silence, the conversation having become so loud as completely to drown his lordship's voice, proceeded to give "The Health of Lord Leigh," who he regretted was unable to be present, owing to domestic affliction. Bro. Leigh had undertaken the duty of presiding over the festivals of their Charities for three years in succession, and took the deepest interest in their prosperity. But it was not in Freemasonry only that his lordship displayed his charitable disposition, for on a late occasion, when great distress existed in his neighbourhood amongst the Coventry ribbon weavers, he nobly stood forward, and by his energy and perseverance organised a system of relief, which had been of great service; and though others had liberally responded to his lordship's appeal, it was to him the poor people were mainly indebted for having so promptly and energetically come forward to assist them. He (Lord Holmesdale) was happy to preside over the brethren, but he should have been more happy had Lord Leigh been present himself; and in proposing that nobleman's health, he should call upon Bro. Elkington to respond to it. (Cheers.)

Bro. CHARLES ELKINGTON, P.G.S.B., D. Prov. G.M. Warwickshire, regretted that it had fallen to his lot to respond to the toast, because he deeply regretted the absence of the noble lord, and the cause which prevented his being present. He regretted it also because a large number of the Warwickshire brethren had come up to support his lordship, whom they highly honoured and respected. He knew that his lordship had wished to be present, and he would read them a letter which he had received that morning:—

"DEAR BROTHER ELKINGTON,—You are aware that I have to lament the loss of my youngest child, who expired on Friday last. Under these circumstances it will be impossible for me to have the gratification of presiding at the Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, next Wednesday, but I sincerely trust that the brethren will give their earnest and active support to the excellent charity you are met to promote, in the success of which I take the greatest interest myself, and to which nothing but the sad cause I have already mentioned would have prevented me from using every exertion to do all in my power personally to contribute. Wishing you a successful meeting,

"Believe me to be, yours very fraternally,

"LEIGH.

"Stoneleigh Abbey, 10th March, 1862."

However much they were disappointed at Lord Leigh's absence, and he felt the ladies in the gallery were much disappointed, none were more so than Lord Leigh himself, for nothing gave him greater pleasure than when he was presiding over the Charities of the Craft. He might mention that when his lordship presided at the Festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons, the donations from Warwickshire amounted to £250, about 40 of the brethren from the province being present. In 1861, for the Girl's School, he had the pleasure of handing in a list of subscriptions for £430, about fifty brethren being present, and now he had to hand in a list of upwards of £700, there being more than fifty Warwickshire brethren present. (Cheers.) He thought it a great pity that they had not a fourth charity, for the feeling which had been evoked appeared to be on the increase, and the brethren were always proud to support their Prov. G.M. (Cheers.) Whilst deeply regretting the absence of Lord Leigh, he had to express his lordship's obligations to Lord Holmesdale for so kindly having come forward to fill his place; and no brother could have better or more zealously performed the duty. (Cheers.) He hoped that Yorkshire and other provinces would emulate the example of Warwickshire, so that their charities might take that position they deserved. In the name of Lord Leigh he again thanked them for the compliment paid him, which he was sure his lordship would highly appreciate. (Cheers.)

Capt. BOWYER, Prov. G.M. Oxford, had the honour to propose a toast which he knew would be cordially received, it being the health of the noble lord who then presided over them. (Cheers.) He was sure his lordship deserved their thanks for the readiness with which he had taken the duty, and a better Chairman they could not have had. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN thanked them for the kind manner in which the toast had been proposed, and the great kindness with which it had been responded to. He was extremely sorry that the ladies in the gallery should have been disappointed by the absence of Lord Leigh, and he deeply sympathised with them in their disappointment. Lord Leigh had many requisites for a Chairman which he did not possess, especially more powerful lungs—(laughter)—and a greater acquaintance with their

charities. He had had great pleasure in presiding over them, though he felt that he was but an indifferent Chairman;—(No, no)—but as Charity was a truly Masonic virtue, and was said to cover a multitude of sins, he hoped it would cover his shortcomings. (Cheers and laughter.)

The Boys were here introduced, and his lordship gave "Prosperity to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," without a word of preface, it having become evident from the noise that prevailed throughout the hall that it was impossible to be heard.

The prizes were next distributed, one of them being being the Canonbury prize, instituted by Bro. Ed. Cox, the W.M. the noble lord in the chair addressing the recipients in a few appropriate remarks.

Bro. Frederick Binckes, Sec., then read the list of subscriptions in brief as follows.

	£.	s.	d.
London.....	1601	15	6
Warwickshire.....	700	0	0
Sussex.....	12	12	0
Somersetshire.....	128	6	0
Bristol.....	21	0	0
Kent.....	260	9	0
Isle of Wight.....	42	0	0
West Lancashire.....	167	12	0
Essex.....	18	18	0
Hants.....	116	11	0
Oxfordshire.....	90	6	0
Surrey.....	52	8	0
Middlesex.....	71	8	0
Dorsetshire.....	42	0	0
Berks and Bucks.....	7	7	0
Hertfordshire.....	14	3	6

One or two smaller amounts were subsequently received, and the total was stated to be £3520, with twelve London and seven country lists to come in.

The health of the Treasurer, Vice Presidents, and other officers was then drunk and briefly responded to by Bro. Hopwood, Past Grand Deacon.

The company shortly afterwards broke up.

It is but justice to Bros. Shrewsbury and Elkington to state that the dinner was excellently put upon the table, considering the difficulty they had to contend with from the over-crowded state of the hall, about 80 or 90 more brethren being present than were ordered for.

The musical arrangements were conducted by Bro. Lawler, who was assisted by Miss Banks, Miss Eyles, Miss Poole, Bro. G. Perren, Bro. Carter, and Bro. F. Kingsbury, who presided at the pianoforte.

The following was handed us as the list of subscriptions from Kent:—

	£	s.	d.
Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., Prov. G.M. Kent ...	10	10	0
Bro. Dobson, D. Prov. G.M.	10	10	0
Lodges and Brethren of 91 and 709, Gravesend...	81	7	0
Lodge and Brethren of 1011, Ashford	53	11	0
Lodges and Brethren of 20, Chatham; and 216, Brompton	25	0	0
Lodge 235, Dover	11	11	0
" 741, Maidstone	11	0	0
" 376, Dartford	9	14	0
" 621, Ramsgate	8	8	0
" 34, Canterbury	5	5	0
" 147, Hythe	5	5	0
" 184, Sheerness	5	5	0
" 816, Polkestone.....	5	5	0

We subjoin the Committee's Report:—

"The Committee have great pleasure in presenting their Report for the last year. An examination of the accounts will show, that while the expenditure during that period has, from circumstances of a peculiar nature, been exceptionally large, the support received has been such as to enable the Committee to meet the demands upon them without encroaching upon the funded property. Nine hundred and forty-five children have been educated and clothed under the auspices of this Institution, which, it is believed, has at length found its way to the estimation of the Craft at large; and having regard to the encouragement afforded in the present year to those actively engaged in its management, and to the promises of future support, they feel assured that the attainment of that prosperity for which

they have laboured, is not far distant. Of this number sixty-nine are now registered in the books,—sixty-five being inmates of the school,—where, since 1857, a home and maintenance have been provided for all those boys elected, whose parents or friends were desirous they should be placed therein; two boys being absent owing to illness, and two educated at schools adjacent to their residences. For the election in April next there are fourteen candidates, and only two vacancies,—owing to the retention of three boys until fifteen years of age, under power conferred by the new law;—the number of the former being added to month by month, giving assurance of a considerable demand upon the resources of the Institution at the succeeding election in October next. It is with considerable satisfaction the Committee report the continued generally healthful condition of the boys: To the changes which have been made during the past year in the official and educational staff, the Committee at present simply allude, with the hope that they may be to the advantage of the Institution, and to the benefit of those entrusted to their care; they cannot, however, pass over in silence the retirement of the late Secretary, Bro. Thiselton, whose connection with the school for thirty-five years amply merits the testimony of approbation awarded him, and to whom their thanks are due, for his long-continued and successful exertions."

The balance-sheet referred to above show the receipts for the year to have been £3387 1s. 9d., and the expenditure £3219 0s. 6d.

METROPOLITAN.

LODGE OF JORRA (No. 229).—The members of the above lodge held their usual meeting on Monday week, at the Albion, Aldersgate-street, when the W.M., Bro. S. V. Abraham, in a very solemn manner initiated into the mysteries of the Order Messrs. A. Blumenthal, A. D. Lorie, H. Levy, and P. Cohen, all of whom appeared much impressed with the solemn ceremony. After the usual routine business, the lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to a most sumptuous banquet, provided by those excellent caterers, the Messrs. Staples. The W.M. having given the usual Masonic toasts, introduced that of the newly initiated brethren, in doing which he congratulated the lodge in having introduced into their number four brethren so fully worthy of becoming Masons; as from the knowledge he had of them he was sure if they only brought to bear into the Order, that amount of zeal and assiduity they had practised in their private paths, they would become honourable and worthy members of the Craft. The lodge was fully attended by the members, and in addition the following visitors were present, Bros. Collin, P.M., Globe Lodge, No. 23; M. Harris, P.M., 18; Gardner, 109; C. Hart, 247; L. Hart, 91; and P.E. Van Noorden, late member of this lodge. The latter brother, by his musical talent, vocal and instrumental, contributed to the harmony of the evening, ably assisted by Mrs. Newton Frodsham, and other professionals.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The members of this lodge assembled at the Freemasons Tavern, on Friday 27th February, Bro. Charles Dunn, W.M.; Jeffreys, S.W.; Hammond, J.W. There was present a good muster of the brethren, including Bros. Sheen, Spooner, Watts, Robinson, Patten, Arliss, and Dyers, P.M.'s. The visitors on the occasion were Bro. Valentine, 78; Chandler, 453; Dr. Norman, 202, and Goebel, 1171. The lodge having been opened in due form, Messrs. Gee, Angel, and Stokesley were initiated, and Bros. H. O. Arliss, Baird, Wolfskey, and Goebel were passed to the second degree. The ordinary business having been gone through in an able manner by the W.M. and his Wardens, this being the first meeting after the installation. The W. M. then rose and in very suitable terms presented to P.M. Arliss, and P.M. Dyers, each a jewel from the members of this lodge, as a mark of their esteem and to testify the able manner in which both those brethren, discharged the duties whilst presiding over the lodge. The compliment was acknowledged in suitable terms by Bros. Arliss and Dyers. The brethren, with the visitors, soon after sat down to a very sumptuous banquet. The evening was spent in a very excellent and pleasant manner. The usual toasts were proposed and responded to, and the hilarity of the evening was much contributed to by the excellent singing of Bros. Allen, Gadd, Robinson, and Spooner, the latter giving the Entered Apprentice's song with great taste and ability.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—*Brunswick Lodge* (No. 185).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 5th inst., when three brethren of the E.A. degree were examined as to their proficiency; having giving satisfactory proof, they were then passed to the degree of F.C. At the same lodge one person was balloted for and accepted, but not present, one also proposed. At the festive board we noticed two of the oldest Masons in the province, Bro. Brewer, Sec. S3, and Bro. Maynard. The toast of the visiting brethren having been given with the usual Masonic honours, Bro. Brewer rose and said it gave him considerable pleasure to visit Lodge Brunswick, and see so many of his Masonic friends. After eulogising the working of the W.M., Bro. Elliott, he resumed his seat. The W.M. of the Lodge of Charity, 270, and J.D. of Lodge Friendship, No. 238, returned thanks for the compliment. The province had notice from the D. Prov. G.M., Rev. J. Hayshe, on the demise of the late R.W. Prov. G.M., Earl Portescue, that from the 21st of September, 1861, the Craft were to assume Masonic mourning for six months; the question has been raised as to the propriety of discontinuing the same without further notice.

DURHAM.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—*National Industrial Schools.*—The Rev. John Rudd, vicar of Stranton, impressed with the deficiency of the means of education enjoyed by the inhabitants of his parish, some time ago conceived the idea of setting about an effort to provide National Schools, to be erected in the village, and primarily for the education of the children of the village and its rural neighbourhood. He immediately set about a subscription, eliciting a most encouraging response. The sum realized by this means amounted to £760; a grant of £367 has been received from the Educational Commissioners; and £84 from the National Society. These sums, together with presents of timber, lime, and bricks, about met the estimated cost of the building, namely, £1405. Mr. Charles Casebourne, of West Hartlepool, prepared the plans as a freewill offering of what will really be a very neat building. We may observe that there will be a new feature in these schools—an industrial element. There will be a laundry and cook-house for the instruction of girls in household work; and a garden of five or six acres, in which the boys will be taught gardening and other useful out-of-door employments. The building is already several feet above the ground; and the vicar having applied to Bro. John Sutcliffe, W.M. of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge, to lay the corner-stone with masonic ceremonies, Bro. Sutcliffe applied for and obtained a dispensation from the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. J. Fawcett, enabling him to do so. The ceremony came off on Tuesday the 11th inst. The Prov. G.M. also granted a dispensation permitting the Master and brethren of St. Helen's, 774, to assist the Master and brethren of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge; and Bro. Sutcliffe sent invitations to other neighbouring lodges, many of whose members, though not permitted to appear in the clothing of the craft, attended to witness the interesting proceedings of the day. Among these were Bros. J. Crosby, G. R. H. Gilmore, Sunderland; Rev. J. Milner, J. J. Wilson, Stockton; George Moore, J. Groves, S. Armstrong, and H. Hammerbon P.M.s; and brethren to the amount of about 130, from about eight lodges of the province, including West Hartlepool—St. Helen's, Hartlepool, and Phoenix, Sunderland, being well represented. Lodge was opened about 11 a.m., after which the brethren marched to the parish church Stranton in procession—Bro. Crookes, P.G. Sec., officiating as Dir. of Cers. Arrived at the church, prayers were read by the Rev. the Vicar, after which the Rev. James Milner, of Elton, P.M., preached from 1 Chronicles, 28th c., 9th v., "My son know thou the God of thy fathers, and serve Him with a perfect heart and willing mind." The preacher dwelt on the importance of education—not viewed merely as a matter of worldly expediency, but of duty as a means of preparation for the world to come. He contended for a religious education, and adverted to the evils likely to arise from its secularisation. He congratulated them on the occasion which had assembled them together that day, and enforced the duty which lay on those whom Providence had blessed in their substance to aid the poor towards the realisation of the blessings of a sound education. And in conclusion he said, "let me congratulate you, my brethren of the Craft, in being permitted to take part in this holy, this useful

work. It is not often that we have the opportunity of joining in ceremonies like the present, or of showing to the world in general that Freemasonry has a deeper interest in the welfare of its fellow-creatures than is usually ascribed to it. To perform certain ceremonies in secret, to recognise each other by signs, and to join in social festivities, are by too many believed to be the object and end of Freemasonry; and when we tell them that these are but accessories, and have no more to do with the real principles on which the Order is founded, and which it endeavours to carry out, than the formal laying of the stone this day will influence the lives of the children educated in the schools, we are scarcely believed. If we are asked for the proof of the good we do, let us refer the inquirer to our charitable institutions; we also can boast of schools, founded by Masons and supported by Masons, which, both for the excellence of their management and the good results which accrue, are, I believe, second to none in the kingdom. And when any good work is in hand, whether national or local, who so ready as the Freemason to come forward and render to the sufferers all their kind offices, which justice and mercy require, to relieve his distresses and soothe his afflictions? When we tell the sceptic that it is from the sacred volume of God's most holy law that we learn our duty to God, our neighbour, and ourselves; that every true member of the Order endeavours, as far as circumstances and human frailty will permit, to put into practice these three grand principles—brotherly love, relief, and truth, which we are taught therein; can he affirm that we have no better objects in view than those usually attributed to us, no higher aim than our own enjoyment, our own self-gratification? I trust you, however, my brethren, by your presence here this day intend to show that no such unworthy motives influence you, that you do feel an interest in the welfare of your poorer neighbours, and that you will do your part and use your utmost endeavours that the children of those amongst whom your lot is cast, should be brought up in the way best calculated to render them fit members of society, and well qualified to fill the several stations in which it may please God to place them." A collection was made in aid of the schools, after which the blessing was pronounced, and the brethren again formed in procession as above, and marched to the site of the schools. The assisting brethren opened their ranks and permitted the W.M. of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge, and the officers performing leading parts in the ceremony, to pass through to a platform where the stone had been prepared. Opposite this, and commanding a view of the proceedings, was another platform, which was crowded by ladies, respecting whose appearance, we may observe in passing flattering remarks were made at the banquet subsequently held. Here, the hundredth Psalm was sung, after which the following prayer was offered up by the Rev. James Milner, acting as Chaplain:—"O Almighty and eternal God, Architect and Ruler of the Universe, at whose creative fiat all things just were made, we, the frail creatures of Thy providence, humbly implore Thee to look with favour on this our present undertaking: sanctify it to Thy glory and to the welfare of our fellow-creatures. Grant that the superstructure laid on this, stone may be the means, by Thy grace, of bringing man to the true faith and knowledge of Thee, and finally, that, when we, with them, have passed through the vale of this transitory life, we may ascend to that Grand Lodge above where the world's Great Architect lives and rules for ever. So mote it be." Brother Sutcliffe then said, "brethren, having assembled here this day for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the National Industrial Schools, it will be my duty to see the ceremony correctly performed, in conformity with our ancient usages and customs." He then proceeded, in proper Masonic form, to lay the stone, the following brethren acting as his assistants: Supt. of Works, James Groves, P.M., 774; J. U. Spence, Sec.; M. Rickenson, Treas.; G. Kirk, J.W.; J. Pearson, S.W.; George Moore, Dep. Master, P.M., 774 and 1096, and P.G.J.W.; P.M.s. with the corn, wine, and oil, J. Crosby, P.M., 95, P. Prov.G.S.W. and P.G. Treas.; J. J. Wilson, P.M., 749, P.G.R., and P. Prov. G.J.W.; and G. R. H. Gilmore, W.M., 111. In a cavity was placed a bottle containing a copy of the *The Stockton and Hartlepool Mercury*, and several coins of the present date. After the ceremony, which was conducted by brother Sutcliffe in an impressive and workmanlike manner, three hearty hearty cheers were given, as a manifestation of goodwill to the enterprise. A short prayer was again offered by the Chaplain, the National Anthem (Masonic version) sung, after which the brethren again formed into procession (order reversed),

and marched back to the lodge-room, when the lodge was closed. A sumptuous banquet was served up in the large room of the Royal about three P.M. About eighty of the brethren, presided over by Bro. Sutcliffe, supported on the right by the Rev. John Rudd, Bro. J. J. Wilson, Stockton, Bro. Gilmore, of Sunderland, &c., and on the left by the Rev. James Milner, Bro. Moore and Bro. Groves, Hartlepool. The peculiar forms observed by Masons on these occasions were not observed, it being the desire that the worthy Vicar, who is not a member of the Craft, should be present, but the harmony and spirit of Masonry pervaded the proceedings. The feast was of a high character, and did great credit to Bro. Murray, under whose inspection it was prepared and served; and to the Worshipful Master and brethren of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge, at whose cost it was provided. After dinner the Chairman gave in succession "The Queen and the Craft," "The M.W. Grand Master of Masons, the Earl of Zetland, and the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon," and "The R.W. the Provincial Grand Master and the other Provincial Grand Officers, coupled with the name of Bro. Crosby." These toasts were drunk with the ordinary manifestations of approval. Bro. Crosby, in responding, observed that throughout his Masonic career this was the first instance in which the Master of a lodge in the province of Durham—(Bro. Crookes: "Or any other province")—had been permitted to conduct a ceremony of this description; and the Harbour of Refuge, the youngest lodge in the province, ought to regard it as a high compliment. (Hear, hear.) The Chairman next gave the health of their respected, he might say beloved, vicar, Mr. Rudd. Since he had come to the parish he had endeared himself to his people, and the work now progressing under his care was not likely to lessen his popularity. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm, as also the health of the Chairman and various other toasts. Some of the brethren contributed good songs, and the afternoon was very pleasantly spent.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER—*Royal Gloucestershire Lodge* (No. 1141).—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting at Beaufort House, College Green, on Friday, the 7th inst., Bro. Amos Steed, P.M. 97; P. Prov. G.S.B. Gloucestershire, W.M., and many of the influential members were present. The W.M., after opening the lodge proceeded to pass Bros. Knowles and Cooke into the second degree, which he did in his usual expert and able manner. The brethren then proceeded to elect the W.M. and Treasurer for the ensuing year. Their choice falling unanimously on their present Master, who was accordingly declared duly elected for the second year. Bro. Trimmer was also re-elected Treasurer. The usual proclamations were then made, the lodge closed and the brethren adjourned to banquet.

KENT.

DOVER.—*Lodge of Peace and Harmony* (No. 235).—The above lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Monday, 3rd inst., at the Royal Oak Inn, on which occasion there was a very numerous attendance. The lodge was opened at half past six o'clock, by Bros. Adamson, Prov. G.A.D.C. of Kent, W.M.; Vanderlyn, P. Prov. G.S.B. Kent, S.W., and Treas.; Coram, J.W.; F. Prescott, S.D.; Dallemore, J.D.; and Grunwald, I.G.; and several P.M.'s. After the usual minutes had been confirmed and the ballots taken, Bros. Taylor, Hay, Ayers, and Bell were raised to the third degree. Bros. Peacock, Hood, and Groves were passed to the second degree, and Messrs. Beard, Smith, and Grimes duly initiated into the first degree of Freemasonry, all of the ceremonies being most ably performed by the W.M. A letter was read from Bro. Dobson, Dep. Prov. G.M. of Kent, thanking the lodge for the ten guineas, and the lodge of Instruction for one guinea sent him, as Steward, as donations to the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys. This being the annual meeting for the election of W.M. and Treas., the brethren proceeded to ballot, when Bro. Vanderlyn, S.W., was elected as W.M., also for the fourth time re-elected as Treasurer, who returned thanks to the brethren for these and many marks of kind feelings he had received from the Dover lodge, since he had the honour of becoming one of its members. The lodge was then closed, and about forty brethren sat down to refreshment. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. proposed "The newly Initiated Brethren," which was responded to by Bro. Smith. The visitors' toast was responded to by Bro. Pearson, from the United States. The W.M. then rose and said he had this evening very great pleasure in introducing another toast namely "Their Treasurer and W.M. elect." He congrat-

ulated the lodge on the choice they had made, and as Bro. Vanderlyn's Masonic abilities were so well known to them all, he would delay their time no longer, but call upon them to drink "Prosperity to Bro. Vanderlyn, and a successful year to the Lodge under his guidance." Bro. Vanderlyn having returned thanks for the manner with which the toast had been received, assured the brethren that every attempt would be made to uphold the lodge in the present high position which it holds in Kent. "The Health of the W.M." was then proposed. Bro. Adamson, in returning thanks, made some very happy remarks on this night attaining his majority, viz., that he had the pleasure of Initiating twenty-one members during his year of office. "The P.M.'s," responded to by Bro. P.M. Boyton. The Healths of the other Officers were drunk and severally responded to, after which the brethren separated highly delighted with the proceedings of the evening. The installation is fixed for Monday, 7th April, at 6 o'clock.

ASHFORD.—*Invicta Lodge* (No. 1011).—The regular lodge meeting took place on Friday last, the 7th inst., under the able presidency of the W.M., Bro. B. K. Thorpe, every officer being present. The lodge being opened in due form, the minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed, after which Bro. Norwood, of Apollo University Lodge, Oxford, was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. This was followed by Bro. James being introduced and passed to the second degree, the latter ceremony was performed by Bro. B. Thorpe in an effective and eloquent manner. The W.M., with his characteristic benevolence, suggested that efforts should be made to raise a sum of 50 guineas, so as to entitle this lodge to ten votes so long as it remains in existence, with the rank of V.P. attaching to the W.M. *pro tem.*, for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and the brethren readily responded, partly from the lodge funds and individual donations; and in addition to which the following donations have been given:—Bros. Thomas Hallows, £5 5s.; J. S. Eastes, £5 5s.; B. K. Thorpe, £1 1s., and the whole amount handed over to Bro. Dobson, D. Prov. G.M. for Kent, who kindly engaged to take the office of Steward at the forthcoming Festival. Thus has this small lodge given another proof that Masonry does not consist in mere idle professions or self-indulgence, but in the practice of the fundamental principles of our Order, "Brotherly love, relief, and truth," by feeding the hungry, taking care of the fatherless and the widow, and doing unto others as we should wish to be done by.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—*Holmesdale Lodge* (No. 1176).—On Wednesday, Feb. 26th, the impressive Masonic ceremonies attendant upon the consecration of this new lodge took place at the Sussex Hotel. It is a matter of surprise that in so large and opulent a town a lodge has not long ago been established; and doubtless now that has been achieved it will rapidly become one of the first in the province. The proceedings of the day were somewhat damped by the non-arrival of the Provincial Grand Master, Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., who was detained in London by an important division in "the House"—the absence of Bro. Dobson, his lordship's able and genial deputy, and of several other distinguished brethren, was also deeply regretted. Under the direction, however, of Bro. S. B. Wilson (who on this occasion acted as his lordship's deputy) nothing was wanting to render the ceremony perfect and impressive. A considerable number of brethren were present; and amongst the visitors we noticed:—Bros. S. Barton Wilson, P.J.G.D. of England; Eastes, Prov. S.G.W.; the Rev. Bro. Hill, Prov. Grand Chaplain; Isaacs, Prov. Grand Secretary; Cook, P. Prov. G.S.W.; Jones, P. Prov. G.S.W.; Philcox, P. Prov. G.J.W. of Kent; the Rev. Bro. Taylor, Prov. Grand Chaplain; Wellard, P. Prov. G.D. Cer. of Sussex; Nettleingham, W.M.; Pottinger, P.M.; Hills, P.M.; J. T. Nettleingham, of 91, Gravesend; Tomlin, W.M.; Key, P.M.; Clark, P.M. of 147, Hythe; Winter, Howell, and Birchell, of 47, Hastings; Fenn, W.M. 188; Marsh, P.M. 48; Adair, 141; Minton, P.M. of 7, London; Bathurst, W.M.; Giraud, J.W., of 155, Faversham; Philpot and Plunkett, of 235, Dover; F. W. Day, P.M.; R. Day, P.M.; Assiter, Prov. S.W.; Titus, S. D., Blinkhorn, of 741, Maidstone; Thorpe, W.M.; Rev. A. H. Roxburg, Chap.; Kingsnorth, J.D.; F. C. Hallows, of 1011, Ashford, &c. The lodge having been opened in due form, Bro. Wilson acting as W.M., Bro. Nettleingham as S.W., and Bro. Eastes as J.W., the petition to and warrant from the Grand Master of England were read, upon which Bro. Wilson proceeded with the ceremony of consecration, assisted by the Rev. Bro. Hill, Prov. G. Chap. of Kent, and three P.M.'s, Bros. Cooke, 741; Jone, 155; and Hills, 91. An oration on Masonry, by Bro. S. B. Wilson,

which has appeared in this Magazine, was admirably delivered by Bro. Fenn, and the whole ceremony was performed in a manner worthy of the high reputation of Bro. Wilson. Bro. Brayne, the new Master (who unfortunately was suffering from an attack of rheumatic gout), was then duly installed, and the following were the officers appointed:—Bros. Brayne, W.M.; W. Philpot, S.W.; F. W. Elers, J.W.; Conder, S.D.; W. Elers, J.D. and Sec.; Oliver, I.G.; Strange, Tyler. After the usual addresses, four or five new members were proposed and seconded; and the lodge was then closed with solemn prayer. The banquet took place in the Assembly Room, under the presidency of the newly-installed W.M., Bro. Brayne. The dinner was excellent. When the cloth was drawn, "The Queen and the Craft," "The G.M. of England, Lord Zetland," "The D.G.M., Lord de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the officers of the Grand Lodge" were severally drunk. To the last mentioned toast Bro. S. Barton Wilson returned thanks, alluding to the ceremonies of the day, by which he had admitted one more lodge into the fraternity, one which, under the able and experienced government of Bro. Brayne, had, he believed, a career of unusual success and usefulness before it. The W.M. next gave the "Health of Lord Holmesdale, the Prov. Grand Master of Kent," and read a letter, in which his lordship expressed the great regret he felt at being prevented by his Parliamentary duties from being present, and the warmest wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the lodge. The toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm. The next toast was "Bro. Dobson, D. Prov. G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers of Kent," which was received also with much applause. It was a matter of great regret to them all that Bro. Dobson was prevented being present; for they all knew that he discharged all the duties of his important office with the greatest ability—visiting all the lodges and seeing their working with his own eyes, and being in short what a deputy ought to be. (Cheers.) Bro. EASTES, as Prov. S.G.W., returned thanks. He congratulated them not only on the choice of a name for their lodge—"The Holmesdale"—which was an exceedingly happy one, but also on their selection of W.M. He had been initiated by Bro. Brayne, and knew him to be a thoroughly good Mason in every respect.—The Rev. Bro. HILL then, in a most eloquent speech, proposed the "Health of the W.M.," who responded to the compliment. "The Health of the Prov. Grand Chaplain (Bro. Hill)," which followed, was received with enthusiasm, and duly acknowledged. The other toasts were: "Bro. Isaacs and the Kentish Visitors," "Bro. Taylor and the Sussex and other Visitors," "The Officers of the Lodge," responded to by Bro. W. Philpot, &c. The proceedings soon after terminated, in order that the visitors might be able to save an early train

OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORD.—*Apollo University Lodge* (No. 440).—The anniversary of this lodge was celebrated on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at the Masonic Hall, where the brethren assembled at four o'clock in the afternoon, when five candidates were initiated. At five o'clock the W.M. of last year, Bro. the Rev. R. W. Norman, who had been re-elected, proceeded with the installation of his officers, and made the following appointments, addressing the brethren in appropriate and encouraging terms as they presented themselves to be invested with their insignia of office:—Oswell Thompson, Exeter College, S.W.; F. W. A. Bowyer, Christ Church, J.W.; Rev. C. M. Style, St. John's, Chaplain; W. Thompson, Treas.; W. W. Harrison, Brasenose, Organist; S. K. Browne Cave, Balliol, Sec.; C. W. Ogilvie, Christ Church, S.D.; A. T. Freene, Exeter, J.D.; J. B. Jenkins and H. C. Risley, M.C.; R. B. Leach, Balliol, I.G.; J. O. Bigg, W. J. Erskine, C. J. Johnstone, Lord Newry, J. J. Pearson, C. Swainson, A. J. Wilberforce, W. J. Woodgate, Stewards; W. Stevens, Tyler. On the conclusion of the business the brethren proceeded to the banquet room, where a sumptuous entertainment, provided under the direction of Bro. W. Thompson and the Stewards, awaited them. The W.M. presided, and was supported by about 100 brethren including the following:—Capt. Bowyer, Prov. G.M. of Oxfordshire; Ald. Spiers, D. Prov. G.M.; Rev. W. K. R. Bedford, G. Chaplain; Rev. A. H. Faber and Rev. J. E. Codrington, P.M.'s of the Apollo Lodge; A. G. Holmes, W.M. of the Alfred Lodge; Past Masters Ald. Sadler, Thompson, E. Owen, J. Wyatt, E. Rainsford, H. Houghton, F. Symonds, J. Walker, and E. Bevers; W. W. Harrison, W.M. of the Churchill Lodge; Scroggs, Looker, and Cooke, P.M.'s of the Cherwell Lodge. There was a large attendance of officers and brethren of the Apollo, Alfred, Churchill, and Cherwell Lodges, for the

Apollo Lodge was lavish in its invitations, and bent on showing that its hospitality was as diffusive as it was generous and hearty. The W.M., in introducing the various toasts, more especially that of "The Queen," spoke in terms in which eloquence, earnestness, and sympathy were combined, in a manner that made a powerful impression on all who heard it. His remarks, too, on the nature, character, and objects of Masonry during the evening were distinguished for their power, their appropriateness, and eloquence, and the hearty applause which they elicited testified how truly they were appreciated. The addresses of the Prov. G.M.; of Bro. Faber, P.M. of the Apollo Lodge; Bro. A. G. Holmes, W.M. of the Alfred Lodge; Ald. Sadler, P.M. Alfred Lodge; P.M. Looker, of the Cherwell; and of two visiting brethren, one from Hampshire, and the other from Germany, were also listened to with especial interest. The proceedings were diversified with some excellent songs by various brethren. Before the company separated, the Prov. G.M. announced that he and Bro. Blakiston had accepted the office of Stewards to the Masonic Boys' Festival. He expressed his earnest hope that they should be well backed up by the presence and pecuniary support of the brethren of this province, and tendered to them his grateful thanks for the subscriptions already promised, amounting to about 60*l.* On the conclusion of the banquet, the brethren adjourned to the lower room, where tea and coffee were served. The proceedings of this festival will, in point of interest and success, bear comparison with any previous one; the attendance was larger than usual, the arrangements were on the same liberal and comprehensive scale as heretofore, and nothing was omitted which could in any way conduce to the comfort and happiness of the party. The members of the Apollo Lodge have great reason to congratulate themselves on the success of this annual festive gathering, and all who had the good fortune to be present will revert to it with many pleasurable associations.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

BATH.—*Royal Cumberland Lodge* (No. 48).—The usual monthly meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Corridor, Bath, on Thursday, March 6th, under the presidency of Bro. J. F. Ruddock, W.M. The lodge having been duly opened, and the minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, the W.M. vacated the chair, which being taken by Bro. T. B. Moutrie, the Immediate P.M., a gentleman was duly passed to the degree of F.C., the W.T. being given by Bro. P.M. Ashley. After some further business being disposed of, including the voting a donation to the Boys' School (of which this lodge is already a Governor) the lodge was closed.

SUSSEX.

BRIGHTON.—*Royal York Lodge* (No. 394).—The monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Tuesday the 4th inst., at four o'clock at the Old Ship Hotel. The lodge having been duly opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed, a ballot for initiation and for joining followed, when Messrs. Pearson and B. Chatfield were unanimously elected, and forthwith initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. Bro. J. Smith was then raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The W.M. (Bro. W. Curtis) thanked his officers for their punctuality in attendance, and for their assistance in his expiring year of office, and in accordance with a vote of the lodge, presented to Bro. V. P. Freeman a P.M.'s jewel from the members, as a mark of appreciation, and in testimony of his indefatigable services for its prosperity. Bro. Freeman in grateful terms acknowledged the presentation. The brethren below the chair having retired, Bro. Curtis proceeded to instal Bro. Marchant (late S.W.) in the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom. The brethren of different grades were then regularly admitted and the W.M. proclaimed and saluted in the usual manner. The following appointments were made:—Bros. Challen, S.W.; C. P. Smith, J.W.; H. Saunders, Treas. (re-elected); Bull, Sec.; Robinson, S.D.; Reeds, J.D.; Buckman, Dir. of Cers. (re-elected); W. Hudson, I.G.; Lewis, Steward; Ancock, Tyler (re-elected). The lodge was then closed in due form. A word of praise is deservedly due to the outgoing Master (Bro. W. Curtis) for his admirable working upon this, as on all occasions, which was by no means a light task, consisting, as it did, of one raising, two initiations, and the ceremony of installation, the whole of which he rendered without assistance, to the evident pleasure of the members generally. The brethren at seven o'clock sat down to banquet under the presidency of the W.M. The number dining was thirty-five, including the following visitors:—Bros. Bacon,

P. Prov. G.S.W.; J. Fabian, W.M. 338; Chittenden, P.M. 390, P.G. Purst; Dixon, P.M. 338; Potter and Vincent, 1034; Booty, 338. The usual loyal and lodge toasts were given, interspersed by some excellent singing from several brethren, kindly accompanied upon the piano by a visiting brother. The evening was spent in a most pleasant and fraternal manner, and the brethren separated at an early hour, delighted with the day's proceedings.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

BAILDON, NEAR LEEDS.—*Airedale Lodge* (No. 543).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was holden on Wednesday, the 12th of February, at which there was a very large gathering of members, particularly of the older brethren. Bro. James C. Read, W.M., assisted by his officers, opened the lodge at seven o'clock. The minutes being passed, Bro. Priestley was examined as a F. C., and being found proficient, the W.M. called upon Bros. J. Walker and Henry Smith, P.M.s, to assist him in the ceremony of raising Bro. Priestley to the sublime degree of M.M. The ceremony being concluded, Bro. Edward Haigh, recently returned from Australia, then rose, and claimed the attention of the W.M. and brethren for a few moments, recalling to their memory the time when he left these shores for that distant colony, shortly after they had raised him to that high degree, which the brother had just attained. Before leaving, he expressed a hope for a speedy return, and his intention to present some little token of recognition of their kindness to the lodge. He then handed in a beautiful box of working tools, made in Melbourne of native woods. The box was of most beautifully grained wood, the Henon pine; the tools of black wood, Myal wood and red gum, all elaborately polished, and fitted into their respective places in an ingenious manner. The W.M. accepted the present on behalf of the lodge, and a vote of thanks was duly passed, on the motion of Bro. W. W. Holmes, P.M., supported by Bros. J. Denby, Wainman Holmes, John Walker, sen., J. Walker, jun., and Lycias Barker, P.M.s. The lodge being closed, the brethren passed an agreeable evening in the refreshment room. The repast being disposed of, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured.

ROTHERHAM.—*Phoenix Lodge* (No. 1206).—In our notice a week or two ago of the new lodges, for which warrants have been granted since the issue of the calendar, we omitted to mention the Phoenix Lodge (No. 1206), the meetings of which are to be held at the Prince of Wales Hotel, on the first Tuesday in each month. The meeting of last week was only the second of the new lodge, but already the furniture and appointments are tolerably complete, owing partly to the fact that some portions are those used by the old Phoenix Lodge, at Rotherham, previously to its dissolution in 1846, and have been kept by some brethren who were then members in a state of capital preservation. The business transacted was the passing the by-laws; and the proposition of three candidates is an indication that the new lodge will soon become vigorous and useful.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

Lodge La Cesarée (No. 860).—The ordinary meeting of the month was held on February 27th, when a much larger assemblage of the brethren took place than has been customary in the lodge of late, the number present being upwards of fifty. The W.M. Bro. Baudains, opened the proceedings in the usual manner, assisted by his Wardens, Bros. Le Conteur, and Le Sueur. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when several matters of business connected with accounts were arranged, and Bro. Dr. Piscart underwent an examination as to his progress, and this proving highly satisfactory, he was impressively raised to the degree of a M.M. by Bro. Schmitt, P.M. The lodge having been resumed in the first degree, a discussion arose on a proposition of Bro. Binet, P.M., that in future all who became members by initiation shall be furnished with a copy of the *Book of Constitutions* at the expense of the lodge. This was resisted by several, and ultimately negatived, on the ground that it would be a needless expense, unless the work were translated and published in French, so many of the brethren having but little acquaintance with English. This matter being

settled, the lodge was closed with the wonted rites, and the brethren adjourned for light refreshment, when an hour was profitably spent in the enjoyment of social intercourse, and the expression of Masonic sentiments, in which several visitors took part, among whom may be particularly named Bro. Bull, from Birmingham.

SCOTLAND.

AYR KILWINNING (No. 124).—Our Ayr correspondent writes to us:—We were present at a most interesting meeting of the Lodge Ayr, Kilwinning, on the evening of Monday last, at which four Serjeants of the 76th regiment were passed and raised, the ceremony being performed by P.M. Bro. George Good, who delivered the lectures in a chaste and highly impressive manner, in presence of a very full meeting of the lodge, as well as a number of visiting brethren representing the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, Mother Kilwinning, Ayr Operative, Royal Arch St. Paul, and No. 555 Fermoy, Ireland. Labour being suspended, plumbline erected his column, and the brethren partook of refreshment, having for their chairman Bro. Andrew McGaan, Dep. Master, a brother whose cheerful disposition and courteous manner render his presence at the head of the convivial board at all times most acceptable. In returning thanks for the brethren of the 76th Serjeant Warner mentioned that, it might now be said that nearly all the serjeants in the regiment were craftsmen, and so thoroughly imbued were they with the spirit of Masonry, that the non-commissioned officers of the 76th seriously contemplated the introduction of a lodge charter into the distinguished corps to which they had the honour to belong. In name of the serjeants present, Serjeant Warner tendered a cordial invitation to the members of their mother lodge to visit them at their mess, where they would meet with the extended hand of unfeigned welcome. A lively discussion was provoked by some remarks which fell from Bro. J. McC. Williamson, suggestive of the propriety of having a lodge of Instruction formed in connection with Ayr Kilwinning. The Prov. J.G.W., Bro. D. Murray Lyon, Mother Kilwinning, thought it would tend to much good were they to take advantage of the facilities afforded by Grand Lodge for the erection of lodges of Instruction, by applying for a charter for one to be established in connection with the united lodges of Ayr, and in which the services of the most accomplished and industrious local craftsmen could be brought into requisition for the benefit of every lodge. He would lend to such a movement the fullest support, because he was convinced that uniformity in our mode of conferring the degrees, was indeed a scheme worth contending and labouring for. There should be neither British, French, nor American Masonry among us; the cosmopolitan ought to feel himself at home as much within the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient of France, as of the Grand Lodge of England, able as easily to pass into the Grand Lodge of Holland as into that of Kentucky. The R.W.M. of the Lodge Operative, Bro. George Wilson, could not see the necessity for a lodge of instruction in connection with Ayr Kilwinning; for so long as they engaged the services of their present P.M., Bro. Good, they had a sure guarantee, that Masonry, through his instrumentality, would be disseminated in all its purity. The subject was then allowed to drop without anything definite being agreed upon. Bro. Wilson proposed as a toast "The Health of Bro. G. Good," which he prefaced in suitable language, and had the satisfaction of seeing it well responded to. Bro. Good, to whom the Lodge Ayr Kilwinning is under deep obligations, modestly acknowledged the compliment the brethren had paid to him, and assured them that his ardour in the cause of Masonry and for the prosperity of his mother lodge remained unabated, and that his services were ever at their disposal. "The Acting R.W.M., Bro. McGaan" was given by the Prov. J.G.W., who hoped to see the Dep. Master offener in the chair than heretofore, a position which he was well peculiarly qualified to fill. "Bro. Serjeant Wallace of 555, Fermoy," and other toasts were given and responded to, and a number of excellent songs sung, the brethren regretting that the speedy flight of time rendered an adjournment desirable.

GLASGOW.—*Lodge Athole* (No. 413).—This young and rising lodge held its usual bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday evening last, Bro. Patum, R.W.M. in the chair; Bros. Schaw, S.W. and Smith, J.W. There was a large attendance and a considerable amount of labour gone through, the ceremonies of Initiation,

Passing, and Raising, and also Affiliation having been worked. The R.W.M. gave notice that at the next meeting he would bring under the consideration of the lodge the subject of fixing the amount of fee to be charged on conferring the Mark Degree. He also reminded the brethren, that at the next meeting, Bro. E. T. Smith the J.W. would deliver an essay on "The Passions" and particularly requested their attendance on the occasion. The lodge was then closed in due form.

IRELAND.

LONDONDERRY.—The Brethren of "Old 407," Ramelton, met for the installation officers, and dined together on St. John's day, 27th Dec., William Martin, Solicitor, W.M. in the chair. In giving the usual charter toasts, the deep sympathy of the Brethren was expressed by the Chairman for her Majesty, under the afflictive bereavement by which she has been left a widowed Queen, and her children have lost the valued counsel of a wise and prudent father. In giving the health of Sir James Stewart, *Bart.*, the W.M. said—The health of Sir James Stewart, the Prov. G.M. of Derry and Donegal, is usually given here as one of our charter toasts. It is not in that capacity alone, however, that I now bring his name before you. These comfortable Lodge-rooms—in fact the entire building, with the extensive garden attached—he lately made over to us, to be vested in Bro. Dr. Browne (our D.Prov. G.M.), and myself as Master of this Lodge, in trust for the use of the Masons of "Old 407" for ever, at a nominal rent. This generous gift, value in ready money for £150, is a fine testimony of Sir James's appreciation of the importance and advantage of our Order. Such an act by such a man is a strong argument to the uninitiated that there must be something good in the system he so sanctions and encourages. For upwards of forty years, much of his time, his talents, and his purse, have been devoted to the advancement of the cause. I myself have been the medium of conveying some of his liberal donations to the aid of the Craft in remote districts, where neither the locality nor the parties had any claim upon him, nor other argument to urge, save that of benefitting society by the spread and promotion of Masonic principles. How different his conduct from those who, without proper inquiry, take it for granted that the institution is a bad one, and then, in ignorance of facts, seek to establish their presumption. They say a man must be a Mason before he can know anything of the system, and then it is too late to object to or expose its evils. This we know to be a mistake. We are aware that no man is ever made a Mason without those broad fundamental principles which regulate and govern all others being first clearly and freely explained to him. This much every man may know of Masonry. By wisdom based upon a pure morality, its strength is truth, its beauty love—in it there is nothing inconsistent with man's duty to his God, his sovereign, his neighbour, or himself—nothing incompatible with his moral, civil, or religious obligations: but, on the contrary, the strongest sanctions to their promotion. Why is it that men who prize the salvation of the immortal soul infinitely above all the honours and emoluments the world can bestow, adhere to its society, and advocate its principles? Not because there is any arbitrary bond or obligation binding them to do so, but because of the inherent excellency of its precepts, by whose teaching the mind, being freed from the dominion of pride, and released from the thrall of prejudice. Mason sees in Mason a brother, created by the same Almighty power, for the same great purpose—the honour and praise of God—and living in hope of the same glorious fruition—the beatitude of heaven—he realizes in the system that unites them a bond of happy union, sanctified by virtue, truth, and concord, illustrated by those symbolic illustrations, beneath which lie veiled the secrets of our art—secrets profound and sublimely beautiful, threading the whole system of moral and intellectual science, from the atom of earth to the throne of the Eternal—not mere stupid signs and passwords, but secrets that arrest the intellect and reward the industry that penetrates their depths. As respects the moral standing of our Institution, I am aware that the uninitiated mock at our high pretensions, as they point to exceptional instances of drunkards, liars, and blasphemers, bearing the name and wearing the badge of Masonry. There was once a small band of twelve, and, from the intuitive wisdom and perfect purity of the mind who chose them as His followers, the precepts He inculcated, and the examples He set, one would have expected to discover in them the

nearest approach to perfection the human family could furnish; but what do we find? Two of them are reprov'd for selfish ambition, one lies, and supports his falsehood with blasphemy, and one sordid wretch sells his Master's life for thirty pieces of silver, and in remorse for his perfidy, dies a suicide. Nor can Masonry make its members perfect. It cannot change the depraved heart of man, nor does it pretend to do so; but every precept in its code points and guides to the Omnipotence who can. Then we are told, if the secrets of Masonry are fraught with such advantages, why not unmask its mysteries and bestow its benefits on the world. A great mystery has been revealed to the world. God immortal and mortal man, retaining their distinctive natures, stood upon our earth in one and the same person. As the babe of Bethlehem, angels herald His obscure birth; and in His death, an eastern mid-day clothed herself in the sable habiliments of night to mourn the martyr of Calvary, who, in the interim, exhibits such miracles as the world else never saw. At His mysterious touch, the deaf are made to hear, the blind to see, the dumb to speak, the lame to walk, the dead are raised, and the lepers are cleansed. The pulpit orator proclaims abroad the Gospel of this wondrous incarnation—its life and blessing—its curse and death—and with glowing eloquence he enforces the awfully solemn truth, that to every man who hears it, its inevitable consequence is life eternal or death unending. Yet see how many sit beneath this thrilling revelation, with heads like bullrushes, their senses wrapped in sleep. And why is this? Ah! it is an oft-told tale, and they can hear it again at any time, and thus familiarity with the most solemnly sacred subject breeds in many naught but indifference and contempt. And, therefore, while the law by which man must be judged ought to be proclaimed to all, whether they will hear or whether they will forbear, I believe the private parabolic teaching of Masonry is calculated to do more good than if its principles were unreservedly disclosed to the vulgar world. The mystery that veils it creates the interest of inquiry; and as those secrets must not be communicated at once, and can only be acquired by the gradual teaching peculiar to the science, the moral truths developed by progressive illustrations, become imperceptibly inlaid in the constitution of the mind, ever increasing as inquiry advances, while the beauty of the discoveries made, and the interest excited after those to be acquired, keep alive in the breast of every Mason unfading respect for our ancient and honoured Institution. Fault has been found with our system on another ground—namely that men of exalted position and refined manners are thereby brought into contact with men of rude and uncultivated habits. It is true that the monarch, uncrowned and unrobed, does step from his throne to mingle in our assemblies, there to feel that, though a king, he is but a man; while the peasant comes up from the toil and sweat he inherits from the curse, to feel that he also is a man, and there, upon the same Masonic level, forgetful of their antecedents and their earthly circumstances, prince and peasant realize their position as man beneath the ever-open eye of an omniscient God—the distinctions of mind their only difference—and are reminded that upon the same level they shall again meet, where small and great shall stand before the great white throne for judgment. Ours is not the level of communism, that would rob industry of its wealth and intellect of its reward; no, it is the equality that shall reign above, where the redeemed, stripped of the circumstances and distinctions of time, shall shine as the stars, graduating in glory according to the magnitude of their intellects.

INDIA.

LUCKNOW.

TESTIMONIAL TO CAPT. T. N. YOUNG, W.M. LODGE MORNING STAR (No. 810.)

A special meeting of the members of this lodge was held at the lodge-rooms on Saturday evening, the 30th November, 1861, present:—Bros. Young, W.M.; Macgregnan, P.M.; Buckley, as S.W.; Hollingbery, as J.W.; Torrens, I.G.; Ward, Tyler; Blenman, Sec.; Wriscon, Capper.

Bro. BUCKLEY regretted the paucity of attendance on the present occasion, and requested Bro. Young to make over the Hiram to Bro. Macgregnan for a short time, which was accordingly done.

Bro. MACGREGNAN, P.M., said he was also sorry to see so scant an attendance of the brethren; but he was afraid that the notice was circulated rather late, and that the paucity of

members must therefore be attributed to that. That the brethren, however, must know the object of the meeting. It was one worthy of ourselves, and of the brother in whose behalf it had been called. The occasion was one of pleasure, and yet of pain,—pleasure, that we had assembled expressly to mark our sense of the loss of our much-esteemed Master,—and pain, that we were about to lose him. I proceed to summon Bro. Young before the Eastern Chair to receive at our hands this record of our feeling on his approaching departure. He then proceeded to read the address.

"Lodge Morning Star (No. 812) of Lucknow, to Captain T. N. Young, II.M.'s 23rd R. W. Fusiliers, Lucknow, Worshipful Master of Lodge Morning Star.

"DEAR SIR AND WORSHIPFUL BROTHER,—We, the undersigned, Past Masters and Officers of the above lodge, in behalf also of all its members, do ourselves the honour of waiting upon you with this address on the occasion of your approaching departure from the station, and consequent separation from us, and in compliance also with a resolution passed at the last regular meeting of the lodge held on Thursday, the 21st inst., to express personally and in general to you, our heartfelt sorrow and regret that the exigencies of the public service are about to deprive us of your presence from among us, in the exalted position to which your merits and peculiar qualifications claimed for you, the mastership of the lodge, as well as the advantages and many excellent social qualities the brethren have enjoyed and participated in at your hands, during your tenure of office in the eastern chair. Believe us, Worshipful Sir and Dear Brother, that from the fraternal and social link thus formed between your good self and the brethren throughout of Lodge Morning Star, that in our future career, whenever recurring to the past and present, the recollection of your name will, in all our future proceedings, revive a happy remembrance of your unwearied exertions and suffrages with the brethren of the lodge, and the noble and happy manner in which you have always sustained and vindicated the interests and prosperity of the lodge, marked also by the most amiable and affable intercourse you have throughout maintained and accorded to one and all, as well as for the good working, order, and harmony, by your exemplary deportment and steadfast conduct in the chair, which have won for you the confidence and respect of all. With these sentiments, we beg to wish you a passing adieu, humbly, but fervently, praying that the G.A.O.T.U. will spare you to enjoy many years of happiness and prosperity, and may his blessings also continue to alight upon and preserve all who are near and dear to you on earth. S. M. B.

We remain, dear Sir and Worshipful Brother, your most sincere friends and fraternal brethren.

"Signed by the Past Master, Officers, and Brethren of the Lodge.

"Lucknow Lodge Rooms, 30th Nov., 1861."

Bro. Macgregnan concluded by adding: "Bro. Young, I present to you on behalf this lodge this record of the sincere feelings of regret, with which we view your approaching departure from amongst us."

Bro. BUCKLEY added a few words of regret at the loss to the lodge by the removal from us of so highly esteemed a Master and so excellent and worthy a brother, coupled with the best wishes of the brethren for the health and happiness of Bro. Young and family.

Bro. YOUNG, W.M., who was affected to tears, replied as follows:—I need scarcely say that the proceedings of this evening and the kindness of the brethren have much affected my feelings, so that I can scarcely do them justice in my endeavours to return you adequately my heartfelt thanks; but the will must be taken for the deed. The Worshipful Past Master has expressed such kindly feelings towards me, in addition to those in the address, that the memory of this evening will not soon be effaced from my mind. The address, believe me, I value and prize highly, and shall do to the latest period of my existence. I regard it as the handsomest way in which I have succeeded in doing my duty to the lodge and to the Craft, that success can be recorded. Such a record lives after us, and serves to point out to others that where a man endeavours to do his duty honestly and cheerfully, a sure reward is in store for him, not only in his own feelings, but in the good opinion of other men, of which, in my own case, I have had from you, brethren, so kind and feeling an expression this evening. In the whole course of my career, the gratification with which I respond to the kindness of the brethren on the present occasion, stands prominent. It is a solace to me amidst the pain of parting from you. I

trust that the scene of this evening will encourage and incite the younger brethren to a spirit of emulation in that part of Masonic duty in which it has been my own constant endeavour to walk.

My regret at leaving you is more than I can state, brethren. For, 1st, the ties which bind me to this lodge are many and dear, my position of Master to it has been throughout one uninterrupted source of pleasure and delight to me, and my task in presiding over you has been so lightened and otherwise made easy by the kindness and liberality of the brethren, that my descending from the chair is a source of no common regret. 2ndly, my going from among you reminds me but too painfully of our many happy and social gatherings—gatherings where such harmony, good-will, and brotherly love have always prevailed, that my heart is full to think that I shall no more, for the present at least, form one of that "happy band" among you. It will be a grateful duty in me not to forget when I am writing to those dear to me, at present far away, the kind wishes and fraternal feelings of the brethren towards them personally, in addition to those expressed towards myself. In conclusion, permit me to assure you, brethren, that the memory of this evening will ever be dear to me, and years hence, when I am far away, and perhaps we are scattered over the globe, the kind faces I now see around me will again and again assemble to cheer and soothe me wheresoever I may be, and under whatsoever circumstances of life.

The whole proceeding, from beginning to end, was of the most affecting nature.

INDIAN MASONIC MEMS.

An official letter received from Bro. A. H. E. Boileau, from Jhansi, confirms the report of his appointment as Prov. Grand Master of Bengal, in succession to Bro. James Ramsay. Bro. Boileau has also been appointed Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry in Bengal. Bro. J. J. L. Hoff will continue to exercise his present functions, under authority delegated to him by the P.G.M.

Bro. Thos. Jones, of Lodge Excelsior, is about to proceed on leave to Europe in the *Hotspar*. We first met Bro. Jones in the Freemasons' Hall nearly ten years ago, when he was not a Mason. He soon after joined the Fraternity, and rose to high office with wonderful rapidity. By a combination of qualities, by his attainments as a linguist, by his readiness as a speaker, his energy, his astonishing *aplomb*, and great sagacity, he has become one of the best known men in Calcutta. We wish him God speed!

The Warrant of the new Lodge, Faith, Hope, and Charity, at Bareilly, has been received. It bears the number 1190 on the Register.

CALCUTTA.—THE ELECTIONS.—The elections have been going on briskly in the several lodges in Calcutta.

The Lodge Star in the East (No. 80), met on Wednesday, the 11th December, and re-elected R. W. Bro. Sandeman. About 50 brethren were present; among them Dr. Smyth, who made a very interesting speech. The following appointments have been made in the Lodge:—Bros. A. J. Whitten and A. Simson to be Wardens, Bro. W. Eames (who is also Treasurer), and Bro. B. S. B. Bailey to be Deacon; Bro. W. Bourne, *M.D.*, to be Secretary, and Bro. W. Bourne, *C.E.*, to be Inner Guard.

LODGE INDUSTRY AND PERSEVERANCE (No. 126), met on Friday, the 6th December, and elected Bro. C. T. Davis. There was a large assemblage of brethren on the occasion. Bro. Chandler was re-elected Treasurer, and old Bro. Daniel, Tyler.

LODGE TRUE FRIENDSHIP (No. 265), met on Tuesday, the 10th December, and elected Bro. W. M. Benwell, a highly popular member, to whom we say sincerely—*Ben ti voglio!*

LODGE HUMILITY WITH FORTITUDE (No. 729), met on Monday, the 2nd December, and elected Bro. J. B. Knight, Bro. J. G. Macgregor, the efficient Treasurer, was re-elected to that office, and Bro. Jacob was formally elected Tyler. We have known Bro. Knight for nearly the last ten years, and we have no doubt that, under his Hiram, the lodge will continue to maintain its ancient reputation for loyalty and a strict observance of the landmarks. He was installed on the 16th by a Board of seven Past Masters, among whom were the Rev. Dr. Smythe and Bros. J. Martin, C. J. Evans, and A. H. Ledlie. Bros. H. F. Andrews and J. G. Macgregor were appointed Wardens, J. B. Gillon and A. LeFranc, Deacons; H. Cockburn, Secretary; W. Bishop, Inner Guard; and J. W. Beatson, Master of Ceremonies.

LODGE MARINE (No. 282), met on Monday, the 9th December, and re-elected its able Master, Bro. C. J. Evans.

In the HOWRAN LODGE, Anchor and Hope (No. 284), only two of the members were eligible for election to the office of Master, viz., Bros. J. Bennett, S.W., and F. B. Davis. The lodge met on Wednesday, the 4th December, and elected the former.

LODGE COURAGE WITH HUMANITY (No. 551), met on Thursday the 12th December, and elected Bro. J. H. Linton. There was a very large attendance, and the work before the lodge, (balloting, initiating, raising, and electing) was heavy. At the supper table, Bro. C. J. Evans, of Lodge Marine, proposed "The health of the retiring Master, Bro. F. C. Hoff, in a very appropriate speech.

LODGE ST. JOHN (No. 715), met on Friday, the 13th Dec., and re-elected Bro. G. C. Paul, Barrister-at-Law, who, as Junior Warden, has been in charge of the lodge since the departure for Europe of the Senior Warden, our late Bro. Hinde. Bro. A. F. Mauly was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Gabagan, Tyler. Bro. Paul was installed on the 19th instant by R. W. Bro. J. W. Brown.

In LODGE EXCELSIOR (No. 1127), Bro. W. H. Abbott, who has raised the lodge to a high position, was re-elected on Tuesday, the 3rd December. The Lodge gave a grand *fête* on the occasion of his "installation" on Tuesday, 17th. When the guests commenced assembling at the hour fixed for them, the lodge had already met, for the purpose of initiating Mr. D. T. Ralli, of the well-known firm of Ralli and Mavrojani. On the conclusion of the ceremony, the members of the lodge came downstairs, for the purpose of mingling with their guests, and conducting them into the lodge-room, for the completion of the business of the evening. The Master, having been re-elected, informed the brethren that there was no necessity of going through the ceremony of installation, and that he would therefore at once proceed to appoint his officers. Bros. W. Pigott and F. J. Fergusson were appointed Wardens; Bro. A. F. Peach was retained in the office of Secretary; Bros. Eneas Perkins and C. D. Linton were appointed Deacons, and our worthy Bro. R. Staunton accepted the office of Inner Guard. Bro. A. St. J. Carruthers had previously been elected Treasurer. We noticed that some of the brethren had on a new jewel, which we were informed belonged to the Order of the Knights of Constantinople, lately conferred by the Rev. Dr. T. C. Smyth, under the authority of the Marquis St. George, of Malta. At the banquet table, before anything else was done, the brethren drank a parting glass with Bro. Thomas Jones, who was on the eve of his departure for Europe, and who, being in somewhat delicate health, was obliged to leave the Hall early. The Worshipful Master proposed his health in a neat speech, for which Bro. Jones returned thanks in his usual style. He deserved the compliment; for he may be said to have been the founder of the lodge. The town band was in attendance, playing appropriate airs after the several toasts.

In THE DUM-DUM LODGE, ST. LUKE (No. 1150), Bro. Captain W. W. Clark, of the Lahore Light Horse, was elected Master, and the Rev. Dr. Lindstedt appointed Senior Warden. At a previous meeting, held on Monday, the 25th November, Bro. John W. Brown presided, at the request of the Master, Bro. Captain Patterson, and raised Bros. Morgan and Lumsdaine, whom he had himself initiated in Calcutta. The removal of the Artillery from Dum-Dum will greatly affect Lodge St. Luke.

CHAPTER HOPE (No. 126), met on Wednesday, the 4th Dec., and re-elected M. E. Com. F. Jennings to the First Principal's Chair; but as he has already served two years, a dispensation is necessary. Comp. John W. Brown, who had been elected, at the previous convocation, to the chair of H, and Comp. Martin, who had been elected to the chair of J, were installed; the Rev. Dr. T. C. Smyth was elected an honorary member of the chapter; and four Master Masons were exalted, viz., Bro. Thos. Dickson, of Lodge No. 126; Bro. W. J. Pittar, of Lodge No. 265; Bro. Captain W. Durham, of Lodge No. 715, and Bro. Jenkins, whose application must have been received after the precepts were issued. It was a very full meeting.

LAHORE LODGE.—At the last regular meeting of Lodge Hope and Perseverance, on the 2nd December, Bro. Ball was re-elected to the Eastern Chair for the ensuing year, and Bro. Asquith was unanimously re-elected Treasurer. The brethren subscribed very handsomely for a testimonial, to consist of a Music Director's baton, of silver, suitably inscribed, for presentation to Bro. H. L. Oertel, as a token of their appreciation of his worth as a Mason and of his services to the lodge, particularly in organising and conducting the Glee Club attached to it.

MEERUT.—Lodge Hope (No. 596).—On the 18th November,

Bro. H. R. Bishop installed Bro. Foster into the chair, under a dispensation from Bro. Hogge, Pro. D. Prov. G.M., for performing the ceremony with the aid of only two P.M's. After being installed, Bro. Foster conferred the 3rd degree on Bro. Hall in a very able manner. Bro. Foster is a zealous and an accomplished Mason, and is held in high esteem by the Meerut brethren. On the 19th, Bro. Bishop, under a dispensation, and with the aid of Ex. Comp. Hogge and Comp. McEvoy, installed Ex. Comp. Foster in the chairs of H and Z, Comp. Catcliffe in those of J and H, and Comp. Tyrwhitt in the chair of J. Had this not been done, the Chapter at Meerut, where such a good Masonic feeling prevails, would again have been closed, to our great regret. After the installation (Comp. Hogge having left the Chapter, being in delicate health), Comp. Bishop, aided by Comps. McEvoy and Foster in the chairs of H and J, exalted five brethren, viz., Bros. Waters, Perreau, Corbyn, Goldstein, Cohen. Bro. Bishop has been elected an honorary member of Lodge Hope, at Meerut, and also of Lodge Charity, at Umballa.

ROYAL ARCH.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.—Chapter of Harmony (No. 302).—The Quarterly Convocation was held on Monday, March 10th, which was numerously attended. The business consisted of the installation of the new officers, previously elected. The chapter having been opened by eight Principals who were present, the companions were admitted. The minutes of two former meetings were read and confirmed. The 1st Principal, Most Excellent Comp. Schmitt, then addressed the chapter, taking a review of his two years of Presidency, commenting on the efficient services of his officers, and uttering sentiments quite in accordance with the name of the chapter. The companions having retired, a Board of Installed Principals was constituted, when S. Comp. Adams, Past Z., was again obligated and placed in the 1st Chair by the retiring Z. The new President then installed Comp. Donaldson in the second, and Comp. Benham in the third chair, with the proper ceremonies. The Board of Installed Principals was then closed, and the companions having been re-admitted, saluted their new officers. Comp. Rogers was appointed to the position of Principal Sojourner. On the proposition of Comp. J. F. Du Jardine for the appointment of a sub-committee to inquire into the circumstances under which the Grand Superintendent of the province still holds that rank, though no longer a member of any chapter within it, and to point out to the Grand Chapter this violation of the *Book of Constitutions*, a discussion arose, and it was ultimately determined to postpone the consideration of it until a Chapter of Emergency, which it is proposed to hold in a week or two, it being understood that summary measures on the subject will then be entered upon. The chapter was closed about ten o'clock, and the companions adjourned to a banquet which had been waiting for them nearly two hours.

DEVONSHIRE.

STONEHOUSE.—Chapter of Fortitude (No. 122).—A convocation of this Chapter was held at the Prince George Hotel, Stonehouse, on the 31st of January, a large assembly of the Order being present to witness the exaltation of Bros. Chapman, Pomeroy, and Rodda of Lodge, 122, and Thomas Harvey, of Lodge 182, to the supreme degree of Royal Arch Masons. The ceremony was impressively performed by P.Z. Excellent Comp. Dr. Dowse, Prov. G.J., to whom this chapter is largely indebted for the great interest he has taken in its welfare. Ex. Comp. the Rev. George, Knowling, J. of Chapter 224, added much to the interest and effectiveness of the ceremony, by kindly officiating as P.Soj. At the conclusion of the ceremony P.Z. Ex. Comp. Rowe, Prov. G.A.S., in proposing a vote of thanks to M.E.Z. Dr. Dowse, expressed himself most pleased at having the opportunity of paying a debt so long due from the chapter, to him, for his anxious readiness to render every assistance in the cause of Masonry, and this chapter particularly. The Comps. then proceeded to elect the officers for the ensuing year, when the following were unanimously chosen, Ex. Comps. Mettleton, P.Z. as Z.; Phillips, H.; Jew, J.; Pomeroy, Scribe E.; Rodda, N.; Roberts, P. Soj.; and Chapman, Treas.; and on the 7th February, they were duly installed in their respective offices, this ceremony also being ably performed by the M.E.Z., Comp.

Dowse. Several brethren were proposed for exaltation at the next meeting, to be held on the 16th April. For some time past the duties of this chapter have not been carried on so regularly as heretofore, owing to peculiar circumstances, which will now be obviated, by the judicious appointment of working officers, and there is every reason to expect, that in due time, it may claim to be placed on a footing with the most flourishing in the Province.

DEVONPORT.—*Chapter of Fidelity* (No. 280).—This chapter has for some time ceased to work. Under the skilful hands of its present officers no doubt it will soon become one of the best in the locality. At the chapter on Friday week, three brothers were proposed as companions for exaltation at the next meeting.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

NORTHAMPTON.—*Northampton Chapter* (No. 463).—A meeting of the Chapter attached to the Pomfret Lodge (No. 463), was held on the 27th Feb., under the Presidency of Comp. Green, M.E.Z. The minutes of the last chapter having been read and confirmed, the M.E.Z. vacated the chair in favour of Comp. James (P.Z. 706), who proceeded to instal Comp. Inns as First Principal, and Comps. Boeme and Gates to the Second and Third Chairs. Comp. Mewitt was confirmed in his appointment as P.S., and Comp. Robinson as E. The M.E.Z. having resumed the Chair, Comp. Gates proposed that a sum of £10 10s. be voted from the funds of the Chapter to constitute the M.E.Z. for the time being a Governor of the Boys' School, and a further sum as a donation on the motion of Comp. Boeme, of £2 2s. was appropriated to the Northampton Victoria Dispensary. These propositions were carried unanimously. Amongst the visiting brethren were Comps. Henry Mulliner (of the Shakspeare Chapter at Warwick) and Riley (of the Stuart Lodge at Bedford).

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

BRADFORD.—*Chapter of Charity* (No. 379).—The usual monthly meeting of this chapter was held on Monday, February 24th, in the new rooms of the Lodge of Hope, presided over by Comp. W. Mawson, also present Comps. M. Rogerson, Thomas Hill, W. Gath, J. H. Buckley, and Henry Smith, P.Z.; C. H. Taylor, M.O.H.; J. P. Robinson, J.; H. Butterworth, S.E.; S. C. Hill, S.N.; John Gaunt, P. Soj.; J. Pickard, Treas.; J. J. Holmes and several others. After the minutes had been disposed of, the Treasurer stated that his funds were in a flourishing state, and after motion being duly passed and carried, a handsome donation was made to the Lodge of Hope; as an acknowledgement for the many kindnesses received from the brethren of that lodge. The chapter being closed in due form, the companions sat down to an excellent supper, provided by the Stewards.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

BRADFORD.—*Conclave of Faith* (No. 29).—A meeting of the above encampment was held at the rooms of the Lodge of Hope (No. 379), on Monday, the 10th inst., at 7 in the evening. There were present, Sir Knights B. Gath and Thomas Hill, P.E.C.; Henry Smith, E.C.; Henry Farrer, 2nd Capt.; H. Butterworth, Reg.; John Gaunt, Expt.; J. B. Lawrence, and others. A very satisfactory statement of funds was made by the Treasurer. The necessary business being disposed of, the Sir Knights proceeded to practice for some time, when the encampment was declared closed, and the Sir Knights retired to refreshment.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Royal Kent Encampment*.—Friday, the 7th March, being the night of election of E.C. for the ensuing year, the encampment was opened by the E.C., Henry Gabriel Ludwig. The following were the Sir Knts. present:—Past E.C. John Barker, Past Grand Captain of England; Charles J. Bannister, Grand Aide Camp of England; Andrew Gillespie, Grand Herald of England; P.E.C. Henry Hotham; Rev. Samuel Atkinson, Vice Chancellor; H. A. Hammerbom, C. Rosenberg, W. J. Harding, J. O. Potter, &c. On the ballot being taken the unanimous voice of the fraters fell on Sir Knt. C. J. Bannister, Past E. Comp. of the Jacques de Molay Encampment, and first Captain of this Royal Kent. The election of Treasurer was unanimous in favour of P.E.C. Henry Hotham. The Vice Chancellor then read a letter from the son

of Sir Knt. Williams of Sunderland, announcing the death of his father, which took place on the 20th February. On the proposition of Bro. John Barker, seconded by Sir Knt. Hotham, it was resolved that the family of Fr. Williams, be informed of the general regret the fraters of this encampment felt at the demise of the worthy Sir Knt., and strongly sympathised with their bereavement, and regretted that the Sir Knts. were not informed of the illness of the respected frater, or of the time of his funeral, as many would have felt it a duty to attend the last obsequies of their lamented frater in arms. The annual installation according to ancient custom, was fixed for the 18th inst., at two o'clock. The motion of Sir Knt. Bannister was then discussed and unanimously adopted, viz., that the regular meetings of this encampment be the first Friday in every second month, instead of the second Friday as heretofore. There being no further business before the encampment, it was closed, with love and harmony, at eight o'clock p.m.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Royal Kent Rose Croix Chapter*.—Wednesday, 5th March, being the day appointed for the Installation of the M.W. Sov. Elect—the chapter was solemnly opened by the M.W. Sov. Henry Hotham 18° assisted by the following Ill. brethren:—Past M.W. Sov. John Barker 31°; C. J. Bannister, 1st Gen. 30°; Andrew Gillespie, 2nd Gen. 18°; H. G. Ludwig, Grand Marshal 18°; John Rutter, 18° Raphael; J. T. Hoyle, 18°; Edward Shotton, 18°; J. Trotter, 18° &c. On the confirmation of the last minutes, the Ill. Bro. J. Barker, 31° was requested to perform the ceremony of Installation, and on the M.W. Sov. Elect, Ill. Bro. C. J. Bannister, 30°, being presented he was duly installed in ancient form, M.W. Sov. of the Royal Kent Chapter of Rose Croix for the ensuing year. It having been announced that Bro. H. A. Hammerbom was desirous to forward his petition for Perfection, and the Most Perfect Marshal having been duly confided with the same—he presented it to the M.W. Sov.; who, having taken the sense of the Chapter, and being accepted—Bro. Hammerbom was duly introduced and perfected S.P.R. X., by the M.W. Sov. C. J. Bannister. The following are the officers for this year:—Wm. Punsheon, Past M.W.S., Prelate; Andrew Gillespie, 1st General; H. G. Ludwig, 2nd General; John T. Hoyle, Grand Marshal; John Rutter, Raphael; Edward Shotton, Recorder; H. A. Hammerbom, Captain of the Guard; J. S. Trotter, Equerry Without. The chapter being closed, the Ill. brethren dined together in the banquet-room of the chapter, presided over by the M.W. Sov. —On the removal of the cloth, "The Health of H.M. the Queen" was drunk. The M.W.S. then proposed "The Health of the Most Puissant Sovereign of our Order, Dr. Leeson, and the Supreme Grand Council of the 33°". The next toast was "The members of the 31°, coupling the same with the health of the installing Bro. John Barker, 31°" to which Bro. Barker responded, giving for the benefit of the newly perfected brother, a slight sketch of the order. The next toast was "The P.M.W.S. Ill. Bro. Hotham"—which was responded to by him.—Bro. BARKER having obtained the permission of the chair to give the next toast he thus addressed the brethren:—"It is with unfeigned satisfaction that I propose this toast, as I do not require here to pass any vain compliments as to the worth of the brother whom we have this day installed to preside over us. The Ill. Bro. Bannister has not been pitchforked into office, either from his position, or from the want of a better man, if such were the practice of this ancient chapter to confer its honours. Bro. Bannister has obtained high position in all the degrees of Masonry, because he has not only practised the workings of each degree, but from the lowest to the highest office that he has filled in the Craft up to this sublime and perfect degree he made it a practice to fulfil the offices he was respectively appointed to with assiduity, punctuality, and to the perfect satisfaction of his brethren. Gifted with the power of mastering not only the rote of our rituals, but of thoroughly understanding what he was called upon to repeat in the delivery of our rites and ceremonies, he has justly acquired the honour of being a good working Mason. If, however, Bro. Bannister had stopped here he would have distanced many of his contemporaries, and might have been satisfied with his labours. But, as I said before, he was not one who would only be a talking machine, but he went further, applying, as he went on, the symbols of our rituals and trying to give effect by practice what they taught. There-

fore it is not surprising that we have seen, and see Bro. Bannister active in the works of charity, the chief corner stone of Masonry in all degrees, but especially in this. Not only has he practised this virtue from his own means, as any brother might do out of his abundance; but by attending lodges, advocating the charities wherever he went, he was thus able to present a goodly subscription list for the Royal Benevolent Fund for Aged Masons and their Widows; and now is he going over the northern provinces trying to do as much for the Boys' and Girls' Schools. It is needless brethren for me to add more, but merely to give "The good Health and long Life, and Prosperity to our worthy M.W. Sov., Bro. Bannister."—The M.W. Sov. responded in brief terms, saying that it was a great honour to have reached the position he now held in his mother chapter. This was the object of his ambition, and trusted it should be that of each newly perfected brother. He would endeavour to conduct the ceremonies of this degree with the solemnity they required. The next toast was "The newly Perfected S.P.R.✠, Bro. Hammerbom." He had no doubt from Bro. Hammerbom's antecedents, that he would be a strong acquisition to the working brethren of this chapter; he therefore at once put him in office, so that the chapter might obtain the benefit of his services.—Bro. HAMMERBOM, responded, thanking the illustrious brother for the honour conferred upon him that day, and trusted to be able to acquire a proper knowledge of his duties, so as to gradually earn himself that position now held by the M.W. Sov. Other toasts followed, when the brethren retired, at the close of a very agreeable evening, at ten o'clock.

MARK MASONRY.

MALLET AND CHISEL LODGE (No. 5).—This lodge met at the Three Tuns, Borough, on Wednesday, the 26th of February, 1862. Bros. J. W. Figg, R.W.M., pro. tem.; Binckes, S.W. pro. tem.; T. Peckering, J.W.; Goring, Conductor, pro. tem. Visitors Bros. Peter Matthews, Figg, Binckes, and Goring. The following brethren were also present:—Bros. Stephen Hayworth, William Barrett, Gustavus Drentia, Noah, Martin, and Tayler Catt were balloted for as candidates for advancement and duly elected. The before named brethren, being in attendance, were duly advanced by Bro. Figg, who worked the ceremony with great ease and elegance. Bro. Figg then installed Bro. Harris, as W.M., for the current year. The W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. J. Peckering, S.W.; Trebeck, J.W.; Hayworth, Master Overseer; Barnett, Overseer; Drentia, Overseer; A. Redgway, Treas.; Thompson, Registrar; J. Turner, Hon. Sec. The business of the evening being over, the lodge was closed with solemn prayer. Bro. Harris presided at the banquet, and after the usual toasts, Bro. Jesse Turner proposed "The Health of Bro. Binckes, G. Sec., Bro. Figg, and Bro. Goring," and in doing so desired to express to them the gratitude of the lodge for their attendance, and that all the brethren who had taken office would copy the excellent working of their visiting brethren. Masonry without good working descended into mere sociality, and this must at all times be avoided, study the subjective in Masonry and we should all find that it would purify the mind and ennoble the soul. Bro. Binckes replied and reciprocated the sentiments of Bro. Turner. The lodge broke up, after having spent a pleasant evening, uniting, the feast of reason and flow of soul.

SOUTHWARK LODGE (No. 11).—This flourishing lodge of Mark Masters held their usual monthly meeting at Bro. Stevens', Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford, Kent, on Monday, March 3rd. Bro. R. Slade, R.W.M., assisted by his officers, Bros. Weir, Walters, Murr, Collington, Pembroke, Stahr, and White, opened the lodge. There were no candidates present for advancement, although there are many on the list. The business consisted of admitting two brothers, viz., J. W. Weir, P.M., and J. R. Stevens, jun., as joining members, and the R.W.M. appointed Bro. Walters, Sec. There being no banquet, the brethren parted when the lodge was closed.

Herr Hiller's "Catacombs," a new opera, has been produced at Wiesbaden, French and German papers assure us, with most brilliant success. They speak so highly of his new pianoforte concerto as to sharpen our curiosity respecting it, there having never been a moment at which a new concerto was more wanted than now.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

ADELPHI.

Mr. Boucicault has been induced to change altogether the character of his programme, and place on the boards a new drama, in five acts, under the title of "The Life of an Actress." The contents of the piece scarcely justify its name. It does, however, contain the story of the introduction of a *débutante* to the stage. An old utility-man of a theatre, born an Italian, but speaking like a Frenchman, takes under his care Violet, a beggar-girl, whom the leading actress of his *troupe* had insulted. In the course of a twelvemonth she has so far advanced in her education, that she is fitted to appear on the stage for her patron's benefit in a version of "Les Horaces." We are now introduced behind the scenes, and thrown into the midst of the excitement produced by the various motives and cross-purposes of all parties concerned in the important and impending event. The rival of the *débutante* paces the back of the stage in a state of almost frantic anxiety, and hears the unmistakable signs of a great success. It is undeniably a hit, and she feels it, and confesses it. But there is treachery at work. A depraved "man about town" gets Violet into his power between the scenes, and effects her abduction. The audience have accordingly to be dismissed. But her protector gains a sufficient notion of the direction taken by the carriage of the seducer, and he is joined by a true lover of the girl and his friends in the pursuit. Old Grimaldi (such is the name of her foster-father) forces a written confession from the opulent villain, and her lover challenges him to a duel, which takes place instantly, and the wrong-doer is killed or wounded. So ends the fourth act. The fifth dates a year afterwards. The young actress has had an appearance at Drury Lane, and succeeded. She is also privately married to Lord Arthur Shafton (Mr. Billington), and even been presented to the Queen. But the mother of her husband, a countess, arrives at the spot where Lord Arthur and his friends are enjoying a picnic, and at once denounces the whole party as vagabonds, and heartless and interested tempters of a nobleman from the paths of rectitude. Grimaldi demands a private interview with the lady; and having obtained it, recalls to her the days of her youth in Italy, when she loved a Neapolitan duke, subsequently believed to have been assassinated in prison for a political offence. He himself is, of course, that duke. Claiming the right of an Italian noble to adopt a child to his house, he names Violet as his daughter, and thus makes her the equal of the son of the Countess. The latter is fain to be satisfied with that arrangement, and so the drama concludes. The morality of the piece, and the moral to be deduced as to the Life of an Actress, is somewhat questionable, notwithstanding the acting and the mounting was exceedingly good, and the scenery throughout artistic.

HAYMARKET.

"The Wife's Portrait," a very charming domestic drama, was produced here on Monday, and received by a crowded audience with tokens of unqualified approval. It is written by Mr. Westland Marston, and is remarkable for the nervous vigour and polished elegance of its dialogue. The plot is slight, but its interest is unflinchingly sustained, and a thoroughly wholesome moral is worked out by agencies at once natural and effective. David Lindsay (Mr. Howe), a poor teacher by vocation, is a man of severe classical tendencies, writing books, and epics, and tragedies, with an exclusive eye to posthumous renown, and disdain to court popular favour by conforming to the taste of the day. The result is, that publishers and managers reject his works, and his income is limited to the 30s. a week which he receives from his pupils. His wife Clara (Mrs. Charles Young) having sad experience of the privations which are consequently entailed upon the family—for they have two children—earnestly desires that he should turn his talent to more profitable account, and makes no secret to him of her wishes, with which he obstinately refuses to comply. From this diversity of views it results that each groundlessly suspects an alienation of affection on the part of the other, and this conviction has become so strong that they are almost prepared to give their mutual consent to a separation. But the husband is suddenly called away on a journey, and during his brief absence reflection brings him to a sense of his own shortcomings; the wife hears of the loss of the steamer by which he was to have returned home, and the supposition of his death awakens her to a full conviction of the depth of the affection by which they are still united. He has fortunately missed the boat, and, when he returns, love and confidence regain

in the hearts of both the place which had been usurped by coldness and mistrust. Mr. Howe and Mrs. Charles Young were called for on the fall of the curtain, and the success of "The Wife's Portrait" was unequivocal. It is an admirable piece, of a thoroughly legitimate school, and abundantly deserves its triumph.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

An English version, by Mr. Horace Wigan, of the comedy of "Nos Intimes," entitled "Friends or Foes," was produced here on Saturday evening with very marked success. The adapter has done his work extremely well. Although he has for the most part adhered closely to the original, he has wisely modified some incidents which would have been unacceptable to English taste; and his dialogue is smart, pointed, and commendably free from Gallicism. One or two little points have escaped him—as, for example, when the husband, on entering the drawing-room says "good morning" to his wife—the rectification of which would bring the action into more complete accordance with English manners. For the same reason we would recommend that the whole of the duel scene should be left out, more especially since its excision would be in all respects beneficial to the piece. These slight alterations will greatly improve that which is, as it stands, a capital comedy, and increase the certainty of its enjoying a protracted run. The plot is slight, and the interest chiefly springs from the development of character. The piece has been excellently mounted, the lovely scene of the first act being especially creditable to the taste and skill of Mr. Lloyd. "Friends or Foes" achieved a triumphant success. At the fall of the curtain all the principal performers were called for, after which came a summons for the author, whose absence was apologised for by Mr. George Vining, and the comedy ought to draw all London to see it for many weeks to come.

PRINCESS'S.

Mr. Fechter has appeared as Iago, and realised the expectations of those who believed in his peculiar fitness for the character. His pronunciation of English had improved, and his general conception of the part was excellent. There was in it a subtle malignity, which displayed itself in the furtive smile and the curled lip, while the tongue played with words calculated to deceive, and his general manner inspired a false reliance on his sincerity. Throughout, by an abundance of exquisite by-play, the actor took the audience into his confidence, and made them partakers of his secret intentions. The scenery and general stage-arrangement are the same as on former occasions, and greatly assisted the acting by means of picturesque and appropriate grouping.

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

It is announced that Mr. Mapleson, who opened the Lyceum for a short season last year is to have Her Majesty's Theatre for the approaching opera season.

We hear of a German opera company, under the direction of Herr Tescher, of Darmstadt, coming over to London, to give performances during the ensuing season. Among the celebrities already engaged, we are told, are Herr Ander, the celebrated tenor from Vienna, not entirely unknown in London, having appeared many years ago at the Royal Italian Opera in "Guillaume Tell;" and Herr Niemann, the representative of the famous Tannhauser at the Grand Opera in Paris. Other eminent German vocalists are spoken of as belonging to the *troupe*.

The score of Meyerbeer's contribution to the performance at the opening of the Exhibition has been received by her Majesty's Commissioners, who have placed it in the hands of Signor Costa, to whom they have entrusted the direction of their musical arrangements. The maestro, who had undertaken to write only a march for the occasion, has, we understand, in a fit of enthusiasm inspired by his subject, composed an elaborate overture, which is likely to prove not one of the least attractive features of the programme of the opening ceremonial. The works promised by Signors Anber and Verdi are expected.

Professor Sterndale Bennett and M. Otto Goldschmidt have united in setting the hymns of the "Lyra Germanica," translated from the German by Miss Winkworth, to music, for use in public and private worship. In addition to 120 original tunes, the best tunes have been selected from the collections of the German Protestants, Lutherans, Calvinists, and Moravians, and harmonised with appropriate hymns. The histories of famous old tunes will, as far as known, be given by the editors in notes.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and Prince Alfred, the Crown Princess of Prussia, and the Princesses Alice, Helena, Louisa, and Beatrice, have arrived at Windsor Castle, from the Isle of Wight. Prince Arthur remains for the present at Osborne.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—On Thursday the 6th, the proceedings of the House of Lords were unimportant.—On Friday the Marquis of Normanby brought forward another case of alleged atrocity against the Italian Government, the culprit being the officer who issued the disavowed proclamation, to which Lord Derby recently called attention.—On Monday Lord Stratheden raised a discussion on the American blockade, and was supported in his views of sympathy with the South by his relative, Lord Abinger. Lord Russell replied in defence of the policy of the Government, and announced that it was the firm determination of the English Government to maintain the strictest neutrality between the two contending sections of the republic.—On Tuesday, on the motion for the second reading of the Lunacy Law Reform Bill, Lord Chelmsford severely criticised the leading features of the Lord Chancellor's measure. Lord Shaftesbury, who spoke with the authority of a Lunacy Commissioner of long experience, expressed his general approval of the bill; which, after some further discussion, was read a second time.—The House of Commons was chiefly occupied on Thursday, 9th, with the consideration of the Army Estimates. On moving the vote for the manufacturing and engineering establishments in connection with the War Department, Sir G. C. Lewis gave an interesting account of the supplies of munitions of war. It appeared that since 1853, 1,097,000 small-arms have been turned out from the Government factories, and that altogether about 2400 Armstrong guns had been constructed. The right honourable Baronet referred to the depreciatory statements which had been made respecting Sir William Armstrong's artillery, and expressed his confidence in the new guns. With regard to the reserve of warlike stores, he stated that they had a siege-train of 105 guns, with 780 rounds of ammunition for each gun; 150 mortar beds, with 13-inch mortars; and all the requisite equipments for a considerable army, ready for immediate service. The Mediterranean garrisons had been re-armed, while the garrisons at home had been both re-armed and increased. After some discussion, this and several other votes were agreed to.—On Friday Mr. Lowe stated, in reply to a question from Mr. Walpole, that for the next twelve months the Government grants for educational purposes would be distributed in accordance with the old regulations. Mr. Gregory, who expressed his warm sympathy with the Confederate States in their struggle for independence, called attention to the blockade of the Southern ports. A long debate followed, in the course of which the Solicitor General defended the policy adopted by the Government, submitting that the American blockade was as effective as "other blockades had been in former years."—On Monday, Mr. Disraeli alluded to certain proclamations, alleged to have been issued by the Italian authorities in Naples, —including, apparently, the order to which Lord Derby had already called attention in the House of Lords—but Lord Palmerston stated that the Government had received no official information respecting these documents. He remarked, however, that "Her Majesty's Government participated in the indignation which every Englishman must feel, at the publication of proclamations of such a disgusting character."—On Tuesday Mr. Hubbard announced that in the event of the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposing the re-enactment of the income tax in its present shape, he should bring forward a series of resolutions, declaring that the impost ought to be re-adjusted so as to fall more lightly upon persons deriving their income from precarious sources. Lord Robert Montagu moved that a committee be annually appointed for the purpose of revising all estimates or accounts laid before Parliament. The motion, which was opposed by the Government as unnecessary, was, after some discussion, negatived by a large majority. Mr. Horsfall then brought forward his resolution, "That the present state of international maritime law, as affecting the rights of belligerents and neutrals, is ill-defined and unsatisfactory, and calls for the early attention of her Majesty's Government." The resolution was seconded by Mr. Cobden, and gave rise to a long debate, which stands adjourned.—On Wednesday Mr. Monckton Milnes moved that the House go into committee on the Marriage Affinity Bill. Mr. G. W. Hunt moved as an amendment that the House go into

committee that day six months. Mr. Lygon seconded the amendment, which was supported by Mr. Monsell. Mr. E. Ball and Sir W. Jolliffe both gave a cordial support to the bill. The House, however, threw out the bill by a majority of thirty-two.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality in London last week took a sudden rise, the deaths having increased to nearly 200 over those of the week previous. There seems to have been a great deal of typhus in the metropolis, and of a fatal kind. The births for the same period were 2027, which was very nearly the average for the last ten years.—The estimates for the Customs, Inland Revenue, and Post-office Departments have been issued. The total amount required is £4,752,795, being a decrease of rather more than £25,000 as compared with the votes of the year 1861-62.—The citizens of Dublin having determined that a memorial of his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort should be erected in their city, the Lord Mayor wrote to Sir Charles Grey on the subject, desiring that he would make her Majesty acquainted with their wishes if it met with her sanction. In reply Sir Charles Grey informed his lordship that he had laid the matter before the Queen, who was profoundly touched by the assurances in the letter of royal attachment to herself and admiration of the Prince's character, and expressing her hearty wishes for the success of the undertaking.—A respite has been received at Newgate for Devereux, the sailor-boy, who stabbed the crimp in Ratcliffe-highway in a quarrel arising out of some money dispute. Clarke, the murderer of Mr. Frater at Newcastle, has also been respited.—The case of a wretched woman who was burnt in her own house—a disreputable one—in Newington, was finally disposed of on Saturday. The coroner's jury had previously found a verdict of Accidental Death; and the man with whom she cohabited, who had been remanded for further inquiries, was again brought up on Saturday, when the magistrate, being satisfied that there had been no foul play, dismissed the case, and the man was discharged.—Intelligence has been received of the foundering of the *Spartan*, screw steamer, laden with Government stores, for Halifax. The ill-fated ship left Falmouth on the 2nd of February, for Halifax and St. John's, New Brunswick, with a cargo of government stores, valued at £30,000 and four passengers—Captain Hand, of the 63rd Regiment, his wife, child, and servant. The *Spartan* encountered a succession of heavy gales, and on the 11th of February she was struck by a wave which crushed in the saloon occupied by the passengers. It appears that Captain and Mrs. Hand and their child were drowned in their cabin—the servant escaping only to perish a few days later from exposure. The chief officer and two of the crew were also washed overboard; and on the 16th, shortly before the ship went down, the survivors took to the boats. Captain Hand's servant is reported to have died on the 21st, but her companions were picked up by a passing vessel and conveyed to Havre.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—It appears, from an official report published in the *Moniteur*, that the French government has succeeded in converting about three fourths of the Four and a Half per Cents into Three per Cents, the major portion of the remaining fourth being, it is said, held by minors or others who cannot give a legal assent to the conversion. The sum obtained as a bonus by the Treasury will be about £6,200,000.—In spite of their differences respecting German affairs in general, the Cabinets of Berlin and Vienna have come to an understanding as to the course which it behoves the Federal Diet to take regarding the disputes between the Elector of Hesse-Cassel and his unfortunate subjects. In the sitting of the German Diet on Saturday, the Prussian and Austrian representatives proposed that the Hessian Constitution of 1831 should be re-established, "in the due conformity with the Federal laws, and with the proviso also that the rights of the estates should be respected."—A "ministerial crisis" has occurred at Berlin. On Friday, the Lower House, on the motion of Mr. Hagen, passed a resolution requiring that specific statements of the principal items of income and expenditure should be added to the estimates and budget. This resolution was opposed by the ministry, the Minister of Finance declaring that "it was a question whether government would be practicable after the adoption of such a motion, and whether the proposition did not encroach upon the executive;" but it was, nevertheless, passed by 171 votes to 143, the majority being assured by the example of England that government is perfectly practicable under the strictest parliamentary control of the finances. This defeat was regarded by the ministry as too serious to permit them to retain office, and

consequently they tendered their resignation to the king on the following day. The King refused to accept the resignation of his Ministers, and the crisis culminated in the dissolution of the Chambers.—Signor Ratazzi, the new Italian premier, has announced in the Chamber of Deputies the policy which his administration intends to pursue. The new ministers, he said, will depend upon the alliance of France and England, and will secure the friendship of other nations by the wisdom of their conduct, "and by provoking no one, either by deeds, speeches, or demonstrations."—The Provvvedimento Committee, organised at Genoa and elsewhere, have chosen Garibaldi to be their president, and have authorised him to solicit Mazzini's recall from exile. They have further resolved to petition the Italian Parliament for the establishment of universal suffrage.

AMERICA.—The *Asia*, which arrived yesterday at Queenstown, has brought the "inaugural address" delivered on the 22nd ult. by President Jefferson Davis to the Confederate Congress, on his formal assumption of the Presidency, for a term of six years. Undismayed by the disasters which have lately befallen the Confederate arms in Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina, President Davis declares that "although the tide for the present is against us, the final result in our favour is not doubtful;" for the defeats which have recently followed a series of victories will but stimulate to increased exertions a people resolved to be free, and "the period is now at hand when the North must sink under a load of debt, which has assumed dimensions which will oppress future generations." The principal intelligence respecting the military operations of the belligerents is a report that Nashville, in Tennessee, had been evacuated by the Confederate forces, and had been occupied by the Federal army under General Buell. The report was, we are assured, "generally credited in New York;" but at the same time we are told that there were "contradictory despatches" on the subject.—General McClellan had not undertaken any operation, but rumours were circulated that he would speedily make a movement. The village of Winton, in North Carolina, had been burned by the steamers of General Burnside's expedition; but no landing was made, the Confederate force being considerable. General Halleck, the Federal commander in Missouri, had forbidden his soldiers to steal or conceal slaves, on the ground that it was necessary to prove to the Southern people "that the Federals come, not to destroy the Constitution, but to restore peace and safety to the country." The Treasury Notes Bill, which authorises an aggregate issue of 150,000,000 dollars of demand notes, had been passed by both Houses of Congress, and had received President Lincoln's assent.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. R.—Sudden Glory received.

W. W. W.—We regret the Isle of Wight affair is not allowed to rest. The proofs against Bro. —, if there were any, should have been forthcoming at Grand Lodge.

EXCELSIOR.—You do not do your duty to the Craft if you refrain from reporting the Master and officers of a lodge, where any portion of the ceremonies are read, to the Prov. G.M.; and if he does not stop the practice, to Grand Lodge. A master should fill up the officers—as he cannot carry on his lodge without officers however unfit the brethren may be.

H. B. W.—There was nothing illegal in what you reported. We are frequently invited to lodges by the most influential Grand Officers, it being well known that we will notice their proceedings.

G. W.—Is very irate at our reply last week referring him to the Calendar for lodges meeting at places other than Taverns, and now asks us if we cannot give half a score notable instances off-hand. Well then, if he will not consult the Calendar, we answer, all the lodges at Bristol; the majority at Bath; do. at Birmingham; do. Liverpool; do. Manchester; do. Newcastle; do. Norwich; all at Leicester, and many other places.—We speak of the Board of General Purposes as a noun of multitude.

Communications from M. H. S., D. M. L., and J. W. W. are in type, but are unavoidably driven out by the great pressure upon our columns. Numerous other articles are held over for the same reason.