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## MOTHER KILWINNING.

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No. XIII.

On the forenoon of the 25th January of the year '20, the Doric column of Mother Kilwinning was erected within the King's Arms Hotel, Ayr, whither the lodge jewels and implements had that morning been conveyed per "horse and cart;" and with a band of music at their head the ancient fraternity sallied forth to join the other lodges already assembled at the general rendezvous, the Race-course, a field situated on the low road to the Doon, and about one mile distant from town. That point reached, the procession being marshalled, the Mother Lodge, accompanied by twenty-three lodges, represented by nearly 900 brethren, moved in Masonic order towards the scene of the deeply interesting labour of the day. Arrived at the site of the Monument the brethren encircled the spot, and the Depute Master of Mother Kilwinning, assisted by the Wardens and Operatives of that lodge, proceeded to lay the foundation-stone, according to the ancient usages of Masonry, and afterwards addressed the assembled lodges in the following words, which are said to have been delivered "with the utmost dignity and grace":—

"BRETHREN,—May corn, wine, and oil abound; may all that is useful and ornamental be cultivated amongst us; and may all that can invigorate the body, or elevate the soul, shed their best influence on our native land.

"We have at length assembled to pay a grateful, although a tardy tribute to the genius of Robert Burns, our Ayrshire poet, and the bard of Coila. There surely lives not the man so dull, so flinty, or phlegmatic, who could witness this event without emotion. But to those whose heart-strings have thrilled responsive to the chords of the poet's lyre—whose bosoms have swelled like his, with love and friendship, with tenderness and sympathy, have glowed with patriotism, or panted for glory—this hour must be an hour of exultation. Whether we consider the time, the place, or the circumstances, there is enough to interest in each; but these combined and at once in operation on our feelings and our fancies—his muse alas! is mute, who could alone have dared to paint the

proud breathings of such an assemblage at such a moment?

"When we consider the time, we cannot forget that this day is the anniversary of that which gave our poet to the light of heaven. Bleak is prospect around us—the wood, the hawthorn, and 'the birken shaw' are leafless; not a thrush has yet assayed to clear the furrowed brow of winter; but this, we know, shall pass away, give place, and be succeeded by the buds of spring and the blossoms of summer. Chill and cheerless was our poet's natal day; but soon the wild flowers of poesy sprang, as it were, beneath his boyish tread; they opened as he advanced, expanded as he matured, until he revelled in all the richness of luxuriance. Poverty and disappointment hung frowning around him and haunted his path; but soothed and charmed by the fitful visits of his native muse, and crowned, as in a vision, with the holly wreath, he wantoned in a fairy land, the bright creation of his own vivid and enrapt imagination. His musings have been our delight. Men of the loftiest talents, and of taste the most refined, have praised them; men of strong and sterling, but untutored intellect, have admired them; the poet of the heart is the poet of mankind.

"When we consider the place, let us remember that these very scenes which we now look upon, awakened in his youthful breast that animating spark which burst upon the world with a blaze of inspiration. In yonder cottage he first drew breath; in that depository of the lowly dead sleeps the once humble, now immortal, model of the cottage life—there rests his pious father—and there it was his fond and anxious wish that his dust should have been mingled with the beloved and kindred ashes. Below us flows the Doon, the classic Doon, but made classic by his harmony; there, gliding through the woods, and laving his banks and braes, he rolls his clear and 'far-fetched waters' to the ocean. Before us stand the ruins of Kirk Alloway, shrouded in all the mystic imagery with which it is enveloped by his magic spells—Kirk Alloway! to name it is enough.

"If, then, the time and place are so congenial with our fond impressions, the circumstances which have enabled us to carry into effect this commemoration of our bard must give delight to every enthusiastic mind. In every region where our language is heard, the song of Burns gives rapture, and from every region, and from climes

the most remote, the votive offerings have poured in to aid our undertaking, and the edifice which we have now begun shall stand a proud and lasting testimony of the world's admiration. Not on the banks of Doon alone, or hermit Ayr, or the romantic Lugar, echo repeats the songs of Burns; but amidst the wild forests of Columbia, and scorching plains of Hindostan, on the banks of the Mississippi, the St. Lawrence, and the Ganges, his heart-touching melody floats upon the breeze.

"This monument rises like the piled cairn over our warriors of old—each man casts a stone; and in honour of him, the son of a cottar and himself a ploughman, our Prince, with the true feelings of true greatness and more illustrious by this act of generosity, pays here his tribute at the shrine of genius. May the work prosper! and when happily completed, then may it tell to future generations that the age which could produce a Burns was rich also in those who could appreciate his talents, and who, while they felt and own'd the power of his muse, have honoured his name."

Bro. the Rev. Hamilton Paul, minister of Glenholm and Kilbucho, an enthusiastic admirer of the bard, a native of Ayrshire, and himself distinguished for poetical talent, then delivered a prayer; and at the close of it the assembly gave three cheers. The brethren then retired from the ground, and marched in order through the principal streets of the town towards the King's Arms, into which the Acting Provincial Grand Master and the Mother Lodge were ushered.

In the evening Mother Kilwinning was visited by a number of the lodges who had taken part in the particular business of the day. Bro. Boswell presided, and by the exercise in an extraordinary degree of the convivial qualities which he was known to possess, contributed materially to the entertainment of the night. Many speeches were delivered by various other brethren, some of whom had the good fortune to enjoy the acquaintance and friendship of the bard, all of which had reference more or less to his character and genius, and the special work of the day—many toasts were given expressive of the same sentiments, and various songs were sung, the greater part the production of the poet, and in one or instances the composition of the singers. Of the latter we shall offer a selection—

Vain thought! but had Burns ever witness'd a meeting  
Of souls so congenial, and warm'd with such fire,  
The wild flow of fancy in ecstasy greeting,  
Ah! what might have been the bold notes of his lyre!

As rays by reflection are doubled and doubled,  
His bosom had swell'd to your cheering reply;  
Soft sympathy soothing the heart that was troubled—  
A smile for his mirth—for his sorrow a sigh.

Admir'd but unaided, how dark was his story;  
His struggles we know, and his efforts we prize;  
From murky neglect, as the flame burst to glory,  
He rose, self-embalm'd, and detraction defies.

A ploughman he was—would that smiles and false favour  
Had never decoy'd him from home and his team;  
And taught all his hopes and his wishes to waver,  
And, snatching reality, left him—a dream.

To rank and to title, due deference owing,  
We bow, as befitting society's plan;  
But, judgment awaken'd, and sympathy glowing,  
We pass all distinctions, and rest upon—man.

And, from the poor hind, who, his day's task completed,  
With industry's pride to his hovel returns,  
To him, who in royalty's splendour is seated,  
If soul independent be found—'twas in Burns.

His birthright, his muse! like the lark in the morning,  
How blithely he caroll'd in praise of the fair;  
With nature enraptur'd, and artifice scorning,  
How sweet were his notes on the banks of the Ayr,

And near to that spot where his kindred dust slumbers.  
And mark'd by the bard on the tablets of fame,  
And near the thatch'd shed where he first lisp'd in  
numbers,  
We'll raise a proud tribute to honour his name.

This song having been sung most effectively by its author, the talented occupant of the chair, was, after a brief interval, succeeded by the recitation, by the Acting Chaplain of the Mother Lodge (Bro. the Rev. H. Paul), of the following ode composed by himself for the occasion:—

Thy sorrows, Ayr, are like the dews of night,  
In pearly drops, o'er Nature's cheek descending,  
To bid her vernal beauty beam more bright,  
The tear and smile in lovely union blending;  
For like the hymn of gratitude ascending,  
With incense ever pleasing to the skies,  
Thine and thy darling Poet's fame extending,  
Thou hearest the voice of gratulation rise.

And lo! on this auspicious holiday,  
The Sons of Light, in bright array,  
With many a mystic streamer flying,  
To minstrelly with measured steps advance,  
And seem, at times, to weave the festive dance,  
At times, to shake the spear or couch the lance.  
To feet unhallowed all access denying,  
The while they place, by plummet, rule, and square,  
The corner-stone, predestined to bear,  
The precious monumental pile,  
Of Ayr, the glory and the boast of Kyle.

Though frail the fabric which you raise,  
The Poet's memory to prolong,  
Compared with that which speaks his praise,  
The energy divine of song;  
Yet still our gratitude is due,  
Thrice loved, thrice honoured, friends to you,  
Who bid the beauteous structure rise;  
And as our fond regrets were one,  
When Coila wept her favourite son,  
So in your joys we sympathise,  
When the whole world of taste and feeling turns  
Its gaze, with rapture ever new, on Burns.

After the applause with which these stanzas were received had subsided, Bro. Boswell gave another of his original songs—a Masonic one.

“TO ANACREON IN HEAVEN.”

The glories of Masonry who shall disclose?  
Its pillars on earth, but its arch the blue skies;  
The sun, moon, and ev'ry bright star as it glows,  
Are emblems to us, as they set and arise.  
Though Neutrals may stare  
At the compass and square,  
To Masons they rectitude plainly declare;  
And though in our lodge like true brothers confin'd,  
Our souls know no limits in love to mankind.

The pure word of Him who gave life to us all,  
Bade one erring mortal another to aid;  
But while holy Masonry rests on our ball,  
The three hallow'd maxims, here, never shall fade.  
The union how blest  
Which through trial and test,  
Makes brotherly love in each bosom a guest!  
And the vile selfish dross, by the flame that is giv'n,  
Purged clean from our hearts brings us nearer to  
heav'n.

Ye sons of St. Andrew, our tutel'ar saint,  
In proud emulation your duty pursue;  
The cross ye can bear neither weary nor faint;  
For what a man should do, a Scotsman can do.  
Then true to each other,  
Let each loyal brother  
The first germ of wrath in benevolence smother.  
And blending philanthropy, mirth, song, and wine,  
Accepted and Free be your banquet divine!

Never in the annals of Mother Kilwinning was the Widow's Son surrounded by such an array of literary talent as that which graced the Masonic festivities held in honour of placing the cornerstone of “the monumental pile” now standing near “the thatched shed” of the poet's birth; never was the Ionic column in this now somewhat modernised old centre of the Craft, raised under more auspicious circumstances.

On the retirement in 1820 of Hamilton of Grange from the chair of the Mother Lodge, by the unanimous voice of the Kilwinning brethren, Sir Alexander Boswell was called to rule in the Provincial Grand East,—a post to which he was re-elected in '21—a year which found the country in the throes of great political agitation. One of the most prominent local actors in the stirring events of that period was the distinguished brother who had so gracefully presided at the meeting we have so fully noticed; but within four months of the date of his re-election as R.W.M. of Mother Kilwinning, Sir Alexander Boswell had, to the great grief of the Craft, fallen by the hand of a political opponent.

Sir Alexander, who was created a baronet in 1821, was the eldest son of the friend and biographer of Dr. Johnson, James Boswell of

Auchinleck, whose portrait appears in Bro. Stewart Watson's painting of the Inauguration of Robert Burns as Poet-Laureate of the Canongate Kilwinning Lodge, and whose ancestor, Thomas Boswell of Auchinleck, “appears by the minutes of the Edinburgh St. Mary's Chapel Lodge, to have been Master in 1598, . . . and Warden of that lodge in 1600.”

### WHAT IS MASONRY?

(From the *Indian Freemasons' Friend*.)

It is not seldom that this question is addressed by those not Masons, equally often in a sarcastic as in an inquiring light. Having already made up their minds, they do not desire the question to be answered, and we think perhaps, as a rule, reticence on the part of Masons, even as to the *virtues* of the Order, is the best.

It is strange, however, that although with other mundane questions, disputants are ready to weigh the good and the bad together to ascertain the proportion of the one in relation to the other, in Masonry alone are its demerits singly placed in the scale; and it may on this ground rank as one of the best-abused Institutions by its non-professors.

There is, however, one argument which always presents itself in favour of Masonry to confound its detractors—that of its permanence. Granting even that its derivation from the time of King Solomon be not proved, no one has yet been able to prove either that it took its rise in a less remote or obscure manner. Its origin, its past, and its present, are shrouded in mystery, as doubtless also will be its future. It lives, survives, and will ever survive, notwithstanding the ridicule with which it has been or may be assailed.

But although we may not be prepared to argue the case with the outside world, it will perhaps not be inapt if we put to ourselves the question with which we have headed this article—What is Masonry? Masons know full well what Masonry *should* be, but do not they know also that in our own times it is not what we all would desire to see it. It cannot, we think, be denied that in this province the pure tenets and right principles of the Order have retrograded in practice, and that the outside world have perhaps some cause to exclaim—Is this Masonry?

Whenever the sacred name and obligations of the Order are taken to cover purely worldly and selfish designs, there must, and does, ensue a lowering of that standard which all true brethren earnestly desire to see maintained. That in our own times such a retrogression has taken place, we affirm. There is not now that unselfishness, that bond of harmony, that love of the Craft for its own sake, which once this province could

boast of. And to what is this to be traced? Manifestly, we believe, to the carelessness with which aspirants are admitted to the Order. At the risk of offending some we say, that there is at present too lax a system permitted in the admission of candidates for Freemasonry. Lodges have come to look rather to their funds than to what constitutes the real strength of a lodge; and how often does it not happen that a candidate is permitted to take upon himself obligations which, were his antecedents known, he probably would be justly denied a participation in. It is now-a-days almost a sufficient justification to the admission of a stranger into the Order—that nobody knows any harm of him; and sometimes, indeed, scarcely so much trouble is bestowed even as this. What results other than prejudicial ones can possibly be expected to accrue if so lax a system be permitted? And what wonder if amongst an Order recruited thus carelessly, men are found who, by their actions, bring discredit not only upon themselves, but upon the Craft—a stigma which is never failed to be employed, re-sharpened, by the traducers of the Order, in general condemnation of it and its supporters.

We painfully feel that it cannot be said of us "See how these Masons love one another." We fear that the growth of Masonry, if dependent upon its outward apparent results to the outside world, would be stunted indeed. And yet why should this be so? We either believe in the great truths of Masonry and in the importance of our obligations, or we do not. There can be no medium in the matter. The duty is an incumbent, imperative, ever-present one, or it is no duty at all; one can no more act as a Mason one day in the week, and as no Mason another, than can a man be half a Christian. Indeed, if Masonry be not the handmaid of religion, what is she? and if so, the obligations of the Christian are also the obligations of a Mason. "Love one another" is no less the Masonic than the Divine law, and can no more be evaded with impunity in the one case than the other.

In a fraternity banded together in the sacred, the noble, the chivalric cause of "brotherly love, relief, and truth," there should certainly exist a greater abnegation of world-day weaknesses than is to be found in the outer circle of men. Yet what petty weaknesses, loose principles, and imperfect practices, are not frequently found among us.

But it may be argued, no society of men was ever yet perfect. True; but it is the duty of those setting up especially as their model, perfection, to attain a nearer approach to it than their fellow-men.

In what way, then, shall we improve our position amongst one another as amongst the world? Let us set ourselves faithfully to a consideration and practice of the duties we owe to the Order it should be our pride to belong to. Let us, while

eschewing and contemning, aye, and even punishing, bad example amongst those now of us, watch carefully also that none partake the fellowship of our Order who do not give promise of adorning it. Here lies the remedy for any evils which now afflict us—here lies the safeguard against their repetition.

Let us be true to one another, firm in our faith, bold to decry wrong, and it *must* happen that the glory and the beauty of Masonry shall not only dwell more sensibly in the hearts and lives of the brethren, but impress the minds and excite the admiration of the outer world.—F. F. W.

#### ANTIQUITY OF THE THIRD DEGREE.

Three Lectures delivered before Lodge Industry (No. 873), at Kotree, in Scinde, by Bro. W. A. BRUNTON, W.M.

##### LECTURE II.

"Oral tradition is fairly admissible, when its substance contains nothing improbable or inconsistent with Scripture or reason; and the traditions of Masonry, tried by this standard, will be possessed of irresistible claims to our belief."—OLIVER, *Antiq.*, p. 3.

"Whatever may be the contending opinion on the subject of the historical origin of Freemasonry, no one who has attentively investigated the subject can, for a moment, doubt that it is indebted for its peculiar mode of inculcating its principles to the same spirit of symbolic science which gave rise to the sacred language of the Egyptian priests, and the sublime initiations of the pagan philosophers. For all the mysteries of the ancient world, whether they were the Druidical rites of Britain or the Cabiric worship of Samothracia, whether celebrated on the banks of the Ganges or the Nile, contained so much of the internal spirit and the outward form of pure and speculative Masonry as to demonstrate the certainty of a common origin to all."—*Freemasons' Magazine*.

BRETHREN!—In my last address I tried to show you the weakness of the reasoning put forward by our learned brother, Dr. Oliver, whom I take to be the head of the "modern" theorists, with regard to the non-antiquity of the Third Degree. That lecture, as perhaps you too well remember, was an amazingly dry one. But brethren, it has paved the way for this other side of the question, which I trust you will think somewhat interesting.

And now we will go back, if you please, three thousand years or so, to the great Pyramids of Egypt. Here, in the very cradle of the mysteries of the ancient world, we find three degrees of initiation into what has been called the spurious Freemasonry of antiquity. These are the mysteries of Isis, of Serapis, and of Osiris. The former were called the lesser, the two latter the greater mysteries. Those of Isis were celebrated at the vernal equinox; of Serapis at the summer solstice; of Osiris at the autumnal equinox—spring, summer, and autumn. I have not time to tell you, brethren, the details of these mysteries. You will find them in Mackey's *Lexicon*, Oliver's *Signs and Symbols* and *Antiquities*, and many other books. Suffice it to say, that at his initiation into the mysteries of Isis, the candidate had to pass through trials by air, fire, and water; that if he once passed the entrance door there was no retreat for him; that a solemn OB was administered to him; and that on his reception he was clothed with the mystic garments. Not much is known of the second degree, or mysteries of Serapis. No one, however, was permitted to participate in them, unless he had been initiated into those of Isis. Then we come to the third degree, or mysteries of Osiris. I quote from Mackey:—"In these the legend of the murder of Osiris by his brother Typhon was

represented, and the god was personated by the candidate. . . . Osiris attempted by mild remonstrances to convince his brother of some impropriety of conduct; but he fell a sacrifice in the attempt; for Typhon murdered him in a secret apartment, and cutting up the body, enclosed the pieces in a chest which he committed to the waters of the Nile. Isis, searching for the body, found it, and entrusted it to the care of the priests, establishing at the same time the mysteries in commemoration of the foul deed. . . . The aspirant was made to pass fictitiously through the sufferings and death of Osiris."\*

Now, brethren, look with me at a very different country and scene—Scandinavia. Here we find that the mysteries consisted of the rehearsal, and representation by the candidate, of the untimely death, loss, and subsequent finding of the body of one Baldr, who was supposed thereupon to be restored to life and vigour. It appears that Baldr was invulnerable to everything but mistletoe. The Evil One, who thereabouts rejoiced in the name of Loke, found this exception out; and one day Baldr, having jestingly offered himself as a target for the gods to shoot at, put into the hand of one Hodr, who was blind, a piece of mistletoe. With this Hodr slew Baldr;† His body was turned adrift in a boat, searched for, and found. Such was the legend, and the candidate was made to figure prominently in its rehearsal.‡ Come with me now to Britain and Gaul among the old Druids, and there we find that initiation into three degrees was practised. In the first, "the candidate was placed in the *pastos*, bed, or coffin, where his symbolical death was represented; and they terminated in the third by his regeneration or restoration to life from the womb of the giantess Ceridwin.§

I will not weary you brethren, by particularizing all the ancient mysteries.|| Their connection with what is now termed Freemasonry is, I think, more than obvious. Setting aside the identity of many of their ceremonies and symbols—and if you will hear me, perhaps I may try to lay this before you hereafter—overlooking the fact of the marks and signs to be seen to this day on buildings in England, beyond all doubt erected by Freemasons, being fac-similes of those found in Egypt, in India, and in Herculaneum, and Pompeii¶—carved and painted in the former countries three thousand years ago—setting all this for the moment aside, I beg your attention to this fact, and I give it in Dr. Oliver's own words:—"The mysteries of antiquity were all funereal."\*\* Now, brethren, if we may, with any approach to truth, state that the strictly symbolical part of our Order is in any way related to, or to be identified with, these ancient mysteries, may we not assume that the legendary part of the third degree is in like manner connected with the pagan traditions of old time? That death and the resurrection were taught in a legendary and dramatic ceremony, I do not believe can be denied. If then, I repeat, one part of each be identical, why should not the remainder, wherein, perhaps, the most striking resemblance of all exists, bear a close affinity?

\* Mackey, *Lexicon*, p. 82, Art. "Egyptian Mysteries." This author's opinion, it is but fair to say, is that the above legend was "purely astronomical. Osiris was the sun, Isis the moon, Typhon was the symbol of winter, which destroys the fecundating and fertilising powers of the sun." But hear Plutarch, *De Oraculis*:—"All the mysteries refer to a future life and to the state of the soul after death."—Mackey's version of the legend differs widely from Oliver's. I have no means of verifying either.

† Quarterly Review, No. 227, July, 1863, p. 220.

‡ Oliver, *History of Initiation*, Lecture 10.

§ Mackey, *Lexicon*, p. 79, Art. "Druids."

|| There were those of Mithras in Persia; of Eleusis in Greece; of the Cabiri in Samothrace; of Adonis; of Bacchus; of Diana, &c.

¶ *Vide* articles from these latter places in the British Museum.

\*\* *History of Initiation*, vol. v., p. 314.

In supporting this theory, we must of course, at once disabuse our minds of any idea that the legend of our third degree is a true narrative of facts. It has been proved beyond all doubt that, as the funereal mysteries of old were allegorical and mystical, so is our legend. It follows that it must have been invented or adapted by some person or persons.

By whom?

Ah! there is the difficulty. Solve that and you solve all. Let us get back again to Egypt in the year of our Lord 1852, or thereabouts. About that time a brother, a member of, and Past Master in, this Lodge, went up the Nile. One day, in the wilds of Upper Egypt, he encountered an old Arab Sheikh. Our brother, enthusiastic in Masonic pursuits, threw out to him the sign of a Fellow Craft. The old man, who, mayhap, had not seen a dozen European faces in his lifetime, started and replied with the sign of — in the third degree. Brother — replying, that old Arab Sheikh went through the signs of the third degree as correctly as if he had been raised in a "crack" London lodge. Even the word was correct. Look around you here in Scinde brethren. Let the Master Mason watch the greeting of two Sindhees; the embrace, the subsequent signs! Go among the Beloochees, the supposed lost tribes of Israel: I have the authority of an old Mason for saying that the Mason's word is well known among the chiefs! Can any of you read me these riddles? After this can you believe that our noble third degree was manufactured by any joyous crafts or any learned doctors in 1717?

Going back a little, and again referring to Dr. Oliver, I quote his own words against him. Talking of the mysteries of Isis and Osiris, he says, "I have collected all the principal interpretations of this extraordinary legend, and the evidence tends to establish an astronomical reference. But though this was doubtless true at a later period, I am persuaded that at its original adaptation to the spurious Freemasonry, it had allusion to a real event which happened in the earliest ages of the world; and I also think that the legend of our third degree referred to the same transaction. It is impossible on such a subject to be explicit."\*\* Now here is a ray of light. This real event, which happened in the earliest ages of the world (and I presume the learned doctor refers to the murder of Abel by Cain†—there is a well known picture of the finding of Abel's body, with Eve in a remarkable position), I say this real event was of so marked a character, that the tradition of it, changed, mutilated, and perverted, though it might be, spread over the world, and the mystagogues adopted it, from India to Scandinavia, as the climax of their initiatory rites. Please to follow the clue, brethren. In time, religions, manners, and nations rose and sank. Freemasonry, being a progressive science, changed too. Christianity came—then Mahomedanism. Neither of these would tolerate idolatrous rites, any more than Judaism of old would. While the moral emblems of the initiatory degrees might remain, the legendary ceremonies must be changed. Was it then, brethren, that a Jewish allegory was sought for and found as offending the religious prejudices of none? I do not say yes, or no; I leave you all to think this matter out for yourselves.

That abundant time was given for the change just now hinted at, may be understood when I tell you that it was not till the era of the Restoration that the mysteries ceased altogether. During the Middle Ages, the mysteries of Diana were practised, although they ceased in Greece in 438, 1800 years after their introduction.

Two more remarks, brethren, and I have done. Not

\* *Antiquities*, p. 100, Note 15. The reader is referred to the most interesting chapter containing the above quotation; pp. 91-125, Ed. 1843.

† The necessary shortness of these lectures prevented me from referring to the Arkite theories.

that I have said all I could say—far from it. I only open the door a little way that you may have a peep,—not the first for some of you I hope,—at the limitless ocean of most interesting inquiry into these things. I wish all would throw open the portals wide, and, for themselves, take a steady survey of the scene.

The Mexicans, inhabiting that continent oddly said to have been discovered by Columbus, celebrated the mysteries of the Old World. "The ceremonies were intended to represent the wanderings of the god, and the caverns through which the aspirant was to pass were called the path of the dead. He is conducted through these caverns amid shrieks of anguish and groans of despair, which seem to rise on every side; and, while trembling for his safety, he reaches the body of a slain victim, whose heart has been ripped from his breast, and whose limbs are still quivering with departing life: suddenly he finds himself in a spacious vault through which an artificial sun is darting his rays, and in the roof of which is an orifice through which the body of the sacrificed victim had been precipitated."\* Finally, he finds himself in the open air, and is received as one born again.

In the *Aeneid* of Virgil, there occurs a remarkable passage, thus translated by Dryden:—

"Not far a rising hillock stood in view,  
Sharp myrtles on the sides and cornels grew;  
There, while I went to crop the sylvan scenes,  
And shade our altar with the leafy greens,  
I pulled a plant; with horror I relate  
A prodigy so strange and full of fate,  
Scarce dare I tell the sequel. From the womb  
Of wounded earth and caverns of the tomb,  
A groan as of a troubled ghost renewed  
My fright; and then these dreadful words ensued:  
'Why dost thou thus my buried body rend,  
O spare the corpse of thy unhappy friend.'"

Truly, this is all very mysterious. Is Freemasonry the only one of all the mysteries that had no lost and found; death and the grave; corruption and resurrection? Brethren, even with the poor incomplete evidence I have laid before you to-night, I cannot believe it.

Of the deepest mystery of all, I say nothing. But with all reverence, I put it to the Christian Mason, whether, in all these dim legends of old time—in their shadowing forth of death and the rising again—in the still more marked third degree of Freemasonry, he does not see, by the light of the bright morning star, a reflection of the later events in the great sacrifice of the Redeemer?

#### MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

##### AUTHOR OF REMARKS WANTED.

The following very beautiful remarks on the Order were discovered amongst the papers of a deceased brother. He was not at all likely to have been the author of them himself, but who was?—AN EXECUTOR.—"When the fullness of time came, when from every quarter of the known world instructed skill and diligent labour were gathering around the throne of Solomon, when east and west, and north and south became tributary to his will and obedient to his summons, on the Hill of God, the Mount long since dedicated by the sublimest offering that Nature knows, uprose that wonderful creation of high art and devotional skill—the first temple of stone within whose walls the Almighty deigned to dwell. Peace spread her azure wings beneath the sky of Jerusalem. Reduced under one single will, the fiery tribes of the desert planted their pennons in the sands. Infant

commerce stretched her sails from the ports of Tyre and Sidon, and Ezion Geber, on the southern sea, opened its glad harbour for the bold craft that tempted the dangers of the Indian ocean. Long caravans of patient camels pressed with unwavering feet, the Syrian desert. Tadmor in the wilderness, and many another old historic city, marked the wisdom and the power of the Hebrew monarch. From the remotest corners of the then known world, flocked to the court of the son of David, all that was highest, wisest, best, of the sons of men. Ethiopia and Egypt, Sheba and Arabia, and the very isles of the sea, rendered their tribute. The cedar forests that for centuries had waved in colossal grandeur upon the summits of Lebanon, by the aid of the willing Tyrians, were swept from the mountain's brow, to swell the triumph of the time. Quarries of rare stone, long unvisited, gave up their precious deposits to skill of man. Hewn, squared, and numbered in the quarries where they were raised, each massive block, august in its magnificent proportions, or glorious in its elaborate carving, moved on to swell the triumph and to become a component part in the grand whole which crowned the brow of Mount Moriah with glory and with beauty. Up sprung the wonderful edifice. No sound of axe or hammer, or any tool of iron was heard, but the grand whole solid in its foundation as the rock-ribbed hills themselves—perfect in its proportions as the divine work, with many a turret and pinnacle sheathed with beaten gold, reflected back to heaven some portions of the glory that it gave, and became fit dwelling place for HIM whose presence fills all space, but who chooses to dwell among the children of men. And then the capstone was brought home with shouting and praise—when the glory of the Lord descended and filled the whole house—when the king and all the people fell upon their faces before the exceeding brightness, and the very priests of the living God fled for their lives before his visible presence. What Mason of the higher degrees does not know the profound significance of these great facts—the important lessons embedded in this history? With the completion of this august structure, and the traditional record of the events which preceded, accompanied, and followed it, commences the dissemination of Masonry. From Palestine to Phœnicia, and thence by easy and natural stages to each several nation—distinguished by its love for arts and sciences—the instructed eye of the well-taught Mason sees in dim traces that still survive the devouring tooth of time, the pathway of our Order. The great principles of association binds all its elements together. The need of help, and the readiness to bestow aid, the one as far spread as the human family—the other the child and creature of liberal education and trained humanity, were, and are, the springs and sources of the Masonic brotherhood, and the close alliance of the mystic tie, invented and enforced for the defence and support of the operative Mason, became at length the distinguishing beauty and the peculiar characteristic of the speculative. And thus down the rushing current of Time, sometimes submerged and out of sight in the whirlpools that engulfed empires, and made nations their playthings—sometimes stamping its existence in the minsters and abbeys, cathedrals and palaces, which piety or luxury loved to erect—we trace the foot-prints of the successors of those who erected the pillars, one on the right and one on

\* Mackey, *Lexicon*, pp. 15-16.

the left of the beautiful porch that yielded access to the Temple of God. Kilwinning and Melrose, York and Westminster, Strasbourg and Notre Dame are memorials of our fathers in this great society, and are each canonised and made holy by all the gentle offices of kindness that distinguish and adorn the fraternity. These strong old days have gone. No longer now does the Free and Accepted Mason in very deed work out his apprenticeship, and hew out his testimonials from the solid rock. No longer now does the Fellow Craft adjust with square, plumb, and level, the rough work of the apprentice. No longer does the Master, or overseer of the work supervise the actual labour of his inferiors. But modern Masonry, abandoning all those grosser elements of toil, teaches all the great principles of religion and morality, of common brotherhood and universal charity, through the medium of these symbols and tokens of an elder time. Deep in the mystic vaults of her representative temple, she rehearses the lessons of bygone ages. From the very ground floor on which her neophyte presses his first step—on through the glorious porch, the Winding Stairs, the Middle Chamber, the unfinished Holy of Holies—every footprint of the initiate is on hallowed ground. The absolute and final belief in God, which admits him, is deepened and intensified as he goes on, and the life that is within the man is cultivated, educated, and fitly taught in lessons of never-dying import, until the immortality that has been enforced upon his soul by indelible impressions, becomes his actual and unquestionable belief. Along with this faith in God and hope in himself and mankind, Masonry teaches to her followers the largest charity for all—charity in that true and original sense, which means unselfish love—that affection of the soul which survives the wreck of matter and the crush of worlds, and is nearest akin to Deity. The system of words, signs, tokens, grips, and symbols, which were the protection and the evidence of the operatives who travelled in foreign lands, remains—but etherealised and spiritualised into a higher meaning, a more effective union. Masonry is meant to be as universal as the world, its love all embracing, extending wherever the cry of suffering and of innocence goes up to Heaven. No miserable per centage of profit contains it; no petty calculation of life and health insurance bounds it. It combines the largest liberty of individual benevolence with the advantages of association—rendering strength to each and dwarfing neither. Fully combining in its own existence this great original system of teaching by symbols, and this other great element of enlightened and systematic charity, Masonry survives to-day, in all the magnificence of its superb proportions, glorious in its original beauty, enriched by the labours of twenty centuries, filled with the spoil of all nations and tongues, founded on the solid rock, bearing aloft the glorious fabric, with doors inexorably closed against the base, the cowardly, and ever opening for the true and faithful. What son of hers that has ever penetrated the sacred portal, and ranged along the mighty walks, but bids her God speed? Advance then fearlessly on thy mission of mercy—call in from all the haunts of crime and of suffering the broken hearted and the weeping children of the Great Father. Inaugurate again in this world of our the reign of love, and in the pathway which religion opens before thee—press on noble Order of

our affections, and as the brimming harvest of good deeds crowns thy progress; each humble, grateful heart of thy children shall say—AMEN SO MORE IT BE.”—[We have seen this before, but cannot call to mind where, perhaps some of our readers can help us? Its chief fallacy consists in making the Order a common operative guild, when, in mediæval times even, it was no such thing. The guild theory is an utter absurdity, totally subsersive of the antiquity of the Order itself.]

#### LINES TO A MUMMY.

Horace Smith's well-known "Lines to a Mummy" contain several questions which the author puts, asking if the mysterious defunct was a member of our Order? These lines drew forth the following reply from Bro. Dr. J. S. Harrison, of Arkansas, which are too good to be lost.—Ex. Ex.

Of purest science, also, something I was taught  
While yet a *craftsman*, and knew not,  
But in part, the mysteries divine.  
One of the sciences, and noblest of them all,  
Foundation firm, and broad, on which  
Reposed, and shall forever rest  
The splendid superstructure of this  
*Brotherhood* of olden time, was that  
Which taught them most curiously  
To trace through all the various windings,  
And recesses deep concealed, of Nature's  
Mighty Temple, the *wisdom, strength,*  
And *beauty* which everywhere appear.  
And though full *thirty centuries* are gone,  
Their fabric still stands, erect and sure,  
On that chief corner-stone ne'er laid  
By human hands.  
The same great *key-stone* which I saw  
Three thousand years ago, I now,  
When roused from sleep of ages  
Most profound, still view, supporting  
Firmly, as in ages long, long past,  
The great *mysterious arch*;  
And thus to thee I testimony bear  
Of this mysterious Craft (of which  
Thou judgest I was one) which has been,  
Is now, and shall not cease to be.  
Thou hast conjectured well that I was present,  
And of ceremonies grand partook, by  
Special invitation from the Hebrew's king,  
When Temple vast, by *master builders* raised,  
Was consecrated to the worship of the God of  
Hebrews most devout; who—as my father  
Of late eventide, my *childish years* to please,  
The story strange would tell—were bondsmen,  
And service rendered long and hard  
To our ancestral kings.

Champagnolle, Ark., Oct. 30, 1859.

#### ITALIAN FREEMASONRY.

The newspapers state that Garibaldi is chiefly occupied at the present moment with the unification of Italian Freemasonry, now divided into two rites—the Scotch and the French. The former has its centre at Palermo, where it was established when that city was occupied by the English, and the second at Turin, which is near the French frontier. The principal members of the two rites went to Ischia, and held council with Garibaldi, who is Grand Master of the Italian Freemasons of the French rite. It seems that no arrangement has yet been found possible, the resistance chiefly proceeding from the lodges of the Scotch rite, which urge the adoption of their usage, on the ground of greater antiquity and higher authority. The consequence is that the meeting of the representatives of all the lodges which was to be

held at Palermo, with Garibaldi as president, will not take place, unless an understanding, which appears little probable, should meanwhile be realised.—HIGH GRADE UNION.

WEAPONS OF WAR.—INSTANCE OF ONE BEING WORN IN LODGE.

A brother inquires respecting a statement made by me. It furnishes, he says, an instance of a weapon of war being worn in lodge. The statement to which he alludes consisted of some notes which, at the request of a rifle volunteer, a brother, we sometime ago communicated to the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. See vol. vii., p. 211, 13th September, 1862. The rifle volunteer had, as I have since learnt, on some occasion refused compliance with the desire expressed that he should lay aside his arms before entering his lodge. My statement was probably regarded by him as affording some justification. Prince Askher Khan seems to have worn the scimitar, when he presented it to the lodge (St. Alexander of Scotland, Orient of Paris). Remark is purposely forborne, lest more should be put into writing than accords with Masonic prudence. My correspondent is mistaken in supposing the matter to be one upon which I was called to give an opinion whilst Grand Master for Kent.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

THE COMPASS.

There has been much said and written in regard to the words compass and compasses, by Freemasons and Masonic writers; some affirming that it is *compasses*, others that *compass* is the proper word to be used in the Masonic vocabulary. "*Compass*—(or a pair of compasses, so named from its legs; but pair is superfluous, or improper, and the singular number, compass, is the preferable name)—An instrument for describing circles, measuring figures, &c."—*Webster*. "The carpenter stretches out his rule, he fitteth it with plans, and he marketh it out with a compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man; that it may remain in the house."—Isaiah cxliv., 13.

"Time is come round,  
And where I did begin, there shall I end;  
My life has run its compass."—*Shakespeare*.

"They fetched a compass of seven days' journey.—2 Kings iii., 2 Samuel v., Acts xxviii. We are to compass our desires and aspirations within the precepts of the Great Light which has descended from God to man, for the rule and guide of all his transactions in life, and thereby fitted for that building made without hands, and eternal in the heavens.—JOS. COVELL.

A MASONIC OATH LEGAL.

Many good men are deterred from entering Freemasonry because they are told an oath is required and the Scriptures say "swear not at all"—they look upon it as illegal. Is it so?—E. C. B.—[It is legal; both scripturally and by the law of the land. As an honourable and gratifying testimony to the pure principles of the Order, it may be mentioned, that when the Act for the suppression of seditious and treasonable societies was passed, in 1797, containing a clause in which it was declared illegal for any body of men to require from their members an oath, or test, not authorised by law, an express exemption was introduced in favour of the lodges of Freemasons.]

FREEMASONRY AND THE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

At a time when the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures is being regularly assailed, on all sides, the following reasons why we, as Freemasons, should strenuously uphold them are offered to the Craft:—  
1. Because, without Scripture, Masonic traditions have no basis; Masonic morals no sanction. 2. Our profession of trust in God is scriptural. 3. Our means of recognition are scriptural. 4. Our prayers are scriptural. 5. Our chief light is the Scriptures. 6. The centre of our gatherings and of our circuits is the Scriptures. 7. The most honoured object in our public displays is the Scriptures. 8. Our Master is bound to make the Scriptures the chief source of his instruction. Other reasons may be given, but surely these are enough from—A BIBLE-STUDENT.

TO THOSE WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

A traveller says:—"I was in Nashville during two or three sessions of the Grand Lodge recently. While there some member brought a sweeping resolution to kill off all side degrees. He declared that printed documents or rituals were floating over our country, to the detriment of Masonry; and, to put a stop to it, he wanted it declared un-Masonic to receive or confer a side degree. But his proposal was tabled almost by declaration. Would not such action by a Grand Lodge be without a parallel on record? Can anything be un-Masonic that it is not immoral? Is not anything that elevates the moral condition of the human family praiseworthy, and, as such, becoming a man and a Mason?"—Ex. Ex.

HIRAM'S TOMB.

A book called *Sinai and Palestine* mentions the tomb in these words:—"The plains of Phenicia are strewn with distinct fragments of antiquity. One of these is called the tomb of Hiram, an engraving of which is the frontispiece of Allen's work, *The Red Sea*. The tomb stands inland, among wild rocky hills, about three miles from Tyre. It is a single gray sarcophagus, hollowed out so as just to admit a body. A large oblong stone is placed over it so as completely to cover it, the only entrance being an aperture knocked through at its eastern extremity. The whole rests on a rude pedestal of upright hewn stones. The Arabs say it is the tomb of King Hiram, buried at the eastern gate of Old Tyre, which at his time reached down the hill towards the sea.

RELIC OF BURNS IN CONNECTICUT.

Having met with the under-mentioned amongst my old scraps, I would respectfully ask if Bro. D. Murray Lyon would give us his opinion on its genuineness?

"Herewith I forward for the acceptance of the Connecticut Masonic Historical Society a section of the hawthorn underneath which Burns was in the habit of meeting his Highland Mary, and where

'The golden hours, on angel wings,  
Flew o'er him and his dearie.'

It was presented to me in 1855, by Bro. Davidson Richie, who, at that time, occupied the 'Auld Clay Biggin' where the immortal bard first drew breath. One part of the tree had died, and the proprietor, after removing it, presented it to Bro. Richie. It was on my second visit to Scotland that he gave me this relic in return for a beautiful copy of Whittier's poem to Burns, and another of Halleck's, on the

same subject, both printed on white satin, and handsomely framed, which I had presented him with, and with which he was highly pleased.

"That it is genuine, I have no more doubt than I have in the existence of a Supreme Architect of the Universe, or of truth in an upright man and a Mason.

"I was on quite intimate terms with Bro. Richie, having visited him at the Cottage a number of times on each of the summers that I spent in Scotland.

"Poor fellow! he fell at last by his own hand. His affairs had become embarrassed, and to escape present evil, rushed unbidden into another world.

"As I have no one to leave it to, I concluded—as I was growing old—to present it to your society.

"Very truly and fraternally,

"W. M. R. CLAPP."

This valuable present is enclosed in a beautiful gilt case, with the following inscription on its back:

"Section of Burns' and his Highland Mary's Trysting Thorn, presented by Bro. Davidson Richie to Wm. R. Clapp, Ayr, June 18th, 1855, and by the latter to the Connecticut Masonic Historical Society, July 23rd, 1861."  
—Ex. Ex.

#### MASONIC TOMBSTONES IN AMERICA.

We desire to obtain descriptions of Masonic Tombstones for publication, says an American periodical now defunct, and will consider it a great favour on the part of any brother who will send us such descriptions. We have a few such already in our possession, and will give them to our readers as opportunity offers.

Old Mortality gives us the following description of three, the result of his search in the New Haven cemetery. Old Mortality is a brother Mason.

The Stone erected to the Memory of Bro.

JUSTIN BEDFIELD,  
died

Feb. 26, 1850,

Aged 54 years.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Enclosed in a circle is a cross, on which hangs a serpent, surrounded with the words, "In Hoc Signo Vinces." Underneath this circle is the square and compasses.

The Stone erected to the Memory of Bro.

LEVI BALDWIN,  
died

Apr. 23, 1858.

Aged 82 years.

On the top of this stone is the square and compasses.

The Stone erected to the Memory of

BRO. HENRY GIBB,

Native of North Britain, who departed this life

Sept. 10, 1789,

Aged 44 years.

On the top of this stone is the square and compasses.

#### LEGALISED TIPPLE.

I send you two very curious entries from an old lodge minute-book.—BACCHUS REDIVIVUS.—Aug. 15, 1862.—Voted that ardent spirits be excluded from the hall, and from lodge expenses. Dec. 13, 1826.—Voted to re-consider the vote to exclude ardent spirits from the hall; voted that our refreshments be nothing but rum, gin, and brandy, and not but twice in an evening.

## THE MASONIC MIRROR.

### MASONIC MEMS.

The Provincial Grand Conclave of Hertfordshire is to be held at Watford on the 25th inst.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland and Westmoreland will be held at Kendal, on the 17th August, and a large meeting is expected.

### PROVINCIAL.

#### DEVONSHIRE.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—Lodge St. Aubyn (No. 954).—Tuesday, July the 12th inst., being the regular lodge night, the W.M. summoned the brethren at half-past six p.m., and punctual to that time the labours of the evening commenced. The minutes of the previous lodge were read and confirmed. The lodge being passed to the second degree, and Bros. Miller and Torkington being entrusted, the lodge was raised to the third degree, when Bros. Miller and Torkington were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was closed to the first degree, and Bros. Huxtable and Leeson satisfactorily proved to the W.M. their proficiency, and were passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was then closed to the E.A. degree. Bro. Heath drew the attention of the W.M. to clause 4, p. 75 of the "Book of Constitutions":—"The Master and Wardens of a lodge are enjoined to visit other lodges as often as they conveniently can, in order that the same usages and customs may be observed throughout the Craft, and a good understanding cultivated among Freemasons," believing it would be productive of good results. He suggested that the W.M., Wardens, and officers do visit the lodges of the locality in rotation. The Master and Wardens deeming that an amount of fraternal feeling may be engendered thereby, readily consented to the wishes, and agreed to visit on the following night the Lodge Fortitude at Stonehouse. The W.M. of that lodge being present rose and said, he felt quite pleased at the fortuitous circumstance of his lodge being the first to be visited, and promised that a kind and fraternal reception awaited them. The W.M. announced to the brethren that a rumour had prevailed in local Masonic circles that the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was to be held during the present month, or at least before another regular meeting of Lodge St. Aubyn, and desired to know if the brethren wished their lodge to be represented. It was immediately proposed, seconded, and unanimously resolved that the Master and his Wardens do attend according to ancient custom. The W.M. and Bro. Rickard each proposed candidates for initiation at the next meeting, and the J.W. a candidate for joining. The lodge was closed in peace and harmony at 9 p.m. Visitors from several lodges were present during the ceremonies. At the refreshment board the W.M. gave the toasts in terse and approved language. After replying for "The Visitors," the W.M. of No. 105 took occasion also to highly compliment the Master for the manner in which he had conducted the duties of the evening, an opinion which, we believe, was shared in by the brethren of the lodge generally. The S.W. by consent gave the toast of "The W.M.," Bro. Kent. He would, after the able speech of Bro. Thuell, the last speaker, trouble them with only a small meed of praise to their Master. It was clear, from the able manner in which he had conducted the proceedings that night, that the brethren had acted wisely in unanimously electing him to that high office. He would therefore ask them to join him in drinking the health of the W.M. of Lodge St. Aubyn. The remaining toasts were then given, and the brethren separated at an early hour.

#### HAMPSHIRE.

HAVANT.—Carnarvon Lodge (No. 804).—The installation meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on Tuesday, July 5th. Bro. Hillman, W.M., occupied the chair, supported by his officers. The lodge being duly opened and the minutes read by the Secretary, Bro. Smethen, the W.M. proceeded to the business of installation. Bro. Purnell, S.W. and W.M. elect, was then presented, and in a most able and impressive manner installed in the chair of K.S. by the out-going W.M. Having

received the congratulations of the brethren and the usual salutes, the W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Palmer, S.W.; Fabian, J.W.; Weeks, P.M., Treas.; Hillman, Sec.; Forbes, Dir. of Cers.; Triggs, S.D.; Reynolds, J.D.; Wenham, I.G.; Voke, Steward; Blackmore, Tyler. The W.M. immediately commenced his work, and in an admirable manner initiated a gentleman into the secrets and mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. The lodge was then re-opened in the second and third degrees, and Bro. Richards was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The lodge was soon afterwards closed, and the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Simpson. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts was given by the W.M., and heartily responded to. Bro. Stebbing, in a most eloquent speech, proposed the Masonic Charities, which was responded to by Bros. Ford and Emery. Bro. Hillman, I.P.M., proposed the health of the W.M., which elicited the most cordial greeting. The toasts were then interspersed with some capital singing. The Tyler's toast was given and a very happy meeting brought to a close about eleven o'clock. Visiting brethren:—Bros. Colonel Greenlaw, P.S.G.W. England; J. Rankin Stebbing, W.M. 76, S.G.D. England; H. Ford, P.M. 487, P. Prov. G.W. Hants; E. Bannister, P.M. 487, P. Prov. S.B. Hants; W. A. Wolfe, P.M. 342, P. Prov. G.D. Hants; M. Frost, P.M. 487, P. Prov. Supt. of Works Hants; E. Emery, W.M. 928, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. Hants; J. Baker, W.M. 487; J. Hill, 903; J. Bradbear, 487, P.G. Org.; B. Carter, Sec. 903; F. Faulkner, 928; R. Thorpe, 38; J. Rattenbury, 487; G. Spratt, 903; &c.

#### LANCASHIRE (EAST).

**BURY.**—*Consecration of the Prince of Wales Lodge* (No. 1,012).—On Thursday, the 23rd ult., the above lodge was consecrated in the Town Hall, Bury, by the V.W. Prov. G.M. of East Lancashire, Stephen Blair, assisted by Bros. the Rev. J. L. Figgins, Prov. G. Chap.; Rev. Phillips, P. Prov. G. Chap.; Lawrence Newall, P. Prov. S.G.W.; John Tunnah, Prov. G. Sec.; Wright, Mitchel, and several Provincial and Past Provincial Officers and other brethren. The ceremony was performed in a true Masonic manner, the musical responses being a great acquisition, by Bros. Wrigley, of Rochdale; Edmondson, of Stockport; and Cooper, of Manchester; Aspinwall, Prov. G. Org., presiding. The W.M. Bro. Herbert Roby Harris, P.M., being duly installed as First Master, he then appointed Bros. Nicholas Milne, S.W.; Edward Bland, J.W.; John Melling Wike, S.D.; Lawrence Booth, J.D.; and Henry Maiden, P.M., as Sec. The brethren then elected unanimously Bro. Josh. Handley, P.M., as Treasurer for the ensuing year. The proceedings terminated at four p.m. The brethren then retired to the Derby Hotel, where a sumptuous banquet awaited them at 4.30, when, with the assistance of Bro. Shellard, the Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., a most convivial evening was spent by all the members present.

#### DEDICATION OF THE SPIRE OF WALSDEN CHURCH, NEAR TODMORDEN.

Before we proceed to notice the circumstances attending the dedication of the spire, a glance at the history, and some description of Walsden church, will not be unacceptable to a numerous section of our readers.

The hamlet of Walsden was formed into a parish under the late Sir Robert Peel's Church Building Acts, and endowed with £150 a year. The foundation stone of the church was laid the 8th of July, 1816, by the late John Crossley, Esq., of Scatcliffe, who was the donor of the ground for the church and churchyard, as well as a contributor of £1,000 and the stone towards the erection of the building. The Church was consecrated on the 7th of August, 1818, by the present Bishop of Manchester, who, it is said, preached his first consecration sermon on that occasion. It is dedicated to St. Peter, and consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, with open roof, is of the early English or decorated style of architecture, and calculated to seat 650; the architect was the late Mr. Chas. Child, of Halifax; it is highly ornamented inside and out. The Rev. George Dowty made great exertions within and without the parish in procuring subscriptions to provide a church in Walsden which should be creditable for arrangement and beauty,—and it is one of the first instances in our part of the country of a return to a correct style of church architecture; the probable cost of the church has been about £4,000. Mr.

Shaw, of Saddleworth, made the principal part of the furniture, which is all of richly carved black oak. In the chancel is a handsome carved prayer desk, the gift of the late Robert Matthews, Esq., who died recently at Sydenham; it has an inscription cut in church characters at the base, "In memory of Ruth Matthews, who died Nov. 20, mdcclxvii." Carved stalls for the family of the late John Crossley, of Scatcliffe, Jas. Taylor, Esq., of Todmorden-hall, and a stall for the clergyman, are also within the chancel. A very handsomely carved altar—with *veredas* in panels carved and gilt, and inscription in church text on the altar part, "To the honour of God, D.D. William and Mary Hepworth, of Pontefract, mdcclxviii."—evidences the feeling of one of the female branch of the Crossley family towards Walsden and its church; this lady was interred in February last at Walsden church. There are also a credence table, corona, two candelabra, besides sedilia and desks for epistler and gospeler. The door leading from the chancel to the vestry-room is also carved with the names and arms of Taylor, of Todmorden-hall, Crossley, of Scatcliffe, and Maude, of Wakefield—the last, as being a non-resident munificently contributed to the church. The communion plate is the gift of the late Mrs. Ann Taylor, of Todmorden-hall. The pulpit is supported by a carved column resting on a stone plinth, with spreading capital joining the moulding at the base of the pulpit; on this moulding is cut, in old English letters, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth glad tidings," and on the corresponding moulding at top the Latin inscription—"Nisi cruce domine nostri Jesu Christi non gloriari"—I glory not save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; vertical mouldings divide it into six panels, and it has an open entrance; the panels are carved, having bands across each; the following inscriptions are on these bands:—"laudate domine," praise ye the Lord; "in domino confido," I trust in the Lord; "justus es domine," righteous art Thou, O Lord; "cantate domino," sing ye to the Lord; "eripe domine," deliver me O Lord; "domine clamavi," I have spoken out, O Lord. A bold carved cornice is the finishing member of the pulpit. The lectern or reading-desk is an eagle with wings outspread placed upon a stalk of varied carving. It was presented to the church by the late James Dearden, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Rochdale. An elaborately worked font of Caen stone is opposite the north entrance to the church; the cover to which is of carved oak exceedingly rich, and it is set forth upon it to be "The gift of Mrs. Maria Beswick, widow of the late Halliwell Beswick, of Pikehouse, Esq." The font is octagonal, and large enough for the immersion of an infant; the divisions on the font are occupied by shields, monograms, and the keys of St. Peter sculptured on the stone alternately; an engraved brass plate conveys, that "To the glory and for the service of Almighty God, this font is the humble offering of St. Peter's Parish Church Sunday Schools. Feast of St. Peter, mdcclxviii." It may be said to complete the furniture of the church. The organ was built by Mr. W. Holt, formerly of Bradford, now of Leeds, and is without doubt the handsomest as well as the most superior instrument in the neighbourhood. Its cost was £300. It is dedicated to the memory of the late Duke of Wellington, and was inaugurated July 8th, 1853. The Rev. Geo. Dowty resigned Nov. 1854; the Rev. Henry Clere was then appointed incumbent. He became non-resident from ill-health in the year 1859, and has been non-resident ever since. His place is supplied by the Rev. W. Holmes Orr, an active *locum tenens* who is indefatigable in matters relating to the welfare of the parish and parishioners. On the occasion of the foundation-stone being laid, as well as when the church was consecrated and the organ inaugurated, there were Masonic processions; and on the last occasion the brethren appeared not only in Craft but in Royal Arch and Knight Templar clothing and regalia, sanctioned by the presence of Stephen Blair, Prov. G. Supt., and Sir Knt. A. H. Royds, the present Prov. G. Commander, and several past and present G. Officers and brethren, companions and Sir Knts., of this and the adjoining provinces. In the tower there is a Masonic window of two lights, upon which are shields and Masonic emblems, including the interlaced triangle, with triple tau in the centre, &c.; inscription—"All glory to the Most High," and "audi vide tace." Among the names of the donors stand first that of the Earl of Ellesmere, Prov. G.M.; then follow those of Matthew Dawes, Prov. S.G.W.; Geo. Dowty, Clerk, Prov. G. Chap.; Stephen Blair, D. Prov. G.M.; John Crossley, P.D. Prov. G.M.; Wm. Edward Royds, Prov. S.G.W. On the outside of the tower, on one side of the entrance, is sculptured the jewel of the Prov. G. Chap., and

within the entrance is the inscription, on a white metal plate, illuminated with red letters, "The Masonic Tower, founded July 8th, 1846." To this tower, which was originally intended to be erected at the expense of the Masonic Order, some lodges and several of the Masonic brethren contributed, but not in amount sufficient to pay for its erection. The foundation having settled when the tower was raised to a few yards above the roof of the church, it was deemed imprudent to proceed further with the work at that time. About twelve or eighteen months since some gentlemen were travelling on the railway, and the conversation having turned on the tower of this church, one offered to contribute to the erection of the spire, another followed, and then a third and a fourth, and so a subscription was set on foot, which has resulted in raising about £200. The expenditure in finishing the spire is £300; architect, Bro. Jas. Green, of Portsmouth, near Todmorden. Upon the tower is placed a "level" as a weather-vane, it having been considered peculiarly appropriate both as a Masonic emblem, and to surmount a building consecrated to Divine worship. It is needless to say that the finishing of the spire has much improved the appearance of the church, which is an ornament to the valley, and requires only a clock and bells to make it one of the most complete and beautiful of village churches. At the west end of the north aisle of the church is a Masonic stained glass window, with the arms of the following donors thereon, and the inscription. "Brethren Mark Faviell, Edward Fiske Browne, and Abraham Greenwood Eastwood, caused this window to be made. Feast of St. Michael A.D. mdcccclix." Also in the north aisle is a window of two lights, to the memory of Bro. John Crossley, of Scatcliffe, F.A.S., and of his deceased wife. Upon one light is the jewel and collar of the deceased Prov. G.M. Around the border of both lights are the sprig of acacia, pomegranate, ear of corn, and five-pointed star alternately. In the upper portion are seraphs with trumpets, and in cross bands, the Scripture texts, "I am the resurrection and the life," and "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord." The Transfiguration of our Saviour, with the attendant disciples, Peter, and James, and John, and the figures of Moses and Elias, is illustrated in one of the lights; in the other, the Agony in the Garden, the angel strengthening Christ and the sleeping disciples being introduced. At the bottom are the following words, "In memory of John Crossley Esq., F.A.S.; died Dec. 11., mdcccxxx., aged lii. Also Sarah his wife; died June 19., mdcccxlvi., aged lxxviii." These memorial windows to his parents were placed in the church by Bro. J. Crossley, of Scatcliffe, P. Prov. D.G.M. East Lancashire, just deceased. The east end of the south aisle has a stained glass window with the names of the officiating clergyman, churchwardens, and treasurer when the church was opened—"George Dowty, perpetual curate. John Thurlow and Richard Smith, churchwardens. John Crossley, treasurer, A.D. mdcccxlviii." At the foot "To God be all the glory." The east window of the church is composed of three lights—the centre one containing the subjects of the "Adoration of the Shepherds," "The Crucifixion," and "The Ascension," separated by medallion and other striking devices; on the south or right light—"Christ walking on the Sea," St. Peter sinking, and the ship, &c.; the north or left light—"The Saviour's "Charge to St. Peter," and St. Peter on his knees receiving the keys. The east window is crowned with an illuminated wheel—a cross in the middle, the points disposed in *fleurs-de-lis*. Two stained glass windows are on the south side of the chancel, one bearing the arms of Maude and Crossley, the other an *Angus Dei*,—the latter window having the inscription at foot—"John Crossley of his devotion gave this window." The several subjects illustrated are within the form of a *piscicæ vesicæ* or pointed ellipse, those in the memorial windows being in an earlier and rather more severe style than those in the east window. Again on the north side the chancel is a window in stained glass with the arms of Crossley in the lower and of Taylor in the upper compartment; between this window and the vestry-door is the hatchment used on the death of the late Mrs. Ann Taylor of Todmorden Hall, an heiress in the Crossley family, which have been landholders in this neighbourhood for at least 500 or 600 years, and for near, if not the whole of that period, at Scatcliffe. All the windows have a remarkably good effect, the figures are graceful, and excellent in tone; sapphire, ruby, and green colours prevail, but orange, amber, and other milder tints give softness and purity to the parts requiring it; indeed few examples in modern churches can excel the windows of this church. It would be impossible to enumerate the contributors, local and distant, to the building and embellishment of Walsden church,

but among those through whom the fine east window has been enabled to be put in, we understand the Newals, of Littleborough, have rendered liberal assistance. Bro. E. Smith, of Inchfield-villa is treasurer of the spire fund, and has been mainly instrumental in raising the money received, which though considerable, is not quite adequate to pay off the charges incurred in the work.

#### THE DEDICATION

took place on St. Peter's Day, the 29th ult. From the unsettled state of the weather for some time previously, many fears were entertained lest the dedication ceremony should be marred. This was partially the case; the morning was lowering, the sky had the appearance of having work to do which, though performed slowly, might be done well. At noon the appearance was still more threatening, but long before the procession started a large crowd had congregated near the Masonic Hall, and just before the time for departure the band arrived. A short delay and the procession issued from the hall, the band leading off with "The Freemason's Holiday." The opening facing the hall was crowded, as well as every space commanding a view. The balcony above Mrs. Lord's had been taken possession of by a bevy of ladies, the gallery leading to Mr. Stansfield's office, the steps conducting toward the railway station, and the road thereto were all useful as affording a sight of the demonstration. Church-street and the Strand were lined with spectators many of whom moved on with the procession. It was arranged the scholars and teachers of the Walsden Parochial School should join the procession at Bridge-end, but when the procession reached that point, the scholars had not arrived, causing a few minutes delay. They came by Butcher-hill, and numbered about 300, led by the Revs. W. H. Orr, of Walsden, and Rev. S. Ware, of Bnersill, Rochdale. The scholars now led the procession, which now presented a respectable appearance in point of numbers, and a lively spectacle from the banners borne by the scholars. Arrived at the Birks-hall toll-bar they turned the corner of Messrs. Omerod's weaving-shed, and thence along the road leading to Hollinsmount to the canal-bridge, where they entered by the west gateway into the grounds adjoining the church. The head of the procession having reached the ornamental gateway of the churchyard, the scholars formed in line on each side of the road. The Revs. W. H. Orr and S. Ware walked between the lines of scholars, with the band followed by the Masonic brethren. The band played the National Anthem during the entrance to the church, and the Masons passed under the joined swords of two officers (the tylers) of the Order at the gateway. The movement into church was somewhat hasty, a sharp shower falling at the time. Arrived in the church (approaching three p.m.), a number of seats in the body of the church next the pulpit had been reserved for the Masonic procession. Before the commencement of the service, Mr. Henry Greenwood, organist, played a voluntary on the organ. The orchestra was well filled. The attendance at the service was large, the church being entirely filled, and the service, which was musical, was very effective.

The prayers were read by the Rev. J. B. Phillips, Prov. G. Prelate, and the lessons by the Rev. W. H. Orr. The sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. J. L. Figgins, Prov. G. Chap., who selected for his text Zachariah iv., part of the 7th verse—"And he shall bring forth the head-stone thereof with shoutings, crying grace, grace unto it." The preacher said there was no circumstance or event in human life in reference to which the infallible Word of the living God did not suggest something either for reproof, instruction, or comfort. He then proceeded, in an earnest and forcible address, to review the history of the Temple of Solomon, described its ancient splendour and the wondrous skill that had wrought its completion, and, tracing the later records of Christian efforts down to the present time, the rev. gentleman connected his subject with the interesting event which those who were present had met to celebrate. When he looked at the beautiful building in which they were assembled, and saw the graceful spire mounting upwards until its slight and tapering summit seemed as if it longed to kiss the stars above, he thought that this, too, was a glorious house, and a wonderful specimen of Masonic craft. In the course of his further observations the preacher intimated to the congregation that the immediate object of his address was to obtain additional funds towards the cost of the tower. He knew that with a Lancashire or Yorkshire audience the best way was to be straightforward and plain spoken, and he would not go a long round-about way of begging; that would be to insult his brethren (for charity was the distinguishing part

of their Order), and offend the parishioners of Walsden, but he would, however, tell them, that he wanted as much money as he could get; they were not to give merely what they could dispense with, but to act rather in the spirit of the widow who gave her all; and if the collection was not a good one, he should be disappointed. There was no place in the diocese that was entitled to more credit than Walsden, which had done itself honour in the erection of this handsome and spacious church, which had been rightly dedicated to St. Peter, because there was proved to have been a solid and substantial purpose in the hearts of the people. He had long thought the tower was sadly deficient; and on seeing it the other day he was gratified in finding that it was at length completed by the erection of the spire. He said there was one connected with that church whom he could not help but mention—the late John Crossley, Esq. He was when living high in Masonic office, and took a prominent interest in the erection of that church, but had been taken away before it was finished, or he was sure he would have been there. In health and sickness, he trusted those who came to that church might think of the spire as pointing towards heaven, and of Him who said, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Letters, apologising for their unavoidable absence were received from the Revs. Canon Raines, T. S. Mills, C. B. Holder, W. Mallinson, &c. The collections on the several occasions of the consecration of the church, inauguration of the organ, and dedication of the spire, have been £73 3s. 9d.; £38 12s.; and £37 18s. 6d.

Among the Masons present were Sir Knight Lawrence Newall, D. Prov. Commander of Lancashire; Rev. J. B. Phillips, Prov. G. Prelate; John Crossley, P.M., Prov. G.D. of West Yorkshire; J. Green, P.M. 288; Sir Knts. R. Veevers, Prov. G. Reg.; H. Lord Prov. G. Second Standard Bearer; O. Barker, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; J. A. Stansfield, Prov. G. Second Herald; Abraham Lord E.C.; and J. Blomley, P.E.C. St. John of Jerusalem Encampment, with a number of other Sir Knights; Rev. J. L. Figgins, Prov. G. Chap. E.L.; Bro. Roberts, P. Prov. G. Pursl. E.L.; and several other Royal Arch and Craft Masons. The weather, doubtless, prevented many being present.

After service, the band was in waiting to receive the Masonic procession, but owing to the drizzling rain it struck up a quick step, leaving the church by the west gate and proceeding to the Masonic Hall, Todmorden. An excellent tea was prepared in the school for visitors, and the scholars were treated with buns and coffee in the top room of Alma Mill, where they had ample space for enjoying themselves after the removal of the tables.

The brethren dined together at the Masonic Hall at five o'clock, under the presidency of Sir Knt. L. Newall. The dinner, which did great credit to the host, was provided by Bro. Copley, of the Queen Hotel, and, after the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. The president had to leave about eight o'clock, when the chair was taken by the Prov. G. Prelate, the Rev. J. B. Phillips, M.A., who ably discharged the duties of the office for the remainder of the evening.

#### LANCASHIRE (WEST).

GANSTON.—Lodge of Harmony (No. 220).—This lodge was opened at the Wellington Hotel, by the W.M., on July 4. This being the day to install the W.M. elect, Bro. Thomas Marsh was presented by Bros. C. J. Banister and Charles Leedham to the Installing Master, Bro. James Hamer, P.G. Treas., who installed him into the chair of K.S. The following brethren were invested officers for the year:—Bros. C. Leedham, I.P.M.; H. E. Seymour, S.W.; Thomas Gardner, J.W.; E. Pierpoint, Treas.; Banister, Sec.; Priest, S.D.; Kidson, J.D.; Syred, I.G.; Hamer, Dir. of Cers.; Pownell and Baker, Stewards; Robinson, Tyler. Mr. Solomon Hill and Mr. Thomas Rogers were initiated into the mysteries of the Order by the W.M. Business of the lodge over, it was closed in form. At the banquet the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. Bro. C. J. Banister, P.G.S.B., responded for the Grand Officers, the Rev. J. Duckley, Prov. G. Chap., for the Provincial Grand Lodge; Bro. John Pepper, P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers., for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire; Bro. Wylie, P. Prov. G.J.W., for the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution and the Masonic Charities; and in an excellent speech advocated the cause of each, and in conclusion proposed the health of the W.M., which was drunk with full

Masonic honours. The W.M. then proposed, in suitable terms, the health of Bro. Leedham, I.P.M., at the same time presenting him with a P.M.'s jewel from the brethren of the lodge, which was received and acknowledged in feeling terms by Bro. Leedham. Bro. H. E. Seymour, S.W., replied for the officers of the lodge in a very energetic speech. The newly-initiated were toasted, and both Bros. Rogers and Hill responded, expressing themselves much pleased with what they had seen that day. Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M., proposed the health of the visitors in a spirited speech, dilating upon the benefit of visiting lodges and seeing the difference in working, and, whenever they could, assisting, so that they might perfect themselves. He was glad to see so many visitors at their festival, and from the kindness he had received in the north, south, east, and west, could testify that they would each be received in the same fraternal way the Lodge 220 at all times welcomed brethren from other lodges. Drank with full Masonic honours. Bro. W. J. May, P.G. Steward, with his usual good humour, replied to the toast on behalf of Past Masters, Bros. Pepper, Gopel, Pierce, Johnson, Phillips, Pickering, and himself, thanking them for the entertainment. The last toast brought a delightful evening to a close at nine o'clock, over forty brethren being present.

#### NORTHUMBERLAND.

NORTH SHIELDS.—St. George's Lodge (No. 431).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, on Monday, the 4th inst., Bro. James P. Simpson, W.M., presiding, supported by his officers and a considerable number of brethren, amongst whom were Bros. J. W. Mayson, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W.; John G. Tulloch, P.M., Prov. J.G.W.; W. Twizell, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.W.; H. C. Hansen, P.M., Prov. J.G.D.; E. Shotton, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.D.; T. Haswell, Prov. G. Org. Northumberland; J. N. Buckland, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.D. Durham; Oliver, P.M. 240; Roddam, P.M. 240; G. Lawson, J.W. 240; Rev. T. E. Lord, 991, and several visitors. After the W.M. had, in his usual impressive manner, raised two brethren to the third degree, and initiated three gentlemen into the mysteries of Freemasonry, Bro. J. W. Mayson, on behalf of the members, in most eloquent and appropriate terms, presented a handsome silver inkstand and a gold mounted penholder to Bro. Twizell, in consideration of his services to the Craft, for which Bro. Twizell returned his thanks in feeling terms. After receiving propositions, the lodge was closed in due form.

#### WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM.—Athol Lodge (No. 74).—On Wednesday the 6th inst., this highly popular and influential lodge celebrated the Festival of St. John, according to ancient custom. There was a very large gathering, and among the principal visitors were Bros. C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M.; J. Stimpson, G. Org.; E. H. Kittoe, P. Prov. G. Chap.; J. Pursall, P. Prov. G.S.B.; Geo. Hudson, Prov. G.S.B.; A. MacCracken, Prov. G. Sec.; Capt. Hebbert, P.G. Reg.; S. W. Lynes, P.G. Reg.; George Dawson, 794; Thomas Bragg, P.M. 74 and 1,016; Rev. W. B. Smith, W.M. 301; C. Gem, J.W. 1,016; W. H. Sproston, W.M. 43; Mugeridge, W.M. 739; J. A. Best, P.M. 739. The W.M., Bro. Charles Lee, was well supported by his officers and upwards of seventy members of the lodge. After the usual routine business had been transacted, and three neophytes admitted into the mysteries of the Craft, the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. R. J. Horley, of the King's Head Hotel, Worcester-street. The business of the inner-man being attended to, the W.M., who was supported on his right by the distinguished brethren noted as visitors, proposed the usual Masonic and loyal toasts, accompanying each with a few well-meant and happily-phrased observations. Bro. C. W. Elkington, in responding to the health of Lord Leigh and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire, enlarged on the valuable example set to the kingdom in the sustenance of the four charities by the Warwickshire lodges, and particularly the Athol, and declared that the high position of the various schools was mainly attributable to the open-handed liberality of the lodges under the presidency of his lordship, and to his lordship undertaking the chairmanship of the Charities so readily and effectually. Bro. Elkington proposed "The Health of the W.M. of the Athol," and eulogised him as an example in Masonry, as ruling a lodge of 130 members, with a judgment not excelled within his knowledge, remarking that the extraordinary spread of Freemasonry of late was an unanswerable argument for the desirability of

Provincial Grand Lodge exercising its power of giving brevet rank to the numerous brethren who otherwise would never attain Grand Lodge honours. The toast of the newly-initiated was responded to by Bro. Wyatt, of the London and North-Western Station, who, in a neat speech, avowed his confidence in the ameliorating tendencies of the tenets of the Order to which he had been admitted. Bros. George Dawson and E. H. Kittoe, both of the Warden Lodge, responded to the toast of the Visitors, and each in their special manner descanted on the privileges of the Order and the peculiar advantages a Mason possessed of doing good. The other toasts of the evening were supplemented very properly by thanks to Bro. Horley, who had catered so admirably on the occasion. The musical arrangements were under the management of Bro. W. Glydon, who, aided by various brethren, rendered the evening most enjoyable in the musical way. Bro. French kindly placed an excellent piano at the service of the lodge. Bro. Halmshaw presided at the organ, and aided most effectually in the important ceremonies of the day. Bro. Thomas Bragg, P.M. of this lodge, has been appointed one of the directors of the Masonic Hall and Club Company (Limited)—a popular undertaking just launched by the Craft in Birmingham.

**THE BIRMINGHAM MASONIC HALL AND CLUB COMPANY, LIMITED.**—The adjourned meeting of this company was held at the Masonic Hall on Monday, the 4th inst. The report of the scrutineers, Bros. W. C. McEntee, John P. Phillips, and J. A. Langford, was presented. The following is the list of the directors elected:—C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M.; W. Biggs, Leigh; T. Bell Fletcher, Light; S. Lloyd Foster, Howe; B. W. Goode, Howe; R. Dawson, Howe; W. H. Sproston, St. Paul's; W. Holliday Light; T. Bragg, Athol; J. S. Benson, Grosvenor; Sir J. Ratcliff, Faithful; and E. Hooper, St. James's, Staffordshire.

#### WESTMORELAND.

**KENDAL.**—*Union Lodge* (No. 129).—This lodge was opened on Friday, July 8th, at the Mechanics' Institution, by Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M., Prov. G.S.B. (in the absence of the W.M.), assisted by the officers of the lodge. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. A candidate was initiated into the mysteries of the Order, by the Acting W.M., and a brother passed to the degree of Fellow-craft also by him with great care; Bro. Horn, P.M., acting as Deacon, and explaining the working tools. The lecture on each tracing board was delivered by the Acting W.M., and a vote of thanks recorded on the minutes to him, for his great kindness in coming to assist them that day. Several gentlemen were proposed for initiation. This lodge, which for so long remained dormant, is now coming into full vigour.

**PRESENTATION TO BRO. J. M. HARMAN.**—On Wednesday, July 13th, there was a large muster at the Hercules Pillars, Great Queen-street, of those connected with the Freemasons' Tavern, for the purpose of making a presentation to Bro. J. M. Harman, head waiter at the Freemasons' Tavern. Mr. Winslade in the chair, and Mr. Coppock as vice-president. The testimonial consisted of a very handsome gold chronometer and massive watch guard, value 50 guineas, and a silver tea and coffee service, also of 50 guineas value. The chronometer was made by Bro. Baab, of Gerard-street, watchmaker to Her Majesty. Inside the cover was the following inscription:—“Presented to Mr. J. M. Harman by his friends connected with the Freemasons' Tavern, for his valuable services during the past eighteen years. July 13th, 1864.” The company was very numerous, and several speeches were made, and some excellent songs sung.

**DRAINAGE OF FREEMASONS' HALL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.**—The minutes of the Board of Works for St. Giles' District state that at the last meeting of the Board a letter from the Secretary of the Society of Freemasons was read, agreeing to contribute one-half of the expense of constructing a new sewer in New-yard, Great Queen-street, provided the amount to be paid by the Society did not exceed £150.

#### ROYAL ARCH.

##### STAFFORDSHIRE.

#### CONSECRATION OF THE ABBEY CHAPTER (No. 624), BURTON-ON-TRENT.

This ceremony took place on Wednesday, June 29th, in the presence of a numerous assemblage of Royal Arch Masons from the various chapters in Staffordshire and Derbyshire. The chapter was opened by M.E. Comps. Dr. Burton, P.Z. 539, P.G.J. Staffordshire, as Z; Frank James, P.Z. 539, as H.; and Lynes, H. 539, as J. The companions having been admitted, the members of the new chapter were arranged in proper order. The acting Z. addressed them on the nature of the meeting, and called on the acting Scribe E. to relate the proceedings and wishes of the petitioners, also the warrant for the new chapter, which having been done, he presented to the acting Z. the principals nominated therein, viz., M.E. Comps. Thomas James, P.Z. 419, 539, as Z.; Horton Yates, P.Z. 460, as H.; Michael Arthur Bass, as J.

The acting Z. then delivered very impressively the following prayer:—“Almighty and Supreme Governor and Ruler of heaven and earth, who is there in heaven but Thee? Thy omniscient mind brings all things in review. Thine omnipotent arm directs the movements of the vast creation. Thine omnipresent eye pervades the secret recess of every heart. Thy boundless beneficence supplies us with every comfort and enjoyment; and Thine imperishable perfection and glory surpass the understandings of the children of men. From Thy unapproachable loftiness, deign we pray Thee to look down favourably upon our solemn rite, that men may know that Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the Most High over all the earth. So mote it be.”

The following oration was delivered by E. Comp. Synes as J.:—“Companions, we are here to-day to consecrate a Royal Arch Chapter, and install new Principals, and it is in conformity with ancient custom that the practical lessons to be deduced from these circumstances should be pointedly put before you. This may be shortly done by remembering that all here must have been for twelve months and upwards enjoying the privileges of Master Masons, and thereby have become practically acquainted with those exalted lessons of morality so well laid down in the Craft degrees. It is, therefore, only necessary to call your attention to what may be further advanced in this the Supreme Royal Arch degree, or culmination of the Master Mason's degree. As through the Craft degrees you have been admitted to a knowledge of the principles of moral truth and virtue, the mysteries of nature and science, and the contemplation of the end of all human efforts, so now, typically under the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the discovery of the sacred, of the true, and living God Most High, you are introduced to a more holy and intimate contemplation of that future state of existence, in which the great I Am will stand revealed to our view. Such lofty thoughts must strike all but the most inveterate mind with awe, and lead us to the contemplation of our lives here, with a view to our fitness for a life hereafter of perfect happiness. Pray receive these suggestions, companions, and store up in your hearts the precious contemplations which naturally arise from them. May the true and living God Most High give you grace to profit by the promptings of purified hearts, and enable you to dedicate your lives to His service and the welfare of your fellow-creatures, and, finally, to receive you into His divine presence.”

A solemn voluntary was played on the harmonium by M.E. Comp. Winson, P.Z. 460, during which the Acting Z. walked slowly round the chapter, sprinkling corn, and saying, “When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, ye shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord to be accepted for you. This corn I sprinkle as an emblem of plenty.”

The Acting H. sprinkled wine saying, “And thou shalt bring for a drink offering, half an hin of wine for an offering of a sweet savour unto the Lord, and if a stranger sojourn with you, as ye do so shall he do, one law and one manner shall be for you and for the stranger that sojourneth with you. This wine I pour as an emblem of prosperity.”

The Acting J. sprinkled oil saying, “And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment and thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith. This oil I pour as an emblem of unanimity and brotherly love.”

The Acting Z. having blessed the chapter, the Acting J. took

the censer and perambulated the chapter, saying, "And Aaron shall burn sweet incense therein every evening, a perpetual incense unto the Lord throughout your generations."

The Acting Z. then gave the invocation, and dedicated and constituted the chapter.

M.E. Comp. Dr. Burton installed Comp. Thos. James as M.E.Z. of the new chapter.

The M.E.Z. installed Comp. Horton Yates as H., and Comp. M. Arthur Bass as J.

The following members of the Abbey Lodge were balloted for and elected, and, being in attendance, were exalted as Royal Arch Masons, viz., Bros. John Matthews, Frederick J. Thompson, Richard M. Mayberry, Alex. Hutton, John Anderson, Lewis F. Day, John A. Bindley, Frederick Gretton, George J. Mitchell, William Ferguson, Thomas Hancock, Richard Mayger, William J. Drury, Robert Lane as Janitor (by dispensation from the M.E.P.G. Supt. Col. Vernon). The duties of Principal Soj. were performed by Comp. Frank James, in a most efficient manner.

The officers for the ensuing year were elected and the chapter closed.

The companions adjourned to the White Hart Hotel and partook of a banquet, which was served in a most admirable manner by Bro. Kendall.

After the cloth was drawn, the M.E.Z. said that in consequence of the numerous visitors having to leave by early trains, he should be very brief in his remarks to the various toasts; he was quite sure the members of this new chapter would drink with the loyalty that characterised all Masonic meetings, "The Health of the Queen."

The M.E.Z. proposed "The Three Grand Principals of the Order."

The M.E.Z. then gave "The Prov. G. Supt. of Staffordshire, Col. Vernon, and the Officers of the Provincial Grand Chapter." He said that in Staffordshire it only required the name of Col. Vernon to be mentioned to insure its most hearty reception. He was respected and esteemed by every Mason in the province, and it was a matter of universal regret that his reign over them was so soon about to terminate. Of the Provincial Grand Officers, generally, they had seen very little in that capacity, as there had been but one meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter since they were appointed; but they had one amongst them that day, to whom they were under great obligations—the Prov. G.J., Dr. Burton; he had taken great interest in the formation of this chapter, and they had seen the very able manner in which he had consecrated it.

Comp. Dr. BURTON, in acknowledging the toast, said he did not know that the Provincial Grand Officers had done anything to merit their thanks; what he had that day done he considered only a duty, but which he had performed with pleasure. He should certainly recommend the newly-appointed Provincial Grand Master to hold more frequent meetings of the Provincial Grand Chapter, as he considered there was as much benefit to be derived from the gatherings of Royal Arch Masons as there was in the Craft.

The M.E.Z. proposed "The Visitors," amongst whom were several distinguished Masons; he thanked them for the countenance they had given to this new chapter, and assured them in the name of its members of a hearty and cordial reception on all occasions. He begged especially to mention one who had that day rendered such great services. He had seen the working of many chapters in various parts of the country, but he had never seen any companion discharge the duties of Principal Sojourner in a more masterly style than Comp. Frank James, who had, on that occasion, materially assisted them by performing that part in the ceremony of exalting fourteen candidates. He begged to couple his name with that toast.

Comp. FRANK JAMES returned thanks, and said it would at all times give him the greatest pleasure to render them any assistance in his power.

Comp. Dr. BURTON said the toast he had to propose was a most important one. On the health of the M.E.Z. the prosperity of that chapter materially depended. He had seen Comp. Thomas James in that capacity in two other chapters, and could assure the members of the Abbey Chapter that they could not have made a better selection. He did not know any one more qualified to be at the head of affairs in a new chapter; they had worked together, shoulder to shoulder, for many years in Masonry, and he had never found less individuality, and more

abnegation of self, than in that companions—qualities, he lamented to say, now becoming rare in the Craft.

The M.E.Z. thanked the companions for the cordial manner in which they had drunk his health. Dr. Burton had spoken of him in too flattering a manner; but this he could assure them, that no exertions on his part should be wanting to render this chapter, in due course of time, second to none. The qualifications of those brethren who had that day been exalted were of so high a character, socially and Masonically, that he considered his duties in that respect would be very easy. Before he sat down, he begged to propose the health of those who were associated with him in the government of the chapter, and must congratulate himself in having the assistance of such able coadjutors. They had seen the manner in which Comp. Horton Yates had discharged the duties of his office, and which would convince them that when the time should arrive for him to fill the office of Z., they might fairly calculate on having a most efficient ruler. Of the merits of Comp. Arthur Bass, it would be unnecessary to say much in the presence of Burton Masons. They all knew his good qualities, and his superior working in Craft Masonry. There was one circumstance in connection with the establishment of that chapter which he would wish to mention, and which not only evinced the extreme modesty of Comp. Bass, but also the true Masonic spirit which at all times actuated him. In the formation of a new chapter it was not necessary that the First Principal should have filled either of the other chairs; it was therefore competent for him to be appointed to that position, but which, when offered to him, he at once declined, as he considered he ought to work his way regularly up to the highest office. With the knowledge of this fact, they might rest assured that it was his intention to make himself thoroughly master of the duties of the several chairs. He was seeking honours in another sphere, but if he showed so much modesty there, he must not calculate on success. (Laughter.) The M.E.Z. then proposed "The Second and Third Principals."

Comp. ARTHUR BASS, J., responded in most eloquent terms. It had long been his wish to see a chapter attached to the Abbey Lodge, and this day his desire had been fully gratified. The number of brethren of that lodge who had become members of the chapter confirmed him in his opinion that such a step would be successful.

The M.E.Z. proposed "The newly-exalted Companions," to which Comp. MATTHEWS responded. Also "The Officers of the Chapter," which was acknowledged by Comp. TOMERSON, E.

The companions separated at nine o'clock, highly gratified with the proceedings of the day.

The furniture and regalia of the chapter, which was supplied by Bro. Thomas James, Walsall, is exceedingly chaste and handsome, and was universally admired.

#### DORSETSHIRE.

WIMBORNE MINSTER.—*St. Cuthberga Chapter* (No. 622).—The opening and consecration of this new chapter, attached to Lodge St. Cuthberga (No. 622), took place on Monday, the 11th inst., the following companions being present:—J. Jacob, P. Prov. G.H.; J. Bosworth, M.E.Z. 170; J. Style, P.Z.; G. R. Crickmay, J. Maunders, P.Z.; S. Bailey, W. Smith, A. Cornelions, W. Low, W. B. Rogers, C. R. Rowe, H. Ward, A. Mason, S. Davis, W. Collect, G. H. J. Haldane, R. G. Newington, W. Bryant, and others. The chapter was opened by Comp. Bosworth, M.E.Z., in ancient and solemn form. Three candidates for exaltation were then exalted in Comp. Bosworth's usual impressive manner. The ceremony of consecration was then preceded with by Comp. Jacob, P. Prov. G.H., as M.E.Z., supported by the above companions, who performed the same in a most impressive manner to the admiration of all present; after which a solemn conclave was formed, and Comp. C. R. Rowe duly installed as the M.E.Z., Comp. W. Lowe as H. Comp. Kerridge being unavoidably absent, his installation as J. was postponed. The chapter was then closed in solemn form. The newly-installed M.E.Z., Comp. Rowe, then entertained the companions present to a banquet. After the usual toasts, the M.E.Z., in proposing the toast of "The Weymouth Companions," returned his thanks for their kindness in coming to dedicate the chapter of St. Cuthberga, and especially to Comp. Jacob for the manner in which he had conducted the ceremony. It was one he felt sure would not be forgotten by any present. Comp. Bosworth replied in an admirable speech, and after spending a very happy evening the companions separated.

## INDIA.

(From the Indian Freemasons' Friend.)

## CALCUTTA.

LODGE HUMILITY WITH FORTITUDE (No. 229).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 4th April. The W.M., Bro. J. B. Gillon, presided, and was supported by Bros. F. Jennings and W. H. Hoff, P.M.'s, while Bros. J. W. Beatson and E. Symonds filled the chairs in the west and south. Several other brethren were present; and among the visitors we noticed Bro. E. R. A. Hoff, who was S.W. of this lodge in 1854, and is at present a member of Lodge Morning Star at Lucknow. The business of the evening was shown in the summons to be an initiation and a passing; but it was postponed, and the quarterly report of the Permanent Committee was taken into consideration. After some discussion, relief was granted to the widows of two Masons. The meeting was rendered peculiarly interesting by the circumstance (unfortunately for the lodge) that several of the members were about to leave Calcutta, and that they had met for the last time until it should please the Great Architect of the Universe to bring them together again. Among those who were thus about to part was Bro. Jennings who had steadily supported the lodge for many years. He had obtained leave from the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to proceed to England, and as it appeared a fitting opportunity for the brethren to make some demonstration in recognition of his services, Bro. W. H. Hoff himself bound for Simla, who had been temporarily entrusted by the Master with the hiram, called upon the brethren to charge their glasses, and addressed them in the following terms:—"Brethren,—I am perhaps the worst person in the world to undertake the task of rousing enthusiasm in others by an eloquent speech; but on the present occasion I am favoured by two circumstances, which will compensate for all deficiencies. In the first place, I am fortunate in the subject of my remarks, and feel myself in the position of some author like Robert Montgomery, who, in choosing some such mighty personage as Satan as the hero of the poem, knows that he commences with a great start in the race for sublimity, which he would not have if his *dramatis personæ* consisted only of such prosaic individuals as Ben Battle and Nelly Gray (whose luckless fate has just been sung so dolefully to us by the brother to my right). Comparing great things with small, the subject of my remarks is to this lodge what the bow-wow heroes of history are to the world at large; and he is regarded by the members of the lodge with a degree of interest which ensures a hearty reception of the toast I am about to propose. What need, therefore, for eloquence? I allude to our Right Worshipful Bro. Jennings, (Loud applause.) The second circumstance by which I am favoured is, that there is only one person in this room who knows more about Bro. Jennings' Masonic career than I, and that is Bro. Jennings himself. It is for this reason, I think, that the W.M. has entrusted the hiram to me, instead of retaining it himself for this particular duty. Bro. Jennings became a Mason in the year 1843, and of those who thronged the lodges at that time, he is, perhaps, the only one now remaining in active connection with the Craft in Calcutta. Bros. A. Broome, Dr. F. J. Mouat, and V. H. Schaleh are also Masons of old stamp; but they are not now actively connected with the Craft. Such are the fluctuations of society in India; whereas in England it is not an uncommon thing to find brethren who have been members of a lodge for forty and fifty years. I have myself known Bro. Jennings since the year 1848; and there are three circumstances connected with his Masonic career which I wish to bring specially to your notice. In the year that I became acquainted with him, I was about to proceed to the upper provinces, and was anxious to take my third degree; but the master of my lodge (the weakest in Calcutta, which was the reason that my father got me to join it) was prevented by sickness from conferring it upon me. In this emergency, Bro. Jennings, at that time Master of the Anchor and Hope, the strongest lodge in Calcutta, came to our aid, and completed that which made me a perfect Craft Mason. That is a sufficient reason why I should ever bear him in recollection. Some years afterwards, when my father became Master of this lodge for the sixth or seventh time, and the lodge was in a very attenuated state, Bros. Jennings and Monteith promptly strengthened his hands by having themselves transferred from the list of honorary to that of subscribing members. That is a very gratifying circumstance for me and my brother, Edward Hoff, here present, to remember. Some

years passed by, and, during the mutiny, I became Master of this lodge; but I had not held the hiram more than one month when I had to proceed again to the upper provinces, leaving the lodge in an exceedingly weak condition. When I was about to return to Calcutta I was asked whether I would stand for re-election. But I had heard that Bro. Jennings considered it a greater object of ambition to be the Master of that weak lodge than of any other lodge, and it struck me very forcibly that a brother who would take up the hiram in such a spirit was more likely than any one else to promote its interests. I declined to stand for re-election, and when I returned to Calcutta I found the lodge flourishing under the hiram of Bro. Jennings, and that men like our late Bro. Henry and our highly-esteemed Bro. Knight were members of it. To them also we owe the amiable and modest brother who now holds the hiram. Brethren, without further preamble, I call upon you to drink to the health of Bro. Jennings, with the expression of our hope that he may reach England in safety and return to us in renovated health. The toast having been drunk with all the honours, Bro. Jennings rose and returned thanks for the compliment which had been so unexpectedly and cordially paid to him. The health of the Worshipful Master was proposed by Bro. Jennings, who hoped he would walk in the steps of his worthy predecessors, especially of Bro. J. J. L. Hoff, on whom he passed a high eulogium. The W.M. himself proposed the health of his officers.

LODGE INDUSTRY AND PERSEVERANCE.—Regular meeting held on Friday, the 18th March, 1864, at the Scotch Masonic Hall, No. 10, Sudder-street. Presiding, Bro. John William Brown, I.P.M. The absence of the W.M., owing to domestic affliction, was alluded to by Bro. Brown, and the Secretary was requested to record the regret of the brethren. Messrs. P. Dermomet and A. Willes were elected by ballot, and the latter being present, was initiated by the presiding Master. Bro. John P. Pierce, initiated some time back, was passed to the Craftsman's degree by Bro. Powell. The presiding Master spoke in feeling terms of the lamented death of his Grace the Duke of Athole, Grand Master Mason of Scotland. Bro. Brown's remarks were followed by an address from our esteemed Past Master, Bro. C. T. Davis, and it was resolved that an expression of deep regret, on the death of the duke, should be recorded. Bro. Baker, a Scottish Mason, one of the earliest members of the Worshipful Lodge Saint David in the East (No. 371 of Scotland), in acknowledging this tribute to departed merit, said he would take an early opportunity of informing his lodge of what he had just witnessed.

LODGE SAINT JOHN.—A meeting of this lodge was held at No. 10, Sudder-street, on Saturday, the 26th March. E. W. Pittar, W.M. The following candidates were initiated:—John Alexander Imlay and William Edward Taprell. Bros. A. L. Briant and J. P. Pierce were raised to the third degree, the latter on account of the sister Lodge 109. Bro. C. Collingwood, of Lodge 371 of Scotland, was elected a member, and Bro. A. R. Hall, H.M. 57th Regiment, was proposed for election at the next meeting.

## PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

## ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

In addition to "The Pyramid" and "The Bard and his Birthday," now too well known to require any further notice, a very admirable little piece has been added to the repertoire of this delightful place of amusement—Mr. John Parry's new descriptive story entitled the "Sea-side; or Mrs. Roseleaf Out of Town." The materials of this trifle are not very astounding, but the introduction, a saline symphony, composed of the following marine melodies, "O, 'tis pleasant to float on the sea," "What are the Wild Waves saying?" "Over the Sea," "The Deep, Deep Sea," "The Sea," "The Bay of Biscay," "Sailor's horn-pipe," &c., enables Mr. Parry to display his powers as a pianist, and to delight his audience. His representations of Colonel Roseleaf, Florence (aged five and a half), the Cat, Mrs. Lucker, the bathing woman, and, indeed, of the motley population which generally abounds at bathing places, is inimitable—all done (excepting in the case of the organ-man and his monkey) without change of dress or leaving the stage. Mr. Parry represents a dozen individualities in his own dress-coat, black trousers, and boots, relying solely on his facilities for varying voice, and suiting himself to the peculiarities of the several parties represented, and it is scarcely necessary to say with what immense success. This little trifle is a great success, and adds greatly to the attractions of the Gallery of Illustration

### Obituary.

(From the *Indian Freemasons' Friend*.)

#### THE LATE BRO. J. C. SMITH, OF SINGAPORE.

Having received no communication for a considerable time from our Singapore correspondent, Bro. John Colson Smith, we were induced to make enquires regarding him, and have heard with deep regret that he died many months ago. The following is the account we have received of the circumstances connected with his demise:—"Poor Brother Smith is now no more. He left Singapore on the 8th December, 1862, in a shattered state of health, for England, having obtained leave of absence for twelve months on sick certificate. On approaching Mauritius, the ship in which he had embarked, the *Ethereal*, encountered a cyclone. Some vessels from Calcutta were lost; but the *Ethereal*, being a fine ship, and ably commanded, weathered the storm, and reached Port Louis in safety. Bro. Smith's debility, however, and the disease from which he had been suffering acutely for years, were greatly increased from his sufferings during the gale. He was carried on shore, and although a stranger, he was visited by the Bishop and other officials, and was very kindly cared for by all who, during his short sojourn on the island, had made his acquaintance. He landed on the 12th February, and expired on the 12th March. He was the founder of Masonry in Singapore, and in truth was the keystone of the institution here for seventeen years. According to his dying request, he was buried in Masonic form. The following is a list of Bro. Smith's Masonic titles:—M.M.; R.A.; K.T.; K.M.; K.R.C.; P.M. of Lodge Neptune (No. 441), Prince of Wales Island; P.M. of Lodge Zetland in the East, (No. 748); and of Lodge Fidelity (No. 1,042), Singapore; P.M.E.Z. of Chapter Dalhousie (No. 748); and D. Prov. G.M. of the Eastern Archipelago. Bro. Smith was initiated in 1825, at Madras, in the Horse Artillery Barracks on St. Thomas's Mount, so that at the time of his death he had been 37 years a Mason. At one time he was a Master of one lodge and Inner Guard of another, and performed the duties of both offices to the satisfaction of the brethren.

### Poetry.

#### ODE TO THE CUCKOO.

LOGAN.

Hail, beautiful stranger of the grove!  
Thou messenger of spring!  
Now Heaven repairs thy rural seat,  
And woods thy welcome sing.

What time the daisy decks the green,  
Thy certain voice we hear;  
Hast thou a star to guide thy path,  
Or mark the rolling year?

Delightful visitant! with thee  
I hail the time of flowers,  
And hear the sound of music sweet  
From birds among the bowers.

The schoolboy, wandering through the wood  
To pull the primrose gay,  
Starts, the new voice of Spring to hear,  
And imitates thy lay.

What time the pea puts on the bloom,  
Thou fliest thy vocal vale,  
An annual guest in other lands,  
Another Spring to hail.

Sweet bird! thy bower is ever green,  
Thy sky is ever clear;  
Thou hast no sorrow in thy song,  
No winter in thy year!

O could I fly, I'd fly with thee!  
We'd make, with joyful wing,  
Our annual visit o'er the globe,  
Companions of the Spring.

### THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and the junior members of the Royal Family are at Osborne. On Friday and Saturday last the Prince and Princess of Wales were at the Eton and Harrow cricket match. On Monday the Prince took the Freedom of the Clothworkers' Company, and afterwards went to the rifle contest at Wimbledon, which he has since visited almost daily. The Queen has addressed a communication to the directors of the Royal Horticultural Society expressing the pleasure she derived from her recent visit to the gardens, which in their improved condition are admirably calculated to carry out the objects for which they were designed by the late Prince Consort. By her Majesty's command the birthday of his Royal Highness, the 26th of August, is henceforth to be observed as a holiday at the gardens, on which day free admission will be offered to all visitors.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS, on Thursday, the 7th inst., a number of bills advanced a stage.—On Friday, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was present in the House of Lords, and her Royal Highness the Princess sat in the gallery on the left hand of the House.—The Earl of Malmesbury moved, with reference to the Conference, "That it is the opinion of this House that, while the course pursued by her Majesty's Government has failed to maintain their avowed policy of upholding the integrity and independence of Denmark, it has lowered the just influence of this country in the councils of Europe, and thereby diminished the securities for peace." In introducing the question, he regretted the absence, through indisposition, of the Earl of Derby. To him the noble earl's absence was naturally greater, as he had to represent him personally, and move what would have been undertaken by the noble earl himself. Respecting a remark made by Mr. Layard in the other House asserting that Earl Russell was only carrying out the policy set on foot by the speaker when in office, he asked that evidence, if in existence, of the alleged fact should be produced. Referring to the question that had been asked as to what was the Conservative policy, it was impossible for them to define what they would do when it was impossible to say in what circumstances they would be. The same question might be put to the Government. What would they do if they were in Opposition? There is no doubt if the positions were changed that they would turn the Conservatives out as soon as possible. (Laughter.) He did not say that it would be wise now to go to war; but he was prepared to say that there was a moment when, if the Government had taken a strong tone and made a strong demonstration, war would have been averted. That was not his opinion alone. He had heard such an opinion expressed by Germans and by others fully competent to judge. He said that, before he sat down, he should be able to prove to their lordships that such was the case. He proposed to show that the Government had brought all this upon themselves. The debate was continued by Lord Brougham, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Chelmsford, the Marquis of Clanricarde, Lord Wodehouse, and others. At the conclusion, a division took place which gave the Government a majority of four, on which the Opposition called for proxies, when they had a majority of nine—the total numbers being, for the motion 177, of which 58 were proxies, and against 168, of which 45 were proxies.—On Monday, Lord Ebury moved for a Royal Commission to inquire into the expediency of relieving the clergy from the obligation to use the Burial Office "indiscriminately." The Primate agreed to the motion, although he could not sanction all the changes proposed by the noble lord. His grace also stated that he had

no objection to an inquiry into another ecclesiastical grievance, the use of the Apocryphal writings in the service of the Church. The Bishop of London suggested that the matter should be left in the hands of the Government, and, after a few remarks from Lord Granville and other peers, the motion was withdrawn.—Several bills were advanced a stage.—On Tuesday, Lord Russell, in reply to a question from Lord Shaftesbury, said he had received information from Berlin assuring the Government that the reported massacre of 400 Swedish volunteers at Alsen was a pure fiction. The noble earl added that the Danish loss in killed in the retreat from Alsen did not amount to more than 400 men. Lord Shaftesbury said it was expected at Berlin that he should apologise for the remarks he made when he first called attention to the report of the murder of the Swedes; but, considering the general character of the proceedings of the Prussians, he did not think that they had anything to complain of.—Several measures were advanced a stage.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, the 7th inst., the adjourned debate on Denmark and Germany was resumed by Mr. Layard, who justified the administration of foreign affairs by the department of which he is the organ, and spoke at great length in vindication of the Secretary of State, against whom he said the attack of the Opposition was almost exclusively directed, and who had been greatly misrepresented and wrongfully accused upon garbled and falsified extracts from despatches. Mr. G. Hardy indignantly repudiated the charge that the Opposition had garbled and falsified the extracts they had quoted from the despatches, and pronounced the statement a calumny. This remark had hardly escaped the hon. gentleman's lips, when Mr. Layard sprung to his feet, and amid the cheers of the Ministerialists, demanded that the words imputing calumny to him should be taken down. A "scene" then ensued of a highly exciting character. The Speaker intimated that he saw no reason for calling upon Mr. Hardy to retract. Lord Palmerston rushed to the aid of his lieutenant, and condemned the language of Mr. Hardy as disorderly and censurable. This elicited a retort from Mr. Disraeli, that the Under Secretary was guilty of an unparliamentary and indecorous exhibition, and that Mr. Hardy had a perfect right to describe his language as calumnious. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir John Pakington successively interposed, but the effect was the reverse of that which is produced by throwing oil on the troubled waters. At length Mr. Bernal Osborne rose, and put it with all the gravity of which he is capable, whether the House was not imperilling its "just influence in the councils of Europe," by allowing hon. members to get up and endeavour to overrule the decision of the Speaker. A slight lull in the uproar gave the Speaker an opportunity of hinting that the language used on both sides had somewhat exceeded the ordinary rules of debate; but from what he knew of Mr. Hardy he was sure that hon. gentleman did not mean to impute motives. Under the circumstances, however, it was not necessary that he should interfere; and after what had occurred he trusted the harmony with which their debates were usually conducted would be restored. Regret was expressed by Mr. Layard at having used the word "falsification," mutual explanations followed, and Mr. Hardy then resumed his speech, and the debate was continued to a late hour, and again adjourned.—On Friday, Mr. B. Osborne resumed the adjourned debate. Having referred to the proceedings at the Conference, in the course of which he described the proceedings as a combination of blarney and bluster, and he ridiculed the statement that had been made as an interchange of ideas between the plenipotentiaries at the Conference, but what these ideas were which rendered an interchange he did not pretend to understand. He

said that this country was most fortunate in being relieved from the responsibility of the guarantee proposed by the obstinacy of Denmark. The position of the noble lord at the head of the Government was most anomalous, for while his home policy was that of stagnation, his foreign policy was progressive and pugnacious. The policy of the Government had been that of injudicious interference. The Danish Government had not attempted to help them. Mr. Whiteside contended that after the debate that had taken place the house must vote for the motion, although they might the next moment vote that they had no confidence in the members of the Opposition side of the House. He then referred to the correspondence that had taken place on the subject, and compared the conduct and policy of Mr. Canning with that of Earl Russell, and pointed out that the former would not interfere in foreign matters unless the Government was prepared to support its council and advice by active operations in the event of its being rejected. That had not been the policy of Earl Russell, for he had interfered, and his interference had been repulsed by Austria and Prussia, and submitted to with humiliation by this country. He denied that the Opposition was an accomplice in the crime with which the Government was charged, because they were in ignorance of the despatches which were being carried on; but if they had remained silent after those facts came to their knowledge then they would have to consider whether the conduct of the Government had lowered the influence of this country in the councils of Europe, and if they were satisfied that it had they must support the motion, which he was sure would be ratified by the approving voice of an indignant country. Mr. Monsell contended that the Opposition was equally responsible with the Government for what had occurred, because they were the first to sound the trumpet of war. The hon. member defended the policy of the Government, and declared his intention to support them. Mr. B. Cochrane maintained that the meddling conduct of Earl Russell had been most mischievous to the interests of Denmark, as it had been one of the first to suggest the dismemberment of Denmark. Lord Palmerston rose at a few minutes to twelve, and defended the course pursued by the Government, followed by Mr. Disraeli in reply, and the House divided, when there appeared for the original motion 295, against it 313, giving the Government a majority of 18.—On Monday, Mr. Lefevre gave notice of a motion relative to the recent proceedings of Convocation, and Mr. Dillwyn intimated that he intended to postpone his resolution respecting the Irish Church until next session.—Mr. O'Hagan withdrew his bill for reforming the Irish Court of Chancery—a measure which had provoked much opposition on the part of the Irish Tory lawyers.—Mr. Ferrand complained of the state of the reservoirs belonging to the water companies in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire—especially those belonging to Bradford—and urged that it was the duty of the Government to have these works carefully inspected, and to compel the proprietors to maintain them in a secure and efficient state. Sir George Grey said that Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. Hawkshaw, and Mr. Beardmore had declared that it was impossible by inspection to guarantee the security of such works, and the Government must decline to undertake a duty which it could not adequately discharge, and which would have the effect of relieving waterworks companies of their legal responsibility. After some remarks from Mr. W. E. Forster, the subject dropped. Her Majesty's reply to the address relating to the Conference was brought down by Lord Proby and read. It stated that her Majesty regretted the unsuccessful termination of the Conference, but that she [received] with satisfaction the assurance that the

House approved the policy of non-interference by force of arms which the Government had adopted.—On Tuesday, Mr. Harcastle asked whether the Brazilian Government had fulfilled their obligations with regard to Africans captured by British ships of war and liberated by the Mixed Commission at Rio. Mr. Bright and Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald urged the repeal of the Aberdeen Act, which authorises the capture of Brazilian slavers by British cruisers, but Lord Palmerston opposed such a measure, contending that it would be followed by the revival of the horrible traffic which the act was designed to suppress.—In reply to a question from Mr. Baillie Cochrane, Mr. Milner Gibson said it might be possible by legislation to compel railway companies to introduce some machinery by which passengers could communicate with the guards; but he doubted the expediency of bringing in a bill on the subject.—The House was counted out at a quarter-past seven o'clock.—On Wednesday, the orders of the day for the second reading of the Superior Courts of Common Law Bill, and for the committal of the Court of Queen's Bench (Ireland) Bill, and of the Married Woman's Acknowledgments Bill, were discharged. Mr. Bouverie, in moving the second reading of the Uniformity Act Amendment Bill, observed that the bill was very brief and simple in its provisions, its purpose being to repeal certain portions of the Act of Uniformity which required assent and subscription on the part of those who aspired to hold fellowships in the universities. By an act passed in the year 1856 it was provided that as regarded all degrees, excepting those of a theological character, no declaration should be required. He asked the House to repeal this provision, because it was unjust to the large and influential body of Protestant Non-conformists, and because it was injurious to the universities as well as to the Church of England. Mr. Walpole moved that the bill be read a second time that day three months. The result of the adoption of this measure would be to draw away from secular education that foundation of religious instruction upon which the education of the country stood, and upon which the country was determined that it should continue to stand. Upon a division the bill was rejected by a majority of 56, there being for the second reading 101, against it 157.—Sir W. Heathcote moved the second reading of the Scottish Episcopal Clergy Disabilities Removal Bill. The hon. baronet contended that the present state of the law was quite anomalous, and he trusted that the House would assent to this bill, the provisions of which had been carefully considered and sifted by an important committee of the House of Lords. After some discussion the bill was read a second time. Several bills were then withdrawn, and others advanced a stage.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The health of the metropolis is always affected at this season of the year by diarrhoea, and this disease figures largely in the Registrar General's report as contributing to the mortality of last week. Measles also are prevalent, especially in the east end of the town. The deaths from all causes during the week amounted to 1,268, which is about 100 higher than the corrected averages of the last ten years. The deaths for the quarter past are more than a thousand in excess of the aggregate for any of the last three corresponding quarters. The births for the week were 1,786, which was about 90 in excess of the average.—Mr. Maclure's very cheerful report for June receives further illustration from Mr. Purdy's statement of the amount of pauperism in the cotton manufacturing unions in the past week of the present month. Fifteen unions exhibited a decrease of 1,840 paupers; four remain without any change of number; and two show a total increase of 160—therefore, leaving a net diminution for the whole dis-

trict of 1,680. Ashton-under-Lyne union relieved 810; Burnley union, 250; and Preston union 400 fewer persons than in the last week of June. At the same time, the cost of out-relief diminished by £203. The adult able-bodied now on the rates amount to 21,200; last week nearly 700 were struck off the union relief lists. The total pauperism of the distressed unions is now 92,690, or very considerably below the point at which it stood when the Government sent a special commissioner into Lancashire, to be at the disposal of the relief committees during the crisis.—A supplement to the *London Gazette* contains a memorandum from the Admiralty, by which the number of captains in the navy is to be reduced from 350 to 300; of commanders, from 450 to 400; and of lieutenants, from 1,200 to 1,000. The manner in which these reductions is to be made, and the advantages to be secured on retirement are detailed in the memorandum.—The Queen's (Westminster) Regiment of Volunteers was inspected on Saturday in the Regent's-park by Colonel M'Murdo. The regiment mustered in sufficient force to form two brigades, under the command of Earl Grosvenor, and their appearance, discipline, and activity on parade were such as to elicit the warm approbation of the inspector. The ground was kept by a strong body of the West Middlesex Volunteers under the command of Lord Radstock.—The Wimbledon meeting was inaugurated on Monday in the same way as last year. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was received at five o'clock at the Putney entrance, on the north side of the enclosure by several members of the council, and conducted to the running deer range, where the shooting proved to be very bad indeed—the Prince, however, fairly beating such accomplished deerstalkers as the Master of Lovat and Lord Elcho. After inspecting the arrangements for the meeting his Royal Highness returned soon after six o'clock to London.—Several matches were shot off on Tuesday at Wimbledon, among them those for the Oxford and Cambridge Bronze Medal, which was won by Cambridge, and the Middlesex Bronze Medal, won by an officer in the 41st Middlesex.—The great cricket match of the public schools, Harrow and Eton which began on Friday, was finished on Saturday, Harrow being victors in their first innings—an event which was the cause of vociferous congratulation on the part of their friends. The Prince of Wales was on the ground; and though too late to witness the closing scenes of this match, he took a keen interest in one that followed, and did not leave the ground till five o'clock in the afternoon.—The experiments that have been going on for some time past have now assumed an unusual degree of interest. The competition between the Whitworth and Armstrong guns has not been allowed altogether to exclude experiments with the guns of other inventors. The select committee on ordnance have now arrived on the ground with four guns, the same in material, length, and calibre, differing only in their rifling, and the committee expect to decide betwixt them in the course of three weeks. In addition to this a 100-pounder gun has been tried, which was found capable of smashing in a target of 6½ ft. iron plate, and about three yards of oak backing. This was actually done at 200 yards, and according to the calculation of the scientific men present, the same effect would be produced at 4,000 yards, by merely increasing the charge of powder.—The *Great Eastern* has left the Mersey for the Thames, to take on board the Atlantic telegraph cable.—A curious case affecting the rights of literary property is now before Vice-Chancellor Kindersley. The well-known publishers, Messrs. Sampson Low and Co., bought the copyright of a novel written by Miss Cummins, a native of the United States, but who has long been and is now resident in Quebec. The equally well-known publishers, Messrs. Routledge, brought out

a cheap edition of the same work, and they defend their conduct before the Vice-Chancellor on the plea that Miss Cummins is not a subject of Great Britain, as the English law of copyright requires an author to be who would take advantage of its provisions, and that there is no international treaty of copyright with the United States.—A short time ago a man named Griffiths, a solicitor, was sentenced by the Divorce Court to pay £1,000 damages to a gentleman whose wife he had debauched. In consequence of this Griffiths became a bankrupt, and when the case came before the commissioner all the creditors withdrew their opposition to his discharge except the gentleman to whom the damages were due. The commissioner holding the damages to be a debt contracted without any prospect of repayment, refused him a discharge. The bankrupt appealed to the Lord Chancellor, who on Saturday gave judgment in the case. He quite agreed with the commissioner as to the conduct of the bankrupt, but he held that the bankruptcy law was not intended as a means of punishing immorality, and he, therefore, decided that the bankrupt was entitled to his discharge, but on condition that all the money he might hereafter earn over £200 a year should belong to his creditors.—The will of a Mr. Almond was disputed on Saturday in the Probate Court. Almond was the husband of Miss Romer, the well known singer, and he had left her the whole of his property for her life; afterwards one third to be at her absolute disposal, one third to one of his brothers, and the remaining third to an intimate friend of his who had materially assisted him in his business. The will was objected to by some of his other brothers, who thought that he would have left them something, and they set up the usual plea of incapacity; but it was clearly proved that there was no foundation for this, and the relations withdrew their opposition.—The lengthened pleadings in the notorious Yelverton case have at last come to an end. Mr. Rolt having concluded his reply on the whole case, their lordships rose as soon as the learned gentleman concluded, without intimating any period when they would give their judgment.—An inquest has been held at the Middlesex Hospital on the body of a gentleman who had come up from the country to have a tumour on his face removed by a surgical operation. Chloroform was used with the consent of the patient, but it turned out that his habit of body was not such as to render its administration safe, as he died under its influence. The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure.—At Aldershot, on Monday, a farmer, named Nash, was charged with having committed a gross outrage upon a young lady, named Moody, in a railway carriage on the South-Western line. Miss Moody was alone in a compartment with Nash, who insulted her in an abominable manner. The poor girl got outside the carriage upon the footboard, and was fortunately caught, just as she was falling into a swoon, by a gentleman who occupied the next compartment. The prisoner was discharged, on the ground that as the offence was committed in Surrey the Aldershot bench had no jurisdiction, but it was intimated that further proceedings would be taken against him.—No more fearful illustration of the insecurity to which the public are exposed by the present system of railway management could be imagined than the fatal outrage committed upon an elderly gentleman, named Briggs, on the North London Railway, on Saturday night. It would seem that Mr. Briggs took the train at Fenchurch station for his home at Hackney. He occupied a first-class carriage, and Bow seems to have been reached in safety. The distance between Bow and Hackney Wick is traversed in about five minutes, and in that short interval the unfortunate gentleman was attacked, robbed of his watch, and thrown out

of the carriage. When discovered on the line some time afterwards, his head was found to be dreadfully injured, and he died in about 24 hours. Before his death he could give no account of what had taken place, but the compartment in which he had travelled furnished sufficient evidence that before he was forced from the carriage his assailant had inflicted frightful wounds upon upon him. The next compartment was occupied by some ladies, but they do not appear to have heard any cries, although on the arrival of the train at Hackney they called the notice of the notice of the guard to the circumstance that some blood had been spurted through the carriage window on to their dresses as the train came from Bow. The murderer left his hat behind.—Sir George Grey stated on Tuesday night in the House of Commons that the gold chain had been discovered at a silversmith's, and it was hoped the person who disposed of it would be found. The Government have offered a reward of £100 for the discovery of the murderer; Messrs. Roberts and Co., the bankers, have offered a like sum; and a still further reward of the like amount is offered by the directors of the line, which was the scene of the murder.—At the Central Criminal Court, Frederick Charles Brecknell, waiter, was charged with the murder of Jane Lear. The crime was committed at the Lion Tavern, New Cattle Market, on the 8th of June last. Both had been employed in the establishment; and the prisoner apparently moved by jealousy through his addresses to the unfortunate girl being rejected, stabbed her with a knife. The jury found him guilty, and sentence of death was passed in the usual form.—The judges have decided that Penge is not within the area of jurisdiction assigned to the Central Criminal Court, in consequence of which the two men in custody for the murder of a woman there will be tried at the Surrey assizes.—A disgraceful outrage was perpetrated at Leicester on Monday. The Foresters had engaged the race-ground for their annual fete, and mustered in great force. Forming part of the programme of amusements was an ascent by Mr. Coxwell in a balloon. Impatient and unruly the crowd of holiday-makers pressed in upon the aeronaut, so as to hamper his operations, and ultimately compelling him to discharge the gas from the balloon. This, of course, rendered the ascent impossible; and so exasperated the disappointed assemblage that they ripped up the balloon with knives, smashed to pieces and burned the car, and finally made such manifestations towards Mr. Coxwell himself that the distinguished balloonist had to be guarded off the ground by an escort of policemen.—One man was killed, another severely, and it is believed fatally, injured, and several other men had a narrow escape for their lives, through the fall of a house in Maiden-lane on Monday afternoon. It appears that the site on which the house stood was wanted for a railway junction, and that the house itself was sold in lots to several builders. Each person then set to work to carry off his own share of the building, and the consequence was that all the internal supports were removed while the side walls were still standing. After some little warning, which induced most of the men to get out of the way, the walls fell, burying the men in the rubbish. One was taken out dead, and the other is not expected to survive.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor of the French met with a very enthusiastic reception on his arrival at Vichy. We are able to contradict, on good authority, the rumours prevalent of his Majesty's health being bad—the only ailment he suffers from is a tendency to corpulency. The Empress and the Prince Imperial have gone to St. Cloud.—A shocking disaster to a steamboat on the river Saone, France, occurred on Sunday afternoon. The vessel was crowded with passengers, who, rushing to one side, caused her lurch, when 50 persons were thrown

into the water. Of this number it is believed that 40 were drowned.—The difficulty in which the Belgian Chamber of Deputies was fixed in consequence of all the members of the Ultramontane party absenting themselves, and thus preventing a quorum being formed, has been solved by the closing of the legislative session.—A conflict between the Crown and the Danish Ministry, apparently on the question of peace or war, terminated in the resignation of Bishop Monrad and his colleagues. The king has deputed Count Charles Molte Nutchau to form a new Cabinet. The Count has succeeded in the task confided to him. M. de Bluhme is the President of the Council, who also undertakes the duties of the portfolio of Foreign Affairs. Count Moltke Nutchau is a minister without a portfolio; so also is M. de Quaade. The latter, who was the representative of Denmark at the late Conference, is about to proceed to Berlin. His visit is generally believed to have for its object the termination of the war and arranging the terms of a permanent peace.—We learn from Copenhagen that dispatches have been forwarded by the Danish Government to the Courts of Vienna and Berlin proposing a suspension of hostilities. It is generally believed in Copenhagen that peace will be shortly concluded. Another indication of the cessation of hostilities in the Baltic is the fact announced by the *Morgenblad* that the whole of the Norwegian army intended for active service has been disembodied and a portion of the fleet recalled.—The Prussian troops under General Falkenstein, have effected the passage of the Lymfjord without loss. The head-quarters of the army are to be removed to Attrupgaard.—From Stockholm we learn that three Swedish ships of war have put to sea, with orders to cruise between Gothenburg and Falsterbo, on the south-west coast of Sweden.—The Wurtemberg Estates have been opened by the new King. His Majesty expressed a hope that the Schleswig-Holstein question might be settled in accordance with national rights.—The *Pays* contains a somewhat remarkable article on the recent meetings of the Sovereigns of Russia, Austria, and Prussia. The writer ranges these potentates on one side, and England and France on the other, and maintains that the two Great Powers of the West—the representatives of “Young Europe”—are able, even without recourse to arms, to thwart “the dark conspiracies of Old Europe.” *La France* has an article written in the same strain.—An official despatch received in Paris announces the entry of the Emperor Maximilian, on the 12th June, into the capital of his dominions, amidst lively demonstrations of popular enthusiasm. The people, according to this authority, did not forget to express their gratitude to the Emperor of the French and to France.

CHINA AND AUSTRALIA.—The China papers by the *Overland Mail* confirm the telegraphic report of the capture of Changchow-foo by Colonel Gordon and the Imperialists, and afford some details of the assault. Tanyang fell a few days after, and Nankin is now the only stronghold of the rebels. Colonel Gordon has determined on retiring from the Imperial cause. There is not much interest in the news from Australia. The session of the Sydney Parliament had been closed, and the Melbourne Parliament was on the eve of being dissolved. The repulse of our troops by the New Zealand rebels at Tauranga is confirmed by the papers, which have some particulars of the disaster.

INDIA.—The news from India contains nothing of striking importance. The resignation of the chief command of the army by Sir Hugh Rose, and the appointment in his stead of Sir W. Mansfield, was supposed to be near at hand. Ameer Shere Ali Khan, the chief of Affganistan, has completely defeated his brother Mahomed Amiz Khan, who attempted to seize the reins of government. Measures had been adopted by the Indian

Government towards the rebellious and troublesome Bhootans that will soon bring them to submission. There was no abatement of the speculation mania in Bombay. Two more banks had been started.

AFRICA.—The intelligence received by the mail from the West Coast of Africa represents nearly the whole country to be in a very unhealthy state. As for our troops on the Ashantee frontier, their condition is most pitiable; they were so diseased that only four men out of ten were fit for duty.

AMERICA.—The *Scotia* brings advices to the 29th of June. General Grant had been frustrated in his designs against Petersburg and the Weldon Railway. The extension of his line towards his left had been met by a corresponding movement on the part of the Confederates, and we are told that he had abandoned his operations against the railway, and was about to commence a regular siege of Petersburg. In the engagement of the 22nd, the Federal accounts admit that Grant's loss was greater than was at first reported, while the Confederates claim to have driven him two miles from the Weldon Railroad. The armies of Grant and Butler are reported to be suffering from scarcity of water and the intense heat. General Hunter's retreat is attributed to want of ammunition and supplies, and the General reports himself victorious in every engagement with the enemy. The Southern journals, however, tell a different story, and affirm that he was obliged to make his way into Western Virginia with a loss of thirteen guns, in addition to a heavy list of casualties in killed, wounded, and missing. The Federal cavalry leader General Sheridan, had crossed to the south side of the James River, but not until he had had a severe encounter with the Confederates, in which he is said to have lost about 1,000 men. General Sherman, according to the present advices, had got into what the Americans would call a “tight place.” An attack upon the Confederate position in the Kenesaw mountains was repulsed with heavy loss, and the Confederate General Pillow was acting “heavily” upon the rear of the Federal army. One account states that Pillow was repulsed in an assault upon “Fort Lafayette,” while, according to another he had captured the town of Lafayette.—Advices from New York to the afternoon of the 29th ult. state that General Sherman, finding himself short of supplies, was retreating, and that the damage done to the railways around Petersburg by the Federals was being speedily repaired.—The steamship *St. George*, which left St. John's, Newfoundland, on the 30th ult., brings a rumour, since confirmed, that Mr. Chase, the Federal Secretary to the Treasury, had resigned.—Accounts to the 2nd July from New York state that Wilson's cavalry have destroyed twenty miles of the Danville Railroad. On their return on the 27th ult. they were intercepted by the Confederates on the Weldon and Petersburg Railroad. Wilson fought all night and the following morning, but was unable to push his way through. Meade sent the 6th corps with a division of the 2nd corps to the assistance of Wilson. On Tuesday, the Confederates were moving in the direction of the rear of Grant's left. The *General Lee*—a Confederate war steamer of great strength, it is said—is expected daily in the Channel, and it seems that this is the ship for which the *Niagara* and the *Sacramento* are now on the look-out.—A terrible accident occurred on the Grand Trunk Railway, near St. Hilaire, Canada East, on the 29th of June. An “emigrant train” ran over a bridge, and between thirty and forty of the passengers were killed, while 350 were injured.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

INQUIRER.—When several candidates are balloted for on the same evening, the W.M. is bound to declare the result of each ballot as it takes place.

MELTON must appeal to the Prov. Grand Master.

S. S.—We have no such recollection of the subject to which you allude.

P. M.—The expenses of a Grand Steward during his year of office are generally from £15 to £20; but they have been nearly double that amount.

X. Y. Z.—Certainly; whenever you think fit.