

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1864.

### THUNDER.

It will be seen by the following circular that the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE has come under the displeasure of the Provincial Grand Master for the Eastern Division of South Wales. And no wonder. We exposed a great Masonic mistake—we will use no harsher term—which took place in the Glamorgan Lodge, when the Provincial Grand Master was present, and ought to have prevented it; and hence this mighty thunder. But it would scarcely have done to hurl this Jove-like bolt at our heads for that offence, and we accordingly receive it for publishing a letter from a correspondent, showing that, at a subsequent meeting of the lodge, the brethren interested generally admitted the error into which they had fallen, and took the necessary steps for placing the lodge right before the Craft. We beg respectfully to inform Bro. Charles Kemeys Kemeys Tynte that, notwithstanding this thunder, the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE will again appear next week, and that we shall not altogether lose sight of the Eastern Division of South Wales.

[Copy.]

“Provincial Grand Lodge of the  
Eastern Division of South Wales,  
“Swansea, 4th February, 1864.

“The W.M. of No. 36, Cardiff,

“WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER,—I am directed by the R.W. Prov. G. Master, to call your attention to a letter which appeared in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE of the 16th ult., reporting without his consent the proceedings of the Glamorgan Lodge. This being directly contrary to the “Book of Constitutions,” I am desired by the Prov. G. Master to request that you, Wor. Sir, with the brethren of your lodge, will co-operate with him in checking a proceeding which is an infringement of the laws of Masonry.

“I have the honour to be,

“W. Sir and Brother,

“Truly and fraternally yours,

“GEORGE ALLEN, Prov. G. Sec.”

### THE THREE GRAND LODGES.

By Bro. ROBERT MITCHELL, LATE PROV. G. SEC.,  
GLASGOW.

After unusual delay the “British, Irish, and Colonial Masonic Calendar” has been published in Glasgow. What may have retarded its appearance could, no doubt, be satisfactorily explained by the worthy publisher. It is with the contents

of the book, however, not with the circumstances of its publication, that I purpose to deal at present, and particularly that portion of it which relates to the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland. My observations will unavoidably partake of a statistical character, but by using round numbers (not too round), where practicable, and in other ways, I trust to succeed in making them readable.

The Grand Lodge of England has of late been applying the pruning knife so liberally to the dead branches encumbering her stately growth, that about 300 lodges have been lopped off her roll. Notwithstanding, she can still count a progeny of 1,000 daughters. Before its recent re-arrangement her roll exhibited 280 foreign and military, and 150 London lodges. A good many of these, especially of the foreign, must be dormant now. Calculating them at one-third, which is below the average, there remain in activity 300 London, foreign, and military lodges, and 700 in England, exclusive of the metropolis. Full information connected with about one half of them has been sent in to the editor of the Calendar, as the double numbers (an excellent feature) on the margin of the list show. Scotland has only two Amazonian or military daughters, and 59 abroad, amongst her whole family of 310. At one time the warlike element pervaded it to a greater extent, no less than 23 lodges connected with the British Army having at various times sunk and died 'neath her standard since it was first unfurled. Ireland has only 300 lodges flourishing, although her roll runs up as high as 1,000, of which 48 are foreign and 10 military. From the memorabilia it appears that the Grand Lodge of England was revived in 1717. How many lodges she had to reign over then it is impossible to say. She must have had more than the four or so without dates, which are printed prior to No. 6, erected in 1721, the first date which occurs on the roll. It is worth while remarking that, even before that comparatively remote year, one English lodge has as part of its title the Scottish name “Inverness;” and that another (25) which entered on its career in 1723, or thirty-six years before he was born, has the name of Scotland's greatest poet and brilliant “son of light” for its particular designation.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland was constituted in 1736, and at least 24 of the lodges now working under her government were by that time formed. They did not all, however, concur in the establishment of a ruling power then. Amongst others, No. 32, which was incorporated by an authentic charter from King Malcolm Canmore, in 1057, refused to come under Grand Lodge control, and continued in that perverse mood until within the last few years. I have seen the original charter, at all events the skin on which it was engrossed, but the writing itself was illegible. An exact copy was obtained from the books or chartulary, containing the records of the See of Glasgow, and

along with a translation (from the monkish Latin) is printed, as an appendix to the by-laws of the lodge. The Lodge Mother Kilwinning, which was flourishing vigorously upwards of nine centuries ago, also declined to recognise the authority of anybody, or combination of lodges, on the ground that *she* was the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and in that character had granted charters to the ancient lodges of the kingdom, who were bound to own her sway, as they admitted the source whence they emanated by the addition of the name "Kilwinning" to their respective titles. There can be no doubt that such was the case in many instances, and that an unbroken and unanimous chain of tradition pointed to her as the root of St. John's Masonry in Scotland. Mother Kilwinning was propitiated with nothing, which is now her number on the roll. Other marks of honour were bestowed—notably the high office of Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire on her R.W.M. for the time being. It is proper to advert here to the confused and anomalous way in which the lodges of Scotland and Ireland are ranked on their rolls. For example, a Scotch lodge started in 1735 occupies the forward position of No. 4, while another, 136 years older, and actually the fourth in date, is no higher on the list than 57. A variety of similar specimens of entanglement might easily be produced; indeed, up till 1799, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, it appears, employed no means to introduce order among her children. From 1799 to 1806, her family was not increased even by a unit, and it is a noticeable coincident that the Grand Lodge of England also did not issue a charter during that time. Ireland experienced the same fortune, for, although she acquired one lodge in 1802, that was the single exception occurring in the interval of nine years which commenced with 1799 likewise. Had the French revolution any influence in bringing about such a beggarly account of Masonic progress in all the Grand Lodges? To return to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, however, that lull of seven years afforded her leisure to set in motion machinery to place and keep in order all lodges which have sought her protection since 1806 till now. But if Scotland be blameable in the matter, what shall be said of Ireland? To me her list seems to have been got up in the way in which sweepstakes are drawn from the hat containing names and numbers have been shaken; but, as often happens, small batches of lodges, begun about the same time at home and abroad, clung together. The only sort of exception to this disregard of chronological sequence is that lodges following number 372, and dated between 1761 and 1797, run on regularly; but at the same time plentifully interspersed with sisters, some of whom are so young as only to have seen the light for the first time during the last twelve months. The English roll presents an agreeable contrast to this, and it will be seen that the Grand Lodge of Canada has so

weeded and trimmed her's, that there are only three lodges fewer in it than 156, which is the age of her youngest daughter.

In 1740 the first foreign lodge (67) holding of the Grand Lodge of England was constituted—the first holding of Scotland in 1760; it and 23 other foreigners, the same number of military, and 136 home lodges are all known to have perished utterly. The oldest foreigner owing allegiance to Scotland, and in life, took out its credentials in 1797. Not till 1813 had the Grand Lodge of Ireland a lodge in foreign parts, and now in operation.

England is divided into 42 provinces, and has 22 foreign provinces besides—Scotland into 30 and 17 abroad, the earliest home and colonial ones being Edinburgh, erected 1736, and America, 1757. The latter was, of course, subverted by the achievement of American Independence in 1783, or perhaps by its Declaration more than six years before. Upper and Lower Canada are set down as having provinces under the Grand Lodge of Scotland; but as only one lodge at Montreal and another at Quebec make up the total of her vassals there, it would be better, I humbly think, that these two should cast in their lot with the Grand Lodge of Canada. That is a matter for their decision, however. Ireland is apportioned into 7 provinces and has 3 foreign Provincial Grand Lodges.

The impulses which give rise to lodges are much the same as those which set agoing and expand commercial undertakings of a speculative tendency. Abundance of currency and the consequent temporary prospering of a country usually excite the desire, and afford opportunity for the cultivation of mental, or ornamental, pursuits. We know that the United Kingdom, spite of the war in America, has, with the exception of the population depending on the cotton supply, prospered exceedingly for several years bygone. Through the beneficial effects of treaties of commerce her revenue has been more than maintained, and in this good fortune the colonies have fully participated. Accordingly, I find that whereas in 1855 only 17 lodges joined the Grand Lodge of England, a number very considerably above the average of the previous quarter of a century, in 1856 34 ranged themselves under her auspices, and the number of charters annually granted has never fallen below that high figure. In 1861 it reached the extraordinary total of 53, 24 of which were foreign, the additions during the six years from 1856 till 1861 inclusive being exactly  $40\frac{1}{2}$  lodges per annum, a rate of increase unparalleled in the history of Freemasonry. During the same six years the Grand Lodge of Scotland authorised the establishment of 44 lodges, being an average of  $7\frac{1}{3}$  a year—the highest number (12) having been admitted in 1858, and of which 10 were foreign. No more than 2 were consecrated in the mother country that year,

2½ being the average for Scotland during the six years. Evidently her sons in distant climes have three times as much enthusiasm for Masonic light and ritual as those at home. A more plentiful crop of cash in the colonies where they are located may account for this, for certainly not in energy, and of course not in number, do the Scottish brethren abroad surpass the brethren they have left. In the sexennial period now under investigation, it appears that Ireland had her Grand Lodge strengthened by the enrolment of 32 lodges, or 5¼ annually. Nineteen were stationed abroad, and 2 were regimental, so that 11 lodges were permanently organised in the Emerald Isle during the six years, or not quite 2 per twelve months. If the above statements rest on good data, and there is no reason to think otherwise, they demonstrate that, for the six years preceding 1862, England annually acquired lodges in a ratio of 5½ times greater than did Scotland, and 7¼ times than did Ireland.

There is an excellent feature of Freemasonry in England, which I am sorry to say has no place in Scotland. I allude to Lodges of Instruction—no less than 45 of which meet in the former country, in accordance with her Masonic laws. A few years ago a charter was obtained, and a Lodge of Instruction started in Glasgow; but it was never well supported, and is almost or entirely in abeyance. Surely the brethren of North Britain are imbued with the Masonic spirit to an extent equal to the establishment of at least one Lodge of Instruction in each province. The benefits which thirty would confer on the Craft, would soon be appreciated. They would tend greatly to assimilate the many discordant styles of working now prevalent, and above all, to put an end to the pernicious practice, followed by some isolated country lodges, of bestowing Royal Arch and Knights Templar degrees, under their Saint John Charters, and that for sums which barely exceed the minimum fixed by the Grand Lodge to be paid for Entered Apprentice and Raising. Perhaps the recognition of these advanced degrees by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the enactment of salutary regulations, with the view of maintaining them on a creditable basis, would do more to put down illegal and clandestine transactions than any other means. Chapters are superintended by the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland, the latter looking after the well-being of encampments too.

The designations which brethren have selected for the lodges they have inaugurated, embody material for much curious observation. A vast proportion of the lodges ruled by the Grand Lodge of England, have the names of virtues, Masonic and moral. *Union by Tradesmen, Pilgrims*, and others, and its cognate ideas of *True* and *Perfect Unanimity*, outnumber all the groups of allied virtues. Loyalty and Royalty abound, as do Brotherly Loves, Fellowship, Good Fellowship and Fraternity, Friendship, True and Perfect,

and Amity. There is no lack of Industry and Perseverance; and the excellent Masonic qualities, Peace, Harmony, and Concord, are in great repute, as are likewise Hope, Good Hopes, and Stars of it. The Three Grand Principles, and the Four Cardinal Virtues, are well represented on the roll, together with Temperance, and a few Saints hailing from various points of the compass. Philanthropy, Rural (and Urban, also, it is to be hoped), has a respectable gathering of votaries. Eden Valley has a sound of contentment and beauty about it; and Pacific and Repose, although they be akin to dormancy (abhorrent to Grand Lodges), yet convey a soothing impression. Pleiades is a truly imaginative and appropriate title for a cluster of the Sons of Light; but Amphibious is a questionable one. It is startling to find Jerusalem in Bristol, and a decided puzzle to guess what connection can subsist between a Parret and Axe, and the Square and Compasses. Some brethren not satisfied with one good quality, have adopted two combining an antithesis, doubtless with the object of warning any one disposed to tamper with them, that though kind-hearted, they were not simpletons—a laudable precaution. Independence with Philanthropy, Courage with Humanity, Humility with Fortitude, and Fortitude and Old Cumberland are examples of that genus. Relief, Regularity, Felicity, Good Report and Silence, Freedom, Affability, Economy, have each a circle of admirers, as many others have. In fine, there is scarcely a commendable idea bearing on the precepts of the ancient Order, which has not been chosen as the representative of one or more Masonic constituencies in England. I cannot bring myself to believe that any native brother of 641 Harmony, so far forgot his O.B., or the title inscribed on the banner of his lodge, as to countenance the atrocities of Cawnpore. Do not the ideas, concomitant with the name Rifle Volunteers, clash with those of universal brotherhood and non-political interference?

Reverting to the subject of lodge titles. Ireland has but 9 lodges rejoicing in purely Masonic designations, such as Ark and Hiram, Justice, Harmony, Blues, Loyal, and True, and a few Unions, comprehend all the virtues fixed upon. She possesses a Star and a Light of the West, and another of the North; but contrary to what might be expected, the Saints are patrons of only 15 lodges. Over 7 of them, St. John spreads the ægis of his name, and St. Patrick performs the like service for three more. St. Paul, St. German, St. Columb, St. Stephen, and St. Alban, have each one under his protection. The fact that the Roman Catholic Clergy, as a body, do not countenance Freemasonry, and so prevent many of that persuasion being initiated, may partly account for the paucity of such names.

Few people acquainted with the antecedents and disposition of the Scotch, would suppose that the

Masonic canopy there, is powdered with Saints. Nevertheless, such is the case, and is the more surprising, seeing that the Saintocracy have had a poor time of it in Scotland since the Reformation in 1560, previous to which very few lodges had been established. It is refreshing to note, amidst the long procession of canonised mortals, a half dozen, or so, of plain useful Operatives, an Ancient Brazen, and several other Ancients. Emblems of the spirit of brotherly affection, and nationality at the same time, are noticeable in the Thistle and Rose, Thistle and Crown, Shamrock and Thistle, Bruce and Thistle. Cumberland Kilwinning (from Port Glasgow), Caledonians, and Celtic, come forward. King Robert the Bruce is there also, and so is Fingal, his Highland predecessor. Neptune appears along with Camperdown and Trafalgar, who have no right to be there, though they be splendidly arrayed, and Arcadia following them, calls up shepherds, music and Greece. What could have prompted Scotchmen to pitch upon the name Innocents? Surely they had forgot or disregarded the fact that in their native tongue the commonest acceptance of the word is "harmlessly insane." Maybe they had in view that in Scotland "puir innocents" have been from time immemorial objects of a more than an ordinary amount of charity and sympathy, and hoped that their title would attract a modicum of these emotions in their direction. There is no lodge in Scotland rallying under a Masonic virtue—the one Hope, the two Harmonies, the Faith, and the Perseverance," which acknowledge her Grand Lodge as their superior being, all situated in the West Indies. Name and place of meeting mark the difference of lodges in Scotland; number in Ireland; whilst in England number and place are the principal distinctions.

In conclusion, I would observe that generally the "British, Irish, and Colonial Calendar" is carefully edited and printed. Some few typographical errors have crept in, however. Thus the note in *Scottish Memorabilia* (p. 178) refers to page 113 for a list of G.M.'s. It is not there but at page 185. Lodge 160, Ireland, has the date 1866 affixed to it, and these overlooks have been continued for a year or two. A few other very trivial mistakes might be pointed out, which in no way affect the substantial value of a highly convenient publication. It would have been a decided improvement had the editor deleted from the English list the names of all Masters from whose lodges no returns were received this year, as it cannot be supposed that one-third of the brethren who held that position towards the close of 1862 now do so. The rotation of office bearers is more regular and rapid in England than in Scotland. A liberal curtailing of designations where the lodge and the town of meeting have the same name would also have been a judicious operation. On the whole the Annual is much improved, and, though late, is heartily welcome.

#### THE PORTRAIT—A MASON'S STORY.

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

I shall never forget the story told by brother S—, at one of our sodality meetings at B—, S. C., in the winter of 186—. Among the officers of the various regiments stationed there at the time, were several brethren of the "mystic tie," and it was no unusual thing for some of us to meet together on an evening for the purpose of passing a "lecture." On such occasions, after spending an hour or more in rehearsal, we usually fell into social conversation, and not unfrequently we would find the whole of our little company listening to a story from one of our number. One evening, something in the conversation reminded brother S— of the history of a portrait, which he thought might, perhaps, interest us, and upon our expressing an eagerness to hear it, he consented to tell it.

My memory will only allow me to recall the principal points of the story, but I shall never forget how completely our attention was absorbed at the recital. There was a certain something in the manner in which it was told—something peculiarly attractive in the tones of his voice—which lent an unusual charm to the narration.

"You probably all know," said Bro. S—, "that I am not a native of this country. I was born in the old and respectable city of —, in Germany, a city long famed for its university, and where my story begins. Among those who earned a scanty livelihood by leasing lodging-rooms to the students of the university, and keeping them in order, was a widow. She had scarcely reached what men call the prime of life, but no one could look upon her countenance, without being conscious that her lot in life had been deeply tinged with sorrow. Left with a young family, without means of support, save her own hands, her years of widowhood had been little else than years of constant struggling with poverty.

"Among her lodgers was one student, whose pale face and frail form had often attracted her notice, as he passed to and fro from the university. And she often wondered if he had a mother, and if that mother knew that her boy was overtaking himself, and that his face grew paler day by day. Of his history she knew nothing. He was too shy and reserved for one in her position to question; and he seemed to shun the company of his fellow students, and to be wholly wrapt in his studies,—scarcely allowing himself to be absent a moment from his room, except to attend to his recitations and lectures, and his hasty meals.

"Months passed away, and the only change in the pale-faced student was a deeper palor, and a more reserved demeanour. But such a course of life could not be of long duration, and at last nature gave way. The student fell suddenly and violently ill. The widow hastened to his bedside, and tended him with a mother's care. For a time his life hung tremblingly in the balance; reason tottered on her throne; but by day and by night the gentle hand of woman ministered to his wants. She doubtless remembered her own dear boy—her first born—whom she had not seen for these five long, long years. He had gone, with a mother's prayers and blessing, to the new world, where, under the advice and patronage of a relative, he hoped soon to be able, by his earnings, to assist his mother in supporting herself and her little ones. He, too, might fall sick among strangers, and in his agony, like the poor boy before her, call in vain for a mother's kiss. As she thought of this, her heart yearned for her sick charge as if he were her own boy.

"At length the crisis passed, reason returned, and nature began slowly to recover her lost sway. The student daily expressed his gratitude to his kind nurse, for her unwearied watching and care, and hoped that she might never want a friend in time of need. Of his own

history, he spoke but little, and seemed to be pained at any question concerning himself. That he was an orphan, struggling with poverty, and had denied himself of even necessary food and exercise, that he might secure an education, was all that could be gathered from his lips. But I must not weary you with these details. After a time the student recovered, completed his studies, and left the university, and city, to seek his fortune elsewhere.

"In course of years, and after many hard struggles, the fortunes of the kind-hearted nurse had bettered. Her children had relieved her of their support and care; her son had prospered in his new home, and was able to assist her in his turn; and her declining years were passing happily away. Her son's prosperity continued to increase, and he desired his mother to remove to America, and pass the rest of her life in his own household. But the task of removal seemed too great, and the severing of old friendships too painful to contemplate, and she determined to live and die amid the scenes of her childhood, and the trials of her maturer years. Finding her resolution firmly fixed, her son ceased to persuade. But he could not rest satisfied without at least a picture of the mother, who bent over him in his cradle, and whom he had not seen since she kissed and bade him good-bye when he first started for the Western world. Deeply impressed with the thought, he wrote to request that she would sit for her portrait; and remembering how beautiful she seemed to him in days long passed, and of his own present prosperity, he particularly directed that it should be painted by the best artist that she could find. If he must content himself with the counterfeit, he desired it should at least be skilfully executed.

"Anxious to gratify her son's wishes to the fullest extent, the mother sought for an artist. She learned that the most celebrated artist resided in a neighbouring city, and was known as the 'court' painter, being honoured with the special patronage of the nobility. Thither she went, not knowing whether he would condescend to so humble a task, and having obtained an interview, stated the object of her visit. To her great delight, as well as surprise, the distinguished painter readily consented, and seemed pleased to be able to confer so signal a favour upon herself and her affectionate son. In reply to a delicate inquiry as to the price, he assured her that, although it was an unusual undertaking on his part, the price should be within her means, and satisfactory to both herself and her son.

"The artist entered upon his work at once, seeming desirous to relieve his patron of all possible delay and suspense. As the portrait approached completion it was remarked that the painter was unusually interested in his work. He seemed to be wholly engrossed in his subject, and careless of the presence or remarks of his distinguished visitors.

"At last the portrait was finished, and offered for inspection. The verdict was unanimous that the artist had exceeded all his previous efforts; and as the fame of his success spread through the city, crowds came to see and admire the portrait. People wondered that he should have selected so humble a subject for the exercise of his highest skill, and thought that he never before expressed so much pleasure in hearing his work praised.

"The mother heard these enthusiastic praises with many misgivings. She feared that the price would be far above the means of herself and son, and accused herself of blindly allowing her affection and pride to lead her to such extravagance. At length, summoning courage, she inquired the price. The artist in return asked her if it was perfectly satisfactory, or if she could suggest any additions or changes in any part of it. The poor woman trembled to think of the possibility of adding to the enormous sum she already feared to hear named, and eagerly assured him that it seemed faultless,—that no room had been left for improvement.

"Madam," said the artist, "I assured you in the be-

ginning, that the price should be satisfactory to you. *The portrait is yours!*"

"The woman was speechless with surprise, unable to penetrate the meaning of this strange language.

"You do not yet recognise me," said the artist.

"She shook her head,—and he continued:

"Do you not remember the pale-faced student; him you watched so tenderly during his long illness? *He stands before you!* I recognised you at our first interview, and only delayed making myself known, that I might in this way prove to you that I have not forgotten to whom I owe my very life. You perhaps thought me inquisitive, when I have made so many inquiries about yourself and family, but you now understand it. You were more than a mother to me, when life hung suspended by a single thread, and this is but a feeble requital."

"You may judge of the feelings of the poor woman, as she listened to the burning words of the grateful artist, and will hardly doubt that the price of the portrait was satisfactory.

"And now, brethren," said Brother S—, "if I have made a long story, and have painted *my* picture in high coloured language, I know you will forgive me, when I tell you that *the poor widow was my own mother, and the portrait was for me!* Should either of you visit New York, and would like to see the picture, call at No. —, in — Street, and you can do so."

Need I add, in conclusion, that we all promised to call and see the portrait of the mother of our worthy brother, should we ever find it possible to do so?

#### THE COMMON ORIGIN OF THE ANCIENT MYSTERIES.

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

The numerous analogies observable in the rites of the various mysteries of the ancient world, so far as they have been revealed to us, have always suggested to the thoughtful mind the unity of their origin. A writer who has thoroughly studied this interesting theme, has remarked,—“Upon a review of all the evidence on the subject, I am led to the conclusion that every form of religion which does now exist, or ever has existed, was copied from an original, divine institution; and that every form of the ancient mysteries was copied from some primitive religious rite.” They all bear conclusive evidence of a leading intention to conceal from the vulgar, who could not comprehend, and to reveal to the initiated, a knowledge of certain abstruse doctrines concerning nature, deity, and man's destiny, which had been preserved from a still remoter antiquity, and which they were instituted to preserve for the coming ages. In other words, they were an enacted tradition of the earliest teachings which the human mind had received—a translation into the language of symbols of those primary truths which lie at the foundation of all philosophies and theologies. In the absence of an alphabetical literature, the principles of symbolic teaching and hieroglyphic writing were elevated to the height of a science, the study of which was most essential to the advancing human intelligence.

The field of inquiry into which an investigation into the evidences of a common origin of the ancient mysteries, would lead us, is too extensive to embrace in an article suitable for these pages. We shall, therefore, be enabled merely to produce a brief catalogue of a few of the features in which the ancient mysteries resemble each other, and from which deduction is made of their springing from a common source.

Isaiah, the Hebrew Prophet, wrote:—“I will bring the blind by a way they know not; I will lead them in

paths that they have not known; I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight." There is nowhere to be discovered, in books, sacred or profane, a better description of the characteristics which were common to all the initiations of the ancient world. The ceremonies in each commenced in darkness, and ended in light. The initiate was blind as to what was before him—in a condition of total ignorance as to that of which he sought a revelation—and the result was knowledge, or, symbolically speaking, *light*. This feature of the primitive rituals also conveyed a symbolical expression of that which all the ancient cosmogonies taught, namely: the original darkness and chaotic condition in which the material elements of this globe were involved before creative power diffused light and beauty over the whole. It was also an emblem of the life of man, who in an evil and ignorant condition, may be said to travel along crooked paths until knowledge makes them straight before him.

In many of their details the ancient mysteries differed as practised by the various nations of antiquity, among all of whom they were observed, being adapted to the diverse habits, and social and political forms of the people. Besides, as times progressed, they were subject to corruptions and departures from the primitive model, originated from different motives by influential and leading hierophants, as in our paper, on the Mysteries of the Northmen (given in page 13 of the *MAGAZINE*), Sigge, the Scythian, is represented as adapting the rites, which he had witnessed in the East, to aid in the promotion of his ambitious designs, and assist in the completion of his Scandinavian conquests. Thus the primitive mysteries varied, as they were introduced into Egypt by Thoth, the son of Mizraim; into Persia by Zeradusht, or Zoroaster; into Athens by Erectheus; into Thrace by Orpheus; into Gaul and Britain by Gomer, or his sons; into India by Brahma, and into China by Buddha. The Egyptian, Persian, Eleusinian, Thracian, and Druidical Mysteries, and those of Brahma and Buddha, all differed in details, according to the different ideas of their founders, yet in the main closely and wonderfully agreed.

All the ancient mysteries were dedicated to the creative principles, which, to the Egyptian, was symbolised by Isis; to the Athenian, by Ceres; to the Briton and the Gaul by Ceridwen; to the Scandinavian, by Frea, the female principle of nature, the mother of us all, the source of fecundity and plenty, and every material blessing to man.

The great festivals of the Eleusinia continued for *nine* days, on each of which one step was taken towards complete initiation into the mysteries. The Northman, on his introduction to Odinism was led through *nine* caverns. To the Brahmin, the phrase "the city with *nine* gates," was figurative of the body in which the soul is imprisoned, and the candidate for investiture with the Order of Brahma, had to personify the god Vishnu, and perform his *nine* Avatars.

The ancient mysteries were all preceded by purification, or baptism. On the second day of the Eleusinia the initiated were ordered to the sea, lest, in the words of the proclamation, "any one should come to the mysteries of God, with stain or impurity upon him." Lustrations were frequently employed in all the ancient initiations. The Northman had to plunge into the "waters of purification" and afterwards pass through the sacred door of "expurgation" before his admission into the innermost sanctuary. The first Avater of Vishnu was the becoming a fish, which the initiate had to represent by diving into the waters. In Egypt the candidate was placed naked in a cavity made in the earth, on which a species of perforated floor was placed, whereon a bull was slain, and the initiate beneath was literally baptised with blood. The Druid was drawn through the Tolmen, or sacred orifice in a large stone, constructed to symbolise an expurgatory passage.

In the caverns of Elephanta, in which the rite of Brahma was wont to be performed, may also be seen a "sacred orifice" or door of expurgation, which is used at the present day for the same purpose, in connection with modern Hindooism. Zoroaster required that the novitiate should perform lustrations with water, fire, and honey.

One very notable feature in all the ancient initiations was the teaching by symbol of the necessity of regeneration to the attainment of a future state of happiness. The ultimate ambition of the follower of Brahma was absorption into Deity, and before this could be obtained it was necessary that every impurity be left behind, and every stain removed by innumerable transmigrations of the soul through the bodies of animals, birds, or fish, or of other men. And the doctrine of the Metempsychosis, as taught by the Druids to their disciples, is another illustration of this feature common to all the mysteries. Among the Northmen, the initiate was obliged to enact a mystic search for Balder's murdered body—and the final revelation is made by being shown Balder risen in glory, having first passed through death as a necessary stage in his elevation to a seat among the gods. The initiation into all the mysteries as a whole, may be viewed as a mystical passage through death unto life. Osiris was slain, his body cut in pieces and scattered over the earth, yet is again restored to life. The same idea is illustrated by the Legend of Balder, the Good. During the celebration of the rites of Brahma, the death of Cama is lamented. This god is the Cupid of Hindostan, and is said to have been slain by Isvara, his body cast into the sea, enclosed in a chest, which was swallowed by a fish, and that he was afterwards restored to life as a child, by an exertion of Brahma's power. During the Bacchanalia, there was represented the wearisome search for the remains of Bacchus, which were subsequently discovered, when all the sounds of wailing, which had before greeted the ears of the candidate, are changed into laughter and shouts of joy.

Thus, through all the mysteries of the ancient world, certain parallels run, which indubitably prove their common origin, in a primitive rite. From that rite they all departed more or less widely, as human nature grew more corrupt, and owing to the probability that in the course of the ages during which they flourished, even the hierophants themselves may have lost the true meanings of the symbols they employed, and thus, forgetting the objects symbolised, may have changed the rites in sundry particulars, destroying, either from ignorance, or with some crafty intention, the significance of the whole.

The majority of Masonic writers maintain that the primitive rite to which we have alluded, was pure Freemasonry, and hence they have denominated as spurious Masonry, the numerous variations from the original rite, including under the term, the mysteries of Chaldæa, Persia, India, and Egypt, Greece, Italy, Scandinavia, and Britain, all of which were evidently departures from the common model. The features wherein all agreed, were those which had descended from that model, and to the intelligent Mason of to-day, we say nothing which is new, in stating that the rites of Freemasonry, as now celebrated, are replete with analogies to all the ancient systems, and particularly to those traits wherein they all agreed. It is therefore logical to conclude, at the very least, that Freemasonry is equally a descendant from the primitive rite, with those other and now absolute mysteries. Every vestige of devotion to the spurious systems has disappeared from among the nations with whom they first obtained, while Freemasonry remains a monument to prove the imperishable nature of Truth. If one cause more than another has tended thus to preserve our institution to the present day, so long after the disappearance of all kindred systems, it must be the greater purity of its descent, and its freedom from those corruptions and perversions which characterised all other ancient rites.

## MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

## ANCIENT DOCUMENTS.

Thinking that it may interest some of your readers, I send you a list of documents I saw a few months ago in the archives of the Union Lodge, York:—

1. A manifesto from the Grand Lodge of all England, protesting against the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of London, May, 1777.

There is mention made in this document of the proceedings of Queen Elizabeth against Freemasons, and the resignation of Sir Thomas Sackville, in 1567.

2. A list of the members of the Grand Lodge of all England, from 1761 to 1780, with the dates of initiation, passing, and raising.

The first name on the list is that of Francis Drake, the antiquary.

3. Minutes of the following lodge meetings, viz.:—March 19th, 1712; June 24th, 1713; August 7th, 1713; December 10th, 1713; June 24th, 1714.

4. Copy of Ancient Charges and an historical account of Masoury. (Without date.)

5. Minutes of lodge meetings from Christmas, 1716 to 1729.

These are on a long parchment roll.

6. A parchment roll, containing an Anagram from Robert Preston to his friend Daniel Moulton, upon his "Art of Masonrie."

The "Constitutions of Masonrie," dated 9th Sept., 1704.

7. Old rules, &c., of the Grand Lodge York, 1723, with the signatures of the members.

8. Form of constitution proposed by the Right Worshipful Lodge of Antiquity, to be accepted from the truly ancient and Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of all England. 1778.

9. A parchment roll, headed, "A list of the members names that revised the ancient Grand Lodge of all England in 1761, and of all who has been made Masons herein since."

F. Drake, Grand Master.

G. Reynoldson, D. Grand Master,

G. Coates, S. Grand Warden.

T. Mason, J. Grand Master.

J. Tasker, G. Treas. and G. Sec.,

ending in 1773, with 124 names.

10. "Order of Templars belonging to the Grand Lodge of all England, held at the city of York." Minute Book.

The minutes of meeting of Friday, 18th February, 1780.

11. The minute book of the Grand Lodge of all England belonging to the city of York, commencing on 17th March, 1761, and ending in 1774.

There is an inventory in this book, the 17th item of which refers to four slips of parchment found in Pontefract Castle, at the demolition of the same, and given to the lodge by our late Bro. Mr. Francis Drake.

This book also contains a notice of the grant of a warrant to French prisoners of war on their parole, to hold a lodge at the sign of the Punch Bowl, in Stonegate.

The French brethren were, however, prohibited from making British subjects Masons.

12. A cash book of the Royal Arch Chapter, from 1768 to 1779.

13. J. Browne's accompts as Treasurer to the Order

of Knights of the Tabernacle, at the Grand Lodge in York, 1780.

It also appears from the minutes that a Grand Lodge was held in Bradford, 29th August, 1778, when eighteen members were initiated.

There are a great number of other interesting documents, the titles of which I had not time to take.

I trust, however, that some member of the Union Lodge will favour you with a complete list as well as extracts from the same.—E. W. S., Bradford.

## MASONIC COLLEGES.

Are the so-called Masonic Colleges of America similar to our lodges of instruction; and, if not, what are their purposes?—O. A. C.—[The best answer we can give you is the Act of Incorporation which the State of Kentucky granted to one in that jurisdiction. The document speaks for itself:—

"Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That a seminary of learning shall be, and the same is hereby established in or near the town of Lodge, and county of Fulton, to be known by the name of 'The Western Kentucky College,' and that the said college is hereby endowed and shall be founded and maintained forever upon a plan most liberal for the benefit of the youth of every class of citizens, and every religious denomination, who shall be freely admitted to equal privileges and advantages, and to all the literary honours of the College, according to their merit, under the direction of twelve trustees, to wit:—Robert Morris, R. B. Alexander, G. S. Miles, Wm. Owens, Jr., Jesse Edmonston, R. C. Prather, S. W. Cochran, S. B. Luton, W. M. Ellison, J. M. Gilbert, J. M. Jackson, and George Sheeks, who are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, they and their successors in office to be known by the name and style of the 'Trustees of the Western Kentucky College,' and by that name to have perpetual succession; to have and use a common seal, the same to alter or change from time to time, or use their private seal as they may think proper, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any court, either in law or equity, and that said Trustees shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in their own body, either by death, resignation, or otherwise.

"Sec. 2. That said Trustees shall have power to declare by order entered upon record, that the office of any one of their body is vacant by reason of any misconduct, which, in the judgment of said Board of Trustees, a majority concurring therein, renders him unfit to hold his office, and proceed to fill the vacancy by election."

"Sec. 3. That said Trustees in their corporate capacity, and their successors in office, are hereby vested with full power to receive by deed, devise, or in any other manner, any money or property, either real or personal, and the same to hold or dispose of, for the use and benefit of said Western Kentucky College; Provided, that real estate so held does not, at any time, exceed fifty thousand dollars; And provided further, that such bequests or donations shall be held or used in such manner as may be directed by the deviser or donor.

"Sec. 4. That the Board of Trustees shall have power to pass by-laws for their government and the government of the College, as to them shall seem

right, not inconsistent with this act, and the constitution and laws of this State, and the constitution and laws of the United States, and the same to alter or amend. They shall have power to locate said College, and to make contracts for land and the erection of suitable buildings, to employ competent professors and teachers for said College, and to remove the said professors or teachers when, in their opinion, the interests of the College shall require it; *Provided*, that the College shall be located in the county of Fulton, at or near the town called Lodge, upon the most eligible site; *And provided further*, that a majority of the Trustees shall concur in making or amending the by-laws, and in purchasing the land and locating the college, and in making contracts for the erection of suitable buildings, and employing professors or teachers, and in removing the same.

"Sec. 5. That the Board of Trustees shall elect, from their own body, a chairman or president, who shall preside over the deliberations of the Board, decide points of order, and in case of a tie on any question, shall give the casting vote.

"Sec. 6. The President shall have power to call a meeting of the board, when, in his opinion, the interest of the board shall require it. Any two members of the board may call a board in the absence of the President, or upon his failure to attend to the interests of the College.

"Sec. 7. The Board of Trustees shall elect, from among themselves, a clerk or secretary, who shall keep a fair record of their proceedings at every meeting, to be entered in a book to be obtained and kept for that purpose; he shall enter upon record all devises, donations, purchases, or sales, so as to be able, at all times, to present a true financial condition of said College.

"Sec. 8. That the Trustees shall have power to confer literary honours, degrees, and diplomas upon the graduates of the College, as in the opinion of the professors shall be deserving, as well as upon other persons.

"Sec. 9. The legislature reserves to itself the power to alter or amend this act, but in no case shall it divest the institution of its property or any part thereof.

"Approved, March 8, 1856."]

#### OLD-FASHIONED BY-LAWS.

The by-laws of a lodge about 1810-20 contain many good rules, some few of which might be beneficially adopted in the present day. The few examples culled may be profitable to Freemasons in general.—  
Ex. Ex.

"The regular nights of meeting of this lodge shall be on the first and third Thursdays of every month, except in the months of July, August, September, and October, in which they shall be held on the first Thursdays only, the Secretary issuing summons for that purpose; but the Master, or in his absence the Senior Warden, or in his absence the Junior Warden, or in his absence a Past Master, a member of this lodge, has power to call extra meetings for special business. When a complaint is to be preferred against the Master, the officer next in rank shall be empowered to order meetings of the lodge.

"Any person wishing to become a Mason, or member of this Lodge, must apply by letter, which must be accompanied by one-half the usual fees, to be presented by a member (Master Mason) on regular

meetings, who, together with one more at least, must vouch for the character of the candidate. The petition then lies over until the next regular meeting, when, if the candidate is found worthy, and attends, he shall be initiated. Should the candidate not appear for initiation, or to take his sent as a member within three regular meetings after being balloted for, such ballot shall be considered void, and the fees paid in be forfeited, unless a satisfactory excuse be offered for such neglect; and if any candidate shall be rejected, the fees paid in shall be returned.

"The manner of admission to be by ballot, when, if two negatives appear, the candidate cannot be admitted. If only one, the brother giving the same must, previous to the next regular night of meeting, give his reasons in private to the Master. The candidate will be again balloted for, and if but one negative appears, he is admitted.

"Any member of this lodge who shall absent himself from this country, or being here, shall absent himself from the lodge for the space of nine months, without declining his membership, shall not be considered as such from the time of his departure; but such a brother returning, may resume his membership on paying up all his arrears, to which he would have been liable had he remained.

"Any officer not attending to the duties of his office, or absenting himself from the lodge three months, without satisfactory reasons to the lodge, his seat shall be declared vacant.

"The Treasurer shall, previous to entering upon the duties thereof, give bonds to the lodge for the faithful discharge of his duties, in the sum of one hundred pounds, and also a good and approved security, whose bond shall be taken for the like sum.

"Every person initiated into this lodge shall pay the sum of fifty shillings, and for the degrees of F.C. and M.M. twenty-five shillings each. Modern Masons may be made ancient in this lodge on payment of half the usual fees for those degrees they have in that way received, all which fees to be paid prior to the candidate receiving his degree or degrees, and for which the Treasurer is to be personally responsible; and any Mason made in any other lodge, and wishing to become a member of this lodge, shall pay thirty shillings. It is understood that any person receiving degrees in this lodge is thereby entitled to membership as a right, unless said degree be conferred by virtue of a dispensation from the Grand Lodge.

"Every member shall pay the sum of ten shillings, annual dues in advance, on or before the first regular meeting in January; and each person initiated or becoming a member, shall pay in proportion at the time of initiation, which dues shall go into the general fund.

"The general fund shall be accountable to the Grand Lodge for the arrears of the officers and members of this lodge, and subject to such other appropriations as the lodge may agree to.

"Should any member of this lodge attend in the lodge, unfit for the business of it by any indecent carriage or un-Masonic behaviour, he shall for the first offence be publicly admonished by the W. Master; for the second, he shall be severely reprimanded, and for the third, shall be liable to expulsion.

"No brother shall leave the lodge-room during the hours of work or refreshments, without leave from the chair.

"Every member of this lodge shall provide for himself, and have during his attendance in the lodge, a clean and respectable apron, under the penalty of one shilling for every omission.

"No person may be admitted into the lodge after it had been closed, to (or for) refreshment, who was not present at an earlier period of the meeting.

"No member of this lodge, or visiting brother, shall be admitted after a candidate has been proposed for a degree, nor until such candidate shall have received that degree.

"No visiting brother (members of the Grand Lodge and non-residents excepted) shall be allowed entrance into the lodge, unless his moral character be vouched for.

"No motion for a new rule or by-law, or for the alteration or repeal of an old one, shall be made until it be first handed up to the W. Master in writing; and after having been perused by him, it may be moved publicly. It shall then be read by the Secretary, and if seconded, shall lie over until the next regular meeting for consideration and decision.

"It shall be the duty of the Secretary to read the rules of this lodge on the first regular meeting in each month.

"The Tyler shall be entitled to five shillings for every night's service in that capacity, five shillings for summoning the lodge, five shillings for each initiation, two shillings for the degree of F.C., and two shillings for the degree of Master Mason.

"No brother may be re-admitted to membership but by regular ballot, except in case of forfeiture, provided for by Rule 6, but no fees shall be required for re-admission.

"It shall be the duty of every member of this lodge to find refreshments in regular rotation. That such refreshments shall not cost less than fifteen shillings.

"No Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft shall be entered to higher degree or degrees until all fees or arrears due by him are settled, nor until, by a majority of members present, he is declared worthy of progressing in the mysteries of Freemasonry.

"That in testimony of our concurrence and full approbation of the foregoing laws, we do hereby repeal all the former by-laws of this lodge, and declare the same null and void; and we do further hereby ratify and confirm the present revised code.

"That no brother, refusing to concur in the foregoing confirmation of the rules of this lodge by signing his name thereto, be considered a member of the same after such refusal.

"That, as it appears the protracting of the business of this lodge to a late hour is injurious to the interests of Masonry, and inconsistent to many worthy members, no business shall detain this lodge after the hour of eleven in the evening of each night, except by an express affirmative of at least two-thirds of the members present."

#### CHRONOLOGY OF SOME EVENTS OF INTEREST TO ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

"The temple on Mount Moriah was begun in the fourth year of the reign of King Solomon, which was A.M. 2992.

"In the year A.M. 3092, Solomon died, and Rehoboam was crowned King of Israel. The tribes of Israel, however, were divided, because of the refusal

of Rehoboam to redress some grievances, and ten of the tribes unite under the banner of Jeroboam, and elect him their King, under the title of King of Israel. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin, however, remained loyal to Rehoboam, and he is thenceforward called King of Judah.

"The tribes were thus divided, and remained under two distinct governments, two hundred and fifty-four years, when the ten tribes fell a prey to Salmanezer, King of Assyria, who utterly extirpated their government. The subsequent history of the ten tribes of Israel is involved in mystery. The two tribes, under the Kings of Judah, dwelt in the cities of Judah and Benjamin.

"A.M. 3033, in the fifth year of the reign of Rehoboam, Shishak, King of Egypt, pillaged the temple at Jerusalem, and carried off the holy vessels.

"A.M. 3063, Asa brought into the temple the golden vessels which he and his father had prepared and dedicated.

"A.M. 3380, Josiah orders the temple to be repaired, and finds a copy of the book of the Law.

"A.M. 3416, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, conquers Jerusalem, destroys the city and temple, carries away the vessels of gold, silver, and brass, and carries captive to Babylon all who were not slain by the sword.

"A.M. 3466, Babylon is taken by Cyrus, King of Persia.

"A.M. 3463, Cyrus issues his famous edict, according to which the Israelites returned to Jerusalem.

"A.M. 3884, Joshua and Zerubabel, incited by Haggai and Zechariah, go on with the work, by order of Darius, which had been interrupted in consequence of the jealousy of the Samaritans.

"A.M. 3489, the second temple was finished."—  
LE. HUNT.

#### THE TEACHINGS OF FREEMASONRY.

A brother once having been asked What were the teachings of Freemasonry? replied:—

"Freemasonry is not confined in the range of its duties by the narrow barriers which the conventionalities of men in every land have created. It has no particular creed, no religious dogmas, and neither is it confined to any nation, tongue, or people. It recognizes God, the Creator of the Universe, as the Father of all men, the people of the whole earth as His children, and therefore that all men are brothers. It teaches that virtue, goodness, and truth belong to no particular hemisphere, that these are not the inheritance of any one people, nor have any nation, tribe or sect exclusive right, by divine or natural laws, to these attributes of Deity to the exclusion of others. It follows as a consequence that as virtue, goodness, and truth belong to the whole world, and all mankind are brothers, that the duties of humanity ought not be circumscribed, but that every child of the good Father has a claim to their exercise without regard to the accidents of birth or of education. It is these comprehensive and enlarged views of humanity, and the practical benevolence which Freemasonry imposes that constitutes its superiority over all associations of men, whatever the principles may be which binds them together, or the banner under whose aegis they may be united.

"Charity looks not at nation nor creed, it is the divine image which constitutes the claim to sympathy.

Man is a man for all that, no matter where he first saw the light of day, where his lot may be cast, or what the philosophy of the school in which he was indoctrinated with sentiments of the true and beautiful. Freemasonry, without inquiring into or having any regard for these adventitious circumstances, in its high and holy mission overleaps seas and mountains, and will not be opposed in its humanizing principles by any barrier of nature or man's creation. Its benevolence, charities, and sympathies are as diffused as the rays of light emanating from the great central orb, they are neither confined to this terrestrial globe nor to the sphere of morality's observation. In health and in sickness, when the life's current begins to ebb, and even when the spirit disengages itself from the earthly form and it lies in holy silence, inanimate, without power of motion, even when it is taken to its long home, the habitation of the dead, deep within the bosom of mother earth, there Freemasonry's affection and kindness follows the departed and teaches its lessons to the living, which they may not forget, not when the spirit in a higher sphere of light, in the celestial lodge permeates in the glories of a heaven of progressive intellectual enjoyment. In the lodge above, or the lodges in the world of spirits, where the innumerable throng from the day of creation, from the infinite worlds which roll in boundless space throughout interminable immensity, have been multiplying by constant, unceasing, and ever increasing additions; there no distinctions of caste, of birth, or creed exist. In unison as one family, as a band of brothers, there the members of each lodge pursue the labour of love, each one emulous in striving how best to promote the welfare and harmony of all. And thus should it be here in this probationary life. If Freemasons would only learn the lessons which Freemasonry teaches, divest themselves of the narrow prejudices of education, and with a comprehensive intelligence overleap the narrow barriers erected to separate man from his fellow-man, then indeed would the institution be an association of love, of goodness and truth, and perform its mission in elevating, improving, and humanising the family of man."—UNIVERSALIST.

#### WAS SHAKESPEARE A MASON?

I cannot concur in the snubbing which you gave last week to our brother "Bardolph" for his capacious idea of the hundred thousand marching Masons, walking about the London streets, all "anxious, willing, and ready to take part in such a national cause" as the festival of the birth of Shakespeare. It seems to me that "Bardolph," in this digression of his, must be suspected of a desire merely of poking fun at the festival commemoration in general, and of the members of the committees in particular; and has taken this opportunity of giving vent to his Bardolphian wit and sarcasm. He says, however, that "every paltry provincial town has a Masonic procession once or twice a year." I wish he would give a list of those "paltry" towns. I reside in a provincial town in Yorkshire, having an old lodge of Freemasons, and a population of about fifteen thousand; but it is near upon twenty years since the Masons took any part whatever in a public procession. In fact, throughout this great county Masonic processions are almost entirely amongst the things that have been. But now to the subject of Shakespeare being a Freemason,

and I will say at once that I believe he was not. The question has been often put, and in the pages of your MAGAZINE too. If Shakespeare had ever been a Mason, it would have been proved years ago by the books of the lodges in which he had been initiated, passed, or raised. In the absence of such evidence, respecting so great a man, we *must* come to the conclusion that none such can be found, and that, therefore, there is none. Ergo, Shakespeare was not a Freemason. The use of the words *square* and *rule* are no evidence whatever, else we might say that the pert hussey was a Mason who addressed Shakespeare's friend, Benjamin Joason, thus:—

"By line and rule works many a fool—  
Good morrow, Master Bricklayer!"

To which witty and learned Ben replied—

"In silk and scarlet dresses many a harlot—  
Good morrow, Madam."

But "Bardolph" asks if any of your readers can help him to other passages, so as to set at rest the question of William Shakespeare being a Freemason. I think I can help him to something which will prove either that Shakespeare knew something of Masonry or that Masonry knew something of Shakespeare; in fact, there was plagiarism on one part or the other. Every initiated brother knows that "Charity, like its sister Mercy, is twice blessed; it blesseth him that gives as well as him that receives." Those words are Shakespeare's, and are spoken by Portia, who could not certainly have received them from Masonic initiation. Again, in one of the Masonic lectures we are told that "A Mason dares do all that may become a man, remembering that he who dares do more is none." Was *Macbeth* an initiated Freemason? for he it is who uses those very words when he replies to the cutting irony of his wife, "Letting I dare not wait upon I would." In addition to these I think you will find, at page 171 of the book of the lodge, a Shakesperian word or sentiment; but, not having the book by me, I cannot quote it. I have now given you some parallel passages, which prove either that Shakespeare copied from Masonry, or that Masonry copied from Shakespeare. I incline to the latter belief, in which case, if correct, it is a proof that our excellent ritual is not so ancient as some Freemasons are apt to imagine.—ANCIENT PISTOL.

#### THE TWELVE BROTHERS' LODGE.

Is the following, cut from "The Voice of Masonry," true?—"There is, however, one more subject of which I must speak. I allude to the Twelve Brothers' Lodge. This lodge has been established for the sole purpose of instruction; and, in order that it shall not interfere with the other lodges of the city, they initiate no persons whatever, except it be a son of one of the members. The readers of the *Voice* will see this makes it at once a very peculiar organisation—so much so that we have nothing like it in the United States. I trust it will be sustained, and, instead of doing any work at all, devote its entire time to mental refreshment. If so, it cannot fail to do an immense deal of good; for I can assure, that here, as well as in our own country, there is plenty of room for such work. That is a part of the temple that has been left comparatively untouched, and the sooner it is built up the better." Was not some one hoaxing the writer?—A THIRTEENTH BROTHER.

## THE MASONIC MIRROR.

### GRAND LODGE.

The following is the official agenda of the business to be transacted in Grand Lodge on Wednesday next, 2nd March:—

1. The regulations for the government of Grand Lodge during the time of public business will be read.
2. The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 2nd December, 1863, will be read and put for confirmation.
3. The election of W.M. Grand Master.
4. The election of a Grand Treasurer.
5. The Grand Master will propose a vote of condolence to the Grand Lodge of Scotland on the death of his Grace the Duke of Athol, Grand Master of Scotland.
6. The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter, in which are recommendations for the following grants, viz.:—

The Widow of the late Bro. Robert Hudson, of the Lodge of Prince George (No. 308) Eastwood, Yorkshire .....	£30	0	0
Bro. William R. G. Key, of the Percy Lodge (No. 198), London .....	100	0	0

7. The report of the Annual Audit Committee on the Grand Lodge Accounts for the year 1863.

### 8. THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

*To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.*

The Board of General Purposes beg to report as follows:—

1. Complaints have been received from Bros. John Smith and Thomas William Allen, of the Robert Burns Lodge (No. 25), London, being in the nature of appeals against resolutions of the said lodge duly confirmed, whereby the complainants had been severally excluded from membership. The board having summoned the W.M. to attend and produce the warrant and books, he with his wardens and other members of the lodge attended accordingly, when the charges on which the resolutions for exclusion were based were gone into. It appears from the evidence adduced that for some time past a system of indiscriminate blackballing has prevailed in the Robert Burns Lodge. It was proved in evidence, and also admitted by the two complainants when before the board, that at the meeting of the lodge, in 1863, they had stated openly in lodge that they had with another brother joined in blackballing a candidate at the previous meeting of the lodge, and it was proved to the satisfaction of the board that the two complainants had repeatedly openly avowed their intention of blackballing all candidates that might be brought forward for admission into the Robert Burns Lodge, and that such system of blackballing had continued to be practised to the great injury of the lodge and the disturbance of the harmony thereof. The board, after a very careful consideration of the case, and having heard what the complainants had to say, unanimously resolved "That under the circumstances the Robert Burns Lodge was justified in excluding Bros. Allen and Smith from membership, and that their appeal be dismissed."

2. A complaint has been preferred by the Board of Benevolence against the Lodge of Good Report (No. 136), London, for having neglected at two successive meetings of the board, viz. the 23rd December, 1863, and the 20th January, 1864, to attend in support of a petition recommended by the lodge; the W.M. having been summoned, attended, and produced the warrant and books of the lodge. It appearing that the failure

to attend was not wilful, and the W.M. having stated that he had personally visited the case, and would attend the next meeting of the Board of Benevolence to support the petition, the board returned him the warrant and books, and admonished him to be more careful in future.

(Signed) J. LLEWELLYN EVANS,  
Freemasons' Hall, London,  
February 17th, 1864. President.

To the report is subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 12th February inst., showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £2,629 15s. 6d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £50. Of these sums there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence £1,124 6s. 8d., to the Fund of General Purposes £1,092 14s. 4d., and there is in the Unappropriated Account £462 14s. 6d.

### 9. REPORT OF THE COLONIAL BOARD.

*To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.*

The Colonial Board beg to report that in May, 1863, a complaint was preferred against Bro. A. F. Inglott, a member, and at that time Secretary of the St. John's Lodge (No. 919, late No. 1,221), Alexandria, Egypt, (the lodge then being held in Bro. Inglott's house, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining suitable accommodation elsewhere), for detaining in his possession the warrant and books of the lodge, and refusing to give them up to the W.M.

The board thereupon directed a letter to be written to Bro. Inglott, requiring him to place the warrant and books in the hands of the Master, he being the rightful custodian of them, and nothing having been adduced by Bro. Inglott to warrant in anywise his detaining them.

Bro. Inglott, in his answer, attempted to justify his detention of the warrant, but assigned no satisfactory reasons to the board for refusing to obey their directions.

In the months of August and October the board ordered that the warrant should be given up to the Master of the lodge, and not sent to England (which Bro. Inglott, in one of his letters, had mentioned his intention of doing), as the board could have no legal right to the possession of it, and in December last, as Bro. Inglott still kept the warrant, they notified to him that in the event of his not in the meantime complying with their repeated orders, they would, at their stated meeting in the month of February, 1864, proceed to take such steps as they were authorised by law to do in case of contumacy. Notwithstanding which, Bro. Inglott afterwards sent the warrant to the Grand Secretary, but without assigning any reason for acting counter to the express directions of the board. The board, at its meetings in February, thereupon ordered the warrant to be sent to the W.M. of the lodge, which has since been done; and being of opinion that such wilful disobedience, on the part of Bro. Inglott, ought not to pass unnoticed, have reprimanded him for his un-Masonic conduct and contumacy, cautioning him to be more careful for the future.

(Signed) J. S. S. HOPWOOD,  
Freemasons' Hall, London,  
February 3rd, 1864. President.

10. The report of Bro. R. P. Harding, Auditor of the Grand Lodge Accounts.

11. Memorial from certain brethren at Melbourne, Victoria, addressed to the M.W.G.M. and the Grand Lodge of England, praying that they may be permitted to join with other brethren of the Irish and Scotch Constitutions in forming "A Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria."

On reading the memorial Bro. John Havers, P.J.G.W., will move—

"That whilst this Grand Lodge does not deny that circumstances may arise under which colonial lodges may be justified in forming themselves into an Independent Grand Lodge, it is of opinion, from an attentive consideration of the matters set forth in the memorial now before it, that no circumstances have arisen in the colony of Victoria, either from the number of lodges therein, the period during which they have existed, or from the expressed wishes of the majority of the brethren constituting them, as would justify these lodges in throwing off their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England; and this Grand Lodge, in full conviction that such a proceeding would tend rather to weaken than to strengthen the ties of Masonry, and to lower rather than to elevate its character, as alleged in the memorial, desires to express its strong disapprobation of any present attempt to found an Independent Grand Lodge in that colony, and urges upon all well-disposed and zealous brethren to use their best efforts to maintain the union which has hitherto happily existed between the lodges in Victoria and their Mother Grand Lodge."

12. An Appeal from Bro. Moss Israel, of the Zealand Lodge of Australia (No. 655), Sydney, New South Wales, against his suspension by the Provincial Grand Master.

#### PROPOSED MOTIONS.

By Bro. Alfred Smith, P.M. No. 76, Winchester.

"That the Board of General Purposes be requested to take into consideration the difficulties which have arisen with respect to the powers of a Warden, in the event of the absence of the Master and Past Masters of Lodge; and to recommend to Grand Lodge such alterations in the 'Book of Constitutions' as the said board shall deem necessary or advantageous to the welfare and good government of the Craft."

By Bro. William Watson, P.M. No. 25, London.

To amend Rule IV., page 83, of the Constitutions.

To erase from the third line the words "three black balls," and insert the words "one black ball in four," and add to the fourth line the word "three."

#### METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—The usual monthly meeting of this prosperous lodge was held on Tuesday, February 16th, at Bro. C. A. Cathie's, Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark. Bro. E. N. Levy, W.M., assisted by Bros. C. R. Deau, P.M.; F. Walters, P.M.; E. Harris, P.M. and Sec.; H. Moore, S.W.; J. C. Gooddy, J.W.; R. Hurrell, S.D.; G. Morris, W.S.; T. Moore, G. J. Lee, S. S. Sard, H. T. Turney, Penn, T. W. Pow, C. A. Cathie, W. M. Marshall, R. G. Chipperfield, F. E. Cooper, W. M. Meager, J. Delany, T. J. Sabine, H. N. Goulty, A. Martin, H. Woollett, W. Lipscombe, M. A. Loewenstark, G. F. Davenport, and many others. Amongst the visitors were—W. J. Laing, W.M. elect 45; C. Wren, C. Stahr, W.M. elect 871; G. Wilton, W.M. 871; and very many others whose names we were unable to learn. The first ceremony was raising Bros. A. Martin, Woollett, Sabine, Goulty, Lipscombe, and Pow to the sublime degree of Master Masons. Bros. Loewenstark and Davenport were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft Freemasons, and Mr. A. P. Steadman was initiated into Freemasonry. The W.M., Bro. E. N. Levy, did all the ceremonies in a very superior style, which reflected the greatest credit on him. Bro. J. C. Gooddy, J.W., as Steward of the Boys' School, made his last appeal to the lodge previous to the Festival, which was well responded to. The three other candidates were absent in consequence of serious ill health. The business being ended the brethren separated, there being no banquet.

St. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 140).—This old, prosperous, and flourishing lodge met on Wednesday, February 17th, at the Lecture Hall, Greenwich. The meeting was presided over by

Bro. Hubbuck, W.M., assisted by his officers and P.M.'s, viz.—Bros. C. L. Smyth, S.W.; Badger, J.W.; Ryder, P.M. and Treas.; Mourylain, P.M. and Sec.; Tattershall, S.D.; Noak, J.D.; Mackenzie, Dir. of Cers.; Carliss, J.G. There was one raising, one passing, and one initiation. All the ceremonies were most beautifully rendered by the W.M. One guinea was given to support the Boys' School. After the lodge was closed, the brethren adjourned to the Globe to enjoy a sumptuous banquet prepared in the usual first class style of Bro. Moore. Visitors—F. Walters, P.M. 73; W. R. Orchard, W.M. 79; Downing, P.M. 140; and others.

TEMPERANCE LODGE (No. 169).—The regular meeting of this old lodge was held on Thursday, February 18th, at the Plough, Rotherhithe. Bro. G. Brown, W.M., presided. The lodge was opened and closed in the established degrees. There were several visitors present.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 201).—This lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern on Friday, the 19th inst., being its first meeting since the installation of Bro. William Hammond as W.M. and the appointment of the following brethren as officers:—Carrill, S.W.; Harris, J.W.; John Hammond, S.D.; Shepherd (P.M. No. 29), J.D.; and G. W. Martin, I.G. Messrs. Bonnewell, Nagle, Newman, and Keeping were candidates for initiation, and the ballot being favourable, the ceremony was ably and impressively performed by the W.M., the other officers also discharging their respective duties in a highly creditable and satisfactory manner. Two gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation at the next meeting, the proposers being two of the newly-initiated. Bro. Davage, of the St. John's Lodge (No. 167), was elected a joining member, and Bro. Jennings, of the same lodge, was proposed for election at the next lodge night. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, Bro. Sheen, P.M., kindly acting as Wine Steward, and by his thoughtful arrangements greatly contributing to the comfort of the brethren. Bro. Arliss, P.M., discharged the duties of Dir. of Cers. in his usual happy manner. The cloth being removed, the W.M. gave the customary toasts in a few well-chosen words, but dwelt more at length on the Masonic Charities, pointing out their value, and the excellent way in which they are managed, and calling upon the brethren to do their best towards their support. Bro. Jeffery, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said that, for nearly twenty years, Bro. Hammond had been one of his most intimate and highly-valued friends, and he never knew a man who was more thoroughly actuated by the principles which it was the great object of Freemasonry to inculcate than that esteemed brother. Strict and upright in his own conduct and actions, he was, nevertheless, most charitable to the failings and errors of his fellow-men, and was always ready to soothe the afflicted and comfort the distressed. His Masonic ability, of which the brethren had had a fair sample this evening, must win their respect, and they had every reason to expect that the lodge would prosper under his guidance. Bro. Jeffery then called upon the brethren to drink the health of the W.M., a call which was most enthusiastically responded to. The W.M., in returning thanks, said that he regarded the high compliment paid him as a proof of Bro. Jeffery's friendship, and not of his own merit. He certainly tried to do his duty, and he loved Masonry because its object was to make men good, and all its teachings tended to promote that object. He thanked the brethren for their kindness, and promised to do his utmost for the benefit of the lodge. The health of the visitors was responded to by Bro. Cottebrun, P.M. of the Westbourne Lodge, and Bro. Jennings of the St. John's Lodge. The proceedings of the evening were enlivened by several excellent songs, the first as usual being the National Anthem, led by Bro. G. W. Martin. In closing this report, we think it but simple justice to Bros. Elkington and Shrewsbury to notice the liberal banquets which they invariably provide for the Jordan Lodge, and the great pains taken by themselves and their staff to promote the comfort of the brethren.

NEW CONCORD LODGE (No. 831).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, the 19th inst., at the Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton. Bro. Arthur Osmond, W.M., presided; Bro. Estwick, S.W.; and Bro. Baker, J.W. The lodge having been opened and the minutes read, the lodge was opened in the second degree. Bros. Green, Hammond, Granger, and Gare were then questioned as to their proficiency in the science, and their answers being considered most satisfactory, the lodge was opened in the third degree, and they were in due form severally raised to the sublime

degree of M.M. The lodge resumed to the second degree, and Bros. Hodges, Hankins, and Blyth were passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was afterwards resumed to the first degree, and Messrs. Edgar, Walker, Farrer, and Smece were severally introduced and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. This being the usual period of election for W.M. for the ensuing year, a ballot took place, which was unanimously in favour of Bro. Estwick, the present S.W. It having been announced to him, Bro. Estwick expressed the great satisfaction he experienced in being elected W.M. of that distinguished lodge, and assured the brethren that it should be his aim and study to merit their good opinion and to advance the interests of the lodge. Bro. Emmens said it would be impossible for Bro. Estwick to hold the office of Treasurer as heretofore conjointly with that of W.M., and therefore he was a candidate for that office to hold it only for twelve months, so that, at the expiration of that period he should be able to again hand over to Bro. Estwick that honourable trust. Bro. Emmens, P.M., was then unanimously appointed Treasurer of the lodge for the ensuing year. Bro. Speight was re-elected Tyler of the lodge. Some other business having been disposed of, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, to which about sixty sat down. The cloth having been drawn, and the formal toasts disposed of, the W.M. said the next toast he had to propose was one that was very gratifying to him, and he thought it must be so to the members of the lodge, which was that of their brother initiates. He had already initiated twenty-eight gentlemen into Freemasonry, and his year of office was not yet expired, which was a most gratifying circumstance to himself in particular, and to the lodge in general, as it led them to suppose that the lodge had a good name. They carried out Freemasonry in a truly happy manner, and he was glad to find that four gentlemen had that night selected the New Concord Lodge for their entrance into their Order. He wished them health and happiness, and they would not only not regret having joined Freemasonry, but they would congratulate themselves on having joined that lodge. He therefore asked the brethren to join with him in drinking the health of their brother initiates. Bro. Walker returned thanks on behalf of the initiates, and said he had long wished to join their Order, which he had ever regarded with feelings of profound veneration. He felt deeply impressed with the beautiful sentiments expressed and inculcated by their W.M. in introducing them into Freemasonry, conveyed as they had been by moral precepts conceived in a long line of antiquity, which had received the approbation of wise men of all ages who were all deeply impressed with the veneration which attached to their Order. On the part of himself and his brother initiates, they hoped to be able, through the G.A.O.T.U., aided by the sage councils of the brethren by whom they were surrounded, to become ornaments of their Order and worthy members of it. He felt deeply the honour that had been paid to them, which merited their gratitude, and they would endeavour to follow those holy precepts which had been impressed upon them. The W.M. said the next toast he had to propose he felt sure would be most acceptable to the brethren, and he was proud to have the honour of giving the health of a gentleman whom they did not see amongst them so often as they could wish, which was that of their excellent Chaplain, the Rev. Bro. Laughlin, who was so well-known to them, that it would be idle on his part to expatiate on his merits as a gentleman and a minister of the Church of England. He had, therefore, great pleasure in proposing "The Health of Bro. Laughlin, the Chaplain of the Lodge." The toast was very cordially received. Bro. the Rev. J. W. Laughlin, in acknowledging the compliment, said it was no want of regard to the lodge that he had not been more frequent in his attendances, but in the course of last year he had been kept away in consequence of domestic affliction. Still, as a clergyman, he could assure them that his heart was with them although his body was absent. As an old member of the Craft and a Past Master of the lodge, he wished to say a few words to the four gentlemen who had been admitted into their Order that evening. From the way in which one of their brother initiates had expressed himself and the terms which he had used, he should have thought that he had been Chaplain of the lodge rather than a brother who had just entered upon their noble Order. He must have been thoroughly impressed, as every one ought to be who entered their society when they saw the excellent way in which the work of the lodge was done, from the W.M. down to the I.G. He urged upon them that they were not merely to regard the ceremonies

of Freemasonry, but, if they desired to become rulers in the Craft hereafter, they should take advantage of the knowledge that was to be obtained, not only of their ceremonies but the principles of their Order. Every word they heard repeated by the W.M. in the course of these ceremonies was founded upon truth, righteousness, and religion, and they would find that they carried on Freemasonry on those principles which the G.A.O.T.U. had conferred upon them. He believed that these brethren would consider that they had taken, by their entrance into Freemasonry, the wisest step in their lives in joining a society which, whilst mixing with the world, were bound together to do good and carry out those principles of the brotherhood in every-day life, and when it should please the Great Architect of the Universe to remove them from this sublunary abode, they knew that those who were left behind would not be forgotten. The members of their Order knew when that they should be taken away their children would be taken care of, while their aged members were relieved from the Board of Benevolence if they were worthy. In every way in which they were concerned they were taught to look towards eternity, until, in due time, they should be admitted to the Grand Lodge above, where the world's Great Architect lives and resigns for evermore. He strongly impressed upon them the tenets and principles of Freemasonry, charging them to consider the Sacred Law as the will and guide of their faith and the constitution of their Order, which had been founded by men of the greatest wisdom and sagacity, and which, like golden cords form the throne of God, went up to Heaven itself. In conclusion, he wished his brother initiates all the health, prosperity, and happiness that the Great Architect of the Universe could confer upon them. Bro. Emmens, P.M., in an excellent speech, proposed "The Health of the W.M.," for which Bro. Osmond returned thanks. "The Health of the Visitors" was next proposed, for which Bro. Thompson, W.M. 177, returned thanks. Several other toasts were given, and the evening was spent in the most delightful harmony.

CITY OF LONDON LODGE (No. 901).—This lodge held its first meeting after installation, on February 15th. The brethren present were—Bros. Osmond, W.M.; Smithers, S.W.; J. W. Higgs, J.W.; Salisbury, S.D.; Lean, J.D.; Gibson, I.G.; Farthing, P.M.; Sisson, P.M.; Woodman, Nutman, Smith, Green, Scott, Prickett, Dyne, De Tivoli, Cousins, Manly, Haycock, Griffiths, Winn, Medcalf, Mayers, Walker, J. D. Winn, and Gawler. Visiting brethren—Bros. Davis, 73; S. B. Wilson, P.M. 108; S. A. Mills, 59; Marchant, 228; T. Lynch, Cork, 95; Cann, 45; S. Turner, and R. Bullary, 9. The officers and brethren met in good strength, and the business on the lodge summons was to initiate one, to ballot for, and if approved, to initiate four, pass three, and raise two. The lodge having been opened in due form and solemn prayer, Messrs. West, Little, and Wallis, the ballot being in their favour, were duly initiated into the Order. Bros. Vital de Tivoli, Charles Cousins, and Loder Prickett were passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. Bros. George Smith and Matthew Green were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. The lodge was then closed with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The banquet took place at Bro. Nutman's, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, the elegant repast doing him great credit—wines, viands, and desert being all equally *recherché*. When the cloth was removed the usual toasts were proceeded with.—The W. MASTER in proposing "The Health of the Queen," said, Brethren, if her Majesty was dear to her subjects when she ascended the throne in the flush of youth and hope, how much more dear must she be to us after leading such a spotless life of domestic happiness. It has fixed her most deeply in the affections of all, and ten thousand times dearer was she to us now. He called upon the brethren to testify their affections by drinking to the Queen and God bless her. The toast was very impressive, and most ably responded to (the National Anthem was sung by Bro. Davis). The W. MASTER then rose to propose "The Health of the Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland." He congratulated the brethren on being ruled over by so distinguished a brother, and so eminent a Mason. It was true the Grand Master was not famous in the political world, but he was a genuine English nobleman, though he did not hold a marshal's baton. He was elected by the free votes of Freemasonry. (Loud cheers.) He commended himself to all by his nobility of mind and Masonic virtues. The toast was received by the brethren with the heartiest applause.—Bro. SMITHERS, S.W., then proposed "The Health of the Deputy Grand Master of England," which was duly honoured.—A song by Bro. M. Green.—The W.

MASTER said the next toast he had to propose was one which always gave a deal of pleasure to the W.M. of the City of London Lodge, which was "The Health of their newly initiated brothers, Bros. West, Wallis, and Little." He could assure them that they received them with open arms, and with a good and brotherly heart, and the little they had seen of Freemasonry he had no doubt would embue them with the belief that the practice of it would render them good men, and, necessarily, good Masons. By the practice of it they would find that it embraced truth, honour, and charity, and was the foundation of every moral and social virtue.—Bro. LITTLE thanked the brethren for the free and handsome manner in which they had drunk their healths, and he regretted that he did not possess the talent and eloquence to express the sentiments of his and their hearts as he could wish in returning thanks, but it would be his constant, as well as theirs, diligent study to make himself acquainted with the rules and principles of Freemasonry.—The W. MASTER said the next toast he was about to propose was one which always gave satisfaction to the members of the City of London Lodge. On that occasion they were honoured with numerous visitors, whose health he was about to propose. Nothing gave them greater pleasure than to see members visit them, they gave them a cordial welcome, and the oftener they visited them the better they should like them. They had with them that night many, and he trusted that their visits would be neither few nor far between. They were proud and happy to see them, and he hoped that happiness would continue as long as he should sit in the chair.—A selection from Shakespeare by Bro. Woodman.—Bro. MARCHANT then rose on behalf of himself and brother visitors, and thanked them cordially for the kind manner their names had been proposed, and they accorded the City of London Lodge their hearty good wishes for its prosperity.—Bro. Sisson, P.M., then proposed "The Health of the W.M. of the Lodge," saying he rose with extreme pleasure to give the toast. He rejoiced to know that the Master who now filled the chair was a most able, expert, and painstaking Mason, and he would be sure to make an excellent Master for the ensuing year, which he hoped would be found generally a prosperous and successful one. He would not then venture to dilate upon the good qualities of their Master, but would be content to apply the common saying, that they had "the right man in the right place." He called upon the brethren to drink the health of the W.M. with hearty welcome. The toast was received and honoured with warm manifestations of respect and esteem.—Bro. OSMOND, W.M., said, after the very pleasing manner in which his predecessor in office had introduced the toast, and the good cordiality with which the assembled brethren had received it, there was nothing left but for him, in the fewest possible terms, to return thanks and show his gratitude. Seizing, as a drowning man would catch at a straw, one observation that had fallen from the Immediate Past Master, he hastened to express his ardent hope that he truly might be found "the right man in the right place," and it would not be for want of a wish to please if he failed to give satisfaction. Masonry was at times much joked about and sneered at, but it had always been the case that many good arguments were ruined in effect by ridicule, and many a good cause injured by jest. In the face of ridicule and free joking of society many a man would, as it were, feel glad to shrink away from notice and take his contemplated good with him into retirement. This Masonry, however, must be granted to have been a specific most useful in removing and counteracting the injurious causes to which he had alluded, the deeds it had done in secret had brought blessings to thousands; and its highly moral principles, its Christian benevolence, and its silent but effectual working, made it beloved by all good men who came within its influence. Sections are worked on several nights during the week and much has been learnt. The brethren have also derived much pleasure and satisfaction from the general Masonic working, and social intercourse of those lodges of instruction, and he, the chairman, said he should like to see the ceremonies of the lodge worked regularly from six till ten o'clock to enable the brethren who cannot stay in town later, to gain that Masonic knowledge which is to be found in the City of London Lodges of Instruction, when he hoped to be supported by all his officers, and to see a consistent manifestation of brotherly love, and thus, whatever their differences on points, they would ensure that consideration and regard for one another, and that mutual love which cannot but overcome all opposition, conciliate differences, and tend to make Masons as a body respected in the outer world. The W. Master

then proposed "The Health of the P.M. and Officers of the Lodge," which was heartily received.—Bro. Sisson, P.M., thanked the brethren in his own name and brother officers. He testified to the excellent zeal displayed by the several officers under him in the discharge of their duties during the past year. He hoped his successor in the chair would experience equally good fortune in finding such good material, and he still hoped, though out of office, to be of service to the brethren in the course of their labours.—A duet by Bros. Davis and Green.—Several more toasts were given and responded to. A very convivial evening was spent, and the brethren separated with this motto, "Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again."

## PROVINCIAL.

### KENT.

CHATHAM.—Lodge of Antiquity (No. 20).—The usual monthly meeting of this ancient lodge took place on Wednesday, the 17th inst, at the Sun Hotel, at seven o'clock in the evening, it being the first after the installation of the new W.M., Bro. Edward Mudd, of Gravesend. There was an extraordinary number of brethren and visitors attending on this occasion. About thirty-six brethren were present, and we observed the following visitors:—Bros. J. H. Cibant, Alma Lodge, Quebec; J. Wood, Lodge of Hope, India; F. L. James, Lodge of Alexander (No. 11), Ireland; I. J. Everist, P.M. Lodge of Freedom (No. 77), and P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers. Kent; James Barwick, No. 184, Brompton; Jno. Morris, P.M. No. 61, Bath, and P. Prov. G. Org. Somerset; Edward Baker, Lodge of Freedom (No. 77), Gravesend; and L. Engel, P.M. No. 205. The lodge was opened in due form, and the following gentlemen were balloted for and accepted:—Mr. Arthur Noakes, Mr. Bower Marsh, Mr. George Henry Howard, and Mr. William Fisher Woollett, and Bro. Charles Langford Oliver, of No. 139, All Souls', Weymouth, as a joining member. Messrs. Noakes and Marsh were initiated into the Order by the W.M. in a manner deserving the highest commendation from all present. There were several Past Masters present, who joined in their eulogiums, which augurs well for the prosperity of this excellent working lodge. Bro. Waters then presented himself for the third degree, and having proved himself proficient, the Master Masons' lodge was opened, and the I.P.M., Bro. Solomon, kindly offered to raise the brother, which was performed in his usual sublime and impressive manner, after which the W.M. took the pedestal, and several important measures were arranged for the benefit of the lodge. The lodge was then closed, after which the brethren and visitors sat down to a sumptuous banquet, provided in the very excellent style for which the worthy host, Bro. Willis, is so justly renowned. There were about thirty-six of the brethren present, besides the visitors. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, interspersed with some excellent singing from Bros. Everist, Waterson, Howell, Cuthbertson, W.M., and several other brethren. The I.P.M. then gave the health of the W.M., and said, from the able manner in which the ceremonies were performed that evening by him, and by his attention to the duties of the lodge, it promised well for the success of this very ancient and prosperous lodge, wishing him health and prosperity. The W.M., in responding to the toast, said if he had already given satisfaction he was pleased, and he hoped by the end of his year of office to leave a character which would be alike beneficial to the lodge and a credit to himself. He then proposed the health of all the officers of the lodge, who, he was proud to say, were in their places to assist him in his duties, which was responded to by Bro. Radley, S.W., in a neat speech, assuring the W.M. and the brethren they had determined to assist him in his duties by every means in their power. The W.M. then gave "The Visitors," which was responded to by Bro. Major Wood, who spoke of the very kind and warm reception he had received in India and other places he had visited, but never was a warmer and kinder reception than the one he had received that evening. After some very curious anecdotes from him, which the brethren seemed to appreciate, and the Tyler's toast, the brethren separated, after spending one of those cheerful and convivial evenings which this lodge is so eminently noted for.

**SIDCUP.**—*Sydney Lodge* (No. 829).—A meeting of this lodge took place on the 9th inst., at the Black Horse Tavern, when Bro. J. Wallis was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. After which Bro. Sutton was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony was very effectively performed by Bro. Russell, P.M. Bro. Sutton then proceeded to appoint his officers, viz.:—Bros. Lacey, S.W.; Birt, J.W.; Snow, S.D.; F. J. Smith, J.D.; Nicholls, I.G.; F. J. Smith, Org.; Mills, Treas.; Henderson, Sec.; Bing, Tyler. The W.M. then initiated Mr. A. Padgen into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The lodge being closed in due form and solemn prayer, the brethren then partook of an excellent banquet. Amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. George Tedder, 11; Munns, P. Prov. G.S.B. Kent; W. Martin, 244; Moore, 244; Doughty, 77. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. F. J. Smith, Org., who presided at the harmonium; and we may add the singing of Bro. George Tedder, and a comic song from Bro. F. J. Smith greatly enhanced the evenings' entertainment.

#### LINCOLNSHIRE.

**LOUTH.**—*Lindsey Lodge* (No. 712).—On Friday, Jan. 22nd, the members of this lodge met for the purpose of installing their new W.M., and celebrating the festival of St. John, when they were favoured with the company of several brethren from Grimsby, Boston, and Long Sutton, and had also the pleasure of grasping the hand of brethren from the sunny land of Italy, and the less genial climate of Scandinavia. Bro. C. E. Lucas having been unanimously elected to the high office of W.M., was duly presented to the Board of Installed Masters, and installed by Bro. Major Smyth. The W.M. then initiated the following, viz.:—Bros. Smyth, I.P.M.; C. M. Nesbitt, S.W.; J. H. Simons, J.W.; Rev. G. Nash, Chap.; R. Robinson, Treas.; W. L. Mason, Sec.; W. Griffin, S.D.; E. W. Wilson, J.D.; E. Looock, Dir. of Cers.; W. England, I.G.; G. Parker and Stewart, Stewards; and R. P. Hodgson, Tyler. Mr. W. Simons having been presented as a candidate for initiation, was duly admitted to a participation of the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry in the first degree. The lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to the Mason's rooms, where Mrs. Mitchell, widow of our esteemed brother, the late Richard Mitchell, had provided a sumptuous repast, to which about forty brethren did ample justice. The usual loyal, Masonic, and complimentary toasts were given, and kindly feeling and harmony reigned supreme. On Friday last, February 19th, the regular lodge was held, when Bro. Simons was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and George Dixon, M.D., Oxon, was initiated and duly admitted amongst the Sons of Light.

#### OXFORDSHIRE.

**BANDURY.**—*Cherwell Lodge* (No. 599).—The twelfth anniversary festival of this lodge was celebrated at the Red Lion Hotel, on Monday, the 22nd instant, when a large number of brethren assembled to do honour to the new W.M. The occasion was rendered more interesting than usual from the circumstance that the brother selected to fill the chair was Bro. Fitzwilliam Atkins Bowyer, of Christ Church, Capt. of the University Rifle Corps, son of Lieutenant-Colonel Bowyer, the highly respected G.M. of the province. The retiring Master, Bro. Holford Cotton Risley, of Deddington, performed the ceremony of installation in an admirable manner; and there were present, amongst others, the following brethren, besides those mentioned above:—Alderman Spiers, D. Prov. G.M.; the Rev. Wentworth Bowyer, P.G. Chap. of England; Captain Henry Bowyer, 10th Hussars; F. Cave Browne Cave, W.M. of the Apollo University Lodge; E. G. Bruton, W.M. of the Alfred; W. W. Harrison, B.N.C., P.M. of the Churchill; Alderman Randall, E. R. Owen, John Martin, Dr. Griffin, R. Havers, and J. B. Looker, P.M.'s; Rev. T. Russell, C. W. Spencer Stanhope, Merton College, S. P. Spiers, A. B. Rye, A. S. Hurford, J. Plowman, &c. After the business of the lodge had been transacted, an excellent banquet, supplied by Mrs. Fowler, with a plentiful supply of champagne liberally contributed from the cellars of the Prov. G.M., awaited the brethren, to which full justice was done. The addresses of the new W.M., especially those alluding to his connection with his relatives who were present, were exceedingly interesting; and others from the Prov. G.M. The retiring Master, Bro. H. C. Risley, the Rev. W. Bowyer, and the D. Prov. G.M., with some excellent songs from other brethren, contributed to render the meeting in every respect a memorable one.

#### ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

##### WOOLWICH.

**INVICTA CHAPTER OF S.P.R.M.**—The members of this chapter met at the Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich, on Friday, the 19th inst. There were present Colonel Clerk, 33°; Captain Phillips, 33°; Captain Boyle, 32°, M.W.S.; W. H. Carter, 18°, Prelate; Captain Dadson, 30°, 1st General; J. R. Thomson, 18°, 2nd General; George Lambert, 30°, Raphael; Captain McLaughlin, 18°, Grand Marshal; J. W. Figg, 30°, Registrar; P. Laird, 18°, Treasurer; Matthew Cooke, 30°, Director of Ceremonies and Organist; E. Reed, 18°; W. J. Meymott, 18°; Lieutenant Price, 18°; Dr. Hughes, 18°; visitor, Gibbs, 31°. The Ex. and Perf. brethren E. Reed and Meymott were balloted for as joining members, and Captain Sandeman was installed a Knight of the Order. The ceremonies were most ably worked, and gave great satisfaction. After the business had been concluded, those present adjourned to Bro. De Grey's, the Freemasons' Tavern, where they dined and spent one of those pleasant and instructive evenings so prized by the members of the Invicta Chapter.

#### KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

##### HAMPSHIRE.

**ALDERSHOT.**—*William Stuart Encampment.*—The consecration of this new encampment, stationed at the Royal Hotel, Aldershot, took place on Friday, the 19th inst. The ceremony was most impressively performed by Sir Knt. W. W. B. Beach, Prov. G.C. for the county of Hants, on the throne, assisted by the Rev. Sir Knt. Pateet, as Prelate; Sir Knts. Commanders F. Binckes and C. Swan; Sir Knt. Shuttleworth, G.V.C., G.A., and D. Prov. G. Commander for Surrey, as Dir. of Cers.; and Sir Knt. C. H. Cox, as Capt. of Lines, who also superintended the musical arrangements with his usual skill and good taste. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Sir Knt. F. G. Irwin was installed by Sir Knt. Beach as Eminent Commander of the William Stuart Encampment, who appointed Sir Knts. Cox and H. J. Thompson as his Captains and other officers. The following R.A. Comps. were then installed as Knt. Companions of the Royal Exalted Religious and Military Order of the Temple of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta:—Rev. W. Somers, R. G. Wood, W. Howard, W. Rowley, D. M. Dewar, H. Parrott, T. Rickards, W. Grover, D. Bateman, A. Yates, W. Hodgat, J. Hodgat, J. Shaw, J. W. Brown, and W. E. T. Bookey. The following hymn, composed by Sir Knt. Cox, was sung by the assembled Knts.:—

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide,  
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide,  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O, abide with me!

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day,  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see,  
O, Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour,  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless,  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting, where grave thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies,  
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee,  
In life, in death, O Lord abide with me. Amen.

And the conclave was closed in ancient form with solemn prayer. After the banquet, the health of her Majesty the Queen was received with enthusiasm, followed by that of Sir Knt. Wm. Stuart, M.E. and S.G.M.; Col. Vernon, D.G.M.; Sir Knt. Beach, Prov. G.C.; Sir Knt. Shuttleworth, G.V.C.; and other Grand Officers past and present. Sir Knt. Beach having retired, the G.V.C. returned thanks, and gave long life, happiness, and prosperity to Sir Knt. Irwin, the newly-installed

Commander of the William Stuart Encampment, whom he highly valued as an old friend and correspondent, and under whose rule he was quite sure the William Stuart Encampment would rank as one of the largest and most important under the banner of the Grand Master. The next toast was that of the Commanders past and present of the various encampments, which was responded to by Sir Knt. F. Binckes, Commander of the Mount Calvary Encampment, who made a most forcible and eloquent appeal in favour of the Charities, and upon his resuming his seat it was unanimously resolved that a subscription to the Boys' and Girls' School should be given from the fund that day collected by the Almoner. The health of the visitors, including Sir Knts. A. Heather, C. B. Patect, R. J. Hulbert, E. S. Stillwell, C. Swan, Henry Hollingsworth, Thos. E. Bell, and that of the newly-installed Knts. were given and suitably acknowledged, and the Knts. separated at a late hour.

#### SURREY.

##### CONSECRATION OF THE HARCOURT ENCAMPMENT, CHERTSEY.

A new encampment, named after Dr. Harcourt, was formally consecrated by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Sir Knt. William Stuart, at the Crown Inn, Chertsey, on Thursday, the 18th of February. There was a large number of Grand and Past Grand Officers present, amongst whom may be enumerated the Very High and Eminent D.G.M., Sir Knt. Colonel George Vernon; the Sir Knts. Francis, Prov. G. Com. for Herts, who acted as Prelate; M. H. Shurtleworth, G. Vice Chancellor; W. J. Meymott, G. Dir. of Cers.; Matthew Cooke, G. Org.; Gibbs, P.D. Prov. G. Com. Bombay; R. Spencer, P.G. Standard Bearer; R. Costa, P.E.C.; Morgan; F. Binckes, E.C.; Dr. Harcourt, P.G. Prior; Blenkin, P.G. Captain; Dr. Willet; W. Smith; Harrison; and Robert Harcourt.

After the ceremony of consecration was concluded, Dr. Harcourt was inducted as E.C. of the new encampment, and made a very graceful address to the M.E. and S.G.M. and the Sir Knights present, for honouring him with their attendance. The officers of the Harcourt Encampment were then appointed as follows:—Sir Knts. Blenkin, 1st Capt. and Treas.; Dr. Willet, 2nd Capt.; W. Smith, Expert; R. Spencer, Registrar; Harrison, 1st. Herald; and Robert Harcourt, Capt. of Lines. Comps. Captain J. S. Warren and Charles Greenwood were then introduced and installed Knights Templar, and after some formal business, the encampment was closed and the Sir Knights proceeded to the banquet, which was very elegantly served and gave great satisfaction.

After the cloth had been removed, the E.C. gave the toast of the "Queen and Royal Family," which was, of course, heartily received. The E.C., DR. HARCOURT, hardly knew how to propose the next toast in terms that should not be offensive for their eulogistic language. He discarded entirely the kind of utterance termed an after-dinner speech, and yet how could he speak of the head of the Order in other than flattering terms? Still he thought when they called to mind that their M.E., and S.G.M. was unanimously elected to rule over them, that very fact showed that he was eminently worthy of their deepest respect, and he felt happy to say this feeling was one shared in common with members of the Order in every part of the empire and its colonies. To come closer home, their M.E. and S.G.M. had visited them that day to an open encampment in that outlying district. In so doing new light had arisen which, he hoped, for ages to come would spread the blessings of Christian Freemasonry in that town and neighbourhood. Their M.E. and S.G.M. had, himself, come amongst them to inaugurate their existence. Beloved, respected, and esteemed as he was, he, the E.C., could not help feeling that the Chertsey Sir Knts. must, if it were possible, become yet more attached to the Grand Master for that proof of his kindness. The health of the M.E. and S.G.M. was then drunk with his accustomed honours.

The M.E. and S.G. MASTER was always happy to do his duty, and hoped to visit most of the encampments in England. He was grateful for the way in which his health had been proposed and received, and having been very much pleased, he hoped on some future occasion the pay the Harcourt Encampment another visit. (Hear, hear.) The E.C. said that many persons objected to be ranked as the second in any society or undertaking, but he held that the position was highly honourable, and to be selected as the Deputy Grand Master of their Order, by the Grand Master himself, was one of the proudest honours, for they all knew that it was for the worth, knowledge, attachment, and every good quality desirable in a Deputy Grand

Master that guided their M.E. and S.G.M. in his happy choice of Col. Vernon. For himself, the E.C. said it was most flattering to bear such a character as to induce the two great officers of the Order to attend there that day, and he hoped, in consequence, of their readiness, to see Knight Templary become more popular in the southern counties. It would be futile for him to remark upon the talents, willingness, and ability of their Very High and Eminent Deputy Grand Master, because most, if not all, there knew him and his sterling qualities, therefore he, Dr. Harcourt, should content himself with proposing "The Health of the V.H. and E. Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Officers past and present."

The V.H. and E. Deputy Grand Master, Colonel GEORGE VERNON, said I have to thank you most heartily on my own behalf, and that of the Grand Officers. They are, under the beneficent rule of our M.E. and S.G.M., ever ready to assist in adding strength to the Order and performing their duties with zeal and ability. For himself he was much obliged for what the E.C. had said of him, and although he had said many very handsome things, yet he, the D.G.M., felt that the E.C. had only done him justice. In all things for the good of the Order he was ever ready and anxious to give all the aid and assistance in his power, and thanking the E.C. for his kindly expressions, he concluded by saying that both he and the Grand Officers were actuated by one spirit—that of being ever ready to respond to the call of duty.

The V.E. Sir Knt. FRANCIS, Prov. G. Com. of Herts, rose and said he had been for a number of years engaged in Freemasonry, in which he had always taken great delight and an active part. On that occasion it afforded him great happiness and sincere pleasure to be present, as he knew that the E.C. appointed to office that day was one that would fill it with usefulness, good to the order, and credit to himself. When Freemasonry was almost defunct in Chertsey he, Sir Knt. Francis, took the chair of the lodge in that town, and the tree had since grown and flourished most wonderfully. Their E.C. that evening was a child of his. He had initiated him and he, Dr. Harcourt, had followed in his wake. Sir Knt. Francis was the first M.E.Z. of the chapter there, and after having served more than seventeen years as D. Prov. G.M. his friend and pupil had succeeded him in that office, and he was free to admit that he had outdone him. Under these circumstances it was natural that he should gladly seize the opportunity of giving the next toast "The Health of the E.C., Dr. Harcourt."

DR. HARCOURT had been a willing worker in Freemasonry, and had been introduced to it under the kind auspices of Sir Knt. Francis. Like all earnest and inquiring men he, originally, wavered in his opinion about it. First he fancied he saw nothing but good in it. Then, at times, serious doubts arose in his mind whether it was all he could desire. After this state he became convinced that it had enormous powers for good and he came to look upon it as his church and its ritual, as solemn as any religious ceremonies, which should not be performed with anything short of the most profound awe and reverence. He had that day arrived at a position he never hoped for, living as he did in a small neighbourhood; but he had listened to the Grand Director of Ceremonies and eventually secured the co-operation of many Sir Knts., without whose assistance nothing could have been done. He hoped that for many years to come they might see the M.E. and S.G.M., the V.H. and E.D.G.M., and the V.H. Prov. G. Com., for Herts, together with the other officers of Grand Conclave who had kindly attended that day, and to all and each, collectively and individually, he returned his warmest thanks for the very efficient assistance the encampment had received and the honour they had conferred upon it by their presence.

Some few other toasts were proposed, and the Sir Knts separated, wishing God speed to the Harcourt Encampment.

#### MARK MASONRY.

##### LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—Lodge of Mark Masters (No. 65).—The Right Hon. Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., G.M. of Mark Masons in England and Wales, and the Colonies and possessions of the British Crown, having granted a warrant of confirmation to Bros. James Hamer, John Pepper, W. P. Coleborn, and W. T. May, giving to them and their successors authority to convene a Lodge of Mark Masons, assembled at the Temple, 22, Hope-

street, on Friday, the 19th February, the lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Hamer, when the warrant was read. The W.M. (after the usual ceremonies) was saluted and proclaimed. The following brethren were duly advanced to this degree, viz., Bros. Fowler, Hall, Barrow, and Newberry, of the Lodge of Loyalty (No. 86), Prescott. The ceremony was very impressively performed by the W.M. and officers, assisted by Bros. Banister, G.S.O., Priest, Goepel, and Hughes. There can be no doubt but this beautiful degree, when better understood by the Craft generally, must sooner or later resume its ancient place in English Freemasonry, as one of the stepping stones to the R.A. degree. The following brethren were appointed office-bearers:—Bros. May, Treas.; Pepper, Sec.; Goepel, Priest, Hughes, Fowler, Hall, Barrow, and Newberry. Bro. Pepper proposed Bro. Banister, G.S.O., as an honorary member, seconded by Bro. Hamer, and unanimously carried. Bro. Tinsley, of Lodge No. 5 (S.C.), was proposed as a joining member. Bro. Steigh, of the Everton Lodge (No. 823), and Bro. Wooton, 86, were proposed for advancement. The lodge was closed, and the brethren retired to the banquet room.

## INDIA.

### MADRAS.

SECUNDERABAD.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 434).—At a lodge of emergency held at the Masonic Hall, on the 6th January, the following brethren were present:—Bros. T. Martin, W.M.; F. W. Blumberg, S.W.; F. E. Hadon, J.W.; C. H. Stevenson, Sec. and Treas.; A. Shuldham, S.D.; C. Oxley, J.D.; F. O. Smithers, I.G.; F. Netz, Org.; C. Jennings, P.M., &c. The lodge having been duly opened by the W.M., and the minutes of the last lodge, electing Bro. F. W. Blumberg as W.M. for the ensuing year, having been read and confirmed, the W.M. elect was summoned to the east, when he gave his assent to the ancient charges, &c. The lodge was raised to the P.M. degree, and Bro. Blumberg was regularly installed into the chair of K.S., according to ancient form, by Bro. Martin. The brethren having been re-admitted in their several degrees, the W.M. was proclaimed and saluted as such. Bro. C. H. Stevenson having been unanimously elected to the office of Treasurer, was summoned to the east and invested by the W.M. The W.M. then proceeded to invest the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. T. Martin, P.M.; T. H. Way, S.W.; H. Faulkner, J.W.; C. H. Stevenson, Sec.; H. Macdonald, S.D.; Oxley, J.D.; F. O. Smithers, I.G.; F. Netz, Org. Bro. Fitzgerald (32nd) was proposed as a joining member, and Lieut. Fitzgerald, 3rd Hyderabad Cavalry, as a candidate for Freemasonry. A vote of thanks was unanimously recorded on the minutes of the lodge to Bro. Martin, P.M., for his valuable and zealous services rendered to the lodge during his year of office, and also for the able manner in which he performed the ceremony of installation. There being no further business, the lodge was closed in due form by the W.M., and the brethren proceeded to the banquetting-hall when dinner was provided by *that ne plus ultra* of Indian butlers, Santia. After the cloth was removed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. Several brethren contributed much to the pleasures of the evening by some excellent songs, accompanied by Bro. Netz. A grand ball was given by the brethren on the 22nd December, in the magnificent assembly rooms of this station. All the beauty for which Secunderabad is so deservedly celebrated was assembled on the occasion, and lent additional charm by the brilliancy of their toilettes to the gorgeous decorations of the rooms. The brethren on this occasion were permitted by the Brigadier commanding the force to appear in full Masonic costume. A sumptuous supper, consisting of all the delicacies obtainable in India, was laid for 150 guests. A large supply of ice was procured from Bombay for the occasion. The stringed band of Her Majesty's 17th Lancers, under the able direction of Bro. Jennings, and the full band of Her Majesty's 108th Regiment, under Bro. Netz, played alternately a choice selection of dance music. The arrangements were conducted by a committee consisting of Bros. Martin, Blumberg, and Way, and Stevenson, Sec. and Treas. The highest encomiums were passed during the evening on the decorations of the rooms, which were under the entire and able direction of Bro. T. H. Way.

## ROYAL ARCH.

SECUNDERABAD.—*Chapter of St. John* (No. 434).—A convocation was held at the Masonic Hall on the 17th December, at 11 a.m. Present:—E. Comp. H. Nott, Z.; J. Kellie, H.; C. Jennings, J.; Comps. J. Martin, E.; T. H. Way, N.; F. E. Hadon, F. W. Blumberg, A. Shuldham, Ali Mahomed Khan, &c. Bro. J. Goldie (17th Lancers) having been unanimously elected, was duly admitted and exalted by E. Comp. H. Nott. The following companions were elected as officers for the ensuing year:—J. Kellie, as Z.; T. Martin, H.; F. W. Blumberg, J.; F. E. Hadon, E.; T. H. Way, N. There being no further business to transact, the chapter was duly closed at 1 p.m. by the M.E.Z.

## MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

### MAIDSTONE.

BELVIDERE LODGE (No. 503).—The brethren of this lodge mindful that Masonry progresses under the fostering influence of agreeable reunions such as afforded by a ball, and actively displays the devotion to the fair sex, cherished as a principle of all true Masons, have most successfully achieved their object by a grand Masonic ball in aid of the Masonic Charities, which was given at the County Assembly Rooms, Maidstone, on the 9th inst. The Masonic ball in its results far outstripped any that have taken place, both in the distinguished assembly as well as the perfect arrangements so necessary to promote success. The principles of Freemasonry were in every sense exemplified by the absence of restraint and perfectly fraternal demeanour on the part of the nobility and gentry, who numerously attended. Many of the most distinguished Masons in the county honoured the ball with their presence, including the Prov. G.M., Viscount Holmesdale (and whose reception by the entire company was an ovation), the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Dobson, Bro. Whatman and Mrs. Whatman, Bro. Captain Cheese, E.N., and party, Col. Scott, J.W. (who most efficiently acted as M.C.) and Mrs. and Miss Scott, and Hon. Flora Eden, Mrs. A. Raudall and party, Misses Jones, Hayle-place, and Misses Marsham. Bros. Hon. Captain Bourke and A. F. Style being in the imposing dress of Knights Templar were objects of especial attraction. Bro. Captain Nichols and officers from Shorncliffe, Maidstone Depot, and Chatham; Bro. Captain Kentish and Dr. Peacock, Mrs. Monckton and party, Bro. Tolpult, W.M., Belvidere Lodge, Couper, S.W.; Harpur, Page, Pearson, F. Day, R. Day, Pike, Sergeant, P.M.'s, &c., Bunter, Stephens, Monckton, Ker, Kite, S. Day, Marchant, Wells, Rugbird, and others, with their wives and daughters. Bro. W. Philpot, W.M., T. Wills and party, Boys, Margate; Herrington, Brompton; Sly, Chatham; and others from the adjacent lodges, numbering about 190. Coote and Tinney's band most efficiently aided the dancing; and this most brilliant affair will result in aiding the funds of the Royal Benevolent Institution by a sum of £20 from the Belvidere Lodge in the purchase of a life governorship.

## Obituary.

### BRO. EGBERT STEER COSSENS.

Bro. Cossens died very suddenly whilst on a visit at Swansea, on the 12th of February, aged 62. He appears to have been sitting chatting with a friend when he was seized with an apoplectic fit, and in less than five minutes died without a groan. Bro. Cossens was the founder and W.M. for two successive years of a lodge at Maidenhead, and likewise one at Tewkesbury. He was also connected with Mark Lodges at Maidenhead, Newbury, and Tewkesbury, and held Provincial Grand Rank. Latterly he was installed a Knight Templar in the Worcester Encampment. We believe he has left a family to mourn his loss.

## THE WEEK.

**THE COURT.**—The Queen and younger members of the Royal Family have returned to Windsor. His Royal Highness Prince Arthur visited his Royal mother on Tuesday, and afterwards returned to Greenwich. The Prince and Princess of Wales have also returned to town from St. Leonard's.

**IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.**—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Thursday, 18th inst., the Earl of Powis advocated the necessity of the establishment of a museum and library for patents; and the Earl of Romney called attention to the state of the law affecting the removal of clerks of the peace. Earl Granville said the former subject was under the consideration of the Government.—No business of interest was transacted on Friday or Monday, beyond throwing out a private bill for making an arcade between Regent-street and Conduit-street.—On Tuesday a discussion took place on the question of secondary punishments, in which Lords Salisbury, Granville, Carnarvon, Wodehouse, and Grey took part. Lord Salisbury was inaudible in the gallery, and we cannot, therefore, state the purport of his remarks, but the other speakers, with the exception of Lord Wodehouse, while differing in some respects as to the form which punishment for serious offences should assume, appeared to assent to the principle that it is wise to hold out to the prisoner, as an inducement to good behaviour, the prospect of a remission of his sentence.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, 18th inst., after explanations by the Attorney-General as to the course of proceeding of the Government when an English merchant vessel was captured by an American ship of war in the harbour of a neutral State; and by Mr. Layard, respecting the offer of Portugal to mediate between this country and Brazil; Sir G. Grey moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the Penal Servitude Acts. He referred to the alarm which was felt in the eastern colonies of Australia at the prospect of Western Australia becoming a penal settlement, and which feeling he censured as unreasonable. He protested against the rights of the inhabitants on the east of the continent to dictate to Her Majesty the course which should be pursued with regard to a colony that was hundreds of miles from them, and where what was proposed to be done was entirely with the assent of the inhabitants. The right hon. gentleman also canvassed at some length the various recommendations contained in the Royal Commissioners' Report, which had been carried out to a certain extent, and upon which the main provisions of the bill were founded. A debate ensued, which lasted to a late hour, and leave was given to bring in the bill.—On Friday, Mr. Layard, in reply to several questions, stated that no official information had been received of the burning of the British ship, *Martaban*, by the *Alabama*; that no communication had been addressed to the Government with a view to the recognition of an empire in Mexico,—a subject on which the Government had hitherto declined to express an opinion; and that negotiations were still in progress with foreign nations, with the view of securing a reduction of their export duties upon rags.—In answer to a question from Mr. Newdegate, Lord Palmerston said no authoritative information had been received of the intention of the Austrians and Prussians to invade Jutland; but, if such an invasion should take place, it would be an aggravation of that "violent outrage"—the occupation of Schleswig. He declined, however, to say what policy the Government would adopt in the event of the allied army entering Jutland.—Sir John Hay moved that an address be presented to the Queen praying that Her Majesty would be pleased to nominate Wakefield as the assize town for the West Riding. Sir George Grey opposed the motion, urging that the matter

should be left in the hands of the Privy Council; and, after a long discussion, the House divided, when Sir John Hay's motion was rejected by a majority of 19.—In reply to a question from Mr. Haliburton relative to the capture of a ship under the Confederate flag by a Federal vessel of war, within the harbour of Pankbar, in Nova Scotia, Mr. Layard stated that Mr. Seward had expressed his regret at the occurrence, and promised reparation.—Mr. Kinglake called attention to the circumstance that on the day the treaty of London was signed Baron Brunnow, who signed the instrument on behalf of Russia, addressed a note to the Danish Minister at St. James's. That note, he urged, was in effect a secret article annexed to the treaty, and amounted to a revival of the protocol of Warsaw, which embodies a reservation to the effect that, if the succession of the Glucksburg dynasty should not take effect, or their male line should fail, the rights of the Emperor of Russia, as chief of the Holstein-Gottorp branch, would remain in full force. Mr. Layard denied that the note was a secret article appended to the treaty, but he declined to discuss the question as to whether it revived the protocol of Warsaw, which was signed in 1851.—Several bills were advanced a stage.—On Monday, Mr. Layard, in reply to a question from Sir James Ogilvy, stated that Her Majesty's Government had been requested to use their best efforts to induce Denmark to abstain from seizing German ships at sea, but they had declined to do anything in the way of influencing that country in its efforts to resist what Her Majesty's Government believed to be an unwarrantable aggression. The hon. gentleman added that no information of a blockade of the German ports had reached the Foreign Office.—On the motion for going into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates, Mr. Disraeli bitterly assailed the foreign policy of the Government. Lord Palmerston, upon whose frequent absence from the House he pointedly commented, had, he said, succeeded in establishing a name which bore terror to no country but his own. He complained that the House was left without information of what the Government were doing, and insisted more especially on the early production of the Danish correspondence. To the Government he said it might be a matter of indifference that "they were the derision of every Court in Europe, but the House did not desire to become the laughing-stock of our constituents." Mr. Gladstone reminded the House of the inconvenience of producing papers bearing upon questions respecting which negotiations were pending, and insisted that there was no ground for the charge that the Government courted secrecy. One point urged by Mr. Disraeli was that no information had been given of the evacuation of Jutland by the Germans; and to this part of the right hon. gentleman's speech the Chancellor of the Exchequer replied by stating that the Foreign Office was still in ignorance of that movement. After some remarks from Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Bernal Osborne moved the postponement of the consideration of the navy estimates for three weeks, on the ground that before voting the necessary supplies the House ought to know the exact state of our relations with the belligerent powers. Sir F. Smith concurred in this view of the matter, while Mr. Roebuck declared that, with regard to its foreign policy, the Government was not entitled to the confidence of the country. Mr. Gladstone protested against Mr. Bernal Osborne's motion as an attempt to take the Government by surprise, and affirmed that if due notice were given, Ministers would be prepared to defend the policy they had pursued. Mr. Disraeli also deprecated a division on a motion of which no notice had been given, and at a time when Lord Palmerston was absent from his place. Mr. Clay declared, on behalf of Mr. B. Osborne, that the motion was not intended as

a censure upon the foreign policy of the Government, and Mr. Kinglake spoke in the same sense. Mr. D. Griffith, Lord R. Montagu, Mr. Walter, Mr. Neabe, and Mr. Henley recommended the withdrawal of the motion, while Lord Dunkellin, Lord Ingestre, and Mr. Laird urged that the consideration of the estimates ought to be postponed. On a division Mr. Osborne's motion was rejected by 220 to 47 votes; but the hon. gentleman's object, as explained by his friends, was effected, and the consideration of the estimates was delayed.—On Tuesday Mr. Butler Johnstone gave notice of motion to the effect that the recent negotiations of the Government with respect to Poland had been so conducted as to "tend to diminish the just influence of this country."—Sir J. Walsh also gave notice of a motion affirming that, in consequence of the critical state of our foreign relations, and the altered conditions of naval warfare, it is necessary that adequate measures should be taken for the maintenance of our supremacy on the seas.—In reply to a question from Sir R. Clifton relative to the passing of tobacco for France and Austria through the American blockade, Mr. Layard said Her Majesty's Government had not attempted to obtain a similar privilege in respect of cotton. The tobacco referred to was the property of the French and Austrian Governments; while the cotton which the hon. baronet desired to obtain from the South belonged not to Her Majesty's Government, but to private individuals.—Mr. Locke King's bill for lowering the county franchise to £10 was brought in and read a first time without opposition.—Mr. Hibbert, in moving for papers bearing upon the subject, strongly condemned public executions, and urged that sentences of death should be carried into effect within the prison walls. Sir George Grey admitted that executions were generally attended by the lowest class of the population; but, on the other hand, he submitted that, however revolting the spectacle of an execution might be, publicity in this matter was essential. After further discussion, in which Lord H. Lennox and Lord Grey de Wilton took part, the subject dropped.—Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald then moved for papers relating to the seizure of the Birkenhead steam rams, an act on the part of Government which he seemed to trace to the menaces of the Federal Government. The Attorney General defended the course taken by the Government; and the debate was continued by Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Horsfall, Sir H. Cairns, and other members, but resulted in nothing.—On Wednesday nearly the entire sitting was occupied with a discussion on the Malt for Cattle Bill. The demand of the farmers for the total repeal or, at least, substantial reduction of the malt tax was strongly urged by several members; but Mr. Gladstone pointed out that, while his surplus would probably only amount to a million or two, a number of interests were pressing upon him for remissions which in the bulk would amount to nineteen and a half millions. No progress was made with the bill.

**GENERAL HOME NEWS.**—The mortality in the metropolis is gradually on the decline. Last week exhibits the lowest return of deaths that has occurred since the commencement of the year. There is still, however, much room for improvement, as the number of deaths last week amounted to 1,586, which was 177 more than the ordinary average mortality. The births were 2,122, which was a little above the average number.—The *Gazette* announces that Her Majesty has conferred the Knight Companionship of the Bath on General Cameron, in acknowledgment of his eminent and successful services in the New Zealand war.—The Channel squadron has at length been ordered home from the Tagus. The ships will assemble in Portland Roads, where they will await further orders.—We are happy to announce that another substantial decrease—2,029—has taken place in the number of persons receiving parochial

relief in the cotton manufacturing districts. Mr. Farnall, in a report he has made to the Poor Law Board, gives it as his opinion that by the end of March the Central Committee will be in a position to suspend their onerous duties—a view of our prospects which, we trust, the event will justify.—A numerous and influential deputation waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Tuesday, at his official residence in Downing-street, to present to him a memorial against the continuance of the malt tax. The deputation was headed by Sir Fitzroy Kelly, M.P. The Chancellor of the Exchequer received the deputation with great courtesy, but held out little hope in his reply that he was about to comply with the request of the memorialists.—At a meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, the subject of gas pipes in subways was under discussion. A deputation of inhabitants deprecated the plan of the subways, for they said gas was always escaping, and it would fill these subways, so that if men ever entered them with lights—and with lights they must enter them—an explosion would ensue, which would blow up the street. The chairman, in reply, dilated on the advantages which subways would afford, and stated that precautions were to be taken against the dangers anticipated.—At a meeting of the Court of Aldermen, Mr. Aldermen Wilson brought up a report of a committee making sundry important alterations with regard to the standing of omnibuses in Bishopsgate-street, Gracechurch-street, and other streets, and moved that these changes be made public by means of advertisements in the newspapers. The motion was agreed to on the understanding that ample time would be given for the discussion of objections to any of the proposed alterations. Another matter to which the Lord Mayor called attention was the bequest of a Spaniard of a sum of money to relieve those who had been reduced to poverty by the refusal of his Government to pay the old Spanish bonds. The most fabulous reports were in circulation as to the amount of this money; it now turns out that the only sum available is about £300.—A Court of Common Council has been held at which the proceedings of the Royal entertainment committee were freely canvassed. It will be remembered that at former meetings of the council charges were freely brought against the members appointed to superintend the ball and banquet to the Prince and Princess of Wales, that they spent large sums of money on luncheons and wines for themselves during the progress of the arrangements, and that they divided valuable articles among themselves at its close. At this meeting these accusations were strongly and offensively reiterated, but the majority of the Court evidently thought enough had been said on the question. Two motions of censure were negatived on divisions, and the report of the committee, winding up the whole affair, was then received and adopted.—A "monster meeting" was summoned at the Rotunda, in Dublin, on Monday night, to protest against the "outrage" offered to Ireland by the Dublin Corporation, in assigning to the local Albert memorial a site which the extreme revolutionary faction desired, or pretended to desire, to have reserved for a statue of Grattan. The O'Donoghue was present, and the room was densely crowded. The proceedings were, however, brought to an untimely close by the somewhat roughly expressed determination of the audience to snuff out the patriots. The platform was carried by storm, the Chieftain of the Glens and his followers were driven ignominiously into the retiring-room, and were obliged to skulk away from the building under the best protection they could find. One account states that the assault upon the platform was made by members of the "Fenian Brotherhood," and that American uniforms were seen in the fray.—Lord Rosse, while superintending the felling of some timber in

his park, in King's county, the other day, was struck by a falling tree, and seriously injured. According to the latest accounts from Parsonstown, his lordship was "progressing favourably."

—Pewgern Castle, the seat of Lord Mostyn, was discovered to be on fire in the course of Friday night. Every effort was made to extinguish the flames, but the stately pile was nearly consumed, and with it some splendid pictures, and some valuable antiquarian records.—The agitation among colliers for an advance of wages continues to spread. The men employed at the Oaks colliery—one of the largest collieries in South Yorkshire—have "struck" for an increase of 10 per cent. The masters firmly decline to accede to this demand, and the members of the district Colliery Proprietors' Association are said to hold to the opinion that, if the Oaks miners persist in refusing to return to their work, a lock out will be unavoidable.

—News has been received at Lloyd's of the *Golden Age*, a vessel belonging to the Black Ball line of clipper ships, having gone ashore in the neighbourhood of Dungeness, in the snow-storm of Friday last. The crew were saved, but it is feared the vessel will go to pieces on the beach.—Intelligence has been received of the abandonment at sea of the ship *John Linn*, which was on her voyage home from Madras to Liverpool, with a cargo valued at £150,000. It is hoped the vessel may yet be recovered, as the cargo was of a nature to keep her afloat.—A shocking affair has occurred near Shipston-on-Stour, in Warwickshire. It seems that on Thursday night a labourer, named Clifton, was challenged by a gamekeeper as he was crossing some fields. He declined to turn back as ordered, and a scuffle took place. The gamekeeper, after some time, got away from his opponent, and, raising his gun, shot him dead. The gamekeeper has been committed on the capital charge.—A shocking murder was committed at Liverpool on Friday night. Two men, one a sailor, another of no settled occupation, bore each other a grudge, on account of a dissolute woman, with whom they were both acquainted. They met on Friday night and had a quarrel, when the sailor was stabbed in several places by the other man and he died almost immediately. The murderer is in custody.—A railway accident of a rather serious nature took place on Saturday night at a place called Chorlton, near Kidderminster. The engine of a goods train broke down on the line. It was understood that the guard of the train went back to deposit fog signals; but if he did they were unheeded, for an express train coming up soon afterwards dashed right into the middle of the goods carriages. The passengers were severely shaken and cut, and so were the railway servants on the train, but no lives were lost. The property destroyed was considerable.—The coroner's inquiry into a recent accident on the Gothland incline of the North-Eastern Railway, by which two passengers were killed, has resulted in a special verdict, by which the company is censured. On this part of the North-Eastern Railway the trains are worked by a wire rope, and evidence was given to show that the rope had been overworn, and that to this circumstance the calamity was due. The verdict of the jury was one accidental death, but, it was added, that the rope was "insufficient for the purposes of the incline."—An old gentleman of the name of Hankin died on the 26th of last November. He had lodged in the house of a Mrs. Read, who buried him on the 28th, and this and other circumstances having excited suspicion the body was exhumed, when it was found that he had been buried almost in a nude state, though his own relations had provided grave-clothes for him. It was also admitted by Mrs. Read, in evidence, that she and her children had about £400 given to them by the deceased prior to his death, though she told the relatives that the deceased had no money. The contents of the deceased man's stomach were subjected to scientific analysis, but no trace of poison was discovered. The jury, therefore, returned a verdict of death from natural causes, expressing at the same time their dissatisfaction with the conduct of Mrs. Read.—The five *Flowery Land* pirates left for execution were hanged at Newgate on Monday. A spectacle so horrible, and, happily, so rare, as the simultaneous execution of five convicts, drew together, as might have been expected, an enormous mob of the vilest of the population of London. Marcellino and Los Santos, two of the seven originally sentenced to death were reprieved.—Two seamen, named Quinsey and M. Murdoch, are in custody at Liverpool on a charge of piracy, whilst on a voyage from Matamoros to New York. They were apprehended in Liverpool under a warrant issued by Sir George Grey, in pursuance of the provisions of the extradition treaty.—A large deputation of working men had an interview with Lord Palmerston, on the subject of throwing open the public museums and picture

galleries after one o'clock on Sunday. The noble lord said he was personally in favour of granting the boon sought by the deputation, but the state of public opinion on the subject was such that he could hold out no promise that the Government would take the matter up. He thought, however, that eventually their object would be attained.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—Fighting has taken place between the Danes and Prussians near Duppel. With the view of making an attack on that place the Prussians erected a bridge in order to pass over to the Braager peninsula. To frustrate this project a Danish iron-clad was dispatched to Egenstund to destroy the bridge. The Prussian batteries opened fire upon her, and after an hour's engagement the iron-clad retired. An official dispatch has been received at Copenhagen from Duppel, stating that on Thursday morning a large force of Austro-Prussians attacked the whole line of Danish outposts, and after several hours' fighting succeeded in driving the Danes to their entrenchments. The Danes, however, shortly after reoccupied all their former positions. Intelligence has also reached Copenhagen that the Germans have entered Jutland.—The Austrian Government is said to have ordered a squadron of twelve vessels, including the two-decker *Kaiser*, to proceed from the Adriatic to the British Channel and North Sea for the purpose of protecting German merchantmen against the Danish cruisers.

AMERICA.—The *Australasian* arrived at Queenstown, and has intelligence that the Federal prisoners of war confined at Richmond had laid a plot for a rising. They had contrived to concert measures with the Federal authorities, and General Butler had despatched across the York River three brigades of infantry, four regiments of cavalry, and twelve guns, to aid them and favour their escape. This corps advanced to Bottom's Bridge, within a few miles of Richmond, but then retreated, as its advance and the prisoners' conspiracy seem to have been simultaneously discovered in Richmond. The plot and the approach of the Federal troops had naturally caused a panic in the Confederate capital; and the Richmond journals asserted that the prisoners had conspired not only to release themselves and destroy the public buildings, but to assassinate President Davis. A strong body of Federals had crossed the Rapidan for the purpose of making a reconnaissance, but had speedily encountered the Confederates. Some severe skirmishing ensued, and after the Federals had lost about 200 or 300 men, they retired across the Rapidan. Southern reports stated that a Federal corps had crossed the Big Black River on the 5th inst., and that Mobile was about to be attacked by 30,000 Federals. By the arrival of the *America* we have news down to the 12th inst., and we thus learn, among other matters, that General Sherman's whole force crossed the Black River with an eye to a junction with a cavalry and infantry force—it is supposed to flank Johnston and Hardee in Alabama and Georgia; that Admiral Porter is fitting out a formidable fleet on the Mississippi; that the Halifax Admiralty Court has restored the *Chesapeake* and her cargo; that a large steamer—it is not stated of what nation—has been fired on and sunk by the Federals in Charleston Harbour; and that the Conscription Bill has passed Congress, including the compulsory drafting of slaves, with compensation to their owners.

INDIA.—The intelligence brought by the Bombay mail is satisfactory. The new Viceroy, Sir John Lawrence, had received a hearty welcome at Calcutta, and his appointment had given general satisfaction. The last of the rebel chiefs on the north-west frontier had made his submission, and peace now prevails throughout the British Eastern dominions. The *Alabama* was cruising off Bombay, and had made several captures.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- BRO. GEORGE M. TWEDDELL.—We have given the necessary directions. He will hear from us in a few days.
- H. H. (Jersey).—We did not receive the communication you allude to.
- BRO. BIEGEL, M.D.—We cannot publish anything which took place at a lodge, without a proper introduction. We will return the speech if wished.
- J. J. (Swansea).—In our opinion honorary members in no way differ as regards privileges from ordinary members. If they do, the honour is gone.
- T. B. D.—Pastors' lectures have never been in print. We wish we could say the same for other Masonic lectures.