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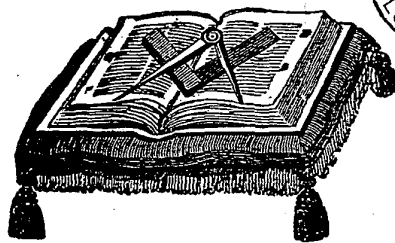
THE

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AND

MASONIC MIRROR.

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THE
F R E E M A S O N S ' M A G A Z I N E
AND
M A S O N I C M I R R O R .

ADDRESS TO OUR READERS.

Notwithstanding the Allocution hurled against it by the Pope, Freemasonry still "rolls its ceaseless course." Each volume that we send forth bears evidence in its pages of the growing interest felt by the uninitiated, as well as by the brethren themselves, in our ancient and noble Order. From every attack made upon it, it has emerged purer and brighter; nay, the very enmity of its antagonists has been turned into a blessing, for, able champions have thereby been drawn forth to testify on its behalf that it is indeed what it professes to be—the handmaid and friend of religion, morality, and charity; in short, of everything noble and loveable.

Among the Masonic works that have appeared since the issue of our last half-yearly volume, we may mention "Papal Teachings in Freemasonry," by our reverend and learned Bro. Dr. Oliver, and Bro. Findel's "History of Freemasonry"—the latter a work which has been reviewed at length in our columns. We may, perhaps, be allowed to sum up here what we have thought of it. Although it is, in many respects, a very meritorious publication, we have felt ourselves compelled to take exception to the theory which it propounds as to the origin of Freemasonry. We have also been obliged to find fault with the manner in which its translation into English has been rendered, the style being unidiomatic, and the mistakes being neither few nor unimportant. We trust, however, that, in this respect, improvements will be effected in a future edition.

We may mention here that it is our intention to render the department of the MAGAZINE devoted to Reviews as interesting as possible. Every new work, whether Masonic or non-Masonic, that may be forwarded to us, we shall notice with fairness and strict impartiality. We shall also endeavour to keep our brethren *au courant* with the literature, science, and art of the day.

It is but right to state that we shall wage unceasing war against every attempt to eliminate the true Christian element from the Craft, as we believe that, in so doing, we are only acting in accordance with the genius of English Freemasonry.

Our Charities continue to flourish, and the Craft is, on the whole, in a most satisfactory condition.

As regards our magazine, we beg to express our best thanks to our subscribers and contributors for the support which they have given us. We assure them that no effort will be wanting on our part, to make the organ of the Craft in this country worthy of their continued and extended patronage, and of the position which it happily occupies, as the medium of intercourse between the members of one of the most powerful and influential bodies in the kingdom, we may say, in the world. And here

we may be permitted to remark, that we shall be happy to give our most earnest attention to any suggestions with which we may be furnished, for its improvement and efficiency.

The most noteworthy events in the outer world, during the past half-year, were the loss of the ill-fated *London*, in the Bay of Biscay. Amongst those who perished were our two brethren, the Rev. Dr. Woolley, and G. V. Brooke, the tragedian; the outbreak of Fenianism in Canada, and its suppression; the marriage of the Princess Mary of Cambridge to the Prince Von Teck; and the defeat of the Government on the Reform Bill.

Whilst we write, news of the most important nature is arriving from the Continent. A war of gigantic proportions has broken out in Central Europe. Austria, Italy, and Prussia are engaged in deadly strife. Our brother, the King of Hanover, has had his kingdom wrested from him by Prussia, and his army has been obliged to succumb before overwhelming numbers. What may be the issue of this fearful war is known only to the Great Architect of the Universe. May He spare our beloved country the horrors consequent upon being involved in a struggle, into which it is possible that she may by European complications be plunged; and may our numerous brethren who are fighting in the hostile ranks of these Continental armies be enabled to remember, even amid the carnage of war, that they are "brethren of the mystic tie," and render to each other on the battle field, and in the death agonies, that relief and assistance which our gentle and loving Craft ever dictates to those who submit to her teaching!

Finally, may we, as true Masons, offer to the world's Great Architect our orisons that He would be mercifully pleased to protect our Queen and country, and to hasten the time when religion and Masonry hand in hand shall have performed their sacred mission of teaching to the world the lessons of brotherly love; and then shall the nations learn war no more!

"So mote it be."

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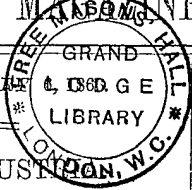
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LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1860



FREEMASONRY IN AUSTRIA

Since the death, in 1792, of the Emperor Joseph II., the ascendancy of the Roman Catholic Clergy has withheld from the dominions of the "Sons of the Cæsars" the blessings the institution of Freemasonry has conferred upon many of the neighbouring countries; a temporary resumption of Masonic labours followed the dawn of liberty, in 1848, but soon ceased again when, in 1849, the national aspirations were suffocated with "powder and lead," by the hordes of the Windischgrætzs, the Jellachichs, and Haynaus. Since the revival of liberty and constitutional life in the empire, some of the brethren who are living scattered over the country have felt incumbent upon them the duty of taking such steps as might tend to resuscitate Freemasonry as one of those elements most calculated to promote the welfare and prosperity of the country. To this effect Bro. Lewis, on behalf of a number of brethren of Vienna and Pesth, has lately presented a petition to Count Belcredi, the I. R. Minister of State, praying for the repeal of the edicts suppressing Freemasonry in Austria. Count Belcredi replied most laconically:—"I will consider this matter;" but we have not yet heard of any decision. The following is the tenor of Bro. Lewis's petition, which we reproduce from a recent issue of the "Freimaurer Zeitung":—

May it please your Excellency,—At a time when your Excellency is about to re-establish the condition of the Austrian Empire on a solid foundation, and so add fresh lustre to your historical name, I venture to approach your Excellency with a request to be allowed to submit a proposal which, in my opinion, is calculated in a great measure to contribute towards the consolidation of the Empire, and to strengthen loyalty and affection for the Imperial dynasty in the hearts of its faithful lieges.

As far back as 1848 I petitioned the then Home Minister, Baron Dobbhoff, for permission to establish a new lodge, or, rather, to re-establish the lodge "Zum Heiligen Joseph," which had been in existence in former years. The permission was readily granted; indeed, the labours of the lodge have been discontinued for several years past, but this is accounted for by the fact of martial law having been proclaimed soon after its foundation, and having transferred my residence to Pesth, I have ever since been prevented from petitioning for the resumption of the lodge labours, the discontinuance of which had originally been made dependent only on the repeal of martial law.

All the circumstances connected with this subject I have explained at full length in my "History of Freemasonry," published by Messrs. Zamarsky and Ditmarsh, to which I beg to refer you for all particulars.

In venturing, at the present moment, to humbly petition your Excellency for permission to resume the labours of the Lodge "Z. H. J.," I am not taking this step without previous and mature reflection.

In the first place, your Excellency's sterling character,

your well-known love and justice, and the noble aspirations and endeavours you have shown in the exalted position in which you are placed, warrant my confidence that your Excellency will judge favourably this institution, the fundamental objects of which are the advancement of humanity in its greatest purity, scientific researches, and conservative progress; and I trust, therefore, your Excellency will give time and leisure to a Vienna lodge to develop its true character, and show its pure and noble aspirations.

It would lead me too far were I to attempt to refute all those objections that have been set forth against Masonic institutions in general, and the existence of a lodge in Vienna in particular. However, the refutation of these objections is so closely connected with the substantiation of my request that I will try to simultaneously solve both problems, at least approximately.

As one of the first and prominent objections usually urged against Freemasonry, it is asserted that lodges are secret convents possessing revolutionary objects. To this I reply, that Freemasonry has been originally an Order, and has been transformed to a confederation at a later period only; that in its true and genuine form it tends to advance conservative, loyal, and monarchical objects, and to exhort to the fear of God, to humane charity and benevolence. In Austria in particular a lodge, were it to assume any political activity (though Masonry, according to its fundamental principles, strictly refrains from meddling with political or religious questions), would zealously endeavour to further the constitutional institutions that have been or will be granted by His Majesty the Emperor, to strengthen the compactness and consistency of the Monarchy, by conciliating the individual nationalities, and drawing them near each other, to promote progress on a conservative platform; it would, under all circumstances, tender its faithful services, and endeavour to be useful to the Imperial Government.

The administrative guardianship and protectorate of the lodge and the whole Institution would be conferred upon your Excellency, and thus your personal influence would be considerably and reliably strengthened.

No doubt the Roman Catholic Church has declared Freemasonry to be suspected of heresy, but the suspicion alone has never warranted a prohibition of that Institution.

In former times, worthy Catholic priests have even participated in lodge labours. An objection from that quarter is the less admissible, as Masonry endeavours to the utmost of its power to advance the objects of humanity and ethics, morals and fear of God.

Freemasonry is nowadays in full vigour in almost all States of Europe, and lodges have been established in Spain and Turkey, and even in Rome a lodge is in existence, though not authorised. Austria may be called the only country in Europe where Freemasonry is not allowed by the State.

Still, Austria having entered now on the path of steady progress, it is highly desirable that this institution also should be admitted progressively and to a limited extent, so that the surveillance of the lodge should not involve too much trouble and expense, the more so, as many strangers would be happy to meet for Masonic purposes during a protracted sojourn in Austria.

As regards more particularly the surveillance, I wish to draw your attention to the position of lodges in the kingdom of Saxony, when they are only tolerated, not authorised. In that country the minutes of the lodge meetings are submitted to the Ministry, and the latter has always given them credit for eminent loyalty and noble and laudable aspirations.

In many other countries Masonry occupies a very high station, and counts amongst its ranks princes and members of the reigning families. There, the lodges form additional ties of devotion and fidelity between the head of the State and those of his subjects who belong

to the Order, a boon which is not to be underrated in these days of trial.

A most beneficial influence would accrue to the conservative side of political life, and the highest interests of the State, by the introduction in Austria of lodges which members of the nobility and capitalists would be at liberty to join. No doubt, certain prejudices will have to be overcome; but, on the other hand, new political and financial resources might be derived from the adoption of the Masonic institution. As King Frederic William III. did at the Vienna Congress of Monarchs, all princes who are at the head of the Order, up to the present day designate its members as their most faithful servants and lieges. In Hungary especially, where Freemasonry has adherents in the very highest classes of society, it would contribute most favourably to the solution of the constitutional difficulties.

I admit that the legal introduction of Freemasonry in Austria will have to be preceded by a mature and well-considered deliberation, which would be likely to extend over a considerable period of time. For this reason it would be preferable were your Excellency to grant our humble petition to not only authorise the foundation (respectively revival) of the St. Joseph's Lodge in Vienna, but also to assume the immediate protectorate of this lodge. By this means your Excellency would be enabled to appreciate and experience the boon of this wide-spread Institution, and solve the question *à priori* from a political point of view.

In abandoning to your Excellency's high condescendence the favourable settlement of the present petition, I remain, &c.

Thirty years since, in the good olden times of Prince Metternich's paternal *régime*, the "Poet of Vienna," who has since become the President of the Upper House of the Reichsrath, addressed to the pilot of the "good ship Austria," on behalf of the crew of this vessel, a humble petition in but one line—"Dürft' ich wohl so frei sein, frei zu sein? (May I venture to be free?) An age has elapsed since, and the request has not yet been granted; but then, the very laconism of the terms in which it was couched warranted its rejection. Bro. Lewis has taken an example from the non-success of Count Auersperg; he does not enter on the subject *de main morte*, he not only explains at great length the object of his petition, but seasons the latter with such condiments that it must prove successful, unless Count Belcredi should be too obtuse to appreciate all the innumerable inducements and facts held out by Bro. Lewis. Freemasonry, according to the petitioner's theory, is a panacea calculated to remedy all those evils that flesh is heir to, both individually and collectively; and to Austria in particular is recommended as a nostrum to cure all the numerous difficulties under which she is labouring, whether they be of a national, social, political, religious, or financial character. *Risum teneatis amici?*

But, to speak seriously, we fear the step taken by Bro. Lewis, though highly commendable in

itself, will do much more harm than good to our cause.

To Freemasonry the province of politics is entirely foreign, and its religious foundation consists but in the adoration of the "Grand Architect of the Universe;" it is as much above the controversies of the various religious denominations as the quarrels of the Austrian centrifugalists and centripetalists are beneath, to scope. The attempt to enlist Freemasonry under the banner of any particular political and religious faction is radically opposed to the spirit of our institution; and though our sympathies are fully secured to the cause advocated by Bro. Lewis, we must reject and condemn the means to which he has thought proper to resort in order to attain his object.

CHARITY STEWARDS.

We had pleasure in giving in our last issue the letter of Bro. Binckes, Secretary to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, in reply to the letter of our correspondent "Beta," with reference to the important subject of the duties, &c., of the Stewards for our different Masonic Charities, and more especially those for the Boys' School.

Bro. Binckes has forwarded to us the *printed card* referred to by him in the letter which appeared in our last week's issue explanatory of the duties and responsibilities of Stewards for the Boys' School. We append a copy of the particulars stated in the card for the information of those brethren who may not have received a copy:—

"ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

"Qualifications and duties of Stewards at the Anniversary Festival:—

"Every brother serving the office of Steward is expected to use his best endeavours in procuring subscriptions and donations, the particulars of which are to be placed on his list for announcement at the Festival; he is also expected to disseminate as widely as possible, information respecting the School—its means, claims, and requirements—to enable him to do which he will be furnished on application with the necessary reports and statements.

"Every Steward is called upon to pay a deposit of £4 or £5, according to circumstances, towards defraying the expenses of the Festival, in which sum is included his own dinner ticket, and such tickets for the ladies' gallery, as may be awarded.

“A donation of five guineas constitutes a life subscriber, with one vote at all elections of children.

“A donation of ten guineas constitutes a life governor with two votes at all elections of children, and an additional vote by virtue of the Stewardship.

“A donation of fifty guineas constitutes a vice-president, with ten votes at all elections of children, and one additional vote by virtue of the stewardship.

“Brethren undertaking the office of steward, and wishing advice or information, are invited to communicate with the Secretary, Bro. F. Binckes, 16A, Great Queen Street, W.C.

“N.B.—By resolution of the Quarterly General Court of April 20th, 1863, every brother serving the office of steward a second time and contributing the sum of ten guineas has two additional votes by virtue of such second stewardship.”

MASONIC POETS OF SCOTLAND—No. I.

ROBERT BURNS.

By the REV. ANDREW R. BONAR, *Minister of First Charge of Canmougate, Edinburgh.*

The spirit of Freemasonry has not a little in common with the genuine poetic spirit. Poetry often loves to dwell on the past, and looks with benignant glance on friendship and love. Freemasonry, the spirit of brotherhood, does so likewise; nor need we remind our readers how often the strains of the poet and the songs of the bard have contributed to the delight and harmony of many a social meeting of the brethren. Burns, in particular, derived from meetings of the fraternity no small amount of the pleasure which at intervals cheered a life originally obscure; and we may be sure that he would enter with cordial delight into the “recreation” which appropriately succeeded labour.

In a short series of papers on “Masonic Poets of Scotland,” we naturally begin with—all things considered—the most illustrious name on the roll.

Burns became an apprentice in the Lodge St. David, Tarbolton, on 4th July, 1781, when twenty-three years of age, and was raised to the highest degree on 1st October of same year, entering with characteristic ardour into the meetings and general business of the lodge. He was elected Deputy Master in July 1784, acting for several years in that capacity. He was also in the habit of visiting a number of lodges throughout the provinces; and Masonic meetings suggested

themes for several of his songs and poetic epistles, so that he produced on one of these occasions, when the pressure of misfortune induced him to think of going to Jamaica, one of the best of Masonic songs, in which he breaths the following prayer:—

“May Freedom, Harmony, and Love,
Unite you in the grand design,
Beneath the Omniscient Eye above,
The glorious Architect divine!
That you may keep th’ unerring line,
Still rising by the plummet’s law,
Till order bright completely shine—
Shall be my prayer when far awa’.”*

The name and fame of Robert Burns have been celebrated wherever Scotchmen are found. To give a bare outline of the facts connected with his life would involve the repetition of a frequently told tale; narrated by Currie in good taste, and with delicacy of feeling; by Allan Cunningham, himself author of a few good Scotch songs; by Lockhart, with keen discrimination and occasional eloquence of remark; by Robert Chambers, with much minuteness of detail; and, latterly, by Alexander Smith, whose prose writings are peculiarly graceful and spirited. Instead of telling over again the story of Burns’ life, we propose to speak of one or two lessons deducible from it; after which we shall advert to some peculiar characteristics of his poetry, ending by a short notice of his songs.

In Burns, besides the possession of genius—that gift bestowed on comparatively few of our race—we are to notice the right and proper use of such means of improvement as he could command.

These means were comparatively scanty, but were, through industry, turned to good account. A short space of initiatory education, when six years old, at a school near Alloway Mill—a vicinity afterwards immortalised in song; the tuition of Murdoch, when an inmate of his father’s house; a training of the old-fashioned kind under parents of singular excellence; the repetition of such scenes as he has described in the “Cotter’s Saturday Night”—the saint and father being his venerated sire; perusal of such books as he found access to, or could borrow—not a few of them of them of an imaginative cast, but one or two well fitted to kindle the flame of a patriotic spirit, make up all the external means of which we read.

* For much curious and interesting information regarding Burns’ connection with Masonry in Edinburgh, our readers cannot do better than peruse Bro. Hunter’s little work, “Burns, as a Freemason.”

Essentially, Burns was a self-educated man; a secluded, observant soul, communing much with nature, rejoicing in the light of summer skies, the roseate tints of sunset, and the melody of woods and waters. Their father was then, in fact, the chief companion of Burns and his brother Gilbert; he "conversed familiarly with them on many subjects, as if they had been men;" and was at pains, as the boys were beside him, occupied in farm labour, to lead the conversation to such subjects as had a tendency to increase their knowledge, and confirm them in good habits—borrowing books such as "Derham's Physico and Astro-Theology," Ray's "Wisdom of God in Creation," and taking in by subscription a copy of "Stackhouse's History of the Bible." These works Burns read with eagerness and interest; and it is said that no book was so voluminous as to slacken his industry, or so antiquated as to repel him from its perusal. Burns' father, moreover, was a peculiar and fine specimen of humanity, bending under premature decay, to whom times had not been propitious; so that, before their bones were thoroughly knit, the future poet and his brother had to share in those rural labours usually reserved for more advanced youth, or even manhood. Such a training helps to account for the frequent sombreness of disposition shown by Burns in after-life; while there were believed to be peculiar antecedents in the earlier days of William Burness which gave a romantic tinge to the thoughts and sentiments of Burns' youth. He was reported to have been "out" in the '45. What we at present more particularly refer to is the fact that Burns availed himself of all means of improvement at command. No doubt, in that finely moulded mind there were springs of sensibility that needed but to be touched. As he walked following the plough, the dark yet flashing eye doubtless at times betokened the working within of no common emotion. Like the bard of Beattie, he was no "vulgar boy," even as in his later and more unhappy years he never sank down to the mere sensuous sot. The rustle of the leaves, the trickling of the waters, the glories of sunset, the beaming eyes of women, were not lost upon him; the blue-eyed maiden beside him in the harvest-field became, for a time, a species of divinity; while, as we have seen, he was a searcher after knowledge, organising societies for discussion at Tarbolton and elsewhere, and not unaccustomed to the handling of those themes on which so many

of our Scottish peasantry once delighted to dwell. The mantle of poetry, indeed, fell upon Burns at the plough; the raw youth was easily roused to emotion; and he might often indulge in "crooning to a body's sel'." Thus he writes:—

"I mind it weel, in early date,
When I was beardless, young, and blate,
And first could thrash the barn
Or haud a yoking o' the pleugh,
Yet unco proud to learn;
When first among the yellow corn
A man I reckoned was,
An' wi' the lave ilk merry morn
Could rank my rig and lass;
Still shearing and clearing
The 'tither stooket raw,
Wi' clavers and havers
Wearing the day awa'.

E'en then a wish, I mind its power,
A wish that to my latest hour
Shall strongly heave my breast,
That I, for poor auld Scotland's sake,
Some useful plan or book could make,
Or sing a sang, at least.
The rough bur thistle spreading wide
Among the bearded bear,
I turned the weeder clips aside,
And spared the symbol dear."

Alas! how much of the poetry of the harvest field has fled! It may possibly, moreover, be confined, at no distant date, to Highland braes, and specially to not merely stiff, but stony soils, that yield only the oats of Lilliput, and these but sparsely appearing, if for the reaper's song, we are to have the iron-horse with steam-breathing nostrils, and the steam-cutter, puff, puffing, as it shaves over the ground. Stokers and coals seem rather out of place in such spots, and the mouse that Burns sang of would dart in horror and trepidation to the remotest cranny within reach.

The light that led Burns astray, was assuredly not "light from heaven," but he was possessed of rare gifts, though, at the period referred to, he might be comparatively unconscious of their existence. He was not alone in this respect among the sons of Scotland, nor need he be so still. The hard-wrought mechanic, the pale toiler at the loom, the wandering herd, have not unfrequently fought their way nobly in the battle of life. Witness Ferguson, originally a shepherd boy, stringing beads together to mark the constellations; Leyden, fighting his way to distinction amongst Oriental scholars; Hogg, seeing visions rare amidst the braes of Ettrick and Yarrow; and many others, moved by the resolute perseverance that buffets with adversity, the noble ambition

that cannot be repressed, bearing testimony to the value of that training which has made Scotland's sons what they were, and what many of them still are—a bold, honest, virtuous, self-denied, and religious race.

Burns' life also reminds us that applause and celebrity may be attended by unhappiness. The animal, as well as the spiritual nature, were strong in Burns. The misfortunes of genius have furnished a theme, not unfrequently dilated upon. Poets, in particular, from Homer, "the blind old man of Sico's rocky isle," down to the present day, have often seemed to afford a mark for the arrows of misfortune. The action on the nervous sensibilities—the wear and tear of brain—the heat and hurry of emotion, as well as other reasons, have led to the cypress being often entwined with the laurel. With all our admiration, too, of the genius of such men as Burns and others, let us not excuse their vices, or palliate the blots that sully some of their writings—the scorn of piety, the gilding over of vice, the writing of what stimulates the passions, or sets before the young false views of truth or duty. From such a charge we cannot allege that Burns is entirely free. Not, however, in extenuation of the fault, but in alluding to this, it is right to consider the peculiarity of his position. His bosom thrilling with the impulses of a strong sensitive nature, gifted with rare power of satire, at a time when intoxication was greatly prevalent amongst the higher as well as the middle-class; the infection of doubt having seized upon his mind, and personal sin having made him obnoxious to church censure; measuring, fairly enough, perhaps, as regarded intellectual stature, not a few of his censors, encouraged by the plaudits of the "new light" party in Ayrshire—associating with a "fast" and free-living class, his temperate youth having passed away, thick coming fancies, flashes of wit, roars of merriment accompanying the social glass—and some customs obtaining that were by no means favourable to purity of demeanour; his person and countenance, if not "cast in beauty's mould," at least such as to catch the eye, above his fellows in mental power and fervency of feeling, he had by this time ceased to preserve the "virgin whiteness of his soul;" though despite of such aberrations, and though the faithful, affectionate, forgiving partner of his married life had also loved "too fondly," yet he so far redeemed the error. Led astray, as by an "*ignis futurus*," by that which, ac-

ording to his own admission, "hardens a' within, and petrifies the feeling"—we have in Burns a warning that only God's Word can be man's sure guide. How affecting to think that this, in much noble—son of the soil was sometimes perplexed by doubts! How emphatic his intervals of remorse! How pleasing to be told of him, when strength was ebbing, and clouds of misfortune loomed, when sunshine-friends had fled, and a parent's anxieties filled his heart, that he read intently the Book of books, and, it may be hoped, with reverential submission and adoring mind. Yet preferable had been his lot, without the applause of the careless and scornful, or the flattering and deceptive notice of the great in Edinburgh, whither Burns had repaired after the "gloomy night seemed gathering fast:" after Highland Mary had been torn from his embrace, to whom he had bidden farewell at that memorable parting, which is described in verse of such exquisite pathos; when beside the stream, less broad than that of death, truth was so solemnly plighted, when suddenly, like another bard, he found that he was famous; had he but followed his father's steps, and kept steadfast by his father's faith, happier had been his course. But Burns came to Edinburgh at a hazardous period of life, and in what we may truly call an evil time; when over-indulgence in strong drinks was thought but a venial sin; when a withering sceptical spirit was too prevalent among the better informed; when it was thought manly to drink deep, and not considered a breach of manners (not to speak of morals) to swear. Burns was, moreover, the lion of the time; Henry Mackenzie had, by a generous paper in the *Mirror*, apprised the Edinburgh literati that a painter of manners, and poet of the people, had arisen. Though, then, the poet's manly independence was retained, he left Edinburgh by no means a better man than he had entered it. Still, contact with its polished and literary circles had good effect; and the memorable scenes and localities, then untouched comparatively by the hand of innovation, would attract his wondering gaze, suggest much to his impressible mind, and largely contribute to "beet" the patriotic fire that glowed within his breast.

We are generally anxious to know something about the personal appearance and demeanour of those who have earned a place in the gallery of fame, and have left a deep impression upon the minds of their countrymen. Sir Walter Scott

thus speaks of Burns, whom he was anxious to see, having been greatly interested by his poetry. He met Burns at the house of Professor Ferguson, Professor Dugald Stewart, and some other gentlemen of literary reputation being also present. Burns chanced to take up a print, which represented a soldier lying dead on the snow, his dog sitting in misery on one side, and on the other his widow, with a child in arms. The poet was so much affected by the ideas called forth by the print, that tears were seen standing in his eyes. "His person," says Scott, "was tall and robust; his manners rustic, not clownish; a sort of dignified plainness and simplicity." Nasmyth's picture gives an idea of his features, but as if upon a diminished scale, and with less of the massiveness which belonged to them. "Sense and shrewdness were strongly expressed by its lineaments, the eye chiefly indicating the poetical character and temperament. It was large, and of a dark cast, which *glowed*—I say literally *glowed*—when he spoke with feeling and interest. I never saw such another eye in a human head, though I have seen most of the distinguished men of my time. His conversation expressed perfect self-confidence, without the slightest presumption." "His voice," another informant writes, "was deep, manly, and musical, adding its sorcery of pathos or of wit, till the dullest owned the power of genius."—*Scottish Freemasons' Magazine.*

(To be continued).

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.—NATURAL THEOLOGY.

If a correspondent, "M. N. O.," will take the trouble to reflect a little, he will find a satisfactory solution of the difficulty, termed by him his "theological difficulty," in the few lines subjoined. First, all Christians, Jews, Parsees, and Mahomedans, received into Freemasonry, profess their belief in the Great Architect of the Universe. This belief may be regarded as constituting their common theological creed. The conclusion is that the Great Architect of the Universe is alike the God of the New Testament, of the Old Testament, of the Zend-Avesta, and of the Koran. Next, the Great Architect of the Universe is the God of Natural Theology; therefore the further conclusion is, that the theology of the followers of Jesus Christ, of the followers of Moses, of the followers of Zoroaster, and of the followers of Mahomet, *when brought together and united in the lodge, is Natural Theology.*—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

** All communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MASONIC MEMS.

In the report of the proceedings of the last Grand Lodge, it was omitted to be stated that Bro. Muncherjee Pestonjee Setna, of the Lodge Zetland in the East, Hong Kong and Bombay, by the kind permission of the M.W. Grand Master, through Bro. Woods, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, had the honour of an *entrée* to the Grand Lodge, although a M.M. only. He was accompanied by Bro. Kennedy, P.M. and Treasurer of the Old Concord Lodge.

THE ROYAL ALBERT HOSPITAL, DEVONPORT.—The Children's Hospital at Devonport has just received a valuable addition—the annual maintenance of one child's bed being guaranteed by the Masonic brethren of Devonshire. The D. Prov. G.M., Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, heads the subscription list with two guineas, and most of the lodges in the immediate neighbourhood are also subscribers to a similar amount. The Committee of the Hospital intend to open the ward with the full number of twelve beds, trusting to the generosity of the public that the necessary funds will be forthcoming.

METROPOLITAN.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 172).

The anniversary meeting of this well-worked lodge took place on Tuesday evening, Jan. 2, at the Freemasons' Tavern. Bro. J. O. F. Corben, W.M., presided; Bro. Dixon, S.W.; and Bro. S. Sallust, J.W. The other officers were present, and P.M.'s Emmens (Sec.), Kennedy (Treas.), George Gurton, Rev. J. Laughlin (Chap.), Dr. Hogg, Swainston, Waters, Davis, and Nicholson, and the following visitors:—Bros. E. Williams, W.M. Lodge of St. John the Baptist, No. 475; Boyce, W.M. New Concord, 813; H. Norman, P.M. Grand Steward Lodge; H. Thompson, P.M. Domestic, 177; Arthur Osmand, P.M. New Concord, 813; J. Bertram, W.M. Crystal Palace, and P.M. New Concord, 813; Thomas Beard, P.M. Temple, 101; J. Swainston, S.D. Regularity, 91; R. Allison, W.M. elect of Percy Lodge, 198; N. Jackson, Fidelity, 3; C. Long, Robert Burns, 25; F. Simpson, United Mariners, 30; J. Bagley, Peace and Harmony, 60; G. King, St. Luke's, 144; R. Sewell, Bedford, 157; H. Deaker, T. Hodges, and E. Walker, New Concord, 813; Harry Sydney, Kent, 15; Macnamara, Fidelity, No. 3, &c. The lodge was opened in the Earl De Grey and Ripon room soon after three o'clock, and the minutes having been read, M. Philip Flech and Mr. George Alexander were severally introduced and initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry in a very careful manner by the W.M. The chair was taken by Bro. Emmens, P.M. and Secretary, and Bro. the Rev. J. Laughlin, with some very appropriate observations, presented Bro. Dixon, the W.M. elect, to receive from him the installation. The usual proceedings having been gone through, all the brethren below the chair retired, and a board of installed Masters (twenty in number) having been formed, Bro. Dixon was impressively installed into the chair of the K.S. as W.M. of the Old Concord Lodge for the ensuing year according to ancient custom. The other brethren were then admitted, and having saluted the W.M. in the different degrees, he appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Sallust, S.W., King, J.W.; Emmens, Secretary; Kennedy, Treasurer; Masterman, S.D.; Walker, J.D.; and Morrin, I.G. Bro. Emmens then delivered the usual address in his peculiar style of excellence, and at the conclusion of the ceremony he was most warmly applauded. The next business was to present Bro. Corben, the I.P.M., with a jewel, which had been voted to him at the last lodge as a small recognition of his services to the lodge during his year of office, for which he thanked the brethren, and said he should ever wear

it with pleasure as a token of the good feelings entertained towards him by the members of the Old Concord Lodge.

The necessities of a widow of a former member of the lodge, who in his time had served some very important offices, was now brought before the members by Bro. Emmens, and, on the motion of Bro. Waters, P.M., the sum of £10 10s. was voted to her from the benevolent fund of the lodge, which now amounts to upwards of £500. A much larger sum would have been voted, but that would have caused a delay of a week, as no sum larger than ten guineas can be voted without notice had previously been given.

It was then agreed that five guineas from the funds of the lodge should be placed in the hands of each of the stewards representing the lodge at the coming festivals for the different Masonic Charities.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren retired to the large hall, where a magnificent banquet was provided, and at which the W.M. presided.

On the withdrawal of the cloth, grace was sung by the professional singers, consisting of Mrs. Pearce and Bros. Woollans, Fielding, Marriott, and Harry Sydney.

The W.M. gave the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft;" which was followed by the National Anthem, the solo verses by Mrs. Pearce, accompanied by Bro. Parker on the pianoforte.

The W.M. said, after the last lodge meeting he had the honour of attending for the first time the Grand Lodge, and he felt delighted at the attention which the M.W. Grand Master paid to all the questions brought forward on that evening, and he trusted that he might long remain at the head of Freemasons; feeling assured that while he occupied that position they would have nothing to fear. Therefore it was with great pleasure he proposed "The Health of the Earl of Zetland, M.W. Grand Master of Masons;" and the toast was most enthusiastically received.

The M.W. said the next toast he had to propose was "The Health of the Earl De Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers," and coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Emmens, G. Purst. This toast was equally well received; followed by a song by Bro. Woollans, "Old Year's Night and New Year's Day," composed by Bro. Marriott, a member of this lodge, and it was stated that this song was then sung for the first time.

Bro. Emmens, P.M. and G. Purst., said, in responding to the last toast, so kindly proposed by the W.M., he begged to return his sincere thanks; and he agreed in an opinion expressed by him that Earl De Grey and Ripon would, whenever the time might arrive, be a worthy successor of their present esteemed Grand Master. He trusted, however, that the day might be far distant whenever that necessity should arrive; and, on the part of the Grand Officers, not forgetting himself, he begged sincerely to thank them.

The W.M. said the next toast he had to propose was one always most pleasing to every master of the Old Concord Lodge, as it was "The Health of their Brother Visitors." They were that evening honoured by several, and on the part of the Old Concord Lodge he could assure them that they were very pleased to see them, and they gave them a very hearty welcome. He would not go through the long list of names, but would couple with the toast the name of Bro. Norman, one of the Grand Stewards.

Bro. Harry Sydney here sang an extempore song, "The Old Concord," in which he rather jocosely alluded to nearly every one present, which was most enthusiastically applauded and encored.

Bro. Norman returned thanks for the visitors.

The W.M. said he had great pleasure in proposing the next toast, which was "The Health of their Brother Initiates." He believed that they would never look back with regret to the time when they became E.A. Freemasons. Their noble science opened to them a wide field for inquiry, but he felt assured they would never regret the step they had taken that evening. The toast was heartily received.

Miss Pearce sang "Tell me my heart," which was rapturously encored.

Bro. Flech returned thanks on behalf of himself and his brother initiate, hoping that in time they should both become good Masons.

Bro. Corben, I.P.M., said he was allowed to propose the next toast, which was "The Health of the Worshipful Master." From the way in which he had invested his officers that evening, he had proved to them that he had commenced his work well,

and they had every reason to be proud of him. Drunk with applause.

Song, Miss Pearce, "The Dashing White Serjeant."

The W.M. thanked the brethren for the way in which the toast of his health had been proposed and received, and said the one great ambition of his life had been realised in becoming the Master of the Old Concord Lodge. It was true he had worked hard to obtain it, but he might say that there was no office that he had undertaken that he had not endeavoured to carry out to the best of his ability, and he trusted that the officers he had that evening appointed would do the same as he had done. That was a proud evening to him, for he could now say that he was W.M. of the Old Concord Lodge.

Song, Bro. Sydney, "The best rule of life is to keep within compass and act on the square."

The W.M. said the next toast he had to propose was one that gave him great pleasure, as it was no other than "The Past Masters of the Old Concord Lodge," and he was glad to see several of them present that evening. There was a very old adage, and a very true one, that "in the multitude of counsel there is wisdom," and that peculiarly applied to the Past Masters of the Old Concord Lodge, for at that moment they could call upon any of the Past Masters to go through the ritual of the whole of the three degrees of Freemasonry, which was in itself a great credit to the Old Concord Lodge. It was therefore with great pleasure he proposed "The Health of the Past Masters of the Old Concord Lodge," and coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Corben.

Bro. Corben, I.P.M., said the W.M. had called upon him to perform a most onerous task in having to return thanks for such an array of P.M.'s. He did not feel inclined to return thanks for all of them, but would take upon himself to do so for half of them—(a laugh)—and would leave Bro. Waters, who was at the other end, to return thanks for the rest. All he could say was, that they would be ready at all times to assist the brethren by every means in their power.

Bro. Waters also returned thanks.

Bro. GEORGE GURTON, P.M., wished to draw the attention of the brethren to the benevolent fund of the lodge, of which he had the good fortune to be the treasurer, and he said that, as it then amounted to £500, that was a state of it which was most gratifying to his feelings, and heartily did he thank the brethren of the lodge for joining with the P.M.'s in producing those satisfactory results. They had that evening voted ten guineas to the widow of one of their own members, which would be of some small service to her; and he had the happiness to say that the benevolent fund was then in such a state that he should have been glad if £20 instead of £10 10s. could have been given to her. He wished the members to remember that they had a benevolent fund in existence to which they could at all times apply, and, as treasurer, he thanked them for what they had voted to the poor widow that evening. (Loud applause.)

The W. MASTER, in giving the next toast, said it was one that had become almost "household words" in the Old Concord Lodge, as it was "The Health of their Treasurer and Secretary," and he was very pleased to see them both present that evening. Their Bro. Emmens had for some days been visited with a severe attack of illness, but he was very happy in having the opportunity of investing him for about the thirtieth time with the collar of Secretary of the lodge, and he felt assured that as long as they had such a Treasurer and Secretary the Old Concord Lodge would always prosper. (Drunk very enthusiastically.)

Bro. KENNEDY, P.M. and Treas., said that was the thirteenth or fourteenth time he had had the honour of returning thanks for his appointment as Treasurer of the Old Concord Lodge and to take charge of their fund. He was happy to say that they had then a balance in hand, and on the next occasion that balance would be much larger. He believed that it would increase every year, and, after providing for the wants of the brethren, he hoped they would soon be able to hand over a good sum to the benevolent fund. The new year had opened brightly, and he trusted they would always have sunshine on the Old Concord Lodge, and concluded by wishing all the brethren a happy new year.

Bro. EMMENS, P.M. and Secretary, said it was a rule at the installation at the New Concord Lodge, to give the Treasurer and Secretary an opportunity of speaking for themselves, although it was not always pleasant to do so. However, he would say that he felt honoured in being the Secretary and

P.M. of the lodge for so many years. Their W.M. had rather overstated the time when he said he had been their Secretary for thirty years. He had been initiated in the lodge thirty years ago, and for twenty-six years, up to the present time, he had been their Secretary. He had told the brethren, on other occasions, and he would repeat it then, that during the whole of his Masonic career he had never been absent from his post but twice, one of those times being when he was laid up by a very severe illness, and the other was when he lost the dear partner of his life. He merely mentioned that to show the interest and zeal he felt in Freemasonry, his desire to carry out its principles, and see that what he had undertaken was properly done. He would take that opportunity of speaking of the Old Concord ball, which would take place on Wednesday, the 7th of February, and he might observe that the benevolent fund of which Bro. Gurton was the treasurer, emanated from their Masonic ball. Bro. Kennedy, some years ago, suggested that they should start a benevolent fund, and give over the proceeds of the ball to it, and he (Bro. Emmens) had to inform them that during the past year they had given £50 to two widows of members from that fund. Under those circumstances he trusted that every member would support their Masonic ball, so that the fund might remain in the satisfactory state it was then in. He could assure the brethren that he always had the interest of the Old Concord Lodge at heart, and would do the best he could for its prosperity, and he might say that at the ball Bro. Marriott's band would be in attendance.

The W.M. gave "The Officers of the Lodge," which they severally returned thanks.

The Tyler's toast was given, and a very happy meeting was brought to a close.

During the evening some beautiful glees were sung by Bros. Fielding, Marriott, and Woolans, accompanied by Bro. Parker on the pianoforte.

ROYAL JUBILEE LODGE (No. 72).—The ceremony of installation of Bro. Webb, the W.M. elect for the present year, was admirably performed at this lodge on New Year's Day, by the retiring W.M., Bro. Nunn, in presence of a large number of brethren, including many visitors. Bro. Webb appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Oxford, S.W.; Hodson, J.W.; Wormold, S.D.; Jenkins, J.D. Bro. Williams, P.M., who had been unanimously re-elected Treasurer, was invested with the collar of his office, and Bro. Nunn, P.M., resumed his former office of Secretary, in which capacity he has hitherto rendered such great service to this lodge. No less than thirteen Past Masters formed the board of Installed Masters. At the banquet, served in excellent style by the Brothers Clemow, of Anderton's Hotel, where the lodge is held, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed, and a very superb solid gold P.M.'s jewel was presented in appropriate terms to Bro. Nunn, to whom the same had been voted by the lodge by acclamation. The visitors included Bros. Hodges, P.M., P. Prov. G. Sec., Worcester; Austin, P.M., Prov. G. Org., Essex; Stevens, P.M.; Guider, P.M.; Basley, P.M.; J. J. Taylor, Drew, Burgess, and several other distinguished brethren too numerous to enumerate here.

PROVINCIAL.

CORNWALL.

FALMOUTH.—*Lodge of Love and Honour* (No. 75).—This ancient lodge held its annual meeting on Wednesday the 27th ult., at the Royal Hotel, Falmouth. Its warrant was granted in 1751, and it is therefore the oldest lodge in the county of Cornwall. The Master, Bro. W. F. Newman, having been installed, the following brethren were invested as his officers for the year ensuing: Bros. John Vivian, I.P.M.; W. H. Dunstan, S.W.; W. Pellon, J.W.; the Rev. W. J. Coope, P. Prov. G. Chap.; F. Williams, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.D., Treas.; W. D. Sharp, Secretary; F. Dennis, S.D.; J. Knight, J.D.; T. H. Lanyon, P.M., Dir. of Cers.; D. W. Tremewan, I.G.; M. Olive and A. Colonna, Stewards; W. Rusden, Tyler. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet; after which we regret to state that the harmony of the meeting was much interrupted, the cause of which disturbance was finally excluded, but unfortunately not until the pleasures of the annual festival were marred and their lustre tarnished by most unmasonic conduct.

PENZANCE.—*Lodge Mount Sinai* (No. 121).—Warrant dated

1762. The brethren of this flourishing lodge in the far west of England held its annual festival and banquet on Wednesday the 27th ult., when Bro. W. H. Holmes was installed, and the following brethren were selected as the officers for the next year: Bros. W. D. Matthews, S.W.; C. Curnow, J.W.; W. Wright, Chaplain; C. Read, Treasurer; R. S. Hosking, Secretary; T. Goldsworthy, S.D.; S. Higgs, junior, J.D.; J. Levin, Dir. of Cers.; G. Hire, Inner Guard; N. Pentreath and C. Guy, Stewards; and G. Gaye, Tyler.

LISKEARD.—*Lodge St. Martin's* (No. 510).—Warrant granted in 1845.—This lodge met on the 26th ult. at the London Inn, Liskeard, for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. James Seccombe, who was efficiently and ably entrusted, according to ancient custom, with the secrets and privileges of the chair, and subsequently invested his officers. Bro. W. Dawe, I.P.M.; T. Lang, S.W.; W. Richards, J.W.; J. B. Clyrus, Treas.; John Ough, Sec.; W. Skin, S.D.; S. Seccombe, J.D.; T. L. Tremayne, I.G.; and Samuel Julian, Tyler. After which a banquet was held, and the brethren parted with mutual feelings of brotherly love and good-will to one another.

BODMIN.—*Lodge One and All* (No. 330).—Warrant dated 1810.—The members of this lodge met on Wednesday, the 27th ult., to celebrate the festival of St. John, and to install the W.M. elect, Bro. F. Alms. The lodge was tyled at one p.m., when Bro. S. Harvey, P.M., took the chair, and conducted the imposing ceremony of installation, assisted by Bro. Bestherick, I.P.M.; John Dennis, S.W.; R. Oliver, J.W.; Preston J. Wallis, Treas.; W. White, Sec.; W. R. Oliver, S.D.; Thomas Hambly, S.D.; W. Arthur, I.G.; Everett, Tyler. The brethren then partook of a banquet at Sanders's Town Arms Hotel, and spent the remainder of the time most pleasantly.

HAYLE.—*Cornubian Lodge* (No. 450).—St. John's Day of the above lodge was celebrated on Wednesday, the 27th of December. The brethren met according to order at noon, Bro. Bailey, W.M. in the chair. There was an initiation and passing. Bro. Chirgwin, P.M. of the Fortitude Lodge, Truro, kindly undertook the duties of Installing Master (which duty he carried out to the admiration of all present). The W.M. elect, Bro. Mudge, was then presented for installation. After being installed, the W.M. invested the brethren as officers for the ensuing year:—D. S. Bailey, P.M.; F. Harvey, S.W. and Treasurer; W. Statherance, J.W.; F. H. Pool, S.D.; J. James, J.D.; J. P. Smith, Secretary; J. Pool, I.G.; and W. Paddy, Tyler. At half-past three o'clock the brethren (thirty in number) adjourned to the banquet, served by Bro. Croteh in his customary excellent manner. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly honoured, the remainder of the evening was passed in perfect harmony, the pleasures of which was greatly enhanced by Masonic and other songs. The brethren separated about half-past ten p.m. We understand that a Mark Master Lodge, in connection with the Cornubian Lodge, is to be opened at Hayle on the 19th inst.

DORSETSHIRE.

LODGE OF UNITY (NO. 386).—FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN AT WAREHAM.

On Wednesday, 27th Dec. 1865, being the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, the brethren of this lodge assembled to install their new Master, and for the despatch of other business. Great preparations had been made previously to do this in the most efficient and satisfactory manner, and success was largely reaped by those to whom the preparations had been entrusted.

The Town Hall, where the brethren hold their lodge, was, by the kind assistance of the wife of one leading P.M. (Bro. Paynter) beautifully decorated with appropriate symbols made of evergreens, and the Master's chair we noticed as peculiarly elegant. The rumour of the beauty of the decorations caused many of the ladies of Wareham and those visiting the town to ask permission to see them was most gladly granted just prior to the time of assembly. This was fixed for 3 p.m., and precisely at that hour the Master's gavel summoned the brethren to work. A full lodge, both of members and visitors were expected, nor did many fail "the trust."

The lodge room was soon tolerably full, and stimulated by the brilliant assemblage of visitors, the officers strove to exceed even the usual correct style of working.

A candidate having been ballotted for and approved, he was initiated in a very able manner into the mystic art by Bro. Poynter, P.M.

The lodge then having been raised to the second degree, Bro. Barfoot most efficiently and impressively passed Bro. Hillier. This done the great work of the evening began.

The installation of the new Master was performed most solemnly and correctly, to the great admiration of the assembled board of P.M.'s, that excellent and indefatigable man, Bro. J. Poynter, being installing Master.

The new W.M. having been saluted in the chair, proceeded to invest his officers as follows:—

Bro. Jones	Senior Warden
„ Dyer	Junior Warden
„ C. Yearsley	Senior Deacon
„ A. B. Trevelmen	Junior Deacon
„ C. Barfoot	I.P.M.
„ J. Poynter, P.M.	M.C.
„ Squire	Organist
„ Drew	Secretary
„ Hodges	Inner Guard
„ Frampton	Tyler

The banquet was held at the Red Lion; and at half-past six, p.m., Bro. Yearsley, as Steward, showed the results of a most admirable catering.

Whilst seldom has a more bountifully spread board been loaded with cheer for Masons just released from real and hard work, seldom also has a host had cause to congratulate himself upon more unmistakable signs that his company fully appreciated his catering.

At table, right and left of the W.M. were seated, as visitors, Bros. Rev. W. M. Heath, Prov. G. Chap., Dorset; Capt. Barrett, Prov. G. D., Dorset; Thomas Coombs, Prov. G. S. Sec., Dorset; Capt. Fyler; Capt. Gould; Doctor Thorne; T. Bartlett; J. Phippard, &c.

To meet them were gathered members of the lodge, old and recent, so that between thirty-five and forty brethren welcomed the new master into the commencement of his duties.

After the usual routine toasts, the toast of the evening, "The Lodge of Unity" was drunk with much enthusiasm. The unanimity and harmony of that re-union showed fully that his was no misnomer. Both Master and Wardens pledged themselves to progress, and this incoming year is regarded as one of great promise to this enterprising lodge. Assisted as he is by such energetic brethren as the M.C. Bro. Paynter, P.M. and the I.P.M. Bro. Barfoot at once reminded the W.M. of his great good fortune, and warn him that if he, with such co-adjutors in his lodge, do not perform all that is expected of him it will be his own fault.

We hear that great exertions are being made in refurnishing the lodge room, and that one brother has kindly volunteered a most liberal donation for that purpose.

Masonry is flourishing in Wareham, *semper floreat*.

DURHAM.

HARTLEPOOL.—*St. Helen's Lodge* (No. 531).—A meeting of the members of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 27th ult. (St. John's Day), when there was a fair attendance of the brethren, including visitors. The business on hand was the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. A. Nathan, and appointment of his officers for the ensuing year. The retiring Master, Bro. George Moore, M.D., P. Prov., J.G.W., performed the ceremony of installation in a solemn and impressive manner, after which the following officers were invested by the newly installed W.M.: Bros. W. Stonier Leigh, S.W.; L. M. Hill, S.W.; W. Stockill, S.D.; James J. Armstrong, J.D.; H. Sale, I.G.; James Mowbray, Tyler; W. J. Sivewright and H. Maginness, Stewards. Bro. Thos Forbes was also invested Treasurer, and Bro. Stonier Leigh re-appointed Hon. Secretary. The banquet in celebration of the festival of St. John the Evangelist (the twentieth annual festival of this lodge) was subsequently held at the King's Head Hotel, and reflected no little credit on the catering of its worthy host, Mr. Smith. The W.M. presided, and was supported right and left by Bros. Dr. Moore, I.P.M.; James Groves, Provincial Senior Grand Deacon (Mayor of Hartlepool); W. W. Brunton, W.M. 764; W. C. Ward Jackson, J.P.; R. B. Harpley, Senior Warden 764; Simpson Armstrong, P.M.; Robert Inglis, M.D.; and others. The cloth removed, and the door tyled, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to with spirit. Bro. Groves returning thanks for the Prov. G. Officers, and following with the toast, the "Immediate Past Master Dr. Moore;" which was most enthusiastically received, thus testifying to the high appreciation by

the brethren of his abilities, and acknowledging the many valuable services rendered by him to the lodge during the three years of his mastership. Bro. Moore, in proposing the next toast, "the W.M.," said that having been acquainted with Bro. Nathan for thirteen years, and associated with him during that time in the lodge, he could give his personal testimony to his character as a man and a Mason. He was exceedingly pleased to be the humble instrument of placing him in the chair of K.S. He trusted the lodge would support him with unanimity, and believed that if they did they would see no reason to regret the choice they had made. The W.M. briefly thanked him for his expressions of good will; and hoped when his term of office expired to deliver up his emblem untarnished. After the "Past Officers," (responded to by Bro. Sivewright, Bro. Groves proposed the "Present Officers," coupling with it the name of Bro. Leigh, S.W. and Sec., remarking that he was himself, as a rule, opposed to appointing a brother to a double office, but, under the circumstances, he could not object to it, and from the peculiar aptitude for his duties that Bro. Leigh had already displayed, he had no doubt but that at the end of another year they would have to compliment him on the manner in which he had discharged the duties of both offices. The "Harbour of Refuge Lodge" (West Hartlepool) followed, to which its Bro. Brunton, W.M. responded in a short and pithy speech, and in which he said that though it was his first visit he could not feel an equal pleasure in visiting any other lodge, nor could he but feel the sincerest emotions of gratitude to the St. Helen's Lodge, when he saw opposite to him Bro. Moore, the first W.M. of his own lodge, and on his left Bro. Groves, who, when they required it, had come over many a winter's night to render them assistance. Songs and recitations agreeably interspersed the proceedings until about 8 p.m., when the brethren separated, one and all acknowledging it to have been a red-letter day in the annals of the St. Helen's Lodge.

ESSEX.

BRIGHTLINGSEA.—*Lodge of Hope* (No. 433).—The last regular meeting of this prosperous lodge was holden on the 1st inst. at the Swan Inn. The W.M., Bro. Lake, occupied the chair, assisted by the following officers and brethren, who were present, viz.:—Bros. G. Riches, S.W.; H. York, J.W.; W. Minter, I.G.; Jos. Francis, S.D.; W. Brag, J.D.; W. Clancy, P.M. and Treas.; W. Harmer, Tyler; Walford, P.M.; Coppin, P.M.; C. Blyth, P.M.; and the following M.M.'s:—Bros. Long, R. Salmon, J. Salmon, G. Parker, T. Wellum, G. Wellum, D. Griggs, A. Aldons, Clossin, Wenlock, C. Angier, Fose, Dove, and John E. Wiseman, Hon. Sec. The lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed. The lodge was then opened, and closed in the second and third degrees respectively. There being no initiations, passings, or raisings for the evenings, Bro. Bishop, P.M., delivered a highly interesting lecture on the tracing board in the first degree which was listened to with great attention. It was next proposed by Bro. G. Riches, and seconded by Bro. Clancy, that a lodge of instruction, in connection with this mother lodge, be holden at the Anchor Inn, Brightlingsea, on the 17th inst. Bro. William Goff, of the Royal Arch Lodge, 165, Scotland, who was present at the meeting as a visitor, was proposed by Bro. Jos. Salmon, and seconded by Bro. C. Angier, as a joining member. There being no further business, the brethren adjourned to the refreshment. Bro. Lake, the able W.M., presided at the banquet. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given, and duly honoured, the Tyler's toast brought the proceedings of this happy evening to a close, and the brethren dispersed in peace and harmony, hoping that all others might have spent their new year's day as well as had fallen to the lot of the brethren of this house. We must not omit to add that some excellent songs were sung during the evening. The lodge was honoured by the attendance of two visiting brethren: Bro. Goff, before mentioned, and Bro. Stephen Webb, P.M., 272, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 148).—The regular monthly meeting of the lodge was held on Tuesday, December 26, at the Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. Gilbert Greenall, M.P., Prov. S.G.W.—the S.W., Bro. H. B. White, Prov. S.G.W., ruled the lodge, and was supported by Bros. W. Smith, J.W.; John Bowes, P.M.,

Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; R. G. Stringer, P.M.; John Prilling, P.M.; John Pierpont, S.D.; Dr. Spinks, J.D.; Charles Pettitt, M.C.; D. Finney, C. Ekkert, W. Savage, W. Richardson, Rev. J. N. Porter, W. Woods, W. Robinson, John Holloway, Rev. Thomas Doughty, P. Pearse, John Prilling, jun.; James Woods, John Anderion, Joseph Bancroft, George Blackhurst, John Worthington, Geo. J. Higginbottom, Robert Gibbons. Visitors: Bro. Leonhardt, Lodge Royal York Zas Treunderscap, Urania, Berlin; Horatio Syred, S.W. 220; Richard Roberts, 578; J. Wilson, 578; J. Billham, 236. The lodge was opened in due form according to ancient custom. After the confirmation of the minutes the ballot was taken for Messrs. P. Rylands, John Bancroft, and James Woods as candidates for Masoury. The ballot proving unanimous in each case, and the three latter gentlemen being in attendance, they were separately initiated by Bro. Bowes and H. B. White. Bros. Ekkert, Savage, and John Pilling, jun., being candidates for advancement, and being found proficient, were entrusted and retired. The chair was now assumed by Bro. John Bowes, P.M., and the lodge being opened in the second degree, the three brethren were re-admitted and passed to the degree of Fellow Crafts. Bro. Thomas Doughty and Bro. P. Pearse being candidates for promotion, and being found proficient, were entrusted and retained. The chair was now again assumed by Bro. H. B. White, and the lodge opened in the third degree. The candidates being duly announced were re-admitted and raised to the sublime degree of M.M.'s. The lodge was then closed in the third and second degrees. Two gentlemen were proposed as candidates for the mysteries. The lodge was now closed with prayer, and the meeting was adjourned until Friday, December 29th, at five o'clock for the further despatch of business, and the celebration of the annual festival of St. John the Evangelist. The lodge met accordingly. Bros. Gilbert Greenlaw, M.P., W.M.; Prov. S.G.W. in the chair; H. B. White, P.M., Prov. G. Steward, S.W.; W. Smith, J.W.; John Bowes, L.P.M., Prov. G.D.C., Hon. Sec.; John Pierpont, S.D.; Dr. Spinks, J.D.; Shaw Thewlis, P.M., Prov. S.G. Deacon (Mayor of Warrington); James Hamer, P.M., Prov. G. Treas.; R. G. Stringer, P.M.; David Finney, Robert Stevenson, James Woods, Dr. Pennington, J. Nixon Porter, W. Wood, Charles Pettitt, M.C.; George J. Higginbottom, Christoph Ekkert, W. Savage, Joseph Bancroft, W. Richardson, John Anderton, James Hephherd, Peter Robinson, Captain Cartwright, P. Pearse, Rev. Thomas Doughty, George Blackhurst, Peter Ryland. Visitors:—Charles Leedham, P.M. 220; H. Syred, SW. 220; A. Leonhardt, Royal York, Urania, Berlin; Dr. Cooper, 758; C. C. Simson, J.W. 758. The lodge having been opened by the W.M. the chair was assumed by Bro. H. B. White and Mr. Peter Rylands, being in attendance was duly announced, admitted and initiated into the mystic art. The E.A.P.'s now retired and the lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bro. James Hamer took the chair as installing Master. Bros. Shaw Thewlis, P.M. (Mayor of Warrington), and John Bowes, P.M., presented the W.M. (who had been re-elected), Bro. Gilbert Greenlaw, M.P., Prov. S.G.W., for the benefit of installation. Bro. Sec. then by command of the installing master read the summary of ancient charges, to which the W.M. gave his assent in due form. This part of the ceremony being concluded, the F.C.s retired from the lodge, when it was opened in the third degree. The W.M.s now retired, and a board of installed masters was opened in due form, when Bro. Greenall was duly and regularly installed in the chair of K.S. for the ensuing year as W.M., and then invested Bro. John Bowes as P.M. The M.M.s were now admitted, and saluted the W.M., when the lodge was closed in the third degree. The F.C.'s were now admitted, and saluted the W.M., when the lodge was closed in the second degree. The E.A.P.s were now admitted, and saluted the W.M. in ancient form, when he was proclaimed for the third time as W.M. for the ensuing year. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as officers for the ensuing twelve months: Bros. William Smith, S.W.; Robert Stevenson, J.W.; Rev. Thomas Doughty, Chap.; H. B. White, P.M., &c., Treas.; John Bowes, P.M., &c., Hon. Sec.; Rev. J. Nixon Porter, S.D.; David Finney, J.D.; Charles Pettitt, M.C.; William Oakden and Christopher Ekkert, Organists; William Ahern, I.G.; and Joseph Robinson, Tyler. A gentleman was then proposed as a fit and proper person to be made a Mason; and there being no further business the lodge was duly and solemnly closed, and the Brethren adjourned to refreshment, which was prepared at Bro. Thorpe's at the Lion Hotel. The W.M. occupied the chair.

The Chaplain having said grace after meat, the W.M. proposed the usual loyal and patriotic toasts. After which our "Masonic Rulers" were duly recognised. Bro. H. B. White, P.M., then in a few appropriate sentences proposed the health of the W.M., stating how much the success of the recent centenary festival was due to the warm interest he took in it. The W.M. in his response said that the success of the centenary festival resulted chiefly from the great and continued exertions of two of his officers rather than from any act of his. That it was a success he greatly rejoiced, and begged to thank the whole of the brethren for the support they gave him on the occasion. He might tell them that the Prov. G. M. and those who accompanied him were delighted with the enthusiasm which was displayed. Bro. R. G. Stringer, as the oldest P.M. of the lodge present, proposed "The Wardens and Officers of the Lodge," and coupled with the toast the name of an active and energetic officer, Bro. Bowes. The lodge had never before been in such a flourishing condition. Bro. Bowes acknowledged the compliment, and proposed "The Visitors," which was warmly received and responded to by Bro. Imison, W.M. elect, of 758. Bro. Rev. J. Nixon Porter proposed "To all Poor and Distressed Masons," which concluded the programme. The evening's enjoyment was much enlivened by the vocal and instrumental efforts of Bros. Ekkert, W. Wood, J. Bancroft, and P. Pearse.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

BLACKBURN.—*Lodge of Fidelity* (No. 269).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Angel Inn, King-street, Blackburn, on the 6th of December, under the presidency of the Master, Bro. W. Gillibrand, on which occasion Bro. John Clough was passed to the second degree, and Bro. T. Brennand, S.W., was balloted for and elected W.M. for the ensuing year. After the business of the lodge had been transacted a P.M.'s jewel was presented to our worthy Secretary by the W.M., in the following complimentary words:—Bro. Eaves, I have the exceeding pleasure to inform you that I am deputed by the brethren of this lodge to present you with a small testimony of their brotherly esteem and appreciation of your long, valuable, and faithful services to Freemasonry, and to the interests of this lodge especially. Regarded in a money point of view, the present is a mere trifle; but we wish you to accept it as a mark of our most fraternal regard. Personally I have to thank you for many kind services, and much valuable information during my period of office, and I am satisfied that my successor will find in you a most willing and able coadjutor. Your long enduring affection to, and unlimited love of, Freemasonry, deserve a much greater reward than this, and the best one you possess is that internal one of having conscientiously done your duty. That you may live long to wear this jewel, and to practise those ennobling attributes and virtues of which it is the symbol, and which you possess in so eminent a degree, is our sincere and fervent wish. The jewel bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Brother Richard Eaves, P.M., for long and faithful services, by Lodge of Fidelity, 269. Dec. 6th, 1865." Bro. Eaves very feelingly accepted the jewel, after which the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent a most happy and fraternal evening.

Lodge of Perseverance (No. 345).—On Thursday, December 28th, the brethren of the above lodge celebrated their festival of St. John, at the Bull Hotel, Blackburn. A board of installed Masters having been regularly formed, the W.M. elect, Bro. Alderman Robert Hopwood Hutchinson (ex-mayor) was duly installed. The ceremony was performed in a most impressive and masterly style by Bro. F. Thomas, P.M., and F. Prov. G. Reg. of Oxfordshire, assisted by the following P.M.'s, Alderman C. Tipludy, J. Garsdik, R. Radcliffe, G. P. Hartley, H. Backhouse, G. Softhouse, Sir William Fielden, John Holgate, and other brethren. After the usual proclamation, and the greeting of the brethren in their several degrees had taken place, the P.M.'s lodge having been previously closed, the officers for the ensuing year were duly invested with the jewels, &c., of their respective offices by the W.M., viz., Bros. T. Robinson, S.W.; Christopher Tattersall, J.W.; E. Eastwood, S.W.; J. Brierly, J.D.; T. Copeland, S.W.; C. Tipludy, Treasurer; James Pilkington, P.M., and John Banister, Joint Tylers; J. Beaumont, O.; Rev. Charles Hughes, Chaplain; R. Radcliffe, P.M., Dir. of Cers. The lodge was then called from labour to refreshment, and about thirty brethren sat down to a most sumptuous banquet, to which ample justice was done. It would be tedious to insert the names of all the brethren present, suffice

it to say they included a large number belonging to the lodge itself, and a goodly number of visitors from Accrington, Over Darwen, Clitheroe, Clayton-le-Dale, Southport, and Manchester, and also of the Lodge of Fidelity, Angel Inn, Blackburn. Banquet ended, the W.M. gave the usual loyal toasts, which were most loyally received, as were also the Masonic toasts of The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and the Past and Present Provincial Grand Officers of East Lancashire. The "Health of the Worshipful Master and his Officers for the present year," was proposed in eulogistic terms, to which the W.M. responded in a suitable address, and said, it gave him inexpressible pleasure to propose the health of Bro. George P. Hartley, the Immediate Past Master, and the officers of the past year, for to them he must acknowledge he owed the honorable and dignified position in which he was then placed, as W.M. of a lodge numbering more than one hundred brethren. Moreover, the late W.M. had exerted himself most energetically to place the lodge at the end of his official year in the proud position of clearing many certain old incumbrances of a pecuniary nature, so that his (the W.M.'s) path was plain, easy, and comfortable. But, besides this, he had the felicity of presiding over a lodge united in heart and soul to promote the best interests of Masonry. Need he say any further, except that he could assure the brethren he would do all in his power to promote the harmony and prosperity of the Lodge 345. G. P. Hartley, P.M., responded in brief terms, and was loudly applauded. The health of the "Past Master" was then duly acknowledged by the Warden. The toast of the "Visiting Brethren" was responded to by Bro. Holgate of Manchester, in appropriate and Masonic feeling. A response was also elicited from the brothers of each visiting lodge. Bro. Alderman Tipludy proposed "Our Absent Brethren," and said he regretted they had not then amongst them Bro. Frederick Binckes, the Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, as he was sure that brother would most eloquently have advocated the claims of that valuable institution. It happened, however, that Bro. Binckes's engagements precluded his personal attendance, but he had sent a letter of apology, which Brother Tipludy would take the liberty of reading; after which, and a few other appropriate remarks, in which the claims of the institution were earnestly put forward, the toast was drunk with all honours, and we are happy to say that it elicited much applause and the substantial donations of £21. The remaining toasts were quickly disposed of, and the lodge closed at 10.45. The entertainment of the evening was especially enlivened by the musical talents of Bros. Baron, Towers, Birkett, and Abbot. We must not omit that the health of his worship the mayor, James Thompson, Esq., was duly honoured and replied to. It was universally regretted by the brethren that Bro. Thomas Clough, P.M., and P. Prov. G.R. of East Lancashire, was prevented by ill health from attending the festival; his better health was most cordially proposed by Brother Tipludy, and enthusiastically received. The customary Tylers' toast closed the proceedings of this most interesting, happy, and successful Masonic re-union.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 279).—The brethren of this lodge celebrated their annual festival on St. John's Day, the 27th ult., when the W.M. was duly installed for the ensuing year, and the officers appointed and invested. The lodge was opened at six o'clock, p.m., when the chair was taken by the outgoing W.M., Bro. Tibbits. There were also present Bros. Kelly, P.M., and D. Prov. G.M.; Underwood, Buck, Pettifer, Weare, Morris and Marris, P.M.'s; Revs. E. W. Woodcock, (W.M.) and J. G. Packer, Adlard, J.W.; Jackson, Sec.; Ride, S. D.; Stretton, J.G.; J. B. Jacques, B. Jacques, G. A. Davies, L. A. Clarke, and others. Visitors: Bros. Sheppard, P.M., and M. A. Lewin, of the John of Gaunt Lodge, and J. F. Klein, P.G.S. (London). The minutes of the election of the W.M. having been duly confirmed, the chair was taken by the D.P.G.M., and the lodge was opened in the second degree, when the Rev. Bro. Woodcock, having been presented as W.M. elect for installation, gave his assent to the ancient charges and took the O.B. for the proper government of the lodge during his year of office. A M.M.'s lodge and a board of installed masters were then respectively opened, and he was duly installed in ancient form into the chair of K.S., and properly intrusted and saluted. The M.M.'s being then admitted the new W.M. was proclaimed,

saluted, and had the charge and the working tools delivered, and so, in regular gradation down to the past degrees. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following as the officers for the ensuing year:—W. Tibbits, I.P.M.; L. A. Clarke, S.W.; J. Adlard, J.W.; W. Jackson, Sec.; G. Ride, S.D.; C. Stretton, J.D.; C. Bainbridge, Tyler. The office of S.G. was left open until the next lodge. Bro. Crawford, P.M., and for many years Treasurer, having resigned office and membership on account of ill-health, thanks were voted to him for his past services, and Bro. Charles Morris, P.M., was delegated to the office and invested by the W.M. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, and spent a few hours very pleasantly.

SUFFOLK.

WOODBIDGE.—*Doric Lodge* (No. 81).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 27th ult., being St. John's Day. The brethren met at their private lodge room in Doric-place at two o'clock, and installed Bro. Joseph Cullingford as their W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was effectively performed by Bro. J. Dallenger, P.M. The W.M. appointed the following brethren as his officers:—Bros. A. Jeffries, S.W.; W. Hayward, J.W.; E. Fitzgerald, P.M., Sec.; J. Dallenger, P.M., Dir. of Cers.; T. Grimwood, S.D.; B. Dove, J.D.; J. Brickels, P.M., and G. Middelditch, Stewards; B. Gall, I.G., who were duly invested. Bro. J. Brickels was elected as Treas., and Bro. M. Moore as Tyler. After the ceremonies the brethren adjourned at four o'clock to the Sun Inn, where an excellent banquet was provided by Bro. Solomon A. Grout, and of which upwards of twenty brethren partook, the new W.M. presided. The absence, through temporary illness, of an old and highly esteemed brother, Benjamin Head, of London, who generally attends this lodge at the annual meeting was deeply felt, and his health and speedy recovery was duly proposed and honoured. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to in the accustomed manner, and after spending a pleasant evening the social band retired at a timely hour, highly gratified with the proceedings of the evening.

IPSWICH.—*Prince of Wales Lodge* (No. 959).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Golden Lion Hotel on Monday evening, the 2nd inst. Bro. Edward Dorling, W.M., occupied the chair, supported by his officers. There were present Bros. Hy. Thomas, Prov. S.G.W., and W.M. Lodge British Union; C. T. Townsend, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Westgate, P.G.S. and W.M. Lodge St. Luke; Pettitt, Helms, Light, Williams, Booth, Chinnoek, Green, Cuckow, J. H. Townsend, Alloway, &c. Bro. Williams, Sec. of the Angel Lodge, Colchester, was among the visitors. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, two gentlemen were initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. In consequence of the elevation of Bro. W. Westgate, the late S.W. in the lodge, to the chair of the W.M. in the Lodge St. Luke, an entire change of officers took place. The W.M.'s appointments were as follows:—Bros. F. B. Jennings, S.W.; John Helms, J.W.; E. C. Tidd, S.D.; J. H. Townsend, J.D.; Geo. Light, I.G. After the disposal of the usual lodge business, the brethren sat down to a well served banquet provided by the worthy host, Mr. John Sarrod. After the usual toasts, each brother pledged his brother in bumpers, wishing him a happy and prosperous new year. This is probably the last meeting of the lodge in this hotel, as the new Masonic Hall in Brook-street, built expressly by the members of this lodge, is announced for consecration on the 22nd of the present month.

IPSWICH.—*St. Luke's Lodge* (No. 225).—The members of this lodge met on Wednesday, the 27th ult., at the Coach and Horses, Brook-street, to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Evangelist. There were present Bros. W. T. Westgate, W.M.; C. Davy, S.W.; B. Smith, J.W.; Richmond, I.P.M.; P. Whitehead, S.D.; Brown, J.D.; W. B. Rando, I.G.; A. Barber, Sec., P.M.; Clark, Treas., P.M.; J. Whitehead and R. Cade, P.M.'s; Hobart, Talbot, Cuckow, Flory, C. Godbull, &c. Visitors: Bros. Dorling, W.M. 959, P.M. 650, P.G. Sec. Suffolk; C. T. Townsend, P.M. 516, 959, 936, and 1008, P. Prov. S.G.W.; J. Head, P.M. 376, 936, 959, and 1008, P. Prov. J.G.W.; J. A. Pettit, P.M. 376, 959, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; C. J. Pedgrift, W.M. 388, P. Prov. G. Reg.; Alloway, Treas. 959, 1008; J. H. Townsend, I.G. 959; G. Green, 959; &c. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, the W.M. requested the J.W. to call the brethren from labour to refreshment, and the party sat down to a well-served banquet, provided by Bro.

Godbull. After the removal of the cloth, the W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Colonel R. A. S. Adair," was given, congratulating the province of Suffolk on their good fortune in having a gentlemen who took so much interest in the well-being of the Craft. The toast was drunk with all honours. "The Present Provincial Grand Officers" was next given, coupling with the toast the name of Bro. E. Dorling, Prov. G. Sec., who replied in suitable terms. The toast of the P. Prov. G. Officers was cordially drunk; with the toast was associated the name of C. T. Townsend, P. Prov. S.G.W., who in the course of his reply advised the young Masons and present officers to do their duty as fitted Masons, and to endeavour to follow in the steps of those who had gone through the different degrees before them. The W.M. expressed the pleasure he felt in being supported by the whole of his officers, thus showing the desire they had for the advancement of St. Luke's Lodge. They would he trusted always be at their respectful duties throughout his year of office, as it would not be possible for any W.M. to carry out the duties of the lodge without the cordial co-operation of those who he had appointed to assist him, and he had great pleasure in proposing the health of the officer of the lodge. The toast was cordially received by the company and suitably acknowledged. The W.M. next gave the health of the P.M.'s, coupling with that toast the name of Bro. Richmond, who had always shown great willingness to assist in the working of the lodge and to instruct any of its members, by whose aid the working of the lodge was always well rendered. Bro. Richmond in his reply stated his great desire to see Masonry flourish, and he would beg permission for the use of the gavel and felt assured the lodge had taken a step in the right direction by placing Bro. Westgate in the W.M.'s chair, he being one who had always shown a great desire to make himself competent to take that important position. He would call on the brethren to rise and do honour to the toast of the health of the W.M. The toast was most cordially drunk. The W.M. thanked the brethren for the honour they had conferred on him in electing him to preside over them, and trusted his conduct would gain the esteem of all its members. He would next call on them to toast the health of the W.M. of the Prince of Wales Lodge, Bro. Dorling. Drank with all honours. Bro. Dorling, in his reply, thanked the W.M. and brethren for their hospitality, and recommended them to support the different charities connected with the Craft, and illustrated many cases that had occurred in the province of Suffolk. The next toast from the chair was the health of the visitors who had honoured the lodge with their presence. The W.M. said it was a source of great gratification at all times to receive visitors amongst them, for he felt sure there was no better method of producing a uniform system of working than for members to visit each other. He felt highly honoured by the number who had favoured him with their company, and begged to unite with the toast the name of Bro. Pettit, P.M. 376. Brother Pettit replied, and thanked the W.M. for the kindness shown to all the visitors, and for their hospitality. The last toast drunk was to all poor and distressed brethren, after which the W.M. proposed to close the lodge in due and ancient form.

SOUTH WALES (EASTERN DIVISION).

CARDIFF.—*Bute Lodge* (No. 960).—The Festival of St. John was celebrated in this lodge on Monday, the 1st. inst. The lodge was opened at four o'clock, at the Masonic Hall, Bute Docks, Bro. W. H. Martin, Prov. S.G.D., in the chair. Bros. Jno. Willans, S.W.; M. Davies, J.W.; W. H. Moreton, P.M., Sec.; T. B. Bell, S.D.; J. H. Sladen, J.D. *pro tem.*; T. G. Glass, I.G.; J. C. Thorp, P.M.; D. Roberts, W.M., 36; Prov. G. Reg; R. S. Fisher, Prov. G. Organist; Ware, &c. Visitors: R. G. Langley, P.M. 36, P. Prov. S.G.W.; W. J. Gaskell, P.M. 36, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Davies, Australia; Barnes, United States; Coaffer, Bristol, &c. The minutes of the preceding lodge having been duly confirmed, the W.M. resigned the chair to Bro. Thorp, P.M., who proceeded to instal in the chair of K.S. the W.M. elect, Bro. John Willans, S.W., Prov. G.S.B. The whole ceremony was performed in the most pleasing possible manner, notwithstanding the worthy and estimable installing Master was evidently suffering from severe indisposition. The W.M. having been saluted in the three degrees, returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and proceeded to appoint and invest his officers as follows:—Bros. T. C. Thorp, P.M.; M. Davies, S.W.; T. B. Bell, J.W.; J. Jones, Chaplain;

W. H. Martin, P.M., Treas.; W. H. Moreton, P.M., Sec.; R. S. Fisher, Prov. G. Chap., Organist; T. G. Glass, Prov. G.S., S.D.; T. G. Downton, S.D.; W. Hurman, I.G.; D. Davies and R. Evans, Stewards. Votes of thanks having been passed to the retiring W.M. and Treasurer, and to the installing Master, lodge was closed at six o'clock, and the brethren at once betook themselves to Bro. S. Marks, Windsor Hotel, when a banquet awaited them which we should be wanting in justice to the worthy host were we not to designate without exception, the very best provided for any lodge, within our experience of the province. Good viands—rarer still, well served—and, rarest of all, good wines at moderate prices. The elegant repast having been done full justice to, and a liberal dessert spread, the usual patriotic and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly responded to, the rather monotonous routine being agreeably relieved by some excellent singing by the brethren mentioned. The "Queen and the Craft," by the W.M., followed by the National Anthem, solo by Bro. Fisher, chorus by the brethren. "The Royal Family," by the W.M. "The Grand Master," in very appropriate terms by Bro. Thorp, P.M. "The Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lodge," by Bro. Martin. "The Provincial Grand Masters, Bro. T. M. Talbot," in a complimentary manner by the W.M. "The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and members, past and present, of Provincial Grand Lodge by Bro. Thorp, P.M., responded to by Bros. Langley, Gaskell, Roberts, Martin and Glass. Song, "Simon the cellarer," by Bro. Fisher. "The Worshipful Master," ably proposed by Bro. Langley, and responded to in very feeling and appropriate terms by Bro. Willans. Song, "The Cork Leg," with characteristic effect, by Bro. Benjamin Jenkins. "The Past Masters of the Bute Lodge," proposed by Bro. Gaskell, very warmly received and responded to by Bros. Thorp and Martin. "The Entered Apprentice" song, by Bro. Gaskell, with full chorus by the brethren. "The Installing Officer," by Bro. Gaskell, responded to by Bro. Thorp. Song, "The Green man and Still." "The Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren of Glamorgan Lodge, No. 36," proposed by the W.M., who reminded the brethren that the mother lodge was in a position to bestow upon them those higher degrees in Freemasonry which were not attached to the Bute Lodge, viz.:—The Royal Arch and the Mark Master's degrees. The W.M., Bro. Roberts (who was surrounded by a large number of members of his lodge) suitably returned thanks, and fully dilated upon the advantages of both of the degrees referred to by Bro. Willans. Song—The Bay of Biscay; Bro. M. Marks. "The Officers of the Bute Lodge" was severally responded to by Bros. Davies, S.W.; Bell, J.W.; Fisher, Org.; W. Willans, D.C.; Hurman, I.G.; and Glass, S.D. The J.W. being loudly called upon for a recitation, somewhat reluctantly complied, and well nigh convulsed the brethren by his inimitable depiction of "Shannon Shore." "The Visiting Brethren" proposed by the W.M., responded to by Bros. Davies of Australia, Captain Barnes who described himself as a "son of Uncle Sam," R. Coaffe, Bristol, and James Willans Sunderland. The Host with the most flattering allusions to the repast provided by the W.M., aptly responded to by Bro. Marks. The army by Bro. Thorpe wittily acknowledged by Serjeant Martin. The Senior Wardens' toast—"To all poor and distressed Masons" concluded the list, and the brethren having again heartily joined in the The National Anthem, brought the evening to a happy close at a reasonably early hour.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

GRAND CHARITABLE FETE.

As had been previously announced for some weeks in the local papers of the island, this grand affair was opened at noon on Thursday, Dec. 19th, at the Masonic Temple, Stopford-road, St. Helier, under the immediate superintendence of the Provincial Grand Lodge and the Worshipful Master of all the local lodges under English registry. By it the accomplishment of two objects was proposed, namely, the accumulation of a sufficient sum to render the building free of all charges by buying up unappropriated and forfeited shares, and an important addition to the fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of deceased Freemasons. This fund was commenced about three years ago, one of the earliest contributors to it having

been Sir Percy Douglas, late Governor of Jersey, who gave the shares in the temple which were held in his name. Of course, very considerable additions have since been made. The manner in which the proceeds of the bazaar and *fête* will be devoted to the farther increase of this fund will be best explained in the following opening address. At half past twelve the members of the managing committee assembled at the east end of the large room, or temple proper, in whose name Bro. H. L. Manuel, the President thus spoke to the visitors who had obtained early admission:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—When a year is drawing towards its close, when, having run its allotted course, it is on the eve of adding its unit to the Ages and yielding its place to Time and the future, humankind habitually enters into earnest conference with itself. It reminds its conscience of many shortcomings, it recalls to its memory many duties, and it resolves, as it should, on a fresh and vigorous effort to make up for the former and to perform the latter. The continuators in this island of the principles and traditions of Masonry, that grand old Craft whose origin is almost coeval with the existence of society, are impressed with this conviction. It is why they appear before you to-day.

The general body of the Freemasons of Jersey have thought, then, that three among many other duties devolve on them at this particular moment. And the Managing Committee (which comprises representatives of all the Anglo-local lodges) have requested me to state to you, on opening this day's proceedings, what they hold those duties to be.

They think, in the first place, that it is a social duty to find and provide cheerful amusement at given times for the general community. Now, what period should be so universally festive as the Christmas holidays? Everybody knows that "all work" and "no enjoyment" lead invariably to dullness and gradual impairment of physical and intellectual power. We Masons, then, have decided to act on our conviction respecting the indispensable necessity of periods of fair and varied recreation for everyone, and this is one of the reasons why we have undertaken these *fêtes*. Before they close we trust to show that we have, in this matter, fully attended to the claims of all qualities and classes, and taken special heed of those who, by their position, are the most in need of a passing hour of recreation and joy.

The second duty we are anxious to perform is, to make an effort, slight though it may be, to promote the cultivation and love of high art among our fellow citizens. Thanks to the Bailiff, Col. Le Couteur, Q.A.D.C., Colonel Perceval Touzel, Captain Saumarez, R.N., Captain Brooker, R.N., Captain Manger, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Massey, and others, we are enabled to open to-day what may lead to that which I refer to. Thanks to the public spirit and intelligence of the gentlemen I have named, we may now expect an artistic and scientific exhibition next summer. If so, a museum—the absence of which in a place like this is so regrettable—will be the proximate result. If that desideratum is attained within a reasonable time, we trust that when you assist at the inaugural *fête* of the hoped-for Treasury of Art and Science, you will not forget how far to day's modest and unassuming Masonic Exhibition may have contributed towards it.

The third duty which has impelled the Masons with whom you so kindly act, is one that is not merely transient—it is eternal, because it is the duty of charity. The Master, as you all know, said that the poor were always to be amongst us. All societies have, assuredly, theirs; and ours is no exception to the rule. But, in appealing to you to-day, we particularly wish to explain that the widows and orphans in whose behalf we have all come forward on this occasion, are those who are specially connected with the promoters of this Temple. I mention this to avoid misconception. On the domain of any other charitable organisation connected with the Craft we are not venturing to trespass.

In connection with this—the pecuniary, the charitable, in fact the practical part of these days' bazaar, exhibition, and *fêtes*—I am specially requested to state that the proceeds, duly handed to trustees, will be invested so as to ensure for the objects we have contemplated an interest equal to that granted by the local banks to depositors.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I am directed to say that we shall expect indulgence if, in some slight details, we cannot this time rigidly adhere to the letter of our programme. If so, however, we shall make up the deficiency by other means. Finally, ladies and gentlemen, the committee earnestly thank you, particularly the ladies who have taken charge of stalls, for

your enlightened and generous co-operation. Without it, our efforts would no doubt have been comparatively fruitless; whereas, with it, we succeed beyond our greatest hopes in our threefold object—to enliven, to instruct, and to solace—to raise the merry laugh that does the heart good; to elevate the mind by the contemplation of the beautiful and the study of the wonderful; and to cheer were it but one sorrowing sister, one desolate child, with the consolatory reflection that, after all, fraternity is not a vain word—and that hearts almost innumerable yet respond, in humble truthfulness, and with earnest warmth, to the sacred command, "Love ye one another."

The *fête* was now declared to be opened, and the visitors dispersed to examine the various treasures of art, the curiosities, the pictures, &c., which had been provided for their instruction and entertainment, to purchase at the well furnished stalls of the bazaar, and to share in the amusements which had been so liberally arranged for them.

Shortly after the business had commenced, the Freemasons were honoured with a visit by his Excellency Major-General Burke Cuppage and suite. The Governor was received at the portico of the Temple by Bro. H. Manuel (chairman of the committee), Bros. Schmitt and E. D. Le Couteur (honorary secretaries), and other Masons of rank who held office, by whom His Excellency was accompanied through the different rooms. General Cuppage appeared to take much interest in the arrangements of the *fête*, and in the different objects of art to which his attention was directed, testifying his approbation by a donation to the funds.

At first, admission to the Temple was confined to those who had previously procured tickets, of which about 2,000 had been sold. In order to offer a good example, and to avoid even the slightest ground for complaint, even the members of the committee, notwithstanding their constant exertions for several weeks, had purchased tickets for themselves. Subsequently, payment of 1s. at the door, as the fee for entrance was permitted. The large number of tickets disposed of before the time of opening is a proof of the interest felt by the public in the treat which was in store for them. One particularly interesting feature in connection with the *fête* is that the Freemasons themselves have, with a few exceptions, taken the most lively interest in its success and have been most indefatigable in their efforts, not only to furnish rational and profitable amusement and instruction, but to take all possible measures to prevent even the slightest disappointment or contre-temps, and to show the greatest courtesy to all. That their exertions had been well directed is evident from the fact that though for the first two hours on each day the attendance was limited, yet from three till five o'clock, and again at a later hour, the influx of visitors was so great and rapid, that inextricable confusion and disorder must have arisen, if the strictest precautions had not been taken and carefully adhered to. To this end the committee had met every evening during the previous week, when such members as would devote nearly their whole time to the matter had received directions as to their especial duties. For the punctual and regular performance of these the greatest credit is due to them. Early in the day, in addition to the Lieutenant-Governor, visits were paid by John Hammond, Esq. (Bailiff of Jersey), several of the jurats, deputies, and other notabilities of the island. Of ladies there was also a large attendance, but it is to be feared that notwithstanding the judiciousness of the arrangements, so far as the capabilities of the building would allow, the density of the crowd during the hours named must have seriously interfered with access to the stalls and the transaction of profitable business. Much consideration for the public was shown by the issue of passes to those who had once gained admission, which enabled them to return during any other portion of the same day, and thus those desirous to purchase could select the hours most convenient to them.

Let us now refer to the course taken by the visitors. The handsome building was rendered conspicuous at a distance among the buildings which surround it, by large flags flying far above the roof. The front was tastefully, yet simply decorated by a plantation of evergreens, which had been kindly arranged under the superintendence of Mr. Saunders, whose reputation as a florist and landscape gardener is well known. On reaching the door of the Temple, a most courteous reception was given to all by two gentlemen, members of the committee, who were distinguished by blue rosettes, as indeed were all concerned in the management, both ladies and gentlemen. Having passed through the entrance hall, visitors entered the library of the institution on the right, which for the time had been converted

into a museum of rich and rare works of art of various descriptions, kindly lent for the occasion. Among the many pictures may be enumerated a splendid painting by Schalken, one of David after the slaying of Goliath, one of Lucretia from the school of Rubens, and others, contributed by the Bailiff; a large collection of water-colour drawings by the late accomplished local artist Le Cuppelain; two fine paintings, a "Battle Field," and the "Infant Saviour," supposed to be a Murillo, lent by Colonel Touxel; a fine portrait of General Corbet, who in 1781 betrayed the island to Rullecourt, contributed by H. L. Manuel Esq.; and this was appropriately supplemented by the official list of the forces under the French invader signed by his own hand, supplied by Col. Le Couteur, Q.A.D.C., who also sent a portrait of Charles II. which was most singularly pierced by three bullets during the battle of St. Helier, in 1781. Paintings were also contributed by Mr. Stirling and many others. Among the curiosities may be mentioned a Russian artillery helmet, a bronze ornament, and many other things from Col. Le Couteur; a large case of Cornish metallic ores, and Jersey geological specimens from R.A. Peacock, Esq., magnificent Chinese silk dressing gown formerly worn by the Taeping General, with many other articles of virtue from Mr. Deslandes; a very fine Chinese helmet, Japanese teatray, a cigar box from Canton, a writing case from Jeddo, a gorgeous writing table such as is used by Chinese princes, &c., from Captain Brooker, R.N.; carvings in wood, representing the royal family of China and others, richly ornamented, a Chinese lantern, and other articles obtained at the taking of Ningpo by the crew of the Jersey ship *Jeddo*, lent by Captain Manger; Chinese joss, made from the cane of the bamboo, with a large case of miscellaneous curiosities from Mr. Rose; a magnificent pair of buffalo horns from Mr. Stirling; Chinese ornaments, &c., from Col. Touxel; a fine model of Victoria College from Charles Horne, Esq.; a neat model of Victoria Tower, Guernsey; an "Infant Samuel" (the second attempt at sculpture of any description, and the first executed in marble), contributed by the artist, Mr. C. Thorn, an amateur; a large number of valuable articles from the extensive collection of Capt. Saumarez, R.N., among which may be especially named a fine set of bronzes. These are but a small portion of the interesting contents of this room, which was a great source of attraction. The limited selection thus made from the extensive collections existing in Jersey, and the liberal offers of their owners, give promise that in the course of next year an exhibition confined to works of art may be formed, by which the Freemasons will be enabled to lay a rich treat before the inhabitants, thus carrying out one portion of their profession, namely, the cultivation of the mind by a study of art and science, as well as the promotion of sentiments of morality and virtue, the enlargement of the social feelings, the relief of distress, and a due regard and maintenance of their hidden mysteries.

On leaving this room visitors crossed the hall into an ante-room on the left, in which were some rich specimens of needlework, which, being framed and glazed and hanging on the walls, were by many supposed to be paintings, executed by Mesdames *Le Feuvre* and *Le Sueur*. Here, too, was a powerful microscope belonging to Master Blackbird, who kindly attended to exhibit it. In one corner of the room was the post office, presided over by a lady, who delivered a letter to all applicants on payment of the postage. The Registration office was closed, but on it was the following placard: "The Registry office is removed to the Rector's and the Registrar's." Of course many ladies inquired for the whereabouts of these officials, whose services might be required in nine cases of importance, and after having been satisfied, they resolved to reconsider the subject.

Visitors now entered the large room of the Temple proper, which, to those acquainted with the building, and accustomed to see it with the Masonic furniture, appeared greatly diminished in size, owing to the stalls, behind each of which considerable space was required for the stowage of articles, to replace such as might be disposed of; these were rather heavily decorated with evergreens, flags, and flowers, and laden with an immense collection of goods for sale, many of which were valuable. An enumeration of even the principal of them is impossible, but mention must be made of a few at the first stall, the generous contribution of W. Massey, Esq., by whom they had been made. They consisted of two large models of churches in cardboard, the carving and tracery of which are exquisite and elaborate, executed with a penknife. In this art he may safely challenge competition, as also in the preparation of sea-weeds, of which he gave two large wreaths, a crown and another device, so

arranged as to have the appearance of paintings. The former were disposed of by ballot at £5 each, and the latter were marked £2 each.

The stalls were presided over by the following ladies, who certainly exerted themselves to the utmost in recommending their wares, and in competition as to which should be the first to pounce upon gentlemen as they entered with well-filled pockets, and to solicit them to join in the numerous lotteries constantly in progress. Indeed, it is impossible to over-estimate the services and labours of the ladies, who bore with the greatest good temper the occasional severe pressure of the crowd, and the inconvenience to which they must thus have been subjected. The main object was ever kept in view, and on every side hearty enjoyment and fun prevailed, with which no obstacles seemed to interfere.

The stalls were in charge of Mesdames Ed. C. Malet De Carteret, C. Le Sueur, J. Durell, H. L. Manuel, J. Le Cronier, E. Pixley, E. J. Bellingham, Beamer, Vesconte, C. Donaldson, P. W. Le Quesne.—La Cloche and C. G. Renouf; Mesdemoiselles G. Deslandes, Renouf, Laverty, Thompson, Marett, Brooks, Le Couteur, Le Cronier, Le Quesne, Simon, Ginetet, Ricketts, and others.

On the dais, at the east end of the room, was a magnificent wedding-cake, from which various articles, well wrapped up, were obtained by inserting the hand, after payment of a small fee. This proved highly attractive.

It need hardly be said that the lodge-room was the centre of attraction, and was generally crowded; the fair vendors were ubiquitous, even resorting to the ante-room with articles to be sold or raffled for, and few could resist their winning smiles, their persuasive eloquence, and in some cases almost their physical force.

Returning to the entrance hall, visitors ascended the staircase to view the chastely decorated "Royal Arch Chapter Room," which, duly furnished with the implements of the Craft, was in complete order, and to some of the ladies appeared a satisfactory solution of their curiosity, except that they would like to know the secret, which they fancied must lie in the mysterious initials over the chairs of the Principals, I.T.N.O.T.G.A.O.T.U. Again descending to the basement, the banqueting room was entered, in which were some good engravings, contributed by Bro. Dr. Hopkins and others; also views of Hong Kong and Shanghai, lent by Capt. Manger. A portion of this room was devoted to the sale of refreshments in charge of Bro. Long, while at the end was a Delphic grotto, fitted up with interesting cases of animals, a model of a Druidical Temple, &c., in which, on payment of id., fortunes were told. Another penny gave admission to an apartment on the right, fitted up with Masonic emblems; here, by aid of a stereoscope, persons could witness how, when, and where (*on dit*) covans are converted into Freemasons. Of course this was a source of much interest to the ladies, who seldom lose an opportunity of prying into the "mysteries." At the other end of this long room was a raised platform for a variety of performances during the three days, namely, the amateur Cæsarean Christie Minstrels, the menagerie of performing wild beasts, warranted not to bite, and a concert. These were attended by crowds, which necessitated extra repetitions of the performances. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the gentlemen who took part in them, especially the first. The blackened faces and the peculiarities of nigger dress so disguised them, that they were recognised by but few even of their friends. On Thursday, the last day of the *fete*, an additional amusement was provided out of doors in the grounds of the institution, under the direction of Captain Mitford, consisting of competition in athletic sports for prizes kindly furnished by the ladies from the unsold articles at their stalls. The youths of the naval training school, who attended in a body, were the most successful in carrying off most of these prizes, the Managing Committee kindly gave these lads free admission to all parts of the exhibition, from which their circumstances would otherwise have debarred them, and further displayed their liberality by returning the entrance fee to several private soldiers who had paid at the door. As the weather was fine, the athletic sports were witnessed by three or four hundred of the visitors, who were thus advantageously withdrawn from the rooms at a time when the pressure was greatest. On Thursday evening the anxiety to hear the Christie Minstrels was so great that they repeated their performance thrice, that none might go away disappointed. Among them Bro. George Perrot particularly distinguished himself, as recorded in a local journal, wherein it is stated, "we should say he has missed his vocation,

for he ought to have been on the London boards." Mr. Green's racy Nigger lecture was also highly amusing.

In the evening after the ladies had done their best to dispose of the articles placed in their charge, an auction was held in the large room, several hammers being kept at work for an hour or two by Bro. Hastings, Bro. Tracey, Mr. Green and others, which cleared off a considerable portion of the remaining stock.

It must be added that in addition to presents of money to some of the ladies presiding at the stalls, donations were sent to the committee by persons who had witnessed and appreciated the amount of their efforts. Among the donors may be mentioned his Excellency, Major General Cuppage; L'Ac Bouet, Esq.; Mrs. Belzoni, widow of the celebrated African explorer, who was himself a Mason; "a Christian brother," who accompanied his present by a feeling letter written in a truly Christian spirit.

An amusing feature of this *fête* is a contribution from Mr. J. F. Draper, who has published a large lithographic sheet, containing an excellent Masonic caricature, suitable to the season of the year, in which are combined the jolly grotesqueness of Father Christmas, wielding the gridiron and the poker, the claims of the widow and orphan, the merriment of the young, two asses communicating to each other the Masonic secrets which they imagine they have discovered in a book which one of them holds, a fresco with representations of all nations joining in a fraternal dance, and faithful portraits of some thirty or forty of the leading Freemasons of Jersey, with a well known Centenier peeping round a corner to see what conspiracy they are hatching, while a celebrated Masonic professor of music is grinding at a barrel organ, and another notable member of the Craft bears an immense trowel as a banner.

It was originally intended to have a formal closing of the *fête* on the evening of the 21st, but, although most of the articles sent for sale had been disposed of, yet enough remained to fill several stalls, and as the other rooms were intact, it was determined to gratify another class, by opening the building for a few hours on Saturday, Dec. 23rd, at one fourth of the original fee for admission. An additional inducement to a numerous attendance was given by "an assault of arms," under the direction of Captain Mitford. Owing to a want of sufficient publicity however, comparatively few were aware of the re-opening, and the rooms were but scantily filled; nevertheless many purchases of the articles left in the bazaar were made at reduced prices, and those who witnessed the fencing, the single stick exercises, &c., appeared to be much gratified with the skill exhibited by Captain Mitford, Serjeant Barrow, the fencing master of the 6th Regiment, and two youths from the naval training school. The proceedings were brought to a close at an early hour.

With perfect truth may it be said, that the hopes felt at the commencement of the undertaking have been fully realised; that the benevolent objects of the institution will be faithfully carried out by a substantial addition to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund; that the taste for works of art has been cultivated by the exhibition of carefully selected specimens kindly lent for the occasion; that the Freemasons have earned a character for energy, consideration, and liberality, and stand high in public estimation, or they would not have had such kind assistance from the possessors of valuable property, who have placed their treasures at their disposal; that the brethren conducting the *fête* have shown skill and discretion in the management of a great undertaking, under the able direction of their chairman, Bro. H. L. Manuel, for it may with confidence be said that during the whole week no unpleasantness has occurred, no hitch has marred the efforts of the promoters, no dissatisfaction has been expressed by the visitors, except of occasional inconvenience from the crowded state of the rooms; that the ladies, notwithstanding all that is said to the contrary, have shown that they can trust the Freemasons, for a considerable number have laboured in the cause with a zeal, an amount of exertion, a kindness, which entitle them to the best thanks of the members of the Craft; that means have been devised, by which all classes can appreciate efforts made to provide amusement and instruction at a cheap rate, without offending the *amour propre* of any one—in fine, that most complete success has attended this first attempt on the part of the Freemasons to obtain the sympathies of the public in promoting the objects of the institution, which will doubtless be the forerunner of others somewhat similar in character, in which advantage will be taken of the experience thus gained. As far as can at present be ascertained, it is probable

that the sum of £300 has been realised, after payment of all expenses.

In candour it must be confessed that there is one sad reminiscence in connection with the affair, which proves that after all Freemasons are but men, and are not exempt from the frailties incident to humanity. It has not escaped observation that a very few persons calling themselves brethren have not only kept aloof, but appear to have made it their business industriously to circulate reports impugning the truthfulness, the honour, and the motives of the directors of this *fête*. Happily they have not succeeded; for many who were at first thus influenced have given their most valuable aid, and cordially supported the efforts made in the cause of charity, since they were made acquainted with the real state of the case; in other instances so little credence has been given to the maligners, even on their own statements, that gentlemen have gone immediately after hearing them to make considerable purchases of tickets of admission. These reports have been treated with the contempt they deserve, and no public contradiction has yet been made. The time has now probably arrived when the committee will have leisure to vindicate their character, conduct, and motives, which they have the power to do, by the publication of documentary evidence of such a nature as they are convinced will effectually silence and put to shame their traducers, and probably produce personal consequences to them which will make them bitterly regret that they have shown themselves traitors to the cause which is especially dear to all true members of the ancient Order, that of "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth."

TURKEY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE.

The District Grand Lodge was held on Friday, the 15th of December, in the English Masonic Rooms at Smyrna, W. Bro. Hyde Clarke, D. Prov. G.M., as Prov. G.M., in the absence of R.W. Bro. Sir Henry Bulwer.

The District Grand Lodge was opened in form.

On the motion of the acting P.G.M., seconded by Bro. Charlton, a respectful address of condolence was addressed to the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland.

A letter was read from the R.W. the Prov. G.M. to the Prov. G. Sec. Bro. Carleton, stating, in reference to his leaving Constantinople, "I have named Bro. Hyde Clarke my deputy, believing, on general grounds, Bro. Clarke is well qualified for the office I appoint him to."

The officers for the year 1865-6 having been appointed, and various formal business been gone through, votes of thanks were given to Bro. Evans, of Constantinople, and Bro. Steel, of Smyrna, the P. Grand Wardens; Bros. Carleton, of Constantinople, P.G. Sec.; G. Lawrie, of Constantinople, P. Prov. S.G.W.; O'Conner, of Constantinople, Prov. G. Dir. of Cir.; and to Bro. Verdi for founding lodges at Alexandria and Cairo.

The Acting Prov. G.M. addressed the District Grand Lodge. He said, "Let me first congratulate you on the continued progress and prosperity of Masonry within the district. This progress is the more pleasing because it is not confined to our own jurisdiction under the Grand Lodge of England, but because it extends to the other jurisdictions, as well home and foreign, that have now, following our example, established lodges here. As we carry on no trade and no speculation, as we seek no proselytes, we can have no jealousy at the progress of other jurisdictions, but the contrary. On other and higher grounds we feel satisfied, because further and more extended means have been provided for conferring the benefits of Masonry in this country. Adopting the sentiments of that eloquent address of our honoured P.G.M., Sir Henry Bulwer, at the general banquet at Constantinople, we believe that Masonry, properly used, is in this empire an institution which will confer great benefits on the Sovereign and the people, which at home constituting a weaker social bond, will here help to unite the various nations, races, and sects on a common basis of divine worship, clarity, virtue, and, above all, brotherly love, carrying out here a great work, as it does in India. It is to the promotion of such objects, and not to our own personal gratification, that we must look, remembering that here we have greater responsibilities than we have at home, where we are protected by the laws, governed by the rulers of the State, aided by the co-

operation of the ministers of religion, and sustained by our own long-earned reputation for loyalty and good conduct, and by the well founded respect of our fellow citizens. There our labours are relatively small, and our responsibilities light, while we can, in the full light of day, and with the patronage of the authorities, civil, military, and ecclesiastic, lay the foundation stones of edifices of religion and benevolence, or pay the tribute of personal respect to our living members and our dead. There the town hall is offered for our meetings, and the church is devoted to our special service. Pomp and display, and the testimonies of honour and respect, may invite to us the weak-minded, even if they fail to influence the man of earnest convictions and of deeply-seated benevolence. Here, it must never be forgotten, we are regarded by the mob of high and low with hatred, and by the charitable and intelligent with suspicion. By our own carriage and conduct we have to meet these misconceptions, and to create a reputation, correspondent with that we possess at home. We must in conformity with the ancient charges and constitutions, adhere the more firmly to the precepts and principles of Masonry, discountenancing innovations and new inventions in the body of Masonry. We must not as Masons be under the suspicion of having any connection with politics, or be offensive to any man's religious convictions; nay, we must be careful of offending the social prejudices of those among whom we live. We must be particularly cautious in the choice of our members, cautious in the parade of our own connection with Masonry. We must not seek proselytes. English brethren cannot be too cautious in designating other persons as Masons. An English or American Mason may make a chivalrous protestation of his connection with Masonry, because he runs not the least risk of any evil consequences, but there is no true courage in this, and no beneficial assertion of principle on the other hand, the unguarded committal of a native brother, some of whom are now actually under persecution, may bring upon him the social proscription of an ignorant or bigotted family, deprive him of his professional business connection, or damage his political position. Nothing can be worse founded, and nothing more unjust than the prejudices of ignorant Mussulmans, because as the more learned and more pious knew there is a very intimate association in principle, and a close resemblance in practise between Masons and the more spiritualistic and devout Mussulmans. This gives us comfort and assurance that we shall in the end receive justice from our Mussulman friends in this country as elsewhere, and the time may not be far distant, when, as in India, the most illustrious, the most pious, and the most learned of the Mussulmans may seek in Masonry a noble privilege. In the meanwhile we cannot be too cautious until we have, by our own good conduct, laid assured foundations for confidence and respect. With regard to the various jurisdictions, there are many reasons why it was desirable the whole of the lodges should have continued under the Grand Lodge of England. This is not so, and in the nature of things other jurisdictions have conferred warrants. In our colonies and in India it happens naturally that our three Grand Lodges have offshoots, and it is so here. We have, however, representatives of foreign Grand Lodges. Our conduct is clear, to give every brotherly assistance to all generally as Masons, but at the same time to be cautious to enter into no close and intimate association with bodies whose principles are either unknown to us or are known to be different from ours. In the lodges and brethren of the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland we shall find co-operators in the promotion of ancient Masonry, and even if any temporary conflict of jurisdiction shall take place, I pray all to maintain that triple alliance which has for so long a period of time bound us together at home. We shall be safe on the ancient basis of Masonry upheld by these three columns, and let us keep them together. Speaking the same language, possessing the same traditions, and adopting the same principles, we have a natural basis of alliance which cements us together, and which differences of language and of practice do not allow in the case of foreign lodges. On that very account it is the more incumbent to profit by every legitimate occasion for exhibiting sympathy with our foreign brethren on common grounds. Thus our R.W. Prov. G.M. assembled together in one reunion all the various lodges of Constantinople on the last St. John's Day, and thus, on the approaching St. John's Day, will those of Smyrna join in one common celebration. Let us be friends to all and enemies to none, even to those who unjustly revile us. Let us overcome those who assail us, as we have done in long time, epoch after epoch, man after man, by good conduct in ourselves, and by charity

towards others. Above all, let there be no real ground for mistake about Masonry. Masonry cares nothing for political or party progress, for upsetting, for innovating, for reconstituting. We offer no man a new religion, nor do we interfere with his own. The only progress we are concerned in is the progress not of our own brethren only, but of all mankind in true religion, in virtue and in learning, that all may be the better enabled to do their duty towards their Maker and those whom He has created. In this work we have been aided by men of all political and religious opinions, whom we have invited to the task, by the absolute power and by the elective chief, by Washington as by Frederick the Great, by the monarch on his throne, and by the poor scholar labouring for his daily bread. Masonry in common with all other temples of God receives all good men of whatever politics, and within our walls the prayers of all good men are acceptable; and Masonry can no more denounce any form of political opinion that aspires to good than it can any form of religious belief which acknowledges the existence of the Most High. Masonry discountenances dishonesty and immorality of all kinds; it discountenances anarchy, atheism, irreligion, and ignorance. Under such circumstances we can confidently persevere in our task, in the full assurance that the writings, the intrigues, the denunciations, and the persecutions of no man, no community, no church, no sovereign, and no nation ever have prevailed against Masonry or ever will. They may have created a prejudice for a brief time, but as truth has long become the stronger, all such efforts have proved impotent, and so they must be so long as the conduct of Masons gives no countenance to them, but gives effective disproof. If we are regarded in our own families as good and honest men, in our own communities, and by our own nation, if we are protected by our laws, and countenanced by our social institutions, we can afford certainly to await the verdict of ignorant strangers. They will learn that Masonry does not, as some have held forth, profess or promote anarchy or irreligion, but that it acts in aid of the precepts of religion to strengthen family ties, to improve the social relations, and to promote patriotism at home, and the fraternity of nations—peace, charity, and goodwill—abroad.

The District Grand Lodge was then closed in form and with solemn prayer.

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

An interesting theatrical case was tried in the Court of Queen's Bench, Mr. Swanborough, the manager of the Birmingham Theatre, being plaintiff, and Mr. Sothern (Lord Dundreary) the defendant. It seems that Mr. Sothern engaged with Mr. Swanborough to perform for seventeen nights at Birmingham; he afterwards wished to alter the time, but Mr. Swanborough would not consent. He arrived in Birmingham on the first night in a state of health too ill to appear; a quarrel ensued, and though Mr. Sothern did afterwards perform for some nights, his illness and the ill-humour between the parties broke out again, and the engagement was broken. The plea of the defendant was that his illness quite incapacitated him from performing. The jury found for the plaintiff, but they only awarded damages to the extent of £50, Mr. Sothern having proved that for a considerable portion of his stay in Birmingham, he was not able to appear upon the stage.

The new sacred work of M. Gounod's "Tobias," will be performed at one of the West End Halls on Shrove Tuesday, under the superintendence of Mr. Benedict. At the same time will be sung the two new psalms by the same composer, "Babylon's Wave," and "Bethlehem."

The late King of the Belgians died on the day of the third representation of the "Africaine," in Brussels; Queen Louise died on the fifth representation of the "Prophete." Meyerbeer seems to have brought misfortune with inauguration of each work—in 1832 cholera with "Robert le Diable," in 1849 cholera with the "Prophete," in 1865 cholera with the "Africaine."

Patti has just taken leave of the people of Florence. She devoted her earnings for the last evening, £160, to the relief of the victims of cholera in Italy. The amount was openly exposed to view and left unguarded, but, instead of being stolen, it was increased by the gifts of many of the spectators. The King sent £40.

The foreign papers state that the following plays of Shakspeare were acted during the year 1864 in the undermentioned cities with great success—namely Berlin, fifteen plays; Weimar, fourteen; Carlsruhe, thirteen; Vienna, twelve; Dresden, eleven; Munich, ten; Hanover, nine; Stuttgart, eight.

Mdlle. Ehlers, the young dancer whose clothes caught fire at St. Petersburg some short time back when on the stage, was not able to resist the effects of the dreadful burns which she received, but expired last week in great torture.

M. Fechter has made another hit at the Lyceum with the "Master of Ravenswood," which was produced for the first time on Boxing Night.

Mario has signed for Madrid for 30,000 francs a month, Madme. Lemmens Sherrington also is in treaty to appear there in February.

The *Orchestra* mentions a rumour that Mdlle. de Murska, the young singer who captivated the opera-goers of London in "Lucia di Lammermoor" during the past season, is dead.

Provost, one of the most popular actors of the Paris Theatre Francais, has just died at the age of 68.

M. Nicolini, of the Italian Opera, Paris, has been engaged by Mr. Gye for the coming season at Covent Garden.

Dr. Clay, of Manchester, claims to have in his possession, a newly discovered portrait of Shakespeare.

Miss Laura Harris has left England for Madrid, where she is engaged to appear in "Linda di Chamounix."

The *Orchestra* announces that the first concert in London for the benefit of the widow and family of the late Vincent Wallace will take place on the 4th proximo.

The New Surrey Theatre was opened for the first time on Boxing Night.

Mr. Vining has ordered a new drama from Mr. T. W. Robertson.

Mr. Boucicault is about to write a new drama for Miss Herbert at the St. James's.

Poetry.

A NEW YEAR'S MUSING.

By T. J. SWAIN.

Another year hath wing'd its flight,
Towards eternity,
Some wait with anguish, some delight,
The coming dawn to see.

Some hearts are bursting with the grief,
Of episodes most sad,
Others whose trials have been more brief,
Have reason to feel glad.

Some now at lov'd one's couches wait,
And strive to ease the pain
Of those whom 'tis decreed by fate,
May never rise again.

They watch the sufferer's closing eye,
Grow hourly yet more dim;
They hear the faint voice say "Good-bye,
"I go to dwell with Him."

O, bitter trial when ties of love,
Are sunder'd thus apart,
Nought but the grace of One above,
Can soothe the mourner's heart.

Such wait the coming of the dawn,
With tears and plaints of woe,
Others who greet this New Year's morn,
No such affliction know.

Then let all those whom God hath blest,
Feel for their neighbour's grief,
And strive to lull that grief to rest,
With pity's kind relief.

Thus may we as the years roll past,
Grow each year yet more kind,
That when our own trial comes at last,
We may be found resigned.

And when in losing those we love,
We feel affliction's rod,
O! may our thoughts ascend above,
And point the way to God.

LET US HELP ONE ANOTHER.

Through trials hard to bear
When our fainting souls sink low,
In the brighter times of joy,
When our happiest spirits flow,
Let us help one another.

In childhood's heedless paths,
When our sorrows quickly fly,
In sturdy manhood's prime,
When before us fortunes lie,
Let us help one another.

As brothers let us stand,
Both the weak and the strong,
For the right let us battle
Against might and wrong—
Let us help one another.

Staunch let us ever be
In sickness or health,
Forsaking no brothers
Who need of our wealth—
Let us help one another.

Let us help one another
Through weal and through woe,
Let us ne'er forget kindness
Wherever we go,
But help one another.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THE ALHAMBRA.

This handsome building is at all times a favourite place of amusement, and it may therefore be imagined that the holiday seekers have not been slow to patronise it. Additional accommodation has been afforded them, a dress-circle having been formed, and the gallery enlarged, and now there is sitting accommodation for more than four thousand people. Mr. Strange has not been slow to avail himself of the taste for Christmas entertainments, and two ballets have been produced on a scale of almost unexampled splendour. The first of these is called "Un Ballo in Maschera in the Illuminated Groves of Cleophas," and it has introduced a very tiny lady, "*La Petite Taglioni*," who is advertised as the "smallest dancer in the world." For a child, her Terpsichorean evolutions are performed with extraordinary skill, and a clever dance, *à la Matelote*, is vociferously applauded nightly. Another new candidate is *Mdlle. Bioletti*, from the Italian Opera, of Paris, who dances with much grace and ability. A *troupe* of Pantomimists are also introduced, as well as the regular Alhambra ballet, which now comprises more than a hundred ladies. The dresses for them have been supplied by Mr. S. May, and they are exceedingly handsome, as are those provided for the other characters. The second ballet takes place somewhat late in the evening, but those that stay to witness it are amply repaid, as it exceeds the first in scenery, dresses, and decorations, and must be pronounced the most finished and gorgeous ever produced at this establishment. It is entitled "The Descent of King Dragon Fly and his Cortège of Golden Moths into the Clematis Bowers of Arcadia," and the scenery for this has been painted and arranged by Mr. William Callcott in his very best style. The ballet is a kind of diorama, and some of the effects, which have been painted by the inventor, are exceedingly novel and beautiful. A giant chesnut tree, with a jungle of wild underwood and daisies, forms the groundwork of a "ballet of butterflies," among whom *Mdlle. Bioletti* again appears, and dances *à pas*. A View of the Forest of Transparent Foliage is the first picture, and the next effect presented is the Descent of the Dragon Fly, which is a most marvellous piece of beauty, the Management being right in stating that it is produced on a scale of magnificence never before equalled, even at any London theatre. *La Petite Taglioni* springs from a "magic mushroom," and the stage is turned into a glittering hive of butterflies, which ascend, descend, and flutter about, the whole terminating with the Glittering Bowers of Clematis. To say that these effects are applauded by the audience would be giving but a faint idea of the manner in which they are received.

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 13TH, 1866.

Monday, January 8. ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

Tuesday, January 9. INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.

Wednesday, January 10. GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, at 8.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—His Highness the Hereditary Prince, and her Royal Highness the Hereditary Princess of Hohenzollern, Infanta of Portugal, arrived on a visit to her Majesty, attended by Countess Renaud and Baron de Branchitsch. Their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena and Prince Arthur, attended by Lady Churchill, the Hon. Major General Hood, and Major Elphinstone, drove down to East Cowes to meet the Prince and Princess, who crossed over in the Royal yacht *Alberta* from Southampton, and accompanied them to Osborne, where they were received by the Queen. Her Majesty, and their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena, Princess Louise, and Prince Arthur, attended Divine service at Whippingham Church this morning, where the Rev. G. Prothero officiated. On Tuesday afternoon her Majesty gave presents to all the servants of the household at Osborne, for whom Christmas-trees had been prepared by her Majesty's command, in the steward's room and servants' hall. Her Majesty, accompanied by all the Royal Family, proceeded at six o'clock to the rooms where the servants were assembled, and personally distributed the gifts, assisted by their Royal Highnesses the Princesses and Prince Arthur. The Hereditary Prince and Princess of Hohenzollern took leave of her Majesty on Tuesday, and left Osborne for London. Their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena and Prince Arthur crossed over to Southampton with the Prince and Princess.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—On the morning of the 28th ult. the eight hundredth anniversary of the dedication of Westminster Abbey was celebrated by a special service, a sermon appropriate to the day being preached by Dean Stanley. We cannot help thinking that the best celebration of an anniversary which must awaken feelings of pride in the breast of every Englishman would be a movement to restore the Abbey. It is falling into a lamentable state of dilapidation, and will soon become the shame instead of the glory of this metropolis.—An inquest was held on the 28th ult. on the body of Michael Wall, an old man, whose death was alleged to have been caused by his son. The old man, who lived in Lower Shadwell, came home one evening drunk. His son was there, and he too was slightly intoxicated. A quarrel took place and a struggle, in which it seems some of the old man's ribs were broken. He was removed to the hospital, and died the other day. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against the son.—At the Glasgow Circuit Court, on Wednesday week, a man named John Jamieson was tried for the murder of a widow named Mrs. Gallagher, in a spirit shop in that town. The prisoner and the deceased, with other parties, had all been drinking together, and the prisoner, who appeared to be paying his addresses to her, became irritated at her partiality for another man, and cut her throat before the rest of the company could interfere. He was apprehended on the spot. The jury found him guilty, but recommended him to mercy. He was sentenced to death.—The Midland Railway Company was convicted at the Newark Sessions on Wednesday week, before Mr. Denison, M.P. (Speaker of the late House of Commons), and other justices, of conveying a cow along its line, in contravention of the cattle plague regulations. The company insisted that the regulations did not apply to them, but the justices took a different view, and fined them £5 and costs.—A new species of swindling was exposed at the Marlborough-street Police-office last week. A lady in Lancashire having seen some tempting offers of "silks at reduced prices" advertised, had some communication with the parties, and finally ordered goods to the value of between £16 and £17. As the vendors were rather particular about the cash being sent along with

the order the lady sent three halves of notes, and a Post-office order for the balance. This did not suit the advertisers, who wrote for the other halves of the notes. This excited suspicion, inquiries were made, and it was discovered that none of the addresses given were the parties known. The Post-office order was gone, but the thieves evidently expected more.—An inquest was held last week on the body of Mrs. Bromage, who, it will be remembered, was found dead in her own house at the bottom of her bed-room stairs. It appears she was suffering from internal disease, and as her husband admitted he had been drinking on the night in question and fell down the stairs, it is supposed she had come to his assistance, and that the cold and excitement had hastened her death. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.—The revenue returns for the end of the year have been published. There is a decrease in the Customs, in the property tax, and in the miscellaneous. In the former items there is an increase, mainly, on the Excise, which amounts to £110,000 on the last quarter. After deducting the increase the falling off in the last quarter amounts to £62,000; on the last three quarters nearly £1,120,000. Mr. Gladstone calculated the total loss on his reductions last April as £3,800,000. As there is only another quarter to come it is probable that the result will be within a million or more of his calculations.—The Italian, Fermi, who stabbed the German, Dornbusch, in the City, was brought up on Saturday last, and the wounded man was able to attend and give evidence, which he did with great forbearance towards the prisoner. Fermi made a rambling defence, denied that he was insane, alleged that the prosecutor had ruined him and his children, and was committed for trial at the Old Bailey.—Fenianism has made an appearance in one of our police-courts. On Monday at the Thame's court two men, named Butler and Farrell, were charged with endeavouring to induce a private soldier named Farrell to desert, and further with being in possession of some soldiers' clothing. Farrell, the soldier, stated that he was met on Saturday at Kensington by a man who invited him to drink. He accepted the invitation, and afterwards accompanied the man to a house in Whitechapel, where the prisoners and other Irishmen were drinking. After a time, the soldier says, he was got upstairs, and there the prisoners wanted to swear him in as a Fenian, take off his uniform, dress him in plain clothes, and send him to Ireland. He refused to yield to their solicitations, and after a struggle got into the street. He informed the police at once, and they apprehended the prisoners. On searching the house several articles of soldiers' clothing were found. The defence set up for the prisoners was, that the whole affair was a drunken joke played on the soldier. The magistrate, however, remanded the men.—A fire broke out on Monday afternoon in a warehouse belonging to the St. Katharine's Dock Company. In the same warehouse, not long ago, a similar conflagration took place. In spite of the efforts of the fire brigade, the flames spread, and an immense quantity of property was destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown. On Wednesday morning the flames were effectually got under, but in all probability it will be a week before the fire is wholly extinguished. The damage is estimated at not less than £200,000.—Six seamen, mostly young men, were brought up at Bow-street police court on Monday, and charged with piracy. It seems they shipped at Calcutta on board the *Scotland*, the captain of which had his leg broken the day the vessel left port. While he was laid by with the broken leg the prisoners complained as to provisions, and wished to go back to Calcutta. Apprehensive of a mutiny, Captain Campbell signalled for assistance from a ship a ship in sight, whereupon the prisoners hauled down the

signals and altered the course of the ship. They appear, however, not to have had enough knowledge to navigate her, and as she was in danger the captain was allowed to take command again, but not before he had by their orders destroyed the entries in the official log book of their misconduct. The vessel arrived at the island of Ascension, and there found a British man-of-war. A court of inquiry was held, and the prisoners were ordered to be sent home in another vessel to be tried, and the captain came to England by the mail steamer. The *Scotland* has not yet arrived with the rest of the crew. The captain was examined, and several of his statements were contradicted by the prisoners. The men were remanded. Mr. William Henry Oakes Warren, who was charged on Saturday last with stealing an overcoat from the Westminster Palace Hotel, was brought up again at the police court on Monday. It was shown that the prisoner was most respectably connected, but it was also shown that he had been in the habit of going to various hotels and leaving without paying his bills. He was committed for trial.—At Bethnal-green on Wednesday an inquest was held on the body of an unfortunate woman named Bellingier, who, it was shown by the clearest evidence, had died from starvation. The poor woman appeared to have been neglected by some of her relatives; and the Coroner adjourned the inquest with a view to ascertain whether a criminal charge could be sustained against any person. It is shocking that in the midst of so much plenty people should be constantly dying from want of food; but in this case no blame can attach to the neighbours or to the parish authorities.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—A rumour is prevalent on the Continent, we know not with what foundation, that England, France, and Russia have undertaken to restore order in Greece. They are to send ships to the Greek waters, and when certain points are occupied the Hellenic constitution is to be suspended and the Chamber dissolved. In all probability there is not a word of truth in all this. England would not be likely to interfere in any such manner in the affairs of Greece.—On Wednesday, the 27th ult., Queen Isabella opened the Spanish Cortes in person, and delivered a temperate speech. With the exception of a paragraph devoted to the war with Chili, she starts no new topic of interest. The promise of a bill for extinguishing or liquidating the old debt will be good news to the national creditors, while philanthropists will derive comfort from the prospect of a measure for putting an end to the slave trade between Cuba and the coast of Africa.—The Brazils mail arrived at Lisbon, from whence we have a telegram stating that reports were current at Buenos Ayres, at the latter end of November, that, through the efforts of European mediation, a peace was about to be concluded between Paraguay and the Allies.—We have also news from the Pacific. The state of affairs between Spain and Chili remained much the same. The Chilians were preparing for the contest, and were determined to resist the demands of Spain to the utmost. From Peru we learn that another little revolution had taken place. After the President, General Canseco, had exercised his powers for a few days, a public meeting was called, at which General Prado was declared Dictator of the country, and General Canseco was at once deprived of all authority.—There seems to be little doubt that France and Austria are drawing closer together, and a probable alliance between them is widely discussed in the Prussian papers. One of the latest testimonies to this good understanding was given on Sunday last. On that day the Austrian Ambassador at Paris, Prince Metternich, on behalf of the Emperor of Austria, presented the Prince Imperial with the Order of Saint Stephen of Hungary. The presentation was accompanied by

some gracious words, and the Emperor, in reply, declared he was deeply touched, and promised for the Prince Imperial that he "would always preserve that high mark of solicitude on the part of a Sovereign to whom his father had vowed sincere friendship."—The French Minister of the Interior has explained, in a *communiqué* addressed to the *Opinion Nationale*, the reason why his Government propose to bring to a close the extradition treaty with England. The reason, then, is because the English magistrates are not content with the mere production of a warrant, but insist upon having some evidence of guilt before they will order the surrender of an accused person. The French Government argues that the guilt or innocence of the person is a matter wholly for the tribunal which is to try him, and with which English courts have nothing to do. This, of course, is a principle which England can never consent to recognise. If France claims a criminal she must produce some proof of his guilt. It must be her own fault if, as the Minister of the Interior alleges, not one criminal was ever surrendered by England under the treaty.—The Pope expressed great gratitude to the French army at his reception on New Year's Day. The latter part of his address to General Montebello, has, however, the appearance of satire in it. "This year especially," said his Holiness, "I must express my thankfulness, it being perhaps the last on which I can bestow my blessing on the French army in Rome." Does this mean that the Pope is especially thankful that this is the last year the French will be in Rome? After its evacuation by the French the enemies of the Church, His Holiness thinks, may perhaps come to Rome, but he will pray for them all. A French newspaper professes to give an account of a discussion among the cardinals as to whether the Pope should leave Rome immediately on the conclusion of the two years mentioned in the Convention. The writer says most of the cardinals spoke of such a course until it was condemned, by Cardinal Antonelli, and that finally it was resolved by the Pope that he would not leave Rome till he was driven from it. In all probability there is no truth in the assertion that such a discussion took place; but it will not be wonderful if the Pope should have to come to such a resolution as that mentioned.—It has been stated that Russia had intimated to Prussia that on no account would she be allowed to annex Schleswig-Holstein. If the semi-official *Provinzial Correspondenz* is to be believed, however, no such intimation has been given. That paper on Wednesday announced that there was nothing in the relations of Prussia with foreign Powers or in the attitude of those Powers in relation to Schleswig-Holstein calculated to make Prussia irresolute in the pursuit of her aims or in the course of action she has hitherto followed.—A Florence telegram says that it is believed the new Italian Minister, Signor Scialoja, will adopt the Budget of his predecessor, Signor Sella, only making further reductions in the estimates for the army and navy.—An Imperial rescript has been sent to the Transylvanian Diet, which promises that the representatives of Transylvania will shortly be summoned to the Diet at Pesth.

AMERICA.—The *Asia* arrived at Queenstown on Sunday bringing intelligence from New York to the 21st December. President Johnson has sent a message to the Senate in which he asserts that the Southern rebellion is quite suppressed, and that the people are yielding obedience to the Federal Government with more willingness than could have been anticipated. The prospect of affairs, he added was very promising, as sectional animosity was giving way to a better spirit, and that national representation, together with a proper system of taxation, would result in the harmonious restoration of the States to the Union. Notwithstanding that these generous

sentiments and statesmanlike views were sustained by a report of General Grant, which accompanied the message, Senator Sumner had the audacity to denounce the President's message as an attempt to whitewash the South, and denounced the Southerners as being disloyal and as oppressors of the freed men. The House has passed a measure prohibiting the payment of the Southern debt. Three-fourths of the States having ratified the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery it is now a valid part of the Constitution. We have intelligence from New York to the 23rd ult. The Senate had asked the President on what charges Jefferson Davis was detained in Fortress Monroe, and why he was not tried before them. As the position of Southern representatives is not likely to be soon determined by Congress, the gentlemen from the South had resolved upon returning home until the 4th of March. It is curious that apprehensions of a negro rising at Christmas are said to have been entertained at the South. During the old slave times those fears generally prevailed at Christmas. In this instance they are probably intended to justify extreme repressive measures, and to enable the old planters to re-assert a good deal of their former authority. There had been a ministerial crisis in Canada. The *Hibernian*, which has arrived, states that a special Washington despatch has been published by the *Commercial Advertiser*, announcing that the French troops would be withdrawn from Mexico within three months. We do not believe there is a word of truth in this statement.

WEST INDIES.—By the West India Mail we have news from Jamaica to the 11th December. There had been no further disturbances. The two houses were engaged in discussing the measures laid before them by Government. After a very fierce fight the bill to alter and amend the constitution of the island was passed by a large majority. A new bill for regulating places of public worship had been drawn up with the aid of the principal dissenting ministers, a fact which shows that, even in the opinion of the leading dissenters in the island, some measure is necessary. Major O'Connor had made a tour throughout the island, and was everywhere cordially received—a proof that in the opinion of the people of Jamaica Governor Eyre and the British officers deserve honour and reward, and not censure and disgrace. Among other documents laid before the Legislative Council was a letter to Governor Eyre from Colonel Whitfield, commanding the Western Division of the Jamaica forces, in which the colonel asserts, from his own personal investigation, that a seditious spirit pervades the whole island, and that in all probability the negroes would rise if it were not for the presence of the military.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * * All communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS.—Subscribers who are in arrears are requested to forward without delay the amounts due from them by Post-office Order, payable to the Proprietor, Bro. William Smith, C.E., 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

NOTICE.—We are compelled to defer giving until our next issue several reports, &c., which have come duly to hand.

T. J. S.—We shall have pleasure in corresponding with you if you will send us your address.

B.—As you merely give the name of the lodge, and do not give us either the number or the place of meeting, we cannot, we regret, answer your question, there being at least six lodges of the name you mention, some of the lodges meeting in the metropolis, and others in various parts of the continent.