

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1864.

FREEMASONRY AND THE NEW YEAR.

The year 1864 has opened with clouded prospects. The world seems to be inclined to war, and nowhere are love and harmony, peace and good-will looked upon as desirable allies. In this temper it would be foolish to expect that the great bond of Freemasonry should not, to some extent, participate in the signs of the times, and display symptoms of restlessness and change. Modifications and opposing interests are to be found in most of the European Grand Lodges, and some few instances are worth notice.

In England we are just entering on a large outlay, to improve the Grand Lodge property; and whilst every aid is needed to carry out this object, it has to some extent, at least so far as regards the Tavern portion, been, virtually, thwarted by the successful attempt of estranging from the Craft some of its most distinguished members and warm supporters, forcing them to inaugurate for themselves a rival establishment, which bids fair to be a serious and dangerous opponent—all of which might have been prevented if one individual had been but commonly courteous in his demeanour, instead of studiously insulting to the heads of the Knights Templar.

Many important changes are in course of contemplation. Schism is rearing its head, and setting up another new Masonic jurisdiction in the centre of the manufacturing districts of England, and in Jersey we have already a lodge under French jurisdiction.

In Scotland the same uneasy spirit is manifest. There we have two Grand Chapters, clashing, squabbling, anathematising, and opposing each other on every ground.

Ireland, under a courteous administration and a warmly-beloved Grand Master, alone remains, as it were—a pattern for Masonic emulation and improvement; but then all degrees of Freemasonry, though kept separate and distinct, are brought under one jurisdiction, by which all clashing of interests is avoided.

If we cast our eyes abroad, more particularly to that other great section of the Anglo-Saxon family across the Atlantic, the Americans, both North and South, we find Freemasonry pressed into the service as a belligerent, each party quoting the ancient landmarks as proving their views and, under them, denouncing the others as traitors and apostates.

In South America, the Chilians are again in arms in opposition to Masonic fealty. The Grand Orient of France, which of them we decline to say, has fitfully, from time to time, claimed obedience from the brethren in Chili. As often as it has

been claimed, so often a native Grand Lodge has sprung up to assert its independence, and, as if Freemasonry is to be everywhere active, at one and the same time, there are now two Grand Lodges in South America, fining, suspending, excluding, reinstating, healing, and rewarding their own secessionists and proselytes.

France, the incomprehensible France, whose Masonic foundation it appears impossible to understand, is in a state of internecine Masonic struggle. The Lodges of the Ancient and Accepted Rite are proscribed but not closed. The Emperor's Grand Orient is convulsed by the discussion of new General Regulations—some of them as foreign to the spirit of Freemasonry as an imposed state authority can make them—and many of the lodges are but a very thin covering for political assemblies.

Italy boasts, at least, three Grand Masters, three Supreme Councils, and no Grand Lodge; one having been formed and died; a second intended to be formed, but never born; and a third projected, for which there is a new plan of construction.

Germany always is in a state of chronic war. Masonic metaphysics and German habits of literary inquiry, have so confused and involved the simple principles of Freemasonry, that, what with eclectic unions and corresponding societies, verbose essays and minute discussions, no one knows, and certainly very few care, to what German Freemasonry is drifting.

In Switzerland the fraternity have had to make an inglorious appearance in the police courts. It appears that the Grand Lodge, Alpina, has somehow or other been involved in a building scheme and, to raise more funds, in concert with some other society, adopted the true continental method of having recourse to a lottery, which, in the end, proved illegal, and the Grand Lodge has had to bear its share of the disgrace.

Such are the general characteristics of Freemasonry at the beginning of the new year. Let us hope that as nations see the folly of wars, and learn to estimate the blessings of peace, so our united bond of brotherhood, which combines men of every nation, clime, and creed, will remember those sublime lessons they were taught, when entering the Craft, and endeavour to propagate its essential principles—peace and good-will—both as individuals and Freemasons of every degree.

To those in office and bearing authority, we would strongly point out the duty of discretion and courtesy, reminding them that at their doors will be laid much of the blame that will most assuredly arise if unfairness, injustice, and curtness is to prevail, and drive forth brethren into opposition and rivalry.

We have only just commenced the New Year, and earnestly call upon every true-hearted brother and gentleman to do his best to allay the temper and tone, which have marked the close of the past and the beginning of the present year, amongst the great family of universal Freemasons.

MYSTERIES OF THE NORTHMEN.

(From the Boston (U.S.) Masonic Monthly.)

Early in the century preceding the commencement of the Christian era, the extensive forests of Germany, and the whole of the country north and east of the Danube, became the theatre of a gigantic movement among populations, the like of which has not been witnessed in any other age or clime. The aboriginal Celtic and Cimbrian tribes occupying that region, unceasingly at war with each other, were suddenly alarmed by the presence on their borders of new and unexpected foes. The races dwelling beyond the Ural Mountains and the waters of the Don and the Volga—those tribes which had made their homes on the limitless steppes of ancient Scythia—Goths, Vandals, Huns, or by whatever other name known—had become generally affected by some unaccountable colossal commotions at work among the teeming population of Central Asia. They found themselves unable to resist the invasion of their native plains by the hordes of warlike tribes which poured in upon them from the farther East. With an unanimity, which in any age would be wonderful, entire nations, resolving to quit the localities where their ancestors had dwelled for generations, came westward into Europe, under the lead of their chosen chieftains, in search of new settlements. Forging the waters of the Volga and the Don, they made their way through the forests of Germany to the borders of the Baltic and the banks of the Rhine, and threw themselves hostilely among the inhabitants of the countries they traversed. They, in their turn, were followed by other similar invasions, before which they gave way, driving before them to the southward and westward the Cimbrians and Gauls, who again pressed upon the peoples bordering on the ocean and the Mediterranean, and came in conflict with the Roman power. Thus originated that long and fierce struggle which ended in the light of Grecian and Roman culture going out in the Dark Ages.

At the head of one of these invasions stood a Scythian prince, previously known as Sigge, but who, on entering Europe, assumed the name of Wod or Odin, chief among the gods of the Scandinavians. The career of this leader was irresistible. He founded numerous empires; and if we are to believe the Sagas, wrought such prodigies of valour as now to be considered fabulous. Much, no doubt, written concerning him partakes of the mythical, yet it is a part of veritable history that, about the time of which we treat, a chief of this name fought his way to empire over the entire north of Europe. Towering high above the greatest of his contemporaries in intellect and acquirements, he conceived a project which, it was calculated, would secure to him an empire as complete over the minds as he had conquered over the bodies of his subjects. Like many other conquerors, before and since, he assumed to be the spiritual, as well as the political, head over the races he had subjugated. One of his maxims, as we learn from an Ancient Runic Poem, was, "whatever is known only to one's self is always of the greatest value,"—a saying which proved him well versed in the theory of king-craft and priest-craft; and of these royal and priestly arts his success showed him to be no mean adept. In his younger days, having probably become acquainted with the systems of Buddha and Brahma, he may have received from them the leading ideas which he embodied in the mysteries he subse-

quently introduced among the hardy warrior tribes of Northern Europe. The East has been the fruitful mother of religions, as well as the mother-land of the human race. The Odin mysteries, in many prominent features, manifest their Oriental parentage. They were, undoubtedly, modifications of the primal mystery, of which the great Indian systems were corruptions. Departing in many details from their models, they unquestionably transmitted, through symbolisms, more or less ambiguous, portions of primary truth. It will not, therefore, be surprising to Masonic students were they, in the course of their travels over this interesting field of inquiry, to alight upon some most striking parallels with the Rites and Doctrines of their own Ancient Order.

The initiations into the mysteries of the Northmen were celebrated in the most extensive of the caverns and grottoes, in which the country abounded; in this respect, following the example of all the primitive peoples in the performance of their secret and sacred rites. As in the initiations of Eleusis, of Osiris, and Isis, the candidate was introduced through scenes of darkness and exhibitions of sorrow by degrees to the full revelation which awaited him in the inner temple of light, and to the joys which were prospective to the novitiate. After undergoing a preparatory course of fastings, mortifications, and sacrificiary services, followed by preliminary processions and circular dances, he was led, shoeless and in bonds, by a winding descent into the shades of darkness. He was startled at every step by horrid shades, and terrified by the fearful howlings of dogs, which exhibited their bloody fangs to him at every turn. His conductor hurried him through the symbolical gates of death, guarded by its terrible canine sentinels, into the sacred vault, where, seated in the East, he is made aware of the dread presence of the Vala, oracle, or prophetess, who added greatly to the mystery which involved him by the ambiguity of her replies to his questionings. Again he was led onward amid bewailings for the death of "Balder the Beautiful," whom the gods had unintentionally left open to destruction. Representing in his person the mythic search for Balder's murdered body, he was made to descend through nine dark, damp, and dismal cavernous passages, in each of which strange, mysterious sounds greeted his ears. At length, approaching the end of his typical wanderings, he arrived on the banks of the "waters of purification," into which he was instructed to plunge. On the other side of this allegorical stream, his further advance was intercepted by the sacred door of expurgation, through which, after due examination, he was permitted to pass. He found himself standing on the threshold of the illuminated sacellum, while before his astonished eyes, enthroned in highest distinction, he beheld the once murdered, now risen, Balder—the object of his weary, symbolic search—surrounded by the twelve Drottes or Hierophants, on as many thrones, resembling in their splendours the twelve Deities they personified. Here, in the "abode of joy,"—the "hall of the gods,"—the closing and not least impressive ceremonies were administered. Here the most solemn oaths known were submitted to the acceptance of the candidate.

"By the steed's neck
And the sword's edge;
By the light waters
Of Leiptur's stream,*
And by the cold stones
Beneath the sea.
By the sun southward bearing;
By Sigtyr's† strong mountain;
By the sanctity of the couch;
And by Uller's ring,"

he was made to swear to full and implicit obedience to the civil and religious chiefs of the state; devotion to

* The lightning of heaven.

† Stigtyr, the God of Victory,—a name or attribute of Odin.

the gods; fidelity to his brother initiates, and, at the hazard of his life, to defend them against all perils from secret or open foe, and after their death to follow their destroyers with his vengeance; the whole being sealed by his drinking mead out of human skull.

Such were a few of the features of the initiation through which the Northman had to pass on his way to a full knowledge of that religion on which he placed his trust.

These initiations were performed on the occasions of the great Festivals, or as candidates offered. The initiates arranged the times of their assembling by the changes of the moon, and by the Solstices—the great annual or Yule Festival, occurring on the night of the winter Solstice. How nearly correspond, as to time, these Solstices to the Masonic anniversaries of the two St. John's.

On his initiation, the mystagogue of the North was instructed in the doctrines and principles of his Order, which were to influence him in his life and his intercourse with the brethren. Many of these are so remarkable in their character, that we cannot do better than quote a few of them as conclusions of this paper.

Fidelity to oaths and promises were taught him—

"This I counsel thee secondly, that thou swear not an oath unless it be true; cruel fetters shall bind the traitor; wretched is he who breaks his word."

The value of friendship is impressed on him—

"To thy friend shalt thou be a friend, to him and his friend."

"Hast thou a friend in whom thou hast full confidence, and thou wilt receive good from him, then mingle thy thoughts with his, exchange gifts with him and visit him often."

"Never be first to break off rashly with thy friend (or brother.) Sorrow consumes the heart when thou hast no one to whom thou canst open thy whole mind."

"Make thy friend's (or brother's) misfortune thy own."

He was instructed to frequent the assemblies of the brethren—

"Hast thou a friend in whom thou hast full confidence, go often to see him; for the weeds grow, and the high grass, in the path where no one treads."

"Once I was young; I travelled alone through wild paths; I thought myself rich when I met others,—man is a joy to man."

"There is a communion of souls where each can say confidentially to the other all his thoughts."

Respect for age was inculcated—

"Laugh not at the gray-haired speaker. That is often good which the aged have to say. Often from the wrinkled skin come forth words of wisdom."

The hospitable duties were imposed—

"With arms and clothing shall friends (or brothers) gladden each other. They who give and receive gifts in return are friends the longest, if all other things be well."

"With scorn and laughter mock not the stranger and the wayfarer. He who sits at his own door is often uncertain who it may be that comes by. It may be a brother."

"The master of the house should be cheerful at home, kind to his guests, and circumspect; let him be attentive and affable."

"Washed and sated should a man ride to the assemblies, even though he be not finely dressed. Of his shoes and breeches let no one be ashamed, nor of his horse, thought it be not the best."

"Seldom stands a monumental stone by the way-side, unless by brother raised to brother."

"Carefully gather up the dead wherever on earth you may find them, whether they have died by sickness, by the sea, or by arms. Raise up a mound for the departed, wash the hands and heads, comb and dry it before it is laid in the coffin, and pray for it to sleep in peace."

Such were some of the lessons taught the initiates into the Mysteries of the Northmen. The modern Freemason may not be above learning some things therefrom.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

FREEMASONRY MISUNDERSTOOD.

In my neighbourhood there appears to be a great misunderstanding about Freemasonry. Many persons are very intolerant about us, and I hear much sneering at our admission of brethren of all sects. I want something that will enable me to combat this feeling? Will you help me?—AN EAST ANGLIAN.—[We will. A new *Masonic Monthly* has lately come out in Boston, America, and it is evident, from an article in it, that your town is not the only place where misconceptions of the Order are to be found. As it may be useful to many other brethren, we transfer, from the columns of the periodical in question, a very well written paper. It is entitled, "The Theologue and the Rabbi." An Allegory, by H. P. H. Bromwell:—

"A certain Theologue, who dwelt in that part of the land of Zeal which lies behind the mountains of Intolerance, being a devout and conscientious man, had long desired to rid the world of all institutions which he understood were opposed to good morals and religion,

"So he set out on a journey for that purpose; and being informed that Ancient Craft Masonry was a most subtle and dangerous thing, and also of great antiquity, he resolved to subdue it first.

"He came to a city where was a temple, and gave out that he would on the morrow discourse to the people, and tarried all night with a friend.

"In the morning he went near the temple, and stood by a portico having seven steps, from which he intended to speak. While waiting, he beheld a man of venerable and benevolent appearance, a Rabbi, accompanied by others, who were listening to his instructions. The Theologue drew near and saluted him with great respect, and perceiving that he was a man of wisdom, said: 'I am come to put an end to a certain ancient Fraternity calling themselves Sons of Light, but in reality children of darkness, who cease not to build up their secret and wicked system in all countries, as they have done for ages. Thou knowest them that they are sons of Belial, and that of late they have become much emboldened by the forbearance of the wise and good who abhor such things; wherefore I hope and expect thy counsel and aid in my undertaking.'

"And the Rabbi answering, said: 'Thou dost well to counsel in thy enterprise; what can I do for thy good I will do; but when dost thou begin?' And the Theologue said: 'Now, behold here is my stand, and the multitude are gathering to hear my discourse.'

"But the Rabbi said: 'Art thou fully prepared to enter on thy work?' And the Theologue said: 'I am, for I have studied the writings of my sect and of all those who are opposed to this ancient and obnoxious Fraternity, and I have the sacred Scriptures with which to condemn them; moreover, I have seen a vision, and an angel appeared to me and asked me what I most desired; and when I answered that I might overthrow all to whom I am opposed, he said to me, 'go on thy way; thou shalt overcome much bigotry and sin.' So I am come hither as thou seest.

"But the Rabbi answered, 'If thou hadst been wise as Solomon, King of Israel, when the Lord appeared to him in Gideon and asked him what he most desired, thou shouldst have answered as he did, and said more light.'

"Then the Theologue was silent for a moment, and said to the Rabbi: 'What, dost thou counsel me?' And the Rabbi said, 'I have been taught that no man should presume to enter any important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of the Deity. 'Thou art right,' said the Theologue, 'this will I do;' and he knelt and prayed, and when his prayer was ended, the Rabbi said: 'If thou shouldst meet with difficulty in thy undertaking, in whom dost thou trust for assistance?' And the other said, 'In God do I trust at all times.' 'Then,' answered the Rabbi, 'go on thy way and be not

afraid. I will speak to thee farther again of this matter.'

"But as the Theologue advanced to the lower step of the platform, came one of those who stood by, and said: 'I have somewhat to offer thee; take my guage and gavel with thee on thy way.' But the other looked astonished and said: 'What have I to do with these? keep them.' 'Nay,' said the first, 'take them, for they are the symbolic guage and gavel which I give thee. The guage will be to thee to measure thy time, for, saith Solomon, 'there is a time for all things.' By means of this thou mayest divide thy time into parts, so that one part shall be for thy labour, that nothing be left undone; one part, and no more, for rest and refreshment, that thou dissipate no portion of thy time in idleness; and one part for the service of God and the relief of distress, so that all, even thyself, may be succoured in time of need. The gavel will divest thy mind and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, so that thou mayest be innocent as well as just in thy judgment.' And the other smiled and said, 'They are good, I will take them with thanks. Truly, I was not fully prepared.'

"But as he advanced to the second step, a second one came and said: 'I have also somewhat to offer thee, which the first could not fully advise thee of. Take my plumb, square, and level.' But the Theologue said, 'Why should I take these, they are useless to me?' But the second said: 'Take them, for I am a builder, and they are the symbolic plumb, level, and square. The plumb is that of Amos, which was shown him by the Lord, and will teach thee to walk uprightly before God and man. The square, to correct thy conduct by the designs of virtue, and to judge with equity; and the level will teach thee humility, without which thou canst not expect the praise of any.' And the Theologue said: 'Verily, I should have these also, I will take them; and now I am fully prepared for my work.'

"But as he advanced again, a third came and said: 'Proceed no further, I pray thee, without my trowel, trestle-board and compass.' And the other said: 'Why what have I to do with these?' But the third answered: 'Take them, for they are implements of a master. The symbolic trowel is the implement of brotherly love. How, without this canst thou rightly speak against the act of any? The trestle-board will teach thee to make thy work correspond with the designs of the Divine plan, and therefore seek in all nature, the works and glory of God and imitate the same; and the compass will circumscribe thy passions and desires within due bounds, lest thou be moved by jealousy or envy, or seek thine own praise to the injury of others. Moreover, by this thou canst know when thou art standing on the centre.' Then answered the other and said: 'Thou hast done well, my brother, to prepare me with these, also;' and he advanced upon the fourth step.

"But a fourth came and said: 'Nay, before thou goest further take my mallet and chisel.' But the Theologue said, 'Hast thou nothing better to offer me?' But the fourth said: 'Take them, for they are the tools of one who can engrave and inlay. By these thou canst engrave thy instructions on the hearts of thy hearers, as on two tables of stone, one of which shall contain the duties of man to God, and one the duty of man to his fellow, after the manner of the tables of the law. Moreover, by these thou canst ornament and enrich thy work after the designs of the Divine plan, that beauty may be upon all.' And he took them, with a blessing on him that gave, and stepped upon the fifth step.

"But a fifth came and said: 'Hold! in thy present undertaking thou wilt need my rule and line; take them for thy more perfect preparation.' 'Why these,' said the other; 'I have all I want.' But the fifth said: 'Take them, for they pertain to the chair of Solomon. The rule will teach thee to frame thy designs on the trestle-board thou carriest, so that they will be true copies of the Divine, as drawn on the great moral trestle-board

The line will be useful to thee; for how, without this, wilt thou lay the foundation of thy work, in accordance with thy designs, that there be no confusion in thy work, and thou thereby put to shame?'

"Then the Theologue received the gift of the fifth gladly, and set his foot on the sixth step; when came a sixth and said: 'Take, I beseech thee, my ark and pot of incense.' 'I need not thy ark and censer,' said the other; 'let me haste and fulfil my mission. 'Nay,' answered the sixth, "go not without them, for the ark contains things which are precious. Here is the law and the testimony which my ancient brethren preserved through great peril. The pot of manna, which is the bread of heaven which faileth not, that thou perish not by the way. The rod of Aaron, which budded, blossomed and bore fruit in the night; which showeth that each day of thy life must produce his own perfect fruits; also, the censer contains the thoughts and aspirations of a pure heart, which is blessed; wherefore, angels are said to appear in the smoke thereof; for 'the pure in heart see God.'"

"Then the Theologue took them and advanced on the seventh step; but the Rabbi came in haste, saying: 'Sir, I perceive that thou art wholly unprepared; take my keystone before thou goest further.' But the other answered: 'What is this? I see no good in it.' But the Rabbi responded: 'Take it, for it is the keystone of charity. Without this thy labour will be for ever unfinished; for "he that hath not charity is in darkness and stumbleth and knoweth not whither he goeth." If thou reject it, nevertheless, it must be the headstone of the corner, and shall be brought forth with shouting.'

"And the Theologue was astonished and took the stone and stepped upon the portico, and beheld the Rabbi stood with his companions in many costumes as of different nations, and clothed also with white aprons and white gloves.

"And the Theologue cried: 'How is this? Who art thou, and who are these thy companions?' And the Rabbi answered: 'We are Sons of Light, according to our degrees. Come, and we will show thee more wonderful things.' And the Theologue prayed the multitude to wait a time with patience, and followed the Rabbi.

"And they went into the temple, and as they passed through the portal, behold, two great pillars; on one inscribed 'Glory to God in the highest,' and on the other, 'Peace and goodwill among men.' And the Theologue said to the Rabbi: 'Who art thou, and what is thy faith?' And the Rabbi said: 'I am of the twelve tribes of Israel, the descendant of those faithful workmen who wrought at the building of King Solomon's Temple.' And the other said: 'How canst thou, being a Jew, enter with me who am a Christian; what hast thou done or thy people, that they should enter a house erected to God and universal benevolence?' And the Rabbi said: 'Did not my fathers preserve the Holy Writings through peril and persecutions? The seven psalms of degrees of King David, and all that thou hast in thy ancient Scriptures? Besides, do not my brethren stand up for the name of Jehovah Tsidkense throughout all the earth unto this day? Dost thou worship some other God?' And the Theologue answered: 'True, we will even go together: but who is this that walketh beside thee, with a turban upon his head?' 'He is from the land of Arabia,' said the Rabbi. 'What!' said the other; 'shall this Mussulman go in also? What has he done that he should enter?' And the third, who was a Muffi, said: 'Shall I go in? Have not my fathers worshipped the God of Abraham and abhorred idolatry above all people? Have I not also the writings of the prophets? Moreover, if thou shouldst come to my country, thou shouldst find shelter and sustenance in my tent, for 'the fire that burns for the stranger goes not out in the tent of the Arab.'"

"And the Theologue bowed and said: "Truly, we three are brethren, but who are these others?' And

the Rabbi answered: 'They are of different tribes and kindred, the dwellers of all lands which the Lord hath made, whose names are written with Ben Adam's pen in the roll of those who love their fellowmen.' And while they yet spake, came a wayfaring man in tattered garments, aged, and leaning on a staff. And those who were with the Rabbi gave him each a piece of money, and the Mufti corn of plenty, and the Rabbi a bottle of wine for refreshment, and the Theologue oil, saying: 'Let this be for thy joy, and now do I perceive that Charity is no respecter of persons;' and they entered all into the temple.

"And when the Rabbi and his brethren, by certain ancient and significant observances, had ministered unto the Theologue, did his heart conceive the things of most excellent beauty. And they stood by the altar; and the smoke of the incense went up, and behold the wayfaring man stood in the smoke glorified, and he was the angel come again. And he said to the Theologue: 'Did not I tell thee thou shouldst overcome much bigotry and sin?' And the Theologue said to the others: 'It is good to be here; let us build here three tabernacles—one for us, and one for the stranger who may come hither to sojourn, and one for the angel that waiteth.'"

PANTHEISM AND FREEMASONRY.

The first question of "Oxoniensis" has been communicated to me. He asks, Whether an adherent of Pantheism can properly be received into our Craft? My answer is, that the God of Freemasons is essentially a personal God, and that *if* the adherent of Pantheism rejects a personal God, and—to use the words of an extract from some recent publication, the title of which has escaped my recollection—"he substitutes the ideal principle of order that pervades the universe," he cannot properly be received into our Craft. My "*if*" shall be explained when the second question which "Oxoniensis" announces comes to hand.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

EZRA THE SCRIBE.

Many Royal Arch Companions will be pleased, and surprised, by the following announcement:—

"The Jews in the heart of Asia are bestirring themselves to erect a monument to the memory of Ezra the Scribe, the great restorer of their sacred writings, after having rested in his honoured grave for nearly 2,500 years. The spot which the most ancient tradition has designated as his grave, and the correctness of which there is no reason to doubt, lies in the desert, near the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris, and the monument to be established is the only one befitting the memory of a man as much venerated by Christians as Jews—viz., a college for the study of the writings preserved through his care for the civilised world. Contributions for this purpose have been forwarded from Bombay, London, and Paris."—*Jewish Chronicle*.

A MASONIC SIGN-BOARD.

In 1762 one Bonnell Thornton conceived the idea of gathering together a collection of tavern and shop sign-boards, and exhibiting them to the public. This he did at his own house, in the large room, at the upper end of Bow-street, Covent Garden, nearly opposite the play-house passage. From the catalogue (very rarely to be met with)—"No. 23, is A Freemason's Lodge; or, the Impenetrable Secret. By a Sworn Brother. The ceremony and probable consequences of what is called 'making a Mason,' represents the Master of the lodge with a red-hot salamander in his hand, and the new brother blindfold, and in a comical situation of fear and good luck."

Out of this arises two queries. First, To what place of entertainment did this sign belong? Second, Does any one know where it is now or what became of it?

MAHL-STICK.

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

Rob Morris says:—"In the words of Sir Walter Scott, Freemasonry

'— is the secret sympathy,
The silver link, the silver tie,
Which heart to heart and mind to mind,
In body and in soul can bind.'

"All its plans are pacific. It co-operates with religion in regulating the temper, restraining the passions, and harmonizing the discordant interests of men; breathes a spirit of universal love and benevolence; adds one more thread to the silken cord of charity, which binds man to man. Religion is the golden cord which unites man to God; Masonry the silver line which runs from man to man. In its bosom flows cherrily the milk of human kindness, and its heart expands with love and charity. It wears the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, at peace with God, itself, and the world.

"With one hand she extends the peaceful olive branch; with this she administers succour to the distressed. The more it is examined, the more beautiful it appears; the more a Mason searches into the science, the more he loves the Craft. It is like the humble fly, which viewed with the naked eye of science and understanding, displays beauties far exceeding the utmost expectation. Masonry has met with many persecutions and enemies: but like the silver seven times tried in the fire, it rises each time more brilliant and more worthy our esteem. Prior said

'It is like the ladder in the patriarch's dream,
Its foot on earth, its height above the skies,
Diffused its virtue, boundless in its power;
'Tis public health and universal cure,
Of heavenly manna, 'tis a second feast,
A nation's food, and all to every taste.'

Ex. Ex.

THE DEGREES AS EMBLEMS.

Bro. Rob Morris, in one of his publications, writes:—"Let us suppose the Blue Lodge to be the emblem of life—fit emblem too, it truly is. The candidate desirous of obtaining its favours, is, before his admission, in darkness, so far as a correct knowledge of the Institution is concerned. He applies for admission, is found worthy, and duly initiated. He pursues his investigations until he becomes proficient as an Entered Apprentice. When fully instructed in that degree, he discovers that he has only received partial light, that if he would be truly proficient, he must still press onward and make further acquisitions. Actuated by such laudable motives, he advances to the degree of Fellow Craft. Here he finds much to learn—much of science, and much of a practical nature. Much that requires the matured reason of manhood to acquire. By patience and perseverance, he, however, attains some degree of knowledge, but only to be the more conscious that there is the greater necessity of his attaining the Master Mason's Degree. He attains to and pursues his labour in the third degree. And as he ultimately surveys all there is of Masonry which lies beyond, the dark mysteries that enshrouded his mind are at last solved; the doubts he entertained are fled; and his hopes have become realities. He can know no more of Masonry; he has it all!

"What a true picture of Masonic progress, and how emblematical of Life and Eternity. From the darkness and inexperience of childhood, we are initiated into the Degree of partial light, denominated Youth. Youth lingers but for a day, and from which we pass on to the Degree of Manhood. In this degree the mind matures. In it man performs his most chivalric deeds, surmounts the greatest obstacles and makes the most profound philosophical researches. Still with all his vigour of body and strength of mind, he is but finite. With all his acquirements, much of life is to him a mystery. The more elaborate his examination, the more clearly he sees

this to be the case. At this period and in this condition he cannot, nor would he of choice, remain. The Degree of Old Age comes, and he receives it. Here, with all the advantages of contemplative reflection and experience, he still cannot compass the mysteries of Infinity. Into the three degrees of life he has been successively admitted, and in none of them has he found perfection. His only remaining hope for it is beyond the grave. So imperfect has he found human life that he does not fear or regret the leaving of it." Ex. Ex.

THE LODGE.

The following poem was written in 1771. It is rather a description of what a lodge should be than what it always is; and yet the lodge that is not precisely, in every point, what is here described, is recreant to its trust:—

"When to the Lodge we go, that happy place,
There faithful friendship smiles in every face;
What though our joys are hid from public view,
They on reflection please, and must be true.
The Lodge the social virtues fondly love—
There wisdom's rule we trace, and so improve;
There we, in moral architecture skilled,
Dungeons for vice, for virtue temples build;
While scepter'd Reason, from her steady throne,
Well pleased, surveys us all, and makes us one."
Ex. Ex.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

A FEW UNPOPULAR THINGS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am requested by a few provincial brethren to inquire if you would enlighten us as to the "unpopular" opinions advocated at the last Grand Conclave by Sir Knts. Ridgway and Binckes? They appear, very foolishly perhaps to you in London, to imagine that what might be unpopular to an interested clique within walking distance of London, who parted, Esau-like, with their birthright for a mess of pottage, would be highly popular to some thirty encampments in our immediate district.

They appear, also, to have a still more ridiculous notion, viz., that as far as their lodges, chapters, and encampments are concerned, there is no attempt made in London for their representation; and that these three general assemblies—none of which had any existence before 1717, and were not wanted when every lodge had power over their own degrees up to *ne plus ultra*; the only authority possessed by the body at York, being that accorded to its antiquity as the parent of our Order—are now merely used as a means of acquiring money, in some cases even to be turned against themselves, as recently exemplified in the conduct of an executive officer evidently deficient of even the most ordinary common sense.

As to their chivalric or Templar Order, they say, Why are their encampments to be deprived of their Heredom and Priestly degrees? unless this, too, is to gain money, which, however, in this case passes to a rival body. Make the admission as high or as stringent as you choose, but let there be no further charge when once brethren are admitted; they are then entitled to preferment according to merit.

Lastly, they cannot see why all English Masonry is to be swallowed up by what both ancient German and ancient English Masonry pronounced, an illegitimate body early last century. So long as High Grade Masonry does not interfere with Blue Masonry, what right has the latter to interfere with the former?

Will brethren either explain some of these things or

form an association to reform them? for there are hundreds of good men and true in the provinces, who are panting for their relief from the tomfooleries introduced into Blue, Arch, and Knightly degrees some years ago.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
A YOUNG PROVINCIAL BROTHER, No. 2.

[We have handed your note to our reporter, who replies "that he never included Sir Knt. Binckes in the matter;" what he wrote was, that Sir Knt. Ridgway made "some very uncalled-for and unpopular statements about Templary." Those would lead to no good if reproduced here. They were not for the benefit of the Order in general, or any Sir Knt. in particular, but were neither more nor less than an offensive onslaught on the Templars who had taken a prominent action in erecting the New Hall.—Ed. F. M. M.]

CHINESE LODGES.

We are requested to publish the following, which has already appeared in the *China Herald*:—

PHILIP H. UNDERWOOD, Esq.,

W.M. Northern Lodge of China.

SHANGHAI, 4th March, 1863.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I venture to address you on a subject which I have often thought of, since I became aware that the brethren of Shanghai had succeeded in securing a permanent building for a lodge, and which I think is one of no small importance to the fraternity, involving as it does the respectability of the institution in the eyes of the Chinese. I refer to the choice of a suitable Chinese name for the Lodge.

Every public building and private establishment in the place has a designation of some kind, which is found not only useful but indispensable to meet the necessities of business and general intercourse. Most of these names are what the Chinese call "lucky," having been given by compradores or servants interested in the respectability and "good-look-see" of their employers. A few however have not been so happily selected, the sound of the foreign name having simply been represented by native characters, and the Chinese asked to do this, having, by a faculty peculiar to the race, chosen words of not the most appropriate or agreeable meetings. Instances exist where the precaution of giving a name to a house has not taken place, and in such, the Chinese, who have had occasion to refer to the place, have dubbed it with some designation of their own, probably derived from some notable or ridiculous peculiarity, either of the establishment or its owners.

In the case of the lodge the natives at present know it, I believe, by the name that the library has; but I have not the slightest doubt that ere long the mysterious character of the ceremonials conducted within it will reach their inquisitive eyes and ears, and their diseased imaginations will infallibly hit upon a solution of the mystery by no means complimentary to the fraternity, and the lodge will be named accordingly. You will at once see how detrimental this result may prove to the name of Masonry in this port, and even beyond it, more especially if you call to mind the fact that to a Chinese everything that is vile and horrible is associated with the very idea of a secret society.

If I have carried you with me thus far, the next question is what the lodge had better be called. On this head I crave your patient perusal of the following remarks.

Mencius, who, as you know, was a Chinese sage of ancient days, happened curiously enough in the course of his teachings to touch on the subject of the compass and square, and to demonstrate therefrom to his disciples, that, as those instruments were the origin of the circle and the square, so the good man was the

perfect exhibition of the relations of human society. His remark which will be found in Dr. Legge's excellent translation of the Chinese classics, vol. ii. page 168, was as follows:—"The compass and square produce perfect circles and squares. By the sages the human relations are perfectly exhibited." In consequence, I presume, of this association of ideas the Chinese terms for compass and square have in the course of ages come to express order, regularity, propriety, and at this moment the colloquial Chinese equivalent for the sentence "in a proper manner," or "in accordance with propriety," is "Chao kwei keu," which being interpreted literally, means "on the compass and square." This employment of the names of two instruments, which are important emblems of the Craft, to express a moral characteristic, is curiously coincident with some of the first principles of Masonry, and it has struck me that the identity may be happily taken advantage of in selecting a suitable name for the lodge.

I propose therefore the Chinese name of "Kwei-keu-tang" meaning "Compass and Square Hall" as the most fitting designation that can be adopted. This title will at once associate the building, and the fraternity who congregate in it, in the minds of the uneducated natives, with all that is right and orderly; and to a Chinese, who knows anything of his country's literature, the name will carry his memory back to the sacred words I have before referred to, as uttered by the sage, and which, fortuitously perhaps, but none the less distinctly, convey so Masonic an idea to the mind.

I beg leave to mention here a fact which strongly corroborates the truth of my impression that the mystery connected with a Masonic lodge, unless veiled or explained by a suitable name, is calculated, with the ignorant and superstitious heathen, to lead to conclusions injurious to the fame of Masonry. There is a lodge in Batavia, where I spent many years of my childhood, learning of course, as I have done here, the language of the place. Long before I ever heard of Masonry I received impressions inimical to it from repeatedly having had the lodge there pointed out to me as "Roomah Saitan," that is "The dwelling of Beelzebub," by which it was then, and I dare say still is, known amongst the native population.

I may also add that a simple translation of the word "Freemason" or "Masonic lodge" into Chinese, would fail to convey any idea beyond that of a "free bricklayer" or "stonemason" or the "lodge of a bricklayer," &c. The Chinese language possesses no equivalent for "Mason," and hence they call a stonemason a "stone worker," and a bricklayer a "mud and water worker." It would be impossible to express the term "Mason" alone.

I must apologise for the length of this letter, and my best excuse for addressing it to you at all must be the importance of the subject on which it treats. Should yourself and the brethren not view the matter in the same light as I do, I trust you will even then pardon me, in the belief that my anxiety for the good of Masonry has prompted my intrusion of it on your notice.

Apologies are also due from me for writing, when, having had the honour of admission into the lodge as a visiting brother, I might perhaps with most propriety have mentioned the subject *viva voce*. I should certainly have adopted the latter course, had I not feared to occupy too much of the brethren's time, and had not been diffident of my ability to speak in public with any chance of securing attention.

Should you feel inclined to accept my suggestion, or should you think of some other appellation, which you would like to have put into Chinese as more suitable than the one I have proposed, I beg you will command my services without scruple, and I shall have much pleasure either in getting the characters I have thought of nicely and properly depicted, or trying to find out any others you may prefer in their place.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

W. H. MEDHURST.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

ST. JAMES'S LODGE (No. 765).—This lodge held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, January 5th, at the Leather Market Tavern, New Weston-street, Bermondsey; Bro. Joshua Howes, P.M., presided. The work was three raisings and one initiation. All the ceremonies were done in an able manner. After business, the brethren adjourned to a good banquet. Visitors—F. Walters, W.M., 73; T. Moore, 73; G. Morris, 73, &c.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 70).—The brethren of this old established lodge met, pursuant to notice, at their Masonic Hall, Courtenay-street, Plymouth, on Tuesday, the 29th ult., at two p.m. Through the indisposition of Bro. Phillips, the W.M., the lodge was opened with the usual solemnities by Bro. Harfoot, P.M., Prov. G. Treas., when the S.W., Bro. Linimore, W.M. elect, was presented for installation. This impressive ceremony, in every *minutiae*, was most ably performed by Bro. Harfoot, assisted by Bro. Gover, P.M., P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers., in those addresses portraying the beauties of Masonry, the nobleness of its charities, and the universality of the Order, based on principles, the foundation of which is the volume of the Sacred Law, the sure and safe guide to all truth and happiness. After the installation, the usual salutations being given, the new W.M., Bro. Linimore, invested the following brethren as his officers:—Bros. Holmes, *pro. tem.* for Phillips, I.P.M.; Humbly, S.W.; Matthews, J.W.; A. Dyer, S.D.; J. Head, J.D.; Nichols, I.G.; S. Head, S. Steward; Bartlet, J. Steward; Rogers, P.M., P. Prov. G. Tyler, Tyler; Ash, P.M., P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers., Treas.; Brewer, P.M., Sec. In addressing Bro. Brewer, the Secretary, the W.M. dwelt on his long services. For forty years he had been devoted to the best interests of Masonry, ever ready to exercise those talents (which he possessed of no common order), to add lustre and honour to Lodge St. John's (No. 70), of which he was so valued and beloved a member. The W.M. also expressed the pleasure he had in seeing so many old and influential brethren present, the natural guardians of our ancient landmarks (the Past Masters), of whom twelve were in attendance, viz.:—Bros. Dr. Down, P.M. 189, P. Prov. G.S.D.; Cluse, P.M. 230, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Ash, P.M., P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Gover, P.M., P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Thomas, P.M., P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Maynard, P.M., P. Prov. G. Treas.; Harfoot, P.M., P.G. Treas.; Dupre, Morgan, Holmes, Brewer, Secs.; Ferris, jun., P.M.; also Bros. Shuel, W.M., Fortitude (105); Rev. D. Ace, B.D.; Latimer, and many visitors, had honoured him by their presence. The general business being over, the brethren adjourned to Bro. Pearce's Royal Hotel for refreshment, when above forty sat down to a most excellent dinner, served up and attended in a manner that reflected credit on the resources and liberality of the establishment. The cloth being removed, the usual loyal toasts and those peculiar to Masons were given. A number of excellent speeches were made in the course of the evening, on the local and general prosperity and benevolent objects of this ancient and valued institution. The brethren were then called from refreshment to labour, and the lodge was closed with solemn prayer at ten p.m.

DURHAM.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—*St. Hilda's Lodge* (No. 240).—The annual festival of the brethren of this lodge, was held on Monday, the 4th ult., at Bro. Carman's, Golden Lion Hotel, Bro. William Wright, W.M., in the chair, supported by Bros. Potts and Tasbach, P.M.'s, P. Prov. S.G.W.'s; R. B. Ridley, P. Prov. J.G.W. (Mayor of the Borough, wearing his gold chain of office); H. Hewison, J. Roddam, H. Hedley, I.P.M.; J. G. Tulloch, Prov. J.G.W. 431; J. Hopper, P. Prov. J.G.W. 481; and H. C. Hansen, Prov. J.G.D. 431, Northumberland; Councillor Bro. C. A. Adamson, 431; J. Hinde, P.M., occupying the

vicé-chair, and an excellent muster of brethren. After having partaken of a well-served dinner, with Bro. Carman's usual care and attention, the brethren adjourned to dessert, when the usual loyal, Masonic, and complimentary toasts were given by the W.M. and Bros. Potts, Ridley, Hedley, Tulloch, Adamson, Hewison, and Roddam, and severally responded to, after being heartily received by the brethren. The intervals were enlivened by the vocal abilities of several brethren, and the evening was spent in conviviality and good fellowship. At the installation of the newly-elected W.M., Bro. Wright, the following brethren were invested officers, viz.:—Bros. J. Williamson, S.W.; G. Lawson, J.W.; R. B. Ridley, P.M., Treas.; G. S. Shotton, Sec.; W. Dalziel, S.D.; T. M. Clemence, J.D.; J. Robertson, I.G.; J. Docchar, Tyler; R. Hewison, and M. F. Gray, Stewards; H. Hedley was invested I.P.M., and J. Roddam, P.M., nominated Dir. of Cers. The ceremony of installation was conducted by Bro. R. B. Ridley, P.M., with his customary care and ability. The musical arrangements were carried out by Bros. Oliver, P.M., Williamson, Chater, Stockdale, and Hinde, P.M. Bro. G. Wilson was appointed Organist on the occasion.

HAMPSHIRE.

WINCHESTER.—*Lodge of Economy* (No. 76, late 90).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 30th ult., at the Masonic Rooms adjoining the Black Swan Hotel, when there was a very good attendance. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. A. Smith (who was in the north of England on a Christmas visit), the chair was taken by the senior P.M., Bro. C. Sherry, who was supported by several other P.M.'s of the lodge, officers, and brethren. The principal business at the meeting was the election of a W.M. of the lodge for the ensuing year. A general nomination of the whole of the brethren of the lodge, eligible for the office, had been made at the previous monthly meeting, and the choice was now decided by the members writing the name of the candidate they approved on a slip of paper. The result was a most satisfactory one, as the lodge did itself the especial honour of appointing as its head next year one of the most distinguished and zealous Masons of the South of England (Bro. J. Rankin Stebbing, of Southampton). It is generally known amongst the fraternity that Bro. Stebbing holds the exalted position of Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes, and in the Grand Lodge of England, in London, his talents are vastly respected, and he is the S.G.W. of his own province of Hampshire, throughout which he is held in deserved and universal estimation, in consequence of his high personal character as a man and a Mason, and his enthusiastic zeal in the interests of the Craft. During the ensuing year, under Bro. Stebbing's presidency and influence, some extra and important gatherings of the Masonic body will take place within the walls of the Lodge of Economy. The installation of the W.M. elect is fixed to take place on Friday, the 29th inst., which will be the 103rd anniversary of the lodge.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

BLACKBURN.—*Lodge of Perseverance* (No. 345).—The anniversary of St. John the Evangelist was held on Monday evening, the 28th ult., at the Old Bull Hotel, when a very strong muster of brethren and visiting brethren attended, numbering in the whole above seventy persons. Lodge business for the installation of the W.M. and investiture of the officers for the ensuing year commenced at 4.30 p.m. prompt, when Thos. Clough P.M., P. Prov. G. Reg. of East Lancashire, took the W.M.'s chair, and proceeded at once to form a lodge of installed Masters. Bro. James Garsden, who had been previously elected by an unanimous vote of the lodge, was then duly installed according to the ancient, solemn, and impressive rites of the Order, and having made the usual declarations, and been saluted in due form in the three degrees, proceeded to invest the officers, viz.:—Bros. Benjamin Sandford, S.W.; R. H. Hutchinson (ex-Mayor), J.W.; T. Robinson, S.D.; Christopher Tattersall, J.D.; W. Tattersall, Org.; C. Wall, I.G.; Edwin Eastwood and Joseph Callis, Stewards; Jos. Pearson, Tyler; Ralph Abbot, Sec.; James Pilkington, P.M., Treas.; John Procter, Dir. of Cers.; Rev. Charles Hughes, Chap. The W.M., in brief and pointed language, expressed his thanks for the high honour conferred upon him, and stated his resolution to do all in his power to maintain and advance the efficiency of the lodge. The brethren were then called from

labour to refreshment, when about seventy sat down to a most sumptuous banquet, provided by Mr. and Mrs. Stott, of the Bull Hotel, who are at present occupying the house in consequence of the lamented demise of Bro. Jas. Bolton. After the banquet, to which ample justice was done, the W.M. gave the usual loyal toasts in a most felicitous style, which were duly honoured, and called up Bro. Captain Fishbourne to respond to "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," which was done in choice and suitable language. The healths of the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.; the Earl de Grey and Ripon, M.W.D.G.M.; The Duke of Athol, M.W.G.M. of Scotland; and the Duke of Leinster, M.W.G.M. of Ireland; followed in rapid succession, with the usual Masonic honours. Afterwards followed the toasts of Bro. Stephen Blair, R.W. Prov. G.M. of East Lancashire; and Bro. A. H. Royd, R.W.D. Prov. G.M., and were vociferously applauded. Bro. Charles Tiplady, P.M., proposed "The Past and Present Provincial Officers of East and West Lancashire," to which Bro. Clough, P.M., responded, remarking that he trusted the time was not far distant when this large and important lodge would have the honour of being represented amongst the Officers in Provincial Grand Lodge. The toast of "The Visiting Brethren" was responded to by the representatives of lodges from Accrington, Clitheroe, Over Darwen, Clayton-le-dale, and Lodge of Fidelity, Angel Inn, Blackburn. Bro. Henry Buckhouse, P.M., responded to "The Health of the Past Masters of the Lodge," and Bro. Heath to the toast of "The Worshipful Master and Officers for the past year." "Prosperity to the Lodge 345," "The Officers for the ensuing year," "Lancashire Witches," "Our next Masonic Festival," concluded the programme of the evening, at the seasonable hour of 10.30. During the dinner, Bro. George Ellis, with the full band of the 5th Lancashire Volunteers, discoursed some choice and first-class music. Altogether the festival was a most joyous one, and the officers and brethren separated with a full determination to uphold the dignity and good-working of the lodge, and to promote in every possible way the harmony and good-fellowship of the brotherhood. The entertainments of the evening were much enhanced by the vocal harmony of several of the brethren.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 148).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 28th ult., Bros. H. B. White, W.M.; Charles Pettitt, as S.W.; John Bowes, J.W., Sec. and W.M. elect; and a number of members and visiting brethren attending. The minutes of the last regular lodge were unanimously confirmed. The lodge was opened in the second, and afterwards in the third degree, when Bro. Wm. Robinson was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. by the W.M., in his usually fluent and impressive manner. The lodge being duly closed down to the first degree, Bro. White gave notice of motion for an alteration of a bye-law. The auditors presented the Treasurer's balance-sheets and accounts, and the same were unanimously passed. The lodge was closed in ancient form, and adjourned until the following day at two o'clock p.m., for the installation of Bro. Bowes, the W.M. elect, and the celebration of

THE FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

The lodge punctually met, by adjournment from the preceding day, in the Masonic-rooms. Bros. H. B. White, W.M.; Shaw Thewlis, Prov. S.G.D., as P.M.; Captain Knight, S.W.; John Bowes (W.M. elect), J.W. and Sec.; G. Greenall, M.P., as S.D.; Charles Pettitt, J.D.; W. Woods, I.G.; J. Hepherd, ex-mayor; Rev. J. N. Porter, J. Tunstall, W. Robinson, Mac-michael, Holloway, and other members attending. Bros. the Right Hon. Lord de Tabley, P.S.G.W. of England, &c.; Thos. Wylie, P. Prov. G. Sec.; T. Armstrong, Prov. G.P.; Saunders, P.G.O.; A. Graham, Haswell, J. H. Hogg, of 129; H. Smith, and R. Warburton, were visiting brethren.

The lodge being duly opened in the first and second degrees, Bro. Shaw Thewlis, Prov. S.G.D., presented the W.M. elect, Bro. John Bowes, for the benefit of installation, to whom the summary of the ancient charges, &c., was read by the acting Secretary, Bro. C. Pettitt. The lodge being opened in the third degree, and all brethren who were not installed Masters having retired, a Board of Installed Masters was opened by the Installing Master, Bro. Wylie, P. Prov. G. Sec., and the W.M. elect having been re-admitted, was solemnly installed in the chair of K.S. The Board of Installed Masters having been

closed, the M.M.'s, the F.C.'s, and E.A.'s, were successively admitted, and saluted the W.M., who was proclaimed on each occasion. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year, viz. :—

Bro. G. Greenall, <i>M.P.</i>	Senior Warden.
„ C. Pettitt.....	J.W. and Sec.
„ W. Woods.....	Senior Deacon.
„ J. Tunstall.....	Junior Deacon.
„ W. Aterin.....	Inner Guard.
„ M. L. Trumbul.....	} Stewards.
„ G. Blackhurst.....	
„ H. B. White.....	P.M. and Treas.
„ J. Robinson.....	Tyler.

Bro. Wylie delivered the whole of the charges to the several officers in a most fluent and impressive manner.

Bro. Shaw Thewlis, P.M., Prov. S.G.D., observed that, now Bro. White had terminated his year of office as W.M., he was sure the brethren would immediately testify their esteem for, and their indebtedness to him, for the great ability, energy, and unequalled success with which he had worked, and to which is owing the progressive improvement in, and present prosperity of, this lodge. He, therefore, moved a vote of thanks to Bro. White, as the present acknowledgement of his invaluable services, which, being seconded by Bro. Captain Knight, was unanimously carried.

The W.M. then commanded the J.W. to call the brethren off for refreshment at

THE BANQUET,

which was served in the public hall, by Bro. Holloway in a sumptuous manner. It included the choicest delicacies of the season, and in every respect gave satisfaction, reflecting the greatest credit on his abilities and liberality as a caterer.

The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. Bowes, while the two Wardens, Bros. Greenall, *M.P.*, and Pettitt, occupied their "constant places."

The W.M. was supported on the right by Bro. the Right Hon. Lord de Tabley, P.S.G.W. of England, and Bro. F. Wylie, P. Prov. G. Sec.; and on the left by Bros. H. B. White P.M., and Captain Knight.

The musical arrangements were kindly undertaken by Bros. Saunders, Prov. G. Org.; Armstrong, Prov. G. Purst.; Graham and Haswell, all of Liverpool. Grace before meat, "Praise the Lord, O my Soul;" grace after meat, "Non-nobis Domine."

The cloth having been withdrawn, and orders given and executed, the following toasts were drank:—

Bro. BOWES, W.M., on rising to propose "The Queen—the daughter and niece of Masons," said it was the mission of Masons to be loyal. At their initiation into the "mystic art" they were conjured to be good citizens and loyal subjects. From principle, then, they accorded to their most gracious Sovereign, their beloved Queen, primary notice. The Queen was a model in every relation of life, and they were especially proud of her affinity to themselves as Freemasons. He trusted the G.A.O.T.U. would bless, preserve, and comfort her.

The toast was drunk with right loyal enthusiasm.

The W. MASTER said the next toast needed no words of his to commend it. The Prince of Wales had been educated in three Universities, travelled in four quarters of the globe, and had been trained by the best of parents. So far he had proved himself all that could be wished. He concluded by expressing a hope that the day was not far distant when His Royal Highness would be enrolled a member of their Order. "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," was drunk with enthusiasm.

Bro. WYLIE, P. Prov. G. Sec., by request of the W.M., proposed the next toast—"The M.W.G.M., the R.W.D.G.M., and the Grand Lodge of England." He said he entertained the most unbounded respect for the heads of the Craft, for they were the best of men and Masons, and possessed the largest sympathies. He expatiated in most eloquent terms at great length on the Order generally, and the grand principles on which it is founded. He coupled with the toast the name of Lord de Tabley, P.S.G.W. of England, and sat down amidst much Masonic cheering.

Lord DE TABLEY said that in responding to the toast so enthusiastically received, he felt unable to satisfactorily perform his duty; but he would assure the brethren that they had only rendered justice to the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland, and the R.W.D.G.M., the Earl de Grey and Ripon, who whether as noblemen, gentlemen, or as Masons, were each equally and peculiarly worthy of the greatest esteem and respect.

The Earl of Zetland had presided for many years as the sovereign ruling power over Freemasonry throughout the British dominions; and, assisted by a Grand Lodge composed of some of the best of men and Masons, has ever been distinguished by the most undeviating equity in the administration of Masonic jurisprudence—judging with candour, admonishing with friendship, and reprehending with mercy; ruling with brotherly love, gaining affection, inspiring confidence, and ever giving entire satisfaction throughout the Craft. Yet the fullest appreciation of the very many good qualities and excellent virtues possessed by our noble and Most Worshipful Grand Master and his Right Worshipful Deputy is enjoyed by those who have the honour and good fortune to be personally acquainted with them as gentlemen and brother Masons. He (Lord de Tabley) was proud of being a member of the Grand Lodge of England, and regretted that the responding on behalf of that Grand Lodge and its presiding chiefs had not fallen to a more eloquent and able member than himself. His lordship then addressed the brethren in most eloquent terms on the grand principles of the Order, and especially on the Masonic Charities, and highly eulogised the founders and supporters of the admirable West Lancashire Masonic Institution for the Education and Advancement in Life of Children of Distressed and Deceased Freemasons; and whilst commending the excellent arrangements, and being highly gratified in observing the great success of this institution, he hoped that those brethren who gave it support would yet not fail to also assist the Grand Lodge in supporting those great Masonic Charities in and near the metropolis. The noble brother said he had long been desirous of visiting this ancient lodge, and it now afforded him great pleasure in observing the admirable arrangements and the flourishing condition of the lodge. He expressed himself highly gratified and complimented by the hearty and fraternal reception he had experienced in the lodge and at the banquet; and while thanking them for their expressions of esteem and respect of, and their loyalty towards, their Masonic rulers, he, in conclusion, wished them all hearty good wishes and prosperity.

The W. MASTER proposed the "Provincial Grand Masters of East Lancashire, Cheshire, and the neighbouring Provinces," coupling with it the name of Lord De Tabley, Prov. S.G.W. for Cheshire, &c.

Bro. LORD DE TABLEY said that an unfortunate question from the W.M., indiscreetly answered, elicited from him the fact of his being an officer and member of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire, and again brought him to his feet. He thanked them for the compliment, and assured them that their kind remarks were justly merited.

Bro. THEWLIS, Prov. S.G.D., rose with extreme gratification to propose "The Health of their esteemed brother and Senior Warden, Gilbert Greenall, *M.P.* for the Borough of Warrington." He spoke at some length on the well-known public, and also many private excellencies of character unostentatiously displayed by the esteemed brother, and sat down amidst unanimous applause.

Bro. GREENALL, *M.P.*, in reply, said that here, as Masons, he must not, and dare not, enter on political topics, such being absolutely prohibited; he found the prohibition affording him an agreeable recreation after his ordinary experiences of the non-Masonic banquets. He had become a Mason on learning the disinterested and pure principles on which the Order is founded, and his experiences since having become a Mason, had corroborated and amplified his previous good opinions of the excellencies of the Institution. He had this evening been appointed as an officer in the lodge, an honour which he fully appreciated, and he would pledge himself to attend as often as possible, and discharge his duties to the utmost of his abilities. In conclusion, he thanked the brethren for the hearty, truly fraternal, and kind manner in which they had received the toast and sat down amidst much Masonic cheering.

Bro. GREENALL, *M.P.*, rose with great pleasure to propose "The Health of the W.M." He had known him intimately since he came into Warrington, now twelve years since, and he had noticed uniformly that whatever he took in hand proved a success. He did not wonder, therefore, that the brethren of No. 148 had chosen him as their W.M. Drunk with full Masonic honours.

The W. MASTER, in his response, said he felt deeply sensible of their kindness. To Bro. Greenall his thanks were due for the flattering terms in which he had proposed his health, and to all present for the reception they had given it. He naturally felt proud of the position he had attained by their unanimous

vote, at the same time he did not under-rate his difficulties in succeeding a brother so able as Bro. H. B. White. Bro. Bowes closed an earnest speech, by assuring the brethren that he would discharge the duties of his office with jealous care, ever striving to secure efficient working and to promote harmony and good will.

Bro. WYLIE proposed "The P.M.'s, Wardens, and Officers of No. 148," coupling with it the name of the Immediate P.M., Bro. H. B. White. The good working of any lodge depended in no small degree on the immediate P.M. In Bro. H. B. White they had an excellent man and Mason—he had done more for the lodge than could be easily estimated. Freemasonry in Warrington was deeply indebted to him. In the S.W. they had a gentleman known everywhere for his urbanity and benevolent disposition, and they need only look at the J.W. to conclude that his whole soul was in his work. The other officers having been chosen, all of them with the same wisdom, he was sure that all would go on well and prosperously.

Bro. H. B. WHITE, P.M., said he had already had so many opportunities of speaking of himself during the past year that on that head he should content himself by thanking them for the fraternal and hearty manner in which they had honoured the toast; he could not, however, let slip the opportunity of expressing the obligations he was under to the officers of the past year. Bro. Knight, the late S.W., had been a regular attendant in his place, and merited the esteem of every Mason by the candid and unselfish way in which he had withdrawn himself from the list of candidates for the chair, stating that the pressure of business had prevented his acquiring the proficiency in the working and jurisprudence of the Craft so requisite for the chair. The late J.W. was now W.M., and his unanimous election to that office rendered any remarks as to his proficiency unnecessary, and he (Bro. White) might say that the present J.W., Bro. Pettitt, had, during his diaconal year of office been his right hand, and that without his ever ready assistance and consistent support, the W.M. would have been nowhere. In conclusion, Bro. White observed that the remarks previously made on the Masonic Charities enabled him to explain the object of the motion for increasing the subscriptions of which he had given notice on the preceding evening. He (Bro. White) felt that although the lodge had nearly doubled its numbers, and had greatly increased in efficiency of working, during the past 2½ years, and although the local charity had been fairly supported, the three grand charities had had no support whatever, but he trusted that his motion would be carried, and the lodge thus enabled to subscribe annually to those admirable institutions.

Bro. C. PETTITT, J.W. and Sec., said he had not for a moment anticipated having to assist in responding to a toast; but from the flattering remarks, so complimentary to himself, and the manner in which those remarks had been so warmly received, he must say that with such a W.M. as Bro. H. B. White had proved himself to be, it had not been possible for him (Bro. Pettitt) or any other officer to work too willingly, too much—or to work enough in supporting that W.M. in his sincere, enthusiastic, and self-denying efforts to promote the welfare of the lodge. In Bro. Bowes they had such a successor to Bro. White, that himself and all the officers would also be proud to work under to the utmost of his and their abilities, and be emulous only in promoting the good of Masonry in general, and of this lodge particularly. Bro. Pettitt thanked the brethren for the kind and flattering reception his name and humble efforts had received, and sat down amidst Masonic cheering.

The W. MASTER proposed "The Masonic Charities." He said preceding speakers had anticipated him by saying much that he intended to say. If the Charities were not the crown of Freemasonry, they were certainly among its brightest ornaments. He then mentioned that he had seen suggested by a correspondent of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, a plan for increasing the means of the various Charities, and he trusted that it would be carried out. He concluded by giving a sentiment, suggested by the Rev. Bro. Porter—"Our poor and necessitous brethren, increase to their means, and decrease to their numbers."

Bro. HEPIERD, ex-Mayor of Warrington, rose, and in appropriate terms, welcomed and proposed the toast of "The Visiting Brethren," coupling therewith the name of Bro. Saunders, Prov. G. Org.

Drunk with full Masonic honours.

Bro. SAUNDERS, Prov. G. Org., said he thanked the brethren for the truly fraternal manner in which the toast had been pro-

posed and received. He never remembered enjoying a day so much.

The W. MASTER rose and said they would certainly be wanting in gratitude if they separated without toasting "The Musical Brethren." The music they had listened to was of the very best character in every respect. For himself, he must say he had been delighted. The musical brethren came from Liverpool without fee or reward, and he knew at some inconvenience to themselves to afford them pleasure. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Armstrong, Prov. G. Purst., and the toast was drunk with full Masonic honours.

Bro. ARMSTRONG, Prov. G. Purst., responded, and expressed the gratification and pleasure they had experienced during the evening, in promoting the harmony on this occasion.

The Rev. Bro. PORTER proposed "The Health of the Ladies," which was drunk with great enthusiasm and *eclat*.

The W. MASTER proposed, and Captain CARTWRIGHT ably responded to, "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers."

Bro. WHITE, P.M., proposed "The Health of Bro. John Holloway," for the excellent manner in which he had executed everything connected with the banquet; it had been a great success, and their thanks were due to him.

Drunk with full Masonic honours.

Bro. HOLLOWAY said that, if his efforts had given satisfaction, he was amply repaid for his exertions, and thanked the brethren for the honour and compliment just paid him in a manner so truly fraternal.

The Rev. Bro. PORTER most ably and Masonically proposed "Our Brethren, East, West, North, and South," which was received with enthusiasm and drunk with all Masonic honours.

The J.W., by command of the W.M., now called the brethren from refreshment to labour, and the lodge being closed in ancient and solemn form, the brethren separated in perfect harmony, much pleased with, and will not soon forget, the happily-spent festival of St. John the Evangelist, 1863.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge* (No. 471).—The progress of Freemasonry has been sufficient to characterise this town as one of the foremost in developing the high aims and objects of the mysterious Order. The parent lodge, the "Silurian" has brought within its fold many of the best and most distinguished of its citizens, who evince their appreciation of the Craft by inducing a continuous accession of numbers. The recurrence of Saint John's day—a red letter day in the Masonic calendar in Newport—witnesses the elevation to the office of local chief some one more than ordinarily appreciated among the fraternity. The installation day of the lodge was Tuesday, the 29th December, on which occasion the brotherhood judiciously selected our esteemed townsman, Bro. R. B. Evans, to fill the important office of W.M. The installation took place at the elegant Masonic-hall, in Dock-street, at high noon. Bro. Henry Bridges, of Bridgwater, D. Prov. G.M. for Somerset and Prov. G.S.B., had the distinguished honour of performing the solemn and mysterious rites, as he has on many previous occasions been privileged to do. Previous to the installation, a great accession to the brotherhood was observed; the novitiates having the pleasing honour of participating, to some extent, in the ceremonial. The musical service was under the control of Bro. Henry John Groves, organist of St. Woollos church, and P. Prov. G. Org.; and we are permitted, with pleasure, to state his effective rendering of the "Dead March in Saul," and other compositions, during the ceremonial was most effective. The installation ceremony being a service so peculiarly "religious," it may justly be said, judging therefrom, that Masonry is strictly the handmaid of Christianity. The following appointments were made:—Bros. Richard Baugh Evans, W.M.; S. Harrison, P.M.; John Griffith, S.W.; Bartholomew Thomas, J.W.; W. Pickford, Prov. G. Tyler, as Treas.; W. Williams, Prov. G. Sec., as Sec.; Chas. Oliver, S.D.; G. J. Hands, J.D.; H. J. Gratte, I.G.; Parnell and Gobbett, Stewards; W. M'Fee, Tyler. Among the brethren present here and at the banquet were those above named, and Bros. Henry Bridges, D. Prov. G.M. for Somerset; C. Lyne, D. Prov. G.M. for Monmouth; Dr. Morgan, P.M. Isca Lodge, Mayor of Newport; George Jones, ex-Mayor; Capt. George Homfray, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; Thos. F. Lewis, town councillor and P.M.; Thos. Beynon, P.M., town councillor, and Prov. G. Pursuivant; John Whitchurch, P.M.; Edward Wells, P.M., Prov. G.S.W. for Monmouthshire; R. J. Cathcart, P.M. Isca Lodge; John Middleton, Sec. Isca Lodge; Chas.

Simpson, W.M.E. Isca Lodge; Jas. Pearce, W.M. Philanthropic Lodge, Abergavenny, and Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; W. Scott, Philanthropic; Jacob Druiff and Jacob Isaacs (493), Gloucester; John D. Jarman, P.G.L. Somerset; J. Grierson, W.M. Glamorgan Lodge, Cardiff; W. B. Stocker, Prov. G.J.D., W. F. Brown, W.M., and W. Crump, Lebanon Lodge, Gloucester; G. Wheeler, Colston Lodge, Bristol; Jones, John A. Thorpe, W.M., Bute Lodge, Cardiff; David Roberts, Hon. Sec. and Treas. (36); Henry John Groves, P.M., Isca Lodge, and P. Prov. G. Org.; and the following brethren of the Silurian Lodge, Newport:—Wyndham Jones (town councillor), Prov. G. Steward; John Huxtable, Henry Collier, Evans (Risca), J. M. Scott, Charles Smith, Henry P. Bolt, John Spittle, Richard Wade, Wm. Randall, James Sanders, Henry Hellier, John S. Stone, James Gobbett, Thomas and Edward Davies, John Lewis Lloyd, Nugent Wells, H. L. Williams, H. Wade, Henry Parnall, F. J. Williams, James Raitton, Samuel T. Hallen, R. Richards, Lawrence B. Moore (town councillor), William Morris, Thomas Heal, Robert Campbell, James Homer, W. Burrige, Elijah Hunt, Abraham Isaacs, J. Marston, J. Harman. The installation proceedings being concluded, the brethren proceeded to the ancient and famous hostelry of Bro. S. T. Hallen, the Westgate, where one of the most sumptuous banquets ever provided by that worthy host, awaited the onslaught of the brotherhood. Need we say a word about the manner in which it was enjoyed? Pass we on to state the *post prandial* observances included the hearty acceptance of the following toasts:—The Queen and Craft; the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family; the M.W.G.M. of the Order; the R.W.D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers; the R.W. Bro. Rolls, Prov. G.M. for Monmouth; the V.W. Bro. Lyne, D. Prov. G.M., and members of the Provincial Grand Lodge; the Army, Navy, and Volunteers; the W.M. of the Silurian Lodge (No. 471); the Visitors; the Immediate P.M. of the Silurian Lodge, and other Past Masters; the Governors of the Masonic-hall; the W.M. and Brethren of the three other Lodges in the Province; the Officers past and present, and Brethren of the Silurian Lodge; the Ladies; to all Poor and Distressed Masons; the Host and Hostess. We should add, that excellent harmonious renderings of some favourite Masonic and other songs were given by Bros. Groves, Whitechurch, Wells, Homfray, Heal, Lyne, Jones, Bolt, Gratte, and others, and the proceedings terminated with due decorum and well-regulated enjoyment at a very prudent hour.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NORTH SHIELDS.—*St. George's Lodge* (No. 431).—The usual meeting for the installation of the W.M. elect, and appointment of officers for the ensuing year was held in the Masonic Hall, on Tuesday, the 29th ult., when Bro. James Patterson Simpson, was duly installed in the chair of K.S., by Bro. J. W. Mayson, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W., assisted by a board of installed Masters. The W.M. appointed and invested the following brethren as officers:—Bros. H. C. Hansen, I.P.M.; George Fenwick Stretton, S.W.; Joseph Robertson, J.W.; William Fenwick, Treas.; John G. Tulloch, P.M., Sec. and Dir. of Cers.; Joseph Gibson, S.D.; Septimus Young, J.D.; H. W. Weatherstone, I.G.; T. Walker, and Peter M. Stephenson, Stewards; John Evans, Tyler. The ceremony of installation and also the charges to the several officers were beautifully rendered by Bro. Mayson, affording instruction and delight to the brethren present. After receiving propositions the lodge was closed in due form. The annual festival was celebrated at Bro. Manning's Albion Hotel, on Wednesday, the 30th ult., when about 50 brethren sat down to a most sumptuous banquet, under the presidency of the W.M., who was supported by Bros. John G. Tulloch, Prov. J.G.W.; H. C. Hansen, Prov. J.G.D.; W. E. Franklin, P. Prov. S.G.D.; J. Hinde, P.M. 240, P. Prov. S.G.D.; A. E. Donald, P. Prov. G. Sec.; James Roddam, P.M. 240; T. M. Clemence, S.D. 240; and J. Y. Strachan, Sec. 24 and 406, besides the officers and brethren of *St. George's Lodge*, and several visitors, and the day was spent in a truly harmonious manner. The first regular meeting of the present year was held on Monday, 4th inst., the W.M., Bro. Simpson, presiding, supported by his officers and a large number of the brethren. After confirming the minutes of previous meetings, several ballots were taken for joining and initiations, all of which proved favourable. The lodge was regularly worked in the first and second degrees. The W.M., in a very impressive and able manner initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries, and passed

two brethren to the F.C. degree, during which ceremonies he was well assisted by his officers, who performed the duties of their respective offices in a highly satisfactory manner, as is usual in this lodge. After arranging to hold a meeting of emergency for the purposes of the third degree, on the 12th inst., the lodge was closed in due form.

ROYAL ARCH.

AUSTRALIA.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER (E.C.) OF VICTORIA.

The inauguration of a Provincial Grand Chapter of Victoria, under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, took place on Wednesday, the 14th October, at the Masonic-rooms, St. Patrick's Hall, Melbourne.

Chapter was opened at half-past eight o'clock.

Most Excellent Comp. Moody, as Z., Very Excellent Comp. Lazarus as H.; Most Excellent Comp. Rose as J.

A large number of Principals, Past Principals, and Companions attended.

Scribe E. read the roll of the Chapters, and noted those represented.

Scribe E. read the patent of appointment of Most Excellent Companion Frederick Charles Standish, to the office of Prov. G. Superintendent, which appointment was approved by the Provincial Grand Chapter.

Scribe E. read a dispensation empowering Most Excellent Companion J. J. Moody to act as Installing Principal for the purpose of installing and inducting the Provincial Grand Principals into their several offices.

Most Excellent Companion Horowitz and Excellent Companion Bowen then introduced the Most Excellent Companion Charles F. Standish, Provincial Grand Superintendent elect, to be duly installed.

The Installing Principal requested that all companions who had not obtained the rank of First Principal should retire, and then opened a convocation of Past Principals, the following Most Excellent Z's being present:—Comps. J. T. Smith, Most Excellent Prov. G. Superintendent under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Moody, Rose, Levick, Rintel, Taaffe, James, Horowitz, Gratton.

The ceremony of installation having been performed, the M.E.Z. Moody delivered a charge to the Prov. G. Superintendent, and the brethren having saluted him in Masonic form, the second and third Principals were admitted.

Very Excellent Comp. Clark was then appointed by the Prov. G. Superintendent to undertake the duty of the second chair.

M.E.Z. Levick asked if Comp. Clarke was qualified to fill that office, not being a past or present Z.

After some discussion, the M.E.P.G. Superintendent requested Comp. Clarke to decline accepting the office, as some doubt arose whether he could fill the office in the Provincial Grand Chapter until he had passed the principal Z chair in a private chamber.

V.E. Comp. Clarke yielded to the request of the Prov. G. Superintendent, and M.E.Z. Comp. Rose was installed into the office of H.; and M.E.Z. Comp. James was installed into the office of J.

The convocation of Past Principals was then closed; and the companions of the chapter were admitted.

The Three Provincial Grand Principals were then proclaimed, and saluted in accordance with Masonic custom.

The Chapter then proceeded to elect a treasurer. Companion R. T. Tracey was chosen to fill that office.

The M.E. Prov. G. Superintendent regretted that a severe accident prevented the attendance of Comp. Tracey, but hoped at the next convocation to be able to invest him with the collar of his office.

The following Companions were then invested:—

Comp. Lempriere	Prov. G. Scribe E.
„ Horowitz.....	Prov. G. Soj.
„ Bowen.....	Prov. G. Assist. Soj.
„ Porter.....	Prov. G. Sword Bearer.
„ Lazarus.....	Prov. G. Standard Bearer.
„ Harris.....	Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.

The Provincial Grand Superintendent having appointed his officers, said he was proud of his present position, and hoped his future conduct would merit the approbation of the Most

Excellent Companion who had appointed him, and that his Masonic endeavours should always be directed to further the interests of the Craft in general.

A Board of General Purposes was then formed, consisting of the three Provincial Grand Principals and three Companions appointed by them, viz.:—Comps. White, Harris, and Horowitz. The Chapter appointed Comps. Bowen, Lazarus, Porter, Reed, Stump, Staggs.

M.E.Z. Moody proposed—"That the committee be requested to prepare a code of bye-laws and a scale of fees and subscription, also to procure the necessary books for the Provincial Grand Chapter."

Comp. Porter seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Scribe E. stated that dispensations had been granted for the holding of a Royal Arch Chapter at South Yarra, and at Dunedin.

The M.E. Prov. G. Superintendent ruled that the Scribe E. was *ex-officio* a member of the Board of General Purposes.

The Most Excellent Comp. J. T. Smith, Prov. Grand Superintendent, under the Irish Constitution, expressed the pleasure he felt at being present at the inauguration of the Provincial Grand Chapter, and the installation of the M.E. Prov. G. Superintendent; and he hoped that all Constitutions would work together in Masonic harmony.

The convocation of the Provincial Grand was then closed with the usual solemnities.

IRELAND.

CORK.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MUNSTER.

The grand banquet in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Grand Mastership of his Grace the Duke of Leinster, so much spoken of, and so anxiously expected by the Masonic brethren of the province of Munster, came off on the 29th ult., at the Imperial Hotel, Cork, with the greatest éclat. At half-past six o'clock 150 brethren assembled in full Masonic costume in the ante-room. The following lodges were represented by their W. Master and officers, and a large number of brethren, viz.—Nos. 1, 3, 8, 67, 71, 95 City of Cork; 15, Skibbereen; 86, Youghal; 84, Bandon; 555, Fermoy; 557, Queens-town. A large number of brethren from different other English and other foreign lodges were also present. The costumes of the different degrees were most gorgeous, many private lodges having provided new clothing for the occasion. The Provincial Grand Officers wore their splendid aprons and collars embroidered with gold, and the respective jewels appended. The 33rd, or dernier degree, S.G.I.G., was represented by Bro. Anthony Perrier, who appeared in the full clothing and jewels of this illustrious grade, and which attracted general admiration.

At a quarter to seven o'clock, Bro. Charles Cotton having announced that dinner was served, the Prov. G. Stewards, Bros. H. S. Noblett, F. Guy, and E. Wigmore, marshalled the procession from the ante-room to the grand ball-room, where the banquet was laid, in the following order:—the D. Prov. G.M. of Munster (Bro. George Chatterton, J.P.); the Prov. G. Officers, the P. Prov. G. Officers, Lodges 1, 3, 8, 15, 27, 67, 68, 71, 84, 95, 555, 557.

The brethren having been seated (the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Chatterton, presiding) the venerable Master's chair of the first lodge of Ireland having been placed upon a dais for the Chairman, the grace was pronounced by the Rev. A. Hill, A.M., Rector of Fermoy, Provincial Grand Chaplain. The Chairman was supported on his right by Bros. the Hon. Moore Smyth, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Rev. A. Hill, Prov. G. Chap.; A. Perrier, P. Prov. S.G.W.; H. S. Noblett, Prov. G. Sec.; and the W.M. of Lodge 1. On his left by Bros. the Rev. J. D. Penrose, P. Prov. G. Chap.; John Cave, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Richd. Meara, P. Prov. G.W.; Francis Guy, Prov. G. Treas.; E. Wigmore, P.M. 71; the W.M. of Lodge 3. The Vice-Presidents were Bros. J. Crewe Townsend, Prov. S.G.W., and W. Penrose, Prov. J.G.W.

The dinner was served in the best style of Bro. Cotton; the tables being richly decorated with candelabra, and silver vases filled with flowers. The cloth being removed, and thanks offered by the Prov. G. Chaplain, "*Non nobis Domine*" was

most effectively given by Bros. James Roche, J. C. Marks, Baker, Edward Hackett, J. O'Donoghue, W. A. Hackett, and Rogers.

The D. Prov. G. MASTER called on the brethren to fill a high bumper, and in proposing the health of the Queen, said that he felt confident they would not consider it as a mere formal toast, but would receive it with that heartfelt loyalty and enthusiasm which was due to the best of Queens and very best of women. He gave them the "The Health of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen."

When the prolonged demonstrations of respect and loud cheers which followed the toast had subsided, "God save the Queen" was sung, the solo parts by Bros. Roche and Baker, the entire brethren joining in the chorus.

The D. Prov. G. MASTER, on giving "The Health of the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," said that we were a happy nation—happy in our glorious constitution and admirable laws, and also happy in the beloved and amiable Royal Family which surrounded her Majesty. (Loud cheers.)

The D. Prov. G. MASTER next gave, "The Grand Master, Grand Officers, and Grand Lodge of England."

Bro. ARCHER, No. 8, P.G.S. of the Grand Lodge of England, in responding to the toast, commented upon the high character of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, and also upon the spread of the Masonic Order under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of England. The Sandwich Islands, which not many years ago were enveloped in heathenism and barbarity, were now brought under the benign precepts of Christianity, and the genial influences of Masonry were beginning to be felt even there, the Sovereign of these islands being a brother mason.

The D. Prov. G. MASTER then proposed, "The Grand Master, Grand Officers, and Grand Lodge of Scotland."

The D. Prov. G. MASTER called for a high bumper, and said he was about to propose the toast of the evening—"The Health of the Grand Master of Ireland, His Grace the Duke of Leinster." They met on that evening to celebrate a novel and interesting event, which was the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of his grace's election to the Grand Master's chair. The Masonic records of any country could furnish no similar occurrence. It was equally honourable to the exalted merit of the illustrious Duke, and to the truly Masonic feelings of his brethren, who, duly appreciating his high character and virtues, gave him their unanimous suffrages on each occasion of his election. He (the Chairman) had waited upon his Grace a short time since with the Prov. G. Sec. to present the address lately voted by the Provincial Grand Lodge, which was most kindly received by him, and upon conveying to him an invitation to be present at this banquet given in honour of him, his Grace desired him to convey to the brethren his warmest thanks and most paternal regards, but that his advanced years and the season of the year must plead his excuse for not being present on the occasion, that though absent in body he would be present in heart and spirit with them. (Great cheering, followed by the grand Masonic honours.)

R.W. and H. Bro. ANTHONY PERRIER, as a member of the Grand Master's Lodge, returned thanks on behalf of the Most Noble, Most Illustrious, and Most Worshipful Grand Master, and in a speech of much length and power, took occasion to review many of the eminent actions and services to the Order of his Grace since 1813, during which period, by unremitting measures of prescient wisdom and untiring patience, requiring laborious research, extended correspondence, and in some instances, frequent personal communications with Supreme Masonic authorities in England, France, Russia, Prussia, and America, &c., the Order in Ireland had finally been settled on the firm basis whereon it now stands, rejecting all that was impure, and consolidating the governing powers of the respective bodies in their present mutual bond of brotherhood, and community of action. Bro. Perrier dwelt on his Grace's kindly and fostering feeling always manifested towards the brethren of the jurisdiction of the ancient and honoured Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster, of which he mentioned several proofs, and alluded to the munificent charities of his Grace to the distressed brethren, their widows and orphans, including the Female Asylums for the latter in Dublin and Cork. In conclusion, he reminded the brethren that the reciprocation most valued by, and acceptable to their venerated Grand Master, was in their preserving the true light undimmed in their temples, and the purity, honour, and respectability of the Order therein, as well as to the outer world. These he fervently trusted would ever continue their pride and cherished duty.

(Bro. Perrier was repeatedly interrupted by applause, and on terminating, cheering was renewed, and repeated for a considerable interval.)

"The Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lodge of Ireland" was responded to by Bro. H. H. TOWNSEND, W.M., Lodge No. 1.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER, in proposing "The Grand Lodges of America," stated that they were thirty-six in number, that Masonry was a great Institution in America, from whose members the most admirable and profound writings upon the history, laws, and principles of the Order had emanated. He wished to connect with the toast the name of a brother whom, although he had never seen he had for many years corresponded with, and for whom he should ever feel the most sincere esteem and brotherly love. He meant Bro. Frederick Webber. Bro. Webber had been for many years, and still, notwithstanding the present fearful troubles in America, was a regular subscriber to their Masonic Orphan Asylum in Cork. He felt happy in having an opportunity of paying a compliment to this excellent brother.

Bro. ROGERS responded to the toast.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER here proposed "The health of their illustrious brother, the Provincial Grand Master of Munster, General Sir James Chatterton." Upon the mention of the gallant general's name the entire of the brethren rose, and by loud and prolonged cheers testified their respect for the Provincial Grand Master. The D. Prov. G.M. said that he felt it unnecessary to dilate upon the toast before them. They all knew the distinguished brother whose name he had mentioned. He had passed an honourable and respected life in the service of his country; nor was he unknown to them as a fellow citizen. (Cheers.) If circumstances permitted him to be present, he should have rejoiced to see such an assemblage of his brethren, and been truly grateful for the enthusiastic manner in which his name had been received. (Cheers, followed by the grand Masonic honours.)

Bro. CREWE TOWNSEND, S.G.W., responded.

The next toast was, "All true and accepted Masons of all regular Lodges throughout the World."

Bro. JOHN BENNETT, P.M. Lodge No. 8, here rose to propose "The Health of the Chairman, Bro. George Chatterton, D. Prov. G.M." Bro. Bennett, in an eloquent and lengthened address, reviewed the state of Masonry in Ireland, and its advancement, particularly in the province of Munster, which he attributed in a great measure to the zeal and exertions of his esteemed friend and brother whose name was before them. (Loud and continued cheers.)

The D. PROV. G. MASTER, after the grand honours had been given, rose to return thanks. He felt that he did not deserve one-half of the encomiums which his friends and Bro. Bennett had passed upon him. He had been placed in the high and honourable position which he now held more by accidental circumstances than by any merit of his own. (No, no.) It was true that since his initiation, now thirty years ago, he had taken an active part in the working of the various degrees of Masonry. He hoped he had not been a drone in the Masonic hive. (Cheers.) He had studied the principles upon which the Order was founded, and with the guidance of the G.A.O.T.U., had endeavoured to conform his life and practice to them. There were in the world many associations of men for various purposes—many societies in which men were banded together for good; but where, he would ask, was there any society or institution formed by men like theirs? whose immutable principles were "Brotherly love, relief, and truth"—brotherly love being the foundation of its structure—the middle storey being the glorious and God-like virtue of charity, while the top-stone was Truth, divine truth, moral truth, truth and sincerity between man and man, truth and honour and honesty in all our dealings. He asked the brethren to have these principles in mind, and to guard with the utmost watchfulness the approaches to our lodges. Let them examine well the materials before they are admitted within the porch, and see that they be well squared and fitted as proper materials for their temples; then should our Order flourish for ages to come, as it has for ages past, and be a benefit to mankind. Our natural year was now about to close, and he begged his brethren if any petty animosities, if any jarring or unbrotherly feelings existed in their minds, to bury them with the year that is passing away. He would conclude with the emphatic words of our beautiful Invocation—"Let brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement and unite us." Loud and prolonged cheering followed the address of the Deputy Grand Master.

"The Masonic Female Orphan Asylum of the Province," was next proposed and drunk.

Bro. H. S. NOBLETT responded, and called on all the brethren for more liberal contributions to this excellent Charity, and invited them and their friends to visit the Institution.

The Senior Warden's and Junior Warden's toasts were next given.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER gave "The Health of our Musical Brethren," who had so eminently contributed to the success and harmony of the banquet, and begged to call upon his friend Bro. James Roche.

Bro. ROCHE returned thanks.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER, in proposing the last toast upon the list, "To our next merry meeting," said that he did so with regret, but that all the best things in life must come to an end. He thanked them for their kindness upon this and all other occasions, and for the present took an affectionate leave of all, wishing them A Happy New Year. (Applause.)

"The Health of Bro. Cotton" having been given and warmly responded to, the brethren rose and departed at a quarter to twelve o'clock, highly gratified with the entertainment of the evening.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—A special meeting was held on Wednesday, the 30th ult., so as not to interfere with the numerous engagements of brethren on New Year's eve, when according to the usual arrangements it should have been held. Soon after six o'clock, the lodge was opened in the first degree by Bro. Durell, W.M., assisted by his Wardens, Bros. Clement and Philip E. Le Sueur. The W.M. read a note from Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M. 43, W.M. 958, apologising for absence on account of confinement to the house by indisposition. The W.M. having opened the lodge in the second degree, announced that Bros. J. Ahier, Ch. G. Renouf, and E. Pock were ready to receive further advancement. The lodge was opened in the third degree, and the candidates were successively introduced, and raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by the W.M., who also gave them the customary charge appertaining to it, and the explanation of the tracing-board, the whole of the ceremony being conducted in the most impressive manner. The lodge was resumed in the first degree, and Bro. John Blampied was examined as to his proficiency. The lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Blampied was re-introduced and passed to that of Fellow-craft with the accustomed solemnities, receiving also the explanations of the tracing board and the charge appropriate for the occasion. Again the lodge was resumed in the first degree. The members unanimously approved of a gratuity granted to the Tyler by the W.M. and Wardens. The proceedings were brought to a close at nine o'clock in perfect harmony, and about 40 of those present adjourned for refreshment, after which an hour was passed in a most agreeable manner. The usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured, but that to the Rev. Bro. De la Mare, Chaplain, was received with the greatest enthusiasm. The formal monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the following day, Dec. 31, Bro. Durell as usual presiding, assisted by his S.W. and Bro. Goupillot acting as J.W. The Secretary read the minutes of the last regular meeting and also of two emergency meetings, all of which were unanimously confirmed. A donation of 10s. was accorded to a distressed brother, and several accounts were passed, which terminated the proceedings, and the lodge was closed with the usual formalities.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

FORT BEAUFORT—(Zeland Lodge, No. 608, late 844).—The dedication of the Masonic Hall for the above lodge, took place at Fort Beaufort, on the 14th October, 1863. The officers for that year being—Bros. Ward, W.M.; Kay, P.M. and Sec.; Pearson, S.W.; Winenand, J.W.; Estment, Treas.; Blakeway, S.D.; Overton, J.D.; Henman, I.G.; Muller, Tyler. The new Masonic Hall, is situated in the centre of the new town, and the foundation-stone was laid by our much esteemed and worthy Bro. Com. General Drake, C.B., on the 27th August A.L. 5862. The architecture of the building is strictly Gothic, and reflects

the greatest credit on the architect (Mr. Castledine, R.E.), in fact all who have seen it pronounce it to be the most handsome and substantial building on the frontier. The hall itself is very commodious, and the preparing rooms, &c., admirably suited for the purpose required. As Masonry is making rapid progress in this district, we hope soon to be able to add a banquetting room, tyler's quarters, &c. The news of the dedication having spread far and wide, the town was quite alive at nine a.m., hundreds having come from a distance to witness the occasion. At half-past ten 72 members of the Craft assembled at the old lodge room, where the lodge was opened in due form. The procession then formed, and the ceremonial was proceeded with by Bro. Com. General Drake, C.B., assisted by Bro. Ward, W.M., and the brethren; the Chaplain pronouncing the following benediction:—"May this Freemasons' Hall, now dedicated to Masonry, be ever the sanctuary and receptacle of virtue, universal charity, and benevolence; may those who are invested with the government of the lodge, be endued with wisdom to instruct their brethren in all duties, may brotherly love and charity prevail among the members of the lodge; and may this bond of union continue to strengthen the lodges throughout the world. May the Great Architect of the Universe, bless all here assembled, and all brethren throughout the world, wheresoever dispersed; and grant speedy relief to all who are either oppressed or distressed. We humbly commend to Thee all the members of Thy whole family; may they increase in the knowledge of Thee, and the love of each other. Finally, may we finish all our works here below, with Thine approbation; and then, have our transition from this earthly abode to Thy Holy Temple above; there to enjoy light, glory, and bliss ineffable.

Glory be to God on high.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end—Amen." A very clever and appropriate sermon was preached on the occasion by the Bro. Syree. At the close of the ceremony a very handsome silver trowel was presented to Bro. C. G. Drake, C.B., by the brethren of the Zetland Lodge. In the evening the brethren gave a splendid ball which was attended by 250 people. The room was tastefully decorated with flags, evergreens, flowers, and transparencies, with Masonic devices, mottoes, &c. The viands were sufficient and good, and the stewards most energetic and attentive in their endeavours to make the assembly enjoy themselves. Altogether the scene was brilliant and will long be remembered by those who witnessed it. The ladies declare that Freemasons only know the secret of making everyone happy. The thanks of the brethren are due to the fair ones for adding to the beauty and grandeur of the occasion and for kindly singing in the choir. The splendid band of the Cape Mounted Rifles played with taste and spirit during the whole evening.

INDIA.

(From the *Indian Freemason's Friend*.)

DACCA.

LODGE GOOD HOPE (No. 1058, now altered to 756).—The brethren met emergently on Wednesday, the 9th September. From unavoidable circumstances, the attendance of members was small, and there was besides one visitor present, who, like a good Mason, has applied to join. After the lodge had been duly opened, and other business regularly gone through, two candidates were passed to the second degree,—the one was Bro. Grownfield, and the other Bro. Burnett (both of the Northern Revenue Survey.) Bro. Sergeant Thomas Davies, of the Army Commissariat Department, late of the Scotch Lodge St. David in the East (No. 371), was elected a joining member, and exempted, in consequence of his limited means, from payment only of his assessment to the lodge. Two candidates were proposed as desiring to join, including the visiting brother above alluded to. The proceedings were rendered most gratifying by the ceremony, which next took place, of presenting to Bro. J. G. N. Pogose, P.M. of the lodge, in a suitable and graceful speech from the E.,—besides a splendid collar and apron,—a very handsome solid gold P.M.'s jewel, most tastefully executed with buckle and holder, ribbon and case complete, having on a blue ground, a square, and the diagram of the 47th proposition, encircled with a neatly corded vine and cassia border, and surmounted with a square and compasses supporting a double

Triangle, richly embossed and chased, bearing on the inverse the following inscription:—"Presented by the Brethren of Lodge Good Hope (No. 1058), Dacca, to W. Bro. J. G. N. Pogose, as a token of fraternal regard, and in acknowledgment of his valuable services to the lodge, particularly whilst W.M. in 1861." And around the obverse:—"Lodge Good Hope (No. 1058)." The gift was acknowledged by Bro. Pogose in the most thankful and appropriate terms, and with feelings of the warmest gratitude. There was also an almost similarly designed gold P.M.'s jewel, and a most elegant gold watch by Frodsham, both suitably inscribed, ready for presentation to the Honorary Past Master, Bro. Major G.B. Jennings; but as that brother is now at Meean Meer, Punjab, the testimonial remains to be presented to him through some working lodge nearest to his station. On the lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned as usual to the festive board, and enjoyed harmoniously together a splendid dinner, and passed a very pleasant evening.

JULLUNDER.

LODGE WAHAB, OR BENEVOLENT.—Some Masons, finding themselves strong enough, determined at the beginning of the year to re-open Lodge Jullunder (No. 906), which had been for some years dormant; when, lo! at a meeting convened to discuss preliminaries, a brother produced a letter just received from an official at Calcutta, announcing that the lodge (No. 906) had been erased from the registry of the Grand Lodge of England, at the quarterly communication of March, 1862. This, as you may suppose, made us open our mouths and gasp again; but being very anxious to have a lodge and commence working, it was determined to petition Grand Lodge, through the Prov. G.M., for a restoration of the warrant. The Prov. G.M., however, recommended us to apply for a new warrant, as being easier of attainment than the restoration of the old one, at the same time very kindly saying that he would recommend to District Grand Lodge that the property of the old lodge be made over to us, waiving their claim on account of the Fund of Benevolence. So much expence being saved, we agreed to apply for a new warrant, which was accordingly done, and authority was given in the middle of April to the Master elect to open the new Lodge Wahab, or Benevolent. This was accordingly done. The lodge was opened in each of the three degrees, the W.M. adding a few words to the usual prayers, invoking the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe on the Lodge Wahab or Benevolent then opened for the first time. Since then it has assembled regularly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. The earlier meetings were for purposes of instruction, rehearsal of ceremonies, lectures and instruction in the three degrees. We had one joining candidate and one Entered Apprentice amongst our number, both of whom sent in applications for promotion. The Entered Apprentice was, in due course, examined in open lodge, but not being deemed sufficiently expert in some parts of the work, he was recommended to practise a little more, and was, after a time, found qualified, and was duly passed to the second degree. As usually happens in the plains one-half of our our small number went to the hills, and in consequence of two others being temporarily indisposed, we could not open the lodge during the month of July. Since the return of some of the hill birds, however, we have continued to meet regularly, and there is now, I hear, likely to be an increase to our numbers, some officers and a native gentleman, I am told, having expressed a desire to be initiated into our mysteries. The joining candidate alluded to above, when he found the style of examination through which the Entered Apprentice was put, begged to defer his examination, as he feared he was not quite prepared. The Entered Apprentice used to go to the Master for instruction, and when he began to know something about the precepts of the first degree, stated that he was very glad he had been rejected at first, as he now said that at that time he really knew nothing at all about Masonry. The native gentleman alluded to is a Parsee merchant, a young man, who talks, reads, and writes English very well. He appears very anxious to be made, and a copy of Preston's Illustrations has been lent to him. He seems to like the book, and says that the funeral ceremony is very similar to that of the Parsees.

CALCUTTA.

LODGE TRUE FRIENDSHIP.—A regular meeting was holden on Tuesday, the 29th September. Present—Bros. Roberts, Master, presiding; John W. Brown (P.M. of Lodge Saint John) as P.M.; Kelvey, S.W.; Dove, J.W.; Westfield, S.D.; Ball (of

Lahore), as J.D.; John Robinson, Sec. Bro. W. H. Fitze was advanced to the second degree by the W.M. Bros. H. Humphrey and Simmons were raised to the M.M.'s degree by Bro. John W. Brown, who had been invited to attend for the purpose of assisting in the labours of the evening.

LODGE HUMILITY WITH FORTITUDE.—This lodge met on the 21st of September. Present—Bros. J. B. Knight, W.M.; J. G. Bowerman, P.M.; F. Jennings, P.M.; A. D'Cruz, as S.W.; J. Bruce Gillon, J.W.; F. M'Alpin, Treas.; J. Walter Beatson, Sec.; J. Mackintosh, as S.D.; C. S. Gøbbels, as J.D.; E. Symonds, I.G.; and B. Jacobs, Tyler, besides members and visitors, amongst the latter of whom we were glad to see our Bro. J. W. Brown. Bro. T. Holmes was raised to the third degree by Bro. Bowerman. An allowance to the widow of a Mason was renewed for six months. A letter was read from the G. Sec. to the Grand Lodge of England, notifying that the number of the lodge had been altered by the Grand Lodge from 279 to 229.

Another meeting of this lodge was held on the 5th October. Present—Bros. J. B. Knight, W.M.; J. G. Bowerman and F. Jennings, P.M.'s; F. M'Alpin, Treas., as S.W.; J. Bruce Gillon, J.W.; J. Walter Beatson, Sec.; J. Mackintosh, as S.D.; E. Symonds, I.G.; B. Jacobs, Tyler, besides members and visitors. It being a quarterly meeting, the report of the Permanent Committee was read, and showed that the lodge was in a prosperous condition. Notwithstanding the bad weather, the brethren mustered in pretty good numbers. The next meeting of the lodge will be held on the 2nd November, at half-past six p.m., and thenceforward there will be two meetings a month, on the first and third Mondays.

LODGE COURAGE WITH HUMANITY.—A regular meeting was held on Thursday, the 10th September, Bro. J. H. Linton, W.M. presiding. Three candidates were initiated, viz., Messrs. Joseph Renie Onraet, Edward Bernard Toussaint, and Thomas Dunlop. Bro. Barlow was raised to the M.M.'s degree by Bro. John W. Brown.

LODGE SAINT JOHN.—A regular meeting was held on Friday, the 25th of September, Bro. Dr. Frank Powell, W.M., presiding. Bro. Capt. G. F. Vincent, Her Majesty's Indian Army, having applied to rejoin the lodge, was re-admitted by acclamation. The W.M. mentioned the discussion in District Grand Lodge as to the admission of Hindoos into Freemasonry, adding that the question had been fully discussed at the communication of the 22nd September, the result being against that race of Asiatics being received into the fraternity. The W.M. appointed Bro. George Chisholm I.G.

ROYAL ARCH.

CHAPTER HOLY ZION.—A convocation was held on Saturday, the 10th of October. Present—Comps. Hugh D. Sandeman, M.E.C., Grand Superintendent; John Wm. Brown, M.E.C., Pl. Z. of Chapter Hope, Honorary Principal of Holy Zion, presiding; Linton, M.E.C., Z. of Chapter Holy Zion; J. Evans, E.C.; Rambart, E.C., Principal Sojourner; E. Comps. C. T. Davis and — as Assist. Sojs.; Taylor, E.C., as Scribe E.; Daniel, E.C., Janitor. Bros. Coleman, of Lodge 392, and Ponsland, of Essex, Lodge Selim, Massachusetts, were exalted to the R.A. degree by Bro. John W. Brown, M.E.C.

AUSTRALIA.

PORTLAND.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE NEW COUNCIL CHAMBER.

The imposing and interesting ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new Council Chamber in Cliff-street, was performed in accordance with Masonic custom, on the 21st September. The early part of the day was showery, but nature proved propitious, and ere the time for commencing proceedings the clouds had cleared away, and the sun was shining, and throughout the whole of the time occupied in procession and the ceremony, the weather was all that could be desired.

Nearly all places of public business were closed, and by eleven o'clock the townspeople, who were early astir, had thronged the streets, anxiously awaiting the appearance of those on whom, by arrangement, devolved the initiative and chief responsibility in forming the procession and conducting the proceedings. The brethren of the Ancient Order of Foresters, Courts Hope and

Prosperity; of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity; and of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, assembled at the Lamb Inn (Bro. Machonachy's), at eleven o'clock, and the procession being partially formed, proceeded thence to the Market-square, where they were joined by a Guard of Honour of the Volunteer Rifle Company, magistrates, members of the Town Council, clergy, and schools. Such a gathering, including all the various orders, in their regalia, and representatives of so many institutions, and of every class, was never before witnessed in Portland, and most heartily all seemed to enter into the spirit of the occasion and to enjoy it.

In the Market-square, at twelve o'clock, the procession formed and got in motion, marshalled (Captain Learmonth taking place in the procession) by Sergeant Major Aran. The Volunteer Rifles, preceded by their band, and under the command of Sergeant Hyland, took the lead. The Ancient Order of Foresters, the Independent Order of Oddfellows, the Ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons followed, each in the costume and with the banners and regalia peculiar to them; then followed the members of the Town Council, the Town-Clerk, carrying the trowel; and Mr. A. Rose, architect, the plans; then came the clergy; next followed the schools; and in the rear such of the citizens as chose to follow. The course of the procession, which extended in one unbroken line a greater length than Julia-street, was along Percy-street, Julia-street, Bentinck-street, Cliff-street, to the site of the proposed building. Already a number of people had assembled to witness the ceremony, including a number of ladies, for whose accommodation and to protect the procession and ceremony from interruption, a space had been enclosed with iron hurdles. Outside these stood a multitude of the inhabitants, of all ranks and ages.

Long before the rear of the procession had reached the ground, those who preceded had taken up their positions. To allow their proper assigned position to the Masons, on whom from time immemorial had devolved the performance of a ceremony which has been one of their peculiar functions, the Volunteer Rifles, the Foresters, and the Oddfellows who preceded them opened their lines, passing through which the Worshipful Master, officers, and brethren grouped themselves round the stone. The Worshipful Master (C. G. Thompson) then stated the purpose for which they had assembled, and addressing the Chairman of Council (W. Learmonth) said that as he was a brother Mason, the Masons of the Portland Lodge had come to assist him in the interesting ceremony he had been appointed to perform. Near the stone stood the volume of the sacred law, which had been carried in procession by Bro. H. Smith.

The Worshipful Master then called on the Treasurer (P. Scott, P.M.), who offered up the following prayer:—

"Almighty and Eternal Father, Architect and Ruler of the Universe, deign to help us in our present undertaking that the work we now perform may be to our advantage and to Thy glory."

Mr. T. Finn, member of the Municipal Council, then presented a beautiful silver trowel to the Chairman, and said—"Mr. Chairman, in behalf of the Municipal Council, I have great pleasure in presenting to you this trowel, on an occasion so gratifying to yourself personally and to the inhabitants generally."

The following is the inscription:—"Presented by the Municipal Council of Portland, to William Learmonth, Esq., their Chairman, on the occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of the Council Chamber, 21st September, 1863."

The Chairman expressed his thankful appreciation of the token of respect and his good wishes for the success of the work in behalf of which it had to be employed.

Mr. Marriott, in the name of the contractors for the building, then presented a handsome mallet to the chairman, who acknowledged this compliment in terms similar to the former. The mallet bore a similar inscription to that on the trowel.

The W.M. then called upon the Treasurer, who deposited in the cavity of the stone the scroll, which was neatly engrossed on parchment, and enclosed in an hermetically sealed glass jar with copies of the *Chronicle* and *Guardian* of the 18th and 17th Sept., and British coins of the reign of Victoria, gold sovereign and half-sovereign, Sydney mint; silver crown, half-crown, florin, shilling, sixpence, fourpence, threepence; copper penny, halfpenny, farthing. The W.M. then called upon the Secretary (P. W. Shevill), who read the following translation of the scroll:—

"William Learmonth, Chairman of the Municipal Council,

assisted by the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of the Portland Lodge of Freemason, No. 576, under the English Constitution, in the presence of the Magistrates, Municipal Council, Orders of Oddfellows and Foresters, and a multitude of the inhabitants, laid the foundation-stone of this new edifice, on the 21st day of September, in the year of Christ, 1863, of the era of Masonry, 5863, and the 27th of the reign of Victoria, Queen of Great Britain. Architect—Alexander M. Ross. Town-clerk—Edwin Atkinson.

The W.M. then addressed the Superintendent of Works (W. Burne)—“Brother Superintendent of Works, you will see the stone lowered.”

The mortar was then spread upon the stone, which was lowered to its proper position in the accustomed manner, by three regular stops.

The following Masonic ceremony was then used:—

W.M.—Brother Past Master and Wardens, you will apply the various implements to the stone to prove that it is laid according to the rules of architecture.

W.M. to the Past Master (J. Fethers).—Have you applied the square to those parts of the stone that should be square?

P.M.—I have, Worshipful Sir, and the craftsmen have done their duty.

W.M. to the Senior Warden (John Browning).—Have you applied the level to the stone?

S.W.—I have done so, and find it to be correct.

W.M. to the Junior Warden (J. Bowman).—Have you applied the plumb-rule to the several edges of the stone?

J.W.—I have taken the precaution to do so, and find the stone perfect.

W.M.—Having full confidence in your skill, it only remains for our Brother Learmonth to finish the work.

Then Brother Learmonth struck the stone with the mallet and said, “Well laid, true and trusty; may this undertaking be conducted and completed by the craftsmen according to the plans, in peace, harmony, and brotherly love.”

C. M. Trangmar, W. Tulloh, J. C. Goodsir, the brethren who had carried the corn, wine, and oil in procession, then came forward.

The corn was then handed to Brother Learmonth, who poured it on the stone, saying, “I scatter this corn on this stone as an emblem of plenty.”

The wine was then handed to Brother Learmonth, who poured it on the stone saying, “I pour this wine as an emblem of cheerfulness and joy.”

The oil was then handed to Brother Learmonth, who poured it on the stone, saying, “I pour this oil as an emblem of prosperity and happiness; and may corn, wine, and oil, and all the necessities of life, abound among the inhabitants of this place. May the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe be upon this undertaking and all connected with it.

The Master then inspected the plans, and returned them to the architect, complimenting him upon his skill and success.

The W.M. then called upon Bro. Scott, as orator for the occasion, who delivered the following address:—“Be it known unto you, worthy people, that Masonry is universal, and that after the manner of Masons throughout all time we have come this day to assist your Municipal Chairman in laying the foundation-stone of the new Council Chamber. We have not done it from ostentation, but under the impulse of a good feeling and a desire to inculcate mercy and good morals. We are glad to be joined on the occasion by the Orders of Oddfellows and Foresters, kindred institutions, and influenced by similar principles. There can be no doubt that as Masons we suffer in the estimation of some on account of our secrecy, and especially among the ladies. But we are glad to see so many here to-day, and that we are not without their presence on other occasions. I can assure them that they are not wanting in the esteem of the Craft, and that in accordance with the words of a well-known Masonic song—

“No mortal can more
The ladies adore
Than a true and an accepted Mason.”

As to day you have laid the foundation-stone of this new Council Chamber, so I hope you will lay the corner stone in your hearts of uprightness and mercy. In Masonic lodges no sectarian strife or political difference can be permitted, and from those lodges worthy men are never excluded. They have but to knock and they will be admitted.”

The Chairman, in the name of the Council, then thanked

those in attendance for having come together to assist him in laying the foundation-stone, and called upon them to give three cheers for the Queen, which were given; followed by three cheers for the Chairman, who acknowledged the same.

The Rev. J. Y. Wilson addressed the assemblage. He was one of the oldest inhabitants, and he remembered when gum-trees stood on the spot the new Council Chamber occupied, and when the Market-square where the procession had formed was a forest. He spoke in commendation of Municipal Institutions, and concluded by hoping that when that building should be superseded it would be by the new parliament houses of Princeland.

The Rev. S. Kelso expressed the pleasure he had in being present, and paying a high compliment to the Chairman, wished the undertaking success.

The band then struck up, and the procession (the order of procession being reversed) returned by Gawler-street and Percy-street to the Market-square, where the various bodies separated. —*Portland Guardian*.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

MELBOURNE.

MASONIC BALL.

Some time past the brethren under the Grand Lodge of Ireland determined to celebrate, by a ball, the fiftieth annual election of his Grace the Duke of Leinster, to the high position of Grand Master, and the brilliant and successful entertainment of Thursday, 15th October, was the result of their resolution.

In consequence of a difficulty in obtaining the Exhibition Building, the ball was held in St. George's Hall, and, therefore, the number of tickets was limited to 400, but it was found impossible to keep to the strict limit, and 450 “Masons, and Masons' wives, and Masons' bairns” assembled to enjoy themselves, and at the same time to do honour to the Grand Master under the Irish Constitution.

His Excellency Sir Charles Darling, Lady, and Miss Darling were expected to have been present, but an apology was received from His Excellency, who is suffering from an attack of rheumatic gout.

The ball-room was tastefully decorated with Royal Arch Templar banners, Masonic emblems, and festoons of flowers.

The company began to assemble about nine o'clock, and soon after the R.W. Bro. J. T. Smith, and the R.W. Bro. F. C. Standish arrived and were received by the Stewards and conducted to their chairs with the usual ceremony.

The ball was opened by a quadrille—the R.W. Bro. Standish dancing with Mrs. Cohen, Bro. Cohetu with Mrs. Butters—and was kept up with untiring zeal until a very long programme was completed.

The exquisite toilets of the ladies—the glittering Masonic emblems and costumes of the brethren, presented a most brilliant appearance; every one looked satisfied, gay, and happy. At twelve o'clock the supper was served in a most *recherché* style. The tables were ornamented with various Masonic emblems, and it need only be said that Mallam and King were the purveyors, to make it understood that the viands and wines were of the best quality and ample quantity.

The R.W. Bro. Smith took his place at the head of one of the tables, and the R.W. Bro. Standish occupied the other. The R.W. Bro. Crowell and Bros. Reed and Rose occupied the vice-chairs.

After supper, R.W. Bro. Smith proposed “The Queen.”

R.W. Bro. Standish, in proposing the next toast, knew that it would be well received by all present, for it would speak to the hearts of all good Masons. They had assembled to celebrate the fiftieth annual election of His Grace the Duke of Leinster to the high position of Grand Master of Irish Masons. Without further remarks he would propose “The Health of the Most Worshipful Grand Master the Duke of Leinster, a good landlord and an honest Mason.”

Bro. Cohen had the honour to propose the health of one absent from indisposition—“The Health of his Excellency Sir Charles Darling and Lady Darling.”

R.W. Bro. Smith proposed the health of Bro. Cohen, who was entitled to the thanks of all present, especially the ladies, who would long remember the courteous hospitality which distinguished his year of office.

Bro. Cohen did not know how to express his gratitude. The encomiums bestowed on him were undeserved; he had tried to do his duty, and if in doing so he had merited the approbation of his fellow-citizens, he was repaid for his endeavours. He hoped, at a future time, to again hold the office of Mayor, and hoped he would again see around him the ladies with their smiling faces. As a brother Mason it was most gratifying to be so kindly received by his brethren—it was one of the highest honours any man could receive. He would ask permission to give a toast, and proposed "The Three Grand Masters."

The R.W. Bro. Standish returned thanks, and the dance was again renewed, and all present will remember a very pleasant and successful entertainment. Great praise must be awarded to the R.W. Bro. Crowell, and the members of the managing committee, for their untiring zeal in providing for the comfort and pleasure of their guests.

Obituary.

BRO. CAPTAIN SWIFT.
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

On the 13th of September, the grave closed over the remains of this gallant officer, and the respect that was shown for his memory was a good indication of his worth. The procession commenced to form a little after two o'clock, and crowds of persons visited the barrack square to witness it. There was something peculiarly affecting in Captain Swift's death; his youth and bravery forming the two elements of regret, that he should have been cut off so early, and that his country should have been deprived of his services. His life, however, having been sacrificed to his country, all that remained was to preserve his memory by having his remains buried with that respect which was due to his rank. But a few days ago and Captain Swift little believed that he would so soon suffer at the shrine of a duty, though well aware, no doubt, of the dangers which all alike are subject to in fighting their country's battles. Regret, however, is useless; but we may hope that there will be many more who will show the same undaunted spirit that the deceased did, without coming to the same untimely end. The funeral procession being formed, it started about half-past three o'clock, it being brought up by His Excellency Sir George Grey, *K.C.B.*; Colonel Carey, commanding; Captain Jenkins, *R.N.*; and the members of the Government.

The fine band of the 14th Regiment, with muffled drums, led the procession, playing the "Dead March in Saul;" and as the spirit-stirring strains of that beautiful and solemn melody filled the air, and the procession proceeded at the funeral pace, the effect was most imposing. Captain Swift, it appears, was a member of one of the Masonic lodges, and the brethren, out of respect to him as a brother and soldier, attended in large numbers in their regalia and white kid gloves. Their place in the procession was immediately after the chief mourners and non-commissioned officers of the 65th Regiment. Each of the three lodges was represented in the following order:—Ara, 348, (I.C.) of which deceased was a member; Waitemata, 990 (E.C.); and the St. Andrew (S.C.) Bro. Hugh Morrow, Prov. S.G.W., represented the Provincial Grand Lodge, in the absence of the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Adams, who attended in a military capacity, as did also Bros. Captain Whitbread, Major Turner, Lieutenant F. L. Jones, R.E. Dept., Staff Assistant Surgeon Scott; and of the Militia, Bros. Captain Dinnin, Surgeon Goldsborough, Lieutenant Tole, Lieutenant Horne, Captain Naughton, Commissioner of Police, and many others. His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. A. Domett, the Hon. T. Russell, and the Hon. F. Whitaker also attended. Captain Jenkins and the Senior and Second Lieutenants of the *Miranda*,

and a number of seamen and marines from the same vessel. The following officers also attended:—Colonel Carey, Commander of the garrison at Auckland and Otahuhu; Lieutenant Anderson, of the 14th Regiment, garrisoned at Otahuhu; Captain M'Cay, Lieutenant Seater, and two others from the 70th Regiment from Otahuhu, and Staff Surgeon Major Gibb, H. Bartlett, Esq., Assistant Commissary General; Deputy Assistant Commissary Generals Chislett and Dunn; Deputy Assistant Superintendents of Stores Marvin and Rainsford, of Auckland. The chief mourners, the pall-bearers, Colour-Sergeant M'Kenna, who it will be recollected behaved so gallantly in the action in which Captain Swift was killed, and Bros. H. Morrow and G. P. Pierce, W.M. of the Ara Lodge and Prov. G. Sec., wore black silk scarfs, tied with white ribbon.

On the way to the burial ground the Volunteer band played in turn with that of the 14th. On reaching the entrance to the cemetery the band and the firing party halted and lined each side of the road, and the procession passed through. The coffin was taken from off the gun carriage, on which it had been placed, and carried by six soldiers and laid by the side of the grave which had been dug just at the entrance to the gate, and immediately next to that of Chief Boatswain Pasco, who was drowned in the *Orpheus*. His grave will now be between Captain Swift's and Commodore Burnett's. The funeral service was performed in an impressive manner by the Rev. J. Kinder, acting Military Chaplain, but in consequence of the crowding there were very few who could hear it. The coffin was covered with rich black velvet mounted with black furniture, and on the plate was the following inscription in gilt letters:—

CAPTAIN RICHARD SWIFT,
H.M. 65TH REGT.,
(In a wreath of laurels.)
KILLED IN ACTION, 7TH SEPT.,
1863.
AGED 33 YEARS.

The coffin having been lowered into the grave, the firing party fired three volleys over it, and with this the ceremony ended. The procession must have been about three-quarters of a mile long, and the military custom of putting the senior officers and persons of rank at the end of it was of course adhered to. After the burial ceremony had been concluded the military formed again, and the band playing a lively air they returned to barracks.—*Auckland Daily Southern Cross*.

Poetry.

SONNET.
DRUMMOND.

In mind's pure glass when I myself behold,
And lively see how my best days are spent,
What clouds of care above my head are roll'd,
What coming ill, which I cannot prevent:
My course begun, I, wearied, do repent,
And would embrace what reason oft hath told;
But scarce thus think I, when love hath control'd
All the best reasons reason could invent.
Though sure I know my labour's end is grief,
The more I strive that I the more shall pine,
That only death shall be my last relief:
Yet when I think upon that face divine,
Like one with arrow shot, in laughter's place,
Maugre my heart, I joy in my disgrace.

SLEEP.

SIR JOHN DENHAM.

Morphens! the humble god that dwells
In cottages and smoky cells,
Hates gilded roofs and beds of down;
And, though he fears no prince's frown,
Flies from the circle of a crown:

Come, I say, thou powerful god,
And thy leaden charming rod,
Dipped in the Lethæan lake,
O'er his wakeful temples shake,
Lest he should sleep, and never wake.

Nature, alas! why art thou so
Obliged to thy greatest foe?
Sleep, that is thy best repast,
Yet of death it bears a taste,
And both are the same thing at last.

TO AN INFANT.

A. PHILLIPS.

Timely blossom, infant fair,
Fondling of a happy pair,
Every morn, and every night,
Their solicitous delight,
Sleeping, waking, still at ease,
Pleasing without skill to please;
Little gossip, blithe and hale,
Tattling many a broken tale,
Singing many a tuneless song,
Lavish of a heedless tongue;
Simple maiden, void of art,
Babbling out the very heart,
Yet abandoned to thy will,
Yet imagining no ill,
Yet too innocent to blush;
Like the linnæ in the bush,
To the mother-linnæ's note
Moduling her slender throat,
Chirping forth thy petty joys,
Wanton in the change of toys;
Like the linnæ-green, in May,
Flitting to each bloomy spray,
Wearied then, and glad of rest,
Like the linnæ in the nest.
This thy present happy lot,
This in time will be forgot:
Other pleasures, other cares,
Ever-busy Time prepares;
And thou shalt in thy daughter see,
This picture, once, resembled thee.

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

The annual prizes of the Royal Academy were awarded on the 10th December, at a general assembly of the Academicians, presided over by Sir Charles Eastlake. We are glad to see that Mr. Richard Phené Spiers, eldest son of Alderman Spiers, D. Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire, won distinguished honours, being awarded a gold medal, books, and a scholarship of £25 for two years for the best architectural design, and a silver medal with books for an architectural drawing. So brilliant a success is rarely achieved, and Mr. Spiers will be warmly congratulated by his fellow-citizens on his triumph. The *Daily News* remarks:—"The progress of architectural art in England was most gratifyingly exhibited in the remarkable drawings which obtained the gold and silver medals this year. Mr. R. P. Spiers' design for a vestibule and staircase of a Royal Palace, and his study of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, were emphatically commended by the President, with the full assent of all the Academicians present, as 'marked by most distinguished merit.' Indeed, these architectural drawings of the young double prizeman and medallist were the subject of general remark and admiration."—*Oxford Journal*.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

The enterprising company of this splendid place of resort have this year laid a most ample programme before the Christmas holiday-makers. To elaborate the many items contained in the bill of fare would be to occupy space we could not afford, however deservedly it might be filled, suffice it, therefore, to say that each and all are relatively attractive, but those which, perhaps, more especially formed features of attraction, and consequently came in for a fair share of attention, may be mentioned. The Chantrill Family, in their classical gymnastic exercises, a Juvenile Entertainment, arranged by Mr. Frampton, whose pupils, cleverly interpreted the title of the production, "Marriage à La Mode," the great Juggler, Signor Langlois Velocimane, whose tricks seemed to astound the most incredulous; a highly-interesting and well-got-up Burlesque-Extravaganza by the Messrs. D'Aubans; the astonishing feats of the Brothers Nelson as the Necromantic Elves; and last, though by no means least, the comic Pantomime in shadow, written by Mr. Nelson Lee, and entitled "Harlequin Jack the Giant Killer; or, Mother Goose." The realisation of this theme by shadows was ludicrously laughable and interesting in the extreme, affording to the all-devouring sight-seers the most genuine delight.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

CHRISTY MINSTRELS.—The first two of ten especial Christmas entertainments (afternoon and evening), were given by this popular band of "Darkie brothers" on Saturday, December 26th, and of course attracted numerous audiences—the choruses, solos, dances, burlesques, &c., being all as heartily greeted as they could have been had they possessed the charm of novelty.

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

A new farce has been produced at the New Royalty Theatre, entitled, "Stolen; or, £20 Reward." It is written by W. Hancock, Esq.

Mrs. Henry Lindon (sister of the late Miss M. A. Atkinson, of vocal celebrity) expired on Christmas Day. She was a member of the Royal Adelphi Theatre for some years, and at the time of her death was fulfilling an engagement at the Pavilion Theatre.

Mr. G. Clarke, of Murray-street, Hoxton, has just published a new baritone song entitled "Poland for the Pole," words by J. Christmas, and the music by George Clarke.

Mr. Phelps is announced to appear in a new and original drama this evening (Saturday) at the Drury Lane Theatre, entitled "Night and Morn."

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and family still remain in the Isle of Wight, with the exception of the Prince and Princess of Wales, who have returned to Sandringham.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality of the metropolis last week took a sudden spring upwards. The deaths recorded were 1,642, which was more than 100 above the numbers of the preceding week, and 84 higher than the average of the last ten years. The births rose in a still higher proportion, amounting to the unusual number of 2,308, which was 666 more than the deaths, and 480 above the ten years' average.—The revenue returns for the year and quarter ending on 31st ult., show an increase upon every item with the important exceptions of the Customs and the property tax. The diminished receipts from these two sources of national income are due, of course, to remissions of taxation; and the country—in the enjoyment of a

reduced income tax and tea duty—will learn without much concern that the revenue of the past year is less than that of 1862 by about half a million.—Some valuable information respecting the condition of the cotton manufacturing districts will be found in the report presented to the Central Relief Committee, by Mr. Maclure. The return for the past month shows a decrease of 10,546 in the number of persons fully employed in the mills and manufactories of the cotton districts. This change for the worse had been anticipated, and Mr. Maclure, basing his opinion, no doubt, on the best information he could obtain on the subject, remarks that “there is reason to fear that during the next three or four weeks the time worked in the mills will not be more than at present.” Mr. E. Ashworth said that after the next three months “he had no doubt there would be sufficient cotton for from four-and-a-half to five days working weekly, and owing to this increased supply, and the extended operation of the Public Works Act, he thought it would, after March, become a subject for consideration whether the Committee might not with advantage suspend or close its operations.” There are at present about 2,000 men employed under the Public Works Act, but Mr. Rawlinson is of opinion that from 10,000 to 12,000 might now be set to work on public improvements for which loans have already been advanced. Mr. Farnall reports an increase of about 1,000 in the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the suffering districts.—The emigration from Liverpool during the past year was on a vast scale. What the returns from other ports, such as London, Queenstown, and Galway may show we are not at present in a position to state, but it seems from tables just issued that close upon 138,000 emigrants sailed from the port of Liverpool during the twelve months. This is an increase of upwards of 76,000 on the return of the previous year. A large proportion of the emigrants were Irish, who, as a general rule, made their way to the United States, where many of them, no doubt, have taken service under the Stars and Stripes.—Mr. Cardwell and Mr. Neate were present at the annual dinner of the Oxford Druids, on the 1st inst. Mr. Cardwell congratulated his constituents on the peace and prosperity which this country has enjoyed during the past year. He was not insensible to the danger involved in what is called the Schleswig-Holstein question, but he trusted that war might still be averted. “In this case at any rate,” he pointedly added, “the appeal of England is to treaty.” With regard to the war in America, he said the one principle by which England is to be guided is that, “fearless to menace, uninfluenced by favour, we shall give to the principle of strict neutrality full and impartial effect, and carry out to the utmost of our power that principle of international law to which we in our own time of danger and necessity ourselves appealed.” He defended the policy of the Government with respect to Poland, and justified the rejection of the French proposal of a congress by declaring that “the hazard was too great to be encountered.” Coming to a subject of immediate interest to all Englishmen, the right hon. gentleman said that further remissions of taxation depended upon two considerations—the state of our foreign relations and such an expansion of trade as would pour into the treasury increased revenue. Mr. Neate thought the Government had acted wisely in refusing to have anything to do with a congress, but, on the other hand, they had not taken a dignified course on the Polish question.—Sir Stafford Northcote has been addressing a meeting at Exeter, on art education in this country and the new arrangements with regard to the Government grants to schools of art. The hon. baronet thought the revised regulations would tell very seriously upon many of the masters; but at the same time he admitted that

there was a good deal to be said for the course agreed upon by the Committee of Privy Council. He quoted some interesting figures from a Parliamentary return to show the progress we have made in the production of those articles which specially demand a cultivated taste. Taking the exports for the period between 1840 and 1862, he found “that while the general advance of our manufactures had been rather more than 125 per cent., it had been very nearly 200 per cent. in those particular articles which demand the exercise of taste.”—Lord Stanley, on Wednesday, distributed the prizes and certificates awarded to the successful candidates in the Oxford Local Examination for the district of which Manchester is the centre. His lordship delivered an address on the occasion, in which he explained the general purpose and working of these examinations, and dwelt upon the success with which they had been attended.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been addressing a meeting of working men in Flintshire on the advantage of establishing a reading-room for their use, and took the opportunity of urging upon them the importance of thrifty habits, and of laying by their money in the Post-office Savings Banks. He assigned to them, however, and to Scotchmen, superior qualities of thrift over those of the working men of England.—At the meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, a motion made by Mr. Lowman Taylor, that the board should contribute one-half the expense to be incurred in widening the street at the Mansion House, was strongly opposed, and lost by a large majority. The engineer’s report on the various works showed that fair progress has been made during the month in the main drainage scheme, and that the more important portions are rapidly approaching completion.—The new street in Southwark, running from near London-bridge to the Blackfriars-road, in line with Stamford-street and the York-road, up to Westminster-road, was opened on the 1st inst.—The Channel squadron, which is at present away on a distant cruise, has been ordered home—a measure which most persons will connect with the crisis which has been reached in the dispute between Denmark and Germany. The *Hector* and *Achilles*—two powerful armour-plated iron frigates—have also been ordered to be got ready for immediate commission.—Six boys were drowned—three at Darwen and three at Macclesfield—on Sunday, by the giving way of ice.—A heavy sentence has deservedly been passed at the Central Criminal Court on a soldier who had set fire to two stacks of straw. Ten years’ penal servitude will perhaps do something towards stopping the crime of incendiarism. Eliza Waterfield, charged with the manslaughter of her husband, was acquitted; Ellen Keefe convicted of the manslaughter of John M’Carthy, was sentenced to two calendar months; and John Dyer, printer, convicted of forging a note, was condemned to three years’ penal servitude.—John Green was executed at Cambridge on Saturday for the murder of a woman at Whittlesea.—The sentence of death passed upon the soldier Mahaig, who was convicted of causing or abetting the death of a woman at Guildford, has been commuted. It will be remembered that in this case the prisoner alleged that he and the deceased had made up their minds to die together. The woman took poison, or had it administered to her, while Mahaig attempted, but without success, to destroy his own life. He was strongly recommended to mercy by the jury.—An effort is being made to obtain a commutation of the sentence of the man Wright, who killed his paramour in the Waterloo Road, London. It is urged that this man’s crime was unpremeditated, and was committed during a violent quarrel with the deceased, who was known to have been in a state of intoxication on the night of her death.—William Whitehead, described as of “Wexham Rectory, Bucks,” and

said to be respectably connected, was committed for trial by the Marylebone police magistrate, on Tuesday, for a gross outrage upon a lady in a railway carriage. The lady, apparently from a feeling of pity for the prisoner's wife, wished to withdraw from the case, but the railway company, the Great Western, very properly took the matter up, and prosecuted in the interest of the public. It was alleged on behalf of Whitehead that he had been "somewhat affected in mind," but unfortunately, as Mr. Sergeant Bullantine stated, outrages of this kind "have become frequent on several lines," and something must be done to protect ladies from insult and violence.—A murderous outrage took place in King's County, a few days ago. Captain Byrne, a Roman Catholic gentleman, and agent for some landed proprietors, had been to the petty sessions at Moneygall, to prosecute some men who had taken forcible possession of cottages from which they were previously evicted. On his return in a car, accompanied by his little boy and a friend, three men came up and fired a pistol at him. Fortunately the contents missed all three; but the ruffians got clear off.—The crazy fellow who some time ago damaged one of the pictures in the Turner Collection, at the National Gallery, pleaded guilty to the indictment, at the Middlesex Sessions, on Monday. No one appeared to know anything of his antecedents, and sentence was postponed.—An inquest has been held on the body of a female domestic servant, who came by her death by falling or throwing herself from the top room of a house in Stamford-street. The jury decided that it was a case of suicide, but the evidence appears not very conclusive.—Two more children have been suffocated in bed in Southwark. The verdict in both cases is "accidental death." Such cases are becoming painfully frequent.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor Napoleon's reply to the New Year's congratulations of the foreign envoys to his court, is this year as pacific as anyone could have expected it to be. He said that, notwithstanding the difficulties which have been brought about by certain events in different parts of Europe, he is convinced that they will be removed by the conciliatory spirit by which the Sovereigns are animated, and we shall be able to maintain peace.—The Legislative Body's address in reply to the Emperor Napoleon's speech expresses a hope, which will hardly be gratified, that some beneficial results may speedily be derived by France from the Chinese and Mexican expeditions, but is very pacific in its tone regarding Poland, and of course extols to the utmost the Emperor's abortive scheme for an European congress.—The *Constitutionnel* semi-officially states that France will offer no obstacles to the restricted congress proposed by England, but that such a congress would be of no utility, and that every day shows the value of the congress which had been proposed by the Emperor.—An important (if true) scrap of news relative to Greece arrives. It is rumoured that the young king had quitted Athens, convinced that he is unfit to reconcile the elements of disorganisation in the country.—The German Diet rejected on Saturday, by a majority of nine to seven votes, a motion made by the Austrian representative to the effect that Prince Frederick of Augustenburg, should be immediately summoned to quit Holstein. The Prince has issued a proclamation, in which he declares that "the federal execution, which from the beginning was not directed against his government, has now ceased to have any object." He is convinced that there is no longer any reason for the administration of the duchy by federal commissioners; but he hopes that his "faithful subjects" will respect the federal administration. Every portion of Holstein and Lauenburg appears to have been now evacuated by the Danes; but, nevertheless, fresh German troops seem to be entering Holstein, and

a strong corps of Prussian and Austrians is expected at Hamburg—an ominous indication that an occupation of Schleswig is intended, and is expected to be resisted by the Danish army, which King Christian has proceeded to visit.—The Danish Minister of War has called out about 14,000 men of the reserves; and King Christian, who has reviewed several divisions of his army in Schleswig, has issued a proclamation to his troops. In this proclamation he says:—"Our motto is the honour of our country, and it shall be upheld with peace, or, if requisite, by force of arms." Experienced officers command his forces; and he reminds his soldiers that victories are won by courage and subordination, and not by numbers. The Danish army occupies a strong position on the line of the *Dannevirke*; and everything indicates that a vigorous resistance will be offered to any attempt of the German troops to enter Schleswig.—The King of Prussia's reply to the address of the Chamber of Deputies, was communicated to that body on Monday. His Majesty said it was necessary that he should proceed in the matter of the Duchies in a manner becoming the honour of the country, and that he could not arbitrarily withdraw from the Treaty of 1852. The question of the hereditary succession, he informed the Chamber, was under the consideration of the Federal Diet, and he urged the passing of the proposed loan, in order that the country might be prepared against any dangers which might arise from the occupation of the Duchies.

AMERICA.—Five days' later news has been brought by the *Canada*. The intelligence is singularly destitute of interest. General Joseph Johnston had been appointed to the supreme command of the Confederate forces in East Tennessee and Georgia, in the room of General Hardee. General Longstreet had inflicted a check on a body of Federals at Bear Station, and was reported to be contemplating fresh operations; but it was said that his railway communication with Richmond had been more or less obstructed by a successful "raid" made on the Virginia and Tennessee Railway by the Federal General Averill. The Confederates in Arkansas were reported to be about to attack Little Rock, but they had sustained a repulse in an attempt on the outposts of Fort Gibson. It had been reported that several *Monitors* and the iron-clad frigate *Ironsides* had become entangled in the obstructions placed in Charleston harbour, and were in a very dangerous position; but it had been subsequently declared that there was no foundation for the report. Three of the men engaged in the seizure of the *Chesapeake* had been rescued by a mob at Halifax.—The *City of Washington* has brought us two days' later advices from New York; but the intelligence is utterly devoid of interest. No movement was known to have been made by any of the belligerent armies, and not even a skirmish had happened. The shelling of the city of Charleston still continued, but was not producing any considerable effect. The Governor of Texas had issued a message declaring that there can be no peace until the Southern Confederacy shall have been recognised.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A LOVER OF FAIR PLAY.—A ballot for Second Principal having taken place, and a P. First Principal having been elected by a majority, the Third Principal standing next, and the party elected declining to accept the office, a second ballot must take place.

ERRATUM.—In Bro. Purton Cooper's communication, page 418 of our last volume, for "a priory Roman Catholic" read "a pious Roman Catholic."