

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1863.

#### ATTACKS ON FREEMASONRY.

A local obscurity appears to have delivered a lecture to the Young Men's Christian Association at Poole, last month, and, as his efforts do not seem to have been appreciated, according to his own estimation of them, so in order to attract greater notoriety to himself, he has addressed a letter to the *Poole and South-Western Herald*, under the catching title of "Freemasonry and Christianity," in which is repeated what he said at the meeting. The letter is signed with the orator's name, but we shall not insert it because it is not our business to become an advertising medium for such individuals, nor is the attack powerful enough to call for criticism or argument, it being but "sorry skimble skamble stuff."

A member of the lodge, at Bournemouth, has sent us the paper, admitting that it can do no harm amongst the Craft, but fearing its influence on the uninitiated. We confess we do not share his apprehensions, and we had hoped we had done, for ever, with having to answer such oft-repeated nonsense; nor would it be becoming in us to reply, *in extenso*, to the local lecturer, as every assertion he has made has been refuted over and over again in our pages; but, as our Bournemouth brother wishes us to write on the subject so that he may be prepared to answer any objectors to the Craft, amongst his own circle, we reluctantly enter again on the question without, in any way, adopting the letter alluded to, as a theme—for it is only suited to such audiences as those of Christian Young Men's Associations who are known to be content with tenth-rate essays, if a large amount of intolerance is infused into them,—so that we pass over the lecturer's unappreciated labours, and select his heading for our remarks.

Freemasonry and Christianity is adroitly chosen to convey a sting and make a sensation. It insinuates that these subjects are antagonistic just as the opposite characters apply to right and left, in and out, or up and down. Like all narrow-minded sectarianism, it is an assumption of a foregone conclusion worthy only of a low churchman or dissenter. A writer of catholic feelings would have put it, "Is Freemasonry Christianity?" and then have done his best to prove his case one way or other; but those who address the so-called Young Men's Christian Institutions, have no generosity outside their own circumscribed pale, and find it necessary to bear out their assertions—for they do not argue but dogmatise—by placing their subject in the only view that their bigotry will permit, that is starting with that which will be acceptable to their disciples, whilst they brand those, whom they go out of the way to attack, with an implied difference of opinion as opposite as it is false.

Freemasonry is not religion. It is not sectarian. It does not claim to exercise any authority over the faith of its members. Ours is a society that does not interfere with a man's creed, but leaves that to be, as it always should be, unfettered, and a matter between each individual member and his Maker.

Freemasonry is not an antagonist to Christianity, because it does not set up for a recognised teacher of religion—it does not, very properly, attempt to define any phase of faith because it is not endowed with such powers, hence it is no church, or sect, but an institution founded on the laws of morality and the three great virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity.

In the popular sense, then, Freemasonry is not Christianity, for it was in existence ages before our Blessed Saviour came on earth to save and redeem fallen man. But it is Christian in its precepts and practice.

It is to Freemasonry that we are indebted for the spread of the doctrines of the Reformation. The Vaudois, the Albigenses, Luther, Huss, Wicklif, and many scores of the early Reformers were Freemasons—not under that name, for it is only a comparatively modern one—they were all members of a secret society practising a large number of degrees, scarcely changed in anything but language from those we use, and having amongst them the same words and signs.

The Papal church knew this, and it accounts for the excommunications hurled against Freemasons by various Popes whilst, in earlier ages, the brotherhood had been granted numberless indulgences as true sons of holy Church.

It is a somewhat remarkable fact that the same post which brought us the *South-Western Herald* also brought us the *Southern Chronicle* of Limerick, and in it we meet with the following:—

"We noticed in the last *Reporter* a letter signed 'Catholicus,' in which the writer seeks to impugn the sublime principles of Freemasonry by bringing into his vile sarcasm the names of such exalted members of the brotherhood as the Duke of Leinster. We can only pity the desperate daring of an individual who attempts to ridicule a fraternity of which he is totally ignorant.—We can assure him that the hallowed principles of the Craft are far too ennobling and exalted to be influenced in the slightest degree by any petty taunts this anonymous penman may fling for the gratification of a sordid taste. They have a shield to resist all the poisoned darts of the wicked one. For the information of 'Catholicus' we assure him that these principles are not of human origin: they are based on the angelic announcement—'Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, and good will to men,' to which every upright Mason inviolably adheres; and if these tenets are not in unison with the feelings of the writer, he must only seek association with another class of angelic beings, equally bent on diffusing the same spirit of unkindly feeling which he seeks to inculcate. The confraternity that he censures is based on the pedestal of Christian virtues, and is co-existent with all ages and all time; kings and potentates have gladly linked themselves by the 'mystic tie' with the humblest peasant, men of all ranks, and classes, and creeds, 'of every nation, and of every clime,' the Christian, the phi-

losopher, the patriot, the warrior, the statesman, have all felt and acknowledged the blessings that flow from its inviolable bond of brotherhood, and such a league can afford to smile at any attempt which the arch enemy of Masonry may institute to disturb the universal harmony of this distinguished Order."

We are reviled on both sides. A lecturer at a Young Men's Christian Association wishes to find a larger audience for his attack, and selects a country paper for its medium. So, too, does the Irish "Catholicus," replied to, as above, by the *Southern Chronicle*, and Erastianism and Popery may thus be seen walking hand in hand together to damage a system the former cannot comprehend and the latter fears.

We have before stated that to all the outpouring of the lecturer's indignation we shall not reply. Our rituals and their language would be, if quoted, incomprehensible to such obtuse perceptions, and we can neither give brains to those devoid of them nor think of "throwing pearls before swine."

We seriously deprecate the unwarrantably glib manner in which the elect, amongst professing religionists, as they term themselves, on all occasions, torture, distract, and profane the Holy Scriptures, by quoting God's Word, as if it was to be lightly used, on every occasion; but, in a spirit of humble reverence to that New Testament they so often parody, we would entreat them to peruse the whole of the vii. chapter of S. Matthew's Gospel, and apply it to themselves.

Freemasonry has nothing to fear from such puerile attacks as those of the advertising lecturer, but our brethren should be warned of one danger—each of them will understand us—that however speciously the attack on them is made, let them not refute it by quoting our ceremonial, but by treating such insinuations with contempt, and evincing, by their demeanour in the house of God—their parish church—in their homes, in their lives and actions, and everywhere that the mysterious eye of the Almighty penetrates, that whilst they are Freemasons they are Christians, as much superior in Faith, Hope, and Charity, as Freemasonry is superior to all the Young Men's Christian Associations in the universe.

Autumn.—How beautiful is this most glorious season of the year. The trees are tinged with yellow, and the fields look pleased that they are relieved from their labours—the air is bracing and healthy; then does the farmer smile upon the happy result of his industry, and places his hand upon his heart and thanks God his efforts have proved so successful. It is a season of the year when life can be enjoyed. The human frame is strengthened and becomes inoculated with its former elasticity, after having experienced the prostrating effects of the heat of summer.

True happiness is of a retired nature, and an enemy to pomp and noise: it arises, in the first place, from the enjoyment of one's self; and in the next, from the friendship and conversation of a few select companions.

## THE MASONIC MIRROR.

### METROPOLITAN.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—At a regular meeting of this red apron lodge, held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 19th inst., there were present: Bros. Ralph M. Smith, W.M.; R. Gibbons, S.W.; George Smith, J.W.; A. H. Hewlett, P.M. and Treas.; Matthew Cooke, Sec.; L. D. Phillips, S.D.; E. J. Page, J.D.; P. D. Collins, I.G.; W. Watson and G. S. Brandon, P.M.'s; G. F. Bonner, G. W. Yates, W. H. Warr, L. W. Desanges, and W. Kirby. Visitors: R. Eckford, 819; W. J. Eckford, 753; J. D. Caulcher, 753; R. Mills, 251; and J. Vause, 905. Bros. Bonner, Desanges, and Vause were passed to the second degree. This being the night of election, Bro. Gibbons, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M.; Bro. Hewlett, re-elected Treas.; and Bro. Crawley, re-elected Tyler. A P.M.'s jewel was voted to Bro. R.M. Smith, the outgoing W.M., and the brethren separated.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—This old-established lodge held an emergency meeting on Thursday, December 17th, at Bro. C. A. Cathie's, Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark. Bro. Frederick Walters, W.M., assisted by Bros. D. Davies, W. E. Jackson, J. Donkin, and E. Smith, P.M.'s; E. N. Levy, S.W.; Moore, J.W.; Lake, J.D.; J. C. Gooddy, I.G.; C. A. Cathie, H. Dunyer, Watkins, Morris, and many other brethren opened the lodge, and performed the business of the meeting. Amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. A. Avery, P.M. 619; R. Welsford, P.M. 548; W. Y. Laing, S.W. 45; and some others. In consequence of the unavoidable absence of two of the initiates and one of the passings, there only remained Bro. W. Bishop, who was passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft Freemason in a superior manner, which rendered the work very impressive, the W.M. being able to devote his entire energy to this one ceremony. The W.M. elect, Bro. E. N. Levy, requested the W.M., Bro. F. Walters, to procure a new set of tracing boards for the next meeting, as he intended personally to present them to the lodge, although several brethren had expressed a wish to share in the honour. Bro. J. C. Gooddy, I.G., and Steward for the Boys' School, hoped that he might be allowed the honour of presenting the triangles and other paraphernalia for holding the ashlers at the Warden's pedestals, for after seeing the very earnest manner the W.M., Bro. F. Walters, supported by their indefatigable P.M. and Treasurer, Bro. D. Davies, had repaired, renewed, and renovated their lodge furniture, he would willingly assist those brethren in their laudable exertions by contributing a small portion of it himself; therefore he asked the brethren to allow him this part, and he would leave it to the W.M. to procure them. The W.M. elect felt sorry there was not any stewardship vacant this ensuing year, or he had fully intended to do himself the honour of representing the lodge during his year of office to at least one of the Charities, but under the circumstances, he would defer the pleasure until the next vacancy occurred, when he would gladly undertake the responsibility of again serving them. After business, the brethren sat down to a superior cold collation, prepared by Bro. C. A. Cathie in his usual admirable style.

St. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 140).—This lodge met at the Lecture Hall, Greenwich, on Wednesday. Bro. Dr. Scott, W.M., presided. The election for W.M. for the ensuing year fell on Bro. E. W. Habbuck, P.M. 58, and the J.W. of the lodge. Bro. Ryder, P.M., was re-elected Treasurer. There was one initiation. The lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to Bro. Moore's Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich, where they partook of a superior banquet.

TEMPERANCE LODGE (No. 169).—The last regular meeting for the year of this well-known lodge was held at Bro. Holman's, Plough Tavern, Plough-bridge, Rotherhithe, on Thursday, Dec. 19th. There was only one ceremony done. This being election night, a ballot was taken for W.M. for the ensuing year, when the votes were, for Bro. G. Brown, S.W., 18; for Bro. J. T. Moss, a Past Warden, 13; so Bro. G. Brown, S.W., was declared to be duly elected. A ballot for Treasurer was also taken, and Bro. J. Hoiins, P.M., was re-elected. Bro. Newland, W.M., presided. After the lodge was closed, the brethren partook of an excellent cold collation, which reflected great credit on Bro. Holman. Visitors: J. Bavin, J.W. 147; J. Lightfoot, S.D. 147; J. Patte, I.G. 147; and many others.

## PROVINCIAL.

## CHESHIRE.

CREWE.—*Lodge of Four Cardinal Virtues* (No. 979).—This lodge met for the fourth time on the 17th inst., when the following brethren were present:—Bros. Mould, W.M.; Bullock, S.W.; Scott, J.W.; Reade, P.M.; Dr. Lord, Treas.; Eardly, S.D.; Geo. Lord, Sec. and J.D., *pro tem.*; Kenyon, I.G.; Wilkinson, Tyler; Broadbent and Price. The visitors were Bros. Edwards, S.W. 293; J. S. Nixon, Sec. 293; Yoxall and Thursby, late 899; Brereton, 852. The lodge was opened by the W.M. with solemn prayer, and the last minutes confirmed. A ballot was then taken for Bro. Edwards as a joining member, and he was unanimously elected. The W.M. then called upon the S.W. to rule the lodge. Bro. Bullock having opened in the second degree, examined Bros. Yoxall, Broadbent, and Wilkinson, who were candidates to be raised. The examination showing great proficiency, they retired and the lodge was opened in the 3rd degree, when the S.W. raised these three brethren, separately, to the sublime degree of M.M., giving the traditional history, lecture on tracing board, and presenting the working tools collectively. The J.W. now called the brethren from labour to refreshment, when wine, coffee, and sandwiches were partaken of. The usual toasts were given, and the W.M. sang, "The Fine Old English Gentlemen," accompanied on Collard's grand piano, by the S.W. The S.W. sang Bro. A. Bowles' new song, "The Five Points," and the Masonic "Auld Lang Syne." The S.W., in proposing "The Visitors," made some pleasing allusions to Bro. Thursby, who would depart in a few days to Australia, and the brethren, one and all, wished him and his family God speed. The J.W. now lowered his column, and the brethren all obeyed the call to labour. The lodge was then closed in the 3rd degree, and the lecture on the 2nd tracing board delivered. The P.C. lodge having been closed, the lecture on the 1st tracing board, including the illustrations, was given. At the conclusion of which the brethren testified their great pleasure at the admirable working of Bro. Bullock, he having gone through the three raisings and three lectures, &c., not only without a single slip, but with great elocutionary power. The W.M. then retook the gavel from the S.W., and Mr. J. Moody and Mr. W. Evans were proposed and seconded for initiation and Bro. Yoxall as a joining member. The Secretary then read a correspondence that had taken place between Bro. Blackburn, of Surbiton, Surrey, and the W.M., on the right of the S.W. working the three degrees in the presence of the W.M. and a P.M. As Bro. Blackburn has taken a prominent part in the late correspondence on this point, we append his letter and the W.M.'s reply:—

(Copy.)

"December 7th, 1863.

"Dear Sir and Brother,—May I ask you the favour to inform me if the report in the FREEMASON'S MAGAZINE of Nov. 28th, as to the proceedings of your lodge on the 19th November be correct? My opinion is that a Warden cannot initiate, pass, or raise; and unless you inform me that your J.W. (Bro. Bullock), who passed and raised candidates on that occasion, is also an installed Master, I shall try the question by citing you and your lodge before the Board of General Purposes.—Yours fraternally,

"Mr. Mould."

"W.M. BLACKBURN.

(Copy of Reply.)

"December 11th, 1863.

"Dear Sir and Brother,—I beg to inform you that the account of our lodge on the 19th November, which appeared in the MAGAZINE of the 28th, is authentic in every particular, and that our S.W. is not an installed Master. Bro. Bullock has had the Grand Registrar's opinion on two occasions, Bro. McIntyre says a Warden can work the three degrees, I, as W.M., and Bro. Read, as P.M., are both of the same opinion, especially after reading the very conclusive arguments that have been given in reply to yours on this subject in the late correspondence in the MAGAZINE. As we are but a very young lodge, I hope you will have the *charity* to forward our expenses when you really do command us to appear before the Board of General Purposes. We hold our lodge on the 17th inst., and, if your 'cable tow' is not too short, we shall be glad to see you, when you can have the pleasure, that many have had, of hearing our S.W. work the three degrees, lectures, &c.—Yours fraternally,

J. MOULD, W.M.

After some discussion on these letters, the brethren resolved unanimously, "That they entirely approved of the W.M.'s and

the S.W.'s conduct in the matter." The S.W. stated that Bro. Blackburn now was going to lay a complaint to the Prov. G.M. of Cheshire, in the first instance, and if not satisfied with his decision, then to bring it before the Board of General Purposes. No lodge will rejoice more than the 979, that this matter should be settled. This most enjoyable and instructive evening's labour being ended, the W.M. closed the lodge with prayer; and expressed a wish that every evening of the coming festive season, may be as pleasurably and profitably spent by the members of the Four Cardinal Virtues, as the present one had been.

## LANCASHIRE (EAST.)

MANCHESTER.—*Caledonian Lodge* (No. 204).—This lodge held its annual meeting at the Masonic Lodge Rooms, Manchester, on Wednesday the 9th inst. Present, eighty-one members, and the following visitors:—Bros. Stephen Smith, P.M. 44, and Prov. G. Supt. of Works East Lancashire; Austin Stellard, W.M. elect 317 and Prov. G. Steward East Lancashire; W. Emmott, W.M. 645 and Prov. G. Steward East Lancashire; Henry Carrigg, P.M. 44 and W.M. 993; Henry Thomas Warren, W.M. 44; John Clayton, W.M. 163; Joseph Eltoft, W.M. 635; T. L. Bold, P.M. 189; John Lancaster Hine, P.M. 317 and 325; Thos. Lea, P.M. 724; Alfred Hammond, P.M. 152; John Richardson, 44, and others. The W.M. elect, Bro. James Payne, having been duly presented, was installed in ancient form by Bro. Baldwin, P.M. The newly installed Master then invested the following brethren officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. S. P. Bidder, S.W.; T. H. G. Berrey, J.W.; Isaac W. Petty, Treas.; H. J. Baldwin, Sec.; J. C. Hind, S.D.; J. Brocklehurst, J.D.; and J. D. Brocklehurst, I.G. The following brethren were appointed lodge Stewards, Bros. J. L. Hampson, W. Ogden, J. Currie, J. Mountain, J. C. Potts, and E. Heaps. The ballot was in favour of Bro. William Martin (late of this lodge), as a joining member. The ballot was in favour of Mr. Thomas Alderson and Mr. Robert Kershaw. Mr. Kershaw was initiated by the W.M., and Mr. Alderson by Bro. Baldwin. The Secretary read a report from the Manchester Relief Committee (this has already been published to in our columns), and the following report of the business of the official year, 1862-3, of the Caledonian Lodge (No. 204), having closed, it is thought that, as an accompaniment to the usual balance sheet of the Treasurer, it will be acceptable to the brethren to receive the following brief *resumé* of the proceedings of the lodge for the past year. The W.M., Bro. Elias Nathan, having been installed on the 10th December, it was resolved, in place of the usual banquet, to give a Soirée, at which the ladies of the brethren could be present, and which accordingly took place on Thursday, the 8th of January, 1863, at the Town Hall, when upwards of 200 brethren and ladies were present, also the Mayor of Manchester (Abel Heywood, Esq.), the Ex-Mayor (Thomas Goadsby, Esq.), and the Right W. Prov. Grand Master (Bro. Stephen Blair, Esq.) It is almost unnecessary to allude to the great success of this gathering, all the arrangements for which, were in the most *recherché* style, and met with the highest commendation from all present. It may be sufficient to say, that it was materially assisted by the great courtesy of the mayor, in granting the use of his very handsome parlour as a drawing-room, and the council chamber as a supper room. In March, the initiation fee was increased from £6 6s. to £8 8s., and the joining fee from £2 2s. to £3 3s., and it is certain, by taking this step, the lodge has gained both in character and number. In June, the lodge held its annual pic-nic, at Clumber Park, the seat of our Right Worshipful Bro. the Duke of Newcastle, and enjoyed a very delightful day at Worksop, Clumber Park, and the beautiful Forest Sherwood. During the course of the day a photograph was taken, containing upwards of 220 portraits, and presenting a very good view of Clumber House. The best thanks of the lodge were given to the Duke of Newcastle, for his kindness in having placed both his house and grounds at the service of the committee, also to Bro. Edward Ross, Esq. (late of this lodge), for his great care and attention in making the railway arrangements for the transit of so large a party. In making this report, it would be unbecoming to omit allusion to the services of those brethren who undertook and carried out all the detailed arrangements of the soirée and of the pic-nic. The members and the ladies who were the guests of the lodge on these two occasions, are indebted to those brethren who devoted so much labour and energies to the duties involved. In July, a communication was received from the Grand Lodge, announcing that the number of the lodge had been advanced from 246 to 204.

On the 26th July, the foundation-stone of the Freemasons' Hall was laid by the Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire, Bro. Stephen Blair. The brethren will see by the Treasurer's report that the Caledonian Lodge has invested a portion of its funds in this great and important undertaking. The following handsome presents have been made to the lodge during the past year, viz. :—The beautiful velvet cushion (by Bro. Thomas Oakden), on which the Bible was carried in the procession to lay the foundation-stone of the Freemasons' Hall; the handsome Lewis (by Bro. John Bell), used in raising and lowering the corner stone; and a very costly album (by Bro. Thomas Rawson), to hold two hundred portrait of members of the lodge. To render the present of Bro. Rawson of value to the lodge, Bro. Silas Eastham offered in the most liberal manner to photograph the portrait of every member of the lodge, free of all charge. When the constant changes that must take place in so large a body as the Caledonian Lodge are borne in mind, it is unnecessary to refer to the value of Bro. Eastham's offer, which will form a record of great interest in future days. Bro. Gardiner, of the Kilwinning Lodge, presented an engraved copy of the "Investment of Burns, as poet laureate of the Kilwinning Lodge," and Bro. Blair, Prov. G.M., a copy of a full length portrait of himself. The lodge, following the example set in former years, in showing respect to the Past Masters, has presented to Bro. G. C. Thorpe, P.M., a portrait of himself, painted by Mr. J. A. Wasse, and has secured a copy to hang in the lodge rooms. The following is a summary of the work of the past year :—December—Two meetings, six initiations, four passings, and four raisings. January—Three meetings, three initiations, six passings, and one raising. February—Three meetings, five initiations, one passing, and four raisings. March—Two meetings, seven initiations, two passings, and one raising. April—Three meetings, three initiations, seven passings, and two raisings. May—Three meetings, two initiations, three passings, and six raisings. June—Two meetings, four initiations, one passing, and three raisings. July—Three meetings, two initiations, eight passings, and five raisings. August—Two meetings, one initiation, one passing, and three raisings. September—Two meetings, five initiations, and three raisings. October—Two meetings, five initiations, and four passings. November—Two meetings, two initiations, and three passings. Making a total of 29 meetings, 45 initiations, 40 passings, and 32 raisings. In the same period four brethren, have joined the lodge, three proposals have been rejected, and several withdrawn. During the year three brethren have resigned, and three have died. Bro. W. Grant Moore (late S.D.) tendered his resignation, in consequence of having fixed his residence for the future in London. It was accepted with regret, and the Secretary was requested to write to Bro. Moore expressing the same to him from the lodge. At seven o'clock the brethren adjourned to the *Athenaeum*, when about ninety sat down to a well-covered board, provided by Bro. Saml. Wright. The cloth having been removed, the W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. In referring to the several Charities, the successful appeal made by Bro. Binckes on behalf of the Boys' School was alluded to, and the brethren of 201 were reminded that, although they had done very well during the past year (having subscribed about 100 guineas), the lodge expected them to do even more next year; and Bro. Charles Affleck, P.M., expressed his willingness to receive names and subscriptions. The meeting closed about half-past eleven o'clock.

#### LANCASHIRE (WEST.)

PRESTON.—*Royal Freston Lodge* (No. 333).—On Friday evening the 18th inst., an emergency meeting of this lodge was held at the Prince Albert Hotel, Fulwood, Preston, Bro. F. F. T. Hobbs, W.M., in the chair. Bros. C. Carnegie, W.M., S.W.; W. Thompson, J.W.; W. Lawrence, S.D.; when Messrs. J. F. Grier, Quartermaster, 11th D.B.; J. L. Kelly, Lieut. 10th Regiment; and J. McO'Leany, Ensign 10th Regiment, were balloted for and initiated into Ancient Freemasonry. There being no other business, the lodge was closed in solemn form at ten p.m., when the brethren retired to refreshment, where the usual Masonic and other toasts were given and responded to. The newly initiated brethren responded in a very feeling manner when their healths were proposed. The toast of the visitors was responded to by Bro. Sergeant-Major J. B. Forbs, 4th Hussars, Lodge No. 500, Ireland (one of the Six Hundred Balaclava Heroes), and alluded to the kind manner in which he had been received in this lodge, and 343 likewise; and said we could

only know the value of Masonry when we meet among strangers and were received as brothers. The brethren separated much pleased with that truly Masonic spirit at the hour of high twelve.

#### ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

##### METROPOLITAN.

WOOLWICH.—*Invicta Chapter S.P.R.*—The members of this chapter met on Friday, the 18th, at the Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich, when the following Ill. brethren were present:—Colonel Clerk, 33°, as M.W.S.; W. H. Carter, 18°, Prelate; Captain Boyle, 31°, G. Marshall; P. Laird, 18°, Raphael; Matthew Cooke, 30°, Org.; J. W. Figg, 30°, Sec.; Beaty, 18°; Dr. Huges, 18°; and Hodges, 18°. Visitor, the Ill. Bro. Meymott, 18°. The business consisted in advancing to the degree of Rose Croix, Capt. Sydney Millett, J. E. Tyrrell, and Lieut. Price. Capt. Boyle, 31°, was then most ably installed M.W.S. for the ensuing year, by Colonel Clerk, S.G.I.G. 33°. The officers appointed were as follows:—W. H. Carter, 18°, Prelate; Capt. Dadson, 30°, 1st Gen.; J. R. Thompson, 18°, 2nd Gen.; Capt. M'Laughlin, 18°, G. Marshal; Geo. Lambert, 30°, Raphael; Matthew Cooke, 30°, Org., Dir. of Cers., and Herald; J. W. Figg, 30°, re-appointed Sec., and P. Laird, 18°, re-appointed Treas. The business being over, the members adjourned to Bro. De Grey's to dinner, where they passed and evening full of kind feeling and pleasure, a reproduction of those nights which have caused the *Invicta* meetings to be looked upon as the most agreeable and profitable in Freemasonry.

##### ORDER OF MALTA.

MOUNT CALVARY PRIORY.—The Mount Calvary Priory held a meeting at the Masonic Union Rooms, 14, Bedford-row, on Friday, the 11th inst., when the Grand Master honoured the members with his presence. Notwithstanding the spacious premises recently erected, the pressure for accommodation was so great that the G. Dir. of Cers. could only spare the front club room for the purpose; but under the skilful management of Sir Knt. J. W. Thompson, P. Prior, the best use was made of the limited space, and the new floor cloths, or tracing boards, and the other handsome paraphernalia belonging to the priory, were much admired. The new banner, bearing the white cross of St. John upon a red field, and the companion banner of Malta, just executed for the Grand Conclave, were placed right and left of the throne. Precisely at ten o'clock, the Prior, Sir Knt. Swan, took his seat with the G.M. on his right, and supported by the rev. Prelate, Sir Knts. Grice, on his left, Francis, as Capt. General; F. Binckes, as Lieut.-General; Shuttleworth, G.V.C., as G. Marshall; and Nicholson, as Capt. of the Outposts. The Lieut.-General having seen the sentries properly posted, the priory was opened in ancient form, and fifteen companions of the Order of the Temple were admitted into the noble Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

#### MARK MASONRY.

##### GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, AND THE COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS OF THE BRITISH CROWN.

The half-yearly communication was held on Wednesday, the 16th December, 1863, in the new Grand Hall erected by the "Masonic Union, Limited," at No. 14, Bedford-row, which, with the supplementary rooms, &c., has been fully described in the *FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE*, of the 19th inst., in the account of the opening ceremony by the Grand Conclave of Knights Templar.

In the unavoidable and regretted absence of the G.M. Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., Grand Lodge was presided over by R.W. Bro. W. W. Beach, M.P., D.G.M., as M.W.G.M., assisted by R.W. Bros. Sir E. Lechmere, Bart., P.G.W., as D.G.M.; Col. Cole, C.B. (W.M. elect No. 7), as S.G.W.; and John Barker, J.G.W. V.W. Bros. George Haward, P.G.M.O., as G.M.O.; F. G. Irwin, P.G.M.O., as G.S.O.; Frank Haes (Delegate Sydney Lodge, No. 25), as G.J.O.; Rev. Dr. Richards, and Rev. J. W. Laughlin, G. Chaps.; Geo. Raymond Portal, G. Reg.; Frederick Binckes, G. Sec.; W. Bros. M. H. Shuttleworth, as S.G.D.; John Udall, as J.G.D.; H. J. Thompson, as G. Dir. of Cers.; R. S. Hulbert,

G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Jesse Turner, G. Insp. of Works; Charles Swan, G.S.B.; Water Lean, as G.I.G.; G. W. Mobbs, Old Kent Lodge, E. S. Stillwell, Mallet and Chisel Lodge (No. 5), S. D. Forbes, Carnarvon Lodge (No. 62), G. Stewards. The following Past Grand Officers—V.W. Bros. Revs. D. Shaboe and J. G. Wood, P.G. Chaps.; W. Bros. E. L. Bagshawe, P.G. Dir. of Cers.; H. W. Spratt and E. L. Nolan, P.G. Insp. of Works; R. Spencer P.G. Steward; with many Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Overseers of private lodges, and several visiting brethren.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, with solemn prayer,

The G. DIR. OF CERS. called upon the brethren to salute the M.W.G.M., which was done.

The G. MASTER invited W. Bros. G. Lamb, W.M. Lodge No. 34, and Ph. Richard Lodge No. 34 (I.C.), to take their seats on the dais.

The G. DIR. OF CERS. called upon the brethren to salute the M.W.G.M. and the Grand Lodge of Ireland in proper form, which was done.

The minutes of the half-yearly communication held on Wednesday, the 10th of June ult., were read. On being put for confirmation,

Bro. J. H. WYNNE (Old Kent Lodge) rose and inquired if, by confirming the minutes, they would sanction the whole of the suggested alterations in the "Book of Constitutions," to one of which he had strong objections.

The M.W.G. MASTER, with a view to obviate any difficulty on this point, would suggest a vote on the confirmation of the minutes, with the exception of that portion of them referring to the Constitutions, leaving the various alterations for after discussion.

With this exception the minutes were confirmed.

Letters regretting their unavoidable absence were read from Bro. Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., M.W.G.M., and the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, Past M.W.G.M., and several Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers.

The GRAND SECRETARY read the reply of Mrs. Jones to the letter of condolence from Grand Lodge, on the death of V.W. Bro. Dr. Jones, late Grand Treasurer, which was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The report of the General Board was read, received, and ordered to be entered on the minutes, as follows:—

In presenting their report, the General Board cannot refrain from expressing their gratification, which they are sure will be shared by every member of the Craft, at their at length being enabled to meet in a suitable building and with accommodation befitting the dignity of a Supreme Masonic body. They have every cause to give their approval to the arrangements provided for the reception of this Grand Lodge. The possession of a fitting hall, such as that in which they are now assembled, must of necessity greatly conduce to the interests and prosperity of all those branches of our ancient institution unrecognized by the United Grand Lodge of England, and for which no suitable place of meeting has hitherto been specially appropriated.

Since the last half-yearly communication, 135 certificates have been issued, but this by no means affords an accurate estimate of the spread of the degree, as the Board have to remark with regret upon the absence of the returns from many flourishing lodges, productive of much inconvenience, and of positive injustice to the Executive in the withholding of monies the property of Grand Lodge.

During the same period applications with reference to the issue of new warrants have been received from Liverpool, Norwich, Walsall, Maidstone, and Birmingham, and from Smyrna and Canada, showing an increasing appreciation of the importance of the Mark Degree.

The Board recommend Grand Lodge to authorise the Executive to secure accommodation in the new premises provided by the Masonic Union Company, Limited, at No. 14, Bedford-row, for the transaction of official business, and for the meetings of Grand Lodge on such reasonable terms as may be arranged.

Revised proofs of the "Book of Constitutions," embodying the alterations and additions submitted to the half-yearly communication in June last, have been sent to all the lodges under this jurisdiction, in accordance with the instructions then given by the M.W.G.M.

(Signed)

G. R. PORTAL,

3rd December, 1863.

Vice-President.

The suggested alterations in the "Book of Constitutions" were then considered *seriatim*, the Grand Secretary having first

informed Grand Lodge, that a copy of the old "Book of Constitutions," with a revised proof copy of the new, had been sent to every lodge under this Constitution, and that he had received letters from the W. Masters of the Cheltenham and Key Stone Lodge (No. 10), Cheltenham; Russell Lodge (No. 23) Tavistock; Sincerity Lodge (No. 35), Plymouth; Britannia Lodge (No. 53), Sheffield; entirely approving of the revised Constitutions—and from the W.M., Gibraltar Lodge (No. 43), Gibraltar, approving thereof, but suggesting that it should no longer be required as a qualification for the office of W.M. of a Mark Lodge, that a brother to be eligible thereto must have previously occupied the chair of a Craft Lodge, as in the colonies it was extremely difficult to obtain eligible Masters so qualified; also from Bro. W. Cooke, W.M., Fearnley Lodge (No. 58), Halifax, urging the same view on similar grounds—proposing that the Overseers in Grand Lodge and in Private Lodges should take rank immediately after Wardens—and objecting to the term "regular" applied to meetings of lodges, as excluding "Lodges of Emergency," his opinion being that "regular" lodge meetings, meant only those meetings fixed by the by-laws.

The suggested amendments numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, and 16, referred merely to the re-arrangement of grand officers, and constituent members of Grand Lodge with the rules and regulations as to their respective duties, and were unanimously adopted.

Amendment No. 6, providing that the Board of Masters should meet on the Thursday next before that immediately preceding the meeting of Grand Lodge, was adopted.

Amendment 7, involved simply the expunging of a superfluous article—agreed to.

Amendment No. 8, providing for the nomination of Grand Master in December, and the election in June, instead of the nomination taking place at the Board of Masters in May, was adopted.

Amendment No. 9, limiting the duration of office of Grand Master to three years, the retiring Grand Master not to be eligible for re-election until after an interval of one year, was adopted.

Amendment No. 10, providing for the issue of voting papers at the election of Grand Master, thereby enabling brethren in the provinces to record their votes without imposing upon them the necessity of a journey to London, was then submitted.

Bro. J. H. WYNNE, as he had previously stated, objected to this innovation and should give it his most determined opposition. The old method of election had worked well in the United Grand Lodge of England, and he saw no reason why it should be departed from in the Mark Grand Lodge. He moved the rejection of the proposition.

No one seconding the motion, the proposed alteration was adopted with one dissentient.

Amendment No. 11, verbally re-arranging the clause referring to the Grand Registrar having charge of those provinces for which a Provincial Grand Master shall not have been appointed, was approved.

Amendment No. 14, increasing the number of Grand Stewards from six to eight, and providing for their election by four London lodges, and by four Provincial Grand Lodges, both in rotation, was approved.

Amendment No. 15, embracing the appointment of Provincial Grand Masters and the organisation of Provincial Grand Lodges, was approved, with the exception of that portion which precluded the re-appointment of a Provincial Grand Master on the expiry of his term of three years, until after an interval of one year. This limitation was withdrawn on the forcible representations urged against it by W. Bro. Frank Haes, on behalf of the colonies, as delegate from the Lodge No. 25, Sydney; and by R. W. Bro. John Barker, J.G.W., R. W. Bro. Rev. John Huyshe, Prov. G.M. Devon (who had requested the Grand Secretary to communicate his opinions to Grand Lodge), by Bro. Colonel Cole, C.B., and others.

The G. REGISTRAR hoped that when in any province there did exist several eligible brethren, fresh nominations would from time to time be made. Recognising, however, the difficulty in many provinces of finding at all times brethren fitted by position and influence for the well-ruling of a province, he would move the withdrawal of the clause. The clause was withdrawn.

On the proposition of the W. MASTERS of the Gibraltar and Fearnley Lodges being put, having reference to the qualifications of brethren eligible for the office of W. Master of a Mark Lodge, the G. SECRETARY said he felt it necessary before Grand

Lodge proceeded to the consideration of this important question, to inform them that the anxious desire of the founders of this Grand Lodge, steadily followed by their successors and all connected with its executive, has been, and still is, to avoid every course, the adoption of which might even risk the slightest chance of a collision with the authorities of the United Grand Lodge of England. It was a delicate subject to discuss, but he must remind them that the chair of a Mark Lodge possessed its secrets, as did that of a Craft Lodge, and to authorise the communication of the former to any brother not having a knowledge of the latter, might place them in a position he for one would not like to occupy. In extreme cases, a dispensation might be issued—as had already been done—empowering a Warden of a Mark Lodge to be elected and placed in the chair as W.M., with full powers to rule the lodge and to confer the degree, his being fully entrusted being delayed until after his installation as W.M. of a Craft Lodge. He need hardly say that he highly valued the Mark Degree, and had a great regard for this Grand Lodge, but he could not ignore certain obligations, to the nature of which he need not more particularly allude.

Bro. Colonel COLE, C.B., S.G.W. recognising the unfitness of the question for discussion in public, moved that it be referred to the General Board, for consideration.

Bro. J. H. WYNN seconded the motion, which was adopted. To meet the difficulty suggested by Bro. Cooke in the use of the word "regular," in Art. 85, p. 22 (New ed.), the words "or lodge of emergency" were ordered to be inserted after the words "regular lodge meeting."

The recommended increase in the scale of fees was affirmed.

That portion of the minutes not previously put for confirmation was then confirmed.

Bro. G. W. MOBS, G. Steward, Old Kent Lodge, nominated Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., as M.W.G.M. for the year 1864-5.

The G. REGISTRAR proceeded to submit the motion, notice of which had been duly given. He was about to ask Grand Lodge to consent to the appointment of a committee to investigate the connection between Mark Masonry and Christianity. There was no doubt that Mark Masonry existed before the Christian era, and as little doubt that, on the introduction of Christianity, that, as well as other branches of the Ancient Order was altered so as to render its symbolical teachings in accordance with the spirit of the new religion. It was only on the advent of Royal Dukes to Masonic power in England, that Christianity was eliminated from their rituals. As a matter of archaeological research he was anxious for this investigation, which he trusted would not be opposed. It would pledge Grand Lodge to nothing, inasmuch as the committee would bring up a report which Grand Lodge would consider and accept or reject, as in its wisdom it thought best.

Bro. CHARLES SWAN, G.S.B., seconded the motion, which, on being put, was carried *nem. con.*

The following brethren were, by consent, nominated on the committee:—The R.W. Deputy Grand Master; the R.W. Sir Edmund Lechmere, Bart., P.G.W.; the R.W. Bro. Alexander Ridgway, P.G.W., and P.G. Reg.; the Grand Registrar; the Grand Secretary; W. Bro. Frank Haas, delegate from Sydney; and Bro. S. B. Wilson.

Grand Lodge was then closed in form with solemn prayer, and adjourned.

#### THE BANQUET

Was attended by about forty brethren, the chair being ably filled by the R.W.D.G.M., Bro. W. W. Beach, M.P., supported by nearly every Grand Officer present in Grand Lodge. The viands, in quantity and quality, left nothing to be desired, and the wines were of undoubted excellence, the whole arrangements reflecting great credit on the caterer to the establishment, Bro. H. E. Fennell, who is gradually "setting his house in order."

The cloth having been removed, the R.W.D.G. MASTER said that the first duty they had to perform was that of proposing the health of a lady, which was always most enthusiastically received in every society of Freemasons. Her Majesty, who had proved herself a most excellent constitutional sovereign, and a pattern to her own sex, had been for two years under a deep sorrow which it was to be hoped time had alleviated, and she might now, again, be about to mix with her people, in whose hearts she ever reigned. He begged to propose "The Queen, and Mark Masonry." (Cheers.)

The D.G. MASTER said that when the Earl of Carnarvon retired from the office of Grand Master, at the end of three

years' service, though they were sorry to lose him, they could not feel otherwise than gratified, as Mark Masons, that his lordship had set an example, in his own person, of the principle which he had advocated under other circumstances. Though they had been established but a comparatively short time, they already possessed two Past Grand Masters, and though neither were present that evening, they had shown, by their attendance on previous occasions, that their interest in the degree had not ceased with their high office. They had since elected to preside over them Viscount Holmesdale, and a more worthy or distinguished young Mason could not have been selected. His lordship was distinguished not only in that, but in other branches of the Craft, and he was sure that nothing but urgent business had prevented his attendance that evening. In conclusion, he asked them to drink, with all loyalty and affection, to the Present and Past Grand Masters. The toast having been drunk with the usual honours,

The D.G. MASTER gave "The Health of the Grand Officers." It was briefly responded to by Bro. Barker, the J.G.W.

Bro. Sir EDMUND LECHMERE proposed "The Health of the D.G.M.," a brother long distinguished in Craft Masonry, as well as in the degree over which he then presided. When he saw himself supported by the D.G.M., and the G. Registrar, the Rev. Bro. G. R. Portal, it brought back to his recollection the associations of some twelve or fourteen years since, when they all became members of the Apollo Lodge, Oxford, in which Bro. Beach soon distinguished himself as one of its most active workers. He had watched the progress of Bro. Beach with great interest, and it gave him the utmost pleasure to have the opportunity of proposing the toast.

The D.G. MASTER, after again alluding to the unavoidable absence of the G.M., returned thanks for the compliment in a very eloquent and telling speech, in which he referred to the antiquity of the degree as evidenced in those Masons' Marks arranged prior to the general extension of education for insuring regularity in the carrying out of the work, as evidenced in the monuments of bygone ages, and in the beautiful cathedrals erected by our ancestors.

The Rev. Bro. PORTAL, G. Reg., in proposing the "Health of the Grand Secretary," Bro. Binckes, said that the General Board had been greatly indebted to that brother for the assistance he had rendered in maturing the important reforms which had been affirmed by Grand Lodge on that evening. It would now no longer be the case that the highest office in the Craft could be regarded as the property of any one individual, or as the perquisite of any social or political clique; but, by changing the G.M. every three years, it would open that honour to a vast number of deserving brethren, and so return to the ancient practice. By the introduction of voting papers, also, brethren in distant provinces were put on a par with those who had the supreme felicity to be born within sound of Bow bells.

Bro. J. BINCKES gratefully acknowledged the handsome mention of his name—the eulogium by which it had been introduced—and the warm reception it had met with. He had endeavoured to deserve their approbation, and might say, without egotism, that he had worked hard in a cause in which he felt a very great interest—the success of Mark Masonry. It booted not now to repeat the story of the origin of their Grand Lodge, it was sufficient that they had good grounds for mutual congratulation on their increasing prosperity, and on the growing appreciation of the importance of the degree. He was one of those—he had every reason to believe a not inconsiderable number—who, while faithfully discharging his duties in connection with Craft Masonry, in accordance with those obligations to which he had given his assent, did not hesitate to express his deep regret at the arrangements concluded in 1813, at which date, amongst other matters to be lamented, the link which connected the Mark with the earlier degrees was severed. He believed the Mark to be an essential portion of Ancient Masonry, and no good Mason could blame them for raising it from the partial oblivion into which it had been sunk by neglect. He was always ready to place his services at the disposal of the young, newly-formed, lodges, whether in London or the provinces, and in fact to do anything with a view to impart an accurate knowledge of their rites, ceremonies, and teachings. He could assure them, that though there were some who affected to regard them with feelings very much akin to contempt, that there was a large number of brethren well-versed in Masonic lore, and of old-standing in the Craft, but recently introduced to the Mark Degree, who had avowed themselves more delighted, and more instructed, by the teachings,

symbols, and allusions of the Mark, than by those of any degree throughout which they had previously passed. Disclaiming any feeling of annoyance, rivalry, or antagonism towards those who he feared "wished not well to their Zion," he would be glad if he could infuse into some of his good friends a little more of that energy which opposition always engendered in him, and so render beyond all doubt the brilliant future of this branch of our Ancient Order, which he was sure they all regarded with as much interest as himself.

Two or three other toasts were drunk, including "The Health of Bro. S. B. Wilson, and Craft Masonry," proposed by Bro. Colonel Cole, C.B., and appropriately acknowledged. The business of the evening having concluded, the brethren separated at an early hour. The musical arrangements were conducted by Bro. Tedder.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS.

### JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—An emergency meeting was held on Thursday, the 10th inst., for the purpose of initiating a gentleman who was about to depart for India the following morning. The lodge was opened at 7 p.m. by Bro. Durell, W.M., assisted by Bro. C. Le Sueur, S.W., and Bro. Binet acting as J.W. The ballot having been declared favourable, and the other necessary preliminaries having been complied with, Mr. Joshua Le Sueur was introduced, properly prepared, and admitted to the first degree with the usual solemnities. The W.M. subsequently delivered the charge ordinarily given to an Entered Apprentice. There being no other business, advantage was taken of the opportunity to deliver the Ancient Charges, as required once in each year. This was done by the Rev. Chaplain. The W.M. announced to the lodge the intention of the rev. brother to preach a farewell sermon at All Saints' Church, on Sunday, the 13th inst., the last he would spend in Jersey, before his departure for the Mauritius, which would be especially addressed to the Masonic body. The lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and with solemn prayer, at a quarter to nine, and the brethren afterwards partook of refreshment. As we (*Jersey Morning Express*) last week informed our readers would be the case, on Sunday evening the Rev. F. de La Mare preached a farewell sermon especially addressed to Freemasons. The church was crowded; indeed, though additional seats were placed in the aisles, many who sought admission were unable to obtain it. Prayers were read by the incumbent, the Rev. Edward Heale, and two anthems suitable for the occasion were sung by an efficient choir. The text was taken from Genesis, chap. 4, v. 9, from which a discourse was very impressively preached to a most attentive congregation, many of whom were greatly affected. The Rev. Chaplain appeared to have several objects in view, namely, after some comments on the passage of Scripture, to point out the duties and responsibilities of man to his fellow man as well as to his God; by comparing the Mosaic Lodge to a family, in order adequately to enforce the reciprocal duties of unity and brotherly affection, as well as to show that the same class of hopes, fears, despondency, and interests exists in each case; to indicate the moral and religious tendency of the Institution, and its reliance for guidance on the teachings of Sacred Writ; to exhort and encourage the brethren to the discharge of every duty, as well for the welfare of each individual as for the advantage of those with whom they are associated; to warn the negligent and indifferent against the abuse of the privileges to which they have been admitted; to clear the Order from the aspersions of a few by whom it is assailed, in ignorance of its merits and true bearings; and, finally, to take an affectionate leave of those from whom he had received so much kindness. Such a discourse, delivered with so much energy and feeling, cannot fail to have an effect on those who heard it, to stimulate the members of the Craft to greater efforts, and to remove unfavourable impressions from the minds of those who are unconnected with it. A collection was made at the close of the service, amounting to nearly £9, towards the fund for the purchase of an organ for All Saints' Church.

WHEN you have lost money in the streets, every one is ready to help you look for it; but when you have lost your character, every one leaves you recover it as you can.

## THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The days of Royal mourning are now happily over, and Her Majesty and family have gone to spend the Christmas holidays at Osborne.

HOME NEWS.—The health of the metropolis appears now to be in a highly satisfactory condition. The deaths, last week, were 66 below those of the week before, and 110 below those of the ten years' average. The total number was 1357. There were 1027 births, which is 110 above the ten years' average.—The *Gazette* officially records the appointment of Mr. Serjeant Shee to the judicial bench, and of Canon Stanley to the deanery of Westminster.—A further increase of about 1700 has taken place in the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the cotton districts; and, although in anticipation of a revival of trade, a considerable number of new mills are in course of construction, the Central Executive Relief Committee have wisely come to the conclusion that it is their duty to husband their resources and prepare for frequent changes in the state of employment. They at present hold a balance of about £225,000, while the Mansion House, Liverpool, and Bridgewater House Committees have still at their disposal a sum which may be put down, in round numbers, at £185,000. This gives a total reserve of upwards of £400,000. To this must be added the relief that may be expected from the Public Works Act, under the provisions of which application to the amount of £1,117,605 have already been reported on. A few weeks ago, Mr. Farnall issued circulars to the relieving-officers in the cotton manufacturing districts, asking for information as to the present position and employment of those labourers and factory operatives who have ceased to receive parochial relief since the 6th December, 1862, when pauperism attained its maximum. Some of the returns which have been received are incomplete, but making the best use he can of the data with which he has been supplied, he frames the following estimate:—"That 15,564 persons who were paupers in December, 1862, cannot be traced by the relieving officers; that 54,474 persons have resumed their usual work; that 25,940 are employed in outdoor work; and that 7782 have either removed or emigrated."—At the last meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, among other business, the tenders for the northern embankment of the Thames, from Waterloo-bridge to the eastern end of the Temple Gardens, were opened, and the tender of Messrs. Ritson and Co., being the lowest offered, was accepted, subject to the usual conditions. The estimate is £229,000.—Dr. Jeune, the Master of Pembroke College, Oxford—a man of high academic repute—has been appointed to the vacant deanery of Lincoln. The new Dean has generally been numbered among the "Liberals" of the University.—It is stated that the English and French insurance offices are dividing the risks of an insurance, to the amount of £200,000, on the life of the Empress of the French.—A fire broke out in the Prince of Wales Tower, at Windsor Castle, early on Thursday week, but was extinguished before any serious damage was done.—Vice-Chancellor Kindersley has committed the editor of a Sheerness newspaper for "contempt,"—the offence being the publication of certain articles, which it was held might influence witnesses in a suit now pending in his Honour's Court.—A man named Stephenson, who described himself as an author, has been committed for trial for damaging one of Turner's pictures in the National Gallery. The picture was "Regulus leaving Rome."—The official investigation into the recent Federal enlistments at Cork is still going on. Fifteen of the men who were enlisted for service on board the *Kearsage* have been again examined at Queenstown, but, as the inquiry is a

strictly secret one, nothing is known as to the nature of the evidence which has been given at this and the two previous sittings of the Court.—A gentleman, who had purchased, under a sale in Chancery, the site of Tottenham-court-road Chapel burial ground for building purposes, was on Saturday fined £5 and costs, at the Marlborough Police-court, for removing dead bodies without the authority of the Home Secretary.—Several Manchester warehouses in London were destroyed by fire on Friday night. The damage done is variously estimated at from £100,000 to £200,000.—The long-pending case of Lindsay, M.P., against Leathby has come to a close. The jury found a verdict substantially for the underwriters, but as leave was given to move for a verdict for the owners on the ground that a partial loss had been incurred, the underwriters agreed to waive all further claims by paying the owner the sum of £4500 and each party to pay his own costs.—Mr. Justice Crompton, in his charge to the Grand Jury, at Welshpool, suggested that incendiaries, as well as garotters, should be liable to a flogging on conviction. The learned judge said the crime of arson prevailed throughout the country to “an alarming extent,” and in some instances which had come before him the prisoners had admitted their guilt, and avowed that their object in thus destroying property was to get sent to prison for a long term.—The case of the lunatic at Fushing, in Cornwall, the tale of whose miseries created so much commiseration in the public mind a few weeks ago was brought before the magistrates of Falmouth on Monday. The magistrates, after deliberating, bound the brother over in heavy sureties to take his trial for ill-treatment of his lunatic brother.—At an inquest held on the body of a woman who died in childbirth, an order authorised by the Poor-law Board was brought to light, which appears on the face of it to be absurd or worse. It seems that under their authority the relieving officer of a parish grants a “temporary midwifery order,” which only holds good till nine o’clock on the morning of the day after it is issued; so that if a woman is taken in labour, and only delivered after the clock strikes nine on the following day, the doctor cannot claim to be paid for his services. It was intimated, however, that the terms of the order were about to be altered.—John Hutchins, the landlord of the Horseshoe Inn, at Waltham, near Leicester, has been committed for trial for the wilful murder of his wife. Mrs. Hutchins, as the *post-mortem* examination showed, was poisoned by arsenic, and the Coroner’s jury were satisfied from the evidence placed before them that the poison had been administered to her by her husband.—At the Cambridge assizes a labourer, named John Green, was sentenced to death for the murder of a woman at Whittlesea, in March last. The woman was first dreadfully injured, if not killed outright, and she was then flung into a furnace—the object of the murderer, no doubt, being to consume the body so as to obliterate every trace of the deceased.—A labouring man, named Palmer, has been tried at Maidstone for the murder of a woman with whom he cohabited. He was found guilty of manslaughter, and the jury recommended him to mercy. He was sentenced to three months’ imprisonment.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor of the French, in replying to the Senate, alludes in plain terms to his desire for a Congress. He directs all his wishes, he says, to the moment when the great questions of the day will be pacifically solved by European arbitrament; and in this aspiration he reminds us that he follows in the path of his uncle, who said that “a war in Europe is a civil war.—The debate on the address to the King of Prussia propounded by the Liberal party, in reply to his Majesty’s demand for a loan for the purpose of conducting the operations in Holstein, has taken place in the Prussian

Chamber of Deputies; and, notwithstanding the remonstrance of Herr Von Bismarck against the House encroaching on the privileges of the Executive, the address was carried by 207 against 107 votes. The King is suffering from a slight rheumatic attack. The Prussian Government, in order to secure liberty of action with regard to the pending negotiations, has given formal notice of its intention to quit the Zollverein; but, according to the official journal of Berlin, the manner in which the negotiations are conducted, “testifies that all the contracting parties are animated by the desire to continue the union.” The Prussian Field-Marshal Wrangel will assume the chief command of the federal “troops of execution” sent into Holstein, while Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia will command the Prussian contingent. It is confidently affirmed not only that the Danish troops will evacuate Holstein, but that important modifications will be made in the joint constitution of Denmark and Schleswig.—The Polish National Government has issued a proclamation declaring that the insurrection will continue to be vigorously prosecuted; and that it will be based on the principles of assuring legal equality to all and landed property to the peasantry.

INDIA.—The Bombay mail brings papers from the Presidency to the 29th ult. The news of the death of the Earl of Elgin caused profound sorrow, and every mark of respect was paid to his memory at the respective seats of Government and at all the military stations. The papers all appear in mourning. The only other subject of much interest was the fighting with the hill tribes on the Punjab frontier, accounts of which have already been received by telegraph.

AMERICA.—The *Arabia* has arrived with intelligence from New York to the 11th inst. Congress met on the 7th, and the President’s message was delivered on the following day. The message was accompanied by a proclamation of the President of some importance, suggesting terms for the reconstruction of the Union. It offers an amnesty to persons in rebellion who will take the oath of allegiance to the United States, an oath to support all acts passed by the Federal Congress, and the emancipation and all other proclamations issued by the President. Persons holding high civic and military offices in the Confederate Government are exempted from the armistice. There was not much war news. General Longstreet had, it appeared, retreated from Knoxville towards Virginia, pursued by Federal cavalry, of whom, however, he had thirty-six hours’ start. No movement of any importance had been made by the several armies on the Tennessee and the Rapidan. The siege of Charleston was proceeding at its usual slow pace. By the Inman steamer *City of New York*, which left New York on the 12th inst., we have a summary of the speech of President Davis delivered to the Confederate Congress on the 7th. The President, while regretting the loss of Vicksburg, Port Hudson, and other reverses, expresses himself as confident as ever of the ultimate success of the Confederate arms, and points out various means of increasing the number and efficiency of the army. He speaks with much bitterness of the unfriendly conduct of foreign nations, particularly of that of England, whom he accuses of marked partiality towards the Federals, as shown in her decisions regarding blockade, and in her marked difference of conduct on the subject of the purchase of supplies by both belligerents. General Longstreet is now reported to have fallen back to Morristown, East Tennessee, where it was supposed he would make a stand. Several successes are reported of the Confederates in Georgia and Kentucky. The Federals had ceased firing on Fort Sumter. One of their Monitors had sunk suddenly at the entrance of the harbour during a gale, and four engineers and twenty-six of her crew were drowned.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A YOUNG MASON is referred to the “Book of Constitutions,” where he will obtain all the information he wishes.

A CONSTANT READER.—We do not know of any biography of Bro. Oliver worthy of the name.

S. W.—April 21, 1843.

J. S. B.—Never.