

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1867.

FREEMASONRY CONSIDERED.

BY ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

II.

In viewing Masonry as I am doing I am aware that I shall meet with little support or countenance from the members of the high grades. This I never expected, and am prepared to meet with bitter opposition to my statements, but the inexorable point of fact is the shield behind which I take my stand, and my own conviction is that an honest statement relative to the known origin of the high grades would recommend them to those brethren fond of light amusement, with money to spare, and without scruples as to the taking of questionable oaths, such as the modern Templars. Furthermore, if every grade above the Royal Arch* were declared to be totally unconnected with Masonry, and non-Masons admitted, we might, perhaps, come with more leniency to view the fripperies of Knights Grand Crosses, Sovereign Princes of Rose Croix, Grand Pontiffs, Royal Axes, Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, Puissant Sovereign Grand Commanders, and even the Misraim members of Chaos†, a *true* name. But as Masonic, or springing from Masonic principles, they never can be entertained. What makes their claim to be considered a part of Masonry the more ridiculous is, the manner in which they attach themselves to great societies, and great names of the past. The Royal Order loudly claims its institution at the hands of Robert the Bruce, the Thirty-third at the hands of Frederick of Prussia. It would take some one from the dead to make any sensible man believe the truth of either claim. Tradition and unsupported assertions will not do.

* It was questionable prudence, and, so far as I can judge, it was the like opinion of the late Dr. Oliver, that the Royal Arch should ever have been acknowledged by Grand Lodge of England. I think it is Clavel who gives an account of the origin of this degree during the last century, and mentions the names of three French Jews as its inventors.—*Hist. Pitt. de la Franc. Macon.*

† The names of some of these degrees are exceedingly comical, if they were not some of them blasphemous, an objection, by the way, that attaches to some of the Ancient and Accepted Rite.—49, Chaos the First; 50, Chaos the Second 52, Supreme Commander of the Stars; 55, Washer; 56, Bellows Blower; 57, Caster. Washerwomen and blacksmiths superinduced upon Masons and Astrologers! I have attempted to read the Rituals and Bedarride's account, but the task was too much for my weak brain, especially when 68 gives the Knight of the Rainbow; 69, Knight of B., or Ranouka, called Hinaroth, whatever he may be; and 78-86, a series of councils all sovereign and to themselves.

"The Rose Croix degree," says How, in his Masonic Manual, "is alluded to in the works of Henry Cornelius Agrippa, a man of great learning and talent, of a noble family at Cologne. He was born in 1486. His works were printed, A.D., 1550." How, as usual with a certain class of Masonic writers, here makes a most ludicrous and almost unparalleled mistake. Agrippa does not make any allusion to the Rose Croix degree, but to the Society of Rosicrucians. Any one, by consulting his works "De Incertitudine et Vanitate Scientiarum," a title not inapplicable to the present subject, and "De Occulta Philosophia," will satisfy themselves on this point. The Rose Croix is likely the oldest, as without doubt it is the most interesting and beautiful of the high grades. It derives its name from "Rose"—"Cross," and every member of the Order knows why. On the other hand, the Rosicrucian Society was one of scholars alone, numbering among them Albertus Magnus, Aponi, Paracelsus, and others. They derived their name from Ros (dew) and Crux (cross), the ☩ being the Alchemic symbol for light, and dew being supposed the universal solvent. In 1614 appeared "Fama fraternitatis, or Brotherhood of the Illustrious R.C. (Rosy Cross); to the Rulers, States, and Learned of Europe. Printed at Cassel, by William Wessel," a work full of gross absurdities, and as like the Rosicrucian teachings as a candle is to the sun. From this Society of the Rosy Cross may have sprung the present Rose ☩, and I am very strongly of opinion that it did. Much of the gross absurdity that characterised the former has been swept away, although a strong tincture of the old leaven remains. In this case the Rose ☩ must be considered the oldest, as it has been considered the most important of all the high grades.

The Rosicrucian Society, as a society, never pretended to possess unnatural secrets. They were for the most part schoolmen, expert chemists, and profound thinkers. Their successors went astray from the purity of their teachings, confounding emblems with realities, and searching after the philosopher's stone and the water of life. These later Rosicrucians may have been the instruments of starting the Rosy Cross Brotherhood, although I much doubt it. Even with their perversion they could scarcely have fallen into such grave mistakes, because they were men of great mind, and clear, save on two points, perception. God never breaks his immutable and etern

purpose. The popularly received ideas of the philosopher's stone, and the elixir vitæ, the dreams of rabid alchemists and the themes of novelists, are the perversions of great truths, truths which pertain to realities beyond the grave.

Let us consider for a moment the effect of the Philosopher's Stone and the Water of life. The Philosopher's Stone turned all metals to gold. There at once the balance of power is changed, and that metal which from its rarity is the most precious, would, by its abundance, become the most worthless, and the other metals would rise in value above it. The Water of Life prolonged, if it did not give eternal earthly life. Here again the balance would be upset, the world would become overpopulated, and man would die from the mere fact that they lived, paradoxical as that may seem. All error. Humbly these first Rosicrucians, with feet slipping on the fungi which overran college and church, groped in the dark with the dew, that is, during the watches of the night, by the stars, amid the darkness, when the dew lies on the ground, all symbolic of a persistent and zealous search for the light, with the light for the Water of Life. It was their esoteric teachings veiled in symbols, their living retired lives, and the fact of their being expert chemists that caused them to be supposed to possess these secrets, or to be in search of them. Their mystic language added its effect, and pretenders, using the jargon, preyed upon the purses of the heedless. The true Philosopher's Stone is reason, combined with high intellect; the real Elixir Vitæ, the appliance of true knowledge, the product of reason, intellect, and study, to the life of man, which opens the great future to the Aspirant. And even now we have wandered far away from the pure paths lit up by the Spirit of God, and while we sneer at the worships of former times, we forget that in many instances we know not what these really were, and that our own is anything but glory to God on High, and on earth peace to man.

With regard to the Rosicrucians it must also be remembered, that in the Middle Ages the medical science was in a very low condition, till rescued in some measure from its degraded state by Paracelsus. The Rosicrucians working cures by their powerful medicines might well appear in the eyes of the unlearned to possess boundless power over disease and death, and so have paved the way for that monstrous jargon of alchemy, astrology, and spiritualism, which is not extinct

even at the present day. Weishaupt pretended to be in possession of the Rosicrucian secrets, but his life and death are sufficient proofs that if so the secrets did not give earthly power and wealth, or earthly immortality. From the pseudo secret societies of the seventeenth century, the Hauts Grades were imitated, with what success, every intelligent Mason is acquainted.

When we come to consider the many so-called Masonic rites, we are at loss which more to admire, the ingenuity and inventive powers of their fabricators, or the gullability of their dupes. From the four degrees of the French adoptive Masonry to the ninety degrees of Misraim, we have many rites of more or less degrees. There are the French or modern rite, Ancient and Accepted Scotch Rite, Philosophic Scotch Rite, Primitive Scotch Rite, Ancient Reformed Rite, Fessler's Rite (which Mackey calls "the most abstrusely learned and philosophical of all the rites."), Rite of the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes at Berlin, Rite of Perfection, Rite or Order of the Temple, Swedish Rite, Reformed Rite, Schröder's Rite, Swedenborg's Rite, Zinnendorf's Rite, and Everybody and Nobody's Rite; the last known only to certain facetious Edinburgh brethren. None of these rites were in existence in the year 1700, or for many years after. There cannot be a shadow of doubt that to Ramsay we owe the huge mass of fungi that has arisen on the ancient foundation.

The 33rd degree made its appearance, so far as I can learn, some thirty years ago in England, and in Scotland, in the latter under the auspices of Dr. Walker Arnott, and, if my memory is true, no goodwill existed between the bodies at the time,* although they subsequently saw fit, for their mutual benefit, to drop hostilities. Curious to say, they then believed in, and called themselves "of the Rite of Misraim." Dr. Arnott also was the restorer of the Royal Order in Scotland, having sent to London for it.† Dr. Arnott, who must be said to be the foremost High Mason in Scotland of the day, was a pupil of Mr. Deuchar, the seal engraver, under whose auspices the Order of the Temple was started, and who was its first Grand Master. The claim of Scotland to have been the preserver of the Temple is absurd, and Professor Aytoun's account of its continuation from the days of de Clifton to his time, is pretty well known to have been a well executed hoax by that witty

* "See Masonic Quarterly" of the time.

† A most improbable place to look for Bruce's Royal Order.

Prior. Legally speaking his account does not satisfy its conclusions, plainly speaking it is bosh; and neither in ritual, nor in management, officers, or grades, is the modern Order of the Temple a particle like the ancient. To Sir James Burnes it owed its great popularity in Scotland, a popularity which has declined at the present day. It is unnecessary to mention the French Templars and their forged Charter of Transmission, as they have over and over again been proved, beyond cavil, to be a spurious Order.

(To be continued.)

THE NEMESIS: A TALE OF THE DAYS OF TRAJAN.

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CHAPTER XXXIII.

NEMESIS.

"Spes et præmia in ambiguo; certa, funera et luctus."—*Tacitus*.
"Hope and rewards are doubtful; grief, and the grave alone certain."

Let us return to Phryne, who, maddened by the downfall of her love dreams, and the memory of her wrongs, meditates a fearful vengeance. She is standing before a table spread with rare viands and costly wines, and seated for three persons. The face of Phryne is deadly pale, and a strange and baleful light glimmers in the darkness of her beautiful eyes.

"All is prepared; and now, ye sacred powers, upon whom the injured one may call, when earth refuses her aid, sit upon my heart this night, that no weak, womanish blood may shake the will which cries aloud for vengeance of my wrongs. Ye hawk-eyed three, ye dread virgins, avengers of all wickedness, whom nothing can corrupt, nor pervert from inflicting punishment upon the ill doer, ye dread Eumenides, assist me in my revenge. Ye, whose mission it is to search, with your fiery torches gleaming through this vile earth for the wicked, throw down upon this festal hall your deadly lights, that to the red Phlegethon the wrongers may descend, lapped with scorching flame, without one breathing pause. Diana, if an injured maid beyond all early earthly remedy may

call upon thee in this hour, O plead with Zeus, who reigns over all, that I may yet win to the holy groves which the sacred ones inherit, nor doom me to another life of hell. I look upon the past as seamen look upon the angry ocean, which has split their fragile raft in fragments against a shore whose denizens are wilder than the waves. And as that shore fills them with terrors, I gaze on the shadow of the future with dire foreboding. Half full of joy my heart is, and half of fear. Joy that I flee from earth to death, from those whose words are worse than lank lean wolves, than conquerors dashing out frail infants' brains, or goring women with a sharp set lance. I flee to liberty, but know not what new dangers may lurk in that liberty. It is hell to be on earth, and worse than death; but will the after life be sweeter than the present? Yet, come what may, my wrongs cry out for vengeance on the twain. Zeus, who knows all, will judge whether these wrongs can justify my retribution."

Shouts of laughter from Murtius and Lais, who had entered the house from witnessing the execution of Balbus, struck upon Phryne's ear. She drew herself up haughtily, while her nostrils dilated, and her eyes flashed fire.

"They come," she murmured, "their laughter ringing out in loud bursts, like the waves that echo through a seaworn sombre cave. Laugh on, while yet it is given you time to laugh. Less laughter will be heard from your lips when hell bursts in red anger upon your astonished view."

"It is capital, by the Gods," exclaimed Murtius as he and Lais entered the room. They appeared to be in the highest spirits, laughing loudly as they spoke in undertones to themselves. "I say, it is capital, and fits fairly with the piece. What! not a single uncia left? In faith the gods are wondrous kind. They shower down gold, unsolicited, when they know we most need it. Nay, indeed, it is wondrous kind. How good a thing it is to stand on such friendly terms with old Plutus. He, of all the many gods we wise earth-worms worship, have I loved the best?"

"You are merry," said Phryne, addressing her father, "give me leave to share your mirth."

"Ah! art thou there, my child, my quinquereina of gold? Ho, ho, she is a perfect cornucopia, and pours out wealth like sand beneath our feet. Yes, yes; we shall let you share our joy, my Phoenix, rising ever grander from your pyre."

"Lais," said Phryne, turning away in disgust.

from her fathers' leering countenance, "what means this senseless ribalding?"

"'Tis easy told. Our fortune is spent, and Balbus cannot supply us with more money."

"Ah! wherefore not?"

"Because he has now none to give us."

"What, is he ruined too?"

"He is dead, my child, do you not see how we are sorrowing for him?"

"Dead," ejaculated Phryne, "dead?"

"Yes, Trajan discovered some peccadilloes of his, and after having had him beaten with rods, he shortened him by the head."

"Ah, then his forebodings of last night have come true. The augury has struck down one."

"Yes, and he was the victim for us."

"Hum, perhaps," answered Phryne coldly, then abruptly, "so we are beggars."

"Not yet, dear Phryne," said Lais, "while we have you to fish up gold for us. You are a fair bait to hook a goodly fish like Caius."

"Oh, oh! a goodly fish he is," cried Murtius, rubbing his hands in glee, and leering satyr-like at Phryne. "He is very rich, the richest bachelor in Rome. Balbus told me so, and Balbus knew right well. His proud uncle, also, from the province comes laden with gold and precious gems, and Caius is his heir. Rich, he is a Croesus of wealth, and we'll all be rich; and thou, so beautiful, wilt take the first place among the Roman dames. Be haughty with them, girl," he added, in a proud tone, while a flush of fire lighted up his countenance, recalling a faint shadow of his former majestic features, now bloated with the lees of many a wild debauch. "Be haughty, girl," he continued, pacing the room with impatient steps, "spare not the taunt and gibe. Remember that thou art a Greek, though Greece is now no more. Once she was mistress of the world, when Alexander wept beside the sea, that the whole world was beneath his heel."

Phryne had turned away as her father spoke, with a bitter smile upon her face, unremarked by him, but closely noted by Lais, who hissed in her ear.

"Look at me, girl, and mark my words attentively. There is no joy or care for us in thine eyes at these tidings. Art thou sad, because through thee we will be saved from beggary, because through thee we have fallen upon an endless mine, or dost thou meditate some treachery towards us? I bid thee beware of any such thought.

With thee we rise, with thee we fall; but mark me, fall *together*. Clear thy brows. Methinks we understand each other now."

"We do," replied Phryne, looking Lais fair in the eyes, and speaking in a dry clear tone that startled her, "Fear me not. We rise or fall together—live and die together. You will not starve, fear not that. Henceforth earth will have little of dread to terrify you with thoughts of hunger."

"She means mischief," thought Lais. "I must watch her carefully, or she will slip through my fingers."

"To table," cried Phryne. "Come. See the banquet is spread. Let us eat and drink, and revel in the anticipation of future joys."

"Are the slaves away?" asked Lais.

"They are. The Ostiarius had my directions to make holiday when you arrived. He was the last to go, and I heard him shut the door."

"Good. We need entertain no fear of interruption, unless your lover, Caius, calls."

"He will not call to-night."

Murtius had thrown himself down upon a couch, and pouring out a goblet of wine, said to Phryne—

"Pledge me, my girl. I ever loved thee best. Thou hast no ill-timed prudery, which thy sister feigns."

"At what a price," thought Phryne, "has my confidence been purchased?"

"But where is Myra?" asked Murtius, petulantly. "Is she not at home?"

"No, she has gone to visit Lucidora."

"A noble dame, though somewhat after the Lucretian school. 'Tis all the better that she is away. Never frown, Lais, the sentiment springs from my heart. I cannot eat, or drink, or sing a song when she is by, but thou must snarl at me. A pale faced chit," he continued impatiently. "She is no true child of mine."

"Was not my fate," thought Lias, "bound up with his, I would poison the hoary satyr. He, my Myra's sire? I would grind her down into the very kennel's mire, and lay her honour lower than I have done her haughty sister's, were she not all that I have left of my loved, my lost Cleomones." Recovering herself with an effort, she said calmly: "Thou art right, Murtius, she is better absent; but you leave the red god Bacchus priestless. Fill up your goblet. It is rare good wine. A noble banquet, too, Thou displayest a

gorgeous taste, Phryne. Thy husband's table will be the talk and envy of Rome."

"These Romans, with all their pretensions know not how to live," said Murtius, contemptuously. "Teach them how to eat and drink decently, and thou wilt do them more good than all their philosophers' musty wisdom. Bring me some Chian wine, and bind a fillet around my temples, for they throb like fire."

Phryne went forth from the chamber with a quick step to obey his commands, while he turned to Lais and said—

"Ah, Lais, thou art still passable, my wench. Not half so pretty, though, as thy sister was. But thou wilt yet do."

Lais vouchsafed no answer to these words, although her bitten lips, and the cold gleam in her treacherous eye told how they had struck to her proud soul."

"The drunken dotard," she muttered, "had I but gold enough, I would this moment leave him; but as it is, the store which through these many years I have gathered, increased from the wealth of Caius, will make me rich, and in some distant clime, Myra and I will end our days in peace."

"I love my Phryne," Murtius maundered. "She can give me gold, and long and pleasant days. Ah, youth was sweet, spent in my sunny Greece, with many friends, now long, long dead. Peace to their manes, peace. I love them well, my comrades in the search of Divine philosophy. Ah, love is not, nor pleasure either, half so sweet as fame. Would I were back to Greece," he cried, in accents of inexpressible desire. "I long once more to gaze upon its lofty mountains and upon its azure main, to watch the stars appear upon a heaven clear as my heart was once. But now, it is vain such longings. Shame rests upon my name, and boys, but little prattling chubby boys, speak of me as a sinner worse than any that shriek in Phlegethon. More wine, pour out more wine. Let us drink, and drown all our cares."

Phryne entered, bearing a jar of Chian wine, her features pale with a high resolve.

"Glorious Chian!" exclaimed Murtius, as she filled his goblet, "flush it forth. See how it trickles to the brim like an answer from the gods. Drink, Lais, it is superb; and Phryne, drink. Be merry, for it is good wine. Here's to thee, girl, and many a bumper may we live to drain. More wine."

Phryne did not answer this challenge, but while Lais and Murtius kept drinking the wine, she lay back on her couch muttering—

"Gorge yourselves to the full, you drink unto your deaths. In half-an-hour the flames will reach us here, and on the morrow naught remain to tell of the fierce justice meted them. Myra, thy future life is saved from woe."

"More wine, my Phryne," cried Murtius. "Sing me one song, and let it be a song of Greece, to match our Grecian wine."

Phryne took up her lyre, and to its accompaniment, sang the following stanzas:—

"To live a life of ease befits
The Grecian soldier—never;
He dies upon the field of fame
To live in glory—ever.

He leaves to slaves the shepherd's crook;
His are the sword and shield;
The heaven above his canopy;
His bed the battle field.

His country threaten'd, heeding not
His wife and children's tears;
He takes the laurel from the foe,
Or dies upon their spears."

"Right," exclaimed Murtius, "such are my countrymen. Leonidas, Epaminondas, all the greatest hearts belong to Greece. And when they will after tell how such one did mighty things, they will add 'his was a soul cast in a Grecian mould.' Thanks, Phryne, for thy song. Wine, give me wine. I feel chilly."

"So do I," said Lais, draining off her goblet. "I feel a coldness at the heart."

"The poison," murmured Phryne, "works in both their veins; mine hour of vengeance now approaches with swift steps."

"More wine," cried Murtius, holding his forehead. "I feel a wilder thirst, the oftener I touch the wine cup. I am fire within. Ah," he exclaimed, as a cold shudder ran through his frame—

"My sight is darkening," said Lais, with an undefined fear playing around her heart, "my throat burns as if scorched with lightning. You do not drink, Phryne."

Phryne turned upon her with a deadly eye, and pouring out some wine from a different jar from that which contained the Chian, she stood up.

"I have not drunk yet, Lais, but now I shall, and with this cup—come, good wine deserves a good toast—so let us drink to—*Death!*"

"To *Death!*" exclaimed Murtius and Lais in tones of terrible consternation.

"Aye, wherefore not? we all must die, and if we must drink, why should we not drink to Him, who perhaps is with us now."

"To death," laughed Lais uneasily, "we shall not die these many days."

"Out, ribald," exclaimed Phryne, turning upon her the look of a Sybil, and enunciating these words slowly, "Your horoscope is cast, it is written upon your forehead, thou shalt die this night."

Lais trembled, and raised her hand to her forehead, as if to obliterate the shadowed scroll, while Murtius burst out impatiently with

"Tush, girl, is death a fit subject for your silly mirth. By the gods, my blood runs cold at his name. Your jest has given me a turn."

Phryne drew herself up and gazed at her companions, who stared at her with terrified astonishment, as they saw the terrible unseen shadowed in her eyes, and thus she addressed them—

"Hear me, you twain, you, who have battered on my flesh, and tortured me as never did the bird who preyed upon the vitals of the shackled Titan. You have driven your chariots to the goal, and there death waits to hurl you down. Think you that I am carved from stone, or that my heart is ice. Think you, your brutal taunts, your villainous injuries, have had no power to wound my heart, or that a Grecian maiden forgets how to revenge herself?"

"A Greek thou art undoubtedly," said Lais, with a sneer, "although thou art not a maiden, fair girl. Yet Caius need not know that family secret."

"Who made me what I am?" cried Phryne, fiercely, and with a look that daunted even the indomitable Lais. "Thou, and thou alone! Who brought ruin and disgrace upon my father's house? Thou, and thou alone! Who seduced my father, and poisoned my mother? Ha, thou hast it now. Thy sleep betrayed thee."

"Gods, what is this you say?" said Murtius, but unheeding him Phryne continued—

"Who led the vulture to the sleep-drugged dove? Who killed my innocent, my helpless babe? Thou, and thou alone. Aye, thou incarnate hell-hag, thou lump of sin? But why should I rail at one whom death has struck?"

"Heavens!" cried Lais, falling back helplessly on her couch. "I am cold, and a deadly faintness clouds my sight. What hast thou done?"

"Poisoned the Chian wine," screamed Phryne,

her features flushing with the divine wrath of Nemesis. She stood before them the image of an avenging justice, before which they trembled. A profound silence ensued. Then Murtius spoke in low, solemn tones—

"Girl, hast thou poisoned thy father?"

"My father!" replied Phryne, bitterly, "hast thou been such to me? Fathers have hearts, have gentle winning hearts, who guard their young with anxious care, nor will permit a blight to fall upon their bloom. But thou, then, art a beast, of whom the earth is weary. Death has thee now." Then addressing Lais, she said: "For you, who thought to rise upon my shame, know, Caius understands all my infamy and all thine. To-day he came and bade me a last farewell. Where are your fine-blown schemes now? Die in thy terror, wretch, die in thy wild dismay."

"Mercy!" screamed Lais.

"Mercy!" answered Phryne scornfully. "Aye, the mercy that thou didst show my mother; the mercy that thou didst show me, the time you sold me to the hoary wretch; the mercy that thou didst show to my new born babe! Mercy! ask it of the Eumenides, but not from me."

"What noise is that?" exclaimed Murtius, wakening up from a stupor into which he had fallen.

"Ah! dost thou hear it at last?" cried Phryne. "It is the sound of fire creeping up through the house. Now, take me, Death, since my dread purpose is accomplished."

Into her goblet of wine she poured the contents of a golden flask, which she took from her breast. For an instant the wine bubbled and hissed, and then settled. Phryne drank it off, and fell back dead on the couch. Murtius and Lais gazed upon her with horror, unable to rise or stop her rash act. But their own hour had come.

"Help, Lais, help!" cried Murtius. "I burn in awful pain. Bring me wine. Quick, quick, for my brain is on fire."

"I cannot move, my body has turned to stone. O thrice accursed fool to fall now and success so near. Hark how they roar, these angry flames! The smoke streams up, and all will soon be over." Then, in accents of the bitterest hate, she cried, "Hell curse the fool."

As she spoke, the flames burst into the chamber.

"Help!" cried Murtius, the flames lick off my flesh—one hour to pray—mercy—mercy—mer—"

The roof fell in, and the sinned against and the sinning were buried in the blazing ruins.

(To be continued.)

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MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

INCIPIENT FREEMASONRY.

Brother * * *. Freemasonry may be called incipient as regards aspiration, or as regards knowledge, or as regards practice. It was the Freemasonry incipient as regards practice, that was spoken of on the occasion to which you allude; such Freemasonry is a mere tendency—that is to say, it is a tendency to the worship of the Great Architect of the Universe, and to the observance of the Moral Law, in order by such observance to merit a happy immortality. This tendency it behoves the Freemason to use his pious endeavours to promote.—C. P. COOPER.

MY FREEMASONRY.

A learned foreign brother asks what is my Freemasonry? It is the Freemasonry of the Grand Lodge of England, the Freemasonry of Christianity and of Natural Religion, the Freemasonry of the human race. Unlike the Freemasonry of my brother's country, it tolerates not Atheism; it tolerates not Pantheism; it tolerates no religion in which there is not a recognition of the Glorious Architect of Heaven and Earth, and a belief in the personal immortality of the soul.—C. P. COOPER.

THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.—SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

Dear Brother * * *. Consider the ensuing words, and complain no more of your inability to understand. You have forgotten that there are things which man can never know. The words are those of Sir Isaac Newton:—"Ut cæcus ideam non habet colorum, sic nos ideam non habemus modorum quibus Deus sapientissimus sentit et intelligit omnia."—C. P. COOPER.

ANCIENT MYSTERIES.

Dear Brother * * *. You ask my advice as to the method to be adopted in your inquiry respecting the ancient mysteries in which Monotheism was taught. The method which I advise you to adopt is this:—Collect all the passages of the Greek and Roman authors on the subject. Some exist only as citations in the works of early Fathers of the Church. Then examine the commentaries and the treatises of the German writers. I mention the German writers because you are familiar with their language; and because they have, as I believe, gone more elaborately and minutely into the matter than either the French writers or the English writers.—C. P. COOPER.

BRO. DR. HOPKINS AND THE RIGHTS OF VISITORS.

I disagree with my friends Bros. Hopkins and Hughan, with reference to the right of a lodge to exclude visiting brethren during the reading of the minutes. The minutes are, as stated by Bro. Leigh, private property, essentially the private property of the lodge, and matters may be contained in them, and discussions may arise upon their terms, which it would be undesirable to have known to brethren unconnected

with the particular lodge. The right of brethren to visit, extends only to such periods when business of a public character, such as the conferring of degrees, banquets, funeral lodges, and the like, is in progress. No brother, properly qualified, can then be refused admittance, but I humbly submit it would be very questionable taste for a brother to *insist* (he may by favour be allowed to remain) upon being present at the reading of the minutes, passing of accounts, or the transaction of other private and personal lodge matters. We recognise this in Scotland, and on monthly meetings, when the minutes are generally read, no brother visiting would think of claiming admittance till all private business was discussed and ended for the time. A little consideration of the distinctive private, for private assuredly they are, nature of the minutes, will show our Bros. Hopkins and Hughan, that the Loyalty Lodge, Guernsey, on the occasion referred to, exercised a proper right of exclusion. I have looked at the admirable work of Bro. Mackey on Masonic Jurisprudence, as to the question, but while entering fully upon the rights of visiting brethren, he has not touched on this. A reference to his work will show that some lodges in Maryland, California, and a few other States do not even acknowledge the *right* of visitation, and view it only as a *favour*. Maryland says, "Each lodge is a family by itself, separate and distinct from all the rest of the world, and has an unquestionable right to say who shall not be their associates. Page 205, second edition, 1859.—A. O. HAYE.

MASONIC MEDAL.

I have a copper and bronze medal or coin, smaller than a halfpenny, which bears on one side two triangles interlaced, and in the outer angle a dot, forming three dots. On the other side is some kind of symbol or writing, not English or Latin. What Masonic event does this commemorate or illustrate, and what do the three dots mean? Three dots are, I believe, employed by French Masons as an abbreviation. I have also heard that five dots are employed in some degrees.—R. W. J.

THE DOUBLE TRIANGLE.

Has it been remarked or recorded that the double triangle affords by its intersecting, several Greek capital letters, viz.:— $\Delta \text{ I } \Lambda \text{ X}$.

Δ occurs six times.

Λ six times, and so of each of the letters.

The letters make XIAIA "thousands," leaving then Δ & X .

There are six triangles and six letters, one of each of which might be put in each outer triangle in alphabetical order.

Can any of your correspondents tell me what meanings and numerical values can be got from these symbols? It will not read with Latin symbols. It yields AIYXZ . There may be some mystic meaning, Masonic or cabalistic.—R. W. J.

GRAND WARDENS.

Of what lodge under the English Constitution has Bro. Lord Eliot, *M.P.*, recently appointed Senior Grand Warden, been Master? If the Grand Master and his advisers were not known to be too strictly constitutional to commit such an error, it might be inferred from your notice last week of the New

Grand Officers, where you only speak of him as "Master designate," that he had not yet passed the chair. Also, of what lodge had Bro. Victor A. Williamson been W.M. when appointed Junior Grand Warden?—W. S. L.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

BRO. DR. OLIVER.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have seen with great pleasure your interesting memoir of our lamented and distinguished brother. You, at all events, have paid your tribute to him.

I do not notice in your journal an account of the honours paid to him by the authorities of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. I understand that at their last meeting the members of the Supreme Council appeared in mourning, and that after a tribute to the deceased from the learned M.P. Sov., the members of the high degrees present paid their tribute of respect to a portrait, draped in mourning, of the Ill. Bro., a late S.G.S.G. 33°, an honour conferred on him for his Masonic learning.

Perhaps other honours may have been paid to him, which are not recorded by you. What have the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Chapter of England done for one who has so much contributed to the Masonic literature of England.

Yours fraternally, IS.

THE SOUTH LONDON MASONIC HALL.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Have the promoters of the *South Metropolitan Masonic Hall Company* fallen asleep over their idea of building a Masonic Hall.

Yours fraternally,
A SHAREHOLDER.

THE LATE SCANDAL.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—It is sincerely to be wished that the perpetrator of the late outrage on our premises should be dealt with, and that a suitable and severe punishment should be measured out to him for conduct so un-Masonic, although misbehaviour to women is exceptional. I should be sorry to abridge the enjoyment of any man, or contest his special prerogative of indulging himself in any way he may see fit, but I have a strong objection to a man taking advantage of the banquet of respectable men to commit any indiscretion before them.

I do not acknowledge that it is Masonic to get drunk, or that any dispensation authorises a man to exhibit himself intoxicated in a Mason's apron, degrading the Craft, to which they have no right to belong.

As to the person now in question, it is to be hoped he will receive a meet reward.

Yours fraternally, P. M. R. A.

PREROGATIVE OF THE G.M.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—A late incident, and

one of a disagreeable nature, occurred at the celebration in honour of the M.W.G.M., and at which he presided. It will be necessary to provide for the castigation of the offender, and the question has been raised, how can this be done? Can this be effected by the ordinary channel of Grand Lodge, or has the M.W.G.M. any relic of ancient privilege and prerogative by which he can visit with condign punishment one guilty of contempt of his distinguished office. Perhaps some brother learned in Masonic lore, who contributes to your pages, may be able to enlighten us.

Yours fraternally,

J. S.

BRO. COX'S LETTER.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—I beg to apologise to Bro. Hays for having inadvertently written his name instead of "P.M." whose letter appeared on 30th March. I much regret my negligence, and hope Bro. Hays will excuse it.

Yours fraternally, Δ

ORDER OF MUSTARD SEED.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—In Count Zinzendorf's life it is stated that during his educational course at Halle, between 1710 and 1716, he formed seven associations with the other students, for the purpose of adoring Christ, "But he did not stop there. The romantic tendency of his imagination inspired him with the idea of founding a sort of *Spiritual Knighthood*. The members of this Order at first took the title of "Slaves of Virtue," then they styled themselves "Confessors of Christ," and at length they became known as the Order of the "Grand Mustard Seed." Their statutes, which are still preserved, bound them to confess the doctrines of Jesus faithfully in their words and their conduct, to exercise love towards their neighbours, and to *seek the conversion* of others, including both the Jews and the heathen. The insignia of the Order consisted of a medal engraved with an *Ecce Homo*, and the words *Nostra Medela* (in allusion to Isaiah li.), as well as a ring on which the passage "None of us liveth to himself," (Rom. xiv., 7.), was inscribed. In the centre of the cross worn by the chief of the Order, a mustard plant grown into a large tree was painted, with the motto, *Quod fuit ante nihil*, (which before was nothing)."

I therefore think with Bro. C. P. Cooper, that the Order had no connection with Masonry whatever, notwithstanding any similarity which may be found in it. It was founded by the Count some time between the 10th and 16th year of his age. It appears to me to have been entirely of a missionary character, and undoubtedly proselytised, from its very origin; and its members were devoted to that purpose alone, at least during the Count's life. Take, for example, the two Moravian Settlements founded under the Count's jurisdiction, and the fact of him travelling to England and elsewhere to form settlements. Would any brother kindly inform me as to the history of the Order after the Count's death. I may add that I never read of Bro. Cooper's communication which he refers to, until your monthly Magazine reached me on Saturday last.

Yours fraternally,

ELIHOENAI.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

METROPOLITAN LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.—The fifteen sections will be worked in this excellent lodge of instruction on Friday, the 26th inst., on which occasion Bro. Theodore Foulger will preside, when a Masonic treat may be expected, as the sections will be worked by brethren who are thoroughly acquainted with the duties. We would especially advise young members, and those who are looking forward to preferment, to pay a visit to this very flourishing lodge, where they can readily attain in its purity the correct working of Craft Masonry. The lodge meets at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury.

GRAND STEWARDS 1867-8.—The following brethren were appointed Grand Stewards for the year:—Bros. George Bennet, 1; Wm. Fraser Rae, 2; John S. Banning, 4; Edward M. Perkins, 5; George Clarridge, 6; Frederick Hockley, 8; Jabez Tepper, 14; John Pointing, 21; Edward J. Page, 23; Captain George F. Lamert, 26; Wm. Macfarlane, 29; Thomas Dyer, 46; Thomas J. Hogg, 58; Henry T. Kent, 60; Alfred G. Lapworth, 91; Edwin March, 99; Chas. E. Hollingsworth, 197; Sydney Jones, 259.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER OF DUMFRIESSHIRE.—On the 6th inst. Lauderdale Maitland, Esq., of Eccles, was elected by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to fill the office of Prov. Grand Master of Dumfriesshire, in room of John Stewart, Esq., of Nateby Hall, Lancaster, deceased. Mr. J. L. D. Stewart, who had been requested to stand as a candidate for the above office, declined to allow himself to be nominated in Grand Lodge—a step which rendered the election of Mr. Maitland an unanimous one. It was the late Prov. Grand Master who officiated at the installation of the Grand Master on St. Andrew's Day, 1866; and a touching allusion was made to this circumstance;—at the same time a very high eulogium was pronounced upon the private and Masonic character and ability of the late Bro. Stewart.

BRO. J. R. BREWER.—At the next election of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Bro. John R. Brewer, aged 72, is a candidate for the third time, and, having faithfully served the Craft for nearly half a century, it is sincerely to be wished that this time he will be successful. The calamity of having sustained a sun-stroke renders this appeal necessary, or he would not even now seek the charity of the Craft, as he has always been an industrious and prudent man.

GREY FRIARS LODGE (No. 1,101).—In the course of the declaration by Bro. Patten, at the Festival of the Girls' School, of the sums contributed by different lodges, he drew particular attention to the very liberal contribution of the Grey Friars Lodge at Reading, inasmuch as it was a very young one, having only been twelve months in existence, showing that the members of it carried out the true principles of Freemasonry.

MASONIC FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN PARIS ON THE 15TH OF JUNE, 1867.—The Grand Orient of France having decided on holding a Masonic Festival on the 15th day of June next, which will be followed by a banquet, an announced in previous numbers of the MAGAZINE, the Secretary-General of the Grand Orient has communicated to us the pleasure of the Grand Orient that all brethren holding under the several Masonic jurisdictions in Great Britain may make application through the office of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE for any information they are

desirous of obtaining relative to the Masonic meetings, and the general arrangements for the reception of foreign brethren visiting Paris at and after the opening of the Exhibition. We have now the pleasure of announcing to our readers that we have completed such arrangements as will, we hope, materially facilitate their being received by the officers of the Grand Orient in Paris, as also to insure such brethren the opportunity of assisting at the Masonic Festival, and being present at the banquet should they desire it. The following is a copy of the circular announcing the general arrangements for the festival:—
“General Arrangements.—The festive lodge to open at two p.m., and the banquet at six p.m. Subscriptions received at the office of the Secretary to the Grand Orient of France, 16, Rue Cadet, Paris. Subscription fee, 20 francs (16s.). Subscriptions received down to the 15th of May from Transatlantic lodges. The committee are under the necessity of fixing these terms with a view to know the approximate number of subscribers, previous to organising the festival. Civil (evening) dress compulsory.” Printed forms of vouchers for dinner tickets are now ready, and may be had at the office of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE by such members of the Order as will forward their application, together with their Masonic certificate, or certificates, in a registered letter, or by book-post parcel, together with a post-office order for sixteen shillings. The voucher and documents will be returned, prepaid and registered, without any further charge, within three days.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' SCHOOL FOR FEMALE CHILDREN.

The seventy-ninth anniversary festival of this Institution was celebrated on Wednesday evening, in the new hall, Great Queen street, on this occasion it being used for the second time. This Festival, although coming last in the series of Masonic gatherings for the year, is looked to with considerable interest, and being the oldest Institution promoted by the Craft, it always enlists a great amount of support, evidence of which is this year supplied in the fact that there was a list of 130 Stewards, the largest number ever got together for a similar purpose. We are not aware how this desirable result has been brought about, but at any rate there is a very able and hard working house committee, presided over by Bro. Udall, and the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. Patten, is always keenly alive to anything that can be turned to account for the benefit of the Institution. We believe that since Bro. Patten had been Secretary a great increase in the support of the Craft has been given to this Charity, and it is to be hoped that the laudable exertions of all parties concerned may in future years be crowned with still greater success. The address of the committee for the present year, which was on Wednesday evening issued to the company, contains the following remarks, and which we think ought to be known by the Craft for the information contained in them. The address says:—

“The establishment consists of a matron, a governess, and four assistants; a gardener, whose wife assists in the household duties, and three female servants. An enlarged system of education has for some time past been in operation; and, by a recent enactment, children remain in the establishment till sixteen years of age. The number in the school, hitherto limited to eighty, has within the last two years been increased to 100, and an additional wing was erected for that purpose. This, together with the maintenance of the number of children thus brought together, involved at the time a serious outlay. Nevertheless, in order that the Institution should be as perfect as possible in every respect, new dormitories, by which increased

space for sleeping room will be afforded; an infirmary, shut off from the general building, and approached by a separate staircase; a convalescent room, additional baths and lavatories, &c., are at present in course of construction; and the covered playground, now merely a wooden erection, will be permanently walled in, and form the basement of the new apartments. The contract for this work amounts to £2889; and, however large the sum may appear, the committee, impressed with the full importance of the subject, declined the fearful responsibility of neglecting those precautionary measures of a sanitary nature so well calculated to ensure the health and safety of the children; and they confidently appeal to the Craft to assist them with the requisite funds for carrying out so desirable an object.

"The children are employed by turns in all the domestic duties of the house, and great care is taken to make them expert in needlework, so that whilst cultivating the more purely educational branches, they shall not lose sight of the humbler but equally useful qualifications so necessary to fit them for their several stations in life.

"The affluent Freemason, the nobility, clergy, and gentry, endued with feelings of charity and benevolence, and particularly ladies (who may be considered most conversant with the wants of female children) are respectfully but earnestly solicited to lend their aid in furtherance and support of an Institution which has effected so much good; and which, from its enlarged capabilities, the committee trust will, by the blessing of Providence, be productive of more extensive advantages."

The Earl de Grey and Ripon, Dep. G. Master, had consented to take the chair on this occasion, but in consequence of a domestic affliction he was prevented from doing so, and in the difficulty in which the committee were placed an application was made to Bro. the Earl of Limorick, Prov. G. Master for Bristol, to supply his place, and in the most ready and courteous manner his lordship at once consented to do so. He was supported at the cross table by the following brethren;—Bros. M. E. Gumbleton, P.G.D.; the Rev. C. Woodward, Chaplain to the Institution; W. Farnfield, Sec. to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; Dr. Brofte, Examiner to the Girls' School; W. Young, P.G.S.B.; B. Head, P.G.D.; J. Hervey, P.G.D.; G. W. Potter, P.G.D.; Dr. Jabez Hogg, G.D.; W. Gray Clarke, G. Sec.; Dr. J. Senior, P.G. Chap.; M. C. Close, P.G.W.; Rev. J. Huyshe, P.G. Chap. and Prov. G.M. for Devon; T. R. White, P.G.D.; Major Croton, P.G.D.; George Cox, P.J.D.; E. S. Snell, P.G.D.; Albert Woods, G. Dir. of Cors.; F. Binckes, Sec. to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; N. Bradford, P. Assist. G. Dir. of Cors.; J. R. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; J. Emmons, P.G. Purst.; Bryant; Powell, D. Prov. G.M. for Bristol; J. E. Saunders, Treasurer of the Board of Stewards; Udall, President of the Board; Blair, Prov. G.M. for East Lancashire; T. W. Tow, P. Prov. G.S.W. for West Yorkshire; G. W. Westerman, Prov. S.G.W. for West Yorkshire; A. Bridge, Hon. Surgeon to the Girls' School. The body of the hall was completely filled.

The tables were set out in a very tasteful manner, and the floral decorations gave the whole a most pleasing aspect. The dinner was of a very ample description, embracing everything in season, and gave general satisfaction, Bro. Gosdon proving that with the increased facilities now given by the new building the comforts of the brethren have been increased in a corresponding degree.

The cloth having been drawn the CHAIRMAN briefly gave "The Queen," which was heartily responded to, followed by "God save the Queen," the solo parts by Bro. Reichardt and Mdle. Enequist.

The CHAIRMAN, in a few appropriate terms, gave "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the other members of the Royal

Family," and in the course of them alluded to the painful malady under which the Princess of Wales had suffered, who although not born amongst them, had since her arrival in England endeared herself to the hearts of all classes.

Quartette—"Lo the early beam of morning," by Mdle. Thaddeus Wells, Mdle. Harper Leffler, Bro. Reichardt, and Bro. Ciabatti.

The CHAIRMAN said with regard to the next toast, if he said nothing beyond the fact that their Grand Master had been elected for the 24th time, that would be enough. He had presided over them with kindness, and had earned the goodwill of all, and would shortly celebrate his silver marriage to the Craft. He gave "The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, Patron and President of the Institution."

Song—"The Nightingale's Trill, by Mdle. Enequist, which was rapturously applauded.

The CHAIRMAN said although he felt greatly the honour of occupying the chair on the present occasion, still it was with regret he had to propose the toast, as it was through domestic affliction that the noble brother was absent whose health he was about to propose. Although domestic affliction had prevented him from being present with them that night, he (the noble chairman) was sure he would feel gratification when he knew how he would have been supported on the present occasion by such a numerous assemblage, and an array of Stewards greater than had appeared previously at the festival of this Charity. That would be a great consolation to him in his absence, and it would also evince to him the esteem and respect in which he was held by the Craft, and by that assembly who had attended to do him honour. It was a tribute to his worth as well as to the merits of the Charity itself. The Earl De Grey and Ripon was as much respected in the Craft as he was in other positions, and by all persons with whom he came in contact. He would propose his health, and that of the Grand Officers past and present, coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Close, P.G.M.

Bro. CLOSE, Prov. G.W., returned thanks for the kind manner in which the toast had been received, and only regretted that no senior brother was present to respond to it. He deeply sympathised with the Deputy Grand Master, and regret for the cause which had kept him from them.

The CHAIRMAN next gave "The Provincial Grand Masters and the Provincial Grand Officers, coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Blair, Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire.

Pro. Stophon Blair, Prov. G.M. for East Lancashire, returned thanks, and referred to the state of Freemasonry in his province. When he joined it East Lancashire had only thirty lodges, with about 900 subscribing brethren. Now it had 300 lodges, with 3,000 subscribing members, which spoke well for East Lancashire. He thanked the brethren for the honour conferred upon the Provincial Grand Officers.

Song—Bro. Reichardt, "Now the day is slowly waning."

A procession was then formed, and the Stewards of the festival entered in the order of their lodges. Then followed Bro. Udall, President of the Board, leading the two smallest children into the school, the remainder of the children, two and two, following, the tallest coming last, followed by Miss Davis, the Governess; Miss Jarwood, the Matron; and the House Committee. On the children arriving on the dais opposite to the Chairman, they severally saluted him, and nothing could exceed the graceful manner in which this was done. They then made a complete perambulation of the hall, and on reaching the dais a second time the whole of the Stewards ranged themselves behind the chairman's table, the House Committee taking their

seats, and the children ranged themselves in front of the chairman's table. Mary Elizabeth Campbell and Emily Redgrave, two of the pupils, then took their places at the pianoforte, and, accompanied their schoolfellows, who sung the following festival hymn:—

There, O Lord! is the greatness,
And the power, and the glory,
And the victory, and the majesty.
For all that is in the Heaven
And the earth are thine.
Thine is the kingdom, O Lord!
And thou art exalted
As head over all.

The singing of this hymn was greatly applauded, and at its conclusion,

The noble CHAIRMAN said: Brethren, I now come to the toast of the evening. This is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Royal Masonic Schools for Girls. It was founded in 1788; and, although it commenced with comparatively few in number, it has gone on increasing until it has reached its present number of 105. During that time 868 children, the daughters of brethren who have departed from amongst us, have been admitted to the School, and 763 have left it. I have visited the School, and at once perceived the merits of the system and government under which 763 children have left the School, but in no single instance have they ever disgraced it by their after-conduct. I have no doubt that most of you, brethren, have had the pleasure of visiting this School, and those who have not done so, I advise them to do so as soon as possible. To those who have visited it, nothing that I can say can have any weight like that to induce you to support such an Institution, for I really did experience a very great pleasure in visiting it. I saw the School admirably arranged and cheerful, bespeaking the energy and good management the officers have used. I found the girls all happy together, and a spirit of love prevailing amongst them towards their teachers. My pleasure in inspecting the school was increased because I had an opportunity of hearing some music well performed. Their calisthonic exercises were also well performed, and I can say that if these young ladies should come as volunteers to the corps to which I belong I shall be very proud to be their commanding officer. I feel that no words of mine are necessary to ask the Craft to support this school, for the great aim and boast of Masons is charity. If you contribute to this school, you not only aid the requirements of it, but you will have a voice in the management of it for the future. If a brother has deserved well of the Craft in his province, and should happen to die in poor circumstances, if the brethren think it necessary to take a fraternal interest in the welfare of his children, by the payment of 150 guineas they can at once obtain an entrance for one of his children into the school. By the payment of fifty guineas a brother becomes a vice-president, and has a voice in its management. By the payment of ten guineas a brother becomes a life subscriber, and can have a place on the committee; and by the payment of twenty guineas by a lodge or chapter it is for ever a life governor. It is with great pleasure that I look over the steady increase in the receipts for the last few years, and I notice, amongst other things, a great improvement in the provincial receipts, as the school is becoming better known in the provinces. I perceive that in 1865 the London lodges contributed £2,844 to the funds, and the provinces £1,213. In 1866 London contributed £3,281, and the provinces £1,499. I trust the increase in the contributions of the provinces will continue, and I must say that while London is doing its duty in this respect—and I speak this as a Provincial Grand Master—considering the number of lodges in the provinces, compared with those in London,

I must say that the provinces are a little behind. I trust to-night we shall see an improvement in this respect, not for this year alone, but that we shall go on and vie with each other as to who shall best support our Masonic charities—this, as well as all the others. I first of all have taken the internal management, but I cannot speak too highly of all the officers connected with this institution. I give you "Success to the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children," coupling with the toast "The Health of Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, the Treasurer."

The toast was enthusiastically received.

Bro. the Rev. J. HUYSHE, Prov. G.M. for Devon, in the absence of Bro. Cabbell, returned thanks, and said he considered it an honour to acknowledge the compliment on behalf of so good a Mason, for he was himself the personification of charity.

Florence Catherine Weaver, the girl who had gained the silver medal for good conduct, was then brought to the Chairman's table, amidst the applause, not only of the general company, but of her schoolfellows.

The CHAIRMAN said: Florence Catherine Weaver, it is to me a very great privilege to present this medal to you on this interesting occasion. You belong to a school instituted and maintained by Masons in fraternal remembrance of brethren who have been taken from us, and I have much pleasure in presenting you with this medal which you have well earned. As the daughter of a Mason I wish you happiness and every prosperity in your after life. I have also to present you with this purse, containing five guineas, given annually by the Maybury Lodge to the girl who wins the silver medal, a prize which does honour to the lodge for the manner in which they have chosen to assist our Masonic charities. I have great pleasure in presenting them to you.

Florence Weaver then gracefully saluted the company, which elicited fresh cheering.

Another hymn was then sung, and the children retired.

Bro. the Rev. J. HUYSHE said he had no difficulty whatever in proposing the next toast, as he knew but one feeling could animate the heart of every Freemason when they found a nobleman come forward at a short notice to preside over such a large meeting, and to conduct it in the manner he had done that day. He knew their noble chairman was suffering from indisposition and a racking headache, and they themselves know what it was to perform important duties under such difficulties. He hesitated not a moment to come forward when he heard the Deputy Grand Master was unable to preside, and although he was but a young Mason, he had shown to them that night that he was a good one, and he (Bro. Huyshe) should be disappointed if they did not drink his health in a manner that he would remember through the whole of his Masonic career. By that they would show how they estimated him by taking the chair on the present occasion in the absence of the Deputy Grand Master.

The toast was cordially drunk, followed by nine cheers and one cheer more.

The noble CHAIRMAN said: Brethren, I thank you most heartily and sincerely for the manner in which you have drunk my health, and I may say at the Grand Lodge festival the other day, I was informed that Lord de Grey and Ripon was prevented from presiding on this occasion, and that it was important the chairman who should preside at the festival for this Charity should be announced as soon as possible. I could not hesitate, however unworthy I may be, to fill his place. My forte is not oratory, but I have endeavoured to do my best. I know that in an assemblage of my brethren my shortcomings will meet with their kind indulgence. I have to thank you sincerely for the manner in which you have supported me in the chair this evening. I assure you I feel extremely honoured by occupying the chair, although I know

that some of the brethren who have come from long distances to support Lord de Grey and Ripon will feel disappointed and Ripon will feel gratified when he knows what a splendid that he is not able to be present. I am sure that Lord de Grey gathering there has been this evening, and, in conclusion, I thank you for myself, and the kind support you have given me.

Bro. PATTEN, Secretary, then read the lists of subscriptions, the first among them being the list for the province of West Yorkshire, and, as a sample, we give the following as the contributions of one lodge:—Hope Lodge (No. 302) Bradford, W.M. Chair, by sums under £5 5s., £42; J. Gaunt, W.M., £10 10s.; A. M. Matthews, P.M., £10 10s.; M. Rhodes, P.G. Dir. of Cers., £10 10s.; T. Hill, P. Prov. G.D., £10 10s.; W. Cowgill, Sec., £10 10s.; W. Ibbetson, £10 10s.; J. R. Armitage, S.W., £10 10s.; J. D. Sugden, 1,034, £10 10s.; W. C. Glover, 1,034, £10 10s.; F. Craven, £10 10s.; H. Smith, P. Prov. G.D., P.M. 387, £10 10s.; A. Hunter, P.M., £10 10s.; J. Lumb, P.M., £10 10s.; J. J. Schappi, £10 10s.; W. Bottomley, £10 10s.; John Ambler, senr., £10 10s.; John Ambler, junr., £10 10s.; J. Brigg, £10 10s.; S. Gamble, £10 10s.; J. Scholefield, £10 10s.; W. H. Hattersley, £10 10s.; D. Douglas, £10 10s.; H. Farrar, £10 10s.; W. Margerison, £10 10s.; H. Mason, £10 10s.; S. E. Siehol, £10 10s.; Martin Goldstein, £10 10s.; A. W. Ramsdon, £10 10s.; J. Berwick, £10 10s.; H. Sowell, £10 10s.; C. Turnor, £10 10s.; R. Harrison, P.M. 306, £5 5s.; A. F. Bleich, £5 5s.; Henry Berlon, £5 5s.; T. C. Hope, £5 5s.; M. Coggin, £5 5s.; E. Koighloy, £5 5s. The total amount of the lists for this province being £1,800.

The lists for East Lancashire were then announced, the total being £1,086 15s. The following are the contributions of some of the lodges:—197, £45 3s.; 231, £40 19s.; 569, £40 19s.; 27, £70 7s.; 101, £59 6s. 6d.; 21, £42; 657, £81; 256, £40 16s.; 99, £88 4s.; Bristol, £100; 259, £41 10s.; 822, £54 12s.; 742, £92 8s.; 33, £40; 18, £32 11s.; 2, £27 6s., with Bro. Cabbell's 47th donation of £10 10s.; 36, £67 4s.; 73, £108 11s.; 40, £52 10s.; 429, £36 15s.; 91, £43 6s.; 92 and 436, £80 0s. 6d.; 58, £34 13s.; 22 and 192, £116 11s.; 81, £51; 1,101, £72 19s. 6d.; 179, £51 9s.; 176, £51 9s.; 3, £48 7s.; 357, £52 10s.; 198, £93 3s. 9d.; 946, £25 14s. 6d. The total amount of the subscriptions received was £5,812 3s. 6d., with ten lists to come in.

The announcement of the total was received with loud cheering.

Bro. HUYSHÉ said there was one observation made by their noble chairman that struck him as a very remarkable one, when he said that of all the children who had passed through their education in that School, not one had ever disgraced it in after life. Now, that was a great honour to it, and proved the success of those who had the management of it. He proposed "The Vice-Presidents, Trustees, the various Committees, and Medical Officers," and coupled with the toast the health of Bro. Udall.

Bro. UDALL, P.G.D., and President of the Board of Stowards, said it gave the Committee great pleasure that they had succeeded in producing the large amount that had been stated that day, and it would be a great inducement to them to continue their exertions for the future.

Bro. STEPHEN BLAIR, Prov. Grand Master for East Lancashire, proposed "The other Masonic Charities, and Success to them, viz., the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution." The toast did not require any remarks from him; but he hoped that the example set by the Girls' School Festival would be followed in the provinces, as he found that, of the amount of £5,812 3s. 6d. announced that evening, the provinces of West Yorkshire and East Lancashire had contributed £2,886 15s. He trusted they would continue to go on

well, and that more money would come in from the provinces. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Binckes.

Bro. BINCKES, Secretary to the Boys' School, returned thanks, and congratulated Bro. Patten on the success which had that night attended the festival. There was no rivalry between their institutions, unless it was to see them well supported, and in a long speech he enforced the claims of the Boys' School on their attention. Hitherto that institution had obtained the largest subscriptions, but that night their flag had been lowered to half-mast, after the splendid contribution of £5,800, which would enable the committee to make all the improvements in progress, and leave a good balance in hand.

The health of the Stowards and the Ladies who had honoured them with their presence that day was given, and the proceedings were brought to a close at a somewhat late hour.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Ganz, and the performers were Madlle. Eucquist, Madame Thadous Wells, Madame Harper Löffler, Bro. Reichardt, and Bro. Crabatta.

Bro. Spencer was, as usual, a most excellent toastmaster.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AND ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT.

Amongst the many interesting proceedings which distinguish the Masonic profession there is none that enlists a greater amount of sympathy or appeals more forcibly to the feelings of all than those occasions devoted especially to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of the female children of aged or distressed Freemasons. The annual festival, although coming last in chronological order, is *par excellence* the great festival of the year, and notwithstanding the other previous appeals to the liberality of the Craft, there is no falling off on any occasion as far this institution is concerned. As a precursor, however, to the festival, it is always preceded by a scarcely less interesting event, which is the exhibition of the children in their performance of vocal and instrumental music, calisthenic exercises, recitation of poetry, both in English and French, followed by the distribution of prizes for meritorious conduct in their different branches of study. The whole closing with dancing and other amusements.

All these matters took place at the school at Battersea Rise, on Friday, the 3rd instant, and the exceeding fitness of the day drew together the largest assembly ever known to be congregated on any similar occasion, there being close upon 250 present, the ladies, in elegant summer toilet, largely preponderating. Every preparation had been made for the reception of the visitors, and immediately on entering a large flag met the eye, bidding them a cordial "Welcome." The matron, Miss Jarwood, ever happy and graceful, received her guests with her usual affability and kindness, and Bro. Patten, the able, courteous, and painstaking secretary, was most energetic to see that nothing should be wanting to secure for the wives and daughters of Freemasons every comfort that the institution could afford. Having made an inspection of the building, some of the company betook themselves to the splendid garden and orchard, which are now rich in the luxuriance of spring, the fruit trees being in full blossom, and the bright green sward showed the care that had been bestowed upon this part of the establishment.

At four o'clock the whole of the children were assembled in the schoolroom, being ranged on each side and at the ends, and their clean attire and healthy and happy appearance was the theme of general admiration. The visitors collected in the centre of the room, completely filling it, and many of the late comers were unable to obtain admission.

Miss Davis, the talented and amiable teacher, then took her place to superintend the musical performances, which consisted of several trios, by nine performers, on three pianos; duets by six performers, on three pianos; and solos by three performers, on three pianos. It is needless to say that the whole of the performers were the children, some of the most skilful amongst them being still very young, but nothing could excel the delicate fingering with which the various difficult pieces were rendered, giving ample evidence of the care Miss Davis has bestowed upon their instruction. In the trios, although nine children were playing at the same time, the most admirable time was kept, every beat was in unison, and the harmony was complete. These

performances elicited the most marked approbation, and it is only to be hoped that those who have not yet had the high privilege and pleasure of being present on such occasions will embrace the next opportunity of doing so, for it is a sight which must go home to the heart of every true Freemason, and make him feel that he has reason to be proud of belonging to an order which can produce such fruits as these.

At the conclusion of the musical performances the company and children then proceeded to the exercising-hall, where the calisthenic exercises were gone through, these being also under the superintendence of Miss Davis, and here were fresh proofs of her ability and careful training. A number of evolutions of a mild but healthful character were gone through, lines, solid and open squares were formed, and with a precision that even some of our riflemen might study with advantage. The whole was done with a quietude and steadiness which elicited loud applause, and throughout in no single instance was there any breach of order or the slightest mistake. At the conclusion of the exercises the children sang some hymns, and were then dismissed to tea.

The general company also sat down to tea, coffee, and a cold collation, and many of the children, who had made a hurried meal, appeared most happy in attending to their comforts.

At seven o'clock the pupils and the company again assembled in the schoolroom, Bro. Udall, P.G.D., taking the chair, supported by Bros. Head, P.G.D.; J. R. Simpson, G. Chap.; Dr. Brette and Dr. Bowker, Examiners; Dr. Jabez Hogg, G.D., and several brethren eminent in the Craft.

One of the children—we believe Ellen Henty—commenced this part of the business by reciting, with admirable taste, Tennyson's sweet poem, "The Queen of the May," with a feeling and pathos which involuntarily wrung tears from the eyes of nearly all our fair sisters, and even some of the rougher sex were unable to resist its influence. It was faultless in its delivery, and at its conclusion was greeted with loud cheering. Alice Edith Isborn then recited the history of Mary Queen of Scots, "The Glories of a Crown," in a most admirable manner, which was followed by a dialogue in French by Ellen Winter and Florence Redgrave. Emily Redgrave then recited Lord Macaulay's "Horatius," in a style which perfectly astonished the audience. Her every line, indeed, every word, was pronounced with a force and emphasis which would do honour to any one far beyond her years, and if her elocutionary powers develope with her age a brilliant future lies before her. The piece itself is very long, but there was no break or hesitation in it, and at the close she was greeted with loud and continued applause.

The distribution of prizes then followed. The fortunate candidates for the medals were only named, as they were reserved for presentation by the Earl of Limerick, the chairman at the festival on Wednesday.

Florence Catherine Weaver was announced as having won the silver medal and the Maybury Lodge Prize of five guineas for good conduct. The girl who obtains this prize obtains it by the votes of her schoolfellows for her general amiability of conduct towards them.

Alice Edith Isborn obtains the gold medal for general proficiency.

The school prizes were then distributed as follows:—

- French, 1st Class.—Alice Edith Isborn.
- Grammar and arithmetic.—Edith G. Collis.
- General proficiency, 1st Class.—Jessie Butterworth.
- General usefulness.—Jane Trawley.
- Music.—Jane Rumbelow.
- Writing.—Alice Freeman.
- General amiability.—Julie Slaymaker.
- Needlework.—Mary Lausdowne.
- Domestic duties.—Mary Hodgson.
- Music.—Annie Carter.
- Neatness.—Annie James.
- Scripture history.—Ada F. Triggs.
- Good conduct.—Jane Trawley.
- Order and attention.—Harriette Jordan.
- French, 2nd Class.—Ellen Henty.
- French, 3rd Class.—Maude Dickens.
- General proficiency, 3rd Class.—Bessie Tetley.
- General proficiency, 4th Class.—Minnie Lumley.

By Henry T. Bowker, Esq., Examiner.

- Recitation of Poetry.—Emily Redgrave.
- General proficiency, 1st Class.—Alice Edith Joborn.
- General proficiency, 2nd Class.—Florence Redgrave.

By the Rev. Dr. Brette.

- For Recitation of French Poetry { 1st Class.—Emily Redgrave.
- 2nd Class.—Ellen Winter.
- 3rd Class.—Florence Redgrave.

By Mrs. Brette.

Music.—Emily Redgrave.

By Raynham Stewart, Esq.

- For Dictation { 1st Class.—Mary Parsons.
- 2nd Class.—Emily Goodchild.
- 3rd Class.—Elizabeth Measer.
- 4th Class.—Mary Stevens.

By Miss Cox.

- For Recitation of Poetry { Alice Edith Isborn.
- Ellen Henty.

By Mrs. Spratt.

Music.—Elizabeth Sarah Saunders.

The Chairman (Bro. Udall) said he could assure the company that all the children had worked hard, and all would have had prizes had there been sufficient to give them. He sincerely thanked them for the support they had given to the institution by their presence upon this occasion.

The Examiner (Dr. Bowker) said that was the fourth time he had had the pleasure of examining their school, and he could without exaggeration say that throughout the kingdom he could not find a school superior to theirs.

Bro. the Rev. Robert James Simpson, Grand Chaplain, then addressed the meeting, and said:

Ladies and Gentlemen,—We have had much pleasure to-day in seeing the children of this school go through their musical and calisthenic exercises, and the equally beautiful and admirable order which marks everything connected with this excellent Institution. A duty now devolves on us, which, I may add, will be a pleasure too—I mean to return our best thanks to Bro. Udall, our chairman, and, through him, to the House Committee also for the happiness they have given us to-day, and for the manner in which he has not only fulfilled his duties as chairman, but for the unwearied zeal with which he has watched over the interests of this Institution for the best part of half a century. It is the custom of our Order to pay respect to our chiefs in every department, and not least to those who preside over our noble Charities, amongst whom Bro. Udall takes a kind of patriarchal rank. But, on a day like this, it is not to the chairman alone our sympathies should be directed. I am sure he will pardon me if I go out of the record for a moment, and mention the name of one to whose kindness, admirable discipline, and great ability no small portion of the success of our Schools is due—I mean Miss Davis. I knew her name would find an echo in your hearts, especially in the hearts of these children; nor can we admire the beautiful and exquisite order and arrangement of this establishment, nor the motherly care and affectionate regard with which these children are tended, without recollecting the name of Miss Jarwood. May God prosper their useful and blessed labours, and those of the chairman and brethren who take a special interest in this School. It has made rapid strides during the last six years, and I doubt not that He who has graciously blessed it in the past, will cause it to go on and prosper in the future.

Bro. Head, P.G.D., seconded the motion, which was put and unanimously agreed to.

Bro. Udall briefly returned thanks.

The company then retired to the exercising hall, where dancing was commenced by the guests, Stewards, and children, and continued up to about eleven o'clock, when all retired highly delighted at the treat they had received.

METROPOLITAN.

BRITANNIC LODGE (No. 33).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, the 3rd inst. Bro. Galloway, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Strapp, S.W.; Glegg, J.W.; Crombie, Treas.; Chubb, Sec.; Shields, S.D.; Church, I.G. The following brethren were also present:—Bros. England, Dir. of Cers.; Budge, P.M.; Peirce, P.M.; Grissell, P.M.; Peddon, Ferguson, Webb, Dixon, Horsley, Gale, Muriel, Norman, Parker, Hicks, Palmer, G. England, jun., Beaman, Sharp, Sparks, Craig, R. Cope, and Sugg. The visitors were—Bros. George

Rabone, 186; Ricks, 185; and Taylor, 291. The lodge having been duly opened, Mr. Ricardo Cope was introduced, and initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The next business was to raise Bros. Sharp, Hicks, and Webb to the third degree, the whole of the work being very ably performed by Bro. Galloway, W.M. The lodge was then closed.

LODGE OF TEMPERANCE (No. 169).—Bro. Payne, W.M., presided over this old lodge, which met on Thursday, the 18th ult., at the White Swan, Deptford, when two candidates were passed and two raised. The work, as usual, was excellent. A large number of the brethren were present, among whom were Bros. G. Bolton, P.M.; J. Barrett, P.M.; J. T. Tibbals, P.M., Sec.; G. Brown, P.M., Treas.; J. Searle, P.M.; N. Wingfield, P.M.; F. Walters, P.M. 73; T. Farnes, 73; and Bartlett.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX LODGE, (No. 858).—The installation meeting of this very popular and well-conducted lodge took place at Beaufort House, North End, Fulham, on the 25th ult., was attended by a large number of the brotherhood and visitors, among the latter of whom we noticed Bros. Andrews, P.M. 511; Ward, 423; Raisbeck, 417; Solomon, 858; H. F. Kirk, 144; Way, 1,044; J. Thompson, P.M. 834; &c. The lodge was opened punctually at four o'clock, when the W.M., Bro. Ensign H. Radcliffe, raised Bro. Roylo and passed Bros. Lacy and Crawford in that admirable manner which has characterised the presenting the several ceremonies during his year of office; after which he proceeded to install his successor, Bro. James Shuter. The ceremony was splendidly done, and it was equally deserving of notice that Bro. Radcliffe was the first Master of this lodge who had installed his successor. The W.M. having been placed in the chair, and the salutations very heartily given, he appointed his officers thus:—Bros. Dr. A. Godwin; C. F. Vority, J.W.; H. S. Cooper, Treas.; P. H. Jones, Sec.; H. C. Robinson, S.D.; W. W. Weaver, J.D.; W. Wellsman, I.G.; P. Kirk, D.C. The W.M., in investing the immediate P.M. with the very handsome regimentally appropriate jewel, congratulated Bro. Radcliffe on the excellent example he had shown the members of the lodge by the faultless manner in which he performed every duty devolving on the W.M. during the year, and on the admirable manner in which he had done the installation that evening, and expressed the great pleasure he felt in performing the duty of investiture. It was matter of deep gratification to him in giving effect to the unanimous wish of the members, and he would say no previous Master had so well deserved it. Bro. Radcliffe, in responding, said he was delighted to find he had given satisfaction, and what he knew of Masonry was quite at the service of the brethren, to any of whom he should be glad to impart any knowledge of which he might be possessed. Special recognition during the investiture was also made of the agreeable manner in which Bro. H. S. Cooper, P.M., rendered effective service as Treasurer and general advisor of the lodge. After some other routine business the lodge was closed, and the brethren retired to a very superb banquet, capably selected and well put on by Bro. Biglin. The usual toasts were appropriately introduced by the W.M. The I.P.M. proposed the health of the W.M., with a sincere desire for a happy and prosperous year of office to him. All the members present knew how much Bro. Shuter was esteemed in the ranks of the South Middlesex, and he hoped, and, indeed, was convinced, he would make as good a Master as he had a comrade. The W.M. responded, expressive of his desire to emulate the example so well set by his immediate predecessor. The I.P.M.'s health was equally spiritedly drunk. Bro. Radcliffe, in responding, said he should not have held that position but for the modesty of the W.M., who had declined to go on two years past. He was now a husband and father, and that modesty, he was glad to see, had worn off. Toasts of "The Visitors," "Bro. Cooper, Treas.," "Bro. Jones, Sec.," and "The Officers," were severally given and responded to, and the agreeable meeting broke up.

VICTORIA LODGE (No. 1,056).—The installation of Bro. W. Turner as W.M. of this young lodge was performed on the 25th ult., by the retiring W.M., Bro. Alfred A. Pendlebury, at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, in the presence of a large number of brethren and visitors. Bro. Pendlebury previously raised Bros. Tisen and Atter, and both in that ceremony and in the ceremony of installation drew forth the warm applause of all present for his efficient working. Bro. W. Turner, W.M., at the conclusion of the installation, appointed and invested as his officers the following brethren:—Bros. A. A. Pendlebury, I.P.M.; G. Snow, S.W.; G. Roberts, J.W.; W. Wrenn, P.M., Treas.; J. Robottom, P.M. Sec.; J. W. Williams, S.D.; U. Labrielle, J.D.; F. Y. Labrielle, I.G.; G. R. Adams, Dir. of Cers.; J. L. Roberts, W.S.; R. Johnson, Treas. The W.M. then initiated

Mr. Henry Marsh. The annual subscription to the lodge was raised to £2 12s. 6d., and the motion of Bro. Turner to consider the propriety of establishing a chapter in connection with the lodge stood over, all the brethren, however, concurring in the expediency of having a Victoria Chapter. The brethren then adjourned to banquet, at the conclusion of which all the customary toasts were given and honoured. The toast of "The Charities," which the W.M. preferred to call "The Institutions," elicited an admirable speech from Bro. Terry, in which he stated that if each Freemason would give 5s. a year, and each lodge £1, there would be no necessity for calling on the brethren further to support those Institutions, and that there would not then be the painful spectacle of poor brethren making second and third applications. A magnificent P.M.'s jewel was presented in most graceful terms by the W.M. to Bro. A. A. Pendlebury, I.P.M., for which that brother as gracefully returned thanks; and after the speeches were over the W.M. closed the lodge, and the brethren separated. Among the visitors we noticed—Bros. W. T. Scott, 9; P. T. Breary, 26; J. G. March, 28; B. Scurr, P.M. 30 and 933; W. Brooksby, W.M. 145; J. Smith, 157; J. Newton, P.M. 174; J. Wright, 174; J. Brett, P.M. 177 and 862; R. T. Chaplin, 177; T. Foulger, 193; H. Parker, 435, who ably presided at the piano; H. Massey, J.W. 619; J. Collinge, P.M. 688; W. Breary, 715; V. Winterhood, 715; T. B. Webb, P.S.W. 763; S. Poynter, P.M. 902; R. Stokes, J.D. 933; and F. D. Gilbert, 933. Some capital singing by the brethren enlivened the evening, and the banquet, which was supplied by Bro. Benjamin P. Todd, the landlord of the George, was worthy of the house he so ably conducted.

CONSECRATION OF THE LODGE OF EXCELSIOR (No. 1,154).

The consecration of the Lodge of Excelsior, No. 1,154, took place on Thursday, the 2nd inst., at the Sydney Arms, Lewis-ham-road.

The ceremony of consecration and installation was performed by Bro. W. Watson, P.M. (No. 25), and the musical arrangements by Bro. Matthew Cooke, Sec. (No. 25), and P.M. of the De Grey and Ripon Lodge, Ilford. Amongst those present were Bros. Dr. Goldsbro', M.D., P.M. (No. 201) and Prov. G.W. for Shropshire and South Wales; Bellerby, W.M. (No. 65); Brown, P.M. (No. 69); W. Sanders, W.M. (No. 871); Walters, P.M. (No. 78); H. Nowlan, P.M. (No. 169); Lightfoot, P.M. (No. 147); H. A. Collington, P.M. (No. 140); Henry Thompson, P.M. (No. 177); George Gall, W.M. (No. 548) and a large body of other brethren.

The lodge was opened at half-past four o'clock, when the petition and warrant of consecration were read, and the proposed new officers were submitted for approval.

Bro. William Watson then proceeded to consecrate the lodge in due form, with all its attendant rites, and never was that important ceremony more impressively or carefully performed, to the delight of all the brethren present. At the conclusion Bro. Watson was warmly applauded.

Bro. Watson then commenced the ceremony of installation, when Bro. Nicholas Wingfield, the Master Designate, was presented to receive the benefit of installation. All the brethren below the degree of an Installed Master having retired, Bro. Wingfield was in due form installed into the chair of K.S. as W.M. of the Excelsior Lodge for the ensuing year. The other brethren were then admitted, and saluted the new Master in the three degrees. The W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—James Henry Searle, S.W.; Henry Moore, J.W.; George Bolton, Treas.; Charles George Dilley, Sec.; George Shaw, S.D.; Thomas Littlecott, J.D.; John Carver, I.G.; Froud, Dir. of Cers.; and Henry Holt, Tyler. The customary addresses were then given by Bro. Watson.

Bro. William Watson was elected as an honorary member of the lodge, and the thanks of the lodge were voted to him and also to Bro. Matthew Cooke for their services on that occasion.

Three candidates were proposed for initiation at the next meeting.

The thanks of the lodge were voted to Mrs. Wingfield for her present to it of a Bible 337 years old.

A committee to draw up a code of by-laws was appointed, and the lodge was closed.

The brethren then adjourned to a well-furnished banquet, embracing everything in season.

On the withdrawal of the cloth, the W. Master said the first toast which was acceptable in the assemblages of all Englishmen was that of "The Queen," but, in order to render it Masonic, he coupled with it "The Craft."

Drunk with loud cheers, and followed by the National Anthem, the solo parts by Bro. Matthew Cooke.

The W. Master said: The next toast I have the honour to submit to you as Masons is one that we always receive with a happy disposition. It is "The Health of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland." You all know the way in which he presides over the Craft, and, as a man, at all times he behaves with courtesy and kindness. In matters of Masonry I cannot take exception to the manner in which he rules over us, for I believe that Lord Zetland is one of the most kind and best creatures in the world, as I have had many opportunities of meeting him in public life as well as in Masonry. I say this without the slightest reservation, that Lord Zetland does an amount of good to the poor that few of those of the outside world know anything about. I may hold different opinions to Lord Zetland, but I speak of a man as I find him; and, therefore, I ask you to drink the health of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and may he live, if it were possible, 747, instead of his being something like 74 years of age. I give you the health of our Most Excellent Grand Master.

The toast was cordially received.

The W. Master said the next toast he had to propose he was sure was one that they would receive with the same regard and affection as the one they had just drunk. He proposed "The Health of Earl de Grey and Ripon, the Deputy Grand Master." Those amongst them then sitting round that board who had had an opportunity of visiting the Grand Lodge saw how the Deputy Grand Master performed his duties, nobly and faithfully. They all wished him long life and happiness, and, in conclusion, he proposed the health of Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Grand Officers.

Bro. Watson said he had great pleasure in proposing the next toast. They were then constituted into a regular lodge, they had chosen the W.M., who then occupied the chair, and the Most Worshipful the Grand Master accepted their nomination, and he felt that it would be a credit and honour to the lodge. They all knew his abilities and his desire to make everybody happy and comfortable. He wished him health, long life, and a prosperous year of office, having known him for some years, and he was sure that the brethren knew him as well as he did, or they would never have placed him in the distinguished position he then held. He proposed "The Health of Bro. Wingfield, their Worshipful Master."

The W. Master said he was sure that the brethren would always remember one thing, and that was "England expects every man to do his duty," and accepting that he said he was perfectly, fully, and entirely satisfied that every officer of the Lodge of Excelsior would do his duty. He would do it fully, and fearlessly, and above board. He had received from the brethren of the Lodge of Excelsior, and those who had come there on that occasion, a large-heartedness and an amount of more than kindness which he should never be able to return. He should never be able to return their kindness for having placed him in the chair as the first W.M., for his name would be handed down to posterity in connection with the lodge. He thanked them sincerely for the honour they had conferred upon him.

The W.M. then proposed "The Visitors," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. John Sunley.

Bro. Sunley said: I feel myself in a peculiar and perplexing position. I have the honour to have my health proposed on this occasion, and I am called upon especially to return thanks. It is a source of regret to me, however, as there are on the right and left of me brethren who are more capable of returning thanks with eloquence. I can only utter a few brief words, but from the bottom of my heart, individually and collectively, I beg to return thanks for the visiting brethren. We have seen the admirable manner in which the consecration of the lodge, with the subsequent duties, have been performed, with the substantial treat that followed, and if we did not return our warmest thanks we should indeed be a most ungrateful body of visitors. I must express, however, our thanks to the brethren of the Lodge of Excelsior, and we feel deeply grateful for your kindness towards us.

The W. Master said he had then to propose a toast which he knew would be acceptable to the lodge. It was the health of an old and valued friend, and he could only speak of him applaudingly. He asked them to drink the toast with all the éclat and cordiality it deserved. It was "The Health of Bro. Watson."

Bro. Watson said that when any brother owed a debt of gra-

itude the sooner he got rid of it the better. He had met their W. Master for some years in Masonry, and he said when they grasped their hands they pledged their hearts with them. They had been pleased to say that he had been of use to them, but the consecration and dedication of the lodge, and the installation of the W.M. had been a pleasure to him. He was gratified to see the officers by whom the W.M. would be sustained, as he knew that they were men of considerable ability and knowledge in the Craft, and would confer credit and honour upon the lodge. Nearly all of them had been selected by the members of the lodge, and whenever under their by-laws Bro. Searle should be called upon to succeed the W.M., he would bring with him a large amount of knowledge, for he knew what was right, and what ought to be done. Under such auspices the lodge must prosper. Bro. Moore would follow in the same steps, and carry out the interests of Fre masonry in general, and that lodge in particular. The junior officers were well trusted, and he hoped they would be equally trusted by his successor, so that he might see them all occupy the chair in the Excelsior Lodge. He thanked them on his own part, and concluded by expressing his earnest hope that God would prosper them in all their undertakings.

The W.M. said: The next toast I have to propose is one that I am sure you will receive in a large and liberal spirit. You will receive it in the same spirit and temper as I desire to give it. I would propose the health of the Senior and Junior Wardens, and I know of no men in the Craft better able to discharge their duties than those I have selected. I give you "The Health of Bros. Searle and Moore, S.W. and J.W. of the lodge."

Bro. Searle, S.W., said he had to return thanks to the W.M. for the kind way in which he had proposed his health, and to the brethren for having responded to it. It was very gratifying to him, and his desire was to do his duty as he had had hitherto done it, and for the advancement of what he professed. As he went up the ladder step by step he hoped to follow the brother named as the first Master, and would endeavour to carry out the duties that devolved upon him.

Bro. Moore said he felt deeply impressed at the manner in which that afternoon Bro. Watson had performed the ceremony of consecration, and he felt embarrassed how to return thanks in a proper manner for the honour he (Bro. Moore) had received at their hands. He felt honoured in being associated with brethren whom he had met in the Craft for seven or eight years, and in society seventeen or eighteen years, and he felt proud to be amongst them as Masons. At their head was Bro. Wingfield, who had been elevated that night, and he was a right, royal, good Mason, and he was proud to hold office under him. He had not power of speech to give vent in words to what he felt, but should simply say that he thanked them for the honour conferred upon him.

Bro. Dilley, Sec., briefly returned thanks.

Bro. Watson proposed "The Health of Bro. Cooke," and alluded to the efficient way in which he had discharged the musical duties of the consecration, he having, in fact, supplied the place of three brethren, and only at a few hour's notice.

Drunk with great cheering.

Bro. Cooke, after alluding to the happy intimacy that had existed between himself and Bro. Watson for many years, said he thought it was a good augury for the future that the Excelsior Lodge was launched in May. The early Masons, in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, started their lodges in that month, and it was in May that Dante met Baluc in his fine vision of Freemasonry. He wished also to tell them one or two other things, and that was that they would not realise the name of Excelsior unless they were determined to go higher into the arcana, and penetrate the mysteries of Freemasonry. He did not care for the origin of it, but the principles of it was known before King Solomon. Those principles were adopted by a secret and esoteric society, and kept by them from the great mass of the people. They formed a portion of the hidden mysteries of the early secret societies of the earth, and from the progress of the Egyptians in human science, who either dropped, amalgamated, or extended their ramifications through other kingdoms, governments, and people, they had got something handed down to them at the present moment which they knew as Freemasonry. But, in fact, they knew nothing of Freemasonry beyond 1687, for that was the first time the word "Freemasonry" was used. It was in 1687 that Elias Ashmole came to London, when there was a feast of philosophers, and he paid for the banquet of all the others who were

present. He only did what was still common in their colleges and guilds, for he feasted his brethren. Now, Bro. Watson, by the badge he wears, showed that he had feasted the brethren when he was admitted as a Grand Steward, a principle which had come down to them from Elias Ashmole, and it had gone upwards as far as Antraskan, who was one of the rulers in the land of Ham. He was not there to tell every well-read Mason what he should do, but he hoped the lodge would not be content with the husks and shells of their ceremonies, and that every man who had a desire for knowledge would act as Longfellow had put it in verse, which was "Excelsior." They had taken that title, and they were bound to follow it up in their living, and go even beyond it.

The W. Master then proposed "The Health of Bro. Thompson," and alluded to his connection with the press.

Bro. Thompson, P.M. 177, returned thanks for the cordial way in which his health had been drank, considering it to be a great honour to have it associated with the press, with which he had been connected for many years. The press was at all times a powerful instrument, but its influence was very rarely ever employed except in promoting the welfare and happiness of mankind.

The Tyler's toast was then given, and a truly interesting meeting was brought to a close.

PROVINCIAL.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LANCASTER.—*Rowley Lodge* (No. 1,051).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, the 6th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Athenæum, Lancaster. There were present: Bro. Dr. Moore, W.M., in the chair of K.S.; Bros. Ball, I.P.M.; Mason, S.W.; Hall, J.W.; Dr. Mercer, S.D.; Bagnall, as J.D.; W. Barker, Treas.; Howitt and Paley, F.C. Visitors: Bro. Busher, P.M. 129, G. Sword Bearer of England, &c., &c.; Bro. Mott, P.M., Prov. G. Sword Bearer for West Lancashire; Bro. J. Levison Douglas Stewart, of St. John's Lodge 252, Scotland; Bros. Nevatt, P.M. 281; Hatch, P.M. 281; Simpson, P.M. 281; Stanton, P.M. 281; Jesse Banning, 343. Serving Bros. Taylor, Beeley, and Watson. The lodge was opened in due form, and the ordinary business having been transacted, Bro. Paley, F.C., was raised to the degree of a M.M. in an able and impressive manner by Bro. Captain Mott, and the Master having resumed the chair, Bro. Ball, I.P.M., proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Mott for the very able manner in which he had undertaken the arduous duties of Master in conferring the degree that evening. This was seconded by Bro. Mason, S.W., and carried unanimously. Bro. Mott, in reply, thanked the brethren for the resolution they had just passed, and stated that although he was always ready and willing to take his share in the duties of Freemasonry, that on the present occasion he had double pleasure in officiating from the great interest he took in the Rowley Lodge, at the consecration of which he had taken part; and he considered himself much indebted to the W.M. for his kindness in acceding to his request, and allowing him to take possession of the chair on that evening in order to confer the third degree on one of the friends of his boyhood, and whom he had not seen for many years. The W.M. then stated to the brethren of the Rowley Lodge that they had the pleasure that evening of the company of a worthy and distinguished brother of a neighbouring province who had just attained the high dignity of becoming an office bearer in the Grand Lodge of England. He, the W.M., had the pleasure of being well acquainted with Bro. Busher, who was well-known in this and other provinces as a most able and persevering Mason, and one who had devoted considerable time and energy in the cause of Freemasonry, and especially in his support of the charities. He therefore had much pleasure in asking the brethren to award a vote of congratulation to Bro. Busher on his being invested as G. Sword Bearer of England, than whom he knew of none more deserving the honour, and he trusted he might long continue to occupy a prominent position in the Grand Lodge of England. The resolution was seconded by Bro. Ball, I.P.M., who also alluded to the zeal and ability displayed at all times by Bro. Busher in the service of the Craft. The vote having been carried unanimously, was briefly acknowledged by Bro. Busher. The labours of the evening being ended, the lodge was closed according to ancient custom, and a few of the brethren afterwards accepted the hospitality of the W.M. in

adjoining to refreshment prepared for them at the house of Bro. Sly. On Thursday evening the brethren of the Rowley Lodge met as a lodge of instruction under the direction of the W.M.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 279).—A regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 1st inst., when, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M. in Lancashire, the chair was taken by Bro. Kelly, D. Prov. G.M. Among the brethren present were Bros. J. Adlard, S.W.; W. Weare, P.M., as J.W.; C. Stretton, Sec.; E. Gosling, J.D.; T. Thorpe, I.G.; &c. The visitors present were Bros. L. L. Attwood, 141, Illinois, America; J. J. Fairfax Scott, 1,007, Loughborough; Bethrey, Wardle, Tollax, Sergeant, Rowe, Atkins, Sculthorpe, Baines, and J. C. Clarke, 523. The lodge having been opened in the first and second degrees, Bros. Burton and Checkland were called to the pedestal, and examined as candidates for the third degree, after which, having retired, a M.M.'s lodge was opened, and they were duly raised. The lodge was then closed in the several degrees, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The pleasure of this portion of the evening was greatly enhanced by the harmony contributed by several of the brethren, and especially by Bro. Attwood, of America. Bro. Scott also recited in admirable style Wolsey's speech to Cromwell—"Farewell! a long farewell to all my greatness!" The brethren separated at the usual hour, much gratified by the proceedings of the evening.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge* (No. 471).—The usual monthly meeting of the members of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Great Dock-street, on Wednesday, the 1st inst., at seven p.m. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last lodge and lodge of emergency having been read and confirmed, the following gentlemen were balloted for and admitted, viz., Messrs. John Alfred Hall, Ferdinand Fornacon, and George Fothergill, and they will be initiated at the next lodge meeting. Bros. Scott, Rowe, and Phillips were then raised to the sublime degree of M.M.'s, the ceremony being most ably performed by the W.M. The Secretary reported that the petition of Bro. Zouch, backed at the last meeting, had been presented to the Board of Benevolence, who had granted relief to the extent of £10, and that Bro. R. B. Evans, P.M., had collected in Newport (with the donation of £2 2s. from this lodge), £5, which had also been sent to Bro. Zouch, and a letter from Mrs. Zouch was read, thankfully acknowledging the same. The Secretary also reported that all the by-laws had been used, and a further supply of 100 copies was ordered to be printed. The librarian was directed to order, through Bro. Oliver, the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, in monthly parts. Bro. Fox gave notice that he would at the next meeting move that the sum of £10 be provided out of the funds of the lodge to purchase three P.M.'s jewels, to be presented to P.M.'s Evans, Griffiths, and Hellyer, as a small acknowledgment of their very valuable services whilst presiding over this lodge. It was then proposed by Bro. Pickford, P.M., seconded by the W.M., and carried unanimously, that the cordial thanks of the brethren be given to Bro. Hellyer for the very great trouble taken by him in the purchase and erection of the organ, which having been suitably and feelingly acknowledged by that worthy brother, the lodge was closed in harmony at 9.25 p.m.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).

The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Temple on Thursday, the 25th ult. The lodge was opened in due form by Bro. H. L. Manuel, W.M., supported by Bros. Jn. Oatley, S.W.; Abr. Viel, J.W.; J. T. du Jardin, acting as I.P.M.; A. Schmitt, P.M., Sec.; N. Le Goupillot, Treas.; and about forty other brethren, including the members and visitors. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the lodge was opened in the second degree. At the request of the W.M., the chair was then taken by Bro. J. T. du Jardin, in order that he might confer the third degree on Bro. N. W. Moyses in English. The candidate, after

a very satisfactory examination, was entrusted, and withdrew for preparation. The lodge was opened in the third degree, when Bro. Moyses was duly received, and raised to the degree of M.M., according to ancient custom, in a manner so solemn and impressive as to reflect great credit on the acting W.M., who also explained the working tools and the tracing board. The lodge was resumed in the first degree. At this stage of the proceedings, the arrival of Bro. Dr. Jn. Le Cronier, D. Prov. G.M., was announced. The W.M. deputed the P.M.'s to meet the *de facto* ruler of the province, who was, of course, received with open hearts and due honours.

Bro. A. Schmitt, P.M., was then requested to take the chair, and to perform the next ceremony. Having complied, he stated that Bro. J. W. Buesnel was a candidate to be passed to the second degree, and summoned him before the pedestal. The examination was more full than usual, and the candidate gave far greater proofs of proficiency in the E.A. degree than are generally considered necessary. Having retired for preparation, a F.C. lodge was opened, and Bro. Buesnel, having been announced and duly received, was passed to the second degree. The acting W.M. explained the working tools and the tracing board appertaining to this degree, concluding with the customary charge relating to it.

The chair was again assumed by Bro. H. L. Manuel. Bro. E. Jaboneau, the Orator of the lodge, obtained permission from the W.M. to deliver the following oration, which was listened to by the members with great attention and pleasure, so much so, that the Secretary was directed to enter it on the minutes of the lodge proceedings:—

"My dear Brethren,—At our previous meetings, convinced as we are of the benefits which naturally flow from the Masonic principles of virtue, and from the admirable theories which comprise the whole, we endeavoured to present to your view in as forcible a manner as possible that which may be deemed a realisation thereof, that is to say, not merely their inculcation, but their practice. It has been our desire, too, to make our newly-initiated brethren clearly understand to how great an extent Freemasonry, instead of being a bugbear, a horrible phantom, as represented by the ultramontists, is, on the contrary, gentle, good, affable, lovely, full of faith and fidelity, and whose mysteries, springing out of a true and ennobling grandeur, are never displayed beyond its own limits, unless accompanied by the exquisite perfume attendant upon works of tolerance and of charity.

"We have therefore stated that, without any restriction, we admit men of every religion of which God is the recognised principle: that from our calm and peaceful sanctuary we chase away all extreme passions, whence spring crime, hatred, envy, and the exaggerations connected with political discussions. Nevertheless, notwithstanding these elements of order, the feelings of our hearts and our affection for our fellow creatures prevent us from reposing in a state of indifference to the events which are passing around us, and on this point it is our object to trace carefully and minutely the connections which exist between certain tendencies in contemporary political matters, and that which may be expected from zeal and energy in the propagation of Masonic principles and practice, as tending to weaken and diminish the injurious effects of political dissension.

"What do we often witness in those of the profane world, with whom fraternity is but too often a vain and meaningless expression? In all frankness we cannot but confess that such is the case. Is it not pitiful to see our society, in itself so progressive, so intelligent, sink into the mire and corruption of ancient times, and bend its head beneath the canine forks of perverse ambition? Ought we in silence, unmoved, and without remonstrance, to regard a spectacle so sorrowful, so wounding to our susceptibilities, the offspring of unnatural and impossible alliances, and presenting an anomaly whose foundation, filthy and faithless, must inevitably become steeped in blood, after having oppressed the weak, in order to share in the spoils? How sad a picture! Ah, our loyal hearts are overwhelmed with grief. See there a heroic people sinks and covers its mutilated corpses with its last flag; still nearer to us, the very shadows of national existence disappear, scattered as they are by the waves of rising and increasing ambition. Even closer in its approaches to us, the sea roars upon the shores of countries overthrown and brought to ruin. Lastly, in the horizon we see gathering together dense clouds, the precursors of a fearful storm. Will it burst? God is great—in his hands rests the future.

"Why is not our sublime Masonic order more widely spread over the nations, among the masses of the people, everywhere?

Its gentle and peaceful influence would assuredly arrest the deadly hand of a brother when uplifted to strike his fellow Mason.

"War, regarded from our point of view, is sanctified only when it is entered upon to secure the freedom and independence of an invaded country; it is necessary to check flagrant acts of aggression; it is profitable and conducive to honour only when it is undertaken on behalf of the sacred rights of nations.

"My brethren, let us heartily unite to spread and inculcate the tenets of Masonry. Now is the time to coalesce for such a purpose. Let us not leave our brethren, who share with us the providence of God, in peril, and in the shades of ignorance. Let us make Masons of them, that is to say, citizens devoted and incorruptible, whose moral force will destroy the hundred-headed hydra, and despoil human passions of its baneful influence.

"Let us hope for this day, which will bring unspeakable satisfaction to the hearts of all true Masons; meanwhile, the luminous bow of alliance shine over the Grand Orient of France, which invites an international and universal union of Masonry in an immense and memorable assemblage at Paris on the 15th of June, in order that the splendid festival of the arts, of industry, and of commerce, may give rise to hopes for peace among the nations of the earth, for fraternal and firm bonds of unity and concord between Masons from every quarter of the globe."

The next business fixed for the evening was the election of officers, previous to which the W.M. addressed the brethren as follows, in a solemn and impressive manner, with all the force of conviction and all the warmth of heart for which he is so justly distinguished, especially when, as on the present occasion, his thoughts and feelings are so strictly in unison with his utterances. It was ordered that these beautiful expressions of the sentiments by which Bro. H. L. Manuel is animated should be recorded on the minutes:—

"My very dear brethren,—It is more than probable that this is the last opportunity I shall have of addressing you from the chair which I now occupy, and before resigning my seat to a brother who will perform the duties connected with it infinitely better than myself, I feel compelled to offer to you a few remarks, which naturally occur to my mind on this occasion, and filling my heart, rise to the surface and seek a form of expression. What I have to say to you, brethren, is very short, very true, and to me very agreeable.

"Twelve months ago, brethren, to your kind favour I was indebted for my election by the unanimous voice of the members to the office of W.M. of this respectable lodge. But on this day my year of Mastership terminates.

"During the past year, the most perfect harmony, the most full, free, and sincere friendship have without exception continued to prevail among us. That which has been commenced in order has indeed and in truth been conducted in peace and closed in harmony. The ties by which we are united, each one to every other, and all to our beloved Order, far from displaying signs of weakness, have become more strong, more vigorous, more enduring. The true spirit of Freemasonry has never animated us to a greater extent than it does at this moment, while I address myself to you. This evening then, my brethren, I appear before you, not merely to express to you how happy I am to know and to feel the truth of what I say, and to offer you my sincere congratulations on those felicitous circumstances. Especially is it my duty and pleasure to do that which more particularly concerns myself, that is to say, to thank you for all your kindness and indulgence towards me.

"Support, assistance, goodwill, friendship—ah! you have indeed been lavish in your bestowal of them. On this account it is that each time when I have met you in open lodge I have done so with joy. Thus it is that now, at the expiration of my term, the year appears to me to have fled with the speed of lightning. Such is always the case when happiness lends us its smiles, and well do you know that nothing contributes so much to such a result as the sentiment of love and friendship.

"Be assured, my brethren, that in me you have not found a cold heart, a mind ungrateful when reflecting on the past. Never shall I be unfaithful to the recollections which must exist in relation to the year of office now on the point of expiring. With the deepest emotion shall I ever recal the fraternal feelings exhibited towards me by you all. If, in the course of my Mastership, I have endeavoured to act on the principle that 'duty obliges,' in the future I hope to have as a leading motive not only pure and simple duty, but deep gratitude. Returning as a plain individual into the great brotherhood of Past Masters, I believe that I shall know and appreciate the course which

such a position incites me to pursue; but on my word of honour I hereby solemnly pledge myself that I will do, or, at least, will endeavour to do, my duty with all the zeal and devotedness of which I am capable. Lastly, brethren, and in this I include the sum total, my greatest ambition will always be so to act as a brother and fellow labourer, that, when my earthly career shall approach its termination, I may venture to hope, if permitted by the Supreme Master of Heaven and Earth, that I have been a faithful servant, though perhaps less serviceable than I might have been in his Eternal lodge, the Temple of the Universe.

"With the sincere expression of these sentiments I cordially offer you my official adieu. Farewell, Brethren!"

The two addresses were kindly translated from the French by our learned and esteemed Bro. Dr. Hopkins.

The W.M. informed the members that a moment of the greatest importance as regards the welfare of the lodge had arrived, namely, to elect his successor for the next twelve months. He availed himself of this opportunity to state, to his regret, that among so large a number of intelligent and reflecting brethren, men of education and of good social position, there was unfortunately no one who aspired to take the rank of W.M. of the lodge, and who was at the same time qualified to discharge the duties thereof. He had consulted all the P.M.'s of the lodge on the subject, to whom he had freely expressed his opinion, in which they had unaniously concurred. It was now his duty to state to the members of the lodge the result of their careful deliberations, which was to recommend for their suffrages Bro. J. Durell, P.M., one well known and highly esteemed by all. None could doubt him to be a candidate eminently qualified in every respect again to govern the lodge, whether in regard to the example afforded by his regular conduct and spotless life, or to his skill and power efficiently to discharge his onerous duties. Under these circumstances, the W.M. expressed his conscientious belief that the brethren could not possibly make a better choice, and that they would act wisely in again entrusting the interests and the honour of Lodge La Césarée to a brother so worthy and so well tried. There was another aspect in which to view this important matter, namely, that a third nomination to the headship of the lodge should be regarded as in some measure a recompense to Bro. Durell for the trials he had so well and firmly borne during his previous two years of Mastership, a period memorable on account of the stormy discussions and constant internal dissensions excited and carried on at that time by several members who afterwards founded the Lodge Les Amis de l'Avenir, working under a French warrant. Such re-election now, during a period of calm and prosperity, would afford him an opportunity of enjoying the real pleasure which would arise from a peaceful and harmonious tenure of office. Before concluding, the W.M. observed that he felt it to be an imperative duty to pay a well-merited tribute of sincere and truly Masonic esteem to Bro. Jn. Oatley, S.W., and to express the high sense entertained by himself personally, and he was sure by the members of the lodge collectively, of the untiring zeal, self-abnegation, and constant exertions already evinced, and which would undoubtedly continue to be displayed by Bro. Oatley, with a view to promote the prosperity and success of Lodge La Césarée. This well-deserved eulogium paid to the S.W. was warmly endorsed by the brethren present.

The W.M. then caused the balloting lists to be delivered to the members. On a scrutiny, the ballot resulted in a nearly unanimous election of Bro. J. Durell, P.M., to the important post of W.M., only two votes having been given for the S.W., and the same number for the J.W. Bro. N. Le Goupillot was unanimously elected Treasurer for the twelfth time, and Bro. H. Du Jardin as Tyler. It was resolved that the installation festival should take place this year on Thursday instead of the 24th, the latter falling on Friday, which is an inconvenient day for many of the members; also that a special meeting should be holden on Tuesday, the 28th, for the despatch of other business. Bros. F. Esnoup, E. Pixley, and F. F. Amy were elected to act on the Committee for General Purposes. Mr. Joseph Gregg was proposed as a candidate for initiation. No further business offering, the lodge was closed at ten o'clock in love and perfect harmony, and the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room for refreshment, passing another hour together in a manner pleasant and instructive to the mind, as well as refreshing to the body.

ROYAL ARCH.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER.

A convocation of the Grand Chapter of this province was held, agreeably to summons, at the Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Friday, the 3rd instant. In the absence of the Right Hon. Earl Howe, Grand Superintendent, owing to the state of his health, his Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Craft Masonry, Comp. Kelly, Prov. G.H., presided. Among the companions present at this meeting, or during the proceedings of the evening, were:—Comps. Major Brewin, M.E.Z. No. 279, as Prov. G.H.; Capt. Bankhart, P.Z., as Prov. G.J.; Pettifer, P.Z.; Clapham, P.Z., Prov. G.S.E.; Rev. J. Spittal, J.; W. Weare, H.; J. E. Hodges, Rev. W. Langley, W. Moor, J. Rida, W. Boulton, D. Challis, C. Stretton, Bithrey, Manning, Gosling, and others.

The chapter having been opened in form, and the minutes of the last Prov. G. Chapter read and confirmed, Comp. Kelly informed the companions that he had been authorised to make the following appointments:—

Comp. W. Kelly, D. Prov. G.M. in Craft Prov. G.H.	
" E. Clapham, P.Z. No. 279	" J.
" G. Bankart, P.Z. No. 279	" Scribe E.
" Rev. J. Denton, M.E.Z. No. 779	" Scribe N.
" F. Goodyer, H. No. 279	" P.S.
" Rev. J. Spittal, J. No. 279	" 1st Assist. Soj.
" H. Etherington Smith, H. No. 779	" 2nd Assist. Soj.
" R. Brewin, M.E.Z. No. 279	" Treas.
" C. Stretton, No. 279	" Reg.
" C. Morris, No. 279	" Sword Bearer.
" Rev. S. Smith, D.D., No. 779	" Dir. of Cers.
" G. A. Löhr, No. 279	" Org.
" W. Weare, H. No. 279	" Stand. Bearer.
" Bembridge, No. 279	" Janitor.

Those who were present were then invested.

There being no further business, the chapter was then closed in form and with solemn prayer.

LEICESTER.—*Chapter of Fortitude* (No. 279).—At the conclusion of business in the Provincial Grand Chapter, a convocation of this chapter, attached to St. John's Lodge, was held, Comp. Major Brewin, M.E.Z., presiding, who for the third time had been elected to that important office, the duties of which he has admirably performed. The chapter having been opened, a conclave of Installed First Principals was formed, when Comp. Kelly, Prov. G.H., assisted by P.Z.'s Baulhart, Clapham, and Pettifer were duly installed, with the appropriate ceremonies, the following companions as the three Principals for the ensuing year, delivering to each the address on his installation, viz., Comps. Robert Brewin, M.E.Z.; William Weare, H.; Rev. John Spittal, J. After the conclave of Installed Principals had been closed and the other companions admitted, a ballot was taken for Bros. the Rev. Charles George Henderson, John Hunt, and Thomas Hardy Buzzard as candidates for the Royal Arch Degree, who were all duly elected, and the two latter, being in attendance, were exalted in ancient form by the M.E.Z., together with Bro. George Norman, W.M. of the Rutland Lodge (No. 1130), Melton Mowbray, who had been elected at the last convocation. The M.E.Z. delivered the historical and mystical lectures, and Comp. Kelly, P.Z., the symbolical lecture. The chapter was then closed in form and with solemn prayer, and the companions adjourned to refreshment.

MARK MASONRY.

DURHAM.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—*Eclectic Lodge* (No. 39).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday the 30th ult., and was opened at eight o'clock by Bros. George Moore, W.M.; Larkun, who acted as S.W.; W. W. Brunton, J.W.; R. B. Harpley, S.O.; Stonier Leigh, M.O.; E. Hudson, J.O.; George Kirk, Reg.; M. Rickinson, Treas.; J. W. Cameron, Sec.; J. Miller, I.G.; and J. Emra Holmes, J.D. The minutes were duly read and confirmed. An animated discussion arose upon the desirability of forming a benevolent institution, which was negatived. Bro. Wm. Sutton was balloted for, and unanimously accepted, but indisposition preventing him from being in attendance, the lodge was closed in love and harmony.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST.)

HULL.—*Minerva Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 12).—The regular quarterly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, the 6th inst., in the Masonic Hall, Prince-street, at which were present—Bros. W. Reynolds, W.M.; J. N. Scherling, S.W.; J. Lidwood, J.W.; M. C. Peck, P.M., Sec.; W. K. Brown, M.O.; H. Haigh, S.O.; A. Rannurson, as J.O.; G. Hardy, as S.D.; R. T. Vivian, J.D.; O. Hammerton, Org.; J. Burn, S.; W. H. North, I.G.; J. Faulkner, W. Johnson, and J. Sanderson, Tylers; J. Norton, C. Pool, H. Vise, C. Leggott, &c. The lodge having been opened in form, the ballot box was prepared for six brethren, all of whom were accepted, and four being present, viz.: Bros. J. H. Emes, W. D. Keyworth, W. Tesseyman, and H. K. Sowne, were admitted and regularly advanced to this honourable degree, Bro. M. C. Peck, P.M., giving the charge in the centre, and Bro. Hardy the working tools. The circular of the Grand Secretary respecting the establishment of a Fund of Benevolence in connection with the Grand Lodge was then considered, when the lodge resolved that it was undesirable to establish such fund in the manner proposed, the present fees to Grand Lodge being considered sufficiently high for the prosperity of the Order. Two brethren were then proposed for ballot at the next meeting, and hearty good wishes having been expressed, the lodge was closed in form and with solemn prayer.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST.)

HULL.—*Ancient York Conclave of Redemption, Time Memorial*.—The annual meeting of this encampment for the installation of E.C. was held in the Masonic Hall, Prince-street, on Friday evening, 3rd inst., at which were present:—Sir Knights G. Wilkinson, 18° E.C.; F. Jackson, 18°, 1st Capt.; J. Fowler, as 2nd Capt.; J. F. Holden, as Prelate; W. Reynolds, 18°, P.E.C., Reg.; J. Brooke, Export; M. C. Peck, Org.; G. Hardy, Capt. of Lines; Frater W. Johnson, Equerry; E. Sir Knt. C. J. Bannister, 31°, G.C.; Sir Knt. J. Thompson, W. Wray, C. Pool, W. Dixon, W. H. Garnett, J. N. Scherling, &c. The conclave having been opened in the ancient form, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Comp. W. E. Richardson being in attendance, was then admitted and regularly installed, invested, and proclaimed a Knight Templar and member of the conclave. The E.C. then vacated the chair in favour of Sir Knt. C. J. Bannister (the installing officer) and Sir Knt. W. Reynolds presented the E.C. elect, Sir Knt. F. Jackson, who was regularly installed according to ancient custom, the knights below the chair having retired during part of the ceremony, were readmitted, saluted the E.C. in ancient form. The E.C. then appointed his officers as follows:—

- Sir Kt. F. Jackson, G.A. de C., 18° ... E.C.
- " J. F. Holden 1st Capt.
- " J. Brooke 2nd Capt.
- " Rev. G. O. Browne, M.A. Prelate.
- " Walter Reynolds, 18° P.E.C. ... Registrar.
- " Geo. Hardy Export.
- " J. Thompson, 18° 1st Herald.
- " W. W. Batty 2nd Herald.
- " M. C. Peck, 18° Organist.
- " Wm. Wray Almoner.
- " Charles Poole Beaucomifer.
- " Thomas Dale Bearer of Voxillum Bolli.
- " Wm. E. Dixon Capt. of Lines.
- Frater Wm. Johnson Equerry.

Votes of thanks having been passed to the retiring E.C., the Installing Officer, and the Registrar for his attention to the affairs of the conclave, the encampment was closed in ancient form with solemn prayer. A priory of Malta was opened by the P.E.C., Sir Knt. W. Reynolds, assisted by the other knights who were members of the Order, when Sir Knts. W. Wray and W. E. Richardson were admitted and installed Knights of Malta. The priory was then closed, and the knights adjourned to the banquet and spent the remainder of the evening in harmony.

Obituary.

At Bedford, on the 26th ultimo, aged 29, Bro. Charles Bartlett Durham, of the Freemasons' Arms, 81, Long Acre, and late of

the Bedford Lodge. He is fraternally regretted by a wide-spread circle of the Craft, and was well-known and esteemed as manager of the refreshment department at Weston's Music Hall during the proprietorship of Bro. E. Weston.

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 18TH, 1867.

- Monday, May 13th.—GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.
- Tuesday, May 14th.—INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.
- Wednesday, May 15th.—SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.
- Thursday, May 16th.—CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice, drove out on the afternoon of the 1st inst. The Queen, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold, left the Castle on the 2nd inst., at ten minutes past three o'clock for Osborne. The Queen arrived at Osborne in the evening at a quarter before seven o'clock, having crossed over from Gosport in the Royal yacht *Alberta*, Captain his Serene Highness the Prince Leiningen. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise, walked in the grounds on the morning of the 3rd inst. The Queen drove out in the afternoon, accompanied by Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice, and her Majesty walked and drove in the grounds on the morning of the 4th inst. Countess Blucher had the honour of accompanying her Majesty. The Queen and Princess Louise rode on ponies in the afternoon, attended by Lady Churchill. Her Majesty attended Divine Service at Whippingham Church on the morning of the 5th inst. The Rev. George Prothero officiated. The Queen walked and drove in the grounds on the morning of the 6th inst., accompanied by Princess Louise. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise, drove out in the afternoon, attended by Lady Churchill. Her Majesty and Princess Louise drove in the grounds on the morning of the 7th inst., accompanied by Countess Blucher. The Queen drove out in the afternoon, accompanied by Princess Louise and Prince Leopold, and her Majesty drove in the grounds on the morning of the 8th inst., with Princess Louise.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—The HOUSE OF LORDS met on the 2nd inst., for the first time after the Easter recess. Replying to Earl Russell, the Earl of Derby gave some explanations as to the proposed conference on the Luxemburg question. He said nothing more than Lord Stanley has already stated, except that the conference would meet on the 7th instant. His lordship was very sanguine that peace would be preserved.—The business in the House on the 3rd inst. had no special interest.—The House sat only for a quarter of an hour on the 6th instant, just long enough to receive a few petitions, and to pass the British White Herring Fishery Bill through committee.—Ecclesiastical matters engrossed the attention of the House on the 7th instant. The Archbishop of Canterbury was anxious to know whether the Government would consent to the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject of Ritualistic observances. Lord Derby replied in the affirmative, but insisted that the inquiry should be a comprehensive one, and include all matters affecting the performance of public worship. Several of the bishops united in thanking Lord Derby, and Lord Shaftesbury concluded the discussion by affirming that the subject was ripe for settlement. Lord Lyttelton moved the second reading of his bill to enable the Crown to erect new bishoprics, and after some discussion it was read a second time. The Archbishop of Cantor

bury warmly supported the measure, and both Lord Derby and Lord Russell expressed themselves favourable to it.—In the House of Commons on the 2nd inst., some anxiety was felt to see where Mr. Gladstone would take his seat. The right hon. gentleman entered the House from behind the Speaker's chair, and took his seat on the front Opposition bench.—After the Reform Bill had been disposed of the Bribery at Elections Bill was read a second time. The House rose about nine o'clock.—On the 3rd inst., Mr. Bright presented a petition signed by twelve or thirteen gentlemen in reference to the Fenian prisoners in Ireland, and the treatment of the Fenians generally. The petition was most ably argued, and the prayer was in effect that the sentence of death on the Fenians might not be carried out, that those who were imprisoned should not be classed with other convicts, and that the army might be instructed not to imitate in Ireland in the suppression of Fenianism the atrocities committed in India and Jamaica. Of course Mr. Bright was not allowed to state the purport of this petition without many interruptions. The chief of those who sought to stop the member for Birmingham was the ardent admirer of Orangeism, Major Knox. When the motion was made that the petition lie on the table, Major Knox moved its rejection, but was promptly rebuked by Mr. Newdegate, who pointed out that the petition contained nothing whatever disrespectful to the House. The motion for its reception was therefore carried.—Mr. Maguire called attention to the statements which have appeared lately of the cruel treatment of the Irish political prisoners at Portland and in Pontonville prison. Most ably he pointed out the injustice of classing these men with ordinary felons. The O'Donoghue spoke in the same sense. Lord Naas gave a general denial to the specific allegations of cruelty, and proceeded to say that there was no power under the law as it stood to separate the political prisoners from other convicts. If such a separation was deemed desirable, the law would have to be altered.—On the 6th inst., after various questions had been put and notices of motion given, Mr. Bernal Osborne made an appeal to Mr. Dillwyn to produce the original memorandum with reference to Mr. Hibbert's amendment, and offered if this were done not only to place his own copy before the House, the accuracy of which had been questioned, but to apologise if it were shown that he had been in error. Mr. Osborne, in a speech which was full of his characteristic spirit and humour, contended that as the memorandum had been drawn up for the purpose of attracting votes, it was essentially a public document, and therefore ought not to be withheld. Mr. Dillwyn, however, "respectfully declined" to produce the original, unless the House required it of him.—Mr. Darby Griffith called attention to what he called "a question of privilege." In impugning Mr. Bright's conduct in presenting the Irish petition which excited so much irritation, he ventured to challenge the Speaker's decision, and to appeal to what he called the amended consideration of the highest authority in the House. He, however, got nothing by his motion, and, after having been twice called to order, he received a dignified rebuke from the Speaker, who reminded him that the House of Commons was "the temple of free speech," and said that if he wished to take any course with reference to the petition he must give notice of his intention.—Mr. Torrens moved his lodger franchise clause in a very earnest and practical speech. He was supported by Mr. Harvey Lewis and Mr. Locke. Mr. Smollett rather pooh-poohed the advantages of the proposed franchise, and cited Scotland as an example of its ineffectiveness—ground upon which he was at once met by Mr. Duncan McLaren. Mr. Gladstone strongly supported the proposition, and Dr. Brady, Sir Morton Peto, and Alderman Lusk took the same view; while the Chancellor of the

Exchequer, who disavowed all party considerations, gave a support to the principle of a lodger franchise, provided Mr. Torrens would bring forward his proposal in a distinct and definite shape. A good deal of discussion then ensued as to the mode of procedure in this matter. Ultimately Mr. Torrens withdrew his amendment, on the understanding that the question would be dealt with as had been suggested by the Attorney-General.—On the 7th inst., Lord Naas, in reply to Mr. Morris, confirmed the report that a season of great distress was impending in Connemara, and that the poor people were already feeding their cattle with provender which they would require for their own sustenance. The Government are giving their serious attention to this matter.—Mr. Gladstone gave notice of a series of questions intended still further to make clear the position of compound householders above £10.—Sir John Gray then moved that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider the temporalities and privileges of the Established Church in Ireland. The hon. gentleman founded his argument not only on the excessive anomalies of the case, eighty-eight per cent. of the people of Ireland being averse to the dominant faith, and the clerical office in many parishes being a mere sinecure, but on the broad principles of religious equality, which, he contended, were recognised by Great Britain in every part of her dominions except Ireland. He quoted the authority of great statesmen against the Irish Church, and appealed to the leaders of both parties to settle this question without rendering it necessary to institute another agitation like that for Catholic Emancipation. In 114 parishes the proportion of Protestants, including the clerical and official members of the Church, amounted to fourteen in each parish. These and other equally pregnant facts formed the substance of Sir John Gray's speech. His motion was seconded by Colonel Greville. In the course of the protracted debate which ensued, Mr. Gladstone made a magnificent speech in support of the principle of Sir John Gray's motion, and intimated that the time would soon come when he should endeavour to give effect to his opinion. The Attorney-General for Ireland and Lord Naas, on behalf of the Government, offered an equally resolute opposition to the motion.—On the 8th inst. the chair was taken by the Speaker at ten minutes past twelve o'clock. The second reading of the Hypothec Abolition (Scotland) Bill was moved by Captain Carnegie. By this law of hypothec the claim of the landlord to the live stock on, and produce of, the land hypothecated, is preferred to all ordinary creditors; and the landlord may either retain the produce on the ground against creditors, or, if sold or taken away, may recover the value from the purchaser or those who intermeddle with it. It being only just that the substance of a tenant unable to discharge in full the demands against him should be fairly divided amongst his creditors, this bill was introduced for the purpose of abolishing a law so objectionable in its operations. It was submitted by Mr. Baillie that the small tenants in Scotland—consisting principally of farm labourers—were vitally interested in the preservation of the law; and believing that the repeal of the law would be injurious to those small tenants, he proposed that the bill should be read a second time that day six months. A discussion ensued in which Mr. Baxter, Mr. Baillie Cochrane, Sir R. Anstruther, Mr. Cumming Bruce, Mr. Young, Mr. Graham, Sir J. Ferguson, Mr. McLaren, and other members took part. Ultimately the bill was rejected by a majority of 129.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

Mr. SIMMONDS.—If our correspondent will favour us what lodge he refers to, we may perhaps be able to answer his question. As there are four or five Bedford lodges, we are unable to tell to which his question particularly refers.