

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1866.

THE DOCTRINES OF JESUITISM.

Freemasonry has been abused, branded and cursed by the Sovereign Pontiff of the Church of Rome as a "perverse society of men which, having at first been confined to darkness and obscurity, now comes into light for the common ruin of religion and human society." In the allocution delivered in his *secret* Consistory, in September last, the "venerable patriarch," having exhausted in our favour his whole vocabulary of epithets borrowed from the ladies of Billingsgate and the *Dames des Halles*, and depicted our Institution according to his peculiar notions, impugned the secrecy of our meetings in the following words:—

What is the object of this association of men belonging to all religions and every belief? To what end those clandestine meetings and the religious oaths exacted from the initiated, binding them never to reveal anything of what may be discussed? Wherefore that unheard-of atrocity of penalties and chastisements which the initiated bind themselves to accept should they fail to keep their oath? "A society which thus shuns the light of day must surely be impious and criminal. "He who doeth ill," says the Apostle, "hates the light." How different from such an association are the pious societies of the faithful which flourish in the Catholic Church. With them there is no reticence, no obscurity. The law which governs them is clear to all; clear also are the works of charity practised according to the Gospel doctrines.

Thus, the Freemasons are held up and pointed at, by the "infallible" Pope as the instigators of dark deeds, as the *advocati diaboli* and the very incarnation of the archfiend. It would be carrying owls to Athens, were we to enter at present on any further refutation of the papal assertions; we have amply done so ourselves, soon after their issue, and endeavoured from time to time, by extracts from British and foreign, Masonic and non Masonic contemporaries, to demonstrate the utter shallowness and wilful falsity of those accusations. But our argument has been thus far but of a negative character; in the case of "the Pope v. Freemasonry," we have remained defendants and shown only that there was no case to go to the jury, and an enlightened public has not failed to at once return a verdict for the defendant. But now we propose to show, how the projectile aimed at us by our enemies, instead of hitting us, will only rebound on themselves; how the accusation the Pope has put forth against our Institution, so far from applying to us, could be designed but to picture those who are "bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh." We are designated as a "society that shuns the light

of day, and must therefore necessarily be impious and criminal." But let us see what right our reviler has to contrast our Institution to those "pious societies of the faithful that flourish in the Catholic Church." Our object cannot be to enter here on any religious controversies, nor do we propose at present to allude to the machinations of so-called *benevolent* societies (such as the Société St. Vincent-de-Paul and others), originated and propagated in our days under the auspices of the See of Rome, which, under the garb of charity and Christian love, have for their real aim to support the cause of ultramontane obscurantism, to exercise a baneful influence on the masses and operate towards the re-establishment of a spiritual power that was, at the expense of the temporal powers that be, in a manner "dangerous even for the security of kingdoms."

We propose to lay before our readers the official tenor of the *secret* injunctions of that society which, for the last three centuries, has acted as the faithful confederate and the unflinching accomplice of the Vatican, throughout its unceasing endeavours to crush and eliminate the progress of humanity and civilisation, and counteract the diffusion of the true and unsophisticated principles of Christianity. The history of the Order of Jesuits is well known to our readers. Let us only state that this society, founded in 1540 by Ignatius Loyola, and endowed with a charter and special privileges by the Popes Paul III. and Julius III., has for its avowed object to assist the Church of Rome in its struggles against Protestantism; but that its real aim and tendency has been at all times to propagate the Pope's power and its own by fair means and foul, and that they have never shrunk from the very darkest deeds and the most horrid crimes in their endeavours to attain their object. The Order having been suppressed by Clement XIV., in 1774, was re-established by Pius VII., in 1814; and since that epoch, the Jesuits have never abandoned the hold they took on the Catholic Church—in fact the See of Rome has been from that time (with the sole exception of the short period 1846-1850), but the organ and mouthpiece of the Order; the Sovereign Pontiff has not pretended to be anything but the henchman of the Jesuits' General; and in our days the pygmies, Pio Nono and Cardinal Beckx, *par nobile fratrum*, have continued with unceasing vigour, but happily without a shadow of success, the work, in the accomplish-

ment of which giants like Leo X. and Loyola, had so egregiously failed.

We are far from overrating the importance of this order in our time. Jesuitism has, in past ages, wielded a considerable power and done much mischief, though it was never able to arrest progress to more than a very limited extent. But at the present day even their power to do mischief has almost ceased; it has dwindled down to such diminutive proportions, that their very existence has become all but unknown in Protestant countries. Still they do exist, and have not resigned their privilege of handling the dagger and the torch, *ad majorem Dei gloriam*. No doubt the recent massacre of Barletta has been but a caricature of their *Saturnalia* in the night of St. Bartholomew's; but by such dark deeds, the eyes of the civilised world are from time to time directed to that hotbed of crime and assassination, and due caution is imposed on Society against that "criminal sect that hates the light." They have shown once more how they put into practice their fundamental axiom: "*Eteignons les lumières, et rallumons les feux.*" They are still dangerous to Society, as enemies of light and civilisation, but infinitely more dangerous to their employers, whose utter ruin, though it be only a question of time, cannot fail to be accelerated by the doings of their branded auxiliaries. If the heads of the Roman Catholic Church had but an instinct of self-preservation, they would hasten to disembarass themselves of such assistance and try to uphold their cause by fair and legitimate means:—

Non tali auxilio nec defensoribus istis
Tempus eget.

But the accursed of God, stricken with blindness, are steadily pushing on towards the unavoidable precipice; and their nominal chief continues a willing and obsequious organ and mouthpiece of his dangerous associates. Like the wicked depicted by the Psalmist, "He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved; his mouth is full of cursing, and deceit, and fraud; under his tongue is mischief and vanity." And his confederate, the instigator of crime and murder, the disciple of Loyola, how could he be better characterised than by the words of the same authority—"He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages; in the secret places doeth he murder the innocent; he lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den, he lieth in wait to catch the poor; and he doeth catch the poor when he draweth him into his net."*

* Psalm x., *passim*.

The "secret injunctions" that furnish the cue to the understanding of all doings of the Society of Jesus have been published heretofore in this country as well as in Germany and France.*

But since 1850 no English translation of them has appeared, and they are no longer accessible to the public through the usual literary channels. We have deemed it our duty to lay these *Monita Secreta* before our readers in a new translation which has been prepared in strict accordance with the original Latin, and we have abstained from all enlargement of, or comment on this literary curiosity; we give them in their hideous nudity, and will leave the public to judge, on such evidence, which of the two societies is the "impious and criminal" one, and which of them deserved most the anathemas and maledictions that have been so lavishly bestowed on us by the Sovereign Pontiff.

MONITA SECRETA SOCIETATIS JESU.
SECRET INJUNCTIONS OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS.

Preface.

Let the superiors zealously guard these secret injunctions, and use them discreetly; they are to be communicated to a few of the "professors," but some

* The *Monita Secreta*, the genuineness of which cannot be questioned on critical and literary grounds, were discovered among the archives of the Jesuits' college at Paderborn, Westphalia, during the religious wars of Germany, when Christian, Duke of Brunswick, took possession of that town, and gave the Jesuits' Library to the Capuchins. Of the various editions of the work that have appeared from time to time, we may mention the following that have been accessible to us:—

1st. *The Secret Instructions of the Jesuits; with an Appendix.* London: L. and B. Seeley. 1824. This contains the Latin text, incomplete, with an English translation, rather amplified; and a selection of documents "revealing the true character of the Romish Church."

2nd. *The Secret Oath and a fresh translation of the Secret Instructions of the Order of the Jesuits; with a slight sketch of the Society.* London: Seeley, Burnside, and Seeley. 1844. A popular edition of the work, labouring under this great drawback that the translation was made from the French, not the Latin, a proceeding which in matters of this kind is open to objection.

3rd. *Die Jesuiten und der Jesuitismus.* Herausgegeben von E. F. Fürst. Nordhausen. 1845. This edition, to which our attention has been drawn by our esteemed Bro. Roehlitz, gives a complete German translation, accompanied by annotations, of the *Monita Secreta*. It is to be found at the library of the British Museum.

4th. *Instructions Secrètes des Jésuites.* Nouvelle édition. Paris: E. Dentu. 1861. Containing the Latin text and French translation. We remember that this edition made quite a "stir" in France at the time of its publication, while the controversy between the Pope and the Emperor, with reference to the limits of the temporal and spiritual powers, was going on.

Some other editions have been issued in this country from time to time, by various religious associations, such as the Protestant Alliance, the Church Pastoral Society, and others.

portions of them may be made known even to non-professors, if the interests of the Society can be furthered thereby; still, it is to be done only under the seal of secrecy, and the communications should in every case purport to be derived from personal experience, not drawn from a written source. And as many of the professors are acquainted with these secrets, the Society is to take care, from the very outset, that none of those acquainted with them join any other Order, save the Carthusians, who are innocuous, by reason of the life of perpetual seclusion they lead, and the strict silence they keep; and this regulation has been approved of by the Holy See.

Great care should be taken that these instructions do not fall into the hands of strangers (*manus extermorum*), as they might ascribe to them a sinister meaning, from their envy against our Order; but if such a thing should happen (which God forbid), it is to be denied that these are the doctrines of the Society, and for evidence are to be adduced such of our Order as are certain to be ignorant of them; and our general instructions, and printed or written rules and regulations are to be put forth against them.

The superiors are also to inquire always, zealously and cautiously, if these instructions have been communicated by any one of ours to some stranger; and no one is to transcribe them or cause them to be transcribed, either for himself or for another, save by the permission of the general or provincial. If anyone should be suspected of being unable to keep such secrets of the Society, he is to be taught the contrary, and expelled.

CHAPTER I.

How the Society is to behave on beginning a foundation in any place.

1. To make themselves agreeable to the inhabitants of the locality, it is important that the object of the Society should be explained, as laid down in the rules, in which it is said that members of the Society are to work with all their power for the good of their fellow-men no less than that of the Society. For this reason the most humble duties are to be performed in hospitals; the poor, the afflicted, and prisoners to be visited, confessions to be heard promptly and indiscriminately, so that the most prominent inhabitants may admire and love the members of our Order, on account of their unwonted benevolence to all, and the novelty of the thing.

2. Let it be remembered that permission to perform the duties of the Society should always be solicited in an humble and modest manner, and great care be taken to render favourable to us those of the clergy and of the laity whose authority we require.

3. Members are also to go to distant places to collect alms (however small the offerings may be), by showing that we are needy of them; and let them be given afterwards to other poor, that those who did not know our Society before, may be favourably influenced and rendered all the more liberal towards us.

4. Let all appear to breathe the same spirit, and take all to the same outward behaviour, so that the uniformity, in such a number and diversity of persons, may favourably strike every one, and let those who are doing otherwise be dismissed as injurious.

5. At the beginning care should be taken not to buy any real property; but if some grounds well adapted for our purpose should be bought, it must be done apparently under the name of some faithful and discreet friends; and, with a view the better to show how poor we are, estates adjoining the places in which we have stations should be assigned to the Provincial of some remote station, so that princes or magistrates may never have an exact knowledge of the income of the Society.

6. Members of our Order are to proceed only to opulent towns, for the purpose of residing there, by way of forming a station. The object of our Society must be to imitate Christ our Saviour, who stayed chiefly at

Jerusalem, and never sojourned but temporarily in places of minor importance.

7. The greatest possible donation is always to be extracted (*extorquendum*) from widows, after having satisfied them of the extreme necessity in which we are.

8. In no province is any one, save the Provincial himself to be allowed to know the exact amount of our revenue, but that which is to be found in the Exchequer (*corbona*) at Rome, must be a general secret.

9. Our associates should preach and profess everywhere in conversation that they have come to give instruction to the youth, and do charity to the people; that they are doing all gratuitously, and without any regard to their own interest, and that they are not an incubus (*gravamen*) on the community like all other religious orders.

(To be continued).

[The term "nostri," ours, which occurs in almost every paragraph, has been rendered respectively "our associates," "members of our Order," "members," &c. In the original the expression "nostri" is used throughout.—Ed. F. M.]

THOUGHTS ON THE BEAUTIFUL.

"There's beauty all around our paths,
If but our watchful eyes
Can trace it 'mid familiar things
And through their lowly guise."

There is a tradition among Masons—perhaps it is more than a tradition—that the Craft in earlier days set apart a portion of their time to the contemplation of the material creation; and the object was, especially, that they might thereby be induced to "adore their great Creator." This is in harmony with all that pertains to Masonry; for everything in its rituals, usages, precepts, and sciences tends to this point—the worship of the "one living and true God." His unspoken Name is the soul and central sun of Masonry, and the grand design of the Order is to unite all in one fraternal bond—united to Him and in Him as the great object of life: and from which union is to be derived the ultimate and highest conceivable happiness of man for ever.

An old writer near two thousand years ago declares, substantially, that the invisible things of Jehovah—the goodness, mercy, wisdom, and power of the Godhead—are seen and understood by the things which he has made. They present to the discerning eye and discriminating mind a distinct and glorious revelation, in which he is heard to speak words of wisdom and consolation, and give assurance of safety and protection. God is seen in the grandeur of his power when we look on the lofty and rugged mountain, the pathless ocean, the desert waste; or when we listen to the roar of the whirlwind and the crash of the thunder. But it is in the aspects of beauty, so abundant in his works, that the heart is most drawn to him,

and from which descends a baptism of adoring love.

The beautiful abounds everywhere, and in everything that we can see and hear and feel. All nature, animate and inanimate; all sciences, profound and simple; all sounds, all shapes, all colours, are full of the traces of beauty. Singly or in combination, in whatever form or shape or position they may exist, beauty more or less intense is seen as the sign manual of Jehovah. And there is enough of divinity still left in humanity, even in its ruin and banishment, to discover and appreciate these traces of beauty, however they may be developed and wherever they may be found. But this power to discover and appreciate varies in man, as one form or face differs from another.

At least half the enjoyments of life have their source in the beautiful; and to a heart that is properly attuned to love it, the beautiful may be found everywhere. Life's checkered pavements are strewn all over with gems of beauty on which the contemplative and appreciating may gaze with delight. There is beauty in everything that God has made, whether in the physical or spiritual world; and there is beauty in the ideal as well as in the practical. There is beauty in design—in system—in order; in adaptation and in completeness; in the fitness of things natural and moral, everything that is just as it ought to be, is beautiful. It is seen, also, in influence, especially if it tend to bless and benefit, and lure to goodness and truth and purity. How beautiful was that influence which enabled the child to cause the tear of repentance to fall from the eye unused to weep, and the sigh of bitter regret to escape from the heart long "dead in trespasses and in sin!" Possibly these are only its effects, and that beauty, as the cause, is found in the soft blue eye and angel-face of innocence and youth—in the pleading of affection that utters such potent language in each smile of love.

Would you be led, from a contemplation of the beautiful, to "adore the Creator?" Go look on the lofty and rugged mountain, the varied landscape, the flowing river, the green woods, the flowery prairie, or the "wide rolling sea." There is beauty in the waterfall and the rainbow, the lightning's flash and the light of the glow-worm, the falling rain-drops and the rushing and thundering cataract, the rays of burning noon, and the soft and holy light of the moon-beams when they wrap cottage and garden, the distant mountain, and the

tranquil sea in their drapery of mellow light. There is beauty in the waving corn and the yellow harvest; in the daring flight of the eagle as he soars upward among the sun-beams, and laughs at peril in the home of storms. And there is beauty in the flight of the humming-bird as it darts from flower to flower with the swiftness of thought, and snatches a kiss of nectar from each as it passes on the wing. It is beauty embodied, for it wins the heart and leads captive the eye, like some ethereal formation from the land of dreams.

All is beautiful—above, below, around. The heavens are full of beauty, for they "declare the glory of God, and show His handiwork." Did you ever look up—away up, through the unmeasured and immeasurable distances—to those glittering orbs which adorn the heavens at night, and not feel that there is entrancing beauty there? And the glorious moonlight, so calm, so gentle, so subduing—have you not often owned the power of its beauty? Perhaps the "loved one" was by your side,

Who made every dear scene of enchantment more dear, and transmuted all into a lover's dream of heaven, or changed a howling wilderness into a blooming paradise. The world's rude shocks, and crowding cares, and pressing anxieties were for the time unfelt and forgotten. Or, it may be, that you were "alone with God"—in the spirit and for the purpose of adoration; how you seemed to be on the confines of that land "where there is no night," nor winter, nor death; and where there is "no need of the sun," because it is enlightened by "the glory of God."

Anon you thought of friends—perhaps distant and loved ones—while you felt the sweet influence of that glory which surrounded you; and your heart wandered off on its beams of silent beauty, to some hallowed shrine, and worshipped in ecstasy there. Before you were aware, perhaps, you were holding communion with them through the medium of that queenly orb.

Sweet moon! if, like Crotona's sage
By any spell my hand could dare
To make thy disc its ample page,
And write my thoughts, my wishes there;
How many a friend, whose careless eye
Now wanders o'er that starry sky,
Should smile upon the orb to meet
The recollection, kind and sweet—
The reveries of fond regret—
The promise never to forget,
And all my heart and soul would send
To many a dear-loved distant friend.

Those bright worlds on which we gaze in the calm clear night retain all their original perfection.

Sin has not reached nor defaced those distant orbs, and they are beautiful still—surpassingly beautiful, as when they came fresh and bright from their Maker's hand. The tempter's power has not marred the beauty of those celestial habitations; they shine to-day with the same transcendent loveliness as when they sang together in chorus at the creation. Astronomy is one of the sciences Masonry cherishes; and there is not only beauty in the science itself, but there is beauty such as angels delight to look on in the revelations it makes to man.

There is beauty in the little bird—the bird of bright plumage and cheerful song. See it, as it turns from its simple repast, hop upon its perch, adjust its feathers by a shake, spread out its golden wings, lift its little head as though looking heavenward, and pour out a song of gladness—soft and silvery, yet musical and gushing as the pearly streamlet leaps from the mountain rock! What heart, what Mason, can look and listen unmoved? But enough for the present. Go out and gaze on the beautiful until you think of Him who made them all, and then in bending homage “adore the great Creator.”

It should never be forgotten that it is not to gratify the lower and baser passions of our nature that this wealth of beauty is so profusely scattered over the material creation, but to elevate, to refine, to purify and exalt, to allure the heart heavenward, and to accustom the soul to draw supplies from a fountain whence angels drink, and to feed on that which refreshes the “spirits of the just” while they walk and talk on the banks of the river of life.—*Masonic Review*.

THE NEW ORDER OF MERIT.

It has long been the reproach of this country that there was no honourable distinction for men of science, art, or letters; no order of merit, as in continental states, for those who had devoted their lives and energies to the improvement, or the happiness, of their fellow-men; no reward, in fact, for the social or intellectual virtues; no acknowledgment to the man who saves, but only to him who destroys, human life. With all our civilisation, scientific improvements, and intellectual advancement, we have reached the latter half of the nineteenth century to find, as in the thirteenth, that brute courage and slaughter are the only recognised virtues extant, the only qualifications that merit the Blue Ribbon of a nation's pride and homage.

The men who discovered the steam engine, invented the spinning jenny, and perfected the electric telegraph, passed to an unhonoured grave; the friend of millions, and the eternal benefactor of a nation, passes out of mind and thought like an unrecognised item of the common herd, while the leader of a charge in battle, or the slayer of a leash of men, is adorned with symbols of national gratitude while living, and attended with a flourish of drums and trumpets to his grave when dead. Nor does his exaltation and glory end with life and burial, for the soldier or the sailor has a hatchment that keeps to remotest ages the memory of his deeds ever fresh and verdant.

In the hope to crush the obloquy that has for centuries attached to England of rewarding slaughter and ignoring civic virtue, her Majesty has lately established an order of merit for bravery, not in destroying, but in saving, lives, to be called after her late lamented consort “The Albert Medal.” A more noble and queenly institution could not well have been conceived, or one more worthy the Sovereign, her people, and the age, and, in the knowledge that she has founded it, we forget the years of humiliation we have suffered in the want of such an institution. Rejoiced, however, as we are to see a step taken in so forward a manner, and in the right direction, we deeply regret that the name of Albert was not reserved for arts and letters, an order of merit that must, sooner or later, be established, and to which he, as the worthy patron of both, had the foremost claim to rank as head; while fully acknowledging the utility and benefit of her Majesty's new Institution, and rejoicing in the fact that a more enlightened view has been taken of the social virtues of the people, and that something more distinguished than a Humane Society's medal will in future reward the man who perils his own life to save those of his companions or the public generally. But while gratefully applauding her Majesty for what she has done, and gladly accepting the Albert Medal as an initiatory step to a more extensive order of social merit, we cannot but regret that its rewards should have stopped short at one order of merit, and that this honourable distinction should only be open to those who have saved life from drowning.

Not a day passes but in which some brave, unlettered fellow, with no reward, immediate or future, but his own conscience, descends into some pit, well, or neglected vault, and, at his own peril, brings out his gasping or dead companions. Not a night goes by but in which some fireman jeopardises his own life, and risks leaving an unprovided widow and children, in the attempt to save the life or lives of those utterly cut off by circling flames from any other hope of life. During the last fortnight three or four cases of marked heroism have taken place at fires, in which the conductors of the fire-escapes have shown unusual coolness and bravery, one rescuing, at the immi-

ment peril of his own life, as many as eight human beings, the others two and three. The man who plunges into the sea to save a fellow being may know how to swim, and by this knowledge be more easily able to bring the rescued individual to land, but against fire, flame, and smoke, no human practice, no art is available, consequently he who braves it, madly and defiantly, for any purpose but personal safety, or the protection of wife or child, is, beyond question, a brave man, and just such a one as, in our estimation, is worthy of an Albert Medal.

To confine the Albert Medal merely to those who save life from water is so narrow a line of operation that we can hardly believe the subject has received the Queen's deliberate consideration. Whether or not, we feel assured she will not rest satisfied with allowing the nationally honoured and illustrious name of Prince Albert to be associated with so half a measure as that at present contemplated in the Albert Memorial, namely a Medal for Courage and Bravery at Sea or on Water.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE GOD OF FREEMASONRY IS A PERSONAL GOD.

A correspondent at Paris, desirous, as he alleges, of joining our Order, cites two passages of my communications to the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE; the first, "that the God of Freemasonry is essentially a personal God, and that an adherent of Pantheism rejecting a personal God cannot properly be received into our Craft;" the next "that the followers of Hegel, forming what is called 'the left side,' who founded on their Master's doctrines a negation of the personality of God, ought to be excluded from our lodges." See my communication, "Pantheism and Freemasonry," vol. x., p. 21, and my communication, "Hegelianism and Freemasonry," vol. xi., p. 324. My correspondent then states that he admits the existence of God, but he proceeds to argue at much length against the personality. All that he brings forward may be met with in the writings of the modern Pantheists. It would not be fitting or convenient to discuss a question of this kind in the columns of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. I will only observe that the recognition of a God without personality is not the recognition of the God of Freemasonry. In these times it cannot be too strongly or too frequently represented that the God of Freemasonry is a personal God. The very term by which we in general designate the Deity—Great Architect of the Universe—implies the personality of God. I recommend to my correspondent's attention a work published last year, "Nourrisson la Nature Humaine." It was crowned by the Institute of France. In the fourth chapter of the second book there is a good deal that my correspondent may read with advantage, for he does not seem determined to shut his eyes against the truth. He doubtlessly will be somewhat surprised that reasoning which he admires is described in a treatise having such high sanction as "Galamati as savant ou pompeux."—
CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE GLAMORGAN LODGE AGAIN.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—This somewhat notorious lodge, or rather the clique by which it is ruled, has been again playing "fantastic tricks."

It has been before my painful duty to expose in your pages some of its Masonic vagaries, such as the farce of "Re-initiation;" running a-muck with the FREEMASON'S MAGAZINE in general, and abusing its humble representative in this province (whom, however, they have never ventured to charge with a misstatement) in particular. I have now to narrate to you a few incidents relating to a "mock trial" which has recently been perpetrated in this model lodge.

A few weeks since you inserted a letter from me, not so much intended for publication as to elicit your views and to solicit your guidance. Upon the judicious advice, in consequence afforded, I have acted; but as the ruse hinted at in that communication, viz., that of *packing* a lodge was actually successfully resorted to, I have to claim your sympathy and support whilst I carry my simple and just cause before an *impartial* tribunal.

The facts of the case "lay in a small shell." A month or two since a highly respectable gentleman known by me, only to be esteemed and respected for thirty years, was proposed in the Glamorgan Lodge at a meeting from which I was, for a wonder, absent. Being utterly ignorant of who were his proposer and seconder, but well knowing that the proposer could not conscientiously have affirmed that which he was totally ignorant he would be called upon to affirm, having been distinctly informed, by one who well knew, that he was unaware of his proposition, and as soon as he heard of it requested to be withdrawn; and having heard the spontaneous exclamation of a true-hearted relative of the proposed, himself an old and thoroughly good Mason, "Well, he must have been a clever fellow that persuaded him into becoming a Freemason!" With this little stock of perfectly unsolicited information, I say, I committed the grave Masonic offence of expressing to two members of the lodge, both of whom, whilst in my own house, themselves incidentally introduced the subject, a fear that from the information I had received this was a case of Masonic touting; and this a fortnight after the facts were communicated to me, previously to which I had not taken the trouble to allude to the subject to a living soul. A similar sentiment I expressed in the ante room of the lodge to one other brother, and to one alone. Now for the results: in the lodge the proposer gets up and begs to withdraw the proposed (candidate I have always declined to call him) not on the grounds that he had requested to be withdrawn long prior to my having opened my mouth on the subject, which I am fully prepared to prove, a fact, indeed, which one of the Past Masters assured me had come to his knowledge at least five days prior to his mention of the matter, but because it had come to the proposed ears (the veritable brother being himself the informer) that "some one had said" he had been touted for. I was then individualised and asked if it were true that I had made use of some such expression. I unhesi-

tatingly admitted the fact, but before I would endorse the word "touting," I requested of one of the pretendedly aggrieved brethren, professedly learned in the law, a definition of that word. This brother stated the meaning to be "soliciting for customers." I affirmed that, in this sense, with the information I had I could not, as a man of common sense, but believe my assertion true, although I utterly disclaimed charging any brother individually of touting, and which fact was unreservedly corroborated by each of the three brethren to whom I made the admitted statement. So far as regarded the proposer and seconder, I most distinctly admitted that, after the statements they had made, I could not suppose they had been guilty of touting. At the same time I offered unreservedly to communicate fully and freely my reasons for coming to the conclusions I had expressed, viz., that undue influence had been used by some party—if the brethren would treat my statements with that Masonic secrecy in which I would only reveal them, because a non-Mason was involved in the disclosure. This proviso the W.M. and the proposer utterly repudiated, the latter declaring that, as the charge had been made public (by himself), so should any explanation be made public. I then made the additional offer to name to the Master of the lodge, in his official capacity, the facts which had come to my knowledge, leaving it to him to make any use he thought proper of the information. This offer the W.M. indignantly refused, and in his reply disgraced his position by charging me with evasion, subterfuge, and falsehood, winding up with a recommendation to the lodge to exclude me. The excluded member of another lodge took up the challenge, and gave notice of motion to that effect. Then follows a scene which would, I believe, disgrace a bear garden or a prize fight, and the lodge is closed in perfect harmony.

The next production is a printed circular summons (of which you have already a copy), printed to the order of the W.M. by the gentleman withdrawn (although the Secretary of the lodge is a printer), charging me, in large type, with gross un-Masonic conduct, and being, as I am advised, an actionable libel. At the meeting for which this circular was a summons, there was an unusually large muster of the regular attendants at the lodge. As soon as the minutes had been confirmed, the excluded member of another lodge and not legally member of any lodge, proposed, and a brother, who had not thought proper to speak to me for more than a year on account of a business dispute, seconded, that I be excluded the lodge; not the slightest attempt having been made to offer anything in the shape of proof of the charge trumped up against me! After waiting some time in vain, for at least some allusion to the charge, and after informing the W.M. that I believed it was usual to prefer some pretence of a charge against an Englishman before expecting him to make a defence, I nevertheless gave a full, fair, simple, and truthful explanation of the whole affair. Again and again utterly denying the false charge of accusing any individual member of the lodge of touting (whatever good cause I might raise for doing so), but at the same time producing such clear and unmistakeable evidence tending to any fears I had expressed, generally, of undue influence that every unprejudiced

brother was perfectly satisfied, a fact manifested, as stated in my former letter, by brethren jumping up on all sides, and (although they avowed they came to the lodge, having heard only one side of the story, prejudiced against me), begging the motion might be withdrawn and the subject dropped. The only voice raised against this course was that of the quondam prosecutor; and seeing the stream taking a direction quite contrary to his wishes, this Sir Oracle of the lodge, with a design so deep that many of the brethren did not fathom it, proposed that the discussion be postponed for a month: and although I protested that a jury having been empanelled to try a certain charge having heard the defence and the Master having summed up, a verdict ought at once to be delivered: although I denounced the course proposed as a flagrant outrage upon simple justice, which could only have been devised by a brother of the long robe, the lodge, evidently viewing this as an easy method of disposing of the question, fell into the trap and consented to the proposition; many of my friends assuring me of their belief that nothing more would be heard of the matter. Unfortunately, instead of this being the case, the whole thing was a ruse as I expected, and when I arrived at the adjourned lodge I found it so evidently packed that, but for ulterior objects in view, I should have immediately retired in disgust. Instead of the regular attendants there were only a few besides the clique I had ever seen in this lodge, although for many years a constant attendant myself, whilst there were some I did not even know to be Masons at all. I have said unfortunately only because it will inflict upon me an additional loss of time and expense in order to right myself in so simple and straightforward a matter before an impartial and honest tribunal. And now, briefly, to the details of this mock trial. I commenced by inquiring of the Master if this were a trial by jury or what was it? This impartial brother immediately put me down by the thunder of his gavel, at the same time informing me that he knew nothing about trial by jury, but that the brother who had moved the adjournment of the debate, although he had made a long speech already to the question, would address the lodge (notwithstanding one of the regulations of the Craft "that no brother shall speak twice to the same question"). Sir Oracle taking advantage of this sagacious ruling, proceeded to enlighten the numerous brethren who appeared in the lodge for the first time of late, and who were, consequently, in blissful ignorance of the whole affair, with "the exact position in which matters stood." And considering he professed to be the principally aggrieved party in the transaction, his narrative was, of course, perfectly unvarnished, unbiassed, and unprejudiced. Although well knowing it was utterly out of his power, he did not attempt in any shape or form to offer a shadow of proof in respect to the charge trumped up by himself against me.

Upon the learned brother resuming his seat, I instinctively rose to make some reply before this entirely new jury; to defend myself against the charge was simply needless. As no attempt to substantiate it had been made, I was most ruthlessly and outrageously ordered to resume my seat, the representative of K.S. informing me that I had spoken once for an hour and a half, and not another word I had

to say should be heard. A professional brother (who has recently been filling one of the highest legal positions in the county) evidently somewhat startled at this gross and monstrous injustice, interfered, and requested on behalf of himself and the many brethren who had not been previously present, some kind of information as to the nature of any evidence which he presumed must have been adduced in substantiation of the charge they were supposed to be trying. This estimable brother, the Master deliberately insulted by asking him if he thought he was going through the minutes of three or four lodges, because the brother chose to absent himself from his duties, the Master at the same time well knowing that the minutes would no more have afforded the brother the information demanded than the book laying before him.

The proposer then, as he called it, replied, and the W.M. wound up with a most violent tirade, full of invective and personal abuse, introducing new and altogether irrelevant matter, reading letters referring to the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE, and then putting the motion with most indecent haste, declared it carried.

Fearing I have already too much trespassed upon your space, I will not indulge in any comment upon the facts here truthfully and faithfully given, my object being to give you a concise history of, by no means the first, burlesque enacted by a lodge, in which the conduct of certain brethren would lead right-minded Masons to suppose that "some of Freemasons' journeymen have made Masons and not made them well, they do imitate Freemasonry so abominably."

I need hardly assure you I only await the confirmation of the minutes to this precious lodge to appeal against so flagrant a violation of every principle of justice, perpetrated under the sacred name of Masonry.

Yours fraternally, ANTI TOUT.

FREEMASONRY IN JERSEY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your number of January 6th you kindly inserted an account of a bazaar and fête held in the Jersey Masonic Temple, at the close of which some remarks were made on the unsuccessful attempt of some high in authority in the Craft to defeat the efforts of the promoters, by spreading false and malicious reports, and at the same time it was stated that the managers had the means of refuting them. I now forward a report on the subject which appeared in the *Jersey Express* newspaper of March 27th, wherein the conduct of the persons alluded to is charitably mentioned in terms far less strong than the case warrants.

One or two points especially require farther elucidation. It will be seen that a letter and a sum of money were sent by His Excellency Sir Percy Douglas to the Prov. G.M. on January 21st, 1863, and acknowledged by him on the next day, accompanied by promises which were not kept. The money, however, was not forwarded to its destination by the Prov. G.M. till August, and, it may be added, then only after a letter of inquiry had been written by the President of the Board of Directors of the Temple Company to the Military Secretary of His Excellency. The documents farther show that the Prov. G.M. was

at the beginning of 1863 fully aware of the existence of The Widows' and Orphans' Fund. A careful perusal of the accompanying document will lead to several curious inferences. In short a strong feeling universally exists in the province, that it is high time for a searching investigation by the higher authorities into the circumstances connected with its administration, and the conduct of those at its head, unless they are content that Freemasonry should be considered as an exemplification of everything that is discreditable.

Yours fraternally,

A JERSEY MASON.

Masonic Temple Company, Limited.

At a meeting of the board held on the 22nd ult., pursuant to notice, Bro. Henry Luce Manuel in the chair.

The Secretaries laid on the table a statement showing the amount received and paid at the Bazaar held in December last, in favour of the Widows' and Orphans' fund, and they informed the board that the balance in favour of the fund, amounting to the sum of £300 Os. 9d., had been placed at the disposal of Bros. Malet De Carteret, Henry Luce Manuel, and Edward Dickson Le Couteur, trustees of the said fund.

At the request of the directors, the secretaries read from the minutes extracts of some resolutions in connection with the formation of this fund:—

1. "December 10th, 1862.—Unanimously resolved, on the proposition of Bro. Manuel, seconded by Bro. P. Binet, that a fund be raised for the purpose of purchasing shares, the interest or dividend of which shall be applied to the relief of the widows and orphans of Masons."

2. "December 18th, 1863. That Bro. Henry Luce Manuel, Hon. Treasurer, be authorised to purchase shares to the amount of money in hand (17 shares), for the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and that Bros. Edward Malet de Carteret, Henry Luce Manuel, and Edward Dickson le Couteur, be the trustees of this fund."

The secretaries also read 3rd, under date of the 19th August, 1863, copies of letters: first, from his Excellency Sir R. P. Douglas, bart., then Lieut.-Governor of Jersey, to the Provincial Grand Master, enclosing £5 for one share in the Masonic temple, for the benefit of the Charity in behalf of the Widows' and Orphans' of our Brethren; second, from the P.G.M. to H.E., acknowledging the receipt of the cheque, and stating that it would be his most pleasing duty at the earliest meeting of the board, to lay Sir Percy's communication before the members of the board, and further to make it imperative on himself to move that the same be entered in the minutes as a pleasing souvenir of his Excellency's kind wishes. (Date of Gen. Douglas's letter and contribution, Jan. 21st, 1863; date of P.G.M.'s acknowledgment, Jan. 22, 1863. Communicated by the latter to the secretary in the month of August.)

After the above had been read the following communication from the trustees was submitted to the board:—

"Jersey, 22nd March, 1866.

Sirs and Brothers,—As trustees of the fund for the relief of widows and orphans of Freemasons we offer to purchase with the proceeds of a bazaar lately held in favour of the said fund sixty shares in the Masonic Temple Company, Limited.

"We do so because the fund is already interested in the success of the temple; because the promoters of the bazaar have throughout announced this to be their wish in the matter; and because we are anxious to promote the views of those brethren who are anxious that the Temple should not at a distant day become the absolute and unfettered property of the local lodges and the fund of which we are the trustees.

"At the same time we think it but fair to stipulate that until this hope be realised, an interest of three per cent. per annum be guaranteed by you on the above sixty shares."

On the motion of Bro. Clement le Sneur, seconded by Bro. J. Durell, the conditions proposed by the

trustees were adopted, and sixty additional shares, Nos. 301 to 360 inclusive, were ordered to be duly transferred to the Widow and Orphan Fund.

The board then proceeded to consider the conduct of individuals who, in defiance of truth and of Masonic obligation, had endeavoured to damage the objects of the bazaar, by falsely asserting in public that the fund which it purported to support did not exist.

On the question whether they should be designated by name, the board, adhering to the principle of charitableness, even under circumstances of the most wanton provocation, answered in the negative; and it was finally resolved that the requirements of the case would be met sufficiently by publishing this day's minutes, and recording that the board feel deep sorrow that any member of this honourable Craft should at any time suffer under the affliction of "a defective sense of veracity."

The following votes of thanks were then put to the board and adopted *nem. con.* :—

1. "That the Board of Managers are deeply grateful to their fellow citizens of all classes and denominations for the encouragement given them when striving to perform the duty of relieving the widow and the fatherless."

2. "That the board tender their warm thanks to the numerous friends to whose generous contributions the bazaar is mainly indebted for its success."

3. "That the most grateful and respectful thanks of the board are due, and are hereby tendered, to the ladies who presided at the bazaar stalls,—whose presence lent grace to the fête,—and without whose kind, active, and admirable co-operation and assistance the bazaar could not have succeeded."

"HENRY LUCE MANUEL, Chairman."

A cordial vote of thanks was passed by acclamation to the chairman for his untiring, zealous, and arduous services.

A. SCHMITT, } Hon.
ED. D. LE COUTEUR, } Secs.

MASONIC HYMNS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Permit me to suggest the subjoined selection of stanzas as appropriate to be used as a hymn at the occasion of the laying the foundation stone of a Masonic hall, or the dedication of a lodge. It is a compilation of such portions of Church hymns as are most suggestive of the homage our fraternity owes, and the allegiance it bears to the Great Architect of the Universe :—

O Lord of Hosts, whose glory fills
The bounds of the eternal hills,
And yet vouchsafes in Christian lands
To dwell in temples made with hands.

Grant that all we who here to-day,
Rejoicing, this foundation lay,
May be in very deed thine own,
Built on the precious corner-stone.

The heads that guide, endued with skill,
The hands that work preserved from ill,
That we who this foundation lay,
May raise the top-stone in its day.

O Word of God above,
Who fillest all in all,
Hallow this house with Thy sure love,
And bless our festival.

Against this holy home
Rude tempests harmless beat,
And Satan's angels fiercely come,
But to endure defeat.

Yours fraternally,
A BROTHER MASON.

THE MASONIC MIRROR

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

METROPOLITAN.

INSTRUCTION.

DALHOUSIE LODGE (No. 860).—The first banquet meeting of this flourishing Lodge of Instruction was celebrated on the 27th ult., at Bro. Bristo's, the Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney. There was a numerous attendance of the members and visiting brethren. When we state that the seven sections of the first lecture were worked by Bro. Ireland, P.M., it will be superfluous for us to add that they were performed by that esteemed brother in the usual and masterly manner, for which he is so pre-eminently distinguished. After the working of the sections the brethren retired to refreshment, Bro. Bristo, the host, having provided a banquet replete with every delicacy of the season; the viands and wines were the choicest of their respective kinds, all that could possibly be desired by the most fastidious. The brethren expressed themselves highly delighted with the admirable manner in which Bro. Bristo had catered for them. It is due also to those brethren who acted as Stewards, viz.: Bros. Wren, U. Latriele, Lee, Veevers, Pendlebury, F. Y. Latriele, Turner, Morley, and Hamblin, to state that they discharged their duties in the most creditable and efficient manner, and by their assistance tended very materially towards the comfort and enjoyment of the brethren. Indeed, we commend the plan adopted on this occasion by the Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction to other lodges as well worthy of adoption at banquet meetings, for who amongst us has not been chagrined when, in spite of a banquet being most liberally supplied, the whole arrangements for the comfort of the brethren have been marred through the bungling and clumsiness of stupid waiters. Ample justice having been done to the good things on the table, and the cloth being drawn, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and most cordially responded to. The toast of "The Visiting Brethren," having been responded to by Bro. Cogan, 12, Bro. J. Stevenson, of the FREEMASON'S MAGAZINE, and their other fellow visitors. Bro. Gilchrist, Treas., then proposed "The Health of the W.M. of the evening, Bro. Ireland," and in doing so passed a very warm and well deserved eulogium upon that highly esteemed and efficient Mason, and expatiated at considerable length upon the great services rendered by him in aid of the Craft, and which he was ever ready to render to any brother who was desirous of instruction. Bro. Gilchrist alluded to the valuable assistance and instruction he had himself received from Bro. Ireland, and he was sure, therefore, that every brother present reciprocated the pleasure he himself felt at having seen their esteemed founder of this Lodge of Instruction, so well supported upon this the first banquet anniversary meeting of the lodge. The toast was most enthusiastically received by the brethren. Bro. Ireland returned thanks, and in his usual modest and retiring manner, disclaimed his being entitled to the very warm eulogiums which the brethren had just heard passed upon him by Bro. Gilchrist, though he was much obliged to him for his kind sentiments, and to the brethren present, for the warm manner in which they had received the toast. He had great pleasure in presiding on this occasion, and he was quite prepared to give his services in aid of the instruction of the brethren. Bro. Gilchrist had alluded to the advanced age, Bro. Ireland, had arrived at, and, therefore, the brethren might be led to infer that he was an old man; he did not wish them to remain under that erroneous impression, for though, doubtless, he had been spared to live to an age greater than many present, still he flattered himself that he was yet young and active in zeal and energy, and he assured the brethren that it would always afford him pleasure to exercise those powers in furthering the welfare and interests of the Craft by any means in his power. Certainly he felt highly honoured at his health having been so cordially proposed by a Mason of such strict honour and integrity as their esteemed Bro. Gilchrist, whom he begged to thank for his kindness, and

the brethren also, for the cordial manner in which they had received the toast, and he could not leave the chair this evening without expressing his thanks to the S.W. (Bro. F. Y. Latriele), the J.W. (Bro. Barnes, sen.), and the other officers, for the very efficient support they had rendered him in his capacity of W.M. He complimented the Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction upon their having as their J.W., so accomplished a Mason as Bro. Barnes, sen., who was capable of giving, and willing to give instruction to the brethren at all times. Bro. F. Y. Latriele, S.W., in returning thanks, said he hardly knew how to sufficiently express himself in recognition of the services rendered, and instruction given him, by brethren whom he saw present, and by the aid of which he had become qualified to fill the office he now held in the lodge. It would be his constant aim to prove himself worthy of the confidence which had been placed in him. Bro. Barnes, sen., J.W., followed Bro. Latriele, and with reference to the compliment paid him by the W.M., as to his abilities for instruction, he felt that too much honour had been done him, though he would admit he had striven hard to become an efficient Mason, believing that every brother who was desirous of taking office should qualify himself so as to stand the test of merit, and he could not sit down without saying that he was indebted to the veteran Bro. Saqui for his instruction in the truths of Freemasonry, and that it was mainly owing to that instruction he had been enabled to fill the position he had held in his mother lodge and other lodges. Bro. Veivers begged to reciprocate the sentiments expressed by their respected W.M. with reference to Bro. Barnes' ability as an instructor and his ever willingness to instruct, and he would only add that it was to Bro. Barnes that he was indebted for the progress he had been able to make in the Craft. The W. Master, rising, returned sincere and heartfelt thanks for the kind support rendered to him this evening by the brethren present generally, and Bro. Host Bristo in particular. Bro. Ireland was followed by Bro. Turner, who expressed himself in his peculiarly graphic and engaging manner in commendation of Bro. Bristo's admirable catering upon this occasion. Bro. Host Bristo modestly returned thanks. He had striven to please the brethren and meet their wishes in every possible way, and was gratified to find that they considered he had succeeded, and it would be his constant aim to continue to meet their approbation. The W.M. next proposed "The Health of the Stewards," and complimented them upon their exertions, and the manner in which they had fulfilled their duties, which had tended so very materially towards the comfort of all present this evening. Bro. Crouch, Wine Steward, returned thanks, and alluded to the painful circumstance, owing to its having pleased the Great Architect of the Universe to have removed from him his child, which had latterly prevented his attending as often as he could have wished the meetings of the Lodge of Instruction. Some other toasts were given by Bro. Gilchrist and other brethren, and cordially received and responded to. The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings of this memorable evening to a happy close before the hour of high twelve, and the brethren dispersed in peace and harmony, their enjoyment having been materially aided by the vocal powers of Bros. Cogan, F. Y. Latriele, Bristo, Veivers, Wright, Stevenson, and other obliging brethren.

PROVINCIAL.

CHESHIRE.

BIRKENHEAD.—*Mersey Lodge* (No. 477).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday evening the 5th ult. at their well furnished rooms in Hamilton-square. The W.M. the Rev. G. H. Hobson being absent through illness, the lodge was opened by Bro. Meacock, P.M., a zealous brother, whose heart is always with Freemasonry, and although he was called upon at a moment's notice to take the M.W.'s chair for the first time for two years, he performed the duties with perfect accuracy, and with an impressiveness which elicited the admiration of all the brethren. Mr. Dunnage and Mr. David Macartney, the latter a gentleman well known by travellers on the London and North Western Railway for his obliging manners as conductor of the express trains, were duly admitted to light. The lodge also received an acquisition to its numbers, in the person of Bro. T. S. Muir, L.L.D., who showed himself equally at home in the business of the lodge, and in his powers of con-

ducting to the harmony of the festive board. The business being over, an adjournment was made to the refreshment table, supplied by Bro. Williams of the Palatine Hotel, about which we need only say that he almost surpassed himself, and the attendance, too often neglected on similar occasions, was unexceptionable, owing to the careful superintendance of Bro. Barlow. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly honoured, Bro. Meacock, after alluding in feeling terms to the absence of the W.M., Bro. Hobson, proposed "The Health of the Initiates," which was acknowledged by Bro. Dunnage in a neat speech, and by Bro. Macartney in singing one of those beautiful Scotch melodies which reach the heart of every true Mason. By the way, much amusement was caused by the peculiar manner in which Bro. Macartney acknowledged the "test." Bro. Lewin, P.M., being allowed possession of the gavel, proposed "The Health of the Acting W.M., Bro. Meacock," and being one of the oldest members of the lodge, referred to the time when Bro. Meacock, in the second month of his year of office, was called upon to give the three degrees, without the assistance of any P.M., which allusion elicited strong marks of approbation from several old members, who remembered the strange circumstance, and the unavoidable reasons which had prevented the usual attendance of the Past Masters. The meeting was so successful, that the usual hour of adjournment (ten o'clock) slipped by unnoticed, and a full hour or more elapsed before the final toast was given by the highly respected Tyler, Bro. Clarke, who, we may remark, was one of the earliest members of the lodge, if not one of the founders. It is one of the peculiarities of this lodge that they never require the services of professional singers, musical talent being abundant among the members. Masonry seems to flourish in Birkenhead, this being the seventh meeting of the Mersey Lodge during this year.

Cheshire Educational Masonic Institution.—A little more than three years ago several members of the Birkenhead lodges of Freemasons came to the determination of founding an institution similar to one already in existence in West Lancashire, having for its object "the education and advancement in life of the children of distressed and deceased Freemasons." The Lancashire institution was founded in 1850, and has now an available capital of upwards of £5,000. The Cheshire one, founded in 1863, is also progressing, having funds for the promotion of its object of about £500. On Wednesday the 28th ult. the annual meeting of the governors was held at the Crewe Arms Hotel, Crewe, presided over by the Right Hon. Lord de Tabley, the Prov. G.M., and amongst the others present Bro. the hon. Wilbraham Egerton, M.P., S.W. 321; Capt. Richard Cope, G.S.B.; John Smith, P. Prov. G. Reg., E. G. Willoughby, P. Prov. S.G.W.; E. H. Griffiths, Prov. G. Sec., Twiss, Prov. G. Org., John P. Platt, P. Prov. J.G.D.; J. B. Hignett, Prov. J.G.D., and a large number of masters of lodges and other brethren connected with the province. The report of the committee was read and confirmed, from which it appeared that the funds actually invested for the benefit of the institution amount to £173 3s. 11d., a gratifying fact, considering that this is only its third year of existence, showing an increase of £129 5s. after fully providing for the education of four children. Four additional children were elected at the meeting, making a total of eight now on the foundation. The children, we may remark, are educated in the religion of their parents. The most gratifying report was made of the good conduct of those who had already received benefit from the institution, and also of the progress made by them at school. The report further stated that the committee felt that they would be neglecting their duty if they failed to record their deep sense of the valuable services rendered by their Secretary, Bro. J. P. Platt, P.M. 537, whose untiring energy has so materially helped to form and consolidate the institution. Mainly through his instrumentality an amateur theatrical performance was arranged in the Birkenhead theatre in September last, which gave general satisfaction, and resulted in the nett profit of £34 15s. 11d. They also desire to express their warm thanks to Bros. J. L. Howard, P.M. 537, T. B. Hignett, 537, and to several brethren of the province of West Lancashire, who kindly assisted in carrying out the details, and materially contributed to the success of that performance.

Lodge of Unity (No. 321).—A meeting of this lodge was held on the 28th ult. The honourable Wilbraham Egerton, M.P., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. A banquet was afterwards served at five o'clock. The proceedings were brought to an early close.

CUMBERLAND.

CARLISLE.—*Union Lodge* (No. 310).—On Tuesday, the 27th ult., a regular lodge meeting was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Castle-street, when Bro. Wm. Cockett, W.M., P. Prov. G. Chap., took the chair, supported by Bro. W. Murray, I.P.M.; G. G. Hayward, S.W.; J. Slack, J.W.; W. Carrick, S.D.; Dr. Thomas D. Wheatley, J.D.; Thomas Dean, Sec.; G. T. Clark, Assist. Sec.; A. Woodhouse, I.G.; G. Somerville and W. Irwin, Stewards; Thomas Plorny, Tyler. The following brethren were also present:—Bros. M. Higgins; W. Johnston, Thomas McGowan, R. Culvert, M. Fisher, J. A. Wheatley, B. H. Cooke, J. Barnes, G. Marchie, J. Atkinson, J. Brown, and J. Sherrington. The visitors were Bros. W. J. Greaves, 339, D. Prov. G.M.; J. B. Hayne, 339, P. Prov. G. Purst; and B. Paisley, 371. The lodge was duly opened by the W.M. according to ancient custom, and after the minutes of a former meeting were read and confirmed, Bro. W. R. Hayward being a candidate for the second degree, the necessary questions were put and answered in excellent style, without a fault or a prompter. He retired, was prepared, and duly passed by Bro. G. G. Hayward, S.W. Bro. John Gibson was next called upon to answer the test questions, previous to his being raised to the sublime degree of a M.M., Bro. F. W. Hayward performing that ceremony in his usual efficient style. The lodge was then closed down to the E.A. degree, when the W.M. wishing to retire, kindly asked Bro. Dr. W. J. Greaves, D.P.G.M., to take the chair, to which he assented. The ballot was taken for Bro. W. Pulford, of 682, as a joining member, and Mr. Wm. Court, joiner and builder, of Carlisle, which proved unanimous in their favour. The latter was duly prepared, admitted, and initiated by Bro. John Slade in a manner that was an honour to him. The W.M. asked for the first, second, and third time if any brother had anything to propose for the good of Masonry or this lodge in particular, when Bro. S.W. proposed, seconded by Bro. A. Woodhouse, that Bro. J. B. Paisley, of 371, do become a joining member. There being no other business before the lodge, it was closed with prayer by Bro. W. J. Greaves, D. Prov. G.M. The brethren retired to refreshment, and, after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, agreeably interspersed with enlivening songs, separated in love and harmony at a seasonable hour.

LONGCROSS.—*Holy Temple Lodge* (No. 412).—On the 22nd ult., an emergency meeting of this lodge was held for the purpose of passing Bro. R. Mitchell Hill, of Carlisle, to the degree of F.C. At the request of the brethren the chair was taken by Bro. F. W. Hayward, P.M., as W.M. pro tem., supported by the following officers of 310, viz., Bros. T. Blacklock, P.M., as S.W.; G. G. Hayward, J.W., as J.W.; A. Woodhouse, I.G., as S.D.; W. Murray, jun., I.P.M., as J.D.; and Bro. G. Armstrong, 310, as I.G.; J. Pendrigh Sec., W. Nixon, Tyler, both of 412; and the following Past Masters, viz.: Bros. J. Carruthers, T. Robinson, W. Murray, R. Forster, R. M. Hill, all of 412; and W. R. Hayward, 310. The lodge was duly opened with solemn prayer, and after the confirmation of the minutes of a former meeting, Bro. R. M. Hill being in attendance, the test question were put to, and answered by him correctly, and the lodge being opened in the second degree, he was advanced in that solemn and impressive manner so characteristic of the W.M. The lodge was then closed down to the E.A. degree. Bro. G. G. Hayward, J.W., at the request of the W.M., worked for the benefit of the brethren of 412, the first section of the first degree. There being no other business, the lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren retired to a banquet prepared in an adjoining room. Ample justice was done by the brethren to the good things provided, and which were most acceptable, the more especially as several of the brethren, and more particularly those representing No. 310, had travelled a very considerable distance. The cloth being drawn, appropriate toasts and speeches were given. Bro. F. W. Hayward, proposed "The Prosperity of the Holy Temple Lodge, and the Health of its Members," coupling with the toast the names of Bros. W. Murray, sen., P.M. (who is in his eighty-fifth year), and T. Robinson, P.M., the oldest member of the lodge. The toast was received with musical honours. The toast having been responded to, "The Health of the Visiting Brethren," was proposed by Bro. J. Pendrigh, P.M. 412, thanking them for their kindness in coming so far. Bro. F. W. Hayward returned thanks on their behalf. The Carlisle brethren being then compelled to leave, the proceedings of a very happy evening were then brought to a close, after the usual Tyler's toast, and all parted in harmony. The brethren of No. 310

arrived safely at Carlisle at an early hour in the morning, thanks to good steeds, a steady driver, clear road, and fine night, much pleased with their journey to Longtown, an isolated spot in the north of England, where the truths of Masonry have been expounded for a number of years.

ESSEX.

BRIGHTINGSEA.—*Lodge of Hope* (No. 433).—The regular meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on the 26th ult. at the Swan Inn. The lodge was opened in due form by Bro. Lake, W.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the lodge was then opened and closed in the second and third degrees respectively. The balloting papers for the Girls' and the Boys' School, were then brought forward, when it was proposed by Bro. Ames, and seconded by Bro. Claney, that a committee be appointed to examine the balloting papers previously to voting; and it was then proposed by Bro. Claney that the past and present officers be on the committee. It was next proposed by Bro. Ames, and seconded by Bro. Francis, that the committee meet on the evening of the 2nd inst. at the Freemasons' Tavern for that purpose. Bro. G. Riches proposed, and Bro. Francis seconded the motion, that a lodge of instruction be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, the 10th inst. There being no other business before the lodge, the brethren adjourned to refreshment. Bro. Lake, W.M., presided. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and cordially received and responded to. The harmony of the evening was greatly promoted by several choice songs volunteered by the brethren—Bros. Francis, Griggs, Winter, York, Riches, and Closson more especially distinguishing themselves. The customary Tyler's toast brought the proceedings of this happy meeting to a timely end, and the brethren dispersed in love and harmony. The following is a list of those present:—Bros. Lake, W.M.; G. Riches, S.W.; H. York, J.W.; James Francis, S.D.; W. Bragg, J.D.; W. Minter, I.G.; the following P.M.'s, viz.:—Bros. Blyth, Ames, Bishop, and Walford; Bro. Claney, P.M. and Treas.; J. E. Wiseman, Sec.; and Bros. Stammers, Rodger, R. Salmon, Parker, Closson, Wenlock, Griggs, Fox Aldons, and Dove, with Bro. Harmer, Tyler.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

FLEETWOOD.—*Hesketh Lodge* (No. 950).—The festival in honour of St. John the Evangelist, and the installation of the W.M. (Bro. James Dougty) took place on Thursday the 29th March. Lodge opened 3.30 p.m., when the ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Byrnes, P.M. 314, Preston; assisted by Bros. Bamlew, P.M. and McGlinchey, P.M. The officers for the year were duly invested, viz., Bros. L. Jackson, S.W.; W. H. Poole, J.W.; W. Badger, S.D.; B. Robinson, J.D.; John Bond, Sec.; W. Shuttleworth, I.G.; and James Gibson, Tyler; each receiving in turn a word of encouragement and advice; after some business of a merely routine nature the lodge was adjourned from labour to refreshment, and at 6 p.m. the brethren sat down to a truly sumptuous repast, provided in the most liberal and *recherché* style by the hostess Mrs. White-side, the brethren fully appreciating the compliment paid them by that worthy lady; the cloth being drawn the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given in that hearty manner so peculiar to the Craft. Bro. Byrnes in responding to the toast of "The Installing Officers," took occasion to observe: that young lodges were often too anxious to receive members without that strict inquiry, as to moral worth and respectability, which ought always to form one of the most necessary qualifications in a candidate for Masonic honour, let the materials be good and the building would stand, otherwise it would fall. During the evening several Masonic and other songs were given in good style, after the last toast, "To all poor and distressed Masons," the lodge was closed with much harmony, shortly before twelve o'clock.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

STOKESLEY.—*Cleveland Lodge* (No. 543).—This lodge met on Easter Monday, being "the Monday nearest full moon," at eight o'clock in the evening, at the Golden Lion inn, Bros. Cooke, W.M.; W. Wetherill, S.W.; J. Rowntree, J.W.; G. Simpson, I.P.M.; J. H. Haudyside, P.M., Sec.; W. D. Duck, S.D.; H. Fawcett, B.A., J.D.; A. A. Boyle, B.L.C.S.E., J.G.; and W. Harrison, Tyler. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, the minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed, and a ballot taken for a candidate for Free-

masonry, which was unanimous in his favour. Bro. G. Tweddell, jun., who had been initiated into ancient Freemasonry at the preceding monthly meeting of the lodge, was then called to the pedestal, and having passed a highly satisfactory examination in the test questions to the first degree, was entrusted with the usual further marks of confidence, and retired until the lodge was opened to the second degree. Bro. G. Tweddell, jun., was then re-admitted in due form, and passed to the degree of a F.C.; after which the lodge was closed down to the first degree. At the former meeting of the lodge, it having been resolved to procure for the adornment of the lodge room, a photographic portrait of Bro. Marwood, late D. Prov. G.M., and one of the oldest P.M.'s of the lodge, and also to present to the brother a neatly engrossed address on his leaving Cleveland, Bro. G. M. Tweddell, *F.S.A. Scot. and Newc.*, read the following address, which meeting with the full approbation of all the brethren assembled, was ordered to be engrossed at the expense of the lodge:—"To George Marwood, of Busby Hall, Esq., J.P., late Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire. Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,—At a time when you are leaving for a few years your ancestral home, and therefore have resigned the high office which you have for several years held in this province, alike to your own honour and the advancement of Freemasonry, the officers, Past Masters, and the other brethren of the Cleveland Lodge, No. 543, of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, cannot allow you to depart without some expression of gratitude to you for your unceasing labours for our venerable Craft, and also sincerely to wish you continued health and happiness during your absence from among us. In common with our brethren throughout the province, we will ever regret your departure, and remember with pleasure those labours you have given to the Craft with such fervency and zeal. Moreover, we cannot forget that it was in our own lodge that you first saw the light of Masonry, and commenced those earnest endeavours which have been attended with such good results to the province in general, and to our own lodge in particular. Nor is it amongst your 'dear brothers of the mystic tie' alone that your departure is deeply regretted; for you have so steadily through life practised every Masonic virtue, that we are certain the uninitiated, and especially the sick and distressed, unite with us in wishing both yourself and family a safe and a speedy return. In the meantime, may the Almighty Architect of the Universe have you and yours in His divine keeping." The preceding, when properly engrossed, is to be signed by the W.M. on behalf of the brethren of the lodge, who cordially endorse the sentiments of the address. A candidate for initiation into ancient Freemasonry having been proposed, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

ROYAL ARCH.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

BLACKBURN.—*Perseverance Chapter* (No. 345).—A convention of the above chapter was held on Thursday, the 22nd ult., at the Old Bull Hotel, Blackburn, under the able presidency of Comps. Thomas, P.M., P.G. Reg. Oxfordshire, as Z.; Bertwistte, H.; Garsden, J. There were also present the following companions: Sir William Feilden, *Bart.*, P.M.; Charles Tiplady, P.M.; R. H. Hutchinson, W.M.; Richard Radcliffe, P.M.; Thomas Robinson, S.W.; J. Callis, E.; J. Procter, J. B. Carr, &c. The convocation having been duly opened, Bros. Richard Burrows, Cornet Montagu, and H. J. Fielden were exalted to the degree of R.A. Masons, the ceremony being most ably performed by Comp. Thomas, and efficiently supported by Comps. Carr, Bertwistte, and Garsden. After the ceremony, the following companions were nominated for office for the ensuing year: J. Yates, P.Z.; Bertwistte, Z.; Garsden, J.; Tiplady, H.; Carr, 1st Soj.; Copeland, 2nd Soj.; Callis, E.; and Robinson, N. Business being concluded, a vote of thanks was carried by acclamation to Comps. Thomas and Carr for the admirable manner in which they had conducted the ceremony, and for their general and zealous attention to the interests of this chapter. The brethren then adjourned, and partook of a slight repast, and spent a very pleasant hour together.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN.—An emergency convocation of the College of Philosophical Masons, Grand Elected Knights K.H. of the 30°, was

held on Friday, the 23rd ult., at the Grand East of the Order, situate in the valley of Dublin, at half-past three p.m., for the purpose of exalting to this degree such of the seven candidates elected at the last regular convocation, on February 8th, as could attend on this occasion. There were present at the meeting Bros. William S. Sandes, 31°, Sublime President of the College, on the throne; Edward Hornsby, G.S.W.; and Henry Westropp, 31°, G.J.W.; also the Ill. Bros. John Fitz Henry Townsend, *Q.C., LL.D.*, Lieutenant Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33°; Sir William Hort, *Bart.*, 33°, Grand Treasurer, H.E.; Thomas Mostyn, 33°, Grand Secretary, H.E.; Edmund J. Armstrong, 33°; Sir Edward Borough, *Bart.*, 32°; Thomas, E.; Beatty, *M.D.*, 31°; Lucius H. Deering, 31°, the Registrar of the College; and other members. Bro. J. H. Healy, 30°, member of the English College, was present as a visitor on this occasion. The following five candidates out of the seven elected being in attendance, were regularly exalted to this sublime degree by the officers of the College, assisted by the members of the Supreme Grand Council present, according to ancient form:—Bros. J. C. C. Townsend, No. 1 Chapter, Cork; Arthur Bushe, S.G.D., and Maxwell Charles Close, Original Chapter, Dublin; George Johnson, *M.D.*, and Theophilus E. St. George, No. 2 Chapter, Dublin. The convocation was then closed in due form, and adjourned till the second Thursday in May, the next regular day of meeting of the College. The members afterwards dined together, and spent a very pleasant evening. The triennial convocation of Prince-Masons is expected to take place in Dublin towards the end of the present month.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Royal Kent Encampment* (No. 44).—The annual conclave of this ancient encampment was held on Good Friday at the Freemasons' Hall, Bell's-court, Newgate-street. There were a considerable number of the Sir Knights present. The encampment was opened by the E.C., Sir Knt. Henry Hotham. A ballot was taken for Comp. J. F. Frölich (Conde de Morreltz), of the De Sussex Chapter, which was found to be unanimous in his favour, and he being in attendance, was admitted, and duly installed into the Order. The E.C. then proceeded to instal his successor, Sir Knt. Edward Shotton, the beautiful ceremony being very impressively performed. The E.C. then appointed his officers as follows:—Sir Knts. Henry Hotham, P.E.C. and Treas.; William Punshon, Prior; William Dalziel, Sub-Prior; C. J. Bannister, 2nd Grand Captain of England, Chancellor; Jens Jensen, 1st Captain; Robert J. Banning, *M.D.*, 2nd Captain; Jas. H. Thompson, Expert; William Foulsham, Reg.; George Lawes, Capt. of Lines; Wm. Henry Marwood, 1st Herald; J. F. Frölich, 2nd Herald; Anthony Clapham, Std. Bearer; J. S. Trotter, Equerry. Upon the conclusion of the business of the encampment the Sir Knts. dined together in the Hall.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—The lodge was opened at a quarter past seven on Thursday, March 29th, by Bro. Schmitt, P.M., acting as W.M., assisted Binet, P.M., acting as S.W., Bro. Oatley, J.W., and Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M., acting as I.P.M. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Danguy, after having passed a satisfactory examination on the first degree, and been entrusted, retired for preparation. The lodge was opened in the second degree, Bro. C. Le Sueur, W.M., entered and took the chair; Bro. Danguy was re-introduced and duly passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was resumed in the first degree, evidence having been given as to the fitness of the following gentlemen, a ballot was taken for Messrs. P. G. Gibaut and F. J. Ahier as candidates for initiation, which was in each case favourable. The latter was then introduced, and regularly initiated into Freemasonry by the W.M. On the proposition of Bro. Manuel, seconded by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, the lodge resolved to render every possible assistance in the preparation of an exposition of works of industry and art, to be held in the Masonic Temple in August next, and to hold its meetings

in the R.A. chapter room during that month. Bro. Manuel made a short statement of the result of the bazaar and fete held in December last, animadverting on the mischievous opposition offered and the false and malicious reports industriously circulated by the head of the Craft in Jersey. For full details he referred the brethren to a statement published in the local newspapers, a copy of which is sent herewith for insertion in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE.* On the proposition of Bro. Binet, seconded by Bro. Manuel, it was resolved that the printed account be entered on the minutes of the lodge. Bro. Dr. Hopkins reminded the brethren that a copy of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE is taken in weekly by the lodge, of which he thought that many, especially the new members, were not aware. He recommended a careful perusal of some articles printed therein on the 10th, 17th, and 24th of March, which, though no locality was named, might be thought applicable to the condition of this province. He was the more anxious to call attention to this matter, as it is probable that some decided measures will very shortly be taken in which the brethren generally may be called upon to take part, with a view to vindicate the character of the Craft, and to relieve it from the charges under which it is suffering in public estimation. The lodge was closed at a quarter past nine, and about fifty of those present adjourned to the banquetting room for refreshment.

ST. AUBIN'S LODGE (No. 958).—The monthly meeting was held at the Masonic Rooms on Tuesday, March 20th, and in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., as aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant-Governor, the lodge was presided over by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M., assisted by Bro. Long, acting as S.W., and Bro. Mannan, J.W. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for the admission of Bro. Long, P.S.W., of No. 491, as a joining member, which was unanimous in his favour. It was determined to recommend to the Provincial Board of Benevolence the case of the Tyler of the lodge, on his own petition, he being now seventy-six years of age and unable to earn a livelihood. He was initiated into Masonry in 1811. The acting W.M. with the assistance of the brethren worked the third section of the lectures on the first degree. After a desultory conversation on several matters connected with the interests of the lodge, it was closed at half-past eight, and after an hour pleasantly spent at the social board, the brethren separated at half-past nine.

AMERICA.

UNITED STATES.

STATE OF LOUISIANA.—The chief authorities of the various Masonic systems that had been dormant during the rebellion, have just been reconstituted. The following is a list of the chief officers, elected on Feb. 15th last:—

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.—W. P. Perkins, G.M., New Orleans; A. J. Norwood, D.G.M., Kellertown; S. O. Scruggs, S.G.W., Clouterville; J. C. Jones, J.G.W., Vernon; S. M. Todd, G. Sec., New Orleans; G. S. Hedges, D.D., G. Chap., New Orleans; J. M. McGuire, S.G.D., Monroe; L. J. Dodge, J.G.D., Algiers; A. Kent, G.S.B., Greensburg; N. H. Bray, G. Purst., Anacoco; G. Sontag, G. Tyler; New Orleans.

Grand Royal Arch Chapter.—H. Regensburg, G. High Prust., Farmerville; H. P. Buehley, D.G.H.P., New Orleans; G. W. Munday, G. King, Clinton; J. A. Stevenson, G. Scribe, New Orleans; C. S. Hedges, D.D., G. Chap., New Orleans; E. Wells, G. Guard, New Orleans.

Grand Council R. and S. Masons.—S. M. Todd, M.P.G.M., New Orleans; G. Q. A. Fellows, D.P.G.M., New Orleans; J. P. Horner, I.G.M., New Orleans; J. Stafford, G. Prin. Con. of Works, New Orleans; M. A. Calongne, G. Steward, New Orleans.

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar.—S. M. Todd, R.E. Grand Commander, New Orleans; F. Rican, V.E.D. Commander, New Orleans; M. A. Calongne, I.G. Captain General, New Orleans; S. S. Selleck, G. Captain of Guards, New Orleans.

WEST INDIES.

TURKS ISLANDS.—*Forth Lodge* (No. 647).—On Wednesday 27th December last, being St. John the Evangelist's Day, the

* This will be found in our present issue under the head of Correspondence.

annual meeting of the brethren of this lodge was held. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, applications from two candidates for admission were read and ordered as usual, to lie over till the next stated meeting. Bro. Rademacher was then examined as to his proficiency in the first degree, and having given satisfactory proofs thereof was entrusted and afterwards passed to the degree of F.C. W. C. Moxey, W.M. (who has been re-elected W.M. for the ensuing year at the regular monthly meeting in December), having been re-installed by Bros. Thomas Ockenden, P.M., and N. T. Godet, P.M., again appointed (and re-invested those of them present, the following brethren to the same offices they filled last year viz:—H. J. Murray, S.W.; A. Emler, J.W.; T. Ockenden, P.M. (re-elected by the lodge) Treas.; T. J. Godet, Sec.; J. H. P. Burns, S.D.; J. A. Durham, J.D.; A. P. Darrell, I.G.; Anthony Francis, Tyler. The lodge having been closed, the brethren sat down to an excellent entertainment which had been prepared under the direction of Bro. Murray. At the conclusion of the repast, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, and the brethren, of whom it is to be regretted there were but few present, in consequence of absence from the island of several and the sickness of one or two others, separated at an unusually early hour.

CHINA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SHANGHAE.

THE TUSCAN LODGE (No. 1027), English Constitutions, held a regular meeting in the Masonic Hall, Shanghai, on St. John's day, December 1865, at 5 p.m., for the purpose of appointing office bearers for the ensuing year. Present, Bros. Sidford, W.M.; A. R. Telby, P.M.; some twenty-five brethren, members of the lodge. Visitors, Bro. Donaldson, R.W.M., Lodge Cosmopolitan, S.C., and some ten other brethren. The lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer at 5 p.m. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed, the circular convening the meeting was then read. Bro. Sidford, W.M., on behalf of Bro. Gundry, W.M., elect appointed the following brethren officers for the ensuing year, Bros. Oppert, S.W.; J. Jacques, J.W.; Stevens, Sec.; Winchurst, S.D.; Emery, J.D.; Mackenzie, I.G.; Howard, Steward; Deslandes, D.C.; Taylor, elected Treas., and Phillips, Tyler; after some ballots for joining members and candidates, which in every case proved favourable, the W.M. then gave the following address:—"Worshipful Past Masters, Wardens, and Brethren,—I cannot allow this, the last occasion upon which I may have the honour and pleasure of addressing you from this chair to pass without expressing the very great satisfaction I have experienced on meeting you and witnessing the able and cordial assistance so readily afforded at all times during my year of Mastership. Worshipful Past Master Bro. Telby and the acting Wardens with him deserve from me the tender of my warmest thanks for their cordial co-operation, I call upon you brethren to endorse my weak expressions with your approval, and can safely add, that the working of this lodge, the attendance of her members, and the appearance of such good feeling and fraternal regard amongst us, does effectually endorse the fact. I cannot, however, in justice to myself, leave this chair to night without expressing in common with yourselves, my deep sorrow for the losses we this year have sustained through death; the Great Author of Life, has seen fit in His infinite wisdom, to remove from amongst us, and erase from our rolls, the names of Worshipful Bro. Ludovic Grant Dunlop, Oliver Richard Crockett, S.W.; and Oliver Kimball Gordon, while the fate of our Bro. Charles Pearl Williams is still veiled in obscurity, of the three former brethren, no eulogium that I could pronounce in mournful honor of their memories, would, however eloquently uttered, adequately express the sorrow we feel for their loss,—and of the latter, a young first-fruit of this lodge,—in the absence of definite intelligence, it would be premature to do more than hope he is still living, should he also have passed through the valley of the shadow of death, we humbly hope that the strong arm of the Almighty supported him. The sombre appearance of this hall, and the mourning garb of many around me, shews outwardly our woe, and though not sorrowing as those without hope, I desire you, Worshipful Sir and Brethren, to recollect that the day will come to each and all present, when we also shall be summoned like them to meet our Master; 'tis my

earnest desire that not one member of this, our earthly lodge, may be absent in the Grand Lodge above." After a review of the working of the lodge during the year,—seventy degrees having been worked,—shewing a very favourable result, and alluding to the scheme for building a new lodge, as, in his opinion, a little too premature, but which now the ground had been consecrated, must on no account be suffered to fall through. He then, speaking of the visiting brethren, said, "during the past year they have been numerous, and we rejoice at being able to receive them. Our young lodge, like its namesake pillar, the 'Tuscan,' has commenced her career of usefulness with success. 'Twas under buildings of the 'Tuscan Order,' that men first congregating together, led the way to new improvements in arts and civilization, so may we also members or visitors during this year, while improving our Masonic knowledge within these walls, not forget to practise the virtues taught here, in the world outside. We have ever given and will continue to give a hearty good welcome to all brethren and fellows. And now, brethren, I conclude; whatever defects you may have observed in my working, I ask you kindly to overlook, —whatever has been done to your satisfaction, was readily and cheerfully given. I trust that the 'Tuscan Lodge' will continue working happily together, and if you act for the coming year as unitedly as you have in this, it will afford me and yourselves the satisfaction of seeing a young lodge become a strong lodge. Thanking you for your attention, and visitors also for attendance, I commend you to the care and governance of the Great Architect of the Universe." Three gentlemen candidates for initiation, who had been previously balloted for, were then admitted, properly prepared, and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Ancient Freemasonry. At a later period Bro. Colonel Corke was raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the charges being given in a very able manner by the W.M. After a vote of thanks had been presented on behalf of the lodge by the W. Master, seconded by the Wardens, and unanimously adopted, to W.M. Telby for his valuable assistance during Bro. Sidford's unavoidable absence, which was acknowledged by Bro. Telby, the lodge adjourned at eight p.m., the brethren separated in peace, harmony, and brotherly love. The Tuscan Lodge, from the above, seems in a very prosperous state. They have some 45 members on their rolls, and considering that she is the youngest of the five now working in Shanghai it will be admitted she has done well. When are to have a Provincial Grand Lodge to watch over the interests of English Freemasonry in Northern China.

Obituary.

BRO. LE ROY.

The Craft in Jersey has just lost by death one of its most worthy and consistent, though, for some time past, not one of its most active members. That he should have taken any very great interest in the proceedings of the lodges of late years could not be expected, since he attained the age of seventy five. Bro. Le Roy was born at Guernsey on March 21st, 1791, and died in Jersey on Friday, March 16th, 1866, being at the time one of the oldest Freemasons among us. His mortal remains were consigned to the grave on the seventy-fifth anniversary of his birth. In early life he was apprenticed to a watch-maker in Guernsey, who united with his occupation that of maker and repairer of nautical instruments, of which he thus obtained a competent knowledge, and, on the departure of his employer to England, he succeeded to his business. In 1812, at the age of twenty-one, he was initiated into Freemasonry at Guernsey, in the Lodge of Ancient York Masons (No. 222), which does not now exist, and in due time took the three Craft degrees, the Ark, Mark, and Link, and the Royal Arch. Finding that there was greater scope for him in his business in Jersey, he removed to this island in 1838, and joined the Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 491), from which, after being long a subscribing member, he retired in consequence of some circumstances which were displeasing to him, and, subsequently, other matters prevented his again joining the Craft, though he sometimes attended as a visitor at various meetings,

the last two occasions on which he did so being the consecration of the Masonic Temple, in 1864, and the opening of the Césarée Royal Arch Chapter, in 1865. His name appears on the warrant as one of the founders of the Royal Sussex Chapter, in 1848. Our late brother was universally respected, not only by the brethren, but by all who enjoyed intimacy with him, or with whom his occupation brought him in contact, as a man of sterling honour and principle, and of great professional skill. He was of a happy and cheerful disposition, and it was a pleasure to call upon him for half-an-hour's chat, when he would talk over old times, ever considering them as superior to the present ones, and relate his early Masonic experiences, always expressing in strong terms his disapprobation of anything like shuffling or dishonourable conduct, which was quite foreign to his nature. Often has the writer enjoyed his merry laugh, on detailing the tricks formerly played upon candidates for the mysteries, when the principles of the Order were perhaps less understood than they are at the present day. Till within a month of his death, though his physical powers had for some time been failing, he carried on his business, retaining the confidence of the captains of vessels belonging to the port of Jersey, who could implicitly trust in his skill and attention to their interests. On the announcement of his death, the flags of all the ships in the harbour were put at half mast, a suitable testimony to the esteem with which he was regarded. Ostentation formed no part of Bro. Le Roy's character, yet, though in accordance with his own sentiments, no public Masonic funeral took place, with band, a display of banners and insignia; about fifty members of the fraternity followed him to his last resting-place, in plain black dress, with white gloves and wands. On arriving at the church, and again on entering the cemetery, the arch was formed with the wands, beneath which the funeral cortège passed. The Freemasons formed a circle round the grave, and, at the conclusion of the burial service, the wands were broken and thrown upon the coffin. Before separating, Bro. J. T. Du Jardin, the oldest Past Master present, pronounced the few following words:—"May his soul rest in peace, and may the Almighty grant a blessing upon his family."

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

LYCEUM.

"The Master of Ravenswood" still remains dominant here, and deservedly receives the warm reception so long continued to it. The temporary rest afforded to Mr. Fechter during Passion Week appears to have had good effect, as he now appears with renewed vigour.

OLYMPIC.

"The Ticket-of-Leave Man" was reproduced here last Saturday for the 419th time. The reception given to this popular drama was quite as warm as that with which it was attended when previously put before the public. "The Ticket-of-Leave Man" is followed by a well-sustained piece, "Princess Primrose and the four pretty Princes."

PRINCESS'S.

"The Streets of London" has been reproduced here during the past week. The admirable acting of Mr. Vining continues to enlist the

support of the playgoing public, the house being crowded nightly, the original scenery by Mr. F. Lloyds proving an additional attraction. "The Streets of London" has been preceded each night by an amusing farce entitled "A Ghost in spite of himself."

ST. JAMES'S.

The programme here during the past week, under the able management of Miss Herbert, has been as follows;—On Monday and during the remainder of the week, "Love's Labyrinth," followed on Monday and Tuesday by "The School for Scandal," and on Wednesday and following days by "Much Ado about Nothing," with new scenery by Mr. T. Grieve.

SADLER'S WELLS.

This theatre, newly decorated, opened for the season, on Easter Monday, under the sole management of Mr. H. C. Nation. The company comprises Messrs. T. Swinbourne, G. Belmore, Bennett, F. Barsby, H. Courtley, C. Warner, Nellson, Holland, Bishop; Misses Ada Dyas, Lizzie Willmore, Hudspeth, Fanny Gwynne, Ada Harland, Hetty Tracey, Alice Evans, Bishop, Eliza Dorling, Mrs. Bishop, and Mrs. Poynter. The performance commenced with the drama of *Belphegor*; followed by F. C. Burnand's evergreen burlesque of *Ixion*; and terminated with the revival of Garrick's *Miss in her Teens*. Miss Dyas has been performing for some time past very successfully at the Newcastle Theatre Royal, and has earned the high opinion of all playgoers in that district. We fully anticipate that the warm wishes of her northern friends for her success in her metropolitan career will be realized.

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, MUSIC, DRAMA, AND THE FINE ARTS.

THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL GENERAL THEATRICAL FUND.

THE NATURE AND OBJECTS OF THE FUND.

Upon the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary festival of this most useful and deserving institution, celebrated on Wednesday sennight, at the Freemason's Tavern, Mr. Buckstone responded as follows to the toast of "Prosperity to the General Theatrical Fund," given by the chairman, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor:—My Lord Mayor, ladies, and gentlemen it is with great pleasure that I rise to address you this evening, to explain the nature and object of our fund, and to return thanks for our right hon. chairman's toast; for although we have had illustrious authors, great statesmen, and eminent actors presiding at these dinners, we have been remarkably fortunate this evening in obtaining the chief magistrate of the city for that office. He is the first Lord Mayor who has so honoured this festival. Sir William Walworth may have killed his Wat Tyler; Dick Whittington may, from his good qualities and his good cat, have been thrice lord mayor of London; the son of Sir Richard Gresham may have built the

Royal Exchange; and other lord mayors have doubtless performed many generous and noble actions; but I am sure all present who have a love for the drama and an affectionate regard for its professors will allow that the lord mayor of to-day having kindly consented to be our chairman on this occasion, that kindness will not be placed amongst the least praiseworthy of any of the generous acts ever performed by him or by his honoured predecessors. On the last lord mayor's day I had the pleasure of being at an open window in Fleet-street to see and be delighted with the show, when of course I had the gratification of seeing our chairman in his great carriage well taken care of and guarded by a warlike-looking retainer in a fur cap and bearing a gigantic sword. Knowing our chairman not only to be a friend to our fund, but also a patron of the drama, I was one amongst the thousands assembled who gave him a hearty cheer as he passed by in his honourable state. Certainly there were no men in armour or ancient knights, as they used to be called in the civic programme, but it was said that the expense was applied to a better purpose, and as at all times these knights were neither very striking nor very steady objects in the cavalcade, their absence was not particularly regretted. Having alluded to the men in armour, I am inclined to relate an anecdote connected with them and a former lord mayor's show. I once had occasion to represent *Richard the Third* at the Haymarket Theatre, but being unaccustomed at that house to warlike tragedies, we had no suits of mail in which to encase the captains and soldiers of York and Lancaster. In this difficulty I applied to the then manager of Astley's Amphitheatre—not to Mr. E. T. Smith, the present one—for the loan of some armour, when almost immediately afterwards a vanload arrived at my stage door. I sent my thanks to the manager for his kind and prompt compliance with my request, and experienced for him an indescribable feeling of friendship, mingled with gratitude. The only drawback to this generous action was that the armour was very dirty and required cleaning. To accomplish this my men were occupied for two or three days in brightening it up. The night came for the performance of *Richard the Third*. The armour was donned by the actors, who went into battle certainly, but under difficulties. My Earl of Richmond (Mr. Howe) on lifting up his arm to strike at Richard, could not get it down again, but continued in that striking attitude to the end of the play. Catesby and Ratcliffe wandered about like two animated Dutch ovens, and being unable to see through their vizors where they were going, came into collision with each other; some of the helmets having been forced on the heads of some of the soldiers, could not be got off again till long after the tragedy was over; while one disgusted super, who had been laughed at by the audience, and had also experienced a tumble or two, was heard to say, "If this armour dodge goes on I shall leave the profession." However, the tragedy was played but two nights, when the manager of Astley's immediately sent his van to fetch the armour away, because the next day was lord mayor's day, and it was wanted for the show. I then discovered the reason of my friend's alacrity in lending it to me—it required cleaning, and I had to go to the expense of it instead of him. Gentlemen, I must confess to having a certain feeling

of reverence for the chief magistrate of the city, as my grandfather, Mr. William Buckstone, was a citizen and a member of the Drapers' Company, and I recollect, when I was a little boy, he prophesied that I should one day be an alderman, and that he should live to hear the crier in court call out, "Make way for Alderman Buckstone!" but, although his prophecy did not literally come to pass, still, to a certain extent, it has this evening been fulfilled; for notwithstanding I have never been an alderman, I am not now far from a lord mayor. And now, gentle- it is time I should leave the city and come westward to the business of our fund, and explain to those who may not be acquainted with our objects what they are. The Royal General Theatrical Fund was established about thirty years ago, for the purpose of admitting all persons as members, who had practised the art of acting, dancing, and singing in Great Britain and Ireland. The Drury-lane and Covent-garden fund restricted their members to performers who had been engaged for a term of years at those theatres only. Our funds admits the entire class of performers in England, and grants to such members life annuities at a certain age and under certain conditions. We have now, gentlemen, twenty-six annuitants—sixteen of whom are ladies, and ten of them gentlemen, receiving from £30 to £90 per annum. Our capital amounts to more than £13,000, while during the past year we have distributed in annuities and for funeral expenses no less a sum than £4,041, to which may be added nearly £100 for expenses in conducting the business of the fund. From letters that I sometimes receive it appears to me many persons imagine that our fund is identical with that excellent institution, the Dramatic College, while some fancy it to be connected with another excellent institution, the Dramatic Sick Fund. Gentlemen, this is not the case; we stand quite alone, and have no connection with any other establishment, although I must confess that I hope to see the day when the resources of all the dramatic funds may become amalgamated, for such a proceeding would produce an amount of capital so enormous that every one of the institutions I have referred to would stand upon a firm and lasting foundation—a foundation which could not be uprooted, unless there should happen to arise a puritanical revolution, which I hope is impossible. But until such an amalgamation takes place it behoves all the members of our fund to be energetic in their endeavours to increase its capital; for we have still much to do and many to provide for. I also think it is not generally understood that our fund, having a Royal Charter, can receive legacies. Surely there must be many in this country who have passed their happiest hours in witnessing the representation of our drama; to those I can only say, when you are making your wills do not forget us. On the last page of our annual report of these festivals you will find a simple form of bequest, in which you can insert whatever you may please to give us; while the form has one great recommendation—it can be copied, filled up, signed, and witnessed without the aid of an attorney. In pleading our cause to-night, gentlemen I am pleading for a class whose loyalty has ever been proverbial. I need not refer to those gallant players who have fought for royalty in the field—I need not now refer to the many instances of their generosity and their courage; but to show of what stuff they are made, and of their bravery in the hour of despair and of death, I need but name one instance—one

that is still fresh in our memories—the behaviour and end of the late Gustavus Brooke, who worked while he could save, and when all hope was abandoned "faced his fate," as was well said in one of the journals, "like a brave and Christian gentleman."* Now, gentlemen, as the generous and warm influences of the city are prevailing at this moment, we naturally expect the amount of donations this evening will exceed those of any previous year; but I must, in the name of the members of our fund, return our hearty thanks to our illustrious trustee, Mr. Charles Dickens, to whom we mainly owe the presence of our chairman this evening, for it was he that asked the lord mayor to come, and it was the lord mayor who said to me that the wishes of Mr. Dickens were his commands. Before I conclude, gentlemen, I wish you to remember that our fund is purely a provident one; its members, when receiving their annuities, but take what is their right—the return for many years' punctual payment of subscriptions, aided by your donations. While, politically speaking, we belong to all parties, we are Conservatives, because we take care of our money, do not wish any alterations in our rules, and, as every department of our institution is so well represented, we have no occasion for any reform. We are Liberals, because we are only too happy when granting annuities to be as liberal as we can. Radicals we are, because we know we are radically honest; and I do not believe there is a Fenian amongst us. We are, I hope, like all present, too strongly attached to our Queen, our Royal family, and our country. As regards her Majesty, you will be happy to hear that we are in receipt of her annual donation of £100, while the Prince of Wales not only visits all the theatres, in company with his fair Princess, but has also given us a very handsome subscription. At the same time I cannot forbear reading a letter from a gentleman who has sent us a donation, through that great friend to our fund, Mr. Frederic Ledger, of *The Era*:—

MY DEAR SIR,—In the event of my being absent from London on the day appointed for the dinner of the Royal General Theatrical Fund, may I ask you to forward the enclosed cheque for 50 guineas? It is with great pleasure I forward my donation, and trust sincerely that it may help, in a small way, to relieve those whose infirmities prevent them from earning their daily bread. The more I see of these parties and the good they do, the more I feel bound to help them. How thankful we ought to be whom Providence has favoured, and enabled to keep from our doors many of the real hardships of life.

Believe me, my dear Sir, yours faithfully,

GEORGE ROBERT STEPHENSON.

Great George-street, Westminster.

I have merely read this letter, gentlemen, to show you what friends we have, and to encourage the others. In conclusion, gentlemen, it has been said that every one has his pleasures. Some find pleasure in a gloomy austerity, others in cheerfulness and doing good; and if you, gentlemen, find a pleasure in attending these dinners, and coming down handsomely with your donations, and in listening to those who address you, let me beg of you still to indulge in that harmless pleasure. Come here as often as you can on these occasions, be as liberal as you can, as I well know there are many grateful hearts who, in the words of Lord Dandream, will exclaim, "Bless you, bless you."

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 14th, 1866.

Tuesday, April 10th.—INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.30.

Wednesday, April 11th.—SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8. GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, at 8.

* We would here refer our readers to the paragraph which appears in our advertising columns in memoriam of our late Bro. G. V. Brooke.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen, with Princess Helena, drove in the grounds on the afternoon of the 27th ult. and walked and drove on the morning of the 28th attended by the Hon. Mary Lascelles. Her Royal Highness Princess Louisa rode in the Home Park. The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Louise, drove in the grounds in the afternoon. Her Royal Highness Princess Helena and her Grand Ducal Highness of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, also went out driving. The Prince of Wales, attended by Lieut.-Colonel Keppel, arrived at the Castle, and her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, with Prince Albert Victor and Prince George, also arrived, attended by the Hon. Mrs. F. Stonor and Lieut.-General Knollys. Her Majesty, with Princess Louise, went out in the grounds on the 29th ult. Their Royal Highness the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Helena, and his Serene Highness the Prince of Hohenlohe Langenburg, attended by the Hon. Mary Lascelles, rode on horseback. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Albert Victor and Prince George took an airing in the Home Park. The Queen, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Princess of Wales, Princess Helena, and Princess Beatrice, drove out in the afternoon in a carriage-and-four. Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, with her Grand Ducal Highness the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, also went out driving. The Prince of Wales rode on horseback, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Keppel. His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, attended by Major Elphinstone, arrived at the Castle from Greenwich Park. The Queen, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Helena, Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Arthur, and the Prince and Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg with the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, attended Divine service, on the 30th ult., in the private chapel. The Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor officiated. Messrs. Dickinson and Tilt, of Bondstreet, had the honour of a sitting from the Queen for a sketch (after a photograph) of her Majesty. The Queen, with their Royal Highnesses the Princess of Wales and Princess Louise, drove out in the afternoon, in a carriage and four, attended by Major-General F. H. Seymour on horseback. Princess Helena and Princess Hohenlohe also took a drive. The Queen, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena, Princess Louise, and Prince Arthur, drove in a carriage and four on the morning of the 31st ult., to the cavalry barracks in Windsor, where her Majesty was received by the 1st regiment of Life Guards, commanded by Colonel the Hon. D. de Ros. Her Majesty afterwards inspected the barracks, the hospital, and the building in course of erection for married quarters. In attendance were the Lady in Waiting (Lady Waterpark), the Hon. Lucy Kerr, Major Elphinstone and Major-General F. H. Seymour, and Colonel H. Ponsonby (Equerries in Waiting). His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, his Serene Highness the Prince of Hohenlohe Langenburg, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Keppel, went out hunting. Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, with her Grand Ducal Highness the Princess of Hohenlohe Langenburg, accompanied the Princess to the meet, and then returned to the Castle. Her Grand Ducal Highness the Princess of Leiningen arrived at the Castle. His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, attended by Major Elphinstone, met the Princess at the railway station, and accompanied her to the Castle. The Queen, with their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, Princess Beatrice, her Grand Ducal Highness the Princess Leiningen, his Serene and her Grand Ducal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of

Hohenlohe Langenburg, with the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, attended divine service on the 1st inst. in the private chapel. The Hon. and very Rev. the Dean of Windsor officiated, and administered the sacrament of the Holy Communion. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, with the Princes Victor Albert and George, left the Castle in the afternoon for London, attended by the Hon. Mrs. Stonor and Lieutenant-Colonel Keppel. His Serene Highness the Prince of Hohenlohe Langenburg accompanied their Royal Highnesses to London. The Queen, with her Grand Ducal Highness the Princess of Hohenlohe Langenburg, drove in the grounds in the afternoon, and went out on the 2nd inst., accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise and Prince Arthur. The President and the Secretary of the Royal Academy of Arts had the honour of an audience of her Majesty, to present their report on the proceedings of the Academy during the past year. The Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Mary of Cambridge, his Serene Highness Prince Hohenlohe Langenburg, and Prince Teck, and attended by the Hon. Mrs. Stonor, Lieutenant General Knollys, Major Grey, and Major Teesdale, went to Brighton, and were present at the Review of Volunteers. Their Royal Highnesses partook of luncheon with the Mayor of Brighton at the Pavilion, and afterwards returned to Marlborough House. His Majesty the King of the Belgians arrived at Marlborough House on a visit to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Helena and their Grand Ducal Highnesses the Princess Leiningen and Princess Hohenlohe Langenburg, drove out in a carriage and four, and went out in the grounds on the morning of the 3rd inst., with Princess Louise. His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, attended by Major Elphinstone, left the Castle on the 2nd inst., for Greenwich Park. His Serene Highness the Prince of Hohenlohe Langenburg arrived at the Castle from London. The Prince and Princess of Hohenlohe Langenburg, with their infants, Prince Ernest and Princess Eliza, left the Castle on the 3rd inst., for the Continent. Princess Helena and Princess Louise, attended by Lady Augusta Stanley and Lieut.-Col. Du Plat, accompanied the Prince and Princess to the railway station in Windsor, and afterwards returned to the Castle. The Prince of Wales, attended by Major Grey, went to Weybridge, on the 3rd inst., and was present at the funeral of the late Queen Marie Amelie. The Princess of Wales took a carriage drive. The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Helena and her Grand Ducal Highness Princess Leiningen, drove out on the afternoon of the 3rd inst. Lord Camoys and Major-General Francis Seymour, C.B. (Lord and Groom in Waiting to her Majesty), attended the funeral of Queen Marie Amelie at Weybridge, by command of the Queen; and Lord Camoys, by her Majesty's command, placed three wreaths upon the coffin of the late lamented Queen as a token of her Majesty's affection and respect. The Queen went out walking on the 4th inst., accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Louise.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The weekly return of the Registrar General shows that since the deaths registered in London rose to above 1,500 in the first week of March they have exhibited a constant weekly decrease. The death rate in the metropolis was last week less than in the ten other large towns of the United Kingdom included in the report. The rate per 1,000 was:—London, 27; Newcastle on Tyne, 28; Birmingham, 29; 32; Sheffield, 45; Bristol, 36; Leeds, 36; Salford, 38; Hull, 39; Manchesters, 42; and Liverpool, 48. There has been an increase in deaths from typhus and diphtheria, and a decrease in those from other causes. Seven deaths caused by carriage

accidents are recorded.—We have more Reform meetings to report and more are still to come. Daily it is more and more evident that the feeling of the country is to be strongly manifested in favour of the bill. The interest which is felt in its becoming law is expressed everywhere.—The Nottingham election committee sat again on the 28th ult. and heard evidence. Several witnesses were called who deposed to rioting, and to Sir R. Clifton having incited men to acts of violence. At length the committee said they had heard sufficient evidence on the point.—Lord John Hay has been re-elected for Ripon.—Chief Justice Cockburn was attacked with illness while performing his judicial functions at the Norwich Assizes.—The "Guildford Guys" were tried at the Kingston Assizes on a charge of rioting on the 26th of December last. There was a more serious charge of wounding a policeman with intent to murder him. This charge, however, was withdrawn by direction of the judge. Some of the prisoners were found guilty of rioting. Sentence was deferred.—Mr. R. A. Wallington, solicitor and clerk to the Local Board of Health at Leamington, was brought up on remand, at Bow-street, charged with perjury. The question was whether a document which Mr. Wallington had sworn he signed on the 12th March was signed on that day or on the 11th. Witnesses were called on both sides, and their evidence was wholly contradictory. The magistrate committed the case for trial, but accepted Mr. Wallington's own recognisances for his appearance.—The Nottingham Election Committee sat again yesterday, and as yet gives no sign of bringing its labours to a termination. Several reporters gave evidence to the effect that Sir R. Clifton had made inflammatory speeches.—The charge against Mrs. Casse and the groom Verlander, who are accused of forgery and perjury in connection with the will of the Countess Bellew, was further gone into on the 29th ult. Some other witnesses were called and the case was again adjourned.—An inquiry into the circumstances attending the suicide of the man Vallens, who destroyed himself by means of a guillotine of his own construction, took place in Louverie-street. Evidence was given as to the habits of the deceased, from which it appeared that he was of a morose and reserved disposition, and had conducted himself on various occasions in a strange and eccentric manner. Yet the jury returned a verdict of *felo de se*, and the corpse of the wretched man, in conformity with a barbarous custom, will be interred at midnight, and without the rites of Christian burial.—Good Friday is not usually prolific of news, and this year there was no exception to the general rule. The day was beautifully fine, the holiday makers were plentiful. The churches were all open, and the services were largely attended.—We have still to report Reform meetings. There was a large one at Leeds on the 30th ult., at which resolutions in support of the bill were unanimously adopted. All over the country arrangements are being made for future demonstrations.—Lord Milton was thrown from his horse while hunting on the 28th ult. It is hoped that he is not seriously hurt.—Invitations were issued a few days ago for a trial trip of a saloon steamer called the *Palmerston*, which was intended to ply on the Thames. The trip was to have taken place on Wednesday, the 27th ult., but the invitations were cancelled, because the vessel, which left the Clyde on the Wednesday previous had not arrived or been heard of. There appears to be little doubt that the vessel had been lost, with all hands, in the gale of Friday night, the 30th ult. Portions of wreck have been picked up which have been identified as parts of the steamer. There seems to have been about nineteen persons on board the vessel when she sailed.—The Board of Trade

returns for February were issued on Saturday the 31st ult. The declared value of the exports during the month was £15,116,063, against £11,376,214 in February, 1865. The revenue returns for the year and quarter ending March 31, show a very satisfactory result. The total revenue for the year was £67,812,292 against £70,313,436. For the quarter the revenue has been £17,792,965, against £19,177,151. There is thus a decrease on the quarter of £1,384,186, and on the year of £2,501,144. The greater part of the total decrease is, as will be seen, on the last quarter of the year. In that period the full effect of the reduction in the income tax began to be felt, and in that item alone there was a decrease of £1,213,000. The other items on which there was a decrease in the quarter were: customs, £431,000, owing to the reduction of the tea duty; stamps, £76,000; and taxes, £14,000. On the year the decrease is confined to three items, namely:—Customs, £1,296,000; property tax, £1,568,000; and miscellaneous, £115,144.—We report still more Reform meetings. It is curious to note that interest on the subject is not confined to the great manufacturing towns, but that small agricultural places are joining numerous and heartily in the movement. Meetings are being held all over the kingdom, and everywhere with the same result—a determination to support the bill introduced by the Government.—The Nottingham Election Committee sat again on the 31st ult., and took some further evidence. It was of a similar character to that which had been given on the few previous days.—Another attempt was made on Saturday, the 31st, to launch the *Northumberland*. Great preparations had been made. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful in getting the ship afloat. The tide did not rise so high by two feet as had been expected.—Mr. Bright laid the corner-stone of a new Town Hall at Rochdale. At a luncheon which followed the ceremony he delivered an interesting speech, in which a felicitous contrast was made between municipal and Parliamentary institutions.—We regret to learn that the Rev. John Keble, one of the most accomplished clergymen in the Church of England, and the well-known author of "The Christian Year," is dead. The rev. gentleman had long been in a critical state of health. He was identified with the High Church party.—The Queen has addressed an autograph letter to Mr. Peabody, thanking him for his munificent gift to the English nation. Her Majesty expresses herself not only gracefully, but with great feeling and warmth of language. As Mr. Peabody does not feel himself able to accept a baronetcy or a G.C.B., the Queen has requested him to accept a miniature portrait of herself. The publication of the letter will have the happiest effect on the relations of England and America. The popularity of the Queen in the United States has stood the test of the rudest political shocks, and this pleasant incident will serve to increase it greatly.—The Nottingham Election Committee on the 2nd inst. got as far as the close of the case against Sir R. Clifton. When the committee adjourned Mr. Rodwell was speaking in support of the baronet's seat.—Although the weather on the 2nd inst. was far from propitious the great Volunteer Review on Brighton Downs went off most successfully. Great additional interest attached to the affair in consequence of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales. They travelled to Brighton by a train leaving Victoria station a few minutes after ten o'clock in the morning and arriving at Brighton about ten minutes after eleven. The town was in holiday garb. Arches were thrown across some of the streets through which the Royal party passed, and dense crowds of sightseers thronged the roads to the Downs. The march past of the volunteers was a fine sight. They acquitted themselves with soldierly ease and accuracy.

The sham fight afterwards passed off most successfully. When it was nearly over the Prince and Princess returned to the town and took luncheon with the Mayor, returning to London about five o'clock. After their arduous exertions the volunteers broke up for a short time for refreshment, and then, forming up, marched to the railway station and took train home. It is satisfactory to hear that the railway arrangements were generally admirable, and that all passed off without serious accident. Those Londoners who did not go out to Brighton betook themselves in great numbers to the Crystal Palace and places up and down the river. In the evening the theatres were crowded. The day altogether was fairly kept as a holiday.—Another effort was made to launch the *Northumberland*. Unfortunately it was altogether unsuccessful, and the giant ship still remains upon the ways.—The inquest on the body of Mr. C. W. Pay, who was found a few days ago insensible on the steps of Hawkstone Hall; Waterloo-road, and died from the effects of a fractured skull, was resumed. Several witnesses were called, who gave some account of the movements of the deceased on the day when he was found insensible. They threw no light, however, on the cause of the fracture of the skull, and the jury consequently returned an open verdict.—A singular case was heard at the Westminster police court. Two men, named Runnacles and Wilson, were charged with attempting to rob a pawnbroker's shop in Pimlico on Sunday, the 1st inst. The prisoners had been inmates of the Field-lane Refuge, and had there met with a German named Dezen, who had been in the Federal army. To him they communicated their intention to rob the pawnbroker's shop, and asked him to join them. Apparently consenting, he gave information to the police, and when, on Sunday afternoon, the two went to the house, they were received by constables. Runnacles confessed to having robbed the same house in December last. The magistrate dealt with the case summarily, and sentenced the prisoners to three months' imprisonment each, with hard labour.—On Sunday night, the 1st inst., at nearly ten o'clock, Mary Elmore, the wife of Daniel Elmore, went into the Prince of Wales public house, Harrow-road. She was drunk, and asked a man named Rose to take her home. Reluctantly he consented. On their way they were met by the woman's husband, who, first calling her an opprobrious name, knocked her down, kicked her, and injured her so that she died in about twenty minutes. For this crime he was brought up at the Marylebone police court on the 2nd inst., and committed for trial for wilful murder.—The King of the Belgians arrived in London, to be present at the funeral of Queen Marie Amelie. His Majesty staying with the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House.—The Nottingham Election Committee sat till nearly five o'clock on the 3rd inst. Mr. Rodwell concluded his address on behalf of Sir R. Clifton, who was then examined. Sir Robert declared that he had never incited men to riot; that his voters were prevented from getting to the poll; and that the story told by his gamekeeper was wholly false. His evidence was, in fact, a general denial of the statements made against him.—The Ex-Queen of the French was buried with considerable ceremony at Claremont. The Prince of Wales and the King of the Belgians were among those present.—Robert Coe, the man who was condemned to death for murder at the last Swansea Assizes, has confessed his crime. It will be remembered that a youth named John Davies was missing for several months, and that his body was found in a thicket at Mountain Ash, the head having been severed from it. This was the murder of which Coe was convicted. In his confession he tells a horrible story. He says that on the day the deceased was missing he

quarrelled with him in the thicket, and knocked him down, leaving him as he believed, either dead or dying. Two days afterwards Coe says he returned to the place, and found Davies still alive. He then chopped off his head. The execution of the murderer is fixed for the 12th instant.—A painful case was revealed on the 3rd inst. at the Mansion House, where a young girl, eighteen years of age, was charged with having stolen and pawned a large number of articles belonging to her employers. It was shown that the girl and her mother were in a state of great destitution, the latter being unwell and requiring certain nourishing articles of food, and it was to supply these that the daughter had become a thief. She was sentenced to a fine of 40s., with the alternative of six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour.—At the Kingston Assizes, a curious action for libel was tried. Dr. Strauss, author of a novel in three volumes, called "The Old Ledger," sued the proprietors of the *Athenaeum* for damages for a criticism of the book, which he alleged was libellous. The brief notice in the *Athenaeum* denounced the novel most unsparingly. For the defence passages of the book were read to show the justice of the criticism, and while this was being done Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, for the plaintiff, withdrew the case.—On the 4th inst. a crowded and highly animated meeting of the reformers of Lambeth was held at the Horns Tavern. Both members for the borough were present. Several able speeches were delivered in support of the Government Reform Bill, among which was that of Mr. Hughes. These were received with general and warm approbation. A different feeling was evoked by Mr. Donlton's speech, which in its tone was that of a Reformer whom the bill did not please. He found much fault with it on several grounds, including that adopted by Earl Grosvenor's resolution; and he refused to say whether he would give his vote for or against it. In spite of a well-meant endeavour by Mr. Hughes to save his colleague, the meeting by a large majority declared its want of confidence in any Liberal member who refused to support the bill.—A great Reform demonstration was held in the Coloured Cloth Hall-yard of Leeds. From ten to twelve thousand persons were present. As this meeting was held to give expression to the popular feeling throughout the West Riding it possessed an eminently representative character. Lord Houghton presided, and speeches were delivered by Lord Frederick Cavendish, M.P.; Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P.; Mr. Beaumont, M.P.; Sir Francis Crossley, M.P.; Mr. Baines, M.P.; Mr. Childers, M.P.; Mr. E. A. Leatham, and other influential gentlemen. The speeches were of the most earnest and hearty character, and proved that the Liberal party in the West Riding is a unit in supporting the Government bill.—A meeting of the civil servants of the Crown employed in the Inland Revenue Departments was held to enforce their right to the elective franchise. Mr. F. Scudamore, of the Post Office, presided. Mr. Anthony Trollope moved the first resolution, and Mr. Edmund Yates moved the adoption of a petition praying for the enfranchisement of the civil servants of the Crown. As will be readily understood, the proceedings were highly interesting.—Sir Robert Clifton's examination before the Nottingham Election Committee was resumed. He underwent a long cross-examination, and strongly denied all the charges which had been made against him.—A painful incident took place on the Brighton review day. It is stated that a volunteer named Patrick Butler, in a drunken fit, threatened to shoot the Prince of Wales; and that when the report reached the ears of his commanding officer he was searched, and ten rounds of ball cartridge were found upon him. The Marquis of Donegall immediately ordered his arrest, and his examination before the

local magistrates took place on the 4th inst. It was shown that when the prisoner made the threats complained of he was drunk, and it was also shown that he had made no secret of his possession of the cartridges, which he had bought for some private shooting. He was discharged.—Mr. Elkins, a solicitor-prosecuted at Marlborough-street Police-court an organ-grinder who had persisted in playing in front of his house after having been requested to leave. The presiding magistrate fined the organ-grinder 20s., leaving him the option of seven days' imprisonment.—The charge of forging the Countess Bellew's will once more come up at the Westminster Police-court. The last of the witnesses having been examined, the magistrate (Mr Arnold) adjourned the case until he should decide whether or not he would commit Mrs. Casse for trial.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—Some of the Berlin papers insist that there is the greatest danger of war between Austria and Prussia. They declare that Austria is moving troops to the frontier, and, in fact, that on both sides preparations are being made. Still, it is fair to presume that the danger will be averted. There will be much show and loud talk, but the dispute will scarcely go beyond that. Prussia, it is said, is making an appeal to the minor German States. A circular note has been sent round to them, in which Austria is charged with having broken the Gastein Convention. Prussia expresses fears lest she should be attacked by Austria, and asks what assistance she may expect from the minor States. Is not this very much like the wolf professing great dread of the sheep? It is added that Austria has offered to refer the whole question at issue to a European Congress.—The third sitting of the Conference on the Danubian Principalities was held at Paris on the 28th ult.—The Tasmanian has arrived at Southampton, and brings news that the Royal Commissioners were concluding their inquiry; and that they would leave for home by the next packet. During the fortnight the evidence has been chiefly confined, it seems, to the manner in which the so-called rebellion was suppressed, and General O'Connor, Colonel Nelson, Lieutenant Brand, and Provost-Marshal Ramsay had been among the witnesses. An address of loyalty to the Queen had been presented to Sir H. Storks. It was signed chiefly by the blacks. The *Morning Journal* says that when Mr. Eyre was asked for proofs of the spread of the rebellion he said they consisted in documentary evidence and in oral statements. When pressed on the matter he did not produce the documents, and could not remember the names of those who made oral statements to him.—A Brussels telegram, received on the 29th ult., recounts a story from Weimar, to the effect that orders have been given which indicate that war between Austria and Prussia is inevitable. Certainly the aspect of affairs is more threatening; but we shall be loth to believe in war until more information has been received than that to hand as yet.—A telegram from Bombay says that Mr. Massey had introduced his budget. He shows an estimated deficit of £72,000. The duty on saltpetre is reduced to 3 per cent. *ad valorem*, and Madras salt is raised to 27 annas per maund. No new taxes are imposed. The public revenue is prosperous, and the cash balance twelve millions. The telegram adds that all over ten millions is to be appropriated to public works.—There is little more of positive information in respect to Austria and Prussia; but it is evident from all accounts that come to hand that the gravest fears are entertained of a war between the two powers. Bismarck is believed to have staked his office on war, and it is thought that the King of Prussia does not see his way to dispensing with his audacious and unscrupulous Minister. It can scarcely be doubted that the relations between

Austria and Prussia are becoming more and more threatening. On both sides military preparations are being made. According to *La France* Austria has even appointed the commanders of her armies. Thus the Archduke Albert is to command in Venetia, General Benedek the army of the North, and General Von Gablenz the advanced guard of General Benedek. Very likely this is all speculation; but that the war is thought highly probable in France is certain. The *Constitutionnel* of the 31st ult. went to some trouble to point out that the attitude of France during the conflict would be one of neutrality.—There is no material change apparently in the attitude of either Austria or Prussia. But the feeling deepens that there will be war between the two Powers. In Berlin it is believed there will be no war; but the reason assigned is that Austria is too poor to go to war. That would, however, be a frail reed to rely upon. When angry national passions are aroused the state of the national exchequer is not much inquired into.—A telegram from Bombay, dated March 13, brings some interesting news. It seems there is complete anarchy in Muscat and along the shores of the Persian Gulf. The British Resident and other Christians had taken refuge on board the *Berenice*. The north-western frontier of India was in an unsettled state. At Lucknow a native had been detected mixing poison in the bread made at the Government bakery. He was sentenced to twelve years' transportation. General Napier had recovered from an attack of fever.—The Chinese Imperialists have achieved a crushing victory over the rebels, if the report that 50,000 of the latter have been killed or captured should prove to be well founded.—The aspect of affairs in the Brazils is unchanged.—It is said that the Duke of Saxe Coburg has arrived at Vienna to play the honourable, although sometimes thankless, part of mediator between Austria and Prussia. The story has a very improbable air. It is hardly likely that the two great powers would have chosen the Duke of Saxe Coburg as mediator. Still the report has its significance. It shows that the belief exists that the two parties would not object to have their differences patched up. There is indeed a stronger feeling now than there has been in the last few days that peace is probable.—A very fair idea of the state of Mexico will probably be got from the Brussels telegrams. It seems that the Belgian deputation sent to make known to the Emperor Maximilian the accession of King Leopold to the Belgian throne was attacked on the road between Mexico and Vera Cruz. There seems to have been hard fighting, for Baron Huart was killed, and several other persons were wounded.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

T.S.—Your suggestion as to "Provincial Masonic Calendars" you will find upon reference to recent numbers of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR has been anticipated as regards several provinces. We may here mention those of Oxford, Devon and Cornwall, and Dorset. We would gladly see every province have its own local calendar.

R.A.—We cannot think that the W.M. of the lodge at Sunderland to which you refer, or indeed the W.M. of any regularly constituted lodge, would allow to pass unacknowledged and unattended any application made to him in accordance with the regulations of the Board of Benevolence; but should you feel satisfied, after a second application, that the gross neglect complained of has taken place, we recommend you to send a written statement of the facts to the Board.