

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1866.

GEMS FROM BRO. LAWRENCE STERNE.

(Continued from page 201.)

The third sermon in the first volume of this distinguished brother's works is one breathing the very spirit of Freemasonry. It is entitled "Philanthropy Recommended," and was preached from the text Luke x., 36, 37. It contains many passages of exceeding beauty, and, in order to be fully appreciated, should be read *ab ovo ad mala* from beginning to end.

How truthful is the following description of "the benevolent impulse":—"In benevolent natures the impulse to pity is so sudden, that like instruments of music which obey the touch—the objects which are fitted to excite such impressions work so instantaneous an effect, that you would think the will was scarce concerned, and that the mind was altogether passive in the sympathy which her own goodness has excited. The truth is, the soul is generally in such cases so busily taken up, and wholly engrossed by the object of pity, that she does not attend to her own operations, or take leisure to examine the principles upon which she acts."

The emotions that are supposed to have passed through the good Samaritan's mind as he approached the object of his compassion are portrayed in Sterne's happiest vein of pathos:—"Good God! what a spectacle of misery do I behold!—a man stripped of his raiment—wounded—lying languishing before me upon the ground just ready to expire—without the comfort of a friend to support him in his last agonies, or the prospect of a hand to close his eyes when his pains are over. But, perhaps, my concern should lessen when I reflect on the relations in which we stand to each other—that he is a Jew and I a Samaritan. But are we not still both men, partakers of the same nature, and subject to the same evils? Let me change conditions with him for a moment and consider, had his lot befallen me as I journeyed in the way, what measure I should have expected at his hand. Should I wish when he beheld me wounded and half dead, that he should shut up his bowels of compassion from me, and double the weight of my miseries by passing by and leaving them unpitied. But I am a stranger to the man. Be it so; but I am no ranger to his condition. Misfortunes are of no

particular tribe or nation, but belong to us all, and have a general claim upon us, without distinction of climate, country, or religion. Besides, though I am a stranger—'tis no fault of his that I do not know him, and, therefore, unequalled he should suffer by it. Had I known him, possibly I should have had cause to love and pity him the more. For aught I know, he is some one of uncommon merit, whose life is rendered still more precious, as the lives and happiness of others may be involved in it. Perhaps at this instant that he lies here forsaken, in all this misery, a whole virtuous family is joyfully looking for his return, and affectionately counting the hours of his delay. Oh! did they know what evil hath befallen him! Let me then hasten to supply those tender offices of binding up his wounds, and carrying him to a place of safety, or, if that assistance comes too late, I shall comfort him at least in his last hour, and, if I can do nothing else, I shall soften his misfortunes by dropping a tear of pity over them."

Can any person read this touching paragraph, and not determine, in the strength of the Great Architect of the Universe, to "go and do likewise"—to persevere in the practice of "brotherly love, relief, and truth?"

Is there not much of common sense in Bro. Sterne's remarks on human nature?—

"I think there needs no stronger argument to prove how universally and deeply the seeds of this virtue of compassion are planted in the heart of man, than in the pleasure we take in such representations of it; and though some men have represented human nature in other colours (though to what end I know not), that the matter of fact is so strong against them, that from the general propensity to pity the unfortunate, we express that sensation by the word *humanity*, as if it was inseparable from our nature. That it is not *inseparable*, I have allowed in the former part of this discourse, from some reproachful instances of selfish tempers, which seem to take part in nothing beyond themselves; yet I am persuaded, and affirm 'tis still so great and noble a part of our nature, that a man must do great violence to himself, and suffer many a painful conflict, before he has brought himself to a different disposition."

The closing remarks of this able sermon are, they appear to us, very beautiful, and will commend themselves to every good Mason—" 'Tis observable in many places of scripture, that our

blessed Saviour in describing the day of judgment does it in such a manner, as if the great inquiry then, was to relate principally to this our virtue of compassion—and as if our final sentence at that solemnity was to be pronounced exactly according to the degrees of it. “I was a hungred and ye gave me meat—naked and ye cloathed me—I was sick and ye visited me—in prison and ye came unto me.” Not that we are to imagine from thence, as if any other good or evil action should then be overlooked by the eye of the all-seeing Judge, but barely to intimate to us, that a charitable and benevolent disposition is so principal, and ruling a part of a man’s character, as to be a considerable test by itself of the whole frame and temper of his mind, with which all other virtues and vices respectively rise and fall, and will almost necessarily be connected. Tell me therefore of a compassionate man, you represent to me a man of a thousand other good qualities—on whom I can depend—whom I may safely trust with my wife—my children, my fortune and reputation. ’Tis for this, as the apostle argues from the same principle—“that he will not commit adultery, that he will not kill, that he will not steal, that he will not bear false witness.” Thus the sorrows which are stirred up in men’s hearts by such trespasses are so tenderly felt by a compassionate man, that it is not in his power or his nature to commit them.”

So that well might he conclude that charity, by which he means the love to your neighbour, was the end of the commandment, and that whosoever fulfilled it, had fulfilled the law.”

(To be continued.)

PROFESSOR ROBERTSON ON FREEMASONRY.

In the sister island there exists an institution of most anomalous nature, which all good Catholics look on with considerable veneration, and dignify with the title of the Catholic University, but which Protestants regards with unanimous contempt, inasmuch as it can lay no just claim to the designation of university. In this strange institution a Mr. James Burton Robertson is the professor of modern history and geography. This gentleman is, if we mistake not, a convert to Roman Catholicism, and, therefore, of course, possesses all the zeal by which converts to the Latin Church are distinguished.

Freemasonry, being obnoxious to the Holy See, formed an admirable subject for the display of zeal

as well as of research. The professor threw himself with ardour into his work, and the result is a lecture entitled “Freemasonry: Sketch of its Origin and Early Progress, its Moral and Political Tendency,” delivered before the Historical Society connected with the Catholic University.

This lecture has the advantage of an “Appendix containing a Synopsis of the Papal Bulls respecting Secret Societies,” by the Rev. Dr. Murray, of Maynooth. It is dedicated “To His Grace the Most Rev. Joseph Dixon, Lord Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland, &c.”

Although it is some time since this lecture was published, yet it is one which is well worthy of perusal, and should certainly not be ignored in the pages of a Masonic magazine. Everthing connected with the Craft should be garnered up in these pages. We have said that Professor Robertson’s work is worthy of perusal, inasmuch as being a man of some ability and erudition, he speaks, we are entitled to presume, the sentiments entertained by the devout and educated members of the Roman Catholic Church on the subject of Freemasonry.

The Professor commences by stating that, “Having been requested by the Irish clergy to treat of secret societies, which are now the curse and bane of European nations, I have begun with the venerable parent of all secret societies, the Masonic Order.”

He then proceeds to make a few preliminary remarks.

(1). That “our Protestant brethren not being interdicted by the authorities in their different communions from becoming members of this society, incur, not by such a step the same responsibility as Catholics who join it.”

(2). That “many excellent Catholics, on being made acquainted with the judgments of the Church on Freemasonry, have given up all connection with the Order.”

(3). That “there are in all countries estimable individuals belonging to the lower degrees of Masonry, and who are not cognizant of its ultimate tendency, which I shall show to be anti-Christian and anti-social. And lastly, this remark is especially applicable to these countries—England, Scotland, and Ireland, where Masonry has generally, but not always retained a more innocuous character.”

The professor then contrasts Masonry in Protestant England with Masonry in Catholic Belgium, decidedly to the superiority of the former. One of the “shameless” acts of the Belgian Masons being that they presented a golden pen to the most infamous writer of the present age, the late M. Eugène Sue, yet we think it hardly fair to judge of Freemasonry by the injudicious acts of some of its members. But it is now time for Mr. Robertson to plunge *in medias res*;

and he does so very methodically, the following being his syllabus, or rather programme:—

“First, I have been compelled to point out the nature of the primitive religion, the defection of heathenism, and the relations of the celebrated Eleusinian mysteries, from which Masonry claims to derive its system, both to the primitive revelation on the one hand, and to Paganism itself on the other. The appeal which this Institution makes to what it calls the more spiritual Induism, is then examined.”

“Next, I give a rapid sketch of Masonry, showing how it evolved from the associations in the Middle Ages, till, in the time of the English Commonwealth, it assumed a political form. Then I trace its history from that period down to the middle of the last century, when it incurs the formal censures of the Church. Afterwards, I endeavour to justify the judgments of the Church in respect to all secret societies, and especially to those who, like the higher Masons, the Illuminati, the Jacobins, and the Socialists, aim at a total religious and social revolution. I show how utterly inconsistent with the Christian revelation are the very pretensions of Masonry. Then I explain why so many estimable individuals, and some holding a high social position, were members of the Masonic Order. Afterwards, I show that a large portion of Masons in every country, and especially in this empire, as they occupied the lower grades of the Order, knew nothing of its ultimate tendencies. The dangers of Masonry, even to those in the inferior degrees, are then considered.

“Next, I analyse its constitution, and then its religion, and subsequently its historical doctrines.”

(To be continued.)

EARS OF WHEAT FROM A CORNUCOPIA.

By Bro. D. MURRAY LYON, one of the Grand Stewards in the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

CRAFTSMEN'S ESSAYS.

A clause in one of the Statutes promulgated in 1598 by James VI.'s Master of Work, for the regulation of Masonic affairs in Scotland, runs thus:—“. . . that na man be admittit without ane Essay and sufficient tryall of his skill and worthynes in his vocatioun and craft.” In our Masonic researches we have not been able to discover any written description of such Essays of an earlier date than 1765. While searching for material wherewith to frame the communication anent the probable date of the second Charter granted by the Scottish Craftsmen to St. Clair of Roslin, for which in August last we received the thanks of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and which

paper appeared in a recent number of this MAGAZINE, we found in the records of the Ayr Squarmen Incorporation frequent mention of Essays being required of applicants for the freedom of the Craft. Here are two such:—

“Air, Oct., 1765.

“The Deacon represents that, in consequence of a meeting the 16th of September last, the Tred, after Mathew Hand, journeyman wright in Air, had given in his speaking plack in order to be admitted a Frieman in the Squarmen Incorporation of Air, as a Wright in the house and shop way, the Deacon appoints a quorum of his number to appoint him an Essay, which they did as follows: a bound door with three pannells, two standing and one lying—the door about 6 foot high and two foot 8 or 9 inches broad, sprung on both sides or one side as he sall please; also a Tea table about 34 inches in diameter and pillar and three claws, and the cape to be fixed on the pillar's head. The said Mathew to be attended by John Shearer and John Kennedy.”

At next meeting, the Essay pieces were produced, and by a plurality of votes passed. One of the minority, however, took a protest against the Essay on the ground of the door not being sufficiently made. A few months afterwards applicant again offered at the Incorporation Board, and offered payment of his entry-money, at the same time protesting against their not passing his Essay piece. The Deacon declined admitting him until he should produce the door, which he subsequently did, and, it being declared to be sufficiently made, the Essayist was admitted on payment of 10 lb. Scots to the box, 6d. to the clerk, and 2d. to the officer.

“March 28, 1767.

“The Deacon represents that John Hunter, mason, has given in his speaking plack, the 7th March. The Deacon appoints for an Essay Piece a pair of Concave Jams, 3 foot, and the wideness the same.”

After inspection the work was declared to be properly done, and applicant was accordingly admitted a Freeman.

A parallel to these Essay pieces of Operative Craftsmen is presented in the examination for advancement in lodges of symbolical Masonry.

WHAT IS THE GOOD OF FREEMASONRY?

By Bro. J. C. PARKINSON, P.M. and Treas. 181.

Extolled as the true faith, denounced as an offshoot of Satan, praised by crowned, and banned by tonsured heads, dreaded as a subtle political engine, and admired for its profound indifference to politics, the essence of goodness according to some men, and the spirit of evil if you listen to

others, Freemasonry is as complete a mystery to the uninitiated as when the mythical lady hid herself in the lodge clock-case, or the equally mythical American citizen was slain for tampering with its secrets. Listen to the words of wisdom, according to Bro. Stodgers, P.M., and you will learn that men may be Freemasons for years without penetrating the arcana of the Order; may attain divers dignities without comprehending their true import; may die in the fulness of Masonic parts without having emerged from Masonic boyhood; and after having spent as much time and labour on the art as would, to put it modestly, suffice for the acquisition of every every European tongue, yet fall short of the supreme distinction of being "a good Mason." Whether, as the elder Mr. Weller, and the charity boy he quotes, respectively remarked of the institutions of holy matrimony, and of getting to the end of the alphabet, it be worth while going through so much to learn so little, is, I hear the cynic whisper, entirely a matter of opinion; but that neither the labour involved nor its reward is under-estimated, the most superficial knowledge with the subject proves.

Bro. Plover and myself have some right to our opinion, for we are Past Masters, Mark Masters, and Royal Arch Companions—are officers of our chapters, and Treasurers of our lodge. What our mutual and horsey friend Tibbins irreverently calls our "plated harness," involves medals, jewels, and ornate ribbons for our manly breasts, aprons for our fronts, and broad collars like those worn by Knights of the Garter (but handsomer) for our necks.

The Victoria Cross is an ugly excrescence compared to the costly decoration given me as a testimonial by the brethren of my mother lodge; the clasps to the jewels of some of our friends exceed in number those of the oldest Peninsula veteran, and we calculate that we might now be Sanskrit scholars of some eminence had we thought fit to serve that language as faithfully as we have served the Craft. Upon sordid money considerations we scorn to dwell. Initiation fees, exaltation fees, fees for advancement, emergencies, subscriptions to charities, to lodges, and for special purposes, make up a pretty sum to look back upon; and if the upshot of all were but the amusement and gratification derived, I am not prepared to say that we have had full value for our money. Joyous evenings, periodical feasts (in which something

else flows besides soul), mutual compliments, and pleasant friendships, may all spring from other sources than what Burns called "the mystic tie." With the warmest appreciation of the pleasures of Freemasonry, I, for one, should renounce the whole paraphernalia of colours, aprons, and geegaws, were I not satisfied of their practical value, and deeply impressed with their usefulness in stimulating to benevolent impulses and charitable deeds. This is, in truth, the chief virtue I care to claim for the Order, in this country, and in these times. Abroad, the Freemasons, so fiercely cursed by his Holiness the Pope, may mix up democratic caballing with their ceremonials, and play an important part in the spread of liberal principles, but in England, religious and political discussion are alike forbidden in lodge; and though in the olden days, when skilled craftsmen worked together in travelling bands, leaving magnificent monuments of civilisation and piety in their train, the objects of association were better understood, they were not more practical in their results than now. It is impossible to belong to a Masonic lodge, or even to eat Masonic dinners with regularity, without helping to support some of the most noble charities in the land. You are caught, we will say, by the promise of festivity and the hope of enjoyment. You know a jovial set, and would like to be one of them, and you are in due course proposed, elected, and initiated in some Masonic body. From that moment you are a cog in a mighty wheel, and can no more help moving with the rest of the machinery in the direction of good works, than you can avoid wearing your apron when on duty in your lodge.

Your earliest lesson is that of charity and toleration; but the great advantage of the rules of the community you have entered, is that no individual demerits or torpor can long withstand their beneficial tendency. Other precepts you may neglect or ignore. Your private life may be far from irreproachable. You may be depreciated by your fellow members as "a knife-and-fork Mason"—that is, one who cares more for the table of the tavern than the table of the law—and may be quoted by out-siders in proof of the evil effect of belonging to a secret society. All this rests with yourself. Even what we call the inner mysteries of our Order—mysteries which it takes so much time and application to master and comprehend—do not pretend to alter character. A selfish man will be a selfish Mason, a churlish man

a churlish Mason, a conscientious man a conscientious Mason, to the end of time. It is wiser to disclaim all legerdemain, and freely confess that no purifying or awakening talisman is given to the Masonic neophyte. The knowledge imparted is moderate in extent, and the man obtaining it finds that he has but learnt the rudiments of an elaborate system, the true bearing of which is veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. Those who sneer at Masonic symbols, who ask with conventional irony why Masons cannot accomplish the good they profess to seek without donning aprons and bedecking themselves with glittering baubles, should, to be consistent, denounce symbolism altogether. Take the House of Commons, and note the precise formality with which old rites and customs are observed there, and say whether the solemn speaker would look as wise and dignified in a shooting-jacket or a dressing-gown, and whether the quaintly wiggged and black-gowned figures below him are not more appropriately attired than if they wore the paletot and wide-awake of country life. Regard the throne with its surroundings of velvet and ermine and jewels and gold; the pulpit with its conventional black and white; the bench with its time-honoured robes; the bar with its wigs and gowns! or, turning to private life, remark how the symbolism of dress and ornament attends us from the cradle to the grave. The white draperies of the christening ceremony, the orange-flowers and favours of the wedding, the ghastly mockery of the nodding black feathers on the hearse, are surely as open to criticism as our Masonic blue and white aprons, or our gay ornaments. Freemasons, let it be remembered, rarely intrude their finery on the outer world. There are other excellent societies, the members of which periodically break out in buff boots and green tunics, or march with linked fingers through the town, to the clashing of wind instruments, and behind banners bearing copy-book axioms of approved morality. But with Freemasons it is a point of honour not to wear the costume of their Craft, or any adornment pertaining to it, save in their own lodges. To do otherwise—to flaunt collar, apron, or jewel in other places—is a serious Masonic offence, and one censured with severity by the authorities. The sole exception to this rule is some important public occasion, when a dispensation is granted by the Grand Master of the Order, and the first stone of some great building is laid, or the remains of

some distinguished brother is conveyed to the earth. The exceptional character of these occurrences entitles us to the boast that our symbols are only worn for the benefit of those who understand them, and to whose technical knowledge they appeal. In some cases they mark the rank of the wearer, like the soldier's uniform; in others, the practical good he has effected, like—shall we say, the bishop's mitre?

Each division of the Order, called a lodge, is ruled over by certain officers, who are appointed by its Master. To be eligible for this high post, you must have served in one of two subordinate offices for twelve months, and must be efficiently skilled in what is called the "working," to conduct the elaborate rites creditably. The first condition is imperative; the second is sometimes evaded, though neither the Master accepting office, nor the lodge electing him, acts up to the bounden obligation when this is the case. The cost of Freemasonry depends almost entirely upon the lodge you join, and is governed by the habits of the brethren composing it, and the by-laws they have themselves agreed on. The broad rules controlling all lodges, and all Masons owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, are things apart from these by-laws, though the latter have to be formally sanctioned as containing nothing opposed to the "Book of Constitutions" or the leading principles of the Craft.

Each lodge meets several times a year, and in London the members usually dine or sup together at the conclusion of their "work." The Masters, the Past Masters, and the two Wardens are all members of the Masonic parliament; in this way every Freemason has directly or indirectly a voice in the government of the Order. Each Past Master has been Master of a lodge for twelve months, and both Master Wardens are elected by their fellows. The Masonic parliament meets four times a year, and is called Grand Lodge. Its debates are held in the really magnificent temple in Great Queen-street, London, which has just been rebuilt under auspices of the Grand Supt. of Works, Bro. Frederick Cockerell, and is the property of the Craft. It is presided over by a Grand Master, who is nominally elected every year, but who is eligible for re-election, and who is, as some Masons think unwisely, virtually appointed for life. Once in every year, some one is proposed and seconded as a fit and proper person to fill the position of Grand Master, and the votes of those assembled in Grand

Lodge are taken. The present Grand Master of English Freemasons, the Earl of Zetland, who succeeded the late Duke of Sussex, is so widely and deservedly popular, that he has held this position for more than twenty years. The propriety of limiting the Grand Master's eligibility for office, and electing him for four or six years and no longer, is a point upon which there is some difference of opinion, and one which it is unnecessary to do more than allude to here. The Grand Master is aided by a council, and supported by Grand Officers, who may be termed the upper house of the Masonic parliament. These dignitaries are appointed by the Grand Master, hold office for a year, have permanent past rank, and wear distinguishing insignia for life. All questions of Masonic law—and problems affecting these are of constant occurrence—all difficulties of administration, all disputes and dissensions—and, despite their brotherly love, even Masons occasionally quarrel—can be brought before Grand Lodge as the final authority. Committees of its members sit regularly to adjudicate and present periodical reports, advise on the bestowal of money gifts to necessitous brethren, and on the answers to be given to those asking for interference or advice. The time devoted to the subject, by those who take a leading part in these councils; the patient unwearying attention given to minute and frequently tedious details; the constant sacrifice of private interests to the common good; and the careful and laborious discussion which precedes every decision—all this would astonish those who regard Freemasonry as a mere plea for conviviality. It is a simple fact that busy professional men habitually devote a considerable portion of their time to business drudgery; that boards and committees meet to debate and divide; that in no case is remuneration or reward looked for.

This voluntary self-absorption is not the least striking part of Freemasonry, for, at the meetings I speak of, neither convivial pleasures nor indirect personal advantage can be hoped for. It is sheer dogged hard work, performed gratuitously and cheerfully by men upon whom the rules and precepts I have hinted at, have made full impression.

Let it be borne in mind that ten thousand initiations took place last year; that the income of the Craft exceeds that of many a principality; that its members subscribe to their three charitable Institutions—the Freemasons' Girls' School, the

Freemasons' Boys' School, and the Asylum for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, some twenty thousand pounds annually; that the cares of administration and distribution devolve upon the busy men forming the committees and sub-committees named; and it will be readily seen that, apart from its "secrets," this time honoured Institution has worked, and is working, substantial and undeniable good. Its hold on earnest members is the best proof I can advance of the reality of its tie.

But it is time you saw one of the institutions we are so proud of. Let us take a railway ticket from either Waterloo or Victoria station, and after a twenty minutes' run alight at Clapham Junction. A few minutes' bewilderment in the dreary subterranean caverns of that mighty maze; a few abortive ascents up steps which are so ingeniously placed at the sides of the tubular dungeon we traverse as to lure us upon wrong platforms, whence we are sent below again ignominiously; a short game at question and answer with the old crone selling oranges at the corner; and, crossing another railway bridge, we are in front of a spacious red brick building, on the lofty tower of which, besides the clock, are a pair of compasses and a blazing sun. We will not stop to talk further about symbols now. After admiring the spacious, well-kept garden of this place, and enjoying the sweet scents rising up from every flower-bed, we make for the front door, when the sharp click of a croquet-mallet reaches us from the right, and, turning a corner, we come upon a thoroughly happy party. Some twenty girls, from twelve to fifteen years old, are laughing merrily at the vigour with which one of their number has just sent the ball rattling through the little croquet hoops. The healthy, happy, laughing group framed in by foliage, and relieved by the bright green of the velvety turf upon which they play; the frankly modest confidence with which we, as strangers, are received; the courteous offer to accompany us round the grounds and the house; the revelation that, as this is the matron's birthday, every one is making merry in her honour—are all a capital commentary upon the Masonic virtues I have vaunted. Next, we learn that some ladies and gentlemen are playing in another portion of the grounds, and in a few paces we are in their midst, being welcomed by house-committeemen, are hearing that our chance visit has happened on a red-letter day, and that other brethren are expected down. The speaker is an

exalted Mason who has five capital letters after his name, and, as I have never seen him out of Masonic costume before, it does not seem quite natural that he should play croquet without his apron and decorations. This gentleman (who will, I am sure, accept this kindly-meant remembrance in the spirit dictating it) is so pleasantly paternal, his exuberant playfulness and affectionate interest in the games played, and in the pretty little players, is so prominent, that we soon forget his grander attributes, and settle down to a quiet chat on the discipline and rules of the establishment. This is the Freemasons' Girls' School. It clothes, educates, and thoroughly provides for 103 girls, who must be daughters of Freemasons, between eight and sixteen years, and who are elected by the votes of its subscribers. The comfort of its internal arrangements, its spotless cleanliness, the healthiness of its site, the judicious training of its matron and governesses, are themes we descant upon at length, the rosy faces and unrestrained laughter of the children bearing forcible testimony to us. The committee of management visit this school frequently and regularly, and their deliberations generally terminate in a romp with the school girls. The little gardens, some with paper notices pinned to the shrubs, with "Please do not come too near, as we have sown seed near the border.—Signed 28 and 22," written in pencil in a girlish hand; the healthy cleanly dormitories, the light and airy glass-covered exercise-hall, where the young people drill and dance; the matron's private sanctum, which is like a fancy fair to-day in the extent and variety of the gay birthday presents laid out; the tea-room, where we all have jam in honour of the matron's nativity; the board-room, hung with the portraits of Grand Masters and Masonic benefactors, and which is placed at our disposal that we may enjoy a quiet chat with the two dear little girls in whom we have a special interest, are all visited in turn. Then a procession is formed, and "We love Miss Smoothetwig dearly, and so say all of us!" is sung, while Bro. Buss, P.M. and P.Z., who has just come in, and Bro. Putt, G.A.D.C., and his fellow house-committeeman, who have already welcomed us, *beat time joyously to the good old "jolly good fellow" tune.* This song is a little surprise prepared every year for the birthdays of governess and matron, and the amiable assumption of *delight at an unexpected novelty which beams*

from the latter's kindly face when the well-worn tune is sung, is not the least pleasing incident of the day.

The Freemasons' Boys' School is at Wood-lane, Tottenham, and in it from eighty to a hundred sons of Freemasons are clothed, educated, and provided for, with similar comfort and completeness. The Institution for the Relief of Aged Freemasons and their Widows, though neither so wealthy nor so liberal as the other two, provides an asylum for, and grant annuities to, the old and infirm.

These are some of the secrets of Freemasonry. The coffins in which, as many of my friends firmly believe, we immure young and tender candidates; the painful brandings which make sitting down impossible; the raw heads, red-hot poker, and gory bones, with which we heighten the awesomeness of our dreadful oaths; the wild revels and orgies which some ladies believe in,—must be left in obscurity. Having shown the fair fruits of Masonry, I must leave you to form your unaided judgment of the tree which brings them forth. Besides, I dare not reveal more. The learned author of many volumes of Masonic lore has stated his firm conviction that Adam was a Freemason, and that the Order, and its accompanying blessings, extend to other worlds than this. I offer no opinion on any such imaginative hypothesis, but confine myself to the stout assertion that Freemasons have a tie which is unknown to the outer world, and that their Institution is carefully adapted to the needs, hopes, fears, weaknesses, and aspirations of human nature. That it has unworthy members is no more an argument against the Order, than the bitter sectarianism of the Rev. Pitt Howler, and the fierce uncharitableness of Mrs. Backbite, are arguments against Christianity.

[We have pleasure in giving insertion to the above article by our esteemed Bro. Parkinson, which appeared in No. 377 of "All the Year Round," and which, by permission of Mr. Charles Dickens and the author, has been reprinted and issued in the shape of a pamphlet under the auspices of the Skiddaw Lodge, No. 1002.—Ed. F.M.]

ESTHER.—This woman was the wife and queen of Ahasuerus. During his reign a plot was devised by the enemies of the Jews (principally by Haman) to have them all massacred on a certain day, but the affectionate devotion of Esther prevailed to counteract the evil and change it to good.

THE NEMESIS: A TALE OF THE DAYS OF TRAJAN.

By BRO. A. ONEAL HAYE, *Author of "The History of the Knights Templars;" Poet Laureate of the Canonicate, Kilwinning; P.M. St. Stephens; P.P.Z. of St. Andrews R.A. Chap.; &c.; &c.*

AN objection may be taken to the following tale—that it is sensational. That objection is one which may apply to every historical episode; Life is sensational, and the raw head and bloody bones appear in every family closet.

The following tale was written many years ago, and took at first the shape of a drama. New scenes were added, and at last the MS. was cast aside and, in time, forgotten. At the beginning of 1863 it turned up, and then from a drama was thrown into its present shape, at the same time receiving considerable additions to its plot.

My intention was to depict the imperfect knowledge of a future state, as found in the heathen philosophy of the commencement of the second century, to paint the manners of the Romans during the reign of Trajan, and to bring in the secret sects which flourished at that time in the Imperial City.

The persecution of the Stoics and of the Christians, and the pernicious doctrines of the Bacchanals, are matters of history. The other sensational portions of the tale are borne out by the satirists and annalists of the time.

I have not attempted to moralise over the sins and sorrows of my puppets, but as they are all of age, I expect they can speak for themselves. While adorning a tale, I leave them to point the moral.

CHAPTER I.

A ROMAN TRIUMPH IN THE DAYS OF TRAJAN.

"Many a time and oft
Have you climb'd up to walls and battlements,
To towers and windows, yea, to chimney tops,
Your infants in your arms; and there have sate
The live-long day with patient expectation. . . .
And when you saw his chariot but appear,
Have you not made an universal shout,
That Tyber trembled underneath his banks
To hear the replication of your sounds,
Made in his concave shores?"—*Shakespeare.*

THE Romans, in the year 105, poured forth in crowds from their houses to greet the Emperor Trajan on his return to Rome, from his campaign against the Dacians, in which he had subjugated that powerful people, killed their bravest leaders, and after defeating with an

immense slaughter their King Decebalus and his immense and powerful army, had driven him to his last stronghold; when, rather than suffer an ignominious surrender, the barbarian monarch put an end to his life, and thereby to the hopes of his people of continuing a successful resistance to the imperial arms. The success of the Roman arms was complete. From the rise of the river Theiss to the Black Sea, from the Dneister to the Lower Danube, the whole country was reduced, and the insurgent chiefs who still refused to submit to the Roman eagle were forced to retire to the fastnesses of the Carpathian mountains, where they subsequently waged a guerilla warfare against the colonists of the imperial city.

In triumph the great Emperor entered. No simple ovation was decreed him by the Senate no simple sheep for the lordly ox, but the grand ceremony, which, since the days of Paulus Emilius, had never been celebrated with such pomp and splendour. For three days did the triumph last, and the people reared scaffolds in the Forum, and other parts of the city, where the tide of the pomp should sweep past and best be seen. The citizens to do honour to the Roman arms, and to him who had so gloriously led on the troops to victory, had donned, the richer ones, new gowns of the virgin white; while the meaner citizens, who could not afford the expense, spent the previous night in chalking theirs. The priests, who scented from afar, offerings to their shrines, opened their several temples, decking the walls with garlands of the choicest flowers, and burning on the altars the most precious perfumes. The streets and roads along which the procession had to pass were kept clear by mounted officers and the meaner herd of lictores, viatores, and the public scourgers and headsman, who were greeted with the like attention that a Billingsgate mob pays to the police in the present day; for while the mounted men were treated with the respect due to their horse's hoofs, the populace failed not to recompense themselves for this sacrifice, in the due abuse levelled against the simple tipstaves and truncheon-bearers. The only thing that never changes is human nature, and the mob of Rome vented upon the would-be keepers of the public peace the same indignities that a London crowd does upon the present blue-coated guardians of our streets. But there was this difference in the crowd of Rome,—the officers dared make no arrests. If they had, woe betide the hapless

guardians. The Tiber flowed turbid and fast by, willing hearts and strong arms were ready to revenge the insulted populace, and stones, plentiful as at the present hour, could be attached to the obnoxious individuals' throat,—a plunge, an eddy, a shout,—and the Romans would have returned to glut their sight of the great procession, the despatch of an officer being an agreeable whet to the public appetite.

The triumph lasted three days, an unusual honour, but one well bestowed upon the great Trajan, the best and most single-minded of all the Roman Emperors. Marcus Ulpius Trajan was born at Italica, a small town on the Guadalquivir, near Seville. His father had filled the highest offices Romans had to bestow, and Trajan, following in his footsteps, had successively and successfully filled the posts of praetor, consul, and commander of the Lower Rhine. While discharging the duties of the last office, the news was brought him of his nomination by the Emperor Nerva,—who had, on account of the violence of the military, resigned the purple,—to the imperial throne; a choice which satisfied the turbulent army, who gladly heard of the nomination of one so renowned as a soldier. The Senate, willingly acquiesced in his elevation from his high and patriotic character; while Nerva himself was proud to find that his adopted son, for in such a relation did Trajan stand to him, was so welcome received by all classes of the Romans; and this soothed the bitterness of his somewhat forced abdication. Nerva however died shortly after his retirement from the throne, his illness proving sudden and short. Trajan spent a year in arranging the affairs of the frontier, and then appeared at Rome, entering the city on foot, accompanied by his wife, and with no parade of state; to make up for this, the Senate had decreed him on the first occasion the most glorious triumph, which, with the exception of Paulus Æmilius had ever been decreed a Roman. But what made this triumph more interesting to the citizens was the fact that Trajan was the first foreigner who had received the *damaticum*, an infringement upon precedent that led at first to a succession of great and good emperors, and subsequently to the elevation of those who proved the ruin of Rome. Trajan, on ascending the throne, punished the military for their disobedience to his predecessor, and on delivering the sword to a new prefect he used these memorable words, "Employ it for me, if I

act well; against me, if I act ill." Not less modest were his female relatives, for his wife Plotina, in ascending for the first time the palatial steps, said, "Such as I am when I enter this house, may I be found when I leave it." She, and Trajan's sister, Marciana, contributed their influence to reform feminine morals, and to put a stop to that licentiousness, which the Roman dames indulged in, and which in previous reigns had called down the satires of Martial. Trajan soon became the idol of the populace, the nobility and the military, so that it became a common expression in saluting a new emperor, "May you be more fortunate than Augustus and better than Trajan." The first war in which Trajan, after his ascension, found himself engaged was with the Dacians, the triumph consequent upon which we have now to chronicle.

On the first day the procession consisted of statues, pictures, and images which had been taken from the enemy; and on the second, their armour and military accoutrements. The third day presented the grandest spectacle; early in the morning, when the first beams of Apollo smote the temple of Capitoline Jove, the victorious army began its march into Rome. First came the trumpeters sounding a martial charge; then followed young men girt about with girdles curiously wrought, who led to the sacrifice one-hundred and twenty oxen, with their horns gilded and their heads adorned with ribbons and garlands, and with these were boys that carried platters of silver and gold. Next followed the captives with lowering brows and bloodshot eyes, conquered truly, but still unsubdued. After a space came a solitary rider, the cynosure of all eyes, the gallant soldier and the witching poet, Caius Fabius, the great hero of the war, and who had thrice saved the emperor's life. Upon his helmet he wore the *corona civilis*, the most honourable of all the Roman crowns. It was bestowed upon him who saved the life of a Roman in war, and was formed of the leaves of the oak, the most honourable of all trees. Loud cheers greeted the presence of this gallant young noble, he was barely twenty-one, but already his name had become known and adored by the Romans, not only for his martial achievements, but also for his open hand and kindly heart. He was the staunch friend of the poor, whose welfare he ever carefully attended to; and the meanest citizen could depend upon his aid in all his lawful undertakings. He rode

before the emperor and thus, while dividing the popular attention with, heralded the approach of the great Trajan.

Trajan sat in his car of state, his features indicating indifference and ennui, rather than pride at his triumph. In fact, Trajan had too practical a mind to care much for the external pomp of power; he loved better to enjoy the quiet reality. His eyes were oftener fixed upon the gallant Caius who rode before him, and upon his valiant army who brought up the rear, than upon the gaping and bellowing crowd. Men who have faced the thunders of death in the battle field, care little for the admiring shouts of a crowd. Thus, when the offerings had been made at the Capitol, and Trajan had returned to his palace, he said laughingly to Caius:

"To please the Romans, I have heartily tired myself. What sayest thou, my Caius?"

"I would sooner face the Dacians than the yells of a Roman mob. There was always rest with the barbarians after a meeting; but I doubt if we can say as much for the populace."

"They are children, my Caius," said the Emperor, tapping him on the shoulder, "but we must exercise a strong parental hand to keep them in order."

(To be continued).

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

MASONIC TOMB IN CYPRUS.

Attached to the Greek Cathedral Church and Shrine of St. Lazarus, at Larnaka in Cyprus, is a graveyard railed off, in which are several English tombs. Opposite the gateway is that of Michael De Vezin, descended of a Huguenot family, born in England, and Esquire of the Body of the King, and H.M. Consul in Cyprus, who died in 1792. He was married to a lady named Pfeilz. The inscription is in Latin, headed by a coat-of-arms, and having at the bottom a square and compasses laid on a cushion, the whole well cut. The emblems were such as I have seen on Masonic tombs of the last century. The whole was in good order or I would have provided for its repair.

It is evident that Mr. De Vezin was proud of his rank, which I take to be that of W.M. Perhaps some brother may find out of what lodge he was Master.—HYDE CLARKE.

Larnaka, Cyprus, 31st August, 1866.

THE PREVARICATIONS OF ALCIBIADES.

In No. 346, page 135, of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE it is said that "it was a capital crime to divulge the mysteries of Ceres, and an indictable offence to perform the ceremonies incident thereto in any but the buildings specially consecrated for that purpose;

that Alcibiades had to escape by immediate flight the wrath of the people, called forth by his having held a private lodge in his own house, &c." May I ask what historical evidence there exists in support of these statements?—ENQUIRER.

[The facts here alluded to are well known to every one acquainted with the history of ancient Hellas in general, and of the Peloponnesian war in particular. The foot-note to the passage in question contains some quotations forming very sound "historical evidence." The mysteries of Eleusis have been frequently mentioned in these Notes and Queries. See the communications on pages 349, 369, 391, and 487, vol. xiv. of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE.

The following additional quotation from Plutarch's "Life of Alcibiades" will fully bear out the statement respecting Alcibiades' transgressions. It is the commencement of Chapter XIX., and runs thus:—

In the meantime Androcles, the demagogue, produced several of Alcibiades' servants and housemates as witnesses in support of the indictment charging the latter and his friends with having reproduced the mysterious signs and mocked the mysteries themselves while under the influence of wine (*μυστηρίων παρ' ὄνον ἀπομιμήσεις*). It was stated that a certain Theodoros had personated the herald (*κήρυξ*), Polytion, the torch-bearer (*δάδωνχος*) and Alcibiades himself, the Grand Prophet (*ιεροφάς*), while other boon companions of his performed the part of the initiated (*μύσται*). All this was contained in the accusation preferred by Thessalos, Cimon's son, charging Alcibiades with the profanation of the divine rites (*ἀσεβείν περὶ τῶ θεῷ*). The people having in this manner become incensed and highly exasperated by Androcles, who was the most violent enemy of Alcibiades, the latter was involved in serious trouble.

The following passage from Grote's (the present Vice-Chancellor of the University of London) "History of Greece,"* vol. vii., p. 282, although it cannot be said to form any "historical evidence," gives a very clear *précis* of the subject, and may not be thought out of place here:—

Among all the ceremonies of Attic religion, there was none more profoundly or universally revered than the mysteries of Eleusis—originally enjoined by the Goddess Demeter herself, in her visit to that place, to Eumolpus and the other Eleusinian patriarch, and transmitted as a precious hereditary privilege in their families. Celebrated annually in the month of August and September under the special care of the Basileus or second Archon, these mysteries were attended by vast crowds from Athens as well as from other parts of Greece, presenting to the eye a solemn and imposing spectacle, and striking the imagination still more powerfully by the special initiation which they conferred, under pledge of secrecy, upon pious and predisposed communicants. Even the divulgence in words to the uninitiated, of that which was exhibited to the eye and ear of the assembly in the interior of the Eleusinian Temple, was accounted highly criminal: much more the actual mimicry of these ceremonies for the amusement of a convivial party. Moreover, the individuals who held the great sacred offices at Eleusis, the Hierophant, the Daduch (torch bearer), and the Keryx or herald, which were transmitted by inheritance in the Eumolpidæ and other great families of antiquity and importance, were personally insulted by such proceedings, and vindicated their own dignity at the same time that they invoked punishment on the offenders in the name of Demeter and Tersephone. The most appalling legends were current among the Athenian public, and repeated on proper occasions even by the Hierophant himself, respecting the divine judgments which always overtook such impious men.

TEMPLARS AND MERCHANDISE.

The fifth item in an enactment of a convention of Burrows, held at Stirling, in 1405, is as follows:—
"Na Templair sall intromit with any merchandise or

* History of Greece, by George Grote, Esq. London: John Murray. 1850.

gudes pertaining to the Gild, be buying selling within or without thair awn land, bot giff he be ane Gild Brother."—D. MURRAY LYON.

FREEMASONRY AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

As many of your readers may have noticed the following paragraph in our daily papers, taken from the *Levant Herald*, under the above heading, or as it appears in another daily paper under the more appropriate heading of a "Row in Constantinople," it would be interesting to know if the correctness of this somewhat ludicrous incident can be substantiated by any of our Constantinopolitan brethren:—"A Row in Constantinople.—Old Haviar Khan was on Monday, Sept. 3, the scene of a row which is worth report. For some time past this narrow and dirty, if locally famous, enclosure, has been daily filled with drowds of chiefly Jew *tripoteurs*, to an extent which virtually put an end to the thoroughfare. Complaint was accordingly made to the Municipality, and on Monday Mr. Giacomo, the chief police inspector, and three or four of his men, entered the place to force the crowd to "move on." Bold, however, on their own ground, the Jews not only refused, but on the bottle-green coated myrmidons proceeding to *voies des faits*, turned on them and hustled the whole into the street. The ringleader, a Mr. V., singled out the inspector and had mauled him sadly before some one shouted out to the combatants that they were both Freemasons. The effect was instantaneous—from blows the "brethren" rapidly passed to embraces and mutual apologies, amid the laughter of the crowd. The Municipal Council, however, on hearing of the affair insisted on its inspector lodging a charge against Mr. V. at the Zaptieh, but this Brother Giacomo refused to do, pleading fraternal duty, and offering to resign rather than put the law in force against a G.P.M. (*sic.*?). Server Effendi has therefore perforce condoned the assault, and Brother Giacomo is to receive a new sash and whip of office from Brother V."

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OR TEMPLARS.

What is the proper mode of writing the latter word? Is it Knights Templar or Knights Templars? I am of opinion that it is the latter. Grouvelle calls them "Les Templiers," in which he is followed by Raynouard. Dupuis also writes the name so. Munter and Moldenhauer, "Orden der Tempeherren." Gürtler styles his work, "Historia Templavorum." Addison calls them "Knights Templars." I know of no English authority who styles them Templar, although I find the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR invariably gives *Knights Templar*. Perhaps some reader may throw a light upon the modern reading of the word in the singular.—A. O. H.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

"THE STREAM OF ENGLISH FREEMASONRY," BY BRO. DR. PEARSON BELL.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have much pleasure in endorsing your recommendation of the "Stream of English Freemasonry," by Bro. Dr. Pearson Bell, P.M., D. Prov. G.M. for Yorkshire (North and East), as it is assuredly a welcome addition to our Masonic

literature; and we hope many members of the Craft will evince their warm appreciation of the talented author's labours, by promoting its sale to their utmost extent. The chart is generally very correct, the design is most unique, and its artistic merit is as great as its information is valuable and interesting.

I have carefully examined it, and find the following to be a little doubtful as to accuracy, so far as my investigations go:—

"A Biographical Tableau," by Bro. Edward Lefree, M.A., FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, Sept. 30, 1851; "Freemasons' Pocket Companion," Oxford, 1831; and other works are taken as authorities, and are acknowledged when quoted from. "Chart—Archbishop of Canterbury, G.M., A.D. 960;" "Biographical Tableau," the date should be A.D. 959, and by the Oxford Companion A.D. 957. "Chart—Gondulphe, Bishop of Rochester, G.M., A.D. 1066;" "Biographical Tableau" A.D. 1068; Oxford Companion A.D. 1066. "Chart—Gilbert de Clare, G.M., A.D. 1137." Biographical Tableau A.D. 1136; Oxford Companion A.D. 1135. "Chart—Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Sarum, G.M.," A.D. 1461. Biographical Tableau A.D. 1473; Oxford Companion and Entick's Constitutions A.D. 1471. "Chart—Cardinal Wolsey, G.M., A.D. 1509. Biographical Tableau gives the same date, but the Oxford Companion A.D. 1515. "Chart—Duke of Somerset, G.M.," A.D. 1547. Biographical Tableau A.D. 1549. Oxford Companion A.D. 1549. "Chart—Sir Thomas Sackville, G.M.," 1558. Biographical Tableau A.D. 1561; Oxford Companion A.D. 1560. "Chart—Earl of Effingham, G.M.," 1579 to 1588. According to the most complete information we can procure the Earl of Effingham died A.D. 1579, and yet from the Oxford Companion we learn he was Grand Master A.D. 1780, and the "Chart" and "Entick's Constitutions" states that he continued in that office until A.D. 1588. We confess to being perplexed in this case especially, and shall feel glad at hearing of a competent authority to decide between such conflicting statements.

"Chart—Charles I., G.M.," A.D. 1625 to 1630. I have not been able to discover any reason for such an office being held by Charles I. Bro. William Preston, in "Illustrations of Masonry," merely mentions the unfortunate monarch's name, and says the Earl of Pembroke was Grand Master from A.D. 1618 to A.D. 1630 (also confirmed by "Entick's Constitutions"). "Chart—Inigo Jones, G.M., A.D. 1636 to 1651; Oxford Companion A.D. 1646. That the latter is correct is confirmed by Bro. William Preston, who states that Inigo Jones died in the year 1646, and, consequently, could not have been G.M. A.D. 1651. "Chart—Earl of Kingston, G.M., A.D. 1740." This name must be in error, as I think all Masonic historians will admit that it should be Kintore, and not Kingston. I have just referred to Cole's edition, "Constitutions" A.D. 1729 (dedicated to Lord Kingston), "Scott's Masonic Pocket Companion" A.D. 1759, Entick's "Constitutions" A.D. 1756. "Calcott's Disquisitions on Masonry" A.D. 1769; "Preston's Illustrations" (two editions); "British and Irish Masonic Calendar" (three editions); "Constitutions of Grand Lodge of Scotland," and "Laurie's History of Freemasonry" (last edition), and other works, and find all agree in stating that John Earl of Kintore (G.M. Scotland A.D. 1738) was G.M. A.D. 1740. The name of Lord or Earl of Kingston is not men-

tioned as Grand Master after A.D. 1730, according to our memory.

“Chart—Duke of Dalkeith, G.M. A.D. 1723; Preston’s Illustrations and Oxford Companion state that the Duke of Buccleugh was G.M. A.D. 1723. “Tindal’s Freemasonry,” Lord Dalkeith, G.M. A.D. 1723. “Calcott’s Disquisitions” mentions that the Earl of Dalkeith, late Duke of Buccleugh, was G.M. at the date now referred to; at all events, I think there is no dukedom by the title of Dalkeith.

As the list of Grand Masters of the “Grand Lodge under the Old Constitutions” or “Ancients” is not complete, the following may make it perfect in that respect:—Earl of Kellie, Grand Master, A.D. 1761; Duke of Athole, Grand Master, A.D. 1772; Earl of Antrim, Grand Master, A.D. 1785; Duke of Athole, Grand Master, A.D. 1794; Duke of Kent, Grand Master, up to the Union, 1813.

But it is now time to draw these remarks to a close by congratulating Bro. Dr. Bell on the general merits of the Chart, and wishing him all the gratification and pleasure such a work should afford him, from seeing the members of the “Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons” fully alive to its worth, and heartily supporting him in so desirable an enterprise.—Yours fraternally,

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

High Cross, Truro, 15th Sept., 1866.

THE SINGER SEWING MACHINE.—The merits of the new family machines for all purposes, manufactured by this company, are almost universally admitted, being now made upon an entirely new plan. The novelty is that all unnecessary complication in the machinery is dispensed with, and a rapid, perfect, and noiseless action is the result of the present construction of it. The shuttle, in ordinary machines, has to be oiled in order to work easily, which is decidedly an objection when the work should be free from the chance even of a soil or stain, often unavoidable, however skilled and careful the operator may be. This is entirely obviated in Singer’s improved machine, for it will work freely without the use of oil or grease in any form. Another great advantage is the substitution of a short straight needle, which enables the operator to work with greater rapidity, and with an increased power. The machines are made on the lock-stitch principle, which, we believe, is the most reliable for general family use, inasmuch as it will not easily be unravelled out. Again, they have applied their patented “binder” for folding and stitching binding to the edge of any piece of work. Then, the “marker” is another recent patent which the company have applied to it. This is a gauge fixed to the machine, and used for marking each succeeding tuck, of any width, during the working of the machine, according to the will of the operator. They have also applied a new “hemmer,” which makes the hem, or fell, of any desired width, by a very simple and easily accomplished adjustment of the machine, braiding either with silk or worsted or with silk twist, may be effected on any colour, or to any pattern; many of the exquisite designs we noticed of this work are evidences to us that staymakers, dressmakers, and others may use these machines with great effect. Then, we have the most wonderful improvement of all, viz., the “button hole” machine, which, two years ago, was considered by most to be an operation which no machinery could accomplish; but here we have it. This machine is constructed for manufactures in a very large way of business, for making button holes, and we have seen this work most beautifully done on the Singer Machine. Our readers will have the opportunity of inspecting the operation of the noiseless family machine in the Exhibition, and we have only to add, they are got up suitable either for a piece of drawing-room furniture, or for the more utilitarian purposes of the workroom. Besides the above machine, the Singer Company also manufacture machines for working upon heavy materials, such as leather work, cloth work, &c., all of which may be seen by a personal visit to the office.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

A SOUTH METROPOLITAN MASONIC HALL.—We have received a prospectus of the South Metropolitan Masonic Hall Company (Limited). From the daily complaints which reach us of the want of proper accommodation for Masonic meetings in various parts of the Metropolis, we wish the promoters every success, and trust the proposed South Metropolitan Masonic Hall will prove to be a desideratum equal to the requirements of the brethren on the south side of the river.

BRO. D. MURRAY LYON.—We are pleased to find that at the next meeting of the St. John’s Lodge (Thornhill, No. 225), it is intended to present a testimonial to our distinguished Bro. D. Murray Lyon, the historian of St. John’s. It is expected that Bro. J. Stewart, of Nateby Hall, Prov. G. Master of Dumfriesshire, will be present on the occasion to take part in the proceedings in connection with the presentation of the testimonial to our esteemed brother and *collaborateur* in the field of Masonic Literature.

LOCAL MASONIC RELIEF COMMITTEE.—We alluded in a recent issue to the excellent working of the East and West Lancashire Relief Committee, and gave the report presented at the last annual meeting. We recommend to the attention and serious consideration of our metropolitan brethren, the plan so systematically pursued with such successful results by our Lancashire brethren, with a view to some such similar associations being formed in various parts of the metropolis.

BRIGHTON.—We understand that application is about to be made to Grand Lodge to grant the petition for the issue of a warrant for a new lodge at Brighton—named the Zetland Lodge.

THE REPORTED EXPULSIONS FROM THE BOYS’ SCHOOL.—We have received some very temperate letters, endorsing the sentiments expressed by “Corner Stone,” in our issue of last week. We grieve at the painful occurrence, but deem it expedient in all fairness to the House Committee to await the report upon the subject, which we shall expect to be brought up in the ensuing month. In the meantime we cannot do better than recommend our correspondents, as they are subscribers to the charity, to address themselves to the Secretary, Bro. Binckes, whom we have never found to be wanting in any point of courtesy or attention.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—This prosperous and flourishing lodge having been closed for the summer months was reopened for business on Tuesday, September 18th at the Green Man Tavern, Pooley-street, Southwark. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. J. C. Goody, Bro. Frederick Walters, P.M., opened the lodge. The minutes of the last general lodge as also the lodges of emergency were read and unanimously confirmed. Bro. J. C. Goody, W.M., then took the chair and presided for the remainder of the evening. There were also present Bros. H. Moore, I.P.M.; G. Morris, S.W.; T. J. Sabine, J.W.; E. Harris, P.M., Treas.; J. Donkin, P.M., Sec.; F. H. Ebsworth, S.D.; D. Rose, J.D.; G. Free, W.S., as I.G.; T. Trickett, C. D. Watkins, R. Stevens, Walsli, C. A. Cathie, A. L. Duseck, T. N. Moore, S. Harndu, Reed, M. Hornsey, G. T. Liscoe, and many others too numerous to mention. Amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. Beccles, Bartlett, and others whose names we were unable to ascertain. Ballots were taken and proved in favour of Mr. John Robinson for initiation,

and Bro. G. R. Warren, 687, W.M. (I.C.), as a joining member. The only work done was passing Bro. Reed to the second degree. Then it was agreed to have a framed respect board to contain the names of the Past Stewards sent by this lodge to represent the Masonic Charities; also showing the amount paid by this lodge to each Charity. The sum of ten guineas was voted from the lodge funds to purchase a Life Governorship of the Royal Masonic Institution for the sons of indigent and deceased Freemasons in the name of the W.M. for the time being. There being no Steward appointed to represent that Charity from this lodge for 1897, Bro. F. Walters, P.M., offered himself to stand Steward and was unanimously accepted. A notice of motion was given to vote £20 from the lodge funds into the Charity box. Also for ten guineas from the lodge funds to be given to the Girls' School. One gentleman was proposed for initiation at the next lodge meeting. Business being ended the lodge was duly closed until Tuesday, October 16th. The brethren then adjourned to a banquet which reflected which reflected the highest credit on Bro. C. A. Cathie who uses all his exertions to promote the happiness and comfort of the brethren. The evening was spent in the usual happy manner which distinguishes all the social reunions of the old Mount Lebanon Lodge.

PANMURE LODGE.—Monday last was the first monthly meeting after the summer vacation. There were two raisings, one passing, and two initiations, and other business connected with the lodge. The brethren subsequently partook of an excellent banquet, after which Bro. Hodges, W.M., proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. His own health was proposed and drank, and the health of Bro. Thomas, P.M., was also warmly received. The visitors included Bros. Stacey, W.M. Welcome Lodge; Dent, of the Dalhousie Lodge; and Luning, of the Robert Burns Lodge, the latter of whom said, in reply to the toast of "The Visitors," that, go to whatever lodge he might, the Panmure Lodge was everywhere spoken of as proverbial for hospitality. Bro. Hare, J.W., responded for the Officers, and Bro. H. Smith for himself and Bro. Bell (the two initiates). The vocal arrangements were excellent, and a novel feature was observed by the introduction of a set of songs composed or adapted to Masonic purposes by the W.M., with especial reference to this lodge, and which were sung by several brethren.

BELGRAVE LODGE (No. 749).—An emergency meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on the 7th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, Bro. W. Ough, W.M.; Potter, S.W.; Watkinson, J.W.; W. Bourne, S.D.; P. Parsons, J.D.; Peirce, I.G.; J. G. Froude, P.M. and Treas.; H. Garrod, P.M. and Sec. A strong muster of the brethren were present, amongst whom we observed Bros. G. Pym, T. Strip, M. Catmur, W. Wickham, Hester, Lesseher, Zaehusdorf, Herbert, &c. The lodge was graced by the presence of the following visitors: Bros. Bond, P.M. of the Vetruvian Lodge; J. Stevenson, of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, and two others whose names we missed. The four following gentlemen were ballotted for initiation viz., Messrs. W. Copp, J. Turner, W. Alexander, and G. Peabody, and the ballot proving unanimously in their favour, were separately introduced and initiated into Ancient Freemasonry in Bro. Ough's efficient manner, the ceremony being faultless. After which Bros. Cockerell and Knight were passed to the degree of F.C.; at the expressed wish of the W.M., Garrod, P.M., Sec., performed the ceremony of raising Bro. Jamieson to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, in his usual able manner, for which he is so well known. After a heavy night's business the lodge was closed with solemn prayer, and the brethren retired to banquet, which was served up in Bro. Clemow's best manner, everything in season being on the table. After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been drunk, the W.M. gave "The Initiates," and he remarked that during his year of office he had never held a lodge without some candidates. All the four candidates returned thanks in a most feeling manner, after which the W.M. gave "The Visitors," which was drunk with the utmost enthusiasm. Bro. Bond, P.M., in returning thanks assured the brethren that he was delighted with the working of the Belgrave Lodge, and invited the brethren to visit him at the Vetruvian Lodge. Bro. Stevenson following Bro. Bond thanked the W.M. for the kindly manner in which he had coupled with his—Bro. Stevenson's name—the toast of "Prosperity to the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR," he was pleased to find the journal which he had the honour to represent, so flatteringly spoken of by the W.M. in the few but appropriate words which had first fallen from the lips of the W.M.. Bro. Stevenson could assure

the brethren that no pains were, or should be spared to render the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE the true and faithful MIRROR of the Craft—the representative and exponent of Freemasonry in Great Britain and her dependencies. The pages of the Magazine were always open to chronicle Masonic proceedings throughout the world, and to ventilate all questions affecting the interests and welfare of our ancient and honourable Order. Bro. Stevenson trusted the day was not far distant which should dawn upon a new era in connection with Freemasonry in Great Britain more especially. He alluded to the reflection which attached to the Brethren in this country, on account of their apathy in regard to Masonic literature. The existence of the journal which he, Bro. Stevenson, represented, was only maintained by dint of the most determined perseverance in keeping it under the notice of the Craft. And yet how often have we to experience the chagrin of hearing from brethren such remarks as the following:—"We are pleased that the Order is represented by a journal devoted exclusively to its interests; but it is really the first time we have heard of the Magazine." Now surely, this must show that there is a lack of a thirst after Masonic literature. It was with much regret Bro. Stevenson recently learned that the representative organ of the Craft, under the jurisdiction of the G.M. of Scotland, had ceased to exist, the more so, as it evidenced the apathy to which he had just referred, as our Scottish contemporary was well supported in its contributions from such able pens as those of the talented brethren, Bros. A. Oneal Haye, D. Murray Lyon, the Rev. Andrew Bonar, and other equally distinguished Masonic *litterateurs*. Then there is Ireland—she is unrepresented by a MIRROR. The interest taken in the welfare of the Order in the sister isle is enhanced from the fact of the excellent Masonic Benevolent Institutions established there; an evidence of the practical charity and warm-heartedness of her children. She has in her Viceroys (Lord Abercorn), and the Chief Secretary (Lord Naas), warm friends and supporters of the Order. Bro. Stevenson re-iterated his acknowledgments of the kindness of the W.M. and brethren of the Belgrave, and trusted that ere long each of the jurisdictions of our three Grand Lodges should be creditably represented by flourishing representative organs. The W.M. then said it gave him great pleasure to propose, "The Officers of the Belgrave Lodge," and how pleased he was to see so many of them working hard in lodges of instruction, the only place where Masons could possibly learn the duties of the lodge, this toast having been done justice to the evening was brought to a close before eleven o'clock. We must not omit to observe that the banquet was enlivened by some excellent singing by Bros. Parsons, Herbert, Strip, Pym; and one of Burns' ditties by a Scottish visiting brother.

THE DORIC LODGE (No. 933).—This lodge held the first regular meeting after the recess, at the Earl of Eglinton, Bow, on Wednesday, the 12th inst., Bro. W. Gilchrist, W.M., presided, assisted by his officers, and raised Bro. Shenton and Pool to the third degree. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the next meeting. We understand that after October the lodge will hold its meetings at Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street, City; the present place of meeting not being equal to the requirements of the lodge, owing to the rapidly increasing number of its members. Surely there must be a sad lack of proper accommodation for Masonic meetings in the eastern and north-eastern districts of the metropolis. We observe that there is a scheme for a Southern Metropolitan Masonic Hall. Why should there not be an Eastern Masonic Hall, which should afford the much-desired accommodation for that portion of the Metropolis?

PROVINCIAL.
DEVONSHIRE.



MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—Lodge *St. Aubyn* (No. 954).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening the 11th inst., for the purpose of transacting the usual work, and other matters of business. The lodge was opened with usual solemnities at the hour named on summons, by the W.M. when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The candidate for the third degree being out of town, no work for that degree offered, whereupon on proper examination the two brethren who were initiated at the previous lodge, were passed to the degree of F.C., the labours of that degree having terminated, business was resumed in the first, and the question

of paying fees of honour on accession to office, was discussed with considerable animation and ultimately deferred till the next night of meeting. Nothing further of importance offering, the labours of the evening closed with prayer. Several visitors being present a slight refreshment was served in the ante-room, but with the exception of the health of the W.M. only one other toast was given that of "The Visitors," all of whom responded in very kindly terms. Bro. Willoughby took occasion to say that he felt more than ordinary pleasure at being present on that occasion to add his testimony to the merits of the St. Aubyn Lodge in appointments, retualism, and Masonic spirit, he would say it was unequalled. No lodge has exercised more care in the election of members than St. Aubyn, and in point of numbers, respectability, and Masonic talent, it could throw down the gauntlet. We understand this lodge has now in the press a new edition of its bye laws, which will contain a brief sketch of its history, the brethren who have been initiated, passed, raised in, and joined it, copy of its warrant, and the names of every brother who has been connected with the lodge, together with his profession and residence.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Temple Lodge* (No. 1094).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Temple Hope-street, on Wednesday, Sept. 12th, at six o'clock p.m. The lodge was duly opened by Bro. R. H. D. Johnson, W.M., assisted by Bros. J. Mercer Johnson, S.W.; Dr. Smith, J.W.; Sheldon, J.D.; Marsh, Sec.; Hendry, J.D.; Lyke, I.G., &c.; Hamer, Prov. G.T.; W. L. Crane, P.M. Bros. May, P.M.; Baimer, Baker, Cras, &c., visitors. Mr. T. Tyrer was duly initiated into Freemasonry. The charge was given by Bro. Johnson, S.W., and the explanation of the working tools by Bro. Smith, J.W., in a very impressive manner. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Boucher was duly passed to the degree of P.C. The beautiful ceremony being performed in the solemn and impressive manner, for which Bro. Johnson is so justly celebrated, Bro. E. Campana presented to the lodge a very beautiful floor cloth, having the following inscription,— "Presented to the Temple Lodge, No. 1095, by Bro. E. Campana, A.L. 5866." The thanks of the lodge having been voted to Bro. Campana for his beautiful gift. Bro. Campana said he felt quite unable to acknowledge, as he ought to do, the extremely kind manner in which his name and gift had been received. He ever had the interests of the Order at heart. It was a source of gratification to him to see the Temple Lodge in such good working order, and to see true friendship and brotherly love exist among the brethren. He trusted he would be long spared to study and promote the welfare of the lodge by every means in his power. I can only further repeat my thanks for your kindness, and trust when we are called from our labour in this sublunary abode, it may be our happiness to be reunited in the Grand Lodge above. Bro. D. W. Winstanley presented the I.G. sword, &c., for which the thanks of the lodge were given to him. Several of the visiting brethren spoke in the highest terms of the working and the truly Masonic friendship that was evinced towards them.

NORFOLK.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was held at East Dereham, on Thursday, the 13th inst. Most of the lodges in the province—especially those of Norwich—were well represented, altogether about 100 brethren being present. The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at high twelve, in the Assembly Rooms, Bro. the Hon. F. Walpole officiating for the Prov. G. Master, Bro. B. B. Cabbell, F.R.S., whose age and infirmities prevented him from being present.

The minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge having been read by Bro. A. M. F. Morgan, Prov. G. Sec., and confirmed by the brethren, the roll of lodges was called over, when it was found that the following were represented:—Bros. Peurice, W.M. Union, 52; G. Holmes, W.M. Faithful, 85; Pitt, W.M. Social, 93; Haulon, P.M. Friendship, 100; the Rev. R. P. Bent, P.M. *Unanimity*, 102; R. H. Household, W.M. *Philanthropic*, 107; J. Dunsford, W.M. *Perseverance*, 213; Tomlinson, W.M. *United Friends*, 313; G. Thirkettle, W.M. Cabbell, 807; Deacon, S.W. *Sincerity*, 943; E. Barwell, W.M. *Sondes*, 996; H. Mason, W.M. *Joppa*, 1114. The Acting Prov. G.M. then appointed the following as the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge for the ensuing year, and invested those who were present with

their respective badges:—Bros. Holmes, Prov. S.G.W.; Peurice Prov. G.J.W.; Bent, Prov. G. Chap.; Scott, Prov. G. Reg.; J. Boyce, Prov. S.G.D.; Pitt, Prov. J.G.D.; Master, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Mason, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; E. Barwell, Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; J. English, Prov. G.S.B.; Martin, Prov. G. Org.; Dunsford, Prov. G. Purst.; Gunn, Prov. G. Treas.; and Lacey, Haulon, Thirkettle, and Deacon, Prov. G. Stewards. Bros. J. Barwell, the Prov. G. Treas.; and A. M. F. Morgan, the Prov. G.S., were re-appointed to their respective offices. During the lodge business various sums were voted for the relief of distressed brethren and their families, and on the recommendation of the Finance Board the sum of ten guineas to the Girls' School, from the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

At two o'clock the brethren formed themselves into procession at the Assembly Rooms, and proceeded to the parish church of East Dereham, where divine service was held. The seats on each side of the central aisle were occupied by members of the Craft, and all other parts of the noble edifice were well filled by the general congregation. The service was conducted by the vicar (the Rev. B. J. Armstrong, M.A.), and the musical part was full choral. The beautiful anthem, "Behold how good and joyful a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," was efficiently rendered by the choir. The sermon was preached by the Rev. R. P. Bent, Prov. G. Chap., from the tenth verse of the eighth chapter of Nehemiah, "The joy of the Lord is your strength," and at the conclusion a collection was made on behalf of the District Visiting and the Sick Poor Societies of Dereham, amounting to £17 7s. 3d., £11 of which was contributed by the brethren.

At the conclusion of the service the brethren adjourned to the Corn-hall, and partook of dinner, which was provided by Bro. Parke, of the King's Head Hotel. The Acting Prov. G.M. presided, and was supported by Bros. the Rev. R. P. Bent, Prov. G. Chap.; the Rev. C. J. Martyn, P. Prov. G.S. Oxford; H. P. L'Estrange, P. Prov. G. Reg.; J. Coleman, M.M.; the Rev. — Bird, Prov. J.G.D. Surrey; G. E. Simpson, P. Prov. G.J.W.; J. Barwell, Jun., M.M.; J. A. Creswell, P. Prov. G. Reg.; J. Marshall, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Boyce, Prov. S.G.D.; J. Taylor, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; H. Mason, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., &c.; Bros. Holmes, Prov. S.G.W.; and D. Peurice, Prov. J.G.W., being in the vice-chairs.

The preliminary toasts, including the healths of the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of England, and Earl de Grey and Ripon, D. Prov. G.M. having been duly honoured,

The A. Prov. G. Master gave "The Health of Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, the Provincial Grand Master," in whom he said was found the combination of two rare qualities—the power to give, and the will to do it. He need not say how much the brethren regretted the absence of the venerable Prov. G.M., and how warmly they would have welcomed him if he had been present.

The toast having been drunk with Masonic honours,

Bro. J. Barwell, Prov. G. Treas., responded on behalf of the Prov. G.M., remarking that there never was a man whom he more highly respected. He had known Bro. Cabbell for a great number of years, and he believed the reason why he was called upon to return thanks was because he was the oldest Mason in that assembly. All the brethren would bear him out when he said the acts and conduct of the Prov. G.M., would bear the strictest investigation. His charity did not arise, as was the case with some men, from the feeling that it covereth a multitude of sins, but from the kindness of his heart, and the generosity of his mind. He wished they could put ten or twenty years more upon his life, but he was afraid that they never would have the happiness of again seeing him at the Provincial Grand Lodge. Owing to his advanced age, he was obliged to take very great care of his health, and he feared that it would not be safe for him to take any active part in the business of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The A. Prov. G. Master then gave "The Health of Bro. Leedes Fox, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master," expressing his deep regret that the absence of Bro. Fox was occasioned by severe illness. He coupled with the toast the name of the Prov. G. Secretary.

Bro. Morgan said he believed the reason why he had been selected to return thanks to this toast was because he had succeeded to the office which Bro. Fox filled with great ability and zeal, and he was sure, also with satisfaction to the Craft, until it pleased the Provincial Grand Master to appoint him to a higher position. He (Bro. Morgan) could assure them that it

was with mingled feelings of regret and pleasure that he responded to the toast, for when he remembered that at the present moment a brother whom they all so highly respected, was upon a bed of sickness, and that the result of that sickness was only within the knowledge of the great Disposer of all human events, that it was uncertain whether he would be restored to health and activity, and to his position as a husband, a father, and as a ruler of the Craft, or whether it would please the great Architect of the Universe to remove him to the Grand Lodge above—when he remembered that this was the cause of Bro. Fox's absence, and that nothing but extreme ill-health would have prevented him from being present, he could not but entertain a deep feeling of regret in responding to the toast. If, on the other hand, he could derive any feeling of pleasure, it was from the fact that so super-excellent a substitute was acting for Bro. Fox. He thought it only due to that brother to tell the province that at a moment's notice, and at considerable inconvenience to himself, he had undertaken to be present, and that to do so he had been compelled to leave a family of distinction to whom he was paying a visit. The Prov. G.M. was a most esteemed man, but at the same time he was a very old man, and he was sorry, deeply sorry, to say, that he was a very ailing man. It would be indecorous for him to say more than that there was a very old proverb, "Coming events cast their shadows before,"—but he hoped that that venerable and kind-hearted man who was now at their head of the Order in this province, would be spared for some years longer.

Bro. E. Barwell said he felt much flattered by having to propose "The Health of the Provincial Acting Master." He felt that the Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk had conferred a very great honour upon Dereham by selecting it as the place for the holding of the Grand Lodge of the present year, only about a year and a half having elapsed since the Dereham Lodge was established. He (Bro. Barwell) had not passed through a very long career in Masonry, but he was old enough to know that Bro. the Hon. F. Waipole, who had so ably presided over the Craft to-day, was one of the most accomplished Masons in the province. The Soudes Lodge ought to feel very proud of him, not only as a visitor to Dereham, but as a brother in Masonry.

The toast was drunk with full Masonic honours.

The A. Prov. G. Master, in responding, said he wished to thank Bro. Barwell and the brethren of the Soudes Lodge at Dereham, for their kind reception of him, and also to congratulate Dereham upon the way in which they had received the brethren generally. He had no hesitation in declaring that he was zealous in Masonry, for although he had been a Mason twenty-odd years, he had never seriously regretted having joined the Order. He had found that those professions which the Craft made on his first gaining admission to it had been generally and mainly the guiding and leading principles of the Order. The only credential of admission to Masonry was being free-born (which is common to all mankind) and of good repute, which was gained by the advowson of the brethren at the election of members. The objects which Masonry sought to obtain, and of which they had themselves that day been part witnesses, was to relieve brethren who were in want. But there was another object which he thought the Craft attained—namely, that in social meetings, men of all ranks and classes could mingle together in harmony, without being disturbed by dogmas of religion, without politics, and without difference of opinion. He thought that that was a great object to attain, for by bringing together in social harmony men of all ranks, the more they would know of each other, and the better means would they have of appreciating each other. As in the voltaic battery, the matter remained dormant till the two wires were brought together, so in society, they might live near and yet not know each other till they touched the electric spark, and in the words of Shakespeare, "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." The guiding principles of the Craft were brotherly love, relief, and truth, and he was divulging no secret when he said that he who followed those sublime precepts—love, mercy, practice justice, and seek to live in harmony and brotherly love with his Craft—would never do wrong. Such a society, he said, was one which they could safely commend to their children, and under whose banners they might sincerely recommend their friends to enrol themselves. They had spoken kindly in regard to himself, and in the words of the great poet, he would conclude by saying:—

I can no other answer make, but thanks,
And thanks, and ever thanks. Often good turns
Are shuffled off with some uncurrent pay;

But were my worth, as is my conscience, firm,

You would find better dealing.

The A. Prov. G. Master next proposed, in complimentary terms, "The Health of the Provincial Grand Chaplain," to which Bro. the Rev. R. P. Bent responded.

Bro. G. E. Simpson, P. Prov. J.G.W., gave "The Health of the Visitors," which Bro. Bird, Prov. G.D. of Surrey, acknowledged.

The toast of "The Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge," was responded to by Bro. Holmes, Prov. S.G.W.; and Bro. G. E. Simpson responded on behalf of the P. Prov. G. Officers.

The A. Prov. G. Master, in proposing "The Health of the P.G.S.," said that the toast did not require any recommendation from him, as they knew that to a very large extent the working of the programme of the day had been in his hands. It was not for him to comment upon the way in which the work had been carried out, but having known and mingled with Bro. Morgan a great number of years, it was with the greatest pleasure that he proposed his health.

The Prov. G. Secretary replied in a neat speech, during which he remarked upon the difficulty which he experienced in recommending for appointment the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, owing to the excellent qualifications of so many good Masons who resided in the province; but he added that he had never allowed any feeling of friendship to influence him in the least.

The Prov. G. Treasurer then acknowledged the toast of his health, which was suitably proposed by the A. Prov. G.M.; and the brethren then separated.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

BRIDLINGTON-QUAY.—*Londesborough Lodge* (No. 734).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 4th inst., at the lodge room in Garrison-street. The were present Bros. D. R. W. Parritt, W.M.; J. Rennard, J.W.; A. B. Brockwell, Sec.; the junior officers and several of the members, and amongst the visiting brethren Bros. Hay of the Humber Lodge, and Captain Symons, 200, who kindly took the chair of S.W., in the unavoidable absence of Captain Knocker. The minutes of the last regular lodge were read and confirmed. Mr. Geldred who had been regularly proposed was then balloted for and accepted. Bro. Coventry having been satisfactorily examined, was entrusted and retired. He afterwards re-entered the lodge and was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. Bro. Fox, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.D., then proceeded to read his promised lecture on "Masonry, its mission," which was listened to with great interest by the brethren present, and received with marked applause. A vote of thanks was then passed to Bro. Fox for his lecture, which was duly responded to. The postponed discussion of the ways and means to increase the relief fund for distressed brethren passing through the town, was then opened by the Secretary, who gave notice of a proposition for the next regular lodge night. Two other notices of proposition were also given, and there being no further business to be transacted the lodge was finally closed at ten o'clock p.m.

ROYAL ARCH.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—*Tees Chapter* (No. 749).—A convocation of this chapter was holden in the lodge room Mason's Court, on Thursday the 13th instant at 6 p.m. under the able presidency of Comp. J. G. Thompson, Z., assisted by Comps. H. C. Knowles, H.; M. Cadle, J.; R. Welch, E.; W. Best, P.Z.; acting N., &c. After the chapter had been opened and the minutes read, Bro. R. B. Harpley, W.M., of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge (No. 764) West Hartlepool, who had been proposed by Comp. Cadle, was introduced and exalted to the supreme degree of a R.A. Mason. The most interesting business of the evening then took place, which was the presentation to Comp. Levy, P.Z., Chapter of Strict Benevolence Sunderland, of a beautiful Past Principal's jewel, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented by the Tees Chapter (No. 749) Stockton-on-Tees to Comp. B. Levy, P.Z., as a mark of esteem and fraternal regard, and in recognition of his services since the formation of the Chapter." The M.E.Z. in presenting the jewel spoke in eulogistic terms of their respected companion, who is well known in the province as the able Prov. G. Dir. of Cers, as well as one of the best working Masons in the North of England. Comp. Levy expressed his thanks in a smart

pithy telling speech; after which the Chapter was closed and the companions adjourned to the Black Lion Hotel to partake of a slight collation. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts followed, the proceedings being enlivened by the admirable vocalization of Comps Whitwell, Hart, Caddle, and Jordison, accompanied by Bro. J. P. Jewson, an accomplished pianist.

RED CROSS KNIGHTS.

PLANTAGENET PRECEPTORY OF INSTRUCTION (No. 2).—The meetings of this preceptory were resumed for the season on Thursday, the 13th inst., at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, when the following knights of the Order were present R. W. Little, President; H. G. Buss, Treas.; W. Turner, Recorder; W. H. Hubbard, J. G. Marsh, G. Powell, H.; J. W. Thompson, J. S. Charlton, T. Wescombe, and W. Dodd. The minutes of the previous assembly having been confirmed, the ceremony of installation was ably rehearsed, after which Sir Knts. Wescombe, Dodd, and Charlton, of the Original Conclave, were unanimously elected joining members, and made their offerings accordingly. Sir Knt. Marsh was elected M.P.S. for the next assembly. Sir Knt. Powell, V.E., and nominated their Generals and other officers. The preceptory was then closed and adjourned to Thursday, the 27th inst., the meeting being held every alternate week.

Obituary.

BRO. JOHN PROBETT, OF SWANSEA.

It is with extreme regret that we have to record the decease, on the 13th inst., of this old and much-esteemed brother.

For many years Bro. Probett has been intimately known throughout the province of South Wales, and by the brethren of the Swansea, Neath, and Aberavon Lodges; his name has long been deemed a "household word;" while far beyond the circle of Freemasonry he had acquired a pleasant enduring celebrity as one of the best representatives of a class now rapidly fading out, viz., the gentleman coachman of the old school. In early life he drove one of the then celebrated fast coaches between London and Oxford and Birmingham. At a later period he was well known on the road in various parts of the West of England, especially in the neighbourhood of Taunton and Wells. Subsequently he drove the Welsh Mail, and until the establishment of the South Wales Railway no one was better known between Gloucester and Carmarthen than Bro. Probett.

Latterly he has been recognised as the highly respected and popular landlord of the "Adelaide," the resort of the business men of the town, and the favourite rendezvous of his numerous admirers among the Craft. His house was ever conducted with such extreme propriety and quiet dignity as to combine all the comforts of a private dwelling, with more than the usual advantages of a pleasant hostelry.

For the last twelve years Bro. Probett has occupied with much credit to himself, and unquestionably to the great satisfaction of the brethren, the positions of Tyler of the *Indefatigable Lodge*, and Janitor of the Chapter, Virtue and Hope, Swansea. In addition to these appointments, he was selected with universal approval, to fill the office of Prov. G. Tyler. His death thus creates vacancies which will not be readily filled. The event has cast a gloom and very saddening influence over the Swansea brethren, by whom especially he was held in the highest repute and esteem. His upright, faithful conduct in his walk of life, his strict, undeviating punctuality, his tenacious persistence in performing every duty devolving upon him with the most scrupulous methodical painstaking exactitude; his dignified courtesy and gentlemanly bearing, his readiness to afford instruction or to communicate pleasing information

from his stores of knowledge and worldly experience, all combined to render him a favourite with every one who had the advantage and pleasure of being acquainted with him, while by his own lodge he was regarded as no occupant of his position will be again held for many years to come. It is felt that an "old landmark" has been removed, of great service in its generation; and the cause and suddenness of his death from cholera increase, if possible, the abundant regrets of his friends and brethren.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

A DELPHI THEATRE.

MR. ANSON'S BENEFIT.

On Monday last was a great success, the house being crowded in every part. The play of the "Lady of Lyons" gave Mr. Anson an opportunity of appearing in the character of *General Damas*, after an absence from the stage of eight or nine years. Miss Sedgwick was an excellent *Pauline*, and Mr. Nelson enacted the character of *Claude Melnotte*. One of the chief attractions was the *debüt* of Miss May Holt, who sang several ballads in a most charming manner, possessing as she does an exquisite voice and pleasing manners. Mrs. Holt and Mr. Clarence Holt, in addition to their talented daughter, took the principal characters in "Faint Heart never Won Fair Lady," and were enthusiastically received. The entire performances were of a most satisfactory character.

REFLECTIONS OF A SOLDIER,

(A Brother Mason).

During the recent Continental War, whilst standing on the battle-field, gazing on the Moon.

By T. J. SWAIN.

Beautiful planet! thy silvery light,
Softly illumines the calm summer's night,
Shedding its beams on the scenery round,
Hooding in lustre the grass-cover'd ground.
I've gaze'd on thee often,—but never before
Have my musings a holier tendency wore,
I've gazed on thee often,—and gaze on thee still;
In griefs,—tho' resign'd to God's heavenly will.
I am parted from lov'd ones more precious than life
Far, far from my babes, and my sorrowing wife.
A soldier in battle,—I know not how soon
I may slumber in death, 'neath yon silvery moon.
Yet Hope seems to whisper, as fondly I gaze
On the beaming effulgence produced by those rays—
"Faint not—but on heavenly promise rely,
In each tribulation thy Father is nigh."
"Yes! lonely and dark as thy future may seem,
Tho' trials may distress thee, and ruffle life's stream,
God ne'er will forsake thee; in every grief,
He will solace thy suffering, and send thee relief."
"Be comforted, therefore, whilst gazing above,
As perhaps now are gazing thine objects of love;
Have faith in God's mercy—it may be that soon
Reunited at home, thou may'st gaze on that moon."

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen, accompanied by Princess Christian, rode on ponies on the morning of the 11th inst., in the neighbourhood of the Castle. In the afternoon her Majesty, with the Princess of Wales and Princess Christian, drove to Castleton and round the Lion's face. The Queen, accompanied by Prin-

cess Louise, drove out on the morning of the 12th inst., and went out in the afternoon with Princess Beatrice, attended by Lady Churchill. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Christian and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and attended by Lady Churchill, drove on the 13th inst. to the Lynn of Dee. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise, drove out on the morning of the 14th inst., and also in the afternoon with Princess Christian and Princess Louise. Her Majesty, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold, went at half-past six to Abergeldie, where the Prince and Princess of Wales gave a Gilli's ball, which the Queen honoured. Her Majesty and the Royal Family dined with the Prince and Princess of Wales, and went again after dinner for a short time to the ball. The Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting were in attendance. The Queen held a Council on the 14th inst. which was attended by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Right Hon. Spencer Walpole. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Christian, drove out on the morning of the 15th inst., and went out in the afternoon with Princess Christian and Princess Louise. The Queen, Princess Louise, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Prince Christian, and attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, were present at Divine service at the parish church of Craithe on the 16th inst. Dr. Norman M'Leod, chaplain to her Majesty, officiated. The Queen, accompanied by Prince and Princess Christian and Princess Louise, went out on the 17th inst.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The weekly health return of the Registrar General for Saturday last shows, we regret to say, an increase of deaths from cholera over the preceding week by 25, although this is nearly compensated for by a decrease of 22 from diarrhoea. The two first weeks of September have hitherto been noted in cholera visitations. In the first week of September in the years 1849 and 1854 the numbers of deaths were respectively 2,026 and 2,050, which in the second week fell to 1,682 and 1,549. In 1866 our experience has been very different. In the first week of this September the deaths were 198 from cholera and 128 from diarrhoea, together 326; in the second week 157 and 182, together 289; in the third week 182 and 110, together 292. The Registrar warns us that the utmost vigilance ought yet to be observed by the people, the health officers, and the Board of Works. The Registrar appends to his report a supplementary paper, entitled, "The Rise and Decline of Cholera in London;" but we fear it will be some time before he is able to report its extinction. An appended paragraph gives a sad account of the health of Liverpool. The deaths there during the past eleven weeks have averaged 50·7 per 1,000 persons living; and the last four weeks the deaths from cholera have been 146, 225, 145, and 182. The mortality from diarrhoea, however, fell to 51 from 84. In Dublin there were 55 deaths from cholera last week.—The Court of Common Council did a good thing on the 13th inst. They elected the Rev. Thomas Grose to the vacant living of St. Peter-upon-Cornhill. Mr. Grose has for many years been the hard-working curate of the parish of which he is now rector.—At Highgate Dr. Lankester opened an inquiry of considerable gravity into the circumstances attending the death of Mr. Richard Golding, an artist, who died at an advanced age so far back as Christmas last. The inquiry affected the conduct of Dr. Part, the honorary surgeon of the Artists' Fund, who attended Golding at his own request, and to whom it appears he left the bulk of his property, the will being drawn up by a solicitor who was called in for that purpose by Dr. Part, and signed by the deceased on his death bed. The statements which led to the exhumation of the body and the investigation which

is now taking place, will be found in the evidence of Frances Southgate, with whom Golding had lodged for twenty-four years, although at the time of his death he was residing in the house of another person. The solicitor who prepared the will and the deceased's landlady both testified that he was perfectly sensible when that document was submitted to him. As Professor Rogers had not made the analysis of the stomach and viscera, the inquest was adjourned for a week.—Another fearful steamboat collision has taken place. The Dublin steamship *Foyle*, while coming up the river was run into by the *Collingwood*, a Shields steamer. The *Foyle* soon afterwards sank, having first been judiciously run aground; and there are some hopes of raising her. All the passengers were fortunately saved, although many of them doubtless had a near escape for their lives.—A collision, happily unattended with fatal consequences, took place on the South Devon Railway. It appears that a disabled engine belonging to a luggage train, was run into by the down mail train some few miles from Plymouth. Nothing more serious resulted than the damage caused by the driverless and stokerless luggage-train rushing unexpectedly into the Plymouth station, and a delay of a couple of hours in the arrival of the mails.—In the matter of the fatal accident to a Carnarvonshire excursion train, the coroner's jury have returned a verdict to the effect that the catastrophe was occasioned by a stone having been placed between the point and the stock rail, but there was no evidence to show whether it had been placed there by accident or design. Suspicion still points strongly to the latter theory.—So far as the English courts are concerned, the proceedings instituted against Coppin, *alias* Dubois, the French notary, under the new Extradition Treaty, terminated at Bow-street, on the 13th inst. Mr. Clarke raised many points on the prisoner's behalf, but they were, however, overruled by Mr. Vaughan, and the warrant for the committal of that individual was made out. He now awaits the Secretary of State's order.—Mr. Henley, who it must be confessed rarely speaks without having something to say, has addressed an agricultural meeting at Thame. He dealt with a variety of topics, beginning with the cottages of agricultural labourers, whom he thought were not so bad as had sometimes been represented; and, making no allowance for the difference between foul and pure air, he argued that the greater rates of mortality in towns proved that the working classes were worse lodged there than in the country. He gave some account of the proceedings of a deputation which had waited upon the Duke of Buckingham, in reference to the Orders in Council, by which cattle-markets had been virtually closed in the country, and expressed a hope that, as the result of that interview, some means of mitigating the evil might be devised. On the subject of Reform, he sagaciously expressed the opinion that until the question was settled it would continue to make shipwreck of Government after Government. He was for a moderate and judicious settlement, but he did not give his auditory a more explicit statement of his opinions. Probably he took warning from his former differences with his colleagues.—At Bow-street, on the 14th inst., the man Jeffery, who is charged with having murdered his child, under circumstances with which the public are so painfully familiar, was committed for trial.—The funeral obsequies of the Prince of Conde, the eldest son of the Duke d'Aumale, who died at Sydney while yet in early manhood, were celebrated at the Roman Catholic Chapel, Weybridge, on the 15th inst. Bishop Grant officiated on the melancholy occasion. A casket containing the heart of the deceased and the coffin were both deposited in the vault in which the remains of Louis Philippe, his Queen, and other members of the family had previously been placed.—The

American flagship *Colorado*, and two other vessels forming the squadron under Admiral Goldsborough, have arrived at Southampton.—Charles Mayhew, the person charged with having for some great length of time carried on a regular system of bribery whereby gentlemen summoned to act as jurors and not liking to serve got out of doing so without incurring the pecuniary penalty, and whereby himself gained a livelihood, surrendered in discharge of his recognisances on the 15th inst. at the Guildhall police-court. The city solicitor stated that he had the names of no less than fifteen persons whom the prisoner had from time to time represented in the manner complained of, and naturally enough expressed surprise that respectable gentlemen, as they all had the character of being, should lend themselves to such practices. After some additional evidence in support of the charge had been adduced, the city solicitor requested a remand, in consequence of the non-attendance of an important witness, and intimated that in the next case he intended to bring against the prisoner he should charge him with forgery as well as perjury. Mr. Alderman Abbiss, the presiding magistrate, declared the charge brought against the accused to be very serious, and remarked that the more it was developed the more important it became; but, taking into consideration the age of the prisoner and the state of his health, agreed to accept an increased bail of two sureties in 250*l.* each and the prisoner himself in 500*l.* The prisoner was remanded on those terms.—Sir Arthur Cotton, who has been long and favourably known for his persistent efforts to promote the means of intercommunication in India, has written a paper which shows how successful works of irrigation have proved wherever they have been carried out, and how greatly the country still lacks improvements of this character.—By the death of Sir John Pollard Willoughby, Bart., a vacancy has occurred in Her Majesty's Council for India.—On the 17th inst. was resumed the inquiry respecting the death of the child who, while suffering from cholera, was brought the other day to the Hackney Workhouse, and was refused admission, and who died next morning at the German Hospital, death being, as alleged, accelerated, if not caused, by the length of time the workhouse officials allowed the poor little fellow to remain outside the entrance of the workhouse. The jury expressed their opinion that the master of the workhouse had committed a serious error of judgment.—A deplorable shipwreck has taken place in the Prince's Channel, near the Nore. During the heavy gale on the 14th inst. the brig *Reliance* struck on the Girdler Sand, and then drifted into the *Alexandra*, and from thence into the Prince's Channel, where she sank. The captain and several of the crew were unfortunately drowned.—On the 17th inst. a large number of unemployed dockyard artisans assembled on Deptford-green, for the purpose of devising some means whereby the distress which has resulted from the present depression in the ship-building trade can be alleviated. It appears that for some months past, the greatest distress has existed among the iron shipbuilding population on both sides of the Thames, owing to the general depression in that particular trade, and that the condition of the several thousands who have been thrown out of employment is becoming every day worse and more deserving of pity and relief. It is said that in the yard of one establishment, where several thousands used to find employment, scarcely a dozen men are at work. Many suggestions were thrown out at the meeting, to meet the crisis that has arisen. One was that the attention of the Admiralty should be drawn to the matter, with the object of inducing their lordships to consider the claims of these unemployed persons to a goodly share of any work that may be going. If the Lords of the Admiralty seriously contemplate

any additions to the Royal Navy—and it is pretty generally reported that some steam rams and other works are about to be ordered—the suggestion will probably be considered.—A meeting in behalf of the Permissive Bill movement was held at the Agricultural Hall on the 17th inst. Dr. Edmonds and other speakers enforced the views of the United Kingdom Alliance; and the resolutions were unanimously adopted.—At a meeting held at the Whittington Club, measures have been taken to establish an Industrial Partnership Clothiers' Company in the metropolis.—Dr. Burns, who presided, referred to the success of the co-operative movement in the North of England as an irrefutable argument in favour of similar experiments in London. He gave a very lucid explanation of the principles upon which the projected company would be based. Further explanations were given by the other speakers, and the resolutions, which were of an eminently practical character, met with an unanimous and enthusiastic response from a crowded meeting.—A Charles Collins, said to be respectably connected and a member of a volunteer corps, and a William Allen, were brought before the presiding magistrate at the Lambeth Police-court on the 10th inst., charged with obtaining money by false pretences and by fictitious cheques. The evidence adduced led to the belief that a very extensive swindle had been discovered, and that the parties to it had succeeded in defrauding a number of tradesmen at Southampton. Committed for trial.—The *Great Eastern* reached her moorings at Liverpool, on the 19th inst.—The funeral of the late Mr. Edward Tinsley took place also. There was a considerable attendance of literary men on the mournful occasion.—The trial of Jeffery for the St. Giles' murder took place at the Central Criminal Court, on the 20th inst.—Mary Batchelor, who murdered her two children by drowning them in a tub of water, has been declared to be of unsound mind, and her trial was in consequence indefinitely postponed.—“Died from drinking bad water” is a more terse rendering of the verdict passed by a coroner's jury which sat at Poplar. The unfortunate man whose death was the subject of inquiry drank a quantity of water from a pump in Bow Creek, and in a few hours he died of cholera. Dr. Letheby's analysis of the water established the fact that it was impregnated with noxious matter. This pump should be instantly closed.—An inquest has been held on the body of the man who was burnt to death at the fire which occurred the other night at Professor Holloway's pill and ointment establishment. During the inquiry the rather startling fact was adduced that in the cellar under Professor Holloway's shop a dangerous manufacturing process is carried on. On the night of the fire the cellarman was, as usual, attending to the copper, which contained between 12 cwt. and 14 cwt. of ointment, described as a very inflammable material. The duty of the cellarman was to sweep up the cellar and leave it tidy. It appears that he attempted to put the lid on the copper, and that on doing so a draft which the closing of the lid had caused, attracted the gas-jet, which was above the top of the copper, a little to the side, and without anything in the shape of explosion the copper and its contents became suddenly a mass of flame. The deceased was one of those who came to assist in extinguishing the flames. The coroner, in summing up, remarked that having 12 cwt. of boiling fat in the cellar in question was like sleeping over a volcano to those who lived near. The verdict of the jury was “Accidental suffocation.” They added to their verdict the recommendation that one of the superintendents should remain in future until he saw the gas-jets put out, and the lid put on.—The Cornish miners are leaving their homes by thousands. Many are emigrating to Australia and America, while others are seeking employment in the coal-fields of South

Wales and of the north of England. The advance which has taken place in the price of copper and tin leads to the hope that the worst of the crisis is now over.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The terms of the Franco-Mexican Convention have been published. By it Mexico agrees to transfer to the French Government one-half of the receipts of all the maritime customs in the Empire, in order to secure the payment of the interest and principal of the loans contracted in 1864 and 1865, and of all obligations resulting therefrom; likewise for the payment of the interest on all sums due by Mexico to the French Treasury. The convention comes into force from the 1st of next November.—The Crown Prince of Prussia has issued a general order to the second army upon its return home. He dwells with natural pride upon its achievements in the field. There is nothing inflated or bombastic in this document, and it is pervaded by an almost affectionate feeling for the soldiers.—It seems probable that while the popular vote is being taken in Venetia the Italian Government will withdraw its commissioners from that province. King Victor Emmanuel has had an attack of illness, but is now better.—The festivities in honour of the United States at St. Petersburg terminated with what is described as a "farewell banquet." Prince Gortschakoff delivered a speech, in which he declared that the good understanding between the two countries had in it nothing of the nature of a menace towards other nations. The Americans, it appears, have been negotiating with the Turks for the cession of an island in the Gulf of Aegina. This has induced the Emperor Napoleon to address energetic remonstrances to the Ottoman Porte, in which, according to a Vienna journal, he was supported by the English Government.—It appears that the negotiations for the settlement of the Hungarian question have come to a standstill. The latest news received assigns no cause for this unexpected stoppage. Cholera is on the increase in Hungary. Among the latest victims to the horrid epidemic is the poet and philologist, Canezor.—Intelligence was received in Florence on the 14th inst. announcing that the Italian and Austrian plenipotentiaries had agreed upon all points except the debt question. It is believed that Austria will accept the precedent afforded by the Treaty of Zurich without restriction, in accordance with the treaties concluded by Austria with Prussia and France. If this be true, the special debt of Venetia alone will pass to the charge of Italy, as that of Lombardy in 1859. The signature of the treaty of peace between Austria and Italy is expected to take place in a few days.—Count Bismarck is suffering from a relapse of neuralgia, and is forbidden to receive visitors.—A petroleum fire has broken out in a ship at Antwerp, but fortunately the vessels which were exposed to danger succeeded in making their escape, and the town was saved from a worse catastrophe than that which befell it a few weeks ago.—According to letters received in Paris, the revolt of the Abasians (Circassia) was completely quelled on the 1st Sept., and the rebel chief, Mahoun Anan, with a party of his band, had been taken prisoners. The insurrection in Candia seems, on the contrary, to be only gradually developing itself for some final effort. The latest intelligence from Candia announces that an encounter had taken place between the Greek and Turkish inhabitants of the island, and that the latter had suffered a repulse. The Turkish army is reported to have remained inactive during the civil *rencontre*. A report that England had proposed the cession of Candia to Greece had got currency in Athens, and great enthusiasm is said to have been created in consequence.—Some cases of cholera have broken out in the Papal legion which has arrived at Civita Vecchia, and the troops have, in consequence, been ordered to remain at that port for

some days.—A circular of rather an important character has just been addressed to the various diplomatic agents of France resident in foreign parts. It is agreeably pacific in tone. It endeavours to point out that the recent changes in Europe are favourable to France, and are calculated to preserve peace throughout the continent of Europe, and demonstrates that the Emperor was right in acting as mediator during the late war. Notwithstanding the circular's prognostications of general peace, a declaration is made to the effect that it is still necessary for France to continue to keep a sharp look-out as regards the defence of its territory, and urges the necessity of perfecting without delay the military organisation of the empire.—The Dutch Chambers have been opened by a speech from the King, who congratulated his subjects on the continuance of peace, and approved of the zeal with which they had organised a force of volunteers.—All the arrangements connected with the peace treaty between the contending powers in the late war seem to be coming to a satisfactory conclusion. The Prussian Baltic fleet is said to have been put out of commission, most of the vessels disarmed and laid aside, and all the maritime reserves disbanded. General Revel has left Florence for Venice, in order to assist in the arrangements for the transfer of the fortresses of the Quadrilateral. From Vienna we hear that, at a conference held in that city, General Menabrea made propositions relative to the Venetian debt, which are stated to have had the support of France and Prussia, and that an understanding had already been come to upon the other articles of the treaty. Austria asks for the payment of a round sum, and the Italian Government have agreed to negotiate on this basis.—Palermo is in a disturbed state in consequence of some religious disputes. Several bands of brigands, organised at the convent of Montreale, had entered the city, demanding the preservation of the religious corporations. The influence of the National Guard of Palermo and the environs, coupled with the military, it was expected, would prove sufficiently powerful to frighten the brigands and restore order.—The proclamation in which the Cretan Assembly General announces the annexation of Candia to Greece, is a manly and touching document. It justifies the insurrection by a narrative of the wrongs which the people have endured. They had endeavoured to obtain redress by constitutional means, but without success. A point blank denial is given to the highly coloured stories which have been published by some of our contemporaries with reference to the conduct of the Government of Greece in this emergency. It is stated that the Government have declared their intention to preserve a strict neutrality, although they cannot prevent expressions of sympathy on the part of private individuals. It is denied that the Turkish Government have addressed anything in the shape of an angry or menacing despatch to the Greek Ministry, Meanwhile the Cretans hold their ground. The Turks, however, are beginning to display more vigour. A battle has been fought between the Turkish and Egyptian contingents and the ill-armed insurgents, which ended in the defeat of the latter, and the actual loss by death of 600 men. The battle lasted for eight hours, and was obstinately contested. Although the report comes from Constantinople, it is not alleged that the defeat was of a decisive character.—M. Pulszky, the well-known and highly-esteemed exile, has received permission from the Emperor of Austria to return to Hungary. Misfortune has a wonderful effect in teaching sovereigns clemency and justice. Perhaps the door will one day be opened to Kossuth.—Russia has concluded peace with the King of Bokhara.—The Pope appears to be preparing for his departure from Rome. His

Holiness has despatched a special messenger with an autograph letter, addressed by himself, to Queen Victoria; and during the last few days repeated interviews have taken place between Mr. Odo Russell and the French ambassador at the Papal Court. —Our Paris correspondent informs us of a frightful steam-boat accident. It happened on board one of the steamers which ply to Lyons. It appears that just at the vessel in question touched the quay an explosion took place in the machinery department, which literally cut the hull in two. The explosion took place at night. The next morning three corpses were found, and it is said that fifteen persons were dangerously wounded.—The King of Prussia has published a letter to his subjects generally, thanking them for the expressions of loyalty and devotion which he is constantly receiving. The arrangements for the triumphal entry of the troops into Berlin are pretty nearly completed, and it is certain to be a most imposing demonstration. Count Bismarck's illness is likely to prevent him from putting in an appearance at the festivities; but, even when well, he has repeatedly held back from anything like a personal ovation.

AMERICA AND THE COLONIES.—The insurrection in Candia grows in seriousness and importance. The latest account from the scene of the disturbance announces that the Cretan Assembly General had resolved that the Island of Candia shall be annexed to Greece, and that the foreign consuls had been communicated with to that effect.—We have dates from Calcutta to the 5th of August. The mortality occasioned by the famine continues to be frightful. A correspondent of *The Englishman*, who has made a tour of the Mofussil, sends a narrative of suffering and death which had rarely been paralleled even in the history of such calamities. In four villages which he visited there were not ten houses that did not contain one or more dead bodies. In another small place there were four or five hundred dead, most of them unburied. The truth appears to be that the boasted administrative machinery of the Indian Government has completely broken down. Plenty of food has been brought, but somehow or other it does not reach the starving. Ships laden with rice are unable to discharge their cargoes for want of boats. Much of the misery is attributed to the fact that the authorities have given orders that only eight annas' worth of rice shall be sold to one individual at a time. "Every day," writes a correspondent, "there were hundreds of people coming and laying down their money, prostrating themselves on their faces and hands, begging to buy rice; but the relieving officers cannot sell it, owing to the orders they have received." In Calcutta alone twenty thousand persons are subsisting on native charity, which has proved far more effective than the organisation of the Government.—The news from China is interesting. The Chinese Viceroy at Nankin had perpetrated a grim tragedy. Having reason to suspect the fidelity of two generals, who were supposed to be in communication with the rebels at Nienfei, he got them into his power by an artifice which exhibited more than Oriental craft, and then decapitated them. It appeared that in the Corea two French bishops and seven priests had been massacred, as is alleged, under circumstances of great barbarity. This looks as if there would be another opening for French arms in a country which, unfortunately for itself, and for the murdered prelates and their companions in misfortune, is not new to European warfare.—From Victoria we learn that the financial crisis in England and India had excited great alarm, but few failures had occurred, and these were of an unimportant character. Some changes in the Ministry are also reported.—The intelligence from New

Zealand has been anticipated by the Panama mail.—According to a New York telegram, President Johnson continues to receive enthusiastic receptions in his western tour, although, as the plaudits of the Democrats are mixed with sounds of a different character, and "traitor"—a cry unprecedented in the history of Presidential tours—is not unfrequently heard, the statement admits of some qualification. The Chicago Board of Trade have refused the use of their hall for Mr. Johnson's reception, and fears of a riot in that city are entertained. If we add to this the fact that the republicans have carried the elections in the state of Vermont, the President's speeches do not appear likely to serve him at the polls. The Republican Convention was in full session, and a demand was made for Mr. Johnson's impeachment. Judging from the telegram, there appears some reason to apprehend that the negro suffrage question may cause some divisions between the Northern and Southern sections of the Convention.—By Atlantic telegraph we learn that the Radicals had carried the Maine elections. This is the best possible comment on the President's tour, which was intended to influence this and other elections. Mr. Johnson, in the course of his progress westwards, encountered many manifestations of opposition, which appear sorely to have tried both his temper and discretion. Perhaps the worst as well as the most undignified speech which he has yet made, was that delivered at Detroit, where he denounced Congress in the most vituperative language. At one place he was received with funeral music instead of the exhilarating strains of "Yankee Doodle," or "Hail, Columbia." At Niagara he received a delegation of Canadian officials, to whom he is said to have been at once "gracious and dignified."—From Brazil we learn that the allied army has sustained a terrible, and, if the figures may be credited, an overwhelming defeat. In a battle with the Paraguayans they were repulsed with a loss of 280 officers and 8,000 men. Battles in South America, which used to be very trivial affairs, have now almost assumed European proportions.—It speaks well for the moderation of the Republican party, that although Chicago is one of their strongholds, they made no organised demonstration against President Johnson during his recent visit. The Republican Convention at Philadelphia have decided to support Congress in the most uncompromising manner. The report of the early departure of the Emperor Maximilian from Mexico is confirmed from New Orleans.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

"SCRUTATOR."—We have received your letter with others, referring to the letter which appeared in our last from "Corner Stone" upon the subject of the reported expulsion of inmates of our Boys' School.

We regret we cannot insert the letters referred to, as neither "Scrutator" or the other correspondent referred to have given us their actual names. We repeat we cannot insert the letters of correspondents unless they favour us with their actual names and addresses. "Corner Stone" opened the subject by fulfilling the customary stipulation, which has also been complied with by the correspondents referred to in our Masonic Memoirs.

We regret to be compelled to request brethren from whom outstanding amounts are due to respond to the above notice. Some of our Colonial Subscribers are especially reticent in this respect, and our exchequer is not only impoverished through the non-receipt of amounts overdue, but we have also been put to the trouble and expense of writing and postages without even producing the bare courtesy of a reply. We trust the reticent brethren will not compel us in future issues to specify individual names of the brethren and lodges.