

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1867.

THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN,

NOTES BY A NOVICE:

(Continued from page 42.)

The fall of Acre, the last stronghold of the military orders, secured the supremacy of the Moslems in Palestine, and the scanty remnant of Christian Knights returned to Europe, discomfited, but not dismayed. The King of Cyprus joyfully received the warriors of St. John, assigning them the town of Limisso, in his dominions, as a retreat, where they remained for twenty years, until Fulke de Villaret, the Grand Master, led them to the conquest of Rhodes.

This island continued in the possession of the Order for more than two hundred years, during which time the Knights distinguished themselves as much by sea as they had previously done by land; their war galleys swept the Mediterranean Sea, then infested by corsairs from Barbary, and many sanguinary struggles ensued between the representatives of the cross and the crescent. Immense numbers of Christians, who were being carried off to slavery by the pirates, were rescued as the result of these encounters, in which the Knights were generally successful, so that at length the black flag of the African robbers was scarcely to be seen in the Lycian waters.

The advent of Solyman, the Magnificent, to the throne of Turkey, was of evil omen to the heroic fraternity. After a series of maritime victories, this renowned Sultan landed on the island of Rhodes, with an immense army, and solemnly declared his head, his fleet, and his whole empire to be for ever accursed if he failed to capture the fortress of the Christian Knights. The noble defence made by the Hospitallers\* is one of the undying records of history; but overwhelming numbers prevailed, and they were eventually compelled to capitulate under conditions honourable alike to the victor and the vanquished. The Knights then retired to Candia, and afterwards to Sicily, until the Emperor Charles the V., in 1530, ceded to the Order the Island of Malta, to be maintained as a bulwark against the constant encroachments of the Ottoman empire.

Here the Knights fully sustained their ancient reputation, the Turks being defeated with great loss after a memorable siege of five months' dura-

tion, in which the valour and military genius of John de Valettè, Grand Master of the Order, were eminently conspicuous. From this time they remained in undisputed possession of Malta, of which the Grand Master was recognised as sovereign, being bound only to present a falcon every year to the King of Spain, and to use his best endeavours to suppress piracy. In 1650, the siege of Candia was the scene of many brave exploits on the part of the knights of St. John, and seven years afterwards the Maltese squadron, in conjunction with the fleet of Venice, signally defeated the Turks at the Dardanelles. In 1798, the wondrous career of the Knights as an independent and sovereign body came to an end. On the 9th of June in that year, the French, under Napoleon, took possession of Malta, and the glorious banner of the chivalrous fraternity was supplanted by the republican tricolour. Everything of value or interest belonging to the Order was carried off by the French, but many never reached their destination, one frigate, laden with spoil, being captured by the English, and the grand standard of St. John, with other relics, may now be seen within the walls of the Tower of London.

A general dispersion of the Knights followed; but a considerable number took refuge in Russia, where they were favourably received by the Emperor Paul, who, at a chapter of the Order, held subsequently at St. Petersburg, was elected Grand Master, and formally notified the fact to all the Courts of Europe. This measure was not approved by many of the Italian Knights, who accordingly requested the Pope to nominate one of their number as the head of the Order—with the express stipulation that the inherent right of the Chevaliers to choose their own chief was not to be considered as in any way surrendered or abrogated by this temporary abandonment of their privileges.

While the Congress of Vienna held its sittings several Knights formed a general Chapter in Paris, under the Prince de Rohan, and petitioned the Congress to grant them the sovereignty of some small island in lieu of Malta, which the British (who had expelled the French in 1799) were determined not to relinquish.

This attempt on the part of the Knights was, however, unsuccessful, and their influence as a political or ruling body seems destined never to be restored.

\* Then called Knights of Rhodes.

We will now pass in review the various Masonic and other fraternities that claim affinity to the Order of St. John.

*(To be continued.)*

TRANSLATION OF THE DISCOURSE DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE RECEPTION OF DEP.: GR.: IN.: GEN.:, AND GR.: REP.: ALBERT G. GOODALL, BY THE GR.: ORIENT AND SUP.: COUNCIL OF BRAZIL, VALLEY OF LAVRADIO.

If at every great meeting we hold in this august locality, we should find powerful incentives to produce in our hearts the sacred fire which burns there, when we think of the duty which aids us to perpetuate the Royal Art to which we dedicate ourselves to-day; more than ever should these exhibitions of joy to which we abandon ourselves, spontaneously reach their culminating point since the representative of a great Masonic power, our ally, honours us with his presence; comes to prove to us that the fraternal ties that unite the Gr.: Or.: and Sup.: Coun.: of Brazil to the Pow.: Sup.: Coun.: for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of North America, at New York, never have been broken; whence the Masonic community of Brazil that knows how to appreciate the importance of this institution, and that ever true to its oath, considers Masonry a religion, cannot but salute as it does with all the warmth of which it is capable, the very Pow.: and Ill.: Bro.: 33.: Albert G. Goodall, proving thus the high esteem in which it holds, and has ever held, its Bros.:, who, in the country of Washington, coincide with its doctrines.

If all those to whom Masonry is but a pastime, and who, in the public squares and through the press seek to expose it to the sarcasms of the horde, are yet thinking of withdrawing from us the confidence which our Ill.: Bros.: of the United States place in us, seeking the use of insidious language (a favourite weapon of theirs\*) for that purpose, they lose both time and trouble, for truth will always be truth, and those who commissioned our Bro.: Goodall to strengthen the fraternal ties which bound us, never can forget that it is easier for the Masons of Lavradio to endure with resignation the deadly blows of calumny than to violate

their oaths of initiation; and our conduct, always Masonic, always regular, in relation to that of our opponents, will undoubtedly enable us to merit on all occasions offered to us by our ancient allies the most convincing proofs of their fraternal friendship.

To confound our adversaries, who pretend to destroy our legality by all and every means, it will be quite sufficient for us to remember that we have at our front the first notabilities of the country, whose honourable names will always serve as a guarantee in foreign lands of the fidelity with which we respect the fundamental dogma of Masonry.

The great person of the nineteenth century, Mr. Victor Hugo, says, that when God wishes to chastise man, He charges man with that mission. Let us, therefore, continue to abandon our opponents to their own ruinous passions, and they will end by perpetrating suicide.

On us it is only incumbent to render thanks to the Gr.: Arch.: of the Universe for having given to us the necessary courage to transmit to our posterity the Holy Ark which was confided to us.

Joined in spirit and truth to Him, let us exult at this present moment in the fact that we are forever identified with the true Masons of a great nation, which has just given to the world an example of its strength of will, sustaining by itself, and without recourse to the aid of aliens, its institutions; let our cry at this moment be,

"Hail, and long life to the very Pow.: Sup.: Coun.: for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of North America!

"All hail, and long life to that nation which Providence destined to serve as an example to the people of America, and of the respect we all owe to our institutions.

"All hail, and long life to the Gr.: Orient of Brazil, at the Valley of Lavradio, the only regular Masonic Power that knows how to appreciate the Masonic Law of the land of the Holy Cross!"

After having explained the motive that brought about this meeting of the Masonic family in this august temple, it remains to me to comply with a duty, that is, to pay a debt of gratitude in the name of the Gr.: Or.: of Brazil, which, in accordance with the very Powerful Sup.: Coun.: of the Anc.: and Accept.: Scottish Rite, never forgets the consideration with which it is treated.

To effect this, you will allow Most Wise and Great Master and Great Commander that I leave for a few moments this honourable place, and

\* The spurious body of Benedictines.

direct myself to the throne where you are assisted by our Pow.: Bro.: Goodall.

Most Ill.: and Pow.: Bro.: Albert G. Goodall, Rep.: of the Most Pow.: Sup.: Coun.: of the United States of North America, Orient of New York,—

The only centre of regular Masonic authority up to the present moment, immovable at its post of honour, the Gr.: Or.: of Brazil, at the Valley of Lavradio, since 1822, being extremely grateful to the very Pow.: Sup.: Coun.: which you so worthily represent, for its having recognised its lawfulness by continuing to entertain the amicable relations which have ever existed between two Masonic powers which esteem each other, authorises me to manifest to you its gratitude for the services which you have performed for it.

You are well aware, most dear and Ill.: Bro.:, that there are sentiments which the language of man fails to express. Gratitude is one of those noble sentiments that, emanating from the heart, cause the action of the lips to be feeble and without expression.

Permit, therefore, that in default of appropriate phrases to express what I wish to say on this subject, that I make use of those symbols with whose language we are familiar.

Dear and Most Ill.: Bro.:, be pleased to accept this branch of jubilee, that the Gr.: Or.: and Sup.: Coun.: of Brazil offers to you. It will aid you to remember always, that in the Empire of Brazil you found Sons of Hiram, who know how to be faithful to their vows under any vicissitude whatever that our Sublime Order may have to endure.

And if the "Acacia" is symbolic of a knowledge of the duties of true Masons, the flowers which we offer unto you, are the true expression of the respect and consideration that the Gr.: Or.: and Sup.: Coun.: of Brazil renders to the very Pow.: Sup.: Coun.: of the United States of North America, at the Or.: of New York, giving you the symbolic embrace in the name of those whose organ I am, and accompanying that embrace with the kiss of peace, I elevate a prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe, that He may be pleased to fortify our hearts to persevere in our Masonic creed, and make indivisible the ties which ought to unite all who espouse the holy cause of Masonry.

May He hear our supplications, and we shall ever have cause to bless this day of rejoicing to the Masonic community, causing to be entered

in our registers these words—Hail! 4th of December 1865,

FRANCISCO JOSE DE LEMOS, 31.:,

Gr. Orator of the Gr. Orient of Brazil.

#### INNOVATIONS IN MASONRY.

BY ALBERT G. MACKEY, M.D.

Nothing is more offensive to the true Freemason than the remotest attempt at innovation on the ancient usages and customs of the Order. So important is it considered to preserve these ancient landmarks, that in the installation of every Master of a Lodge, he is solemnly called on to acknowledge "that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry." It is in consequence of this conservative principle that Freemasonry, notwithstanding many efforts have been made to alter, or as it was supposed, to amend it, still remains unchanged—now, after the lapse of centuries, as it has always been.

The middle of the eighteenth century was the most prominent era of those attempted innovations, and France the principal country in which they were enacted.

After the downfall of the unfortunate House of Stuart, and the defeat of the Pretender's hopes, in the year 1715, his adherents vainly endeavoured to enlist Freemasonry as a powerful adjunct to his cause. For this purpose, it was declared, by those who had engaged in this wild design, that the great legend of the third degree alluded to the violent death of Charles I., and Cromwell and his companions in rebellion were execrated as the traitors whom the Lodges were to condemn. To carry out these views, new degrees were manufactured, under the titles of Irish Master, Perfect Irish Master, Puissant Irish Master, and others with similar appellations.

The Chevalier Ramsay, so well known in Masonic history, soon after made his appearance in the political world, and having attached himself to the fortunes of the exiled house of Stuart, he endeavoured still more effectually to carry out these views, by reducing the whole system to perfect order, and giving it the appearance of plausibility. For this purpose, he invented a new theory on the subject of the origin of Freemasonry.

He declared that it was instituted in the Holy Land, at the time of the Crusades, where the

Knights Templars had associated themselves together, for the purpose of rebuilding the churches and other sacred edifices, which had been destroyed by the Saracens.

These latter, however, having discovered this holy design, and being determined to thwart it, had employed emissaries, who, secretly mingling with the Christian workmen, materially impeded, and often entirely paralysed their labours. The Christians, as a security against this species of treason, then found it necessary to invent signs and other modes of recognition, by which intruders might be detected.

When compelled by the failure of the Crusades, to leave the Holy Land, these pious as well as warlike Knights were invited by the King of England to his dominions, where they devoted themselves to the cultivation of architecture and the fine arts.

Ramsay pretended that the degrees thus originally established by the Knights Templars were those of Scotch Master, Novice, and Knight of the Temple, and he even had the audacity to propose, in the year 1728, to the Grand Lodge of England, to substitute them for the three primitive degrees of symbolic Masonry, a proposition which met with no more success than it deserved.

In Paris, however, he was more fortunate, for there his degrees were speedily adopted, not indeed as a substitute for, but as an addition to Ancient Craft Masonry.

These degrees became popular on the continent of Europe, and in a short time gave birth to innumerable others, which attempted by the splendour of external decorations, and gorgeousness of ceremonies to compensate for their want of consistency with the history, the traditions, and the principles of the Ancient Institution. Happily, however, the existence of these innovations has been but ephemeral. They are no longer worked as degrees, but remain in the libraries of Masonic students as subjects of curious inquiry, as instances of intellectual ingenuity, and as relics of an important era in the history of Freemasonry.

Among the innovators who were thus engaged in throwing meretricious ornaments around the simple edifice of Ancient Freemasonry, Martin Paschalis is another who, perhaps, next to Ramsay, is entitled to our attention. In the year 1754, he instituted a series of nine degrees, out of which he formed a system, which he called the "Rite of the Elected Cohens."

The science, legend, or history of this system, was very extensive, embracing nothing less than the creation, the fall, and the subsequent punishment of man. Clavel says, that the object of the initiation was the regeneration of the candidate, and his restoration in his primitive innocence to the rights that he had lost by his original sin. For this purpose, the temptation and the error of the garden of Eden were enacted in the person of the aspirant, who, violating the command imposed upon him to abstain from tasting the fruit of the tree of science, is precipitated into flames. Subsequently, however, he passes through many laborious ceremonies, by which he is supposed to repair his fault, and having entered upon a new life, he is animated by a divine spirit, and becomes acquainted, in the highest degrees of the Order, with the hidden secrets of nature, and is invested with a knowledge of alchemy, the Cabbala, and other abstruse sciences. This system it will be perceived, partook very little, if in any thing, of the nature of Masonry, and although it extended through several of the cities of France, and was even adopted in 1767, by many of the Lodges of Paris, and embraced some learned men among its disciples, it did not long flourish. In dying, however, it was speedily replaced by other systems, which, like itself, bore no resemblance to Freemasonry, except in the names of the first three degrees, which they all assumed as a part of their series. Among them were the rite of Martinism, invented by the Marquis of St. Martin; the imposture of Egyptian Masonry, devised by the celebrated Cagliostro; the systems of Schrober, Zinzendorf, and Fessler; and the Order of African Architects. Of the most important of them, we shall, from time to time, take opportunities to say something in the course of these pages. At present, we shall conclude with a brief notice of the last of these innovations that we have above enumerated.

In the year 1767, one Baucherren, instituted in Prussia, with the consent of Frederic II., a society, which he called the "Order of African Architects." The object of the institution was historical research, but it contained a ritual which partook of Masonry, Christianity, alchemy, and chivalry. It was divided into two temples, and was composed of eleven degrees. In the first temple were contained the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry. In the second, were the degrees of Apprentice of Egyptian Secrets; Initiate into Egyptian Secrets; Cosmo-

politan Brother; Christian Philosopher; Master of Egyptian Secrets; Esquire; Soldier, and Knight. The Society constructed a vast building in Silesia, intended as a Grand Chapter of the Order, and which contained an excellent library, a museum of Natural History, and a chemical laboratory. For a long time the African Architects decreed annually a gold medal, worth fifty ducats, to the author of the best memoir on the history of Masonry.

In conclusion, it must be observed that the chapitral degrees of the York rite, the *hautas grades* of the French rite, and the philosophic degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scotch rite, are not altogether innovations, but rather illustrations of pure Symbolic Masonry, and as such will be found to be the depositories of many interesting traditions, and instructive speculations, which are eminently useful in shedding light upon the character, history, objects, and ceremonies of the institution.

### OUR FLAG WAS THERE.

A TALE OF MASONRY IN THE ARCTIC REGIONS.

Bright flag! at yonder tapering mast,  
 Fling out your field of azure blue;  
 Let star and stripe be northward cast,  
 And point as freedom's eagle flew!  
 Strain home! oh lithe and quivering spars!  
 Point home my country's flag of stars!

The story and incidents we are about to relate are true—all true—or we would not record them. We have never written aught of pure fiction, and most probably never shall. There is enough truth in the world, enough in Masonry, to gratify the most ardent love of the wonderful, without resorting to romance to gratify a morbid appetite. The last expedition of Dr. Kane to the Arctic Regions, in search of the lost navigators from England, reveals more of the wonderful, the startling, and the thrilling in narrative than the wildest fancy ever conceived; and yet it is all unvarnished truth, and told with a child-like artlessness that fixes the seal of veracity upon it. If any are fond of reading wild adventure, of strange providential escapes, of dangers appalling and terrible as death, yet bravely dared and heroically conquered, let them read Kane's Expedition.

On the 17th of June, 1853, there was lying at anchor in the harbour of St. John's, Newfoundland, a neat but strongly built little hermaphrodite brig, of 144 tons burden. It was evening—

such an evening as June furnishes in the high latitudes on the north-east coast of America—calm, starry, and beautiful; and the little brig lay quietly upon the waters, like a living creature taking rest in slumber after a long and toilsome effort. Her masts and spars, with the added rigging appeared like a dim but mysterious network traced by some fairy hand on the distant sky. From her mast-head there floated a small flag which, when stirred by a fitful breeze, was discovered to contain the much-loved “stars and stripes,” the emblem of our Union—the banner of the free! That little brig was the *Advance*, under the command of that heroic and noble Craftsman, E. K. Kane, M.D., of the United States Navy. His staunch but tiny vessel, manned with a picked crew of seventeen men—as noble a band of sailors as ever went forth on an errand of mercy. Dr. Kane had just started on his last voyage to the Arctic Regions in search of the long lost adventurers, Sir John Franklin and party. The *Advance* had a stormy passage of eighteen days from New York, and Dr. Kane was giving his crew two days' rest, while receiving on board some necessary supplies for the uncertain and perilous voyage among the wintry regions around the North Pole.

It is well known to our readers that Dr. Kane is a Freemason—so was Sir John Franklin. Henry Brooks, the first officer of the *Advance*, is also a Freemason, and we judge from circumstances which transpired on the voyage that Mr. Morton, and probably several others of the officers and crew were also members of this ancient and mystic Order.

At St. John's, Newfoundland, in the harbour of which the *Advance* was riding at anchor at the time of which we write, there is a lodge, named St. John's Lodge, No. 844, on the registry of the Grand Lodge of England. The officers and members of this lodge, in token of their brotherly regard for Dr. Kane and his crew, and their deep interest in the object of the search on which Dr. Kane was bound, got up a festival in honour of his arrival, at which himself, Mr. Brooks, and others were invited guests. At this festival the officers and brethren of St. John's Lodge presented to Dr. Kane, a Masonic flag, accompanied by the following touching and appropriate address:—

“The Worshipful Master, Wardens, and brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 844, hail the arrival of you, their most worthy Bro. Kane and your brethren, in this your last halting place on that

expedition which they cannot but feel to be so fraught with hope in search of your long-lost brother, Sir John Franklin.

"While they regret that the time of your stay is so short that personal friendship cannot draw closer the existing tie between them and you, yet the universal sympathy that enlists itself in the noble cause that you are engaged in would rather urge that departure, which they deeply feel to be prompted by the most generous and disinterested of motives.

"And they trust that when in the icy regions of the north, when the sun at this season of the year unceasingly pours down its genial rays upon that portion of the globe, it may please the All-Seeing Eye continually to watch over you, and that Providence may pour his choicest blessings upon your undertaking. May He be a lamp unto your feet, and a light unto your path; and when the orb of day shall sink below the horizon, and the starry heavens shall be a canopy over your heads, may He be to you, as to the magi of old, a guiding star to lead you to your missing brother.

"But much as they now hail your arrival and regret your early departure, all these feelings are absorbed in the prospects of that time when the dangers and difficulties shall have been conquered—when rugged paths shall have been passed, and a hopeful 'Advance' crowned by a successful return. Brother, adieu!"

"Though you to other lands must hie,  
Through ice-bound oceans now to stray;  
With melting heart and brimful eye,  
We'll mind you still when far away."

Receiving the flag, which bore on it the All-Seeing Eye, square, compasses, &c., Dr. Kane made a very appropriate reply, the close of which we will quote for its beautiful diction and touching pathos:—

"Returning, now, to the subject of your address, no language that I can command could give utterance to the feelings it has awakened in my heart; to be thus received by brethren and Englishmen, and thus parted with on leaving this portion of the British territory, perhaps the last we may touch at on our way, is, indeed, most cheering to my spirit and encouraging to my hopes; for the cause in which I am embarked is one which involves the feeling of universal brotherhood, bound by no limits and contracted by no sectarian views or national prejudices, for it springs from a sympathy that embraces the wide family of man, and

extends its efforts to relieve wherever suffering, distress, or want mark out a path for it to follow.

"Such a feeling and such a sympathy is that which has sent forth one hundred and thirty-eight of your brave countrymen, who are now locked up in those distant regions whither the course of our expedition is directed; and should it be our lot to pass a period of our time in the long night which, in those regions, succeeds the day amid a frozen wilderness, in the deep solitude of darkness so palpably dense as to be almost tangible—where, over the wide waste of desolation, unbroken silence reigns—still even there, despondency will find no resting-place in our bosoms, but the cheering hope will animate them, that when the day shall again dawn upon us, a bright and glorious-morrow will again break forth, to be rendered brighter and more glorious still by the crowning of our hopes and the reward of all our anxieties and toils, in the recovery and restitution to society of England's nobly enterprising son, your countryman, and mutually our brother—Sir John Franklin."

With these remarks and bearing the Masonic—the Masonic flag, the gift of friendship from strange but sympathising "brethren of the mystic tie," Dr. Kane and his companions regained the brig. Early next morning she spread her wings to the breeze, and with her bow pointing to the North Pole, sped her way on her fraternal mission. The mystic flag, with its speaking emblems, was carefully laid away; but we shall hear of it again amid the perils of winter, of midnight, and of storm, before our story ends.

We shall not stop to follow the intrepid Kane on his voyage northward. He had made up his mind to find Sir John Franklin, or hold his Christmas festival within sight of the North Pole, and to this object all his energies were devoted. Taking on board a large number of Newfoundland and Esquimaux dogs, for sledge-travelling during the winter, Dr. Kane, with the *Advance*, pushed his way up along the Labrador coast, and through Davis' Straits, stopping occasionally at the Danish settlements on the coast of Greenland. Still northward through dense fogs, icebergs, ice-floes, and ice in every other imaginable shape and form, the little brig entered Baffin's Bay and at last, tracking the coast of Greenland, passed into and up Davis' Straits. We shall not attempt to describe the dangers of the navigation, the hair-breadth escapes from instant destruction by storm.

and ice, nor the perilous encounters with dangers in a wintry sea, almost unknown before. The reader must procure the book and read the graphic descriptions there, if he would learn the story in all its thrilling detail, as given by the chief actor in the scenes.

Early in September the little brig became firmly ice-bound in Renselaer Harbour, a deep bay on the western coast of Greenland, in latitude between seventy-eight and seventy-nine degrees. Here Dr. Kane found he could go no further in the brig; and a wilderness of impenetrable ice-fields and ice-bergs prevented his return. In short the vessel was fast frozen in and immovable, farther north than ever white man had wintered before, and lived. This, however, in no wise daunted or discouraged these iron men of the ocean. They at once put their vessel in winter trim, and prepared to spend an arctic winter in the easiest and most profitable manner possible. If they could not travel by water, they could travel by land; and if that became too mountainous and rocky, they could take to the ice. If they could not take their much loved brig with them, they could go without her, for they were always sure of finding her in the same spot on their return. They could harness a team of dogs to an Esquimaux sledge, and speed over the icy wastes, at the rate of, sometimes six miles an hour, even if the thermometer should be forty and fifty degrees below zero. This was cold comfort, but it was all they had! Winter, in all his stern and rugged aspect, held undisputed sway in his own dominions and on his own throne.

"The keen, clear air—the splendid sight—  
We waken to a world of ice;  
Where all things are enshrined in light;  
As by some genii's quaint device.  
'Tis winter's jubilee—this day  
His stores their countless treasures yield."

We shall not stop to enquire how the little party passed the long night of winter—for it was night for near six months, and winter all the time. And such a winter!

But spring was approaching—such springs as they have within ten or twelve degrees of the Pole. The sun had peeped up again above the horizon, as if just to see how the world looked without him, and the thermometer was only thirty degrees below zero. In such weather the adventurous spirits that had been so long housed up in that little brig could not be idle. Like the white bears of that region, they crawled out of their

burrows, looked old winter in the face as he began to retire, and boasted of what they would do when the sun rose a little higher.

It was March—the 19th of March. Plans had been formed for an expedition on land and ice, in search of Franklin; but to furnish more facilities in the undertaking, it was necessary to establish a depôt of provisions some hundred or two miles in advance, that they might be able to remain out the longer, in execution of their design. To accomplish this, a party was organised, under the command of the second officer, Bro. Brooks, to take a sledge-load of provisions and necessaries and make a depôt of them in a secure place, far to the north, to be resorted to by Dr. Kane and his companions on their contemplated long tour. This party had now been out nine days, during which time the average of the thermometer was over twenty-seven degrees below zero. Brooks had taken the little Mason-flag, received from the brethren of St. John's, Newfoundland, with him on this expedition. Why? We cannot answer: all we know is that it accompanied the wanderers on that winter expedition, perhaps in the character of an amulet or talisman, a kind of little household god, rather than anything else.

Brooks and his party had accomplished their object, and were returning to the brig, when they were overtaken by one of those wild and furious snow-storms, so common in the Arctic regions in early spring. The wind blew a perfect tempest, while the driving and eddying snow filled the air and completely blinded and bewildered the half-frozen wanderers. The cold was intense, and they were out on the ice some sixty miles from the brig. They could not survive this exposure long, and part of them were already too much exhausted to proceed farther. In this emergency they pitched their tent, into which four crowded for shelter, while the remaining three, the strongest, determined on an effort to reach the brig and procure help to save their perishing companions. How they reached it is still unknown, for they were unable to tell themselves, but reach it they did. We will, however, let Dr. Kane tell the history of their return, and the subsequent rescue of the four left upon the ice. We have no doubt that Dr. Kane would have perilled his life to save the humblest man of his crew—he did it more than once—but there was a Mason, perhaps more than one, perishing away out there on that Arctic ice, enveloped in that Arctic snow-storm, and his

Mason-flag was flying from his tent-pole as a signal of distress! Would Dr. Kane hesitate? Let him answer.

"We were at work, cheerfully sewing away at the skins of mocassins, by the blaze of our lamps, when toward midnight, we heard the noise of steps above, and the next minute Sontag, Ohlsen, and Peterson came down into the cabin. Their manner startled me even more than their unexpected appearance on board. They were swollen and haggard, and hardly able to speak.

"Their story was a fearful one. They had left their companions in the ice, risking their own lives to bring us the news: Brooks, Baker, Wilson, and Pierre were all lying frozen and disabled. Where? They could not tell; somewhere in among the hummocks to the north and east; it was drifting heavily round them when they parted. Irish Tom had stayed by to feed and care for the others; but chances were sorely against them. It was in vain to question them further. They had evidently travelled a great distance, for they were sinking with fatigue and hunger, and could hardly be rallied enough to tell us the direction in which they had come.

"My first impulse was to move on the instant with an unencumbered party: a rescue to the effective or even hopeful could not be too prompt. What pressed on my mind most was, where the sufferers were to be looked for among the drifts. Ohlsen seemed to have his faculties rather more at command than his associates, and I thought that he might assist us as a guide; but he was sinking with exhaustion, and if he went with us we must carry him.

"There was not a moment to be lost. While some were still busy with the new comers, and getting ready a hasty meal, others were rigging out the *Little Willie* with a buffalo cover, a small tent, and a package of pemmican; and, as soon as we could hurry through our arrangements, Ohlsen was strapped on in a fur-bag, his legs wrapped in dog-skins and eider down, and we were off upon the ice. Our party consisted of nine men and myself. We carried only the clothes on our back. The thermometer stood at seventy-eight degrees below the freezing point.

"A well-known peculiar tower of ice, called by the men the 'Pinnacly Berg,' served as our first landmark; other icebergs of colossal size, which stretched in long beaded lines across the bay, helped to guide us afterwards; and it was not

until we had travelled for sixteen hours that we began to lose our way.

"We knew that our lost companions must be somewhere in the area before us, within a radius of forty miles. Mr. Ohlsen, who had been for fifty hours without rest, fell asleep as soon as we began to move, and awoke now with unequivocal signs of mental disturbance. It became evident that he had lost the bearing of the icebergs which in form and colour endlessly repeated themselves; and the uniformity of the vast field of snow utterly forbade the hope of local landmarks.

"Pushing ahead of the party, and clambering over some rugged ice-piles, I came to a long level floe, which I thought might probably have attracted the eyes of weary men in circumstances like our own. It was a light conjecture, but it was enough to turn the scale, for there was no other to balance it. I gave orders to abandon the sledge, and disperse in search of foot-marks. We raised our tent, placed our pemmican in *cache*, except a small allowance for each man to carry on his person; and poor Ohlsen, now just able to keep his legs, was liberated from his bag. The thermometer had fallen by this time to 49°3' below zero, and the wind was setting in sharply from the north-west. It was out of the question to halt; it required brisk exercise keep us from freezing. I could not even melt ice for water; and at these temperatures, any resort to snow, for the purpose of allaying thirst, was followed by bloody lips and tongue. It burnt like caustic.

"It was indispensable, then, that we should move on, looking out for traces as we went. Yet, when the men were ordered to spread themselves, so as to multiply the chances, though they all obeyed heartily, some painful impress of solitary danger, or, perhaps, it may have been the varying configuration of the ice-field, kept them closing up continually into a single group. The strange manner in which some of us were affected I now attribute as much to shattered nerves as to the direct influence of the cold. Men like McGary and Bonsell, who had stood out our severest marches, were seized with trembling fits and short breath; and, in spite of all my efforts to keep up an example of sound bearing, I fainted twice on the snow.

"We had been nearly eighteen hours without water or food, when a new hope cheered us. I think it was Hans, our Esquimaux hunter, who thought he saw a broad sledge-track. The drift



had nearly effaced it, and we were some of us doubtful at first whether it was not one of those accidental rifts which the gales make in the surface snow. But as we traced it on the deep snow among the hummocks, we were led to footsteps; and, following them with religious care, we at last came in sight of a small American flag fluttering from a hummock, and lower down, a little Masonic banner, hanging from a tent-pole hardly above the drift. It was the camp of our disabled comrades. We reached it after an unbroken march of twenty-one hours.

"The little tent was nearly covered. I was not among the first to come up; but, when I reached the tent-curtain, the men were standing in silent file on each side of it. With more kindness and delicacy of feeling than is often supposed to belong to sailors, but which is almost characteristic, they intimated their wish that I should go in alone. As I crawled in, and, coming upon the darkness, heard before me the burst of welcome gladness that came from the four poor fellows stretched on their backs, and then for the first time the cheer outside, my weakness and my gratitude together almost overcame me. 'They had expected me: they were sure I would come!'"

"Tell us no more about graphic descriptions, of moments of intense excitement, of scenes and incidents which so shake the soul from its centre as completely to unman it. This simple—almost child-like—recital and the surrounding circumstances, excel any thing we have ever read. Cooper's laboured and vivid descriptions of savage life and forest battles—the ambush, the surprise, the capture or escape, are not to be compared with it for force and beauty. The poor lost perishing wanderers on that icy waste, who had crawled under their tent and laid them down to die, with their mason-flag at half-mast, had no hope but in the faithfulness, affection, and fortitude of their noble commander; and even help from that source was dependent upon the success of the three almost exhausted men who had left them to find the brig. And after all there were a hundred chances to one, that, amid the waste and wilderness of snow and ice, the rescue party would be unable to find them. How welcome to the brotherly heart of Kane was the first sight of that little flag—that mason-flag—at the tent-pole! But that little tent may be only the tomb of the lost ones; and the moments between its discovery and its entrance were big with torturing anxiety. The exclamation of the rescued, when their brotherly comrade suddenly made his appearance among them, fully indicates their condition—better, indeed, than a volume of elegant description:—"we

expected you; we were sure you would come!' They had often wrestled with the ocean-waves; they had braved the hurricane at the mast-head; they had faced death with all his terrors on a thousand times; they were strong, rugged men of the sea, with iron nerves; but they were children now, melted and subdued by suffering, and their hearts were in the expression—"we were sure you would come!" No wonder the great soul of the commander was overcome with emotion at the moment: he would not have been the hero and the Brother that he was if he had not been "overcome!"

### MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

#### MIND AND MATTER.

Brother —, the Great Architect of the Universe has not permitted us to know in what way mind acts upon matter. These words will, I hope, enable you to understand the passage you have met with in a popular book recently published. Look in some encyclopædia for Malebranche's "Occasional Causes," and Leibnitz's "Pre-established Harmony." The subject is happily altogether foreign to Freemasonry.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

#### ATHEISM AND CHARITY.

"Where there is atheism there cannot be charity," writes a pious brother. He is mistaken. In Buddhism, which is the religion of 480 millions of our fellow-creatures, atheism and charity are seen side by side. My brother may look at my communications to the *Freemasons' Magazine* "Freemasonry and Buddhism," vol. viii., page 430, "Buddhism and Freemasonry," vol. xii., page 400, and "The Buddhists," vol. xv., page 309.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

#### CHRISTIAN FREEMASONRY.

The best Christian Freemasonry is that which admits all Christian sects, those excepted (should any such now exist) having doctrines or practices incompatible with the moral law.—From a bundle of Masonic memoranda in Bro Purton Cooper's manuscript collections.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF TRUE FREEMASONRY.

Brother —, you will find an answer to your inquiry upon this subject in my communication to the *Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. xv., page 72. My words there are as follow:—"The development of true Freemasonry is certainly and satisfactorily, although silently and almost imperceptibly, going on in our English lodges. These lodges exist in every part of the globe; they are co-extensive with Queen Victoria's dominions, upon which it is said, and we know it to be no vain boast, the sun never sets."—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

#### THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.—SPINOZA.

Brother —, you are right. The words of Spinoza are—"Dei naturam ejusque proprietates explicui."—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

HINDOOS—THEIR ADMISSION INTO ENGLISH  
FREEMASONRY.

The report of the President and Vice-President of the Colonial Board upon this subject, dated 2nd of August, 1864, a correspondent will find in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. xi., page 408.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

CERTAIN ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

There is a Roman Catholicism which teaches that a happy immortality awaits the souls of Roman Catholics only. Such Roman Catholicism is utterly incompatible with the principles of true Freemasonry.—From a manuscript in Bro. Purton Cooper's Masonic collections entitled "Freemasons' Table Talk."

A PROPOSAL FOR THE AMENDMENT OF ALL MASONIC  
CONSTITUTIONS.

A foreign brother asks in what manner a proposal for the amendment of all Masonic Constitutions, by erasure of that which relates to the Great Architect of the Universe and the soul's immortality, would be received by English Freemasons. My answer is that such proposal would be received with feelings of mingled horror, indignation, disgust, and piety.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

ROYAL ARCH DEGREE.

When is a Master Mason eligible for the Royal Arch Degree? The bye-laws of most chapters say twelve months. Are they calendar or lunar months? A brother some years ago was exalted, having been twelve months (lunar) a Master Mason. His certificate was afterwards refused at head quarters because he had not been a full year a Master Mason, and the ceremony was ordered to be gone through again. Was this constitutional or legal in a Masonic sense?—T. [Art. 23, page 20, Royal Arch Regulations. No Mason shall be exalted to this sublime degree, unless he has been a Master Mason for twelve calendar months at least, of which satisfactory proof shall be given. The only exception is in Chapters abroad.—ED. F. M.]

THE NUMBER OF ENGLISH LODGES.—The number of lodges under the control of the Grand Lodge of England is upwards of 1,100; of this number, about 170 are in London, or within three miles of the Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen-street; over 560 are scattered over other parts of England and Wales. The rest are in British provinces in all quarters of the world, while several are attached to regiments in the British army. In addition, there are nearly 1,000 Royal Arch Chapters under the same jurisdiction.—*Masonic Review*.

FREEMASONRY IN THE WORLD.—It is estimated by those who ought to know, that at present, in round numbers, there are about 1,250,000 Free and Accepted Masons scattered upon the face of the globe. Of this number some 150,000 are in England, 100,000 in Scotland, and 50,000 in Ireland. There are about 600,000 on the continent of Europe; 300,000 in the United States; and 50,000 in other parts of the world. In England there are two or three thousand persons initiated every year; and Papal allocutions and fawning denunciations notwithstanding the Masonic body is said to be everywhere increasing.

VIRTUE.—The creation of the sculptor may moulder in the dust—the wreath of the bard may wither—the throne of the conqueror may be shivered by an opposing power into atoms—the fame of the warrior may be no longer hymned by the recording minstrel; but virtue—that which hallows the cottage and sheds a glory around the palace, shall never decay. It is celebrated by the angels of God—it is written on the pillars of heaven and repeated down to earth. The rock breaker who possesses it is more noble than the intriguing statesman.

## THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.—At the last General Court of the above Institution, Bro. F. Binckes announced that there were at present thirty-nine candidates for election in October, and that at least two more would be added to the list. There were thirty unsuccessful at last election, and there would only be eleven vacancies. It was to be deplored that there were such a few vacancies and so many candidates, but, although the dormitories would take 120, it was not desirable to increase the number of pupils till the debt which at present impeded the action of the Institution was wiped off. The school and class room, the dining hall, and residential accommodation was sufficient for 200 scholars, and of course the dormitory accommodation could be increased; but, until the debt was cleared off, no promise of extension of the benefits of the Institution could be held out. A vigorous effort on the part of the Craft might roll away this obstacle to a further development of the benefits sought to be afforded.

THE LATE BRO. SIR A. ALISON.—The Provincial Grand Funeral Lodge being appointed to take place on Thursday last, the 25th. It is impossible in the present number for us to give a report of the meeting; we shall, however, give it in *extenso* in our issue of August 4th.

MASONIC PICNIC.—The Mayor of Glastonbury, who is a distinguished member of the Craft, intends holding a Grand Masonic picnic on the 29th inst., to which the Masons of the provinces of Somerset and Bristol will be specially invited. Considering the locality abounds with scenes of archaeological and antiquarian interest, doubtless a numerous gathering of the Craft will be happy to embrace the opportunity of spending so delightful a day.

### METROPOLITAN.

THE SUMMER FESTIVAL OF THE DOMATIC LODGE (No. 177).—The annual festival of this lodge took place at Bro. Teale's, the Rye House, Hoddesden, and notwithstanding the heavy showers of rain which had fallen in the morning there was a very fair proportion of the members present. Bro. F. Smith, W.M., was present, and filled the chair with his usual ability. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Brown, P.M. Prudent Brethren Lodge (No. 145); Bragg, St. Mark's Lodge (No. 857); Stevens, P.M. Hertford Lodge (No. 403); J. R. Dagg, Cecil Lodge, Hitchin (No. 449); Leah, Confidence Lodge (No. 193); Hallett, Royal Albert Lodge (No. 907); Perren, Temple Lodge (No. 101); Blackburn, Union Waterloo Lodge (No. 13), &c. Most of the brethren arrived about eleven o'clock, and amused themselves until dinner-time by walking through the beautiful gardens attached to "Ye Old Rye House." The flower beds, refreshed by recent rain, which sent forth a delightful odour, were greatly admired, besides which the relics of the conspirators engaged in the Rye House Plot: the dungeons, subterranean passages, ancient tapestry, &c., were features of interest to the visitors. At three o'clock the brethren sat down to a splendid banquet, served up in a manner which reflected great credit upon the Messrs. Teale (who are also members of the lodge), and to which the brethren showed their appreciation by doing it full and ample justice. The wines and dessert were of a *recherche* description, and everything passed off without a hitch. The cloth having been removed and grace said, the W.M. gave "The Queen and the Craft," which toast was duly honoured. The toast of "The Sovereign of Freemasonry, the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland," was next proposed and drunk. "The Health of the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Grand Officers" followed, and was also duly

appreciated. Bro. J. Smith, the Treasurer and P.M., said the brethren might well congratulate themselves on having Bro. Frederick Smith to preside over them, for during the whole time he had been connected with the lodge he had scarcely ever known him to be absent from his duties. He was quite sure that a better Master of a lodge or a person of more gentlemanly manners than their respected W.M. could not be found. The manner in which he had presided over them that day reflected great credit upon him, and in the toast he was about to propose the brethren, he felt sure, would do him all the honours. He then gave "The W.M." The toast, it is almost needless to say, was drunk enthusiastically. The W.M., who, upon rising, was received with loud cheers, said he was vain enough to think that the brethren had met that day as much to see him and spend the afternoon under his presidency as they had to meet together as Masons and enjoy that conviviality and interchange of good feeling peculiar to the fraternity. He thanked them for the honour they had done him, and said he felt proud to preside over the lodge, which was one of the largest, if not the largest in London. "The Health of the Visitors" was given, for which Bro. Stevens returned thanks. The toast of "The Stewards," to which Bros. Kulke, Treadwell, Elmes, Sec., and C. Thompson returned thanks, brought the meeting to a close. The brethren shortly afterwards returned to town highly pleased with their day out.

WALTHAM CROSS.—*Gresham Lodge* (No. 869).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday the 12th inst., at the Four Swans, when there were present Bros. Chas. Swan, P. Prov., G.D., P.M. and Sec., as W.M.; W. E. Gompertz, J. W. Robert Bruce, S.D.; H. Littaur Steward, W. H. War, P. Prov. G. Steward, John Smith, M.D.; E. Glover, W. C. Barnes, J. R. Justin, J. J. Cox, Ino. E. Grocott, F. S. Foley, Samuel Parsey, S. H. Hunt, Max Littaur, and Bro. E. Fox, visitor, formerly a member of the lodge. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th June were read and confirmed. Several letters were read from members explaining the cause of their non-attendance. Bros. E. Glover and W. C. Barnes were examined as E.A.'s and withdrew. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bros. Glover and Barnes were passed as F.C. Masons. Bros. Justin and Grocott were then examined in that degree, and having acquitted themselves in a highly satisfactory manner withdrew, and the lodge was opened in the third degree, and the two last-named brethren were raised to the degree of M.M. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet table, which was well supplied by Bro. Hunt, one of the members of the lodge. The cloth having been removed, the customary loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to; and the brethren, after spending a very pleasant afternoon together, separated early, several of the members having to return to London.

## PROVINCIAL.

### KENT.

SMOOR.—*Sydney Lodge* (No. 829).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Black Horse, Sidecup, on Tuesday, the 8th inst. Present:—Bros. G. Snow, W.M., Prov. S.G.W.; Thomas M. Paget, S.W.; R. P. Atkins, J.W., Prov. G.S.; H. Do Grey, S.D.; J. Smith, J.D.; W. Thompson, I.G.; J. Henderson, P.M. and Sec.; J. Mill, Treas.; Todman, Beacham, Smith, Styles, Poekworth, Wiscombe (visitors), and other brethren. Three brethren were raised, two passed, and on a ballot being taken, Mr. Ashdown, who had been proposed at the last meeting for initiation, it was proved to be unanimous in his favour, and he was duly initiated into the secrets and mysteries of the Order. A letter from the Grand Lodge was then read, and ordered to be entered on the minutes, after which the lodge was closed. The brethren, about forty in number, then sat down to an excellent repast. After the usual Masonic toasts had been duly honoured, Bro. J. Henderson, P.M. gave the health of the W. Prov. G. Master and the rest of the Grand Officers, coupling with it the name of their W.M., who, he was proud to see, had been appointed Prov. S.G.W., and he trusted he might long be spared to be one amongst them. The W.M., in reply, stated that having only been appointed and invested as a Prov. G. Officer so short a time, he could not be expected to say much about the working of the Prov. G. Lodge, but this he would say, that the Prov. G. Lodge of Kent set an example, in the way of charitable

donations, to most other provinces. He himself had become a vice-president to all three of the Masonic Charities, and had also sent in his name as Steward for the next Festival, and he relied with confidence on receiving some support from that lodge in the way of donations to those most excellent institutions, which, as men and as Masons, we all ought to be, and no doubt were, proud of. The W. Master's health was then proposed, and briefly responded to. The health of Bro. Ashdown, the initiate, then followed, who, in reply, expressed a hope that as he had that day taken his first position amongst them, they would find him, as he proceeded onwards, a better man and a better Mason. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Visitors, which was responded to by Bro. T. Wiscombe, P.M., who stated he always felt a pleasure in visiting the Sydney Lodge, for to him it seemed almost as though he were a member, so well known was every member to him, and such was the fraternal feeling shown to him; and he trusted the day was far distant when he would cease to receive the hearty welcome he had always had. The W.M. then proposed the healths of the S.W. and J.W., adding that two more efficient and able officers could not be found in any lodge, and without such officers no W.M. could conduct the business of any lodge satisfactorily. Bro. Paget, S.W., replied, by saying he feared they had paid him too high a compliment; he certainly only did that which he considered his duty as a Mason and an officer to do. The health of the Deacons and I.G. followed, and was replied to by Bro. H. Do Grey, who thanked them for the kindness shown him, and stated that it was always a pleasure to him to be at his post, ready and willing to his duty when called upon. This lodge warrant is dated 1860, and four years ago it had but few members. It now numbers over fifty. The place of meeting is so easy of access from all adjacent parts of the county, and now that the station at Sidecup is open, which augurs well for the future prosperity of the lodge. The neighbourhood is delightful, and, as most of our readers are aware, many of the summer banquets of other lodges take place at this spot.

### MIDDLESEX.

UNBRIDGE.—*Royal Union Lodge* (No. 382).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 15th inst., at the Chequers Hotel, an unusually large number of brethren being present, despite the unfavourable state of the weather. Bro. F. J. Wirtzfeld, W.M., took his seat soon after five o'clock, supported by Bros. Glasher, S.W.; Thomas Alexander Adams, P.G.P. (who kindly occupied the third chair in the unavoidable absence of the J.W.); Broome and Föhrenback, S. and J.D.'s; and Coulton, jun., I.G. The P.M.'s present were Bros. Beeton (the father of the lodge), Horsman, and Coombes. Among the visitors were Bros. J. Harris, 861; H. Isaacs, 861; T. Brock, 861; B. Bolshave, 861; T. Rawlings, 144; Westbury, 733; and G. Taylor, 25. Lodge duly opened, Bro. Dean was introduced, questioned, and having satisfactorily answered the usual queries, was solemnly raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. This was followed by the lodge being resumed to the first degree, when Bros. Coulton, sen., Knight, Murphy, and Mato presented themselves as candidates for the second degree, and passing a satisfactory examination as to proficiency, were requested to retire for the usual preparation. Lodge was then opened in the second degree, and the brothers passed as F.C.'s. Mr. T. Allen was balloted for, and was unanimously accepted as a candidate for the first degree. Mr. I. E. Halfeld was also unanimously elected as a candidate for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. The necessary formulae having been gone through, the gentlemen were introduced properly prepared, and were favoured with the initiatory step in the Order. The whole of the ceremonies were beautifully rendered by the W.M., who was highly complimented by the brethren for the Masonic lesson afforded them. The widow of an old deceased member was recommended to the Grand Lodge Board of Benevolence, the case being said to be a most deserving one. Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, well provided by Bro. Lyne, the worthy host, every satisfaction being rendered in that department. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed, Bro. T. A. Adams's name being coupled with the Grand Officer's, who tastefully tendered his acknowledgments. Bro. Rawlings, as one of the visitors, replying to that toast, paid a well-deserved compliment to the W.M. for his admirable working. Bro. Taylor, 25, also offered his tribute of praise to Bro. Wirtzfeld, endorsing all the excellent expressions of Bro. Rawlings. Several other toasts followed, the brethren returning to town soon after ten o'clock. The next meeting will take place on the third Monday in September.

## SOMERSETSHIRE.

## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

There was a very strong muster of the Craft on Monday, the 15th inst., at Bridgwater, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset, which was held in the Townhall, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion by Bro. Davis and Mr. Dyer, of the Bridgwater Nursery. The lodge was held under the presidency of Bro. Major A. W. Adair, Prov. G.M., who appointed the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. Berryman, Prov. S.G.W.; Cook, Prov. J.G.W.; Martin, Prov. G. Chap.; Sall, Assist. Chap.; E. T. Payne, Prov. G. Treas.; Ricketts, Prov. G. Reg.; Else, Prov. G. Sec.; Jelley, Prov. S.G.D.; Strong, Prov. G.J.D.; Smith, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Garland, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Hollway, Assist. ditto; Reed, Prov. G.S.B.; Marsh, Prov. G. Org.; Neland, Prov. G. Purst.; Young, Assist. ditto; Hellier, Prov. G. Tyler; Sumpter, Assist. ditto; Long, Barter, Hodges, Davis, Gillard, Bristowe, Parfitt, and Soper, Prov. G. Stewards. The following brethren were amongst those present:—Bros. Captain Bridges, D. Prov. G.M.; R. Thomas and C. R. Davy, Grand Chaplains of England; J. Cook, jun., W.M. of the Lodge of Perpetual Friendship, Bridgwater; B. C. Greenhill, S.W. ditto; W. Young, J.W. ditto; W. E. Reeves, 906, W.M., P. Prov. G. Org.; J. Greening, 41; J. Collett, 134, P.M., P.P., &c. After the conclusion of the lodge business, a banquet took place in the Assembly Rooms of the Clarence Hotel, under the presidency of the Prov. G.M.

## SOUTH WALES (EASTERN DIVISION).

## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Brecon on Thursday, the 18th inst., and was in every respect a most successful and agreeable one.

On this occasion the lodges of the province, with the exception of Morthyr and Aberdare, were well represented, and a number of visiting brethren attended from Aberystwith, Hereford, Bath, London, and other places.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the spacious Assembly Rooms at the Town Hall, which were most appropriately and handsomely decorated, the Brecon brethren having spared no pains to render their reception of the Provincial Grand Lodge all that could be desired.

The R.W. the Prov. G.M., Bro. Theodore Mansel Talbot, entered the lodge rooms at two o'clock, accompanied by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Edward J. Morris, and attended by a large number of Provincial Grand Officers.

The business upon the agenda paper was as follows:—

To read and confirm the minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge.

To receive the Provincial Grand Treasurer's accounts for the past year.

To elect a Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

To appoint and invest the Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year.

To receive report of the Provincial Grand Lodge Committee

To present the Charity jewel to the Worshipful Bro. R. F. Langley, P. Prov. S.G.W., as the second Steward representing this province at the Festivals of the Boys' and Girls' Schools.

To vote contributions to Masonic and other charities.

The Provincial Grand Lodge being opened, and the minutes of the last meeting held at Swansea having been read and confirmed, the Prov. Grand Treas.'s accounts for the past year were received and adopted, printed statements of some being freely distributed among the brethren.

Bro. William Cox, P.M., 237, was unanimously re-elected Prov. Grand Treas. for the ensuing year, and judging from the feeling exhibited the re-appointment gave the greatest satisfaction.

The R.W., the Prov. G.M., having addressed the brethren in an admirable speech touching upon the various topics of interest during the year, which was loudly cheered, proceeded to appoint and invest the Provincial Grand Officers for the year, as follows:—

Bro. J. D. Perrott, 651 .....	Pr. v. S.G.W.
„ Rowland Thoma, 361 .....	„ J.G.W.
„ Chas. T. Heatley, M.A., 237 ...	„ J. Chaplan.
„ Edward Jones, 960 .....	„ Do.
„ Marmaduke Tennant, 833 .....	„ G. Reg.
„ David Williams, 237... ..	„ G. Sec.
„ John Plews, 110 .....	„ S.G.D.

Bro. Thos. B. Bell, 960 .....	„ J.G.D.
„ John W. Hollam, 237 .....	„ G. Supt. of Works.
„ Evan Jones, 651 .....	„ G. Dir. of Cers.
„ J. S. Stephens, 36 .....	„ „
„ J. A. F. Snead, 651 .....	„ G. Sword Bearer.
„ R. S. Fisher, 36 .....	„ G. Org.
„ David Jenkins, 833 .....	„ G. Purst.
„ Geo. Cansick, 651 .....	„ G. Steward.
„ Richard Webb, 651 .....	„ „
„ G. Robinson, 36 .....	„ „
„ W. M. Rees, 364 .....	„ „
„ R. J. Coleman, 960 .....	„ „

The Report of the Provincial Grand Lodge Committee was then read by the Secretary, as follows:—

“In presenting their annual report to Provincial Grand Lodge, the Provincial Grand Lodge Committee desire, in the first place, to record with much satisfaction, the continued success which has attended the working of the system of steward representation. The expectations of the Provincial Grand Lodge Committee, in this respect, have been more than realized.

At the festival of the boys' school, in March last, the province was represented by Bro. Charles Bath, Prov. S.G.W., and Worshipful Master of the Indefatigable Lodge (No. 237), whose subscription list amounted to £130. The stewardship to the girls' school, in May, was undertaken by Bro. R. F. Langley, P. Prov. S.G.W., and Worshipful Master of the Glamorgan Lodge (No. 36), whose list amounted to £77 14s. These contributions compare favourably with those of the two preceding years; and it will be noticed with gratification, that the province is now contributing at the rate of £230 to the Masonic schools.

The province will next year be represented by Bro. Charles Bath, Prov. S.G.W. to the girls' school, and Bro. H. Ll. Prichard, P. Prov. J.G.D. to the boys' school; and the committee earnestly hope and believe that the efforts of two such worthy and energetic brethren will be as successful as have been those of their predecessors.

Since the establishment of the system of steward representation, and the consequent increase of voting power acquired by the province, the election of three boys and two girls has been secured, all the candidates being immediately related to members of one or other of the lodges of the province.

At the last election to the boys' school, in April last, the province supported the case of George Hopwood, a nephew of Bro. F. A. Hopwood, of Swansea, and the Provincial Grand Lodge Committee have much pleasure in reporting his successful admission by a considerable majority of votes.

In addition, this province has been enabled materially to assist in the election of other candidates supported by adjoining provinces.

These results have of course been obtained by a systematic utilization of the votes of the province through a recognized channel. The votes of this province alone are insufficient to obtain the return of a candidate to either charity; hence, to ensure success, it is necessary to solicit aid from provinces able and willing to assist—viz., from Bristol and Gloucester—to which provinces a large number of votes have to be repaid at the earliest opportunity. The growing ability of this province to help others, obtains for it very ready assistance whenever needed; and while very gratefully acknowledging the fraternal assistance always extended by the two provinces above named, it must be a great satisfaction to the brethren of South Wales to know that they are able to make a return for such friendly help.

The Provincial Grand Lodge Committee feel especially called upon to direct the attention of the brethren of the provinces to the fact that many valuable votes continue to be lost to the province, year after year, in consequence of this system not being clearly apprehended, and in many cases by the negligence of the voter, or by a thoughtless distribution of votes in directions from which no return can be expected. The Provincial Grand Lodge Committee cannot refrain from again urging upon the brethren generally, and upon the Worshipful Masters of the various lodges in particular, the very great importance of acting in combination. By united action the province is now able to work to great advantage, which desultory individual effort would fail to accomplish.

In their next report, the Provincial Grand Lodge Committee hope to be able to announce the representation of the province at the festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons; the Right Wor-

shipful the Provincial Grand Master having kindly promised to serve as the first steward for this excellent charity, which is entitled to the best support of the brethren."

The presentation of the Charity jewel to Bro. R. F. Langley, P. Prov. S.G.W., was deferred in consequence of the brother's unavoidable absence.

The Prov. G.M. announced that he would take an early opportunity of presenting the jewel to Bro. Langley in his own lodge at Cardiff.

On the motion of the D. Prov. G.M., the following donations were unanimously voted from the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge, viz., £21 to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, £21 to the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children, £21 to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons—£10 10s. to the Male Annuitant Fund, and £10 10s. to the Female Annuitant Fund.

The D. Prov. G.M., having briefly explained what had been done in the past, and what was now doing, as regards support to the Masonic Charities, very warmly and heartily commended the past exertions of the brethren, and the liberal spirit generally evinced throughout the province. He strongly urged the need of increased effort, and besought the brethren not to slacken in their good work, but to let the ensuing year bear abundant fruit in the shape of increased subscriptions. The motion was seconded by Bro. H. L. Pritchard, P. Prov. J.G.D., and supported by Bro. Frederick Binckes, P.G.S., Secretary to the Boys' School, in an eloquent address, in which, although speaking for the Masonic Charities generally, he did not omit to bespeak the sympathies of his auditors for the excellent institution which he so well represents.

The announcement that the Prov. G.M. had kindly consented to represent the province as its first Steward at the Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, in January next, was received with much applause.

The sum of £5 5s. was voted as a special donation to the Brecon Infirmary, it being the custom at these meetings to set apart this sum for the benefit of a local charity.

The usual collection on behalf of the poor was then made, which amounted to £7 12s. 4d., and it was given to the W.M. to be handed to the vicar of the parish for distribution.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in due form.

At four o'clock the brethren, about 120 in number, sat down to partake of an excellent banquet, provided in admirable style at the Castle of Brecon Hotel. The Prov. G.M. presided, supported by the D. Prov. G.M. and Bros. C. R. Davey, P.G. Chap. and F. Binckes, P.G.S., the newly-appointed Prov. G. Officers; Chas. Bath, P. Prov. S.G.W.; F. D. Michael, P. Prov. S.G.W.; J. G. Hall, P. Prov. J.G.W.; P. H. Rowland, P. Prov. J.G.W.; J. D. Davies, P. Prov. G. Chap.; D. Thomas, P. Prov. G. Chap.; Thos. B. Hosken, P. Prov. G. Chap.; W. Whittington and J. Pelton, P. Prov. G. Secs.; W. L. Powell, Thomas Hodge, and H. L. Pritchard, P. Prov. G.D's.; E. J. Thomas, Thomas Powell, and P. Donaldson, P. Prov. G. Divs. of Cers.; Edw. Fricker, P. Prov. G. Org.; H. A. Rich and J. Jones Hewson, P. Prov. G.S's.; J. J. Nettell, G. B. Brock, W. E. Brown, Phillips, Rogers, Hughes, Morley, Hill, Deer, Bell, Phillips, Prothero, Davies, Thomas, Mesnier, Williams, the W.M., Bro. G. T. Smith, S. Balcombe, J. Davis, and several officers of the Aberystwith Lodge; Lawson, Wilts; Myers, Hereford; Montgomery, Jones, two visitors from lodges in America, and many others.

The following loyal and Masonic toasts were given from the chair, and duly honoured:—"The Queen and the Craft;" "The M.W. the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland;" "The R.W. the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the Officers of Grand Lodge;" "The R.W. the Provincial Grand Master;" "The W. the Deputy Provincial Grand Master;" "The Visitors;" "The Provincial Grand Officers;" "The Masonic Charities;" "The W.M. of the Brecknock Lodge (No. 651);" "The Lodges of the Province." The harmony which prevailed was further enhanced by some excellent songs, glees, &c., contributed by the Swansea and Brecon brethren. Bro. Fricker, P. Prov. G. Org., presided at the pianoforte with his usual ability. A most enjoyable evening was passed, and, when the time arrived for the departure of the special train which conveyed the visitors home, the party broke up with sincere regret that the proceedings could not be prolonged.

The greatest praise is due to the W.M. and Officers of the Brecon Lodge for having initiated, perfected, and carried out their admirable arrangements, which gave universal satisfaction. In no lodge of the province is the true spirit of Masonry better understood, or carried more into practice, than by the very hospitable, genial, and zealous members of No. 651.

#### WARWICKSHIRE.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—*Elkington Lodge* (No. 1,016).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms in Now Hall-street, on Tuesday, the 23rd inst. Owing to the excitement caused by a contested election of a member of Parliament on this day, the attendance was much more limited than usual. The lodge was opened at six o'clock by Bro. Henry Bourne, W.M., assisted by Bros. Grinsell, S.W.; Dr. Foster, J.W.; McCracken,

P.M., acting as Secretary; and Dr. Hopkins, a visitor, acting as I.P.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. H. G. Quilter and T. D. Watson were presented as candidates for the degree of F.C., and, having been examined, were entrusted and dismissed for preparation. The lodge was opened in the second degree. The candidates were re-admitted, and passed to the rank of F.C. in very creditable style by the W.M.; indeed, the reporter, not being a member of the lodge, has pleasure in bearing testimony to the efficiency and correct working of the officers. The charge and the lecture on the tracing board were given by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M., &c., at the request of the W.M., who afterwards proposed a cordial vote of thanks to him for the assistance he had rendered, which was seconded by the S.W., and carried unanimously. The lodge was then closed in the second degree. A circular from the Grand Secretary, in reference to the care necessary in the examination and admission of the visitors, was read by the W.M., and ordered to be inserted in the minutes. After some discussion as to a proposed excursion into the country by the members, no other business offering, the lodge was closed at eight o'clock in perfect harmony and brotherly love.

#### AMERICA.

(Continued from p. 55.)

**REPORT OF BRO. A. G. GOODALL, OF NEW YORK, TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE, NORTH-ERN JURISDICTION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

#### BOLIVIA.

There are no Masonic lodges in this country. The civil wars and political revolutions which have occurred in rapid succession since its formation as a government, have so disturbed society, paralyzed commerce, and prevented foreign intercourse with its few thousand inhabitants scattered through the wild mountain range of the Andes, or in the few villages situated on the barren, sandy coast of the Pacific, as to give but faint hopes of any speedy and permanent introduction of our Order among that mixed race, the majority of whom are yet uneducated, and, being governed by priestly influence, would not be very eager to search for our light, or easily taught to properly comprehend its sublime teachings.

#### CHILE.

The earliest introduction of Masonry in Chile is said to have been about 1840. A lodge was then working at Valparaiso, but its members having attempted to use the order for political purposes, the lodge was compelled to close its labours. It is not known in what rite they worked, or under what authority.

In 1851, the French residents of Valparaiso obtained a warrant from the Grand Orient of France, and established a lodge in that city (Valparaiso), under date of Nov. 12, 1851, and name of Etoile du Pacifique. In April, 1854, another lodge was regularly organized under the same authority, and title of Union Fraternal. Since then, other lodges have been duly established at several places, working in the Ancient Accepted and York Rites, and Masonry may now be considered as one of the established institutions of progressive Chile. The order appears to have gradually increased, and the brethren worked in harmony till about the end of 1861, when, according to statements since made public, discord and partisan feeling began to rear its hydra head and contaminate the sanctuary where peace and harmony should have reigned supreme, and thus the results have shown that Chile gives us another illustration of that lamentable condition in which the interest and prosperity of the Order can be made to suffer by the attempt of a few to assume and exercise powers that are contrary to long established and recognized Masonic law and usage. In January, 1862, Napoleon III. exercised his arbitrary power by placing Marshal Magnan, who was not a Mason, to the noval position of Grand Master of the Masonic Order in France, a circumstance which was extensively commented on at the time, and universally condemned by the fraternity at large. In consequence of this act of Napoleon, over which the Grand Orient appears to have had no control, the lodge, Union Fraternal, on receipt of the news, declined to submit any longer to the authority of the said Grand Orient, and at once, by resolution passed at a regular session, refused obedience to the Grand Orient of France, after which the charter was given to a special committee, with direc-

tions to deposit it with the Lodge Etoile du Pacifique, which was done in due form at a stated meeting of that lodge.

A similar action was taken by the Lodge Fraternidad, located at Concepcion, also working under a charter from the Grand Orient of France; and those two lodges, having withdrawn their allegiance from the power that created them, and not obtaining authority from any other legitimate Grand Body, ceased to exist, and no longer possessed any lawful Masonic authority. Soon after these two lodges surrendered their authority to work, some of the brethren previously holding membership in Lodge Union Fraternal, decided to organize a Grand Lodge, and for this purpose communicated with the brethren in a similar condition with Lodge Fraternidad that was located at Concepcion, and obtained their consent and co-operation. It then appears that these brethren professed to believe that they still had full authority, which they could use for consummating their particular object, by virtue of the Masonic powers which they had voluntarily declared they would no longer retain, and thus claimed the right to form a Grand Lodge; the next important point was to obtain the co-operation of a third lodge, which they admitted was necessary. Seven brethren, formerly members of Lodge Union Fraternal, assembled without the necessary Masonic authority, and organized what they called the Lodge Progreso, and thus having what they claimed to be three regular Symbolic Lodges; they constituted, on the 29th day of April, 1862, V. E., the so-called Grand Lodge of Chile, working in the Ancient and Accepted Rite of the first three degrees in Masonry. They at once granted charters to Symbolic Lodges, and assumed all the rights of a governing body, and sent a circular, announcing their existence to the Masonic bodies throughout the globe. The Master of Lodge Etoile du Pacifique issued a protest against this Grand Lodge, asserting that they were irregular and clandestine, to which a reply was made by those representing the interest of the Grand Body, and several argumentary documents followed, giving all the details, *pro* and *con*. Such is a brief sketch of the history and conditions of affairs as I found them on my arrival at Valparaiso, 1st of March, 1865, at which time there were two lodges working legally—Etoile du Pacifique Lodge, before mentioned, and Bethesda Lodge, under authority of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. From the brethren of these lodges I obtained what was said to be the facts of the case relative to the contesting parties. All the published documents relative to the formation of the Grand Lodge were given to me, also copies of correspondence not yet published, as well as many important facts bearing on the subject, were communicated verbally. I then had an interview with the parties claiming to hold the position of Grand Master and Grand Secretary, informed them of the object of my mission, and the earnest desire of this Council to cultivate fraternal relations with a legitimate Grand Body in Chile, and I asked the former if he could furnish me any additional facts or information to those already published with his authority and that of his Secretary. He replied that they had nothing additional to offer, but promised to answer in writing certain questions I submitted to him, but which I have not yet had the pleasure of receiving. Having thus obtained from the proper source all the evidence I could get bearing on the subject at issue, and after a most careful examination of the same, I was fully convinced that the so-called Grand Lodge of Chile had been constituted in an irregular manner, contrary to the established laws governing Masonry, and consequently they were spurious and clandestine, and as such I declined to hold any Masonic intercourse with them, or any of the lodges working under their jurisdiction. At the date of my visit, this so-called Grand Body had been in existence nearly three years, and although they had taken the usual course of bringing their claims to the notice of the Grand Bodies at large, only two up to that time had given them recognition, being the Grand Lodge of the District of Colombia and the Supreme Council of Luxembourg; the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts authorised exchange of Masonic courtesies until otherwise directed. I then believed, and am now convinced, that those recognitions were given principally in consequence of the sympathy which was created for the apparent loyalty to Masonic principles, in declining to remain under the authority of the profane Magian, and by those foreign bodies not knowing the facts as to how the said Grand Body in Chile had been constituted; and, after the lapse of nearly six years, it is rather remarkable that none of the Grand Masonic Bodies in South America have recognised them. On the eve of my departure from Santiago (March 31st, 1865), news

was received that the Grand Lodge of Chile had been recognised by the Supremo Council of France, 33°, of which M. Viennet was Sov. G. Commander, which may be true; but if so, it is a question whether such a recognition has any Masonic force, as about the time it is said to have been given, that Supremo Council ceased to exist, having closed its labours by request of Napoleon III., the records of which Council I saw in possession of a distinguished illustrious brother, in another jurisdiction, in May, 1866.

It is with feelings of sincere regret that I am compelled to chronicle this unfortunate condition of the Order in Chile, as it is universally admitted that there is no part of South America where the inhabitants are more enlightened, intelligent, and inclined to receive the mystic teachings, appreciate and perpetuate its principles. The priestly power which has so long retarded the advance of liberal ideas, is being gradually broken, and a new era and bright progressive career is being opened to the people of Chile. It is, therefore, important to the interests of the Fraternity that a legitimate Supreme Body, governed by the pure principles of the Order, should be established in that country. During my stay in London, a prominent citizen of Chile received the necessary degrees, and authority from the Supremo Council of England, to constitute a Grand Lodge or Supremo Council, and I am induced to hope that this will soon be accomplished, and Chile then admitted to the Masonic family throughout the world; but should this not be realised, and in view of the importance of the subject, I suggest that the question relative to the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Chile be referred to a special committee, with directions to report at the next annual meeting of this council; all the documents and transactions relative to the same are herewith submitted for their investigation.

The following are the lodges now working in Chile:—

Etoile du Pacifique Lodge, Valparaiso, works in French under authority of the Grand Orient of France—legitimate.

Bethesda Lodge, Valparaiso, works in English under the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, York Rite—legitimate.

Hiram Lodge, Copiapo, works in English under similar authority, and in York Rite, with permission to work in Spanish—legitimate.

King Cyrus Royal Arch Chapter (No. 1), Valparaiso, under the Grand Chapter of the United States—legitimate.

Grand Lodge of Chile, Valparaiso, Ancient and Accepted Rite, spurious, with the following symbolic lodges under their jurisdiction—Union, Fraternal, and Progreso, Valparaiso; Justicia y Libertad, Santiago; Orden y Libertad, Copiapo; Fraternidad, Concepcion—all work in Spanish, and are irregular.

There was a chapter of Rose Croix and Council of Princes at Valparaiso, working under the Grand Orient of France; but the premises in which they met were burnt in 1861, and all the regalia destroyed. Since then they have not assembled for work, although the warrants are still retained.

I embrace this opportunity of returning my sincere thanks to the members of the Bethesda Lodge, and to assure them of my due appreciation of the social Masonic courtesies they extended to me during my sojourn at Valparaiso. Long may they continue to perpetuate the principles of the Fraternity in that distant land.

A journey of 1,200 miles, over the snow-clad peaks of the Andes and the vast plains of the Pampas, brought me to the city of Buenos Ayres, capital of the

#### ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

There is no authentic account of the first introduction of Masonry into this country which has suffered greatly from the sad results of civil discord and revolutionary strife, for the past thirty years. Lodges are known to have been in existence about 1846, but in consequence of the unsettled state of society, when anarchy so often reigned supreme, their labours were either suspended, or they remained in passive existence; and it was not till 1853 that the Order commenced its permanent career in the Rio de la Plata. On the 19th of January, 1854, Excelsior Lodge, was established at Buenos Ayres under warrant of the Grand Lodge of England, working in York Rite and English language. Two other lodges were afterwards established at the same place and under the same authority—Star of the South, working in English, and Toutonia, working in the German language; all these lodges are well supported and are very prosperous, having among their members many of the leading English and American merchants of Buenos Ayres.

In 1856 there was an irregular Masonic body in existence, working in the Ancient and Accepted Rite, and claiming powers

and jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge; but, receiving no recognition or support, has ceased to exist.

On the 13th day of September, 1858, V.E., the Supremo Council and Grand Orient of the Argentine Republic, Valley of Buenos Ayres, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, was duly and regularly constituted by authority of the Supremo Council and Grand Orient of Uruguay.

In 1861 the Provincial Grand Lodge of England (charter dated May 24, 1861) was duly organised at Buenos Ayres, and has formed a very important, complete and fraternal alliance with the Supremo Council, by which permission is granted to the Grand Lodge of England to establish symbolic lodges under their jurisdiction, throughout the Argentine Republic. At the time of my visit the Rev. John Chubb Ford, pastor of the English church, was the Deputy G.M., and the Masonic position of that body was of the highest character. My late advices inform me that Bro. Ford had resigned, and Bro. Richard B. Masfield, P.M., would be his successor; if so, I can but congratulate that Grand Body in being so fortunate in having such a worthy and eminent Mason to preside at their head.

The formation of these two governing Masonic powers for that jurisdiction has been in every particular regular and legitimate; and I found the order and working of the native lodges under the Supremo Council purer and more uniform than in any other part of South America.

Soon after my arrival at Buenos Ayres I addressed an official communication to the Ill. Bro. José R. Perez, 33, Sov. G. Com., informing him of the object of my Masonic mission, and requested to know if the Supremo Council desired to exchange the usual fraternal relations of amity. I was at once received with the most cordial greeting, and numerous invitations extended to visit the various lodges under their jurisdiction. A short time previous to my arrival a resident Bro. had returned to that city after a visit to this country, claiming to represent a Masonic Body of the Ancient and Accepted Rite in this jurisdiction, but not having the necessary degree, or documents necessary for that position, and the power from which he hailed not being known to the Masonic Order as having any claims to legitimacy, his request for recognition was respectfully declined, although considerable private influence was used in his support. Several members of the Council called on me, and expressed an earnest desire to embrace that favourable opportunity of establishing the desired fraternal relations and exchange representatives with this Council; but upon the subject being brought officially before their Council, it was referred to a distinguished member of that body, then in New York, who had been previously commissioned to enter into amicable relations with the various Masonic bodies in this country, and in due time the subject will receive proper attention.

Among the many interesting and agreeable Masonic ceremonies I had the pleasure of witnessing during my stay at Buenos Ayres, were two, which I deem worthy of special mention, and were celebrated under the able management of the Lodge Union Italiano. The first was the ceremony of baptism peculiar to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. The lodge was opened in the usual form, the Grand Officers were received with the honours due to their exalted position, and after the regular business was finished cautionary instructions were given, all Masonic labour ceased, the doors were opened, and sixteen boys, varying in age from four to ten years, sons of the members, were admitted, accompanied by their mothers, and assembled round the table containing the articles required in the ceremonies; the Sov. G. Commander then delivered an eloquent and impressive address relative to the solemn duties and obligations of the brethren for the children they were about to adopt, and after appropriate instrumental music, the ceremonies of baptism were then performed by the Sov. G. Commander, assisted by the W.M.; the right hands of the children were dipped in pure water, and the solemn, impressive lessons and exhortations that followed, with the other ceremonies illustrating a prescribed course of action for their future guidance, and the obligations of the brethren over to watch over and protect them through the journey of life, was performed in a manner that could not fail to make a favourable and lasting impression upon those present; and whatever difference of opinion there may be in regard to this Masonic ceremony as long practised in various countries, I am convinced that its tendency is highly beneficial to the Masonic family, and could be profitably adopted by other rites and jurisdictions, instead of some of the useless and absurd ceremonies now practised of appendant degrees.

The other important ceremony alluded to will doubtless claim more attention from, and be appreciated by the fraternity in this country, as a token of esteem for the character of one who,

though not a Mason, suffered an untimely death in the cause of his country.

The news of the assassination of President Lincoln was received at Buenos Ayres with the same feeling of horror that was so spontaneously manifested throughout the civilised world; the details of the national funeral which soon followed gave the information that the Masonic Order had generally participated in paying the last sad rights to the lamented dead, from which it was natural that foreign brethren should infer that he was a Mason, and as an appreciation of their deep sympathy with the fraternity in this country Lodges of Sorrow were held in France, and other countries; in imitation of this truly fraternal feeling the brethren of Lodge Union Italiano held a Lodge of Sorrow on the 17th day of July, 1865; they extended to me an official invitation to assist in the ceremonies and to act as chief mourner in representing our country. Not knowing at the time that Mr. Lincoln was not a Mason, I accepted the invitation, and participated as requested. The lodge-room was elegantly draped in mourning, with special and appropriate emblems tastefully arranged, and extracts from our rituals suitably displayed. The catafalque in the centre of the room was richly decorated in black with the insignia of the Order, and the name of him whose sad fate it represented, while four American Brothers, one at each corner, were stationed as mourners during the solemn and impressive ceremonies performed by the Master Officers and brethren of the lodge, the effect of which left a most grateful and impressive recollection on those of our countrymen that were present. At the conclusion of the ceremonies Ill. Bro. Hector F. Varala delivered a very eloquent address on the life, character, and public services of Mr. Lincoln, a printed copy of which I present with the other documents.

#### REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY.

The early history of Masonry in this country remains in that obscurity similar to the other South American States, no authentic account being as yet given. Between the years 1820 and 1856 lodges were working at various places, but principally at Montevideo, under authority from the Grand Bodies in France and Brazil; their work, however, is said to have been very irregular, caused, no doubt, by the constant disturbed state of society, resulting from the civil revolutions for which that country has been rather famous. In 1856 authority was obtained from the Supremo Council and Grand Orient of Brazil, Valley of Lavradio, Rio de Janeiro, to establish a governing Masonic power, and the same year the Supremo Council, 33, and Grand Orient of Uruguay Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, was regularly constituted at Montevideo, and has since continued its authority uninterrupted. All the established lodges at once obtained charters from and affiliated under the authority of the Grand Orient, except two, being Lodge Los Amis de la Patria, which was working under a charter from the Grand Orient of France, in the modern Rite, and French language, and Acacia Lodge working under warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, in the York Rite and English language, and still continue their labours under the same authority.

About this date there seemed to have been a fresh impetus given to the Order in that jurisdiction, and new lodges and chapters were organised in most of the towns throughout the country, until the number reached thirty-four working bodies, among which was George Washington Lodge, located in Entero Rios. But political discord and civil revolution had again seriously interfered with their peaceful labours, and compelled many to close their portals, which will again be open to labour for the benefit of society, their country, and humanity, when peace once more reigns in place of the deadly strife of civil war.

The brightest and most important epoch of the history in that jurisdiction which deserves honourable mention and illustrates practically the principles and sacred mission which Masonry is sometimes called upon to fulfil in giving aid and succour in the time of distress to suffering humanity. During the year 1857 the city of Montevideo was visited by that terrible scourge the yellow fever, and the epidemic spread to such an alarming extent that the government and city authorities lost that courage so requisite during such an event, and did nothing in the way of assistance to the suffering and dying poorer classes.

A committee representing the different lodges was formed, who obtained funds, and gave medical assistance, food and proper attendance to those in need, and, like good Samaritans, did all in their power to alleviate the suffering of the destitute, who had no other source of relief. The committee was merged in the Sociedad Filantropica, and also received contributions from those not connected with the Order, who recognised and appreciated the laudable principle and good work in which they

were engaged. After the cessation of the epidemic the Society had a surplus of funds, with which they established a school for orphans and poor children, and at the time of my visit there were about 250 boys under their tuition receiving a liberal and moral education. All the lodges pay a monthly subscription to the maintenance of this school, which is under their control, and thus in its quiet mission is fulfilling one of the cardinal principles of the Order, which we can but hope will long continue, and their labours will be crowned with that reward due to such laudable efforts.

Having satisfied myself of the legality of the Order in that jurisdiction I addressed an official communication to the Ill. Bro. Florentino Castellanos, Sov. G. Commander of the Supreme Council and Grand Orient, in which I fully recognised the legitimacy of that Grand Body, and requested to know if they desired to exchange fraternal relations with this Supreme Council. The official reply of Ill. Bro. Juan Manuel de la Sierra, Grand Sec., Gen. Adj., is submitted herewith, in which they accept the offer of amity, and request the exchange of representatives. As the communication was received on the eve of my departure, I made no response, and now suggest that the Sec. Gen. be instructed to give the necessary reply, and feel convinced that the amicable relations thus formed will continue in harmony for our mutual interest.

(To be continued.)

## ROYAL ARCH.

### METROPOLITAN.

HIGH CROSS CHAPTER (No. 754).—The annual convocation of this chapter took place at the Railway Hotel, Tottenham, on July 10th. I. Wright, M.E.Z.; R. Candler, H.; W. Hamilton, I. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the last convocation, all companions below the Principals were requested to retire. A board of installed Principals was then held, when Richard Candler was installed as M.E.Z., Wm. Hamilton as H., and Richard P. Atkins as I., all three principals having been exalted in the chapter. Nothing further being offered for the good of the chapter, it was closed in due form until the second Wednesday in October. After partaking of a sumptuous repast, the usual toasts were entered upon. Comp. Potts, P.P., proposed "The Health of the 1st Principal, Comp. Caudex." He had known him for many years, even before he was a Mason. He was proud to see him placed in his present position. He had filled the various chairs of the chapter to the satisfaction of the companions; therefore, he had been, and wisely so, elected to preside over them. The M.E.Z. replied by thanking them cordially for the kind manner in which they had responded to the toast proposed by Comp. Potts; he felt himself somewhat in the dark in the working of Arch Masonry, but he sincerely hoped he would be able to make himself efficient by the next meeting, and thanked them for the honour they had conferred upon him. The healths of Comps. Hamilton, H., and Richard P. Atkins were next proposed. Comp. Hamilton replied that they would use their best endeavour to promote the harmony and prosperity of the chapter. The M.E.Z. next proposed "The Health of the Visitors." Comps. G. Snow, Mount Sinai, No. 19; J. Barnes, Robert Burns, No. 817; and Ebbs, No. 131, Irish Constitution. Comp. Snow requested that Comp. Barnes might be allowed to respond to the toast as he was a better working Craft and Arch Mason than he was. Comp. Barnes thanked the companions for the kind reception they had given him; he regretted to find they had so few in numbers, but a better reception could not have been given him. He had just heard that Comp. Ebbs had been proposed as a joining member, and trusted they would allow his name to be inserted in the summonses on the next occasion as a joining member. Comp. Snow also desired his name to be inserted at the same time. "The Healths of the Past Principals," was next proposed, Comps. Wright and Potts, who were always very attentive to their duties. Comp. Potts replied that the chapter was founded under very excellent auspices in 1860, and although they had only two P.P.'s present, there should be five; but the Great Architect of the Universe had called two away from them, who, with one absent would make the five. He thanked them for the compliment paid them, and said the P.P.'s were both willing and ready, at all times, to render every assistance in their power for the benefit of the chapter. The companions separated, after having spent a very enjoyable evening.

## DURHAM.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—*St. Hilda Chapter* (No. 240).—The companions of this chapter held their annual convocation last week, in the Freemasons' Hall, when the principals elect and officers were duly installed. Comp. J. Roddam, E. First Principal elect, having been presented, was solemnly placed in the first chair of Z. by E. Comp. Twizell, assisted by E. Comp. Tulloch. The following companions were also appointed:—Comps. W. Wright, H.; G. Lawson, J.; Buchanan, E.; G. White, N.; Evans, P.S.; Dum and Bootiman, Assist. P.S.'s; Dochar, J.; J. Roddam, re-elected Treas. The auditors having reported a favourable balance, the chapter was closed in solemn form. The companions afterwards adjourned to Burtchby's Golden Lion Hotel, where a most bountiful repast was partaken of, served up by the worthy host with his well-known care and attention. The cloth having been removed, the following toasts were given by the E. First Principal, Comp. Roddam, from the chair:—"The Queen," "Earl of Zealand, M.E.Z.," "Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter," "E. Prov. G. Superintendent of Durham, Bro. J. Fawcett," "E. Prov. G. Superintendent of Northumberland" (responded to by E. Comp. Twizell), "The Principals of St. Hilda Chapter," "The Principals and Officers of the Oglo Chapter, North Shields," "The Past Principals of St. Hilda Chapter," "Officers of St. Hilda Chapter," "Our Absent Companions." Comp. White occupied the vice-chair, and the evening was spent in a harmonious and pleasant manner.

## LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Chapter of Mariners* (No. 249).—This chapter was duly opened on Friday, 12th inst., at six o'clock, by Comp. M.E.Z. Marsh; Crane, H.; Williams, J.; Hamer, P.Z.; Taylor, P.Z., &c. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the ballot taken for Bros. Danson and L. Corica, 1,094; McArthur, 249; McClean and Davison, 241. Bros. L. Corica, McArthur, and McClean being in attendance were duly exalted to the degree of H.R.A. Freemasons by Comp. Marsh, M.E.Z.; the usual lectures being given by Comps. Hamer, Taylor, and Carne, H., M.E.P.Z.'s. The chapter was then closed in due form. After a very excellent banquet, Comp. Marsh, M.E.Z., proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. He then said: "Companions, I can assure you that on this occasion a very pleasing duty has devolved upon me. Literally, I am the mouthpiece of the chapter to-day. I am about to present on behalf of you, my companions, this mark of our esteem. Believe me that many of you are better able to perform this very agreeable duty than myself, for there are those who stand higher in rank. I am sure, however, that you will overlook my shortcomings. When our chapter was reopened we had many difficulties to contend with, and with the assistance of our M.E.P.Z. Taylor, we have overcome them, by his advice and counsel, kindness, gentleness, and conciliatory qualities; you all know that these qualities have been liberally dispensed by our Comp. Taylor. I have, therefore, great pleasure in presenting this most beautiful M.E.P.Z.'s jewel to Comp. Taylor, and I say, may the Great Architect of the Universe bless you with every comfort, and when He calls you away may you be prepared to take that honour which you have won so well. Comp. Taylor, in presenting this jewel, the companions think you well deserving of it; may God ever bless you. Comp. Taylor's health was drunk with all honours. The inscription for the jewel was as follows:—"Presented to M.E.P.Z. J. S. Taylor, by the Companions of the Mariner's Chapter, No. 259, for his valuable Masonic services. July 12th, 1867." Comp. M.E.P.Z. Dr. Taylor then rose and addressed the companions as follows:—Most Eminent Zerubabel Marsh and Companions—The position in which I am placed to-night is of a most embarrassing character, for the many kind and flattering observations addressed to me by the M.E.Z. and the hearty response accorded to them by the rest of the companions renders me quite unable to do justice, either to my own feelings or the generous sentiments of the kind friends around me. When I look upon this beautiful jewel, which you have so kindly presented to me, I cannot but feel highly gratified that my services during the past year have met your approbation; but, however valuable the jewel may be in itself, I do deeply feel that that value is but trifling when compared with the kindness, respect, and good feeling with which it is accompanied. There is an old saying, "That success is honourable in the proportion that it is deserved. That I have been successful in my labours in this chapter the present ceremony is a testimony, and that I have deserved that success you have been kind enough to express in most flattering language, and for which I thank you most



sincerely; and also, M.E.Z. and companions, allow me to thank you for the honour you have conferred upon me in presenting me with this jewel. I shall ever wear it with pride, because I have obtained, and hope to obtain, the esteem of my companions, and with pleasure, because I trust it will be an incentive to others to labour diligently and faithfully in their respective offices, and thus become worthy of similar honours. After again thanking the companions, Comp. Taylor resumed his seat, evidently much affected. The M.E.P.Z., Comp. Taylor, said he had great pleasure in proposing the health of their M.E.Z., Comp. Marsh. They all knew his zeal for the chapter and Freemasonry, and that he was always willing to fill any office. He (Comp. Taylor) trusted that the M.E.Z.'s year of office would be more prosperous than his own had been. Comp. Marsh, in returning thanks, said he felt quite unable to acknowledge as he ought to do the extremely kind manner in which his health had been proposed and drunk. He assured them he should endeavour, during the forthcoming year, to conduct the business of the chapter, as nearly as possible, in the manner that his predecessor had done; and, in seeking in that way to win their approbation, he was sure he might confidently look for support from the P.Z.'s of the chapter. "The Health of the Newly-Exalted" was proposed, and duly responded to by Comp. L. Corica, who said he was much pleased with the kind reception he had received, and trusted to profit from it. "The Health of the Officers" was proposed, and duly responded to by Comps. Crane, H.; Williams, J.; Lunt, S.E.; Baker, S.N.; Berry, Treas.; and Pepper, P.Z., P.S., on behalf of Comp. Doyle, P.S. "The Health of the Visitors" was next proposed. Comp. Jones, of Chapter 241, returned thanks, and said he was much pleased with the good working of the chapter. There being no further business, the companions retired at ten o'clock.

### KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

#### HERTFORDSHIRE.

WATFORD.—*Stuart Encampment.*—The July meeting of this encampment was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on the 22nd inst. The attendance was very numerous, and was honoured by the presence of Sir Knt. Stuart, the most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, P.E.C. of this encampment. Amongst the Sir Knts. present were:—Sir Knts. G. Francis, Prov. G.C. of Herts, Bunhill-Herne, D. Prov. G.C., Reg.; H. C. Finch, E.C.; Tootch, P.E.C.; T. F. Halsey, Copeland, Brett, Herne, jun., and others. Comps. Nepeau and Stevenson, both of the Watford Chapter, were admitted into the Order, and Sir Knt. Humbert duly installed E.C. of the encampment. The Registrar read from the minutes the resolution, a copy of which, in accordance with their desire, he had forwarded to Mrs. Branson, viz.:—"That the members of the Stuart Encampment had heard with sincere regret of the death of their esteemed and valued Bro. Sir Knight the Rev. Robert T. Branson, M.A., a regret that was much enhanced when they call to mind that he was unable, through long continued illness, to perform the functions of the high offices in that and the other Orders of Freemasonry at Watford to which he had been elected, the duties of which they are satisfied he would have performed with the same energy and success as had so long characterised his career as a minister of the gospel at St. Peter's, Bushey. In making this communication to his widow they desire to offer their sincere sympathy on her sad loss, and to add their cordial hope that, relying upon the aid of the Most High, she will be supported under this severe dispensation of Providence." In reply to the above the Registrar read portions of a very feeling and interesting letter from Mrs. Branson. There being no other business, the encampment was closed with solemn prayer, and the Sir Knts. adjourned to the banquet, of which twenty members partook, and passed a very pleasant evening, characterised by that harmony and good feeling so prevalent at the Masonic gatherings at Watford.

### ROSE CROIX.

#### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

NOTTINGHAM.—*Nottingham Chapter.*—The members of this chapter held their anniversary meeting at the Assembly Rooms,

on Thursday, the 4th inst., under the presidency of Bro. T. W. Robinson, M.W.S.; assisted by Bros. S. R. Parr Shilton, 31° P.M., W.S.; J. Comyn, P.M., W.S.; the Rev. E. H. Harcourt Vernon, 30°, Prelate; E. M. Kidd, 1st Gen.; M. Vowle, 2nd Gen.; H. A. Attenborough, G.M.; F. W. Parsons, R. Fitzhugh, C. Feamley, and J. Cumming; Banwell, Equerry without. Bro. Hyde Pullen, 32°, the Sec. Gen. to the Supreme Grand Council, having honoured the chapter with his presence, the M.W.S. requested him to gratify the brethren by opening the chapter, which he kindly consented to do, and the same was accordingly opened in ancient and solemn form, when Bro. Pullen proceeded to initiate the candidates into this most impressive degree, in that dignified manner so well known to the brethren of this Order. Bro. Pullen then installed in ancient and solemn form, Bro. E. M. Kidd as M.W.S. for the ensuing year, who appointed the following officers:—Bros. the Rev. E. H. T. Vernon, Prelate; M. Vowles, 1st Gen.: H. A. Attenborough, 2nd Gen.; T. G. Ransom, Grand Marshal; C. Allcock, Raphael; T. W. Parsons, Captain of the Guard; J. C. Banwell, Equerry Without. There being no further business before the chapter the same was closed in due form according to ancient custom. The brethren then adjourned to the George Hotel, and partook of a sumptuous banquet, presided over by the M.W.S. After the removal of the cloth the usual loyal toasts were duly honoured, followed by much instruction and valuable Masonic information.

### THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and the Royal Family, with the exception of their Royal Highnesses Prince Arthur and Prince Louis of Hesse who accompanied the Sultan back to Portsmouth, returned to Osborne, on the afternoon of the 17th inst., at half-past five o'clock after the naval review. Her Majesty and the Royal Family walked and drove out on the 18th inst. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise and Princess Leiningen, drove out in a carriage and four in the afternoon. Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse returned to Osborne on the 20th inst., from London. Divine service was performed on the morning of the 21st inst. by the Rev. R. Duckworth before her Majesty, their Royal Highnesses Princess Louis of Hesse, Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice. The Queen and Royal Family, walked out on the morning of the 22nd inst. Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of the French arrived in the afternoon on a visit to the Queen. Her Majesty is attended by the Duchess de Bassano and the Count de Brissac. The Queen, accompanied by the Empress, drove out on the morning of the 23rd inst. The Sultan, with the Imperial Princes and the whole of his Imperial Majesty's suite, left Buckingham Palace at half-past ten o'clock for Dover, en route to the Continent. The Queen, accompanied by the Empress of the French, Princess Louis of Hesse, and Princess Louise, drove out in the afternoon in a carriage and four. Major-General Seymour was in attendance on horseback. The Empress of the French embarked on the morning of the 24th inst, in the Reine Hortense on her return to France, attended by the Duchess de Bassano and Count de Brissac. The Queen, with their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, and Princess Beatrice, accompanied the Empress to Osborne Pier to take leave of her Majesty.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on the 18th inst., a bill brought in by the Lord Chancellor in

reference to prorogations of Parliament in the recess, was read a second time. At present, prorogations of this kind have to be done in form in the House of Lords. The Lord Chancellor declares this to be useless, and proposes that inter-sessional prorogations shall be made by an Order in Council.—On the 19th inst., Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, yielding to the entreaties of Lord Derby and Lord Russell, withdrew the motion of which he had given notice in reference to the execution of Maximilian.—The Industrial Schools Bill was opposed by the Government, and finally rejected.—Replying to a question put by the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Derby said the Spanish Government were about to grant a new trial in the case of the Tornado. The Duke of Argyll expressed his satisfaction with the manner in which the matter had been dealt with by the Government. It was, he added, much to be regretted that there was no law which could effectually put a stop to the fitting-out of ships like the Tornado for service against a Power with which we were at peace.—The Duke of Buckingham announced, in reply to a question by Earl Russell, that he had written to Sir J. P. Grant, Governor of Jamaica, ordering that Mr. Purcell should be removed from a stipendiary magistrateship to which he had recently been appointed. Mr. Purcell, it may be remembered, while officiating in his own court, made a most indecent attack upon the charge of Lord Chief Justice Cockburn to the jury at the Central Criminal Court. Earl Melville denounced the charges as one-sided and unfair. This drew from the Lord Chancellor a strong vindication of the charge.—The appearance of the Reform Bill in the House on the 22nd inst. was the cause of an unwonted gathering. The peers mustered in great force, and the peeresses crowded the side galleries. The Earl of Derby moved the second reading of the bill in a speech even more distinguished than the noble lord's speeches usually are. After pointing out the differences between the present time and 1832, he went on to criticise the manner in which the late Government had dealt with Reform. He accused Mr. Gladstone of having been imperious, and of having dictated to the House of Commons, and thus raised up a feeling which caused the rejection of the bill. Having disposed of this part of the subject, the noble earl went on to say that when he took office he resolved to carry an efficient measure, and hence the appearance of the bill then before them. The principle of personal rating was then enlarged upon, as the feature which distinguished this bill above all others, and made it a thoroughly safe measure. At great length he explained the bill, and combatted objections which had been raised to it. Earl Grey followed, and moved his amendment. He contended that the bill had never been sufficiently considered, and that it was essential their lordships should watch it carefully. Lord Ravensworth, the Earl of Morley, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, the Duke of Rutland, and other peers took part in the discussion. On the 23rd inst., after a short personal explanation on the part of Earl Carnarvon as to the authorship of the £6 rating franchise bill, Lord Shaftesbury resumed the debate on the second reading of the Reform Bill. Of

course, his Lordship was a Radical, but he did not like the bill. If they were to come down to equality there was no reason to jump out of the window when they might have come down stairs. The Lord Chancellor followed with a criticism of Earl Grey's amendment, and a defence of the bill. The Duke of Argyll, the Duke of Richmond; the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Faversham, Lord Houghton, the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Cairns, and other peers subsequently took part in the debate. On the 18th inst., the House of Commons sat from twelve o'clock at noon to six in the evening. As soon as the House was made, Mr. Hunt informed Mr. Read that a great deal of the money voted by the House for the owners of slaughtered cattle had been paid. Mr. Cave, in answer to Mr. Graves, expressed a hope that the bill for amending the law of limited liability would be in the hands of members at an early date.—Sir Stafford Northcote took occasion, in replying to an inquiry addressed to him by Mr. H. B. Sheridan, to announce that the Viceroy of Egypt would not attend the ball to the Sultan at the new India Offices because his engagements did not permit him to remain in this country. The right hon. baronet then explained that it was the wish of the authorities at the India Office to ask to the ball as many members of the House of Commons as they could; but they could not send invitations to all of the members of the House of Commons, because if they did so they should also ask all the members of the House of Lords; and the assemblage of so large a number of persons, with the ladies they would be at liberty to bring with them, would fill the building, to the exclusion of persons connected with India and other visitors. He declined to lay a list of the persons invited before the House, and expressed his disapproval of a suggestion to make a charge for the tickets. If tickets were sold every one having money could purchase them, and it was impossible to say what kind of person would be found amongst the company. In fact, through the power of the purse, very objectionable persons might gain admission to the gilded saloons of the new India Office if the tickets for the ball were made saleable articles. Mr. H. B. Sheridan intimated that on a future day he would put a series of questions to the right hon. gentleman having reference to the subject.—On the 19th inst., Mr. W. E. Forster asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies to lay upon the table the instructions sent to colonial governors for their guidance in case of insurrection. Mr. Adderley explained that the instructions were sent out in confidential draft for consideration to the governors of all the colonies. These instructions were not in the sense of peremptory regulations, but rather in the way of advice and caution to those governors in case of insurrection. It was directed that no place should be proclaimed unless there was armed resistance to the law beyond the ordinary powers for suppression; that the proclaimed districts should not extend further than was necessary; that the proclamation should be published by all possible means in the proclaimed district; that instructions should be given to the military authorities; that the civil magistrates should have no more than their ordinary powers;

that troops should not be detached except under the command of commissioned officers; that no punishment should be inflicted except by the order of a court-martial composed of not less than three officers; that every facility should be given to prisoners to make their defence; and that no sentence of death should be pronounced except two-thirds of the court were in favour of it.—Mr. Corry intimated, in reply to Mr. Samuda, that in the opinion of the Naval Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, and the Master Attendant of the Dockyard, it would have been highly imprudent for the fleet to weigh anchor at the naval review in such a narrow channel during such weather. Testimony was borne by Sir George Grey to the admirable arrangements on board the ship on which he was accommodated, and he spoke highly of the magnificence of the spectacle presented at the review. On the motion to go into Committee of Supply, Colonel Sykes moved, "That it is *inexpedient to continue the present arrangements with the committee of the Royal Society at an expense of £10,000 per annum, the average cost of the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade having been £4,300 per annum.*" The gallant colonel insisted that the storm warnings ought to be continued. Mr. Cave and Mr. M. Gibson both contended that the warnings were useless; and after some discussion, Colonel Sykes withdrew his amendment. On the 23rd inst., the Chancellor of the Exchequer made an announcement as to the business of the Session. First, nine bills were at once to be withdrawn; others were only to be proceeded with as might be convenient, and the remaining votes in supply would be taken before the end of next week. There was practically nothing definite in the announcement made. The first order on the paper was the second reading of the Scottish Reform Bill, and the House was completely sold. There had been an arrangement with the Scotch members that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should move the second reading in a speech in which he should state what parts of the scheme were to be modified. Instead of doing so he never rose but moved the second reading from his seat. The Scotch members were all unprepared, and before anything could be done the Speaker had put the question and declared it carried. Later Sir Andrew Agnew appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to tell the House something about the intentions of the Government as to the bill. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he should put the bill down for committee, and, perhaps, he might state whether the bill would be reprinted.—The House next took up the consideration of the Royal Parks Bill, the second reading of which was moved by Mr. G. Hardy in a very bland speech. Mr. Neate followed him with an argument which, if it means anything, means that public meetings ought to be forbidden altogether. Mr. P. A. Taylor moved the rejection of the bill in a speech of much force. Mr. Newdegate supported the bill, which Mr. Mill opposed in a speech full of the most irresistible arguments. Subsequently Mr. J. Hardy distinguished himself by a most disgraceful and vulgar attack on Mr. Taylor. or this he was immediately called to order, and had to retract. After some further discussion, the

bill was read a second time by 181 votes to 64. It was understood that ample time should be given for the consideration of the bill in committee.—The House went into committee of supply, and considered the votes for the suppression of the slave trade, and other matters. —On the 23rd inst. Mr. Hardy proposed that the Meetings in Royal Parks Bill should be committed *pro forma* with a view to have it reprinted as suggested by Sir G. Grey, in order to have certain amendments inserted. Mr. Newdegate urged upon the House that whatever provision might be made respecting public meetings, the right of public meeting should not be invalidated by vesting the discretion of allowing it to take place or not in any Government officer. The remark elicited general cries of "Hear." Speaking the opinion of others, as well as his own, the hon. gentleman asked that whatever was to be done should be done absolutely by the House. The House then went into committee for the purpose suggested by the Home Secretary, and immediately resumed.—The attention of the House was called by Mr. Gregory to the cases of the *Tornado* and *Victoria*. The case made by the hon. gentleman was that the *Tornado*, like the *Cyclone*, was fitted out in this country for the Chilian Government, and really belonged to the Chilian navy. The only difference was that the *Cyclone* had escaped the Spanish cruisers, and now formed one of the Chilian war fleet, and that the *Tornado*, less lucky, had fallen into the power of the Spaniards. He therefore submitted that the *Tornado* was contraband, and that the Spaniards acted rightly in seizing her. The case of the *Victoria* was, he admitted, totally and entirely different, though it had been improperly mixed up with the *Tornado*. No doubt in the case of the *Victoria* the authorities at Cadiz were in the wrong, and the Spanish Government never held out on that question. He had been in Spain, and could observe there the existence of a feeling of great soreness towards England, arising to a great extent from hearing the drums and bugles of a foreign nation on the ramparts of Gibraltar, and from knowing that the guns of Gibraltar were employed for the protection of smugglers on the Spanish coast. Sir Roundell Palmer contended that it was an error on the part of the Foreign Secretary to dictate the mode of procedure to the Spanish Government, though he admitted at first it appeared that the judgment originally pronounced in the Spanish Court was a judgment of condemnation, whereas it was not really so; and, when the noble lord was apprised of that fact, he should have seen that all right on the part of her Majesty's Government to dictate to the Spanish Government had disappeared. The conduct of the Government was defended by the Attorney-General, who insisted that the first judgment was really a judgment of condemnation. Mr. B. Cochrane considered that nothing could justify the conduct of the Spanish Government towards the crew of the ship, many of whom came from his own neighbourhood, and had no idea that any charge could be made against the owner. He contended that the vessel never belonged to the Chilian Government at all; and urged that the witnesses who could prove the fact were dispersed without receiving any indemnity from the

Spanish Government. As the case was yet before the tribunals of Spain, Sir E. Collier regretted that its merits were entered into at such length. After some further discussion, Lord Stanley vindicated the conduct of the Government. He contended that the seizure of the *Tornado* by the Spanish Government was right, but that the treatment of the crew was bad. At four o'clock the sitting was adjourned until six.—At the evening sitting Lord Stanley, in reply to Mr. Layard, said there seemed to be little doubt that the Greek blockade-runner *Arkadi* had fired upon a Turkish cruiser, and thus committed a breach of international law. The Turkish cruiser, however, followed the *Arkadi* into Greek waters, and thus committed a breach of international law. Her Majesty's Government did not intend to interfere.—After a long and rather dull discussion on the mortality in the slave-trade squadron, the House was counted out at five minutes to eight o'clock.—On the 24th inst. a debate, commenced many weeks since, respecting Trinity College, Dublin, was resumed. The question was originally brought before the House by Mr. Fawcett, who asked the House to declare by resolution that "It is undesirable that the fellowships and foundation scholarships of Trinity College, Dublin, should be exclusively appropriated to those who are members of the Established Church;" whereupon Mr. Monsell proposed to the House to omit these words, and declare that "The constitution of the University of Dublin should be altered, so as to enable and fit it to include colleges connected with other forms of religion than that of the Established Church, and that the members of such colleges should be entitled to share in all the benefits now enjoyed by the members of Trinity College." The debate was resumed by Mr. H. A. Bruce, who announced his intention to support the amendment of Mr. Monsell. In the debate that ensued Mr. O'Reilly advocated separate education for the Roman Catholics. Mr. Pim, Mr. Graves, Mr. McLaren, and Mr. Chichester Fortescue spoke in the debate, and the interests of Trinity College were defended with great earnestness by its representative, the Irish Attorney-General. Eventually Mr. Monsell withdrew his amendment, and on a division on Mr. Fawcett's motion the numbers were equal, 108 voting on each side. The Speaker gave his vote against the resolution, on the ground that it was an abstract proposition, and thus it was lost. The Church Rates Abolition Bill was read a third time and passed, after some discussion, by 129 votes to 19. Subsequently some progress was made in committee with the Sunday Trading Bill.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The entertainment given on the 19th inst. by Miss Burdett Coutts to the Belgian volunteers will be one of the most pleasant of their recollections of their visit to London. They met with profuse hospitality well managed. The beautiful grounds of Holly Lodge were thrown open to them, and a bountiful luncheon, well served, was laid out for them in spacious marquees. Their hostess did personally all she could to make her visitors comfortable, and, beyond all doubt, she succeeded.—The Viceroy, who left London on the 18th inst., slept at the Lord Warden Hotel,

at Dover, and embarked on the 19th inst. for France. —The closing scene of the Wimbledon meeting was one of exceptional splendour. Regular troops were brigaded with the volunteers, and there was a review of unusual interest. The prizes won at the meeting were distributed by the Princess Teck, and immediately afterwards the review took place in the presence of the Sultan, the Prince of Wales, and various other royal personages. Unfortunately the weather was once again bad. Just as the review opened, a drizzling rain began, which speedily increased to a regular downpour. After the review the Sultan dined in a tent with Lord Spencer. The crowd to witness the review was immense, and towards the close they broke all bounds, and fairly mobbed the Sultan, the Princess Teck, and the other distinguished persons.—A painful gloom was cast upon the closing hours of the ball at the India House. While the festivities were at their height Madame Musurus, the wife of the Turkish Ambassador, was seized with acute pain, and as she was being removed home she died.—A meeting was held on the 22nd inst. at the London Tavern, to protest against ritualism, and to support the bill of Lord Shaftesbury on the subject. The Lord Mayor was to have presided, but he was not present, and Alderman Hale took the chair in his stead. Resolutions in accordance with the object of the meeting were agreed to.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

G. H.—Any brother is eligible to be admitted to the benefits of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution who is 60 years of age, has been a registered Master Mason for 15 years, and a subscribing member for 10 years of that period, but if he is afflicted with blindness, paralysis, or any other infirmity which incapacitates him from earning a livelihood, he may be admitted under 60 years of age if he has been five years a subscribing member to a lodge. The option of becoming inmates of the asylum is given to the annuitants in the order of their seniority by election, but those who avail themselves of the privilege are still entitled to an annuity of £26 per annum, unless he shall become possessed of an income of £25 per annum independently of his annuity. In such a case the committee of management have the power to reduce or suspend the annuity according to the circumstances of the case. As to furniture, we know nothing about that, and the comforts of the asylum are too well known to require anything to be said about them. With regard to candidates for the Widows' Fund, every one must be not less than 55 years of age; her late husband must have been a subscribing member to a lodge for at least 10 years, and she must have been married to him at least five years, the amount of the annuity being £25 per annum, but this ceases if she marries again. On the death of any male annuitant leaving a widow who was married to him not less than 10 years before his election, if approved by the committee she is entitled to receive from the Widows' Fund a sum equal to one-half the pension of her late husband for three years after his death, and if she be a resident in the asylum, to continue such residence during the same period in order to give her the opportunity of applying for election on the Widows' Fund. All candidates, of course, are elected by the votes of the subscribers.

W. J. HUGHAN (Cornwall).—Bro. C. P. Cooper has written to us saying that your query has been noticed by him, and he will answer you fully in our next issue, if possible.