

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1863.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

Brethren who, at their initiation, have been informed that Freemasonry consists of three degrees, including the Royal Arch, have often been scandalised, to use no stronger word, at finding, after paying the usual fees for entering the Order, and working assiduously for preferment, that their advancement was only to be obtained by a tax equal to, if not superior (including the clothing) to that which first obtained them admission within the porch. The result has been that a large majority of brethren, rather than submit to a "do," have thought it better to be content with the Master Mason's degree incomplete, alike to their disadvantage and that of the Grand Chapter.

Our attention has been frequently called to the prohibitory fees for obtaining either Royal Arch charters, or being exalted to the degree, more especially by our country brethren. About two years since an attempt was made to reduce those fees, but failed, owing to the want of sufficient publicity that the question was coming on for discussion.

Prohibitory duties have always failed to produce a revenue equal to that which may be obtained from wise and moderate legislation; and, therefore, acting upon the opinions of many of his country companions, Companion Henry G. Warren has again given notice of his intention to move, on Wednesday next, for a reduction of the fee for a new charter (to which he holds every lodge is entitled) from five guineas to two, and the minimum for exaltation from three guineas to one; and we now call upon the country companions, if they are sincere in their desire to extend the knowledge of the Royal Arch throughout the brotherhood, to attend Grand Chapter, on Wednesday next, to support the motion of Companion Warren, well knowing, as we do, that it will be opposed by many London companions, who pride themselves on having taken that from which others are debarred.

It is probable that Companion Warren will be met by the argument of loss of revenue, but here he has not left himself unfortified. He believes that in lowering fees the rebound will, like it has been in the reduction of customs or excise duties, more than cover any loss that may be sustained; but, to guard himself from any danger on that head, he proposes that each chapter shall annually

pay a capitation fee of two shillings for every subscribing member on its books, with the view of giving Grand Chapter the power of more efficiently supporting our Charities, and having a greater control over the subsidiary chapters than has hitherto been the case.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The length to which our Masonic intelligence this week extends prevents us doing more than here congratulating the brethren on the success which attended the Festival of Wednesday last. Bro. Havers need be not only proud of the result which has attended his presidency, but of having secured the most attentive audience that it has ever been our lot to witness at a Masonic Charitable Festival during our twenty-two years' experience—a due homage to genuine and truthful eloquence proceeding from the heart.

The subscriptions announced amounted to £2200, with nine lists to come in, which, we presume, may be taken at one hundred pounds more, though we fairly admit that we have little confidence in those who are not punctual in their returns.

THE THREATENED SECESSION FROM THE SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.—No. IX.

(From our Scottish Correspondent.)

Except in the circle where rebel principles predominate, the promptitude with which the Supreme Chapter have acted in suspending for a time from Royal Arch privileges the ringleaders of the revolt meets with the most unqualified approval of the Scottish Companionhood. No one could have blamed Grand Chapter had they made the sentence one of expulsion rather, than that of suspension; but the leniency with which they have visited the very grave offences against their authority of which the rebels, by their own showing, have been guilty, will not, we think, be without its results for good upon those companions who have inconsiderately allowed themselves to be in some degree identified with the insurrectionary proceedings of the few turbulent individuals against whom the sentence of suspension has been recorded. Subsequent events in connection with the rebellion prove the course of policy inaugurated in Supreme Chapter, on the 20th of October last, to have been one of wisdom, dignified firmness, and conciliation; for in place of ten chapters, as was represented by the rebels to be on the eve of secession from the parent body, that number has dwindled down to four, the remaining six having adhered to their allegiance to Supreme Chapter; and instead of the great bulk of the Royal Arch Masons in the Western Districts

being found in rebellion against Grand Chapter, only some fifteen members of the Order belonging to three of the six Glasgow Chapters have as yet been found worthy of Masonic censure. So much, then, for the boasted strength and influence of the party who were to lead their followers to victory and supreme Masonic power.

Although the avowed friends, but in reality the worst enemies of the suspended companions, live, both in Glasgow and in the town of Ayr, doing their utmost to produce schism, the rebellion may be said virtually to have been put an end to; for anything that the handful of disaffected ones can do towards the attainment of their unconstitutional desires will fall feckless upon the Supreme Chapter's position as Head of the Order in Scotland, and be alike impotent in causing to withdraw from her pale any number of companions that could justify the movement being magnified into one of a Masonic secession. The proximate result of the threatened secession has been the suspension of its ringleaders,—expulsion, in the case of some or the whole of these suspended brethren, may be the final result of their ill-advised attempt to lord it over the now famous Chapter, Ayr Kilwinning, No. 80, and to coerce Supreme Chapter into the homologation of their unrighteous acts.

We congratulate the M. E. Grand Z., Comp. Lord James Murray, and the other Officers of Supreme Chapter, upon the turn events have taken in regard to the suppression of the rebellion in the west; and there is much cause also for congratulation on the continued prosperity of the Order, several new chapters having been recently formed;—but the other day one was opened in Ayrshire, possessed of numerical strength superior to that of all the other Ayrshire chapters combined,—and one or two other chapters are in course of formation in the same province.

The plaint of Comp. Donald Campbell, Past Grand J., &c., appended to Supreme Chapter's Report appearing in THE MAGAZINE of the 10th, is evidently the production of one who, while sensible of the humiliating position which his indiscretion has caused him to occupy, and wincing under his chastisement, thirsts for revenge. The recollection of his former Masonic greatness must aggravate the feeling of his present Masonic degradation, although he tries to obtain relief by "*clearing himself*" of a body which to his jaundiced vision has become unworthy of his support; but we would have had more hope of Bro. Campbell and those who "concur" with him, had they meekly borne their cross, instead of essaying the justification of their own altogether unjustifiable conduct; for so long as they exhibit the same obduracy of disposition towards those whose duty it was to cut short their career of Masonic insubordination, there is little chance of their ever being able to resume the honourable position to which some of them had attained in Royal Arch Masonry. The "Past Pr. G. H." has, in the "warning" addressed by him to "the companions who may not know the real state of matters," protested against his suspension as being "illegal, unwarrantable, and unmasonic." Perhaps, notwithstanding his professed aversion to being "embroiled in a paper war," Bro. Donald Campbell may yet be induced to show in what respect it is either "illegal" or "unmasonic" in a supreme body to suspend a subordinate, who not only by word and act

himself attempts to undermine its legitimate authority, but does his best to incite others to throw off the allegiance they, equally with himself, owe to it.

In place of retaliating, Supreme Chapter in the first instance, and in the most liberal manner, afforded the rebels the opportunity of retracing their steps and of returning, unlogged by any humiliating conditions, to the bosom of Supreme Chapter, where, in the words of Comp. Lord Loughborough, "a cordial welcome awaited them;" but rather than accept the terms offered, they have engaged in acts of hostility even more gross than those previously indulged in. The charge of "precipitancy," "unwarrantable conduct," and so forth, preferred against Supreme Chapter in their treatment of the four disloyal chapters and thirteen rebel companions, comes, we think, with peculiarly bad grace from those who in, in their zeal for their own aggrandisement, hesitated not to violate the first law and principle of Masonry, viz., obedience to the constitutional commands of the grand body under whose warrant alone they possessed the privilege of congregating as regular Royal Arch Masons.

We hear nothing of "precipitancy" or "illegality" of action when the books of a subordinate chapter are carried off in a way declared unanimously by Grand Chapter to have been as unconstitutional as it was uncalled for; of nothing "unmasonic" when, "riding on high and spirited horses," the Provincial Grand Chapter of Glasgow make it a *sine qua non* to the settlement of their differences with Supreme Chapter that Comps. D. Murray Lyon and George Good be suspended from Royal Arch privileges because of their defence of themselves and their colleagues in "Kilwinning Ayr, No. 80," against the ungentlemanly aspersions of their "superior officers;" nothing of "unwarrantable conduct" when the so-called Royal Arch Masons of the West of Scotland meet to concoct and pass certain arbitrary, unjust, and illegal resolutions condemnatory of Supreme Chapter for refusing to administer the laws of the Order in accordance with the interpretation judged by the rebels themselves to be the most favourable for the furtherance of their designs upon the liberties of the subordinate chapters unfortunately placed within their jurisdiction. Of all these illegal proceedings the rebel chiefs desire to be oblivious; or, if they are at all adverted to, they are spoken of as part and parcel of a heroic crusade entered into against the injustice of Supreme Chapter, and those who have suffered deplumation because of the part they have taken in these proceedings are attempted to be held up as martyrs for the purity and the prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry.

How unfavourable does the conduct of the rebels contrast with that of the venerable companion who was made the scape-goat of a bundle of moral cowards. No sooner did the ex-Provincial Grand Superintendent of the Western District discover that the interpretation put upon certain statutes of the Order by Supreme Chapter did not accord with his own, and was such that he could not conscientiously acquiesce in, than he at once retired from Grand Chapter, and has ever since abstained from any act that could, by any possibility, be construed into one of an un-Masonic character, or calculated to injure the prosperity of the body of Royal

Arch Masons, from which he considered it to be his duty to withdraw his Masonic allegiance.

From intelligence which has reached Grand Chapter, the most active and persevering efforts are being put forth in the rebel camp to widen the circle of disaffection and strengthen the cause of secession, and we have been assured by a rabid secessionist that the "formal deed of demission from Supreme Grand Chapter" will ere long herald the advent of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Glasgow.

The rank and file of the rebels seem to be under the impression that Freemasonry apart from their chief cannot exist in Scotland; but it is unfortunate that the Masons in this country are of a different opinion, and have by their removal of the most illustrious of the instigators of rebellion from seats in the Supreme Councils of the Craft shows the estimate they put upon the services of those who now shine as stars of the first magnitude in the firmament of Masonic insubordination and misrule.

[This dispute shows the folly of our Scotch brethren in keeping the Craft and Arch so distinct that on being suspended by the one the brother can laugh in his sleeve as possessing all the privileges of the other.—Ed. F. M.]

THE ANTIQUITY OF MASONIC DEGREES.

The paper on the above subject, signed EBOR, which appeared in the last number of the Magazine, reminded me that at Christmas I received some letters bearing on the subject—extracts from which may be acceptable to more than one brother.

I think it right to DISCLAIM ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPINIONS GIVEN IN THESE LETTERS, (as on more than one occasion I have been charged with writing things I have never done, and making statements on historical points which I have never spoken of, not even knowing the existence of some of them), and merely to add that as I received them from my friend, who I will call the Rev. A. A., and his friend the Rev. B. B., an entire stranger to myself, so those portions which bear upon Masonry are here copied *verbatim et literatim*. The reason of my being in possession of them is told as follows:—

The Rev. A. A. writes to me

"I send you a letter, just received, from a neighbouring clergyman in reply to the curious work on Freemasonry you were good enough to send me some time since. I lent it to Mr. B. B. at his request. You may be amused by his comments. The whole thing is a mystery to me."

Enclosed in my friend A. A.'s note, was one from B. B. to him, occupying no less than fifteen closely written pages, from which the following are extracts:—

"I thank you for the book on Masonry which I have read. The notes are valuable, and so, as far as it goes, is the book, but I had read in other works, the substance of what is said. I observe that in proportion as the writer on Masonry is *modern*, so he pretends to tell us more about the Romulus and Remus of Masonry. I observe a note on the words '*specula-*

tive Masonry,' as to its meaning, p. 151 The modern Mason, I apprehend, would take it to mean the Masonry professed in the lodges of the day, viz., deriving a system of morality from Masonic tools, emblems, &c., but, *ut mihi videtur*, it is capable of another meaning. It is asserted of King Athelstan's youngest son, that he learned *practical* Masonry in addition to *speculative* Masonry, 'of which he was already a Master.' That is, he had studied geometry, &c., and knew the *theory*, so far as his mathematical knowledge could lead him, of the art; but wished to add the practice of the art to the knowledge of its principles. To a certain extent I know the principles of the arrangement of the notes in music, and what is called 'harmonic progression,' and why a note is called natural, what constitutes sharps and flats, chords, &c., but I should make a funny *composer*, and have not added the *art* to the *science*. I am so far a '*speculative*' musician

"Are you aware that the heralds, or as Gerard Legh writes, 'Herehaughts,' had *their* secrets as well as the Masons, and a peculiar method of writing. The following two verses are given.* Legh says of a Herehaught, 'he can read and well understand these two verses.' 'And who that can do the same (Golightly) shall become his scholar,' &c. Cornelius Agrippa gives an alphabet something like the foregoing, but I have not had time to examine how far such alphabet would lead to the deciphering of the two verses."

. Reverting to Mr. Cooke's publication on Masonry, the *date* of the book would, certainly, not be earlier than the division of the university curriculum into the Trivium and Quadrivium, embracing the seven sciences enumerated by the writer of the work on Masonry. The work corroborates what I have gathered from different sources, viz., that the first Masons were really *architects* and *engineers*. They had the *science* and practised the art of building. Like all other crafts, Masonry, as a working system, would have its laws and regulations, and its grades of artificers. It would also have its secrets, which apprentices would be bound to keep, and, so far, as connected with the solution of geometrical problems, there would be no difficulty in *keeping* them from most people. Who built the first habitation it would not be easy to determine, but to *him*, as an *artificer*, belongs the honour of commencing the craft of Masonry. The first idea of a roof would most probably suggest a few uprights and transverse beams—then the convenience of a sloping roof might appear, and a curved bough would, perhaps, suggest the idea of an arch. The *development* of science following, as it does, the practice of the art would lead to an examination of the properties of the arch. This development would be regulated by the *συμβεβηκοτα* (as Aristotle in his *Organon* calls attendant circumstances), of the wants of the builder, the materials at command, the soil, the climate, &c. Hence the difference of styles in Asiatic, Egyptian, Grecian, and other architecture. When ornamentation was studied the impress of climate and *national* influence would necessarily be shown in this also. Could we accurately trace up *Craft* Masonry to its primary elements, the history would be truly interesting. As that cannot be done we have con-

* The characters quoted are composed of lines, dots, squares and circles, but there being no types of the kind, they cannot be given.—M. C.

ture in its place, and what may be termed the romance of Masonry. One writer, whose work came into my hands, derives the word 'Mason' from the Hebrew word *מִקוֹם*—*makom*, place, (Genesis 1, 9)—rather far-fetched. Many have tried to trace the growth of Masonry as a secret society, but of course, this inquiry must involve more of romance than the other; and when Masons have found *something* corresponding to their own system, in any other association, they have not been slow to claim it as a proof of the *antiquity* and *universality* of Masonry as *now* understood, or (more *correctly*) *professed*. The terms of architecture have always been found admirably adapted to the subjects of theologians and moralists, and their adoption by them, would soon lead the speculative Mason in the modern sense of the term, to construct a complete system, 'veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.' When was it, I wonder, that the Bible, the square, and the compasses were first called 'the three greater lights,' and the sun, the moon, and the Master Mason, 'the three lesser lights' of Masonry? I have heard the Knights Templar ceremonial called 'Outside Masonry.' One writer takes it for granted that *all the heathen secret societies* originated in Masonry, and that their systems were a *corrupted* form of Masonry. It has struck me that the very fact of *real* Masonry being the science and practice of building has kept the Masonic traditions clear from the mixture of Alchemy—though not altogether from Astrology—because astrology required *calculation* and was a *quasi* astronomy. There is much in Moslemism which would accord well with the *romance* of Masonry, and hence I was not surprised to find in Caboula Effendi a zealous Mason, Turk as he is. The Jew has contributed abundantly from the Cabala, and has much to tell of Tubal Cain. The Knights Templar, too, gathered much, during the crusades, from many sources, which certainly finds a place in Modern Masonry, though it led to their overthrow, when the church of Rome found the fraternity likely to be troublesome, as furnishing a ground for accusing the Templars of pagan practices. There is a curious examination, in Llorente's *History of the Spanish Inquisition*, of an unfortunate Mason who fell into the hands of the Inquisitors. You have, no doubt, read Borrow's account of the Spanish gypsies who seem to have a very Masonic sort of system, and so also have the Moorish families, who preserve a kind of incognito, in Spain. It is curious that the continental Masons declare that they got Masonry originally from Scotland, whilst the Masons here attribute its origin to the eastern nations. There was a schism too between the old and new lodges. I was much struck with the eagerness with which Mr. Cooke seizes upon the word 'speculative' and the importance he attaches to the discovery. Surely a discovery some time ago, of *arched* passages in the pools of Solomon, will be hailed as equally important, as it will bolster up the myth connected with the Royal Arch ceremony. . . . I suppose that for hunting up these things, and the laws of harmonic progression, the writer of the old work on Masonry would apply to *me* the word 'speculative,' in the sense he used it to Masons, for I neither compose music nor play upon any instrument, but I like to *know* why one note is termed *natural* and the semitones, flats and sharps, as the case may be."

Before I had well read the letter, from which the above extracts are taken, another note from the Rev. B. B., reached me through the kindness of the Rev. A. A., the former says, in writing to the latter:—

"I have read Mr. Cooke's book over again, and, lest they should slip out of my memory, jot down a few observations.

"I. *בְּיָרְיָא*—a city—a residence for himself and family. In some countries a single habitation is, by the common people, still called a town." Note on *Genesis* iv, xvii, by Dr. J. M. Raphall.

"II. The context explains the word 'speculative.' And after that was a worthy king in England, that was called Athelstan, and his youngest son loved well the *science of Geometry*, and he wist well that *hand-craft* had the *practice of the science of Geometry* so well as Masons, wherefore he drew him to council and learned [the] practice of that science to his *speculative*, for of speculative he was a Master. The practice of that science, what science? clearly, *Geometry*. This 'speculative' was a knowledge of geometry. I conceive that the word 'no' should be inserted to make sense before hand-craft. 'He wist well that [no] hand-craft had the practice of the science of geometry so well as Masons,' It also appears that the writer of the book did not consider *speculative* knowledge as making the possessor a Mason, for he writes, 'and he became a Mason himself,' *i.e.*, when he had added the *practice* of that science to his speculative. He was, clearly, not a Mason when only in possession of the speculative science."

"III. Masons are divided, p. 103, into 'Masters, Masons, and Fellows,' not, as now, into Masters, Fellow-Crafts and Apprentices. The reason for admitting none but free-born is given, and evidently relates simply to operatives that no other master might have authority over an apprentice. At p. 27, we read, 'the elder son, Jabal, he was the first man that ever found geometry and Masonry, and he made houses and [is] named in the bible, Pater habitancium in tentoris atque pastorum, that is dwelling houses; and he was Cain's Master Mason and governor of all his works, when he made the city of Epock, that was the first city.' The assumptions here are 'pretty considerable.' In p. 29, we are told that at the building of this city, Enock,—and there was the science of geometry and Masonry first occupied and contended for a science and for a craft,—another proof that 'speculative' was intended to apply to the 'science of geometry,' apart from *handy craft*. In p. 61, speaking of the building of Nineveh and the charge given to the Masons, the writer says,—'And in this manner the craft of Masonry was first preferred and charged it for a science.' to *me* there appears a contradiction to what was said before, but, I suppose, Masons will say that 'in this manner' must be referred to *all* that was said before. *Their* Homer *numquam dormitat*. In p. 75, 'Euclid calleth the *craft* geometry;' another proof that 'speculative' and 'handcraft' both are applied to geometry—the speculative and the operative—the science and the art, p. 81, 'and the making of Solomon's temple that King David began.' *Did* King David begin the temple? It appears that 'the sheriff' of the country might be associated in the government of a body of Masons *comme* a garland of byne diverse precious stones, in token of Chivalrye, to be governour of a thousande

though no *craftsman*, see pp. 131, 137. Anderson interpolates 'if a brother,' see note, p. 150."

"IV. The paraphrase of the *Polychronicon*, by the writer shows the desire of *amplifying* the text to adapt it to his Masonic predilections. Heraldry has its myths as well as Masonry, e.g. 'A Knight was made before any cote armour, whereof Olibion was the first that ever was. Asteriall, his father, came of the line of that worthy gentleman Japheth, sawe the people multiplie, having no governours, and that the cursed people of Sem warred against them. Olibion being a mighty man and stronge, the people cried on him to be their governour. A thousande men were then mustered of Japhet's lyne. Asteriall, made to his men. Olibion kneeled to Asteriall, his father, and asked his blessinge. Asteriall toke Japhetes fawchion, that Tubal made before the fludde, and smote, flatting nine times, upon the right shoulder of Olibion of the fore said precieuse stones, with a charge to keepe the nine vertues of chivaldry.'

"I may close this note by saying that the whole upshot is this, viz:—Masonry was an *art and science* and, like all other working bodies, had its apprentices and free members and also its peculiar regulations—that speculative Masonry implied merely an acquaintance with the science—that circumstances rendered it a convenient excuse for secret meetings, and that its professors have availed themselves of every source to throw a mystery around their ritual, and, to make it of as much importance as they can, they have got, as they think, their Romulus and Remus, and tell us some wonderful stories about them."

The Rev. A. A. then writes to me thus:—"I cannot sufficiently thank you for taking such pains to answer the letters I forwarded you. . . . When Mr. B. B. has returned your letter I will send it back to you as a useful M.S. on the subject of which it treats.* The expression 'mystery,' in my letter, merely stood for the confession of my own great ignorance on the subject of Freemasonry. You will probably have sundry pages from the Rev. Mr. B. B. in reply. He is a clever man, living in an obscure place, and left very much to the society of his own thoughts and observations, which are by no means superficial. I have forwarded your letter to him, and have told him that I felt sure you would be glad to read any further remarks he might be disposed to make."

On New Year's Day I was favoured by A. A. with another twelve pages from B. B., and in which he says—"Mr. Cooke's letter is quite characteristic, and confirms me in my opinions as to the borrowing by Masons, as now constituted, from every available source.

"I have in my possession a curious MS. One day, going into a carver and gilder's shop, at Shrewsbury, to look at a picture, the master of the shop asked me to look at the MS. 'I have shown it,' said he, 'to many clergymen, and they can make nothing of it.' He allowed me to take it to my inn to examine. When I saw him again, I said, 'You are not a Mason?' 'I am not,' he replied; but, I continued, 'the person who wrote this was a Mason.' 'Yes, sir, he was.' 'The MS. contains, evidently, the substance of a lecture

* My reply was written in haste, and consequently I did not make a copy of it.—M. C.

intended to be delivered in a lodge, and probably it would be published in THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE. The *wildness* of the matter, mixed with many ingenious remarks, is exactly what one would expect from a *young* and very *zealous* Mason.'

"With respect to my errors, assuredly I have no means of showing that they are *not* errors; I can only say that I err in very good company.

"1st. As to the 45 degrees of French Masonry; *this* I get from the work of a very, very high mason.* So far, however, it does not affect my position, viz., that foreign lodges have many more degrees of Masonry than the English.

"2. As to the *schism*—that, says Mr. Cooke, is healed. Be it so. There was a schism; and here, also, I have only hearsay, though Masonic, testimony.

"3. What I meant by being a *speculative* musician was simply this—that, though no musician, I was acquainted, to a certain extent, with the mathematical principles. Harmonic progression, certainly, will not explain naturals, sharps, and flats, &c. A certain number of vibrations in a given time satisfies the ear, and, therefore, as I have read, such number forms a natural note. A greater number of vibrations between A. and B. constitutes the sharp of A. and the flat of B. That Mr. Cooke did not see this arose from his determined pre-conception of 'speculative,' as applied to Masonry.

"The first distinct and unequivocal instance we have (here again I rely on *Masonic information*) of men who were *not builders* being admitted as Free-masons is the admission of Ashmole, in 1648, into a lodge at Warrington, with his father-in-law, Colonel Mainwaring. These were *accepted* Masons. *Ashmole* was a 'speculative' before he was accepted, and, I suppose, after his admission, had he chosen to learn the *practical* part, would have been justly called a *Free-Mason*.

"The alphabets, as I have shown with regard to heraldry, were adopted by all fraternities who wished to keep anything to themselves, and some such a contrivance was practised by mediæval bishops, in their letters commendatory of clergymen, to prevent forgeries. These were called '*Epistolæ Formulae*,' see L'Abbe Cossart, *Tom. viii., Col. 1892*. Some of the letters in the *Epistolæ* were common to all; others were peculiar to the epistle, and *these* formed the test. The *keyed* alphabets are of course, unintelligible without the key, which was formed thus:—

| | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| A. G. C. | R. S. U. | M. N. |
| F. O. Q. | B. D. | H. E. V. |
| T. X. Z. | I. K. | L. P. |

"Having ascertained the letters in the squares,

* There are two or three subjects mentioned here that were alluded to in the former letters; but they must have been written on a single half sheet of paper which, in order to take particular care of, was put away, *too carefully*, and cannot be found at present.—M. C.

you could proceed thus to write 'God save the Queen.*

"In fighting with a Mason, and that a zealous one, there is this disadvantage. The Mason, in respect to certain points, *cannot* admit what has been said, however correct his antagonist may be, his vow of secrecy would be violated—then, too, he will not admit for a moment, the correctness of any inference, however logical, from certain data. A person thus treating Masonic dogmas is, in the eyes of Masons, like a man walking into the Mosque of Omar with his shoes on. If a *Mason* tells me that I am wrong as to such and such a ritual, how, though I *know perfectly well* that I am right, am I to reply to him? 'You,' he would say, 'are not initiated, you were never in a lodge, how do you know?' Well, though I *do* know, I cannot tell him, because on this point I am 'close tyled.' I must not tell how I got at these matters.

"As far as I can learn, the Knights Templar of Jerusalem, the Knights of the Desert, &c., had a good deal to do by adaptation, in an attempt to extend the influence of the Church of Rome. As the office of these knights was to protect pilgrims, so there would easily be found a connection between their ceremonies and Masonry, which has so much to do with the Temple.

"To fight a good fight I ought to have the *Maconnerie Adonhiramique dévoilée*: the work of the Abbé Barruel; *Des Erreurs et de la Vérité*, which last book I have read, is 'at least a Talmud among the Freemasons of France.'

"I will take care of Mr. Cooke's letter and return it very soon, together with the book. When I have a little more time I will let you into some of the rituals and then I think you will see what a little *enthusiasm and management* can do with very slender data. Now, as it appears to me, a very authentic account might be invented as to why Masons use swords so much in their ceremonial. Suppose I was a Master Mason addressing a candidate, just admitted I might say,—'No doubt you wonder to see, among the members of a society professing brotherly love, such a weapon of destruction as a sword; but it is a time-honoured custom and has its origin from the necessity forced on Masons; in troublous times, when each Mason was compelled to work with the trowel in one hand and a sword or spade in the other.'

"As Aristotle, in his Rhetoric, tells us a man is 'disposed' to be angry with those who treat slightly what he takes a serious interest in, so I perceive my 'romance' has shocked the Masonic respect of Mr. Cooke.

"And so Cornelius Agrippa is claimed? This just accords with the opinion I expressed. But Cornelius Agrippa has been claimed by others besides Masons. An old clergyman, now dead, knowing that I had a copy, begged the loan of it; after some time he returned it, with a note, expressing the interest he had taken in it, stating that *he* well understood all that Agrippa had said, having, in his youth, studied what would now be called *Mesmerism*.

"I observe that Mr. Cooke has either, for the stamp is rather indistinct, only *one* leg of the compasses over the square, or *both* under it. In the latter case he is only an apprentice, in the former, no further advanced than a fellow-craft.

* This cannot be shown by type but is easily done by anyone wishing to test it.—M. C.

"Did I tell you of the 'maralli,' as they were called, found at Dover some years ago? They were leaden medals having the five pointed star upon them, and were said, by some Masonic writers, at the time, to have been given to wandering Masons, by the heads of Monasteries, &c., as a certificate of merit for work done, and the possessor of one of them was entitled to a fortnight's maintenance at any monastery at which he might present himself. Some of them had a dot in each angle and a G, for geometry, in the centre. I am sorry that I have lost the paper containing the account, but all this agrees with Craft Masonry. But how, because a certain king had 'a Master Mason,' proves the speculation of modern, so called, Masons not to be for the most part, *myths*, I do not see, any more than 'architect to the Queen' might go to prove, in future times, that the Queen patronised Freemasonry.

"The Rabbis, as I showed, do not think that 'Enock' was a city but, merely, a residence, as the Welsh word 'Tref' signifies, but the Masons at once assume it to be a city and built by a regular staff of Masons.

"Seeing that the Masons have collected their emblems from so many sources, it would be wonderful, indeed, if they did not find their *counterparts* in places, whence in all probability they were derived. The *Parfait Maçon Ecossais* of the Parisian Lodges, must have seen a pretty numerous collection of these sort of things.

"If Mr. Cooke thinks any of my remarks worthy of a place in THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, he is perfectly at liberty to make use of them, though I dare say, the consequence will be a perfect swarm of wasps about my poor uninitiated head. Be it so. 'Lay on Macduff.' I have not much time to spare, and, perhaps, cannot repossess myself of some of my sources of information. 'Mais ce m'est égal.' The amusement will be just the same.

"I observe that Mr. C. says nothing of the five pointed star of the Jewish Masons. The Cheshire lodges have ordered it to be used by, I think, all their *Royal Arch* Masons. I saw the order, but forgot whether it is confined to the Royal Arch" . . .

I have given the above without condensation or alteration, but I WHOLLY DISCLAIM *on my own behalf*, any RESPONSIBILITY for the VIEWS EXPRESSED. They are the freely written letters of a gentleman, a clergyman, and a scholar, and as such, I think will command the attention of every unprejudiced reader in the Craft.

✠ MATTHEW COOKE, 30°

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

DR. KNIPE.

In answer to Bro. Hyde Clarke, I beg fraternally to give him all the information I have been able to obtain with respect to Dr. Knipe. Dr. Thomas Knipe was of Christ Church College, Oxford. But an allusion to Dr. Knipe occurs in a life of Elias Ashmole, prefixed to the History of Berkshire, published in 1717, and which life was probably written by Aubrey. At page 165 there is what professes to be part of an important letter to care of the publisher from Dr. Knipe. Who was this Dr.

Knipe? Undoubtedly Dr. Thomas Knipe was a contemporary with Elias Ashmole; but it has been pointed out to me that it could not have been Dr. Thomas Knipe who is said to have written to the publisher, since he died in 1711; but that if a *vera persona* wrote the letter, it was probably Mr. Richard Knipe. I am assured on the best local authority that there are no letters of Dr. Thomas Knipe in the Bodleian Library, and that no MS. whatever on Masonry has yet turned up in the Ashmole collection.—A. F. A. WOODFORD, Swillington, Leeds, Jan. 26th, 1863.

WARRANTS OF THREE KENTISH LODGES.

A brother, "Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London," makes an inquiry with a view to some county history respecting the warrants in virtue of which certain of the lodges in the province of Kent are held. The nature of this inquiry sufficiently appears by the only answer I can give. It is taken from notes accidentally preserved, and which comprise none but the Canterbury, Hythe, and Dover warrants. The Canterbury warrant is founded on a warrant (No. 24) under date the 7th April, 1755, for a lodge held at Bristol. The Hythe warrant is the transfer of a warrant dated the 9th April, 1771, to form and hold a lodge at the sign of the "Pelican," or elsewhere, in the City of Bath. The Dover warrant is the transfer of a warrant, dated 22nd February, 1791, to hold a lodge at the "Castle" Inn, or elsewhere, in the town of Maidstone.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER, Chateau Frampas, 20th January, 1863.

TEMPLARY.

At the period of the persecution, some of the Temple Knights deposed to a lawful, and unlawful ceremony of reception. Might not the "lawful" reception be the Christian degree of Masonry, the *vere-adeptus* of the Rosicrucians (or, perhaps, the chivalric degree only, which would become necessary, as the order was divided into three distinct classes. And the "unlawful" our present initiatory ceremonies. The easy way in which the noviciate was dispensed with, was one of the great charges against the Order. Some of brethren, in these days, appear wishful again to dispense with the "unlawful" noviciate.—△.

SIR WILLIAM WILSON.

In reply to Bro. Hyde Clarke's query, I enclose a notice of Sir Wm. Wilson, from a little local history* published by a worthy brother Mason. I may add that I have somewhere a copy of the now nearly effaced inscription, which I will communicate when I can lay my hand upon it.—"Jane, the widow of Henry Pudsey, made a second marriage with Mr. William Wilson. He was born at Leicester, and was a builder and architect. After his marriage he resided at Sutton, and continued this business. His wife's influence obtained knighthood for him in 1681. In 1604, a fire at Warwick having destroyed the greater part of St. Mary's Church, Sir William Wilson was selected by the Crown Commissioners to re-construct it; and to him must be attributed the censure and the praise which the fine proportions but the incongruous detail of this singular building, have so frequently and so loudly called forth. He was employed by Lord Folliott to build Tour Oaks Hall. He also built Nottingham Castle; and, for his own residence, the house at Sutton, which is possessed and occupied by W. D. Perkins, Esq.; and he was the sculptor of the statue of Charles II. at the west front of Lichfield Cathedral. He died in 1710, in his 70th year, but was not allowed sepulture in the Pudsey vault of the church, and was buried near it outside, where, upon the north wall a mural monument was placed to his memory by his nephew, Mr. John Burnes. Its inscription is now nearly effaced.—W. K. R. B.

* *The Forest and Chase of Sutton, Coldfield*, p. 101, Birmingham, Benjamin Hall, High-street, 1860.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

ANTIQUITY OF MASONIC DEGREES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have little cause to dispute with "Ebor," though, somewhat, hypercritical, since he partially admits what I contend for; we each, as is natural, give the pre-eminence to our own favourite element.

I freely admit that Ashmole was admitted a member of a lodge of Freemasons (Operative), but this does not prove that, at this time, there were no strictly speculative lodges, differing in ceremonies, (the Templar York rite of perfection, *vide* the reception of the old charges; an additional word or a mark for F.C., and the degree of a Mark Master); or that Speculative Masonry sprung from Operative. Is Architecture the parent of Geometry, or Geometry of Architecture? Was there not a strictly Speculative lodge established at Cairo in the 11th century?

We are informed by the writer of Ashmole's life, that, "He (Mr. Ashmole) was elected a brother of the company of Freemasons; a favour esteemed, so singular, by the members, that kings themselves have not disdained to enter themselves of this society. From these are derived (the opinion of the contemporaries of Bro. Ashmole), the Adopted Masons, Accepted Masons, or Freemasons; who are known, to one another, all over the world, by certain signals and watch words, known to them alone, &c."

I have, at various times, with great disappointment, gone carefully over the old constitutions, without being able to find the resemblance to Masonry of the York rite, which the imagination of "Ebor" has led him to observe, but which partial resemblance, I admit, becomes strengthened towards 1700. A reference to vol. iv. of this MAGAZINE, page 348, will show who is wrong, as to the signs of the Craft Freemasons. Until we know something more of the "tradition" of the trades union mentioned, "Ebor's" statement is of little value; and for several reasons, I doubt his knowledge of *ancient* Templar traditions, and I reiterate the assertion he disputes. Let those of your readers who are acquainted with the traditional claims of the Templars, and those of the Old York Masons, reason out the consequence, and judge between us. With respect to the historical part of my argument, I think the testimony of Elias Ashmole (*Hist. Ord. Garter*) Mason, Rosicrucian, and Antiquary, is no bad crutch for either "Ebor" or "Delta" to lean upon.

I feel convinced that future research will prove the assertion, that, as far as York is concerned, the Templars continued their principles and ceremonies (were they at all likely to abandon them?) in the monasteries, and that at the reformation the policy of the government compelled them to adopt new subterfuges, that they reconstituted themselves and became more intimately connected with the trade guilds, and their distinctive ceremonies gradually suppressed those of the latter, in fact becoming adopted, or accepted by them.

There can, I should think, be little doubt that Masonry

existed in England at a very early period, but had it not expired, to be re-introduced from the East by the Templars? Does not all historical enquiry point to this?

Trusting you will again oblige me, in this further trespass upon your valuable space.

I remain, fraternally yours,
Manchester, January 24th, 1863. Δ.

GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The Committee on what to do with it, seek suggestions. I beg to offer them one. Who so fit to give advice and information, as he who has been labouring at the incubation of "the last sweet thing" in temples, and given such striking and convincing proofs of his architectural and Masonic talents? "Bwother Sam" may resign his protractor, Brother Stephen Barton, burn his suggestions, and both hide their diminished heads; for a star has arisen in the East, a Channel Island Vitruvius, whose admirable example of the wisdom, strength, beauty, and convenience, which should be displayed in a building devoted to the purposes of the Craft, is depicted in your last number. Let not the Committee neglect the opportunity, but obtain if possible his opinion and assistance immediately. Bring him to Great Queen Street, and, for once at least, have the right man in the right place.

I remain, very fraternally yours,
London, January, 27, 1863. ACE OF CLUBS.

ETONIAN LODGE OF St. JOHN. (No. 252.)

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Having seen in THE MAGAZINE of the 24th inst. under the head of "Correspondence," a letter from a visitor to the above lodge held at the New Inn, Windsor, on the occasion of the installation of the present W.M., eulogising the general working of the lodge, and not having seen any report of the proceedings since the occasion in question, I venture to send an account of the business of the meeting, which was an initiation, a passing, followed by the installation of the W.M. for the ensuing year, all of which ceremonies were performed by Bro. Powell, the retiring W.M. of the lodge—the two former in his usual effective style, and the installation in such a manner as to elicit the unanimous approbation of the brethren assembled, indeed it is only necessary to refer to the correspondence of the 24th inst., before mentioned, for the plain unbiassed opinion of one who has grown grey in the Craft, a P.M. of six different lodges P.G.S. of 21, and a stranger to this lodge, to show how well the general working of the lodge is conducted.

Bro. Strange, after being installed, proceeded to appoint and invest his officers as follows:—Bro. W. Nicholls, S.W.; Bro. R. Whitaker, J.W.; Bro. the Rev. J. Simpson, P. Prov. G.J.S., as Chaplain; Bro. J. Pullin, P.M., Secretary; Bro. J. Clode, P. Prov. G. J. W., as Treasurer; Bro. R. H. Gibbons, as S.D.; Bro. J. W. Kay, J.D.; Bro. L. Schröder, I.G.; Bro. Brudenell, Tyler; Bro. Stacey, P. Prov. G.S., as Organist, addressing each officer,

on being invested, with a suitable admonition, to the Wardens by reference to their jewels, and to them and the other officers, reminding them of the important duties of their office, the necessity of being circumspect in the discharge of their several duties, and also acting in hearty co-operation with their brother officers for the season.

The brethren present were, Bros. Powell, W.M. and Prov. G.J.D.; Strange, S.W.; Johnson, J.W.; Whitaker, S.D.; Gibbons, J.D.; Kay, I.G.; Brudenell, Tyler; Stacey, Organist; Rev. J. Simpson, (P. Prov. G.S.W., Durham), Chaplain; J. Pullin, Secretary; G. W. Harley, P.M.; J. Sharp, P.M.; W. Nicholls; J. Cobbett; G. M. Butler; R. Bridgewater; L. Schroeder; G. Snowball; D. Byrne; H. Shepherd; H. Cook; Edgington; &c. Visitors: J. Devereux, P.M., and Prov. G. Sec. for Berks and Bucks; H. Schroeder; H. Simpson, R. Martin, J. Lord, C. Provost, J. Chester, Nowels, Prov. G.T.; T. Whitehouse, &c.

The banquet followed, at which about 35 sat down, who seemed by their demeanour determined to pass the time thus occupied, pleasantly and harmoniously together. The usual toasts followed, which were heartily responded to by Bros. Stacey, Gibbons, and Bridgewater, with appropriate glees, &c.

I may add that the music in the ceremonies was performed by the above trio, and gave much satisfaction.

Faithfully and fraternally yours,
VERITAS.

[Our brethren will please to take notice that though we published the letter of our former correspondent, and follow it up by the above, that we shall not allow it to be drawn into a precedent to override our usual system of reporting, to which brethren must confine themselves.—ED.]

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?"—A lodge in the south of Scotland had for a Tyler a tall, strapping, fire-haired Gael, whose hatred of all non-Masons was only equalled by his love for the Ferintosh. One evening a brother brought with him to the lodge a member of a sister lodge called Cowan. The brethren were quietly chatting round the fire, before the sounding of the gavel of the R.W.M., when one of number, characterised by few Masonic virtues, and a huge love of practical joking, which he cultivated at the expense of the Tyler, went out to Donald and accosted him thus:—"Do you know there is a stranger in the lodge?" "Yes." "Do you know he is a Cowan?" Donald's brow grew dark, and with a warlike howl, he instantly sprang into the centre of the group at the fire, seized the unconscious stranger by the throat, and dragged him to the door, exclaiming, "Ye tammed Sassenach, had she her dirk, she wud sheath it in hur dirty wyme." Consternation fell upon the brethren, but at length, recovering, they got the brother from out the hands of the irate Gael, and demanded the cause of such an attack. "Fat," cried Donald, "she's a Cowan." The R.W.M. smelt the rat, and told Donald that the stranger was a brother, although his name was Cowan. Donald scratched his head, exclaiming as he left the lodge, "Fat for has she such a tammed tirty name? Hirelan' shentlemans disna ken sich vermin."

Another Donald, in announcing to the R.W.M. of an Edinburgh Lodge the presence of a deputation from the Defensive Band, astonished the brethren by the following—"A deputashun from Bro. Shon Tanson, with Lodge Offenshive Band on her heid."

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The chapter in connection with the Lodge of Temperance (No. 198), to be called the Temperance Chapter, will be opened on Tuesday, February 3, at three o'clock, at the Plough Tavern, Plough Bridge, Rotherhithe (Bro. Holman's). Comp. G. Bolton is to be the first Z.

The ceremony of Consecration will be worked in the Percy Lodge of Instruction, by Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D., this evening (Jan. 31st), at Bro. Ireland's, Fetter-lane, Fleet-street.

The Directors of the Inns of Court Hotel Company officially announce that they are about to purchase additional property in Lincoln's Inn Fields, for the accommodation of their Club and Masonic rooms department. We wish them luck!

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

A Quarterly Court of Governors and Subscribers was held on Monday, the 19th instant, at the office, 16A, Great Queen-street, to transact the general business of the Institution, and to consider the following notice of motion by Bro. John Udall:—"That every person paying a new subscription after the issue of the proxies shall have the option of receiving a double vote for the current election, thereby foregoing the privilege of voting at a second election for such subscription." Bro. J. Symonds was in the chair. The minutes of various general and committee meetings having been read and confirmed, Bro. Udall brought forward his resolution, which, after a short discussion, was carried.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED MASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The anniversary festival of this most excellent Masonic Institution, the title of which is about three times too long, was celebrated in Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday evening last, when a most excellent dinner was served under the personal superintendence of Bros. Shrewsbury and Elkington. The chair was occupied by Bro. John Havers, G.W., who was supported by Bros. A. Perkins, P.G.W.; Rev. Jno. Hayshe, G. Chap., D. Prov. G.M. Devon.; Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; Woods, G. Dir. of Cers.; Bradfield, Assist. Prov. G.D.C.; Empson, G.S.B.; Dickie, A.G.P.; Roxburgh, P.G.R.; W. H. White, P.G. Sec.; Potter, Slight, Wilson, Udall, Patten, P.G.D.'s; Le Veau, Bridges, P.G.S.B.'s; J. Smith, P.G. Purst.; Spencer, Herapath, Pullen, P.G.Std.; L. Newall, P.Prov.G.W., East Lancashire; Wakeling, P. Prov. G.W., Essex; Blenkin, P. Prov. G. W., Surrey; Rev. J. C. Wharton, P. Prov. G. Chap. Berks. and Bucks.; de Cuadra, P. Prov. G. D., Kent; Emary, P.Prov.G.D.C., Hants.; Banister, P.Prov. G.D., Durham, Prov. G.D.C. West, Lancashire, Prov. G.P. Northumberland, &c.; Binckes, Secretary to the Boy's School, and about 160 other brethren.

The cloth having been drawn and grace sung by professionals, The CHAIRMAN (Bro. John Havers), rose and said: On occasions like the present, the first, and indeed almost the only toast which rises to our lips, is that of the health of the Sovereign. In this country it is not formal or false with us, for with us pleasure and duty go hand in hand, and indeed, there is no nation or country in the world where there is such a reciprocity between the people and the Sovereign, whom we all love and regard with the deepest respect and attachment, and our hope is that the heavy blow which has fallen upon the Royal House, may be succeeded by years of comfort and happiness, and that she may long reign over a loyal, devoted, and happy people. (Cheers.)

The toast was cordially received, followed by the National Anthem.

THE CHAIRMAN said the next toast he had to propose, was "The Health of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," and he need hardly say, that his character was one in which they felt the deepest interest, destined as he was at some future time, and he hoped the day would be far distant, to become the Sovereign of these realms. There was no man in the country who had been more carefully educated, winning golden opinions wherever he went, and endeavouring to emulate the example which the Queen, his Royal Mother, had set before him. He was now on the eve of a matrimonial alliance with an accomplished Princess, and attended as that event would be with the belief that he would do all in his power to advance the welfare of the people, there was no reason to doubt but that his happiness would be secured. The toast must be highly acceptable to them, as he was the grandson of a Mason, and related to their late Grand Master, to whom they, as Masons, owed a deep debt of gratitude, and he trusted that the day might not be far distant when they should be able to reckon him like many other Princes of Wales, a brother amongst them. (Loud and continued cheering.) He, therefore, proposed "The Health of Albert Edward Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," (Renewed cheering.)

Song, "God bless the Prince of Wales"—Miss Poole.

THE CHAIRMAN said,—After the expression of our feelings towards the Royal Family there is no other toast that comes home so warmly to our hearts as that of "The Health of our Most Worshipful Grand Master." (Cheers.) I am commanded by his lordship to state his regret that, in consequence of his numerous avocations in the North of England, he is prevented from joining us this evening; but I have the pleasure of saying that, although our noble Grand Master is not present in person, he has not failed to send us a handsome contribution to the funds of the Institution. (Loud cheers.) I have so often been called upon, in proposing and speaking to this toast, to express my opinion of our Grand Master, that I am a bankrupt in ideas, and I find it almost impossible to say anything new regarding him. (Cheers.) For nineteen years we have elected him as our Grand Master, and, following in the steps of his father and grandfather, by his goodwill and kindness he has won the affection of all. As Masons we all know his urbanity, and his sincerity to promote the welfare of our Order; and no one knows better than I do the amount of pains and labour he bestows in keeping us going in a proper manner. The members of the Craft not only respect the noble lord in consideration of his high position, but there is no one amongst us who knows him, who does not feel for him the greatest amount of personal regard and attachment. (Renewed cheering.) Long may the Grand Master reign over us; for I believe it would be very difficult to find one who possesses all the elements to make a Grand Master—without mentioning the experience which thirty years in our service have given him. I therefore with pleasure propose "The Health of our good Grand Master." (The toast was responded to with the most enthusiastic cheering.)

Bro. F. ROXBURGH, P.G.R., said the next toast had been committed to his care, and a more easy one could not possibly have been entrusted to him, as it was one that was sure to be received with acclamation. Therefore he said that the toast he had to propose was not one in which there was any difficulty. On some occasions the Deputy Grand Master did the duty of the Grand Master by presiding in his place, and he believed that there was no occasion upon which the throne had been filled by his present Deputy, which did not show the excellent selection the Grand Master had made. The Deputy Grand Master would have been present with them on that occasion, had he not been compelled to be absent on official business; but, although absent, he had sent his contribution to the Charity. With the toast of the "Health of the Deputy Grand Master" he would couple "The Grand Officers Past and Present." On his right he was proud to see Bro. White, who, for nearly sixty years, had filled the office of Grand Secretary, and had for that period discharged his duties in a manner which every brother could appreciate. (Cheers.) On his left hand he had their respected Chairman, Bro. Havers, and their Most Worshipful the Grand Master, in conferring upon him the honour of one of the Grand Wardens must have experienced a pleasure in himself, whilst performing a duty to the Craft. He should propose "The Deputy Grand Master and the Past and Present Grand Officers," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Hayshe, Grand Chaplain, and D. Prov. G.M. of Devonshire.

Song,—Madame Louisa Vinning, "I Think of Thee."

Bro. the REV. J. HUYSHE rose to return thanks on the part of the Grand Officers, and said that it required no words from him to eulogise the way in which the Deputy Grand Master had performed his duties. The Craft, indeed, were deeply indebted to that nobleman for what he had done, and they had done nothing but what they ought in drinking his health. As Grand Officers they would endeavour to do their duty as honest Englishmen and faithful Freemasons, in any position to which the Grand Master might please to call them; and he thanked them cordially for the manner in which the toast had been received.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the toast of the evening, said:—Ladies and Brethren—The Charity whose Festival we celebrate this day owes its origin to the exertions of two well-known members of the craft, Brothers Crucifix and Walton, the former founding the asylum, and the latter suggesting the scheme of an annuity society; and the annuity society was accordingly established in the year 1842, under the auspices of our late Grand Master, the Duke of Sussex. These two Charities, which had for some years been estranged, became united in 1850, and much about the same time the Widows' Fund was established. During the time which has elapsed since those Institutions were founded, there have been afforded relief to 202 aged men and 71 aged widows, in a sum of no less than £24,000, and after paying all legitimate expenses, we have been enabled to invest a further sum of £22,000. (Loud cheers.) There are now on the list 78 aged brethren and 50 widows, who receive annuities amounting in the aggregate to the sum of £2700 per annum. (Hear, hear.) Towards the payment of that large sum we have on the one hand the interest of the money invested, and in the second place we have an annual sum of £950 granted by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, and for the remainder we are dependent on the contributions received from you at these Festivals. For the building we have also a sustentation fund, which amounts to about £1000. The annuitants reside where they please, but if they prefer it they are allowed to live rent-free in the asylum at Croydon, where there is accommodation for 34, but at present there are only 27 inmates. Such is the present history and progress of our institution. I now turn to the future, not however, with any reference to the present recipients, but to others who are the expectants of your bounty. At the present time there are 51 candidates, and four more whose cases are under consideration, but I deeply regret to say that there are but 12 vacancies, and therefore it is not only on behalf of the 128 recipients who are now the objects of your care, but of the 58 expectants, that it becomes my duty to address you. (Hear, hear.) I do so with a strong feeling of diffidence and with a serious sense of the responsibility cast upon me in accepting this post, lest through any shortcomings on my part the result of this evening's proceedings should be less than you have a right to expect. I will not conceal from myself that I labour under great difficulties, but I trust with confidence upon your kindness to assist me. (Hear, hear.) I have seen this chair occupied by noblemen, and those who have been specially distinguished by our Sovereign, but I do not fear on that ground, for I feel assured that you would never have allowed me to take the post I now occupy unless you intended to support me in it. (Loud cheers.) I fear not either, because I am one of yourselves, for, as one of the rank and file of Freemasonry, I am confident that you would not allow me to fail, or the proceeds to fall much short of what has been hitherto realised. (Cheers.) Another great difficulty which presents itself to my mind is the fact that you have lately been largely taxed, and nobly have you replied in your private lodges and by your other contributions towards the relief of that wide-spread calamity which has fallen upon a portion of our countrymen, but even in this respect I feel no fear. I trust to the elasticity of your charity, and I place confidence in your benevolence, for there is no country in the world equal to England, and there is no body of men who dispense so large an amount of charity as Freemasons. (Cheers.) I find that last year your subscriptions to the three charities amounted to £10,500, and that quite irrespective of the Fund of Benevolence and subscriptions in your private lodges. I may say that I have just heard with pleasure from Bro. Bannister that in West Lancashire they have a benevolent fund of £4000, and in Devonshire, I am told by Bro. Huyshe they have a fund of a similar amount. You have, however, not confined your benevolence to our own Order, for you most liberally contributed to the Indian Mutiny and Patriotic Fund, and lately we witnessed the unanimous vote of £1000 towards relieving the distress of the operatives of the North. (Cheers.) Therefore I say that I

may well feel a laudable pride in being a member of so ancient and honourable a society, and one so eminently charitable as you are. (Loud cheers.) The sacred volume impresses upon us the duty of relieving the stranger within our gates, but it is as imperative upon us to provide for our poor brethren admitted to our order as to relieve the wants of others. We received them when they were in prosperity, and it is our duty to protect them in adversity; and it is by no accident of birth, but by our free choice, that they are our accepted brothers. (Loud cheers.) We have a duty cast upon us to find funds for their relief, but we have a second duty, which is to see that there is a just discrimination used in the distribution of your charity, lest through our neglect those who are deserving might go unrelieved. (Renewed cheers.) There is one point upon which I will venture to make a remark, and in doing so I will at once say that I address no individual here present, but it will apply to others far away. The point to which I wish to allude is, I say it with regret, that the funds which support such enormous charities should come out of so few pockets. These charities are mainly supported by those who are present, and a smaller number who are absent, and therefore I say that I desire to see those contributions come out of a greater number of pockets. (Hear, hear.) There has been a change to some extent in this respect, which I attribute partly to the publicity which has been given to the claims of these charities by THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, and partly to the exertions of the officers; and I now think it but right to pay my tribute of respect to the officers of those charities for what they have done. (Cheers.) I am aware that this is not one of the most interesting of your charities, for I cannot place on the dais the little girls with their pleasing looks, or the little boys with their chubby faces rubicund with health, and educated and maintained by your bounty, whose looks would appeal strongly to your sympathy and support, but mine is a more serious duty, but I hope it will not suffer upon that ground. When we contemplate the helplessness of childhood, there is in those seasons of youth an augury of the future, and we become absorbed in hope, yet with respect to age, there is something very touching in the bare thought of growing old, but there is something more serious in finding that as we are growing older we are growing poorer, and no one can, but those who have experienced it, judge of the painful sting of being reduced to unexpected poverty. (Loud Cheers.) A writer, though an anonymous one, but one who knew the human heart well, has told us that age loses half its cares if the man grows richer as he grows older, and if he can, as it were, make his way and go up hill; but what is it if we look at the contrast. The gouty rich man as he hobbles to his carriage thinks perhaps of the time when he was free from gout and had less gold, but see him now. Although the gout may cast a shade over him, still his face is rubicund, he is hale and hearty, the world looks up to him, and he is able to relieve the wants of others, and if he looks back to the time when he was free from gout, he will remember he had no carriage to carry him on his way. On the other hand look at him who started at the same time, but is unfortunate in the race of life, who instead of going up has been coming down hill, who, as he has grown in age has grown poorer, and is compelled in poverty to eke out a wretched and painful existence. Follow that man to his home, and in our great metropolis you will find that a narrow street, or in some cases merely a brick wall separates the most wretched poverty from costly affluence, and you will see him sitting alone in his lonely and cheerless lodging, meditating on his poverty, sad from remembrance of past enjoyment or reflections on misused prosperity. There is no spring-time for him, but all is dark and and hopeless winter. (Hear, hear.) Then look at the poor widow, who has hitherto been carefully nurtured and happy in her home of some well-to-do brother. She is now a widow, alone in her poverty, but it is your mission to carry comfort and consolation to her wretched home. As the land is approached the struggling and shipwrecked mariner is infused with a new love of life, so may your bounty, like the sounds of distant bells in the breeze, bring comfort to aged Freemasons or their widows who have suffered shipwreck in the voyage of life. (Loud and continued cheering.) Brethren, I ask you for your help, not because it is the fate of that poor brother, and to-morrow may be yours, but because I know that your generous hearts will, apart from any unworthy consideration, give liberally, and, like true Freemasons, with no other reward than that which flows from your own consciences, or that reward which one day you will receive from

the hands of your Great Creator. (Loud cheers.) Time warns me that I have occupied your attention too long (No, no.); but it will be with a deep sense of gratitude if I find I have induced one single rivulet to swell the tide of the Charity, whose success I now propose to you. (Loud and continued cheering.)

Bro. F. ROXBURGH, said, after the very eloquent speech which they had just heard from their Right Worshipful Chairman, he could hardly hope to claim their attention, but he trusted that the subject of his discourse would find more consideration from them than the one who had to bring it before them. Their Chairman had told them that the chair had been filled by noble and illustrious persons, and would be so again, but he (Bro. Roxburgh) would venture to say that it had never been filled more ably than on the present occasion. There was no doubt that in their society, as in other societies, they respected rank, and they estimated Masonic feeling whether the person was noble or not, but he believed it would be utterly impossible throughout the craft to find a man more truly actuated by Masonic feelings than their Chairman. He (Bro. Roxburgh) had been for some years in office in the Grand Lodge and he had had an opportunity of knowing what Bro. Havers had done for Freemasonry, and the brethren would scarcely believe the amount of time he had devoted to it. He would not then detain them by going into a disquisition of his good qualities, but would briefly say that Bro. Havers was truly appreciated by the Craft. He was sure the Charity would benefit by his presence, and he therefore would propose the health of Bro. Havers and long life to him. (Great applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN in reply said—I feel that you must be quite tired of hearing my voice, but I thank Bro. Roxburgh for the manner in which he has proposed the toast, and which has been so kindly received by you. I felt for some years that I ran some danger of being spoiled by you, but I will confess, that although I have worked hard you have repaid me in such a handsome way that I can hardly find words to express my thanks. I have taken credit in the performance of my public duties for disinterested conduct—I am now become mercenary, but it is only mercenary in collecting funds on behalf of this Charity. Perhaps one of the most grateful things I have heard is, that from £30 to £40 has been gained to the Charity by my speech. I am delighted to hear it, and I hope we shall have £30 or £40 more, and the Secretary will be happy to receive any list of Stewards not yet sent in. I again thank you, and I will endeavour to deserve the good opinion you have expressed towards me. (Loud cheering.)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES said a toast had been entrusted to him to propose, and he hoped the importance of it would excuse any incompetency on the part of the proposer. It was "The Health of Lord Southampton, the Past President, the Vice Presidents, and the Officers of the Institution." Now, no Institution could flourish without a judicious executive, and he must say that the committee had zealously done their duty, and it might be satisfactory to the members to know that their poor brethren and their widows were well attended to. There was a most important officer, without whom the institution could not prosper and that was an efficient Secretary. It was not for him, who was only a young Mason, to do more than to mention the name of their respected Bro. Farnfield, who had aided the Institutions from small beginnings to what they now saw it, and they congratulated him upon it. He concluded by proposing the toast he had mentioned, coupling with it the names of Bros. Udall and Farnfield.

Bros. UDALL, V.P., returned thanks on behalf of the officers and the committee of the Institution, and said it was a very proud thing to say that from the commencement the Institution had been conducted with great ability by their Bro. Farnfield. He could assure them that the officers would do their duty, and he thanked them sincerely for the kind way in which they had responded to the toast, but, at that late hour, he would say no more than they would do their best to merit the kindness expressed towards them.

Bro. FARNFIELD read the list of subscriptions.

Bro. the REV. J. HUYSHÉ, after a few observations, proposed "Success to their Masonic Charities," coupling with the toast the names of Bros. Binckes, Patten and Farnfield. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. F. BINCKES, Secretary to the Boys' School, said he felt a large amount of responsibility had been put upon his shoulders in having first to respond to the toast which had been given by their reverend brother Huyshé, which was that of the Masonic

Charities. He had hoped that Bro. Farnfield, rejoicing in the success of the Festival, would have said a few words in acknowledgment of that success. He was also in the hope that Bro. Patten would have responded to such a toast; but, at the same time, he was delighted to say a few words in reply to the toast. That was the first Festival of the year; he said it advisedly, and he was sure that his opinion would be assented to by every one present, that there was no festival for a charitable institution which so warmly commended itself as that which had been presided over by Bro. Havers. (Cheers.) He said it most sincerely, and without any affectation, that in the whole course of his experience in the support of charity, he had never listened to any appeal which had so forcibly commended itself to their sympathies as the appeal to the heart by their respected brother who now occupied the chair. When their Brother Havers told them that the chair had been filled by the noble and illustrious of the land, but that it was now occupied by one of themselves, he gloried that it was so; and they might well be proud of him. His address was the outpouring of genuine eloquence on behalf of the Institution, in such a manner as to commend it to their sympathies; and those who heard it would judge how imperfectly he (Bro. Binckes) could offer a response to the toast which had been proposed. On the 11th of March, the Festival for the Boys' School would take place, at which the Deputy Grand Master would preside, when he expected the amount of contributions of any former period would be greatly exceeded. In the course of the year three institutions would appeal to them for support. Bro. Havers had not appealed to them for so many boys and girls, but for the aged Freemasons and their widows, and most successfully had he done so; but he (Bro. Binckes) asked them not to allow his fervid eloquence to interfere with the support they would give to the Boys' School Festival. They had under their charge 72 boys, and they gave them the means of discharging their duties in after life in the same way as if their natural parents were still alive. In April there would be 24 candidates for admission, but there were but 4 vacancies, and he was sure the knowledge of that fact would enlist all their sympathies. He was delighted to see so admirable a meeting, and he hoped in March to see a larger one, and with still greater results. He gloried in emulation, and would do his best for each of their charities. He deprecated rivalry, but honest emulation he would always encourage, and he would not rest satisfied until he had left the Boys' School on a level with their other institutions.

Bro. PATTEN returned thanks on behalf of the Girls' School, but was inaudible to anyone not immediately by his side.

Bro. FARNFIELD very briefly acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the Aged Freemasons' Institution.

THE CHAIRMAN gave "The Ladies and the Stewards," the latter toast being responded to by Bro. Perkins, P.G.W. and President of the Board, and the proceedings of a most agreeable evening terminated.

Bro. Matthew Cooke presided at the organ, and the other musical arrangements were under the superintendence of Bro. George Tedder, assisted by Madame Louise Vinning, Miss Palmer Lisle, Miss Poole, and Bros. Henry Buckland and Borrani, the selection of music being most excellent.

The subscriptions of the evening, including some since received, amounts, as nearly as possible, to £2200—nine Stewards not yet having made their returns. We should mention that four brethren made themselves Vice-Presidents, viz., Bros. Algenon Perkins, No. 5, P.G.W.; the Rev. J. Huyshé, M.A., G.Chap., D.Prov.G.M., Devon; Hadley, No. 63; and Winn, 955, who by giving £100 becomes a V.P. of both the Male and the Widows' Fund.

METROPOLITAN.

PYTHAGOREAN LODGE (No. 23).—At a meeting held on Monday, January 26th, at the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich (Bro. Moore's), Bro. J. C. Peckham, W.M., presided. This being the election night for W.M. for the ensuing year, Bro. W. Orchard, S.W., was unanimously elected. The brethren then sat down to an excellent banquet. Visitors, Bros. J. Stevens, W.M. 805; Dr. Scott, W.M. 164 and 1173; F. Walters, W.M. 87; H. Newton, 183; Tattershall, 164, and several others.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 164).—This flourishing and prosperous lodge met on Wednesday, January 21st, at the Greenwich Lecture Hall, for the first time. The lodge was opened by Bro. G. N. Mourylian, who, in an able manner, raised three brethren to the degree of M.M., passed two to the degree of F.C., and initiated one gentleman into the secrets of Freemasonry. Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., then took the chair, and, assisted by fifteen Installed Masters, in his usual able manner installed Bro. Dr. William Scott, W.M. for the ensuing year, who invested his officers as follows:—Bros. G. N. Mourylian, P.M.; C. L. Smyth, S.W.; E. Hubbuck, J.W.; Ryder, P.M., Treas.; S. Robinson, P.M., Sec.; Bonachchi, S.D.; E. J. Badger, J.D.; J. F. Delany, I.G.; W. J. Mackenzie, Steward. The ceremony of installation was most beautifully performed, and met with the entire approbation of all the brethren who had the good fortune to be present. Our Correspondent adds—“We congratulate this lodge in now possessing a P.M. who is so well able to perform the ceremony of installation. There being no other business, the new W.M. had not an opportunity of showing his superior knowledge of Masonry. This being the first time this lodge met at the Lecture Hall, we cannot do less than give an opinion on it. The room is all that can possibly be required for the purposes of Freemasonry, it being large, lofty, and well ventilated, and having a very superior ante-room adjacent to it. But, as all these conveniences cost money, it is a question whether it would not have been as well (as the lodge only meets six times in the year) to have continued at the old lodge house, where they had free use of a lodge-room, and devote the rent of the room now used to the Masonic Charities. There may be a time when, perhaps, the lodge will not be able to afford this additional expense; therefore it would be wiser, now the lodge is so flourishing, either to support the Masonic Charities, or establish a benevolent fund. All these points ought to have the serious attention of the members of the lodge. We congratulate our worthy and esteemed Bro. Dr. Scott on his being W.M. of two lodges at one time (by special dispensation of the M.W.G.M.), having been unanimously elected by both lodges (the St. George's and the Royal Oak Lodge, No. 1173) to fill that high position. It is a source of regret that his tenure of office is about to expire next month at the Royal Oak Lodge; but we can only hope his successor will endeavour to follow his good example.” There was a very large number of visitors on this occasion, there being at one time more than fifty brethren present. We noticed, in particular, Bros. S. Noble, P.M. 93, P.Z. 248; W. Penny, P.M. 72 and 93, P.Z. 248; F. Walters, W.M. 87, Sec. 1173; J. C. Peckham, W.M. 93; J. Stevens, W.M. 805; J. W. Weir, P.M. 25 (I.C.), S.D. 1173; T. Arnold, P.M. 165; J. Hawker, 1173; Higget, 13; Dale, 32; Stevenson, I.G. 32, &c. The brethren then adjourned to the old lodge house, the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich, where the host, Bro. Moore, had prepared one of his usual first-class banquets, which was replete with every comfort. The brethren, after a few hours' enjoyment, separated, highly delighted at this agreeable reunion.

PRUDENT BRETHREN LODGE (No. 169).—The installation meeting of this most excellent lodge was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday last, when, on the minutes being confirmed, Bro. Geo. States, of No. 23, was elected a joining member. Messrs. R. Greenhill and H. Everett, were initiated. Bro. Geo. Hinton passed; and Bros. Crabb, Weldon, and Raine raised to the third degree, the whole of the ceremonies being most admirably performed by Bro. Blackburn, P.M. Bro. W. Exall having been presented in due form a Board of Installed Masters numbering fifteen was formed, and the installation ceremony beautifully gone through, Bro. Blackburn again undertaking the work. After the installation, Bro. Exall, W.M., invested Bro. Graygoose as the immediate P.M., and appointed and invested the following officers (the Treasurer and Tyler being re-elected) Bro. Carter, S.W.; Sharpe, J.W.; Warren, Treas.; Blackburn, Sec.; Brown, J.D.; Weldon, I.G.; and Hammett, Tyler. At the conclusion of the business the lodge adjourned to the dinner, which was most elegantly served. About forty brethren sat down, including the following visitors:—Bros. Davis, W.M. 12; Robinson, P.M. 237; Clauddinning, 778; C. J. Watson, P.M. 11; T. J. Dickie, Asst. G.P., P.M. 53; Charcomb, 1090; Norman, P.M. 108; Waters, P.M. 108; Brett, P.M. 206; Haydon, P.M. 206; Captain Hamilton, 1164; Orwitz, 1035; Binckes, P.M. 10.—The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given sharp, short, and sweet, Bro. Greenhill returning thanks for the initiates; Bro. Davis, W.M.

No. 12, for the visitors; Bro. Graygoose for the P.M.'s, and for himself on his being presented with a P.M.'s jewel as a mark of esteem of the brethren; Bros. Carter and Sharpe for the officers; Bro. Binckes for the Charities, &c. The business of the evening was much enlivened by some excellent singing and music by Miss Ransford, the Bros. Hart, Davis, Exall, Newall, Boyd, P.M., and others.

BRITISH OAK LODGE (No. 1133).—This lodge met on the 26th inst. for the purpose of general business, and to install the Master for the ensuing year, at the Bird-in-Hand Hotel, Stratford. There were present a number of brethren of the lodge, and also many visitors, amongst whom we may name Bro. Fairbairns, P.M., the first Master of the lodge; Bro. Norton, W.M.; and Bro. Mitcheson, past S.W., Master Elect, and one of the most indefatigable of the original members in the formation of this lodge. Amongst the visitors were Bro. S. B. Wilson, P.G.D.; Bro. Rule, P.G.P.; Bro. Thompson, Prov. G.D.C., of Herts., and several others whom we cannot particularise. A brother was raised to the sublime degree of M.M., after which, Bro. S. B. Wilson took the chair, when the W.M. Elect, Bro. Mitcheson, was duly presented, and Bro. Wilson proceeded to the ceremony of installation, which he went through in his usual impressive and emphatic manner. After the ceremony of installation several brethren were proposed, and a most sumptuous banquet was laid, to which the brethren did ample justice, the wines being of the best quality. The Rev. Bro. Shaboe, P.M., of the Yarborough (812), asked the blessing and returned thanks, and Bro. Saqui, P.M. Robert Burns' Lodge (No. 25), presided at the pianoforte. The evening was spent in the feast of reason and the flow of soul, and all went away much gratified with their kind reception and hospitality. Many and varied were the songs, in the course of the evening, and seldom does it fall to our lot to witness such thoroughly enjoyable and happy meetings, “for all went merry as a marriage bell.” The brethren, after enjoying an extremely pleasant evening, separated and took their devious “homeward way,” hoping soon to have another opportunity of enjoying a similar treat under the branches of the British Oak. It may be as well to note that this lodge, which has only been established two years, now numbers nearly 60 members, and 45 of those are initiates of the lodge. We must also pay a passing tribute to Mrs. Spraston, of the Bird-in-Hand Hotel, by saying that the banquet and wines would have done credit to any of the most celebrated establishments in London.

CITY OF LONDON LODGE (No. 1203).—The installation meeting of this young, but prosperous lodge, took place on Monday the 19th inst., at their private lodge rooms, 23, Bell-alley, Moorgate-street, City, to install their much esteemed Bro. Edward Sisson, who was unanimously elected to the exalted position of W.M. at the previous meeting. A board of P.M.'s was formed, when Bro. Brett performed the ceremony of installation in his usual and impressive manner, and Bro. Sisson was warmly congratulated on being installed to the chair of K.S. The W.M. appointed his officers as follows: Bros. T. G. Collier, S.W.; S. Ormond, J.W.; S. W. Farthing, Treas.; Smithers, S.D.; Higgs, J.D.; Bro. S. A. Gibson, Sec.; Salisbury, I.G.; Lean, W.S.; Wynne, M.C.; Couchman, T. The W.M. then initiated Ambrose Griffith into the order. Bros. Metcalf and Farnfield passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft, and Bros. Waterman, Nutman, and Keppel raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The W.M. was highly complimented by all the brethren present for the able manner in which he had performed the various duties he had been called upon to fulfil during his progress to the chair, but more especially for the efficient manner he had gone through the arduous duties of the chair on this his first night, proving to the brethren that much might be expected from him during his year of office. On this occasion there was a large attendance of the brethren and visitors. Bros. W. Farnfield, A.G.S., Rowley, P.M. 1181, Bro. E. Laurance, S.D., 118, Wellsford, P.M., and several other P.M.'s were present; also Pickworth, W. J. Farnfield, 1029, and other brethren. The lodge was called off to banquet, which was supplied by Bro. E. Salisbury, at the Shepherd and Flock Tavern. The brethren did ample justice to the good things of this life. The cloth having been removed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proceeded with. The W.M. proposed the health of the Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M., and the G. officers, which was responded to by Bro. W. Farnfield, A.G.S.,

who returned thanks for the compliment, and assured the brethren that nothing could give him a greater pleasure than to be among them; all who had listened to the fervid eloquence of the D.G.M. in Grand Lodge must have felt how well he was fitted for the high office. Indeed, the more they saw of the D.G. Master he was sure the more they would appreciate him, and the services of so distinguished a nobleman could not fail to reflect honour on the Craft. On behalf of the Earl de Grey and Ripon, (of whom he could not say too much in praise of his attention to his Masonic duties,) and the other Grand Officers, he could conscientiously assert they one and all exerted themselves to the best of their abilities to promote the interests and welfare of the order. He again thanked the W.M. and brethren for the handsome response, hoping that so young a lodge as the City of London would continue to prosper. Speech, song, and sentiment was the order of the evening, and after the last toast, "To all poor and distressed Masons," the column of J. W. gave token that the evening so redolent of joy and good feeling must be brought to a close. The lodge was then called to labour, and closed in due form.

TOWER HAMLETS ENGINEERS' LODGE (No. 1204).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, on Monday last. Lodge was opened by the W.M. Bro. Lieut. Wigginton, and the ballot having been taken for Capt. Alexander George Dawson, of the Surrey Rifles (an old Indian officer), the ceremony of initiation was performed by the W.M. in his usual excellent and correct manner. The ballot for W.M. was next proceeded with, the S.W. Bro. Grumbridge (P.M. 63) being unanimously elected to fill the chair for the ensuing year. The Treasurer Bro. Tripe, M.D., was then unanimously re-elected, with Bro. Grant as Tyler. The statement of accounts being laid before the lodge, showing a very prosperous year, the thanks of the brethren were awarded to Bro. Tripe for his services, as also to the Secretary, Bro. Scotcher, (P.M. 63). On the motion of Bro. Grumbridge, seconded by Bro. Dr. Tripe, and supported by Bro. Poynter, it was unanimously resolved to present a handsome P.M.'s Jewel to Bro. Wigginton (their first W.M.) for the admirable way in which the whole duties of the chair had been fulfilled, also for his very correct and impressive working, which had helped to give the lodge the position it had now attained. The business having been disposed of and a committee appointed to make arrangements for the jewel and its presentation, the lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The installation meeting and festival of St. John the Divine, will take place on Monday the 23rd of Feb. next. [What has St. John the Divine to do with English Masonry?—Ed.]

PROVINCIAL.

DURHAM.

DURHAM.—*Marquis of Granby Lodge* (No. 146).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Tuesday the 6th inst. The lodge was opened by the retiring W.M., Bro. Wm. Brignal, assisted by his Wardens, Bros. John Jerrems and Thos. Wm. Hearon. The minutes of the last General Lodge as also the minute relating to the celebration of the Festival of St. John the Evangelist (held on the 30th of December) were read and confirmed. A gentleman was balloted for and unanimously approved of, and Bro. T. Hutton formerly a member of the lodge was readmitted as a subscribing member. Bros. Robson and Hoyle having given the necessary proofs, they were passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was then opened in the third degree, when the W.M. elect, Bro. Joseph Nicholson, was presented to a board of P.M.'s for installation, by Bro. P.M. Wm. Stoker; Bro. P.M. Thos. Jones performing the ceremony with more than usual impressiveness. After being severally proclaimed, the W.M. appointed and invested the following officers, viz. Wm. A. Malcolm, S.W.; Jos. Walker, J.W.; Thos. Jones, P.M., Treasurer; Wm. Marshall, Secretary; Wm. C. Blackett, S.D.; Wm. Hutchinson, J.D.; Thomas Thwaites, and George Greenwell, Stewards; James Young, I.G.; John Carter, Tyler. Some formal business having been transacted, the brethren were called from labour to refreshment, and after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been duly honoured, interspersed with various glees and solos, the brethren having spent an evening of harmony and brotherly love, the lodge was closed in form and

with solemn prayer. On Tuesday evening the 20th inst. a Master's Lodge was held, presided over by the W.M., Bro. Jos. Nicholson. The lodge was opened in the first degree and the minutes of the previous Master's Lodge were read and confirmed. The lodge was afterwards opened in the second and third degrees, when no business being before the lodge in the latter degree, it was closed down, remaining open in the first, when the W.M. exercised his newly appointed officers in the working of the initiation ceremony for their instruction and benefit. Bro. Wm. Towns, formerly a member of the lodge, and late of the Cleveland Lodge (No. 795), was proposed and re-admitted as a subscribing member. The brethren afterwards proceeded to refreshment, and spent the evening in the greatest harmony, and ultimately closed in form and with solemn prayer.

LANCASHIRE (WEST.)

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 173).—The brethren of this lodge met on Wednesday, January 14th, at an Emergency meeting, called to consider and decide upon removing from the Blackburn Arms Hotel to private rooms. The W.M. conducted the proceedings, assisted by the various officers. After due consideration and full discussion, the motion, which ran as follows, was unanimously carried. "That the lodge be removed to the private rooms in Sankey-street, which have been taken for the purpose, and which formerly formed part of the Nag's Head Hotel." A vote of thanks was passed to Miss Bather for her uniform attention to the wants of the brethren while the lodge was held at her house. The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday night last, at the Masonic rooms, Sankey-street, Warrington, Bros. H. B. White, W.M.; Capt. Knight, S.W.; Bowes, J.W. and Sec.; Dr. Spinks, S.D.; Worthington, J.D., and a goodly attendance of brethren. After the lodge had been opened and before the minutes were read, this being the first meeting in the new rooms, Bro. the Rev. J. Nixon Porter, offered a suitable prayer. A ballot was taken for Mr. Blackhurst, a candidate for initiation, which proved to be in his favour. The lodge having been opened in the second degree, Bro. Woods was examined, and subsequently raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. in a most impressive manner by the W.M., the working tools being presented by the S.W. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, when the following motion, of which due notice had been given, was fully discussed, viz., "That the night of meeting be changed from the last Monday in the month, to a night more generally convenient." A number of amendments were proposed and lost, and ultimately the original motion also. Several presents of furniture and ornaments were announced by the W.M. The lodge was closed in solemn form at ten o'clock, and the brethren separated in harmony.

NORFOLK.

NORWICH.—*Perseverance Lodge* (258).—Bro. R. Thorns was duly installed W.M. of the above lodge on Tuesday last in place of Bro. F. Colsey who had completed his year of office as W.M. A large number of the brethren were present, including visitors from the Yarmouth and Norwich Lodges. The installation was most excellently performed by Bro. J. Dawbarn, P.M. (258), assisted by Bro. A. F. Morgan, P.M. (110). The banquet, under the able presidency of the W.M. passed off most harmoniously.

SUSSEX.

LEWES.—*South Saxon Lodge* (No. 290).—A large gathering of this lodge took place in Lewes on Wednesday, the 21st inst. Bro. B. W. Hearn in the chair. Bros. D. Smyth, Capt. Settle, and Thos. Knight were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., Bro. Joseph Cooper to that of F.C., and Lieut.-Col. Mackay duly initiated into the privileges and mysteries of Freemasonry. The business being ended, the Rev. G. Little, Chaplain of the lodge, rose, and in the name of the brethren generally, presented an elegant P.M.'s jewel to Bro. Hearn, bearing the inscription that it was presented to him as a mark of the esteem in which he was held by the brethren of the South Saxon Lodge, and to show the value and appreciation they attached to the services he had rendered to the lodge during the time he had governed it. The gift was acknowledged by the W.M. in a truly masonic manner. After which the brethren adjourned to refreshment, which Bro. Wingham knows so well how to provide. At the close of the lodge six candidates for Freemasonry, and two joining members were proposed and seconded.

WILTSHIRE.

DEVIZES.—*Lodge of Fidelity* (No. 961).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place on Wednesday, the 14th inst., at the Town hall, Devizes. One o'clock was the hour fixed, and at that time the following members were assembled, Bros. H. Calf, W.M.; D. A. Gibbs, S.W.; Joseph Burt, Treas.; E. E. Guy, Sec.; T. G. O'Reilly, J.D.; J. Ford, I.G.; W. Biggs, and S. Whitley, P.M.'s.; J. Guy, and C. Hitchcock. The visitors were Bros. W. L. Dore, P.M., and C. W. Wyndham, P.M. 856; G. Finley, 1230; C. W. Oliver, P.M. 61, P. Prov. S.G.W. of Somerset; C. F. Marshall, P.M. 420, P. Prov. S.G.W. Wilts; Rev. C. R. Davy, 420, P. Prov. G. Chap. of Somerset; Rev. T. F. Ravenshaw, 460, P. Prov. G. Chap. of Oxfordshire; C. J. Phipps, Secretary 48; W. Read, W.M.; R. Bradford, P.M.; W. F. Farrant, I.G.; J. Chandler, P.M., T. Chandler, P.M., and W. Westmacott, 453; E. Gardner, W. F. Gooch, P. Prov. S.G.W. Wilts; E. T. Payne, W.M. 61, P.M. 420, Prov. G. Reg. Wilts; P. S. Wilmot, S.D., 909; J. Naish, ex-Mayor of Winchester, P. Prov. J.G.W. Hants; M. Cooke, Sec. 23; J. Caster, P.M. 61; and several others. The business of the day was to instal Bro. W. Biggs, P. Prov. G.W. Wilts, who had been unanimously elected as W.M. of the *Lodge of Fidelity* (No. 961), and the ceremony was very ably performed by Bros. Oliver and Marshall, for which the thanks of the lodge were voted them. Bro. Biggs then appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. D. A. Gibbs, S.W.; J. Long, J.W.; J. Burt, re-invested Treas.; S. Wittey, Sec., Rev. T. F. Ravenshaw, Chap.; J. Guy, S.D.; T. G. O'Reilly, J.D.; J. Ford, I.G.; and J. Knight, re-invested Tyler. There being no other business before the lodge, it was closed, and the brethren sat down in the ball room to a very excellent dinner, furnished by Mr. Sloper, of the Elm Tree Inn. Bro. Watson Taylor liberally supplied the game, as an apology for his unavoidable absence, and Bro. W. Biggs, W.M., provided no end of champagne. After the cloth had been removed, and the dessert placed on the table, the W.M. said the first toast was of a two-fold character; a man to be a good Mason must be a good citizen, therefore he gave them the toast of "The Queen and the Craft."—The W.M. had next to call attention to the heir to the throne, who, though living for a time in retirement, was about to be initiated into matrimony; the W.M. also hoped soon to hear of his initiation into Freemasonry. The first of those initiations would, he trusted, be all that the most loyal subject could desire, for the intended bride of his Royal Highness was reputed to be a Princess worthy of a people's love. The W.M. then proposed "The Prince of Wales and the Royal Family."—Bro. WITTEY, P.M., had the honour to call their attention to the next toast. The country had an efficient army, navy, and volunteer service, all of which had made great progress in preparing for the defence of their home. They had a very excellent army, a capital navy, and so many able and willing volunteers, that they could not but feel a great satisfaction that old England would never be deserted; but like her flag that had so long braved the battle and the breeze, would continue to hold her own. Their brother, Captain Burt, who had seen much service, he would couple with the former two services, and Captain Wm. F. Gooch with the latter. He then called upon them to drink "To the Army, Navy, and Volunteers."—Bro. CART. BURT had great pleasure in having his name coupled with the army and navy, and was sure that whenever the trumpet gave the sound calling for the services of either or both of them, they would ever be found ready to do their duty to their Queen and their country.—Bro. Capt. W. F. GOOCH, believed and hoped that should their services ever be required, the volunteers would prove themselves to be good auxiliaries, and on behalf of the volunteers, tendered his thanks for the toast.—The W.M. said they had drunk the health of the heads of the state, and their next duty was to honour the heads of the Craft, in accordance with which, he proposed the "M.W. Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge of England."—Bro. BIGGS said they had now got home, and it was a very agreeable office to propose the health of a nobleman, the head of their province, whose heart and soul was in Freemasonry. His lordship's health was very bad, or they would have been honoured by his presence that day, so there was the more reason they should do full justice to the toast of the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Lord Methuen.—The W.M., Bro. Biggs, had another pleasing duty to follow. If their Prov. Grand Master's love of Freemasonry was strong, their D. Prov. Grand Master's was not a whit behind. Wherever he was wanted, they were sure to find him. He was ever ready to inculcate the duties of fostering the Charities, and amply practised that

which he taught. He (the W.M.) deeply regretted that he was absent through ill-health; and, as he was held in the highest estimation by all who knew him, there were none there but would strongly sympathise with him. To his speedy recovery let each one fill a bumper, and drink to the Provincial Grand Master and Grand Lodge of Wiltshire.—Bro. Captain W. F. GOOCH felt it his duty to return thanks for his brother. It was a source of great regret to him that he was debarred by severe indisposition from being present, but he had been enjoined perfect rest and absence from all excitement. He had himself appeared that day to apologise for his brother, at his special request, and it would afford him much pleasure to convey to him the kind manner in which his health had been proposed and received.—The W.M. said no doubt the R.W. Bro. Bridges had been subjected to some sudden call, or he would have been present, as there always had been great unanimity of feeling between the neighbouring Provincial Grand Lodges of Somerset and Wilts. He then proposed "The V.W. D. Prov. G.M., and Grand Lodge of Somerset." Bro. PAXNE, on behalf of the Prov. Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset returned thanks. He wished he could add for a Prov. G.M. as well, for they had been without one more than two years; and when they asked for one, they were rewarded for their zeal by being snubbed. However, with the D. Prov. G.M. they had, they could get on very well, for it was impossible to find a better. He met their Masonic wishes with the best possible feeling, and the unity between them all was delightful to behold. He had accepted the office with diffidence, more especially as their D. Prov. G.M. came in after a Prov. G.M. who had ruled the province above forty years; but notwithstanding he had most happily succeeded in uniting all with the best wishes towards him. Their D. Prov. G.M. had a very good staff of Provincial Grand Officers, and he (Bro. Payne) could speak unreservedly on that subject, because he was not himself appointed by him. Many members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset were also members of the Lodge of Rectitude, in the province of Wilts, and they generally felt a great debt due to the Devizes Lodge for the support they had always given to the Charities when represented by any of their province, and which they would be happy to return on other occasions.—The W.M. said it was not too late to rectify an error, their own Prov. G. Lodge of Wilts was omitted from the programme, but they would excuse it, and he coupled with it the name of a highly honoured brother, Bro. Marshall.—Bro. MARSHALL returned thanks for the Prov. G. Lodge of Wilts, he took it as very kind to mention his name in connection with the toast, and as an honour to bear a part in the ceremony of that day, seeing that he had been himself initiated into Freemasonry by Bro. Biggs. In the name of the Prov. G. Lodge he expressed his thanks.—The W.M., Bro. BIGGS, next proposed the Prov. G.M. and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire, coupling the same with the name of Bro. Naish, ex-Mayor of Winchester an old friend of his.—Bro. NAISH was pleased at the kind and hearty way in which the toast had been received. Amongst the many good Masons in the province of Hants, none were more respected than Bro. Biggs, and he was sure that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hants would be as happy to know he had been installed in that chair as he (Bro. Naish), was to see him there, and on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hants and himself he returned his best thanks.—Bro. Capt. BURT was glad that the next toast fell to his lot to propose. Bro. Biggs, their newly installed W.M., was a native of Devizes (Hear, hear) and was well known there for his zeal in Masonry, and that lodge in particular. He had done No. 961 the high honour to accept its chair, and his efficiency would be sure to give increased prosperity to the lodge. He (Bro. Burt) then called upon them to fill a bumper to the next toast, which was "Success to the W.M. of 961, Bro. W. Biggs, and his year he office."—Bro. BIGGS, W.M., replied—As he had said in lodge of knew of no greater honour than that of being the W.M. of a lodge in his own native place, particularly as he resided at a distance, and such he most decidedly felt it to be. If he ever had a failing (and who was there without one?) it was in the cause of Freemasonry. He was deeply interested in everything that was for the good of the Order, and hoped that all present would have for their object the progress of the Craft in that province. There were many old Masons in Devizes, and he earnestly desired to see them all become united in the Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity, and do, as they had hitherto done, some suit and service to the Craft. If lodges did not generally combine for such objects who suffered? The fatherless, friendless boy

or girl, and the aged Freemason or his widow. Masonry was no sham, but a reality daily and hourly presenting its benefits to the unfortunate, and if it were not so, it would have been like to a house built upon the sands and sunk long ago, whilst it was founded on a rock and bid fair to flourish till time should be no more. He would strongly urge on the members of the lodge the necessity of keeping diligently to their Lodge of Instruction. In that they would get a perfect knowledge of their duties and principles, having such an able brother as Capt. Burt amongst them, a Mason who had been W.M. of their lodge, as well as of the Calne Lodge, and of 961 for two years in succession. He declared his intention to be present in Devizes, and work the lodge regularly eight times in the ensuing year, (Hear, hear), and he trusted to receive their support, and that of the older brethren in the town, on these occasions. Having made the foregoing remarks, he could do no less than reiterate his thanks for the honor they had done him in electing him their W.M., and for the kind way in which his health had been received and proposed. Before he sat down he would take the opportunity of proposing the next toast, the health of Bro. Calf. During his year of office there had been nothing wanting on his part to maintain the lodge in its prosperous condition, and, if he, the W.M. were to speak for an hour, he could not do greater justice to that brother, who they all so highly esteemed. He gave "The Immediate Past Master of 961, Bro. Calf."—Bro. CALF P.M. on rising to reply was met with warm plaudits, which we were told on all sides that he was most deserving of. He said, he had done his best during the last year to keep them all around him, and had the satisfaction to be able to say that on every lodge evening he had always had all his officers in their places, and the members punctual in their attendance. For that happy state of things he was indebted to them, and for the reception he had met with from the W.M. and the brethren present he was proud and grateful.—The W.M. was very happy to acknowledge the kind services of Bro. Oliver, son of the Reverend Dr. Oliver, the true Masonic writer of the day, and Bro. Marshall, J.G. Warden of the Province, who had shared the ceremony of installing him into the chair. He believed that with regard to Bro. Marshall, that Brother had paid him, the W.M., off, for he, the W.M., initiated Bro. Marshall into Masonry, and that day he came forward and turned round upon him by putting him into the chair. He had much pleasure in proposing the health of "The Installing Masters, Bros. Oliver and Marshall."—Bros. OLIVER and MARSHALL each returned thanks.—The W.M. was sure that as the age progressed, through the labours of the press, so all would feel that such a mighty engine was of immense benefit to the Craft. They, the Freemasons of England, could boast of an organ for their own special use, and the good it did in correcting abuses, reminding them of their duties, and presenting a true chronicle of their acts, could not be overrated. THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE he was happy to say was a necessity to the Craft, and Bro. Henry George Warren had so conducted it, in a manly straightforward way that its principles were a credit to him, and his dictum of immense weight throughout the kingdom. Freemasons, however, seldom niggardly in other things, thought a paper might be conducted on the minimum scale of support, and he really was ashamed that the Craft did not more universally deem it to be a duty to make themselves better acquainted with its contents and find it a permanent home in every one of their houses. They had one of its representatives present, a zealous co-worker with its Editor, and he should call upon him to give them some little information as to its future prospects, and in order to do that according to precedent, he would first give the toast of "The future and better success of THE FREEMASON'S MAGAZINE, and couple the same with the name of Bro. Matthew Cooke."—Bro. COOKE said it was a grateful task to have to reply to such good wishes, especially as his respected principal, Bro. Henry George Warren, was unable to be present. That brother had for some years carried on the publication of THE FREEMASON'S MAGAZINE at a pecuniary loss to himself, and just as it was beginning to clear its expenses, and return a small profit he was, from want of capital, rather than let it die out, obliged to part with it, and every one then knew how little was to be realised by a forced sale. Of late it had been suggested that Bro. Warren should buy it back, and a limited liability company was in process of formation to achieve that object. It was proposed that the price be considerably reduced. (Hear, hear), and by such arrangement it was hoped that every Craftsman will take an interest in it and support it, not merely

by borrowing a copy, and circulating it amongst his own circle of the brethren, but by becoming a permanent subscriber. For the matter which appeared in it no one could say there was anything objectionable, in a Masonic sense, they had plenty of materials to carry it on, and the difficulty was, not to find matter to insert, but to know what to reject. This was a delicate point, for every one that made a speech wanted the whole of it inserted and took umbrage if his oration was condensed. (Laughter). Others were continually stating they were incorrectly reported, whilst several who professed they never read THE MAGAZINE, were the first to write and ask why their names were omitted, or a wrong office had been placed to them? (Laughter). It was the old fable of the man and the ass, the conductors could not please everybody, but they did their best to make the publication a true and faithful record of that which was passing in the great world of Freemasonry, and it was this honesty of purpose, zeal for the cause, and thorough independence of Bro. Warren that had secured an amount of attention for the principles of the MAGAZINE within the Order, that equalled, if not surpassed, the weight which other portions of the press possessed with the public at large. For the toast which had been proposed in the name of the Editor, he (Bro. Cooke), thanked the brethren, and wished that everyone was as well acquainted with Bro. Warren as he was, for they would then take to their inmost hearts a brother whose whole course of life, both public and private, was that of an honest, kind, and true man, summed up in one short sentence—a Freemason in the widest sense of the term. (Cheers.)—The W.M. said he could endorse all that Bro. Cooke had stated. He was, himself one of the Directors of the new Company; he intended to do his best to carry it forward, and he should look to every member of the lodge to assist him in so useful an undertaking. (Hear, hear.)—The W.M. said the next toast on the list was that of "The W.M., Officers, and brethren of other lodges in the province, and our Visiting brethren," with which he would couple with the name of Bro. Payne.—Bro. PAYNE, in the absence of the W.M. of the Lodge of Rectitude, gratefully acknowledged the toast, and was sure if the W.M., his officers, or any members of the Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity would visit the Lodge of Rectitude, they would meet with a hearty welcome.—Bro. WITTEY, P.M. and Sec. said, next to the health of the W.M. in importance, came the prosperity of the Masonic Charities. They would best show what Freemasons were, by supporting those Charities, and in 961 they were always ready to put their hands in their pockets and not forget their duties as Masons. The W. brother then very eloquently pleaded the cause of each of the Masonic Charities, concluded a most telling address by proposing success to "The Masonic Charities."—The W.M. said they were greatly indebted to the Mayor and Corporation for the use of the Town Hall. It would be, he contended, much for the benefit of Freemasonry if meetings were more frequently held in such places. They fortunately were kindly permitted to hold their lodges and festivals there, and many of them very deeply felt and appreciated it. They had several of the Corporation as brethren, and he would propose "The Healths of the Mayor and Corporation, coupling the same with the name of Bro. Giddings, Ex-mayor of Devizes."—Bro. GIDDINGS, on behalf of the Mayor and Corporation returned thanks. They were happy at all times to grant the use of the building to the lodge, and he believed every member of the municipal body was glad to hear the lodge flourished.—The W.M. could not think of allowing them to separate without drinking, the health of Captain Burt, who had been three times Mayor of Devizes, their re-elected Treasurer and the father of the lodge. (Hear, hear.) No brother in Devizes did so much for the lodge, and if it had not been for him it would never have been in existence. To him it owed its formation and chief prosperity. It had only been in existence seven years, but, by good management, had paid all its expenses, made itself a life governor of all the charities and had a balance of fifty pounds in hand. (Hear, hear.) He then proposed "The Health of their Founder and Treasurer, Capt. Burt."—Bro. Capt. BURT was pleased at the kind expressions which had fallen from the W.M., and the warm response his name had met with from the brethren. When he was in active service he determined to become a Freemason, and he was induced to do so by the fact that one of his brother officers had been captured and was to be shot. That officer was a Mason and he prevailed upon a brother, amongst his captors, to let Capt. Burt know where he was and how he could be rescued and he, Capt. Burt, acted on the information and rescued him. On his return home, and when he got settled, he carried out his plan, and was initiated

in the lodge at Calne, but wishing to see one at home he became the promoter, with the W.M., of their lodge. Although the credit of its success had been given to him, he could not claim it for their prosperous state must be attributed to a proper sense of economy, and if they had subscribed to each of the charities it, was only their bounden duty. If he gave satisfaction to the brethren all he asked in return was a regular attendance. (Hear, hear.) He thanked them for the compliment and resumed his seat. The Tylers toast brought this very successful meeting to a close and the brethren separated, expressing their intention to support their W.M. during his year of office, and he, on his part, promising to do his best to attend to his duties and afford them instruction. There was some very good singing by Bro. Gibbs, S.W., the W.M., and several other brethren.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The Annual Ball of this lodge was held at the Queen's Concert-rooms, Hanover-square, on Tuesday, January 20. The promoters of this ball have invariably since its establishment been successful in obtaining the patronage of their friends, and the numerous and fashionable company who attended on this occasion must have completely satisfied the most exacting. When the supper-rooms were thrown open, nearly three hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen were present. The supper was well served by Mr. Withers, and the wines of Bro. Nicholson gave universal satisfaction. The health of the Queen and the usual loyal toasts were given by Bro. Hogg, W.M. and President, in appropriate speeches. The health of the President was proposed by Bro. Emmens, and warmly responded to. Bro. Emmens took occasion to remind the company that they were aiding the cause of Masonic charity, and to extol the perseverance of Bro. Hogg and the Stewards in their efforts for the promotion of the comfort and enjoyment of their friends on this occasion. Bro. Waters returned thanks for the ladies in a most humorous speech, and at its close was loudly applauded. The company then returned to the ball-room, and the dancing was resumed and continued until a late hour in the morning. The exertions of Bro. Taylor, as M.C., contributed materially to the enjoyment of the company, nor must we forget to mention the excellent band of Bro. Bradley. The Board of Stewards, consisting of Bros. Hogg, President, Waters, V.P., Nicholson, Davis, Corben, Green, Dixon, Sallust, King, Perkins, Botting, and Bro. John Emmens, Hon. Sec., carried out all the arrangements for the reception of the company to perfection. We are happy to add that a surplus remains to be devoted to Masonic charity.

SCOTLAND.

From Our Own Correspondent.

ARDROSSAN AND SALTCOATS ST. JOHN'S ROYAL ARCH, No. 320.—The Masonic festivities of the season are now being brought to a termination, and the guardians of the middle chamber preparing to resume their places at the foot of the winding stairs. We paid a visit on Thursday night, the 22nd inst., to Ardrossan, personally to thank the brethren of No. 320 for the spontaneity and unanimity with which they had, in conferring upon us the rank of H.M., added another to the numerous clasps which already adorn our masonic cordon. Ardrossan and Saltcoats Royal Arch, amongst the youngest in Ayrshire of Mother Kilwinning's grand-daughters, was ushered into existence in 1826—the year in which the British nation was called upon to mourn the loss of the Marquis of Hastings, who died at Malta, after a career of pre-eminent success in the service of his country as a statesman and a warrior,—and in whose removal from the level of time to the celestial lodge above the brethren in this and the sister kingdom were also deprived of the counsel and active masonic service of a most illustrious member of the Order. From this landmark, then, it was that the lodge No. 320 joined the mystic procession which has for these five thousand years been threading its way through the different tribes of men religiously believing in the existence of the G. A. O. T. U.; and ever since has it held on

its way in a manner creditable alike to its sons and to the province in which its labours are more immediately directed. Pitching its tent upon the seaboard of its island home, the Ardrossan lodge has had assigned to it a place in the masonic economy of no inconsiderable honour and responsibility; nor have its sons failed to take the fullest legitimate advantage of that position. The light shining in the E. of their \square has with a talismanic influence drawn from almost every point of the compass novitiates who carry forth with them to the most distant regions of the earth the tangible memorials of the mystic science acquired by them in the sanctum of their mother lodge. We never look upon the promontory of Ardrossan from our every-day standpoint without our mind reverting to the period of the Commonwealth—when the citadel of Ayr was in the hands of Cromwell's soldiers, the church of the Lord turned into a garrison, and the walls of the ancient Castle of Ardrossan thrown down and the stones carried over sea in boats for the purpose of being employed in the fortifications erected by the Puritan General at the mouth of the river Ayr. The ruins of this memento of Oliver Cromwell's visit to Ayr are gradually disappearing before the march of modern improvement, still the Mark M.M.'s of the Ardrossan Lodge could, were they so inclined, find enough left of the ashlar so ruthlessly abstracted from the now ruined stronghold of the collateral ancestors of the Eglington family, upon which to exercise their lore in the theorems of the fourth degree of Craft Masonry. Sometime ago we endeavoured to decipher some of the marks still traceable upon the stones in the wall of the bastion occupying the north-eastern angle of the Fort. Of the number examined, the blind or E. A. mark predominate; but whether engraved by the chisel of the operative in the pay of the Usurper, or made by that of the Craftsman who prepared the stone for its original place in the Castle of Ardrossan is matter of speculation. But lest we lose ourselves in the labyrinth of the past, we gladly respond to the call from the S. and gird ourselves for the festivities of the evening. The brethren having in great strength met in their lodge room, proceeded to the Town-hall, in order to afford the necessary accommodation to the members of other lodges coming from a distance. The hall was gaily decorated with Masonic and naval flags. Precisely at seven o'clock, in the absence, from indisposition, of the R.W.M. (Bro. McLeod), Bro. John Paterson, the Chaplain of the lodge, was called on to preside. He was well supported by a most effective band of Gibalimites, by whose skill many a rough ashlar has been squared and fashioned for the builder's use in the construction of the "great moral edifice of our minds." In the instruction of the seafaring neophyte, would that the following *charge* were ever present to the minds of those ruling in lodges frequented by the hardy, yet too often thoughtless, sons of Neptune:—

"Tell him of that home celestial,
Whose bright doors ere long shall open—
Point him, 'mid the storms terrestrial,
To the soul's sure anchor, HOPE."

Chief among the occupants of the dais, in point of Masonic experience, were Bros. J. F. Love and Robert Boyd, Past Masters of the lodge; while Bros. Emslie and Robertson represented the section of brethren in whom its hopes are centered as successors in office to those who have so worthily and so long borne the heat and burden of the day in the field of Masonic labour. It must have been gratifying to the members of No. 320 to receive the countenance of so many of the sister lodges as passed through the adjacent on this the occasion of their annual banquet. These were—Mother Kilwinning, led by their veteran Depute, Bro. Hugh Conn, accompanied by Bros. D. Murray Lyon (one of her representatives in the Grand Lodge), Dr. Andrew, and Wm. Kennedy; Irvine St. Andrew, led by Bro. Campbell; Stevenston Thistle and Rose, by Bro. Lockhart; Largs St. John, by Bro. Glen; Blair Dalry, by Bro. David Brown; West Kilbride, by Bro. Robertson; Bro. Halkett, of the Royal Bank of Scotland, representing his mother lodge, Cumberland Kilwinning. The brethren ruling in the S.J.W. were Bros. Robertson and Barclay, and so long as they retain their seats at the base of the Doric and Ionic columns respectively, no 320 will never lack strength to support, or beauty to adorn the lodge congregating under her charter. The preliminaries disposed, and when the last of the long train of visitors had traversed the angular approaches to the E., and the lodge being close-tyled, the business proper of the evening was inaugurated by the delivery of a short address from the Orient, which for terseness of language and depth of pure

masonic feeling, we have seldom heard equalled within the walls of any lodge met under similar circumstances. Happy, thrice happy must the brethren be who are privileged to sit at the feet of Bro. Paterson to listen to his teachings as, in his own quaint style, he unfolds the mysteries and elucidates the benign principles of Freemasonry. In tendering the grip fraternal to Mother Kilwinning, the speaker made a beautiful allusion to the high privilege enjoyed by her sons of studying and perfecting themselves in masonry under the shade of a lodge sitting confident in its own dignity as the Parent of Scottish Masonry, amid the ruins of the venerable Abbey of Kilwinning. We regret we have not space enough at our disposal to enable us to give a title even of the greetings so cordially given on behalf of the Ardrossan and Saltcoats brethren to those who had that evening assembled for the purpose of harmonising in the light under their banner, and of congratulating them on the successful issue of the past year in regard to the fresh acquisitions of physical strength and moral beauty which the statement so eloquently made by Bro. Love discovered to the company. Nearly 50 new members have, we believe, been added to the role during the year 1861-62. We envied the Irvine brethren as the chairman touched upon the literary and historical association of that ancient royal burgh in which their lot has been cast. There it was where Wallace began his exploits, where Burns spent some of his early years, and where the sweet singer Montgomerie sojourned too for a season. The Stevenston brethren were their next neighbours, and so thoroughly interested were the entire population of that village in everything of a Masonic character, that he thought the Tyler would very soon not be able to discriminate between those having the right of admission into the lodge, and those who had not; Largs had so far laid aside conventionalism in the reception of strangers as rendered a visit to that lodge one of the most homely and pleasant character; for warm-heartedness and real brotherly feeling the Dalry brethren were proverbial, and so much of the practical element was to be found among the "enlightened few" of West Kilbride as to place them in a most favourable position for becoming speculative builders of the first water. Good speculative masons seldom failed to exhibit in a practical way the moral and virtuous characteristics of the order. We can only allude to the replies made by the heads of the respective deputations as being chaste and well timed. Nor was the "Masonic Press" forgotten—the representative of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE being first with all the honours. After a night of much Masonic pleasure the lodge was closed and the brethren dispersed.

"I go when evening gilds the West,
I bid thee fond adieu,
But hope again by fortune blest,
To spend an hour with you."

[We only regret that our English correspondents are not so happily placed as our Scottish. Our Editor would forget all his past losses in Masonry for such an evening of pure enjoyment as appears to await our Northern brethren whenever they have a meeting with our Correspondent amongst them.]

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The following is the report of the Committee of General Purposes, to be presented at the Quarterly Convocation on Wednesday next.

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England:—

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 15th October, 1862, to the 21st January, 1863, which they find to be as follows:—

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|------|----|----|
| Balance, 15th October 1862 | | £166 | 2 | 9 |
| Subsequent Receipts | | 182 | 14 | 5 |
| | | £348 | 17 | 2 |
| Disbursements | | 131 | 19 | 10 |

Leaving a balance of £216 17 4

which balance is in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival, and Co., Bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The Committee have also to report that they have received a letter from Comp. G. S. Judge, a Past Principal of the Chapter of Hope (No. 126), Calcutta, and the Acting First Principal of

the Keystone Chapter of Western India (No. 1059), Bombay, referring to a question that was recently before Grand Chapter, with respect to Masters and Past Masters of Scotch and Irish lodges being qualified to be elected as Principals of English Chapters, after duly serving the office of Scribe or Sojourner for one year, and mentioning that Masters of Scotch lodges are not installed, in the English acceptation of the term, inasmuch as their installation takes place when the lodge is open in the first or the Entered Apprentice degree, and that no secrets of the chair are communicated, neither is any Board of Installed Masters formed; and further, that any Master Mason is qualified to be elected as Master of a lodge without being required to serve as Warden of a lodge, and finally quoting the following passage from the deliverance of the Grand Lodge of Scotland on this subject, at a meeting held on the 3rd of May, 1847, viz:—

"The Grand Lodge further considers every Master Mason duly qualified to be elected to, and fill the Chair as Right Worshipful Master without receiving any additional degree or secrets whatever, and that it is inconsistent with the Grand Lodge laws to require such. The Grand Lodge further declares that the installation of the whole Office-bearers, including the Master, ought to take place in a just and perfect Lodge opened in the Apprentice degree, where at least three Masters, two Fellow Crafts, and two Apprentices must be present; or, failing Craftsmen and Apprentices, the same number of Masters, who for the time being are held to be only of those degree."

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received a Petition from Companions Henry Pulman as Z, Seraphin Aznavour as H, Ferdinand A. Hühnel as J, and nine others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Oriental Lodge (No. 988), Constantinople, to be called the "Oriental Chapter," to meet at Baltzar's Hotel, Pera of Constantinople, on the first Thursday of every month.

This Petition is regular in form, but it is signed by only four Royal Arch Masons residing in the East, the other signatures, to complete the required number of nine, being those of Companions residing entirely in London and its vicinity. The Committee have received some letters from Constantinople having reference to the proposed Chapter, which led them to consider that it would not be expedient to recommend Grand Chapter to grant the prayer of the Petitioners.

The following Notice of Motions has been received for the next Quarterly Convocation from E Companion Henry G. Warren, P.Z., of No. 778:—

1st. In Rule 4, page 14, to insert "two guineas" for "five guineas."

2nd. In Rule 21, page 19, to insert "one guinea" for "three guineas."

3rd. At the close of Rule 17, pages 18 and 19, to add the following words—"and each Chapter in England shall further make a return annually of each of its Members, and pay therewith a Fee of 2s. per annum for each such Member to form a Charity fund, to be disposed of in such manner as Grand Chapter may direct.

(Signed) R. W. JENNINGS, President,
Freemasons' Hall, London, 22nd January, 1863.

METROPOLITAN.

DOMATIC CHAPTER (No. 206).—The regular meeting of this chapter took place on the 22nd inst., at the Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane. Bro. Robert Wentworth Little, of the Royal Albert Lodge (No. 1209), was duly exalted to the supreme degree of H.R.A.M. The Companions then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when Comps. Brett were chosen as M.E.Z.; Cottebrune, H.; Ditchman, J.; H. G. Buss, P.Z.E.; Sisson, N.; Smith, P.Z., Treasurer; and Dickie, P. Soj. The sum of five pounds was unanimously voted to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows. After which the chapter was closed in solemn form, and the companions adjourned to banquet. On the cloth being removed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the M.E.Z., Comp. Tyrrell, then proposed "The Health of the newly-exalted Companion," and Comp. Little, in returning thanks, expressed the pleasure he felt at being received into a chapter so distinguished for the able manner in which the ceremonies of Royal Arch Masons were carried out. E. Comp. Farnfield, P.Z. No. 5, responded to the toast of the visitors, and E. Comps. Buss and Smith, to that of the P.Z.'s. of the chapter. The First Principal, in proposing "The Health of

Comp. Brett, the M.E.Z. elect," alluded to the fact of twelve brethren having been proposed by him for exaltation at their next meeting, showing the popularity of that E. companion amongst the members of the Craft.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

OBSERVANCE ENCAMPMENT.—This ancient and time-immemorial encampment held its second meeting for the season at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on Thursday, 22nd January, 1863, the Eminent Sir Knight Spratt in the chair. The minutes of the former meeting being read and confirmed, and other routine business proceeded with, Sir Knight Tulloh having at the previous meeting been unanimously elected, the E.C. for the ensuing year was duly presented, when the V.E. Sir Knight Dr. Hinxman, P.E.C. and Registrar, having opened a Board of Installed Commanders, duly inducted him into the chair. No other business being on the agenda paper, the encampment was closed in ancient form and solemn prayer.

MOUNT CALVARY ENCAMPMENT.—The Sir Knights and Knights Companions of this ancient encampment assembled at the London Coffee House, Ludgate-hill, on Monday, the 12th inst., when Knt. Comp. Charles Swan, 1st. Capt., who had been unanimously elected at the last conclave to preside for the ensuing year, was duly inaugurated as E.C., and appointed his officers as follows: Knts. Comps. Lord Londesborough, 1st Capt.; F. Binckes, 2nd Capt.; Rev. S. H. Grice, Prelate; Sir Knts. L. Lemanski, Treas.; H. J. Thompson, Reg.; Knt. Comps. W. Paas, Expert; Dromtra, Capt. of L. Comps. W. S. Wallace and T. J. Cottle of the R.A. Chapter of Unanimity (No. 97), Cheltenham, were installed as Knt. Comps. of the Illustrious Order, and were saluted and proclaimed in ancient form. Comp. T. A. Hoare, was installed under dispensation as a serving Knt. Comp. In addition to those named, there were present Sir Knts. J. Purdy, J. Boyd, P.E.C., Knt. Comps. Harfoot (of Plymouth), Simmonds and others. After refreshment the Sir Knts. and Knt. Comps. separated with mutual congratulations on the encouraging prospects of the encampment, which bids fair to attain a position consistent with the prestige it already enjoys, in connection with its antiquity and interesting traditions. We must not omit to record that in grateful testimony of his long services, Sir Knt. J. Purdy was elected by acclamation an honorary member of the Encampment.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

MOUNT CALVARY CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX.—A convocation of this chapter was held at the London Coffee House, Ludgate-hill, on Tuesday, the 13th inst., the Ex. and Perf. Prince, Louis Lemanski, M.W.S.; H. J. Thompson, Pont.; Simmonds, as 1st Gent.; Dromtra, as 2nd Gent.; F. Binckes, as Raph.; G. M. Purdy, Chanc.; when Sir Knight J. Boyd, Knight Comp. Wm. Paas, W. S. Wallace, and T. Harfoot, were introduced, installed as Ill. and Perf. Princes of this Sublime Degree, and proclaimed accordingly. Comp. T. A. Hoare was installed as a serving brother. The Ex. and Perf. Prince H. J. Thompson was unanimously elected M.W.S. for the ensuing year. At the banquet which followed the termination of business, the usual toasts were duly honoured, the newly-installed Sov. Princes expressing their high gratification at their reception with this ineffable degree.

MANCHESTER.—*Palatine Chapter of S.P.R.*—A meeting of this flourishing chapter was held on Thursday, the 22nd inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Cross-street Chambers, Manchester, at one o'clock, when the following illustrious and perfect brothers were present:—Wm. Courtenay Cruttenden, M.W.S.; Geo. H. Ormerod, H.P.; Stephen Smith, as 1st G.; Horace G. Alpass, as 2nd G.; Laurence Newall, R.; Henry A. Bennett, M.; Robert Bridgeford, Recorder; Benjamin St. John B. Joule, Org.; John Smith, Laurence Ormerod, Charles Ellis, Lord, George Hardman, G. P. Leather, John Bolderson, jun., John Yarker, jun. The following receptions took place:—Bros. Stephen Blair, Prov. G.M.E.L.; W. H. Wright, Prov. G.J.W.E.L.; Richard Rusden. Ill. Bro. Stephen Smith was elected M.W.S., and Ill. Bro. John W. Botsford re-elected Treasurer, and a vote of thanks passed to him for services kindly and gratuitously rendered the chapter in providing for the decoration of the principal room—the clysum of the ancient mysteries. The chapter was then duly closed, and the brothers adjourned to the Palatine, where the usual agreeable evening was spent.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS

EVANS'S GRAND HOTEL.

We are not much in the habit of referring to music halls, but cannot withhold our testing to the excellent management of the gentlemen's supper-room *par excellence*, under the able superintendence of Bro. McDavitt. Selections from the last operas are here given with a taste and precision, we look for in vain in similar establishments, whilst the other entertainments are also of a very superior order. This week a new and un-hackneyed comic singer has appeared in the person of a Mr. Walter Leonard, well known in Masonic and other private circles by a very different name. Mr. Leonard has a good appearance, easy delivery and graceful action, and only wants a few original songs to become a general favourite. However it is no small mark of appreciation of his abilities that a *debutant* has secured a double encore every evening. A visit to Evans' Grand Hotel will always repay our brethren.

Obituary.

BRO. WILLIAM JONES, M.D.

We have to announce the death of this well known brother at his residence in Lower Seymour-street, Portman-square, on Monday last, aged 52. Bro. Jones was initiated in the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge (No. 12) on the 13th of November, 1848, and continued a member for two years. He joined the Royal York Lodge (No. 7) in 1851, passed the chair in 1854, and continued a subscribing member until his death. He was exalted in the Chapter of Prudence (No. 12) on the 21st of January, 1850, and passed through the three chairs. Bro. Jones also took some interest in the higher degrees, attaining the 31°. Some years since Bro. Jones visited Aberdeen, from whence he took his medical degree, and brought back with him a *pseudo* charter for establishing the Bon Accord Mark Lodge under an Aberdeen charter, but which was repudiated by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, on its coming to their knowledge, and the companions granting it suspended from their Royal Arch privileges until the said warrant was surrendered. Then came the discussion in the Grand Lodge of England for the acknowledgement of the Mark degree, its rejection, and the establishment of the modern Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, Bro. Jones being at the time the leading genius. Bro. Jones was of a genial and kindly disposition, and leaves many friends to regret his loss.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and younger branches of the Royal family still remain at Cowes. The Prince of Wales has been in town and visited Covent Garden, the Haymarket and Adelphi Theatres. On Wednesday he proceeded to Osborne. From a correspondence that has been published we learn that his Royal Highness has consented to be present at the opening of the memorial of the Exhibition of 1851, which is fixed to take place on the 5th of June next. The Prince assigns as the main reason for his consent that he will thereby contribute to carry out the wishes of a beloved and lamented parent that the memorial of the Exhibition of 1851 should be inaugurated with every circumstance of honour." Sir W. J. Alexander has been appointed Attorney General, and Sir William Dunbar Keeper of the Privy Seal of the Prince. The Council of his Royal Highness will consist—in addition to the honourable Barons just named—of the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Portman, General Knollys, and Sir Charles Phipps. At a meeting of the Court of Common Council a motion was given notice of, that a committee be appointed to consider the best mode of testifying the loyalty of the City on the occasion of the public entry into the capital of the Prince of Wales and his affianced bride; and that the various public bodies be applied to in order to join in the demonstration. The motion was received with loud cheers, and there is little doubt that no effort will be spared to render this first visit of the illustrious pair to the City remembered by them to the last day of their lives. At Windsor arrangements are making to give their Royal Highnesses a magnificent reception, and throughout the country their Royal Highnesses' mar-

riage will be celebrated by various forms of rejoicing—dinners, balls, illuminations, &c. Prince Alfred has advanced a step in his profession. He has received an acting order as lieutenant, but an examination at the Royal Naval College still stands between his Royal Highness and confirmation in this rank.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality of London has fallen below the average. For the last week the deaths fell to 1426, which was 57 lower than the corrected average for the last ten years. For some weeks previous the deaths had been above the average. The births are as much above the average as the deaths are below them. In the City the same healthy condition of things is found to prevail.—It is stated by the *Observer* that Mr. Gladstone will be able, on "the budget night," to announce an increase of income to the extent of £3,000,000, and that the expenditure for 1863-64 will fall below that of 1862-63 by "more than two millions." The *Army and Navy Gazette*, indeed, asserts that the military expenditure alone will be reduced by an amount which will enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to remit twopence of the income tax. There will, it is said, be a decrease in the land forces of something like 5000 men, but the promised saving will mainly be effected under the head of "warlike stores," for which £2,200,000 was voted last year. The *Army and Navy Gazette* assures us that with all this pruning, "the advocates for efficiency will have no cause for lament."—In the report to the Central Relief Committee, by Mr. Farnall, it is stated that a further decrease of 4900 has taken place in the number of persons in receipt of parochial relief in the cotton manufacturing districts. Comparing the return of the 6th of December with that of the 17th inst., we find a total decrease of 32,583; but notwithstanding this partial, and we fear, only temporary improvement, the pauperism of the present time is 241.2 per cent in excess of that of the corresponding period of last year. The unions of Ashton-under-Lyne, Blackburn Glassop, Haslingden, Manchester, Oldham, Preston, Salford, Stockport, Rochdale, and Todmorden, are now in a position to avail themselves of the provisions of the Rate in Aid Act; and it would seem from an announcement made, that Ashton and Glassop have already received the necessary authority for casting a portion of their burden upon their neighbours.—The Poor-law Board have issued an order requiring the unions of Cheshire to contribute from their "common funds" the sum of £8097 in aid of the poor rates of the Aston-under-Lyne union. A similar order has been issued to the Derbyshire unions for the assistance of Glossop—the amount in this case being £1718. The ship *Hope* has arrived at Liverpool, from New York, with 1010 barrels of flour and 987 tons of guano, which are to be sold—the proceeds to be handed over to the Central Relief Committee in Manchester. The *George Griswold*, which recently left New York for Liverpool, with a large supply of provisions for the Lancashire operatives, will, in accordance with instructions from official quarters, be welcomed on her arrival in the Mersey, by salutes from Her Majesty's ship *Majestic*, and the batteries on each side of the river. A first instalment of £500 has been received in Manchester from the Water-colour Painters' Lancashire Relief Fund. The Artists' Committee hope that their collection will realise 4500 guineas.—A movement is on foot to provide a suitable cricket ground for the artisans, clerks, &c., of East London. May it prosper.—Sir Michael Seymour is expected to succeed Sir Henry Bruce as naval commander-in-chief at Portsmouth. This would cause a vacancy in the representation of Devonport, and speculation is busy among the politicians of the borough as to the gallant Admiral's successor. Sir James Hope and Mr. Otway a brother-in-law of Lord Clarence Paget, are mentioned on the Liberal side, while it is taken for granted that Mr. Ferrand will again come forward in the Conservative interest. It is stated that Colonel Adair, the Liberal candidate for the borough of Cambridge, will be opposed by Mr. Powell, who formerly represented Wigan.—The ceremony of the confirmation of the Rt. Rev. Dr. W. Thomson, Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, to the Archbishopric of York, has taken place at St. James, Piccadilly.—The proceedings of the Thames Conservancy Board are creating considerable alarm among the wharfingers and owners of property along the banks of the Thames. The board proposes to obtain a bill still further to increase its powers, and the passage of this bill promises to be warmly contested. A meeting of persons interested was held on Wednesday, at the Fishmongers' Hall, and resolutions were passed appointing a committee to take steps to oppose the bill. A subscription

was entered into, and considerable sums were put down.—A meeting was held on Wednesday, at the London Tavern to take into consideration the question of transportation to Western Australia. Major Sandford occupied the chair, and strongly supported the sending of convicts to Western Australia. These views were supported by other speakers, and it was shown that there was in the colony indicated a great want of labour, and that convicts as labourers would be gladly welcomed by the colonists. Eventually it was resolved to present a memorial to the Colonial Secretary on the subject.—The British North American Association has promised its support to the scheme for opening up a direct route between Canada and British Columbia. The subject was brought under the notice of the Association on Wednesday by Mr. Malcolm Cameron, who has arrived in this country as a delegate from the colony. Mr. Cameron pointed out the importance of facilitating communication between England and her promising dependency, and he quoted a good deal of evidence to show that few serious physical difficulties stand in the way of connecting by a good road or railway the shores of the Atlantic and the Pacific.—Miss Fray, who is not unknown to the frequenters of the courts of law, has again appeared in the Court of Queen's Bench to prefer an action against one of the judges, Sir Colin Blackburn, claiming £50 damages from the learned judge as the amount to which she had been wronged by an unjust decision of his. Miss Fray once brought an action against the Countess of Zetland, to whom she had been lady's-maid; she afterwards raised an action against her own solicitor; and it was for unjustly deciding against her in this case that the action was now brought against the judge. The Court, of course, at once dismissed the application.—The inquest on the labouring man Champion, who was found severely hurt and in a dying condition at a stable door in a lane in Nine-elms, as far back as December last has been brought to a close. The surgical testimony went to prove that the man died from injuries which could not have been inflicted by accident, and suspicion pointed to one or two men with whom he had been drinking in the course of the night he met with his death, but there was no clear evidence tending to criminate any of them. After repeated adjournments, the jury eventually returned a verdict that the death of the deceased was caused by violence, but by whom inflicted there was not sufficient evidence to show.—A dreadful murder has been committed at the village of Ashby-Folville, near Melton. Two farm servants were left alone in a farmhouse on Sunday afternoon, while the family were at church, and it appears that one of them, a lad of sixteen, shot the other—a young man named Harvey—dead. The murderer at once absconded, but he was apprehended on the following morning at Leicester. He had in his possession the deceased's Prayer-book, and a pawn-ticket for Harvey's watch. The prisoner, when taken into custody, said he had killed his fellow-servant "by accident."—We continue to receive accounts of the disastrous effects of the recent gales. The saddest narrative which has yet reached us is that of the loss of the ship *Premelia Flood*, which foundered about twelve miles off Holyhead on Tuesday week. Caught in the dreadful hurricane which swept along the coast on that day, the vessel became leaky and disabled, and the crew were making preparations for abandoning her, when she was struck by a tremendous sea, which at once sent her to the bottom. Every soul on board perished, with the single exception of the captain, who caught hold of a piece of wood, to which he clung for upwards of twenty hours. At length he was cast ashore near Carnarvon, and he now lies in a very feeble state. On Saturday, the loss of no fewer than three ships were reported at Lloyd's, and we regret to say that in each of the three cases nearly all hands went to the bottom. One of the ships foundered at sea; the two others went ashore, but the loss of life was the same in all.—Miss Burchell, the daughter of the well-known railway solicitor, has been burned to death by her clothes catching fire in her bedroom.—On the same evening, two of the corps de ballet at the Princess's Theatre were also seriously burnt; one has since died, and the other is in a dangerous state.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—It is announced that the Prince of Leiningen, the grandson of the late Duchess of Kent, by her first husband, and therefore distantly related to our Queen is to be put forward as a candidate for the throne of Greece. The Prince is a Protestant, and Post-Captain in the British navy. He is aged 33, and married to the Princess Marie of Baden.—The suppressed discontent of the Poles, of the existence and

intensity of which we have from time to time had indications in the political assassinations which have been perpetrated, has now broken out into open insurrection. The immediate cause is said to be the conscription which has just taken place throughout Poland, but the organised manner in which the revolution commenced shows that it must have been long planned. The scheme was to massacre the whole of the Russian soldiers cantoned in the various towns. Accordingly, at midnight on the 22nd inst., at Warsaw and in every town throughout the province, the revolutionists simultaneously fell upon the various detachments of Russian troops, and killed all the soldiers they found in the houses where they were billeted, and then set fire to several villages. At Warsaw, after the first confusion was over, the detachments of Russian military united, and a serious encounter took place between them and the insurgents, and the latter were repulsed. Even more serious encounters took place at Plock and other towns. A telegram from St. Petersburg of Wednesday states that the Polish insurrectionary bands have taken refuge in the forests, and that in several places the peasants themselves have acted against and even captured the insurgents. At Lublin, says the same telegram, the peasantry captured twenty insurgents, including a Catholic priest, and handed them over to the authorities. The conscription, it is added, has been carried out at Plock itself without resistance, and Warsaw is perfectly tranquil. A Vienna telegram on the other hand, asserts that the fighting is still sharply kept up.—A recent speech of the Emperor is the sole topic of interest in Paris. His Majesty's speech has produced a most favourable impression, and is considered as one of his most successful efforts. His flattering allusion to English liberty, which he said was the basis of our commercial greatness and maritime power, and the expression of his belief that the same system would achieve the same results in France when the basis on which it rested were properly understood and acted on, has naturally resuscitated the hope that his Majesty will, sooner or later, lay down a large portion of his despotic power, and confer on his people a more liberal and constitutional Government.—The conflict between the King of Prussia and his Parliament, far from showing any symptoms of subsidence, seems likely to grow more envenomed.—In replying to an address presented by the European Consuls, the new Viceroy of Egypt declared his intention of devoting his utmost energies to the promotion of Egyptian prosperity. He would, he said, enforce order and economy in the financial administration, and would deviate from his predecessors' practice by fixing for himself a civil list, which he should never exceed. By these means he should be enabled to devote all the resources of the country to the development of agriculture, and to abolish the fatal system of forced labour hitherto followed by the Egyptian government in its works. Public education and the administration of justice would be especial objects of his solitude.

AMERICA.—The news brought by the *Hammonia* and *Anglo-Saxon* from New York, to the 12th instant, is generally favourable to the Southern cause. The attack by the Federals on Vicksburg had entirely failed, and they had re-embarked and proceeded down the Yazoo River, for the purpose, it was said, of attacking the place from another point. The Confederates, however, were preparing for their reception, and had erected batteries commanding the river communication between Memphis and Vicksburg. The forces of General Banks and Commander Farragut, which took no part in the attack on Vicksburg, are to make a joint effort to capture Port Hudson. The Confederates had attacked Springfield, in Missouri, and, according to one account, had captured it, with a large amount of arms and ammunition; but according to another, the Confederates had been repulsed. The Confederates have gained a great success in Texas, where they have captured Galveston and obtained a great victory over the much-dreaded gun-boats. Five Confederate steamers, armed with guns and protected with cotton bales, boldly attacked the Federal flotilla, captured the *Harriet Lane*, and so roughly handled the other gun-boats that two of them were glad to escape, while the Federals blew up their flag-ship so hastily that Commodore Kenshaw perished in the explosion. The *Asia* has arrived with New York dates up to the 16th instant. General Banks and Commodore Farragut had been repulsed in the Mississippi. The loss sustained by the Confederates at Murfreesboro is computed by themselves at 9000, and they reckon that the Federal force at Newbern numbers 50,000 men. The Capitol at Baton Rouge had been

destroyed by fire, with all its contents. M'Clermand's expedition had ascended White River. It was said that ten Federal officers had been executed in Arkansas for the acts of General M'Neil; and, according to the *Richmond Whig*, the Federal officers captured at Murfreesboro would be kept in prison until Gen. Butler should be given up to the Confederate Government. It appears that the President's proclamation had almost depopulated the district of Virginia between the Rappahannock and the Potomac of negroes. Congress had before it a bill to give money to Maryland and Virginia to enable them to emancipate their slaves; and the Governor of the latter State had called out the militia to repel an attack from the side of North Carolina. A Democratic senator had been elected for Pennsylvania. The financial aspect does not improve. On receipt of the rumour of defeat on the Mississippi, gold, which was on the 13th at a premium of 43%, in New York, rose on the 14th to 47½, and on the 16th to 50. From a speech of Mr. Spaulding, in the Senate, it appears that the Government must borrow in some form 1,900,000 dols. every day, Sundays included, between the 13th inst., and the 1st of July. In addition to receipts from customs and taxes, 1,117,000,000 dols. would be required to carry on the Government until July, 1854. A note has been addressed by the French Foreign Minister to the representative of France at Washington, containing fresh proposals of accommodation. He says the North might enter into negotiations with the South in some city to be declared neutral, without discontinuing the war, and that when the representatives of the two parties met the grievances which led to separation might be examined, with a hope that the recollections of former times and common interests might prove stronger than the causes from which the war has arisen.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The Calcutta mail brings papers from Calcutta to the 18th December, and from Hong-Kong to the 13th December. The intelligence from Calcutta contains nothing of special interest. The intelligence from China is mainly confirmatory of that already received. The Imperial cause was gaining ground, and the rebels had received more than one defeat. Shang-yu, in the neighbourhood of Ningpo, had been wrested from them by 700 disciplined Chinese, of Ward's corps, under Major Wood, 100 French-drilled Chinese under General Le Brithon, and a corps of artillery under M. Giguier, the Customs agent at Ningpo. The latter was shot through the arm while leading a gallant but rash charge against the enemy. The Taepings have left the neighbourhood of Shanghai. The Imperial troops were being concentrated in the vicinity of Nankin in order to besiege that city, and the rebels were collecting additional forces for its defence. The remains of the late Emperor had just been conducted in great state to their last resting-place, about 80 miles distant from Peking.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W.—Only did his duty in opposing the admission into the Order of a man whom he deemed to be unworthy of reception into the Craft. If, in consequence of his independence he was debarred from admission into a Knights Templar Encampment, he has no remedy, the Grand Lodge of England not acknowledging that Order. It may be some consolation to J. W. to know that the Editor of this paper was excluded from an Encampment on the ground that, "as he was in the habit of speaking in Grand Lodge not always to the delight of the executive, he might exercise a similar privilege in Grand Conclave." We recommend our correspondent to follow the example of our Editor, take the matter coolly, and if he wishes to become a K. T., seek another Encampment. Association with brethren, or Sir Knights, who can act in the manner he describes can never add either to his self respect or his personal comfort.

R. S. T.—We shall not condescend to reply to your questions.

THE NEW MASONIC HALL, JERSEY.

ERRATUM.—Our subscribers will perceive that in Fig. 4 of the illustrations we gave last week, the letters R. A. C. R. should be erased, and in the references on page 15, the room so marked as the Royal Arch Chapter Room should be described as the upper part of the Masonic Temple, which being on the Principal Floor, extends up to the roof, and is lighted by the skylight at the top, the windows at the side being marked as blank. The room marked C. on Fig. 4 will probably be the Arch Chapter Room.