

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1864.

THE FREEMASONS' TAVERN.

A prospectus has been issued for establishing a Company, under the Limited Liability Act, with a capital of £65,000, to purchase the lease of the Freemasons' Tavern and the stock in trade of the present tenants, so as to extend and improve the business, it being evident that when the alterations are completed, there will be no establishment in the metropolis presenting such accommodation for public dinners, meetings, and other assemblies. It is calculated that under the new arrangements the returns will not be less than £30,000 a-year, whilst not more than £40,000 will be required for the purchase of the lease, the furniture, wines, &c., leaving £25,000 in reserve to carry on the business. Of course that portion of the new buildings intended to be devoted to the purposes of Freemasonry will be kept wholly in the hands of Grand Lodge, and will not be leased to any party, excepting so far as regards the serving of refreshments. We understand that more than sufficient capital to constitute the Company has already been applied for, and on Thursday the shares were quoted at $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{3}{4}$ prem. It is understood that one at least of the present tenants will continue to take an active part in the management; and should the results anticipated be realised, the Company must prove as successful as has the London Tavern and other similar companies, if not more so.

MASONIC SAYINGS AND DOINGS ABROAD.

FRANCE.—The chief officers of the Council of the Order, under Marshal Magnan, are Longuet, 2nd Assistant Grand Master; Alfred Blanche, President of the Council; De Saint Jean, Vice-President. The Council are again divided into sections for administration, finance, and appeals. The President and Secretary of the section for administration are Bros. Massol and Caubet. Those for finance and appeal are yet open. The committee of the council have submitted a proposition for revising the Constitution of the Order, through Bro. Caubet. This revision has given rise to some discussion on the first article, which declares the basis of Freemasonry to be a belief in God and the immortality of the soul.

Two parties appear to have been formed on this very simple and necessary proposition—the one for it, the other opposed to it on the grounds of tolerance, liberty of conscience, and Masonic tradition, asserting that from 1796 to 1852 no Masonic constitution has laid down the above dogmatic teaching, which they allege to be an innovation introduced in the latter year. Bro. Heullant has resigned the Assistant Grand Mastership, and Marshal Magnan has appointed in his stead Bro. Alfred Blanche.

LODGE DISCUSSIONS.—To show the entire difference which obtains in France from our own plan of Freemasonry, we have only to glance at the subjects which our French brethren deem proper to be introduced. Thus we learn that in Lodge (No. 133), Eccossime, they propose to discuss the value of a common bond of union, and subdivide it into two sections; first, that of a universal or natural law; secondly, the law of conscience, or the moral law. The Lodge Rose-Ecossaise submits to its members the subject of liberty under two aspects, those of its absolute sense, and of its relative and social bearing. The Lodge Renaissance continues its discussion of the question—society; is it an organisation or an association? In either case, what is the law that rules it and what its mode of progress?

LOUIS STORCH.—The Lodge of Saxe Meiningen has lately initiated Bro. Louis Storch, a poet of local renown in Germany.

JEAN SCHNEIDER.—The brethren of Dresden have to deplore the loss of Bro. Schneider, one of the greatest organ-players and theorists in the world. His fame was European, his skill of the highest order, and his school by which he is best known in this country a work of inestimable value. He departed this life in his 66th year, and was followed to his last resting-place by an immense concourse of his sorrowing townsmen.

HONORARY MASTERSHIP.—Bro. Grebe, one of the contributors to the *Gazette du Franc-maçon*, and an old member of the lodge at Hildersheim, in Hanover, now in his 89th year, and after having been a member of the Order for upwards of sixty years, was distinguished by his lodge granting him the title of one of its honorary Masters.

LODGES IN HUNGARY.—In spite of all the precautions of the Austrian police, who are charged to uproot Freemasonry in the dominions of the Kaiser, it is reported that in Pesth and its immediate neighbourhood several lodges are actively

engaged promulgating the art and mystery of the Craft.

GARIBALDI AND THE ULTRAMONTANES.—Garibaldi having been declared Grand Master of Italy, the Ultramontane journals have taken the matter up, and endeavoured, in the hostile spirit so rampant in the Romish Church since Clement the Twelfth's bull, to throw every impediment and stumbling-block in the way of Freemasonry, that wonderful organisation which contributed in no small way to the Reformation. Garibaldi having been nominated and accepted the office of Grand Master of Italian Freemasons, he has nominated Bro. Antonio Mordini to be his representative in assemblies. One has been formed at Florence, where it has been declared, in order to carry out the principle of national Masonic unity, that all rites are equal. That the Italian rites and Ecossais should be equally represented in the Supreme Council of the Order. That the Grand Orient should be in the political capital of the State; and, as Rome is not yet in that position, a provisional capital must be adopted, and it was settled that this capital, for the purposes of Masonry, should be Turin. That the Grand Orient should consist of forty active members, elected from four divisions, viz., Turin, Florence, Naples, and Palermo. That the Rite Ecossais and the Italian Rite are to be represented in this Grand Orient of forty members, by twenty of each of those bodies.

GENEVA.—Reports have been spread about by several of the Genevan journals, that some correspondence of Calvin and the puritanical reformers, has lately come to light, and that in several portions are some matters which, if not absolutely Masonic, certainly have a bearing in that direction. This has given rise to some little controversy respecting the alleged forgery of the document known as the charter of Cologne, its advocates arguing that the Calvin correspondence points in that direction, whilst the opponents of Freemasonry set the whole down as mystical, and the charter in question as a barefaced imposture. A volume is to be published embracing an examination of the letters, and an enquiry as to how far they can be claimed as Masonic.

We all need resistance to our errors on every side. Woe unto us when all men speak well of us; and woe unto us when all men shall give way to us.

THE POETRY AND VARIETY OF ENGLISH MASONRY.

Many a summer's day may be pleasantly and profitably spent in reading the stories told by ancient stonework. Fashioned by different races in distant centuries, there are vast gradations of feeling expressed in masonry. As in music, as in architectural ornament, as in art of all kinds, there is an indisputable stamp, or style, that marks the work of different ages in the same country: in the work of different nations the points of divergence are still more easily distinguishable.

Can you see upon the Kentish coast, about a mile from red-roofed Sandwich a mass of ruddy walling standing up amidst the corn? That is a fragment of Richborough Castle, all that remains of the most frequented haven and port in all Britain in the days of the Roman occupation, *Portus Rutupensis*. Of the sea frontage of noble edifices, the temples, baths, schools, wharfs, arsensal, magazine, and amphitheatre, there is but one monument—this fragment of walling. The river Stour, then wide and deep, has shrunk up into a stream, and the sea has receded and left dry and bare the bottom of the bay upon which the Roman navy floated. But still, guided by this grass-tufted fragment of ruddy masonry, one may say it was here that Vespasian came; it was here that Clandius Contentus and Flavius Sanctius, both prefects of Britain, were buried; it was at the foot of this hill that Hengist and Horsa landed with their forces: it was here, more than 500 years afterwards, that King Sweyn came and burnt and slew all before him; it was here, too, that a tonsured monk landed, carrying, we may be sure, the sign in his hand that was to endure in the land for evermore—the cross. St. Augustine must have looked upon that ruddy walling with a wistful gaze after his sea voyage, for the Saxon kings had made the old fortress into a palace, and the holy father was to find King Ethelbert his most influential convert. And now the crowd upon the landing-place is gone, the bronzed warriors on guard are gone, the streets are silent, the buildings are overthrown, for the mighty sea rose and left a barrier of silt it never more overflowed. Some workmen digging to lay the foundation of a sluice, some time back, came upon the old seashore, strewn with shells and seaweeds, just as Italian workmen at Pompeii, digging into the lava, came upon the old, old surface of that city. Besides the shells and seaweed on this strip of shore there lay a small shoe, with a fibula in it, lost there or thrown there hundreds and hundreds of years ago. Corn ripens upon the site of this busy port; poppies flaunt where men wrought and lived; blue-winged moths are fluttering in the air; the peewit and corncrake make monotonous music where crowds chattered and people came and went, and ships were made fast, laden and unladen; and the plough turns up countless coins

and mementos of the traffic. Breasting the corn as a giant might breast the ripples of a lakelet, stands this fragment of the fabric raised by the Roman warriors after they had subdued Arviragus, the gallant British prince who endeavoured to prevent them from landing. The bronzed war-smiths, how they must have toiled! Six acres and more of land they marked out in the form of a parallelogram, on a declivity facing the sea, and set to work. We may see they raised the walls, 11ft. thick and 23ft. high. At the angles they built round projecting towers, and between these they threw out others that were square. The latter were solid for the first 8ft. above the ground, and then hollow. How the bronzed battle-smiths must have toiled, and stooped, and lifted, and stretched, and climbed. Consider the labour of building a wall 11ft. thick and 23ft. high, to enclose an area of nearly six acres, when the gates were barred, in a strange land, and surrounded by hostile people. We may see how they went to work—how they used the materials of the district as far as they would go, or were procurable. The ashlar they formed of squared grit and Portland stone: they backed this up with rows and rows of boulders, or large flint pebbles, over which they strewed as they went on a layer of smaller pebbles, fragments of flint and brick, and blocks of chalk, which fell into the interstices between the larger boulders; and all this was grouted together at various stages with a cement, a large ingredient in which was the refuse of their tiles. When the wall had advanced 5ft. in height they laid a double row of large flat tiles upon it to bond it together. Upon this they raised seven more courses of the squared work, then placed another double row of the thick red tiles, and so carried the work up to its full height with double rows of tiles inserted at intervals of from 3ft. to 4ft. Thus was formed this fragment of Roman masonry. It would have taken the bravest of Britons to have scaled that wall while the work was neat and trim. But now you may catch at any of the tufts of scorching grass that are protruding from the clefts, and climb up to the top unchallenged. You will see the cornfields spangled with poppies, and beyond the marshland, with its fluttering veil of blue-winged moths, the dazzling channel looking as like the road to fortune as it did to Julius Caesar, Vespasian, Hengist and Horsa, King Sweyn, William the Norman, and other adventurers. If you look into the area, enclosed by the remains of the circumvallation, you will see a bare place in the midst of the standing crop, in the form of a huge cross, some 87ft. long, that nothing will grow upon. Successive generations of antiquaries have examined this cross and probed it, and found that it is a compact mass of masonry, and that is all that they can make out of it. Whether it is the foundation of a Roman sea-mark or of a Saxon memorial, to indicate the spot St. Augustine consecrated, or the platform upon which some other

building was raised, may yet be ascertained. It is one of the curiosities of the castle-field that you will see as you shade your eyes and look round from your vantage-ground, raised by the mighty war-smiths of Rome.

You may tell Norman from Roman masonry without looking at a scrap of ornament, as you would have told the Roman from the Norman invasion, at a glance. The stones used by the Normans were but as handfuls compared to those used by the Romans, just as the men with which William made his venture were but as a handful compared to the Roman legions. The first Norman work was in reality Saxon work; so the antiquaries of the last century, Sir Walter Scott among the rest, were nearly right when they called Norman buildings Saxon, for the victors seized upon the vanquished, and made them build the strongholds that were to make the conquest permanent. We may note the economy of labour enforced by scarcity of hands by the diminished thickness of walling with the substitution of flat buttresses at intervals to give the necessary strength. The stones were reduced to a rough uniformity of size and squareness, or height and breadth, by no means considerable, suggesting, indeed, that the compulsory masons had no labourers, and that each could be lifted by one man. The rubble shows a certain hurry, too, being but mere rubbish; not boulders gathered from the shore by a legion of gatherers, but mud, chips—anything that was at hand; the whole being bonded together, so to speak, with sighs and regrets that time eventually hardened into indifference, and thence into content. There is plenty of this Norman work wrought by Saxon workers in the land; plenty in Kent, not far from the Roman legacy—at Dover, for instance; and here and there fragments in every county, even to the northern extreme of the island, where there are several examples within the jurisdiction of the see of Durham. Cold and hard it looks in its regularity, as though men had clenched their fists and ground their teeth as they built it up.

There appears to be in the enriched Norman work that followed this a lavishness of secret, and even open, exultation, as though the workers were happy—as though the generation or so of masons were content and charmed with their task—as though, as it was in truth, a calm had succeeded a storm. Out of this storm arose the exaltation that produced the best of workmanship, that of the Early English period. The same intensity of devotion that produced the greater number of our cathedrals at this time insured that every stone should be wrought and laid to the honour and advancement of the work. Every mason seems to have regarded the fabric, in its entirety, as a re-edification of the temple heathens had overthrown; and each particular stone upon which he was employed, one after one, as so many offerings to be laid before the altar. Thus the masonry of this Plantagenet period may be read

as an expression of a devotion that felt labour was prayer and praise. The transitional period that ushered in this perfection of workmanship partakes, to a great extent, of this disencumbrance of the mind from remunerative considerations, as represented in the use of attractive ornaments to the neglect of less showy details.

Come a few miles out of your way, and look at the gateway of a border town not very far south of the Tweed. First look at the tint there is upon it, as deep, sombre, threatening, as that of a thunder-cloud; so imminently threatening, indeed, that as you gaze, you would not be surprised to hear a peal burst from it. Then look at the stones. Huge blocks they are, with the jointings deeply recessed, leaving the edges standing out in rough lines of light. The rains of four hundred summers, and the frosts of four hundred winters, have smoothed and worn away everything in the likeness of an angle, and the mass remains a silent, solemn, rugged remembrance.

“And dark and true and tender is the North,”

you will think. There is no ivy, no blade of grass, nor a leaf of any kind in sight. The gateway pointed out spans a thoroughfare that is the entrance to a town. A hay-cart, piled up with hay, has just tried to pass through the archway, and failed. The carter is busy taking off the topmost bundles of his fragrant load to reduce its height, and the approach is littered with scented shreds. Looking through the shadowy archway, you will see a broad street of stone houses of irregular heights (with a shop or two among them, to add to their irregularity), that widens as it leaves the gateway, till it divides into two roads, and leaves a triangular group of houses standing in the midst at the point of severance; and, if you stand a little to the right, you will see that one of these roads opens into a market-place. You would never guess that the other road, narrowed to a mere neck just there, was a portion of the great north road between London and Edinburgh. Yet princes have passed that way full many a time. It leads to the barbican of Alnwick Castle, and away hundreds of miles past it into the dark and true and tender north. This storm-cloud of a gateway was built by the son of Hotspur. Eleven years after the death of that gallant knight his son was restored to the family honours by the successor of the offended monarch; and, in good time, the young Percy, with all his father's energy of character, began to build on his possessions in this massive manner. Over the gateway, in a recessed panel is sculptured the Percy lion—placed there, it would seem, as men place their seals to documents, to say “this is my act and deed.” Over the lion protrudes three corbels, to hold some extra defence should temporary need require it: and the wings of the gateway are thrown forward in the form of three sides of an octagon, to give additional protection to the pas-

sage through the centre. The stout town wall left the gateway on either side composed of masonry as massive, as profuse: no stint here, of either workers or material. The Scots were, of course, the common enemy all this was supposed to defy; but it is impossible not to think that the great fight near Shrewsbury, the quartering and dispersion of Hotspur's remains, the subsequent alienation of his inheritance, find some expression in it—some precautionary expression that the chances of any further civil war should have a different ending. But, one-and-twenty years after leave to embattle the town had been obtained, this knight was lying with his face turned up to the sky, cold and stiff, upon the battlefield of St. Alban's. The moaning of the wind as it sweeps through the darkened archway brings to mind the sound of muffled drums, the great stones seem so many sighs, the great interstices so many shudders as we think of this.

Very different from this grave and sad kind of masonry, reared within a ride of Chevy Chase, is that the fifteenth and sixteenth century men wrought. There are no such ledges to catch rain and snow and cast shadows—no such stern resistance, sullen reliance, implied in it. The stones are neater, smaller, arranged with a flatter surface—the interstices mere chinks. Somehow this masonry appears to have absorbed all the sunshine that has ever fallen upon it. It appears to be mellow; almost melliferous, if one might say so. If it be less like the temper that dictated chivalrous exploits, it is more like the sweetness that devised “Arcadia,” the “Faëry Queen,” and a “Midsummer Night's Dream.” Kenilworth Castle comes, a-glow with noon-day heat, to view. Haddon Hall, on the Wye, too, amidst a crowd of other examples, comes, pictorially, to mind as a specimen that half a dozen generations of artists have made familiar to many. Wandering about the untenanted hall, who does not feel as some wight of old arriving at an enchanted castle, and move on and on, through the courts, chambers, hall, and gallery, expecting at every step to be met by something not of this world; expecting in every oriel to come upon a group belonging to other days? The footsteps of Sir Philip Sydney, Spencer, or Shakspeare might have been the last that trod the glorious terrace so mysteriously deserted, and yet so mysteriously kept in an elvish kind of order.

There is a later Tudor masonry that is not so poetical. It is stiffer in manner, less ripe in appearance, laid more by rule; as though a knowledge of machine-executed labour was dawning in men's minds, and they aimed at rivalling any such process applied to stonework. Some of this effect is doubtless due to the comparative newness of the ashlar; but more to a sentiment of progress which at that age had begun to show itself in the study of antiquities as curiosities, and in the reproduction of Roman and Norman forms in

ornamentation as proofs of scholastic elegance. We are thinking of the workmanship of which Burleigh House is a stately type. Of much angularity and of a cold grey colour, these stones might have been wrought in our own prosaic age. All that this seat gains in effect from the leafage of its grand park and glitter of its gilded vanes and variety of its enrichment is wanted to realise that it is an Elizabethan *chef d'œuvre*.

Turning seawards, could we suggest a material more declaratory of our insular position than the flint and freestone mural surfaces of our eastern coast, or a more masterly manner of using it than that adopted by the builders of Early Norfolk and Suffolk churches on the coast, or of those in the lime districts in Kent? It is, however, most appreciable in those venerable and sunbleached edifices that assume a twofold character, and serve as landmarks to those that go down to the sea in ships. A score of white fishing villages, with fluted red roofs and glossy black doors and palings, redolent of tar, rise before the eye like a vision out of the sea, at the mention of them. A redolence of seaweed, drying nets, seasoning timber and dried fish, accompanies the remembrance of unconsidered trifles, ropes, cables, oars, blocks and pulleys, and other fishing gear that form part of every seaside scene; the crunch of footsteps on the beach, snatches of sailors' songs, and fragments of the long, long story the wind is telling to the idle waves fall upon the ear. For 600 years men have gathered flints, broken them, bedded them in mortar, with the broken faces placed to form a sheeny surface, after the same fashion, with as little change in the mode of conducting the operation as the sea-terns have made in scooping out their nests in the sand. The artistic portions of the fabrics show stages of progress, but the matter-of-fact process of building appears to have been instinctively grasped.

If we leave England, we may see as much feeling and variety in masonry; certainly not more. No echo of a "wild Irish" chant could be more weird or moving than those hoary, mysterious, cone-topped Irish towers; no "second sight" reversed and directed to primeval times, when a few tribes wandered over the land with reindeer, could be more quick with strange undreamt-of life than the "sorcery halls" with their Runic writings in the North of Scotland. Could a Welsh harper fire the blood in one's veins by any recital more than an eye-feast upon the grand Cambrian castles of Harlech, Carnarvon, and Conway will do? They must have been brave men to have called for so much castle-building at the hands of Edward; and all honour to the brave. On the Continent, in the cities that now occupy the sites of the vast old-world forests, there has been the same power of expressing thought and circumstances in stone.

Here is one foreign example. About fifty miles from Baden-Baden there is a town of some 10,000

inhabitants, whose principal trade is that of polishing crystals and precious stones. It is seated on a plain surrounded by distant hills. You will know it by its rows of poplar-trees, its step-gabled houses, its convents and university; but more by the exquisite spire that rises above all these things. You will own, at once, that a mind familiar with other minds in daily contact with the refinement and refining of precious stones is the only one likely to have conceived the idea of lavishing so much love and labour on such an object—of treating red sandstone with the utmost witchery, and capping a tower nearly 240ft. high with a spire rivalling in its open-work tracery the effect of rich pointed lace. This Freyberg spire is exactly 155ft. high. It rises from an octagonal stage, having triangular spirelets at the angles, which, in its turn, has for a still lower stage the plain and simple square base containing the porch. The interior of this church does not yield anything so captivating to the imagination. There is no triforium; but, as we remember Freyberg, this omission was scarcely noticeable, for the walls were hung with black cloth; not a step was stirring; and, resting on trestles in the centre ambulatory, in the solemn silence and solitude, lay a coffin. But, perhaps, of all the poetry to be read in masonry, the most sublime in the world is that in the huge bevelled blocks in the Wailing-place of the Jews in Jerusalem, where the stones are worn away with the lamentations of the Israelites.—*The Builder*.

SIR KNT. MATTHEW COOKE'S LECTURE.

Sir Knt. Matthew Cooke, Grand Organist to G. Conclave, and the Sup. G. Council of the xxxiii, delivered a lecture "On the Connection between Templary and Freemasonry," in the Hall of "The Masonic Union Company," 14, Bedford-row, on Tuesday the 26th ult. It was specially addressed to Knights Templar only, and was given by the permission, and under the sanction of the Most Eminent Supreme Grand Master, Sir Knt. William Stuart. Several of the leading Sir Knts. attended, and remained to the close—a period of three hours and twenty minutes—and warmly congratulated the lecturer on the vast amount and importance of the information placed before them.

The subjects treated of may be indicated under the following heads:—INTRODUCTION: The purport of introductions and prefaces; pleas for certain short-comings, and indulgences craved; new theories disclaimed, and old authorities relied on; Freemasons taunted for want of historical documentary evidences; the countless number of such proofs; illiberality of craftsmen to their step-mother, Templary; documents favourable to Templary garbled and mangled by a vastly over-rated Craft Grand Officer; exhortation to Templars to bring their knowledge to a common stock; suggestion for a debating or publishing society; conveyancing and conveyancers; repudiation of visionary theories; a personal anecdote; obligations to Sir Knt. John Yarker for much valuable information, and to Sir Knt. Shuttleworth for drawing plans; outline of the rise, progress, and decline of the crusades; William of Tyre; Robert the Monk; contrast between the eleventh and nineteenth centuries; end of the introduction.

The LECTURE: Templary a century ago; ritual of the Early Grand Encampment; the chivalric order; pleas

for the retention of the statueable costume; the Order of the Temple in Scotland and its ritual. (Here there was an interval of five minutes). Freemasonry and the Holy Scriptures; liberty of conscience in the middle ages; Freemasonry re-introduced into Europe by the Templars; Gower, Chaucer, Skelton, and Lydgate; the troubadours, Albigenses and Vaudois; Petrarch, Dante, and Boccacio; Wickliff, Huss, and the Lollards; works written in a double sense; the Book of Revelations; Clement V. and Philip le Bel; the secret faith of the Templars; Templary and Freemasonry identical as proved by the symbolic architecture of the Temple church; secret sects in the middle ages; Freemasonry allegorised in the persons of ideal females; S. Augustine on allegory; Clemens of Alexandria; Apuleius, Cicero, Toland, and Swedenborg; esoteric and exoteric portions of Holy Writ; S. Jerome; mystical nature of allegory; tale by Boccacio; another, and its Masonic interpretation; the Knts. of S. John of Jerusalem Freemasons; light and the Pythagorean philosophy; mystic numbers of the various degrees in middle-age Freemasonry; the keys to the science; the higher grades the nurseries of Freemasons; the Christianity of Freemasonry everywhere but in England and her colonies; secrets brought from the East by the Templars; practical and speculative Freemasonry and active and contemplative Freemasonry; the six grand periods of the Craft and the seven ages of cosmopolitan Freemasonry; losing the key; allusion to a very high degree; the Holy and ever Blessed Trinity; precious stones and colours; a Templar pilgrimage; passion week the time chosen for initiation into the first degree in Freemasonry under the Templars; the Templars and Knts. of S. John of Jerusalem; the war name; initiations into Freemasonry under the Knts. Templar; Knts. of the E. W. N. and S.; early lodges dedicated to SS. Peter and John; the Mediterranean pass; Knts. of Malta; Clement XII.; why Craftsmen knew nothing of the superior degrees; several Masonic degrees and orders, existing in 1724, unknown to Craftsmen; York Freemasonry and its nine degrees; rights of high brethren under the York system; the undoubted Christianity of all degrees in Freemasonry as taught in the York and ancient ceremonies and lectures; acknowledgment in the Craft lectures, a century old, of *Templary* being a *superior and better grade in Freemasonry*; Conclusion.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

BRO. EDWARD COLLIS'S CHARGE.

What was Bro. Edward Collis's Charge about that it should call for the following, inserted in an odd volume of the old "Freemasons' Magazine" for 1794? Where can Vol. I. referred to, be seen by—W.

"CARD

"To the Readers of the 'Freemasons' Magazine,' and in particular to a Correspondent signing 'J.'

"Sirs and Brother,—The charge by Edward Collis (Mag. Vol. I. No. VI. p. 452) was not only communicated to this Magazine *without his knowledge*, but the putting his name to the title was also *what he never meant*. The mistake originated as follows:—

"The charge was *only read* in a meeting of the Roman Eagle Lodge, and as the book from which he read it was very scarce (not even to be had in Scotland), he was prevailed upon to print a few copies of it for the information of the brethren; but *without any knowledge or design of his name being put in the title*, which was done by a mistake of the printer in a few of the first copies; one of which having fallen into my hands, I *not knowing that it had been written*

by any other person (till I made enquiry on account of Bro. J.'s representation), and thinking it would be very acceptable to the readers of this Magazine, sent it to the publisher, with some other articles of own, not having the least design to *impose* upon any person whatever. Hoping *this true and faithful representation of the matter* will satisfy Bro. J. to whom I confess myself much indebted for the notice he has taken, I remain his much obliged brother,

"VINDEK, FR. Aq. Rom.

"Edinburgh, Feb. 21, 1794."

BRO. THE REV. DR. JOHN WATKINS.

This gentleman was a native of Devonshire, though we are informed he had not any part of his education in that county.

If our intelligence is accurate (and we have no reason to question it) he may be considered as one of those whose genius will burst forth in spite of depression, and arise to full view and catch the admiration of men.

Through all the juvenile part of his life, he seemed to be hovering over the chambers of death. His early years were chequered with misfortunes and clouded with disease. More than once, we are told, have the anxious attendants declared him to be no longer an inhabitant of this nether sphere.

In such a state of weakness and inadequacy for society, literature formed his only amusement. Though placed in a respectable seminary of learning, his infirmities pressed so severely upon him, that the advantages which he derived from that situation were comparatively but small. To the exercise, therefore, of his own mind, aided by the sedentariness which necessity thus imposed upon him, his attainments either in the languages or the sciences are principally to be attributed.

Of one who has devoted himself entirely to literary pursuits, and a life of learned ease, scarcely any particulars can be gathered to gratify public curiosity. The adventures of but few authors have afforded entertainment by their variety, or excited surprise by their novelty.

If the subject of the present memoir has not dazzled by the splendour, or astonished by the number of his productions, he can yet felicitate himself on their tendency. Nor has he any reason to complain of the want of public approbation. Though the far greater part of them have been anonymously ushered into the world, they have yet been marked with the applause of the judicious and the worthy.

We cannot presume to withdraw the veil; otherwise we could point out some distinguished pieces which have issued from his pen. Among these are some political performances of considerable vigour and celebrity. He has not been the least active or successful in the literary rank who have come forward in the season of alarm to vindicate our glorious constitution against the insidious attempts of innovators.

In 1791 he published "Proposals for a History of the Church of England, from the Establishment of the Reformation under Queen Elizabeth to the present time." This undertaking, which is designed to be comprised in two volumes quarto, was recommended to him by some of the most learned and worthy prelates of the Church. The prospectus to this his-

tory has been greatly admired by the best judges of good writing. In this great design he has made a large progress; and we are informed that one volume will make its appearance in the present year.

In 1792 he printed, in one volume octavo, "An Essay towards a History of Bideford;" but a small impression only of this work was struck off, as it was originally compiled for the use of the author's learned and ingenious friend Mr. Polwhele, who is compiling the History of Devonshire.

As a Mason, Dr. W. is undoubtedly entitled to a very distinguishing notice. A lodge has been established by him at the place of his residence; and, we are informed, in a very flourishing state. The charge delivered at its Constitution was published at the unanimous request of the numerous and respectable assembly of brethren who attended the ceremony, and is a very animated composition. The prayer pronounced at the Consecration has been greatly admired, and deserves to be carefully read as well by those who are not, as those who are, members of our society.

In the preface to the charge, the author says, "He has it in contemplation to devote some future period of his life to a search into the History of Masonry, comprehending, of course, a view of the progress of civilisation, with a biography of those persons who have adorned the world, and have been dignified by the Masonic character." This we sincerely hope (and we are sensible that we have herein the concurrent wish of many eminent brethren) that he will be enabled by leisure, health, and encouragement, to perform.

A Masonic Treatise from the Doctor's pen will be announced for publication in a short time. But the plan of this is rather elucidatory than historical.

Possessed of a vigorous intellect, he has been indefatigable in his researches into the various branches of our Order. His knowledge of the Hebrew language, and acquaintance with the Cabala, have enabled him to explore even the most obscure intricacies of an institution that certainly takes its date in the patriarchal times.

And it is, moreover, with the glowing pleasure of friendship, and the impartiality of truth, that we can say, the virtues of the heart are united in him to the powers of the mind.

He is a warm, sensible, and generous friend; a sociable, entertaining, and communicative companion; and an instructive, ardent, and benevolent brother.

One who has the happiness of calling him by each of these three appellations bears with rich satisfaction this testimony to a character he loves and reveres.

W**** R****.

Reading the foregoing I should be glad to know if the Masonic Treatise alluded to was ever published.—W.

TEMPERANCE.

"Temperance, that virtue without pride, and fortune without envy, gives indolence [healthfulness] of body and tranquillity of mind; the best guardian of youth, and support of old age."
—Temple's *Essays*.

Temperance, in a general sense, is a prudent moderation which restrains our desires, appetites, and passions within just bounds; but we shall consider it here in a more limited signification, as a virtue that curbs our corporeal appetites, and, confining them to a medium equally distant from two opposite extremes,

renders them not only innocent, but commendable and useful.

The principal vices repressed by temperance are incontinency, and excess in eating and drinking: if there be any more, they flow from one or other of these two sources.

It would lead us to too great length at present, to consider this virtue fully in both points of view. To the last, then, as most appropriate to our particular subject, we shall chiefly confine our attention.

"Wine," says an eminent author, "raises the imagination, but depresses the judgment. He that resigns his reason is guilty of everything he is liable to in the absence of it. A drunken man is the greatest monster in human nature, and the most despicable character in human society; this vice has very fatal effects on the mind, the body, and fortune of the person who is devoted to it; as to the mind, it discovers every flaw in it, and makes every latent seed sprout out in the soul: it adds fury to the passions, and force to the objects that are apt to inflame them. Wine often turns the good-natured man into an idiot, and the choleric into an assassin; it gives bitterness to resentment, makes vanity insupportable, and displays every little spot of the soul in its utmost deformity."

Seneca says—"That drunkenness does not produce, but discovers faults." Experience teaches us the contrary. Wine throws a man out of himself, and infuses into the mind qualities to which it is a stranger in its more sober moments. Some men are induced to drink excessively, as a cure for sorrow and a relief from misfortune; but they deceive themselves—wine can only sharpen and embitter their misery.

Temperance is our guard against a thousand unseen ills. If this virtue restrain not our natural inclinations, they will soon exceed all bounds of reason and of prudence. The Grecian philosophers ranked temperance amongst the highest of all Christian virtues. It is undoubtedly a preservative against numerous diseases, an enemy to passion, and a security against the dire effects of excessive vices and immoderate desires.

The good and true Mason knows its highest value and most appropriate application. Every man of reflection must know, that by keeping this vigilant sentinel always on duty, we are armed and secured against that tremendous host of foes which perpetually hover round the unguarded victims of Intemperance.—J.

THE FIRST GREAT LIGHT.

O, wonderful Bible! book of the ages, theme of David and Paul, of Moses and Jesus! a recorded revelation from Infinite Wisdom to frail, ignorant man, sitting in sackcloth and ashes! Egypt is gone, but a race of slaves from her bosom have been the teachers and leaders of the nations. Greece and Rome, too, have had their rise and growth, decline and downfall—and they, too, are gone; their mythologies and their philosophers have crumbled with their Parthenons and their Pantheons. But this mighty river of thought, the confluence of divers streams of wisdom, on the highest subjects of God and the soul, and the soul's eternity, taking its rise in the remotest mountains of antiquity, flowing down with an ever-accumulating volume and power through successive climes and countries, bearing on

its broad bosom the freight of untold treasures—corn from Egypt, gold from Ophir, myrrh and frankincense from Arabia, silks from Persia, oil and honey from Syria, and its own richest wealth from Judah's sacred mount—still pouring onward with its deepening and resistless tide, as from the hollow of God's own hand, at once giving a refreshing draught to a thirsty soul, and fertilising provinces and kingdoms with its inexhaustible streams. What if it have a tinge and a taste from the soils it has passed through, a sediment from the affluence of its tributaries, and a bitter and a sweet from the luxuriant vegetation which adorns its banks and dips into its current? Is it not still the Great River of the waters of life, making glad the city and church of our God, rolling ever around with its majestic sweep, and carrying with it the innumerable commerce from every kindred, and tongue, and people under heaven towards the Greater Sea?—LIVERMORE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

CARTER'S LIFE OF BISHOP ARMSTRONG.

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

SIR,—Not being a Mason, but wishing to become one, and having read your interesting journal, I am induced to ask whether any faith may be put in the account given of Freemasons as reported in Carter's "Life of Bishop Armstrong?" and I do hope your goodness will extend so far as to afford me a reply, or that some of your correspondents will do so, as I am credibly informed that the ridicule and assertions in the Rev. Mr. Carter's edition of the book alluded to are totally void of truth. If so, it is, indeed, a pity that clergymen should so employ their time as to publish erroneous opinions of others, thereby preventing well-meaning persons from entering the Order of Masonry, which, as far as I can understand, is an institution much older than that of Christianity, and founded upon the same sacred principles. Moreover, I am also very respectably assured that the late Archbishop of Canterbury was a Mason, and that many of our bishops belong to the fraternity, and, if so, Masonry cannot be a bad or even a farcical institution.

Waiting a reply to these queries ere I submit to the rite,

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

ENQUIRER.

[Our correspondent may rest assured that there is no truth in the statement referred to. It is not possible to prevent clergymen more than any other men from making erroneous statements on subjects of which they are totally ignorant. Some of the most distinguished ornaments of the Church are Freemasons, and, as a rule, clergymen once initiated are the most earnest defenders of the tenets of Freemasonry. It is not our business, however, to recommend anyone to join the Order.—ED.]

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

We regret to hear that Bro. Binckes, Secretary of the Boys' School, met with an accident on Wednesday evening, by which he broke his leg.

METROPOLITAN.

CONSECRATION OF THE MONTEFIORE LODGE (No. 1,017).

Several Hebrew brethren having been desirous of establishing a new lodge do not appear to have had to travel far for its name. Most appropriately, they selected that of a brother Freemason, a member of their own faith, and a philanthropist of whom this country—eminently philanthropic as it is—has good reason to be proud. To enter into a recapitulation of the good deeds of Bro. Sir Moses Montefiore would be superfluous; and to chronicle them here would be to suppose that Freemasons in general paid no attention to those acts of mercy and beneficence, extended to the outer world, which they inculcate within their own society. Suffice it, therefore, to say that the Hebrew, Sir Moses Montefiore, has done such brave, generous, and important works of mercy that they may well claim to be recognised and admired by every one who—Christian, pagan, infidel, heretic, or Hebrew—can love his fellow-man without distinction of creed, colour, or nationality, and act, as it can be expressed in a single word, like a Freemason. Under such a name, then, new the lodge has chosen to be incorporated, and was consecrated on Wednesday, the 27th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern.

The ceremony of consecration was performed by Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D., in that style which is so well known. The singers were Bros. Fielding, G. T. Carter, Shoubridge, and Lawler, Bro. Van Noorden presiding at the harmonium. After the consecration, Bro. S. B. Wilson installed Bro. Benjamin Alexander the first W.M. of the Montefiore Lodge (No. 1,017). When the brethren below the chair had been re-admitted, the following were appointed and invested officers of the lodge:—Bros. S. V. Abraham, S.W.; Eskell, J.W.; Levy, Chap.; Marcus, Treas.; Norden, Sec.; Kisch, S.D.; Blumenthal, J.D.; A. Swanborough, I.G.; Van Noorden, Org.; Lewis Jacobs, Steward; and Couchman, Tyler. The visitors were Bros. J. Udall and S. B. Wilson, P.G.D.'s; F. Binckes, P.M. 10; Matthew Cooke, Sec. 23, W.M. 905; Levy and Landye, 25; Speight, 27; England and Glaisher, 33; Ohren, 38; Lambie, 92; Webb, 155; S. Abraham, Russell, Hart, Camora, Moss Phillips, Shoubridge, all of 158; Irons, 186; Barringer, 194; G. T. Carter, 202; H. L. Harris, 205; McConnell, 213; Lazarus, 218; Marchant, 704; H. Coxwell, 742; E. Woodman, 901; besides several others whose names were illegible, too late, or not signed.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson for consecrating the lodge and installing the W.M., this—attempted to be seconded by, at least, a dozen members—was carried by acclamation and ordered to be entered on the minutes. The lodge was then called off and the brethren adjourned to one of the very best dinners served in the tavern for many years. The attention of Bro. Blumenthal to the comforts of all the brethren being most assiduous. The dinner being over the Chaplain, Bro. Levy, intoned the Hebrew Grace, copies of which, accompanied by an English translation, were distributed round the table, after which an English Grace was said by Bro. A. Swanborough.

After the removal of the cloth, the W.M., in appropriate terms, gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, and coming to that of the D.G.M., the Earl de Grey and Ripon, said the Craft were proud of him. Notwithstanding his lordship's public duties he was a most efficient officer, and had won the greatest respect from their body. (Hear, hear.) He coupled the toast with the names of Bros. Udall and S. B. Wilson, P.G.D.'s.

Bro. UDALL said it was a very pleasing duty to return thanks on behalf the noble earl. No one could be found who took a greater interest in Freemasonry and there was no one more honoured by the Craft for taking that interest.

Bro. S. B. WILSON had hoped to have had another opportunity of saying a few words; but, even at the risk of not doing

so, he could but thank them for the toast to one of the most popular and efficient Grand Officers who had ever honoured them by accepting office.

Bro. BINCKES rose and said—A good Mason must be always ready to do duty at a moment's notice. He had been requested to propose the next toast, which he feared he should do but scant justice to; but he felt so confident of its merits that he was sure his own shortcomings would be overlooked. He certainly would have liked a little longer time to have made some preparation, but had been called upon to give the toast of success to the Montefiore Lodge and the health of its first W.M. (Hear, hear.) His was a position of difficulty and delicacy, for he could not say he knew what had led to the formation of the lodge, but must suppose that it was mainly intended for brethren of the Jewish faith. For his own part he had ever received great courtesy in Hebrew Lodges, and considered it very much to the credit of those brethren that their cosmopolitan principles proceeded on so good and broad a platform, and that whilst they formed a lodge like that there were brethren in office who were not connected with their exclusive faith. (Hear, hear.) In their Hebrew Grace, followed by an English Grace, he discerned no bigotry of creed. They had opened the door of their tabernacle to its utmost width in accordance with the universal system of Freemasonry. (Hear, hear.) He was one who set a great value on that broad, common platform, which, putting aside all differences of creeds or faiths, made Freemasonry a quasi religion. In that spirit, then, he gave the first part of the toast. After success to the lodge came the health of its W.M. The good he did would live after him, and be the cause of its friends being able to say of his lodge *esto perpetua*. The W.M. must be well aware that in applying for a new warrant he had incurred a heavy responsibility. By his conduct and those of the officers he had chosen would their deeds be measured, and he only wished every new W.M. would look upon such an important trust in its proper light. From their number he was glad to see the register of England could not get below the four figures, but if lodges were numerous they ought not to look to the mere numbers of their members for peace and happiness. (Hear, hear.) They must be careful of the quality of those they made brethren, and not of the quantity, or else the distinction might come to be not who was but who was not a Mason. (Hear, hear.) Don't let him hear that they had initiated a large but a small number, and not rest their glory on having a large lodge. (Hear, hear.) He had been obliged to coin a speech, as he proceeded, without knowing any part of their plans or intentions. They had taken a name which would ever be held in remembrance, as no worthier could be found—(hear, hear)—and if worthiness was a presage of success they might rest assured they were on the high road to it. So long as they propagated the true principles of Masonry, which were the guide of him after whom they were called, there could be no doubt of their progress and utility. (Loud cheers.) Those principles, he hoped, would find a warm upholder in their W.M., for to have placed him in that position they must have known him to be a chevalier *sans peur, et sans reproche*; and he (Bro. Binckes) hoped on the anniversary of that day to find that success had attended him and his lodge throughout his year of office. He then gave the toast of "Success to the Montefiore Lodge and Health and Happiness to its first W.M."

Bro. BENJAMIN ALEXANDER, the W.M., replied, and said he felt the necessity of what had fallen from Bro. Binckes; and although but a Freemason of five years and ten months' standing, that was the second lodge of which he had been W.M. From that experience he had arrived at a settled conviction that men had been admitted to Freemasonry who had no business in it, and others excluded who would have done it honour. Freemasonry was not of any creed or colour, but required from its members just, perfect, and honourable conduct. On those principles their lodge was founded. They wished to meet those brethren who they could be happy in associating with out of lodge as well as in it. They mustered twenty-five of such, all men of good position, and he regretted to say there were not many lodges where similar brethren could be found. He hoped every member would exert his utmost influence to keep out of their lodge all ineligible persons, either brethren or not, and he confessed he saw no difficulty in promptly blackballing any person whose presence was undesirable. For his own part, he considered it would be his duty to black-ball, and keep out of the lodge, every one they could not associate with outside its walls, and he was compelled to say that he liked Freemasonry itself

very much better than he did a very large number of persons connected with it. He hoped the founders of the lodge might look back with pleasure to that day in after years, and be able to congratulate themselves on admitting none but brethren of good position and social standing, and if they did err in that respect it might be from lack of ability to discriminate, but not from want of inclination to carry out their principles. The Worshipful Master was sure it was a very pleasing gratification people felt, when they went into a new house, to see their friends gather round them. They might be said that day to have commenced housekeeping, and were honoured by the attendance of a large number of visitors, to all and each of whom they offered a most cordial reception. They were very happy to see them, and to one they owed a deep debt of gratitude for kind services rendered to them that day. It was totally unnecessary to say how proud and delighted the lodge would always be to see him on every occasion, and with the toast of the visitors he coupled the name of their kind brother Stephen Barton Wilson.

Bro. STEPHEN BARTON WILSON, P.G.D., could perfectly endorse everything that had fallen from the W.M. He trusted they would not look upon him as a visitor, but as a father to the lodge. (Hear, hear.) He would also take the liberty to call upon Bro. Binckes to speak for the Charities in his own edifying way, and to advocate the cause of that Charity he so ably represented.

Bro. BINCKES made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the Boys' School, in which he said he had guaranteed to find £1,000 per month for twenty months, and he hoped they would do their share in releasing him, for he was in pawn for the amount stated. It had been said, he continued, that he was carrying matters too far in his appeals, but he differed from that opinion, and strongly urged the claims of his own peculiar institution.

The W. MASTER was glad to find they had a representative of the Press present. He, Bro. Alexander, considered it one of the preservers of freedom—a library in itself—and an institution of value to Englishmen. With Success to the Press, he coupled the name of Bro. Cooke.

Bro. MATTHEW COOKE was very glad to find the W.M. so favourably impressed by the great organ of intelligence in the nineteenth century, but while he had done him the honour to couple his name with the Press in general, he seemed to have overlooked the fact that he, Bro. Cooke, was there as the representative of their own peculiar publication, the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. The W.M. had said he read the leading articles in several daily papers, but would he add to that number in future by reading the whole of the MAGAZINE? Perhaps their weekly was unknown to some present; if so, he, Bro. Cooke, begged to introduce it to their notice. The W.M. had said the Press was a library in itself, and he, Bro. Cooke, could testify to the truth of that as far as the MAGAZINE was concerned, for Freemasons generally allowed that periodical to present the form of a permanent library—remaining on the publisher's shelves. (Laughter.) What he was desirous to see, was that it should become a circulating library, and that the Craft would support it better than they had hitherto done. A speaker who had preceded him said he was in pawn for the good of that with which he was more immediately connected. Bro. Binckes had enlisted their sympathies to extricate himself from that thralldom, but whenever would the MAGAZINE get into pawn? There was no one to take them in, and they were regularly done for by the apathy of the Craft. (Laughter.) If the brethren would only put their shoulders to the wheel, they might rest assured that they would not regret it, for by supporting their own organ they were popularising, amongst their Order, the news of the Craft, and assisting to disseminate Masonic knowledge. On behalf of that excellent brother, Henry George Warren, the editor, and for himself, in connection with the toast, Bro. Cooke tendered his grateful thanks.

The W. MASTER had two very able principal officers, his Senior and Junior Wardens. The Senior Warden was an old P.M., and thoroughly knew his work and duties. The Junior Warden merited every encomium that could be bestowed on him. The W.M. then gave the toast of Bro. Abrahams and Eszell.

Bro. ABRAHAMS, S.W., would trouble them with very words. He felt, as a P.M., reduced to the ranks, but hoped for promotion. He would endeavour, to the best of his ability, to give satisfaction, and merit the good opinion of his brethren.

Bro. ESZELL, J.W., said, despite all difficulties, they had in a short time overcome all obstacles with a harmony and unanimity:

it was a pleasure to see. He did not wish to see a large lodge, but a happy family (hear, hear), and hoped at the termination of his year of office they would be able to endorse their W.M.'s good opinion of the two principal officers.

The W. MASTER next proposed the health of their Chaplain and Treasurer. In the former they had one who was their own minister of religion, beloved and respected by them all, and they ought to be very proud that he had cast his lot in with him. Their treasurer was a good man of business, and if their finances prospered as his own had done, there would be nothing to be desired.

Bro. LEVY, Chaplain, might congratulate himself on having witnessed the ceremony of that day, which had impressed him more than anything he had seen in Masonry during the eight years he had been a member of the Order. (He then drew a very eloquently parallel between the truths of the Bible and Freemasonry, which our limited space compels us to omit.)

Bro. MARCUS, in a few words, hoped to be always supplied with funds, and keep their expenditure within due bounds.

The W. MASTER then gave the health of the Secretary, Senior and Junior Deacons.

Bro. KISCH, S.D., returned thanks, and requested them to wait to the end of their year of office, when he hoped each of them would be enabled to give a good account of his stewardship, and receive those thanks which at present were complimentary.

The Tyler's toast followed, and the lodge was closed in ancient and solemn form.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—This lodge held its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 27th, at Bro. J. Stevens', Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford, Kent. Bro. C. G. C. Stahr, W.M., presided, and was assisted by Bros. G. Wilton, I.P.M.; J. Stevens, P.M.; J. W. Weir, P.M.; F. Walters, P.M., Sec.; J. H. Pembroke, J.W.; J. S. Blomeley, J.D.; J. Hawker, W.S.; R. Phipps, and others. Amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. F. H. Ebsworth, 73; J. Patte, J.D. 147; A. D. Loewenstark, P.M. 548, 733. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. A ballot was taken for Mr. George Holman to become a member of the lodge, which was declared to be unanimous in favour of his admission. Mr. Holman being in attendance was duly initiated into the privileges of ancient Freemasonry. Letters were received from the other candidates expressing their regret for their non-attendance. Business being concluded the lodge was closed.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—*Lodge St. Aubyn* (No. 954).—Emergency meetings of this lodge were convened for the 22nd and 25th ult., when two gentlemen were received into Freemasonry by Bro. Kent, W.M., and one F.C., after a satisfactory examination, raised to the third degree. On the conclusion of the ceremonies the brethren assembled at the banquet hall to partake of slight refreshment. The W.M. proposed, in a few suitable remarks, the health of the newly initiated, to which the candidates replied, expressing themselves highly gratified at the honour conferred upon them. The health of the W.M. was given and duly honoured. It being the first time Bro. Kent had presided at an installation, he took occasion to remark that it was a privilege indeed to assist in bringing to Masonic light such characters as the brethren above referred to. The brethren dispersed at an early hour.

DURHAM.

GATESHEAD.—*Lodge of Industry* (No. 48).—This lodge held its meeting at the Grey Horse Inn, on Monday, July 25th. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Bryden, assisted by Bros. Smith as S.W., Banning as J.W., and the rest of the officers and brethren. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Archer was balloted for and unanimously elected, and, being in attendance, was initiated into the Order by the W.M. Bro. C. J. Bamister, P.G.S.B. of England, delivered the lecture on the tracing board, which was duly appreciated by all present. A candidate was proposed for initiation, and, the business of the lodge over, it was closed in solemn form. At refreshment the brethren enjoyed themselves, and retired at nine o'clock.

KENT.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual festivities of the Freemasons in Kent was held on Monday, the 25th ult., at Faversham, under the presidency of Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., the Grand Master of the province. In the morning the Faversham Lodge entertained at breakfast at the King's Hotel the Masters of the various lodges and the existing and Past Grand Officers. At one o'clock over 200 of the brethren attended the Grand Lodge, which was opened in due form at the Town Hall. After the usual routine business had been transacted, it was proposed by the R.W. Prov. G.M., and seconded by Bro. Dobson, D. Prov. G.M., that in consideration of the Hythe and Faversham Lodges both having received the Provincial Grand Lodge on their centenary anniversaries, that a centenary jewel be presented to each of the lodges, the same to be worn by the W.M. for the time being; and that the same be paid for out of the Provincial Grand Lodge funds.

Lord Holmesdale said that the first cast of the die would be eighteen guineas, and that then the jewels could be produced at a cost of £2 18s. each. He thought such a recognition of the antiquity of a lodge very proper.

The motion was ultimately carried.

The following were then installed as the Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year:—

Bro. E. Routh	Prov. S.G.W.
„ F. W. Elers	„ J.G.W.
„ Benjamin Thorpe	„ G. Treas.
„ Robert Gee	„ G. Reg.
„ Edward Wates	„ G. Sec.
„ J. Johnson	„ Assist. G. Sec.
„ L. A. Hart	„ S.G.D.
„ F. W. Greenhill	„ J.G.D.
„ G. B. Sharpe	„ G. Dir. of Cers.
„ C. F. Sutton	„ G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.
„ H. P. Bennett	„ G. Supt. of Works.
„ Edward Mudd	„ G.S.B.
„ E. J. Townsend	„ G. Org.
„ F. Gosling	„ G. Purst.
„ — Thornicroft	} „ G. Stewards.
„ — Usher	
„ — Cavell	
„ — Cooke	
„ — Dives	
„ — Ashwarth	

The brethren then formed on the bowling green of the Ship Hotel, and thence proceeded in procession to church, headed by the band of the Faversham Artillery Volunteer Corps, and also by twelve youths, sons of Masons, bearing small banners, the emblems of the twelve tribes of Israel, and each wearing a blue scarf. The service having been duly performed, the sermon was preached by Bro. Walter Field, M.A., Rector of Godmersham, D. Prov. G. Chap. He took his text from the 2nd chapter of the 1st Epistle of St. Peter, v. 5, from which he preached a most appropriate and eloquent discourse. At the close of the service £23 15s. was collected, to be divided equally between the local and Freemasons' schools.

At four o'clock about 200 of the brethren sat down to an excellent dinner in the public rooms, provided in a very admirable manner by Mr. Pawley, of the Ship Hotel. The chair was occupied by Viscount Holmesdale, R.W. Prov. G.M., supported on his right by the preacher of the day, and on his left by Bro. Dobson, D. Prov. G.M. There were also present besides the Masters, Past Masters, and officers of the various lodges, Bro. S. Barton Wilson, P.S.G.D, and Bro. Binckes, Secretary to the Boys' School.

The cloth having been cleared, Bro. Lord HOLMESDALE gave "The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," "The M.W. the Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland," "The R.W. the Deputy Grand Master of England, and the Grand Officers," which was responded by Bro. Wilson.

Bro. DOBSON proposed "The Health of the Prov. G.M., Viscount Holmesdale," in very eulogistic terms.

Bro. Lord HOLMESDALE briefly returned thanks. He hoped that the prosperity of Masonry in Kent, spoken of by Bro. Dobson, would continue to increase, and that he might be spared for many years to preside over them. He trusted that the lodge would continue to increase, and that the Charities which depended on them might flourish also. Of these they might

well be proud. They could point to their Girls' and Boys' Schools, where the children of Masons were prepared, and well prepared, to fight the battle of life, and they could see, also, the homes provided for those aged Masons who had not been so successful in that battle as their more fortunate brethren. To them the hand of charity was willingly extended and accepted without compunction. By this means were their last hours soothed and their passage to the grave made easy. These Institutions must be matters of great satisfaction to every brother of the Craft, and he hoped that in Kent the funds of the Grand Lodge would be so increased that all the lodges might become Governors not only of one, but of all their Charities. (Applause.)

Bro. Lord HOLMESDALE then proposed "The Health of Bro. Dobson, D. Prov. G.M." Bro. DOBSON responded.

The CHAIRMAN gave "Success to the Masonic Charities," which was responded to by Bro. Binckes, who made a strong appeal on behalf of the New Building at the Boys' School, which he said would accommodate 150 boys, and would cost £20,000, of which at present he had only £15,000, and the remainder would have to be found in the course of a few months. He had always been well supported by the lodges in Kent, and he hoped now that he wanted their assistance more than ever they would not forsake him.

Bro. SNOWDON, of Ramsgate, having reminded the brethren that it had been agreed in Grand Lodge to have the annual meeting in Ramsgate next year, said he hoped it would be fixed as early as possible in order that it might not interfere with the season, when all his fellow townsmen were so much employed.

The pleasures of the evening were much enhanced by the excellent singing of Bros. Donald King, Wynne, and Fielding.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

GARSTON.—Lodge of Harmony (No. 220).—This lodge held its meeting at the Wellington Hotel, on Monday, August 1st. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Thomas Marsh, assisted by his officers, and a good attendance of brethren and visitors, amongst whom were Bro. Cooper, M.D., Bro. Gossage, &c. Bros. Rogers and Sewell were passed to the second degree by the W.M., Bro. H. S. Seymour, S.W., explaining the working tools to the candidates. Several amounts were voted in charity, and the business of the lodge over, it was closed in solemn form. The brethren and visitors then adjourned to the supper room, and enjoyed the good things prepared by Bro. Wood and his good wife. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were done justice to. Bro. C. J. Banister returned thanks for the Grand Officers of England, Bro. Homer for the Provincial Grand Officers, the W.M. for himself, Bro. Gossage for the Visitors, and Bro. Chas. Leedham for the Officers. At nine o'clock the omnibuses left the door for Liverpool.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MASONIC RELIEF FUND.

The Masonic Relief Committee of West Lancashire having completed the fourth year of the duties entrusted to them, respectfully present their report, in the confident hope that the experience of the past years will have convinced the brethren of the good that has been done by the permanent establishment of the Relief Committee, as one of the most useful institutions connected with the Order.

The committee, since its establishment, have been the means of investigating the applications of over 600 brethren and widows of Masons: many have been found impostors and unworthy of relief, while others have been relieved in sums from 2s. 6d. to limit of the committee.

The desirability of establishing a good system of relief has been successful in its operation in Manchester, Birmingham, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the committee by weekly interchange of reports from Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, &c., find that they mutually protect each other from imposition, whilst opportunity is given of frequently affording more substantial relief.

The committee would call the attention of the lodges to the desirability of the committee having power to grant to poor and deserving brethren who wish to procure a passage by sea, the sum not exceeding £5; it would thus prevent members going to ask assistance from lodges, and great saving of funds, many having to wait a few weeks on account of the committee not having power to grant a large sum enough to procure a passage,

&c., and the committee ask for that power from lodges and chapters subscribing to this fund. The annual grant is now due, and can be paid any Friday at six, p.m.

On behalf the committee, THOMAS MARSH, Hon. Sec.
Masonic Temple, 22, Hope-street,
Liverpool, July 1, 1864.

The Honorary Treasurer, Bro. A. C. MOTT, P.M. 241, in Account with the MASONIC RELIEF FUND, June 30th, 1864.

	Cr.	£	s.	d.
Received from Lodge 32, late 35, for 1863.....		5	5	0
Ditto 86, 101		0	0	0
Ditto 113, 130		1	1	0
Ditto 155, 181		2	2	0
Ditto 203, 245		5	5	0
Ditto 216, 263		5	5	0
Ditto 220, 267		1	1	0
Ditto 241, 294		5	5	0
Ditto 249, 310		5	5	0
Ditto 292, 368		5	5	0
Ditto 580, 845		1	10	0
Ditto 594, 864		5	5	0
Ditto 667, 965 for 1862.....		2	2	0
Ditto 667, 965 for 1863.....		0	0	0
Ditto 673, 971		5	5	0
Ditto 724, 1026		3	3	0
Ditto 823, 1125 for 1862.....		2	2	0
Ditto 823, 1125 for 1863.....		2	2	0
Ditto Chapter 32, 35		1	1	0
Ditto do. 220, 267		1	1	0
Ditto do. 241, 294		1	1	0
Ditto do. 249, 310		1	1	0
Ditto Encampment Knight Templars		1	1	0
		£62	8	0

	Dr.	£	s.	d.
Cash due Treasurer		1	10	0
Payments on account of Masonic relief to 62 individuals from July 3, 1863, to June 30, 1864...		44	14	0
Expenses to Birmingham.....		2	12	6
Postage and Stamps.....		0	5	11
Stationery, 1862 and 1863, and Books		3	6	3
Balance in Treasurer's hands		0	18	11
		£62	8	0

Examined and found correct, { THOS. ARMSTRONG, P.M. 155.
{ JAMES MCKUNE, J.W. 216.
Liverpool, July 1, 1864. THOMAS MARSH, Hon. Sec.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Lodge of Instruction.—This lodge, acting under warrant of Lodge 24, held their fortnightly meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, Blackett-street, on Tuesday, July 26th. The lodge was opened by the W.M. of the Borough Lodge (No. 424), assisted by Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M., P.G. Sword Bearer of England, as S.W.; Bro. Royleune, J.W., and a fair attendance of brethren. The ceremony of installation was worked in sections by the W.M. and brethren, and a very instructive evening was spent by all present.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM MASONIC HALL AND CLUB COMPANY (LIMITED.)—A special general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on Friday week at the Masonic Rooms, Newhall-street. Bro. C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M., in the chair. A resolution approving and adopting the articles of association having been proposed and seconded, was carried unanimously. The meeting then dispersed.

NONE are so fond of secrets as those who do not mean to keep them; such persons covet secrets, as the spendthrift covets money, for the purpose of circulation.

WE cannot conquer fate and necessity, yet we can yield to them in such a manner as to be greater than if we could.

ROYAL ARCH.

GRAND CHAPTER.

The quarterly convocation of Grand Chapter was held on Wednesday last, Comp. the Rev. J. Huyshe, Prov. G. Supt. of Devon, as Z.; Comps. Gibbs, Prov. G. Supt. Bombay, as H.; Havers, P.J.N., as J.; Clarke, E.; Scott, P.G. Soj., as N.; Potter, as P. Soj.; Head and Le Veau, as Assist. Sojs.; Young, G. Dir. of Cers.; Walmisley, P.G.S.B.; and about a dozen other companions being present.

The following report of Committee of General Purposes was read:—

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 20th April to the 19th July, 1864, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:—

To Balance 20th April	£385	12	4
To Subsequent Receipts	204	17	0
	£590	9	4
By Disbursements during the Quarter ...	102	17	6
By Balance.....	487	11	10
	£590	9	4

which balance is in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival, & Co., bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The Committee have also to report that they have had under their consideration the memorial transmitted by the 1st Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland for recognition by and exchange of representatives with the Supreme Grand Chapter of England—a copy of which memorial they have appended to this report—and they beg to refer to the report of the General Committee of Grand Chapter, dated the 24th July, 1863, which was confirmed by the quarterly convocation on the 5th August, 1863, and having given the subject their best consideration, the Committee do not recommend that the application be entertained.

The Committee have investigated the complaint made by the same memorial against the Mount Zion Chapter (No. 169, now No. 145) for having, as it is alleged, refused admission to a companion, on the ground that he was a Scotch Royal Arch Mason. From the explanations given by the First Principal and other companions of the Mount Zion Chapter, it appears that the applicant for admission did not appear to be properly qualified, and not being known to any of the companions, and being unprovided with any credentials, he was not allowed to enter the chapter.

The Committee have received and examined into a complaint made by Comp. Aznavour against Comp. Pulman of the Oriental Chapter (No. 687) Pera, Constantinople. It appears that there was a charter granted on the 6th day of May, 1863, for holding the Oriental Chapter (No. 687) at Constantinople, wherein Comp. Henry Pulman was named Z, Comp. Seraphin Aznavour H, and Comp. Ferdinand A. Hahnel J. The charter was in due course received by Comp. Pulman at Constantinople, who summoned the members for the 21st January, 1864, that Comp. Aznavour did not attend, as he alleged the meeting was improperly called, and Comp. Hahnel did not attend as he had left Constantinople. Comp. Pulman thereupon, with the assistance of two foreign companions, one of an Irish and the other of an American Chapter (whom he states to have been Past Principals of their respective chapters), and also with the assistance of another companion, whose name is unknown to Comp. Aznavour, opened and consecrated the chapter, and exalted several candidates who had not been previously proposed, and admitted them as companions, and installed two of the members then present, as H. and J. in their respective chairs which excluded Comp.

Aznavour. Letters have been received by the Grand Scribe E from Comps. Pulman and Aznavour stating these facts, and the latter asks if these proceedings constitute this a regular chapter, and whether the companions exalted therein are to be recognized? Comp. Pulman has remitted the fees and applied for certificates for the companions exalted, and your Committee have read these letters, and had the personal evidence of Comp. Pulman (now in England) which corroborated the above statement. The whole proceedings appear to have been most irregular and contrary to the Royal Arch Regulations. But, considering the difficulties in which the First Principal was placed, and the obstacles which had been thrown in the way of his carrying out the proceedings regularly, and that though acting under a mistaken notion of his authority, he was actuated by a desire to do what he imagined to be his duty, the Committee recommend that the proceedings be recognized, except as to the installation of the Second and Third Principals, that Comp. Aznavour be installed as Second Principal, and Grand Chapter certificates granted to the companions then exalted. But that Comp. Pulman be severely reprimanded, the companions admonished, and directed to carry on the affairs of the chapter with cordiality and propriety for the future.

The Committee beg likewise to report that they have received information from the Grand Secretary, that in pursuance of a resolution duly passed by the Grand Lodge of England at the quarterly communication, on Wednesday, December 2nd, 1863, Bro P. Baudains, of the Lodge La Cesarée (No. 590), Jersey, who is a Royal Arch Mason, has been suspended from his Masonic functions as a Craft Mason.

The Grand Chapter having at the last quarterly convocation approved of the alterations made in the Royal Arch regulations, the Committee beg to recommend that they be authorised to print and publish 1,000 copies of the same; that the price be fixed at 1s. 6d. a copy; and that the copyright be vested in Comp. Wm. Gray Clarke, as Grand Scribe E.

Your Committee have received the following petitions for new chapters, viz:—

1st. From Comps. James S. Clift as Z., Charles Wright as H., Nicholas H. Stab as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the St. John's Lodge (No. 579), St. John's, Newfoundland, to be called the St. John's Chapter, to meet at St. John's, Newfoundland, on the first Monday in July, October, January, and April.

2nd. From Comps. Alfred Henry Board as Z, Francis Seymour Fairbridge as H, William Hume as J, and eight others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge of Good Will (No. 711), Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, to be called the "Port Elizabeth Chapter," and to meet at Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, on the second Wednesday of each quarter.

3rd. From Comps. Lord Richard Grosvenor as Z, Robert Summersgill as H, Adam Winlaw as J, and seven others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge of Independence (No. 721), Chester, to be called the "Grosvenor Chapter," to meet at the Pied Bull Inn, Chester, on the second Tuesday of every month.

4th. From Comps. William Martin Boyce as Z, John James Wilson as H, and John M. Llewellyn as J, and nine others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Prince of Wales' Lodge (No. 908), Brisbane, Queensland, to be called "Prince of Wales' Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Queenstreet, Brisbane, Queensland, on the second Tuesday of each month.

5th. From Comps. John Parsall as Z, James Stimpson as H, Alexander M'Cracken as J, and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Grosvenor Lodge (No. 938), Birmingham, to

be called the "Grosvenor Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Rooms, Newhall-street, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, on the last Saturday in the months of March, June, September, and December.

6th. From Comps. Lorenzo Pastor Metham as Z, Samuel Chapple as H, Horace Byron Keut as J, and seven others, for a Chapter to be attached to the St. Aubyn Lodge (No. 954), Morice Town, Devonport, to be called the "St. Aubyn Chapter," and to meet at the lodge rooms, Morice Town, Devonport, on the third Monday in January, April, July, and October.

The foregoing petitions being regular in form, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have received notice of the following motions for the next quarterly Convocation of Grand Chapter, from E. Comp. James Gibbs, Grand Superintendent of Bombay:—

1.—In page 12 of the New Edition of the Regulations of Royal Arch Masonry, Article 3, line 5, from the bottom of page, to insert after "to visit," the words "or to depute their second or third Grand Principals to visit."

2.—In page 15, Article 3 at the end of the Article, to add, "and if he recommend the same, he may, pending the arrival of the Charter from the Grand Chapter, issue a dispensation to the Companions to meet and hold the Chapter."

3.—In page 16, last line but 2 of Article 8, after "nor," to insert "except in the Colonies."

(Signed),

WM. PULTENEY SCOTT,
President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, July 25th, 1864.

The Memorial referred to in the foregoing Report.

Memorial laid before the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, and directed to be transmitted to the Grand Chapter of England.

Some correspondence has recently taken place on the subject of the interchange of representatives between the two Grand Chapters of England and Scotland, and the proposal has been declined by the Grand Chapter of England, on the ground that the Supreme Chapter of Scotland requires candidates for admission to the Royal Arch degree to take certain preliminary degrees not recognised by the Grand Chapter of England. In the working of the Royal Arch degree itself, there is and can be no difference in the two countries.

The discussion of the question as to the interchange of representatives in the Grand Chapter of England appears to have led to the impression being formed by the subordinate chapters in that country that the Royal Arch degree itself, as practised in the two countries, is different; and the effect of this has been that at least in one case a Scotch Royal Arch Mason has been refused admittance to an English Chapter.

On the 12th of October last, Comp. A. M. Melville, 1st Principal of the Kirkcaldy Chapter (No. 97), having occasion to be in London, presented himself for admission to the Mount Zion Chapter (No. 169), meeting in Radley's Hotel, No. 10, New Bridge-street. Comp. Melville, having sent in his credentials, was kept waiting for nearly twenty minutes, when at length he was informed that the Grand Chapter of England did not recognise the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, that the English forms were different from the Scotch, and that unless he went to the Grand Scribe E. of England, and got a letter from him authorising the chapter to admit him, he could not be received, and accordingly he was refused admittance.

A state of existing relations between the two bodies of Royal Arch Masons in the two countries such as that now disclosed is very anomalous, and should, if possible, be rectified. If Royal Arch Masonry is to be of any use at all, it must be the

same in its principles and practice all over the world; and it is most desirable that some arrangement should now be entered into between the governing bodies in England and Scotland, which will have the effect of putting it on a proper footing.

Up to the present time, no difficulty has been experienced by any regular English Arch Mason in getting admittance to a Scotch Chapter while working in the Royal Arch Degree, and it is difficult to see how any objection could exist in admitting a Scotch Royal Arch Mason into an English Chapter. Had it been that an English Royal Arch Mason was excluded from a Scotch Chapter, there might have been something to say in support of that proceeding, seeing that Scotch Royal Arch Masons must be in possession of three preliminary degrees, which are not required by the English companions.

The working of the Grand Chapters of Ireland, Canada, and the United States of America, is precisely similar to that adopted by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, and it would be a great pity and much to the detriment of the Order if anything should arise to prevent the fraternal intercourse of the English and Scotch Royal Arch Masons in a case where the Royal Arch Degree as practised in both countries is precisely the same. They accordingly trust that the Grand Chapter of England will take the matter into its serious consideration, and make some arrangement which will prevent a rupture of the harmonious relations which have up to this time existed between the Royal Arch Masons in the two countries.

Signed in the name, and by authority of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, at Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, this 21st day of March, 1864, A.D., and 5868, A.L.

J. WHYTE MELVILLE, Grand Z.

L. Mackersy, G.S.E.

Comp. HAYERS, taking up that part of the report which referred to the Grand Chapter of Scotland, entered at some length into the different position in which the Grand Chapters of England and Scotland stand, and moved that "Inasmuch as it appears that some misapprehension exists on the part of the Grand Chapter of Scotland in reference to a communication made to it by this Grand Chapter as regards a proposed interchange of representatives, and as regards a recognition of the rights of Scotch Royal Arch Masons." It is *Resolved*,—"That a fraternal communication be made to the Grand Chapter of Scotland to the effect, that this Grand Chapter fully recognises the right of all regularly exalted Royal Arch Masons holding under the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland to admission into any English Royal Arch Chapter when duly opened for work, provided that the regulations as laid down in the 'Book of Constitutions' are complied with. That this Grand Chapter would not only exceedingly regret that any Scotch or other regularly exalted Royal Arch Mason should be refused admission into an English Chapter, but would visit with its severe displeasure any subordinate chapter which should refuse admission to any such Royal Arch Mason, who was personally known to, recommended, or vouched for after due examination by one of the companions present. That this Grand Chapter believes that Scotch Royal Arch Masons are not only received, but are welcomed as visitors in English Chapters, and from the inquiry which has been made, this Grand Chapter is satisfied that Companion Melville, when applying as a stranger for admission to the Mount Zion Chapter, did not exhibit his certificate, and did not so comply with the regulations as regards the admission of visitors as to lead the companions present to feel justified in admitting him. That, as regards an interchange of representatives, this Supreme Grand Chapter desires to explain,

that in England, the Holy Royal Arch is considered as supplemental to, and forming the completion of the M.M.'s degree, and that, consequently, all interchange of representatives between the supreme Masonic authority in England and other countries has been, and is, confined to the Grand Lodge, and this Grand Chapter, having no representative at or from any other Grand Chapter, desires, with every feeling of respect and fraternity to decline on the present occasion to depart from its usual practice."

Comp. SCOTT seconded the motion, which, after a short conversation, was carried unanimously.

That portion of the report relative to the Oriental Chapter (No. 687) at Constantinople was next taken into consideration, and, after some discussion, in the course of which Comp. PULMAN entered into a personal explanation, the decision of the Committee was confirmed.

Comp. Baudains was suspended from Royal Arch Masonry, he having been already suspended from the Craft lodges in consequence of connecting himself with a lodge under French jurisdiction in Jersey.

The new regulations having been ordered to be printed, Warrants for new chapters were granted to be attached to Lodges 579, 711, 721, 908, 938, and 954, as prayed.

Comp. GIBBS then brought forward his notices of motion as given in the foregoing report, when the first and third were agreed to, and the second withdrawn.

All business being ended, the chapter was closed in form, and the companions separated.

DURHAM.

GATESHEAD.—*Chapter de Burgh.*—This chapter held its meeting at the Grey Horse Inn, on Thursday, July 28th. The chapter was opened by P.M.E.Z. Charles J. Banister, P. Dir. of Cers. of Grand Chapter of England, as Z.; Comps. R. J. Banning, M.D., H.; Gillies, J., in solemn form. Present—P.M.E.Z. Hothorn, A. Clapham, Buckland, J. Roddam. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Bro. J. Henwood, P.M. of the Lodge of Industry (No. 48) and was unanimous in his favour. Illness prevented his attendance on that occasion. The officers elected for the ensuing year were:—Comps. Dr. Banning, Z.; Gillies, H.; Bryden, J.; A. Clapham, Treasurer; Allen, S.E.; Tottinger, S.N. Business over, the chapter was closed in solemn form. P.M.E.Z. Charles J. Banister promised to instal the Principals at the next meeting. At refreshment the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were responded to, and the companions separated after spending a happy hour.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—*St. Hilda Chapter (No. 240).*—The annual convocation of this chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, July 20th, when the following companions were installed:—J. J. Oliver, Z.; James R. Buckland, H.; James Roddam, J.; T. G. Buchanan, E.; William Wright, N.; R. H. Evans, P.S.; J. Docchar, Janitor; George Lawson, George White, Assist. Sojourners. The ceremony of installation was conducted by Comp. J. G. Talloch, P.Z., assisted by Comp. W. Twizell, P.Z., in a very impressive manner. The Treasurer's accounts were reported to be duly certified by the Auditors, and their being no further business, the chapter was closed in solemn form.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

NOTTINGHAM.—*The Nottingham Chapter of S.P.R.*—The annual meeting of this chapter was held at the Assembly Rooms, Nottingham, on Thursday, the 7th July, 1864, when the following members and visitors were present:—Hyde Pullen, 32°; S. R. P. Shilton, 30°; John Camyn, Thomas William Robinson, Edwin Moss Kidd, Matthew Vowles, and John Cumming Ban-

well, 18°. The chapter being solemnly opened in due form, according to ancient custom, when Bros. the Rev. Charles Walter Hudson and Henry Alfred Attenborough, having forwarded a petition for perfection, which was graciously received by the chapter, they were duly initiated by Bro. Pullen in that impressive and dignified manner which is so highly appreciated by all who know him; after which Bro. Pullen stated that he was unanimously requested by the Illustrious Princes of the chapter, to request S. R. P. Shilton to continue as the M.W.S. for another year, to perfect that which has been so admirably begun. The M.W.S. stated that the brethren all knew his objection to any one holding office for more than one year, yet as they had so kindly requested it, and knowing, as he did, that it was a unanimous desire, and that the chapter could scarcely be considered in full working order, he would do the best he could for them for another year. He then appointed Bros. Charles Walter Hudson, Prelate; John Comyn, 1st General and Treas.; Thos. Wm. Robinson, 2nd General; Edwin Moses Kidd, Grand Marshal; Matthew Vowles, Raphael; James Sollov, Reg.; Henry Alfred Attenborough, Captain of the Guard; and John Cumming Banwell, Equerry Without. The M.W.S. then proposed, and the 1st General seconded, a vote of thanks to the Supreme Grand Council—and especially to Bro. Pullen, who had so kindly attended and conducted the ceremony in such an admirable manner—which was carried unanimously. The M.W.S. then solemnly closed the chapter in due form, according to ancient custom. The brethren then adjourned to the George Hotel, and partook of a sumptuous banquet, presided over by the M.W.S. After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and other toasts were duly honoured; then followed a great deal of valuable and instructive Masonic information, and all departed highly gratified.

MARK MASONRY.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Northumberland and Berwick-on-Tweed Lodge.*—This lodge was opened on Wednesday, July 27th, at the Freemasons' Hall, by the W.M., Bro. C. J. Banister, Past Grand Overseer of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, assisted by Bro. Lambton as S.W., Bro. Marshall as J.W., and the rest of the officers present. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. No candidate being up so take the degree, although several are on the books, the lodge was closed in solemn form.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—At the regular monthly meeting held at the Masonic Temple, Stoford Road, St. Heliers, on Thursday, July 28th, the lodge was opened in the first degree, at seven o'clock, by Bro. C. Le Suer, W.M., assisted by Bros. P. Binet, P.M. acting S.W.; C. J. Benest, J.W.; and Shemidt, P.M., acting I.P.M. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed; the lodge was then opened in the second degree, when the W.M. announced that Bros. Viel and Le Vescompte were ready to receive further advancement. After due examination as to their proficiency they were entrusted and retired. The lodge was opened in the third degree, and the candidates were successively introduced and raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by the W.M., the charge and explanation of the tracing board being given by Bro. Schmidt, P.M. The lodge was resumed in the first degree, when Bro. Capt. De Gruetry was presented for examination, and having satisfactorily answered, was entrusted and subsequently duly passed to the F.C. degree. The lodge was again resumed in the first degree. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the next meeting. The Secretary read a communication from the Provincial Grand Secretary requesting the attendance of the W.M., P.M.'s, and Wardens to a Provincial Grand Lodge, to be holden by the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, at the Masonic Temple, on Thursday, 11th August, stating also that the annual banquet would take place in the evening at the temple. The W.M. expressed a hope that all brethren, who could conveniently would attend the banquet, this being the first held by Provincial Grand Lodge in the new

building. Bro. C. J. Benest, J.W., having rose to order, addressed the lodge, stating he was convinced that every brother present had on that evening deeply felt the absence of one who for years past had been so regular, so zealous, and devoted, and to whose perseverance and upright conduct the lodge was greatly indebted for its present prosperity; Bro. John Durrell, I.P.M., was unable to attend, being deeply afflicted by the loss of a beloved daughter. He, therefore, begged to propose that the W.M. be deputed to call on Bro. Durrell and his lady, and express to them the very sincere regret and heartfelt sympathy of all the members of the lodge for their very great affliction and bereavement. This was seconded by the W.M. and carried unanimously. The W.M. said that no one more than himself felt the blank occasioned by the absence of their much respected I.P.M., and promised to call personally on the morrow and express to their afflicted brother and sister the sentiments of the lodge. The W.M., having inquired three several times, and no other business being brought forward, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and solemn prayer at a quarter past nine o'clock.

INDIA.

(From the *Masonic Record of Western India*.)

BOMBAY.

LODGE CONCORD (No. 757, E.C.)—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, at Baboola Tank, on the evening of the 21st May, there being present—Bros. T. Diver, M.D., Master; H. Wickham, P.M.; E. Leckey, S.W., and Treas.; R. Donaldson, J.W.; H. Prescott, Sec. and Dir. of Cers.; C. G. Swanseger, Org.; J. Roddle, S.D.; G. Judd, J.D.; J. Key, Officiating I.G.; J. W. Seager, Tyler; and a great many members of the lodge. Visitors—Bro. R. B. Barton, Prov. G.M.; Fred. L. Brown, Sub. Prov. G.M. of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Western India under Scotland; H. W. Crawford, P.M. Jamieson, W.M.; T. Wood, J.W.; J. W. Haines, S.D.; H. Bailey, J.D.; Gillon, I.G.; J. C. Houghland, Steward and Tyler; G. L. F. Connell, H. Showell, W. E. Hilliard, S. Gliddon, all of Lodge Perseverance. Bro. Nowrojee Nanabhoy Framjee, W.M.; Dossabhoy Ruttonjee Cola, Sub. Master, Muncherjee Cowasjee and Dossabhoy Byramjee, of Lodge Rising Star; Bros. W. Johnson and P. Hockley. Having finished the formal business before the lodge, the ballot was respectively taken for Bros. S. Gliddon and J. Thomas for election as joining members, and Mr. J. Grant for initiation, and found clear. The Prov. G.M. of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Western India under Scotland was now announced, so the W.M. commanded the P.M. and Officers of the lodge to receive and welcome Bro. Barton to the meeting. Bro. H. Wickham, P.M., preceded by the Deacons and Wardens, all clothed in official costume, re-entered accompanied by the Prov. G.M. The Wardens and Deacons then made way, and Bro. H. Wickham presented Bro. R. B. Barton to the W.M., who descended the dais, shook hands with Bro. Barton, conducted him to the dais, placing him on the right, thanked him for the honour conferred on Lodge Concord, and the brotherly feeling exhibited by the presence and that of his officers and members under the same banner as himself, and then called on the brethren to salute the Prov. G.M., which done, the lodge resumed work. Bro. T. Ford was called up for the third degree and passed out; the lodge in the interim was prepared for the sublime degree, and Bro. Ford regularly introduced and raised. Several Grand Lodge certificates were distributed to as many as were present, and business ended. Bro. T. Diver then rose and thanked Bro. R. B. Barton, the W.M.'s of Perseverance and Rising Star, and the other visiting members, for their cordial and ready acceptance of the invitation sent them, and said it gave him extreme pleasure at all times to see visiting brethren, especially those high in the Craft, condescending to attend and take part in the proceedings, as it evinced a good and brotherly feeling on their part to co-operate with each other for the general welfare of the fraternity, and said that he and his officers would attend Lodge Rising Star at its next meeting.—Bro. Barton rose and thanked the Master and brethren for his invitation to the lodge, and said it was no condescension to attend their meetings, but rather an honour, and sincerely hoped to be able to meet them oftener, as nothing gave him more pleasure than to attend such meetings, as it would prove to the brethren that no ill-feeling existed on his part; it will be always a source of joy and pleasure to him

to see so many under the same banner as himself, doing honour to the Order by thus commingling together as on the present occasion.—The Worshipful Masters of Perseverance and Rising Star also thanked the lodge in appropriate terms, and said they would be happy to meet the members of Lodge Concord, or of any other lodge, at their respective meetings, as they felt greatly satisfied with all they saw, and with the cordiality and truly Masonic spirit shown towards them this evening. Nothing further being before the lodge, it closed with prayer at eight o'clock p.m.; and the brethren one and all adjourned to a sumptuous banquet.—The courses ended, and the cloth removed, the W.M. rose and proposed "The Queen and the Craft," which was responded to with the usual enthusiasm. The next toast was that of "The Two Grand Masters of England and Ireland, and all lodges under their banners," which the Master said at all times gave him much pleasure to propose. Drunk with all the honours. The next was "To the Memory of His Grace the late Duke of Athol, Grand Master Mason of Scotland," which which was drunk in solemn silence.—The Master then proposed "The Provincial Grand Master and Officers of the District Grand Lodge of Bombay and its Territories under England," which was drunk with immense pleasure and cheering. The next toast the Master said he felt confident all would heartily and with one accord join to partake in, which was "The Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Western India under Scotland (R.W. Bro. R. B. Barton), coupling with it the name of the Substitute Provincial Grand Master (W. Bro. Fred. L. Brown)," which was drunk enthusiastically amid great cheering, and one and all ejaculating that they were "jolly good fellows."—R.W. Bro. Barton then rose, and with his usual complacent and pleasing style said that he was proud and happy to say that he had received a special invitation to this delightful evening's entertainment, and that if even he had an engagement elsewhere he would have foregone it to have been present here. He bore willing testimony to the excellent state and working of the lodge, and the merits of the Master, and said it was gratifying to see so many familiar faces around him, and recognised in the person of W. Bro. W. S. Crawford, the Master, who initiated him into the Masonic mysteries; he also observed near him the Senior Warden who officiated on that interesting occasion, and one or two more, naming Bro. Fred. L. Brown, who always evinced a desire to promote the interests of the Craft, and said it would be a breach of his duty if he did not mark his approbation of them; and then testified to the very great pleasure it gave him to be able thus publicly to acknowledge his gratitude to them before so many distinguished members. He felt very grateful as Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Western India under Scotland to the officers and members of Lodge Concord for the kind invitation to himself and those under his banner, and said that this, which was but the first of a series of meetings that he wished would take place, where the two banners would be united, would show and convince the outside world that we are working with that harmony and love so much esteemed and admired by all, and that no differences of any kind of which he was aware, or on his part, now existed amongst them, and if peradventure there were any which were unsettled, that this meeting was the precursor to its early consummation, and in the cup which he now drank he would bury all unkindness. This reply was responded to with telling effect and prolonged cheers.—Bro. H. Wickham, R.W., then rose, and in his easy but firm manner spoke of the esteem both outside as well as inside the lodge of the brother he was about to name, and of the admirable way in which this lodge was worked, and of the perseverance of the Master to please and put all right whenever his advice was sought, and said it was useless his saying much, as much had already been said, and then proposed "The Health and Prosperity of Bro T. Diver, W.M.," which was drunk in true Masonic style.—W. Bro. Diver returned thanks to R.W. Bro. Wickham for proposing his health, and to the brethren for their enthusiastic response, and said if what he had done already pleased everybody, as had just been evinced, he would try and continue to do so, and would persevere to administer justice and honour to all, and sat down amid great cheering.—Bro. Diver then proposed "The Health of the Visitors," and said that such a pleasant evening he never spent, and hoped to see the visitors oftener.—Bro. Fred. L. Brown replied on behalf of the visiting brethren, thanking the Master for the kind and courteous invitation.—After which W. Bro. J. Jamieson returned thanks to the W.M. for having so kindly made mention of his name and the lodge to which he had the

honour to belong.—The final toast having been given, the joyous band separated at a quarter to eleven o'clock, well delighted and gratified with the evening's entertainment. Several brethren contributed to the evening's pleasure by their humorous songs.

CEYLON.

KANDY.

ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN'S DAY.

The Members of St. John's Lodge (No. 454, late 665, E.C.), Kandy, held a general meeting on St. John's Day, June 24th, when after the conclusion of the regular business of the lodge the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, at which nearly thirty were present. Bro. Wyllie, P.M., presided.

Ample justice having been done to the excellent fare which had been provided for the occasion,

The CHAIRMAN requested the brethren to charge their glasses to the brim, as he wished to propose a toast always received with thunders of applause by all British subjects, but more particularly by Masons; and as the Queen is always the first toast at all Masonic meetings, he called upon the brethren to drink "The Health of their Gracious Queen, God bless her." Saluted with Masonic honours.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the next toast, said,—I will not detain you by expatiating upon the noble virtues of the Prince and Princess of Wales, our future king and queen, as they have evinced to all the world their good and excellent qualities, and with their names I would wish to couple the health of the rest of the Royal family. "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family." Saluted with Masonic honours.

The CHAIRMAN said,—I will now propose the health of the Grand Master of England, the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, under whose wise and vigilant rule Masonry has made such strides, and will I trust continue to do so. "The Health of the Grand Master of England." Saluted with Masonic honours.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed the health of the Deputy Grand Master and the Officers of the Grand Lodge of England, and said,—Although much of the success of the Grand Lodge of England is owing to the exertions of its Grand Master, whose health you have just drunk, still we must remember that much of his success has been owing to the support received from the Deputy Grand Master and the other Officers of the Grand Lodge. "The Health of the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Officers." Saluted with Masonic honours.

The CHAIRMAN said,—In proposing the next toast I would wish to remind certain brethren present that in Masonry Scotland hath precedence of Ireland, I call upon you to drink the healths of the Grand Masters of Ireland and Scotland. "The Health of the Grand Masters of Ireland and Scotland." Saluted with Masonic honours.

The CHAIRMAN then rose and said,—The next toast on my list is "The Health of the Sister Lodges of the Island, the Sphinx Lodge (No. 107), and the Serendib Lodge (No. 112)," the latter is a young lodge and of it I know but little; the former is a well-known lodge, and it has been the means of diffusing Masonry among the inhabitants of the island. When any of our brethren go to Colombo they are received in a cordial manner, and I must confess I was much gratified by the reception I met with when attending a banquet given by the brethren to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Baptist. I see several brethren belonging to that lodge amongst us, and I would wish to couple the health of Bro. J. W. with the toast, While I admit that Sphinx Lodge (No. 107) has been pre-eminently successful, I cannot lose sight of the facts that whereas most of its members reside in Colombo, not far from the lodge, our members reside at a distance from Kandy, and frequently have to attend lodge at considerable inconvenience.

The JUNIOR WARDEN, in returning thanks for the toast, said,—I must thank you in behalf of the sister lodges of the island, and more particularly of my mother lodge, the Sphinx, (No. 107), for the kind manner in which the toast has been received; the greatest cordiality always has existed between the various lodges in the island, and I trust that brotherly love and perfect unanimity of feeling will always continue, and that although our sister lodges belong to the Irish Constitution, the Great Architect of the Universe, in whose name all our

our proceedings are conducted, watches over and protects each of us.

The CHAIRMAN called upon the brethren to charge their glasses, and said—I have a toast to propose, which I feel sure you will drink with acclamation; it is "The Health of our absent W.M., Bro. Major O'Brien." We elected him our Master but a short time ago, and though duty has called him away from amongst us, nevertheless I feel sure that wherever he may be his heart will be with us, and, should he be now at any Masonic banquet celebrating this festival, his thought will revert to the lodge which hails him as Worshipful Master. He has the good of Masonry at heart and will, I am sure, do much to advance it, and I trust ere long to see a Royal Arch Chapter established through the instrumentality of our W.M.

Bro. Dr. ROE, in proposing the next toast said—I find on perusing the list of toasts that I have been selected to propose the health of our brother who is presiding this evening, your immediate Past Master. In doing so, I feel that I labour under a great disadvantage, as he is so much better known to all of you than he is to me. I comparatively know little of him; but during our short acquaintance, I have found him distinguished for urbanity, courtesy, and truly Masonic feeling.

Bro. WYLLIE said,—In returning thanks for the honour you have done me in drinking my health, and for the extremely cordial way in which you have received my name, I can hardly imagine what slight service of mine can have induced you thus to honour me. During my period of office I endeavoured to do my duty, and during the first six months of this year I have admitted some of the brethren present into the rights and privileges of Freemasonry. Brethren, let us strive to raise the working of our lodge to the highest pitch of perfection, for I maintain that the Kandy Lodge ought to be second to none in the island.

The SENIOR WARDEN, in rising to propose the next toast, said,—Hospitality is one of the most distinguishing marks of Freemasons, and I am very proud to have the honour of proposing the toast which has been allotted to me. I feel the honour the more because I am able to couple with the toast the health of Bro. Roe, an excellent man and a good Mason, whom one cannot help liking, and I trust, brethren, that many of you will have an opportunity of becoming more intimately acquainted with him.

Bro. ROE, in returning thanks said,—I can hardly express to you my thanks for the way in which my health has been drunk. I came a stranger amongst you and by virtue of the Masonic passwords I have been welcomed as a brother. Masonry is universal and diffused throughout the world, and under its banners are gathered both rich and poor, high and low, all of whom meet in the body of a lodge on equal terms. Moreover, I can inform you that during the Crimean war many of our brethren when prisoners of war received great kindness at the hands of their opponents who, although enemies, were Masons. I return you my most sincere thanks for the honour you have done me.

The SECRETARY in proposing the next toast said,—I will not detain you by expatiating on the duties of the Wardens, which are probably well known to all of you; they have each their respective and relative labours to perform, which I trust they will carry on as hitherto. "The Health of the Senior and Junior Wardens."

The JUNIOR WARDEN, in returning thanks, said,—I offer you my most sincere thanks on behalf of Bro. Senior Warden and myself, for the most fraternal manner in which you have received our names. I have been but a short time a member of your lodge. Shortly after joining you, the W.M. appointed me to the J.V. chair, which I have endeavoured to fill to the best of my ability. I trust that the brethren will overlook my shortcomings, and will accept my sincere endeavours for the good of the Craft, as an earnest of the sincerity of my intentions. I am about to leave you for a time, and trust that by regularly attending the meetings of our sister lodge, I shall be able to make progress in the hidden mysteries of Masonry, and when I return once more amongst you, I shall return, if not a better Mason, at any rate a wiser one, for it is only by a regular attendance at lodge, and by endeavouring to profit by instruction there conveyed, that we can hope to fathom the unknown depths of Masonry, and thoroughly appreciate the benefit it confers upon all candidates for its privileges. And when a brother lives to be a good Mason, he must be a natural consequence a good citizen, a good husband, a fond brother, and last, but not least, a good son.

Bro. DUNWILLE, in proposing the next toast, said,—I have

great pleasure in proposing "The Health of the other Officers of the Lodge," brethren who devote much of their time to Masonry, and who sometimes have to attend lodge at seasons not at all convenient. I would wish to couple the health of Brother D'Esterre with the toast, as he, during the period that he has been Steward, has done all in his power to attend to our creature comforts, and we have this evening tasted of the fruits of his labour.

Bro. D'ESTERRE, in returning thanks, said,—It is always gratifying to have our endeavours crowned with success, and to find that our slight attempts for the good of mankind generally, and Masons in particular, have been appreciated. On behalf of myself and the other officers of the lodge, I wish to return our sincere thanks for the honour you have done us.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed "The Health of the newly-initiated brother."

Bro. PEACH, who was alluded to, returned thanks in appropriate terms.

The JUNIOR WARDEN, in proposing "The Health of the First Kandian Prince admitted to Masonry," said,—I have been selected to propose the toast which I consider to be the toast of the evening. I say the toast of the evening, because I believe this is the first time that a Kandian name has been mentioned with Masonry, which being universal and recognising no distinction of nation or class, and requiring only that the tongue of good report should be heard in favour of candidates for its mysteries, we should be glad to hold out the right hand of fraternal friendship to all worthy citizens of the world, and I hail this first admission of a Kandian as a sign that no slight cause will disserve, and I feel sure that I am echoing the opinion and feelings of all the brethren when I say that we shall gladly welcome others of the Kandians amongst us, and doubtless some day we shall see Broter Danuville in the chair.

Bro. DUNVILLE in replying said,—I return you my sincere thanks for the extremely cordial manner in which you have received my name. True, I am a Kandian and right proud of the distinction, and should I work up, I hope some day to be elected to fill the office indicated by my friend, the Junior Warden.

Bro. CLENNY next proposed "The Health of the Ladies," in a happy and humorous speech.

Bro. SNOW returned thanks for this toast, in a gallant manner.

Tylers toast, "All poor and destitute Masons throughout the world."

In the course of the evening various brethren considerably enlivened the meeting with excellent songs, and God save the Queen terminated a very pleasant and harmonious evening.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

STOURBRIDGE.—The brethren of the Lodge of Stability, Stourbridge, held their annual re-union and pic-nic on Tuesday, the 26th ult. The brethren (with their Masonic friends from Dudley, Birmingham, and Wolverhampton) were, by the courtesy of the Great Western Railway Company, conveyed, at reduced fares, over the West Midland and Severn Valley lines, and from whence they took the ferry across the Severn to Apley Park, the delightfully-picturesque seat of Henry Whitmore, Esq., M.P. for Bridgnorth, who had kindly accorded his permission for the occasion. After an enjoyable pic-nic in the park and a ramble through the beautiful grounds and along the terrace, from which magnificent views of the valley of the Severn and the surrounding country are obtained, the brethren were conveyed by a barge, specially fitted up for the occasion, down the river to Bridgnorth, where they partook of an excellent banquet at the Crown Hotel, under the presidency of Bro. W. H. Jones, the W.M. of the Lodge of Stability. The brethren returned by the Severn Valley line at a little after seven o'clock. Among the brethren present we noticed Bro. W. H. Jones, W.M.; P. Brooks, P.M.; Masefield, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W.; Dennison, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W.; Bristow, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.W., Prov. G. Secretary of Worcestershire; Aston, P.M.; Wheeler, P.M.; Dudley Parsons, Perrins, and other brethren to the number of about thirty.

Obituary.

BRO. R. B. RIDLEY, M.D.

It is our painful duty to record the death of Bro. R. B. Ridley, M.D., of St. Hilda's Lodge (No. 240), South Shields, which took place on the 29th ult., at his residence, South Shields. The deceased was initiated into the mysteries of our Order in 1837, filled the chair of St. Hilda's Lodge in 1839, and on seven subsequent occasions was re-elected by his brethren to that high office. To his energetic character, and his sincere and heartfelt love for Masonry, St. Hilda's Lodges is mainly indebted for its restoration from a languid state of existence to that flourishing condition in which it now is, and which enables it to rank second to none in the northern provinces. Bro. Ridley also held high provincial rank in both the provinces of Northumberland and Durham, and was, we believe, the first Junior Grand Warden appointed by the present excellent Provincial Grand Master, Bro. John Fawcett, for the latter province. He was also one of the principal founders of the Royal Arch Chapter of St. Hilda, and the first to occupy the chair of Z. in that chapter. Last November he was unanimously elected by the aldermen and councillors of South Shields to be Mayor, and well he performed the arduous duties connected with the civic chair. In domestic life he was kind and affectionate; as a friend, constant and true; in his professional capacity prompt, clever, and successful; as a magistrate, intelligent and decided; and, as a Mason, active and indefatigable in promoting the interests of the Order—benevolent to the poor, firm but courteous to all, and a living illustration of those virtues which should characterise every member of the Craft—viz., brotherly love, relief, and truth. His death, in the prime of life, will be deeply felt by all who knew him, and by none more than by those brethren who have loved to look up to him as their pattern and guide in the mystic science, and who, we trust, are now endeavouring so to regulate their course in this sublunary sphere, that they may look forward with a firm but humble confidence to a happy reunion with their departed brethren in those glorious regions, where the Great Architect of the Universe lives and reigns for ever.

"The memory of the just is blessed."

FINE ARTS.

We have received a copy of an excellent photograph of the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new Freemasons' Hall on the 27th of April last, which cannot fail to be of interest to all Masons, as it marks an epoch in the Order which we believe is destined to do more to elevate its position in society than anything which has taken place since its first introduction into England. Some of the photographs are excellent, especially the Grand Master, the D.G. Master, Bro. Havers, Bro. Farnfield, Bro. Stimpson, Bro. Buss, Bro. Hervey, Bro. Savage, Bro. S. B. Wilson, Bro. Elkington, Bro. Dobie, Bro. Fawcett, Bro. Woodford, and one or two others. On the other hand we are bound to admit that even with the assistance of the guide, there are two or three well-known brethren whom we fail to recognise. On what principle the guide has been prepared we know not, as out of 100 or more photographs only 44 are pointed out, and the figures are so dodged about as to be difficult to trace. It may be that the artist does not know the names of all the brethren represented; but with their assistance, we hope he may yet be enabled to publish a more perfect guide. The manner in which Bro. Paas has contrived to just get within the photograph is most curious, as he is all but out of court. As a work of art—as a representation of a most important ceremony—and as a memorial of many friends, this photograph, taken under great difficulties, well deserves the support of the brethren, and will doubtless find its way into every Masonic hall in the kingdom.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and family are at Osborne—the Prince and Princess of Wales having joined the circle.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Thursday, 28th ult., the Poor Relief (Metropolis) Bill went through its remaining stages, and the Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill and the Limited Penalties Bill, were read a third time and passed.—On Friday, Parliament was prorogued, by Royal Commission, until the 13th of October. The speech from the Throne refers to the failure of the Conference, and the opening of negotiations between Denmark and the Great Powers of Germany; to the cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece; to the war in New Zealand; to the prosperous condition of India; to the friendly state of our relations with China; to the successful endeavours of the Great Powers to effect an amicable arrangement of the difference which had arisen between the Hospodar of Moldo-Wallachia and his suzerain the Sultan. Regret is expressed at the continuance of the war in America, but her Majesty will continue to observe a strict neutrality between the belligerents, and would rejoice at a friendly reconciliation between the contending parties. The Queen has seen with satisfaction that the distress in the manufacturing districts has to a great extent abated, and her Majesty trusts that increased supplies of the raw material of industry may be extracted from the countries by which it has hitherto been furnished. The summary of the work done by Parliament is very brief. There is, first, the measure for extending the provision of the Factory Acts, then there are the Government Annuities Bill, the Public Works Act Continuance Bill, and the bill for giving increased facilities for the construction of railways. Finally, reference is made to the material diminution in the taxation of the country which Mr. Gladstone has been able to accomplish.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, the Partnership Law Amendment Bill was withdrawn. In reply to a question from Mr. Kinglake, Mr. Layard said that the Government would advise her Majesty to acknowledge the Mexican empire as soon as the Emperor Maximilian had notified to the Powers of Europe that he was in possession of the capital.—Lord Edward Howard complained of the efforts which had been, and were being, made by Federal agents to entrap emigrants into the United States service. Mr. Layard said the Government could only remonstrate with the authorities at Washington, and warn the people who left these shores of the perils which awaited them on the other side of the Atlantic.—On Friday, before the summons to attend in the Upper House to hear the Royal Speech read, Lord Palmerston stated, in answer to questions addressed to him, that the French Government had not offered to mediate between Denmark and Germany, and that the question of the Duchies was now left entirely in the hands of the belligerents. Her Majesty's Government would interfere no further in the matter. In answer to other questions, the Premier said the Government intended to consider the subject of the Scotch marriage law, and Sir George Grey intimated that a Royal Commission would be appointed to inquire into the question of middle-class education.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality of the metropolis was, last week, high beyond any previous example. The deaths amounted to 1,607, which was more than 300 above the average of the last ten years. The principal deaths were from diarrhoea and the chief victims were infants. The births were about 100 above the average.—The Registrar General's quarterly return, which has just been issued, presents one or two features of considerable interest. The return of marriages for the

quarter ending March 31 is held to be "a very satisfactory proof that the bulk [of the population was in prosperous circumstances;" while in the following quarter the births exceeded the deaths by 71,742. Turning to the mortality tables, we find an improvement as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year. The north-western division, which includes Lancashire and Cheshire, and, therefore, the districts which have suffered from the cotton famine, shows a lower rate of mortality than the annual average of the last ten years; while in Yorkshire the deaths rose above the "high average" for that county. The Registrar-General tells the men of Yorkshire that the same temper which has exposed their valleys to the inundation of badly-constructed reservoirs has left their towns exposed to the deadlier ravages of fevers and of zymotic diseases of all forms.—The fourth week of the past month, according to the Poor-law Board's return, shows a further decrease of 2,080 paupers in the cotton manufacturing districts. Of this number 760 were adult able-bodied paupers. In Ashton-under-Lyne union there was a decrease of 220; Bury union, 190; Manchester, 250; Preston union 420; and Salford union, 170. The numbers now on the relief lists are 86,750—or about 36,000 in excess of the pauperism of ordinary times. Last week the Guardians expended £4,913 in outdoor relief, or £78 less than in the preceding week. The number of persons in receipt of relief at present is 191,500 below the number on the union lists at Christmas, 1862.—The Board of Trade has issued a circular to the railway authorities of the kingdom on the question as to how far it might be possible to allay the sense of insecurity at present prevailing among railway passengers. The Board refers specially to two of the suggestions which have been thrown out in the course of the controversy on this subject,—the placing of windows between the compartments of each carriage, and the adoption of the continental system, by which guards can pass with safety from carriage to carriage while the train is in motion. The Board considers the latter proposal deserving of consideration, and requests the directors of the various companies to give their opinion of the value of this and other arrangements, and to offer any suggestions which they may think adapted to meet the requirements of the case.—Lord Palmerston and Lord Russell made speeches at a dinner given in honour of her Majesty's Ministers by the Fishmongers' Company, on Monday night. The Premier spoke of the duty which had devolved upon the Government of "guiding the country through difficulties of the greatest magnitude," and said he trusted that while they had secured to the people of this country "the blessings and the advantages" of peace, they had at the same time "succeeded in maintaining the position of England among the nations of the world." Lord Russell pointed out how the opponents of the Reform Bill, of free trade, and other Liberal measures, had lived to see their error, and drew this moral:—"Let us be permitted to hope that thirty-three years hence, when the discussions which have been so well and so ably conducted during the present year shall have partly passed into oblivion, that those who live at that time will acknowledge that the Ministry of 1864 did not ill consult the honour of their country, did not ill consult the interests of their country, in the course which they pursued during that year, entangled as their path was with many difficulties."—On Tuesday, the Society of Odd Fellows held high festival at the Crystal Palace. It was calculated that about 25,000 persons attended in the course of the day. They came from all quarters, and in all sorts of conveyances, though, of course, the railways conveyed by far the larger number. Early in the day a procession was formed through the grounds, in which men and women joined,

and which produced a pleasing effect. A concert, in which several of the leading vocalists now in London took part, was afterwards held; and a variety of outdoor games and amusements concluded the day. The weather was all that could be desired. —On Monday, according to ancient custom, a boat race took place among six young watermen in the first year after the close of their apprenticeship, for Doggett's Coat and Badge. According to the liberal arrangements, all the six rowers obtained prizes varying in value with their position in the race, but the interest was confined to the two watermen Coombes and Kilsby, who soon distanced all the other competitors, and kept up an exciting race to the end, the former winning by about ten boats' lengths. —The Commander-in-Chief has made an official report to the Secretary at War, of the condition of the volunteers whom he recently reviewed on Wimbledon-common. Amidst much praise, his Royal Highness points out some defects, and dwells on the necessity of giving increased attention to company and battalion drill. He also suggests that if there were fewer large gatherings of volunteers—not more than three or four in the course of a season, when the members would be able to leave their employments in larger numbers, and perhaps for a whole day, instead of the mere fragment of one—the regiments would then be better filled up and the movements more extended than it is possible to make them now. —A general meeting of the committee and members of the Newspaper Fund was held on Saturday at the Freemasons' Tavern, Lord Houghton in the chair. From the report read it appeared that the fund is in a very flourishing condition, a sum of more than £1,300 now standing to the credit of the Association. Several instances were alluded to of cases of distress which had been relieved by the committee, and of application for relief which unfortunately could not be complied with consistently with the rules of the Society, as neither the applicants nor their immediate relatives were subscribers to the fund. It was agreed to hold another meeting on an early day for the revision of the rules and the remodelling of the executive, both rendered necessary by the extension in point of numbers that the Association has of late received; but there was a general expression of opinion, in which the chairman concurred, against any alteration in the fundamental rule that subscribers only shall be entitled to partake of the benefits of the fund. —The ship in which the murderer of Mr. Briggs is supposed to have taken passage to New York was spoken on Monday, 63 miles off Cape Clear. She has thus made but very small progress; while the persons first despatched in search of the fugitive are, no doubt, by this time in New York. —The Yelverton case, we are informed by Miss Longworth, has not by any means terminated, and she declares that, as she is an honest woman in the sight of heaven, she will defend her honour to the last pulsation of her heart. She is advised that the opinion given by the Law Lords last week against the legality of her marriage is merely an opinion until it is affirmed, or in legal phrase, "extracted" by the High Court of Session in Scotland, and before that an examination on oath will take place. She therefore appeals to the public to suspend their judgment until this last ordeal has been tried. —At the Surrey assizes the man Nash was tried for the indecent assault on the young lady who got out of the carriage at the risk of her life to avoid him. The evidence was much the same as that given before the magistrates, and the jury found him guilty. He was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour. —At the Maidstone Assizes several young men, living at Tunbridge-wells, have been placed at the bar on the charge of being concerned in some riotous proceedings

that took place lately in that town. It seems that a medical man at the place had made a complaint to the Home Secretary of the defective sanitary arrangements there, which had led to disease. An inspector sent down from the Home Office reported that this was not the case, and the lower classes, feeling indignant at the aspersion on their town, burnt the doctor in effigy and broke his windows. On the case being opened, Baron Martin suggested that it was a case for arrangement, and in the end the prisoners were dismissed on their own recognisances, and an engagement to pay £20 for the damage done. —At the Lincoln assizes, Martha Howell, a schoolmistress, was tried for shooting at Emma Johnson with intent to murder her, at Corringham, on the 17th June. The prisoner has been for nine years mistress of the National School at Springthorpe, near Gainsborough. She was convicted and sentenced to four years' penal servitude. —William Willis was put upon his trial at the Cambridge Assizes for the murder of Maria Hunt, an old lady of 70 years of age. The jury, considering the identity of the prisoner not clearly established, returned a verdict of not guilty. —A singular question arose at the Manchester Assizes on Saturday. In a railway compensation case tried before Chief Justice Cockburn, which was heard by a special jury, damages were given to the amount of £3,000, the sum claimed being only £2,000. The plaintiff's counsel sought to amend the declaration, but his Lordship took time to consider the point. —Ann Leslie was charged with shooting at John Whalley, a Manchester merchant, with intent to murder him. The occurrence was on the 22nd of March last. In defence it was urged that the prisoner only intended to frighten the prosecutor, to compel him to comply with applications she had made for money. A verdict of not guilty was returned by the jury. —Cyrus Francis, convicted of attempting to murder his wife by giving her a cake containing a quantity of antimony and a number of crooked pins, was sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude. —On the conclusion of their labours, the Grand Jury handed in a presentment to Mr. Baron Pigott, urging the expediency of executing sentences of death within the prison walls, instead of publicly, as at present. The learned Judge expressed no opinion upon the subject of the presentment, but promised to comply with the request of the Grand Jury that he would forward it to the Secretary of State. —At the Guildford Assizes the grand jury threw out the bill against the two labouring men at Penge, who were charged with the murder of a woman there, Mr. Justice Willes in his charge intimating doubts both on the point whether the woman had died from violence, or whether if she did, there was *prima facie* evidence of the prisoners being with her. On the same occasion the learned judge spoke strongly of the course adopted by the railway officials in case of the Egham accident at the time of the late Ascot races, and expressed a wish that the managers and not the inferior agents only could be made responsible. The grand jury found a true bill against the driver and stoker of the train which caused the accident. On Wednesday the driver and fireman of the train were put on their trial for manslaughter. The facts of the case were fully set forth, and the regulations made by the managers for the traffic on the race days were put in. These were severely commented on by the judge, who was at first of opinion that there was no case against the prisoners, as their superiors, and not they, were responsible for all that happened. He decided, however, on sending the case to the jury, but the jury interposed, and said they were unanimously of his lordship's opinion, and the prisoners were discharged. —At the Middlesex Sessions John Williams was found guilty of stealing a watch from the person of Mr. Roberts at Uxbridge.

The prisoners was sentenced to two years' hard labour. Thomas Jones was sentenced to nine months' hard labour for indecently assaulting two little girls in the Green Park.—On Tuesday evening, a gold-polisher, named Roland, living at Seekford-street, Clerkenwell, was taken into custody for a brutal attack made upon his wife. The inhuman savage had struck the poor woman upon the head with a chopper, fracturing the skull. Her condition is considered extremely precarious. The prisoner was brought up at Clerkenwell Police-court, and after evidence being heard, was remanded for a week.—An inquest was held on Saturday last, at Stourport, in Worcestershire, on a young lady named Worth, residing there, whose body had been found in a canal a short time before. It appeared that on the evening before her body was discovered she had been visiting at the house of some relations, who accompanied her home, and she was then well and cheerful, nor was there the slightest evidence of anything having occurred to cause her distress. But she had once or twice before walked in her sleep, and it was supposed on this occasion she had left the house and walked into the canal in a state of somnambulency.—A coroner's inquest has been held at Bradfield, on the fireman of the Great Eastern Railway, who lost his life by a train leaving the line of rails on the Great Eastern Railway near that place, toppling over, and crushing him to death. The cause of the engine's leaving the rails could not be ascertained, in consequence of the rails being repaired immediately after the accident, and before it had been seen by any engineer. The jury, while they returned a verdict of accidental death, recommended that the engine should always be inspected in case of an accident before the repairs are begun.—An inquest was opened on Tuesday evening at the Town Hall, Margate, on the body of Mrs. Susannah Lock, who was killed in a collision which took place between two trains at the railway station on Monday afternoon. Beyond identifying the body and taking the evidence of the surgeon who attended the unfortunate lady, nothing further was done by the coroner, and the proceedings were adjourned. Two other passengers, ladies, who were injured, are considered to be in a very precarious condition.—A sad accident has happened at Hetton Colliery, Durham, by the bursting of a boiler. Two firemen were killed instantaneously, the body of one being found in a field 200 yards off. A child at a considerable distance was killed in its grandmother's cottage by a piece of the steam-pipe falling through the roof.—On Monday morning, the young man Bricknell, convicted of the murder of Jane Jeary, at the New Cattle Market, Islington, suffered the extreme penalty of the law. The Old Bailey and its precincts were less crowded than on previous executions.—A Sunderland vessel, the *Ouse*, which lately sailed from the Tyne for Alexandria, has been the scene of a frightful tragedy. The cook attempted to poison the whole of the crew, and his diabolical design partially succeeded, three of the seamen having perished at his hands. The vessel has put in at San Roque, where the cook has been given into custody.—The body of an eccentric old man, named Walker, has been discovered near Audley, in North Staffordshire, under circumstances which indicate that a brutal murder has been committed. The lifeless body of the old man was found outside his hut dreadfully mutilated, and the interior of the hut was in a state of confusion. It appears that the murderer carried off a watch, and this circumstance is likely to cause him to be brought to justice.—An inquest was held on Wednesday on the body of an infant that was found thrust up the chimney in a room at the Elephant and Castle, Camden Town. It was proved that the mother of the child, who had just left the workhouse, was in the room in

question, and she did not deny that she put the bundle containing the body of her infant up the chimney. The surgeon gave it as his opinion that the child had been put up the chimney alive, on which the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against the mother, and she was taken into custody.—On Wednesday, Lady Palmerston, who was accompanied by her husband, cut the first sod of a short line of railway which is intended to connect the London and North-Western Railway at Blisworth with the Great Western Railway at Stratford-upon-Avon. The ceremony, which took place at Towcester, was followed by a luncheon, at which Lord Palmerston made two characteristic speeches.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The great work of boring a tunnel through Mount Cenis has been recently inspected by a commission specially charged with the duty, accompanied by several French engineers; and an interesting report has been made on the subject. Progress during the last twelve months has been very slow to our English ideas, and it is calculated that with all the improved means at command ten years more of continuous labour is requisite before the communications by this route are so far advanced as to unite the territories of France and Italy.

INDIA.—By the Bombay Mail we learn that a desperate engagement took place near Bameean, Cabool, on the 9th of June, between the Ameer's troops and those of his brother, Afzul Khan, in which the latter were utterly defeated, with loss of guns, ammunition, and all their camp equipage. Federal agents are said to be very active at Calcutta inveigling into the service of the North large numbers of seamen. Cholera was extremely prevalent in the large stations of the Central Provinces; but fortunately in the Island there was a considerable abatement of the epidemic.

AMERICA.—Advices from New York of the 22nd July represent the Confederates as engaged in an attempt to blockade the James River, with the object of cutting off General Grant's communications by water. Grant is said to have contracted his lines, though still proceeding with the siege of Petersburg. The raid of the Confederates into Maryland was even more successful than was at first reported, for instead of 300 waggon loads of supplies having been recovered by the Federal forces, it is officially stated that the number is only 82, and the pursuit of the raiders has been abandoned. Some doubt hangs over the position of Sherman; but of this there is no doubt that at the above date Atlanta remained in the hands of the enemy. To cut the Southern communications of Atlanta, General Rousseau has been despatched by Sherman, with a large cavalry force under his command. News of a Confederate victory comes from Fort Hudson on the Mississippi, where the Federal troops under command of General Elliott were attacked and routed with great slaughter, the roads for miles being strewn with dead negroes, horses, and arms. The bombardment of Fort Sumter, of which we have heard very little recently, has been renewed with increased violence, and from thirty to forty shells are daily thrown into Charleston. In Kentucky Confederate guerillas are augmenting in numbers and audacity. Their activity is in the same proportion, and their operations have been attended with such success that the state has been placed under martial law, and the most alarming excitement prevails throughout the whole of the north-western counties.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. S.—We do not know.

R. S. T.—We will make inquiries, but our present impression is that he never held the office.

W. W.—The brother alluded to has had no connection with the *MAGAZINE* for over five years.

A YOUNG MAN.—The law regarding the visiting the subordinate lodges by the Grand Officers, so far as the metropolis is concerned, is a dead letter. Neither the Grand Master nor the D. Grand Master would think of such drudgery; and as regards the other Grand Officers not being deputed to visit the various lodges, they only do so when invited as private brethren; and their self-glorification, and not the good of the Order, appears to be the moving principle on which they announce themselves as "humble representatives" of the Grand Officers—who, of course, are all anxious to do their duty to the best of their ability, which is not always of the most conspicuous nature.