

THE
Masonic Observer
AND GRAND LODGE CHRONICLE
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.



No. XVI.

DECEMBER, 1859.

[2s. PER ANNUM.]

GRAND LODGE was presided over by the D.G.M., in the absence of Lord ZETLAND, owing to ill-health, and to other engagements.

His lordship was, as usual, re-nominated as G.M.

The BOARD of GENERAL PURPOSES reported that they had received memorials from various Lodges in favour of the elective officers of the Craft being chosen by means of voting papers, but that they did not recommend the adoption of such a course. BRO. STEBBING wished the matter to stand over till next G.L., which was opposed by BRO. HAYERS, who begged G.L. not to refer the matter back to the Board—which it was never proposed to do—in whom, since they had elected them, they ought to have confidence. Though the Board was appointed by Bro. ROXBURGH and his friends, the London Brethren, who compose G.L., acquiesced in the conclusive argument of Bro. HAYERS, and the amendment was lost.

Bros. WHITMORE and STEBBING also objected to a recommendation of the Board that the funds of G.L. should be expended in advances in aid of Masonic Halls in the Provinces, and the latter brother instanced two towns in Hampshire in which those buildings had been alienated from their purpose.

A flippancy *nisi prius* speech from Bro. McINTYRE was however of quite sufficient weight to induce G.L. to sanction the proposal.

A grant of £50 was voted to the Masonic Asylum at Croydon, and G.L. was adjourned.

COMPLAINTS continue to arrive from the Colonies of the confusion caused by the existence of three separate and independent jurisdictions. We cannot but think, however, that if a new District G.M. were elected by the vote of his Pr. G.L., every two or three years, there would be little difficulty in inducing the Scotch and Irish to unite with those hailing under the G.L. of England.

THE Pr. G.L. of WORCESTER has complimented away fifty guineas, besides four pounds a-year, in order to make its Pr. G.M. a Vice-President of one of the Charities. We can hardly suppose that a gentleman of Bro. VERNON's high character can have been particularly gratified by this act of foolish, though, no doubt, well meant, adulation. A donation of ten guineas for five years, would have given the Pr. G.M. five votes *during its existence*, with an additional vote for every additional ten guineas. But then, no compliment would have been paid to the dispenser of purple aprons.

IT APPEARS that there have been some trifling differences between the Head and the Assistant Master

of the Boys' School. The House Committee have done what they could to settle them amicably, but we must take the opportunity of reiterating our opinion, that no school can be properly conducted in which the Head Master is not independent alike of Under Masters and House Committees; and also, that those parents who prefer that their children should be educated under their own eye, have a right to the same sum for their maintenance, as it would cost to board them at the school-house.

WE ARE glad to see that the Provinces generally are beginning to ask why they should not have their share in the Election of the Boards, without being taxed with their expenses to London.

WE cannot but congratulate the Craft on the conciliatory and liberal spirit displayed on all hands at the last Quarterly Communication.

To "ride on the whirlwind and direct the storm" has seemed of late the normal condition of the G.M., and the halcyon calm of the 7th December must have affected Bro. Lord Panmure with quite a novelty of sensation.

We believe that we are indebted for the repose of the evening, for the moderation of tone, and the scarcely more than skirmishing opposition manifested, to the sincere and laudable desire of the zealous Brethren who ventured to question the policy suggested by the Board of General Purposes, not to prejudice the reforms for which they strive, or the general Craft in whose interest they labour, by petulance in demanding, or impatience to obtain a boon, which our Masonic legislators, if truly conscientious, will not much longer deny.

Our allusion is of course to the subject of proxy voting in G.L.

That, in the election of the M.W.G.M., and of the members of the different Boards, "it would not be to the advantage of the Craft, but would be likely to lead to confusion and abuse," that Provincial Brethren should have a voice *at all*, would be only a more general and logical resolution than the one framed by Bro. HAYERS and his colleagues; nor would its adoption materially affect the present state of things. Moreover we would rather lay the burthen of the argument on the broad shoulders of justice, than confide it, as we are requested to do, to the tottering anatomy of expediency.

Is it a fact, that the enormous majority of Provincial Lodges, though taxed, are practically unrepresented in G.L.? If so, it is just the abuse should be remedied;

but (we are told) "it would not be to the advantage of the Craft." Surely this is a most unwarrantable assumption. As to the bugbears of "confusion and abuse," if Bro. HAVERS's opinion were with ours on the abstract issue, his ability and experience would, in five minutes, devise an organization for the reception of proxies, as orderly and pure as that of our present system of voting.

We do not blame the Board for expressing their opinion on the subject; we agree with the D.G.M., that courtesy to their memorialists demanded such notice, but it is a matter of regret that so sensible a suggestion of reform, so inoffensive an infant idea, should not receive a word of hope or sympathy from the Executive, but be committed to be nursed on aprons of blue, and reared among the discontented harangues and naughty conduct of the independent reformers.

It is no part of our duty to urge our Provincial Brethren to bestir themselves in this matter. If it be to the satisfaction of Lodges in Westmoreland or Cornwall to forward respectively their financial benefactions, and go to sleep while the same are distributed by Trustees, not of their appointment: if Beaumaris and Pembroke be content to accept their chief (theoretically elective) at the dictation of the oligarchy who hear the bells of Bow, and to recognize the orations of Bro. COTTERELL, as expository of their own feelings, we wish them joy of the humility of their aspirations.

We do but argue, as journalists, a question of right.

If to our lot, as years go by, should ever fall communion with "a Lodge in some vast wilderness," far from the turmoil of democratic discontent, and the despotic dictation of the Dais, let us have, as compensation for our estrangement, from the active field of Masonic politics, the pleasing consciousness that we may still, to some extent, participate in the government of our Order.

EVERYTHING connected with the subject of Masonic Reform tends to bring us back to that word with which we commenced our two last papers, "Patronage." This time, however, we have to consider the word in a rather different aspect. The Ministerialists in Grand Lodge have insisted, very strongly, upon retaining all the patronage of the Craft in the hands of the Grand Master, (as they showed by their rejection of Bro. BARNETT's motion last June, with respect to the appointment of an Assistant Grand Pursuivant)—*exceptis excipiendis*,—that is what they chose to keep for themselves. For the Ministerialists of Grand Lodge are virtually the London Past Masters, Wardens, &c. It is notorious that not a twentieth part of the country lodges are represented; and, although there are plenty of lodges and brethren in the country who would, if they could spare the time and money, come up to London and speak their mind, it is not in their power to do so; and, consequently, London holds its own, and virtually governs the Craft. How so? Why simply because it is London that elects the Grand Master and the several Boards, and the Grand Master naturally enough selects his Grand Officers chiefly from

among the London brethren (and we blame him not for doing so), not so much from any feeling of gratitude for his re-election year after year, but simply because he sees and hears certain men over and over again in Grand Lodge, he sees their faces and becomes familiar with them, he recognises their zeal in Grand Lodge business, and he hears their arguments or assertions in favour of his own views, and naturally enough, whether it be Lord ZETLAND or (the Lord quoted by Dickens) the Lord No Zoo, he selects his Grand Officers from among their numbers.

Now, what is the remedy? Why that the country have a voice as well as London in the appointment of the Grand Master and the election of the members of the several Boards, and affairs will forthwith assume a different aspect. "What nonsense you're talking," says some angry Ministerialist, "they have a voice in all these elections." Have they? They might as well be without it, for all the practical good they get from it. Distance, and time, and money are all against its use, and do prevent it. Let them have voting papers for the elections of the Grand Master and the several Boards, forwarded, according to the number of members of of Grand Lodge in each lodge, to the several country lodge secretaries, and let those papers be filled up or have the votes recorded on them (in a manner to be determined on hereafter), in the several lodge rooms in the country; and then, if a Grand Master stayed in for fifteen years, it would indeed be a proof that he had the confidence of the country; then it strikes us a different set of names would be found on the several Boards, and the Grand Lodge patronage might be rather differently bestowed than at present. Under what pretext can this right of voting by papers be denied to our country brethren? They vote in this way for candidates for admission to the Charities of the Order. For these they pay their subscriptions, and are entitled to votes, which they are not pulled up to London to record. They pay Grand Lodge dues, (really exactly equal in amount to those paid by the London district; for, though the country Grand Lodge dues are only half the amount paid in London and ten miles round, the country has certain Provincial Grand Lodges to support, which equalises the matter,) and are therefore entitled to all the privileges attaching to such payment. As justly might their proxy papers for the Charities be withdrawn from them, as voting papers for the election of the Grand Master and the Boards be longer withheld from them.

And yet the Board of General Purposes have just decided, on receiving a petition to this effect, from Lodge No. 90, at Winchester, that the adoption of such a course "might lead to confusion and injustice!!!" How so?

NEITHER GATTON, nor OLD SARUM, were very anxious for their own reformation. The Board of General Purposes is not more so for theirs. Chosen nominally by the London Brethren, really by the clique who enjoy the confidence of the whigs, it is not

wonderful that they should vehemently oppose any attempt to carry out the Book of Constitutions, and to throw their election open to the whole craft.

Bro. HAVERS must however—and perhaps not unjustly—have had a somewhat mean opinion of the understandings of those to whom his report was addressed, if he imagined that they would be convinced by the reasons alleged for this refusal of justice to the country Brethren, who form the great majority of the Craft.

If he had said, in order to maintain the power of the Craft in the hands of half-a-dozen persons, who shall rest upon the support of the London Lodges, it is essential that there should be but one polling place, and that in London, so that the country Brethren may be effectually disfranchised, he would at any rate have spoken the truth. Instead of this, however, three grounds are assigned for maintaining the existing abuse, each more puerile, if possible, than the other.

We are told that the change is not called for—that it would not be to the advantage of the Craft—that it would be likely to lead to confusion and abuse.

It is for the Provincial Brethren to accept the challenge thus thrown down, and say whether the change is called for, or not. If they wish to have it, they have only to call loudly enough, and they will get it; just as the Colonies have asked for far greater concessions, and have got them. If the Country Lodges do really feel the thralldom of the London Lodge, they have only to organize a sufficiently strong movement, in their Private and Pr. G. Lodges, and they will carry this, and any other reform they please.

No doubt, in the opinion of the monopolists, it would not be “to the advantage of the Craft,” that the existing abuse should be destroyed. It is however for the Craft to say whether they are content to allow the present ridiculous sham to go on any longer, or not; whether they are satisfied to allow a local minority to elect their rulers, and to vote away their funds.

And so as regards the “confusion and abuse” which is to follow the admission of the Provinces to their constitutional rights, we are unaware that there is either one or other in the election of candidates for the Charities, which is conducted entirely by voting papers.

The Board is said to have been unanimous in its opinion that it ought not to be reformed. There was not then one single member of it who represented country wishes and feelings. What more need be said to show how preposterous is the present system of centralization? Does any one in his senses suppose that if each Pr. G.L. returned one member to the Board, such an “unanimous” decision would ever have been arrived at?

It depends now upon the Country Lodges how long the present state of things shall go on. How long they are content to be ruled by London, under the mendacious appellation of “Grand Lodge.”

IN reading the accounts of the different Pr.G. Lodges which have been held during the summer, no one

can fail to be struck at the absence of nearly all the names of local influence and importance. With the exception of the P.G.M., we look in vain for any of the county gentry. Indeed, their apathy seems not to be confined to public meetings, for we find the building committee of the New Masonic Hall, at Leicester, expressing their regret that the gentry generally, who were Members of the Order, had not supported the undertaking. Now if, as we are often told, one great advantage of Masonry, is that it brings the upper and middle classes into close and kindly contact, anything in our system, as at present worked, which has the effect of causing the upper classes to hold aloof from Masonry altogether, or, after having joined it, to confine their attendance to their own Lodges, cannot but be regarded as a great evil.

We are, however, greatly mistaken, if we have very far to go, in order to find the cause of this want of interest. It lies entirely in the mode of appointment to the higher offices in the Craft, and in the tenure by which those offices are held. It is, for instance, notorious, that with few exceptions, there are in every Province in England, Masons of higher social rank than the P.G.M. What inducement then have such persons to interest themselves in the affairs of the Craft? They must be content to serve as inferiors, under one to whom they are socially, and possibly in Masonic worth and knowledge also, superiors. They know that the P.G.M. is in office for life, and that even should there be a vacancy, unless they are in favour with the reigning clique in London, they have no chance of succeeding to it. There is, therefore, we repeat, no inducement whatever for the leading county gentry, either to become Masons, or to interest themselves in our affairs. Such then being the cause of the evil, it is obvious that an annual or triennial election of the P.G.M. by the free suffrages of the Pr.G.L. would afford a remedy for it; and we might then expect to find that many noblemen and gentlemen of position, would be eager to qualify themselves for an honour which is now entirely beyond their reach. The same argument applies in its degree, to the election of the Grand Master. So long as that high office is a life appointment, it ceases to be an object of ambition to numbers who might otherwise fairly aspire to fill it; and consequently the interests of the Craft are sacrificed. We are glad to find that the principle for which we are contending, has received the recognition of no less an authority than LORD ZETTLAND. At the last meeting of his Pr.G.L., his Lordship said, “that by changing his Wardens annually, he had no doubt that the interests of the Craft would be better served, than if the honours were confined to any individuals.”

And as regards the inferior offices of Grand Lodge, and of Pr.G. Lodges, we are convinced that a great impetus would be given to the zeal of many a hard working Mason, if a certain proportion of the honours of the Craft were bestowed by the Brethren themselves. In Victoria, the Pr.G. Stewards are elected by the Lodges in turn—in Canada, half the officers of G.L. are elected

by that body. We believe that there is a growing desire among the Craft in England not to be behind their Colonial Brethren in the power of self-government; and sure we are, that while the present system of centralization is both injurious to the development of Masonry, and to the character of those who aspire to its honours, the contrary policy, to which Masonry forms the sole exception in this country, would tend at once to invigorate the Institution, and to strengthen all the higher qualities of its individual members.

IT has often been asserted by the maintainers of things as they are, that Masonry is after all nothing more than a convivial association, with a little spice of charity, just to give it a respectable appearance; and that the less Masons trouble themselves with business, —or as it is usually termed, with questions about which there may be differences of opinion—the better. It is on this ground that Pr. G. Masters think themselves justified, as has lately been the case in HAMPSHIRE and SOMERSET, in preventing the transaction of anything but the usual childish routine of unmeaning compliment. We need scarcely say that this estimate of the duties and responsibilities of Masons, is one from which we entirely dissent; believing as we do that the Order is of little use, excepting in so far as it teaches us that which Englishmen alone are permitted to exercise—the art of self-government.

For this reason we hail with very great satisfaction the interest that is being taken by several Lodges in the Provinces, in the appointment of the BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES. That body, one half of which is nominated by the G.M., and the other by the Masters and Wardens of all Lodges on the register, is entrusted with the supervision of the finances of the Order, as well as with its discipline. It surely requires no argument to show, that any system of voting which, in effect, disfranchises all the Country Lodges, and places the election in the hands of a few London Lodges, or worse still, hands it over to the Grand Registrar, and his friends, at solemn luncheon assembled, is an outrage upon all fairness and decency. Yet such is, and always has been, the result of having but one polling place, and that in London. The consequence is, that the appointment to seats at the board becomes a part of the patronage of the G.M.'s advisers, and a means of perpetuating that system of servility which is at present one of the disgraceful characteristics of Masonry, especially in the Metropolis. On the contrary, if the Country Lodges were enabled to exercise that power which the Constitutions give them, and to elect one-half of the Board from among themselves, they would be able, by their independent suffrages, to return some distinguished brother from every Province in turn, who would really represent the wishes and wants of his constituents. We should then have no more of the scandalous waste of Country Funds, with which the London G.L. amuses itself, whenever it wishes to prove its devotion to the Executive. Our money instead of being squandered in decoration and ventilation, patch-

ing up worn out organs, building a club house for the Londoners, and other such pleasant playthings, might then go to the support of our Charities, while the Provincial Mason would then be spared those constant appeals to his private liberality, which press most unfairly upon those who are put to a vast expense in order to attend in London, to watch over those finances, which, if properly applied, would more than satisfy all charitable claims upon the Craft.

We believe then, that when, by the introduction of voting papers, we have a Board that really represents the Country, we shall have taken a step—and that a very important one—towards bringing English Masonry into closer accord with the general progress of the nineteenth century.

GRAND LODGE.

[Published by the permission of the M.W. the G.M., upon the Publisher's responsibility for the accuracy of the report.]

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

THE quarterly communication of Grand Lodge was holden in the Great Hall, on Wednesday last, the 7th instant, the R.W.D. G.M., Lord Panmure, presiding as Grand Master, supported by Bros. Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, D. Prov. G.M. for Hampshire, as D.G.M.; Hall, Prov. G.M. for Cambridgeshire; Ramsay, Prov. G.M. Bengal; Col. Burlington, Past Provincial Grand Master, Bengal; Lord de Tabley, S.G.W.; Col. Brownrigg, P.G.W., as J.G.W.; Savage, S.G.D.; Slight, J.G.D.; F. Roxburgh, G. Reg.; S. Tomkins, G. Treas.; W. G. Clark, G. Sec.; Rev. A. Ward, G. Chaplain; Rev.—Moore, P. G. Chaplain; E. G. Pocock, G.S.B.; Jennings, G.D. of Cers.; A. W. Woods, P.G.D. of Cers.; Farnfield, Asst. G. Dir. of Cers.; Daukes, G. Supt. of Works; Horsley, G. Org.; Smith, G. Purs.; Adams, Asst. G. Purs.; Fred. Dundas, P.G.W.; Pattison, P.G.W.; Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, P. Prov. G. Chaplain; W. P. Scott, P.G.D.; Hervey, P.G.D.; Havers, P.G.D. (President of the Board of General Purposes); Hopwood, P.G.D.; Faudell, P.G.D.; J. N. Tomkins, P.G.D.; Nelson, P.G.D.; S. B. Wilson, P.G.D.; Masson, P.G.S.B.; Spiers, P.G.S.B.; Udall, P.G.S.B.; Evans, P.G.S.B. (President of the Colonial Board); Patten, P.G.S.B.; &c., &c.

The Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, and the minutes of the last quarterly communication read—

Bro. MADDEN, on the motion that they be confirmed, rose and said, that as the immediate Past Master of the Lodge of Concord, No. 49, he wished to explain how it was that the Lodge had ceased to meet, and to expose itself to the sentence of erasure passed upon it at the last meeting of Grand Lodge. It so happened that the house in which the meetings of the Lodge used to be held in the time of Bro. Crucifix had been pulled down, and the house erected in its stead was devoted to other purposes. In the mean time Bro. Crucifix died and the Brethren dispersed, but he (Bro. Madden) was at present busily engaged in finding out their addresses, and having the support of many influential brethren he was ready to pay the fees and do all that was necessary to resuscitate the Lodge and save its number. The warrant had, in the confusion of Bro. Crucifix's papers, unfortunately been mislaid, but no effort on his part would be spared to recover it; he therefore hoped that Grand Lodge would allow No. 49 to remain on the register.

The President of the Board of General Purposes was sure Grand Lodge would be ready to give Bro. Madden every assistance, under the peculiar circumstances he had mentioned. Bro. Madden's course, however, was not to ask Grand Lodge to rescind a resolution at which it had once arrived, but simply to move that the confirmation of so much of the minutes as referred to the erasure of No. 49 be deferred until such time as Grand Lodge had further considered the question.

Bro. MADDEN having moved in the spirit of Bro. Havers's suggestion, and the motion having been duly seconded, the original motion so modified was put and carried.

INVESTITURE OF ASSISTANT GRAND PURSUIVANT.

THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER then called Bro. Thomas Alexander Adams to the dais, to which he was conducted by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, when addressing him, the noble lord said he felt great pleasure in investing him with the insignia of the important office of Assistant Grand Pursuivant. His selection for that

office by the Grand Master was a proof of the high opinion he entertained of him, both as a man and as a Mason; and he (the Deputy Grand Master) was convinced that he would discharge the duties of the office entrusted to him in a manner satisfactory to the Grand Lodge, and so as to justify the Grand Master's selection of him.

Bro. ADAMS was then invested, and having briefly thanked the Deputy Grand Master, was conducted to the proper place, amid the hearty applause of the brethren assembled.

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER then stated that he had been requested by the Grand Master to apologize for his absence, which was occasioned partly by important duties he had to discharge in Yorkshire, and partly from ill health, from which, however, as they would, no doubt, be glad to learn, his lordship was rapidly recovering.

NOMINATION OF GRAND MASTER.

Bro. COTTERELL said that he rose with hesitation, to submit to Grand Lodge the nomination of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland as Grand Master for the ensuing year. He said, with hesitation, because he thought that a proposition of such importance would come with a better grace from some brother of more influence than himself in the Craft. If at any time the acts of his lordship had been canvassed with a feeling of party spirit (no, no), he hoped that feeling was now eradicated, and he felt sure that every brother who took care that it should not again be brought into vogue would do a benefit to the Craft (hear, hear). If he were about to nominate, for the first time, to the high office of Grand Master any other member of the Craft, he should feel it incumbent on him to go at length into a detail of his qualifications, but in the case of the Earl of Zetland, his doing so would weary the brethren, and be a waste of the time of Grand Lodge. His lordship was a Mason of long standing, who had ever shown himself zealous to promote the interests of the Craft, and to uphold the charities of the Order, not only by his purse, but also by being ever ready to give his attendance at any meeting, or at any festival held for the purpose of advancing them; indeed, he considered his lordship's qualifications without a parallel in the Order, for all who had been in the habit of attending Grand Lodge knew, from their own experience, that he had, during the last fifteen years, presided over its deliberations with courtesy and impartiality, and upheld by his conduct the dignity of his office. He would not, however, place his qualification on so low a footing as that of his long service, but would rather base his claims to re-election on his many Masonic virtues (hear, hear).

The following twelve Past Masters, who were nominated at the General Committee on the 23rd Nov., 1859, to serve on the Board of Benevolence for the ensuing twelve months, were unanimously elected:—Fred. Adlard, No. 7; Geo. Barrett, No. 188, Jas. Brett, No. 206; Hen. Garrod, No. 1022; Samuel Gale, No. 19; Charles Lee, No. 9; Richard Motion, No. 663; William Paas, No. 30, Henry Potter, No. 11; Edward Dresser Rogers, No. 15; James R. Sheen, No. 219; William Young, No. 72.

The report of the Board of Benevolence was then brought forward. It stated that on the 21st September seven petitioners were relieved with 85*l*.; on the 9th October, eleven petitioners were relieved with 180*l*.; and on the 23rd November, eighteen petitioners were relieved with 198*l*.

On the motion of Bro. Savage, S.G.D., the foregoing report was received and entered on the minutes.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The Board of General Purposes beg to report that they have received and adjudicated upon the following complaints:—

1. By the Master of a Lodge against his Wardens for alleged acts of insubordination arising out of rather unusual circumstances, and which induced the Master to forbid the Lodge to meet on the next regular day for assembling; against this act of the Master the members of the Lodge preferred a counter complaint.

As the differences arose out of circumstances of a personal nature, wholly unconnected with Freemasonry, and have since been amicably adjusted, the board deem it unadvisable to enter upon further detail, than that they admonished the Wardens to pay due obedience to the Worshipful Master; and the Worshipful Master that it is his bounden duty to cause the Lodge to be regularly summoned for Meeting on the several days fixed by the by-laws.

2. By the Board of Benevolence against the Lodge, No. 133, at Colne, for certifying to the petition of a brother, that he had been a regular contributing member for the space of twenty-seven years, whereas Grand Lodge dues had been paid for only twenty-two and a half years: the Board, taking into consideration the explanation offered, ordered the arrears to be paid forthwith, which has been done.

3. Against the Lodge No. 357, Shepton Mallet, for having

advanced a brother to the second degree within fifteen days of his initiation; the board believing that the irregularity arose from thoughtlessness, and not from any disposition to contravene the laws, admonished the W. Master to be more cautious for the future, and imposed a fine upon the Lodge of one guinea, to be paid to the Fund of Benevolence.

The board also report, that it having come to their knowledge that there are at present existing in London, and elsewhere in this country, spurious Lodges claiming to be Freemasons, they have issued a circular letter to the Masters of Lodges, cautioning them upon the subject, and have furnished them with a facsimile copy of a certificate issued by a body established at Stratford, in Essex, and calling itself "the reformed Masonic Order of Memphis, or Rite of the Grand Lodge of the Philadelphes."

The board have received a memorial from the St. David's Lodge No. 554, Berwick, suggesting that Grand Lodge should make advances of money to private Lodges, to assist them in building Lodge rooms, the property to be held as security for the payment of principal and interest. The board have carefully considered the question thus opened, and as the result of their deliberation they beg to recommend the following resolution for the adoption of G.L.:—

"That it would be a legitimate and judicious application of the funds of General Purposes, to advance money on loan to provincial Lodges to assist them in erecting Masonic halls or Lodge rooms, provided that proper security be given for the re-payment of the principal, with interest, within a reasonable period."

The board also report that they have received memorials from Lodges, No. 90, at Winchester, No. 915, at Trowbridge, No. 555, at Southampton, and No. 839, at Newbury, requesting them to recommend to Grand Lodge that provincial brethren be permitted to vote by proxy therein: in two of these memorials the proposal to vote by proxy is limited to the elections of members of the different boards, in the third it includes the election of the M.W. Grand Master also, and in the fourth it is without limit. The board have most attentively considered the subject, and they are of opinion that they cannot with propriety recommend such a change in the law, believing that it is not called for, that it would not be to the advantage of the Craft, but would be likely to lead to confusion and abuse.

The attention of the board having been directed to the inconvenience which has occasionally arisen from the practice of brethren being put in nomination for election on the various boards without their knowledge and consent, the board submit to the consideration of Grand Lodge to order "that in future the brother presiding at the General Committee shall not receive, nor shall the Grand Secretary record, any nomination except it be in writing, signed by a member of the Grand Lodge, in which the names of the candidates, together with the numbers of their respective Lodges, and whether Masters or Past Masters, shall be specified."

Many errors being apparent in the calendar, which appear to have arisen from the fact that Lodges have frequently changed their days of meeting without giving notice to the Grand Secretary, as required by the Book of Constitutions, the Board have directed a circular to be sent to the Masters of all Lodges, requesting them to make a return forthwith of their days of meeting, and they desire to impress upon the brethren generally that much convenience will result from a strict compliance with this request.

(Signed) JOHN HAVENS, President.

Freemasons' Hall, November 23rd, 1859.
The board subjoin a statement of the receipts and disbursements on account of the Grand Lodge funds during the present quarter, as reported by the Finance Committee on the 11th Nov. inst., viz. .

BENEVOLENCE.	
Balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer on the	
1st October, 1859	£316 16 2
Subsequent receipts	228 11 0
	545 7 2
Disbursements	155 0 0
	390 7 2
GENERAL PURPOSES.	
Balance in the hands of the Grand	
Treasurer on the 1st October, 1859	£468 0 3
Subsequent receipts	746 2 8
	1214 2 11
Amount of money received, for the appropriation of	
which no directions have yet been given by the	
parties remitting	614 11 5
	£2219 1 6

Of which balance there is in the hands of the Grand Treasurer	2169	1	6
Grand Secretary for petty cash	50	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£2219	1	6

The report of the Board of General Purposes having been taken as read,

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of GENERAL PURPOSES moved, and Bro. POCOCK WEBB seconded the motion, that it be received and entered on the minutes.

Bro. WHITMORE did not oppose the motion, but he thought, before the report was passed, the Board ought to give Grand Lodge some information with regard to the reasons which had induced them to come to the resolution with reference to the advance of money to provincial Lodges.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of GENERAL PURPOSES rose to answer. There would be a distinct resolution submitted on that subject to Grand Lodge, when Bro. Whitmore would have a full opportunity of expressing his opinion on the matter.

Bro. STEBBING had a request to make before the motion was put from the chair. He would appeal to Bro. Havers, as President of the Board, to allow that portion of the report which related to voting by proxy, to stand over until the next meeting of Grand Lodge. He did not at present think that proxies should be allowed, (as in the Grand Lodge of New York) in the management of the ordinary business of Grand Lodge, although it was a system which might, he was persuaded, be of some advantage in the election of committees.

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER observed that the subject had been frequently brought under the consideration of the Board of General Purposes, and they were bound, in courtesy to those who had brought it before them, as well as in duty, to furnish Grand Lodge with their opinions in respect to it. They did not propose to take any further steps in reference to the matter, and their adoption of the report did not preclude Bro. Stebbing from giving notice of motion in reference to the action of Grand Lodge in regard to it.

Bro. STEBBING said that he should then, although most unwillingly, move as an amendment, that so much of the report as related to voting by proxies be allowed to stand over to next quarterly communication.

Bro. SHELLARD seconded the proposition.

The President of the Board of General Purposes, thought this was neither the time nor the opportunity for the discussion of the question raised by the amendment of Bro. Stebbing; and he would ask Grand Lodge if they had confidence in the Board, which was one of their own election, not to throw back upon them the consideration of a question of which they had already disposed. The amendment was then put from the chair, and lost by a large majority.

The President of the Board of General Purposes, then said that he had now to submit to Grand Lodge a resolution embodying a general principle which he was sure no brother present would contravene. He had to ask them to sanction this—

“That it would be legitimate and judicious application of the funds of General Purposes, to advance money on loan to provincial Lodges to assist them in erecting Masonic Halls or Lodge rooms, provided that proper security be given for the repayment of the principal, with interest, within a reasonable period.”

He apprehended that the principle embodied in that proposition was a just and good one, for it was a wish dear to the heart of every Mason to see their meetings held in temples exclusively devoted to the celebration of their mysteries, and Masonry rescued from the association with the public-house. Their principal object was, no doubt, to see the head-quarters of the Order properly lodged, but as they had at present a large amount of funded property, on which they were receiving something about 3½ per cent., he thought that, if the brethren in the country were desirous of meeting in Masonic temples of their own erection, Grand Lodge would be doing good service if it would aid them in so doing, rather than allow any private individual to do so. At present, the Board contented itself by asking Grand Lodge to approve the general principle, leaving it to the Board to draw up a scheme, in conformity with which Grand Lodge would be willing, not to erect, but to assist in the erection of Masonic-halls in the provinces. It should be their duty to take care that their funds suffered no diminution, and that they received on all such advances as good interest as they could get elsewhere. With regard to this proposal, if acted upon, interfering with the changes contemplated in the building in which they were assembled, he did not think such would be the case; but, even if it did, it would be better to wait for them than stay the endeavours of their country brethren to sever their connexion with the public-houses, which were the last places in which the mysteries of the Order

ought to be celebrated. He was convinced that nothing could tend more to maintain the high character and reputation of the Craft than such a severance. He did not wish to say one word against those who, as landlords of those houses, pursued an honest calling; but, amongst themselves, the brethren well knew that they lost a large degree of credit by their assumed connexion with such establishments. It should not, however, be understood that the Board thought it proper that money should be advanced to every party that applied for it—no such thing. They would have first to show that they had put their own shoulder to the wheel; besides which, every application would have to be brought before Grand Lodge to be decided on its merits, the Board taking care to see that the security for the repayment of the money was a good one. In taking that course they would be acting wisely, judiciously, and legitimately. The only objection he had as yet heard to the proposal was that it did not go far enough for the brethren of the Southmolton Lodge, No. 610, who had stated to him that they had bought a freehold site, and built upon it a suitable temple, with proper accommodation for the Lodge and Chapter, and with apartments for the Tyler, and owed upon it a debt of 250l., and they asked if they would be assisted in getting rid of that encumbrance. Now he had no hesitation in saying that Grand Lodge would be disposed to act with the greatest liberality, and advance the money on approved security, at all times taking care that the funds of the parent body suffered no diminution.

Bro. LOCOCK WEBB seconded the resolution, in the principles of which he fully concurred.

Bro. WHITMORE opposed the motion, as he had high legal authority for stating that, as all the members of the Craft were proprietors of the fund which it was proposed should be laid out, there would be a difficulty in reclaiming a loan made to any of them out of that fund. They could never do it. It would be just as easy to try and advance astronomical science by making a railway to the moon. The whole amount of the fund they had to lend was only 10,000l. and they knew nothing of the enthusiasm of the brethren in the country when they thought with that amount they would be able to meet the forty or fifty applications which would be made to them the moment it became known that they were about to lend their money. He was sure the resolution, if acted on, could not fail to lead to litigation, and give rise to great heartburnings in the Craft. He had, however, to complain that those who brought it forward had not given Grand Lodge some details with respect to how and to what extent they were prepared to make these advances. He asked Grand Lodge to deal with the question not in any party spirit, but as each individual brother present would do in his own particular case. But if they were to lend out their money, where, he would ask, were they to get funds to carry out the grand scheme of last year for the improvement of the building in which they were then assembled?

Bro. STEBBING inquired if Grand Lodge had at present the power of lending money on freehold property?

Bro. HAVERS replied in the affirmative.

Bro. STEBBING would not in any factious spirit press any amendment to the resolution, although he regarded it as very injurious to the best interests of Masonry; besides, it was unnecessary, if Grand Lodge had at present the power of investing its money in mortgage on freehold property, without sending over England to build Masonic halls, which were sure to get into disuse, and become bad security for any money advanced upon them. Speaking of his province, he knew that in the small towns Masonry was very ephemeral in its popularity. While that popularity lasted the brethren were enthusiastic in regard to the Craft, and were ready to build Masonic halls, but when that spirit died away the halls came to be unused, and fell in value as security for the money advanced upon them. The Masonic hall at Lymington had not been used for Masonic purposes for the last twenty-three years. In Christchurch too a magnificent hall had been allowed to get into disuse, while the Lodge which built it had removed to Bourmouth, and was in a state of decay. In the large towns, like Southampton, Portsmouth, or Portsea, the brethren were numerous enough to build the halls at their own expense and keep them clear of debt; or if there was a sign of their being allowed to fall in desuetude, there was always some wealthy brother at hand to step in and prevent it; but in small towns, where there were not men of that character, they would be sure to have continual clamour, and speaking prophetically, he would say that if they now encouraged the erection of a large number of these halls, in ten years' time not one of them would be in use for Masonic purposes. Then when the parties borrowing defaulted, Grand Lodge would have to appear in the courts, and thus Masonry would be dragged before the country in a manner most offensive. Every one too knew that it was impossible to touch

parliament without getting into a sea of troubles; and for himself he had to say, that, although in all building speculations he acted with all care and caution, he had not been out of Chancery for the last twenty years. (Hear, Hear, and laughter.) He had nothing more to say than to implore Grand Lodge not to stimulate small lodges—in which their members know less of Masonry than of building speculation—to rush into the erection of Masonic halls.

Bro. McINTYRE said that one would think from his observations that Bro. Whitmore had not taken the trouble to read the resolution which he opposed, for if he had he would have seen that it was not proposed to lend any money except on good and ample security. He would also remind him with respect to the difficulty in reclaiming the money to which he referred, on the authority of some great unknown lawyer, that the money with which it was proposed to deal was not invested in the name of Grand Lodge, but in that of trustees, who would be the parties to the loan, and who could enforce its repayment. That disposed of the legal part of the question. The opposition of Bro. Stebbing, however, rested on the ground of expediency, and he mentioned large towns where the brethren were numerous and wealthy enough to build halls at their own expense, and it was therefore clear that those towns would not get any of the money of Grand Lodge as they did not want it; but he considered it right that when provincial Lodges wished to advance Freemasonry and separate it from all connection with the public-house, they ought to have the countenance and support of Grand Lodge, provided only the funds of the Board of General Purposes were not jeopardized. Who knew but if in those towns where, as stated by Bro. Stebbing, the halls had fallen in desuetude, Grand Lodge had originally helped the undertakings, that help might not have kept alive the Masonic enthusiasm of the brethren?

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER in putting the resolution for confirmation, stated that he fully concurred in the views of the Board of General Purposes in regard to the matter.

The resolution was then carried by a large majority.

The President of the Board of General Purposes then moved, "That in future the brother presiding at the General Committee shall not receive, nor shall the Grand Secretary record, any nomination, except it be in writing, signed by a member of the Grand Lodge, in which the names of the candidates, together with the numbers of their respective Lodges, and whether Masters or Past Masters, shall be specified."

This was seconded by Bro. SYMONDS, and unanimously approved of.

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, in putting the motion for the adoption of the report, called attention to the paragraph in reference to the spurious Lodge at Stratford, and gave it as his opinion, that under the provisions of the 30th George III., it was an illegal assembly. That act excepted the regular Masonic Lodges, but required that the members should be registered with the clerk of the peace, and he would advise them to fulfil the law in every respect.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL BOARD.

The Colonial Board beg to report, that in the case of the memorial presented to Grand Lodge by the District Grand Lodge of Victoria, praying for a reduction of fees on registration and certificate, which memorial was referred back by Grand Lodge to this board at the quarterly communication held on the 2nd day of March last, the board caused a friendly letter to be addressed to the memorialists, pointing out the objections that lay in the way of complying with their request after the very great reduction in fees so recently made by Grand Lodge in favour of provincial brethren. The board are now happy to be able to state to Grand Lodge that a communication has been received from the Provincial Grand Secretary for the province of Victoria, to the effect that such letter having been read at the quarterly communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge the 20th of June last, a unanimous opinion was expressed that the said dues were as low as they possibly could be, and that therefore no further action was taken in the matter. And the Provincial Grand Secretary adds that the Masonic body in that colony, hailing under the English constitution, are devotedly attached to their Mother Grand Lodge, a statement which the board are sure Grand Lodge will receive with great satisfaction.

(Signed) J. LI. EVANS, President.

Freemasons' Hall, November 23rd, 1859.

The President of the Colonial Board, in moving the adoption of the report of that Board, congratulated Grand Lodge on the settlement of the Victorian question with regard to the fees, and at the expression of the warm attachment of the brethren of Victoria to the mother Grand Lodge. The report was then adopted without opposition.

A grant of 50*l.* was then on the motion of Bro. Barrett made to the inmates of the Masonic Asylum, at Croydon, for the purchase of coats, &c., during the winter, after which Grand Lodge was closed in ample form, and adjourned to the first Wednesday in March next.

Colonial.

VICTORIA.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A quarterly communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, holding under the Grand Lodge of England, was held at Tattersall's Hotel, Lonsdale street, West Melbourne, on Monday, the 20th June. The R.W. Bro. Francis Thomas Gell, D. Prov. G.M., in the Chair. It was announced that £285 10*s.* 6*d.* had been voted by the Masons of Victoria towards the Indian Relief Fund.

The report of the Lodge of Benevolence, of the 3d of June was read; the V.W. Bro. Lowry, Prov. S.G.W., in the chair. Two petitioners were relieved with the following sums: Bro. Holland, £7; the widow of the late H. M. Turnbull, £10; and the Committee recommended that the District Provincial Grand Master grant a further sum of £10 from the fund to Mrs. Turnbull.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer declared a balance in the Bank of Victoria of £266 12*s.* 10*d.* belonging to the following funds: Grand Lodge £97 18*s.* 6*d.*; Provincial Grand Lodge, £54 1*s.* 6*d.*; Benevolent Fund, £114 12*s.* 10*s.* The sum of £20 voted to Mrs. Turnbull is not deducted from this last amount.

A letter, received from Prince Frederic William of Prussia, in reply to an address from this Provincial Grand Lodge, forwarded for presentation to that prince, congratulating him on his marriage with the Princess Royal of England, was read, and entered on the minutes.

A communication was read from the Colonial Board on the subject of fees payable from colonial lodges; and, it being the feeling among the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge that the fees payable by the Masons of Victoria to the Grand Lodge were as low as they could possibly be made, no further action was taken in the matter.

Bro. H. W. Lowry, Prov. G.S.W., stated that it was found quite impossible to carry on the business of the province without having a paid secretary, and, as the funds at the disposal of the Provincial Grand Lodge are inadequate to do so, he intended to give notice that a new scale of fees should be adopted. He would propose:—

"That each private lodge shall pay to the Provincial Grand Lodge for each brother initiated 20*s.*, which sum shall include all fees payable to Provincial Grand Lodge and to Grand Lodge for registration and certificate.

"For each joining brother, 7*s.* 6*d.* If the brother is not previously registered in the books of the Grand Lodge and requires a Grand Lodge certificate, a further sum of 7*s.* 6*d.* shall be charged.

"That the Provincial Grand Secretary shall be paid a salary of 100*l.* per annum, to date from the beginning of this year.

"That the metropolitan lodges shall pay to the Lodge of Benevolence 2*s.* per quarter, or 8*s.* per annum; but that country lodges, having to give relief in their own districts, shall pay as heretofore 1*s.* per quarter, or 4*s.* per annum."

Bro. Lowry stated that the foregoing fees were very fully considered and discussed by the Board of General Purposes, and that the Board unanimously agreed to recommend their adoption.

All business being concluded, the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in form, and with solemn prayer.

A large number of the brethren afterwards dined together, under the presidency of the R.W.D. Prov. G.M., and an exceedingly convivial and agreeable evening concluded the Masonic proceedings of the day.

NEW ZEALAND.

The P.G.L. of Canterbury was inaugurated on the 19th of July. The Provincial Grand Master was installed in due form; and when this and other necessary business of the lodge had been completed, the appointment of the officers of the first Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons was proceeded with. The roll, as far as it has been completed, is thus filled up:—Bros. J. C. Watts Russell, Prov. G.M.; C. B. Fooks, D. Prov. G.M.; A. J. Alport, Prov. S.G.W.; W. Donald, Prov. J.G.W.; Ven. O. Mathias, Prov. G. Chaplain; W. G. Brittan, Prov. G. Treas.; C. E. Fooks, Prov. G. Sec.; C. W. Bishop, Prov. S.G.D.; Brandon, Prov. J.G.D.; J. Wyld, Prov. G. Organist. The appointments to the other offices were postponed.

CANADA.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, LONDON, CANADA WEST.

On Friday, the 9th of September, the M.W. Grand Master of Canada, accompanied by the officers of the Grand Lodge and a large body of brethren from the various western and eastern lodges, performed the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new church of St. James, in connexion with the Established Church of Scotland. The day was very fine, and the ceremony passed off with the greatest possible eclat.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

A grand Masonic ball and supper was given by the British Lodge, No. 419, on the 21st of July, when Governor Sir George Grey was present, and was most cordially received by the brethren and public. The worthy brother afterwards laid the foundation stone of the new Somerset Hospital, in presence of the Government officials, the Masonic body, the Odd Fellows, and a numerous concourse of spectators.

INDIA.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF BENGAL.

A quarterly communication of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Friday, the 24th of June, 1859, by the R.W. Bro. John J. L. Hoff, D. Prov. G.M.

The Deputy Prov. Grand Master informed the District Grand Lodge that Freemasonry was recovering from the injuries which it had sustained in the upper provinces of Bengal during the mutiny. Lodge True Brothers, No. 609, was again working at Dinapore; and Lodge Morning Star, No. 810, which had been quenched immediately after its reappearance previous to the disturbances, had again risen in December last, and a new warrant of confirmation had been procured for it from England. The warrant of the new lodge, Hope and Perseverance, No. 1,084, at Lahore, had also been received from England, and forwarded to the Master. This lodge was already so strong that a Royal Arch Chapter was about to be attached to it.

The Deputy Prov. Grand Master announced his intention of conferring the rank of P. Prov. J.G.W. on W. Bro. H. D. Sandeman, Master of Lodge Hope and Perseverance, No. 1,084, in consideration of the valuable services rendered by him in the cause of Freemasonry in this province, and of the high estimation in which he was held by the Craft.

The Prov. Grand Secretary read the following report of the Finance Committee on the audit of the Prov. Grand Treasurer's accounts:—District Grand Lodge—Balance of first quarter of 1859, 3,130l. 13s. 8d.; receipts during second quarter, 1,111l. 14s.; disbursements during the second quarter, 885l. 7s. 1d.; balance in hand 3,357l. 4s. 7d. Fund of Benevolence—Balance of first quarter of 1859, 1,852l. 10s. 5d.; receipts during the second quarter, 560l.; disbursements during the second quarter, 531l.; balance in hand, 1,881l. 10s. 5d.

On a motion made by W. Bro. E. Jennings, P.S.G.U., seconded by W. Bro. R. T. Callan, P.G. Steward, the Provincial Grand Treasurer's accounts, as audited, were passed.

Mark Masonry.

LONDON.—*St. Mark's Lodge*.—The first meeting was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, October 5th, Bro. Sharman presiding, when Bro. Simmonds was elected R.W.; Bro. Fox D.M.; Loewenstark, S.W.; Arliss, J.W.

LONDON.—*Thistle Lodge* (No. 3).—This Lodge commenced its autumnal sessions on Friday evening, October 5th, at Dick's Hotel, Fleet Street. Bro. Catteral occupied the chair with his usual ability as a master, and with that tact as a chairman which he always evinces in any assembly over which he presides. The principal business of the evening was the election of a Master; the choice of the brethren conferring that dignity upon Bro. Figg, whose amiable and gentlemanlike bearing, and skill as a Mark Mason, ensure the good order and good working of the Lodge for the ensuing official year. Bros. Capt. Hamilton, Dr. Nolan, and Smith, (editor of the *Artisan*), were appointed as an audit committee. The affairs of the Lodge are prosperous, but much will depend as to its future progress upon the appointment as officers by the incoming Master, of men of ability and regularity of attendance.

LEICESTER.—*Fowke Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 19).—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday Sept. 29th. There were present Bros. W. Kelly, (Prov. G.M.M.), W.M.; Bankart, J.W.; Paul, S.D.; Clephan, Treas.; R. Brown, I.G.; Bethry, Director of Music and Ceremonies; and J. H. Garnar; visitors, Bros. Underwood, (D. Prov. G.M.M.), W.M.; Pettifer, S.W.; Windram, J.W.; Nedham, Secretary of the Howe Lodge, No. 21; when several brethren were advanced.

LEICESTER.—*Howe Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 21).—At a later hour of the evening a meeting of this Lodge was held, Bro. Underwood, W.M., in the chair; and three brethren were advanced.

STONEHOUSE.—*Lodge of Sincerity* (No. 35).—On Monday, the 26th September, 1859, this new Mark Master's Lodge was opened in St. George's Hall, Stonehouse, Plymouth, under a warrant from the Grand Mark Lodge of England and Wales; on which occasion several Mark brethren were elected joining members, and four

candidates were duly balloted for and advanced to the degree. The ceremony was performed remarkably well by the W.M., Bro. Hunt, agreeably to the ritual furnished by the Mark Grand Lodge. The Lodge having been closed in form, the brethren subsequently adjourned to dinner, and after the usual Masonic toasts were given and responded to, success and prosperity to the Mark Lodge of Sincerity was drunk with due Masonic honours, and responded to most enthusiastically.

BIRKENHEAD.—*Joppa Lodge of Mark Masters* (I.C.) No. 5.—The annual meeting of this well worked and flourishing Lodge, for the election of R.W. Master, Wardens, and other officers, took place on Tuesday, Sept. 27th, at the Park Hotel, Birkenhead.

HYDE.—*Fidelity Lodge* (No. 31).—A meeting of the Lodge was held on Oct. 15th, at the usual place of meeting, the Norfolk Arms Hotel, Hyde, when a candidate was duly advanced, and two others, unavoidably absent, reserved for the next meeting of the Lodge. The principal business of the day was the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. S. P. Leather, 18°, by the immediate P.M. of the Lodge, Bro. John Yarker. An excellent dinner was provided for the brethren by the proprietress of the hotel, and in the course of the evening the following toasts were given:—"The M.W.G.M. of M.M., Lord Leigh," "The R.W.D.G.M. the Earl of Carnarvon," "The Grand Officers." The health of the immediate P.M. of the Lodge was then proposed by the W.M., who, on returning thanks, adduced some proofs of the antiquity and great utility of the degree when properly understood, and expressed a hope that the officers would render every assistance to their W.M., not only by their punctual and regular attendance, but by strenuous exertions in attaining a correct knowledge of the duties incumbent upon them in respect of their several offices, and concluded by proposing the health of their esteemed W.M. Bro. Leather returned thanks in a very appropriate speech, expressing his determination to do everything in his power to forward the interests of the Lodge, and in proposing the health of his officers expressed a hope that they would do all in their power to assist him in this object. Bro. Cooke, J.W., appropriately returned thanks for "The Officers," and "To all poor and distressed Masons" terminated a highly agreeable evening. It is purposed, ere long, to establish instruction meetings in the degree, and great hopes are expressed of the ensuing year being a highly prosperous one for the Lodge.

HARTLEPOOL.—*Eclectic Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 39).—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, on Friday, the 23rd of September, Bro. Hammarbom, W.M., presiding, supported by Bros. Tate and Hudson, S. and J. Wardens, Bro. David Cunningham (editor of the *Stockton and Hartlepool Mercury*) having been balloted for and accepted, was duly advanced to this honourable degree; another brother was also accepted, but absence from home prevented his attendance. The next business was the election of officers for the ensuing year, when the following brethren were unanimously re-elected for the year 1860:—H. A. Hammarbom, W.M.; T.P. Tate, F.S.S., Treas., and J. Mowbray, Tyler. The installation of the W.M. and investiture of the other officers will not take place before January. No other business being before the Lodge, it was closed in peace and harmony at the usual hour.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Northumberland and Berwick-on-Tweed Lodge*.—The Lodge was opened in form on November 12th, by the R.W.M., Bro. John Burthor, G.D.C., assisted by the following officers—Bros. W. Punshon, P.M., (Prov. G. Supt. of Works); Sept. Bell, S.W.; C. J. Bannister, as J. W.; Andrew Gillespie, S.D.; H. G. Ludwig, M.M.O.; Herman Saniter, J.O., and others. After balloting for three brethren for advancement, the following brethren were regularly advanced by the R.W.M.—Bros. Bousfield Atkins, Loades, and Waugh, Bro. Punshon, P.M., than whom a more learned Mark Master does not exist in the north, ably assisting the R.W.M. The brethren then proceeded to elect the R.W.M. for the ensuing year, and on the balloting papers being handed to the R.W.M., he declared Bro. Septimus Bell as R.W.M. elect for the ensuing year, the R.W.M. stating that the election could not have fallen on a brother that would have given him greater pleasure to install as his successor, for no officer had given him such constant and regular assistance for the last twenty-four months as Bro. Bell, and from his antecedents hoped that the Lodge would progress more and more under his rule. The R.W.M. elect, in returning thanks for his election, hoped that by constant attendance and a cheerful co-operation of the officers and brethren, this Mark Masters' Lodge would be brought to as high an efficiency as possible, and might be the most efficient, as it is the most ancient Lodge in the north of England. The Lodge then balloted for Treasurer, when the unanimous vote fell on Bro. A. Gillespie, who has so ably filled the post during the last year. There being no further business, the Lodge was closed in love and harmony at nine o'clock.

Masonic Charities.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

Of £2,200 subscribed at the last festival in January, the whole has been collected with the exception of £20 from one Lodge. Two or three more such efforts, and the whole of the candidates will be provided for. A few stewards for the next festival in January, 1860, are still wanted.

FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL.

A QUARTERLY Court of this School was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, October 13th, Bro. John Udall, P.S.G.D., V.P., in the chair.

The minutes of the various committees were read and adopted; these minutes contained a vote of condolence to the family of the late Bro. John Barnes, vice-president of the charity, on the great loss they had sustained.

The minutes of the Audit Committee were then read and approved, the balance in hand being £1,084 18s. The Treasurer was requested to pay the quarterly accounts of £506 17s. 11d.; and on the building account, £66 4s. A report was also read from the Treasurer to the effect, that an additional £500 stock on account of the institution had been bought, in pursuance of a resolution of the last general meeting, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Bro. Udall moved that the number of children in the school should be increased from seventy to eighty. Their funds were yearly increasing, and he thought the time had arrived when the number of children might be increased. He had been informed that by increasing the number of children they might injure the health of those in it; but he had consulted the medical man and the matron, who assured him that the number might be increased to ninety or one hundred without danger.

Bro. Biggs seconded the proposition, which after a slight discussion was carried, it being stated that after providing for all expenses, £2,500 had been invested in the last three years, and that there was now a balance of upwards of £1,000 in hand.

The election for six children out of nine candidates was then proceeded with—and the poll was declared as follows:

Annie Kilpin, 1,775; Alice Freeman, 1,748; Emily Jane Nixon, 1,709; Emily Ann Morris, 1,670; Adela Annette Gray, 1,640; Lavina Watts, 1,621; Emily Mary Campbell, 358; Jemima Thomason Laws, 226; Mary Ann Emma Williams, 76.

The first six were declared duly elected.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and secretary closed the proceedings.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

A QUARTERLY Court of this School was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, October 17th, Bro. John Udall, P.G.D., presiding.

The minutes of the last court and various committee meetings having been read and confirmed, the Secretary reported that since the last court, twenty-eight boys had been admitted into the new school, making a total of fifty-four. Twelve were to be elected that day, and four were being educated out of the school, of whom one was of the Hebrew persuasion; two, whose time was nearly out, would finish at their present schools, and one was imbecile.

The business having been disposed of, the election of twelve boys out of nineteen candidates was proceeded with—the following being the result of the poll:—

ELECTED.

1. Hand, Ernest (London)	5570
2. Saunders, Henry L. (London)	5334
3. Wesson, Horold G. (London)	2625
4. Jay, Charles H. (London)	2526
5. McDowell, John (London)	2072
6. Gregory, Henry C. (London)	2038
7. Carlin, Herbert Samuel (London)	1667
8. Wentle, Edward (London)	1341
9. Dutton, Alfred W. (London)	1217
10. Kilpin, Edwin (Northampton)	1177
11. Johnson, Alexander (Newcastle)	1096
12. Stark, George (Exmouth)	960

NOT ELECTED.

13. Morris, Chas. (London)	957
14. Pescote, Thomas H. (Chichester)	304
15. Campbell, Alfred C. (Monmouth)	201
16. Webber, Edward G. (Lincoln)	163
17. Clatworthy, John M. (Brixton)	82
18. Ashfield, Edward T. (London)	69
19. Davis, John W. (London)	15

At the General Committee of this Institution, on Saturday last, Bro. Hopwood presiding—it was resolved to confirm the decision of the

House Committee, and give notice to the second master to terminate his engagement—there appearing to be no likelihood of his dissatisfaction with his position being overcome. It was also resolved, on the motion of Bro. Symonds, that the House Committee should apply to some gentleman having experience in tuition and in the inspection of schools, to organize the school and lay down a proper scheme of education to be adopted—having regard to the position in life the boys were likely to fill on leaving the school. As we know many of our subscribers are engaged in the scholastic profession, with a view of obtaining as much information upon the subject as possible we publish the scheme of education as agreed to by the present masters of the school:—

The first master to superintend the first and second classes, on alternate days, in Greek, Latin, History, Jurisprudence, Rhetoric, Correspondence, Reading, Dictation, Science, Writing and Entering, General Knowledge, Religious Knowledge.

The second master to take, on alternate days, the first and second classes in Writing and Entering, English Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic, Mensuration, Euclid; and the third and fourth classes, daily, excepting Tuesday, in—Elementary Knowledge, Grammar, Geography, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic.

Provincial.

BERKSHIRE.

CONSECRATION OF ST. JOHN'S LODGE, NO. 1,097, AT MAIDENHEAD.

A warrant having been obtained, the consecration and opening of this lodge was fixed for Monday, October 25th, and the rooms of the Orkney Arms Hotel, where it is to be held, not being sufficiently spacious for the ceremony, the R.W. Prov. Grand Master granted a dispensation to celebrate the consecration at the Town Hall, the use of which was conceded by the mayor. At high twelve, nearly forty brethren being present, a lodge was opened by the W. Bro. Jeremiah How, P.M., and Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. Hertfordshire, who was authorised by the M.W. Grand Master to perform the ceremony of consecration; Bro. Astley, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, Berks, filling the Senior Warden's chair; and Bro. Bursley, of No. 839, being the J.W.; the Rev. Bro. W. A. Hales, No. 201, being the Chaplain on the occasion; Bro. Geo. States, P.M., No. 166, acting as Dir. of Cers.

The consecration ended, Bro. How resigned the chair to Bro. John B. Gibson, Prov. G. Sec. of Berks, who then proceeded with the installation of the W.M. (Bro. E. P. Cossens), named in the warrant as the first Master, who was duly proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees, Bro. Gibson delivering the address in his accustomed admirable manner. Bro. Charles Venables was invested as S.W., and Bro. John Langton as J.W.

A ballot was then taken for the admission of the following gentlemen, which being unanimous in their favour, and all being present, they were initiated into ancient Masonry in the most perfect and effective way by the W.M., Bro. Jordan, acting as S.D.:—H. W. Williams, G. Bowyer, H. H. Hodges, W. H. Merritt, and William Skindle, jun., and T. Greenhalf as serving brother.

At five o'clock the lodge was closed in ancient form, with solemn prayer, and the brethren removed to the Orkney Arms Hotel, where an excellent dinner was prepared, at which thirty-six brethren assembled around the W.M.

CHESHIRE.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Field Marshal Viscount Combermere, having appointed Wednesday, Sept. 28th, for the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge—in obedience to the summons, the brethren began to assemble from all parts of the province, at the Royal Hotel, Chester, at twelve o'clock.

The Provincial Grand Lodge having been duly opened, the examination of the books of the several Lodges in the province was proceeded with by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. G. C. Antrobus; and the Provincial Grand Treasurer's accounts passed by three W.M.'s of Lodges in Cheshire, showed a steady increase in the benevolent fund.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. J. N. Tanner, then proposed in suitable terms the re-election of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, Bro. Bland, which was seconded by the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and carried unanimously.

Bro. Bland gave notice of motion, "that in consequence of the valuable services of the Provincial Grand Secretary, a committee should be appointed to consider what amount should be added to his salary for the very onerous duties he has to perform," which being seconded by Bro. Bennett, was carried. A committee was then nominated, consisting of five brethren—Bros. Antrobus, Bland, Tanner, Bennett, and Cruttenden.

A proposition and notice of a similar character was made by the Prov. Grand Chaplain, and seconded by Bro. Cruttenden, Prov. G.R.,

to present a jewel, or whatever else a committee named, might think best, in testimony of Bro. Twiss's valuable services as Provincial Grand Organist, which also passed with acclamation. At this stage of the proceedings a collection was made for the Fund of Benevolence.

The Prov. Grand Master then proceeded to appoint his officers for the ensuing year, who were severally invested with the collars and badge of office, the fresh appointments being—Bros. MacIntyre, as Prov. G. D.; the Rev. B. Lowther, as Prov. S.G.W.; and Cope, as Prov. G.S.B.

All business being concluded, the Prov. Grand Lodge was then closed in ancient and solemn form. A large number of the Brethren afterwards dined together. The Grand Master, Lord Combermere, presided.

DERBYSHIRE.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE CHESTERFIELD AND NORTH DERBYSHIRE HOSPITAL.

A grand public demonstration was made on Wednesday Sept. 28th, in Chesterfield, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the intended new hospital, by the Marquis of Hartington, Prov. G. Master of Derbyshire. A more enthusiastic display of public feeling was never witnessed in Chesterfield on any previous occasion, and a considerable time may elapse before such manifestation may again occur. The most eligible site observed by the committee was that situate at Durrant green and Holywell street, immediately adjoining the residence of T. Carrington, Esq., which was considered highly favourable on account of the superior advantages it possessed for ventilation and drainage. The ground being the property of the Duke of Devonshire, an application was made to the late Duke, who, with that benevolence which characterized all his actions, promised the site, but passed to his eternal home before that promise could be fulfilled. The site was not to be absolutely given, but 100l. was to be paid as a nominal price for the purchase. The present noble Duke, who has the cause of charity at heart, having been made acquainted with the intention of his late lamented predecessor, most liberally expressed his desire to complete the arrangement, and to hand over the ground to the Hospital Committee.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT BERKELEY.

Tuesday, the 4th Oct., welcomed the assemblage of a numerous body of the brethren, at the Berkeley Arms, Berkeley, where the Prov. Grand Lodge was opened in due form at two o'clock.

There were present the R. W. Bro. the Hon. James Dutton, Prov. G.M., on the throne; the V. W. Bro. Newmarch, D. Prov. G.M.; Bros. Pearce, Prov. S.G.W.; Cornwall, Prov. J.G.W.; T. G. Palmer, Prov. G. Treas.; Little, Prov. G. Chaplain; Col. F. W. F. Berkeley, M.P., Prov. G. Reg.; Trinder, Prov. G. Sec.; Cottle, Prov. G.S.D.; Gainer, Prov. G.J.D.; Wallace, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Geo. Smith, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; A. Slead, Prov. G.S.B.; J. O. Smith, Prov. G. Org.; Grist, Prov. G. Purst. All the various Lodges in the province were well represented. Amongst other brethren present were Bros. Sir M. H. Beach, *Bart.*, Gwinnett, Brandon, Alex. Williams, &c.

After the minutes had been duly read and confirmed, the Prov. Grand Treasurer reported the funds to be in so flourishing a state that it was decided to double all the subscriptions to the Masonic charities. There was no other business, and the Prov. Grand Lodge was duly closed.

The brethren dined together afterwards, and after spending the evening in harmony and brotherly love, departed to their respective homes at an early hour.

HAMPSHIRE.

SOUTHAMPTON.—*Southampton Lodge* (No. 555).—The first meeting of this Lodge for the winter session took place on the 15th September, Bro. George Lungley, W.M., in the chair. Bro. J. R. Stebbing, P.M., called the attention of the Lodge to the importance of aiding in the general and growing desire amongst the brethren of England that some method should be established by which Provincial brethren should be enabled to vote on the election of the various boards which managed and controlled the business of Masonry and the various charities of Order—that at the present time there were a far larger number of Provincial than of London Lodges, yet from the greater convenience with which the London brethren could attend as compared with those in the provinces, the former were four or five times in number larger in attendance at all quarterly communications, and hence elected on all boards and committees of Grand Lodge; he therefore asked the Lodge to pass a resolution soliciting the Board of General Purposes to consider this unfair condition of things, and to urge on that Board to recommend to Grand Lodge that all Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of Lodges, alike London and Provincial, be allowed to vote by voting papers for all boards and committees of Grand Lodge, by such mode as may most fairly record the wishes of the majority of persons entitled to attend Grand Lodge. Bro. Chas.

Bromley, one of the oldest Past Masters, said he quite concurred in the justice and necessity of the proposal urged by Bro. Stebbing, and cordially seconded it. His professional occupations rarely, if ever, enabled him to attend Grand Lodge; but he thought he had a right to exercise a vote in these elections and to contribute to the means of getting a fair proportion of Provincial brethren willing to act, placed on these Boards of Grand Lodge; the resolution was carried with perfect unanimity.

SOUTHAMPTON.—*Lodge of Peace and Harmony* (No. 462).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, in Bagle street, on Wednesday, Sept. 21st. Brother G. W. Clarke called the attention of the great desire that existed for some more convenient mode for provincial brethren to exercise their right of voting in Grand Lodge, particularly in the election of those Boards which controlled Masonic affairs in connection with Grand Lodge. He considered it needless to remind brethren how seldom it happened that any officer of that Lodge was enabled to attend Grand Lodge, and their case was that of a great majority of country Lodges. Hence the necessity arose for some new method of exercising their judgment and power in those matters, with which the best interests of the Craft were most nearly identified. He had cautiously considered the subject, and having done so, he had come to the conclusion that if voting papers were allowed to be used by those brethren who, possessing the right to vote, could not attend Grand Lodge, the great grievance and difficulty could be got over. Deprecating everything of a party spirit in this as in any other effort in Masonry, he pressed on the careful attention of his brethren the following resolution, which he would propose—"That an earnest application be made to the Board of General Purposes, to take into consideration and recommend to Grand Lodge, such an amendment of the laws in relation to the election of the various Boards appointed by Grand Lodge, as will enable the Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of all Lodges (being entitled to attend Grand Lodge), to vote, by proxy or by voting papers." Bro. Miles, P.M., the father of the Lodge, seconded the resolution, which, after a discussion in which Bros. H. Clarke, Webb, Passenger, and Stebbing took part, was carried unanimously.

SOUTHAMPTON.—*Twelve Brothers' Lodge*.—A meeting of the brethren was held at the Royal Hotel, on Thursday the 22nd September, Bro. George Lungley presided as W.M. during the early portion of the proceedings. After the minutes of the preceding Lodge had been read, and the warrant of constitution also read, the brethren unanimously approved the nomination of Bro. J. R. Stebbing as W.M., and Bro. Lungley proceeded to install him in the chair accordingly.

Bro. King proposed, and Bro. G. Lungley seconded, and it was unanimously resolved, "That a representation be made to the Board of General Purposes, of the great necessity that exists for the better representation of the Provincial Lodges in Grand Lodge, and that it be suggested, that the use of voting papers would be the means of enabling all brethren entitled to vote in Grand Lodge, to exercise that privilege in the election of the several Boards."

HEREFORDSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT ROSS.

A communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Herefordshire was held on Monday, the 10th Oct., at the Royal Hotel, Ross. The R. W. and Rev. Dr. Bowles (vicar of Stanton Lacy), Prov. G.M., presided.

The Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened, the following appointments were made:—Bros. the Ven. Archdeacon Freer, Prov. S.G.W.; Daniel Fisher Collins, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. C. Alien and Rev. W. Morrish, Prov. G. Chaplains; James Williams, Prov. G. Treas.; Frederick Davison, Prov. G. Sec.; Capt. Aynsley and Thomas Donne, Prov. G. Deacons; Capt. Peyton, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; William Phillips and A. Myers, Prov. G. Dirs. of Cers.; Francis Lewis, Prov. G.S.B.; Henry Collinson, Asst. Prov. G. Sec.; John Cheese, Prov. G. Org.; John Sparksman and A. Osborne, Prov. G. Pursts.; Edward George, William Russell, Henry Pitt, G. Harry Piper, and W. Minnett, Prov. G. Stewards; John Bather and C. Geary, Prov. G. Tyler.

The routine business of the Prov. Grand Lodge having been completed, the brethren adjourned.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT LIVERPOOL.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Tuesday, October 11th, at the Temple, Hope street. Although there are twenty-eight Lodges in the province, returns were made from only twenty-four. The R. W. Bro. Sir Thos. Hesketh, *Bart.*, D. Prov. G.M., presided, and the following Prov. Grand Officers also attended:—Bros. Thos. Littledale, Prov. S.G.W.; Samuel Y. Hess, Prov. J.G.W.; Joshua Walsley, Prov. G. Treas.; Rev. John Dunkley, Prov. G. Chaplain; Hugh Edwards, Prov. G. Reg.; Thos. Wylie, Prov. G. Sec.; Lord Skelmersdale, Prov. S.G.D.; William Davis, P. Prov. J.G.D.; Peter Maddox, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Joseph Hamer, Prov. G. Dir. of

Cers.; Joseph T. Bourne, Prov. G.S.B.; Horatio Cambell, P. Prov. G. Pors.; John Mulineux, Prov. G. Org.; Samuel P. Brabner, Prov. G. Pors.; W. Allender, Prov. G. Steward; Mason, Prov. G. Sec.; Peppér, Prov. G. Sec.; Wearing, Prov. G. Sec.; and H. S. Alpass, Prov. G. Sec.

There were also present upwards of one hundred and twenty other brethren from the various Lodges in the province.

Bro. Thos. Wylie, Prov. G. Sec., read the minutes of the last Prov. Grand Lodge, in which reference was made to the purchase of land in Hope Street, for £1,600, for the erection of a Masonic hall.

Bro. Davis, P. Prov. S.G.D., proposed that the sum of fifty guineas be given towards the erection of a Masonic hall in Liverpool, and also that the sum of twenty-five guineas be given towards the alteration of the Temple. The resolution was seconded by Bro. Alpass, Prov. G. Steward, and was carried unanimously.

The sum of ten guineas was voted to the Boys' School, and a similar sum to the Girls' School, London.

Bro. Walmsley, Prov. G. Treas., moved "That the sum of fifty guineas be given next year towards the funds for the erection of the intended hall."

The Prov. Grand Lodge was then resolved into a court of governors of the West Lancashire Institution for the Education and Advancement in Life of Children of Distressed Masons.

Bro. Brabner, the Treasurer, read a statement of the accounts of the institution, which showed that upwards of £156 had that day been received from the various Lodges towards the funds, making the amount then in hand for purposes of education, £3,000.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

CONSECRATION OF THE FREEMASON'S HALL AT LEICESTER.

The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of this province was held at the county town, on Wednesday, the 14th September, for the consecration and dedication of the recently erected Freemasons' Hall, in Halford-street, by the Right Hon. the Earl Howe, P.G.M.

The following resolution, moved by the Prov. Grand Master and seconded by the D. Prov. Grand Master, was carried unanimously, his lordship being requested to communicate it to the Countess Ferrers:

"That this Grand Lodge cannot avoid taking the earliest opportunity of recording the deep regret they feel at the premature and unexpected death of their late Provincial Junior Grand Warden, the Earl Ferrers—engaged within a few days of his decease in the duties of his office. Connected as he was with the county and with the Craft by a long line of ancestors, his kindness of heart and amiability of manners will long survive in the recollection of the brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge."

A report from the Building Committee was presented, which set forth that 610*l.* had been contributed by the brethren, and that the deficiency on the building account was 3*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* An estimated sum of 150*l.* was required for furnishing and decorating the interior, and the brethren of the two local Lodges generally had liberally supported the undertaking. Reference was made to the probable source of revenue arising from the purveyor's department connected with the social gatherings after Lodge meetings, on which subject some valuable information was given from the accounts of the Lodge of Truth, No. 763, Huddersfield, since its removal to the hall erected by the members in 1855, from which it appeared that during the years 1856, 1857, and 1858, an average profit of nearly 40*l.* per annum had been derived from this source.

The following Provincial Grand Officers were appointed—Bros. Wm. Kelly, re-appointed D. Prov. G.M.; Frederick Goodyer, No. 766, P.M., S.G.W.; Edward Mannatt, No. 1081, W.M., (and P.M., No. 631), J.G.W.; Rev. J. O. Picton, *M.A.*, No. 766, Rev. John Denton, *M.A.*, No. 1081, re-appointed G. Chaplains; Joseph Underwood, No. 348, P.M., re-elected G. Treas.; Jos. B. Haxby, solicitor, No. 348, G. Registrar; Charles Morris, solicitor, P.M., No. 348, G. Secretary; John Holland, jun., W.M., No. 348, S.G.D.; John Dennis Paul, No. 766, J.G.D.; William Millican, architect, P.M., No. 766, re-appointed G. Supt. of Works; Robert Brewin, jun., S.W., No. 766, re-appointed G. Dir. of Cers.; Alfred Cummings, S.W., No. 348, re-appointed Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; T. H. Robart, S.W., No. 1081, G. Sword Bearer; Geo. Aug. Lohr, No. 766, G. Organist; C. J. Willy, W.M., No. 766, G. Pors.; Marten Nedham, J.W., No. 348; Thos. Sheppard, J.W., No. 766; James Bouskell, No. 348; Harry J. Davis, J.W., No. 58 and 766; Thomas Harrold, No. 58, John Sloane, *M.D.*, No. 348, Grand Stewards; James Benbridge, No. 348, Grand Tyler.

LEICESTERSHIRE.—*The Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge*, No. 1081, was consecrated with the usual ceremonies at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, by the Right Hon. Earl Howe, P.G.M., assisted by his P.G.L. and several other brethren, on the 6th of October.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

The Pelham Pillar Lodge, (No. 1094), was consecrated at Grimsby, on the 29th September, by Bro. Waite, W.M., of No. 1014, with the usual ceremonies, after which a banquet was held, and a very pleasant day was passed.

SUFFOLK.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT WOODBRIDGE.

This Prov. Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 12th Oct., at Woodbridge, by Bro. Roxburgh, Grand Registrar, and was numerously attended.

It was moved, "That the Worshipful Master of every Lodge in the province, having made their returns to Prov. Grand Lodge, be members of the Provincial Committee for promoting the interest of the four Masonic charities, and that each Lodge be informed thereof."

The Prov. Grand Master then appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Rev. F. W. Freeman, D. Prov. G.M.; Spencer Freeman, Prov. S.G.W.; John Gissing, Prov. J.G.W.; Richard F. Jennings, Prov. G. Reg.; Rev. R. N. Sanderson, Prov. G. Chaplain; Edward Dorling, Prov. G. Sec.; Neeve, Prov. S.G.D.; Noble, Prov. J.G.D.; Luff, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Bays, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Findley, Prov. G. Asst. Dir. of Cers.; Ball, Prov. G. Org.; Sams, Prov. G.S.B.; Raudall, Prov. G. Purst.; Bros. Wilmshurst, Ward, Corder, Harrison, Grey, and Goodall, Prov. G. Stewards.

In the course of the evening the G. Registrar stated that a P.G.M. would shortly be appointed.

WARWICKSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT SUTTON COLDFIELD.

The Provincial Grand Lodge assembled at Sutton Coldfield, on Tuesday, October 11th, under the presidency of the Prov. Grand Master, Lord Leigh.

The Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened in due form, his lordship proceeded to appoint his Officers for the year ensuing, as follows:—Bros. Chaudos Wren Hoskyns, D. Prov. G.M.; Clerk, Prov. S.G.W.; Robins, Prov. J.G.W.; Bedford and Dickens, Prov. G. Chaplains; Wm. Lloyd, Prov. G. Treas.; Overill, Prov. G. Reg.; W. R. Kettle, Prov. G. Sec.; L. Cohen, Assist. Prov. G. Sec.; L. Linyard and Bromwich, Prov. G. Deacons; C. W. Elkington, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. H. Bedford, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Blake, Assist. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Weiss, Prov. G.S.B.; Hudson, Prov. G. Org.; Read, Prov. G. Standard Bearer; Briggs, Prov. G. Purst.; Cope, Hewett, and Collins, Prov. G. Tylers.

After the appointment of the Prov. Grand Officers, the Prov. Grand Master proceeded to consecrate the new Warden Lodge, No. 1096. After the appointment of the officers of the new Lodge, the business of the province was proceeded with.

Upon the motion of Bro. C. W. Elkington, the sum of twenty guineas was voted towards the testimonial to be presented to Bro. Wm. Lloyd, Prov. Grand Treasurer, and twenty five pounds to the reformatories of the county, with eight guineas as an annual subscription.

The sum of one hundred and fifty guineas was voted to the Prov. Grand Master to be applied to the Masonic charities; on the motion of Bro. Dee, seconded by Bro. C. W. Elkington, to be appropriated as follows:—fifty guineas to the Girls' School, fifty guineas to the Boys' School, fifty guineas to the Royal Masonic Annuity Fund.

The sum of fifteen guineas was then voted to a distressed brother, and the Prov. Grand Lodge was adjourned.

The brethren then proceeded to the parish church.

On the return of the brethren, after votes of thanks to the Chaplain, and a vote of five guineas to the charities of Sutton Coldfield, the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in ancient and solemn form.

WILTSHIRE.

TROWBRIDGE.—*Lodge of Concord* (No. 915).—This lodge held its first meeting for the season on Tuesday, the 11th of October. Present, Bros. Levander, W.M.; F. Webber, P.M.; Sylvester, S.W. *pro tem.*; Grimes, J.W. *pro tem.*; Stancomb, Sec.; Burt, P.M., No. 961, and other brethren. After the usual lodge business had been disposed of, the Worshipful Master said that he wished to call the attention of the brethren to a subject which he was happy to see had lately attracted notice in the neighbouring province of Hampshire, and which he hoped would soon be taken up in other provinces. He alluded to the very inadequate representation of country lodges in the Grand Lodge of England. From the inconvenience and expense necessarily attending a journey to London, it was found that the attendance of provincial brethren at the quarterly communications was very small indeed compared with that of the London brethren. He held in his hand a paper supplied by the Grand Secretary, giving the number of London and provincial brethren at the several quarterly communications during the last two years. From this it appeared that the total number of provincial brethren present in Grand Lodge from June 3 1857, to June 1, 1859, amounted to 268, giving an average of about thirty at each meeting, while the London brethren numbered 1,522, which gave an average attendance of about 170, or nearly six times the number of these from the country. The largest attendance of country brethren during the last two years was at the quarterly communication of last March, when forty-six were present, while there were 213 London brethren. On one occasion (September 2, 1857), there were only seven provincial brethren in Grand Lodge, and on

two other occasions only eleven. It was not necessary to go further into details to show that the London brethren had virtually the whole management of the affairs of the Craft in their own hands. It was hopeless to expect it should be otherwise while they had such facilities for voting in Grand Lodge compared with those enjoyed by the country brethren; for a country Mason might be as earnest and zealous in the cause of Freemasonry as a London Mason, and yet find it impossible to leave his business, perhaps for two days, in order to attend Grand Lodge. At the same time, it seemed only fair that all the members of Grand Lodge should have the privilege of giving their votes on matters concerning the welfare of the whole Craft, and that it should not be enjoyed solely by those who, from their residence in or near the metropolis, or from their position and means, were able to attend the quarterly communications without personal inconvenience. He trusted that the time would soon arrive when this evil would be remedied, and he thought that the legitimate way of obtaining the removal of the grievance was to bring the matter before the notice of the Grand Lodge, as had been lately done by a Hampshire lodge, by a memorial, in which he heartily concurred. He should, in conclusion, beg to propose the following resolution:—"That an application be made to the Board of General Purposes, representing the necessity that exists for the better representation of country lodges in the Grand Lodge of England, and praying that the Board will take into consideration and recommend to Grand Lodge such an amendment of the existing laws as will enable the Masters, Past Masters, and actual Wardens of all lodges to vote by proxy, or by voting papers." Bro. Webber, P.M., said it seemed only reasonable, considering the number of Masons in the country, that they should have an equal voice with their London brethren in the government of the Craft. He thought nothing could be fairer than the plan suggested, and he therefore had great pleasure in seconding the proposition of the Worshipful Master. Bro. Burt thought if this plan were adopted, not only would country lodges be better represented, but greater unanimity would prevail in Grand Lodge than sometimes appeared there. He hoped that other lodges in the provinces would adopt similar resolutions. After some further discussion of the subject, the resolution was carried unanimously by the brethren, and the Secretary instructed to write to the Board of General Purposes. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire was held on Tuesday, the 20th of September, at the Music Hall, Kidderminster, Grand Lodge being opened at half-past 12 o'clock, by the R. W. Bro. Henry Charles Vernon, Prov. G. M., in ample form.

The V. W. Bro. W. Masefield having been re-elected Treasurer by ballot, the R. W. Pro. Grand Master invested the officers as follows:—Bro. Barber, W.M., No. 772, Prov. S.G.W.; W. Bristow, P.M., No. 313, Prov. J.G.W.; the Rev. T. W. Herbert, P.M., No. 313, Prov. G. Chaplain; the Rev. S. Franklin, Assist. Prov. G. Chaplain; H. Hill, Prov. G. Reg.; W. Masefield, P.M., Nos. 730 and 313, Prov. G. Treas.; W. Howells, P.M., Nos. 730 and 425, Prov. G. Sec.; B. Brooks, P.M., No. 824, Prov. S.G.D.; Jabez Jones, P.M., No. 772, Prov. J.G.D.; Geo. Horton, P.M., No. 838, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; J. Burton, S.W., No. 313, Prov. G.D.C.; W. Wigginton, S.W., No. 819, Assist. Prov. Dir. of Cers.; F. Saunders, W.M., No. 730, Prov. G.S.B.; I. Fitzgerald, P.M., No. 582, Prov. G. Org.; G. B. Bradley, W.M., No. 833, Prov. G. Purst.; Prov. G. Tyler as before.

Bro. Wainwright, P. Prov. S.G.W., then moved,—
"That 50 guineas be voted out of the funds of the P.G.L. to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, thereby creating the Prov. G.M. a Vice-President and Governor for life."

Bro. Jones, W.M., of No. 772, and several other brethren of that lodge, opposed the grant, on the ground of its creating an invidious precedent. It appeared also that the Prov. G.M.'s life was to be insured for a premium of 4*l.* a year, so that at his death 100*l.* might be forthcoming for a renewed grant.

The motion, after a long discussion, was carried, but some of the brethren absented themselves from the banquet, and betook themselves to a separate entertainment of their own.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE HUDDERSFIELD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

This ceremony took place on the 5th of October. A procession was formed at the present institution at noon, and proceeded through the principal streets, arriving on the site about one o'clock. Some seven thousand persons were assembled to witness the ceremony, greater interest being felt on the occasion as it was known that the Right Hon. the Countess of Ripon would lay the foundation stone. The Freemasons having assembled within the site of the intended building, the stone was laid by the Countess of Ripon, the usual Masonic ceremonies being performed.

To the Editor.

Sir,—At the last P.G.L. of Hereford, our worthy P.G.M. thought fit to give vent to a somewhat inopportune sneer, at the expense of those who had upheld the cause of Masonic reform in G.L. It is a pity that Bro. Bowles should forget that very sound maxim which has reference to glass houses, and the propulsion of projectiles—as the scientific world would say. Possibly the worthy brother owed a grudge to those whose vigilant detection and delation of abuses had obliged him to come from a neighbouring county to hold a P.G.L.; and to summon his deputy, from his residence in London, for the same purpose.

May I be permitted to suggest that however rose-coloured a hue may seem to attach to Masonry, when seen through the medium of turtle and champagne, the system must be somewhat rotten which cannot produce two *resident* gentlemen fit to undertake the highest offices in the Province.

May I also be permitted to suggest that it would be well if the officers would study their parts beforehand, and not read them off at the time.—I am Sir, yours fraternally,
A BOWLER.

GRAND LODGE CLUB.

President:—Bro. J. UDALL, P.M., 10, and P.G.D.

Vice-Presidents:

Bro. J. R. STEBBING, P.M., and P.P.G.S., Hants

Bro. J. H. HEARN, P.M., and P.D.G.M., Isle of Wight.

Treasurer:—Bro. J. WHITMORE, P.M., 329.

Secretary:—Bro. F. BINCKES, P.M., 11.

The objects of the club are—

- "1. To maintain the constitutional supremacy & privileges of G.L.
- "2. To amend or modify—so far as can be done with a due regard to the preservation of the ancient landmarks of the Order—such of the Masonic laws and regulations as are found to operate prejudicially to the interests of the Craft.
- "3. To secure to Provincial Brethren a more active participation in the proceedings of G.L.
- "4. To promote the adoption of a liberal and enlightened policy towards Colonial Lodges.
- "5. To encourage throughout the Craft a more extended interest in the Charities of the Order.
- "6. To form a Masonic Library of Reference."

Entrance Fee, 5*s.*; Annual Subscription, 5*s.*; Election of Members by Ballot. The Club dines together before each G.L.; Dinner, 2*s.* 6*d.*, Wine, 3*s.*

The Club now numbers upwards of Sixty Members.

Brethren desirous of joining are requested to communicate with the Secretary, 3, *Lawn Villas, South Lambeth, London, S.*

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, AND THE COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS OF THE BRITISH CROWN.

Bro. The LORD LEIGH, *Grand Master.*

Bro. The EARL OF CARNARVON, *Deputy Grand Master.*

LODGES desirous of uniting under the English Constitution, and Brethren wishing to obtain New Warrants to work the Mark degree, are requested to communicate with Bro. W. L. COLLINS, the Grand Secretary, at the Office of the Grand Lodge, No. 40, Leicester Square, London.

WHITE'S WEST END MASONIC DEPOT, 14, Green Street, Leicester Square, London.

BROTHER GEORGE WHITE, Maker of Masonic Clothing, Jewels, and Furniture, of every degree, in thanking his friends for their appreciation of his rule and practice in business, assures them that he will continue to supply none but good work and materials, that no copper lace will on any account be used, unless as an unwilling exception when especially ordered. Brother WHITE'S terms being invariably for ready money, he is able to charge the lowest prices consistent with fair trading. Orders of Merchants and Shippers, or from the Colonies direct, executed immediately at wholesale rate, on receipt of a remittance or reference for payment to a London House.

Bro. WHITE will be glad to Purchase, or take in Exchange for other Pictures, any Paintings of a Masonic Character.—Masonic Depot and Picture Gallery, 14, Green Street, Leicester Square, London.

BATH: PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY BRO. R. E. PEACH, 8, BRIDGE STREET, LONDON. Published by SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, and Co., Stationers' Hall Court, B.C., and sold by G. WHITE, 14, Green Street, Leicester Square, W.C.; H.M. ARLIS, 15, Great Queen Street, W.C.; STANFORD, Charing Cross, S.W.; and all Booksellers in London and the Country.