

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1864.

THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE.

Once more this journal is placed before the brethren as a Joint Stock Company, the number of shares, however, being reduced to 300 of £10 each. On a former occasion, with a larger number of shares, the deposits were returned, it being felt that with only a limited number applied for, it would not be judicious to proceed further. With the limited number of shares into which the capital is now divided, the promoters feel that there must be many brethren who will gladly take part in establishing on a fair basis the only organ of the Craft in England, especially at a time when Freemasonry is about to provide for itself a truly local habitation—the name it has long since obtained. What the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE either is, or should be, it is not for us now to state. Those who take part in the new Company may make it all that could be desired; and it has this advantage, it comes before the brethren untrammelled with any engagement of any kind. Those who find the capital can appoint their own Managers, and conduct the MAGAZINE on their own principles.

THE FREEMASONS' TAVERN COMPANY.

The last has certainly not been a favourable week for Joint Stock Companies, owing to the feverish state of the money market; but we understand that the Company for purchasing the lease of the Freemasons' Tavern, has made greater progress than was expected, and that the share list is rapidly filling; and, above all, Freemasons are preponderating in their applications. By the bye, can any architect or builder give us an idea of what is being done with regard to the new building—what reason there is to break into the present building—and where is the front wall? We own that our ideas of building are being thoroughly upset.

RANDOM REMARKS OF A ROUGH ASHLER.

Because there are certain secrets and symbols, and allegories, concealed traditions and practices connected with Masonry, many Masons, proud of their superior knowledge over the rest of the world, are prone to view the whole system as a glorious mystery known only to a select few, them-

selves among the number; and in order to maintain the character of the Institution as the great depository of an occult science, they consider that everything, however remotely connected with Masonry proper, must be doubly barred and locked away from the vulgar gaze, and protected from even a glance of un-Masonic eyes. To a large extent, this jealous care to guard our secrets is not only praiseworthy, but quite imperative. Still, it may be questioned whether it is necessary that this concealment should be carried fully to the extent that it is. I am by no means an advocate for thrusting Masonry for ever on public attention, it is only on rare occasions that its peculiar ceremonies, and the pageantry which accompanies them, might be displayed beyond the guarded precincts of a Masonic lodge. The death of a brother, whose wish it might have been that the obsequies performed over him should be by the brethren he loved, and according to the rites practised in the Craft to which he was attached, is surely a fitting occasion for the brethren to come out of their accustomed seclusion and practise their Craft under the public eye without weakness or timidity; for "there's nought but what's good to be understood by Free and Accepted Masons." There is no fear of very much being learnt from merely seeing our public rites practised, whilst the more intelligent of the spectators, without adding to their information, observe much to respect and admire. A clergyman, who read the burial service over a deceased brother and watched to see the Masonic ritual performed, declared that he never could have supposed that it was so solemn, so impressive, and so significant as he found it. The ceremony of laying a foundation-stone is essentially Masonic, and the performance of it by the Bishop and his clergy is a poor imitation of the more significant rites known to Masons. It is on these and similar occasions that I hold Masonry should not shrink from the light of day, and that its public displays, under these circumstances, can never be condemned as thrusting Masonry upon the world. And yet, there are those who hesitate, and indeed object to assist in these public demonstrations, because Masonry is a secret Institution! It unquestionably is so. Secrecy is Masonry's most essential characteristic, its glory and boast; and yet it must not be so preserved as to lead to doubts and suspicions, which are unworthy and utterly groundless. Secrecy with us should be maintained in a spirit of lofty determination to preserve our mysteries inviolate from the rude and familiar touch of the uninitiated, and particularly that portion of the class which might be unworthy of the trust; not with a feeling of timid fear lest our treasure should be exposed to view and snatched away from us. The world is too far advanced in freedom and independence of mind and intellect to look with favour or toleration on any system which wraps itself up in impenetrable

darkness, without a scintillation of light to show something of what it consists. Timid and jealous concealment is sure to lead to a suspicion of evil; and principles and practices that require to be carefully secreted to live and flourish, cannot be supposed capable of bearing the test of free enquiry. For this reason the greatest friends of Freemasonry encourage the publication of learned and philosophical disquisitions and discourses on Masonic subjects; and he who possesses the ability to treat these subjects in a popular and pleasing style, will do more for Masonry by the exercise of that talent than by subscribing to many lodges, or even being a subordinate office-bearer in them, though these are legitimate means to gratify his laudable ambition. The very periodical in which I write is doing an immense amount of good in teaching the world what true Masonry is.

Is it an unworthy object to endeavour to present ourselves to the outer world in a light that shall not be suspicious or revolting? There is no necessity to beg for popular favour, but a course of procedure that may disclose to the world the character, the genius, the principles of our Institution, the prevailing motives of our actions, and the natural effects of their actions on the members of the Craft and on the world at large, is a tribute which the advancement of mind and the spirit of fair enquiry exacts from us as citizens of the world, and it, or a penalty in some form, must be paid. Say we are not of the world, we are both as individuals and as an institution *in* the world; and though we may preserve our vitality and a *mens conscia recti* in seclusion, we, like the rest of mankind, owe no small measure of our personal happiness and self-respect to the estimation in which we are held by each integral particle of the swelling masses of intelligent beings around and about us.

There is another means by which we may lay the good opinion of society under just tribute to Masonry, and that is by relaxing the rigid rules by which the world is debarred from every sort of association with the brethren. There seems to be no sufficient reason for denying admission, so strictly as we do, to our supper tables of all who are not Masons. It must not be supposed that I advocate the principle that Masonry should play the sycophant to the world, put itself out of the way to court popular praise, and yield undue deference to society to win its good opinion; or that I wish to see the present rule of exclusiveness so far relaxed as to turn our Masonic suppers into mixed festive assemblies, in which the un-Masonic element might possibly predominate; but I do consider that the occasional and limited admission of those who are not Masons to a participation in our refreshments after labour would lead to the happiest results. There was a time when such association was, from the nature of things, impossible; when tables were furnished within the lodge rooms, and when, in more strict adherence, perhaps, to natural laws than is at present observed,

a season during the hours of labour was set apart for refreshment, after which labour was resumed. "The sun rises in the East, and summonses to labour; it gains its meridian, and invites to refreshment; and it sets at length in the West, to remind us that repose is necessary to restore exhausted strength for another day of toil." It was in this idea that lodges were originally conducted; "and the removal of the tables at the Unions, in 1813, was intended to supersede the custom of taking refreshment during lodge hours." The wisdom of this innovation has been questioned; but, however that may be, since all essentially Masonic labour ends with the closing of the lodge, and all the practices and ceremonies of Masonry, and even conversation on Masonic subjects, are carefully excluded from our refreshment tables, I think these are the fittest occasions for the uninitiated to see Masonry in its hours of unrestraint, ease, and relaxation, and learn something of its true characteristics and principles, and how the brethren are united to and love one another. It cannot be questioned that the popular feeling is more in antagonism to than in favour of our noble Institution. Our proceedings in lodge cannot be supposed to be very praiseworthy, whilst it is *believed* that our festive hours are spent in revelry and excess, ending in obscenity and intoxication. Is not this stupendous error our own fault; and can it not be traced directly to the jealousy with which we seclude ourselves from our best friends who are not Masons, and thus create a spirit of suspicion, which is the prolific origin of misrepresentation? In public Masonic meetings in England, ladies are admitted in the galleries to hear the speeches. How would such a practice stimulate the flagging oratory of the leaders of the Order in these sultry and wasting latitudes? And how many worthy accessions might we not hope to have to our Order, if men who, well disposed towards Masonry, had the option of occasionally joining the festive board, invited by the Master of a lodge at the request of a Masonic friend and member, in order to ascertain for himself what in very truth the spirit of Masonry was. I will conclude by hoping that this question will not be allowed to drop with the perusal of these remarks, and that some brother will agitate the question until he succeeds in having a favourable opinion on the subject authoritatively expressed by the Provincial Grand Master of Bengal.—*Indian Freemasons' Friend*.

[In England it is only on occasions of our Festivals for Charities or Grand Lodges that ladies are admitted to the gallery, and then because, with the exception of the clothing, we are out of Masonry. The admission of gentlemen who are not Masons to the table is, however, quite another matter, and we trust that it will ever be discountenanced both by our English and Indian friends. By such a course men are thrown off their guard; and one injudicious brother (and such will occa-

sionally be found after a good dinner) might do far more mischief than the example of one hundred good and true men would lead to benefit.—Ed. F. M. and M. M.]

CURIOUS SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS IN WARWICKSHIRE, OF THE 13TH AND 14TH CENTURIES.

By MR. BLOXAM.

The most ancient of the sepulchral monuments in this county is undoubtedly that huge and unlettered monolith at Long Compton, called the King Stone, standing near the circle called the Rollright Stones, which, together with a cromlech in its vicinity, stand in the neighbouring county of Oxford. This is the maenhir of the earliest type of sepulchral monuments of the ancient British period, and in accordance with that memorial noticed in Holy Writ as placed over the grave of Rachel. We have no Roman, no inscribed British-Roman, and no Anglo-Saxon monument at present visible in this county. The earliest monumental records we have in our churches are of the early part of the thirteenth century. Of this period is the sculptured and recumbent, though much mutilated, effigy of a knight, formerly in the Abbey Church, Merivale, and now preserved in the chapel of the gatehouse to that monastery. This is an effigy of much interest; it now consists, however, of little more than the torso or trunk, the head and lower portions of the legs having been destroyed. The armour consists of the hawberk or tunic of mail, with chauses or close-fitting pantaloons of the same; the hands are protected by muffers, the fingers not being divided; the right arm and hand are lying on the breast; the left hand appears beneath the shield hanging down on the left side. Over the hawberk is worn the long sleeveless surcoat of linen, belted round the waist with a narrow strap and buckle. Another strap or guige, somewhat broader than the former, to which the shield is attached, crosses diagonally over the right shoulder to the left side. The shield on the left side is unusually long—not less than 3ft. 9in. in length—extending from the shoulder to the knee; it is not flat on the face, but curved, or convex without and concave within. In outline it is heater-shaped. The position of the sword is somewhat singular, being on the right side, and fastened to a belt crossing the body diagonally from the right hip to just below the left hip. This effigy bears a resemblance to two of, apparently, the most ancient of the sepulchral effigies in the Temple Church, London, which likewise exhibit the long shield, as in this, and much the same arrangement of the drapery of the surcoat.

I think this effigy is commemorative of the fourth William, Earl of Ferrers, born about the

year 1193, and who died A.D. 1254, and was buried in the Abbey Church at Merivale. This effigy, considered by itself, I should take to have been executed some thirty years earlier than the time of his death, but there is no one else to whom I can assign it.

In the little village church of Avon Dassett, in this county, a few miles east of Kineton, is the recumbent effigy, perhaps unique of its kind, of a former incumbent of that church, who appears to have died before he had attained Priest's Orders, he being represented in the full vestments of a Deacon. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and also in the early part of the fourteenth, it was by no means unusual for ecclesiastics of the inferior grades, such as deacons, sub-deacons, and even acolytes to become incumbents. We may find innumerable instances of this in almost any county history, in the lists of the incumbents of the several parishes, and their different grades in and towards the priesthood. This was felt to be an abuse, and in the second general council of Lyons, held A.D. 1274, the thirteenth constitution obliges the curates, or incumbents, to residence and to take priest's orders in the first year of their promotion. In the Council of Buda, held A.D. 1274, the 20th canon imports, that all those who have benefices with the cure of souls shall be ordained priests.

The slab out of which this effigy is sculptured is of dark-coloured forest marble, the effigy being represented lying beneath a horizontal canopy composed of a semicircular arch with the representations of buildings above, and this is supported by shafts with plain bell-shaped caps, running down the sides of the tomb.

The effigy, which is sculptured in relief, represents the person commemorated in the full vestments of a deacon. He wears the ancient cassock or ordinary habit, over which appears the alb, and over that the Dalmatic; on the right side underneath the Dalmatic, and over the alb, are the two extremities of the stole. The sleeves of the cassock and alb are close fitting; those of the Dalmatic are wide. About the neck appears the amice, and the crown of the head is tonsured. The right hand, held downwards, is grasping a scroll, one of the few instances in which sepulchral effigies are thus represented. The left hand is upheld on the breast and hanging down from the wrist appears the maniple.

But this effigy does not constitute the whole of this monument, for it lies under a sepulchral arch within the north wall of the chancel, of later date by a century than the effigy, being of the fourteenth century. The arch is ogee-shaped, but not crocketed; it is, however, cinque-foiled within, and is ornamented with the ball flower in a hollow moulding. It appears to me that in the fourteenth century, when the chancel was rebuilt, this sepulchral arch was constructed to contain the effigy of a former age.

I can find mention of one incumbent only of this parish of the thirteenth century.

"Hugo Rector eccles de Avene
Derced mense Maie 1232,"

I only know of one other sepulchral effigy of a deacon in this country. That is a mutilated recumbent effigy in relief lying amongst the ruins of Furness Abbey, Lancashire. This is somewhat rudely, at least formally, sculptured in relief from a block of lias or limestone, and from the hardness of the material the artist has failed to give anything like effect or breadth to the drapery. The head has been broken off: the body of the effigy is represented vested in an alb with close-fitting sleeves: the alb is represented in parallel puckered folds. In front of the alb, near the skirt in front of the feet, appears the parura or apparel. The cuffs of the sleeves are also covered parures or apparels; but these are quite plain. The alb is girt above the loins by the girdle, cingulum, seu zona, seu baltheus, the tasselled extremities of which hang down to the apparel at the skirt of the alb. This is the only instance I have met with in the sepulchral effigy of an ecclesiastic in which this vestment, the girdle, is apparent. From the wrist of the left arm hangs, in somewhat an oblique position, the maniple; and crossing diagonally from the left shoulder to the right hip, and thence falling straight down by the right side, with both extremities hanging down, is worn the stole. In front of the body a book is held with both hands. The slab out of which this effigy has been sculptured is coffin-shaped, wider at the upper part than at the lower, and I should infer is of the fourteenth century.

This effigy at Furness Abbey is illustrative of that at Avon Dassett, for the mode of wearing the stole over the left shoulder, with the extremities hanging down on the right side, was peculiar to the office of deacon, and is alluded to by Durandus, who, in treating of this office, tells us that the stole was placed upon the left shoulder, supra sinistrum humerum stola imponitur. The book represented is evidently that of the Gospels, for the same writer tells us that when the deacon was ordained there was delivered to him a stole, and the Book of the Gospels. *Diaconus cum ordinatum traditur sub certis verbis stola et codex Evangelii.* In a manuscript Pontifical in my possession of the latter part of the fifteenth or early part of the sixteenth century, but which does not, probably, materially differ from the Pontificals of an earlier age, the bishop at the ordination of a deacon is represented as putting the stole over the left shoulder of the deacon, and adjusting it under his right arm. *Hic Episcopus sedens cum mitrâ ponit stolam supra humerum sinistrum, reducens eam sub alam dextram, &c.* He, the bishop, is also represented as delivering to the deacon the Book of the Gospels. *Hic tradit episcopus librum Evangeliorum.*

In these two effigies the Dalmatic is represented

as worn on the one but not on the other; and this singularity may thus be accounted for: although the Dalmatic was worn over the alb by deacons, and the tunic was worn over the alb by sub-deacons, there were certain occasions on which neither the Dalmatic nor the tunic were thus worn. For, as Durandus writes, "*non ergo diaconus dalmatican nec subdiaconus tunicellam in diebus jejuniorum in officio missæ portant.*" The maniple worn over the left arm was a vestment common to the various orders of the Church, from the sub-deacon upwards; for at the ordination of the sub-deacon, the bishop placed the maniple on his left arm, as appears by the Pontifical. *Hic episcopus sedens mittit manipulum in brachium sinistrum.*

The mode of wearing the stole by the deacon differed essentially from the mode in which it was worn by the priest, for in the case of the latter, the stole came over both shoulders and crossed the breast diagonally, or saltire-wise, in front, down to the girdle, from whence the two extremities, which were fringed, hung pendant, one on each side. This mode of wearing the stole is seldom visibly apparent on the effigies of the priests, as the chasuble covers the alb, and the fringed ends of the stole only appear beneath the chasuble. In some few instances, however, as on a brass in Sudborough Church, Northamptonshire, the effigies of priests are represented without the chasuble, in the alb only, with the stole over, crossed in front, as if vested for the Sacrament of Baptism, or some other sacred office in which the chasuble was not required to be worn. This difference in the wearing of the stole between the priest and deacon is thus alluded to by Durandus:—"Orarium itaque jugum scilicet onus est jugum sacerdotibus, onus diaconibus. Unde fit est et sacerdotibus circa collum et diaconibus supra sinistrum humerum ponatur. Sicut enim jugum collo portatur sic et humeris onera feruntur."

(To be continued.)

FREEMASONS IN THE WILDS OF AUSTRALIA.—At one place Stuart met an old man and his two sons, handsome and well-armed. The native could not understand the questions put to him about the country and its supply of water; but, we read, "After some time, having conferred with his sons he turned round and surprised me by giving me one of the Masonic signs. I looked at him steadily; he repeated it, and so did his two sons. I then returned it, which seemed to please them much, the old man patting me on the shoulder and stroking down my beard. They then took their departure, making friendly signs till they were out of sight." Will not the Freemasons of Europe send out a body of missionaries to their benighted brethren in the wilds of Australia, and so obtained information about the vast district much more copious and trustworthy than any that can be obtained from rapid travellers, even though they be as observant and energetic as Mr. John M'Douall Stuart?—*Examiner.*

LOVE changes all into splendour, even tears and the grave; and before us, life, like the declining sun of the longest day of the north sea, touches only with its rim the passing earth, and rises again, like morning, in the arch of heaven.

DIE ENGRAVING, SINKING, AND MULTIPLYING.

By MR. J. NEWTON, Royal Mint.

The following paper on this interesting art, as practised at her Majesty's Mint, is copied from that excellent monthly publication, the *Artizan*, and will be doubtless read with interest, as showing the uninitiated how "money is made," for general circulation. For the use of the illustrative cuts we are indebted to the editor of the journal, in which, as we have stated, that article originally appeared:—

It is more than probable that, with the exception of those who may be practically engaged in the above-named arts, very few persons are acquainted with the modern method of preparing dies, whether for the stamping of coins or the striking of medals. The general belief shared, as we have reason to know, by many scientific men, is, that each individual die used for either of these purposes must first be engraved by the skillful hand of an artist, and that therefore, at her Majesty's Mint, where, in addition to the coins of the realm, all our Naval and Military medals are struck, a numerous staff of engravers is constantly employed in the preparation of new dies; this is a very reasonable supposition; but it is also a very erroneous one. And though the subject has been before treated of generally, we purpose in this paper to explain with exactitude, and at the same time in as popular a manner as can be allowed, the system of die manufacturing as carried on at Her Majesty's Mint at the present time. It will be found that the processes employed in the conversion of bars of steel, as they come from the moulds and mills of Sheffield, into coining and metal dies are to the full as interesting as those exercised in any other branch of manufacturing and industrial art.

The ancient plan of getting up dies was undoubtedly identical with that which the public generally believe to be in existence now—namely, that of cutting in the various designs and devices upon softened steel blocks by means of etching tools and gravers, and afterwards hardening, and tempering the engraved blocks by the application of fire and water. By such means it was that the renowned engraver of the times of Oliver Cromwell and the second Charles—Thomas Simon—produced the dies by which the numerous commemoration medals and the coins of those periods were struck. When, however, it became necessary to increase the producing power of the Mint a thousand-fold, as it has been increased of late years, it was essential, also, to devise a mode of producing dies in quantities commensurate with the multiplied demand for money; for dies, though made of steel, are short-lived, and seldom survive one day's use in the stamping press. As usual in this country, mechanical ingenuity kept pace with public requirement, and instead of enlisting into the service of the Mint a small army of engravers, machinery was invented which effectually did their duty. All that was subsequently wanted, therefore, was a master hand to direct and govern the movements of the engraving machines. That master hand, in the form of a chief engraver, has never since been absent, as witness the names of Pistrucci and the Wyons.

It would be unjust to the memory of an individual long since deceased to proceed with our description of die manufacturing without mentioning his name, because the die manufacturer stands chiefly indebted to his skill and perseverance. We refer to the late Benjamin Huntsman, of Sheffield, and who invented the best material for dies—cast steel. After many years of patient investigation and experiments innumerable, he succeeded in producing this invaluable metal, and as it will be incumbent upon us to speak of it frequently, it may not be improper to detail very briefly at this point the process of making it. That process has remained unaltered in principle since the days of Huntsman, and is not likely to be deviated from in the future.

The melting of wrought, or bar steel, intended for conversion into cast steel, is effected in small crucibles formed of clay and plumbago, and which are capable of holding about 30lbs. weight each of the metal to be acted upon. Ten or twelve of these are placed in furnaces very similar to those used in ordinary brass foundries. After the crucibles have been brought, by the concentrated action of a coke fire to a white heat, they are charged with pieces of bar steel reduced to a particular degree of softness, and which weigh about a pound each. When the crucibles are thus loaded, lids of clay are placed over them, the furnaces are filled with coke, and the covers of the furnaces are put down. The intense heat thus generated soon reduces the contents of the

crucibles to a liquid state, and induces an ebullition of the metal, resembling somewhat the boiling process in the case of ordinary fluids. When the furnaces require feeding with fresh coke the lids of the crucibles are also removed, and the workmen are enabled to judge as to how far the process is matured. Usually, in about three hours, the molten metal is ready for "teeming." The subsidence of all ebullition, and the dazzling brilliancy of the metal are proofs of the successful completion of the fiery ordeal, and it is then forthwith poured into ingot moulds of the shape and size required. When cold, the resulting ingots are removed, and are in fit condition for the market and the rolling mills or the workshop. Those which are intended for conversion into dies are first elongated into bars, of which we shall have to speak hereafter. Without further preface let us now proceed to deal with the manufacture of cast steel dies as practised at her Majesty's Mint. The whole of those which are used there—and in these days of incessant money-making their name is "legion"—are produced within its own walls. The die department, which occupies what may be termed the left wing of the operative branch of the establishment, is entirely independent of, and distinct from, the coining-rooms. It comprises offices, workshops, stores, a museum (in which are kept specimens of the dies of almost every monarch of England, from William the Conqueror to Victoria the Good), and all are conveniently disposed for these purposes. In the workshops are to be found forges, furnaces, lathes, huge presses, annealing and hardening pots of wrought iron, baths for die plunging, and numerous other fittings of a less important, but not less useful kind. The running machinery is driven by a six horse-power steam engine, made by the well-known firm of Boulton and Watt, the present head of which is H. Wollaston Blake, a director of the Bank of England.

Rectangular bars of the finest cast steel which Sheffield can furnish, and varying in size in accordance with the respective denominations of coin in the British series alone are used in the Mint. There are two substantial reasons for employing highly refined steel in die making. The first is that the elaborate engraving and fine lines of the artist, as placed on an original die, may be satisfactorily copied, and the second that due resistance may be gained by the perfect homogeneity and toughness of the metal to the rapidly-repeated and heavy thuds of the coining presses. Constant practice has made the officers and workmen of the department excellent judges of the peculiar mechanical and chemical properties which should distinguish the steel they use. They are consequently not very liable to error in selecting it. It is not essential, perhaps, to explain minutely the peculiarities which distinguish good die steel; but it may be said that that which exhibits, when broken or fractured, a moderately fine grain which is of uniform texture, and when polished is free from spot or blemish, is the best. Let it be imagined, for illustration, that a coinage of florins is required to be struck and issued from the Mint, and that the entire duty of engraving, sinking, and multiplying a number of dies for the purpose has to be performed. Then, if we succeed in making the operation understood, our readers will have obtained information as to the manufacture of dies generally, for all pass through similar processes. The engraver will have received his instructions from the master of the Mint. Let us therefore visit his atelier, and watch his movements. Having selected with especial care the bar to be first used, tested portions of it with rigorous severity, and thus assured himself of its perfect fitness, the artist will cause it to be sent to the smith. After one end of the bar is heated to redness in an ordinary forge, two pieces are cut off it of the size required. The resulting blocks are then again heated and swaged into round form. It may be suggested that the bars of cast steel might as well be made round before reaching the hands of the die forgers and that this would save the labour of hammering the blocks into round shape afterwards. The smith's labour, however, is not labour lost, for it gives a density and tensile strength to the embryo dies which they would not otherwise possess, and hence they are eventually found more durable. It will be well to explain, too, that the blocks are not worked longitudinally with the bar from which they are cut, but transversely; that is to say, the sides of the bar, form the tops and bottoms of the dies. The grain of the steel is thus made to pass across the dies, and not vertically through them. They are thus rendered less liable to splitting while under the press.

The two rounded blocks are next annealed to the fullest extent possible, and this is done by placing them in a wrought iron pot,

covering them with animal charcoal and depositing the whole for twenty-four hours in an oven heated by coke; they are afterwards withdrawn, removed from the pot, and allowed to cool gradually. Next they are taken to the lathe and one end of each is turned. That which is intended to become the "matrix" die (of which more anon) is made perfectly flat and smooth, and it is upon this prepared surface that the artists' talent will have to be first expended. The second block, turned slightly conical, and which is destined to become the "puncheon" may be put out of view *pro tem*. The engraver addresses himself to the work of etching in upon the matrix block his approved design, say of the obverse for the florin. Assured of having put in his outlines correctly, the work of engraving fairly commences, and only those who have witnessed the operation of die cutting can realise the amount of patience and skill necessary for its successful completion. After many weeks of close and constant application the design in *intaglio* will probably be finished, repeated impressions in clay and soft metal being taken *ad interim* by the artist as tests of the accuracy of his work. Innumerable touchings and re-touchings, with the graver, are indispensable to the minute realisation of the design, but it at last satisfactorily appears on the surface of the softened steel. The letters to form the legend and the date are stamped in by aid of punches, and the matrix, or first die, is engraven. A very important, and to the engraver, an anxious operation follows. It is that of hardening the matrix. In its present annealed condition it is practically useless, and, therefore, the risk must be run of exposing a very beautiful work of art in quick succession to the tender mercies of the antagonistic elements fire and water. There is no escaping this, however; and the artist, if a nervous man, may tremble for the result. His only hope lies in the excessive care with which the work is done, and the excellence of the cast steel of which the die is composed. The preservation unmarred of the delicate lines and tracery which have cost him so many hours and so much exertion is naturally a great consideration. To ensure this, as far as possible, the engraved face of the die is covered by a mask composed of some fixed oil, thickened to the consistency of a paste by the addition of animal charcoal finely powdered. This Ethiopian-like compound is spread over the surface of the engraving to which it closely adheres, filling all interstices.

As an extra precaution an iron ring is usually made to encompass tightly the matrix before hardening, so as to lessen the risk of fracture. In this condition it is deposited with its face downwards in a pot or crucible and buried once more in animal charcoal, *i.e.*, burnt leather, horn, &c. The crucible and its precious contents are placed now in a furnace, the whole being heated to redness. After submission to this saturation of fire, if the term be admissible, for about an hour the pot is withdrawn and the matrix, taken out of it by means of a pair of tongs is instantly and *sans cérémonie* plunged into a cold water bath. The bath is sufficiently capacious to contain as much water as will prevent the water becoming sensibly warm by the immersion of the red hot die. Held firmly by the workman's tongs, the matrix is swayed to and fro rapidly in the water until it ceases to splutter and hiss at its rough treatment. Should no unusual or singing sound proceed from it while in the bath, the probability is that the expansion induced by the fire, and the sudden contraction caused by the cold water have not injured the die, and the engraver may take heart again, for his work is safe and sound. If, on the contrary, it sings, the die will be found to have cracked in the process of hardening and his work will have to be done over again. For the reasons previously given such a disastrous result seldom happens at the Royal Mint.

Allowing that all has proved favourable, the coating which protects the engraved surface is removed, and the matrix is forwarded to the polisher, who by pressing its "table," or face, carefully against a flat disc of iron running rapidly in a lathe, and upon which a film of slower emery and oil has been spread, soon produces a mirror-like polish. Tempering is the next operation, for at present the steel is much too hard for its purpose, and this is effected by putting the matrix into water to be gradually heated to the boiling point or placing it on a bar of hot iron. In either case the work is done when the die, after a series of chameleon-like changes of colour, assumes that of pale straw. At this juncture, therefore, it is again plunged into cold water, and the obverse matrix is ready for use. Arrangements of a precisely similar character throughout are observed in the production of the reverse matrix, and thus the first

and more important stage in the manufacture of coining dies is passed.

It is time that we turned to the second block of steel, namely, that intended for the "puncheon." This has been annealed and turned, not flat, but flatly conical, on the surface to be decorated. Both it and the matrix are thus made ready for "the press," not a printing press, but a massive and powerful stamping press, with a coarse triple threaded screw of some 6in. in diameter passed vertically through its centre. Attached to the upper part of the screw, and above the press are two heavily weighted fly arms which constantly tend to force down the screw. To the lower end of the screw, and with its face downwards, the matrix is firmly fixed by a workman, who stands in a recess sunk in the floor to a depth convenient for bringing his eyes and his hands to a level with the bed of the press. The puncheon block is deposited next with its face turned upwards, on the solid cast iron bed of the press, and immediately and fairly below the matrix. All being ready, several strong-armed workmen seize the fly arms, and walking round with them, raise the screw and matrix until the latter is several inches above the puncheon block. On a sudden they release their hold and the weighted arms revolving with a speed and force which would be fatal to any person standing in their way, drive down the matrix until it impinges with a dull, heavy thud upon the puncheon block. Again the workmen stand to their (fly) arms and raise the screw of the press. The effect of the blow is then seen in the depressed apex of the cone-topped die which received its impact, and in the transference to itself thereby of a partial copy in relief of the *intaglio* engraved matrix. The compression of the particles of steel composing the puncheon by the stress of the blow, mechanically hardens the puncheon, and before its impression can be completed by a repetition of the act, it must be again annealed. This is effected in the same way as before. The puncheon is returned to the press, and the matrix, now detached from the screw, is placed loosely on the top of it, though, for an obvious reason, in such a way as that the engraving on the matrix and the partly finished impression on the puncheon shall exactly match or fit each other. A blank block of steel is then affixed firmly by aid of set screws to the place before tenanted by the matrix, and may be said to represent a hammer, for it will presently descend with great force upon the matrix. The fly arms are turned backward by the workmen, the press screw is raised, the arms released, and, gathering momentum as they revolve, the hammer block is made to fall heavily on the matrix. The effect of this second blow will, perhaps, be to make the transfer of the engraving as complete on the puncheon as is that of a seal pressed by the hand upon molten sealing wax, or it may be, if the steel is very obstinate, that another annealing and another blow may be required to effect that object. Eventually at least the puncheon will be found upon examination to have imbibed an exact and faithful copy in relief of the engraver's work on the matrix to the finest line and most minute point of detail. The duty of this latter is now done, at all events for the present, and it is placed in the engraver's closet. Far otherwise is it with the puncheon, for its mission is about to commence. It is therefore hardened and tempered; polished it cannot be, on account of its raised surface, and then returned to the press. Such are the processes pursued in the making of matrices and puncheons in reference both to coining and medal-striking—for obverse and reverse, although, from the bold impressions usual on medals, many more annealings and strikings of the puncheons are necessary than of those used for coin. Confining our attention for the sake of brevity to the florin, let it now be presumed that puncheons for its obverse and reverse have been successfully prepared, it remains to be shown how they are put into useful requisition, and how they are made the parents of rapidly-multiplying families of coining dies. Florin bars of cast steel are about 10ft. long, 1½in. broad, and ¼in. thick; upon these the Mint blacksmith is the first operator. One at a time they are conveyed to the forge, and cut, while hot, into short pieces of 1½in. in length, and in this form, therefore, resemble Fig. 1. These square or rectangular blocks he next proceeds to hammer into a cylindrical form, as shown in Fig. 2. He then cuts off in a slanting direction one end of each of the die blocks, and shapes them, by way of preparation for the lathe, and thus they take the appearance depicted in Fig. 3. Thus he proceeds with die block after die block until he has accumulated a large quantity and diminished materially the length of the bar off which they have been cut. Owing to the severe hammering to which they have been subjected, they are at this

stage very hard, and it becomes necessary to anneal them. This is effected by burying them in iron pots containing animal charcoal, and submitting the whole for many hours to the heat of coke furnaces. Subsequently, the blocks are allowed to cool

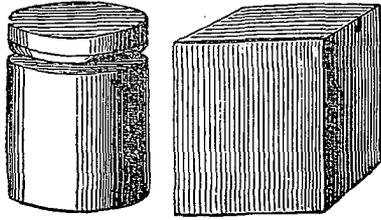


FIG. 2.

FIG. 1.

gradually among the ashes and cinders of the furnaces, and are then ready for the turning-room and the lathe; here they are topped, as it is termed—that is to say the conical end of each is turned bright and prepared for its impression. After this operation they assume the appearance indicated by Fig. 4, and are removed to the die multiplying press, which is similar in form and arrangement to that already described. The press-

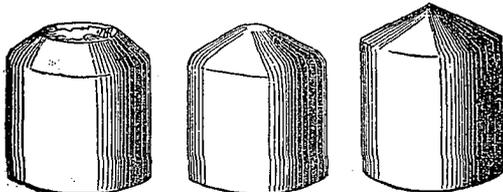


FIG. 5.

FIG. 4.

FIG. 3.

man now steps into his hole, and is surrounded by perhaps a hundred topped die blocks. He affixes now the puncheon in the press, and attendants await his signals to raise the fly-arms, and release them as before described. One by one the blocks are placed so as to receive the impact of the puncheon until the whole have received a partial impression, and present the appearance sketched in Fig. 5. Occasionally, faulty steel is discovered at this stage, and then the defective blocks showing, perhaps, fissures down their sides, are at once cast away to the scrap-heap. Those which exhibit no such symptoms of weakness are returned for another annealing, and will not be again put under the press until the following day. Of course at the Mint dies are continually being manufactured, and each succeeding die sees fresh crops advancing step by step towards completion. We will imagine, therefore, that a moment after the departure of the batch just referred to, to the annealing ovens, another detachment, which were on the day before partly struck, is returned to the die press-room. Then the puncheon, removed and placed successively on the half struck dies, has administered to it in succession the heavy blows of the press, care being taken first to fit in the engraving properly, and thus to prevent the marring of the transfer. At this point the puncheon and embryo die are correctly exhibited by Fig. 6.

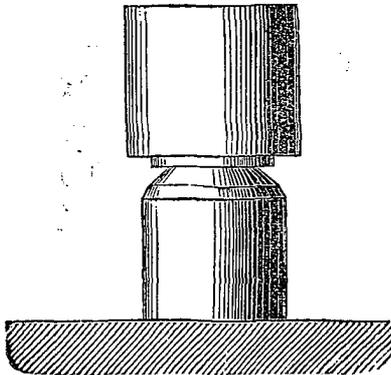


FIG. 6.

When separated, the latter assumes the appearance shown in Fig. 7. Possibly, a third annealing and a third striking may

be required; but this, of course, depends on the stubbornness or the plasticity of the steel, and with regard to medal multiplying that demands infinitely more labour. Fig. 8 will convey a clear idea of the florin die when its impression is fully developed

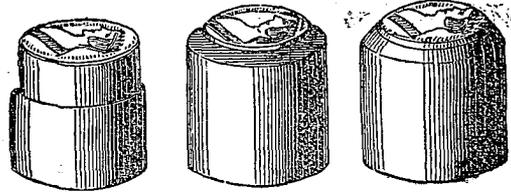


FIG. 9.

FIG. 8.

FIG. 7.

We may now be considered to have reproduced, as it were 100 matrices by sheer mechanical and unartistic agencies, for the partially formed dies are really fac-similes of the engraver's handy work, and it will be understood that thousands and tens of thousands of dies may be and are pressed into existence at the Mint in the same way. The power indeed of multiplying copies in this manner is illimitable, for if the puncheon fails either by cracking or sinking, there is the matrix to refer to for the creation of another, while if the matrix itself should break down one of the impressed dies may be used as a substitute for that, and thus, therefore, if the matrix and the puncheon be once successfully completed, whether for coins or medals, a power of reproduction exists in both which obviates all risk of requiring the engraver's aid to renew them. The wholly-struck dies are once more annealed and transferred to the turning-room and the lathes. Each one is put into a peculiarly formed chuck fitted with adjusting screws, and so fastened as that the impression is made to run truly. Then all superfluous metal is cut away by sharp tools used by expert workmen, and are thus brought to gauged diameters. They then present the form indicated by Fig. 9. Afterwards come the hardening, polishing, and tempering processes as previously explained, and the whole batch is now ready for the coining press room, there to be used in the multiplication of coins.

The diagrams given have not been drawn to an exact scale, as they are not intended to serve as working drawings but simply as illustrations to make more clear our letter-press description. They are purposely reduced far below the full size of the dies they represent for the purpose of economising space. Figures 10 and 11 exhibit the obverse and reverse florin dies

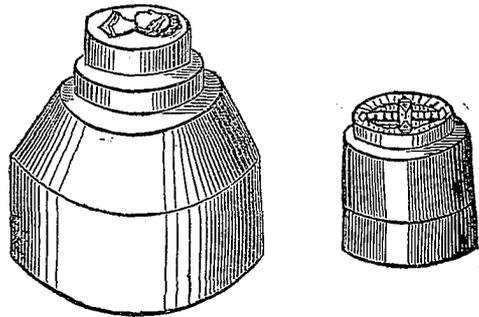


FIG. 11.

FIG. 10.

as they appear when mounted and prepared for the coining press. It will be observed that they differ as respects their form, one having a long, and the other a short "neck." The

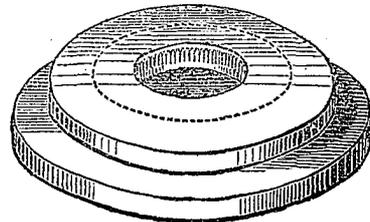


FIG. 12.

reason for this difference is that when placed in the press the obverse die will have a steel collar (vide Fig. 12) fitting over

it for the purpose of milling the edges of the planchets of silver at the moment that the impressions on their surfaces are given. This collar, after forming a mould for that purpose, is forcibly depressed by the action of the machinery, and must have room to slide down the neck of the die, and thus to release the imprisoned piece of money. When the next planchet is advanced by the feeding apparatus to be stamped, the collar is made to rise again by means of a spring, and in fact it is alternately raised and depressed at the rate of sixty times per minute so long as the press is in motion. The feeding apparatus in advancing displaces the finished coins and leaves planchets in their places. The short necked reverse die simply enters the collars from above, and the force with which it does so gives the images and superscriptions to each piece of softened silver, and expands it into the milled collar or edge mould. Having done this it rebounds upwards to the distance of an inch and is free for another descent upon the next planchet. It may be said that there are eight stamping presses at the Mint, and that their united daily production is 200,000 coins, whether of gold, silver, or bronze.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

ARABIAN PROVERBS.

Some of the following wise laws will be intelligible, and their Masonic bearing obvious:—The tongue often cuts the head. If your friend is made up of honey, do not eat him up. When the cat and mice are agreeable, provisions suffer. Shave your own chin carefully when your son's beard begins to grow. If you cannot accomplish everything, it is no reason why you should abandon everything. So soon as you have uttered a word, that word is your master; but as long as you have not uttered it, you are its master. When you are the anvil have patience; but when you are the hammer hit hard and well. Who does not understand a book, will not comprehend a long explanation; the best visits are the shortest.—Ex. Ex.

ASPIRATION FOR OFFICE.

Aspiration for office is the bane of Freemasonry; and, although disgusting loathsome to behold, it is, nevertheless, a conspicuous feature in the disposition of a great many of our zealous and otherwise admirable brethren. It produces nearly every annoying trouble with which we have to contend, and is the source of nearly all our difficulties. It upsets lodges, severs friendships, destroys unity, turns love into hatred, and friends into enemies; it prevents the healthful growth of lodges; it blunts the acute sensibility with which we view our duties and obligations to our brother and to Masonry; it enervates the nobleness of the man, and disfigures in him the image of his Creator; it makes him contentious and rebellious; he is humbled to the character of a sycophant, and, finally, if disappointed, becomes a reviler. * * * * * Many of the applications for new lodges originate in the disappointment of some aspirant for office, who, when foiled in his efforts to gain the office he seeks, exhibits temper, and, together with his friends, either cease to attend the meetings or withdraw from the lodge. They then endeavour to obtain a warrant for a new one, for the purpose of placing him at its head. Such conduct is un-Masonic and unlooked for among a band of brothers, and should be discountenanced and resisted. It is altogether vanity in a brother to suppose himself to be the only person in the lodge fitted for the office of Master, or that he has claims superior to his fellows for that office; the members of the lodge are far more

competent to judge of his capacity and qualifications than he is himself; and if the preference is given to another, he should, as a modest man and good Mason, retire from the contest, wiser and better, to abide his time.—J. D. E.

WORKING AND THINKING.

It is not less a fatal error to despise labour when regulated by intellect, than to value it for its own sake. We are always, in these days, trying to separate the two; we want one man to be always thinking, and another to be always working, and we call one a gentleman and the other an operative; whereas the workman ought often to be thinking, and the thinker often working; and both would be gentlemen in the best sense. As it is, we make both ungentle—the one envying, the other despising his brother; and the mass of society is made up of morbid thinkers and miserable workers. Now, it is only by labour that thought can be made healthy, only by thought that labour can be made happy, and the two cannot be separated with impunity. All professions should be liberal, and there should be less pride felt in peculiarity of employment, and more in excellence of achievement.—*Ruskin*.

CANADIAN GRAND LODGE MEDALS.

The Grand Master of Canada said:—"At the special communication of Grand Lodge, held in the city of Toronto in January, 1859, it was resolved, that in commemoration of the happy union of the Craft, a medal should be struck, and the Grand Secretary instructed to procure the requisite number, at the cost of Grand Lodge. It gives me pleasure to announce that the committee to whom this duty was assigned have completed their labours, and are now prepared to exhibit specimens for your approval; I did not, however, feel justified in authorising so large an expenditure of money as the resolution is apparently intended to sanction, and I have therefore delayed the issue of these interesting souvenirs, until this matter should again be submitted for your consideration. I would therefore now suggest that instead of using Grand Lodge funds for this purpose, that the subordinate lodges be called upon to contribute a sufficient amount to pay for the medals which they are entitled to receive; it would also be advisable to define with more certainty the parties who are to be permitted to wear them." Have such medals ever been struck, and, if so, who can give a description of them to—Ex. Ex.?

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

CAUTION.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—A person professing to be the widow of a Freemason is going about the country obtaining the signatures of members of the fraternity in a book, and soliciting their patronage for a "Shaksperian reading." Unfortunately, after the so-called reading, she forgets to settle for the use of the lecture-room, and does not pay the printer.

Yours fraternally,

Devonport, August 10.

LIBRAIRE.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

ROYAL ALFRED LODGE (No. 780).—At the meeting of this lodge on the 22nd of July, at the Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, the following was omitted in our report:—The W.M., in proposing the health of Bro. Buss, the Secretary, stated that he had a pleasing duty to perform in presenting that brother with a testimonial, towards the purchase of which the lodge, and also the brethren individually, had subscribed, to mark the sense of their esteem and regard for Bro. Buss as the Secretary of this lodge from its formation, and to whose good services the lodge was deeply indebted. Bro. Smith, P.M. and Treas., also bore testimony of the valuable services of Bro. Buss as Secretary of the lodge. The testimonial consisted of a silver tea service, the teapot bearing the following inscription:—"Presented by the brethren of the Royal Alfred Lodge (No. 780) to Brother Henry Gustavus Buss, P.M., as a token of their esteem, and appreciation of his services as Secretary from the formation of the lodge. July, 1864." Bro. Buss expressed his thanks to the brethren for this mark of their confidence, and assured them that the welfare of the lodge had always been his study and delight, and trusted he should long continue amongst them and deserve the same kindly expression which the brethren had at all times accorded him.

PROVINCIAL.

CORNWALL.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall was held on Tuesday, the 9th inst., at Falmouth, the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Augustus Smith, M.P. for Truro, presiding. There was a very full attendance of the brethren from the different lodges of the province, and also a very large number of visiting brethren from Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse. The preparations made by the brethren were great. A large arch, made with evergreens, was erected at the entrance of the Polytechnic Hall, where the banquet was held. Another arch was erected at the Royal Hotel, where the Grand Lodge was held. At the entrance to Falmouth Church a Gothic design of laurels with Masonic emblems was erected, and at its head, enclosed with evergreens, were the following lines:—

"Hence, 'midst the ruin of three thousand years,
Unhurt, unchanged, Freemasonry appears;
Her towers and monuments may fade away,
Her truth and social life shall ne'er decay."

The bells of the parish church rang out merry peals during the day.

The lodge was opened with the usual ceremony, after which the Provincial Grand Secretary read the proceedings of the previous meetings of the Grand Lodge during the past year, which were confirmed. He next read the financial statement, from which it appeared that the lodge is at present in a very prosperous and satisfactory condition. The brethren mustered at the Assembly-rooms, Royal Hotel, and at ten o'clock a trumpet announced the officers in their stations, and at half-past ten the trumpet sounded Tylers in their positions, and the Provincial Grand Lodge closed. Soon after this the Prov. G. Dir of Cers., his assistant, and the Prov. G. Pursk. marshalled the procession to the church, whither the brethren and officers proceeded, the bands playing the Freemasons' March. The following is the order of

THE PROCESSION.

Two Tylers with drawn Swords.
Band of the 3rd D.C.R.V.
Two Provincial Grand Stewards with Wands.
Visiting Brethren two and two.
Brethren, not Members of any Lodge in the Province, two & two.
Rough Ashlar borne by an E.A.

Working Tools of the 1st Degree, borne by an E.A.
Tracing Board of the 1st Degree, borne by two E.A.'s.
Working Tools of the 2nd Degree, borne by a F.C.
Tracing Board of the 2nd Degree, borne by two F.C.'s.
Brethren of Lodges in the Province, two and two, in the following order:

Junior Brethren first, and each Lodge following their Banners.

The Fowey Lodge, No. 977.
St. Ann's, Looe, No. 970.
The Three Grand Principles, Penryn, No. 967.
Meridian, Millbrook, No. 893.
St. Matthew, Lostwithiel, No. 856.
Dunheved, Launceston, No. 789.
Boscawen, Chacewater, No. 699.
Druid's Love and Liberality, Redruth, No. 589.
Loyal Victoria, Callington, No. 557.
St. Martin's, Liskeard, No. 510.
Peace and Harmony, St. Austell, No. 496.
Cornubian, Hayle, No. 450.
Phoenix Honour and Prudence, Truro, No. 331.
One and All, Bodmin, No. 330.
True and Faithful, Helston, No. 318.
Fortitude, Truro, No. 131.
Mount Sinai, Penzance, No. 121.
Love and Honour, Falmouth, No. 75.

Working Tools of the 3rd Degree, borne by a M.M.
Tracing Board of the 3rd Degree, borne by two M.M.'s.
Perfect Ashlar, borne a M.M.

P.G. Inner Guard, with a drawn Sword.
Band.

P.G. Officers, not belonging to the Province.

P.G. Pursuivant.

P.G. Organist.

Past P.G. Superintendent of Works.

P.G. Superintendent of Works.

Past P.G. Sword Bearers.

Past P.G. Deacons.

P.G. Deacons, with Wardens' Columns.

Past P.G. Secretaries.

P.G. Secretary, with Book of Constitutions on a Cushion.

Past P.G. Registrars.

P.G. Registrar.

Past P.G. Treasurers.

P.G. Treasurer.

Bible, Square, and Compasses on a Cushion, borne by a P.M.

P.G. Steward, with Wand. P.G. Chap. P.G. Steward, with Wand.

Past P.G. Wardens.

The Corinthian Light, borne by the W.M. or P.M. of a Lodge.

P.J.G. Wardens.

The Doric Light, borne by the W.M. or P.M. of a Lodge.

P.S.G. Warden.

The Ionic Light, borne by a W.M. or P.M. of a Lodge.

P.G. Steward. The D.P.G. Master. P.G. Steward.

The Standard of the P.G. Master.

P.G. Sword Bearer, with the Sword of State.

The R.W.P.G. Master.

Two P.G. Stewards, with Wands.

P.G. Tyler.

Divine service commenced at twelve, the prayers being intoned and the lessons read by the Rev. Bro. Wright, of Hayle, and the Rev. Bro. Clarke, curate of the parish church of Falmouth (Charles the Martyr). The rector of the parish, Bro. the Rev. J. W. Coope, preached.

THE SERMON.

The rev. brother took for his text the 11th verse of the 76th Psalm—"Vow and pay unto the Lord your God." After concluding his exordium, in which he remarked that, knowing the brotherly feeling which dwelt among them, he would venture to deliver a discourse to them, he for a short time adverted to the system of making vows. Some were led to ask why the Freemasons assumed the position that they did, and why they laid claim to a greater degree of excellence than other men; and in answer to that he could only say that it was on account of the vow taken. In Scripture they had many evidences of men entering into vows. Jacob made a vow unto the Lord, and he immediately set up a pillar as a testimony of his being under that vow. David had also made a vow that he would find out a fit place for the erection of a temple to the Lord. In the New Testament they also found that vows were commonly made among the elders of the

Assistant P.G. Director of Ceremonies.

P.G. Director of Ceremonies.

early Church. Now, he apprehended that in all these acts there was but one end specially to be sanctioned, and that was, that the vow must be a good and righteous one, and paid unto the Lord. It must be made according to a good and Christian feeling, and have for its main objects spiritual glory and love towards man, and not be one of mere form. We read in God's Word that several men made foolish vows, and in the end did they suffer for them. Uriah lost his daughter through a vow he had foolishly made. Darius acted in a similar manner, and subsequently repented it. Herod did the same, and he also had cause to regret having made it. We also read of the wickedness of the conspirators—more than forty in number—who made a vow that they would not eat or drink of anything until they had slain Paul. And after quoting all this, he would ask them, before a great number of witnesses—some of whom looked upon the Order with suspicion, some with jealousy, and others with question—whether Masonry did justify itself in this respect, and whether the vow they had taken was a good one, and whether they had “vowed and paid unto the Lord?” He spoke here as a Mason, and as a minister of the Church of England having a charge in his hands, and he affirmed that if the vows which they had taken were not paid unto the Lord, nor to the glory of the Almighty, they would tend to have an evil effect; but if otherwise, blessings would rest upon their efforts. But how were all their traditions maintained, and how was it that their societies had always been successful, if their vows were not righteous. Evidences of tradition in mystery holding authority in the whole world could be traced by any diligent person. In Egypt, in Greece, in Rome, and in Phœnicia, these societies of tradition existed, they lived in secrecy and in mystery; they were maintained with great rite and ceremony, which was with them their greatest point, but to the vulgar all this was inexplicable. In very ancient times these societies had their existence. Even in their own country, Julius Caesar, the earliest historian of Britain, says that amongst the ancient Britons societies existed the rites of which were secret and enveloped in mystery, except to those who were the immediate members of them. These societies at that time, and ever since, had had a very beneficial effect upon the progress of the arts and sciences in this country, and also by their discountenancing idolatry did they also have a very excellent effect in assisting to drive it from this country. At the return of the Crusaders, there prevailed amongst the people of the nation a general desire to establish some society which should work in secrecy and in mystery. Associations were accordingly formed, which had a great aim at its members leading a pious life. One of these societies was remarkable for the great skill displayed by them in the art of architecture. Freemasonry from this time became well-known, and has ever since been on the increase. It is to Freemasonry that England owes her first position amongst the nations of the world. The grand characteristic of the Order was Charity. They had been accused of atheism, but this had since vanished, and it was only to point to the high position in which the Bible is viewed in the lodge to confute that opinion. The whole aim of the Freemasons was to know God and to serve Him: to imitate Him in His works and His feelings of charity. Virtue was highly esteemed amongst them, and the Mason who was honest and sincere to the Order was looked upon with the greatest respect. He concluded by calling upon them for a revival of those practices of Christian charity which had hitherto always characterised the Order, and for the diligent exertion of that brotherly love which existed among them. By so doing, it would establish that brotherly love which so distinguished them from the rest of the world, and their reward hereafter would be great. The usefulness of the Order required obedience from its members, and its prosperity depended on the diligence used by them in their works of charity.

A hymn was then sung and a collection made amongst the brethren, when a large sum was realised, which was divided as follows:—One-third to the minister of Falmouth for distribution amongst the poor; one-third to the Falmouth Sailors' Home; and the remaining one-third to the Masonic charity.

The old parish church of Falmouth was tastefully decorated for the occasion. The pillars were gracefully entwined with ivy boughs, and around the church devices in flowers, and leaves of the Masonic Order were placed. The fount was also decorated with evergreens, &c.

On leaving the church the brethren re-formed in the same order, and returned to the Assembly Rooms—the band playing as before—and there continued the labours of the lodge.

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

Bro. Reginald Rogers.....	D. Prov. G.M.
„ R. R. Rodd.....	Prov. S.G.W.
„ T. Chirgwin.....	„ J.G.W.
„ T. Mills.....	„ G. Treas.
„ — Jenkins.....	„ G. Reg.
„ E. T. Carlyon.....	„ G. Sec.
„ J. O. Mayne.....	„ Assist. G. Sec.
„ H. S. Bush.....	„ S.G.D.
„ — Williams.....	„ J.G.D.
„ J. Bray.....	„ G. Dir. of Cers.
„ — Burrall.....	„ G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.
„ F. W. Dabb.....	„ G. Supt. of Works.
„ Rooks.....	} „ G. Sword Bearers.
„ H. O'Neil.....	
„ — Ninness.....	„ G. Org.
„ — Harvey.....	„ G. Purst.
„ — Miller.....	„ G.I.G.
„ — Smith.....	} „ G. Stewards.
„ — Jones.....	
„ — Michell.....	
„ — Polyglase.....	
„ — Toll.....	
„ — Paull.....	

At the meeting it was determined to invest a sum of money as an annuity fund for the Province of Cornwall, for the benefit of the indigent Masons of the lodge.

All these brethren were duly installed by the Prov. G.M., who addressed to each of those present some kindly words of greeting. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren, after again re-forming in procession, proceeded to the Polytechnic Hall, where a most *recherche* banquet was laid out by Bro. Middleton, of the Royal Hotel, Falmouth. Covers were laid for 140. The banquet was served up in the best possible manner, and the wines were of the first quality. The banquet was presided over by Bro. Augustus Smith, M.P., Prov. G.M.

The following is the list of toasts proposed and responded to at the banquet:—Queen and Craft; Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family; Ladies; Earl of Zetland, G.M. of England; Earl de Gray and Ripon, D.G.M. of England; Prov. G. Master of Cornwall, Bro. Augustus Smith; P. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Sir C. Lemon; D. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Reginald Rogers; Prov. S.G. Warden; Prov. J.G. Warden; Prov. G. Secretary; Prov. G. Treasurer; Prov. G. Registrar; Prov. G. Chaplain; Prov. G. Dir. of Ceremonies, and other provincial officers; W.M. and Wardens of Falmouth, Penzance, Truro, Helston, Bodmin, Hayle, St. Austell, Liskeard, Callington, Redruth, Chacewater, Launceston, Lostwithiel, Millbrook, Penryn, Looe, and Fowey Lodges.

The hall in which the banquet took place looked extremely gay. Around the sides of the room were hung flags of all nations, beside which were alternately placed devices in flowers and evergreens of the Masonic Order. The whole appearance of the room had a very pleasing effect.

Many of the brethren left the banquet before it was over, in order to catch the last train to Plymouth and other stations, but others stayed and were conveyed to stations up the line in carriages attached to the night Cornwall luggage trains by the courtesy of the Cornwall Railway Company.

DEVONSHIRE.

STONEHOUSE.—*Lodge Sincerity* (No. 189).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on the evening of Monday, the 8th inst., for the purpose of initiating a gentleman of the neighbourhood, and also to pass two brethren, who were initiated on the day of the late installation. The ceremonials were conducted by the much esteemed brother, the W.M. Several minor matters of business were afterwards introduced, and two candidates named for initiation at the next meeting. Several visitors were present during the evening.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—*Lodge St. Aubyn* (No. 954).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 9th inst. The W.M., with his accustomed punctuality, commenced the labours of the evening at six o'clock. The minutes of the last regular and emergent meetings were read and confirmed. A ballot was then taken for the two gentlemen proposed for initiation at the last regular lodge, together with the proposed joining brother. The ballot was unanimous. The two candidates were then introduced and received the benefit of initiation at the hand of the W.M. The J.W. explained the

symbolic meaning of the tools of an E.A. in a highly efficient manner, and the S.W. delivered the ancient charge of this degree. Both the initiates desired to be enrolled as contributors to the lodge. The lodge was passed to the second degree and Bros. Leeson and Hustable, having in a satisfactory manner proved themselves candidates for the third degree, were passed to that sublime degree by the W.M., assisted by his Wardens. These duties having been completed, the Master announced the receipt of an official communication, announcing the fact of a warrant having been granted to attach a chapter of the Royal Arch degree to this lodge. Bro. Smith was invested as Junior Steward, vice Bro. Austin, who, residing at a long distance, was compelled to resign his appointment. The duties of Organist was filled by Bro. Hallett, in a highly effective manner, to the satisfaction of the brethren assembled. The office has been vacant for some months, by the absence of Bro. Martyn (serving in H.M.'s navy). During the evening, the lecture of the third degree was given in a most able manner by Bro. Rogers, P.M., &c. Representatives from the Military Lodge, Meridian, Fortitude, Friendship, and other local lodges. Conspicuous, however, among the visitors, and one deserving of notice, was Bro. Ball, P.M., of Lodge 202, who was presented at the last meeting of that lodge with a very handsome silver-mounted walking cane in commemoration of his having been a member of that lodge fifty years.

OXFORDSHIRE.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF A NEW LODGE AT OXFORD.

On Thursday, August 4th, the foundation-stone of the new Masonic Lodge-rooms, about to be erected in conjunction with the Clarendon Hotel, for the Apollo University Lodge, was laid with the usual Masonic rites, by Alderman R. J. Spiers, D. Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire. Among the brethren who assisted at the ceremony were Bros. C. T. Hawkins, Prov. J.G.W.; E. G. Bruton, Architect, and P. Prov. S.G.W.; A. Hurford, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; S. Lowe, Prov. G. Steward; G. Taunton, P. Prov. Dir. of Cers.; Joseph Plowman, P. Prov. G.S.B.

The proceedings were opened with prayer, after which the D. Prov. G.M. briefly addressed the assembly, and expressed his regret that Bro. Colonel Bowyer, Prov. G.M., was unable to be present, owing to a previous engagement of a public nature. They were met together, as was the custom in former times, to lay the foundation of a new structure with Masonic rites. The rapid advancement of Freemasonry, and the increasing accession to its ranks, rendered a larger and more commodious set of buildings necessary, and judging from the progress which the science was making, it was probable, that at no distant day, even the building they were about to erect might also be found inadequate for its purpose. He invoked the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe on the undertaking, and prayed that all engaged in it might be preserved from accident, and spared to see its completion. A copy of the inscription, a bottle containing various coins of the realm, and a copy of the *Oxford Times*, were then deposited in the cavity of the stone. The upper stone was then lowered, and tested in the usual manner, after which, corn as an emblem of plenty, oil as the emblem of peace, and wine as the emblem of joy, were poured upon the stone.

The proceedings closed with prayer, after which, three cheers were given for the Queen, three for the D. Prov. G.M., and three for the architects, builders, and workmen employed on the building.

The inscription deposited in the stone was as follows:—"On the 4th of August, A.D. 1864, and in the 28th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the foundation-stone of this building for the Apollo University Lodge (No. 357), was laid according to ancient custom and with Masonic rites by Bro. Alderman R. J. Spiers, *F.S.A.*, P.G. Sword Bearer and D. Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire, in the presence of Masons of the province.—Edward G. Bruton, P.M. 340, P. Prov. G.W., Architect; Thomas Baker, builder."

The building will comprise a lodge room, banqueting-rooms, anti-room, and waiting-rooms. The lodge-room will be fifty-two feet long by twenty-six feet wide, and will have a vaulted roof; the room being twenty-six feet high to the crown of the vault. The vault will be spanned by five ribs which will be finished in rainbow tints; the plastering between being finished in blue colour. The room will be lighted, in the day time, by a lantern light, and at night by a series of gas jets above the cor-

nice of the room. The central portion of the floor will be laid with tessellated tiles: the margin being left for carpeting. The room will be heated with hot water.

WARWICKSHIRE.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE HOSPITAL.

This important ceremony took place on Tuesday last under the auspices of Lord Leigh, Prov. G.M. of Warwickshire. The Mayor and Corporation met at St. Mary's Hall, and the brethren of the "mystic tie" at the Castle Hotel. The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in ample form by Bro. Lord Leigh, assisted by his officers, and a large number of the brethren of the province, among whom we observed the following:—Bros. Lord Leigh, Prov. G.M.; C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M.; Robert H. Foster, Prov. G.W.; Edward H. Kiltoe, Prov. G.Chap.; Joseph Ray, Prov. G. Chap.; Dr. Bell Fletcher; Charles Read, W.M. 254; William Read, P.M. 254; Philip Solomon, S.W. 254; W. A. Davis, J.W. 254; Henry Turner, Sec. 254; G. Haswell, S.D. 254; John Ogden, J.D. 254; Josh. Hands, I.G. 250; John Astley, P.M., P. Prov. Dir. of Cers.; J. Cohen, James Andrews, Charles Layton, P.M. 319; J. Tomkinson, Thos. Clarke, P. Prov. G.M.; J. East; Isaac Arrowsmith, P. Prov. G. Purst.; Alex. McCracken, Prov. G. Sec.; Joseph Jenneus, I.G.; James Isaac, Prov. G.S.B., P.M. 725; W. H. Tyler, Prov. P.M. 34; David Dagleish; A. M. Dunlop, 67, G. Sec. of Scotland; Andrew Sumner; Charles Redfern, P.J.W. 284; Frederick Goodchild, J.W., 284; C. F. Brown, 284; G. Septimus Phillips, 785; A. Henry Ferris, 725; William Robbins; R. Croydon, P.M. 395 and 567, P.S.G.W.; Henry Read, P.M. 567; Francis Robbins, J.W. 725; Francis Silvester; Thomas Volus, 567; Joseph Haswell, 51; William Haswell, 51; G. J. Harrold, Henry Buswell; D. R. Welsh, 725; J. Parnell, P.M.; D. R. Wynter; C. H. Penn, 74; H. N. Wells; Henry Brown; W. Bramwell Smith, W.M. 301; F. D. Johnson, W.M. 925; George Fayrer, J.W. 301; Edward Worsall, S.W. 925; John Flinn, Prov. G. Org.; J. T. Collins, Prov. G. Treas.; Thomas Harding, W.M. 725; H. Weiss, P. Prov. G. Sec.; Daniel, 473; J. S. Glover; R. B. Nason, W.M. Abbey Lodge; Arthur Malins, J.D. 696; Henry Southern, 254; Benjamin Hunt; William George Wilkins, 567; Thomas Jager, 74; William Baylis, 74; John Suffolk, S.D. 925; Thomas Partridge, 725; John Campbell; Charles Mackay, 925; John George Beard, 925; Henry Smith, 74; B. J. Whitehead; C. Pembroke; Chas. H. Williams, 925; Vincent Taylor, 925; William Jennings, 925; Edward C. Sisse, I.G. 567; E. E. Schurth, 47; Henry Hadley, P.M. 47; Edwin Whitehouse; G. C. Richards, S.W. 482; S. W. Jones, 301; William Henry Fairfax, S.W. 43; W. Lynes, P.M. 669, Prov. G.S.B.; John T. Wright, 857; Matthew Smart, Sec. 74; John Darwin, W.M. 567; Edward Snape, 925; J. S. Burditt, S.D. 725; Thomas B. Brown, 74; Rev. F. Stonehouse, 725; Charles Lee, W.M. 74; John Woodward, J.D. 567; John Sutton Barber, J.G. 794; James Muggleton, S.D. 74; M. W. Wilson, S.W. 794; Edwin C. Middleton, 794; Edward Benon; J. D. Collins, Prov. G. Sec.; James Downes, P. Prov. G. Chap., Stafford; John B. Herbert, Prov. G. Reg.; W. Bristow, P. Prov. J.G.W., Worcester; George Wyman, P.M. 309; John J. Turner, P. Prov. Supt. of Works; F. Empson, P.S.G.W. Peter Bristow, 254; H. Scampton, P.M. 254; J. D. Horley, 74.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather—a drizzling rain falling during the greater portion of the morning—there was a numerous attendance of visitors, and the following lodges of the province were fully represented:—St. Paul's, 43; Trinity, 254; Athol, 74; Shakespeare, 284; Apollo, 301; Guy's, 395; Abbey, 432; Light, 468; Faithful, 473; Rectitude, 504; Unity, 567; Howe, 587; Stoneleigh, 725; Temperance, 739; Bard of Avon, 773; Warden, 794; Leigh Lodge, 887; Bedford, 925; Grosvenor; 1,249; Fortitude, 51.

The present hospital in Little Park-street having been notoriously too small and inadequate for the requirements of the district, the erection of a more commodious one for the purpose became at length a matter of absolute necessity. The building of which the foundation-stone was laid, is calculated to afford relief to hundreds, or rather thousands, who have no other resource in times of sickness.

After the usual formal business, the Masonic body joined the Mayor and Corporation, and proceeded to St. Michael's Church in the following order:—

Sword and Mace.

Mayor of Coventry, accompanied by the Town Clerk.

Aldermen (two abreast).
Councillors (two abreast).

Magistrates, accompanied by their Clerk (two abreast).
The Architect, Builder, and Secretary.
The Committee and Friends of the Hospital (two abreast).
Band.

Freemasons (two abreast).

Service for the day having been duly performed, the Bro. Rev. Joseph Ray, Lecturer of St. Philip's, Birmingham, and Senior Grand Chaplain of the Province of Warwickshire, preached a beautiful sermon from St. John v. 5, 6, 7—"And a certain man was there which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, He saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man when the water is troubled to put me into the pool, but while I am coming another steppeth down before me." The rev. brother, after enlarging upon the faith of the poor man at the Pool of Bethesda, and the curative properties of the waters of the Pool by faith, hoped that they may be enabled to raise up the porches of a large Bethesda in Coventry—where the lame, and halt, and impotent folk, gathered not merely from the lanes and alleys surrounding them, but from the broad and leafy plains of Warwickshire, amongst whom they proposed to send the messenger of health.

A full choral service was performed—collections being made on behalf of the hospital.

The procession, having been reformed, proceeded to the site of the New Hospital, on the Stoney Stanton-road, accompanied by the band of the Second Administrative Battalion of the Warwickshire Rifle Volunteers, under the leadership of Bro. Standhaft.

The Hundredth Psalm having been sung by an efficient choir and the immense multitude assembled, the Rev. Bro. Joseph Ray, Lecturer of St. Philip's, Birmingham, delivered the following prayer:—"Almighty Father and Supreme Ruler of the Universe, Thou who hast set Thy glory above the heavens, we invoke Thy benediction upon the site now dedicated to works of mercy, relief, and brotherly love. We confess with all humility that 'Except the Lord build the house, their labour is but lost that build it.' Grant, therefore, we beseech Thee, that the building which shall hereafter rise upon this foundation-stone may be a temple of charity ever filled with works of gratitude, praise, and love to the glory of the Great Architect of all Things; and that we, and all Thy faithful servants, as well as those united to each other by the bonds of Masonry, as those by the brotherhood of Christ, may finally be permitted to celebrate the dedication of Thy temple in the heavens to Thyself, the Great God, who dwelleth therein."

The R.W. Prov. G. MASTER then, having spread the mortar on the key-stone of the arch of the principal entrance, and it having been proved by plumb rule level and square, he struck the stone with the mallet three times, saying, "I pronounce this stone well and truly laid, may the Great Architect of the Universe prosper this and all our virtuous, good, and laudable undertakings, and may He bestow upon us the blessings of love, peace, harmony, and plenty." Corn, wine, and oil having been poured upon the stone by the proper officers, the Provincial Grand Master, turning to the vast concourse surrounding the site, said:—"Ladies and gentlemen, the first stone of the new Coventry Hospital, which is specially intended for the poor and needy, sick and lame, not only in this city, but in the surrounding neighbourhood, is now laid; and I trust will receive the support it deserves. The old hospital, which has been in existence many years, has done good service; but the size of the building and its arrangements are insufficient for the wants of the people, and its situation in Little Park-street not such as it should be. According to the reports of the hospital for the last half-dozen years, the average number of in-patients relieved in the hospital appear to be about 150, and of out-patients 1,300. In addition to these there are about 800 casual patients annually relieved who are not provided with tickets, but who are visited by the house surgeon or otherwise relieved. Having been a subscriber to the hospital for some years, I can speak of the great good that it has done, and of the assistance that it has rendered, not only to the poor of this city, but to those in my own and in other agricultural parishes. I trust that it may please the Great Architect of the Universe to prosper our work commenced this day, and bring it to a happy conclusion."

The stone having been duly lowered, Bro. Edward Hooper

Kiltoe, P.M. of the Warden Lodge, Sutton Coldfield, and Incumbent of New Oscot, advanced to the front, and said—It has been the custom of the Craft from time immemorial, on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of any intended building with Masonic ceremonies, that some brother should deliver an oration suitable to the occasion. In obedience, then, to the authority which we all, as Warwickshire Masons, revere, I accepted the office, and must appeal to your fraternal patience and forbearance to excuse the many shortcomings of which I feel only too conscious. We are met together, then, to-day, to fulfil a great duty, no less than to gratify one of the noblest pleasures which we are capable of enjoying. I need not here dilate on the intended use of the future building, that has already been well and widely made known to you all, and possibly some among those assembled may have experienced the benefit of the past working of the institution; but this much I must say, that of all buildings the one which we should most delight in assisting to raise by the energy of the Craft, is one which is destined to extend relief and consolation to our suffering fellow-creatures in the hour of their affliction. Our Order, let me remind you, is founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue, but above all on the three great and vital principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth; and we cannot separate them one from the other without great danger of falling short in the exercise of all three. To-day, however, I would place the two first in greater prominence before you, and endeavour, as far as in me lies, to awaken your feelings, by making, on behalf of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, such a claim on your charity as your circumstances in life may fairly warrant. It is not in the power of all, or indeed of any of us, to imitate the example of our Great Master, by continually going about doing good, but at the same time we can all assist in good works when brought, as it were, to our very doors; and you, brethren, have to-day been lawfully summoned to join in this laudable undertaking. The Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital was first established in the year 1838, and has been since supported by annual subscriptions, legacies, and donations. By accumulations of the two latter sources a reserve fund has been established, part of which has been invested, and part still remains at interest in the hands of the treasurers. The present building has been found wholly inadequate to supply the daily increasing necessities of the neighbourhood and county; in proof of which I may mention that during the past year, ending on the 1st of November, ninety eight patients were received and treated in the hospital; while in proof of the immense amount of relief afforded to the community at large, I may mention further that no fewer than twelve hundred and seventy-six persons received gratuitous advice and medicine as out-patients, of which number (and to this I would particularly direct your attention) two hundred and ninety-one were visited at their own homes. These statistics are obtained by the delivery at the Hospital of subscribers' tickets in virtue of which the assistance is afforded; but over and above this number (great as it is) I find that seven hundred and ninety persons received casual relief, making an aggregate of two thousand one hundred and sixty-four cases of suffering relieved. Now in order to meet these increased and increasing demands, it was deemed expedient not to add to the existing building, but to procure an entirely new and central site, and raise a fresh structure more in accordance with so noble an object, and capable of supplying those wants which have been so keenly felt. This, however, could not be done without trenching largely on, I may say, exhausting the fund above-mentioned, and even this will fall short of the contemplated expenditure—a work in itself so noble, and so nobly conceived, commands our warmest sympathy and our most hearty co-operation, for I need not point out to you that, besides exhausting the permanent funded property of the hospital, the enlarged building will necessitate a corresponding outlay for years to come; and though, doubtless, in future generations many will come forward to support the institution, its present utility must not be crippled. Brethren, I need not remind you of the proud position that Warwickshire, as a Masonic province, holds. I allude not to the numbers who range under its banners—that is comparatively an accidental circumstance—but I allude, and with pride, to the amount of its contributions to the several charities. You, brethren, who have rallied round the standard of our right worshipful and right beloved Provincial Grand Master on the many occasions of his presiding at the festivals of the different Masonic Charities, can best appreciate his intrinsic worth and

genial sympathy with distress in all its forms. Brethren, he now appeals to us all, and expects that every man will do his duty; with us it rests whether that appeal shall be made in vain or not. Let us not selfishly confine ourselves to supplying the wants and necessities of poorer brethren of the Craft, This we have proved that we can do (and, I am thankful to say, effectually), but surely our hearts are larger than this, and open as well to the calls of the uninstruced world at large who are not Masons; and never let it be said that in the provincial of Warwickshire a work of charity was allowed to flag for want of those means with which many amongst us have been so bountifully blest. Brethren, before the ceremony is closed, let us with all reverence and humility express our gratitude for having had this means of doing good brought before us. Let us invoke a blessing upon this and all our undertakings, especially on the architect, the builder, and the craftsman employed on this building. May the stone which we have laid to-day be the foundation of a structure perfect in all its parts, and honourable to the builder. May brotherly love, relief, and truth—the three grand principles on which our Order is founded—permeate all our life and actions, so that our alms and oblations may ascend, pure and unpolluted, to that Grand Lodge above, where the world's great Architect lives and reigns for evermore. So mote it be."

A hymn having been sung, the Rev. Bro. Joseph Ray proposed three cheers for Lord Leigh, Lord Lieutenant of the County, and three cheers for the ladies.

The procession then returned in the same order to St. Mary's Hall, the Masonic body leaving the procession at the Castle. At half-past four o'clock a large and influential company of ladies and gentlemen assembled at the Corn Exchange, where a cold collation had been spread upon the tables by Bro. S. Hall, of the Castle Hotel. The chair was taken by the Mayor of Coventry, Richard Harvey Minster, Esq., supported on his right by the R.W. Prov. G.M., Lord Leigh; Bros. C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M.; Dr. Bell Fletcher, Joseph Ray, Lecturer of St. Philip's, Birmingham. On the chairman's left hand were—C. Holte Bracebridge, Esq., C. M. Caldecott, Esq., Rev. Joseph Sheepshanks, Rev. E. Temple, &c. Among the toasts proposed and duly honoured were:—"The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," "The Army and Navy, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers," "Success to the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital," "The Right Honourable Lord Leigh, Lord Lieutenant of the County," "The Mayor and Corporation of Coventry," "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire," "The Ladies," &c.

Independent of a large collection at the Church, we may say that cheques have been handed to the Treasurer, from Lord Leigh, £10 10s.; Mayor of Warwick, £5; Athol Lodge (Birmingham), £10 10s.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

CHAPTER OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 507).—The regular convocation of this chapter was held on Tuesday, August 2nd, at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, Comp. Garrod, Z., presided, assisted by Comps. F. T. Lilley, H.; C. H. Murr, J.; C. Stuart, Scribe E.; J. W. Halsey, Scribe N.; Lascelles, Principal Soj.; Nunn, Assist. Soj.; Walters, Frazier, and many others. Ballots were taken for the candidates for exaltation which were declared to be unanimous in favour of their admission. Apologies were then received from all the candidates excusing their non-attendance. The next business was the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the ballots were declared to be in favour of Comps. F. J. Lilley, Z.; C. H. Murr, H.; C. Stuart, J.; J. Thomas, P.Z., Treas.; Garrod, Scribe E.; J. W. Halsey, Scribe N.; Lascelles, Principal Soj.; and W. Radforth was re-elected Janitor. It was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously that a five guinea P.Z.'s jewel be presented from the funds of the chapter to Comp. Garrod, Z., to express the gratitude of the members of the chapter for the able, courteous, and talented manner he had presided for two successive years over the chapter as M.E.Z. After business the brethren adjourned to a superior banquet and spent a pleasant evening together.

OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORD.—*Alfred Chapter* (No. 340).—At the regular quarterly meeting of this chapter, on the 4th inst., several brethren were exalted, including Bros. W. A. and Walter Thompson, the two elder sons of Comp. Alderman Thompson, Treasurer of the Apollo University Lodge, and five brethren from Windsor and its neighbourhood, viz., Bros. Dr. Cooper, Charles Turner, J. Baker, C. Morten, and W. C. Nixey. We understand that it is in contemplation to petition the Grand Chapter for a new chapter to be attached to the Castle Lodge, Windsor (No. 771), and the above-named brethren desiring to make up the requisite number, in addition to those already Royal Arch Masons, selected this chapter to be exalted in it, having many personal friends among its members. The chair of Z. was filled by Comp. J. T. Horton, who performed the ceremony in his usual perfect manner, assisted by Comp. Alderman Spiers, P.G.S.B., Bruton, Bevins, Tagart, Taunton, Winkfield, Fraser, S. P. Spiers, Juggins, and many others. A party of thirty-six sat down to an excellent dinner in the banqueting-room of the Masonic Hall, and a most agreeable evening was spent.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

SOUTHWARK LODGE (No. 11, S.C.)—An emergency meeting of this prosperous and flourishing lodge was held on Monday, August 1st, at Bro. Middlecott's, Greyhound Inn, Dulwich Bro. H. A. Collington, R.W.M., supported by Bros. Dr. Dixon, P.R.W.M.; E. N. Levy, P.R.W.M., Treas.; A. D. Loewenstark, D.R.W.M.; W. Y. Laing, J.W.; F. Walters, Sec.; A. P. Leonard, M.O.; J. C. Gooddy, S.O.; R. Hurrell, J.O.; E. Harris, R. of M.; G. Morris, T.K.; W. Lipscombe, C. A. Cathie, G. J. Loe, F. Durrant, F. E. Ward, T. Perridge, W. Noak, G. E. Lane, J. Hawker, A. P. Stedman, and many others. There were no visitors on this occasion. Ballots were taken for Bros. R. Welsford, P.M., Treas. 548, and W. Billington 548, which were declared to be unanimous in favour of their admission. Bros. J. H. King, R. Lauder, R. Welsford, and W. Billington being in attendance, were properly introduced and regularly advanced to the ancient and honourable degree of Mark Master Masons, the ceremony being given in that superior and impressive manner for which Bro. H. A. Collington is now so justly celebrated. No less than fourteen apologies were received from the numerous candidates who are seeking advancement in this lodge, excusing their absence in consequence of being out of town. The by-laws were revised and ordered to be printed. The business being ended, the lodge was closed. The brethren, upwards of thirty in number, sat down to a superior banquet, served up in the usual superior style, for which the Greyhound has earned such a good reputation. Every article was of a good quality, and the wines were excellent. After dinner a first-class dessert was placed on the festive board. The usual loyal toasts were given and received. Bro. Dr. Dixon spoke in high terms of the excellent working of Bro. H. A. Collington, R.W.M., and the painstaking, assiduous, courteous manner which Bro. F. Walters carried out the duties as Secretary of the lodge. He congratulated the lodge in possessing two such able officers, and reminded them of the great influx of members they had had under the able presidency of their R.W.M., who had up to that time advanced no less than thirty-two brethren, besides having at least sixteen others anxious for preferment. He, therefore, as the father and founder of the lodge, and P.R.W.M., called upon them to drink the health of their esteemed R.W.M., Bro. H. A. Collington. This toast was received with great applause. Bro. H. A. Collington, R.W.M., in a kind feeling speech returned thanks for the enthusiastic manner his health was received by them. He expressed the satisfaction which he felt for the great assistance he received from all his officers, especially their indefatigable Secretary, Bro. F. Walters, who never seemed to tire under any amount of work required of him. He then proposed the officers' health, which was received with enthusiasm. Bro. A. D. Loewenstark and F. Walters made suitable replies. After a few hours spent in an agreeable manner—songs, recitations, &c., being given—the brethren separated, well pleased with their summer festival, and expressed a hope that next year might see another one held.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GLASGOW KILWINNING LODGE (No. 4.)

A special meeting of this old and influential lodge was held on the evening of Monday, the 1st inst., in their Hall, 170, Buchanan-street, for the purpose of testifying to their esteem for their late Proxy Master, Bro. John G. Houstoun, and their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him to the lodge during the last quarter of a century, and their sympathy with his bereaved widow and family. Bro. H. M. Sinclair, R.W.M., presided, Bros. Broom and Russell being in their respective chairs of Senior and Junior Wardens. The important occasion having brought together a good attendance of the brethren of the lodge, as also several of the Masters and brethren of the sister lodges in the province, who were anxious to unite with the brethren of No. 4 in testifying to the worth of Bro. Houstoun, and the loss the Order had sustained by his untimely death.

After the lodge had been duly constituted, and several letters from old and influential brethren had been read expressing the great regret at not being able to be present,

The R.W. MASTER rose and said—Worshipful Senior and Junior Wardens, and Worshipful Brethren, you are aware that the cause of our meeting to-night is a melancholy one, viz., to mourn the loss of a dear and valued friend and brother Mason; one who for the long period of twenty-four years has been a leading and influential Freemason in the West of Scotland, and who, from the date of his initiation into the Order, was an enthusiastic Mason, and who loved his mother lodge with an unconquerable and enduring love, and who, for a series of years, filled the chair of the lodge—the highest distinction that the lodge can confer on one of her members; and latterly, down to the period of his untimely death, filled the high and important office of Proxy Master to this lodge in the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the duties of which he discharged with so much satisfaction and benefit to the lodge, and with so much credit and honour to himself. I regret deeply, as I am sure you all do, the absence to-night of Bro. Binnie, P.M., who, had he not been unavoidably prevented, would, from his long and intimate acquaintance with Bro. Houstoun, both as a friend and fellow-worker, been a much more fit exponent of the feelings of the brethren in the great loss they have sustained; but in Bro. Binnie's absence, I have thought it not unbecoming, from the position that your partiality has placed me in, to attempt—however feebly and inadequately—to express some of the feelings with which we as a lodge are penetrated by the loss of such an invaluable member as he whom we are this night met to mourn. Bro. Houstoun, as I have already stated to you, has been for the long period of twenty-four years a Freemason, and during the whole of that period he has been unceasing in his endeavours to advance the interests of this his mother lodge, and the services he has rendered her have been neither few nor small. Possessed as he was of rare talents, and cultivated and enhanced as they were by a most liberal education, his assistance and advice in any little difficulty was invaluable and always warmly and cheerfully given; and although possibly the greatest of his services were rendered to the lodge before I or many whom I now see around me had seen the "light"—yet although these services were forgotten and buried in oblivion, which they can never be so long as the Kilwinning No. 4 has an existence and a name—yet within these last few years he has done enough to entitle him to a niche in the Masonic Temple of Fame—enough to draw from us enduring gratitude, and to make his deeds live in our hearts with lasting remembrance—enough to warrant us in handing down his name in the records of our lodge as one that had served the Kilwinning long, faithfully, and well—one that in life we esteemed and honoured, and whose death we sincerely mourned. I am sure it is quite unnecessary for me to make one word of observation as to the nature of these more recent services rendered by Bro. Houstoun to the lodge, they being so well known—and I doubt not as much appreciated—by all the brethren as they are known and appreciated by myself. Suffice it to remind you, however, that on more than one occasion has the thanks of the lodge been given to Bro. Houstoun in open lodge for his valuable services, and the same engrossed in the minutes as a testimony to those who may succeed us of the worth of these services and our appreciation of them. A short time since the lodge was called on to mourn the

loss of a distinguished member (Dr. Nichol), and more recently another distinguished Mason, who had long gone in and out amongst us (Rev. Dr. Graham), and now we are called on to mourn the friend and fellow-worker of these distinguished Masons. Certainly three great leaders, not only of the Kilwinning Lodge, but of Freemasonry in the West of Scotland have fallen! But unlike the two former, the latter has fallen in the very vigour of manhood, in the fullness of his strength, and in the midst of his usefulness. The blow has been no less heavy than it was sudden and unexpected; but such is life! Oh! let us therefore now live, and let us now so strive and labour that, when we are called hence, our brethren may have cause as sincerely to mourn our loss, as we now do him who is the object of our meeting. I am sure that out of our own lodge nowhere will he be more sincerely mourned than in the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in which he was long a distinguished and influential member, adorning their debates no less with the force of his reasoning than his thrilling eloquence. He was, as you are doubtless aware, long and intimately known to the late Grand Master Mason of Scotland, the Duke of Athole, and he it was that first introduced into Glasgow Masonic balls. The ball given some years ago by this lodge, while Bro. Houstoun was Master, having, I believe, been the first and most influential Masonic ball ever held in the west of Scotland—the late Duke of Athole, and many other distinguished noblemen and gentlemen having been present on the occasion; but I feel it is unnecessary to say more on Bro. Houstoun's services to the Kilwinning and to Masonry. I would now speak of him for a moment on his character as a man, and a friend; and here I must again repeat my regret that Bro. Binnie, his intimate friend and fellow-worker for so many years, was not here to tell you of his qualities in those relations. My own knowledge, however, of Bro. Houstoun is sufficient to warrant me in testifying to his many admirable qualities both as a man and as a friend, and that in order to respect and esteem him, it was only necessary to know him; and I am sure I should be doing the greatest injustice to the brethren of the lodge if I did not here give expression to the feelings of sympathy which penetrates the breast of every brother of the lodge here, or absent for the widow and family—the one in having lost a kind loving husband, and the other an affectionate father and protector. That He who is the stay of the widow and the father of the fatherless may keep them ever under the shadow of His wing, and that He may sustain and guide them safely through this life, and afterwards conduct them into glory, is the sincere and ardent prayer of us all. Imbued as we are with these feelings which I have so imperfectly given expression to, I beg to move, "That this lodge appoint a small committee to prepare a minute, giving a short account of the services rendered by Bro. Houstoun to the lodge, the esteem in which he was held, the regret felt at his death, and sympathy the lodge had for his widow and his family, and that the same be engrossed in the minute book, and a copy sent to the family."

The SENIOR WARDEN seconded the motion of the R.W. Master, which was agreed to with the greatest unanimity of feeling.

Bro. J. R. SWAN, in support of the motion, rose and said—It was only a short time since that I met the deceased Bro. Houstoun, in this lodge enjoying the best of health and high spirits, and it is a melancholy thing that I should have to stand here this evening on my next visit to the lodge to give you a narrative of his decease four hundred miles away from those whom he loved so well. It is a melancholy consolation to me who, for the last ten years, fought side by side with him for the benefit of the Glasgow Kilwinning Lodge and the Craft in general, that I should have been by his side at his last moments to assist in closing his eyes in death. He took ill about ten days ago, but notwithstanding being far away from home, he received all the filial attention of his two sons and the best medical advice that could be procured. During his illness he often spoke to me of the Craft and his mother lodge, the Glasgow Kilwinning Lodge, which he loved so well. He departed in peace in the faith and hope of a true Christian. It is natural that we should mourn for the dead. Possessing talents of the highest order, he was invariably looked to as one of the great shields of the lodge. In his official capacity he was high-toned and independent in his principles, and from his natural temperament often had to make foes as well as friends, but his ambition knew no bounds in seeing his mother lodge stand high among the sister lodges, and secure that respect which was due to her. He was a warm and true friend, and although peculiar

in his manner he had a lively and genial disposition, and possessed a warm and generous heart. If he had a few faults they were like those of other men, for no man was made perfect, but he possessed many solid virtues. Let us therefore lay his few faults in the grave with him, but let us not forget to imitate his many virtues. It is pleasing to notice the kind expression of grief which emanates from the members of his mother lodge this evening, and in the address about to be prepared and forwarded to his bereaved widow it will console her with the thought that her dear departed husband possessed the respect, esteem, and admiration of his fellow-brethren of this ancient lodge. No doubt such a similar expression will get vent from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, of which distinguished body he was an office-bearer, and a member as Proxy Master of his mother lodge, and one of its ablest and brightest ornaments. He has gone to the Grand Lodge above, from whence no traveller returns; but he has left inscribed on the tablets of our memories images and precious thoughts that shall not die and cannot be destroyed.

INDIA.

(From the Indian Freemasons' Friend.)

CALCUTTA.

LODGE ST. JOHN (No. 486, E.C.)—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 27th of May. Present—Bro. Hugh D. Sandeman, Prov. G.M. of Bengal, and a member of the lodge. Bro. John William Brown, D. Prov. G.M. and P.M., presiding. Bros. C. T. Davis, P.M.; S. Fenn, S.W.; George Chisholm, as J.W.; Rosamond (V.C.) S.D.; Wright, as J.D.; W. G. Baxter, Sec. and Treas.; Meriott, I.G.; D. J. Daniel, Tyler; and members and visitors. Bro. E. W. Pittar, W.M., was unable to attend, owing to indisposition in his family. The unavoidable absence of the W.M., and especially the reason for non-attendance, was recorded with regret. Bro. J. Wright, of Lodge No. 232 of England, was elected a joining member. Bro. Imlay, of the lodge, and Bro. S. G. Hadow, of the Worshipful Lodge Saint Luke (No. 848), holding at Dum-Dum, were raised by Bro. Sandeman. Bro. Bull received the M.M. degree from Bro. John W. Brown.

LODGE INDUSTRY AND PERSEVERANCE (No. 109, E.C.)—A regular meeting was held on Friday, the 3rd of June. Present—Bro. John William Brown, P.M., presiding; Bros. C. T. Davis, P.M.; Sutherland, of 371 of Scotland; Linton, P.M.; Baxter, P.M.; S. Fenn, S.W.; Gowenlock, as J.W.; Gilbert, as S.D.; Besemerer, as S.D.; Chandler, Treas. and Sec.; Meriott, as I.G.; Daniel, as Tyler; members and visitors to the Worshipful Lodge. Bros. Josiah Wheelwright, Fordyce Byron Perkins, and L. C. Tissendie were raised by Bro. Brown. The unavoidable absence of the W.M., through press of official work, was mentioned by the presiding brother, and directed to be noted with regret.

LODGE COURAGE WITH HUMANITY (No. 392).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Cossitollah, on the 9th June, when six brethren were raised to the high and sublime degree of M.M., two were passed to that of the F.C., and two candidates initiated into our Order. Before closing the lodge, the W.M. invested Bro. Linton with a very handsome Past Master's jewel, speaking at some length of the services Bro. Linton had rendered to the lodge, and the pleasure he felt in being able to comply with the request of the brethren now, as the lodge funds were in a more flourishing condition than when they voted the jewel, and trusted that Bro. Linton would accept it as a token of the esteem and regard they one and all felt for him. Bro. Linton replied that he did not need this outward mark of their brotherly love and affection for him, as he was certain they had the same fraternal and kindly feeling for him as he had for them. He, however, accepted the jewel with thanks, and would wear it with pleasure.

LODGE OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP (No. 218).—A meeting of this worthy and respected lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, June 14th. Present, Bros. Kelvey, W.M.; Roberts, Browne, Callan, P.M.'s; T. Alcock, S.W.; A. Taylor, J.W.; W. H. Fitze, S.D.; W. G. Amos, J.D.; G. H. Mills, officiating I.G.; C. H. Wilson, Treas.; J. Robinson, Sec.; D. J. Daniel, Tyler. Visitors:—Bros. T. Jones, Risely, Wyman, Goodricke, Mackintosh, Simpson, Gillon, Gordon, and Moody. The special business before the meeting was the reception of the report of

the permanent committee, which showed the lodge funds to be in a flourishing condition. The report and the recommendations contained in it were unanimously passed, and Bros. Payne, Mills, and Baker were nominated standing members of the permanent committee. Grand Lodge certificates were announced as having been received for Bros. Besemerer, Fitze, Simmons, McGavin, McAuliffe, and Humphreys. After labour the brethren adjourned to the banquet, where the liberal spread which True Friendship always affords awaited the members and visitors. After the usual toasts of obligation had been duly honoured, Bro. Callan, who was most warmly welcomed among his old friends, sang in his usual talented style. The W.M. next called upon the brethren to respond to the toast which he then proposed—"A Health, and Welcome to their Brother Callan." It would be unnecessary for him to speak anything in praise of a brother so universally well-known and esteemed as was Bro. Callan. The members of this lodge, he was sure, heartily welcomed him back amongst them, and hoped it might be long hence before he again left them. True Friendship was always ready to welcome again right heartily all its brethren who for a time had departed from them, but in this case he, the W.M., felt an especial pleasure in so doing, because Bro. Callan had always been closely identified with the lodge as a brother Mason, and individually, as a much esteemed friend with all its members. He would therefore call upon them to drink with "True Friendship" honours—"A hearty welcome back again to Bro. Callan."—The toast was received with great enthusiasm.—Bro. Callan, in returning thanks, observed that he was a very bad hand at a speech, but that it did not require much talent to express the thanks he most deeply felt towards the W.M. and brethren for their kindness towards him. He had certainly always stood by the lodge, and he always hoped to do so. If ever it was in his power to bring fresh strength to their columns, they might rely upon his doing it, and he intended indeed to "make a beginning" next meeting. He thanked the W.M. and brethren most heartily for their kind expressions of good will.—The W.M. having asked the brethren again to charge their glasses, next proposed in suitable terms the "Health of the Visiting Brethren," which was most ably responded to by Bro. Jones, who mentioned that, although he was now proud to be in the position, as a visitor, to respond to the toast so warmly proposed and accepted, he hoped, at their next meeting, the brethren would consent to receive him not as a visitor, but as a member. (Applause.)—Bro. Roberts having solicited the use of the Master's Hiram, proposed in eloquent terms the "The Health of the Officers of True Friendship." He said the lodge might esteem itself fortunate in having, as supporters of the W.M., such efficient officers as they had. He was not one who admired mere set toasts, which, as a rule, from the frequency of repetition, lost half their zest; but he felt it was no unneeded repetition to bring forward the toast he now had the pleasure of proposing. The only thing he would ask the officers to bear in mind was, that they must not think their occasional absence was a matter of little consequence to the lodge. He was afraid these worthy brethren did not sufficiently appreciate the value of their own services, or the loss the lodge sustained from their absence at any time. Such, though perhaps a pardonable modesty, was not a wise one. Let the officers feel continually what was really the case, that they formed so vital and integral a part of the lodge, that their absence at any time was a loss and a deprivation. He might with satisfaction especially refer to the services of their J.W., to the solicitude of their Treasurer, who had secured for them a flourishing balance sheet, and to their hard working and zealous Secretary—a man ever at his post, and one who bestowed an amount of painstaking on his work which should secure for him the especial thanks of the lodge.—The toast was very warmly accepted by the brethren, and Bro. Wilson, in returning thanks for the officers, said he was sure they would continue their best endeavours to merit the approbation of the W.M. and brethren, which it gratified them all, he was sure, to find they had so far done.—Bro. Wing having favoured the brethren with a song, Bro. Wyman begged permission of the W.M. to wield the Hiram for a few moments.—This request having been granted, Bro. Wyman said that the toast he had to submit for their acceptance would meet, he was sure, with but one response; he would state at once it was that of their W.M. (Applause.) All who knew True Friendship were well acquainted with the harmony of feeling and the good fellowship which existed—a good fellowship every ready to be extended to all their brethren in Freemasonry. He had looked upon this lodge as one of the kindest in Calcutta, and all who

knew the W.M. in his capacity as ruler of this lodge, as well as in the relations of private life, must also know that he was eminently qualified to sustain the reputation for kindness of feeling and for genuine hospitality which now so greatly distinguished the True Friendship Lodge. He trusted that, under the Hiram of Bro. Kelvey, the lodge would go on in its career of usefulness and prosperity for many a long day. He could not better evince his own opinion of the merits of their Master and of the value of their lodge than by mentioning that it was his earnest wish, and that also of two of his officers who were present, Bros. Gordon and Moody, to be enrolled at their next lodge meeting (if this honourable privilege should be awarded them) subscribing members to this lodge. (Applause). He would ask the brethren to do full honour to the toast, "The Health of their W.M."—The toast was most enthusiastically received, and was suitably acknowledged by the W.M.—The evening's amusement was subsequently enlivened by some admirably rendered glees and songs by the brethren present; amongst others Kucken's "Good Night," by Bro. Callen, and "Do they think of me at Home," by Bro. Baker; and when the brethren separated, after a most interestingly excited evening, the "small hours" of the morning had begun to warn us that "labour" of another kind would soon commence.

ROYAL ARCH.

CHAPTER HOPE (No. 109, E.C.)—A convocation was held on Saturday, the 28th day of May, at Freemasons' Hall, No. 48, Cossitollah. Present, M.E. Comps. John Wm. Brown, Z.; Gale, Z., of the Scottish Chapter, holding at No. 10, Sudder-street; V.E. Comps. Wm. Clarke, C.E., Principal H.; Bowerman, J.; E. Comps. George Chisholm as Scribe E.; Kelvey as Scribe N.; Charles T. Davis as Principal Soj.; Amos as Assist. Soj.; Daniel, Jan.; members of the chapter and visitors. The chapter was opened by the Principals. The companions, members, and visitors having been admitted, the business of the convocation was entered on. The following brethren being accepted by ballot, were exalted to the degree of the Royal Arch, viz., Bros. Boulton of Industry and Perseverance (No. 109) of England; Besemeres, of True Friendship (No. 218) of England; John R. Shircore, of Lodge Saint John (No. 486), of England; George Keighley, of Lodge Excelsior (No. 825). The result of the election was M.E.C. John Wm. Brown, First Principal (re-elected); V.E.C. Wm. Clarke C.E., Second Principal (re-elected); V.E.C. James Bowerman, Third Principal (re-elected); E.C. George Chisholm, Scribe E and Treasurer, in succession to V.E.C. Thomas Dickson, who after a service commencing with the month of August, 1862, expressed a wish to be relieved; E.C. Baxter, Scribe N. (re-elected); E.C. Doctor Frank Powell, Principal Soj. (re-elected); E.C. Daniel, Jan. (re-elected); E.C. Charles T. Davis proposed, and M.E.C. Principal Z. seconded, Bro. Mackertich as a candidate for exaltation.

CHINA.

SHANGHAI.

(From our own Correspondent.)

FAREWELL ADDRESS TO BRO. CORNELIUS THORNE.

Shanghai, March 8th, 1864.

To Bro. Cornelius Thorne, P.M. Northern Lodge of China (No. 570).

WORSHIPFUL AND DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—We, the Masters, Masters-elect, Officers, Officers-elect, and members of the various lodges which are now working in Shanghai, and which are about to be established, beg you to accept this expression of the deep regret with which we have learned your intention of leaving us. We ought, indeed, rather to rejoice at the success which has crowned your efforts as one of the pioneers of commerce in the far East, yet we cannot restrain a somewhat selfish feeling of sorrow for the loss which we are about to sustain in your absence. Those from amongst the large circle of your friends who are not Freemasons, have daily seen exemplified in your conduct those principles upon which the Craft is founded, and have thereby learned that the practice of Freemasonry does not consist in a mere idle ceremonial, but that it tends to rule the life and regulate the actions of its votaries. Thus, by your absence, we shall not only lose that valuable instruction and assistance which you were always ready to extend to your brethren whether within or without the lodge, and which, per-

haps, we have not until now fully appreciated; but we shall likewise miss the presence of one whose life in public and in private has ever been a tacit reproof to those who despise the secrets of our Masonic art.

We commend you, therefore, to the care and guidance of the Great Architect of the Universe, and we trust that He will restore you in safety and happiness to your native land, and enable you through many successive years to exhibit—as you have hitherto done—those Masonic virtues which ennoble and beautify our Order.

We remain,

Worshipful and Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

(Signed)

BRO. RAWSON, P. Prov. G.M.
The Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Northern Lodge (No. 570).
The Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 501).
The Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Tuscan Lodge.
The Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Cosmopolitan Lodge (Scotch).
The Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Ancient Landmark Lodge (American).

Obituary.

BRO. C. H. PILLAR, LODGE 202.

This lamented brother, late an engineer R.N., departed this life in the Royal Naval Hospital, Devonport, on the 30th ultimo, from consumption, aged 33 years. He was a member of Lodge Friendship 202, but from the nature of his profession, was prevented from taking any active part in the labour of his lodge. His mortal remains were borne to the cemetery at Plymouth, followed by a large number of his fellow officers and his Masonic brethren—among whom we noticed Bros. Clase, P.M., March, W.M. 202; Kent, W.M. 954, &c.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.

The season is drawing rapidly to a close, yet, notwithstanding the exodus from London among the better classes, the audiences continue to be both numerous and fashionable at this popular place of amusement. The combination of the "Pyramid" in a condensed form, the interlude of "The Bard and his Birthday," with its clever "Shakesperian visions," and the new song of the "Sea-side," or "Mrs. Roseleaf out of Town," in which the company upon the beach at a fashionable watering-place is humorously depicted, form an entertainment so varied in its features and excellent in itself, that it can hardly fail to be attractive, even after a long run of many months. The Gallery closes before the end of the month, but will very soon re-open with a new Opera di Camera, of which great things are reported.

Poetry.

SONNET.

BY WILLIAM BRADFELD.

How light the pressure of a mortal's touch,—
Yea, even where we have the greatest power!
How small a trifle is our vaunted much,
And what a drop our overwhelming shower!
How slow we are, when we the fastest run,—
How dwarfish low, when highest we may soar,—
How little are our greatest works when done—
How small a less—to Nature's mighty more!
Oh, puny deed of man, beside her work!
Oh, little speck upon a mountain's brow!—
Doth wild imagination sometime lurk
Beneath your span, seducing us to how,
Great Nature's edifice—above, around—
Fills us with awe, and bends us to the ground!

SUNSHINE.

BY WILLIAM BRADFIELD.*

A spring, to him who sorely thirsts,
Is the sunshine when it bursts
Upon us with its glory!
Arrested on that fountain's brink,
There is not one, who cannot drink
To Life—the pleasant story!

For oh! its grandeur hath a charm
That doth the human heart disarm
Of all its fierce contention;
A charm, with sudden power to win
The human soul from human sin,
And hold it in suspension.

Or when it dies the clouds among—
The last expiring rays are flung
Up, up, as if regretting;
Although it leads us to forget
The past, there is a presence yet
It saves us from forgetting.

Deny it not! There *is* a charm,
That seems to clasp us with an arm
And ease the heart's commotion—
A recipe for passion's coil,
A powerful tranquillising oil
Upon a troubled ocean.

Oh! sad indeed the lot of all,
Without the beautiful to call
Us back to admiration;
From hateful wars, from politics,
From all the money-making tricks,—
Those cheats of man—and nation!

Sunshine of the azure sky,
Streaming gladly from on high—
Thou theme above all others!
Honest thou, and kindly too,
To pierce the poor man's lattice through
As often as another's!

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Hesse, and the junior members of the Royal Family continue at Osborne. The Prince and Princess of Wales returned to Marlborough House on Monday. On Tuesday, the Prince officiated at the uncovering of the statue of his father at the Licensed Victuallers' Asylum, Old Kent-road, and on Wednesday, the Prince and Princess, with their infant son, proceeded to Scotland, where they are to stay about six weeks. The young Prince Leopold has also appeared in public, having, at the close of last week, laid the foundation-stone of a new infirmary at Bishop's Walkham.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality in the metropolis continues high. Last week it was 253 above the ten years' average. The principal disease is summer diarrhoea, and its greatest number of victims are among children and young persons. The births are slightly above the average.—The harvest has commenced in some parts of the country, but the accounts from the agricultural districts cannot upon the whole be described as very cheering. A return which is said to have been "carefully collected," shows that in 29 counties of the United Kingdom, the wheat crop falls "below an

average," that in 32 counties the crop is an average one, and that in ten only has "an average" been exceeded. As regards other cereals, there will probably be a fair yield, but of the root crops, especially turnips, less favourable reports are received.—The weekly return of the Poor-law Board again shows a considerable decrease in the number of persons receiving relief in the cotton manufacturing districts. In the last week of July there was a net decrease, as compared with the previous week, of 3,050. The total number of adults on the relief lists of the 21 unions embraced in this return last week, was 13,377, which is 491 fewer than shown by the previous statement. Bury, Haslingden, and Warrington, are the only unions in which an increase of pauperism had been experienced.—The Government Emigration Commissioners have issued a notice warning emigrants to the United States against the traps laid for their capture by Federal crimps. They are advised not to accept invitations from strangers to drink, to be especially careful not to get drunk, or in any way to lose the control over their own actions, and to be very cautious as to the engagements they enter into for work. The notice, which contains several other useful hints, it is hoped will be attended to.—The Marquis of Tweeddale's prize for breech-loading military rifles has been awarded by the Council of the National Rifle Association to Mr. Henry, of Edinburgh. The Council are, however, of opinion that none of the competing rifles can be recommended as suitable for the army, and they, therefore, propose to offer, in May next, a prize of £100 for the best weapon of this description that can be produced. Lord Tweeddale's prize for muzzle-loaders has not been awarded, the Council proposing to have a further trial of the Whitworth and Rigby rifles in November.—The artillery experiments at Shoeburyness on Thursday were devoted to practice against a target on the model of the French iron-clad ship *La Gloire*. This model was scarcely carried out, however, as we are informed it was in some respects inferior to the plating round that celebrated ship; but, on the other hand, the plates themselves were of superior quality. The practice was made with the old smooth bore 68-pounder, and at 200 yards that old-fashioned gun sent steel shot right through plate and framework. The destructive effects on it of the monster ordnance now coming into fashion may be easily imagined.—The inspection of several rifle volunteer corps took place on the evening of Saturday last. The regimental manoeuvres were of a very complicated description, and, at the close, the inspectors gave a cordial and warm approbation of the general steadiness and precision of their movements, while they showed their sincerity in praise by forcibly pointing out one or two defects. Owing to the fineness of the weather there was generally a large concourse of spectators.—The Birkenhead steamrams, which have been re-christened the *Scorpion* and the *Wyvern*, have been handed over to Messrs. Laird, who will complete them for sea with all despatch. The ships are each to be armed with 300-pounder guns.—Lord Palmerston on Tuesday laid the corner stone of the new Exchange at Bradford. His Lordship, as is the case wherever he shows himself, was received with the greatest cordiality. On reaching the site of the Exchange, an address from the Exchange Company was read, to which the noble lord returned a brief reply. In the evening his lordship attended a monster gathering at St. George's Hall, where he received two other addresses. In acknowledging these honours, he referred to the prosperous condition of the country, and dwelt upon the beneficent influence of free trade. He further spoke of the position of England among the nations of the world, and

* "Pictures of the Past and other Poems." By William Bradfield.—London: Longman & Co., Paternoster Row.

maintained that her influence had in no way been lowered by the foreign policy of the present Government.—Lord Stanley attended the annual meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce last week, and spoke at some length on the various subjects referred to in the report of the Council. On the question of the Indian import duties the noble lord said he objected to those charges on the broad principle of free trade, but practically he did not think that they acted so seriously upon English manufactures as might at first sight appear. He looked forward to their early repeal; but it must be borne in mind that in the remission of taxation, the first duty of the India Government was to deal with the income-tax, which was avowedly imposed as a temporary expedient. In his closing remarks he expressed his deep satisfaction that England had not been dragged into a war, and avowed himself an advocate of peace, and of abstinence from the propagation of "ideas" by means of the sword.—The corner-stone of the new tower of Manchester Cathedral was laid last week by the Bishop of the diocese in the presence of a large assemblage of the clergy and laity. The proceedings were opened by a service at the Cathedral, the Archbishop of York being the preacher.—At a meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, Mr. Bazalgette read a detailed statement of the condition of the sewage works, from which it appeared that fair progress had been made. Some conversation took place on the subject of the Thames Embankment, and it was stated that the progress of the work is somewhat impeded from the want of proper material to make the bank.—Unfavourable reports are, we regret to observe, once more current respecting the state of Lord Carlisle's health; and it is now affirmed that the government of Ireland will be entrusted to the Marquis of Lansdowne.—The first stone of the Irish memorial of O'Connell was laid at Dublin, on Monday, by the Lord Mayor of that city. The affair assumed the form of a great national *fete*, and everything appears to have been conducted in the most orderly manner. In the evening there was a banquet at the Rotunda, at which the Lord Mayor presided.—The mule and donkey show was opened at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Monday, and has already attracted numerous visitors. The prize for foreign asses was carried off by a splendid animal exhibited by the Prince of Wales. The show of the English animals proves that all the mules and donkeys in the country are not ill-treated.—At the Guildford assizes on Monday, a Frenchman named Direy brought an action against six gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood of Dulwich, for conspiring to drive him from his employment there, and so accomplishing his ruin. The case was of a very disagreeable character; several obscene letters having been sent to young ladies in the place, which the defendants charged him with writing, and his pupils were in consequence withdrawn from him. The plaintiff conducted his own case, and of course in the most rambling manner, the judge bearing with his irrelevancies in consequence of his being a foreigner. Among other unusual proceedings he called all the defendants as witnesses to prove his case, and put very offensive questions to them, to which they gave positive and indignant replies. When he had concluded both judge and jury agreed that there was not a tittle of evidence to support the charges he had made, and a verdict was given for the defendants.—The inquest into the murder of Mr. Briggs was resumed on Monday at the Town Hall, Hackney, before the coroner, Mr. Humphreys. Mrs. Blythe, landlady of the house in which Muller lodged, was examined at considerable length, and also the wife of Matthews, the cabman. The tendency of the whole evidence, coupled with several incidents ferretted out by the police, is rather to

strengthen the case against Muller.—A woman died suddenly at Limehouse on Friday, and it was supposed that the death was caused by the violence of her husband. But at the inquest it was shown that though the husband and wife did not live happily together, the woman's death had unquestionably arisen from her own intemperate habits.—An inquest was held on Wednesday at Millwall on the body of a workman at some engineering works there. A travelling crane was employed to lift a boiler into its place, but from some cause the boiler dragged the crane out of its place, and jerked three men off the stage to the ground. They were all injured, but one, named Smith, had his skull fractured. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.—An inquest was held on Tuesday on the body of a woman who was found in an insensible state in the City, and was taken in a cab to the City of London Union Workhouse at Bow, where she remained insensible, without any doctor being called in to see her. The inquest was adjourned to give an opportunity to the officers of the Union to explain their apparent neglect.—A brutal outrage, ending in death, was committed in Kingsland on Saturday night last. A man named East, in the employment of the Independent Gas Company, sat down to rest himself in a passage in one of the streets off Kingsland-road. Another man, entering the passage, kicked him as he passed. East remonstrated, on which his assailant turned round and felled him by a blow on the side of the head. The man was taken up insensible, and died on Wednesday night. The ruffian has not yet been traced.—On Saturday evening a man was attacked in the Liverpool-road, Manchester, by a number of Irish ruffians, who inflicted such injuries upon him that he died in about three hours. Three of his assailants are in custody.—The poor fellow Cooper, the Guardsman, who was wounded while acting as marker at the recent volunteer meeting on Wimbledon Common, expired on Tuesday morning.—William Stevens has been executed at Aylesbury, for the murder of Annie Leeson, at Buckingham, on February 27th. The poor girl had rejected his offered addresses, and the prisoner manifested the sincerity and depth of his professed affection for her by brutally cutting her throat with a razor.—The young man Parker, who was convicted at the last assizes of the murder of his mother by shooting her with a gun, was executed on Wednesday morning at Nottingham in front of the county jail. The condemned man was very penitent, but to the last he denied that he intended to do harm to either of his parents. There was a large crowd of persons present to witness the execution, and their behaviour was, upon the whole, creditable to them.—A number of non-commissioned officers and privates of the Royal Artillery have been apprehended at Woolwich, on a charge of having been concerned in a wholesale robbery of the Government Clothing Stores, which has just been brought to light.—The Liverpool Magistrates have committed another person—an engineer, named Buchanan—for trial, on a charge of hiring men for service on board the Confederate steamer, *Rappahannock*.—A terrible accident occurred at Gravesend at an early hour on Saturday morning. Some men were engaged in cleaning out a cesspool when the pestiferous fumes suffocated one of them, and he fell off the ladder on which he was standing. Another man went down to recover him when he too was suffocated with the stench and fell in. The police were sent for and a sergeant tried to recover the bodies, when, shocking to tell, he became the third victim of the pestilential vapours. The foul air was at last expelled by means of a "fire annihilator," when the three men were got out, but life was extinct in all of them.—A narrative has appeared which shows in a striking light the dangers to which

railway travellers in this country are constantly exposed. A powerful fellow got into a carriage which was already occupied by five gentlemen, at King's Cross, on Thursday night, the 4th inst. Soon after the train left the station on its journey northwards, this man, who, it would seem, was suffering from *delirium tremens*, became greatly excited, and charged his fellow travellers with robbing him. He became more and more violent, and as it was found impossible to communicate with the guard, it was decided to bind the madman down. This was accomplished after a severe struggle, and the fellow was kept bound hand and foot until the arrival of the train at Peterborough. It is a sad pity, as one of the gentlemen remarked, that the party in the carriage did not include a Director of the Great Northern Railway Company, as in that case the experience of the journey between London and Peterborough "might have been useful."—Two railway accidents have lately occurred. On Friday, the 5th, a labouring man, who was working on the North-Western line, near Sudbury, appears to have become bewildered by the coming up of three trains on as many lines of rail, and was caught by the buffer of the engine of one of them, and driven up against a carriage with such force that his death was instantaneous. The other accident, which was fortunately not attended with fatal consequences, took place on the old Liverpool and Manchester line, near Trafford. The engine of a passenger train going to Liverpool got off the rails. A luggage train following pulled up in time, but a passenger train, coming from a different line, ran into the luggage train before it could be stopped, and the shock was severely felt by the passengers. One gentleman was taken out of a carriage insensible.—A boiler used at the Bolton Gasworks in the process of distilling naphtha from gas tar, burst, on Tuesday morning, with fearful force. Three of the workmen were killed, several others were seriously injured, and a large amount of property was destroyed or damaged. The explosion appears to have been caused by the stoppage of a conduit pipe by which the crude naphtha was conducted from the boiler to the stills attached to it.—An explosion occurred at a gunpowder manufactory in the neighbourhood of Guildford, killing two men, and destroying property to a considerable amount.—An Italian vessel has arrived in the Victoria Dock considerably damaged. The master reported that he had been in collision with a French vessel off the Norfolk coast, striking the French ship with so much severity that she immediately foundered, carrying seven or eight of her crew with her. The remainder of the French crew got on board the Italian, and were brought to London, with the exception of an apprentice boy, who was picked up at sea by a Dutch galliot. The Italian vessel sustained considerable injury.—A serious fire was discovered on Tuesday night in St. Peter's Church, Southend, near Croydon. The fire was caused by the carelessness of some workmen who were engaged in the repair of the spire. Considerable damage was done before the flames were subdued, and the spire was totally destroyed.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor Napoleon has left Vichy, where he had sought some measure of retirement from business, and has returned to St. Cloud. The King of the Belgians has left Vichy, for Paris, where he is expected to remain a week. The correctional tribunal of Paris has sentenced MM. Garnier-Pages, Carnot, and eleven other Liberal leaders to a fine of £20 each for illegally assembling an electoral meeting of more than twenty persons. A new decree has just been issued in France, putting an end to the occupation of public informers in matters referring to State or Church property. At all events, if carried on, the business must be performed

gratuitously, as no portion of any fine or confiscation in such cases is henceforth to go to them. The *Constitutionnel*, while declaring that the English Cabinet would "willingly have passed from diplomatic action to military action" in favour of Denmark, says that no prospect of territorial aggrandisement was held out to France. "England," the *Constitutionnel* adds, "offered nothing; France asked for nothing. Neither the Earl of Clarendon during his journeys to Paris, nor the British Cabinet in its diplomatic despatches, ever hinted at France taking the Rhine frontier."—Preparations on an extensive scale are making at Paris for the *fêtes* in honour of the King of Spain. The 17th is to be the grand day, when the entertainments at Versailles are to be of unprecedented magnificence and splendour. Invitations to the number of 10,000 are to be issued for this *fête*.—Letters from Madrid state that there are apprehensions of a popular disturbance in that capital, in consequence of which the Government have taken measures to preserve order. Considerable alarm was said to exist.—The preliminary treaty of peace between Germany and Denmark has been published both in Vienna and Berlin. King Christian cedes Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg to the Emperor of Austria and King of Prussia, and agrees to recognise any arrangements which they may make regarding those duchies. Denmark and the Duchies are severally to bear their separate debts; and the joint debt is to be divided between them in the proportion of their respective populations. Jutland is to be occupied by the allies until the conclusion of the definite treaty of peace, and the corps of occupation is to be maintained by the Jutlanders; but no military contributions are to be levied.—In a circular note to its representatives at foreign Courts, the Austrian Cabinet declares that all the questions regarding the future disposal of Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg, will be arranged by Austria in concert with the Federal Governments, as such questions affect the general interests of Germany.—The Danish Rigsdag was opened by King Christian in person on Saturday, in a brief speech, wherein his Majesty, in tones of sadness which will awaken sympathy in most hearts, announces that, notwithstanding the courage and endurance of the army and fleet, and the sacrifices incurred by the people, the war waged against Denmark by a superior force had compelled him to agree to the most grievous concessions. But all Europe had deserted Denmark, and a continuance of the war would only have occasioned her greater losses and misfortunes, without the prospect of an improved position. To the future he looks with comfort, in full reliance upon the people, and in the hope that brighter days will not fail to heal the deep wounds inflicted upon the country.—A meeting of the clergy and gentry of the district of Kiel was held on Monday, at which a petition was submitted for presentation to the Schleswig-Holstein commissioners, demanding a common government for the Duchies under the protection of Prussia. Of the twenty-three persons composing the assembly, five refused to sign the document.—An exchange of prisoners has commenced between the Danes and Germans, and on Monday 1,000 Schleswigers, who had served in the Danish army and been discharged, were landed at Flensburg amidst general rejoicings.—The effects of the excessive drought are being severely felt in Hungary, where, in some of the mountainous districts, the peasants are reduced to such misery as to be obliged to eat the leaves of trees and wild roots.—Greece has just passed through a Ministerial crisis and a change of Government. In the new Ministry Admiral Canaris takes the Presidency of the Council and the Department of the Marine; the other offices are distributed amongst gentlemen who, whatever reputation they may enjoy in their own country, are

hardly known even by name in this.—The head of the Polish National Government and five chiefs of the different departments have been hanged in front of the citadel of Warsaw. Eleven other officials of the National Government had been sentenced to death, but the Russian authorities have thought fit to commute their sentence into transportation to Siberia.—The missionary difficulty at Constantinople is, we hear, happily at an end. The book-stores and offices of the several Protestant societies have been re-opened, and freedom of worship is allowed in chapels and meeting-rooms. The sale of the Bible in book-stores is also permitted but its colportage is forbidden as well as the gratuitous circulation of works attacking the Mahomedan faith.—Notwithstanding the announcement that peace had been concluded between the Bey of Tunis and the Arabs we learn that considerable apprehensions exist with regard to its permanency. The Arabs are said to be greatly dissatisfied with their chiefs for coming to terms without insisting upon the dismissal of the minister or Kasnadar; and matters wear so threatening an aspect that the French and Italian admirals have dispatched two ships of war to the coast for the protection of the subjects of their respective countries. It is not alone in Northern Africa that the Mohamedan mind is in the state of ferment and uneasiness to which it is periodically subject almost everywhere, but we learn from Constantinople that an insurrection has once more broken out below Bagdad, which has exhibited such formidable proportions that the Turkish forces were utterly unable to cope with it, having been defeated in no less than three engagements, with the loss of three guns, which fell into the hands of the insurgents. The same dispatch that brings us this information also announces that the telegraphic cable in the Persian Gulf has been broken, though by what means is not stated.—A telegram from Bucharest announces the granting by Prince Couza, Hospodar of the Moldo-Wallacian provinces, of an amnesty to all political offenders; but the foreigners who are included in this act of grace are, nevertheless, peremptorily ordered to quit the country.—An "Imperial" decree was issued in Mexico, on the 20th ult., providing that in the event of the death of the Emperor Maximilian, or other accident rendering it impossible for him to perform the function of Government, the Regency of the newly-created "Empire" shall be confided to the Empress, his august spouse. In honour of her Majesty, a triumphal arch has been ordered by the municipality to be erected in the city of Mexico.—English tourists are attracted to Switzerland in greater numbers than usual this season; and not less than eight ascents of Mount Blanc were made during last week. With two exceptions—one of them, strange to say, that of a Spanish Don! the whole of the climbers were adventurous countrymen of our own. Three English ladies also performed the feat of ascending the Grand Mulets. Chamounix is crowded with visitors.

INDIA AND NEW ZEALAND.—By advices from Suez we learn that the King of Ava has granted a perpetual concession for railways, telegraphs, and collieries within the territories of the Golden Foot. A great fire has occurred at Manilla, resulting in the destruction of upwards of eight million pounds of the "divine weed." If no news be good news, then it is pleasant to hear from New Zealand that military operations are suspended, and that the troops are gone into winter quarters.

AMERICA.—The *Australasian* brought dates from New York to July 27. The Federal troops have had cause to rue their pursuit of the Maryland invaders. It appears that those of them left to hold the Shenandoah Valley have been attacked by the Confederates under command of General Early, and signally defeated. In their flight they were driven through Mar-

tinsburg to the Potomac, with heavy loss of men and artillery. Martinsburg is re-occupied by the Confederates, whence it is expected another expedition will go forth into Maryland or Pennsylvania. Atlanta, it turns out, has not fallen, as was asserted by Northern journals; but severe fighting is reported to be still going on before it. Mr. Fessenden calls for subscriptions to a popular loan of 200,000,000 dols. By the *Damascus*, we receive intelligence from New York down to the 30th ult, at which time it was understood that Sherman had not captured Atlanta, though he was drawing his lines closer round the city. General Hood, its brave defender, claims the advantage in the late action, and boasts of 22 cannon and 2,000 prisoners as the trophies of his victory. The Federal forces on the side of Decatur have also been routed by Wheeler's cavalry, with the loss of their camp; and General Hardee is operating on Sherman's rear. Rousseau, who was recently detached with a strong body of cavalry to cut off the Southern communication with Atlanta, has re-joined Sherman after destroying about 30 miles of the Montgomery Railway. From the neighbourhood of James River we have news of an attempt by General Lee to outflank Butler's position, which led to some smart fighting, in the course of which General Grant advanced an army corps to the rescue, and drove the Confederates from their breastworks. Grant is reported to be entrenched within ten miles of Richmond, and to have abandoned the siege of Petersburg. So critical is the state of things in Baltimore that the Federal authorities there have enrolled, armed, and equipped, all the negroes capable of service; whilst in Missouri, the guerilla warfare continued with unabated vigour. Pennsylvania, too, is again invaded by the Confederates, and that in such force that a proclamation has been issued by the governor, and arms are to be furnished to the citizens for the defence of Harrisburg. Rumours of a conspiracy to establish a North-Western Confederacy are revived, and Mr. Vallingham is said to be at its head. It is not unlikely that the humanity displayed by the owner of the English yacht *Deerhound*, in snatching from death the crew of the *Alabama*, will give some employment to diplomacy. The subject having been referred to a board of United States naval officers, they have pronounced an opinion in which the Washington Government concurs, to the effect that the rescued sailors—of course including Captain Semmes—were prisoners of war.

SOUTH AMERICA.—The Brazil and River Plate mails, per the *Magdalena*, bring intelligence that peace had been concluded between the Monte Videan Government and General Flores. In consequence great joy pervaded the capital, the inhabitants of which were *en fete*. At Buenos Ayres, Congress was wisely directing its attention to the encouragement of measures for opening up communications with the interior, and had authorised the President to subscribe for a large number of shares in the Argentine Central Railroad. The project of establishing lines of river steamers through this magnificently watered country was still under consideration.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

HORACE.—We are not aware that there has been any meeting of the Mark Grand Lodge since the last we reported. We did not publish the Royal Arch Agenda paper the week before last, because we did not receive it until two days after we went to press.

C. R.—We do not understand the question.

J. W.—Consult the "Book of Constitutions."

BRO. PRATT's communication is unavoidably postponed till next week.