

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1867.

### MASONIC PILGRIMAGE TO THE ORIENT.

Under the above title (writes our valued contributor, Bro. D. Murray Lyon), there appears in the September number of that really excellent transatlantic magazine, "The Voice of Masonry," a letter addressed to the publisher, Bro. John C. W. Bailey, in which Bro. Dr. Robt. Morris, of La Grange, Kentucky, makes mention of his long-contemplated Masonic pilgrimage to Europe, Egypt, and the Holy Land, and in which he begs such of his readers as have given attention to the subject to favour him with suggestions as to the best points of visitation and method of research. It is several months since our distinguished brother gave us an inkling of his intentions in the direction indicated in the letter under notice. To us this information is as a "little cloud like a man's hand," in our Masonic horizon, betokening the near realisation of what we have long hoped for, viz., personal converse with one whose friendship we hold dear and whose reputation as a Mason is world-wide. That this great Masonic missionary will, on coming to the "land of his fathers," meet with a befitting reception cannot be doubted; but to facilitate this, some little organisation is desirable, and seeing that Bro. Morris intends leaving America early in January, there is no room for delay. Perhaps Bro. Hughan, of Truro, an esteemed correspondent of Bro. Morris, might take the initiative in this matter, at least as regards England. The writer is already in communication with brethren whose counsel ament the doctor's reception in Scotland points the way to success. From the limited time at Dr. Morris's disposal, taking into account the magnitude of his undertaking, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Kilwinning will in all likelihood be the Masonic centres of his Masonic communications in Scotland. He may probably visit about five points in England, two in Ireland, two in France, one in Prussia, one in Saxony, one in Holland, and one in Sweden. To Bro. J. G. Findel, of Leipsic, and other kindred spirits on the Continent this simple announcement will, we are assured, be enough to awaken their sympathies with, and enlist their fraternal aid in the advancement of the object of Dr. Morris's mission.

To quote from "The Voice:"—I shall first visit one or more prime centres of Masonic authority in

each of the following jurisdictions, viz., England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Prussia, Sweden, Switzerland, Holland, and Italy. Thence my route will take in, but very briefly, Egypt. The remaining, but much larger portion of my pilgrimage, will be given to the Holy Land. The following general idea of my proposed Oriental researches will guide your readers to the whole:—

I. As our ancient brethren, the Builders of King Solomon, were natives of Phœnicia, of which Tyre, Sidon, and Gebal were centres, I shall explore that remarkable plain, which was for so many centuries the school of the world in commerce, architecture, and the liberal arts and sciences. My first landing will be at Beyrout, and my first researches in the plains of Phœnicia.

II. As our ancient brethren derived the cedars, the principal wood used in the construction of the temple, from the mountains overhanging Phœnicia on the east, my feet will next trace the mountain paths to the head of Wady Kadeesha, to that recess in the central ridge of Lebanon where the 400 remaining trees of the once boundless cedar forests are found. The height, size, and foliage of the trees, the characteristics of the timber, &c., will have careful and thorough examination.

III. As the Gibbites lowered the vast cedar trunks down the mountainous declivities, and collected them in rafts at the shipping ports, it will be my next business to look out the inlets and coves where such work could most fitly be accomplished.

IV. As the mariners of King Hiram rafted the precious timbers 75 to 100 miles southward, down a dangerous coast, I will follow their watery track, carefully noting the headlands, coves and breakers, observant of all historical objects that attract the eye on that famous coast.

V. As the amphibious workmen debarked their freight at Joppa, that old and far famed city, there, too, will I land, and, from every possible point of view, take observations of the hill known to every Freemason.

V. As our ancient brethren bore those heavy masses across the country thirty-five miles, from Joppa to Jerusalem, I will follow their footsteps, mark carefully the landmarks of the way, search out of the numerous defiles, leading on into the hilly country, the highway most likely to have been improved for purposes of transportation and used by Hiram's men.

VII. As they built upon Mount Moriah an edifice which was the admiration and envy of every age, I shall give much time to an exploration of the sacred mountain, its vaults, substructures, and remains of antiquity. The subjects of food supply, water supply, interments, &c., will afford proper subjects of inquiry.

VIII. As these 150,000 Gibbites constituted the quarry from which the first Ashlars were taken in the system of speculative Masonry still wrought upon the earth, I will search among the customs of the people yet inhabiting those lands for traces of our ancient institution.

Following thus in the track of "the immortal builders," from Tyre to Jerusalem; looking out their footsteps and landmarks; collecting specimens of all timber and stone employed by them in their unequalled labours; and, by the aid of Bible-light, bringing to view the remains of operative and speculative Masonry extant there, I hope to gain honour to our beloved institution, and do my little part in its enlightenment.

#### THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

By ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

(Continued from page 447.)

#### CHAPTER X.—(Continued.)

The council thereafter broke up, the King went to supper, and the barons retired each man to his tent. Gerard de Ridefort retired with the rest, a prey to the deepest despair, and agitated with the gravest fears for the future. He knew too well the crafty character of the Count of Tripoli, how little faith was to be placed in his seeming reconciliation with the King, and how readily he would break through all promises if assured of ascending the throne. Furthermore, the delay of the Christians at Sephouri would give Saladin time to concentrate his forces and take up an almost impregnable position, from which he could throw great hosts into the plain of Esdracelon and drive a passage to Jerusalem, either up the valley of the Jordan or along by the bases of the mountains of Gilboa. Besides, he was aware that afterwards to attack Saladin at Tiberias would have been worse than useless, as it would be impossible to drive him from his position. He bitterly regretted the delay which had already occurred in advancing upon Saladin—a delay which had permitted the

Sultan to take up a most threatening position; and to remain at Sephouri was to allow the Infidel to seize upon the whole of Palestine, without a blow being struck in its defence. At length, finding that he could not sleep, Gerard rose at midnight, and went to the tent of the King, whom he woke. He at once reproached him for his purpose of remaining inactive while Saladin was ravaging the country, slaying the Christians, or reducing them to slavery. "It will be an everlasting disgrace," he exclaimed, "if you quietly permit the Infidels to take such an important citadel as Tiberias before your eyes, without striking a blow for those whom it is your duty to defend. And know," he added, hotly, "that we of the Temple will rather tear the white mantle from our shoulders, and sell all we possess, than remain any longer quiet spectators of the injury and disgrace that have been brought upon the Christian arms."

Guy was greatly moved by this speech of the Grand Master, and consented to an immediate march against Saladin. The tents of the Templars were struck, and the advance blown by the trumpets of the Order. The Count of Tripoli and the barons were amazed at this change, and they loudly protested against the advance, but they protested in vain; Gerard was resolute, and the King supported him. The Templars' place on the march was always in the van. On this occasion, the Count insisted on taking up his position there. To this Gerard could offer no objections, much as he dreaded such a change, and so ordered his Knights to the rear. The Holy Cross was carried at the head of the army, but the Patriarch, Heraclius, who loved not danger, and whose duty it was to have borne it, remained at Jerusalem, and deputed his charge to the Bishops of Acre and Lidda—a circumstance which filled the superstitious Christians with the gloomiest forebodings. Omens were not wanting to discourage them, for Vinisauf relates a fearful vision which appeared to the King's chamberlain, who dreamt that an eagle flew past the Christian army, bearing seven missiles and a balista in his talons, and crying with a loud voice "Woe to thee, Jerusalem!" "To explain the mystery of this vision," says Vinisauf, "we need, I think, only take the words of Scripture, 'The Lord hath bent his bow, and in it prepared the vessels of death.' What are the seven missiles but a figure of the seven sins by which that unhappy army was soon to perish? By this number,

seven, may also be understood the number of punishments that impended over the Christians, which was some time after fulfilled by the event, that too faithful and terrible interpreter of omens."

On the advance of the Christians, Saladin converted the siege of the citadel of Tiberias into a blockade, and prepared to receive his foe. He called in his skirmishers, and encamped his army on the heights of Loubi, with the Lake of Tiberias in his rear. His position was most formidable, covering the tops of the hills and commanding all the valleys through which the Christians had to pass. He placed his cavalry in the valleys, and, by skilfully extending his left wing to the lake, cut off the Christians from its waters. When the Christians came in sight of the Musselmen army, they perceived the prudence of the advice of the Count of Tripoli, and found that determined courage and superhuman exertions could alone repair the error into which they had fallen. While some advocated a retreat to Sephouri, Gerard de Ridefort formed the desperate resolution of cutting a way through the passes, garrisoned as they were by the Infidel, to the banks of the Jordan. His proposal met with the cordial approbation of Renaud de Chatillon, who delighted in such dangerous adventures, and felt thoroughly in his element when death and blows were the orders of the day. The other leaders likewise supported the resolution. The Count of Tripoli made no objection, but communicated the scheme to the Sultan.

On the morning of the 4th of July, at break of day, the Christians commenced their march. They advanced to one of the passes, but they had scarcely entered when the Musselmen poured down upon them clouds of arrows and javelins. Although the Christian skirmishers failed in driving the enemy from the heights, the Grand Master, charging with the gallant soldiery of the Temple along a defile, drove the enemy before them and opened up a passage, when the army passed into the plain, where Saladin, at the head of his cavalry, advanced upon them. The Christians had to stop and fight the Infidel. The first shock of the Musselmen carried death into the ranks of the Christians, who were faint and weary with travel, and had been short of provisions for several days, and many fell from pure weakness, rather than from wounds. But Gerard de Ridefort, who, after clearing the defile of the enemy, had retired to the rear, came up with his Knights to the sup-

port of the van. The Templars, on this occasion, amply avenged the deaths of their brethren, and drove the troops of Musselmen like chaff on the wind before their levelled lances. The bishops and priests, many clad in complete armour, went through the ranks of the army inciting them to fight bravely in defence of the Cross. The Cross itself was placed upon an elevated spot, and around it were ranged the most intrepid and valiant of the Christians. They seemed to gather courage from its presence, and a circle of slain Musselmen around it proved how furious had been the endeavours of the enemy to capture it, and how gallantly the Christians had fought in its defence. Night, however, put an end to the conflict.

Instead of falling back and pitching their tents near some watering-place, or at all hazards cutting their way to the lake, the Christians encamped for the night on a dry and rocky ground. The King ordered this by the advice of the Count of Tripoli, whose conduct throughout the fight had been very suspicious. This advice was productive of the worst results. Encamped on an arid ground, in a sultry night, without water and far from springs, the condition of the Christians was horrible in the extreme. Parched with thirst, both men and horses lay down without being able to sleep, and rose up unrefreshed. When the Saracens observed them pitch their tents, they came and encamped close beside them, so that the soldiers of either camp could converse with the other; and not even a cat could have left the Christian camp without being discovered by the Saracens.

During the night, Baldwin de Fortune, Raymond Buck, and Laodicious de Tiberias, with three companions—being all Knights of the King—instructed by the diabolic Count of Tripoli, deserted from the Christian standard, went over to Saladin, and became Mahometans. They informed him of every particular of the state, intentions, and resources of the Christians; and Saladin thereupon determined to crush them on the morrow.

The Christians took advantage of the night to close up their ranks, but their power was exhausted. Many took the Sacrament, expecting death on the morrow; and, while some conjured each other to fight bravely in the coming fight, many of them gave way to despair, raising their hands to Heaven, and crying upon God to work a miracle in their favour. During the whole night the camp resounded with the beating of drums, and the blare of trumpets, in order to conceal their

dismay from the enemy, and to put on a semblance of joy and confidence. The Templars, like men whose lives and deaths were in the hand of God, and whose fate it might be to leave the morrow's field victors, or to be left dead on the plain, knelt down and repeated their devotions to Heaven, after which they took an affectionate farewell of each other, and, like children beside a father, they laid themselves down to slumber around the gallant De Ridefort, but ready at a moment's warning to spring into the saddle and charge the enemy. While the Christian army was depressed, the Saracen camp rang with songs and shouts of merriment, for the partial success of the day's fight had an exhilarating effect upon their spirits, while it damped the Christians'; and they, from the exhausted state of the Christians, looked for an easy victory on the morrow. Saladin, to excite their fanatic ardour, went through the ranks of his army, inflaming them with his presence and speeches. "To-morrow," he said, "is a festival for the true believers, for it is on Friday that Musselmen offer up their prayers, and that Mahomet listens to the vows that are made to him." His soldiers replied with loud cheers. Saladin then made his preparations for the morrow, placing archers on the heights, with four hundred charges of arrows, and disposed his army so skilfully, that from the beginning of the conflict the Christians were surrounded.

At last daylight appeared—the signal for the complete destruction of the Christian army. Terror seized them when they found themselves surrounded on all sides, and they gave vent to their dismay in cries and lamentations. Saladin waited till the sun was completely up before commencing the attack. From dawn, a strong wind blew great clouds of dust in the faces of the Christians, causing them immense annoyance. The Templars, at sunrise, sprang into their saddles, calm, silent, implacable, terrible. Not a muscle moved, as in battle array they waited in the van of the army to commence the attack. The condition of the Christian army could not escape the keen and experienced eye of De Ridefort. He saw that to save their lives, and to make an effective stand against Saladin, it would be necessary to reach the lake. Clouds of Musselman cavalry guarded the intervening ground, but the Grand Master knew what his Knights were capable of performing, and he arranged them in order, determining at all hazards to cut his way through the ranks of the

enemy, and to open up, for the Christians, a passage to the lake. At length De Ridefort gave the order to advance, which the Knights did at first slowly, but increasing in speed, till, like a thunderbolt, they broke upon the lines of the Musselmen, and in an instant they were splashed from helm to heel with the blood of their enemies. Never did Saladin meet worthier or braver enemies; and the light of the crescent paled, while its followers fell—smote to the earth as by an avalanche—before that gleaming wave of steel. Clad in complete armour, the sound of their advancing squadrons, like the loud humming of swarming bees, and animated by a flaming thirst for vengeance, the Musselmen fled before them, or fell to the ground, trampled into the earth beneath the iron hoofs of their chargers.

Saladin, on seeing his troops flee before the victorious Templars, ordered fire to be applied to the grass and small shrubs, which, on account of the drought and strong wind that prevailed, rapidly spread. The smoke blinded the eyes of the Knights and their horses, while the flames surrounded them, setting fire to the mantles of the Templars, and scorching their chargers' hoofs. This caused some confusion, upon which Saladin ordered a large body of troops to attack them. Undismayed, the gallant Templars continued the battle. Swords gleamed through the flames, and the Knights, rushing from behind masses of smoke and fire, precipitated themselves, lance in hand, upon the enemy. The spectacle which this extraordinary sight presented appears to have fired the imagination of the Arabian authors. The tongues of flame, the thick smoke, the clang of battle, the glancing weapons, fill them with admiration, and, in vain seeking for an earthly parallel, compare the fight to the Last Judgment. The thick smoke, through which might be dimly seen the rush of contending troops, the clouds of sparks swirling up into the air beneath the tread of the horses, the gleam of spears, and the flames of the cloaks of the Knights on fire, the yells of the combatants, the groans and shrieks of the dying, and the screams of wounded horses plunging madly in their death-throes, presented a spectacle alike terrible as it was sublime. "The sons of Paradise," says an Arabian, "and the children of fire then fought out and decided their terrible quarrel; the arrows rustled through the air like the noisy wings of innumerable sparrows in flight; the sparks flew from the coats of mail and the gleam-

ing sabres; the water of swords, the blood of arrows spurting forth from the bosom of the throng, deluged the earth like the floods of rain. The avenging sword of the true believers was drawn forth from its scabbard against the Infidel; the faith of the Unity was opposed to the faith of the Trinity, and speedy ruin, desolation, and destruction overtook the miserable crew of baptism."

The Hospitallers hastened to the assistance of the Templars, but their efforts to break through the wall of Infidels were unavailing. Many fell beneath their swords, but others sprang up in the places of the slain. About two miles distant lay the calm waters of Tiberias wooing them on, and, thirsty and fatigued, the Knights, as they caught sight of its blue deeps, renewed their attacks. Every inch of the road was fiercely contested, and the ground was soaked with the blood of the best and bravest of the Knights. The Templars and the Hospitallers were compelled to sound a halt, and to send to the King for succour. Upon hearing this, the Count of Tripoli, who now knew the day was Saladin's, followed by a few of his retainers, left the Christian army and rode off to the Saracens. Their ranks opened to receive him and he fled to Tyre. This desertion completed the dismay of the King. The troops he sent to the aid of the Knights were driven back upon the main body of the army, which was thereby thrown into confusion. A panic seized upon the Christians, and the Templars and Hospitallers were left unaided. They accordingly fell back upon the spot where the True Cross was borne by the Bishop of Acre, and where the battle now raged fiercest. Saladin, in a letter written after the fall of Jerusalem, compares the Christians fighting around the Cross to moths circling a candle. In the heat of the fight the Bishop of Acre was slain, and the Cross fell to the ground. Thereupon it was picked up by the Bishop of Lidda, who attempted to escape with it, but was captured. This completed the rout of the Christians. "That vivifying wood of the Cross of our Salvation," writes Vinisauf, "on which our Lord and Redeemer hung, and down whose shaft the holy blood of Christ flowed—the sign of which is adored by angels, venerated by men, and feared by devils—under whose protection our men have always been victors in war, alas! is now captured by the enemy. This was the second indignity—since Chosroes, King of the Persians—which that Holy Cross endured for our sins. It had redeemed us from the old yoke of

captivity, and now it was captured from us and soiled by the profane hands of the unbelievers." Hoveden ascribes the death of the Bishop of Acre to the righteous judgment of God; for, contrary to the usage of his predecessors, having greater faith in worldly arms than in heavenly ones, he went forth to battle equipped in a coat of mail, and perished, being pierced by an arrow.

Upon the capture of the Cross, the Christians fled. John Terricus, who had been attached to the person of the King, Reginald of Sidon, Balian d'Ibelin, and some of the lesser barons and knights, cut their way through the dense ranks of the enemy, and fled to the sea-side. The whole of the Hospitallers were slain with the exception of the Grand Master, who escaped to Ascalon, but died the day after his arrival, from his wounds. Many of the Christians fled to the slopes of Mount Hittin, but fell victims to the Musselmen placed there by Saladin to guard the passes. The Templars fought with their accustomed desperate bravery, refusing to surrender till they were all slain, or wounded and taken prisoner. Gerard de Ridefort, Renaud de Chatillon, and Guy de Lusignan fell into the hands of the enemy.

An Arabian historian thus describes the disasters of the Christians, "I saw the hills, the plains, the valleys, covered with their dead bodies. I saw their colours abandoned and soiled with blood and dust. I saw their heads cut off, their members dispersed, and their carcasses piled up like stones. Also, I saw two hundred famous warriors, whose strength was amazing, who had just marched forth with the mighty, guarded in one place by one Musselman. All their courage was gone, their pride crushed; their eyes were fixed in fear and trembling upon the ground. I called to mind, at the sight, the words of the Koran, 'The Infidel shall say, what am I but dust.' The lying Infidels were now in the hands of the true believers. Their King and their Cross were both captive; that Cross before which they bowed the head and bent the knee; which they bear aloft and worship with their eyes, for they declare it to be the same wood upon which their God, whom they adore, was fastened. They had covered it with fine gold and precious stones. They carried it before their armies, and all bowed before it with respect. It was their first duty to defend it, and he who should desert it would never enjoy peace of mind afterwards. The capture of this Cross was more grievous to them than the captivity of their King.

Nothing could compensate them for its loss. It was their God, and they prostrated themselves in the dust before it, and sang hymns when it was raised aloft." After the battle, the cords of the tents were not sufficient to bind the prisoners, and the Saracens drove them about like herds of pigs. The number was so great, that a Christian Knight was exchanged for a pair of shoes.

Saladin ordered the Grand Master of the Templars, Renaud de Chatillon, and Guy de Lusignan to be conveyed to a tent which he had caused to be prepared for their reception. Having completed his arrangements for pursuing the fleeing Christians, he entered the tent. He presented to the Grand Master and King Guy a bowl of sherbet—the sacred pledge among the Arabs of hospitality and security. They drank of it, but when Renaud was about to lift it to his lips, Saladin stopped him, saying, "This traitor shall not drink in my presence, for to him I shall show no favour." He then reproached him with his impiety, offered him the choice of acknowledging the Prophet, whom he had blasphemed, or death. Whatever blame may attach to this gallant man from his lawless acts against the Musselmen, his death was noble, and fitting one who had lived so courageously. Renaud declined abjuring the faith of his baptism, and laughed contemptuously in the face of the Sultan. Saladin, carried away by his wrath, struck him with his sword, whereupon he was immediately despatched by the attendants. "So they sent his soul to hell," writes an Arabian historian, "and cast his body out before the tent door."

On the morrow, Saladin proceeded to an act of barbarism, which tarnishes the effect of his glorious victory. His hatred of the Templars was so intense, that, with the exception of De Ridefort, from whom he intended to demand a ransom, he resolved to put every one of them to death. He commanded them to be brought before him, and swore to make an end of the unclean race. At the hour of sunset, the work of death commenced. The Templars were surrounded by the Sultan's Turkish emirs, dressed in their yellow robes, and bearing naked scymitars in their hands. The Knights were offered the choice of death or to become worshippers of Mahomet. The sun's rays were gilding the tops of the hills, and sparkling upon the waters of Tiberias, the scenes of many of our Lord's mightiest miracles. That sight animated them, and they to a man chose death. Around the

throne of the Sultan were grouped numbers of doctors of the law. Saladin permitted them each to slay a Knight. Many refused, and turned their eyes away from the carnage; but others, arming themselves with scymitars, fell upon and slaughtered the weaponless and pinioned Templars. Saladin sat on his throne enjoying the spectacle with brutal glee, and even applauded those who showed the most skill in butchering the Knights.

The Templars, on their part, manifested a degree of eagerness for martyrdom which perplexed and confounded the Musselmen. Brother Nicholas displayed much anxiety to be the first victim, and even strove with his companions for that distinction, which with difficulty he obtained. When about to receive the death-blow, he sang songs of rejoicing; and the chroniclers tell how that for three nights a celestial light burned above the unburied body of the Christian martyr. His companions, fired by his enthusiasm, gladly welcomed death; and many of the Christians, who had been brought out to view the massacre, threw around them the white mantle of the Order, that, dying with the Knights, they might enter with them the gates of Heaven.

After this decisive victory, the Countess of Tripoli surrendered the citadel of Tiberias to Saladin, and was permitted by him to rejoin her husband. Raymond attempted afterwards to renew his negotiations with Saladin for the throne of Jerusalem, but the Sultan would no longer treat with him. He had resolved to destroy the power of the Christians for ever in the Holy Land, and to restore it to the followers of the Prophet. Disappointed in this scheme, and cast off by the Christians, Raymond was found shortly after dead in his bed, having fallen a martyr to disappointed ambition and despair. The Musselmen accused him of having broken the most solemn treaties, and the Christians of having betrayed both his God and his brethren. Several of the chroniclers accuse him of having secretly become a Mahometan, but his actions prove better the complete villainy and worthlessness of his character.

*(To be continued.)*

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MASONS, OBEY YOUR ORDERS.—How many victories have been lost because subordinates considered the orders of their superiors unreasonable or unwise. "Sire," said the Marshal to Napoleon, "it is impossible to lead the troops by the route you have pointed out." "Let me see the order," said Napoleon. He took it, read it, returned it, and only said, "That is your order; execute it." He did execute it; and the army of Napoleon was soon bearing the victorious eagles of France across the plains of Lombardy.

## FREEMASONRY CONSIDERED.

## WORTHY AND UNWORTHY BRETHREN.

The query, Who ought to be a Freemason? has for some time occupied my attention. We are taught that the object and duty of the Craft is to be allied with mankind for the good of mankind. Reading an article in a back number of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, reminds me in words similar to the above, of our duties as members of the Fraternity. Each brother should question himself, Have I done my duty? Have I exercised myself in those "cardinal virtues" we profess to uphold? Has the three "great principles" found in me an exponent? Am I a worthy member of that Fraternity which claims the great and good of all ages as fellows? which has existed from the very dawn of time; whose origin is lost in the dim vista of the past, which has out-lived all other societies; has seen the various ancient mysteries rise and fall, while it is steadily progressing in its onward march to perfection, spreading its ramifications in every corner of the earth, exalting those virtues we prize.

We have men of all shades of political and religious opinion in the Fraternity; men who are an honour to any society with which they are connected; men who are earnest and zealous in the cause they are pledged to maintain; whose course of life is one of well squared conduct and upright actions, whose love for their fellows is known by their practice of those leading principles, we are proud to acknowledge as the firm base of our great superstructure. Their life is strictly associated with that which is great and good. These are Masons indeed. 'Tis such as those men who have preserved our Fraternity through countless generations. These are truly brethren. These are men who have done honour to the Craft, honour to the country and times in which they lived. To such as those the poet alluded when he wrote—

"Lives of great men all remind us  
We may make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time,"

for surely such are the great men, the truly noble, great, and good in every age. Men who devote their talents and their substance for others welfare, whose aim through life is good to men, and honour to their God.

The question should occur to every worthy brother, How can I best serve the Craft? My answer would be in the words of Bro. Fox (as stated page 254 of the *F. M.* for September). He

attributed the perfect harmony with which they worked, to the "scrupulous care they exercised in admitting members," and I quite agree with him in advising and strongly impressing it upon every brother to study quality, rather than quantity, in admitting members to a lodge, and not excuse an admission (as did a member of a lodge which I venerate) on account of the lowness of the funds.

A Freemason after all is but human. The lodge can have but little influence over the rampant passions of the man when without its doors, yet I ask of my brethren, is it not their duty to deprecate the conduct of a brother, and, if possible, bring him to a sense of his unworthiness? When he has not only been guilty of an offence against the recognised laws of the Fraternity, but has also been publicly pronounced guilty by one of the tribunals of his country, ought he not to be censured for his conduct, denounced as an erring, unworthy brother, who was inadvertently admitted to the sacred mysteries of the Craft.

The case which has elicited the above remarks, was that of A. H. W., who was recently convicted at Cambridge, of an assault in a railway carriage on a child of tender years. He, too, ranking as P.M. in a lodge in the province. If the Fraternity tacitly acknowledge such conduct in a prominent member, it will materially damage the interest of the Craft in the neighbourhood: of which the following testimony of a gentleman is ample evidence:—"If such men (alluding to ——) are prominent in your society, you must know that to the outside world, as you call it, it appears the greater honour to have no connection with it."

As I have trespassed to a great extent on your space I will just remark, in conclusion, on a statement given in a former number, as conclusive evidence of the feeling existing between members of the Craft, and their good offices one to another, (viz. at p. 248), of a ship attacked by pirates. The captain saved both ship and crew by being acknowledged as a Mason by his piratical brother.

In a Fraternity widespread as Freemasonry, we must of necessity have many erring brethren. Where we have not influence enough to reclaim, where publicity can do no good in that line, would it not be well to exercise that other virtue—silence? And as there is no great honour attached, individually or collectively, by acknowledging pirates or brigands as having belonged to the Fraternity, it would have been well if the passage alluded to had remained among the unwritten annals of Freemasonry.—Lux.

## MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

## THE WORD "PAPIST."

A correspondent justly complains of the word "Papist," which occurred in the last line of my communication "Notions of Freemasonry," FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, No. 433, page 307. It is an offensive word. It did not, however, come from my pen. What I wrote was "Trappist," but my badly-formed letters have on this, as on so many other occasions, misled the printer. In the same communication, line 9, for "truths" read "virtues," and line 10, for "contribute" read "constitute."—C. P. COOPER.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

## PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In the *Saturday Review* of the 30th ult. there appeared an article on the above subject, wherein the writer, after stating that it is impossible to suppose that the exploration of the Holy Land will be abandoned for want of funds, says, "Whether the great, generous, and influential body of Freemasons will respond to Mr. Porter's impassioned appeal to contribute to an undertaking in which they must feel a special interest—the complete investigation of the remains of the Jewish Temple, *is more than we are able to decide*; but we are certain that the mass of the English people simply require information as to what is being done to awaken their interest and secure their aid."

The italics are my own, but the words italicised express a doubt but too often expressed on the part of the outside world, that we of the Fraternity of Masons are but too indifferent to anything but what immediately concerns ourselves, that we are an *effete* body, grown too old for these days of utilitarianism, and that, in fact, we are useless, and, like the barren fig tree, "only encumber the ground."

I am afraid the world is right after all. What good is Masonry doing, I would ask, in England at this moment?

How many of us interest ourselves in the restoration of those noble churches and cathedrals which were built by our ancestors? How often do we each in our own locality (in our character of Masons) support the local charities as we should? How do we prove to the world at large that we are worthy to be regarded as the exponents of a great religion and the worthy descendants of worthy ancestors? As Brutus says, "I pause for a reply."

It is a common remark that we Masons only seem to meet that we may enjoy good dinners; and if one only takes up a number of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, is it not common to see the greater part of the portion devoted to Masonic meetings taken up with a description of the banquet which followed, and the toasts which were given and responded to, winding up, as usual, with the somewhat trite remark that

"the meeting was characterised by that love and harmony which distinguishes Freemasonry?"

It is all very well to say that we support some noble charities, although Freemasonry is not a friendly society, but, after all, I am not sure that there is anything very laudable in this, since the recipients of our bounty are Freemasons' widows or children, and our benevolence is confined to the members of our household. A father who supported his children, or the children who support their aged parents, might as well claim the admiration of the world for simply doing what the law requires of them, as we who only in like manner do our duty and nothing more.

In this noble work which Mr. Porter appeals to the Freemasons to support, we have an opportunity of showing to the world that there is some merit in Freemasonry after all, if we only avail ourselves of it.

Let Grand Lodge vote out of its large revenues such a sum towards the Exploration Fund as shall do credit to that august body, and to the multitude it represents.

We claim to be descended from those craftsmen of old who raised the Temple of Solomon, our Grand Master. How can we dare assert that claim in the face of the whole world if we do not aid in such a glorious undertaking as the exploration of the City of Jerusalem, in which that Temple stood, and where the remains of the Temple of Zerubbabel and that of Herod now stand?

To my brother Knights Templar I particularly appeal, as the representatives of those Knights of the Temple whose Order was instituted for the defence of the Holy Sepulchre.

Our learned Bro. ✠ Rev. H. B. Tristram, whose researches in the Holy Land have already made him famous, is to accompany the expedition, and we may be sure that Masonic interests will be safe in his hands.

Trusting that the subject will be brought forward at the next meeting of Grand Lodge, and that some brother more able than myself will advocate the claims of the Palestine Exploration Fund before that assembly.

Yours fraternally,

✠ A. E. 30°,

Knight of the Royal Order of Scotland.

## A MASONIC IMPOSTOR.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your impression of the 7th inst. there appeared a letter from Bro. H. A. Williamson, W.M. 200, relative to a begging impostor named James Black, of St. Stephen's Lodge, No. 145, Edinburgh. I beg to say that he is the same individual that I wrote to you about, which appeared in your MAGAZINE of the 19th of October, and which has been the origin of the correspondence under the head "Looseness in Masoury." I do hope the letters that have appeared since then will not have been written in vain, but that some steps will be taken to put a stop to this rascally system, which is disgraceful to the Craft, and injurious to all really deserving cases.

Yours fraternally,

P.M.



## THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

### MASONIC MEMS.

**MASONIC LIFEBOAT.**—At the suggestions of numerous brethren, we have opened a subscription list for the above very laudable purpose, and we are sure that it need only be more fully known to ensure a hearty response from the whole Craft. Subscriptions will be received by the publisher of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, at the publishing office, 19, Salisbury-street, and will be duly acknowledged. Money may be remitted by post-office orders or crossed cheques, payable to the order of John Rust, publisher FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE.

On Tuesday, the 17th inst., there will be a convocation of the Union Chapter, 310, Carlisle, at about 10 a.m.; also a Mark meeting at 1.30 p.m. The annual meeting of the Union Lodge of Craft Masons will celebrate the Festival of St. John on the above date, when it is expected that there will be one raising and two initiations, in addition to the installation of Bro. John Slack as W.M. for the ensuing year. The dinner will be held in the evening, at the Coffee House Hotel.

### GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge of England took place on Wednesday evening, the 4th inst., in Freemasons' Hall, and was very numerously attended by members of the Craft. The Right Hon. Bro. the Earl de Grey and Ripon presided as Grand Master, Bro. Lord Eliot, M.P., S.G.W., and Bro. Perkins as J.G.W., Bro. Dobie, Prov. G.M. for Surrey, as Deputy Grand Master, and we observed on the dais Bros. Lord de Tabley, Prov. G. Master for Cheshire; Rev. J. Huyshe, Prov. G. Master for Devonshire; Havers, P.G.W.; Savage and Hopwood, P.G.D.'s; Revs. J. F. Thomas and J. Simpson, Grand Chaplains; E. S. Snell, P.G.D.; Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; Mason, P.G.S.B.; Emmens, P.G. Purst.; Lucas J. McIntyre, Grand Registrar; J. M. Clabon, P.S.G.D.; Patten, P.G.S.B.; A. W. Woods, G. Dir. of Cers.; Dr. Jabez Hogg and Metham, J.D.'s; J. R. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; Gray Clarke, G. Sec.; Farnfield, P.G. Assist. Sec.; and many others whose names we were unable to ascertain. The body of the hall was also fully occupied.

Precisely at eight o'clock the Grand Director of Ceremonies, Bro. A. Woods, announced the approach of the officers of Grand Lodge, and a procession was formed in the usual order. As intimated above, in the absence of the Right Hon. Bro. the Earl of Zetland, the throne was occupied by the Right Hon. Bro. the Earl de Grey and Ripon.

The Grand Lodge was then opened in due form and with solemn prayer, Bro. the Rev. R. Thomas, Senior G. Chaplain, invoking a blessing on the proceedings.

#### THE MINUTES OF THE LAST QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

Bro. GRAY CLARKE, G. Sec., read the minutes of the last Quarterly Communication of the 4th of September, which were put to the vote, and unanimously confirmed.

#### NOMINATION OF GRAND MASTER.

Bro. J. SHARPE, D.C.L., said: I rise to propose the nomination of the Most Worshipful the Earl of Zetland as Grand

Master of Masons for the ensuing year. I feel that it would be a want of supererogation in me to say anything in favour of one who loves Masonry so well, and a love which has been fully reciprocated by us as Masons during the twenty-six years that his lordship has filled that office, and, therefore, I propose his nomination as Grand Master for the ensuing year.

Bro. Colonel DUMAS seconded the nomination.

Bro. MATTHEW COOKE, Sec. 23, said he rose to make another nomination. In March last, his lordship who was then in the chair called him to order when he was about to make a similar motion, telling him that he was too late in his opposition to the re-election of the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Bro. BRACKSTONE BAKER rose to order, but the Grand Master ruled that Bro. Cooke was perfectly in order.

Bro. COOKE then proceeded, and said on that occasion when his lordship called him to order, he informed him that he was not at liberty to criticise the appointment made by the Grand Master, however prejudicial he might think them to be, as it was his lordship's prerogative, and he was perfectly at liberty to do as he might think fit. In deference to that ruling, he (Bro. Cooke) gave way. He then held in his hand an extract from the Grand Steward's book, and in that he found that at a Grand Lodge held in 1779, it was passed that no brother should hold a Grand Lodge appointment unless he belonged to the Grand Stewards' Lodge at the time of his appointment. He might be told that the rule was obsolete, but if he looked at the "Book of Constitutions" he did not find that it was considered as obsolete, for there it was required that an increased fee should be paid to Grand Lodge by those who had not served the office of Grand Steward. Now those who sent Grand Stewards had rights to maintain, and he, as a member of a red apron lodge, found that for twenty-six years but two members of that lodge had been chosen for the honour of becoming Grand Officers. He said that they had one Grand Officer who ruled the Craft with a rod of iron. (Cries of "Name, name.") Oh, they need not fear, he would name him. He was their own servant and Secretary, but instead of meeting them in a kind and generous spirit when they sought his counsel, those who went to him only wished to get out of his office and return to their own business as soon as possible. Well, then, as they could not get rid of the Grand Secretary, because the Grand Master would always re-appoint him, what they had to do, as was done in many other instances, was to get rid of the Grand Master, so that by those means they might get rid of the Grand Secretary. He had, however, a still stronger reason why they should get rid of him, when he found that one of the *employés* of the Grand Secretary was playing fast and loose with the allegiance of that Grand Lodge. One of his own clerks, whom they paid for what he was doing, had the Grand Secretary's countenance for what he was doing, in endeavouring to establish another jurisdiction in the Craft. He contended that it was not right that through Bro. Clarke, the Grand Master should thus be dragged through the mire. He said distinctly that they must mark their sense of such things, which he should do by proposing another candidate for the office of Grand Master. He should therefore propose himself as a candidate for the office of Grand Master.

The ACTING G. MASTER: Who seconds the nomination? After a pause, he said, "As no one seconds the motion the nomination falls to the ground."

Bro. WARREN: It was held two or three years ago that a nomination does not require seconding, and that was the ruling of the Grand Master.

The matter then dropped.

## THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

Twelve Past Masters to serve on the Board of Benevolence were nominated for the ensuing year, it being stated that only twelve were candidates for that office; and when the names were read over and it was found that they were nearly all the same who had served for many years, remarks were made, *sotto voce*, that it was almost a matter of form, and suggestions were made as to the propriety of a little new blood being infused amongst them. The twelve names were, however, agreed to.

The reports of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter were presented, which contained the following recommendations for grants to members and a widow of a Freemason:—

Bro. William W., Vitruvian Lodge, No. 87, Lambeth ...	£ 40
Bro. D. D. G., Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 271, Brighton	30
Bro. R. M., St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 231, London .....	30
The Widow of the late Bro. T. E. L., Lodge of Israel, No. 205, London .....	50

These grants were unanimously agreed to.

## BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The following report of the Board of General Purposes was presented:—

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of England.

The Board of General Purposes beg to report as follows:—

1. A complaint was received from the Lodge of Benevolence against the Royal Forest Lodge, No. 401, at Slaidburn, West Yorkshire, for having certified that a petitioner for relief had been a regular subscribing member for twenty years and upwards, whereas Grand Lodge dues appeared to have been paid for him for nine years and three quarters only. On examination of the minute book of the lodge, which contained but scanty records of the proceedings, it appeared that the brother referred to was initiated in December, 1835, but seems to have ceased to be a member in June, 1837. From the returns of the lodge the petitioner appears to have rejoined in January, 1858. No moneys of Grand Lodge were found to have been retained, but the lodge having been reprimanded in 1861, for withholding moneys the property of Grand Lodge, the Board imposed a fine on the lodge, and ordered the warrant and book to be retained until the fine was paid.

2.—A complaint was also received from the Lodge of Benevolence against the Everton Lodge, No. 823, at Liverpool, for having certified that a petitioner's late husband had been a contributing member of the Lodge of Joppa, No. 188, London, for two years and upwards, whereas it appeared from the Grand Lodge books that no Grand Lodge dues whatever had been paid in respect of the deceased brother. The Master and Wardens of both lodges were summoned to attend and produce their warrants and books. On investigation it appeared that the Everton Lodge had been misled by a statement made by the Secretary of the Lodge of Joppa, and the Board considered that the Everton Lodge had not intentionally made an incorrect statement, and returned the warrant and books. With regard to the Lodge of Joppa, the Board, after carefully examining such books of the lodge as were produced—the Treasurer's book having been, as was stated, accidentally destroyed by fire,—resolved that under the circumstances the deceased brother must be deemed to have been a subscribing member of the Lodge of Joppa for two years and a half, and that the lodge be therefore required to pay quarterages to Grand Lodge for that period, which having been paid the warrant and books were returned.

3.—A complaint was also received from the Lodge of Benevolence against Bro. Charles Hewitt, of the St. Thomas' Lodge, No. 142, London, for neglecting to attend the Lodge of Bene-

volence to support a petition for relief which he had recommended. The Board summoned Bro. Hewitt to attend before them to give explanation. From the medical certificate and letters which were laid before the Board, it appeared that Bro. Hewitt had been for some considerable time and still continued wholly unable to attend to business, and under the circumstances the Board accepted the explanation.

(Signed) J. LLEWELLYN EVANS, President.

Freemasons' Hall, 19th November, 1867.

Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS, President of the Board, moved that the report be received, entered on the minutes, and adopted, which was put and agreed to.

To the report was subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 14th inst., showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £1,693 18s. 5d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £50. Of these sums there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence £629 3s. 9d., to the Fund of General Purposes £3,654 7s. 11d., and in the Unappropriated Account £160 6s. 9d.

## COLONIAL BOARD.

A report was presented from the Colonial Board, which stated that a printed copy of a report and resolutions purporting to be "Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina on the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th of December, A.L. 5866," having been transmitted by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina to the Grand Lodge of England, calling special attention to passages therein relating to the Grand Lodge of England, the same was laid before the M.W. Grand Master the Earl of Zetland, who was thereupon pleased to refer it to this Board for consideration, with directions to report thereon to Grand Lodge.

The said report and resolutions contain charges and allegations against certain lodges in Halifax, Nova Scotia, therein stated to be working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, which charges emanated from a report of a so-called "Committee of Jurisprudence appointed by the said Grand Lodge of North Carolina" at their then last annual Communication, on an information said to have been filed at the previous Communication of the last-mentioned Grand Lodge by St. John's Lodge, No. 1, in its jurisdiction, against the Athol Lodge, No. 65, and the Keith Lodge, No. 36 or 61, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The subject of complaint was contained in the following communication:—

Bro. R. W. York, from the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence appointed at the last Annual Communication, submitted a report, as follows, which was read and adopted:—

"To the M.W. Grand Lodge of N. C.

"The Committee of Masonic Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the information, filed at the last Grand Communication of this Grand Body by St. John's Lodge, No. 1, in this jurisdiction, against Athol Lodge, No. 65, and Keith Lodge, No. 36 or 61, Halifax, Nova Scotia, working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, beg leave to report:—

"That a paper writing was placed in their hands in words and figures following:—

"St. John's Hall, Wilmington, N.C.,

"Nov. 21th, 1864, A.L. 5864.

"At a regular meeting of St. John's Lodge (No. 1), held this day, the following resolution was adopted—

"Whereas, it has been represented to this lodge that certain persons, residents of this jurisdiction, and some of them rejected petitioners to this lodge for the degrees of Masonry, have visited Halifax, N.S., and there received the degrees, therefore,

"Resolved—That our delegates to the next meeting of the Grand Lodge be instructed to call the attention of that body to the subject, and furnish it with all the facts within their knowledge.

M. H. WOODLUEE, Sec.

"A true copy from the minutes.

"W. M. FORSSON, Sec. St. John's Lodge (No. 1).

"Nov. 1, 1865."

A long statement here follows, explanatory of the above, in which it is alleged highly improper persons have been admitted into Freemasonry. On these different points the Colonial Board reports as follow :

In pursuance of the direction given by the M.W. Grand Master, this Board has considered the reported proceedings of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina so far as relate to the said statements and allegations, and now reports to Grand Lodge:—

1st. That they have no facts before them to show, or means of ascertaining, whether the said statements and allegations are true or not. Or whether the Halifax lodges—viz., the Athol Lodge (No. 65), and Keith Lodge (No. 36 or 61)—if in fact there be any such Masonic lodges in existence—had authority to work under the rite or constitution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. But the Board feel relieved from the necessity of any investigation on those points, for the reason that neither of the lodges referred to were, or are, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England; neither were they amongst the lodges which were continued under the Grand Lodge of England, and excepted from the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada when that Grand Lodge was recognised by the Grand Lodge of England.

2nd. That the said report especially refers to "the action of the Masonic congress at Paris" as an authority against admission of candidates for Freemasonry being limited to lodges acting under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the country of their *fixed* residence; but it is not stated in the said report by what authority such congress assembled, or the powers vested in the members thereof, enabling them to legislate on that or any other subject connected with the Craft; neither is it pretended that the Grand Lodge of England was represented at the same, and, therefore, lodges acting under warrants from the Grand Lodge of England cannot be bound by anything that was done at the alleged congress. Nevertheless, the Board of opinion—That while there are strong objections to the *indiscriminate* initiation of any persons whatsoever into the mysteries of the Craft, there is no objection to the initiation of, and giving degrees to, sojourners who are known to any of the brethren, and who are also well and worthily recommended, and provided that in all respects there is full and perfect compliance with the provisions contained in the "Book of Constitutions."

3rd. That from information from time to time derived from the district lodges abroad, working under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, the Board feels bound in justice to the brethren of such district lodges to say that, in their belief, proper attention and caution are observed by the members of the same lodges to all the requisites previously to initiation, as well as to the rules laid down in the "Book of Constitutions." And, further, that the proceedings of such lodges are usually conducted in conformity with the ancient landmarks of the Order.

4th. In conclusion, the Board cannot but express regret that the statements and allegations contained in the said printed report have been permitted by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina to go forth, as inasmuch as it might have been easily ascertained whether the Athol Lodge, No. 65, or the Keith

Lodge, No. 36 or 61, Halifax, Nova Scotia (for here it may be noticed that the Committee of Masonic jurisprudence were uncertain by which of the two numbers the last-mentioned lodge should be designated), were working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England or not; and if due care had been observed by that Committee, the scandal and reflections upon lodges alleged to have been working under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England might have been avoided, and the Grand Lodge of North Carolina would, it is presumed, in such case have abstained from passing the said resolution in reference to the matter contained in the report.

(Signed) J. S. S. HORWOOD, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, November 5th, 1867.

Bro. HORWOOD, President, moved that the report be received and entered on the minutes, and that a copy of it should be sent to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The following report of the Building Committee was presented:—

The Committee beg to report that the work entrusted to them is, so far as the buildings are concerned, now completed. The first stone was laid in April, 1864, the new Freemasons' Hall was finished in February, 1866, and the rebuilding of the Tavern is now concluded. The tenants of the Tavern have for some time had possession, and their occupancy at the increased rent commenced on the 11th of November.

It will be right that, having reached this period, the Committee should place before Grand Lodge a short recapitulation of their proceedings as contained in former reports.

The original cost of the new buildings was estimated at about £50,000. The contracts for the building proper amounted to £44,080; this was not inclusive of repairs to the old buildings, or of any extras.

The total amount of monies paid up to the present time is £58,809 3s. 3d., and there will be other charges which will probably amount to £3,000 in addition. This will, doubtless, at first view, appear a very large sum. Your committee can only repeat that they have spared neither pains or personal trouble to avoid any expenses which were not absolutely necessary, and they refer—first, to what they have said in former reports as to the unavoidable expense arising from the necessity for shoring, underpinning old walls, pumping, drainage, and general repairs to the old tavern; and, secondly, that the sum above referred to includes many charges which cannot properly be considered as being part of the cost of the building, but which the committee include because the money has passed through their hands, and they feel it to be their duty to give an accurate account of their stewardship to Grand Lodge.

It will thus be found that, with the exception of the purchase of land, and of marble columns, none of these expenses could have been avoided. As regards the latter, the committee felt that in so noble a building it would have been a sad mistake for all time if they had permitted any sham to find a place in it; as regards the land, the committee are more than ever satisfied that the acquisition of it is most valuable, not only as affording a means of entrance at the south, but as preventing the possibility of inconvenience which might have arisen from the construction of any other large building in close proximity to Freemasons' Hall. It may be added that the land in question will probably produce a fair return for the outlay.

The building of Mr. Malby's workshops, though an actual necessity, cannot properly be included in the cost of Freemasons' Hall; it is now paying 7½ per cent. for the outlay, and at the end of the ten years' lease will pay double that interest. The

committee likewise desire to observe, that in making their contracts they were obliged to do so subject to an increase in the event of there being a rise in the price of wages; that rise (as all know) took place some two years ago, and the extra cost on that account alone is considerable. Further, it is to be remembered that the committee have received the sum of £5,000 as premium on the lease of the new Tavern, which sum should be taken into consideration when estimating the total cost.

At the commencement of the work there was a sum of £21,000 Consols belonging to the Fund for General Purposes, and authority was given to the committee to borrow, on mortgage of the freehold and buildings, a sum not exceeding £19,000 from the Fund of Benevolence. All claims have been discharged up to the present time, and there will be sufficient in hand to defray the further charges already referred to. The committee have borrowed the sum of £17,500 from the Fund of Benevolence, upon which interest at the rate of 4 per cent has been paid, and the principal of which the committee trust, to see in a very few years replaced to the credit of the Fund of Benevolence.

There are heavy penalties due by the builder for delay in carrying on the works; for that delay, in almost every instance, the builder is solely responsible, and there has been no reason why, if ordinary diligence had been employed, the building should not have been completed within the agreed-on-time, viz., November 1st., 1866.

The consequence of the delay has been not only great inconvenience to the Craft and the tenants, but has been a positive loss to the Craft of the increased rent payable by the tenants for the Tavern, and of the rents payable by the lodges for the use of the various rooms in Freemasons' Hall.

The committee have already reported the rates which they had fixed should be paid for the use of the various rooms, as follow:—For the "Zetland" and "De Grey," £2 2s. for each meeting; for the "Dalhousie" and "Moirs," £1 11s. 6d. for each meeting; for the "Preston," £1 1s.; and these rates have been approved of by Grand Lodge.

There are at present fifty-five lodges and chapters meeting in Freemasons' Hall, and the committee anticipate that (the buildings being now finished), if the brethren find that their wishes in reference to the banquets after lodges are reasonably attended to, that many more lodges will hold their meetings in the new building.

No rent has been hitherto paid by lodges; the Committee beg to recommend the following resolution for the adoption of Grand Lodge viz. :—

"That the rents for the use of lodge rooms shall commence and be payable on and after the 1st January, 1868."

With reference to the coffee-room and library, the Committee have to report that they have given the subject their full consideration, and they beg to submit the following resolutions for the approval of Grand Lodge, viz. :—

"That the subscription of Masons residing within the London district shall be to the coffee-room, £1 1s.; and to the library, 10s. per annum."

"That the subscription of Masons residing out of the London district shall be—to the coffee-room, 10s. 6d.; and to the library, 10s."

"That a subscription of £1 11s. 6d. per annum from any country lodge shall entitle its Master and Wardens for the time being to all the privileges of the coffee-room and library."

"That strangers, being Masons, who may be temporarily residing in England, shall be permitted to use the coffee-room

and library upon being introduced, in writing, by a subscriber, and upon payment of subscription of 5s. for one month."

"That the amount of these subscriptions shall be subject to revision, and to increase or otherwise, but that the subscription of original members (in which list shall be included all those who become subscribers on or before the 1st June, 1868) shall, under no circumstances, be increased."

It has been found necessary to delay the finishing and furnishing of the library until the remainder of the building was completed; the subscription to it will, of course, not commence until it is fit for use.

There yet remains another subject of great importance to which it is requisite that the attention of Grand Lodge should be directed, namely, the necessity of repairing and re-decorating the great hall, and thus rendering it worthy of its place in the Masonic temple. The Committee have purposely deferred the consideration of this subject until the new works were completed; they now ask for authority to consider it, and for that purpose submit the following resolution, viz. :—

"That the Buildings' Committee be directed to consider the subject of the repair and re-decoration of the great hall, and to report thereon to the Grand Lodge at its Q. C. in March next."

The Committee cannot conclude their report without congratulating the Craft on the great work just completed. The Committee are well aware of their many short-comings, but looking to the whole result, they feel a pardonable pride in believing that they have deserved the confidence reposed in them.

As was promised by them, there is now completed a Masonic temple which, taking into consideration the nature and difficulties of the site, possesses qualities which entitle it fairly to take rank with some of the best buildings in the metropolis. It is entirely separate from, but ministered to by, a tavern, which for extent, completeness of accommodation, and elegance of arrangement, is not only not surpassed but is unequalled by any similar building in London.

(Signed) JOHN HAVERS, Chairman.

Freemasons' Hall,

London, Nov. 20th, 1867.

BRO. HAVERS, Chairman of the Committee, moved that the report be received and entered on the minutes, and, in doing so, said he was rejoiced to see that noble meeting that evening before him. Having listened to the luxuriant address of one brother and the very curtailed speeches of other brethren who had reports to present, he thought that there must be something in the background, and it almost seemed that he was to be the victim. He was then before them to propose that the report be received and entered on the minutes. If they agreed to that it pledged them to nothing, for, when they had done that, he proposed to submit to them a series of resolutions which they would find in the report set forth in italics, and he should ask the brethren to vote for them. At the same time he was prepared to answer any question that might fairly be put to him, or to any other member of the Committee; therefore, it would be open to any brother to ask him any questions, and he would answer them as far as his judgment would allow.

BRO. LORD ELLOR, S.G.W., said the echoes of the room were very unsatisfactory, and he would suggest that the speaker should come into the middle of the room and read the resolutions, so that those at his end of it might know something as to what was going on.

BRO. BRACKSTONE BAKER said the Chairman of the Building Committee had given them permission to ask any questions arising out of the report. There were two questions that naturally presented themselves when they had the report of the

Committee before them, as to the Grand Lodge property, which could not fail to be present to their minds. He observed by the report that the tenants of the Tavern had been charged with the increased rent from the 11th of November. The first question he wanted to ask was, whether the tenants had had any opportunity of dissenting from the dictum laid down by the Building Committee. The second question he wished to ask was, whether the Building Committee intended to enforce the penalties against the contractor for not having completed the building by the prescribed time. He would admit it was ungracious to find fault with the leading spirit of that committee, as he believed that no committee could be formed better adapted for the work entrusted to them, as the brethren would be put in the possession of an admirable structure; and if any one in future years should ask what Bro. Havers had done, he would reply "*Circumspice.*" His object in rising was not to ask in *miserecordiam*, but as a matter of right—looking at the delay that had occurred; and as it was required that the whole of the buildings should be completed by the 1st of November, 1866; taking, too, into account that there had been great delay in the completion of the building, that they had lost the profit of an entire year—whether they intended that the penalties were to be enforced, for it had been a great hardship upon them.

Bro. WARREN wished to ask the members of the Building Committee whether it was true, as was reported, that the Masonic coffee-room was to be included in the lease of the Tavern. All that he could say was, that it was not so understood when it was first proposed. It was then fully understood that they were to have the coffee-room to themselves. If they were not to have the exclusive use of the coffee-room, he wanted to know what guarantee they were to have that they should only be charged proper prices for the use of that room. What guarantee would they have that they would not be charged two shillings and sixpence for a plate of beef that could be obtained elsewhere for ninepence?

Bro. HUBBUCK wanted to know if the property had been handed over to the Tavern Company, and whether the workmen were still employed as at the commencement of the rental.

Bro. BENNOCH suggested that the chairman of the Building Committee should not be called upon to answer perhaps a hundred questions together, and thought it would be better that he should answer each specific question as it was put by the speaker, and it would at once prevent any misunderstanding.

Bro. HAVERS said he could assure Bro. Bennoch, having worked three years and a half for them, that if he sat there until eight o'clock in the morning he would answer every question that they might put to him, and he would proceed to answer those that had been already put to him. He was the executive officer of the committee, but he trusted that the brethren would not be too hard upon him. In answer to Bro. Baker's first question, he said that the increased rent for the Tavern commenced on the 11th of November. He was also asked if the tenants had had notice. Now, he would put the brethren in possession of a few facts, and they might be told in a few words. They undertook to erect a new building, which undertaking was given to Bro. Shrewsbury, and by him it was handed over to the new Tavern Company. They had hoped to have completed that building by Midsummer last, but, at the end of October, when he (Bro. Havers) was in the country, he received a telegraphic message, asking permission to let the new hall for the Dickens' dinner, and asking permission to effect some stucco and paintings upon it, and he replied that they could do so, provided it was with the sanction of their own (the Craft's) architect, and at their own expense. He informed Bro. Gosden that they were welcome to do that, if by so doing they accepted the tenancy, and did the painting at their own expense, but gave directions to Dudley not to allow anything to be done until they accepted the tenancy. Dudley, on that, locked the door, and put the key in his pocket, but something was done to get possession of the room, and, being decorated and painted, it was let for profit for the Dickens' dinner, and now they said they would not pay the rent, because there were about half-a-dozen bricklayers employed in doing some minor works, which, he said, was one of the most ingenious, and, he would say, one of the most audacious, things he ever heard of. He (Bro. Havers) said he considered them as their tenants, but, having painted the walls, and thereby incurred some expense, he said he considered it would be only fair that they should come in, and the increased rent begin at the half quarter. As to

whether the penalties for the non-completion of the building at the prescribed time were to be enforced, that was a very delicate matter, and he thought it would be better if the Committee were not asked to enforce them. That very morning he had received what he considered to be a great curiosity in the form of a lawyer's letter, asking, if any of those penalties were received, that they should be handed over to the Tavern Company, and they were told that they had a good claim against the Grand Lodge; and the letter went on further to say that, if those penalties were obtained, out of them they were going to pay the shareholders a dividend. There was one point which had been raised, and that was one of deep moment. They had been asked not to insist in giving up the name "Freemasons' Tavern." Now, he was an old Mason, and he could say that it was the earnest desire of his heart to see a separation of Freemasonry from tavern Freemasonry. From his earliest days he had always spoken of the necessity of their Craft having a temple devoted to Freemasonry, but completely separated from tavern accommodation. He liked "creature comforts" after labour, but, at the same time, nothing tended so much to ennoble their Order as by a complete separation of it from tavern purposes. He found that the Dickens' dinner was advertised at every railway station to be held in Freemasons' Hall; but over and over again it had been pointed out to Bro. Shrewsbury, and the fact he had pointed out, as the representative of Grand Lodge, that they had been advised to build a place, so that they might have refreshment at a reasonable rate, and pay a rent for the lodge rooms. He contended that the interests of the landlord were identical with the interests of the Craft. He had been asked if he had received a legal letter from Bro. Vallance, in which he disputed that the tenants had obtained possession. He had received such a letter from Bro. Vallance, the solicitor to the Company, but he did not give his reasons. He had to state that the coffee-room, or, as it was then called "The Edinburgh," was reserved for Masonic purposes, and would be maintained inviolable from any other purposes than their own. The dining-room and coffee-room were especially excepted. He should be happy to answer any further questions, but, as agents of the Craft, they were determined not to sacrifice one tittle of their interests.

Bro. WELLINGTON VALLANCE said allusion had been made to his name as the solicitor to the Freemasons' Tavern Company. He should not have risen, and had no intention of doing so, and should have kept silent, but that Bro. Havers had thought fit to allude to him. He had written to the trustees through Bro. Dobie, and he was not aware how far Bro. Havers represented them. It was a civil, courteous, and kind letter, and could in no sense be deserving of the appellation which had been applied to it by Bro. Havers, who called it "a lawyer's letter." It deserved no such appellation from him as that it was a lawyer's letter, but he (Bro. Vallance) could not allow his name to be associated with those who had subscribed £50,000, obtained from the public on the truth of the prospectus, without offering some observations upon what he had said. He contended that there was not one word of that prospectus unborne out at the present moment, and it had been confirmed by Bro. Havers himself in the Grand Lodge, and he had taken every opportunity of showing that the shareholders would reap profit from it. He scorned his censure when he referred to the ninth paragraph of the lease to Bro. Shrewsbury, but he called upon all who represented the Grand Lodge—he called upon the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons—to reflect on the effect of that clause. He entered the Craft long since, his father and grandfather were Masons, and he had a profound belief that Masons lived in charity and love with all mankind; but when he found the ninth clause of the agreement for the lease, he saw that which should stimulate them to claim the sympathy of the Grand Lodge. He was surrounded by Masons, and he was sure they were honourable men, but by the operation of the clause he had referred to they could not obtain dividends for the widows and orphans whose money had been invested in the Freemasons' Tavern Company. The Grand Lodge of England was supposed to be the fountain of honour, but they would not prove to be so if they took from them the means by which only Masons could obtain dividends, and in the name of the tavern in which they had invested their money.

Bro. WARREN rose to order. They were not here to discuss the lease.

Bro. VALLANCE continued: If a man had a position in London when his name was appended to a prospectus it induced other persons to invest their money, and he believed that every word

in the prospectus was true with regard to the appropriation of the coffee-room exclusively to the Grand Lodge; he was bound to tell the Grand Lodge that a large amount of money had been spent, and he never heard from Bro. Shrewsbury that the coffee-room was to be confiscated from the Tavern Company. On the contrary, Bro. Shrewsbury had declared that by his agreement the coffee-room, now called the Clarence, belongs to the Tavern Company. It was a very serious and grave question, and he hoped and believed that the Grand Lodge would consider him incapable of doing anything but his duty to himself as well as to them. He asked that the letter he had written to Bro. Dobie, in whose honour and integrity he had the highest confidence, might be read. He doubted if anyone in that Grand Lodge could lift his head so high or touch his heart so warmly as Bro. Dobie, and he challenged any man of honour to controvert a single word contained in that letter. In conclusion he asked whether the 9th clause of the agreement was worthy of the Grand Lodge of England.

Bro. HAINES said: The 9th clause of which they had heard so much was as follows:—

"9. The said D. Shrewsbury or the Company shall be at liberty to use the words 'Freemasons' Tavern' for the purpose of forming the Company, but that name shall be abandoned at or before the occupation of the new buildings, and a new name, altogether unconnected with Freemasonry, shall be adopted, under a penalty of absolute forfeiture of the lease or the right to a grant thereof."

He contended that the trustees were perfectly at liberty to adopt that rule. If it was considered to be offensive in him to use the words of a "lawyer's letter," he apologised for having done so. With the exception of the telegram he never had any communication with any member of the Dickens' committee. Bro. Vallance had said they had acted unfairly to the widows and orphans under the ninth clause, but who ever drew that clause was responsible for it.

Bro. MASON contended that these questions of law ought not to be brought under the notice of Grand Lodge, but let them look at the facts. The trustees entered into a contract with Bro. Shrewsbury, and in that there was a stipulation, that after a certain period the tavern that now bears the name of "The Freemasons' Tavern," should cease to bear it, and have another. Whether this was right or not the fact was, that if Bro. Shrewsbury had entered into a contract with the trustees of the Institution, the assignees to whom it was transferred were bound by it. As a lawyer, he thought it was premature to draw on a discussion on legal points, for it had the effect of drawing Bro. HAINES into a discussion of matters that ought not to be discussed in Grand Lodge. The committee had some disagreeable duties to perform, but whether he agreed or disagreed with them, he said they had done their duty, although, as he had said, he considered it wrong to discuss them in the Grand Lodge.

Bro. BENNOCH said that Grand Lodge had given notice to the tenants that the rent would be increased from the 11th of November, and before they could discuss that point they ought to refer to the solicitor's letter, which would speak for itself, but he understood that it was not here.

Bro. WARREN rose to order. The letter was not before the Board of Masters, and it was impossible for them to discuss it without notice. He should take his stand upon the "Book of Constitutions."

Bro. BENNOCH thought it would be desirable, as they had a large amount of business before them, for the comfort of members who were deeply interested in it, that they should adjourn the question, and let this point be referred to the committee for further investigation. He moved as an amendment, that so much of the report as refers to the Freemasons' Tavern, be referred to a committee.

The G. MASTER said he waited, without interfering, until they had arrived at that part of the discussion which had wandered very much from the point. There was nothing on which an amendment could be founded, as the motion was merely to allow the report to be entered on the minutes. The fullest latitude had been given to the discussion, but at the same time he thought that the discussion of the legal points could do no good. Nobody would be prejudiced, the company on one hand, or the Grand Lodge on the other, by receiving the report and allowing it to be entered on the minutes.

Bro. VALLANCE: If the report is to be entered on the minutes, I hope my letter will go on the minutes also. I know your

lordship's deep sense of justice, and that you will not allow one part of the case to go down to posterity and not the other.

Bro. BENNOCH persisted in moving his amendment.

Bro. STEWART seconded it.

Bro. TRUSCOTT said, as Chairman of the Freemasons' Tavern Company, he stood there to answer some charges that had been made by the Chairman of the Building Committee. He said the Company was composed of merchants, Masons, and others, to whom he should not do justice if he did not stand forward and say that what the Chairman of the Building Committee had stated was not founded on fact, but was erroneous. He heard Bro. HAINES tell the brethren that, if the Company was founded, that it would be a good speculation, that it would pay 25 per cent., and strongly recommended the brethren to take shares in it. Now, he took shares in it because he understood it would be a means of advancing himself towards the Temple, but, whether rightly or wrongly, he believed to administer to the wants of Grand Lodge would be something in his favour. Bro. HAINES and the Building Committee had intimated that they had been treated in a slippery manner by the Company, but that statement he denied *in toto*. He inferred that they had kept money from the shareholders, which was totally unfounded and untrue. He wanted to show the feeling of the Building Committee towards the Company. The rent was due on the 24th of June, but, as it was not paid until the 16th of July, the Company received a letter from Bro. Gray Clarke, the Grand Secretary, stating that he was instructed to apply once more for the rent due to the Grand Lodge, which was due at Midsummer last, and, if the money was not paid immediately, the matter would be placed in the hands of the solicitor to the Grand Lodge.

Bro. HAINES: He never sent you that.

Bro. Lord ELIOT, S.G.W., rose to order, and said that matter had nothing to do with the question before them.

The G. MASTER said he was anxious to give the Company the fullest latitude to reply to the statement that had been made, but he trusted they would reply to the strictures so offered, and not go into other matters.

Bro. ALGERNON PERKINS, acting J.G.W., said he knew nothing about law—that he left to the lawyers—but if there were to be lawyers on the other side there ought to be legal men on the side of Grand Lodge to answer them.

Bro. TRUSCOTT regretted they should have been treated as they had been treated by the Building Committee, when for three years they had carried it on at a loss of £1,000. If such a system was persevered in the tavern would be shut up, and a great loss to the Craft must ensue.

The G. MASTER put the amendment, which was negatived, and the original motion that the report be received and placed on the minutes was agreed to.

As the letter referred to is of considerable importance in elucidation of the debate which took place upon it, as well as being of great interest to the entire Craft, we here give it *in extenso*:—

Moorgate House, London,  
2nd Dec. 1867.

The Trustees of the Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons and the Freemasons' Tavern Company, Limited.

My dear Sir,—Herewith I beg to forward to you, as desired, an abstract of the assignment by Mr. David Shrewsbury to the Company of the agreement for lease, &c., which will disclose to you the sums paid by the Company, in addition to the £5,000 premium to Grand Lodge paid by me into your hands; these sums, you will perceive, in the aggregate were £17,000; making, with your premium, £22,000.

In reply to your reference to the 9th clause of the agreement between the trustees of the Society and Mr. Shrewsbury, and requesting to know whether, in obedience thereto, the Company has changed its name, and if so to favour you with its proper description, I beg to say that the clause has not been hitherto considered to bear the interpretation your favour would seem to place upon it, inasmuch as it was thought to have been intended to apply so far as it may, to the "tavern" and not to the Company. There are several legal technicalities and difficulties created by statute law as to the Company changing their name, which in my present view of this clause I need not more particularly allude to; but if, as I think you will find, it is the tavern that is intended and not the Company, I am fully prepared to

advise the directors that they should abandon the name of "Freemasons," and I have every reason to believe they will give due consideration to such advice.

I must take this opportunity of requesting your attention to the circumstances of a notice of a somewhat curious description given by Mr. Gray Clarke, Grand Secretary, on the 1st November ult., to the manager of the Company, that the proceedings the Company were taking, in making alterations in the great banquetting room and elsewhere in the new tavern, were considered as an act of tenancy, and that the increased rent as agreed in the agreement for a lease would commence from half quarter day next, the 11th of November instant. By order, &c.

Now whilst the Company are exceedingly anxious to perform every part of the agreement devolving upon them, and the directors are most willing so soon as the trustees have complied with the agreement on their part, so as to entitle them to the additional rent of £100 per annum, to pay such rent, still they must protect the shareholders by objecting to Mr. Gray Clarke's intimation as being conclusive upon that agreement. I fear, therefore, I must trouble you with some explanation of the circumstances whence this notice appears to have arisen. The "Dickens' Dinner" being about to be held, the gentlemen forming the committee for managing such dinner, applied to the Grand Secretary and Building Committee for permission to decorate the banquetting hall, by adding stencil colouring in the panels, with a border, and inserting the names of the principally attractive of Charles Dickens' literary productions. Permission was given to them, not to the company, and they having, under the guidance of the architect, commenced operations, Mr. Havers was pleased to require from the manager of the Company an undertaking that such an act by Mr. Dickens' committee should render the Company liable to the increased rent of £1,200 per annum, as from the 11th November last. To this demand the manager replied, that he would obtain directions from the chairman of the Company. Upon this Mr. Gray Clarke wrote, on the 30th October, 1867, a letter (copy whereof I enclose herewith) reiterating Mr. Havers' demand against the Company, and intimating that what was done in decorating the banquetting room should be at the sole cost of the Company, and the walls of the banquetting room should be, if required, reinstated at the cost of the Company.

The manager (whose reply is also herewith) answered on the same day, that without the consent of his co-directors the chairman could not give his sanction to an undertaking such as required by Mr. Gray Clarke. Upon this Mr. Havers stopped the decorations, and gave orders that they should not proceed unless the company undertook as required by him and Mr. Gray Clarke on the 31st October last. Telegraphic communication being had with Mr. Havers upon the subject of thus marring the otherwise elegant appearance of the banquetting room—the Company still refusing to give such undertaking—the decorations, not by the Company, but by Mr. Charles Dickens' dinner committee, were by re-permission to them, at the instance of Mr. Havers proceeded with, they undertaking to reinstate where required.

On the 1st November, the notice hereinbefore adverted to was given by Mr. Gray Clarke. (Copy whereof also accompanies this letter). Now it is obvious this proposition cannot be acceded to and you cannot, I think, with all deference, advise that such increased rent has become payable by the Company, under the agreement by the trustees of the society, to grant the lease.

This intimation to you has become the more necessary in consequence of a statement in the report of the building committee to Grand Lodge, which is printed and published, "that the occupancy of the Company on the increased rent commenced on the 11th November." Such statement is not accurate, as whilst, as I have observed, the Company are quite willing, so soon as the trustees entitle themselves thereto, to pay such increased rent, the trustees have not at present done so in accordance with the agreement for lease.

I observe with great satisfaction that in the same report the great inconvenience consequent upon the delay in the buildings to the lessees is not lost sight of, and I trust that all such penalties will be devoted to the remuneration of the Company for the enormous loss and injury they have sustained in that respect to which I have hitherto called the attention of the Grand Secretary, and which have been of vital and serious importance to the Company.

Whilst I feel the delicacy of any allusion to the printed report of the Building Committee, who may be supposed to represent to some extent the trustees of the Society of Freemasons, and there is obvious difficulty in dealing copiously with the report, yet I ought to give you an intimation that the Company are not in any way bound by the statements therein, of which they were not previously apprised, nor have they been conferred with upon the subject. The report seems to me to deserve much further consideration on the points adverted to, and particularly with respect to their recommendations to appropriate the room called "The Clarence," at present the coffee room, apparently dealing with it exclusively and obviously to the detriment of the lessees, as if remaining the property of the trustees, whereas it forms part, and is comprised within the premises agreed to be leased to the Company, by whom possession is held, and it has, in fact, at considerable outlay and expense been carpeted and furnished for use.

Any further information within my power I shall be happy at all times, with sincere frankness and candour, to convey to you, as I am sure the Company will permit me to do so; and I must say I am most anxious that kindly feelings should exist between the landlords of so important a property and their lessees; and the landlords should be assured the Tavern will be so conducted by the lessees as to entitle them to the encouragement and support of the Society.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly and fraternally,

(Signed) H. WELLINGTON VALLANCE.

To Alexander Dobie, Esq.

Bro. HAYERS said he hoped they would all forget what was past, and go to the plain business of the evening. He directed the attention of the Grand Lodge to the first notice of motion on page 5 of the printed paper. It was there stated that no rent had been charged to the lodges they had supplied with accommodation until the building was completed. He was sorry that the fees were not lower, but if the committee were able they would be happy to reduce them. He moved "That the rents for the use of lodge rooms shall commence and be payable on and after the 1st of January, 1868."

In answer to a question from some brother,

Bro. HAYERS said they were anxious to avoid large collections of furniture, and he alluded to the damage that occurred to furniture when a large party was held. They would fix as low rates as possible for storing the furniture of lodges.

The resolution was then put and carried.

Bro. HAYERS said there could be no possible question about the necessity of a coffee-room, for from the earliest time that question had been a *sine qua non* with Freemasons. The tariff of Bro. Gosden was exceeding moderate, and the committee were inclined to leave it in the hands of Grand Lodge to fix the amount for the use of the coffee-room and library, but after consideration the committee had fixed such charges as they believed would be fair and just. He moved "That the subscription of Masons residing within the London districts shall be—to the coffee-room, £1 1s.; to the library, 10s. per annum.

Bro. BENNOCH wanted to know what was to be supplied in the coffee-room.

Bro. HAYERS said: Breakfasts, dinners, suppers, wines, and spirits.

Bro. BENNOCH said there appeared to be some difference of opinion as to whether the coffee-room was included in the lease to the company, and he wanted to have it fairly stated if the coffee-room belonged to the Tavern Company or to the Grand Lodge. If it was shown that it belonged to the Tavern Company, would the Grand Lodge provide another coffee-room.

Bro. HAYERS said from the very first a coffee-room and library were required in the new building. There was not a shadow of doubt that they were so included, and only to be used for Masonic purposes.

A brother wanted to know why there should be any charge to the library and coffee-room at all. He moved as an amendment, "That the coffee-room and library be open to the Craft at large free."

Bro. RAYMOND STUART seconded the amendment.

Bro. HAYERS said the committee would be delighted to throw open the coffee-room and library, but it was built by the subscriptions of Masons all over England, and they as London Masons had no right to use it without making some compensation to their country brethren.

The amendment was then put and negatived.

Bro. WARREN said he had then to move an amendment which he thought would be more reasonable. He moved that the subscription to the coffee-room and library be one guinea.

Bro. MORREN seconded the amendment.

Bro. BENNOCH opposed it and said if the amount was reduced the coffee-room would be too crowded.

A division took place, when there appeared for the amendment, 74; against it, 60; consequently the amendment was declared to be carried.

On the proposition "That the subscription of Masons residing out of the London district shall be—to the coffee-room 10s. 6d., and to the library, 10s."

Bro. WARREN moved as an amendment "That the amount be reduced to 10s. 6d."

This was put and negatived.

Bro. ADLARD moved that the subscription be one guinea, which was put and carried.

Bro. HAYERS moved "That a subscription of £1 11s. 6d. per annum from any country lodge shall entitle its Master and Wardens for the time being to all the privileges of the coffee-room and library."

Bro. BINCKES said that the coffee-room and library would be a great boon, and suggested that they should be made useful to brethren coming up from the country to attend the Grand Lodge on their Masonic festivals. He suggested that every subscribing brother should be able to introduce a friend, being a Mason, to the coffee-room and library by inscribing his name in a book to be kept for that purpose. He moved as an amendment "That any subscribing member to the coffee-room and library be permitted to introduce a friend, being a Mason, for one day without such friend being called upon to make any payment for such friend."

Bro. HAYERS said, if they once opened the door they could not shut it, and if they allowed a member to introduce one friend, there was no reason why he might not introduce ten or a dozen, and that would destroy the very object they had in view. Unless they surrounded this with safeguards they might inflict a great evil, and he earnestly asked the Grand Lodge to pause before they adopted the amendment.

The G. MASTER thought the best thing for Bro. Binckes to do was to give notice of motion for the consideration of this subject at some future period, and then the Committee would have time to consider it. If notice was given, then the matter could be fully discussed.

Bro. BINCKES said, with the understanding that the Committee would take the matter into consideration, he would adopt that course.

The amendment was withdrawn, and the resolution agreed to.

The following resolutions were agreed to:—

"That strangers, being Masons, who may be temporarily residing in England, shall be permitted to use the coffee-room and library upon being introduced, in writing, by a subscriber, and upon payment of a subscription of five shillings per one month."

"That the amount of these subscriptions shall be subject to revision, and to increase or otherwise, but that the subscription of original members (in which list shall be included all those who become subscribers on or before the 1st of June, 1868), shall under no circumstances be increased."

Bro. HAYERS then drew the attention of Grand Lodge to the following paragraph in the report:—

"There yet remains another subject of great importance, to which it is requisite that the attention of Grand Lodge should be directed, namely, the necessity of repairing and re-decorating the Great Hall, and thus rendering it worthy of its place in the Masonic Temple. The Committee have purposely deferred the consideration of this subject until the new works were completed; they now ask for authority to consider it, and for that purpose submit the following resolution, viz., 'That the Buildings' Committee be directed to consider the subject of the repair and re-decoration of the Great Hall, and to report thereon to the Grand Lodge at its Quarterly Communication in March next.'"

Bro. HAYERS moved the adoption of the resolution.

The G. MASTER suggested that the Committee should consider the ventilation of the building in connection with the decoration.

Bro. Lord ELIOT also suggested that the acoustic arrangements of the hall should be attended to.

Bro. HAYERS said the Committee were painfully alive to the necessity of some alterations in that respect.

The resolution was then put and agreed to.

#### APPEAL FOR ST. THOMAS'S.

An appeal of an interesting character was then gone into, from the W. Master of the Harmonic Lodge (No. 356), St. Thomas's, West Indies, against the decision of the District Grand Master. The same appeal being divided into three separate points for decision. In the first, the decision of the District Grand Master was declared to be wrong; his decision was reversed and the appeal allowed. In the second, the appeal was disallowed, and the decision of the District Grand Master confirmed; and in the third case the decision of the District Grand Master was reversed, and the appeal allowed. As it was nearly half-past eleven o'clock, the rest of the business could not be disposed of, and was adjourned to the next quarterly communication.

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

### METROPOLITAN.

EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 27).—This old and flourishing lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Thursday, the 5th inst., under the able presidency of the W.M., Bro. Coutts, assisted by Bros. John May, S.W., Libbis, J.W., and a large attendance of brethren. The business of the evening consisted of one initiation and two passings, after which the brethren proceeded to the election of W.M. for the ensuing twelve months. The two Wardens having each expressed their desire not to be elected to that office, the choice fell upon the present W.M., Bro. John Coutts, who was unanimously re-elected W.M. of the lodge. Upon the motion of Bro. Buss, P.M. and Sec., seconded by Bro. Jacobs, P.M., it was unanimously resolved that the sum of £20 be given from the lodge funds, and placed on the list of Bro. Thurlow, who will represent this lodge as Steward at the forthcoming anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and the widows of Freemasons, which amount of £20, added to £30 given by the lodge last year, will constitute the W.M. for the time being a Vice-President of the Female branch of this most excellent Masonic institution. The names of seven gentlemen were then given in as candidates for initiation, and the lodge was closed, after which the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet.

### PROVINCIAL.

#### CORNWALL.

SALTASH.—Zetland Lodge (No. 1,071).—The brethren of this lodge met at their lodge-room, at the Green Dragon Hotel, on the 2nd inst., for the purpose of installing Bro. W. Foxwell as W.M. for the ensuing year. A large number of visitors were present, amongst whom were Bros. Vincent Bird, 30<sup>th</sup>, P.M., P. Prov. G.O. Devon; E. Murch, P.M. 202; J. Price, P.M. 202; S. Chapple, P.M. 951; H. Welch, P.M. 202; P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. Devon; J. Hawton, W.M. 1,090; J. Brown, Paul, Bonney, Watson, Raishbrook, and Littleton. The installation was impressively performed by Bro. E. Murch, P.M., after which the following brothers were appointed officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. J. Deeble, S.W.; C. Dampney, J.W.; C. Cleverton, Treas.; J. G. Richards, P.M., Sec.; S. Menhennott, S.D.; Perriman, J.D.; Gregory, I.G.; Congdon and Barrett, Stewards; Radmore, Tyler. The charges were delivered to the W.M., Wardens, and members by Bro. Murch. After the business of the lodge had been concluded, the brethren adjourned to a banquet, prepared by Bro. Rundle, at which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, interspersed with harmony. A very enjoyable evening was spent, and the brethren separated at ten o'clock.

#### DEVONSHIRE.

TOTNES.—Pleiades Lodge (No. 710).—On Thursday, the 5th inst., the brethren of this lodge met, at six p.m., for the ordinary monthly business. The lodge was opened by Bro. John Heath, W.M., assisted by Bros. Marks, acting as I.P.M.; and Rev. J. Bowdon, acting as Chap.; Cooke and Oldrey, Wardens; Niner



I.G. The duties of the Deacons were undertaken by Bros. Dr. Hopkins and Bartlett, P.M.'s. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Watson, P.M. and Sec., presented the report of the Audit Committee, which was adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes. A ballot was taken for Messrs. William Snell Chenall and Joseph Chenall, as candidates for initiation, regularly proposed at seven days' notice, which proved unanimous in their favour. The lodge was opened in the second, and then in the third degree, Bro. Stephens having been examined and entrusted on a previous evening. He was then admitted and raised in due form by the W.M., who administered the solemn rite in a manner so impressive as evidently to produce a great effect on the recipient. The candidate having left the room, was on his return invested, and, by the request of the W.M., the chair was then taken by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, who gave the traditional history and the charge appertaining to this degree. The W.M. again occupied his own place, and resumed the lodge in the second, and afterwards in the first degree. The Messrs. Chenall were introduced, properly prepared, and regularly initiated with great correctness and effect by the W.M. He also gave them the usual charge. Bro. John Adams, 1,099, was proposed as a joining member by Bro. Cooke, S.W., seconded by Bro. Niner, I.G. Several matters of business were discussed and disposed of, among which was the formation of a Lodge of Instruction, the arrangements for it being left in the hands of the W.M. Bro. Taylor, as usual, officiated at the harmonium during the evening. The lodge was finally closed at nine o'clock.

#### DURHAM.

HARTLEPOOL.—*St. Helen's Lodge* (No. 531).—The usual monthly meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Regent's-square, on Thursday, the 5th inst., when the lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer. It being the annual meeting for the election of W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler for the ensuing year, there was an unusually large number of the brethren present. Upon the ballot being taken, the result was as follows:—Bros. Emra Holmes, 17; J. Groves, P.M., 1; A. Nathan, P.M., 1; and J. Sivewright, W.M., 1. Bro. Emra Holmes was therefore declared duly elected as W.M. of this lodge for the ensuing year, Bro. R. Ropner was elected Treasurer, and Bro. J. Mowbray as Tyler. The last named brother has occupied the post for some fourteen or fifteen years, and is one of the most deservedly-popular members of the lodge. The installation of the W.M. elect will take place on the 26th inst., when the Festival of St. John the Evangelist will be celebrated. Bro. G. Moore, M.D., P. Prov. J.G.W., will act as Installing Master.

#### SCOTLAND.

##### EDINBURGH.

STOW.—*Lodge of Instruction* (No. 216).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the evening of Friday, the 6th inst. In the absence of Bro. Brownlee, R.W.M., Bro. H. Kerr, D.M. elect, presided. The question for discussion was a *resumé* of the question discussed at the last monthly meeting, viz., "What are the best means to advance the principles of Freemasonry?" All the brethren present endorsed in substance the opinions expressed at the former meeting, and advocated strongly the propriety of Masons themselves living out their principles, and by their constant and circumspect conduct showing there is more in Masonry than conviviality and show.

##### GLASGOW.

##### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A special meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow was held on the 5th inst., in the Kilwinning Hall, 170, Buchanan-street.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened by Bro. Thomas Ramsay, R.W.M. St. John's, No. 3, acting Prov. G.M., assisted by Bros. A. McTaggart, M.A., R.W.M. St. Mungo, 27, acting Prov. S.G.W.; Thomas Paton, R.W.M. Thistle, 87; D. H. Miller, Prov. S.G.D.; J. B. Walker, Prov. G. Treas.; R. Robb, Prov. G. Mareschall; Leith, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., and a large number of members of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Prov. G. Sec. having read the circular convening the meeting, and sundry letters received by him in connection with Provincial Grand Lodge business, he then moved—"That this

Provincial Grand Lodge pass a hearty vote of thanks to Bro. James Cruickshanks, Depute Provincial Grand Master, on his retirement from office, for the able manner in which he has for a very lengthened period discharged the various duties he has had to perform, it being now nearly half a century since he first commenced to take an active interest in Freemasonry."

The motion was seconded in a very feeling manner by Bro. Ramsay, carried with acclamation, and ordered to be endorsed in the minutes of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The next business was the recommendation of brethren for the respective offices of Depute and Substitute Prov. G.M., Senior and Junior Prov. G. Wardens, and Prov. G. Secretary. Bro. Wilson, R.W.M. 354, moved that Bro. Walter N. Neilson, Prov. S.G.W., be recommended for the office of Depute Prov. G.M.

Bro. Anderson, R.W.M. 362, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bro. Buchan, S.W. 3, proposed Bro. F. A. Barrow, P. Prov. S.G.W., for the office of Substitute Prov. G.M.

Bro. Geo. McLeod, R.W.M. 128, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bro. McLeod proposed Bro. Capt. McCasland for the office of Prov. S.G.W.

The motion was seconded by Bro. McTaggart, and carried unanimously.

Bro. McTaggart proposed Bro. Thomas Baker for the office of Prov. J.G.W.

Bro. McLeod seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bro. Wilson, R.W.M. 354, proposed that Bro. William Smith, the esteemed Prov. G. Sec., be recommended for re-election, and, in doing so, alluded in pleasing terms to the indefatigable manner in which Bro. Smith had, during the time he had held the office of Prov. G. Sec., discharged duties which, at any time onerous, had, as was known to the brethren, been especially so during the last six months or so, in consequence of the death of their late lamented Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Sir Archibald Alison, *Bart.*

The motion was heartily seconded by Bro. Paton, R.W.M. 87, and carried unanimously.

Bro. Smith announced to the brethren that the annual provincial festival in aid of the Provincial Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund, would be held in the City Hall, Glasgow, on Friday evening, the 20th inst., the chair to be occupied by the R.W. Bro. Captain Speirs, M.P., Prov. G.M., whose installation will take place at an early hour in the evening, for which the Provincial Grand Lodge will be summoned. The Provincial Grand Lodge will dine at five o'clock, and afterwards, accompanied by the Prov. G.M., take up their position on the platform, the chair to be taken at eight o'clock. The festive programme consists of a soirée, concert, and full dress assembly,

GLASGOW.—*Lodge Thistle and Rose* (No. 73).—An ordinary meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Buchanan-street, on Tuesday evening, the third inst., Bro. T. Mac Robert, R.W.M., in the chair. The lodge was opened in the first degree by the R.W.M., assisted by Bros. J. Ballantine and W. Smith, acting Senior and Junior Wardens; P. Thomson, Treas.; G. Macadam, Sec.; and other office-bearers and brethren. After the minutes of the previous meeting, being that for the nomination of office-bearers, had been read and confirmed, the lodge was raised to the third degree, when Bro. J. Whitham, who received the degree of Fellow Craft on 19th Nov. last, was brought forward in proper form, and was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Bro. Mac Robert, R.W.M., giving the usual charge in a most impressive manner. This being, according to the by-laws of the lodge, the night for the election of office-bearers, the following were duly elected, viz., Bros. T. Mac Robert, R.W.M.; J. Ballantine, S.W.; W. Smith, J.W.; J. Jordan, P.M.; W. Johnston, D.M.; P. Thomson, Treas.; G. Macadam, Sec.; Arch. Somerville, Chap.; J. McGregor, S.D.; G. McDonald, J.D.; J. Morrison, S.S.; J. Russel, J.S.; W. Gardner, S.B.; A. Watt, I.G.; and W. Jamieson, Tyler. The installation of office-bearers to their respective offices was deferred till next ordinary meeting. The lodge was then closed in due and ancient form. It may be mentioned that amongst other brethren who hail from the venerable Thistle and Rose Lodge, is our esteemed and distinguished townsman, Bro. Alexander Strathern, Sheriff for Lanark, who, upwards of a quarter of a century since, was initiated in this lodge, the date of the learned Sheriff's initiation being May 12th, 1834.

GLASGOW.—*Lodge Thistle* (No. 87).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on the 4th inst. The following are the office-bearers for the ensuing year, viz.:—Bros. Thomas Paton, R.W.M.; James M'Nee, D.M.; James V. Henderson, S.M.; James Sinclair, Chap.; John Greive, S.W.; John Dobbie, J.W.; Robt. Muirhead, Treas.; William Morrison, Sec.; C. Jockel, S.D.; L. Stewart, J.D.; John Reid, S.S.; Andrew Morrison, J.S.; J. S. Alexander, I.G.; Robert Walker, Tyler; Charles Sharp, S.S.B.; Hugh M'Farlane, J.S.B.; Henry Potts, Prov. G.S.; Thomas Cowan, P.M. Bro. James Wallace, G.S., was the Installing Master, and performed the ceremony most impressively. The funds of the lodge being in a healthy state, several sums were voted to charitable purposes.

GLASGOW.—*Lodge Caledonian Railway* (No. 351).—At a meeting of this flourishing lodge held in the Masonic-hall, 213, Buchanan-street, on the 4th inst., the following brethren were elected as office-bearers for the ensuing year, viz.:—James E. Wilson, R.W.M.; Nicholas Black, P.M.; Robert Slaw, D.M.; Dr. R. Patterson, S.M.; W. R. Thomson, S.W.; Colin Sinclair, J.W.; Robert Allen, Treas.; William John Hamilton, Sec.; D. K. Spiers, S.D.; M'Kay, J.D.; Andrew Ewart, Chap.; Wm. Gunn, Arch.; Andrew Nairn, Jeweller; Wm. Russell, B.B.; John King, S.B.; William Dunshee, Director of Music; D. Strachan, Dir. of Cers.; A. S. Walker, John Millar, and Walter Lennox, Stewards; G. Creer, Prov. G.S.; John Crichton, I.G.; W. F. Gemmill, Tyler. We are glad to learn from the auditors' report that the funds of the lodge are in a very healthy state, and that during the past year a considerable number of members, all of whom occupy a respectable position in society, have been added to the lodge roll.

#### SHETTLESTON.

##### *Lodge St John* (No. 128).

One of the most interesting of the numerous annual meetings now being held in this province, for the election and installation of office-bearers for the ensuing year, took place on the 4th inst. in the Masonic Hall at Shettleston, the opening of which was noticed by us in our issue of October the 5th, when the members of the recently-revived, and now flourishing *Lodge St. John*, No. 128, met under very auspicious circumstances. There was a very numerous attendance of the brethren, members of the lodge and visitors, including amongst the latter Bros. William Smith, Prov. G. Sec.; James Wallace, G.S.; Gillies, P.M. 103; A. McTaggart, *M.A.*, R.W.M. 27; McRobert, R.W.M. 73; Singleton, R.W.M. 71; Mackay, R.W.M. 103; and James Stevenson, of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

Bro. George McLeod, the esteemed R.W.M., was, for the third time, placed by the unanimous choice of the brethren in the chair of K.S.; and he invested as his officers for the ensuing year the following brethren, who had been elected to the respective offices, viz.:—Bros. J. Allan, I.P.M.; Hall, D.M.; Jowett, S.M.; Reid, S.W.; Morrison, J.W.; Deans, Treas.; Livingston, Sec.; Simpson, S.D.; Campbell, J.D.; Clark, Bible Bearer; J. Baird, Standard Bearer; James Jack, Prov. G.S.; A. Allan, I.G.; and George Barrowman, Tyler. After which the following brethren were affiliated as honorary members of the lodge, viz.:—Bros. W. Smith, Prov. G. Sec.; Jas. Wallace, G.S.; Gillies, P.M. 103; McTaggart, *M.A.*, R.W.M. 27; McRobert, R.W.M. 73; and James Stevenson, FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. These several brethren, being present, took the customary obligation, and returned thanks for the honour conferred upon them.

The loege having been called from labour to refreshment, the time-honoured, loyal, and Masonic customary toasts given by the R.W.M. having, as usual at Masonic gatherings, been right heartily honoured, Bro. McLeod proposed in felicitous and appropriate terms "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow," identifying with the toast the health of their Provincial Grand Secretary, to whom they were all so much indebted for the zeal he had displayed in carrying out all appertaining to the interests of Masonry in this province, and the untiring energy he had displayed was particularly at a time rendered especially trying through the lamented death of their late Provincial Grand Master. Bro. McLeod then referred to the recent election of Bro. Captain Spiers, *M.P.*, as their Provincial Grand Master, and to the nomination of his commissioned office-bearers, and he looked forward hopefully that the brethren of Glasgow would be able, when the several appointments were confirmed, to speak confidently of their province being ruled in

a manner that would reflect credit alike upon their Provincial Grand Officers, and redound to the intelligence of the elective members of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Bro. Smith, Prov. G. Sec., returned thanks on behalf of Provincial Grand Lodge, and for the compliment paid him personally; and, whilst, with the R.W.M., he looked forward hopefully to the successful working of the Provincial Grand Lodge and the newly-nominated office-bearers, still he felt it but an act of justice to his fellow officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge as now constituted, to testify to the ready co-operation he had always experienced at their hands, in conducting the various matters affecting the interests of the brethren of this province; and, whilst deploring the great loss they had sustained by the death of their late lamented chief, he congratulated the brethren upon their having obtained as a successor, one of whom they had by their voice considered so well qualified to fill the important position of Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow. Bro. Smith concluded by saying with reference to the kindly remarks just made anent himself, by the R.W.M., he could only say, whilst acknowledging the honour thus done him, that in fulfilling to the best of his ability the several duties of the responsible office in which the brethren had placed him, he had but striven to do that which he had felt incumbent upon him, in justice to those who had reposed their confidence in his humble abilities.

The R.W.M. in a highly eulogistic speech proposed the toast of the visiting brethren, and referred at some length to the various lodges which were represented on the occasion. He mentioned the several Masters, who were present, by name, and made pointed allusion to the character, abilities, and Masonic position of those of them who had been that evening made honorary affiliated members of the lodge. The remarks of the R.W.M. were received with great applause; and the toast was responded to with the highest honours.

Bro. McTaggart, *M.A.*, R.W.M. 27, with whose name the toast had been coupled, then rose to reply for the visiting brethren, and met with a cordial reception. He said that the R.W.M. had appointed him a subject on which he might address the brethren for an hour, although he did not mean to occupy their time so long. He alluded at the outset to the privileges Freemasons enjoyed in visiting sister lodges, to the cordial welcome they received, to the hearty interchange of feeling and sentiment to which they were admitted, to the kind attention that was paid to them. He touched also on the benefits that were to be derived from such intercourse. As entire strangers they could enter any lodge of Freemasons without restraint, take part in the proceedings without suspicion, and, in short, enjoy all the advantages which accrue from a long-established friendship. He said he was pleased to meet the brethren of Shettleston St. John in such prosperous and happy circumstances, and hoped he would have many opportunities of meeting them on auspicious occasions like the present. He was sure their intercourse would result in mutual good—would tend to bring into closer union the brethren of this and the other lodges in the province. It would be his duty and the duty of the other visiting brethren to reciprocate the kindly feelings and hearty welcome that had been extended to them to-night, and he could assure them that it was their desire, as well as their interest, that such gatherings should more frequently take place. Bro. McTaggart continued by saying that although several of the representatives of lodges had retired, there were still four on whose behalf he had to reply—viz., St. Mungo, Commercial, Thistle and Rose, and Union and Crown, and the names were indicative of some of the principles or elements which were recognised and inculcated by Freemasonry. The St. Mungo takes its name from the patron saint of Glasgow, who presided over the religious interests of the good folks of the city in the olden time. We, as Freemasons, being a religious body, adopt the name as an appropriate designation for a lodge. Our religious creed is probably the only one at the present time professed that from its nature can be accepted as universal. Its central point of belief, and the principles surrounding it, are such as men of every nation under the sun can accept; indeed, there is probably no nation of the world in which the religion of Freemasonry is not already established. What that religion inculcates need not here be discussed, but, as part of a religious body, the lodge I represent here, and over which I have the honour to preside, were fortunate in the selection of a name so suggestive of the nature of the Order, so ancient, and so much revered as that of St. Mungo. The Commercial Lodge falls next to be noticed, and the name is intimately

connected with the principles of the Order. We give prominence to the necessity of labour, the value of industry, and the importance of commercial intercourse in advancing the well-being of the human race by promoting morality, and fostering that brotherly regard upon which its happiness so materially depends. In the name "Thistle and Rose" we have distinct reference to the patriotic element. It calls to our recollection the union of England and Scotland, and the consequent advantages that attended that union; and the Freemasons of England and Scotland, however strongly attached they may be to their respective countries, however highly their patriotism may run, would never wish to see that union severed, and a less kindly feeling existing between the countries than at present. Whilst Freemasonry fosters patriotism as a virtue, it recognises union as a necessity. The name "Union and Crown" brings to our minds the idea of loyalty—a quality which strongly predominates in every Freemason's heart. We are eminently loyal; we invariably speak of the Queen and the Craft in the same breath. This name is well represented on this occasion by my large-hearted and truly loyal friend, Bro. Gillies, a man who sticks to the union and vows by the crown. Bro. McTaggart concluded by tendering anew his thanks to the R.W.M. and members of Shettleton St. John, and expressed a hope that the principles which the names of the lodges represented would continue to be respected by the Order and adhered to by the brethren of the province of Glasgow.

Bros. Wallace, Gillies, McRobert, &c., having also appropriately returned thanks on behalf the visiting brethren.

The toast of "The Health of Bro. McLeod, R.W.M., and the office-bearers of the Lodge St. John, No. 128," was proposed in a very kindly and warm-hearted manner by the Prov. G. Secretary, and was honoured most enthusiastically.

The R.W. Master, in a pithy speech, returned thanks for himself and office-bearers for the honour just done them by the Prov. G. Sec., and for the cordial manner in which the brethren had received the toast. In the course of other toasts that followed, the R.W.M. proposed that of the "Masonic Press," identifying with that toast the name of Bro. James Stevenson of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR, London and Glasgow, who was present amongst them this evening. In the course of his remarks the R.W.M. introduced to the notice of the brethren the advantages afforded by having a special medium of their own, for conveying Masonic information and for the ventilation of all questions affecting the interests of the Order; these advantages were fully afforded by the Masonic Magazine, of which Bro. Stevenson was the representative editor for Scotland, and to whom they were much indebted for the courteous and attentive manner in which he tended for the interests of Scots Masonry in the Magazine, as evidenced by the numerous reports of Scots Masonic proceedings and articles generally of interest to Scots Masons, that had recently appeared in its pages.

The toast having been received with the highest honours,

Bro. Stevenson returned his cordial thanks. He gave a short retrospective view of Freemasonry as he had found it on his arrival in Scotland. And in referring to the motion recently brought before the Provincial Grand Lodge of a Masonic educational scheme for Glasgow, he hailed with pleasure this step as one taken in the right direction, and as evidencing a desire on the part of Scotch Masons to wipe off the reproach at present attaching to Freemasonry in Scotland, that she—so pre-eminent as a warm-hearted nation, and her capital adorned by some of the most useful educational establishments in Great Britain—should be so utterly deficient of Masonic educational and benevolent institutions. This great want was peculiar to Scotch Masonry, for even in Ireland Masonic benevolent and educational institutions existed, and were creditably supported and conducted, whilst in England we have the three great Masonic charities of the Royal Masonic Institution for the Sons of Freemasons, a similar institution for the daughters of Freemasons, and the Institution for Aged Freemasons and their widows.

Other toasts having been given and duly honoured, the brethren were called again to labour, and the lodge was closed according to ancient custom. We should add that during the time of refreshment, the happiness of the brethren was further promoted by some excellent singing from Bros. McLeod, Gillies, Deans, Livingstone, &c.

#### RENFREWSHIRE (WEST.)

GREENOCK.—*Lodge Greenock Kilwinning* (No. 12).—The annual general meeting of this lodge for the election of office-

bearers was held in the Council Chambers, on the evening of St. Andrew's Day, the 30th ult., when the following brethren were elected for the ensuing year:—Bros. E. Blackmore, R.W.M.; J. B. Crawhall, I.P.M.; J. Fleming, D.M.; A. Tasker, S.W.; D. Shaw, J.W.; J. R. Allison, Treas.; T. B. Newton, Sec.; Rev. C. Cole, B.D., Chap.; Rev. A. Fullarton, Assist. Chap.; W. C. Tennant Sloan, Architect; J. Morrison, S.D.; J. R. Clarke, J.D.; D. Middleton, Dir. of Music; A. Roxburgh, S. Steward; D. Cunningham, J. Steward; A. Hamilton, I.G.; and James Hannah, Tyler.

GREENOCK.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 175).—The annual meeting of this lodge for the election of office-bearers for the current year, was held in the lodge hall on the evening of St. Andrew's Day, 30th ult. The following were elected:—Bros. Donald Anderson, R.W.M.; J. P. Muir, S.W.; H. B. Crawford, J.W.; A. Boag, Sec.; J. Herriot, Treas.; Rev. W. Ross, Chap.; Alex. Mann, S.D.; J. Hogg, J.D.; W. Wright, 1st S.; D. McInnes, 2nd S.; H. Chalmers, 3rd S.; J. B. S. Collins, 4th S.; R. Urie, P.M.; A. McMaster, D.M.; P. M. Black and R. Morison, O.M.; A. Cruden, I.G.; and J. Donn, Tyler.

PORT GLASGOW.—*Lodge Doric Kilwinning* (No. 68).—At a meeting of this ancient lodge held on the evening of the 3rd instant, in the Masonic Hall, Gillespie-lane, the following brethren were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year, viz.:—Bros. D. McLelland, R.W.M.; Ross, S.W.; Holm, J.W.; Frane, S.D.; Graham, J.D.; Forgie, Sec.; Hunter, Treas.; Walpole, Chap.; Weir, S.; N. McIntyre, I.G.; and Watson, Tyler.

ISLE OF CUMBRAE.—*Lodge Kelburn* (No. 459).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 6th inst., when there were present all the office-bearers and an unusually large number of brethren, including many visitors. The lodge was opened in the first degree by Bro. the Rev. H. H. Richardson, M.A., R.W.M., assisted by Bros. A. Dickson, S.W.; Captain Gillies, J.W., &c. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the lodge was raised to the second degree, when Bro. John Wilson was examined previous to being raised. The R.W.M. congratulated the examinee on the great proficiency he had made in the art of Freemasonry since his initiation, and especially complimented the instructor, (Bro. W. Wishart) on the way his pupil had been able to answer various questions on the first and second degrees. Having been entrusted, Bro. Wilson withdrew whilst the lodge was being raised to the third degree, when, on his re-entry, he was duly raised to the sublime degree of M.M. After the charges had been delivered, the lodge was lowered to the first degree, when the following brethren were nominated as office-bearers for the ensuing year, the installation to take place on St. John's Day:—Bros. the Rev. H. H. Richardson, M.A., R.W.M. (re-elected); A. Dickson, S.W. (re-elected); A. McKay, J.W.; J. Ross, Treas. (re-elected); W. Wishart, Sec.; D. Crawford, Dir. of Cers.; J. McGown, M.D., S.D. (re-elected); A. Hunter, J.D. (re-elected); J. King, P. Hunter, and J. MacMillan, Stewards; A. Houston, I.G.; and W. McWha, Tyler. A great and unanimous feeling of regret was expressed at Bro. Captain James Gillies feeling it his duty to decline being nominated for re-election to the chair of J.W., which he had filled since the opening of the lodge. He explained to the brethren that his duties, especially during the summer months, made his attendance at the lodge so irregular that he felt it to be right, notwithstanding the strong wishes of the meeting that he should accept office, to resign his chair in favour of some other brother who could be more certain of attending regularly. The R.W.M. gave the thanks of the lodge to Bro. Gillies for the great aid and assistance which he had given to the lodge, not only since its foundation, but in helping the movement so effectively to start the Lodge Kelburne in the island. It was further determined that the lodge should celebrate St. John's Day by giving a Masonic ball on the evening of that day, and a committee was appointed to carry out arrangements similar to those of last year, which gave so much satisfaction. After some further private business the lodge was closed in due form. We may mention that this lodge, which was only established in September, 1866 (and consecrated on December 21st, 1866) with thirteen members, now has fifty-three on its books, of whom thirty have been initiated by the present R.W.M. Considering that the total population of the island is only about 1,200, women and children included, this shows that the principles of Freemasonry are gradually being brought to the knowledge of most of these capable of receiving them in this remote place.

ROYAL ARCH.  
METROPOLITAN.

ROSE OF DENMARK CHAPTER (No. 975).—A quarterly convocation of this chapter was held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, on Saturday, the 7th inst. The chapter was duly opened by Comp. W. H. Hubbard, M.E.Z., assisted by Comps. J. Terry, H.; R. W. Little, P.Z., as J.; J. Brett and H. G. Buss, P.Z.'s. After the admission of the companions and the confirmation of the minutes, favourable ballots were taken for Bros. H. A. Allman and A. Frickenhaus, of the Whittington Lodge, No. 862; A. H. Loughurst, J.D. 780; and G. C. Banks, also of 780; all of whom being in attendance, were then regularly exalted to the supreme degree of the Royal Arch. The several elections of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—Comps. Terry, Z.; Pendlebury, H.; W. F. Smith, J.; Little, P.Z., S.E.; Powell, S.N.; Buss, P.Z., Treasurer; Turner, P.S.; and Gilbert, Janitor. A P.Z.'s jewel was unanimously voted to Comp. Hubbard for his efficient services during the past year, and also the sum of £5 to Comp. Little, P.Z.—who has undertaken the duties of Steward at the Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution in January, 1868—in order to constitute him a Life Governor of the male branch of that excellent institution. We may add that the Rose of Denmark Lodge—of which Comp. Little is a P.M.—also voted £5 to be placed on his list as Steward for that lodge. The chapter was then closed, and eighteen companions sat down to a banquet comprising all the delicacies of the season, and which were admirably served. The usual toasts followed. Comp. W. Ough, Z. 749, responded for the visitors, and expressed himself highly gratified with the proficient working of the officers, as well as with the bounteous hospitality extended to the guests of the chapter.

DEVONSHIRE.

TOTNES.—*Pleiades Chapter* (No. 710).—This chapter has long been in abeyance, only two or three meetings having been held since its formation in 1864, as the property was lost by the fire which destroyed the lodge room, and has but lately been replaced. On Thursday, 5th inst., the chapter was, however, resuscitated, summonses having been issued for a convocation to be held at high noon on that day. Of course, under the circumstances, there was but a small muster, but few brethren in Totnes having been exalted to this supreme degree. The chapter was presided over by Comps. the Rev. John Bowden, M.E.Z.; Dr. Hopkins, P.Z., acting as H.; and John Hoath, J., and after it had been opened in due form the companions were admitted. A ballot was taken for Comp. Pridham, of 106 and 112, as a joining member; also Bros. Cooke and Stafford as candidates for exaltation. All these proved unanimous in favour, and the ceremonies were preceded with, Comp. Dr. Hopkins acting as Principal Sojourner. The newly-exalted companions then retired, and on their return to the chapter they were instructed in the mystical, prophetic, and historical portions of the degree, the first lecture being given in a most lucid manner, showing a full comprehension and appreciation of its import, by the Rev. J. Bowden, and the other two by Comp. Dr. Hopkins. Comp. Geo. Heath, E., gave notice of a proposition to reduce the joining fee from one guinea to ten shillings and sixpence. Comp. Dr. Hopkins was proposed as a joining member by Comps. M.E.Z. and J. The chapter was closed soon after three o'clock, and the companions dined together at the Seven Stars Hotel, separating at half-past four to prepare for the evening meeting of Craft lodge.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST.)

SCARBOROUGH.—*Old Globe Chapter* (No. 200).—On Wednesday, the 4th inst., the members of this chapter held their regular convocation. The chapter was opened at seven o'clock in the evening by Comps. James Frederick Spurr, M.E.Z.; J. W. Woodall, H.; and W. F. Rooke, J.; supported by Comps. H. C. Martin, Scribe E.; Dr. Arncliffe, Scribe N.; T. W. Farthing, P. Soj.; R. H. Peacock; and Wm. Peacock, Assist. Soj.; J. Raper, Janitor; Rev. H. Blane, and several others. The records of the last convocation were read by Scribe E., confirmed by the companions present, and signed by the three Principals. Bro. George John Cayley, was balloted for and elected a candidate for exaltation to the H.R.A. of Jerusalem. Bro. Fisher, Royal Lodge, Filey; Bro. Mervin, Old Globe Lodge, Scarborough, previously elected, and Bro. Cayley were then exalted to the R.A. degree and received as companions of the holy Order. The E.J. then gave the history of the degree, the E.H. the symbolical explanation, and the M.E.Z. next imparted the mystical knowledge with several explanations. The chapter was then closed.

MEETINGS OF THE LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR  
THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 21st, 1867.

TUESDAY, 16th.—Institution of Civil Engineers, at 8. The annual general meeting for the election of the council and officers, &c.

WEDNESDAY, 18th.—Society of Arts, at 8.

WEDNESDAY, 19th.—GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

METROPOLITAN LODGE MEETINGS, ETC., FOR  
THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 21st, 1867.

MONDAY, December 16th.—Grand Master's Lodge, 1, Freemasons' Hall. British Lodge, 8, Freemasons' Hall. Lodge of Emulation, 21, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Lodge of Felicity, 58, London Tavern, Bishops-gate-street. Lodge of Tranquillity, 185, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Pannure Lodge, 720, Loughborough Hotel, Loughborough-park, Brixton. Whittington Lodge, 862, 14, Bedford-row. Royal Albert Lodge, 907, Freemasons' Hall.

TUESDAY, December 17.—Board of General Purposes, at 3. Mount Lebanon Lodge, 73, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. Eastern Star Lodge, 95, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street. Cadogan Lodge, 162, Freemasons' Hall. Salisbury Lodge, 435, 71, Dean-street, Soho. Enoch Chapter, 11, Freemasons' Hall. Mount Sinai Chapter, 19, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.

WEDNESDAY, December 19th.—Lodge of Benevolence, at 7 precisely. Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, 7, Freemasons' Hall. United Mariners' Lodge, 30, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. St. George's Lodge, 140, Lecture Hall, Greenwich. Lodge of Sincerity, 174, Cheshire Cheese Tavern, Crutched Friars. Nelson Lodge, 700, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich. Mayburn Lodge, 969, Freemasons' Hall.

THURSDAY, December 19th.—House Com. Fem. Sch., at School House, at 4. Globe Lodge, 23, Freemasons' Hall. Lodge of Temperance, 169, Plough Tavern, Plough-road, Rotherhithe. Manchester Lodge, 179, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Victoria Lodge, 1,056, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. South Norwood Lodge, 1,139, Goat House Hotel, South Norwood.

FRIDAY, December 20th.—Lodge of Friendship, 6, Willis' Rooms, King-street, St. James's. Jordan Lodge, 201, Freemasons' Hall. New Concord Lodge, 813, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

OWING to the length of Grand Lodge report, and press of other matter, we are compelled to postpone the publication of many lodge reports until our next number.

T. K., P.M. (Masonic Life-boat).—We beg to refer you to the advertisement in front page.

QUAKER.—We do not accept anonymous contributions.

P.M.—The W.M. of his mother lodge may refuse him admission after he has ceased to be a subscribing member. The by-laws should provide for such cases. The member in question does not exhibit good taste nor proper Masonic feeling by presenting himself for admission under the circumstances. He cannot insist on entering the lodge.

M. C.—You are correct; the person referred to has behaved in a similar manner on previous occasions. He is an ill-conditioned fellow.

D. L.—The disgraceful exhibition which took place on the last occasion should be prevented for the future. The M.W. the Grand Master has, for the last quarter of a century, held the high position he has just been re-elected to with satisfaction to all, and he has the entire confidence of the whole Order—perhaps that individual only excepted.

W. R., 18<sup>2</sup>.—Your communication will appear in our next.