

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1862.

MASONIC FACTS.

(Continued from page 302.)

181. The foundation-stone of the present cathedral of Cologne was laid by Archbishop Conrad on the 14th August, 1248, at a depth, according to Boisserée, of above 44 feet below the surface. There were present on the occasion the papal legate, many bishops, dukes, counts, with William of Holland, and the flower of his army, and the chief burghers of the town. Cologne at the time was besieged, but a truce of three days was granted by mutual consent. After the stone was laid, Conrad read a letter from the Pope, granting indulgence from church discipline of a year and forty days to all penitents contributing to the work.

The name of the designer is buried in the secret depths of that stupendous monument, but the honour is generally supposed to be due to Meister Gerhard, who was the first *Dom Meister*.

Cologne Cathedral contains the celebrated tomb of "The Three Kings," Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, whose bones were brought from Milan, after the capture of that city by Frederic Barbarossa. The initials C. M. B. are found to this day over the doors of inns in many parts of Carinthia and Franconia. Much English money helped in the building of the Cathedral, given to it by Richard of Cornwall, brother of Henry III., who was crowned by Archbishop Conrad as King of the Romans at Aix-la-Chapelle, and offered largely at the Tomb of the "Three Kings."

The choir was consecrated on 27th September, 1322, being the 450th anniversary of the consecration of the Cathedral erected by Charlemagne. Ashes were strewn upon the pavement, and the Archbishop wrote in them with his sceptre all the letters of the alphabet. From the south-east to the north-west he wrote Greek letters; from the north-east to the north-west he wrote Latin letters; thus forming a cross saltier X.

The bones of the Three Kings were then brought in with great pomp, and the Archbishop laid the first stone of the magnificent shrine which was to contain them; above which, in due time, a gilt star was placed at the top end of the choir.

Around the choir clustered seven chapels, unique then as now.

A few years ago M. Boisserée discovered at an inn at Darmstadt the original design for the northern tower.

An excellent *hausfrau* had pounced upon it, being a magnificent piece of parchment, and nailed it on to a stretcher for the purpose of drying beans, in which capacity it was found by a scene painter engaged in getting up an arch of triumph for some festival of volunteers. The fact was instantly communicated to M. Boisserée, who lost no time in purchasing the precious relic. The drawing is 13 feet by 3 feet 2 inches, beautifully and delicately executed in ink, and comprises the northern tower from the base to the top of the spire, with more than half of the western gable.

The general dimensions of Cologne Cathedral are said to have been fixed by multiples of 7.

$(20 + 3) \times 7 = 161$, interior breadth of choir.

$(30 + 3) \times 7 = 231$, apex of roof and breadth of interior.

$(70 + 6) \times 7 = 542$, height of western tower and length of interior.

It is said, that these dimensions are engraved on a stone in the Cathedral. Can any brother confirm this statement, and give an explanation of why 3 should be added to 20, to obtain the breadth of the choir, and 6 added to 70 for the height of the tower (Fig. 53).

182. A church was built at Verulam about A.D. 300 to commemorate the martyrdom of St. Alban; Bede says, it "was of admirable workmanship and worthy of the purpose for which it was designed."—*Historia Ecclesiastica*, lib. i. cap. 7.

Bede also mentions a church of stone built by Bishop Ninian, at Candida Casa, now Withern, in Scotland, about A.D. 488.

183. Matthew of Westminster says, that Aurelius Ambrosius repaired the churches in Britain in 488, after having assembled artificers, masons, and carpenters for that purpose; and in 522 a council was summoned at York by King Arthur to consider ecclesiastical affairs, in which the decayed state of the churches was attended to, and measures were adopted for restoring them.

"Anno Gratiae 488, Aurelius Ambrosius cum per Britanniam nostes quærendo transitum facerat, inventum Ecclesias ad solum usque destructas unde vehementer condoluit. Accersitis itaque artificibus cæmentariis, et lignariis, ædificia divina a reparare curavit. Dispositio ergo in eis presbyteris et clericis divinum obsequium ad statum debitum revocavit."—*Flores Historiarum*, Franc. 1601, p. 91.

"An. gr. 522, Per idem tempus cum rex Arthurus civitatem Eboraci esset ingressus instante nativitatibus domini die visa sacrarum Ecclesiarum desolatione, vehementer condoluit, ubi convocato clero et populo; Per anno capellano suo Archiepiscopus sedem concessit Ecclesias per totam Britanniam destructas renovat, nobilesque regni Saxonibus expulsos revocat, terras eis et possessiones paternas affluentur subministrat."—*Ibid.* p. 98.

184. It is repeatedly observed of the buildings erected by Wilfrid and Benedict, that they were built "more Romano vel Romanorum;" that, is in the manner of the Romans.—R. Hagulst, *De Statu Ecclesiæ*, lib. i. cap. 3.

185. The custom of building churches east and west is almost peculiar to England; and in the MS. collection of Aubrey, 1678, preserved in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, there is one entitled "Aubrey on Gentilism and Judaism," which contains the following:—"In the old time when they were to build churches, they watched and prayed all night on the vigil of the dedication, and took that point of the horizon where the sun arose for the east. So that few stand true, except those built between the two equinoxes. I have experimented some churches, and have found the line to point to that part of the horizon where the sun rises on the day of that Saint to whom the church is dedicated."

And, again, in the Introduction to the Survey of North Wiltshire, printed in Aubrey's Miscellanies, 1714, p. 33, we read, "The night before the dedica-

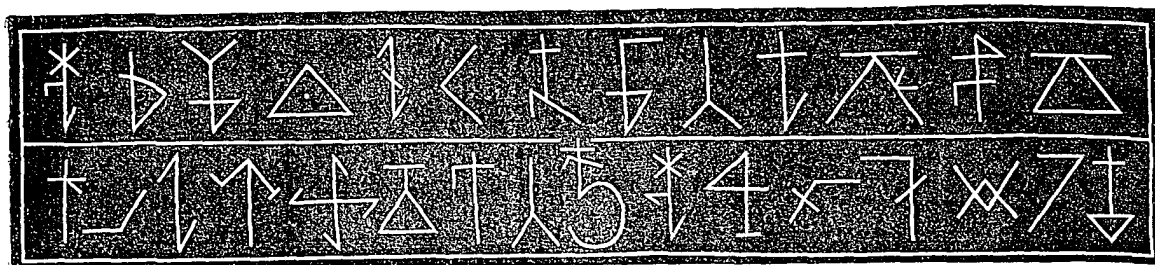


Fig. 53.—COLOGNE CATHEDRAL.

tion of the church, certain officers were chosen for gathering the money for charitable uses. Old John Westfield, of Langley, was Peter man at St. Peter's Chapel there."

Borlase says, that the parish feasts instituted in commemoration of the dedication of parochial churches, were highly esteemed amongst the primitive Christians, and originally kept on the Saints days, to whose memory the church was dedicated.—See *Dugdale's Warwickshire*, p. 515.

The Wake or Village Feast is now generally held on the Sunday following the proper day.

There is a tradition preserved amongst masons to the effect that, when they were going to set out the orientation of a church, a number of them assembled on the night before the day of the Saint to whom the church was to be dedicated, on the ground whereon it was to be built, and spent the night in prayer until the sun arose, when one of them planted a pole or cross on the spot to be occupied by the altar; another one then took a pole, and placed it in line with the sun and the cross; thus obtaining the orientation due for the period of the year, when the church was commenced.

Wordsworth has alluded to this custom in the following beautiful lines:—

- "When in the antique age of bow and spear,
And feudal rapine clothed with iron mail,
Came ministers of peace intent to rear,
The mother church in yon sequestered vale;
- "Then, to her Patron Saint a previous rite,
Resounded with deep swell and solemn close,
Through unremitting vigils of the night,
Till from his couch the wished for sun uprose.
- "He rose; and straight, as by Divine command,
They who had waited for that sign to trace,
Their work's foundation, give with careful hand
To the High Altar its determined place;
- "Mindful of Him who in this Orient born,
There lived, and on the Cross His life resigned,
And who, from out of the regions of the morn,
Issuing in pomp, shall come to judge mankind.
- "So taught their creed; nor failed the Eastern sky,
Mid these more awful feelings, to infuse
The sweet and natural hopes that shall not die,
Long as the sun his glad some course renews.
- "For us hath such prelude vigil ceased;
Yet still we plant, like men of elder days,
Our Christian altar faithful to the East,
Whence the tall window drinks the morning rays.
- "That obvious emblem giving to the eye
Of meek devotion, which erewhile it gave,
That symbol of the day-spring from on high,
Triumphant o'er the darkness of the grave."

ON THE ORIGIN OF GRAND LODGES AND THE POWERS OF GRAND MASTERS.

The following extract from the report of the committee on Foreign Correspondence of the G.L. of Louisiana, from the pen of Bro. J. Q. A. Fellows, its chairman, is a most excellent production. Without, however, sanctioning all that Bro. Fellows says in the following extract, we give his views upon the origin of Grand Lodges and the powers of Grand Masters; they will be found interesting to the Masonic student:

THE ORIGIN OF FREEMASONRY is indeed involved in obscurity, from which there is no escape. We know it must have existed many centuries ago, and we believe it was the sanctuary in which reposed in safety every right principle of morality and virtue, and every truth which points out the nobility of man; in short, that within its secret chambers there reposed, during many centuries of darkness, the germs of that civilization which now so distinguishes this country and the most enlightened nations of Europe from the rest of the world. The great principles of our institution have ever remained the same, and in regard to them there is a remarkable degree of unanimity. This is because these principles have ever been inculcated at each initiation. We will suppose, in the first place, that they were communicated to every apprentice taken into these bands or lodges of Freemasons, which were the authors of so many works of art during the middle ages, as the rule of their life and conduct towards their fellows and the world.

It is safe, we think, to presume that all the governmental rules and regulations of the society grew up—were fashioned—as the necessities of these associations required. Hence it is, that there exists such an exact similarity in every land in the moral teachings of the Order, being based, as they are, upon the immutable principles of right and wrong. The near approximation, however, in the forms of government can be accounted for, under all the circumstances through which the institution has passed, only by regarding the force of the grand principles so often inculcated in the moral teachings of the Order, of the dignity of labour, the supremacy of moral worth over all adventitious circumstances, and the common brotherhood and common destiny of the human race—the carrying out of these principles necessitating a similar form of government.

What these teachings were in the earlier ages of our existence, as an order, we only know from the intrinsic evidence of our secret ceremonies as unfolded in the various emblems and symbols of our Order. In only a few instances have we on record the rules—a few general ones—and regulations of Freemasons.

These, where they have been authenticated, as collected from the ancient charges and regulations, are, by universal consent, taken and deemed landmarks of the Order, as much as a belief in God is a landmark, and in which no change can take place without destroying the universality of the institution. The most noted of these are the "old charges," as collected and published by the Grand Lodge of England, in 1723, and which is contained in what has been called "the first Masonic book ever published." These "charges," which we regard as landmarks, contain the principles of the Order as above enunciated, and though there may exist manuscripts of an older date, they enunciate the same doctrines, and even if authentic, but add to the authority of the "old charges" of 1723, and confirm them as the chief authority, beyond which it is not safe to go. The compilers of these had undoubtedly before them all the documents we have recently found of an older date, and many more quite as authentic. These more ancient ones are therefore valuable only as relics of the past and as confirming, by their similarity, the correctness and reliability of the latter.

Aided by these relics of the past, by our knowledge of the nature of the institution, the present organization and recent history, to what conclusions can we safely come in regard to the origin, nature, design and effect of our form of government, as exhibited in our system of Grand and Subordinate Lodges?

Your committee have endeavoured to solve this question to the satisfaction of themselves, and can come to no other conclusion than this: that at an early day the members of the Masonic Fraternity framed its form of government—in fact created it—of themselves, by their own sovereign power, and, as the creators, retained in themselves the right of change, as well as all other rights not expressly or by necessary implication disposed of in the grant, or such as are unchangeable from the very nature of its moral principles and its universality. In other words, we hold that all power existed primarily in the Masonic fraternity—in the people—who said before ever Freemasonry existed as an organization, "we will found an association primarily for our benefit and incidentally to benefit the world, upon certain great fundamental moral truths—naming them—and under certain restrictions we will disseminate our doctrines by the initiation, after certain fixed forms, or the profane into our mysteries." Again, when the whole mass of the fraternity had subsequently met together in a general assembly, they said, "we will call this a Grand Lodge," and choosing a presiding officer for the time being, "we will call him Grand Master, or will call upon the oldest man present to preside." Masons thus ever choose their own Master or Grand Master whenever they met, unless in process of time, the civil power, to which by their laws they were ever subservient, imposed a presiding officer upon them, and thus made a law of the order not only for themselves but for those to whom they should constitute their successors.

Brother O'Sullivan, of Missouri, in combatting our remarks upon the powers of Grand Masters, found in our report of last year, and in which we, among other things, denied the inherent rights of Grand Masters, brings up the fact that the civil power did sometimes appoint the Grand Master; but this only confirms

our statement. The Grand Master, thus appointed, was perchance forced upon the craft, and the incident cannot be used as an authority except to prove that Masons "ever conform to the laws of the country in which they live," and are peaceable and quiet subjects.

Whatever may have been the form of government under which the society acted from the General Congress at York in A.D. 926, to 1717, when the four old lodges met in London, formed the Grand Lodge, and made regulations for its government, the conclusion of the whole matter is found in those "old charges," collected and published by the authority of that Grand Lodge. Thereafter no Masons were to be made except in a lodge having a legal warrant, and after certain formalities had been complied with. Certain qualifications were found then necessary for the holding of certain offices. By the action of the whole fraternity the Grand Lodge became a representative body, as the great increase of members necessitated. The three chief officers of a lodge were constituted representatives, and as by the ancient charges these three men must have passed the degree of Fellow Craft at least before serving—that is, become Master Masons, the representative Grand Lodge became a body of Master Masons exclusively.

The whole fraternity, subject to the ancient charges and the moral principles inculcated in the initiatory ceremonies—all landmarks of the Order—did all this; granted all these powers; created this representative Grand Lodge for their own convenience and the good of the Order, all which they had a perfect right to do; and being the creator, the source of power, can change, limit or destroy the same, under the previously existing restrictions, and that, too, without a violation of any of the landmarks of the Order. Hence, there can be no inherent powers, either human or divine, belonging to Grand Lodges or Grand Masters. In fact, no other powers or rights than those contained expressly or by a necessary implication in the Constitution of each Grand Lodge, and in those ancient charges of the Order.

Freemasons are proverbially peaceable, inculcating the doctrine "that no contention should ever exist except that noble contention of who can best work and best agree." They pay due respect to their superiors in office. Freemasons are also human in their natures, affections, and habits, and learn, without being taught in the Lodge, to respect station and wealth as well as worth and merit. They also, by long occupancy of any high position, come to think there by a sort of divine or prescriptive right, and where information does not much abound, to claim prerogatives, and rights, and powers, which never pertained to them or their office. All this we know happens every day, and is but rational to expect it.—Hence, the claims by Grand Masters, by virtue of their office, of the inherent and sovereign rights of Grand Lodges, which Grand Masters claim devolve upon them in their recess. All these are mere assumptions of power and prerogative, and however often claimed, never yet made a right; nor does their exercise prove anything except that power has been from time to time usurped, without complaint, and exercised without resistance. Can Bro. O'Sullivan, or Mackey, or any other advocate for the sovereignty of Grand Lodges and their inherent rights, point to any other source as the origin of these rights and pre-

rogatives, than their mere assumption? We think not. History says they have been all assumed where not expressly granted.

We will illustrate by the example of a discovery made by us within the year, namely, the true extent of the powers, prerogatives, &c., of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, or recipients of the thirty-third degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. As possessing that degree, and having what power its possession does actually confer, we state without fear of contradiction that not a tithe of the power claimed, and often exercised by thirty-thirds, in fact exists, or ever existed; and that from the very beginning the greater portion of the power claimed has been mere assumption. For the first time, and within the last few months, we have seen and read a copy of the statutes, &c. of 1762, and of the Constitutions of 1786, which contain the whole fundamental law of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. These have been studiously, or, perhaps, carelessly concealed from the fraternity, and in their stead we have had only the assertions of men ambitious of power and authority to back up their assumptions.

Admitting, for sake of the argument, that all the power which these Statutes and Constitutions warrant is possessed by the thirty-thirds, yet these Constitutions disclaim all control over the first three degrees, wherever organizations of those degrees exist. In unoccupied territory a Supreme Council exercises the same rights that a Grand Lodge does in the same territory. They grant warrants to open Lodges and make Masons. The rank of a thirty-third is to be recognised by "every Lodge and Council of Perfect Masons," and due honour is to be paid them, &c., &c. Let us see what their peculiar duties and rights as thirty-thirds are. Section 2, of Art. 11, of the Constitutions of 1786, says: "The peculiar duties entrusted to them are to teach and give light to their brethren; to preserve charity, union, and brotherly love among them; to maintain regularity in the work of every degree, and to take care that it is maintained by others; to see that the Dogmas, Doctrines, Institutes, Constitutions, Statutes, and Regulations of the Order, and especially of those of sublime Masonry, are faithfully observed and obeyed, and on every occasion to enforce and defend them, and everywhere in fine to do the work of peace and mercy." Now, who is to be frightened at all these rights, powers, duties, &c., or to stand in awe of those claiming to exercise them? The youngest entered apprentice can do the same. The more the remainder of these statutes, which are for the working of the Order, are studied, the more limited will be found to be the rights and prerogatives of the High Princes of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

We know not who framed the Constitutions of 1786, nor does it matter but little. Whoever framed them, no power existed in the framers to take from any other organisation the rights belonging to it, or to absolve any one from a previous allegiance. In fact, by the Constitutions, they prohibit their successors from interfering in any jurisdiction already occupied, and from meddling with the symbolic degrees. Their action was to be confined to the Lodges of Perfection and to degrees above and including the Fourth or Secret Master. The Rite of Perfection was a series of twenty-five degrees, for the govern-

ment of which the statutes, &c. of 1762 were framed; the last of which was that of sublime Prince of the Royal Secret. To this series, eight others were added by the Constitutions of 1786, many of the former changed, and a new rite constituted. The agents of the Grand Consistory of Sublime Princes were called "Deputy Inspectors General," while the Constitutions of 1786 named the recipients of the Thirty-third degree, "Sovereign Grand Inspectors General." The statutes, &c. of 1762 were adopted by the Constitutions of 1786, so far as they did not conflict, though many of them are necessarily obsolete. The powers of a Thirty-third are, however, quite limited, except in the demand of courtesy and show, and this was the point of our illustration. The power claimed by the Thirty-thirds has been, for the most part, the assumptions by ignorant and vain men, and their exercise has brought the Rite into disrepute; while its supposed ridiculous arrogation of powers has brought about confusion and want of harmony in many places, and subjected the whole Order to unmerited contempt.

In like manner the powers and inherent rights and prerogatives of Grand Masters and Grand Lodges have had their origin; for when we go back to the ancient record for the warrant of their authority, we find it mere assumption on the part of those claiming it. We find that all the power existed in the people—the Fraternity; that they made the institution, and, as its creators, have delegated a portion of it to their Lodges, Grand and Subordinate, and the officers thereof. Every such grant of power is clearly susceptible of demonstration by the production of the grant itself, to be found either in the "old charges" of 1723, or in the Constitutions of our several Grand Lodges—or it does not exist. We do not believe in taking everything on trust, and that we must not question this or that dogma, because it is asserted to be one of the ancient landmarks. Who can say that it is a landmark unless it be a part of the ritual, or is found in the ancient charges?

We come to the conclusion, then, that Grand Lodges have no other powers than those contained in their Constitutions, or in those "ancient charges," which are, by common consent, recognised as universal, and the general Constitution of the Order. The Grand Lodge of England, in 1723, recognised the "old charges" as the fundamental, governing law of the whole Order—as the "Constitution of Freemasonry," in the correct signification of the word; and all subsequent Grand Lodges have given them the same recognition. These constitute the fundamental law of the Order, which cannot be changed, and the institution at the same time remains universal. Under this fundamental law each Grand Lodge was organised, commencing with the Grand Lodge of England in 1721; and when organised, has adopted such particular regulations for its own government as circumstances seemed to require. These regulations, peculiar to each jurisdiction, are no more binding upon another than is the Constitution of one of the States of this Union is binding upon the inhabitants of the others. Indeed, our American form of government bears so striking an analogy in all its forms to the form of government of the Masonic institution, that were all other evidence wanting, it intrinsically contains the proof that Masons had a hand in its formation.

The Constitution and laws of the United States are

common to, and binding upon all the people of each and every State, as the ancient charges and landmarks are upon the whole Fraternity of Freemasons. Whatever is of a general and universal nature, not local, but of a national importance, has been trusted under the Constitution to the General Government. No State, community, or individual, can properly violate its provisions; but yet there are no powers belonging to the General Government or which it can properly exercise by implication merely; none save those clearly contained in the Constitution itself. All others are reserved to the States or to the people. So it is in the Masonic organization, as evidenced by the ancient Constitutions, as found in the "old charges" of 1723—and though no national organisation exists, yet the repeated attempts to form one for the management of the most general features of the institution most clearly indicates the necessity for such an organization. So soon as the plan for forming such an organization was presented, as the foregoing principles of our government has indicated, we see it adopted, and we trust to see it carried into successful operation ere three more years shall have elapsed.

But to continue our analogy, as the best method of expressing our ideas, the citizens of each State, having through their representatives, formed a general government for general purposes only, reserving to themselves all other powers and rights not thus expressly granted, have also delegated another portion of their rights and powers to another organization, namely, a State Government, making all its powers subordinate to those general powers granted to the General Government, and yet giving it a more particular control over the affairs and interests of each individual State; yet even in this grant of power, every right not expressly granted, was reserved to the citizen, in his individual capacity. So it is in the form of government in this institution. The Masons meet, through their delegates, and form a Grand Lodge, in all its powers ever subordinate to the general Constitutions of the Order, confined in all its operations to its own jurisdiction, and limited to the express provisions of its articles of formation. All other powers are reserved, and belong to Masons in their individual capacity.

But the analogy extends even farther, and we continue our illustrations because it is more familiar than any other that could be adduced. Most of our States, all, in fact, in a more or less complete form, are composed of little democracies, or communities, in which all citizens take a direct part in the transactions of government, such as the common school district and town of New England, the townships and counties of the Middle and Western States, the counties and parishes of the South and South-west. In like manner, the Freemasons of each community form a Lodge, and meeting together as a pure democracy, make their own laws and legislate for themselves in all their own private and particular concerns, always obedient to the will of the majority when properly expressed, and ever subservient to the grants of power they have made through their delegates to their respective Grand Lodges, and to the general Constitutions of the Order.

Such is the nature of our organisation, and with a proper understanding of it, is dissipated into thin air, the—shall we say absurd—ideas of the inherent rights

and powers of Grand Lodges and their original supremacy over subordinate Lodges and the craft.

After this illustration of the nature of Grand Lodges, their rights, powers, and duties, that of Grand Masters will require but a word. They briefly possess none other than those directly conferred upon them in those "old charges," and in the Constitutions of their respective Grand Lodges, or such as are absolutely essential and necessary to the proper performance of the duties imposed upon them by those Constitutions and charges. All inherent and other claimed rights and powers not thus granted or by a necessary implication to be inferred, never existed, but have been, in every instance, a mere assumption of power, the continual exercise of which never becomes perpetuated into a right.

It is easy, also, after this to properly define the rights, duties, &c. of Lodges, the members of Lodges, and their representatives in Grand Lodges. Each Lodge undoubtedly possesses the right of expressing its opinion on any Masonic subject, and so far as such expression goes, of instructing its representatives in the Grand Lodge. Should any Lodge, however, vote an instruction on every question to its delegate, and that delegate be bound to vote as instructed, there would be no further use for representatives in the Grand Lodge. A Grand Secretary to receive and record these votes, and a Grand Master to execute them when voted by a majority, is all that would be necessary. The exercise of the power of instruction also supposes that each Lodge is sufficiently wise in and of itself, and that its representatives can receive no light from communion with their brethren from other communities or Lodges. Such a supposition is arrogant and absurd, and yet it forms the basis, not only of the argument for the right of instruction, but is also the principal reason urged against the formation of a General Grand Body. It is the bane of all deliberative assemblies, and destructive of all enlightened legislation and all true progress in government. It presupposes the possession of that wisdom which can neither need nor receive enlightenment, and often places the party instructed in the awkward predicament of voting for what he knows to be an absurdity, perhaps worse, or of dodging the question—not voting at all.

It is also easy to perceive as a necessary corollary from the preliminary remarks, that the presiding officer of a Masonic body necessarily possesses no other powers than those granted him, whether that officer be a Master or Grand Master. His business, when the Lodge is in session, is to preside as the president of any other body does, but it by no means follows, unless it is so expressly named in the grant, that he is above all control of his fellow members. He is bound equally with them to laws of the Order—of the Lodge, of the Grand Lodge, and of the "old charges." Should the Master, in the opinion of any one, offend as to any of these laws, an appeal lies to his superior, as from a justice's court to the higher court of appellate jurisdiction, and should the Grand Master offend in the opinion of any, an appeal would lie to his peers, the members of the Grand Lodge—in all cases, however, under such regulations as are legally enacted, and so that the harmony or progress of the Order should not be disturbed.

We have thus, at some length, though more ob-

scurely than we would wish, endeavoured to express our views and give reasons therefor, upon the various points embraced in the heading of this portion of our report. We have embodied in our own language, the opinions of others agreeing with us in sentiment, and combatted those ideas which we have met with in your correspondence differing from our own. A proper understanding of the fundamental principles of our Order, its nature, powers, &c., are of such vital importance, that a mistake would almost prove fatal, and this is our excuse for the length and manner of our treatment of these questions.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE TERM BROTHER.

In the sixth vol. of *The Harleian Miscellany*, p. 268, is Bishop Sprat's "Relation of the Contrivance of Black-head and Young, &c., against the lives of several persons," in which a series of fraudulent bills of exchange were obtained by forgery, &c., one of which was procured through a letter as follows:—

"Coventry, June 12th, 1683.

"BROTHER BILLERS,—At sight of my bill, bearing date June 12th, be pleased to pay unto Mr. Robert Young the sum of a hundred pounds, which I have received from him. I have nothing else at present but this letter of advice from him who is,

"Your loving brother and servant,

"JOSEPH OLDS.

"To Mr. Billers, at the Three Kings, in Cheapside, London." The query I make is—Was this intended to be understood as an address from one Freemason to another? or if not, why was the word "Brother" twice pointedly introduced?—Ex Ex.

BRO. HUCKLEBRIDGE.

To what lodge did Bro. Hucklebridge belong? He was Secretary to the Girls' School in 1818, and resided at 20, Elizabeth-place, Kennington.—Ex. Ex.

BRO. ROBERT HALL.

A song beginning—

When Masonry, by Heav'n's decree,
Arose from father Adam's brain;
This was the charter of the fraternity,
And secrecy shall guard the same.

CHORUS.

Hail Masonry, for ever may'st thou be,
To all but us a mystery.

This is evidently an adaptation to "Rule Britannia," but what I wish to know is, who was Bro. Robert Hall—its author? Could it be the celebrated Rev. Robert Hall, the non-conformist?—H.

PAST GRAND SECRETARIES.

I read in a list of Grand Officers for 1819 that the "Grand Secretaries attend at Freemasons' Hall, on the business of the Society, on Tuesday and Saturday evenings." There were two G. Secs., Bros. White and Harper at that time, who could not have been overburthened with business, seeing two evenings per week was all the attendance they gave.—P. S.

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.

What truth is there in the subjoined statement cut out of an American paper?—"Most of the so-called histories of Freemasonry assert that Wren was Grand Master of England, and held a lodge in regular working throughout the building of St. Paul's. This we are inclined to doubt, for two reasons: first, because there was no such office as Grand Master until after 1717, when the four lodges then in London constituted themselves

a Grand Lodge, which was after Sir C. Wren had given up all interest in the fraternity;—and, secondly, because Wren was not a Freemason until 1691, which date is long after the commencement of building St. Paul's, (1675.) We quote from Aubrey's *Natural History of Wiltshire*, a MS. in the library of the Royal Society: "Memorandum.—This day, May 18th, being Monday, 1691, after Rogation Sunday, is a great convention at St. Paul's Church of the fraternity of adopted Masons, where Sir Christopher Wren is to be adopted a brother, and Sir Henry Goodric, of the Tower, and divers others." He could not, therefore, according to Anderson, have been Grand Warden in 1633, nor Deputy in 1666, nor Grand Master in 1685.—* * *.

BLACK MASONRY.

What is Black Masonry? We have all heard of the Blue and Red Masonry, but what is denominated Black?—A BLUE MASON.—[We have never heard of it. Perhaps it is a new importation signifying Templary?]

AMERICAN MASONIC PERIODICALS.

Add to the list of Masonic periodicals published in America, the following: *The Ashlar*, *The Masonic Review*, *The Masonic Messenger*, *The Masonic Journal*, *The Triangle* (in German).—* * *.

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

As calendar follows calendar from the Queen's printers, the extent and richness of our state papers dawn upon us with considerable power. The calendars already fill a shelf, and will in time fill a library. In 1857 the first tome appeared, and we have now twenty-one of these useful and bulky volumes in a row. For readers who have not the whole set of these important works before them, it may be well to state in a few words what has been done. Mr. Lemon dated the first volume of the series December, 1856; he had been many years at work upon it; some of its sheets had been three or four years in type; and it has not yet been followed by a second volume. Mr. Lemon is a competent and meritorious public servant; but he has served a long life in office, and it is apparent, on comparison with his fellows, that his speed is not very great. Since Mr. Lemon's Calendar was in the press, Mr. Bruce has sent out five volumes of Calendar, Mrs. Everett Green seven volumes. The following list is complete up to the present moment:—Of our Domestic Papers, Mr. Brewer's Papers of Henry the Eighth, one volume; Mr. Lemon's Elizabeth, one volume; Mrs. Green's James the First, four volumes; Mr. Bruce's Charles the First, five volumes; and Mrs. Green's Charles the second, three volumes:—of our Colonial Papers, one volume by Mr. Sainsbury:—of our Irish Papers, one volume by Mr. H. C. Hamilton:—of our Scottish Papers, two volumes by Mr. J. Thorpe:—of our Foreign Papers, two volumes by Mr. Turnbull.

Some months ago the scientific books in the Radcliffe Library were transferred from Gibbs's-building to the new museum, where sufficient room has been found for them in the immediate neighbourhood of the Science Schools, Laboratories, and Museum—a removal greatly to the advantage of students in bringing the whole of their materials and opportunities, so to speak, under one roof. The Radcliffe Library has been converted into a reading-room, open day and evening—a sort of annexe of the Bodleian. The two edifices are separated by a considerable uncovered space, and architecturally distinct. It has been proposed to connect them by a covered way, for which a design was made by Mr. Woodward that appears to us extremely beautiful, and to harmonise, as well as anything can

harmonise, two structures in direct antagonism of styles. This plan, however, has for the present moment been postponed.

The Luggie and other Poems, by David Gray, with a preface by Mr. Monckton Milnes, will be published in a few days. Gray died in London last autumn, aged twenty-three. He was born of humble parents at Kirkintilloch, near Glasgow, and from the praise he received for verses which he contributed to the Glasgow newspapers, he was induced to come to London in the spring of 1860, in the hope of making a living by literature. As a matter of course, he sank into poverty, and by exposure and neglect fell into bad health, and was discovered by Mr. M. Milnes in his lodgings without a penny, and diseased beyond remedy. His last days were employed in preparing his poems for the press. "The Luggie," which gives the title to his longest poem, is a brook which flows near his birthplace at Kirkintilloch.

Mr. W. Bridges Adams has a work in the press on *Roads and Rails, and their Practical Influence on Human Progress, Past, Present, and to Come*.

The Academy of Sciences of Göttingen announce the publication of the collected works of Gauss, the celebrated mathematician, including the manuscripts left at his decease. The works will appear in seven volumes, quarto, under the titles:—I. *Disquisitiones Arithmeticae*; II. *Höhere Arithmetik*; III. *Analysis*; IV. *Geometrie and Method der kleinsten Quadrate*; V. *Mathematische Physik*; VI. *Astronomie*; VII. *Theoria Motus Corporum Caelestium*. The first six volumes will occupy about five or six years in publication—the seventh volume will appear later. The copyright interest in the *Theoria Motus* will not expire for some time.

Messrs. Tinsley Brothers' *Library Circular* has made its appearance, and forms an excellent record of the literature of the month, and gives a long list of books, at reduced prices, withdrawn from library circulation.

Denmark and Germany since 1815—being historical notices of the relations of the two countries to each other—will be published in the course of the season.

The publisher of the *Monde Illustré*, an illustrated weekly paper at Paris, were desirous of taking advantage of the publication of M. Victor Hugo's new work, *Les Misérables*, to adorn their pages with a portrait of that celebrated writer. The Home Department has, however, put its veto on the speculation, and the publishers have been forbidden to present to the public, who read and admire his productions, the features of the poet. The party who probably suffers most is the publisher of the *Monde Illustré*, who has had to change the whole impression of about 6,000 copies for another without the obnoxious frontispiece.

Lord Stanhope, at the late exhibition of English autographs, exhibited the original and uncorrected MS. of *The Maid of Athens*, commencing *Girl of Athens*, &c. It furnished a fine example of Byron's painstaking, and of the proverb that second thoughts are best.

A Cheshire authoress has just issued a semi-historical novel, relating to her country:—*The Cheshire Pilgrims; or Sketches of the Crusading Life in the Thirteenth Century*, by Frances M. Wilbraham.

It is reported (says the *Critic*) that it was in contemplation that the dinner of the Royal Literary Fund should be held this year in the refreshment-rooms of the Great Exhibition, at South Kensington, but that the arrangement has been upset by the determination of the Commissioners to charge the guests for admission into the building, and by their regulation that the

company must quit by daylight. We do not see that any just complaint can be founded on this. The guests of the Literary Fund have no claim to go into the building without payment, and the regulations to prevent fire are not more stringent than the circumstances of the case and the value of the property entrusted to the care of the Commissioners absolutely require.

A bronze statue, larger than life, has just been placed on a pedestal temporarily in front of the Palais de l'Industrie, in the Champs Elysées. It represents Boissy d'Anglas, who occupied the President's chair in the National convention during the first revolution, when the mob forced the doors of the Assembly and presented to the President the bleeding head of the Deputy Feraud, whom they had just murdered. Boissy d'Anglas raised his hat as a mark of respect to his unfortunate colleague. He then resumed his seat, and by his firmness induced the intruders to withdraw. This terrible episode is represented in bronze on the pedestal. The statue is intended for the town of St. Jean-Chamre, in the Ardèche, where Boissy d'Anglas was born of an ancient Protestant family.

SPEECH OF HIS MAJESTY KING KAMEHAMEHA IV.

Reply of his Majesty to the address presented to him by the Lodge of Freemasons and the Royal Arch Chapter of Honolulu.

MOST EXCELLENT HIGH PRIEST, COMPANIONS, AND BRETHREN,—Bound together as we are by a holy league of brotherhood, I should not be doing justice to the feelings which actuate me in my relationship with yourselves, and operate amongst us all, did I deny that I almost expected you would seek a fitting occasion to felicitate me in the character in which we now appear. For all your kind wishes I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and amongst the many blessings for which I have at this time especial reason to be thankful to our Supreme Grand Master, I do not reckon this as the least, that I enjoy the sympathy of a Fraternity whose objects are so pure and whose friendships are so true as those of our Order. I will not multiply words, but believe me that when I look upon my infant son, whose birth has been the cause of so much joy to me and of so much interest to yourselves, the thought already occupies my mind that perhaps one day he may wear those dearly prized badges, and that his intercourse with his fellow men, like his father's, may be rendered more pleasant and perhaps more profitable, by his espousing those solemn tenets which make the name of a Freemason honourable throughout the world.

May 22nd, 1858.

PUZZLED WHICH TO CHOOSE.—A picture, vividly embodying an illustration of this old saying, excited great notice at one of our recent exhibitions; but we doubt whether the saying could be more forcibly made manifest than when visiting the establishments of some of our fashionable London tradespeople, particularly of those where the excellencies of English workmanship unite with the elegancies of Continental taste. At such an establishment, for example, as that of Messrs. T. A. Simpson and Co., 154, Regent-street, where, "ever changing and ever new," the senses are really at first confused at the multiplicity and novelty of articles displayed to the astonished gaze. In ladies' dressing-cases, of every choice description of fancy wood, and of every variety of ornamental construction; in French clocks of elegant design and correctness of time; indeed, in every variety of jewellery, the intending purchaser will truly for a time be "puzzled which to choose." The safest plan in such a case would be to indicate the nature of the article required. The probity of the establishment, and the matured judgment of Messrs. Simpson in consulting the wishes and tastes of their customers, have invariably tended to ensure an approval of the articles there selected for those "puzzled which to choose."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE HIGH GRADES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Two letters from Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, written personally against Bro. Shuttleworth's views, but with a tendency opposing the high grades, have appeared at pp. 269, and 312, of the present volume of the *MAGAZINE*, and as the Reverend Brother felt called upon to answer Bro. Shuttleworth, so I take it to be a duty to examine some portions of Bro. Woodford's letters in return. In doing this, however, I must not be understood as taking up the matter for Bro. Shuttleworth, because he is an equal match for his antagonist, but for the sole reason that certain assertions made in those letters ought not to go unquestioned.

In casting wholesale inuendos against the high grades, Bro. Woodford ought to give us authorities for what he advances, and not sweepingly condemn right and wrong in one promiscuous category such as his account of Bro. Findel's "indignant" (he calls it—I call it rude and unbrotherly) "protest against many of those professed degrees, which, the offspring of charlatanry and imposture, are confessedly so ridiculous in themselves, as to be actually excluded from what is called Christian Masonry, as practised at present in England."

If I remember rightly Bro. Findel attacked our venerable and learned chief, Dr. Leeson, by a coarse expletive not usual amongst gentlemen, and he condemned the high grades as practised here under that Brother. If this was so, what then is the meaning of the latter portion of the above sentence? Why did not Bro. Woodford name the degrees to which he alludes, for either he and Bro. Findel mean a different series or the "Christian Masonry, as practised at present in England" is, according to Bro. Woodford's assertion, "the offspring of charlatanry and imposture."

Bro. Woodford entirely disagrees with Bro. Shuttleworth and asserts that "the only true historical theory of Masonry is to be found in the unbroken connection between our present speculative and adoptive Masonry, and the operative guilds of the early and middle ages." And on this assertion I, too, entirely disagree with Bro. Woodford. What adoptive, or female Masonry has to do with speculative Masonry, and the mediæval guilds, passes my comprehension. After such a loose statement we must take Bro. Woodford's assertions with due care.

The High Grade Mason is not dependant on any continental degrees of imposture, or otherwise, for the practice of his rite. He derives them through the ancient York Masons who sedulously cultivated the rite of perfection of Harodim, of which the 18° and 30° were a portion. Before 1716, I very much question if Craft Masonry had a ritual of any kind, and this is borne out by the fact that throughout the first edition of Anderson's *Book of Constitutions* no mention is made of the three degrees as such, it alludes only to Masters and Wardens of lodges, and it is not until we get the second edition that we find the fellow-craft's song introduced. The Entered Apprentice song having been written by Bro. Birkhead even after that. But why did scrupulous brethren make a bonfire of their MSS. as we are told in our Calendar? Because they were the York degrees and the holders were determined not to surrender them to those who were forming a Southern Grand Lodge. And of what degrees did they consist? None others than those of the York rite of perfection. This then was how Masonry came into its present shape. Hundreds of years before that time the high grades had been in existence. The proofs are everywhere.

Bro. Woodford lays considerable stress on the evi-

dences radially accumulating from fabric rolls &c., but what do they prove? That a guild, or Craft, were builders and had certain secret laws and immunities. What then?—so had every other handicraft.

The philology in our ritual is but a very broken reed to rest upon. It includes one Saxon word and that, forsooth, is to prove its antiquity.

Then we are told the "earliest constitutions of our present fraternity, still happily preserved in the British Museum, are of themselves an answer to those who would impugn the identity between operative and adoptive [sic!] Masonry." (Really Bro. Woodford will be of immense service in Scotland, just now, where they are beginning to resuscitate "adoptive Masonry.")

Will Bro. Woodford kindly point out to me those "earliest constitutions" in the British Museum? I think I know every Masonic document in that collection, but I may have overlooked those to which he alludes.

Passing over a great deal of matter that requires no notice we come to a fact viz., that Masons marks are identical all over the world. Well, so be it, what are they? Does any one profess to read their meaning? If not how can Bro. Woodford assert so complacently that they are not the monograms of masters of lodges? He states "they are governed by one law, and resolvable into one and the same geometrical and Masonic first principle."—What is that?

Turning to another letter from the same hand, and on the same subject, page 312, there is a sneer at the York rite as practised in the crypt of York Minster, perhaps Bro. Woodford will look at page 131 of the *MAGAZINE* (August 20th, 1859), and he may slightly alter his views. *i. e.* if carefully stated authorities have any weight with him.

I do not intend to offer one word as to the origin of the construction of arches in architecture but I cannot refrain from stating, much as I admire the degree, the Royal Arch is truly "a strange anachronism." It is chronologically wrong in more than one portion. It is fearfully incorrect in its derivations of words, and yet, in my opinion, vastly superior to either of the Craft degrees. This, however, is a subject that cannot be handled in print and its mention has been made here to show Bro. Woodford how necessary it is to pluck the mote from our own eyes before we would attempt to displace the beam in those of others.

Following Bro. Woodford's example in adding a valedictory address, I would strongly urge on him the prudence of not destroying one portion of Freemasonry to exalt another, or in so doing he may place the whole fabric in peril! Of being careful to verify his references; of being charitable enough not to encourage a reviler of the brotherhood and, before he commits himself again on a subject with which he is unacquainted to get some friend at hand to see that he does not confound male and female Freemasonry as existing together, and proved by documents, which I engage to say are *not* to be found in the British Museum or elsewhere.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother, yours truly and fraternally,

✠ MATTHEW COOKE, 30°.

FAITHS OF THE WORLD.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—No one likes being what is vulgarly called "taken in," and more especially when enthusiasm on any particular subject is the vehicle through which one is deceived. I have, I believe, been so "taken in," and to satisfy myself on this point, and guard others against similar deception is the object of my writing this letter; but now to my tale. A few days since, whilst particularly engaged in pursuing my ordinary avocation, I was informed that a gentleman from London wished to see me "on Masonic business."

Feeling that I could not disregard such an appeal, I, at some inconvenience, left the party to whom I was speaking, and descended to my visitor, who, having manifested his brotherhood, addressed me thus:—"I come from Grand Lodge, being sent round to all the lodges to get subscribers towards this work" (holding it up). I said, "What is it?" He replied, "you will doubtless recollect that some months ago there was an animated discussion in Grand Lodge as to the admission of persons of all creeds into the Craft." I said I recollected something of the sort. "Well," said he, "this work was published by Dr. Gardner at the request of Grand Lodge, for the express purpose of proving that Freemasonry is consistent with every known religion, and therefore that persons of every faith are eligible for initiation;" he then pointed to one of the engravings described in the letter-press as "The Temple of ten thousand Idols in Japan." This he enlogized as a most wonderful production and universally admired; in fact he had a commission from a very eminent brother to get it painted as soon as he could find some one high enough in Masonry to execute it properly. He then proceeded to state that the whole of Freemasonry was depicted in this wonderful engraving; the figures in the centre (including a very obese and benign-looking deity) represented Craft Masonry; those in the foreground, the Royal Arch, and the numerous figures round the walls the higher degrees. Being pressed for time, I took all these statements for granted, as I was dealing with a brother, and their improbability did not strike me. My visitor held in his hand a list of the members of my lodge, which he had procured from the Secretary, and urged me so strongly to give my name as a subscriber—pleading that it would probably be the cause of other members of the lodge giving him an order—that at length, although I could not afford it, I put my name down and took the first part of the work.

I have since carefully perused the part I purchased, and inspected the wonderful engraving, and have come to the unavoidable conclusion that the statements of my Masonic visitor were untrue. I cannot find anything in the work (although in itself highly interesting and worthy of perusal) connected with Freemasonry, and I think it must require a most enthusiastic imagination to endow any of the diabolical figures in the illustration with Masonic attributes. I have not taken any of the higher degrees, therefore cannot say whether they are or are not symbolised by the figures that adorn the walls of the temple in the engraving. I can only say that if they are they must be possessed of very great sameness, as all those figures are precisely alike.

Perhaps some of your numerous readers can inform me whether there is any shadow of truth in the representations made by the individual in question; if not, such an unworthy use of the privileges of Freemasonry should at once be exposed and put an end to; if, on the other hand, these representations are correct, I must cry "peccavi," and humbly apologise for having entertained a suspicion to the contrary.

Yours fraternally,
EXCELSIOR.

[We would advise the next brother who is waited upon by the gentleman, to hand him over to the custody of the police. Grand Lodge are not publishers of Masonic Histories, and certainly do not employ travelling agents.]

MASONRY AND THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—From a private letter I have per last mail received from my "friend and brother" Dr. Rob Morris of La Grange, Kentucky, U.S., I learn that Masonry continues to shed some of its benign influences upon the brethren unhappily engaged in the internecine strife of which America is at present the scene, and that though the instrumentality of these in-

fluences our order is proving itself to be in practice as in theory—a grand ameliorator of the horrors of war. Bro. Morris remarks that "the prospects for an early restoration of the Government are most cheering. But this, while it gives elation to my spirits, increases my cares. Prisoners of war are beginning to besiege me with communications from their military prisons, reminding me of happy, peaceful hours mutually enjoyed The merely political point between us does not affect the tie." With such large-hearted men as Rob Morris among the teachers of the craft how could it be otherwise? In the hands of T.G.A.O.T.U., Rob has not been a merely passive agent for good, but has been most assiduous in the employment of his powerful eloquent pen in enforcing the duty of the craft to preserve themselves unsullied from the defilements of civil war, and while performing their parts as patriots and men to remember the vow which binds them together. Below I append a very popular Masonic Ode written by Dr. Morris, and which is I believe in extensive circulation throughout the State. "Masonic Literature" our distinguished transatlantic brother writes, "is suffering woefully from the various troubles of the day. Always viewed as a luxury, sparingly patronised, and that only by the few, it is the first to feel the pressure of the times and the last to recover. During the past year nearly every Masonic journal in America has either suspended publication or been thrown up without the promise of resumption." Amid the gloom in which, according to previous statement the Masonic literature of the States has been so long enshrouded it must assuredly be gratifying to know that Morris's *Voice* has been the first to break the silence. That publication has again made its appearance in magazine form, and copies of it are in daily expectation of being received in this country. As might have been anticipated another effect of the political strife now raging in America, is in the rate of the increase of lodges and membership being greatly lessened the resources of lodges being curtailed, and their treasuries depleted. According to the introductory remarks to Morris's *Freemasons Almanack* of 1862, "Grand Lodges have been compelled to resort to unwonted measures of retrenchment, and many of the weaker lodges have surrendered or contemplate the surrender of their charters in consequence of the financial stringency of the times. The attendance of delegates upon Grand Lodge communications has been reduced by fully one-third, and the absence of many leading masons who are serving in the armies of the one or the other side, is observed in the paucity of addresses, reports, &c., in their published proceedings." But to turn to the other side of the picture: The National Masonic School of Instruction, under the presidency of Rob Morris has held four sessions during the past year—a national movement which is said to be accomplishing great good.

I am fraternally Yours,

D. MURRAY LYON.

P.J.W. Mother Kilwinning, P.G.J.W. of Ayrshire,
Ayr, 14th April, 1862.

WE SWEAR TO BE A TRUE BROTHER.

Dear friends of the Square let us cherish the faith,
Though broken and torn every other;
Remember the vow! we swore unto death
We would cling, hand and heart, to a brother.

Then raise up to God, up to God the left hand,
With mine join, with mine join the other;
Though war blow the blast, and with death strew
the land,
We swear to be true to a brother!

The East lends his light, though the world is at war;
The South shines with glory and beauty;
The West gently smiles o'er fields drenched in gore;
They teach to each Craftsman his duty.

Then raise up to God, &c.

The badge of the Craft is unsullied as yet—
From war's dust and blood let us fold it;
The page of our history, brilliant with light,
We swear thus in honour to hold it!
Then raise up to God, &c.

Great God! from the heavens view the nations at strife!
Thy Gavel must still the disorder.
Send peace o'er the land; give rescue and life;
Be thou, Lord, our Saviour and Warder!
Then raise up to God, &c.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I exceedingly regret that my absence from home prevented my giving an immediate reply to the letter of a Bro. "P.M. of Three Provinces" which appeared in your issue of the 5th inst. It seems that your correspondent takes exception to my remarks on public schools of ancient date, on the ground that my statements are inaccurate, and unmasonic. As to their inaccuracy, I am much obliged to my W.M. for promptly rectifying an error which had slipped into the hastily-written report. I am quite prepared to stand by my remarks as corrected, and to maintain their veracity by extracts from documents of undeniable authority. The two institutions to which I more particularly referred, as instances of the perversion of the intentions of the founders, were Christ's Hospital, London, and St. Mary's College, Winchester. As to the former the facts are so notorious, and have been so recently discussed in the public journals, that I feel I should be unjustifiably occupying your valuable space were I to enlarge upon them. The case of the Winchester College is not so well known, and I take the liberty of citing a few facts for the information of our Bro. "P.M. in Three Provinces." Dr. Williams, late warden of New College, Oxford, and previously Second Master of Winchester College, gave the following evidence before a committee appointed by the House of Commons to enquire into the education of the lower orders:—"By the statutes all and singular to be elected upon the College are to be poor and indigent. The boys upon the foundation are principally gentlemen's sons. The construction put by the authorities of the college, on the statutes of the founders, goes to show that the children of all the nobility and landed proprietors in England, with very few exceptions, belong to the class of poor and indigent, in consequence of their not being possessed of property during the life-time of their parents." And, in this way, as I stated, is the founder's plan entirely wrested from its original purpose. I would ask our Bro. "P.M. in Three Provinces," for what purpose did William of Wykeham found and endow this college? Was it for the convenience of the rich or for the benefit of the poor? As are Christ's Hospital and Winchester College, so is, to a greater or less extent, nearly every foundation school in the country.

But a "P.M. in Three Provinces" objects that this is (by implication) an attack on the government of the country, and therefore "a quarrel about state feeling." Is our worthy brother ignorant that Governments of every shade of political opinion have again and again acknowledged the abuses of charities, that from the last year of Queen Elizabeth down to the Charitable Trusts Act of 1853, Parliament has repeatedly attempted to apply a remedy, and that even last session a commission was appointed to enquire into the arrangement of our public schools? Through what distorting medium does a "P.M. in Three Provinces" view the well-meant remarks of a Bro. Mason, when he can pervert a simple allusion to admitted facts into an attack upon the Government and a violation of the ancient charges? My remarks were intended to show that if the proposed new rules with

respect to the admission of Boys to the Royal Masonic School be carried, that noble institution will eventually share the fate which has befallen schools of equal benevolence and greater antiquity. The simple arithmetical calculation that whilst the expenditure of each boy is over thirty-four pounds per year, and each boy can be retained in the institution seven years, a single presentation can be purchased for one hundred and twenty, guineas, and a life presentation for one hundred and fifty guineas, has, no doubt, convinced our worthy brother that the transaction must be a burden on the funds of the institution.

I am Dear Sir and Brother, Yours fraternally.

W. BIGGS, P.M., 247, 961, 90.
Prov. S.G.W.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am sorry to inflict another letter upon you; but although I do not intend to maintain a controversy upon the subject of my former communication, yet I think I may fairly ask for an opportunity of correcting the false issue upon which the W.M. of No. 90 seems disposed to rest his defence—a slight correction of your report, and a few facetious witticisms upon the language of my former letter, forming the whole extent of his reply, as published in the last MAGAZINE.

The real question is this. Did the P.M. state that the public schools of England have been diverted from the intention of their founders, and the poor wronged by the managers of these institutions, especially in the instances of Winchester College and Christ's Hospital? If he did not use these expressions, a much more serious correction of your report is necessary, otherwise his speech was, if not unfounded, assuredly unmasonic.

Suppose the W.M.'s letter to be the criterion of debate in No. 90, some brother might find occasion to state in open lodge his views on the temporalities of the Established Church; another might introduce an apt allusion to the superiority of a peaceful to a warlike policy on the part of our Government—in fact, there is no debatable question in church or state which might not be introduced under the convenient excuse of its connection with the principle involved in the discussion.

The signature which I have adopted (and which moves the wrath of the W.M.), I have used to designate some slight Masonic experience, and in the course of fourteen years (in London and the provinces) I never heard the introduction of extraneous topics permitted by any W.M.

I have, however, discharged my conscience, and here must end the earnest remonstrance of

A P.M. OF THREE PROVINCES.

April 14, 1862.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—In reply to P.Z.'s correspondence which appeared in your last MAGAZINE of April 12th, the said Archer as First Principal of the Third Chapter of Ireland, acted with strict conformity to the law, regulations, and constitutions of the Grand Chapter of Ireland, by conferring those degrees mentioned by P.Z. previous to arching, and for further information, I beg to inform him there is no similarity in the ritual working of the Irish Chapters and a London Chapter under the warrant of the Grand Chapter of England. The titles and names of officers and the era are different. By a recent decision of the Grand Chapter, a chapter is ruled by the H.P. as 1st P.; the King, 2nd P.; and the C.S., 3rd P., assisted by six subordinate officers, independent of Chaplain, Organist, Treasurer, Registrar, Inner and Outer Guard.

I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

J. T. ARCHER, H.P. of the Key Stone,
Third Chap. of Ireland; P.G.S. and
P.Z., 25 Chap. of England.

Cork, 14th April, 1862.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The Duke of St. Albans is to be installed as Prov. Grand Master of Lincolnshire, at Lincoln, on Tuesday next.

At the meeting of the Board of Benevolence, Bro. Hopwood, P.G.D., in the chair, fifteen petitioners were relieved with various sums, amounting to £165, and one petitioner recommended to Grand Lodge to be relieved with £30.

THE ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED MASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

We again direct the attention of the brethren to the case of Mrs. ELIZABETH PIPER, who, in her 77th year, now appeals for the eighth time to be elected on the funds of this Institution, and now have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of the following votes:—

Votes already announced	168
Bro. Ditchman	28
„ Spencer	120
Lodge No. 141	4
„ 202	8
„ 223	4
Chapter No. 586	4

336

We have also received the male votes of Bro. Cooke, Bro. Gibbons, and Lodge No. 141.

We are sorry to announce that, since the issue of the balloting paper, Mrs. Mary Bethia Baker, No. 11 on the list, has ceased to exist. The votes of our Kentish brethren will, consequently, be set at liberty, and we confidently appeal to them, under the circumstances, to transfer them to Bro. Warren, on behalf of Mrs. Piper, feeling assured that they will agree with us that she has been too long on the list of candidates.

BRETHREN, remember the EIGHTH APPLICATION. LET IT BE THE LAST.

Proxies will be thankfully received by Bro. Henry G. Warren, at the Office of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, or at 6, Red Lion-square, London, W.C.

Every 5s. subscribed will buy four votes.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

A quarterly general court of governors and subscribers was held on Wednesday at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields; Bro. Symonds, G.D.C., V.P., was in the chair. The principal business of the day was the consideration of certain new laws adopted at the quarterly court held in January last.

The first question brought under discussion in respect of the new laws was that "Every donor of fifty guineas, by one or more payments of not less than five guineas each, shall be a Vice-president of the institution." This new law was, after considerable discussion, confirmed.

On the second new law, "Any person may place a properly qualified child in the institution, provided such child can be conveniently admitted, upon payment in one sum of 120 guineas, without voting in respect of any part thereof."

Bro. Smith, W.M. No. 90, opposed the resolution as likely to override the rights of the subscribers, and that the sum proposed to be charged was not commensurate to the advantages offered.

Bro. Sherry, P.M. No. 90, seconded the amendment that the motion be not confirmed.

After some discussion the amendment was carried almost unanimously.

The third new law was as follows:—"Any person subscribing 250 guineas in one payment, and without voting in respect of any part thereof, shall be entitled, during his or her life, to keep one properly qualified child in the institution." The new law was non-confirmed.

Bro. Rowland, P.M. 1090, moved, "That a committee, to consist of members of the general and house committees, be appointed for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means to be adopted with a view to the removal of the Boys' School from Wood-green to some more convenient locality, and that such committee do report thereon at the earliest opportunity." He stated that it was admitted the present school was inconveniently situated, and the means of access from the metropolis too limited. He believed that the present estate might be sold for £5000; they had had a very successful festival, and their funded property now amounted to about £13,000, so that there could be no difficulty in their obtaining a more appropriate site and building.

Bro. Udall, P.J.D., seconded the motion.

The resolution was opposed by Bros. Warren, Hoopwood, Savage, and others on the ground that they ought not to touch their funded property for the purposes of building, and that there was no case made out to warrant any extraordinary expenditure at present.

After the show of hands had been taken twice, the meeting divided, when there appeared for the motion 13; against it, 15. It was consequently lost.

On the motion of Bro. Symonds, it was unanimously resolved that in consideration of the activity and energy displayed by Bro. Frederick Binckes, Secretary, in promoting the success of the recent festival, to which there were no less than 100 Stewards, whose lists produced the unparalled amount of £3640 (exceeding by £2000 the amount received at the previous festival), the court present him with a gratuity of 50 guineas.

The court then proceeded to elect two boys for the school from a list of thirteen candidates, which resulted as follows:—

Standen, Wm. T.	3178
Mariner, J. P.	1500
James, Adam A.	968
Weeks, W. F.	924
Read, F. H.	819
Parkinson, W. H.	362
Noel, Thos.	282
Bird, H. G.	194
Bick, H.	48
Crabtree, B. T.	29
Rice, H.	27
Tetley, F. H.	27

The proceedings closed with votes of thanks to the Chairman and the Secretaries.

GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The quarterly court of the Governors and subscribers was held on Thursday, Bro. Udall in the chair.

The minutes of the last court were read and confirmed, and minutes of the various Committees read for information.

The following brethren being annual subscribers were elected as members of the Audit Committee:—

F. Adlard, B. Baker, G. Biggs, G. Bone, D. Davies, H. Empson, S. P. Norris, Æ. McIntyre, W. Paas, E. Roberts, J. Symonds, J. Udall.

The following were received as members of the House Committee:—

G. Biggs, L. Chandler, Capt. J. Creaton, B. Head, Rev. W. H. Lyall, S. E. Nutt, A. H. Hewlett, W. Paas, C. Robinson, J. R. Sheen, J. Udall, W. Young.

Bro. Jas. Symonds, A.G.D.C., gave the following notices of motion: "To amend Rule 33 [relating to appointment of House Committee], by omitting all the words after 'Trustees,' and substituting the following:—'and twelve members of the General Committee. Nominations of brethren to serve on the House Committee shall be made at the General Committee in April, and the election from the brethren so nominated shall take place at the General Committee in May. The names of the brethren nominated shall be printed, and a list given to every brother attending the election.'"

"To amend Rule 34 by inserting (at the commencement) before the word 'Lady-day,' the words 'The House Committee meets;' also by adding after 'half-past two o'clock,' the words

'or at such other time, during either term, as the Committee may appoint.'

"To amend Rule 49 [relating to appointment of Audit Committee] by inserting the word 'April' in the second paragraph, and substituting the word 'May' also by inserting after the words 'General Committee,' in same paragraph, the words 'from brethren who have been nominated in April, in like manner as for the House Committees.'"

In the event of the proposed amendments of Rules 33, 34, and 49 being adopted, "That the House and Audit Committee, elected in April, 1862, be continued in office until their successors are appointed in May, 1863.

METROPOLITAN.

PRUDENT BRETHREN LODGE (No. 169).—A meeting of this lodge, which is now rapidly rising in prosperity, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Tuesday, Bro. Graygoose, W.M., presiding, supported by his officers and a full muster of the brethren. Messrs. Sharpe and Wilson were initiated into the Order—Bro. Young passed, and Bro. Waddell raised—the ceremonies being impressively performed by Bro. Boyd, P.M., and Bro. Kirby, P.M. After the transaction of some formal business, the brethren adjourned to a handsome banquet, the pleasures of the evening being much enhanced by the exertions of Bros. Slater, 202, Robinson, 237, Exall, Hart, Graygoose, and others.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

EAST STONEHOUSE.—*Lodge Sincerity* (No. 224).—The usual monthly meeting was held on the evening of the 14th April, under the presidency of the W.M. Rev. Geo. Knowling, M.A. We felt very much surprised to see so numerous a company present, the weather being so exceedingly boisterous. After the minutes had been confirmed, the W.M. presented the collar of J.D. to Bro. Radford, and that of I.G. to Bro. Maddock, owing to a brother being called away from the neighbourhood. The W.M. then proceeded to initiate Mr. Turner; after which, in a style rarely surpassed, he raised Bro. Pool to the sublime degree of a M.M. Considerable interest was excited during the evening by the consecration of Lodge Meridian at Millbrook, and the laying of the foundation stone of the Devonport Hospital by the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe. At both these ceremonies it was agreed that *Lodge Sincerity* should be duly represented.

PLYMOUTH.—*Lodge Charity* (No. 277).—At the meeting on the 15th inst., there appeared on the notice paper two brothers for the degree of M.M., and one for that of F.C. Owing to some cause we have never had so slack an attendance. The same resolution was agreed to with regard to Lodge Meridian and the laying of the foundation stone, as at Lodge Sincerity.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

LEOMINSTER—CONSECRATION OF THE ROYAL EDWARD LODGE,

Members of the Craft in all parts of the world will be delighted to hear of the resuscitation and reconsecration, under most auspicious circumstances, of one of the most ancient lodges in the kingdom, formerly held at Leominster, but which, yielding to the mutations of time, had been allowed to lapse into a state of inexistence for nearly half-a-century. This imposing ceremony, conducted in solemn and ancient form by the esteemed and learned the Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Province, Dr. Bowles, D.D. LL.D., and assisted by the highly popular the Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Venerable Archdeacon Lane Freer, D.D., and the rest of the past and present Provincial Grand Officers of Herefordshire and neighbouring provinces, was performed on Thursday, the 10th inst. in the presence of one of the most distinguished gatherings of brethren that has honoured the new masonic era in this province.

¶ In the forenoon a lodge of emergency was held, in accordance with the summons of the Right Worshipful Master, for the purpose of initiating six gentlemen into the mysteries of the

Craft, in which he was most ably assisted by Bro. E. S. Cossens, W.M., 1202, P.M. 1097, Prov. G. Registrar Perks and Hants; P. G. Steward, R.A. 25, &c.; the Right Worshipful P.W.G.M. performing his arduous duties in the most approved and perfect manner.

At two o'clock the imposing ceremony of consecration commenced and proceeded in strict accordance with the programme.

The Consecration being completed, the D. Prov. G. M. presented the W. Master, the Rev. J. H. Black, to the P.G.M. for Installation, and the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon Brother E. S. Cossens to undertake that honourable duty, which he did in the most perfect and ample manner, delivering the several charges and proclamations, according to ancient form, and evincing a thorough acquaintance with the genuine tenets and landmarks of the order.

At four for five the grand banquet was served in a style of elegance and excellence which left nothing to be desired.

The Rev. J. Bowles, D.D., LL.D., the R.W.G.M. of the province, presided, having the R.W.D. Prov. G.M., the Venerable Archdeacon Lane Freer upon his right, and the W.M. of the Royal Edward Lodge, the Rev. J. H. Black, upon his left. Bro. Captain T. G. Peyton, Prov. G.J.W. of the Royal Eastnor Lodge, and Bro. H. Clarkson, the P. Prov. G. Secretary of Palladian, occupied the opposite posts of honour. There were also present, Bros. W. H. Gretton, the Provincial Grand Chaplain and J. D. 141; W. J. Sawyer, Provincial Grand Chaplain; J. Williams, Prov. G. T.; J. W. Laey, P.G.D.C. and W.M. 141; J. Cheese, Prov. G. Organist; Captain J. H. Arkwright, S.W. 1194; L. S. Demay, J. W. 1194; W. J. Morrish, P.P.G. Chaplain; E. S. Cossens, W.M. 1202, P.M. 1097, Prov. G.R. Berks and Hants, R.A. 25; J. Gardiner, A. Prov. G. Secretary and J. W. 141; E. George, P.G.P. and S. D. 141; O. Shellerd, I.G. 141; C. Allen, P.P.G.C.; A. Myer, 141; J. T. Baker, 141; J. F. Crowe, 141; J. Russell, 141; C. G. Hill, 141; W. Prosser, 141; S. Partridge, Secretary, 1194; H. Moore, 1194; E. Chadwick, 1194; T. Turner, 1194; J. Bradford, 1194; W. Gikes, 1194; W. J. Wormington, 1194; W. S. Boyce, 1194; S. Sampson, 1194; W. Daggs, 1194; J. Reynolds, 1194; G. Tomkins, 1194; S. Hayward, 724 and 722; G. H. Piper, J. W. 1053; W. Sokes; E. P. Wellings; P. Newman; J. Kilvert; C. Turner; and J. Hayward, 72.

Brother C. Allen, the P. Prov. G. C., invoked the divine blessing on the proceedings, and subsequently offered thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe for the bountiful provision vouchsafed to his creatures.

The R.W. GRAND MASTER of the province then rose amidst great applause to present the first toast on the list for the evening, and said:—Right Worshipful Dep. G.M., Grand Wardens, Officers, and brethren—The social duty we have to fulfil is to drink in solemn silence to the health of our beloved and widowed Sovereign, and to express our heartfelt compassion for her sufferings under that afflicting and affecting dispensation of God's providence which has torn her heart with bereavement, and awakened universal sympathy. (Hear, hear.) Brethren, let it be our consolation to know that the fountain of all goodness has a greater good in store for Queen Victoria than mere enjoyment, and that in order that she may obtain His greater gifts He has withdrawn a lesser one. (Applause.) His greatest gifts are moral and spiritual excellence; and the pious resignation, the meek endurance, the profound submission with which Her Majesty bears the burden of her great sorrow, are of themselves sufficient vindication of her sufferings, inasmuch as they prove that those sufferings are God's messengers to call forth the power of her virtue, to sanctify those feelings, to nourish the purest sympathies of her nature, to perfect that excellence which is the end of our being, and to prepare her for a nearer access to our Great Father. (Immense, but subdued applause.) Thus, all of you who observed the tracing board in our lodge this morning, in which you saw the symbol of progression, will bear me out in saying—

'Tis sorrow builds the shining ladder up,
Whose golden rounds are our calamities,
Whereon our firm feet planting, nearer God
The spirit climbs, and bath its eyes unsealed.

(Great applause.) Brethren, I am sure you will unite with me in the expression of a heartfelt prayer that that uncreated light, towards which we Masons reverently wend our way, may penetrate our Sovereign's soul, disperse the dark sorrow that dims the eye of faith, and inspire her with principles and hopes stronger than death!

The National anthem having been sung, as a solo by the Grand Organist, with chorus, by all the members of the Craft,—

The R.W. Prov. G.M. said: Brethren, the next toast is "Albert Edward Prince of Wales,"—a prince blessed by his mother's prayers, rich in a people's love, and richer still in the pious and priceless example bequeathed to him by his illustrious and deeply-lamented father—Albert the Good. (Applause.) Born to inherit, I trust, at some far distant period, the greatest monarchy in the world, may the grandeur of his mind be suited to his royal birth and lofty destination. (Applause.) May he identify himself with the great nation he will one day govern, and by becoming the champion of constitutional liberty, holiness, and truth, prove that he is worthy of his mother's love, and emulates his father's great and good example. (Applause.)

Peace to his father's memory—let it grow
Greener with years, and blossom through the flight
Of ages; let the huge monolith show
To future times his goodness; let the light
Stream on his deeds of love, that shunned the sight
Of all but heaven, and in the book of fame
The glorious record of his virtues write,
And hold it up to men, and bid them claim
A palm like his, and catch from him the hallowed flame!

(Applause.)

The R.W. Prov. G.M. again rose and observed: I have now the honour and gratification of proposing the health of my noble friend and our Masonic ruler, the Earl of Zetland, under whose wise and gentle sway our ancient and honourable fraternity continues to prosper, and to whom the Masons of England owe an everlasting debt of gratitude. (Applause.)

Bro. H. MOORE said: As a very young Mason, I deeply feel the honour conferred upon me by placing in my hands the next toast, and I cannot but regret that it has not been conferred upon some older brother, more experienced in the principles of the noble Craft, more cognizant of the mysteries of Masonry and better acquainted with the high officers under whom we serve, and whose behests it is our pleasure to carry out. I am, however, fully aware that the first duty of a Mason is implicit obedience to the commands of his superior officers, and therefore in obedience to the mandate of the Right Worshipful Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, I beg to offer the next toast on the list—that of "the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the present and past Grand Officers." (Applause.) From what I have heard from brother Masons it needs no encomiums of mine to eliminate your good wishes and good feelings towards those brethren, and I therefore give the toast, feeling that it will be received with warmth to which it is entitled. (Applause.)

THE DEP. PROV. G.M. then said: Brethren, I have the permission of the Prov. Grand Master to use the gavel and propose the next toast, which I am sure you will drink with the greatest enthusiasm, pleasure, and delight, for it is no less than the health of the Worshipful the Grand Master who presides over us this day. (Cheers.) In drinking the health of one occupying so distinguished a position in Masonry as the Provincial Grand Master, there are many considerations which, as it were, rush upon our minds; and first and foremost in proposing his health, that as rule and order are the first principles of nature, so also are those principles upon which Masonry is founded and conducted; and thus in looking to the visible building which we raise, as the foundation stone must be firmly and safely deposited before we raise, as it were by gradations, the superstructure, so must we be brethren of a lodge and inferior officers before we can arrive at the culminating point of honour in which we find our Grand Master. (Cheers.) And inasmuch as the spire and the pinnacle are the glory of the building, so he who fills the illustrious position of Grand Master of a Province is the glory of the lodges that are placed under his superintendence. (Cheers.) These, brethren, are the feelings aroused in the breast of and acknowledged by every sincere Mason—by every one who has the good of the Craft at heart. To have the mind imbued with these precepts and these feelings is calculated not only to make a good Mason, but a good and worthy man; but when is added to them the high position occupied by the Right Worshipful Grand Master—when we have other qualifications, those of a personal nature added to them—I say, when we add the erudition and learning of the deep-read scholar, the courtesy, and kindness, and consideration of the polished gentleman; the virtues and good qualities which are ever, I say, exercised by him and experienced by all the members of

the lodges in this province—he possesses a still higher claim upon us, and we feel a still greater pleasure in drinking his good health, prosperity, and happiness, than if he merely occupied a private and less exalted position. I have very great pleasure in giving you the health of your and my valued friend the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, Dr. Bowles.

THE R.W. PROV. G.M. then rose and said: Sir and Brethren—We all, I presume, have experienced how much easier it is to conceive thoughts than to give them fit utterance. This difficulty of expression besets me now, and therefore I cannot describe the gratitude I feel for the eloquent and kindly spirit in which you, Right Worshipful Sir, have proposed, and the truly cordial and fraternal manner in which you, brethren, have received the toast of my health as the Provincial Grand Master of this district. (Applause.) If any additional inducement were needed to prompt me to the more efficient discharge of the duties of my office, I should find it in the earnest desire to merit a continuance of your good opinion, and thus to prove to you by actions rather than by words, how highly I value the kindness I have always received from the Freemasons of Herefordshire. (Cheers.) Brethren, I will not weary you by further allusion to myself, but hasten at once to say a word or two about the memorable event of this auspicious day. We have set apart and consecrated the Royal Edward Lodge to the benevolent work of Masonry, in the hope that here will be initiated and hence will go forth Masons who will work in the earnest endeavour for the benefit of their fellow creatures and for the happiness and progress of mankind, and who will continue to practice, both in this newly-constituted lodge and out of it, that disinterested benevolence which is the distinguishing characteristic of Freemasonry, and which shall endure and flourish when all other things which are admired and esteemed by men shall be forgotten. (Great applause.) May the Great Architect of the Universe, who in the beginning laid the foundations of the earth, accept our consecration and fulfil our hopes; may He shed on this new lodge His light and His love; and may the candidates here to be initiated in the mysteries of our ancient and honourable fraternity become the efficient friends of Masonry and of the human race; may they here begin a career of excellence which will never end, but which will be carried forward in the Grand Lodge above, where all true Masons will continue to fill up the succession of ages in the glorious and immortal progress of doing good. (Much applause.) Brethren, both the Deputy Grand Master and myself are, as you well know, Ministers of the Church of England. Nevertheless we have dedicated this lodge to no particular doctrines, nor walled it round with any exclusive creeds. (Hear, hear.) The Royal Edward Lodge is not consecrated to bind any man's opinions in the swathing bands of intolerance, but it is consecrated to the love of God and man; to religious, moral, and intellectual liberty; to brotherly kindness, love, and charity; to Masonic progress; to the right of private judgment, and those grand principles which, when rightly apprehended, make men free indeed. (Great applause.) Worshipful Master, Wardens and brethren of the Royal Edward Lodge, permit me as the mouthpiece of the other lodges in the province, as well as of those brother Masons from other provinces who have honoured us with their company to-day, to proffer you our hearty good wishes for the prosperity and permanence of your lodge. May it strike its roots deep in Masonic usefulness, and bear rich fruits of honour and progress to our own Craft; and may every one of its members, from this night forward, devote his best energies to the rearing of a Masonic temple, nobler and more enduring than that which in the far olden time was reared by the Royal Solomon, and which stood so long the pride and wonder of the Judean people—I mean the inward temple of fraternal unity, built up in every true Mason's heart, and which, being so founded, shall remain unbroken by force, and undecayed by time, even when your massive and time-worn church, grey with its thousand years, shall have passed away and perished. (Immense applause.) Brethren the duties of my office, and let me add my own inclination also, urge me to propose a toast, which requires few words of mine to recommend it your favourable notice. Need I add that the toast which I now ask you to drink is the health of our brother, and my Venerable friend, the Archdeacon Lane Freer. (Cheers.) With my reverend friend seated on my right, I find it difficult to speak with the freedom I otherwise would of his character and attainments. Most cheerfully do I acknowledge that he is my superior in everything but the accidental circumstance of his being my deputy in this province; and often as I have ex-
perished, whilst addressing a public assembly, the powerlessness



of words to clothe the ideas which spring up in the mind, I never lamented the want of this power more than I do at the present moment because it precludes me from speaking as I wish to do of my venerable friend and brother, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. (Applause.) He is, as all who are honoured with a share of his friendship know, an apt and ripe scholar in the highest school of wisdom, possessing sound judgment combined with refined taste, and deriving his power as a minister not from his official position, but from his moral and religious worth. (Applause.) As a speaker he is rich in the treasures of intellect, and gifted with an imagination that robes his thoughts in beauty, and sends them forth to instruct, delight, and elevate his fellow-men. (Renewed applause.) As a Mason he sympathises with every innocent enjoyment, brings into our lodges the cheerfulness and sunshine of the soul, and labours with all the energy of his nature to aid in the production of happiness, in the relief of distress, and in that progress towards good which he has so beautifully described in his recent lecture on "England in the Olden Time," that I cannot do better than give it in his own glowing and eloquent language:—"Who does not feel, as he witnesses the progress or civilization, the amelioration of manners, the improvement of morals, and the advancement of religion, that this world, in which we have our being, with all its faults, and all its shortcomings, is still God's own world, and that it is gradually progressing by such steps as seem best to Him, to a more perfect development of his will, and consequently the increased happiness of his creatures." (Cheers.) Let us (said the eloquent speaker) aid our Venerable brother in this great work; let us also rise up and be doing something in God's world for God, remembering that what we do lasts—lasts in us—that when we shall rest from our labours our works shall follow us. (Great applause.) Impressed with this conviction, let us all become fellow labourers together with God in God's great harvest-field, the world—working earnestly and waiting patiently for our glorious and final recompense till the evening hour when our Grand Master shall call the labourers together and give them their hire beginning at the last unto the first, and when both "he that soweth and he that reapeth shall rejoiced together. (Enthusiastic applause.)

The D. Prov. G.M., in reply, said: I rise to return most grateful and cordial thanks for the manner in which you have received the toast proposed by my distinguished friend, the Prov. G.M., this evening. I return you my most hearty thanks for the manner in which you have drunk my health, but I really do not know how to thank my right worshipful friend for the way in which he proposed it, for the high and flattering manner was far beyond any deserts of mine. I have been a mason for a large number of years—so long, indeed, that I hardly like to look back to the time of my initiation. For some years after leaving college, circumstances prevented me joining any lodge until I threw in my lot with the Palladian Lodge, at Hereford, since which time I have endeavoured to the utmost of my feeble powers to exert the information I possessed for the advantage and good of masonry; and I have done so upon the surest and firmest conviction that in so doing I was doing that which was good to my fellow creatures, and was a means of giving glory to my Maker. (Hear, hear.) Masonry is the oldest benevolent institution in the world. It rises far beyond any other society that has its existence for the advantage and comfort of, and for the display of benevolence and kindness towards, our fellow creatures. So far, if for no other reason, it has the strongest claims upon us; but it has other claims, for it exerts an influence which must be felt by every mason, acting upon every moral principle, so that we may say a good mason must be a good man—(applause):—the two things are inseparable. (Renewed applause.) I do not mean to say that masons, like other men, are not given to err; but I do feel that masonry has for its foundation that which will exalt and raise our principles and our feelings beyond any other human institution, and is even next to that religious principle which I hope actuates and guides all present. (Applause.) My right worshipful friend has been pleased to allude in glowing terms of friendship and kindness to the little exertion I have made in the cause of masonry, and for which I have been truly, wholly, and fully compensated in that grateful feeling and reciprocated kindness I have met with from every mason in this lodge and in this province. (Cheers.) Perhaps there is a matter that requires a little explanation. I had some share in the appointment of this day, as that upon which the lodge should be held, and I find that owing to the day not being a convenient one for the Vitruvian Lodge,

they have not been able to attend. I hope therefore that any blame attaching to this circumstance may be thrown upon me. Really we found it extremely difficult to name a day that would suit all brethren, who were kind enough to say that any day that suited me should be named. I consulted our lodge at Hereford, and first spoke to one and then to another, and at length found this the only day we could hit upon to suit the majority. Unfortunately it did not suite the Vitruvian Lodge, and I regret it exceedingly, and I do hope they will see it was no fault of mine that this day was appointed. (Hear, hear.) One more word before I sit down. I rejoice exceedingly and sincerely at the spread of Masonry in Herefordshire. (Hear, hear.) When I look back a few years, since you did me the honour to appoint me, perhaps, rather prematurely, to the office of D.G.M., there were but two lodges existing in this province; now four attest the spread of masonry. (Applause.) That must be very gratifying to the Prov. G.M. and to masons (Cheers.) Allow me, worshipful sir, to offer you my sincere congratulations upon the consecration of your lodge, and most humbly do I beg and pray that those blessings of morality and virtue, which I invoked when spreading the corn upon your lodge, may follow. I beg to thank you for the kindness shown me on this and on every occasion. (Cheers.)

Bro. E. S. COSSENS, at the request of the Prov. G.M., proposed the next toast; and after some preliminary observations apologetic of his own insufficiency, following, as he did, eloquence that had excited the admiration of all present, said: Situated as the Royal Edward Lodge is, in the most interesting part of this fruitful province, it bids fair to receive, under the guidance of the R.W. and talented master, the direct support, weight, and influence of all fit and proper men within the immediate locality. It must be remembered that the Royal Edward Lodge existed in this ancient borough a great many years ago, although for the last forty-five years it has remained in abeyance, and the brethren of it have ceased to meet. It has now, however, recommenced working under the most favourable auspices, and may be likened unto "that stone which the builders rejected, but which became the head stone of the corner." (Applause.) I trust therefore that the W.M. will take courage and continue strengthened and steadfast, seeking the great end in view, and there is no doubt that at no distant period, under the benign influence of the W. the Prov. G.M., we may have the pride and pleasure of seeing the temple, of which we have this day laid the foundation stone, rising, according to ancient form, in beauty and perfection, having its pillars crowned with the glorious capitals of the order, and winning the admiration of all those who may view it. (Applause.) In conclusion, brethren, allow me to say that, with the assistance of those brethren and officers the W.M. has had the pleasure of appointing in the Royal Edward Lodge, I believe it will not only prosper, but become a beacon and a permanent landmark for all time. (Applause.) I therefore beg to propose the next toast—"Prosperity and Permanence to the Royal Edward Lodge." (Applause.)

The W.M. of the Royal Edward Lodge proceeded to give the next toast. Visitors, who have so kindly honoured us with their attendance on this occasion. (Applause.) From my own province in North Wales as also from Shropshire, several masters had intended to be present, but were prevented by circumstances over which I learn they had no control. I therefore beg to ask you to the drink to the health of the visitors. (Cheers.)

Bro. COSSENS, at the request of the R.W.M., responded to the toast, and said: After the display of eloquence we have heard this evening,—after the magnolias, the cacti grandiflora, and the Victoria regia of literature have been so profusely presented to us, I have only to offer for your acceptance a few simple primroses, blue bells, and lillies of the valley. First permit me, on behalf of myself and the numerous visitors, to express my thankfulness for the high compliment you have thus paid us and for the permission afforded us by the R.W.M. of attending the ceremonies of the day. Engaged as I am, I cannot indulge in masonic pursuits so frequently as I could wish. Nevertheless, whenever permitted, to visit masonic lodges is to me a source of great delight, especially when I may be enabled to render any service to the presiding officer. (Applause.) I trust that what I have done this day will be taken by the newly initiated brethren as an example worthy of their imitation, and will induce them to render unceasingly to the W.M. their best efforts of assistance, so that he may discharge the arduous duties of his office with pleasure to himself, and to the incalculable benefit of its members; and that by a con-

stant and punctual attendance at your lodge, and by accepting the lowest step in the masonic ladder, you may progress through the various offices of the craft, until in the end you may fill that high and important position which the R.W.M. has the honour, the pride, and the pleasure now to occupy. (Cheers.) Brethren, I regard the establishment of every new masonic lodge as the erection of another temple to the praise, the honour, and the glory of the Lord God Omnipotent,—a space within which the R.W.M. and his officers have the privilege of directing the brethren to the contemplation of that masonic emblem which surrounds and brings into one indissoluble bond of union the true and lawful brethren of every age, clime, country, and language,—(applause)—in short, to direct your every thought to “that bourne from whence no traveller returns,” so that when we shall have slept the sleep from which there is no awaking but at the voice of the trumpet of the Archangel of the Lord, we may be able to present before Him who sits in His glorious majesty, surrounded by His glorious angels and archangels, such a just and square account of all our actions through life that we may be deemed worthy to form part of that spiritual mansion—that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (Applause.) Brethren, if I have this day rendered any services to the Royal Edward Lodge, pray regard them only as a part of that duty which is due from to every brother who may summons me to his aid in time of need. In conclusion, I beg to inform the brethren present that the St. George's Lodge (No. 1202.) will be consecrated by the Right Hon. the Prov. G.M. for Gloucestershire, the D. Prov. G.M., and their several officers, on the 24th inst.; that the proceedings of the day will be celebrated by a grand masonic ball at the Town Hall of the ancient borough of Tewkesbury, and that it should be convenient for any present, with your masonic connections, to honour the lodge with your presence, it will give me great delight to receive you. (Cheers.)

Bro. ARKWRIGHT proposed “the success of the lodges in the Province.” (Cheers.)

Bro. Lacy, on the part of the Palladian, returned thanks.

Bro. CHADWICK said: Brethren, the toast I have to propose, although the last upon the printed list that lies before me, is by no means the most unimportant of the evening; for it relates to and is indissolubly bound up with the very existence of this most ancient and most honourable institution—namely the Charities connected with and supported by the Craft. (Much cheering.) In former days, I apprehend, the assistance of those who preceded us was more required than ours is at the present time. The funds so faithfully collected and so satisfactorily administered is the subject of my toast—in short, I have to propose “The Masonic Charities.” (Cheers.) It will not be necessary for me to say more than to express my individual thankfulness to you, Worshipful Sir, for the honour you have done us in so ably presiding over us this day, but I am sure I am not wrong in saying that you have, with the other Grand Officers and brethren who have taken part in the proceedings of this day, the gratitude of the Worshipful Master and the Grand Wardens, Senior and Junior, who belong to this lodge. (Cheers.) I thank you, sir, for your august presence in this the consecration of our lodge, and I beg to propose “Our Masonic Charities,” and I will add my most fervent wish that they may ever flourish and abound. (Prolonged cheers.)

The R.W. Prov. G.M. then spoke as follows:—Sir and brethren, the W.M. of this lodge has just mentioned to me an incident which seems to me very touching—I learn that we have here to-night one of the representatives of the Old Edward Lodge. (Hear, hear.) I understand there are two other members of the Old Edward Lodge still in existence, but that they are too old and too infirm to make their appearance amongst us to-night. I give you “The Health of Bro. Captain Turner and the Old Edward Lodge,” and I hope you will drink it with Masonic honours. (Cheers.)

Bro. TURNER said: It is now forty-two or forty-three years since there was a lodge in this town, and I have not mixed much with Masons since that time, for the reason that I have not had the opportunity of joining another lodge. When I was a subscribing member I always felt great pleasure and a great honour in belonging to the brethren. I feel greatly the honour you have done me in permitting me to join your lodge this evening, and I therefore return you my most sincere thanks. (Applause.)

Bro. Captain PEXTON said: The R.W. Prov. G.M. has requested me to propose a toast, which is not however upon the list, “The health of those members who have lately seen light

in Masonry,” a light, I hope, that will, by their individual conduct, be the means of diffusing good throughout the locality, and thereby shed an ennobling influence upon those amongst whom they live—in short, that they will become, not only members of this lodge, which bids fair to be as strong and as useful as any in the province, but that they will become members of society, who not only by the performance of their Masonic duties in and out of lodge, but by the faithful discharge of their social duties in their relation with the world, will reflect honour upon the Craft. (Applause.)

The R.W. Prov. G.M. said the lodge would pardon him if he drew its attention to the thoroughly Masonic way in which the worthy Brother Captain Peyton had received the summons to this consecration. The captain was one of his grand officers, and was in Ireland when his letter reached him. He at once replied that if it was possible to accomplish the distance in time he would be in his place. “And here our brother is,” said the worthy master. (Cheers.)

Bro. PEXTON replied, As a soldier and and a mason I consider it my duty to obey the commands of my superior officer, and glad I am that the mighty power of steam has enabled me to be present this day. (Cheers.)

Bro. DAGGS returned thanks for the newly-initiated members.

The DEP. PROV. G.M. proposed “The Health of the Worshipful Master of the Royal Edward Lodge,” who he was sure would perform the duties of the position entrusted to him in such a manner as would ensure the respect and gratitude of all its members, for no one could be more anxious for the progress of Masonry and the good it may effect throughout the province than that worthy brother. (Applause.)

The W. M. said, in reply, that if there was any occasion when a master of a lodge would wish to have his health drunk it must be on his installation. Fifteen years ago he was first initiated into the mysteries of Masonry, and since that time he had endeavoured to subscribe to its principles. He was two years master of the Salopian Lodge in Shrewsbury, and had the pleasure, in the discharge of his duty, of initiating a large number of members. When a brother spoke to him on the subject of the Royal Edward Lodge, he said he should be glad to do all he could for the good of Masonry in the neighbourhood, feeling that it tended much to promote good-fellowship and good-feeling amongst all classes of society. (Cheers.)

Bro. COSSENS gave “The Health of the other Officers of the Lodge.”

Bro. ARKWRIGHT responded.

The R.W. Prov. G.M., in an eloquent speech, gave “The Fourth Estate of this Country.”

Bro. PROSSER, of the *Hereford Journal*, replied; and the meeting closed in accordance with ancient form.

LANCASHIRE (WEST.)

LIVERPOOL.—*Ancient Union Lodge* (No. 245).—This being the regular meeting, the Lodge was open by Bro. M. Crawford, W.W., at five o'clock good attendance. Visitors Bros. Moor, W.M., 263 Hamer, Prov. G. T.; Wyse, 391. The ballot was taken for Mr. R. H. Robertson of ship *Great Britain*, who was duly elected and initiated in Ancient Freemasonry. The Lodge was open in the second degree, when five Brethren were passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge being closed to the first degree the brethren were called from labour to banquet. After dinner the W.M. gave the usual loyal toasts. The W.M. gave the healths of “The M.W. Grand Master the Earl of Zetland and the Earl De Grey and Ripon” which were duly honored. The healths of the “Prov. Grand Master and the deputy Sir Thos. Heskeths, R.W.P. and Officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge.” Bro. Hamer, Prov. G.T. returned thanks on behalf of himself and officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The “Health of the W.M. of 245” was proposed by Bro. W.P. Colebore, P.M. and duly responded to by the W.M. The W.M. Bro. Crawford, in the name of the officers and members of the Ancient Union Lodge (No. 243), presented to Bro. W.M. Perry Colebore, a very handsome Past Master's Jewel. Bro. Colebore said in reply that he begged to assure them that he received it with much pleasure and felt bound to acknowledge that that the credit they were pleased to grant him was to be in a great measure attributed to the kind efforts made to assist him in the arduous duties he had to perform by all connected with 245. The lodge was closed in due form.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*John of Gaunt Lodge*, (No. 766).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemason's

Hall, on Thursday the 17th inst., the W.M., Bro. T. Sheppard in the chair. There were also present P.M's. W. Kelley, (D. Prov. G.M.), Capt. Brewin, Capt. Baurait, Kinton, and Millican, and Bros. Sutton Corkran, Green, Barwell, Knight, Bithrey and Lewin. Visitors, Bros. Jackson and L. A. Clarke, of St. John's Lodge (No. 348.) The lodge having been opened in the first degree and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. J. T. Blackwell, auctioneer, who was unanimously elected. A F.C. Lodge having been opened, Bro. John Adams Bolton passed a satisfactory examination in that degree, and was subsequently raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the ceremony being performed by the D. Prov. G.M. The lodge having been lowered to the first degree, Mr. John Thompson Blackwell was initiated into our mysteries by the I.P.M. Bro. Brewin. After some routine business the lodge closed and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. At the next monthly meeting the election of W.M. will take place, and it is worthy of mention that during the present W.M.'s tenure of office there has not been a blank evening—a considerable accession of new members having taken place.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—*Lodge of Honour* (No. 769).—The W.M. of this lodge, Bro. C. Matthews, was, on its monthly meeting on the 11th inst., not only supported by all his officers and P.M's. Humphrey, Lewis, and King, but by an unusually large attendance of members and visitors; amongst the latter being Bros. Haseler, P.M., and Cooper, W.M. of the Sister Lodge of St. Peter's (No. 607). The first business was to ballot for Bro. Job Stanway, of No. 607, as a joining member, which was unanimous, and the brethren then proceeded to ballot for Messrs. Alfred Puddicombe, surgeon, and Francis Paul Lutz, both of Wolverhampton, candidates for initiation. These gentlemen, being duly elected, were properly introduced into lodge, and were initiated to the degree of E.A. by the W.M. Bro. Matthews. The charge was delivered by Bro. Kitson, J.D. On account of the lateness of the proceedings the motion of the W.P.M. Humphrey with respect to the Masonic charities to which the lodge subscribes, a notice of which was on the circular, was, at the suggestion of some brethren, postponed to the May meeting, when we trust we have to report that some more definite, and we may add, liberal principle, has become a bye law of the lodge.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—*St. Peter's Lodge* (No. 607).—The brethren this lodge held a meeting on the 3rd April at the accustomed place. There was a full attendance of brethren, and the appearance of the lodge was much improved by the introduction of the various banners of the lodge which have been recently restored and were now disposed about the room. A new Book case has also been added to the property of the lodge forming an object alike ornamental and useful. It is intended to commence a masonic library for the instruction of brethren, and the first books placed in it are the Vols. of the Freemason's Magazine commencing some years back and brought down to the last half-year. Bro. T. W. Cooper W.M. occupied the chair, and was supported by the regular officers except by the J.W. who is removing to a distance; however Bro. Newnham ably filled the vacancy. Bro. Wild was raised to the sublime degree of M.M., and Bro. Haseler, at the request of the W.M., gave the lecture. An invitation to attend the installation of Bro. Barnett of St. Mathew's Lodge, Walsall, was received and read. A gentleman for initiation was next proposed and the same duly seconded. A vote of thanks was given to Bro. Betts for a present of a pair of glass doors for the book case. The W.M. tendered the gift of *Preston's Illustrations of Masonry*, as an item in the starting of the library and appealed to the brethren to contribute books of a masonic character towards the furnishing of the book case. The gift was fully appreciated. The lodge being closed and all business matters ended, the brethren adjourned to banquet and a pleasant evening was spent.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Royal Kent Encampment*.—Good Friday being the anniversary for the installation of the E.C. of this encampment—it was convened for two o'clock. The encampment was opened by the E.C., Sir Knight H. B. Ludwig, assisted by the following Sir Knights and Frs. Wm. Punsheon, Prov. Grand Prior; Wm. Berkley, P.G. Hospitaller and Prov.

Grand Chancellor; John Barker, P. Grand, 1st Captain of England; C. J. Bannister, Grand Aid-De-Camp; and W. Gillespie, Grand Herald; Henry Hotham, P.E.C.; Henry Bell, P.E.C.; H. A. Hammerborn, Capt. of L.; — Rosenberg; J. T. Hoyle; W. J. Harding, &c., &c. Two candidates previously ballotted being in attendance for installation, viz., Messrs. Edwin Mithenbank and Duncan, they were respectively installed knights of the H.T. of J. The installation of the E. Com. elect, Sir Knight C. J. Bannister, P.E.C. of the Jacques de Molay encampment, was then performed by Sir Knight John Barker, who, after making homage, congratulated the E. C. on occupying the throne of this ancient encampment, being the mother encampment of the E. C. and all present, and which had been filled by many worthy and illustrious masons, among whom the late Earl of Durham, Sir Wm. Lovaine, &c.—The E.C. having thanked the brethren for the high honour conferred on him, and which it was his ambition to occupy, being that of his mother encampment, promised to use his best endeavours to conduct our ancient rites and ceremonies to the best of his ability. He then proceeded to install the following Sir Knights as his officers for the ensuing year:—Sir Knight H. G. Ludwig as P.E.C.; Wm. Punsheon, Prior; Wm. Dalziel, Sub-Prior; Wm. Berkley, Prelate; John Barker, Chancellor; Rev. Saml. Atkinson, 1st Captain; John T. Hoyle, 2nd Captain; H. A. Hammerborn, Vice-Chancellor and Registrar; Henry Hotham (elected) Treasurer; John Popplewell, Almoner; Edward Shotten, Expert; — Rosenberg, Captain of Lines; W. J. Harding, Standard Bearer; Edwin Merthenbank and Duncan, Heralds; J. S. Potter, Equerry. The Chancellor read the circular sent by the V.E. Sir Knight Shuttleworth, Grand V. Chancellor, and the Eminent Commander, and the Chancellor announced their intention of becoming subscribing members. Sir Knight Punsheon, the father of Templarism in the North, and there is not a more learned mason in the degrees of knighthood, intimated his readiness to communicate to the Grand Encampment of Instruction all the information in his power, which he would do when called upon, his time being his own he had ample leisure to do so. The alms being collected, and a deserving Sir Knight assisted, the Encampment was closed with prayer. At the closing of the encampment the Council of Knight Grand Crosses met, under the presidency of the Grand Master of Grand Crosses, Sir Knight Wm. Berkley; Wm. Punsheon, Past Grand M. John Barker, Registrar; Henry Bell, Henry Hotham, C. J. Bannister, and Andrew Gillespie, being also present. The only business before the Council was the appointment by the G. Master, who had filled the office for the last three years, of his successor, and he named to that office Sir Knight S. C. Henry Bell, with the full consent of the next in rotation, Sir Knight E. C. John Barker, who in a very kind manner gave way for that worthy and much esteemed frater Sir Knight H. Bell. Sir Knight G. C. Henry Bell was then duly installed Grand Master of the Grand Crosses by his predecessor. The following officers were then confirmed to their previous appointments:—Sir Knight G. C. John Barker as Registrar, and Henry Hotham as Treasurer. The Council was then dissolved. The Knights Templars and Grand Crosses dined together in the Hall under the presidency of the E.C. Charles J. Bannister. On the removal of the cloth, the Queen and Royal family's healths were drunk with the usual loyalty of Templars to the Family of the Royal Duke, who was a Grand Master of their order, and whose name honoured this Encampment with his name. The health of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master of the T. of England, present and past Grand Officers, was then proposed by the Eminent Commander, coupling this toast with the health of Sir Knight John Barker, Past Grand Captain.—Sir Knight Barker responded by thanking the Sir Knights in the name of the M.E. and Supreme G.M. and the V.E.D.G.M., and in lieu of a speech read to the meeting a lecture on the origin of the order, which was one of the last works of that worthy Sir Knight J. Masson, late Grand Chancellor of our order. The health of the Prov. Grand Commander, Sir Knight the Rev. E. C. Ogle, and his Deputy Sir Knight George Hawks, was then given. This toast was coupled with Sir Knight Wm. Punsheon's health as Prov. Grand Prior, and he responded in appropriate terms.—Sir Knight Wm. Berkley then gave the health of the Eminent Commander, which was responded to by him, and in concluding, proposed the health of his worthy predecessor, P.E.C. Henry C. Ludwig, which was responded to by him.—Sir Knight Barker then proposed the Grand Master of the Grand Cross, an order that, though nominally conferred on high office bearers in the Grand Conclave of Scotland, they had not got it as a degree,

and the only town where it was worked and conferred as a degree was in this hall. The G. M. Sir Knight Henry Bell responded. After several other toasts, including the newly installed fraters, the company retired at seven o'clock p.m.

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

A letter from Berlin says:—"Public attention has just been excited by a rather singular fact. A drama by Calderon, 'The Judge of Salamea,' was about to be performed at the theatre of Wilhelmstadt, and the rehearsals had taken place, when the representation was suddenly interdicted. According to some, this prohibition has been caused solely from the fact that the theatre of the suburbs has no right to perform tragedies, but the general opinion among the public is that the piece contains allusions to the situation of the Prussian officers. There is, in fact, among the characters a Spanish officer who is guilty of different criminal acts towards civilians. He is protected by the military authorities, but at length punished by the civil laws. The Government doubtless thought that such a representation would too strongly call to mind the history of Lieutenants Sobbe and Patzki."

Mr. J. O. Halliwell has issued a statement respecting the purchase of the Shakspeare property, from which it appears that the original cost of New Place was £1400; that it was then discovered that the poet's great garden, long separated from the garden of New Place, could also be obtained; and that that also had been purchased for £2000. Another property, however, must be bought before the whole of the gardens originally belonging to Shakspeare can be secured to the public; and hence it is estimated that the further sum now required, including the laying out of the gardens, amounts to £2800. Mr. Halliwell, therefore, asks for this sum, giving a guarantee that it shall be expended with care and economy, and that the gardens shall be ready for public use by the spring of next year. More rapid progress, he says, is not possible, as possession of Shakspeare's great garden will not be obtained before Michaelmas next.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

Rossini's "Guglielmo Tell" was given here last evening for the benefit of such of the holiday folks as might deem charming music superior to all other attractions. The opera was most judiciously chosen, since its grand beauties as a composition were greatly enhanced by the admirable scenic setting in which it has been encased by Mr. Gyo's liberality and good taste. All that exquisite painting and picturesque *mise en scène* could do for it has been effected, and the result is an *ensemble* falling very little short of perfection. Such appeared to be the opinion of the audience, who rewarded the most striking effects with cordial and reiterated applause.

LYCEUM.

On Easter Monday, after the 135th performance of *Peep o' Day*, a new musical ballet was produced entitled *Killarney*. It commences with the scenery from the Lake, by Mr. Telbin, which has been so frequently praised and admired that we only need say on the present occasion that it has lost none of its freshness and beauty. In the course of the diorama Miss Whitty sang a new ballad in three verses, by Balfe, with good effect, and was much applauded.

A new scene was added, entitled "The Fairies' Haunts." It consisted of a most extensive lake scene, by moonlight, but the principal novelty was a shadow dance by the corps de ballet, in a brilliant moonlight thrown upon the front of the stage by the newly invented method. The fairies produced some very pretty effects by their white scarves being kept waving up against the light of the moon, eliciting continuous applause, which ended in a repetition of the dance, for which the moon did not seem prepared, for the gambols of the dancers had not concluded when a sudden and entire eclipse took place, or perhaps fair Luna objected to *encores* on principle. However, the Goddess of the Night relented, and shone forth again before the dance was over for the second time. Miss Lydia Thompson then went through a shadow dance as a *pas seul*. The first pose may, as regards grace, if not for other reasons, be decidedly modified for the better; the rest was remarkable for much vigorous execution and spirited exertion. The quick step was encored, and Miss Lydia Thompson was called forward at the fall of the curtain and received a bouquet.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

So fine an Easter Monday as that just passed for a great many years has not been experienced. The Crystal Palace more particularly felt its influence in the vast multitude of holiday folk that thronged every part of this magnificent edifice and its beautiful and picturesque

grounds. From an early hour the visitors came pouring into the majestic structure in quick succession, the number swelling gradually to something like 30,000.

The special attraction provided on the occasion was the re-appearance of our old and intrepid friend Blondin, who was advertised to make his first ascent this season on the high as well as the low rope.

Precisely at two o'clock this gentleman commenced his performances, and marvellous indeed they were. On his presence being recognised, he was greeted with the most tremendous cheering and clapping of hands. Having gracefully bowed his acknowledgments, he proceeded on his perilous route upon the high rope like a being gifted with the power of moving through the air with as much facility as walking upon *terra firma*. Half-way across, he suddenly stopped and surveyed from his giddy eminence the vast sea of upturned faces that viewed his progress with feelings of the most painful excitement. There was no need of apprehension on their part. M. Blondin is a perfect artist in his peculiar walk. He is thoroughly acquainted with all the laws of equilibrium. He is confident of his nerve, and feels secure in the steadiness of his own good head and heart. He tests that confidence in the severest way by standing upon his head and hanging from the rope by his foot, amid the breathless silence of the spectators, who feel a thrill of horror at the danger to which he exposes himself. He recovers his position, and arrives safely at the end of his transit to hear the renewed plaudits of the multitude. Once more he is seen crossing over his slender footing, but bearing upon his shoulders a man apparently much above his own height and weight.

M. Blondin afterwards appeared on the low tight-rope in various characters—first, as a Dutch dancer, with huge *sabots*, or wooden shoes, on his feet; secondly, on stilts; afterwards as a Greek; and lastly, in a handsome fancy dress, with all his own decorations on his breast; in all of which characters he performed marvellous feats of agility on the rope. He executed some fine airs on the violin whilst throwing somersaults and performing other extraordinary evolutions, and whether standing or sitting on a chair with its one or two feet upon the rope, he was equally master of his position. These performances appeared to give universal satisfaction, if we might judge from the applause with which they were repeatedly received.

The orchestral band of the company, which played at intervals, and the great organ performances, also contributed greatly to the amusement of the visitors.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

Notwithstanding the attractions of the Brighton review, the Crystal Palace, the cheap excursion trains, and the various amusements liberally offered to the choice of the public, the Polytechnic Institution appears not only to have lost none of its attractions, but to increase with every returning season in popularity, and certainly Mr. Pepper, the director, is ever labouring to add alike to the amusement and instruction of his patrons. Mr. George Buckland, who is favourably known both as a buffo singer and an accomplished musician, on Monday introduced his entertainment of "Ye Bearded Excitement; or, The Tragic-Comic History of Blue Beard," which, irrespective of its laughter-provoking dialogue and songs, is amply illustrated by dissolving views, and the popular shadow pantomimic effects so well known to the frequenters of the Polytechnic. This was followed by some remarkably splendid illuminated chromatic fountain effects, filling the whole stage behind the dissolving view disc. Mr. Pepper delivers a very interesting illustrated lecture on "Colour in General, and Coal Tar Colours in Particular; whilst Mr. J. King treats the audience with a popular discourse on the "Curiosities of Science." Mr. J. Malcolm explains some beautiful dioramic views of London in the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Norman, Plantagenet, Tudor, Stuart, and Hanoverian epochs; and Mr. J. L. King performs a like duty for a series of semi-stereoscopic views of the boulevards, palaces, and streets of Paris as it is by Mr. England, who has admirably introduced the figures, vehicles, &c., usually to be seen in these busy localities, so as to add materially to their attractions as works of art, whilst they give a capital idea of Parisian life. Mr. James Matthews continues to give his illustrations of magic, showing how the various tricks of the professional conjuror are performed, only to prove that even in their simplicity, and with every advantage of explanation, he must be a tolerably good Conjuror who leaves the room much wiser—at least so far as the power to perform the tricks is concerned—than he entered it. The *Marrimac*, the *Monitor*, the *Warrior*, *La Gloire*, and the iron walls of old England, as they are to be, are fully explained, illustrated by dissolving views; and the Brousil family, seven in number (including Miss Howard, the vocalist), give a highly interesting concert, so that the visitor who quits the Polytechnic without feeling that the price of admission has been amply compensated must be indeed hard to please, leaving out of question the numerous scientific models and works of art with which the institution is plentifully embellished.

GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

"The Family legend" has been judiciously compressed, and now forms a very excellent entertainment. Nothing could be conceived more thoroughly artistic than the impersonation of the moonstruck poet by Mr. John Parry, which is really a marvel of histrionic delineation. Equally good in another style is the old French nurse of Mrs. German Reed, in which a very peculiar idiosyncrasy is em-

bodied with absolute perfection. Mr. German Reed is seen to the greatest advantage in the pompous and self-sufficient butler, in which he draws largely and with marked success upon his rich fund of natural humour. All the other characters are well played, but these are decidedly the most salient features. Mr. John Parry's narrative of "The Adventures of a Colleen Bawn," in which the wit of Mr. H. J. Byron and the musical taste of Mr. Frank Musgrave are happily aided by the talent of the singer, is in itself an attraction which ought to draw all the lovers of genuine fun.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

The fine weather which prevailed during the day, aided by the attractions now presented to sightseers in the shape of pythor and paradise birds, drew a much larger number of visitors to the gardens of the Zoological Society than has ever been the case before on an Easter Monday since the establishment was opened to the public in 1828. The total number of entrances was 23,964, the nearest previous approach to that number having been on Easter Monday, 1860, when 17,640 persons paid for admission to the gardens. Great satisfaction was manifested at the recent increase that has been assigned to the space allotted for the sale of refreshments in the gardens. Neither accident nor misconduct of any kind occurred among the vast multitude with which the gardens were thronged throughout the day.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Princess Helena has been confirmed at Whippingham Church, Isle of Wight. The ceremony was perfectly quiet.—An address of condolence has been sent from 220 widows of Wolverhampton and neighbourhood to her Majesty the Queen. It is said that many poor women walked several miles into the town, in order to attach their signatures to the address. Her Majesty's kind solicitation for the welfare of the sufferers by the Hartley Colliery accident seems to have been the cause of this singular but appropriate letter of sympathy, which has been duly acknowledged by her Majesty's Secretary of State.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—It appears from the Register-General's report that the mortality of London is again on the increase. The deaths rose last week to 1331, which is an excess of 82 above the corrected average for the last 10 years. Connected with this increase the curious circumstance is mentioned that the registrar for north St. Giles's had not a single death from any cause to record during the week—a circumstance which had never happened to him before during the whole of his sixteen years' incumbency. Numerous as the deaths were, the births exceeded them by nearly 600.—The committee of noblemen and gentlemen named by the Queen to assist her in deciding on a fitting memorial to the Prince Consort have made their first official report, detailing the various steps they have taken to find a monolith, in or out of the kingdom, combining the requisites of length, thickness, and durability, that would fit it to be a suitable memorial to his late Royal Highness. They report also their want of success in the search hitherto, and their strong apprehensions that, even if they found one, the expense of its erection would exceed all calculations. In these circumstances her Majesty authorises them to abandon all farther idea of an obelisk, and leaves them at liberty to adopt any other form of memorial that they may deem advisable, only suggesting that the opinion of our first architects might be taken as to whether the sculpture first suggested might not be combined with some other design.—The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone visited Manchester on Tuesday, and was taken to the principal public buildings by Sir James Watts and the Mayor. Mr. Whitworth's rifle manufactory, the rooms of the Cotton Supply Association, the Messrs. Watts' warehouse, the Exchange, and the Free-trade Hall, were in turn visited by the hon. gentleman and his son. At the Exchange there were calls for a speech, and Mr. Gladstone courteously responded to the call by briefly thanking the crowded assembly for the warmth of their greeting. The hon. gentleman was cheered as he left the building. A crowded meeting was held in the evening at the Free-trade Hall, when he very eloquently addressed the audience.—In addition to the attraction of the International Exhibition, it was some time ago announced that the Royal Agricultural Society of England would hold their annual show of live stock and implements in the Metropolis this year. It has now been

arranged that the show is to be held in the centre of Battersea Park, where twenty-five acres have been set apart for the purpose by the Chief Commissioner of works, the society undertaking to put the park into proper order again after the exhibition. The show will be held from the 22nd of June to the 2nd of July next; and, as a proof of the interest it has excited among farmers and those who live by farmers, it may be mentioned that, in addition to the layers and booths for cattle, there will be nearly two miles of implement sheds, and about an additional mile set apart for machinery in motion. Prizes to the amount of £700 are offered for foreign breeds of cattle, and specimens of most of the continental breeds are already entered.—The review at Brighton, that great event to which the Volunteers have been looking forward so long and so eagerly, realised on Monday all the anticipations that had been formed of it. Some smart showers of rain in the early morning excited apprehension, but in reality rendered a great service, as they laid the dust, which on the previous day was blowing about to a large extent, and which but for the rain would have greatly marred the brilliancy of the spectacle. The railway arrangements were perfect, and the various corps arrived on the ground by the time assigned for them. There were scores of thousands of spectators who witnessed the evolutions from the race-course as from the gallery of an amphitheatre. The evolutions were performed in creditable style, and the spectacle was brilliant and imposing to the eye of the spectator, while even the severest military critics could not withhold their praise from the steadiness and smartness of the troops.—A rifle contest took place on Monday, between the Manchester and Halifax volunteers. The match was very exciting, and the shooting on the whole was good. Both corps, in fact, deserved to win; and, after a severe contest, Manchester came off victorious by two points only. The shooting took place at Diggle.—The inauguration of the Windsor Royal Free and Industrial Schools was an interesting event, as indicating the progress that is being made in practical, industrial, and, we may add, common-sense teaching for the poor. It is this kind of teaching that is most required.—The Bath theatre was burned down on Good Friday, total destruction of the building and its contents being the consequence. On the previous Wednesday a performance took place, but the house was then closed for a week. On Thursday, a charwoman was engaged in cleaning the theatre, and its chimneys were also swept during the day. On the following morning, smoke was seen pouring through one of the dressing-room windows, and in a few minutes the flames burst out with ungovernable fury in every part of the building. Mr. Clute, the lessee, has sustained considerable loss, although the building was partially insured. A strict investigation is to be made as to the cause of the fire. The theatre was an elegant structure, and much prized by the inhabitants of Bath, as one of their chief ornaments. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean were amongst the mass of spectators who witnessed the conflagration.—Some time ago a forgery to the amount of £445 was successfully committed on Messrs. Coutts's Bank. The forged cheque was presented by a woman, who completely disarmed the cashier's suspicion, but the numbers of the notes, as usual, were taken before they were handed over; and another woman, not the person who presented the cheque, has been apprehended in the act of attempting to pass one of these notes, which by this time had been stopped. The solicitor, who appeared for the prisoner, urged that being in possession of notes the produce of a forged cheque was not in itself a crime; but the magistrate thought the circumstances proved in evidence, especially when combined with the fact that she had refused her address, were enough to justify a remand.—A terrible accident took place last week in Holborn by an explosion of gas in relaying the pipes, causing the death of two men and injuring three or four others. The accident appears to have been caused by some red-hot pipes, used by a plumber at the works, coming in contact with the gas. The plumber was himself examined, and said that if a gas explosion could be caused by a red-hot pipe he must have done it. He was using the pipe in the execution of his duty. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but suggested that some more effectual precautions should be employed than appear to be now in use to prevent explosions under the circumstances.—A most singular

and melancholy accident took place at Halifax on Monday, resulting in the death of a lad 13 years of age, the son of the Rev. W. Reynolds. The poor boy was sent up stairs to open the library window, and, his prolonged absence exciting suspicion, his sister was directed to call him. She accordingly repaired to the library, to find her brother suspended by his silk necktie from a hook on the side of the window. He was quite dead. It is supposed that he slipped off the box on which he was standing to open the sash, and was caught in the hook as he fell.—The good people of Liverpool were not a little excited on Monday by the announcement that the *Emilie St. Pierre*, known to have been taken as a prize off Charleston some weeks ago, had arrived in their harbour. On inquiry, it appeared that they were indebted for the presence of this adventurous craft to the fact that the crew of the vessel had snatched an opportunity of overpowering the prize crew in charge of their vessel, on her way to Philadelphia, and, having, by a combination of adroitness and daring, regained command of the ship, had put her helm about for Liverpool.—On Good Friday a sad accident occurred to Bombardier John Ashley, senior drill instructor to the 21st Lancashire Artillery Volunteers. The corps, with a considerable number of excursionists, made a trip to the Guide House Batteries, at Warton, near Lytham, for the purpose of target practice. A body of artillerymen were in the act of firing a salute, in honour of the arrival of a field officer, when a gun, which was being re-loaded by Ashley, suddenly exploded. The unfortunate man was blown away from the gun, and was taken up in a dreadfully mutilated and apparently lifeless condition. The accident was said to have arisen from his neglecting to sponge out the gun, and from his not allowing a sufficient time to elapse between the firing. He has seen 16 years of service, and has always been reputed a most careful and steady officer. There is no hope of his recovery.—The recent boiler explosion at Bilston has caused much desolation in the neighbourhood. It has been ascertained that 27 deaths have hitherto taken place; but there are several men still missing, and it is supposed they are either amongst the *débris* or in the adjoining canal. By this calamity 58 persons, including widows, orphans, and other relatives, have been left utterly destitute. The majority of the deceased were interred yesterday in the Bilston Cemetery, the scene being very touching. Numerous projects have been set on foot to raise subscription for the distressed.—A very tragical affair happened at Castledawson, Londonderry, on Good Friday. Two cousins—Charles and John McErlane—quarrelled about a trespass which had been committed by some cattle. The dispute ran high, and Charles McErlane, levelling his gun, shot his companion dead upon the spot. The deceased man's friends rushed forward to revenge his death, and a terrific *mêlée* ensued. In a short time, however, the murderer was beaten to death by a brother and two sisters of John McErlane. One of the sisters has been apprehended.—On Wednesday week an American seaman, named Britnell, stabbed a waiter at a public-house in Ratcliffe Highway, in a most ferocious and cowardly manner. A concert had taken place in the house, and a quarrel arose between Britnell and his companions and two Germans. A waiter, named Lucas, assisted the landlord to put the American out of doors, and the fellow seized the opportunity to unsheath his knife, and plunge it into the waiter's shoulder, two and a half inches deep. The wound, fortunately, is not of a dangerous character. Britnell has been committed to Newgate for trial.—A strange story has been told by a correspondent to the *Shipping Gazette*. The purport of the tale is that on the 2nd inst. the ship *Omega*, hailing from London, sailed from Cardiff Roads on a voyage to Singapore, having on board a foreign sailor, named Bremen, who confessed that he murdered a boarding-house keeper in Ratcliffe Highway, about a month ago. While the vessel was off Ilfracombe, the man, who had shipped at Cardiff, suddenly disappeared, and was supposed to have fallen overboard. After fifty hours' absence he again presented himself on deck, representing that an evil conscience had compelled him to hide himself below, and that he had been guilty of the murder referred to. The captain of the ship signalled for a pilot, who refused to bring the man on shore, and the vessel proceeded on her way.—In one of the London police courts, on Thursday, a man, who was in custody, on his own confession, for murdering his wife, was discharged, the woman herself appearing to contradict the state-

ment.—An inquest has been held by the Middlesex coroner on the the bodies of four children, who have died within the last six weeks under very peculiar circumstances. The children resided with their parents in the Commercial-road, Limehouse, and their deaths, within so short a time, and with such a marked similarity of symptoms, induced the attention of Dr. Orton, who, upon investigation, discovered that the deaths resulted from poison. The poor children had been in the habit of tearing the paper from the bed room wall, and licking off the green colour upon it. This paper contained immense quantities of arsenic, and it speedily exercised its fatal effects upon the unsuspecting children.—A railway accident, causing the death of one person, and injury to several others, occurred on Saturday afternoon to the express train from Milford to London. The train, which consisted of one first and two second-class carriages, was approaching the Lydney station, about 20 miles from Gloucester, when the engine, from an unknown cause, got off the rails. The coupling chains were snapped, the engine turned completely over outside the rails, while the two carriages nearest the engine rushed away in an opposite direction. The foremost crossed the line, and was ultimately stopped by coming into violent collision with the corner of a goods shed. Mr. Bennett, tea merchant, of Bath, was seated in the first compartment of the carriage, and he received injuries which resulted in speedy death. The engine driver and stoker were taken from under the engine and tender; they were badly, but it is hoped not fatally, hurt. Several passengers were cut and bruised, but not seriously. The train was running along at the rate of fifty miles an hour when the accident took place. An inquest has been held on Mr. Bennett. The only witness examined was the housekeeper to the deceased gentleman, who was with him in the train, and who, though herself severely injured, waited on him till he expired. Her evidence went to the effect that the train shook, or jumped, more than she had ever felt it before, all the way from Cardiff to the scene of the accident; that her master was much alarmed; that he spoke to the guard about it at Chepstow; and, finding it still continue, expressed his intention, only a few minutes before the accident, to leave the train at the next station. The result of the inquiry is a verdict of "Accidental Death," with a recommendation that the railway company should endeavour to induce the Severn and Wye Railway Company to make such concessions as would enable the gradients to be lowered near the wooden bridge.—The Premier and the Chancellor of the Exchequer were on Wednesday very similarly occupied. Lord Palmerston opened an Art Exhibition at Romsey; Mr. Gladstone presided at the annual meeting of the Associated Lancashire and Cheshire Mechanics' Institutes, at Manchester. The noble lord's speech had mainly reference to the locality in which the exhibition was held, but he did not fail to insist on the advantage of periodical displays of works of genius. In distributing prizes to the successful candidates at recent examinations in connection with the Lancashire and Cheshire Mechanics' Institutes, Mr. Gladstone made touching allusion to the death of the Prince Consort, and enforced the necessity of mental culture. The depression in the manufacturing districts had also fitting notice, and was made the text for a good deal of advice. The right hon. gentleman was loudly cheered.—The sub-committee of the Prince Consort Memorial Fund met on Wednesday. An interesting communication was made by the Lord Mayor. He stated that an American gentleman, whose name did not transpire, had called upon him with the offer of a block of grey granite 150 feet in length and 12 feet square, which was now lying in America, within twelve feet of the water's edge. Of course his lordship had to inform the gentleman that the idea of a monolithic obelisk had been given up. The total amount of contributions to the fund is £46,970.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The sentence of the court of Paris, against M. Mirés has been entirely reversed by the Court of Appeal, and M. Mirés has been reinstated and set at liberty. The appeal of M. Simeon has been rejected.—The King of Italy has left Turin, on his long-looked for journey to Naples. It is announced that squadrons from both the English and French fleets will be ready at Genoa, to escort His Majesty to Naples, where they will add *acclamations* to his reception, and show a friendly recognition of his dignity.—An address from the clergy of Lucca has been sent to the Pope, praying

him to renounce the temporal power, and thus to bless Italy. As the address is said to have received no less than 700 signatures, we may hope that a patriotic sentiment is more widely spread among the Italian clergy than we are accustomed to suppose, and may expect to see this excellent example followed in other districts. A fearful railway accident has occurred between Florence and Sienna, by the collision of two trains, one of which contained soldiers. The dead and wounded are said to number 100.—If credit is due to a private telegram received at Berlin from St. Petersburg, the Russian Emperor remains faithful to the programme of liberal reforms which he set forth at the commencement of his reign, notwithstanding the obstacles which he has to encounter and the discouragement which he must have had to bear. The despatch in question announces that the government of the Czar propose not only to accelerate the emancipation of the serfs, but to give to Russia representative institutions of some sort. These projects are, it is alleged, to be at once brought under the consideration of the Council of the Empire; but as this intelligence us from a source entirely unknown, it is not at present entitled to credit. A lesser reform in the Russian dominions, but one of some importance to the mercantile community of the empire, and officially announced, is that parcels passing outwards through the Russian Post-office are to be exempt from Custom-house control.—An action of somewhat more importance than usual has taken place in the Herzegovina, between the Turks and the Montenegrins. The latter were defeated with considerable loss.—Accounts from Greece announce that the royal troops entered Nauplia on Sunday last, and that order is now re-established.

AMERICA.—The intelligence brought by the steamer *China* from New York is of much greater interest than any we have lately received. Island No. 10 on the Mississippi had at length fallen before Federal gun boats, the Confederates losing 6000 prisoners and 100 siege guns. The surrender was succeeded by a pitched battle between the main armies, near Corinth. According to the Northern accounts the Confederates, under Generals Beauregard and Johnston, commenced the attack on the 6th and at the close of the day had gained the advantage. During the night the Federals were reinforced by a large body of troops, under General Buell, and on the morning of the 7th they in turn attacked the Confederates, who were compelled to fall back, and at four in the afternoon retreated towards Corinth, pursued by the enemy's cavalry. The Federal loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, is estimated at 20,000, and that of the Confederates at 35,000. General Johnston is said to have been killed and General Beauregard wounded. The Federal General Prentiss was captured. In Virginia also the hostile forces have come into collision. General McClellan, with his vast army of nearly 150,000 men, arrived in front of the Confederate works at Yorktown on the 5th, and commenced an attack with artillery, which was quickly replied to by the Confederates. No result was gained by either party. The strength of the position of the Confederates is supposed to balance in a great measure the superior force of their opponents, though the Northerners think the place cannot hold out. It is reported that 100,000 Confederates will shortly be massed at Yorktown with 500 cannon of the largest calibre, and a desperate battle is probable—indeed, skirmishing has already commenced. Of course contradictory accounts arrive relative to the battle of Corinth, but as nothing definite is yet known, they will be taken for what they are worth. In the neighbourhood of Island No. 10, 5000 prisoners were captured, with a large quantity of guns, &c. The *Merrimac* is again giving much uneasiness, having captured three small Federal vessels, while there has been another skirmish between this iron monster and the *Monitor*, the latter being aided by another iron-clad steamer. A desperate engagement between the *Monitor* and *Merrimac* is expected, and French and English men-of-war are in Hampton Roads to watch the anticipated battle. The Confederates have captured Fort Craig, New Mexico. An Anglo-American treaty on the slave-trade has been proposed by President Lincoln. By the arrival of the *Jura*, we have three days' latter news from New York. As was anticipated, the accounts now received materially reduce the numbers said to have been put *hors de combat* in the battle near Corinth. The Federal loss, which was stated in the news brought by the *China* to have been 20,000 men, is now reduced to 7000, of whom

2000 are prisoners in the hands of the Confederates. The Federal officers, however, appear to have suffered severely. The forces engaged numbered 70,000 on each side, and it is worthy of notice that General Beauregard in his report of the first day's fighting claimed the victory. The Confederate Congress has proclaimed free trade with every nation except the Northern States. The bill for the abolition of slavery in Columbia has passed the Union House of Representatives, by 39 votes to 30. President Lincoln has ordered a day of thanksgiving for the late victories, and he has signed the bill for affording pecuniary aid to States wishing to abolish slavery.

MEXICO.—The Juarez Government seem unable to derive wisdom from experience. Mised, one would think, by the ease with which the Soledad treaty was conceded by the allies, Juarez has ordered the collection of a forced loan of ten millions, to which all the foreign commercial houses in Mexico are called on to contribute immense sums. The allies immediately decided upon sending an ultimatum to Juarez threatening to recommence hostilities if he persisted in collecting the loan. A conspiracy has been discovered in the capital, and the city placed in a state of siege.

INDIA.—The Overland Bombay Mail brings papers from Bombay to March 27, and from Calcutta to March 18. The most important event recorded is the transfer of the government of India from the hands of Earl Canning to those of the Earl of Elgin. The new viceroy arrived in Calcutta, on the 12th of March, and immediately assumed the government. Earl Canning embarked for England on the 19th, having previously received addresses from all classes of the community, European and native. The disturbance near the Cossyah had not been suppressed, and the Jynteeahs were extending their depredations. A nephew of Nana Sahib, one Ram Rao Sahib, had been seeking to raise a rebellion in Hyderabad. His plots failed, but he managed to escape. A reward had been offered for his apprehension. Mogul Beg had been hung close to the spot where he murdered Mr. Fraser and other Christians in the Palace of Delhi in 1857. The march of a large Persian army as far as Herat is confirmed. This proceeding is in violation of the treaty with England, and fears are entertained of differences with the Persian Government. It is gratifying to know that an abundant harvest has been reaped in all parts of India, and that the country is generally healthy.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

VERITAS is thanked. He will see that the advertisement, of which he complained, has been withdrawn. Neither the Editor or the Proprietor had noticed it previously, or it would never have been allowed to appear, even once.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED MASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.—If "A Subscriber" and "J. R. S." have not received their proxy papers, perhaps it arises from their not having paid their subscriptions. They should communicate with the collector, Bro. Davis, and if he has not called for the subscriptions, complaint should be made to the Committee of Management.

W. F., a M.M.—1. Like yourself we have noticed the absurdity but cannot help it. As advertisements (not otherwise objectionable) are sent to an office so they appear, the individuals to whom they relate would never pay for them if they were altered. This is a well known rule in all newspapers and periodicals. 2. We entirely agree with you. A collector is to collect, *i.e.*, to call for subscriptions, and if he expects them to be sent to him he is likely to miss hundreds of pounds which would be freely given, if applied for personally. 3. We believe the poundage is paid in whatever shape the subscription arrives. This, as you say, is a premium for non-exertion. 4. We cannot tell.

S. S.—We do not apprehend the incoming Board of General Purposes will be bound to take the same view of the matter as the outgoing Board. If that is the case there must be another reference on the subject.

T. E. W.—Masonic law is one thing and red-tape another. If you do not like the treatment put a motion on the paper for next Grand Lodge, get up your case thoroughly and bring it forward. It must be answered.

BRO. RICHARDS.—Next week.