

# THE MASONIC MIRROR:

FOR

DECEMBER, 1854.

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## THE CRAFT AND THE WAR.

THE war in which we are engaged in the Crimea, is a subject which cannot fail to be regarded with the deepest interest by every true and faithful brother amongst us. How widely soever we may differ in opinion with respect to the conduct and circumstances which gave rise to the dispute, there can be no diversity of sentiment as to the duties devolving upon us at the present moment. The contest has already cost us some thousands of lives—it has shattered many an athletic frame—it has mangled many a comely form—it has broken many a cheerful heart—it has blighted many a happy family, by rendering vacant the seat occupied, till now, by him in whom were centered all its hopes and affections; and it has scattered broadcast, amidst our cheerful firesides and happy homes, the miseries and wretchedness of widowhood and orphanhood. Such have been, are, and will continue to be, the blighting influences of the war; and, doubtless, the worst is yet to come; for, having fairly engaged in the contest, our motto must be “Death or Victory!” We would say, most cordially, with the immortal bard, “Beware of entrance to a quarrel;” but we cannot withhold our most cordial assent to the continuance of his counsels—

*“but, being in,  
Bear’t, that th’ opposed may beware of thee.”*

Such is at present undoubtedly the feeling of the nation, and this being the case, the widowhood and orphanhood must continue and increase. But little need be said to elicit sympathy under these afflicting circumstances; the nation has already responded nobly and cheerfully to the call of their gracious sovereign, in regard to the Patriotic Fund.

But what has been done by those who constitute the society of the charitable *par excellence*? What is the part taken in this national work by those who are members of that glorious fraternity to which it is our privilege to

belong? We are not speaking to the brethren of their proceedings individually; for, as individuals, no doubt, they have already done their duty. But we do ask, whether it can be said that the Lodges, as a whole, have done the same? We fear not! There are some Lodges which have already come forward with donations, and we do trust that ere long there will not be found a single exception, at least upon the roll of the United Grand Lodge of England. We entreat our brethren to take this matter into their serious consideration at the very earliest opportunity; let them propose a sum in accordance with their means; present it at once to the authorized Secretaries of the Patriotic Fund, in their locality; and, if they will kindly apprise us of the fact, we shall be happy to announce it in these pages, as an inducement to others to go and do likewise. Let it never be said that the Masonic fraternity is backward in assuaging the griefs, and in administering to the necessities, of the widows and families of those who have shed their blood, and laid down their lives, that we might repose in peace and quietude! May we never be liable to reproach, as a fraternity, for not having done our duty in such a crisis as that which is now passing over us!

In these remarks, we have no intention or desire to adopt a tone either of reproach or regret; our idea is, simply to suggest: even this is not absolutely necessary to the ultimate accomplishment of that which we have taken the liberty to recommend; but our hints may, and we trust will, operate as a powerful incentive to *promptitude*, which is of vast importance in all such undertakings as that now under consideration. Let the brethren remember the ancient adage, *Bis dat qui cito dat*, and act accordingly.

The claims of the "Patriotic Fund," and similar appeals which are put forth at the present moment, are so obvious and self-evident, that the subject requires no elucidation or enforcement in articles addressed to a fraternity like ours; and were we to enter, at any length, into the advocacy of such projects, we should clearly demonstrate that we were not wise, but otherwise. But even were matters diametrically opposed to the state of things we believe to exist, and have endeavoured to indicate, the subject has been so ably taken up, and so clearly expounded from the pulpit and the platform—by tongue and pen—that our feeble echo would be but a work of supererogation. It may, however, be as well to point out the two leading modes in which the "Patriotic," and similar funds will prove a national blessing: they will alleviate the sorrows of those who are already plunged into the miseries of widowhood and orphanhood; whilst the existence of such measures of provision for those whom they leave behind them, will sweep away, from the bosoms of our brave ones, the last regret which lingers, and they will rush, by so much the more valiantly, into that deadly conflict which is hurling so many thousands of their comrades into the mysteries of futurity.

In addition to the direct subscriptions of the Lodges towards the Patriotic and other funds, taken up and conducted by the outer world, there are other duties devolving upon us as a fraternity, which must not be overlooked. Although it cannot be denied that many of the gallant officers, and other brethren engaged in the Crimea, of whose death on the

gory field we are unhappily liable at any moment to be informed, have been able to leave behind them ample provision for the material necessities of those who may have to deplore their loss; it is not the less true that as our fraternity embraces rich and poor, and places them all upon one common level, there are, at the same time, many brave brethren, both in the army and the navy, whose expiring moments may perchance be ruffled by an anxious thought respecting those whom they leave behind them to lament their departure!

We have charities—the pride and glory of the craft—which may speedily be made capable of meeting the exigencies of this case. We have room for the widow, and for the orphan of both sexes; and that justice may be done—that our obvious duty may be performed—it will become necessary to strengthen the hands of the worthy brethren who support and direct the girls' school, and boys' school, and the Royal Benevolent Institution. The first would of course receive the female, the second the male orphans; while the last would open its benignant portals to the disconsolate widow, or perchance to some eligible brother hopelessly disabled in the battles of his country. Let this be done with that energy, unanimity, and liberality which the case demands; and it will shed such a lustre upon our noble order as for many a day it has not been our good fortune to receive.

We purposely abstain from indicating our opinions with respect to any of the details by which these objects should be carried into effect. They are matters, the determination of which are obviously within the province of the Grand Lodge, to whose earnest and immediate consideration we respectfully, but most earnestly commend the entire subject.

If we might venture upon an additional suggestion, it would be this—that the Grand Lodge should take the initiative by at once contributing, from its funds, a handsome sum in the name of the fraternity at large, to the Patriotic Fund. Having done this, it might head the subscription lists of our own charities by donations, as the commencement of special funds to make provision for widows and orphans of our brethren who fall in the war. If they offered for instance to provide for those who are the orphans of masons, otherwise eligible, they might be aided, perhaps, by funds already in existence. At any rate, when their project became known, their generous exertions could not fail to elicit the sympathies, and to secure the pecuniary assistance of hundreds of our benevolent fellow-countrymen, who have never had the honour of admission to our fraternity.

Having said thus much, we confidently leave the matter in the hands of those to whom, being the executive of the order, belongs rightfully the honour and privilege of carrying such projects into effect.

## FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Freemasonry, is that noble science, which first taught man to hold out the hand of fellowship to his neighbour, and by the bond of brotherly love to consider the whole human species as one family—to help and relieve all those whose general character might render them worthy, no matter of what country, sect, or opinion. The most early traditions of this country, are so vague, that it is impossible to trace Freemasonry's first appearance as a native science. The *Druids*, a venerable order of priests, had many of the usages of masons amongst them. But the first English mason of any note, was Albanus, afterwards St. Alban, who formed the first Grand Lodge in Britain, A. D. 287. Old constitutions assert, and old masons as firmly believe that Carausius employed St. Alban to environ the City of Verulam with a wall, and to build him a fine palace; and the old chronicle asserts that "St. Alban loved masons well, and cherished them, and he made their pay right good, viz., two shillings per week, and threepence to their cheer; whereas before that time, a mason had but a penny a day and his meat.—He also obtained of the King, a charter for the free masons to hold a general council, and gave it the name of assembly, and was thereat himself as Grand Master, and helped to make masons, and gave them good charges and regulations." St. Alban was born at Verulam, of Pagan parents; in his youth he took a journey to Rome, in company with Amphibalus, and there served for seven years in the army of the Emperor Dioclesian.—Leland tells us, that, in the time St. Alban flourished, learning and polite arts had lately been introduced by the Romans into Britain, and that the youth of quality and distinction used to travel to Rome for improvement in knowledge and the sciences. Being returned home he lived highly honoured in the town of Verulam, where, by the example and instruction of his fellow traveller Amphibalus he became a thorough convert to the Christian religion, A. D. 303. In the tenth and last general persecution of the Christians, he was beheaded for his religion (a favour accorded him on account of his noble birth), at Holmhurst, since called Derswald, where now the town of St. Alban's stands. During the reign of the Emperor Carausius, Freemasons were greatly encouraged and employed by him in large numbers.

Eumenius, the panegyrist, setting forth what great numbers of masons had left the Island; "Even your City of Autin," says he "most devoted to your service, and in whose name I am especially to congratulate you, has been well stored with artificers (architects and masons) since your victory over the Britons, whose provinces abounded with them; and now by their workmanship, the same city of Autin rises in splendour, by the rebuilding of their ancient houses, erecting public works, and the instauration of temples: so that the ancient name of a Roman Brotherhood which they long since enjoyed is again restored, by having your imperial majesty for their second founder"—From whence it is obvious

that many excellent masons left Britain for the Continent, who had been entertained by Carausius.

The Romans during their residence in the island, propagated masonry in every garrison, and built many fine places. From the time of Constantine the Roman power declined in Britain, and from the unsettled state of the country, little quiet was afforded for masonic cultivation, for though many Roman families had settled in the South, and were blended with the Britains who had been well educated in the science and the art, yet the subsequent wars, confusions, and revolutions in this island, ruined ancient learning, till the fine artists were dead without successors. After the departure of the Romans, the Britons being divided under a number of petty sovereigns, solicited the assistance of the Saxons against the Scots and Picts, who had seized the land north of the Humber, and committed great ravages in the South. The Saxons having expelled the invaders, built Thong Castle, in Lincolnshire, and resolved to settle in Britain, and after much bloodshed in many battles with the natives, they overpowered them, and founded the heptarchy, or seven kingdoms.—The Saxons were all rough ignorant heathens; and despising everything but war, soon rooted out all the seeds of learning and arts, that the Romans had planted in Britain, till some pious preachers from Wales and Scotland, converted many of them by degrees to Christianity. But none of their kings relinquished paganism, till Augustin, with forty more monks, amongst whom the sciences at that time were preserved, were sent by Pope Gregory as missionaries into the island. They baptized Ethelbert king of Kent A. D. 597, and sixty years after all the kings of the heptarchy received the Christian religion. Then it was that churches, monasteries, palaces, and beautiful mansions began to be built, and they too late lamented the ignorant and destructive conduct of their forefathers. As they knew nothing of the principles of Roman architecture, they adopted that of the country they came from, and followed the gothic style in building cathedral churches, among which were the Cathedral of Canterbury, built A. D. 600; that of Rochester, 602; St. Paul's, London, 604; St. Peter's, Westminster, 605. They also erected many palaces and castles, and fortified their cities, especially on the borders of each kingdom. This required many masons, who soon formed themselves into societies or lodges, by the direction of foreigners, who came over to help them. But it was where the Welsh dwelt that we find the earliest accounts, at least of sacred architecture; as at Glastonbury, in Devonshire; Padstow, in Cornwall; Caërleon, or Chester; afterwards translated to St. Asaph's, in Flintshire; Llan Twit, or Church of Itutus; Llan Cadarn Vawr, or Church of Great St. Patirn; the Monastery of Llan Carvan; Bangor, in Caernarvonshire; Holyhead, in Anglesey; Llandaff, in Glamorganshire; Menevia, or St. David's, in Pembrokehire; and many more churches, monasteries, and schools of learning. These Saxon Lodges continued to improve, till Kenred, King of Mercia, sent to Charles Martel, Grand Master of France, father of King Pepin (who had been educated by Brother Mimus Græcus), for a communication of worthy brethren to assist the craft, now in a flourishing condition in his dominions,

and to strengthen their Lodges, A. D. 710. To this their Royal brother, Martel, willingly agreed, and sent some expert masons to teach the Saxons those laws and usages of the craft that had been preserved from the ravages of the Goths. The clergy now studied geometry and architecture, and in their monasteries the Lodges were usually held. Owing to the piratical incursions of the Danes, nothing remarkable appears in masonry till the reign of Edward the elder, who left masonry to the care first of Ethred, Earl of Mercia, and next, the king put his learned brother, Ethelward, at the head of the fraternity, and founded the university of Cambridge, that had been long a nursery of the learned. This king died A. D. 924. Athelstan, his eldest son, succeeded, and at first left the care of the craft to his brother Edwin; for in all the old constitutions it is recited, "That though the ancient records of the brotherhood of England were mostly destroyed in the wars with the Danes, who burnt the monasteries where the records were kept, yet King Athelstan (the grandson of King Alfred), the first anointed King of England, who translated the Holy Bible into the Saxon language, when he had brought the land into rest and peace, built many great works, and encouraged many masons from France and elsewhere, whom he appointed overseers thereof; they brought with them the charges and regulations of the foreign Lodges, and prevailed with the king to increase the wages. That Prince Edwin, the king's brother, being taught geometry and masonry, for the love he had to the said craft, and to the honourable principles whereon it is grounded, purchased a free charter of King Athelstan, his brother, for Freemasons to have among themselves a correction, or a power of freedom to regulate themselves, and to hold a yearly communication in a general assembly. That accordingly, Prince Edwin summoned all free and accepted Masons in the realm to meet him in a congregation at York, who came and formed the Grand Lodge under him as their Grand Master, A. D. 926. That they brought with them many old writings and records of the Craft—some in Greek, some in Latin, and some in French and other languages; and from the contents thereof they framed the constitutions of the English Lodges, and made a law for themselves to preserve and observe the same in all time coming." But this good Prince Edwin died (A. D. 938) before the king, to the great grief of the fraternity, by whom his memory is revered in the Lodges, and honourably mentioned in the old constitutions. King Athelstan built many castles in Northumbria, the famous abbey of St. John, at Beverley, in Yorkshire; Melton Abbey, in Dorsetshire; and rebuilt the city of Exeter. From his death, A. D. 940, to the coming of William the Conqueror, A. D. 1066, many cities, churches, and pious houses were built, but nothing appears of the proceedings of the brethren, save that St. Dunstan presided as Grand Master from about A. D. 941.

(To be continued.)

## BROTHERLY LOVE.

BY ALEX. HENRY GIRVEN, AUTHOR OF "REGINALD SELWYN," &c.

(Continued from p. 28.)

Simon, though at first somewhat startled, listened attentively, when he distinctly heard the stranger exclaim:—

"I seek you in the sanctuary, and in the abode of death, to ask your forgiveness, to supplicate your intercession. Are not my agonies by day, my tortured dreams by night, sufficient to appease you? Have you not driven me from the haunts of men and made me an outcast from my species, wild as the rude shrub that roots itself in the crevices of my mountain solitude? I have wronged you, turned your days to bitterness, but, cannot physical suffering, mental anguish atone? Is not a sleepless, corroding sorrow, written in gaunt and grisly characters on these withered limbs, and this furrowed brow? If I have permitted a fiend to seize my heart, and crush out every sentiment of brotherly love for one who excelled me in body and mind, have I not fearfully expiated my offence? And yet, thy shrouded form, and wan and wasted cheek, and thy reproaching looks haunt me day and night. Oh, for one look of forgiveness, to shew thy vanished resentment, and shed one ray upon my dark and despairing soul."

The anguish of the wretched being excited a feeling of pity in the mind of Simon, though he considered it arose from a disordered imagination, and approaching him, he said:

"I have been unintentionally a witness of your suffering, and have overheard your accent of sorrow. I am little used to the language of consolation, but I beseech you to moderate your grief, and not to give way to despair."

"And who are you?" said the strange being, starting to his feet, while a fierce lustre lit up his eyes; "who are you, that have dared to play the caves-dropper, and violate the sanctity and secrecy of sorrow? You speak to me of consolation—you some minion of prosperity."

"There you are mistaken—greatly mistaken," said Simon, with bitterness, for he began to recal the events of the day. "Wretched as you appear, your suffering of spirit can scarcely exceed mine at the present moment. The hope that I cherished as my heart's blood, has been trampled in the dust."

"Ha! I can feel for you. I was once young, and had hopes as dear as your own, and they too were shattered. But have you hunted to death him who marred your day dream? Have you murdered him inch by inch—known that he was perishing in the strong grasp of poverty and privation? Have you done this? then we can meet on equal grounds. If you have drained vengeance to its dregs, and know the bitterness of the draught, seek me."

"I know not whether you are a lunatic or not, but there is something

in your words which thrills my soul, and draws me to you. I would have vengeance, deep, deadly vengeance."

Here a gleam of the dying sun broke in and filled the edifice with a purple light.

"And you will gratify your desire," exclaimed the strange being, gazing on Simon. "I read it in your countenance."

"I trust your words are prophetic, for a demon is in my breast—it is revenge."

"And will you murder him in cold blood—send to a premature grave the being whose hand you clasped in boyhood? Will you cruelly, inhumanly, fiendly murder him?"

"Stay, one word," said Simon, as his companion turned to depart. "Who are you? Are you he whom they name the Maniac of the Mount, the self-avowed homicide?"

"He comes," exclaimed the man, "in the grey of the dawn he comes; he comes in the twilight hour, he is with me by the margin of the stream, he is by my couch with cold and dewy hands, he mingles with moonlight, he is floating mid the stars, he rises from the fragrant shrub, he is everywhere, with the same look he wore in early youth; he beckons me now."

With these words, he strode from the church, and Simon could hear him uttering the words, "he comes in the grey of the dawn, he comes in the twilight hour, he is with me by the margin of the stream, &c," as he followed him through the cemetery that encircled the edifice.

This strange being was at once an object of terror, pity, and respect to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. For some years previously he had fixed his abode on the peak of a very high hill in the vicinity, which, from its superior altitude, was designated the Mount. Here he had constructed a rude edifice, to the interior of which no human being had yet been admitted, in which he dwelt the year round. He was occasionally overheard by some casual wanderer near his abode, to express himself in a strain similar to that we have already recorded, heightened, perhaps, by an apostrophe to some invisible being, whom it appeared from his incoherent observations he had murdered; and this circumstance procured for him the sobriquet of the Maniac of the Mount. Some, indeed, regarded him as a homicide, who was endeavouring by isolation and self-imposed mortification, to expiate the offence he had committed. But it was remarked, that it was only periodically that he was affected with fits of lunacy. On other occasions he was remarkable for nothing but a melancholy expression of countenance, and, if any object of distress—such as a wandering beggar, or some tired pedestrian—approached his abode, he exhibited benevolence in ministering to their necessities; for though he invited none to enter his dwelling, he would bring them forth fruits, and if they were mendicants, he would relieve them with money. His food was of the simplest description, and supplied by the inhabitants of the town, who would leave it outside his dwelling without seeking an interview with the singular object of their bounty, being uncertain as to the mood of mind in which they might find him.

But this liberality was amply recompensed, for during a period of



scarcity which visited the neighbourhood, large sums of money were placed at the disposal of the Mayor and the clergy, for the use of the suffering inhabitants, and these benefactions were traced to the mysterious resident on the Mount.

A pestilence ravaged the district, and spread terror around. Those who were enabled to leave, fled in affright, and so fatal was the disease that it suspended during its prevalence the ordinary feelings of humanity. The claims of affinity were forgotten, and kindred deserted kindred when stricken with the epidemic.

But while the disease was at its height a change was wrought in the feelings of the inhabitants, who were inspired with courage, and brought back to sentiments of humanity by the presence amongst them of a stranger.

No one knew whence he came; but his pecuniary resources appeared large, while the zeal and indifference to personal danger which he displayed in visiting and ministering to the necessities of the sufferers, were the theme of praise throughout the district. Some poor creature whom the fear of infection had deprived of the assistance of his friends and kindred, received at his hands, medicine, and those offices requisite for the sick and dying. At last, he was recognised as the recluse of the mountain, and from that moment he became an object of veneration amongst the inhabitants. But none ventured to intrude on his solitude, for the statements of some who had witnessed his wild demeanour and overheard his incoherent ravings when he deemed himself unobserved, left little doubt as to his being insane at certain periods.

Though curiosity was excited respecting him, the benevolence he had displayed and the services he had rendered during the prevalence of the pestilence, prevented any persons indulging that feeling in a manner disagreeable, by endeavouring to penetrate the mystery in which he was shrouded. The consequence was, that he was permitted to pass his days without any intrusion on his privacy.

#### CHAPTER IV.—FALSE CONCLUSIONS.

SOME days elapsed before Simon summoned resolution sufficient to venture abroad. The sense of the humiliation which he had sustained before his townsmen, in being flung from his pinnacle at the very moment when he considered his triumph certain, made him fearful of encountering the ridicule of those whom he had never endeavoured to conciliate, and who, he was well aware, hated him for his intellectual superiority. But the desire to see Ida triumphed over this feeling.

He had not mistaken the sentiments which his defeat excited amongst his townsmen. When he made his appearance in the street, he was accosted by some of his acquaintances with mock condolence, and some who regarded him with looks of gratified malevolence, addressed him in terms of sympathy that stung him to the soul. Others more bold, treated him with derision, or passed him without recognition.

With a spirit chafed almost to frenzy, and mentally vowing vengeance.

against those who had insulted him, he reached the residence of Mrs. St. Claire. To his mortification and disappointment, he learned from that lady that her daughter had left home some hours previously. He was about to turn away, when Mrs. St. Claire invited him in with a suavity of manner very different to her usual deportment towards him.

The fact was, that the good lady had been considering very seriously whether it was not a want of worldly wisdom on her part to throw any obstacle in the way of her daughter's marriage with Simon, notwithstanding her aversion to his personal appearance. She reasoned with some wisdom that, as Ida was the party chiefly concerned in the affair, her sentiments should be primarily consulted. Her former suspicion reverted to her mind, and she entertained little doubt that, in her preference for Simon, Ida was actuated by prudential considerations, instead of the disinterested motives for which the world gave her credit. "No doubt," thought the good lady, "she is wise enough to prefer an ugly husband with money to a handsome one without; gold, in her eyes, being a better patrimony than a pretty face." Then the candour and ingenuousness of Ida, occurred to her, and somewhat disturbed faith in her own deductions. But she determined not to oppose her daughter's inclinations, as they tended towards procuring for her a wealthy spouse.

We have previously requested the reader not to form a prejudicial opinion of Mrs. St. Claire's judgment, and we now ask a similar favour with reference to her disposition. No doubt, at this period, her mind had contracted a worldly spirit; but she had passed through a period of suffering, arising from indigence, that made her shudder at the thought of exposing her beloved child to the bitterness and privation she herself had experienced in poverty. She had seen the husband of her bosom stretched on his death-bed, without being able to supply him with the common necessaries which his situation required; and she had seen him consigned to a pauper's tomb, without those marks of respect to which from his station he was entitled, and which are so grateful to the feelings of the surviving relatives. Though after his death she had been relieved, not only from poverty, but placed in a situation of comfort, still it was by an unknown hand, and she could not calculate upon a continuance of the benefactions of the mysterious donor no more than she could penetrate the secrecy in which he had shrouded himself. It was owing to these circumstances that the character of Mrs. St. Claire had become tinctured with worldliness.

The alteration in Mrs. St. Claire's manner surprised Simon. She had previously scarcely endeavoured to conceal her aversion towards him, and on some occasions, so fully revealed her sentiments, that he could entertain little doubt as to the light in which she regarded his attachment for her daughter. He expected, therefore, that she would have been happy of an opportunity of any circumstance that would tend to lower him in Ida's estimation, and of treating him with increased marks of disapprobation. But her cordial greeting in the moment of his humiliation, suggested a suspicion that he might have mistaken her sentiments altogether, and this

thought surprised and almost unnerved him. To meet kindness where he expected only harsh treatment, vibrated a soft chord in his bosom, and tears sprang to his eyes as he complied with the lady's invitation, and followed her into the parlour, and, at her request, seated himself.

Mrs. St. Claire was pleased at having an opportunity of conversing with him alone. As she attributed interested motives to her daughter, it is not to be wondered at, that a suspicion of the purity of Simon's motives should flash across her mind. It occurred to her, that perhaps he was not acquainted with her pecuniary position, and that when he was fully informed of the extent and precariousness of her resources, that his affection for her daughter would be diminished. There was certainly nothing in his manner to induce a supposition that any venal consideration mingled in his feelings towards Ida, but her sufferings and vicissitudes had rendered Mrs. St. Claire familiar with much that was sordid and selfish in human nature, and had gradually infused into her mind a distrust in the purity of the springs of human actions. She resolved, therefore, to sound the depths of his feelings as early as possible, and to penetrate the reserve which he exhibited in her presence, which arose from his disinclination to give utterance to his genuine sentiment before one, who he had every reason to believe, regarded him and his affection with an unfavourable eye. The extent of Mrs. St. Claire's tact in eliciting the information she required, and her success, will be understood from the following conversation.

"Have you noticed any alteration in Ida, lately, Simon?" said Mrs. St. Claire.

"No; she appears to me to be in excellent health;" he replied.

"I don't allude to her personal appearance, I mean her spirits."

"They were never high, but I have not perceived that they are depressed, or that they have undergone any change of late."

"My maternal anxiety, perhaps, has suggested an apprehension. But I have heard her sigh frequently, and it occurred to me that there might be something on her mind, though why she should conceal it from me, I cannot understand."

The young man made no reply, and Mrs. St. Claire proceeded.

"Do you know, Simon, that it has often surprised me, with Ida's beauty and amiability, she has not succeeded in making an impression on some of the comfortable young men in the neighbourhood. Life is uncertain, and it would be a sad thing, if at my death, she was thrown upon the world—that world of whose worthlessness I have had bitter experience. You are not aware, perhaps, that I am depending for subsistence on the benevolence of some unknown and mysterious person, which may be immediately suspended, or terminate with my death."

"I have not heard this before," said Simon, at a loss to comprehend the drift of the lady's conversation, though deeply interested in the subject of it.

Here Mrs. St. Claire scrutinized the countenance of Simon, with the view of ascertaining the effect which her communication produced. It only betrayed sensibility which the name of Ida invariably produced on

his coarse and swarthy features, and the curiosity which her narrative excited.

"He loves, truly loves, my daughter," she thought.

"Have you no suspicion who your benefactor is," he inquired.

"Not the least. Every quarter I receive a letter containing a remittance. The letter bears the Paris postmark, but nothing to indicate who the writer is. I have received this allowance regularly since the decease of my poor husband, but I never heard him mention having any friend whom I could suspect of rendering me this assistance. The only wealthy acquaintance I have heard him speak of was one who was his bitter unrelenting enemy, and whose malevolence sent him heart-broken to an early grave. But to return to Ida. It is the first wish of my heart that she should be comfortably provided for. It is true that she is very young, but she has sense far beyond her years, and would make an excellent wife."

Simon could not suppress a sigh; the praise of his mistress called up a deep emotion, and the uncertainty whether she would stand to him in the relation mentioned, gave him a transient pang.

"I have had offers for her," continued Mrs. St. Claire, "one only of which I deemed eligible, for the gentleman was in circumstances to support her in comfort and respectability. Strange to say, she did not regard him favourably. The others were young men, who possessed personal attractions, but were deficient in means." Here she enumerated several of the suitors of Ida, and as she finished the list, a look of gratified feeling was visible on Simon's countenance, which was further increased when she stated, that her daughter was as insensible to these personal qualifications as she was to the more substantial ones of the other aspirant to her hand.

"The truth is, Simon," proceeded Mrs. St. Claire, "I sometimes suspect that her affections are engaged. This causes me no uneasiness; for, with her good sense, I am satisfied she would not select some empty, foolish young man, with nothing to recommend him but a handsome face. A mere prepossessing exterior would not of itself attract her. In my opinion, good sense, affection for her, and a competency, are what she would chiefly value in a husband. Without certain means, there can be no happiness in the married life, however warm the attachment may be."

Here a light broke in upon Simon. His practical mind, ever ready to grasp at anything unfavourable to himself, immediately comprehended the drift of Mrs. St. Claire's discourse, and a distrust of Ida's truth flashed across him.

Mrs. St. Claire had exhausted her volubility, and considering that she had said sufficient to draw forth some observation from Simon, remained silent. She was disappointed, for he made no reply, and shortly afterwards took his departure, leaving Mrs. St. Claire at a loss what to conclude. But she did not continue long in a state of suspense, for her suspicion recurring, she construed his silence into the unworthy motive already hinted. Her feelings of maternal pride were deeply wounded by what she considered the venality of Simon, when she contrasted his repulsive person with the beauty of her daughter, and she resolved that in

future she would not be at the pains of concealing the aversion which he inspired in her mind.

#### CHAPTER V.—VARIED PASSIONS.

Meanwhile, the object of this unmerited suspicion was enduring a state of mental torture, produced by his fancied discovery of the real motive which had induced Ida to treat him with seeming affection.

Life has its varied bitter draughts—the hopes their many withering disappointments—the heart many searing pangs to be graven on its core, but far above them all, is the first discovery of perfidy in the being we have trusted. To find deception, where we fancied sincerity, to learn, that what we fondly deemed holiness and purity, is sordid and selfish; and that the bosom on which we reposed in confidence and security, as a haven when the storm tossed spirits might safely rest, is but a treacherous shallow, is one of those fearful lessons, which fling in the shade, all the other experiences, which the dissipated illusions of life, record in the volume of man's sufferings.

Had the world smiled on Simon, the revelation of what he regarded as truth, could not be received without anguish and sorrow. But he, poor fellow! had to endure more from the discovery than others; for he was placed under peculiar circumstances. He considered himself excluded from all sympathy from his kind, a creature, upon whose features were traced that deformity, which was destined to repel all human affection, and almost to banish him from the society of his species. There grew one only flower in existence for him, and which alone preserved his rugged heart from a sterility of human affections; it was the hope, that the beautiful and amiable girl he loved, reciprocated his passion. That idol of his feelings, shattered, he knew not whither to turn; there was no other object, around which the tendrils of his heart could entwine. With Ida's love, all sense of his deformity was deadened. The world might mouth at and mock him, but its derision could only leave a transient and feeble impression, to be speedily effaced by the look of affection, and the accents of tenderness, which greeted him from his beloved.

When he left Mrs. St. Claire's, he directed his step, towards the neighbouring hills, where he might give vent to his feelings in solitude, with no human eye to witness his anguish, or human ear to hear the stifling sighs, which almost suffocated him. There at least, that volcano, his heart, might outpour itself without anything to check its eruption.

It may be said, that his suspicion of Ida, was too hastily formed; that he should have waited for some confirmation of his doubts. But when did love ever study dialectics, or seek for sufficient *data*, upon which to base its deductions. He thought only of Ida's beauty in contrast with his own deformity, and then of her mother's words. He thought he saw it all clearly; the veil had dropped from his eyes; the young girl loved him for the wealth he was reputed to possess, which enabled her to sup-

press her disgust at his appearance, and to simulate an affection for himself alone, which he had been weak enough to believe was real.

He reached a secluded spot, a rude ravine, impassable to vehicles and seldom visited by pedestrians. There he flung himself on the ground, and burying his face in his hands, was about to vent his agony in a deep groan, when a suppressed chuckle, struck on his ear. Starting to his feet at once, he turned round, and beheld a young man within a few feet of him, whose features were convulsed with laughter, which he was endeavouring to repress. The countenance of the intruder, was singularly vacant, and approached almost to idiocy. He had soon occasion to repent his ill-timed mirth, for Simon, whose feelings were roused to madness, rushed upon him, and by his strength, which was considerable, bore him to the ground. A brief struggle ensued, but the young man proved no match for Simon, whose infuriated grasp was already on his throat. A loud shriek, arrested his murderous hand, and looking up, he beheld Ida, pale as death, and gazing at him with inarticulate horror. He loosened his grasp, and as the victim of his resentment, rose to his feet almost strangled, and his features livid, from partial suffocation, he exclaimed,

“Begone, wretch! and thank the Providence that has prevented my being a homicide, and saved your wretched existence. Begone, lest your presence may tempt me, to tear you limb from limb.”

The young man, who seemed only too anxious to escape, tottered forward, and was shortly out of sight.

“God!” he exclaimed, “why hast thou called me into being. Would not the scheme of creation have been complete, without this wretched trunk, and these distorted features, to swell up the sum of humanity. Not even favors can win me affection, or purchase me gratitude. That half-witted wretch, whom I have rescued from insult, loaded with benefits, treated with frequent kindness, can find no meeter recompense for what I have conferred, than to mock me in the moment of tribulation, and to deride the agony of his uncouth benefactor.”

“Simon!” said the terrified and trembling girl, “I beseech you, to be composed, and to be thankful to the Divine Being, that has preserved you from murder.”

“And you too!” he said, with bitterness, “whom I deemed all purity and truth, as superior to your sex, in mind as in person, and whom this stricken heart worshipped, as its only good on earth, you too, are as false as the wretched minion, you rescued from my grasp.”

Unable to comprehend his meaning, Ida remained silent.

“But I mean not to reproach you Ida, for feelings that are natural, and from which, even the beautiful in creation are not exempt. What recks it, if the bramble be uprooted, so that the rose be preserved. Farewell! Ida. While life remains, I will cherish your remembrance. I have my moments of piety and prayer, when my softened spirit sends up its incense to heaven, thy image shall mingle with it. Farewell! Ida. I will think of you, as some soft flower which wooed my transient vision, and then withered in my path; some softened melody that lulled me to repose in

infancy, and had almost died out of memory. Farewell! Ida. I leave you as our first parents departed from Eden, despairing and hopeless."

With a quick step, the young man proceeded up an unfrequented path that led to the summit of a lofty hill, and Ida returned homewards, with a mind saddened and perplexed.

For some time he proceeded in his ascent until he had reached the apex of one of the loftiest hills in the neighbourhood. The scene before him was rude, and contrasted strongly with the soft loveliness and verdure that clothed the adjacent declivities. It was steep, and scarce a trace of vegetation redeemed it from sterility. Large masses of shattered granite, and the prostrate trunks of mouldering trees were strewn along the path, and justified the history which tradition had assigned it, of having been at some remote period the scene of an earthquake. When he had gained the summit, his eye encountered a rude edifice in the form of a hut, and a human figure seated on a fragment of rock before the aperture which admitted to the interior of this primitive abode. The form, roused by his footsteps, raised its head, and he beheld the features of the maniac whom he had seen in the church. There was, however, a great change in his countenance. His eyes, which on the former occasion were lit up with the wild lustre of insanity, were now dimmed with tears; and there was a subdued and heart-stricken expression about his features that told the stormier passions were at rest.

Simon was about to retire, but the recluse had perceived him, and said, in an accent tremulous with emotion,—

"Come hither, Simon."

A superstitious awe crept over the mind of the latter at hearing himself addressed by his name, by one with whom he was unacquainted, and whose knowledge of him he was at a loss to understand. He hesitated to advance, and he felt unable to retire.

"Come hither, my son," said the strange being, in accents still milder, "if human eye should witness me in this moment of softer emotion, it should be yours."

Though somewhat surprised, and rather unwilling to comply, Simon seated himself at his side.

"Look," said the recluse, "how beautiful is the scene beneath. All is loveliness and serenity, a fitting temple for the spirit to kneel in and worship its Creator. How calmly glides yon crystal rivulet to its ocean home, its glassy bosom scarcely curled with the breeze, and bearing on its surface the clear blue of heaven, and the shadows of the shrubs that fringe its margin. How lovely and graceful those vines bending in the breeze, and how fresh the fragrance that ascends from the flowers of the valley. Peace is written on every blossom and unfolding petal that has sprung into existence at the mandate of their maker. But the tempest impends, and will lay desolate this scene. It is a type of life, the life of youth, while the darker passions are at rest, and the volcano of the heart is undeveloped. For the storm will die away, and the voice of the tempest dwindle into the faint breathing of the summer breeze, and the loveliness of the hill and valley shine forth more glorious from being transiently

shrouded. The unwithered verdure and flowers, and the tempest that sweeps over them, are no similitude of the feelings and passions in their maturity. Cast your eye along this solitary mount where I have fixed my abode. Here you witness nought but devastation and enduring ruin. The rent rocks unite not again, the prostrate oak roots itself no more in its native soil, and the few leaves that cluster round its mouldering trunk are mere memorials of its vanished vegetation. These rugged crags, those withering trees, and the savage and ruthless eruption that caused this devastation, these are a type of man in the plenitude of his nature, and when his worst passions are developed; and which passion most resembles the earthquake and its effects on physical life?"

Though in the form of an interrogatory from the maniac, Simon perceived that the recluse was soliloquising and not addressing him, so he made no reply, and the other continued:

"It is revenge, the most promising fruit that hate feeds on, and yet the most unsubstantial. It supplies no lasting flavour, and turns to ashes in the taste. Other passions yield some fruition—revenge none. And am I not competent to describe it thus. Have I not drained the delusive draught to its dregs, and found it only bitterness, bitterness enhanced by the beauty of forgiveness and brotherly affection, which I spurned, madly spurned. Simon, you are young, and such happiness as mortals can taste is within your grasp. Oh, fling it not away; you can pluck the rose, do not grasp the aconite and cherish it in your bosom. What is the source of that felicity? It is an obedience to the mandate of your Creator, to love one another."

"It is a precept," said Simon, "that like others of divine origin, can scarcely be reduced to practice. It must be regulated by circumstances."

"Have you ever tried it?"

"No, nature formed me not for love."

"And yet you love?"

"Not my kind," said Simon, still more puzzled by the knowledge of the recluse respecting him.

"Is not Ida human?" said the latter.

"She is indeed," said Simon, stung to the quick, by the remembrance of what had taken place that day. "I have fatally learned it."

"And you would win her love while the only thing about you human is passion for her. You would have the love of her whose heart is a temple of brotherly love, while you have suffered your bosom to become a pandemonium of hatred and vengeance. But why do I speak to you in accents of harshness. You only inherit the disposition of your sire. Go, leave me, but return here this day twelvemonth; should this withered trunk be mould, seek out this address. Taking a tablet from his bosom, he traced a few words on it, and handed it to Simon. He then added:—

"But *we* should not part in unkindness. Go, pursue the path I have pointed out—it will secure your happiness."

"Stay," said Simon, as the recluse rose, "stay in mercy and answer me one question. You seem to possess a mysterious knowledge concerning me, say—have I ——."



The recluse heeded not his impassioned appeal, but retreated hastily into his hut, and Simon could hear him draw the bolt. He renewed his entreaty, but the recluse gave no response, and Simon, despairing of inducing him to comply with his request, descended from the mount, musing on the words of the mysterious being, and the knowledge he possessed respecting his present history and circumstances.

*(To be continued.)*

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## THE HEIR OF BENDERSLEIGH;

OR,

### THE FREEMASON'S PROMISE.

*(A Tale for a Summer's Day or a Winter's Night).*

BY BROTHER C. J. COLLINS.

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#### PART THE SECOND.

#### CHAPTER I.—THE FIRST USE THAT MR. AUGUSTUS RAKER MAKES OF THE POWER OF PROPERTY.

MR. Grainger's office was situated in a rather obscure street in the neighbourhood of the busiest part of the large town that stood upon the banks of the great river. Mr. Grainger was a conveyancer, and therefore he had little to do with that department of the legal profession, the chief characteristic of which is wide spread chicanery, supported by those delightful agents, deceit, dishonesty, and spite. The furniture of Mr. Grainger's office was of ante-date, and had grown brown in a long service of silent usefulness. There were an outer and an inner office, in the latter of which Mr. Grainger transacted his business, assisted by Henry Elliotson, who usually occupied the opposite side of the office table, which stood in the middle of the inner apartment. The other part of Mr. Grainger's offices was occupied by a little old man, who had been so long an inmate of the place that he seemed almost to have grown a part of the low desk at which he sat, which desk in former days had been also occupied by younger clerks, when Mr. Grainger did a large business, out of which he had made his fortune long ago. Mr. Grainger's little old clerk was known to all the neighbourhood round, and his good humoured face was ever met with welcome wherever he went.

Almost a sinecure now, was the office that Old Gabriel Hunter occupied under Mr. Grainger. But he ever made a show of being most busy and much occupied. He never could be brought to acknowledge that he had nothing to do. His business was his life, and public holidays, when they came, were nothing less than days of penance to him. So long had he gone on in the same unvaried round of occupation, that it had indeed grown a second nature to him. In keeping with the place in which he

passed so much of his time, he had a russet hue, which would probably have extended to his hair if that had not long been worn away, when he was indeed busy every day, and when he had substantially enough to do.

"Dear me," thought Gabriel, as he sat in his low arm chair, with his spectacles thrown on to the top of his bald head, "Dear me—the old man's dead. Well, he's been a client of our's a good many years, and we have managed his estate ever since he came to it. A long time ago it must be now—let me see—twenty—thirty," counting on his fingers, "twenty, thirty, why it must be five-and-thirty years ago since we first received the parchments, and there they have been lying ever since;" and as he mused, he looked up at some large tin boxes that were piled upon a thick shelf at the end of the room.

Poor old Gabriel, he gazed upon those boxes with as much interest as a royal academican would gaze upon that world's wonder which is in the transept of Antwerp cathedral. Yes, he gazed at it now with deeper interest than usual, albeit it had been "an old familiar face" to him for five-and-thirty years before. And then he'd rub his hands and smile, and fall to his slow work again—some old deed of which he was drawing up an abstract.

Again, the old boxes caught his eye, and he mused once more. "Yes, they'll come down to day—and now I come to think of it, the old deeds have never been abstracted."

Of course old Gabriel meant the legal mode of reducing unintelligible rolls of confusing words to an understandable form.

"Yes, now that the young man comes into possession, I shall suggest that they be all abstracted," and then the old man fell into an abstraction himself, from which he was however aroused by the entrance of some one to the office, from the hall, and on turning round, and drawing down his spectacles to his eyes, he recognised Mr. Augustus Raker.

"Good day, Mr. Augustus—melancholy news, sir, from—"

"Oh, ah, I know all about it," interrupted Mr. Raker, rather pettishly; "Is the old chap inside, Hunter?"

"Mr. Grainger is in his office," replied old Gabriel, not altogether relishing Mr. Raker's mode of referring to his employer. "Mr. Grainger is in his office; shall I say that you are here?"

"Oh, not a bit of it," replied Mr. Augustus Raker, "I'll walk in," and he did so without farther parley; the old man looking after him with an expression of blended astonishment and indignation.

As the young man entered the inner office, Mr. Grainger was seated at his desk, looking over various documents which appeared to have been recently compressed into a small compass. As Mr. Augustus Raker entered the room, the old conveyancer looked up, and immediately recognising his visitor, rose from his seat, and, as he exchanged the usual courtesies, handed Mr. Raker a chair.

"You know, Grainger," began Mr. Raker, "I can't be expected to go beyond this," pointing to his black attire, "in the mournful hue, because as you are aware, it is seventeen years since I saw the old man, and I'm only twenty-one. I dare say I ought to look very dejected and all that,

but I can't come it, and that's the long and the short of it. Besides which, it's a nuisance;" and having thus delivered himself, he thrust his hands through his hair, and otherwise exhibited an air of indifference to what would be generally considered as a bereavement.

"You seem to speak your mind at all events," replied Mr. Grainger.

"Oh, I hate the gammon of condolence," rejoined Mr. Raker, in a scornful tone, "so now let's to business, Grainger; for the fact is, I want to know exactly how matters stand. By the bye, where's that clerk of yours?"

"Henry Elliotson, do you mean?"

"Yes, I don't like that fellow, and I hope he won't be here to interrupt us."

"He is out to day," replied Mr. Grainger; "but I cannot understand why you should entertain any antipathy to Elliotson, seeing that you have never met him except in this office, and once the other day at Mrs. Marshall's."

"Never mind," retorted Mr. Raker, "I saw enough of him at Mrs. Marshall's, to fix me. I don't want to meet him here any more—that's the long and the short of it."

"Of course," began Mr. Grainger, "when you come here upon business, if you desire the absence of Elliotson, he shall be absent, although in the business we have to transact together, I shall be obliged occasionally to consult him. I have known Henry Elliotson," continued Mr. Grainger, mildly, "since he was a child, Mr. Raker. Aye, I knew him before he could know me—even before he could speak—and I never until now heard the tongue of animosity used against him. You are a rich man, Mr. Raker, now, and he is but a poor clerk, in my office, wholly dependent upon my will. Surely you cannot look upon Henry Elliotson with any feeling like animosity. I say again, that you are a rich man, Mr. Raker."

"And rich men, Grainger, are not the men to be trifled with. I form my likings and my dislikings in a hurry, friend Grainger," replied Mr. Raker, in a rather menacing tone.

"You are of course master of your own will," responded Mr. Grainger.

"Aye, and I'll use it too. I speak my mind too, as you have just said. Now, you were my father's agent here in England, and a deuced good thing you made of it, I'll be bound."

Mr. Grainger turned quickly round, and looked the young man full in the face, with something like sternness in his countenance; but he merely bowed to Mr. Raker, that he should proceed.

"Now, it's either worth having, or it is not. You may be agent for the Bendersleigh estates still, or you may not. It is a matter for your own choice;" and Mr. Raker twirled his stick between his finger and his thumb.

"I have been agent for your father many years," replied Mr. Grainger, calmly, "and I am anxious—very anxious to be still the agent of the Bendersleigh estates—anxious not on my own account, but for the property itself, Mr. Raker—for it is a noble property—and for you."

"Ah, very likely;" said Mr. Raker, mistaking the manner of the old man; "well then, a nod's as good as a wink, you know, and I don't

like that Elliotson; and as you and I are likely to be so much together, I should think you could easily get him another berth."

As the young man uttered this half-expressed wish, there was an uneasiness about his manner which indicated there was something like a feeling of shame struggling with the selfishness which prompted the intimation he had just given.

"His legal term with me," replied Mr. Grainger, "will shortly expire, and then we shall separate—if that is what you mean."

"Oh just as you like," said Mr. Raker, impatiently, "I dare say you understand me. Now then, let's to business, where's the will?"

"It is very brief," replied Mr. Grainger, looking over a bundle of documents which he took up—"because, as you are aware, the property of Bendersleigh being entailed, goes to the heir; and as you stand in that relation to your late father, the entire property devolves upon you with the exception of a few legacies which the will contains—and I should add, that your father has thought fit to appoint me sole executor."

"Very good, if that's all the will contains you may shut it up. I don't want to see it. Have you got the catalogue of the securities and deeds that you promised me?"

"I have," replied Mr. Grainger; "shall I read it?"

"Let's have it," replied Mr. Raker, by way of request that Mr. Grainger should proceed.

The conveyancer accordingly read the catalogue of the varied deeds and securities relating to the Bendersleigh estates and property, until he came to one scheduled as "Mrs. Marshall's mortgage."

"Mrs. Marshall's mortgage, Grainger!—what mortgage is that?" eagerly exclaimed Mr. Raker, "not our friends over the water, is it?"

There was a peering eagerness about the inquiry, as Mr. Raker bent his face over the desk towards Mr. Grainger, which attracted that gentleman's attention forcibly. There was an expression in the young man's countenance, as he asked the question—of cunning, conceit, apprehension, delight, and fawning, which blended strangely and harshly together, and Mr. Grainger marked the expression as he replied,

"It is Mrs. Marshall's mortgage; and the money which it is intended to secure was advanced upon my recommendation, by your father, years ago. In years long—long gone by, your father and Mrs. Marshall were old friends. In fact, in childhood they commenced their friendship, which, however, was early severed. In those days, before your father left his native country for the East, Mrs. Marshall was the wife of a great merchant in this town—then a rising port. He stood high among the foreign traders of the place, and was much respected. In the prime however of his life—in the height of his business, he was cut off from amongst us, leaving his wife and an infant family, with but a slender competency. The house of business flourished, and to this day has been advancing, and now stands perhaps the greatest amongst us. Mrs. Marshall, however, is as she was left, with the exception, that the burden of this, your mortgage, is upon her income."

Mr. Raker looked down at his boot, and restlessly tapped his heel with the end of his cane. Mr. Grainger continued,—

“Your father—again upon my recommendation, for he knew the circumstances in which Mrs. Marshall was placed—never made any demand for the interest accruing on his mortgage. As to the disposition of that interest it is for you now to determine.”

“Oh, that’s it, is it?” eagerly inquired Mr. Raker.

“It rests with you—but as you are doubtless anxious to carry out your father’s intentions with respect to it as closely as you can, even though he has made no will to that effect, which, indeed, surprises me—I doubt not, that you will pursue the same course with Mrs. Marshall as your father did.”

“Well, Grainger, you know that’ll depend upon circumstances,” replied Mr. Raker, still tapping his boot, “and I’ll tell you presently. But I’ll tell you something else now. I intend to be married, Grainger;” and Mr. Raker leant back, and opened wide his eyes upon the old lawyer, as though he expected the old gentleman would be astonished at the intelligence.

“Yes, I’ve made up my mind to be married. What do you think of it?”

“Judiciously resolved;” replied Mr. Grainger, smiling. “Upon whom has your choice fallen, may I ask?”

“Why, you are such an outrageously crusty old dog, that you’ll open your jaws with wonder when I tell you, and you won’t believe it then,” said Mr. Raker, garnishing his attempted facetiousness with a laugh and an oath.

The young man was desirous that Mr. Grainger should question him as to the unknown fair one, but the old man only treated the coarse allusion to his general bearing, with a shrug, and Mr. Raker, therefore, was obliged to come to the point sooner than he desired.

“Ah, I see, you’ll have it all out of me,” continued he, “Well, then, who do you think it is?” and again he laughed.

“It is a useless question,” mildly responded Mr. Grainger.

“It is Harriet Marshall.”

“Harriet Marshall!” exclaimed Mr. Grainger, almost before Mr. Raker had closed his lips.

“Ah, I knew you’d stare,” said Mr. Raker, throwing himself back in his chair.

“Harriet Marshall!” again exclaimed the lawyer, with something like anxiety manifested in his voice.

“Harriet Marshall,” replied the young man decisively.

“Have you proposed to her?” inquired Mr. Grainger.

“Oh, no, I haven’t proposed to her; but that isn’t of much consequence—I mean to do it.”

Mr. Grainger mused.

“You don’t think she would refuse me, do you?” inquired Mr. Raker, in a bantering tone.

“On what do you build your confidence?” inquired Mr. Grainger.

“On the foundation of a mortgage deed, Grainger,” cried the young

man triumphantly, at the same time laughing loudly. "Come, now, that's what you lawyers would call a stroke of policy, isn't it?" continued Mr. Raker.

Mr. Grainger looked at his client, and as he did so, there was agitation in his countenance.

"Why, you could not look much blacker," said Mr. Raker, "if I had proposed that you should be married yourself. Come, I shall want your assistance in this matter, and you must carry it off for me."

"You can of course command my services," was Mr. Grainger's reply. "From what I have already told you, you will readily understand that I take a deep interest in the welfare of the Marshall's, and I may say so especially, with reference to Harriet. It will be a gratifying day to me to see her worthily married, and I am therefore glad that you have communicated your intentions to me, as you may understand that I can be of service in the matter."

"You're a trump, Grainger," said Mr. Raker, as he stared full in the old man's face.

"I will immediately communicate your intentions to Mrs. Marshall," continued Mr. Grainger, without noticing the interruption, "and connected as you are so closely with the interests of the family, I do not doubt that this alliance you propose will lead to satisfactory results."

"Oh, there'll be none of your straight-laced morality in my marriage, I can tell you," exclaimed Mr. Raker, rising. "Pleasure, and do as you like, will be my motto."

"There is a moral in every marriage," responded Mr. Grainger.

"Preaching in a lawyer's office! ho! ho! ho!" cried Mr. Raker, in great glee. "Come, Grainger, will you put this in train for me? For I must be brief and be off, for there's a skylarking chap waiting for me over at the George, and if I don't make haste he'll be smashing the glasses and throwing down the waiters, to amuse himself during my long absence. Capital chap; he'd just do for you, Grainger;" and thinking this immoderately facetious, the young heir laughed out loud again. Recovering himself, he continued with much volubility. "Well, you'll do it, Grainger, will you? You shall be father in church, and all that. I'll be here again the day after to-morrow, to know how the matter goes; so just draw me a cheque for 50%, and then I'll be off."

Mr. Grainger was evidently not desirous of prolonging the interview with his hopeful client, and he, therefore, immediately drew the required cheque, and handed it over to Mr. Raker, who hastily put it in his pocket, gave a smart slap on the desk, with his cane, which made Mr. Grainger jump, and then walked out of the office, whistling a popular air.

"Hunter," said Mr. Grainger, putting his head into the outer office.

"Sir," of course, was the instantaneous reply.

"Look me out Mrs. Marshall's mortgage, and bring it in to me."

Gabriel Hunter, of course, knew where to put his hand upon the document in question at once, and but a few moments, therefore, elapsed before he appeared in Mr. Grainger's room, and placed the parchment before that gentleman.

"Oh, that's it, is it?" exclaimed Mr. Grainger, abstractedly.

"Archibald Raker and Margaret Marshall," replied Gabriel, reading from the parchment produced.

"That's right, Hunter," said Mr. Grainger, rising, and putting on his hat. "I'm going over to Mrs. Marshall's, and shall not be back till late. Tell Elliotson, when he comes, to follow me over there. I shall not be back to the office again until to-morrow morning."

"Very good, sir," replied Gabriel, as he opened the door for Mr. Grainger, who walked out of the office deeply absorbed in thought.

## CHAPTER II.—THE PROPOSITION, AND ITS RECEPTION AT THE COTTAGE.

It was but natural that Harriet Marshall should confide the secret of her attachment to her sister, Mrs. William Chacey, because, pleasing and blissful as that attachment was, its happiness was heightened in Harriet's heart by the secret being confided to one who would experience happiness in the knowledge that she herself was happy. Since the pic-nic party on the hill Harriet had seemed to exist in a blissful dream. Her young heart had never known what love was until Henry Elliotson breathed it in her ear, and then she drank in at once the delicious rapture which a first affection gives, and which, when once created, knows no change. How eagerly she watched the coming of her lover each day, it were vain to tell; with what delight she wandered with him in the evenings through the fields—all Nature's loveliness, enchanting as it was, unheeded by her—it were impossible to describe. The two lovers lived in a world created by themselves, and so from day to day, and almost hour by hour, their strong affection grew. Thus smoothly ran the lovers course, and they never dreamt of any chance that might bring a ruffle on its surface.

Henry Elliotson was now a constant visitor at the little cottage on the river's bank, where he was ever received by every inmate of that little dwelling as a welcome guest. Rachel never missed an opportunity of sounding his praises in the ears of any one who was inclined to listen to her, but more especially to Jacob, to whom Henry Elliotson was constantly held up as a great pattern for Jacob—at a great distance, of course—to emulate.

"Have we had any visitors to-day, Rachel?" enquired Mrs. William Chacey, as she entered the parlour with her sister, having just returned from a morning walk.

"Oh, Mrs. William, Mr. Grainger has been here this hour, and is in the drawing-room with Missis, now," replied Rachel.

"Mr. Grainger here!" exclaimed Mrs. William Chacey, in a tone of surprise. "Mr. Grainger here, my dear?" repeated she, inquiringly, to Harriet.

Harriet, having divested herself of her walking attire, proceeded to the drawing-room, where she found Mr. Grainger and the old lady, with several papers before them.

"Oh, here is Miss Harriet," said Mr. Grainger, as she entered.

Immediately upon the appearance of Harriet, Mrs. Marshall rose and went towards her, with an attempt to speak to her, but she failed, and fell sobbing on her daughter's neck.

"Good heavens, mamma! what has happened?" exclaimed Harriet, considerably alarmed.

"Oh, my dear child, I cannot bear it," sobbed Mrs. Marshall; and she hastily quitted the room, leaving Harriet transfixed with astonishment. Presently she was about to follow her mother, but Mr. Grainger gently detained her, saying,

"It is better so. Sit down, Harriet;" and he led her to a seat, which she mechanically took.

"I have much to talk to you about, Harriet," commenced Mr. Grainger, as he drew a chair and seated himself near to her. "I have heard from your mother of the constant visits here, of late, of Henry Elliotson."

Harriet, blushing for a moment, held down her beautiful head, but almost immediately raised it, and looked full into the face of the old man by her side. There was a sudden firmness in her manner which surprised her companion, and he paused to gaze at her before he proceeded.

"Pardon me, Harriet, if, for your welfare, I tell you I am come to forbid these visits," said Mr. Grainger.

"Forbid these visits!" Harriet mechanically repeated, the faint blush which had suffused her features now giving way to pallor, as the blood rushed violently towards her heart.

"To forbid these visits," continued Mr. Grainger, "as dangerous to you both."

"Well, sir," said Harriet, with forced calmness.

"It will be better for you both—and I feel it will be so the stronger after consultation with your mother—that you meet no more upon the friendly terms upon which Henry Elliotson has lately visited your mother's house."

The agitation which Harriet naturally experienced at this communication was too great to be concealed. Her bosom heaved—the colour in her cheek came and went rapidly—she gazed at Mr. Grainger for a moment or two, and then, burying her face in her hands, burst into tears.

Mr. Grainger did not attempt to interrupt the torrent of her grief, and he did not speak for some minutes, during which time Harriet still kept her face in her hands. At length, when her grief was in some measure subdued, he continued:

"It is but an effort, Harriet. We have our trials—all of us; and this is yours—as yet the first. But there are happy days in store for you—honours and wealth are at your feet."

"Why, do you think I covet them?" exclaimed she, speaking through her tears.

"Not covet them! No; they are offered to you, Harriet," returned Mr. Grainger, as he turned to the table.

"Offered to me, Mr. Grainger?"

"Do you love your mother, Harriet?"

"Can you ask me?"



"I am sure you do Harriet," continued Mr. Grainger; "and I know you will think that I am advising you for the best."

"I do not understand you, Sir."

"In brief, then, the object of my visit here to day, is to convey a proposal to you from your friend Mr. Augustus Raker," said Mr. Grainger, emphasising deeply the word "friend," and gazing as he spoke, full into Harriet's face, "a proposition," continued he, "which I trust will lead to happy results to all of you. Mr. Raker, as you are aware, has succeeded to his property, and he is naturally anxious to settle in life, a desire which I need hardly say I have applauded. He has been a frequent visitor here, and I am given to understand that his admiration for you is not altogether unknown to you."

Harriet, as the old man earnestly addressed her, bent her gaze upon the ground, but as she did so, it was plain that she was agitated by the strongest emotions. Her bosom heaved convulsively, as she tightly clasped her hands before her, but she did not attempt to interrupt Mr. Grainger. He, therefore, proceeded.

"Do you hear me, Harriet?" he said, mildly, "I would see you well and happily married, and though I perceive, that what I thought was but an ordinary friendship, has grown into a feeling, which, as you see, can only produce pain; yet I find satisfaction in it too, because it may be the means of teaching you, how incapable we are of judging of those things which are for our own especial benefit. Mr. Raker is young and rich, Harriet, and through me he offers you his hand and fortune." He paused, as he thus abruptly arrived at the object of his visit, but Harriet made him no reply.

"You do not speak to me, Harriet," continued Mr. Grainger, gently taking her hand in his own. "Consider," said he, hesitatingly, "that the offer that I have been empowered to make to you, is a most advantageous one. Why are you silent?"

"Alas! Alas!" exclaimed Harriet, again burying her face in her hands.

"I cannot understand this agitation, Harriet," said Mr. Grainger. "What—what can it mean?"

"Can you ask me, Mr. Grainger?" at length expressed Harriet. "Can you think or believe that I can receive such a proposition as that which you have just mentioned with indifference? Oh! can you, Mr. Grainger, believe that I can calmly entertain it?"

And as she bent her dark and swimming eyes upon the old man beside her, there was something in them which made him pause for a moment in his object, and an expression of indecision appeared upon his countenance. Only for an instant, however, for he rejoined;

"Consider, Harriet, the position you will attain."

"At the sacrifice of my happiness?" she replied, sadly.

"With the security of happiness, if you would obtain it," replied Mr. Grainger.

"But really, Mr. Grainger," exclaimed Harriet, in a changed tone and rising from her seat, "really, Mr. Grainger, I know not why I

should be grieved at the proposal which you make. It may be as you say, in a worldly point of view, advantageous to me—in the eyes of some friends no doubt, I shall be considered headstrong, wayward and foolish, in rejecting such an offer, but I am not bound to accept it. Indeed, Mr. Grainger, I feel you mean us well—I'm sure you do;" continued she, taking his hand. "But do not counsel me to this alliance—an alliance which my heart can never sanction. Bear, then, to Mr. Raker, my respectful acknowledgments, and tell him why I decline his proffered hand."

"I cannot, Harriet," replied Mr. Grainger, after a pause, "You mistake me. I am deeply anxious that you should accept this offer—not on your account alone, but on your mother's."

"My Mother's!" exclaimed Harriet, in astonishment.

"Your mother's, Harriet;" said Mr. Grainger. "Listen. The slender income on which your mother has lived since you were left an orphan, has not, as you are aware, been more than sufficient for the station in which you have lived, and in which your father left you. Indeed, it has in years gone by, been trenched upon. You cannot understand these matters much, but perhaps it will be enough for me to say that in the marriage I propose, your family will be relieved from much embarrassment and perhaps pecuniary disaster."

"I do not understand you," cried Harriet, in a bewildered tone.

"Your mother is in danger, and you alone can save her;" replied Mr. Grainger.

"My mother in danger!" echoed Harriet, "why has she left us now?" and she turned as though she would leave the room to seek her.

"Stay," cried Mr. Grainger, "and I will briefly explain my meaning. Remember, Harriet, that there may be troubles sent to us only to make succeeding happiness more grateful to us. It may be, that which we look upon as the threshold of despair, is but the step towards enduring bliss. I hope—I do believe, that this apparent trouble which the proposition I have made seems to create in you, will be but the forerunner of a life of happiness. Consider that Mr. Raker is young—impetuous, perhaps, so much so as to lead occasionally to indiscretion, but through you he will be enabled to see his better self, and to improve, strengthening your happiness and his own. And oh, I need not tell you, that happiness so produced is far more lasting than that which springs from young desire, and has its foundation only in the promptings of a novel, and a transient sensation. I am an old man, Harriet. You were left a charge to me, and it is my desire to see you in possession of that lasting happiness of which I spoke just now. I will be frank and say, that the marriage I propose will, I hope, secure your happiness and restore Augustus Raker to his proper sphere, from which the uncontrolled possession of his own will may have perhaps—and naturally too—led him for a time away."

Harriet had again resumed her seat, and was attentively listening to the old man beside her.

"You are calmer now, Harriet," continued he, "and I will tell you how this marriage will indeed benefit you, for I speak of it in the hard

language of one who looks upon such matters with a view to the future of the lives of those most prominently interested in the matter. Your mother's income is under the control of Augustus Raker."

Harriet involuntarily started, and with her face still pale as before, she gazed upon the old lawyer, with a frightened look.

"Doubtless you are surprised, but the fact is so. The riches which Mr. Raker has lately obtained by the death of his father, include a mortgage of your mother's property, the interest upon which has for years accumulated. I will not say that Mr. Raker would use this power, which undoubtedly he possesses upon your mother's property, but possessing it, how much the more is the offer through me that he has made to you. Was I not right, Harriet, when I said I worked but for your happiness?"

He paused, for the young girl beside him was again weeping, and her distress appeared to overwhelm her. At length, the passion of her grief being spent, Mr. Grainger once more urged his suit with an earnestness indeed which seemed most strange beside the grief which it produced in her to whom he appealed. But his suit prevailed at last, and the deep intensity of Harriet's grief was succeeded by a calm, and a strange firmness appeared in the bearing of the young girl, which surprised Mr. Grainger, and almost shook him in his purpose.

It was remarkable, that in all this interview there appeared to be a studied desire to avoid the mention of the name of Henry Elliotson. That there should be silence in that respect, with Harriet, was not indeed a matter for much wonder, but with Mr. Grainger so closely connected as Henry Elliotson was with him, it was indeed strange that he should avoid as much as possible any reference to his name. How fain would Harriet have alluded to it, how gladly would she have pleaded his cause with the old man, and sought his help to strengthen the young affection which her heart had so recently conceived. But it was the very youth of that affection which operated as a check upon her. It was, indeed, new to her heart, and therefore she could scarcely believe that it really had an existence, at all events sufficient to give her strength necessary to discourse upon it. True, Mr. Grainger had mentioned Henry's name, to forbid his visits, but that was not enough to justify Harriet, at least she thought so, in avowing her passion to the old man; albeit, her bearing when Henry's name was mentioned, was more eloquent about that passion than all the words her tongue could utter.

The intensity of her grief was passed, and Mr. Grainger spoke to her more at length, and she listened to him calmly too, of the relative position of Henry and the young heir. She replied to the old man, and still calmly too, but it was rather the calmness of desparation than that which arises from the placid soul and the contented heart.

"Harriet," cried Mr. Grainger, "I am old now, but as I greet you the elected wife of the heir of Bendersleigh, I feel a joy and gratification which might warm a younger heart on such a subject. I can see," continued the old man, with more of feeling in his tone than he had yet displayed, "I can see the opening of a long line of happiness for you, in this marriage, of happiness for you all, and in that happiness I feel my own."

Harriet smiled as he spoke, but there was no joy expressed in her face. It was the cold smile that cloaks the heart's distress, and is a mockery of bliss.

"Yes, Harriet, I shall greet you as the beautiful young bride of the young heir of Bendersleigh, and I give you joy now. Come, let us join your mother, let us make her partaker of your hope, come."

He took the young girl's hand to lead her from the room, but as she rose to accompany him, the pallor on her cheek became painfully conspicuous.

"Harriet, you are not well," he anxiously exclaimed as he took her hand.

"Let us go to my mother," she replied, faintly.

She would have fallen had not Mr. Grainger supported her in his arms.

"Good God! Harriet," he cried, in alarm, "what is the matter?" but she did not hear him, and he cried aloud for help. With a violent effort he rang the bell, and the door was thrown open by Henry Elliotson, who was followed by Mrs. William Chasey and Mrs. Marshall.

"Good heavens! what has happened?" cried the young man, as he rushed up to Mr. Grainger.

"Some water, some water," gasped that gentleman.

Water was immediately procured, and Henry Elliotson took the hanging hand of Harriet, and sprinkled some cool drops on her face, Mr. Grainger resigning her into the care of the young man.

The alarm of Mrs. Marshall and her daughter was extreme, but as Harriet exhibited signs of recovery, they uttered no word to any one.

Gradually, returning consciousness displayed itself in Harriet's face as Henry Elliotson held her in his arms, chafing the beautiful brow that was turned towards his face, and from which the luxuriant hair was thrown back in wild disorder.

With a long drawn sigh, she opened her dark eyes, and looking for an instant vacantly round she recognised the presence of her lover, and with a wild shriek, sprang up and fell upon his neck, sobbing convulsively.

Mr. Grainger, for a moment or two allowed them to remain so, and then he tapped Henry Elliotson on the shoulder and motioned him to leave the room.

"Yes, sir," cried Henry, "in one moment. I have heard all, Harriet," said he, as he led her to a seat; "my hopes this morning were buoyant and bright, but an adverse destiny has wrecked them all in one short hour. Oh God!" he passionately exclaimed, "it appears like a dreadful dream. My brain seems all on fire. Farewell, Harriet," cried he, as he wildly kissed her forehead, "Farewell. Now, sir," he cried, as he waved his hand to Mr. Grainger.

"Stay, Henry, stay!" shrieked Harriet, as she darted from the chair towards him. "Henry—mother," she wildly cried, falling on her parents neck, as the old lady stood near, weeping.

Again Mr. Grainger beckoned his pupil away.

"Hold, this marriage shall not take place," cried Mrs. Marshall, "my child's happiness shall not be sacrificed to my interest."

"Mother," cried Harriet, solemnly, "it must be so, the sacrifice has been made, Mr. Grainger has my promise; I could not see you deprived, perhaps of home, dependent on the bounty of others for the means wherewith to live. No, mother, there is one feeling greater even than love, and that feeling is pride. My resolution now is fixed, my hand is pledged, and you are saved."

She uttered this with a forced calmness which was painful to behold.

"Come," exclaimed Henry Elliotson, "again farewell, Harriet," he passionately exclaimed, as he took her hand and kissed it; "farewell, farewell, God bless you for ever."

Harriet remained reclining on her mother's neck some moments after Henry Elliotson had left the room, and both continued to weep.

"Cheer up," at length Mrs. Marshall exclaimed, "This is indeed the heaviest blow that I ever yet sustained."

"It is better so, perhaps, mother," replied Harriet, "You see that I am resigned. Yes, resigned as I ought to be," and then she took her mother's hand and told her to be cheerful.

*(To be Continued.)*

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## MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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### LONDON LODGES.

**LODGE OF ANTIQUITY (No. 2).**—The annual election for Master and Treasurer in this highly select Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, Nov. 22, when Br. Samuel Tomkins, G. Treasurer, was re-elected W. M. for the ensuing year, and Br. W. H. Smith, Treasurer. The after part of the evening was enlivened by the musical talents of Br. Jolly, D. King, Lawler, and H. Gear.

**LODGE OF FIDELITY (No. 3).**—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on Wednesday, the 8th November, Br. Rignall presiding, the Masonic business was merely formal, but Br. P. M. Williams proposed and Br. P. M. Dearsly seconded a resolution to the effect, that a subscription should be opened amongst the brethren of the Lodge, in aid of the Patriotic Fund, for the aid of the families of those brave soldiers and sailors who may die or become disabled whilst discharging their duty to their Sovereign and their country, in the war in the east. The proposition was most warmly responded to, and upwards of £20 subscribed..

**ROYAL SOMERSET HOUSE, AND INVERNESS LODGE (No 4).**—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday Nov. 27, under the presidency of Br. Levean, W. M., and P. G. S. W. The business consisted of one passing, and one raising, which, having been performed, the brethren adjourned—Amongst the visitors was Br. J. W. Baughton Leigh, P. D. G. M. for Warwickshire.

**ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).**—The members of this Lodge met together at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 15th ult., when Br. Hopwood, P.M. initiated a candidate into the order. The other Masonic business was of a formal nature.

**BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).**—The above Ancient, and highly distinguished Lodge, held its first meeting for the season, on Monday Nov. 20th, at the Freemasons Tavern, when the W. M. in a most able, and impressive manner, raised a brother to the sublime degree of a master mason, and initiated a gentleman into the order; after which about twenty of the brethren sat down to an excellent dinner, and spent the evening in great

harmony, assisted by Brs. H. Robinson and Mears. Among the visitors were P Deputy G. M. and P. G. Sec. for Kent.

**ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).**—After a short recess, which appears only to have tended to heighten the enjoyment of reunion, the members of this Lodge met together for the first time this season, on Wednesday the 8th November. The summons contained a most imposing show of business, but owing to unavoidable circumstances, it was reduced to three passings and two raisings, which were performed with his accustomed accuracy, by Br. P. M. Young. At the conclusion of the business the brethren adjourned to one of those elegant dinners for which the Freemasons Tavern is noted, the W.M., Br. Frederic Ledger presiding. There were several visitors present, amongst whom was Br. Stokes, an African missionary, who, with Br. J. W. Adams, returned thanks for the toast of the visitors, and the former described in glowing colours the cordial welcome which he, a native of Africa, had always met with from his brother masons in every part of the world in which it had been his lot to travel. The health of Br. Wilton, who took his second degree in the early part of the proceedings of the day, with prosperity to him in his forthcoming visit to California and Australia, in company with Mr. G. V. Brooke, the tragedian, was also drunk. In returning thanks, Br. Wilton assured the brethren that he felt deep regret at being compelled to leave friends amongst whom he had enjoyed so much unalloyed pleasure, and though he should take his third degree in a distant land, he should never fail to remember his brethren of the Enoch Lodge, with feelings of the deepest esteem and regard, trusting, that by the blessing of God, he would be enabled to rejoin them in their Lodge Room, in 1857. The evening passed off most harmoniously, and to show that the musical department was more than usually excellent, we need only mention that it comprised the talents of Bros. Leffler, T. Young, D. King, Lawler, Day, G. F. Taylor, Miss M. Taylor, and Miss Lucy Ledger. In the course of the evening a subscription was commenced in aid of the Patriotic Fund, which will remain open until after the next meeting.

**GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).**—An emergency meeting of this Lodge, was held on the 16th November, when a gentleman was initiated into the order, a Br. passed, and two others raised to the then different degrees. The whole of the ceremonies were well performed by Br. P.M. Adams, in consequence of the absence of the W.M., Br. Hewlett, from indisposition.

**ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).**—At the usual monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 6th of November, Br. Paterson, W. M., presiding, there were four brothers passed, and two raised to their respective degrees. One of the brethren passed was initiated some years since, but from that time residing abroad, he had delayed taking the second degree in Freemasonry, until he returned to his native land, where we trust he may long continue to dwell in happiness and prosperity. All masonic business having concluded, the brethren supped together, the evening's entertainment being heightened by the vocal exertions of Bros. Fielding, and G. F. Taylor.

**MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).**—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, Nov. 22, under the presidency of Br. Samuel Oram, W. M., who initiated a candidate into the order with great impressiveness. Upwards of 30 brethren afterwards dined together, amongst whom were Br. John Harvey, G. S. D., and several other visitors.

**GRENAIERS LODGE (No. 79).**—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on Thursday, the 23rd November, Br. Tyler, W. M., initiated a properly qualified member into the order.

**LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).**—The first meeting for the season of this Lodge, which is presided over by Br. Johnson, W.M., was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 9th November, when two candidates having been balloted for, the Lodge was adjourned until the following Tuesday, in consequence of a number of the brethren being engaged at civic festivals, consequent upon its being "Lord Mayor's Day." On Tuesday, the 14th, the Lodge reassembled, when the two candidates were

duly initiated into the order, and a Br. of the German Lodge, Prometheus, No. 8., admitted a joining member.

**TUSCAN LODGE (No. 14).**—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday evening the 28th November, when Br. Ellis, W.M., very impressively initiated two candidates into the order. The S.W., Br. Moxon, was then elected W.M. for the ensuing year. The whole of the Masonic business being ended the brethren adjourned to refreshment, their being several visitors present, amongst whom were Br. Tyler, W.M., 79; Br. Sandford, 275; Br. Parbury; and Br. Ransford, G.O.

**ST. MARY'S LODGE (No. 76).**—At the first monthly Lodge of the season held on the 16th, Br. Skelton, W.M. presiding, Br. Kelly was unanimously elected Master for the ensuing year; Br. Ransford, G.O. was present during the evening.

**MOIRA LODGE (No. 109).**—The members of this Lodge reassembled for the season in great force, on the 30th October, at the London Tavern, there being about 40 brethren present. Br. Law, W.M., occupied the chair, but the only business of importance transacted, was the proposal of four candidates for admission into the order.

**LODGE OF FAITH (No. 165).**—The members of this Lodge met together at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 31st October, for the purpose of installing the Master for the ensuing year. After the usual formal business had been transacted, Br. Gillard was most ably installed by Br. Rackstraw, the oldest P.M. in the Lodge, with which he has been connected upwards of 30 years. The installation having been concluded, the new Master proceeded to appoint as his officers, Br. McManus, S.W.; Br. Odell, J.W.; Br. Carter, S.D.; Br. Fitch, J.D.; Br. Kardel, I.G.; and Br. Anslow, jun. secretary. Br. Anslow, sen., was also reinvested with the insignia of office as treasurer. Two gentlemen were initiated into masonry, and a Br. passed to the second degree. At the conclusion of the business, the whole of which was very neatly gone through, the brethren adjourned to an elegant banquet and spent a very pleasant evening, in the course of which many regrets were expressed that ere long the brethren would have to remove to a new Lodge House, Br. Rackstraw, the respected host of the Gun, having received notice that the premises would shortly be required for destruction, consequent upon the approaching completion of the improvements between Pimlico and Westminster.

**ST. THOMAS'S LODGE (No. 166).**—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 4th of November, when Br. Tucker, the W.M., presided, and the ceremonies of passing and raising were admirably performed.

**CADOGAN LODGE (No. 188).**—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 17th November, the ceremonies of initiation, passing, and raising were all excellently performed by Br. Malkin, the W.M.

**LODGE OF PRUDENT BRETHREN (No. 169).**—The second meeting for the season was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, Br. Kirby in the chair, when the ceremony of initiation having been gone through, Br. Hewlett, S. W., (the present master of the Globe Lodge, the chair of which he is just about to quit, was elected W.M., for the ensuing year. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant supper. Amongst the visitors were, Br. Bohn, P.M., 201, and Br. Banks, who in the course of the evening, in acknowledging the toast of visitors, after Br. Bohn, said, that when he received the masters invitation to the Lodge, he had in his hands an ancient relic (which he was contemplating seriously), fashioned by one of a race which was ancient when Rome was young. The feeling he had at the moment, was one of gratitude, as a father of a large family, to the kind parent who could (at so remote a period) devote his thoughts to the pleasing task of amusing his children. He almost felt envious that he could not, as an adult, find an equal enjoyment of so antique a nature. The kind invitation to join a Freemasons Lodge immediately relieved his mind, for he knew that he should meet a society famous for its antiquity, a society formed by men coeval with the ancient Etruscan, who manufactured the relic he had alluded to—a clay doll, similar to the wooden ones of the present day, excepting that the head was exquisitely carved—which was found in an excavated tomb, and he was sure these ancient figures could not have pleased the

juvenile portion of the community of that age more than their noble order instructed, improved, and delighted, its members at the present.

**LODGE OF OLD CONCORD (No. 201).**—At the meeting of this Lodge, on the 7th November, when it assembled for the first time since the vacation; the W.M. Br. Kennedy, initiated two candidates (one of them being a clergyman), into the order, and a Br. was raised to the third degree. Br. Borth P.M., and Br. Watson P.M. were elected trustees to the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge.

**PHENIX LODGE (No. 202).**—The first meeting for the season of this flourishing Lodge, was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 11th November, under the presidency of the new W. M., Br. Jno. Webber, when a candidate was admitted into the order, two brethren passed, and one raised, to their respective degrees. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren enjoyed a very happy evening, to the pleasures of which Bros. Genge, Farquharson, and Smythson, materially contributed.

**DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).**—On Monday, the 13th ult., the members of this Lodge, held their monthly meeting at Br. Ireland's Masonic Hall, Fetter Lane, when a Br. was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M., and a candidate initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, the ceremonies being very ably performed by Br. Joseph Smith P.M., acting for the W.M., whose absence was unavoidable, assisted by Br. Elmes, P.M., as S.W., and Br. Thomas A. Adams, J.W. The election for W.M., for the ensuing year took place, and the votes of the brethren were unanimously in favour of Br. Thomas A. Adams, J. W., of the Lodge, and P.M. (196), who in the course of the evening, proposed five gentlemen for initiation in the Lodge. Among the visitors present were, Br. Bennett (844), St. John's, Newfoundland; Br. George Addison, (259), Romford; Br. Thomas Bohn, P.M., (201), &c. Br. Josiah Smith, P.M., was re-elected treasurer of the Lodge, and Br. Sigrist, P.M., treasurer of the Fund of Benevolence, attached to the Lodge. The evening passed in perfect harmony, and the style in which the refreshments were served, conferred great credit on the worthy and respected caterer.

**LODGE OF TRANQUILITY (No. 218).**—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the George and Vulture Tavern, Cornhill, on Monday, November 20, Br. Herman, the W.M., ably initiated two candidates into the order; and passed two brethren, who had duly gone through the necessary examination, to the second degree. In the course of the evening, the claims of the widow and the orphan on the support of the brethren was ably urged, and it was stated that a ball would take place in January, in aid of the benevolent fund attached to the Lodge.

**LODGE OF JOPPA (No 223).**—The second monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the White Hart Inn, Bishopsgate, on the 16th Nov. The W.M. Br. Jones occupied the chair, and initiated two candidates for the mysteries of Freemasonry, into the order; he also passed two brothers to the Second Degree. It was resolved to make certain alterations in the bye-laws, whereby the fees payable in the Lodge will be increased. After the close of the Masonic business the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and in the course of the evening a special bumper was dedicated to the health of Br. Wade, who was passed in the car'y part of the business of the day, he being about to depart for Australia, wishing him God speed, prosperity in all his undertakings, and a safe and happy return to his native country whenever he may desire it.

**JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).**—This Lodge met for the first time after the recess, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 1st of November, Br. P.M. Rooke, presiding. After the usual business had been gone through, a ballot was taken for W.M. for the ensuing year, when it was declared to have unanimously fallen on Br. L. Crombie, S.W. The Treasurer of the past year having been re-elected, the Lodge was closed in perfect harmony.

**ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).**—The first meeting for the season of this Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, the 2nd of November. The chair was occupied by Br. Richard Mills, W.M., who initiated a candidate into the order and passed a brother to the Second Degree. After the initiation, the charge (the giving of which is too often neglected) was most impressively delivered by the W.M. All other business being ended, the W.M. warmly urged the advantage to be derived from the re-establishment of a Lodge of Instruction in connection with the Lodge, that which formerly bore the name of St. Andrew having long since ceased to exist.



At an emergency meeting on the 16th, the W.M., Br. Mills, most ably initiated two brethren into the order.

**LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 318).**—Br. P.M. John Hervey presided over the monthly meeting of this Lodge, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 6th of November, when assisted by his Wardens and other officers, he most impressively performed the ceremony of raising.

**POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 773).**—The first meeting of this Lodge for the season, took place on the 9th November, the whole of the business being very ably gone through by the W.M., Br. Ritterbandt. Brs. Coggin and Banks, two of the partners in the Freemason's Tavern, were elected joining members, Br. W. Watson, having been one of its earliest members. In the course of the evening Br. Banks, returned thanks for the honour conferred upon himself and partner, by being elected into the Lodge, and said, he was sorry he could bring no strength to it, some might bring them honour, some intelligence, but he could increase the value of the Lodge no further than by adding one more to their number. It was upwards of a quarter of a century since he was initiated into Freemasonry, and regretted to add, that his Masonic knowledge was very limited; but he trusted he possessed one qualification of Freemasonry, good-fellowship, which was strongly impressed upon him at an early period, when he was taught that the superstruction of society was comprised in the words 'brotherly love, relief, and truth.' He believed that Freemasonry was the foundation of all charitable feelings, and the various benevolent institutions, that existed in this great country. He would now revert to the constituent part of the Lodge, which was Polish. He had from an early period felt strongly in favour of the nationality of Poland, and had sympathised in the struggles of that gallant nation. He had formerly read a line of Campbell's, viz., "Freedom shrieked when Kosciusko fell;" he thought that that was the death knell of Poland; but on reflection, he found that a shriek was not the knell of death, but suffering only, and he was happy in the feeling that Poland was not dead, but that she would rise again from her sufferings like the 'Phoenix from her own ashes.'

## INSTRUCTION.

**EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT.**—The Anniversary festival of this excellent Lodge of Instruction, was celebrated at the Freemasons Tavern last night, by a very elegant supper, to which about 200 brethren sat down under the presidency of Br. Beadon, P. G. W. In the course of the evening, a testimonial consisting of a very valuable chronometer and chain, was presented to Br. John Hervey, G. S. D.—as a mark of respect due to him from the brethren, in conducting and bringing the Lodge to its present prosperous position. The chronometer bears the following inscription:—Presented by the brethren of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, No. 318, to Br. John Hervey, S.G.D., Treasurer, to evince their appreciation of the zeal and ability with which he has discharged his Masonic duties to the Lodges, and his unremitting attention to the interests of the craft in general; 1854. A full report of the proceedings will appear in our next number.

**FIDELITY LODGE (No. 3).**—The annual festival of this well supported Lodge of Instruction, which holds its meetings at the Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-square, was celebrated on the 9th ult., at Br. Ireland's Masonic Hall, Falcon Tavern, Fetter-lane, and was attended by more than 40 of the craft. Br. Dearsly, P.M., No. 3, occupied the chair; the vice-chair was filled by Br. Tyrrell. The chief interest of the re-union was the presentation of a P.M.'s jewel to Br. R. Grant, for the great services which he has rendered this Lodge of Instruction. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly honoured, Br. Heath, P.M. of No. 3, addressing Br. Grant, said, that it had fallen to his lot as a Mason to discharge many agreeable duties; but he had never been called to the performance of one so agreeable as that which he was then about to fulfil—namely, to present to him (Br. Grant) a P.M.'s jewel, voted by the Fidelity Lodge of Instruction in

appreciation of his services. He (Br. Heath) had been present at his initiation, and had carefully watched his Masonic career, and could safely say that he never knew a Mason who had in such a short time perfected himself in their mysteries; nor did he think there was in the craft a member who had more undeviatingly acted upon the grand principles upon which the Order was founded. Therefore, it was that he felt a peculiar pleasure in presenting him with that jewel, and he hoped that he might long live to wear it with honour to himself and advantage to the craft.—Br. Grant, in feeling terms, acknowledged the compliment, and stated that he considered that, as it had been in Lodges of Instruction he had himself acquired his Masonic knowledge, he was only fulfilling his duty in imparting that knowledge to the younger brethren in the craft.—The evening was enlivened by some excellent singing, and passed off in perfect harmony.

### THE ROYAL ARCH.

CHAPTER OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—At a convocation of this Chapter, held on Friday, the 3rd of November, Comp. Jones was elected Z; Comp. Shackelton, H; Comp. Grant, J; Comp. Dr. Tomkins, E; Comp. Benwell, N; and Comp. Figg, P.S.

ST. GEORGE AND CORNER STONE CHAPTER (No. 5).—This Chapter met at the Freemasons Tavern, on Saturday, Nov. 25, when Comp. John Haver, P.Z., assisted by the other officers of Chapter, exalted a brother into the arch. The attendance of the Comps. was very limited.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER (No. 49).—The last meeting for the present year was held at Br. Rackstraw's, Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Tuesday, Nov. 21, when Br. Henley and Kardel were exalted into the Royal Arch. The ceremony was very beautifully performed by Br. Andrews, Z; Kirby, H; Br. Cooper, J; and Br. Mortimer, P.S. The season closed with an elegant supper, at which "a bumper at parting" was drunk to "the next merry meeting."

### BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the monthly meeting of this Board on Wednesday last, Nov. 29, the sum of eighty eight pounds was voted amongst twelve recipients. This was the annual night for adding twelve past masters to the board, but in consequence of certain allegations as to the disposal of the funds, which we believe to be altogether unfounded, the absolute election was postponed, seventeen or eighteen candidates being proposed to fill the vacancies at the Board. We certainly wish that some one or two brethren, who are at the Board, would remember that they are placed there to afford relief to indigent brethren, and not in the character of relieving officers of a union.

### MARK MASONS.

THE Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masons, which is held under a warrant from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, assembled together at the Freemasons' Tavern for the first time this season on the 1st of November. In consequence of the decease of our late much regretted Comp. Wm. Evans, the chair was occupied by P.M. Comp. Dr. Jones, through whose exertions the Charter for the Lodge was originally obtained. Two duly qualified brothers having been advanced to the degree, Corp. Norton was installed Master for the ensuing year, when he was pleased to appoint Comp. Sir John Delapole, S.W.; Comp. Vigin, J.W.; Comp. Cole, S.D.; Comp. Wheeler, J.D.; Comp. Lepper, I.G.; Comp. Ridgway, Sec.; and Comp. G. F. Taylor, Organist. Comp. P.M. Collins having been invested as Treasurer, it was resolved that a Committee should be appointed to consider the best means of raising a testimonial to the memory of the late Comp. Evans, and that a letter of condolence, expressive of the high regard in which he was held by the members of the Lodge, should be forwarded to his widow on her melancholy and irreparable loss. A Committee was also appointed to confer with Committees from other Lodges, with regard to a testimonial which it is proposed to present to Comp. Wm. Tucker, P.P.G.M. for Dorsetshire, as an acknowledgment of the services which he has rendered to the Bon Accord and other Lodges.

## MASONIC KNIGHT TEMPLARS.

THE encampment of Mount Carmel mustered roll at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, on the 27th of October, when Sir Knt. Comp. T. Vesper was installed E.C. for the ensuing year. Amongst the visitors on the occasion was Sir Knt. Comp. Hy. Emly, Grand Chancellor of the order.

## ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRL SCHOOL.

At an adjourned meeting of the House Committee on Saturday, the 25th Nov., to consider the testimonials of the certificates for the situation of Governess vacant by the death of Mrs. Crooks, it was resolved to recommend Miss Suter to the General Court for the office. Miss Suter, who is the orphan daughter of the once well-known bookseller of Fleet-street, was originally educated in the Royal St. Ann's Asylum Schools, whence she proceeded to Whiteland's Training Institution, from which she holds a high certificate of her talents. From inquiries we have been able to make, we believe Miss Suter to be in every way suited to the situation to which she aspires.

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 PROVINCIAL LODGES, &c.

## DEVONSHIRE.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge, was held at the George Hotel, on the second Wednesday (Nov. 8), Br. E. W. Cole, W.M. in the chair, when a Br. received the third degree in Freemasonry, the ceremony being performed by P. M. Doidge with his usual ability. There were eight visiting brothers, who expressed great gratification at the able and correct manner in which the ceremony was performed; after which the nomination of a W.M. for the year ensuing took place, and Br. Phillips the senior warden was unanimously named as successor to the present W. M.

A Royal Arch Chapter of this Lodge, was holden on the 14th inst., when three qualified brethren were duly exalted, the ceremony being performed by P. Z. Companion Pollard, in his usual impressive and able manner. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the companions retired to partake of an excellent supper provided by Companion Killingly, M.E.Z., and the evening was much enlivened by some good songs and toasts. This Chapter is rapidly progressing in numbers, and bids fair to become the strongest in this province.

EXETER.—The St. George's Royal Arch Chapters (129) has aided the Patriotic Fund by voting to it out of the monies of the lodge the sum of £5.

STARCROSS.—The brethren of the Lodge of Union (650) have also voted the sum of £5 in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

## DURHAM.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY LODGE, DURHAM (No. 146).—Among the additional subscribers to the "Patriotic Fund," we are glad to notice the donation of 10*l.* from this Lodge; and we trust the step taken by the Granby, will be followed by every Lodge in the United Kingdom. It will occur to all members of the craft that among our numerous soldiers and sailors at the seat of war there will be a large number of Freemasons; and this spontaneous act on the part of the craft in the city of Durham, shows, that apart from the nationality which always characterizes the order, they have not forgotten that to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but more particularly so on Masons, who are linked together by an indivisible chain of sincere affection. To soothe calamity, alleviate misfortune, compassionate misery, and restore peace to the troubled mind, is the grand aim of the true Mason.

## NORTHUMBERLAND.

On Friday, 25th August, the Grand Lodge of Northumberland held its annual meeting in the Town Hall, at Morpeth, when a new Lodge was constituted, consecrated, and dedicated as Lodge De Ogle, No. 919, under the authority of the G. M. of England, the Earl of Zetland—Br. Robert Shute, of Morpeth, being installed first W.M. of the new Lodge. The ceremonies of the occasion, under the able direction of Br. Dalziel, P.G. director of ceremonies, were much enhanced by the effective performance of the various anthems, &c., accompanied by Br. Barkers delightful instrumental music—not the least pleasing feature of the day being the attendance of several ladies during that part of the ceremony in which they could be admitted. The business of the Grand Lodge was then proceeded with, and the following brethren were installed office-bearers for the ensuing year:—William Berkley, P.G.S.W.; John S. Challoner, P. G. J. W.; Rev. John Bigge, P. G. Chaplain; Rev. Clement Moody, P. G. treasurer; Thomas Fenwick, P. G. Registrar; G. P. Birkenshaw, P. G. Sec.; John Clay Gibson, P. G. S. D.; R. Winlow, P. G. J. D.; W. Dalziel, P. G. Dr. of Ceremon.; John Green, P. G., S. of Works; Haswell, P. G. Organist; D. W. Spence, P. G. Usher; George Fenwick, P. G. Sword Bearer; W. E. Franklin, P. G. Standard-bearer; W. Richardson, P. G. Pursuivant; Alexander Dickson, P. G. Tyler.

Grand Stewards:—John Thompson, St. David's Lodge, Berwick; John Shield, Junr. Northern Counties' Lodge, Newcastle; Stephen Owen, St. George's Lodge, North Shields; Edward French, St. Peter's Lodge, Newcastle; James Gilpin, Junr. Lodge De Loraine, Newcastle; R. Vardy, Lodge De Ogle, Morpeth.

In addition to the brethren named above, there was a large and influential number of the fraternity present, among whom might be named Rev. E. C. Ogle, the Grand Master of the Province of Northumberland and Berwick-on-Tweed; Richard Medcalf, Esq., D.P.G.M.; Rev. R. Buckeridge; Rev. W. Shields; H. P. Monk, W. M., 586, &c, &c.

After concluding the business of the day, the brethren adjourned to dinner at the Black Bull Inn, where a large company spent the evening with that harmony and good feeling so characteristic of the Order.

## NEWCASTLE.

On the 8th November, the foundation of some new Church Schools took place in this town, with Masonic honours, in order to bring the Mayorality of Ralph Dodds, Esq., who has greatly interested himself with regard to the success of the schools, to a worthy conclusion.

The brethren who were to form the procession met at 9½ A.M. in the Assembly Rooms, where the P.G. Lodge was opened by the P.G.M. (Rev. E. C. Ogle).

A procession was then formed, and repaired to the church of St. Nicholas as under:—

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, and Members of the Corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Clergy.

Band of Music.

Tyler.

Visiting Brethren, not Members of any Lodge present, two and two.

Visiting Lodges, according to rank, Junior Lodge going first.

Lodge "De Ogle,"	.....	No. 919.
" "De Loraine,"	.....	793.
" "St. Peter's,"	.....	706.
" "St. George's,"	.....	824.
" "Borough,"	.....	614.
" "Northern Counties,"	.....	586.
" "St. David's,"	.....	554.
" "St. John's,"	.....	95.
" "Industry,"	.....	56.
" "Newcastle-on-Tyne,"	.....	24.

Tyler.

Banner.

Brethren, two and two, Juniors first,



entered they were marshalled into good order by Mr. Gibson, assistant overseer of St. Nicholas, whose exertions throughout were deserving of the highest praise. Next came the choir of St. Nicholas', together with the clergy and churchwardens, followed by the Mayor and Corporation. After a short delay, the Right Worshipful the Mayor proceeded with the ceremony of laying the stone, on which the stone was raised and maintained in its elevation until the children sung a hymn, entitled "THE FOUNDATION STONE," the words of which were written by the Right Hon. Stephen Lushington, D.C.L., and the music composed by Mr. J. Garnett. The first verse of the hymn ran thus:—

"Lord, to Thee our songs we raise,  
Hear our prayer, accept our praise;  
God of love, our efforts own,  
Laying this Foundation Stone."

At the termination of the hymn, the Rev. Richard Buckeridge, Incumbent of St. Andrew's, offered up a suitable prayer, when a phial, containing several medals, was deposited in a cavity of the stone by the Mayor; after which, Mr. J. H. Ingledew read the following inscription, engraved on a brass plate, intended to cover the cavity:—

"The foundation stone of this school, being the first of a series of ten Church of England Schools about to be erected (God willing), for the industrial classes of this borough. It was laid by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Newcastle, Ralph Dodds, Esq., on Wednesday, the 8th November, 1854.

The Right Rev. Edward Maltby, D.D., Bishop of this diocese of Durham.

The Rev. Clement Moody, Vicar of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Rev. Richard Buckeridge, Incumbent of the parish of St. Andrew.

DEO GLORIA."

A handsome silver trowel manufactured by Messrs. Reid & Sons, Grey-street, was then presented to the Mayor as a gift, bearing the following inscription:—

"Presented to Ralph Dodds, Esq., Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of a school, for the parish of St. Andrew, by the Rev. Clement Moody, Vicar of Newcastle, and the Rev. Richard Buckeridge, Incumbent of the parish of St. Andrew.—Wednesday, Nov. 8, 1854."

The cement having been spread in a masterly style over the stone by the Mayor, it was lowered into its bed, and, after the plumb, level, and square had tested its true position, the children, aided by the band, and accompanied by a great number of the company, sang the inimitable and well-known Psalm of the "Old Hundred." The Vicar then proposed three cheers for the Mayor and Mrs. Mayoress, which was most heartily responded to. The blessing then followed, after which the National Anthem was sung in fine style by all present, which terminated this interesting part of the day's proceedings.

The procession then formed, with the exception of the members of the Corporation taking their places behind the Masonic body, and proceeded onward by Percy-street and Blckett-street, to the Shieldfield to lay the foundation stone of the school for the parish of All Saints, the ceremony having to be performed by the Rev. Edw. Challoner Ogle, of Kirkley Hall, P.G.M., of the Free and Accepted Masons of Northumberland and Berwick upon Tweed. The site fixed upon was a large piece of vacant ground, the property of Mr. Copeland, Shieldfield, and to prevent disorder and pressure by the crowd, a large space had been taken off, and enclosed by a wooden fence. As at the Percy-street site, a large company of ladies were assembled to witness the ceremony, including Mrs. Mayoress, Mrs. Dr. Headlam, the lady of the Vicar, and several other highly respectable individuals. On the arrival of the children, they were judiciously arranged around the extremities of the square, while within it were placed the ladies, and the numerous body of gentlemen and officials present to take part in the proceedings. The P.G.M. having approached the stone, it was raised, when the "Foundation Stone" hymn was again sung by the children. This having been concluded, a handsome silver trowel was presented to the reverend gentleman, bearing a similar inscription to that on the trowel previously presented to the Mayor, with the name of the Grand Master, the Vicar, and the Rev. Walter Irvine, incumbent of All Saints, upon it. The silver trowel was manufactured by Messrs. Donald & Son, New-

castle. The ceremony then proceeded, the stone having been placed in its bed and duly consecrated by the Grand Chaplain (the Rev. F. Bigge, Stamfordham). The elements of consecration were corn, wine, and oil; after which the Grand Chaplain offered up the following prayer:—

O Lord, Thou that inhabitest eternity, and hast raised out of nothing the mighty fabric of this universe, the heavens, the air, the earth, and the sea; Thou that fillest the whole and every thing that is in it, and art Thyself boundless and incomprehensible, look down graciously upon Thy servants who are about to presume to erect this building to the honour of Thy name. Let Thy Holy Spirit descend upon it in the blessing of Thy peculiar presence; Thou that art everywhere, deign also to be with us. Thou that seest and hearest all things, look down from Thy throne of glory, and give ear to our supplications; and if, at any time hereafter, Thou shalt be moved, in Thy just displeasure, to punish this people for their transgressions, with any of Thy terrible judgments—famine, pestilence, or the sword—yet, if they make supplication and return to Thee, with all their heart and with all their soul, then hear Thou them, O Lord, in heaven Thy dwelling place, and forgive their sin, and remove Thy judgment.

The Grand Master then said, "Having laid this stone, may the grand Architect, who has so kindly blessed us for the proceedings of the day, enable those engaged in the building to complete it, and may it hereafter be preserved from ruin and decay, and be of lasting prosperity. I therefore strew corn on the stone as the emblem of plenty; I pour wine on it as the emblem of cheerfulness; and I anoint it with oil as the emblem of comfort and consolation." The Grand Master then turning to the entire assembly, addressed it as follows:—"Fellow craftsmen, respected vicar, citizens of this great and important town, and all who are interested in this day's proceedings, if I had a hundred tongues and a hundred voices, I could not express to you sufficiently the probable result of the great events of this day's engagements. When men build schools it is impossible to see the end thereof. To a few the end may be unfortunate, but to the many the end must be blessed. The education which the sons and daughters of the labourer, the artizan, the mechanic may receive at school may, in a few cases, have results we do not wish to see, but in the great majority of instances the result is most harmonizing, not to say divine. But if anything will tend to promote the true design and the prosperity of this school and its kindred ones, which the vicar of this town so magnanimously contemplates, it will be the blessing of heaven which we have invoked this day on our undertaking. I almost invariably have found that out of evil good comes, that is, so long as man does not directly do evil that good may come; but if I am not mistaken, the very dire plague and grievous sickness which desolated so many of the once happy homes of this town last year about this time, opened the eyes of the ecclesiastics as well as those of the civil authorities, to the alarming destitution of schools and the want of education for your children. I cannot but lament the destruction of valuable lives that pestilence made, but I must rejoice, as a Christian and as a man, that the rod has not smitten you in vain, that the scourge has produced such nobled-minded efforts to stem and turn the evil tide of ignorance, and misery, its great companion. The mayor and corporation, and the burgesses have been busily employed this day in laying the foundation stone for another school, but we, in no spirit of sectarian rivalry, have done the same for this school. There are, it is well known, other schools in this town and elsewhere, conducted on what are termed liberal principles; but these schools will be conducted on church principles. The scholastic duties within them are designed so that the children shall receive no religious bias or check from their teachers, as the schools are designed to teach dogmas of the church, and to bend the thoughts of children to a great and fixed society, and keep them there. These schools, therefore, will place the simple text of the Bible in the hands of their scholars, and leave it to their ministers to interpret, or authorize the teachers to interpret, the simple text by formularies and word of mouth. But however different may be the methods in which they proceed, I am sure that your mayor and your vicar have both one object in view, which is to promote the welfare of the present and the rising generation, and the glory of God. I may illustrate their respective proceedings by your ships in your port. You must have bent 'knees' as well as 'straight planks' for a perfect and proper vessel. So you must have the bendings of the church and the straight lines of unfettered religion to perfect the proper proportions of the great social edifice in this land. So you observe there is no rivalry in this day's proceedings except the emulation for good purposes.

There is, however, room for every possible exertion in bringing in the degraded and ignorant children from the streets and lanes of this town, and we all join head and heart in the excellent cause. We shall find that we can have unity of purpose without uniformity or practice in scholastic duties; and we shall rejoice to think that we have taken warning be times, when we see these schools flourishing and children brought up in "the nurture and fear of the Lord." And pardon me if I still retain the impression of my old calling in life, and thank God that he has vouchsafed to touch our heart with this admonition, and so to avoid His judgments—"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." The Grand Master, after paying a brief and merited mark of respect to the Vicar, whose exertions were beyond all comment in commencing this noble project, concluded by alluding to the gift of the trowel, as follows:—You have presented me with an instrument of our craft, which I will immensely prize, and I cordially thank you for it. I shall take it home and deposit it in a conspicuous place in my house of residence; and I will direct that it be handed from me to my son, and to my son's son "in perpetual generations," as a valuable ornament and as an excellent token—an ornament for its surpassing workmanship, which does honour to the silversmith—and a token, that as it spreads the well-tempered mortar on the foundation stone, so may the well-tempered mortar of the prophet be spread by means of this school on the great edifice of humanity, which shall rise generation after generation from the people of this town." (Loud cheers.)

The schools which are to form a portion of ten, which it is proposed to erect in Newcastle, in accordance with a proposition made by the worthy Vicar, and which has been warmly seconded by the inhabitants, have been designed by Mr. George Wallen, Architect of Newcastle; and the building has been entrusted to Messrs. Gibson and Stewart.

Both before and after the ceremony, the children were regaled with substantial refreshments.

#### THE COLLATION.

About four o'clock, the ladies and gentlemen who had taken part in the ceremony, sat down to an elegant cold collation, provided at the Assembly Rooms, Westgate-street. The Mayor of Newcastle occupied the chair; the duties of the vice-chair being ably fulfilled by the Under-Sheriff (John Fenwick, Esq.), the Sheriff being unavoidably absent from indisposition. At the head table were observed the Mayoress, the Lady of the Vicar of Newcastle, Mrs. Dr. Headlam, Miss Walton, Miss Clayton, &c. The excellent band of the Northumberland and Newcastle Yeomanry Cavalry, stationed in an ante-room, boomed forth appropriate airs in the course of the evening.

At the conclusion of the repast, the health of Her Majesty, Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family; the Bishop and Clergy of the diocese; responded to by the Rev. Dr. Davies, Rector of Gateshead; the Army and Navy acknowledged by Capt. Weatherly, having been drunk with all the honors.

The Rev. E. C. OGLE rose to propose a toast. He said, that had not been to him a common day, beginning and ending merely with the usual occurrences of life, but had been a day which had opened up to him sources of satisfaction which he should not speedily forget. He had found himself associated with the Mayor and Corporation of Newcastle in one of the greatest works that man could put his hand to. If their fellow-creatures had souls to be saved, then they must feel that they had been engaged this day in promoting the noblest of man's work—namely, making preparations for the education of the child. By education he did not mean merely writing and reading, for these, after all, were only the instruments of education, and might be used against it; but he meant, that sound moral training which would enable the child to grow up into a man of good sound principles, wherewith to meet the attacks of the knave and the infidel. Associated in this work as he had been this day with the Mayor and Corporation of this important town, he had very great pleasure in proposing their health as a toast. (Applause.)



The MAYOR responded; observing that he scarcely remembered any day in his life the proceedings of which had afforded him more heartfelt gratification. He had given to this scheme all the assistance in his power; but he hoped, in a very short time, to have more leisure to lend his reverend friend the vicar a little more assistance. In nothing should he be more willing to co-operate than in the furtherance of such a scheme as the one they had that day so well commenced. (Applause.)

The Corporation of the Trinity House of Newcastle, having been toasted,

The VICE-CHAIRMAN then said:—Mr. Mayor, I do not know that a greater honor could have been done to myself than by entrusting to me the toast which I hold in my hand. I have the pleasure to propose to you the health of "The Provincial Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Northumberland." Whether I consider the high character and attainments of the master of this important branch of masonry, or whether I look to the ancient and noble families with which he is connected, he is equally entitled to our admiration in these and in other respects. But when I look upon him as an individual associated with a most important society—a society which carries charity and benevolence in all directions, for I may almost say that in whatever country a man may find himself, he meets with a mason, and every mason he meets with is a brother and a friend,—I say, that to see a gentleman of Mr. Ogle's position in society making common cause with a number of gentlemen of the same benevolent feelings with himself, and bringing out all the influence which his station commands to bear on this great and important subject, it redounds in honor of the very highest degree to himself. I therefore propose, with very great pleasure, the health of Mr. Ogle, and all the brethren connected with the Lodges of Northumberland.

The Rev. C. E. OGLE, after a few preliminary remarks in responding, humorously continued:—It has been truly said that Freemasons take a pleasure in associating themselves with those who engage in doing good to their fellow creatures. And there are many here present—amongst them, many of our fair guests—who would be glad to know from me, as the Provincial Grand Master of Northumberland, what is the great secret of masonry. I know that many of them have even asked their husbands what it is. I have often longed for a good opportunity of telling it myself; and where such an opportunity as the present is afforded, I will not allow it to escape, but I will reveal to our fair guests what is the great secret of Freemasonry, and set their curiosity at rest for ever. The great secret that we have to tell one another, is, that we promise to be good husbands, and good fathers, and good brothers. Therefore let me urge upon our fair guests the strong necessity of their immediately impressing upon all who are nearest and dearest to them the extreme importance of immediately joining our ranks. But, continued the reverend gentleman, in sober earnest, all that I have said is true. Their great object—and let that suffice—is to do good to all men. On all occasions where the good of our fellow-creatures is concerned, I and my fellow Masons of Northumberland will always be found at our post.

A variety of other toasts were drunk, not forgetting the health of the worthy Vicar, who had been the original cause of the meeting. A benediction closed the proceedings of the day, which were throughout of a most agreeable character.

### LINCOLNSHIRE.

A fully attended meeting of the Grand Lodge of this Province was held on Wednesday, Nov. 15, in the Assembly-rooms, Wentworth-street, Peterboro', presided over by the most noble the Marquis of Huntley, P.G.M. The St. Peter's Lodge, 646, now hold their meetings regularly at this establishment. The excellent suite of apartments appropriated to their accommodation has elicited the approval of every member.

### OXFORD.

APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE (No. 460). — The first meeting for the term, was held on the 1st, of November. In consequence of the absence from Oxford, of the W.M., Br. W. W. Beach of Christchurch, the chair was taken at the request of the

brethren, by the W.M., of the Alfred Lodge, Br. T. Randall. The ceremony of initiation was most ably performed, and several brothers passed to the second degree. There were also present, nine candidates for raising, but in consequence of the extent of the business, that ceremony was postponed until the following day. At the conclusion of their Masonic duties, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant dinner, which was presided over by Br. J. W. Malcolm, S.W., who was supported by Br. R. J. Spiers, Mayor of Oxford, P.G.S.B. for England, and several other distinguished brethren connected with Oxford; and a most agreeable evening was passed. This being the first meeting since the death of the late P.G.M., Br. the Rev. C. J. Ridley, the Lodge as well as the brethren who attended, were in mourning.

#### SUFFOLK.

A movement is on foot to present to Sir E. Gooch, M. P., the P.G.M., a testimonial in token of his services to the province, and the craft generally.

#### SUSSEX.

On Friday, November the 17th, there was a good assemblage of the brethren of this county, at the Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, in Provincial Grand Lodge, the first held in the province for twenty-seven years. The lodge was held under the auspices of the Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 338. Br. Lieut.-Colonel McQueen, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Sussex, presided; and was supported by nearly 400 brethren, amongst those present were Br. H. Winton, P.P.D.G.M.; Br. J. Snow, P.P.G.S.B.; Br. T. H. Wright, P.P.G.O.; Br. Blake, P.G.S.; Andrews, P.P.G.D. for Surrey, &c., &c. After the usual lodge duties were gone through, nearly 80 of the brethren attended the festival, which was sumptuously supplied by Mr. Bacon, of the Hotel; and a delightful evening to all present was the result. [Who is to blame for the business of the province having been so long neglected?]

#### WARWICKSHIRE.

On the 30th, of October, Lord Leigh, the Right Worshipful G.M., of this province, held his Annual Grand Lodge, at Br. Dee's Hotel, Birmingham. The lodge having been opened in due form, the Grand Officers of the province for the ensuing year, were nominated by his Lordship; after which a procession of the Brethren was formed to St. Philip's Church, where a sermon was preached in aid of the Masonic Charities, by Br. Rev. Z. P. Mercier, P.G.C. The prayers on the occasion were read by the Rector, Br. the Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke. In the evening, the Right Worshipful the P.G.M., supported by the D.P.G.M., J. W. Boughton Leigh, Esq., Br. Col. Vernon, P.G.M. of Staffordshire, Br. Dr. Fletcher, P.G.M. of Worcester-shire, Br. Rev. Z. P. Mercier, P.G.C., and Br. Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke, presided over the Annual Banquet, which was numerously attended by brethren from all the Lodges in the province.

#### WILTSHIRE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Wilts, was held on the 30th, of October, at the White Hart Hotel, Salisbury, under the presidency of the Right Worshipful the P.G.M., Br. Lord Methuen. The Lodge was opened in due form, and the Grand Officers nominated. At the Banquet, the chair was filled by the Right Worshipful the P.G.M.; and the vice-chair, by Br. Captain Prower, S.G.W. There were also present, Br. Sir Lucuis Carter, Bart., P.G.M. of Hampshire; Br. Fleming, M.P., the P.G.M. for the Isle of Wight; and about 40 of the brethren belonging to the various Lodges of the province.

#### WORCESTER.

SEMPER FIDELIS LODGE (No. 772).—The first monthly meeting after the summer recess took place on Monday, November 6th, when Br. William Conser, one of the oldest and most esteemed members of the Lodge, was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Br. Conser was absent from the city at the time, and

we understand he was elected without his consent, and, as such was the case, he positively refuses to rule the Lodge. This is learnt with regret, because many brethren who were absent upon the occasion have for some years been desirous to see Br. Consor succeed to the "post of honour" which he has so meritoriously deserved from the craft.

### YORKSHIRE.

THE Provincial Grand Lodge for the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, was held in the Constitutional Lodge, Beverley, on the 31st October.

The Right Honourable and M.W. the Earl of Zetland, G.M. and P.G.M. for the North and East Ridings, on the throne, supported by the Right Honourable Lord Londesborough, the Marquis of Conyngham, Sir Wm. Somerville, Geo. Marwood, Esq., and other gentlemen of the county.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer; the minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge were read and confirmed; and the various Lodges in the province having communicated by representatives present, the Brethren proceeded to exercise their privilege by unanimously re-electing the V.W., Br. Hollon, P.G.S. for the ensuing year.

The M.W.G.M. then appointed the following officers:—R.W. Geo. Marwood, Esq., D.P.G.M.; R.W. Lord Londesborough, S.P.G.W.; R.W. Chas. Arden, Esq., J.P.G.W.; V.W. the Rev. Wm. Hutchinson, P.G.C.; V.W. J. C. Smith, P.G.R.; V.W. J. Stark, P.G.S.; W. J. Richardson, S.P.G.D.; W. Wm. Dobson, J.P.G.D.; W. R. R. Burgess, P.G.S.B.; W. W. J. Earle, P.G.S.B.; W. Wm. Rawling, P.G.O.

The M.W.G.M. gave notice that he would hold the next Provincial Grand Lodge in the Old Globe Lodge, Scarborough.

The M.W.G.M. congratulated the brethren on the flourishing condition of Masonry, not only in this province, but also throughout the world, and impressed on its members the necessity of upholding the dignity of the craft by increasing the respectability of the order, rather than by a mere increase in numbers, for by the former, rather than the latter, must Masonry maintain its position in the estimation of the public. The G.M., after alluding to the Masonic charities and other matters, trusted that the brethren would continue to meet in the spirit of brotherly love and kind feeling towards each other; so that this province, which happened to be presided over by the G.M. of England, would be a pattern to the lodges of other provinces.

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

At five o'clock, 150 brethren sat down to a most sumptuous banquet in the assembly room, which was beautifully decorated with banners and evergreens, and the flag of England united with the eagle and crescent.

During the evening, some stirring addresses were delivered by the M.W.G.M., Geo. Marwood, Esq., D.P.G.M., Lord Londesborough, and, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, by the Marquis of Conyngham and Sir Wm. Somerville. The brethren separated, highly edified and delighted with the proceedings of the day, and look forward with pleasure to the next anniversary at Scarborough.

OLD GLOBE LODGE, SCARBOROUGH (No. 236).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on the 6th, the brethren were honoured by the presence of the W.M., Lord Londesborough, S.G.W. of England, and the Marquis of Conyngham and Sir W. Somerville, Bart., from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The brethren, of whom there was an unusually large attendance, were invited by the W.M. to a sumptuous banquet provided on the occasion, by his lordships directions; and were addressed in most eloquent language on the principals of Masonry, both by the W.M. and his distinguished visitors.

### SCOTLAND.

It is stated that the brethren of Glasgow intend to have a Grand Masonic Festival in aid of the Patriotic Fund. We trust that the results of the effort may be worthy of

those who participate therein, and of the laudable object, towards which their exertions are directed. Of course the Provincial Grand Lodge will take the lead, and all the Lodges within a reasonable distance will feel it their duty to be in attendance. There is a fine military band attached to the regiment stationed in Glasgow; all our military brethren will naturally aid them in the promotion of such an object; and it is to be hoped that the result may prove the realization of a handsome contribution towards a Fund which has claims so strong upon all the right minded, charitable, and patriotic men amongst us.

PERTH.—On the evening of Friday, November 10th, Br. Matthew Gloag was entertained at supper, at the King's Arms Inn, by a number of the brethren of the Scone and Perth Masonic Lodge. In the course of the evening, Br. Thomas Duncan, D.M., in an appropriate speech, presented Br. Gloag with an elegant silver snuff-box, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Br. Matthew Gloag, by members of the Lodge Scone and Perth, No. 3, as a mark of respect for his disinterested conduct as their R.W.M. Perth, Nov. 1854."—The presentation was suitably acknowledged by Br. Gloag, and the evening was spent in that harmony and good fellowship which characterize all meetings of the "brethren of the mystic tie."

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## AMERICA.

### GRAND LODGE OF INDIANA.

At the last annual commemoration, of the grand Lodge of Indiana, held at Indianapolis, under the auspices of the M.W., the Grand Master, Br. Henry C. Lawrence, there were represented 147 warranted Lodges, and 14 under dispensation; the proceedings were of a most interesting character, in relation to the progress and prosperity of the craft. The address of the M.W., the Grand Master after dwelling forcibly upon the impropriety of Grand Lodges, granting new warrants without a reliable assurance, that they are required, and that the Lodges to be formed on them are likely to be supported by respectable members, went on to inculcate the practice of temperance, and wound up with an exhortation to the brethren to assist the "Tippecanoe movement." Although the distinguished brother declined his re-election, the members, as a tribute to his merit, unanimously placed him again at their head. In reference to a proposal for a national confederation of the grand Lodges of the Union, a resolution was agreed to, pledging the lodge to abide by it, if adopted and approved by two-thirds of the Grand Lodges of the United States.

## CALIFORNIA.

### LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE COURT HOUSE OF SACRAMENTO.—

The corner stone of a court house, for the county of Sacramento, was lately laid in that city, with all the pomp and ceremony which Freemasonry could impart to it. The brethren having walked in procession from the Lodge to the site of the proposed structure, Br. Isaac Davies, grand lecturer, and acting master, advanced to the front of the stage, and claimed the attention of those present, to the ceremony about to be performed. The cap of the stone was then raised, on which Br. the Rev. B. T. Crouch, offered up an eloquent and appropriate prayer. The Grand Treasurer, then placed in a cavity of the quoin, the Sacred Law, Constitution of the United States, the Treaty with Mexico ceding California to the American Union, and the Newspapers published in the county. The stone was then lowered, when the master proved it true and trusty with square, level, and plumb rule, and announced to the crowd it was so. He then returned to the stone, and emptied on it successively, the contents of three silver goblets, saying, "According to the ancient customs, and ceremonies of the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons I now pour upon this stone, corn, wine, and oil," and concluded with a benediction. The tools were then restored to the care

of the master architect, and Judge Curtis, Deputy Grand Master, addressed the county judge, in the following terms:—

Judge Heard, in obedience to your invitation, which we of the mystic tie construe into an order, for we are taught to obey legal authority, the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons assembled to act a part in the interesting ceremonies of this day. That pleasant duty has been now performed. The corner stone has been laid upon which is to be erected an edifice for the administration of public justice. May it long be preserved from inundation and conflagration—may it long remain as a proud monument of the energy and progress of the people of Sacramento. And now, sir, if we have performed the duty assigned us to your satisfaction, and that of the citizens of your county, which you so honourably represent, our reward is ample, our highest object has been attained.

Judge Heard briefly returned thanks.

Br. Judge Ralston, W.M., of Union Lodge, next addressed the assembly and having alluded to the history of the former court house, in a thorough Masonic speech, apostrophised the brethren and said:—

Brethren of the mystic tie! you have done your work here well, square and true, according to the rules of architecture and the rules of our craft. The tools which you have used chiefly were the plumb, square, level and trowel. The plumb to establish perpendiculars—the square to square your work—the level to lay horizontals—the trowel to spread the cement so as to unite the whole building in a common mass. The mystic use of these tools should never be lost sight of by us as Free and Accepted Masons. We must walk uprightly before all mankind, on the platform of equality, remembering that we are travelling to that bourne whence no traveller ever returns—the great level where we shall all meet. Let us square our lives by the rules of truth and virtue, so that we may become living stones in that temple not made by hands eternal in the heavens. As the trowel unites the whole building in one common mass, let us spread the cement of brotherly love and affection, so as to unite our fraternity as one band of brothers, seeking the common good of all—nay, our affection should extend to the whole human family—we should seek to unite all by the ties of sympathy and affection for ever indissoluble.

The business then concluded.

## NORTH CAROLINA.

The "Pee Dee Star" informs us, that the foundations stones of a new Masonic Hall and Court House, have been just laid in that town with all the Masonic honours. Br. Luke Blackmer, the acting grand master, assisted by the brethren of the Kilwinning Lodge, (64)\* performed the ceremonies. Under the corner stone of the Masonic Hall, was placed a silver plate, having engraved on it the names of the principal officers of Lodge (64). When it was lowered into its place, the grand master applied to it the plumb, square, and level, and declared that it was well formed, true, and trusty. The silver vessels were then presented to him, when he poured forth their contents upon it, saying, "May the all bounteous Author of Nature bless the inhabitants of this place with all the necessaries, conveniences and comforts of life; assist in the erection and completion of this building; protect the workmen against accident, and long preserve this structure from decay; and grant to us a supply of the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy." At the conclusion a procession was formed, and the brethren betook themselves to their Lodges.

## WASHINGTON.

On the 25th October, the officers of the Grand Lodge of the district of Columbia, paid their annual visit to the Federal Lodge (No. 1) Washington. On the previous Monday, the corner stone of the Metropolitan Methodist Church was laid with Masonic ceremonies, by the grand Lodge of the district of Columbia. The Masons of Washington will remove into their new hall, about the 1st of January, the present place of meeting being very inconvenient.

\* It must be gratifying to the Masons of the United Kingdom to find that the names most endeared to the craft are adopted by our trans-atlantic brethren as titles for their Lodges.

## SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR NOVEMBER.

## THE WAR.

In our last number we brought up the news of the siege operations before Sebastopol to the 21st of October, at which date they were stated to be proceeding with the utmost vigour. Since that time, many stirring events have taken place, but it is now evident that the siege will be long and protracted.

On the 25th the Russians attacked four redoubts at Balaklava, garrisoned by Turkish troops, who, almost immediately fled. The 93rd Highlanders, the only British troops on the ground, with the exception of a battalion of Artillery of the 3rd division and a battalion of weakly men, however, remained firm, until they were supported by the 4th and 1st divisions under the command of the Duke of Cambridge, and Sir George Cathcart, from Sebastopol, and the 1st division of French Infantry, and the Chasseurs d'Afrique. The Russians were then speedily driven back behind the redoubts, though they succeeded in taking seven of the Turkish guns: and a brilliant charge of the light cavalry under Lord Cardigan, threw the Russians into great disorder, though not without immense loss to that important arm of the service, which was unfortunately exposed to a cross fire. The troops were well supported on the right by a body of marines landed from the fleet. On the following day the Russians attacked the left of the 2nd division of the British army near the heights of Tchernaya, commanded by Lieut.-General Sir De Lacy Evans, who, supported by the Brigade of Guards, some regiments of the 4th division, and in the rear by the French division commanded by General Bosquet, drove them back with great loss. The loss to the British troops between the 22nd and 26th of October—both days inclusive—is officially stated to be—killed 175, including 13 officers, and 251 wounded, of whom 27 were officers, making a total of 426, irrespective of the missing, of whom three fourths belonged to the light cavalry brigade above alluded to. The loss of the French did not exceed 20 or 30 in killed and wounded, whilst that of the Russians is estimated at about 1000.

On the 5th of November, the Russians under General Dannenberg attacked under cover of a drizzly mist and fog, the position of the British army on the heights of Inkermann, the attacking force being estimated to amount to, from 60,000 to 65,000 men. The attack was bravely met by the troops under Sir George Brown, Major General Pennefather (in the absence of Sir De Lacy Evans from indisposition—though he assisted with his advice throughout the contest), the Duke of Cambridge, and Sir George Cathcart, supported by two French battalions under General Bosquet; and after a most fierce contest which lasted between nine and ten hours; the Russians, who were accompanied by two of the Czar's sons, were utterly routed with an estimated loss in killed and wounded of 15,000 men. The loss on the side of the allies, of whom only 8,000 English and 6,000 French were engaged, has also been rather large—that of the English amounts to 457 killed, of whom 43 were commissioned officers, and 2,313 wounded, of whom 101 were officers, and 198 missing. The French loss is stated to be 1726 in killed and wounded, but this includes also those lost in a sortie made by the Russians at the same time against a portion of the French troops commanded by General Forey, which was likewise beaten back with a loss it is supposed of about 1,000 men. In our limited space it would be impossible to give a list of all the killed and wounded, but we have to regret the loss of three general officers,—Sir George Cathcart, who distinguished himself in the Cape from which he had only just returned when the present war broke out—Brigadier General Strangways, and Brigadier Goldie. Her Majesty has been pleased to raise Lord Raglan to the dignity of a Field Marshall, his commission being dated from the 5th, on which day the battle of Inkermann was fought.—From the 7th to the 19th, no official intelligence has been received; but it is generally understood that the siege was being rigorously continued, and that large reinforcements had arrived. The naval force took a considerable part in battering the forts in the early part of the siege, and sustained some damage. By recent accounts from the Black Sea, it would also appear that much loss has been sustained by heavy storms.

## PROVIDENT.

The Trafalgar Life Assurance Company held its fourth annual meeting on November 28th, when a very satisfactory report was presented, showing the income to amount to upwards of 24,000*l.* per annum, and a dividend of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent was declared. On the following day a special meeting was held, when it was agreed to merge the Trafalgar into the Unity General Life Office, established in connexion with the Unity Fire Association.

The advantages of assurance on railways was lately shown in a very remarkable manner. An old woman in Yorkshire having been for some time an inmate of the union workhouse, visited her daughter at Burnley; on her return her son-in-law in paying her third class fare also took a penny ticket of the Railway Passengers Assurance Company, assuring 200*l.* on her life. Unfortunately the old lady did meet with an accident which terminated fatally, and after paying the parish for her support and the funeral expenses, the family will receive the balance of the amount assured.

On the 13th, the Third Annual Meeting of the Waterloo Life Education Self Relief Assurance Company was held at the Offices in the Strand. Mr. Williams, the Manager, read the report, which stated that, notwithstanding the war, increased income tax and consequent pressure upon the money market during the last year, 632 proposals had been made to the directors, of which 488 had been completed, assuring the sum of 128,620*l.*, and producing the annual income of 4,238*l.* Of the remaining proposals for assuring 45,534*l.*, several were in course of completion; others the directors had deemed it desirable altogether to decline. The annual income of the company, from premiums alone, exceeded 11,400*l.*; the total number of policies granted was 1,091*l.*; and the amount assured was 342,883*l.* Notwithstanding the number of parties assured, there was not a single claim from death during the whole year, and, indeed, only two claims had as yet come upon the company, in one of which death was caused by accident. The report was received, a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum declared, and a variety of complimentary resolutions, showing the confidence of the proprietors in the directors and manager—Mr. Williams—were passed.

On the 15th, the Unity Fire Insurance Company held its Annual General Meeting at Willis's Rooms, when a report was presented, showing that whereas the first proprietors of the association was issued in May, 1852; that on the 16th September, 1853, the share list was closed, and the original capital, 1,000,000*l.*, subscribed for by nearly 5,000 shareholders; in consequence of the extraordinary demand for shares. On the 28th November the proprietors, at a special meeting, sanctioned the creation of a new capital of 1,000,000*l.*, to be issued only at a premium of 100 per cent. on the deposit, *i.e.*, every 5*s.* so paid counting only as 2*s.* 6*d.* Of these new shares 129,496 had been allotted, the premiums received from which amounted to 10,815*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* From the commencement of the assurance business on the 29th September, 1852, to November 3rd, 1854, the number of policies effected with the company were 17,581, insuring 12,662,254*l.* The premiums on which, after deducting all cancelled policies, amounted to 26,010*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, irrespective of the Government duty of 20,843*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.* The report further stated that 18 branch establishments had been organised, and 886 agencies appointed, the total expense of the whole being about 40,000*l.*, irrespective of 11,580*l.* paid for fire losses, whilst the available funds at the command of the association, including the calls not yet made, were 947,368*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, in addition to 95,880*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* invested for the benefit of the association. Mr. J. H. Baylis, the acting manager of the institution entered into a long statement relative to its position, in which he contended that, were they disposed to part with it at the present moment, they could realise, after paying off all their capital and the premiums upon the new shares, a profit of 14,000*l.* The report was adopted, a dividend of 5 per cent. declared, and resolutions expressive of the fullest confidence in the management were passed.

## OBITUARY.

BR. LORD DUDLEY STUART, P.S.G.W.—It is with the most heartfelt regret that we have the melancholy duty of recording the death of this distinguished brother which occurred at Stockholm, on the 18th November, after a somewhat protracted illness, in the 51st year of his age. There are few men who have been more before the public of late years than Lord Dudley Stuart, and since his election, as one of the members for the borough of Marylebone, he has rendered himself extremely useful by his ready attention to the requirements of all classes of his constituents. In the cause of charity, the deceased brother was never found wanting, and there are few institutions in this metropolis that have not, at some one or other period, derived advantage, as well from his earnest advocacy as from his own personal liberality. A more kind-hearted and well-intentioned man than Lord Dudley Stuart did not, we believe, exist. His Lordship was the seventh and last surviving son of the first Marquis of Bute, and grand-uncle of the present peer. He married, in 1824, a daughter of the Prince of Canino, by whom he leaves an only son, captain in the 68th Foot. Lord Dudley Stuart, whose efforts in the cause of Poland, are well-known, was, we believe, originally initiated into masonry some years since, in the Kilwinning Lodge, Edinburgh. On the consecration of the Polish National Lodge, (No. 776), under the charter of the Grand Lodge of England, the deceased noble brother was one of the first to join it. He took office as S.D., and after passing through the various grades, he was installed into the chair in 1851, and filled with honour to himself and advantage to the lodge, the members of it, in testimony of their respect and regard, presented him with his portrait, which now adorns the lodge-room in the Freemasons' Tavern. In 1849, the noble and distinguished Brother was exalted into the loyal Arch; he has since successively filled the 3d and 2d chair, and was elected in April last as first principal; but, owing to absence from England and illness, he has never been installed. Brother Lord Stuart was also P.S.G.W. for England, having served that office in the year 1852.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*The delay in posting our first number, was consequent upon our not having received the formal permissions of the Post Master-General for the "Mirror," to pass through the post, in accordance with the post office regulations. The consent having been since received, no such delay can again occur.*

*We have to-day, somewhat altered, and we trust improved the appearance of the "Mirror," as we are now enabled to take a wrapper, owing to an alteration in the post office regulations.*

*We can confidently recommend the Masonic Frames (for certificates or testimonials) of brother Beckett, to the notice of the brethren; they are the only emblamatical frames worthy of the name we have yet seen.*

*We have already received several complaints of the inaccuracy of the Masonic Calendar for the ensuing year. We fear that the inaccuracies, in a great measure, arise from the various lodges not giving proper notice of alterations in the days or times of meeting. At the same time, there can be no doubt, that an annual circular, directed to each of the lodges, with a printed form of information required to make the Calendar perfect, would go far to obviate the evils complained of.*

*Z\* \* \*—We have made diligent inquiry and research, but have not as yet been enabled to obtain any explanation of the words in question, as they have been so long obsolete in the order. We hope, however, to be able to give a more satisfactory answer in our next. We thank our brother for the suggestions in the latter part of his letter, and can assure him, that we are not unmindful of the faults which attended the publication of our first number. That to which he particularly alludes was, in a great measure, consequent upon the requirements of the Post-office, that every publication to pass through the post, should be printed on one sheet. The regulation came into operation on the 1st of November, the day we were forced to appear, and was modified on the 4th.*

*S. C. S.—Is thanked. We shall be happy to hear from him.*

*J. F.—We are gratified by the good opinion formed of our exertions, by the brethren of Newcastle. We shall do our best to retain their confidence.*

*We cannot print the communication bearing the Holyhead post-mark. We do not approve of any brother adopting such a signature. What we are taught not to repeat at length ought surely not to be written.*

*J. M. C., HULL.—We certainly agree that it would be better that the Masons should have Halls of their own in every town of importance, than be scattered about in all directions. The Grand Stewards' Lodge give a public night on the 20th instant, to which the brethren are "fraternally invited." The second and third lectures will be worked in sections.*