

MASONIC MIRROR:

DECEMBER, 1855.

THE EDITOR TO THE CRAFT.

FOURTEEN months since, we laid before the Craft our first number, with the determination of providing—what we then believed to be its great want—a journal published at reasonable intervals, which should be the reflex of the proceedings of the various Lodges, and the position of our Charities. Prior to that time, the Craft had possessed no organ excepting the “Freemason’s Quarterly Magazine,” the dates of which publication were felt to be too distant for a journal professing to give a record of passing events, and the management of which for some time appeared to want that vigour essential to secure the interest and co-operation of the great body of the class to whom it was especially addressed. Since that period matters have essentially changed—the “Quarterly Magazine” has been converted into a Monthly, and its management has passed into other hands; and the question came to be considered, whether the Craft could support two publications—or whether it would not be for the best interests of the Order that, bearing in mind the motto of “Unity is strength,” we should combine our forces, and merge our power in one journal. We think that a body so strong, so wealthy, and so influential as the Freemasons, ought to be able to support two publications—aye, and many more—devoted to their interests; but experience has proved that they will not. From the first we have received most flattering testimonials to our exertions, but we are compelled to add, that they have not been accompanied by that solid support which would justify us in any longer continuing the contest with the “Monthly Magazine,” it being evident to the Managers of both journals, that the continued existence of either must be dependent on the circumstance of which has the longest purse at its command. How far we have kept the promises which we made at starting we are content to leave to the judgment of those who have honored us with their support. When we put forward our prospectus, we promised that we would give to our readers each month forty-eight pages of printed matter for sixpence. The pressure of intelli-

gence, however, soon proved to us that we could not adequately do justice to it in our limited space, and we have consequently been obliged to give from fifty-two to sixty pages a month. The result of this, combined with the apathy of the general body of the Craft, has been, that we have suffered a very considerable pecuniary loss, which it is clear to us we should only be increasing were we longer to continue our exertions at the price with which we started. It is true we could raise our price, and we doubt not that the majority of our patrons would continue their support; but should we do so, we should be only carrying on a contest which now appears to us, from the improved management of the Magazine, to be altogether unnecessary. In thus taking leave of our friends, however, we are not about to lay down our pen, or discontinue our exertions; we are merely about to amalgamate our interests, and the means at our command, with those of the "Monthly Magazine," which will henceforth be published as the "Freemason's Magazine and Masonic Mirror," and enlarged so as to meet the requirements of the Order. In thus blending our interests, so great is the congeniality of feeling between the Managers of the two publications, that we shall sacrifice none of the independence which has marked the pages of the "Masonic Mirror"—we shall not hesitate to speak, as we have hitherto spoken, boldly of what we believe to be abuses, whether in our charities, or in the carrying out of the principles of the Craft; neither shall we refrain from calling attention to those brethren who, placed in high positions by the Grand Master, do not perform the duties of the offices they have been selected to fulfil. In the "Freemason's Magazine and Masonic Mirror," the Craft will have the advantage of the combined energies, the combined interests, and the combined means of the Managers of the two publications at present existing, which will be unsparingly used to give to the Order a Journal which, if it do not command support, will at least endeavour to deserve it.

To those members of the Order who have favoured us with their patronage, and who have contributed to our pages, we return our most grateful thanks, and trust they will continue to honor us with their confidence in the extended sphere of action which will, in January next, be opened up to our exertions, and by which we hope to be enabled to bring together a more diversified and complete reflex of the sayings and doings in Freemasonry than has ever yet been presented to the Craft.

To our advertising friends, by whom we admit we have been most liberally supported, we also tender our sincere thanks for past favours, and we trust, if they continue to honor us with their patronage, we shall henceforth be enabled to bring those favours under the notice of a more extended body of the Craft than it has hitherto been our good fortune to effect.

THE EDITOR OF THE "MONTHLY MAGAZINE" TO THE CRAFT.

THE Proprietors of the hitherto distinct publications, the FREEMASONS' MONTHLY MAGAZINE and MASONIC MIRROR, are gratified by being able to announce, that the truly Masonic virtue of Unity will henceforth characterize them. Indeed, dissonance of sentiment has been so generally ignored by them, that identification of interest became a natural necessity. The public, however, will reap the benefit of this amalgamation, not only from a consistency of opinion, guaranteed by the past, but from a double energy in diffusing intelligence for the future.

Since the month of April, THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE may date a slow but steady increase in public favour; and the admission to its columns of other than merely Masonic topics has received universal approbation. But it cannot be denied that the supineness of the Fraternity is so great, that, *ceteris paribus*, almost greater zeal is evinced abroad for the support of this, the longest-established record of Masonry, than even at home; and whilst Lodges seem anxious to have reports of their proceedings, they individually appear heedless of the channel which alone effectuates their wishes. The Church, the Law, the Hospital, Arts, Commerce, Manufactures, each community, however small, encourages its own class paper; yet Masonry, the most extensive Association known, bound by the closest ties to mutual aid, as well as to public knowledge, forgets its great duties, by not placing its appropriate organ of intelligence upon the very apex and pinnacle of public estimation.

Hence the union of the two periodicals, from which the greatest benefit will result to the Fraternity; and, whilst every feature of the Magazines will be preserved, additional responsibility will attach to the Masonic body to enlarge the sphere of operation; for abuses have crept into the very heart of the system, which call loudly for exposure, and which it is the duty of every true lover of the Order to aid us in remedying.* The determination to do so fearlessly, has already been evinced by both Magazines; and they now conjointly appeal for encouragement to the Craft, whose uprightness they desire to maintain. The Editor of THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE refers with pleasure to the numerous proofs of appreciation given to his efforts by the un-Masonic public and the press; especially, also, he thanks those Brethren who have co-operated with him in establishing channels of regular continental information; and he would be, indeed, pained to find the Fraternity inert when additional means of usefulness are placed at his disposal.

It may be added, that THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE will be enlarged; and that arrangements for advertising at reduced charges have been made, with a view to the interest of proprietors of hotels. Communications to be addressed to the Editor of THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR, 74-5, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields; or at the Publishing Office, 2, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street.

* See the "Freemasons' Magazine" for December, opening article, upon the "Severances of the Canadian Lodges, and the apathy of Grand Lodge."

BON ACCORD MARK MASONS.

The subjoined is the last letter we shall publish on the subject of the Bon Accord, thinking that more than enough has been said with regard to it. The Book of Constitutions clearly defines, that "Chair Masters" Lodges shall only be held by Charter from the Grand Chapter of Scotland—and the only three unattached to Chapters ever granted, were No. 1, Kinross, 21st December, 1842; 2,—Defensive Board of Edinburgh, 21st December, 1842; and 3,—St. John's of Manchester, 21st March, 1845. This last led to some difficulty, owing to a brother taking the P.M. degree in it, having claimed to sit as a P.M. in an English Lodge which of course could not be allowed, he having never been regularly installed into the chair. The result of this was, that on March 12, 1848—we are quoting from Minutes of G. Chapter published in the Book of Constitutions—it was resolved, "To abrogate the law chap. IV., par. 35, by which the Supreme Chapter agrees to issue warrants constituting Lodges to confer the degree of Mark and Past Master, and to enact and declare, that the power of granting these degrees shall be vested in *Chapters only*, as formerly declared by a resolution of the Supreme Chapter, dated 16th September, 1846." Now as the Aberdeen Bon Accord Chapter did not obtain its own Charter until two years after the above resolution was passed, abrogating the power even of Grand Chapter, to grant "Chair Master" Charters; it is clear it could have no right to issue any such charter, and it cannot be asserted that the Bon Accord of London has a charter for a Chapter, in which only the above resolution declares shall the degrees of Past or Mark Masons be given. That Comp. Gaylor was perfectly right with regard to the necessity of Comp. Jones being registered on the books of the G. Chapter of Scotland—notwithstanding anything Comp. Rettie may say to the contrary,—is shown by the following extract, from resolutions also passed on March 12, 1848. "That no companion whose name is not registered in the books of the Supreme Chapter, shall be eligible to be a member thereof or to be an *office bearer in any subordinate Lodge*." "Affiliated Comps. from Chapters not under S.G.C. of Scotland, must be recorded and have their diploma from the Chapter in which affiliated, and all fees paid before they can hold any office in any Chapter under the Rule of S.G.C. of Scotland." We think that the question of legalising the "Mark Degree" in England, is now about to be satisfactorily settled, and we shall, therefore, decline to go any further into the quarrel in which the Aberdeen Chapter has brought itself with the Grand Chapter of Scotland.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Aberdeen, 18th October, 1855.

SIR,—In the last number of the *Mirror*, I promised to show "the glaring amount of ignorance displayed" by W. Gaylor, Scribe N. in reference to the other members "forming the London Bon Accord" Mark Master Lodge. As I wish to be correct,

I will quote Scribe N.'s own words from his letter in the 11th number of the *Mirror*, dated August 17th, in it he says, "Dr. Jones next states, that he and certain others forming the London Bon Accord, received their degree in Aberdeen, and none therefore can be more assured than they of its identity with that which must be admitted to be genuine. It had been desirable that Dr. Jones had given the names of the parties who were conjoined with him in this illegitimate fraternity, as it might then have been tested whether they, any more than himself, were entitled to claim legitimacy; for if the Aberdeen Chapter is correct, and has been fulfilling its obligations to the mother Chapter, Dr. Jones is not a member of it, and never received any degree whatever from that source, his name not appearing to be recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter, which is the only criterion of acknowledged legitimacy. It is to be doubted whether the others stand in any different position." This extract like more of Scribe N.'s lucubrations, is very much involved, and I do not consider that I am doing him injustice, if, taking the common sense interpretation of it, I hold that he means to say, the "others forming the London Bon Accord," should have been registered in the Books of the Supreme Chapter; and because they are not registered, that they, like Dr. Jones, "never received any degree whatever from that source." Let us examine what the rules and regulations of the Supreme Chapter say about registration, and who are to be registered or recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter. As I do not hold Scribe N.'s statement of what Dr. Jones said to be correct, any more than his deductions, which he innocently thinks people will believe because they are given out by a Scribe; I consider it will be more correct to give the exact words attributed to Dr. Jones, as reported in the *Freemason's Magazine*, the Craft can then judge of the value of Scribe N.'s version.—In the *Magazine*, Dr. Jones is reported to have said that "he, Dr. Jones, and several other members of this Lodge, (the London Bon Accord) had been made MARK MASTERS in the Aberdeen Mark Masters Lodge."

Scribe N. ought to know who are to be registered in the books of the Supreme Chapter. But this brings me to the Laws, Chap. II. Rule 5, "The Recorder shall enter into a book to be kept for that purpose, the name of all Entrants *exalted* or *affiliated* in the subordinate Chapters." Not a single word appears in this rule about Mark Masters being recorded. Again in Chap. IV., Rule 33, we have, "a Chapter forming itself into a Lodge of Mark Masters, of Ark Mariners, or into a Council of Knights of the Sword, Knights of the East, and Knights of the East and West, *shall keep a separate Minute book and Roll of Members for Each,*" and still further we find in the same Chapter, Rule 35, "These Chair Master Lodges (Mark and Past Master) *do not require to register Members on the Roll of the Supreme Chapter, but shall keep a Minute book for their own use.*" Scribe N. ought to have known this perfectly well; *if he did not know them*, I think I have proved "the glaring amount of ignorance, displayed on the occasion" by him,—*If he did know* these rules, and coolly and deliberately sat down seventeen days after the report was made public, and give such a version as he has done of Dr. Jones's speech, and draw such conclusions as he has done from it, I think I may still make use of his own phrase, but instead of "*ignorance*" put in the word *dishonesty*; he may make his choice—one or other of the terms belongs to him.

Any Master Mason may receive the degree of Mark Master, Past Master, and the Excellent; still his name does not require to be recorded in the Books of the Supreme Chapter; and any Royal Arch Mason, belonging, say to an English Chapter, can receive them, and if he wish it, may obtain the degrees of Ark Mariners, Knights of the Sword, Knights of the East, and Knights of the East and West, in any Chapter in Scotland, *that may be able to work those degrees*; but even then, his name *has not to be recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter*; Comp. Gaylor *cannot have been ignorant of all this*. I think the extracts I have made from the Rules will satisfy the most sceptical.—Should Scribe Gaylor require any more information upon the subject, I will be glad to enlighten him.

I have to thank M. M. in your last number for the great anxiety which he expresses,

that I may be relieved from my present difficulty. I have no doubt that the brethren to whom he has tendered advice, will, in consequence of there being "very many of them of Superior Masonic talent," act according to *Masonic principle*;—and decide, not upon *ex parte statements*, but only when they obtain the merits of the case, after they have heard *both sides of the question*.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES RETTIE,

First Principal, Chapter No. 70.

“THE WINK OF INVITATION.”

Masonic Song, by

BR. JOHN MOTT THEARLE.

Pass round the wine, with jovial heart,
 Pledge me a bumper, sparkling as wit,
 And a lively song or a jest impart
 With a hearty laugh to season it.
 See! as bright as the noonday sun,
 Bubbles, flashing bright, are rising,
 And each new evolving one
 Has a thousand laughing eyes in.
 Pledge me every joy on earth,
 Banish all vexation—
 Every bursting bubble tips
 The wink of invitation.

Pass round the wine—with merry word
 And joyous smile we greet each brother,
 While charity adorns the board,
 And proves how we can help each other.
 And thus we mellow ev'ry grief
 That erst fond hearts have cloven,
 And bid gems sparkle o'er each wreath,
 By saddest memory woven.
 Pledge me every joy on earth,
 Banish all vexation—
 Every bursting bubble tips
 The wink of invitation.

Pass round the wine—The bright sunbeams,
 From which the grape first caught its hue,
 Flows cherish'd in this ruddy stream
 In all its warmth a kindred glow.
 No wonder that the heart grows light
 When sunbeams lend their aid divine,
 Or in each bumper's grateful flight
 We feel such joys in drinking wine.
 Pledge me every joy on earth,
 Banish all vexation—
 Every bursting bubble tips
 The wink of invitation.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

(Continued from p. 651.)

THE Duke of Beaufort was invested and installed as Grand Master, April 27, 1767; and the great talent and solicitude for the welfare of the Order displayed by him during his term of office, produced the happiest effects. In the beginning of 1768, two letters were received from the Grand Lodge of France, expressing a desire to open a regular correspondence with the Grand Lodge of England, which was agreed to with great pleasure, and a deputation appointed to express the fraternal regard of the brethren of England, and present to the Grand Lodge of France a Book of Constitutions, and a list of the Lodges, elegantly bound. Several regulations for the government of the Society were introduced at this time, and amongst them one regarding the office of Provincial Grand Master, in which it was resolved that ten guineas be paid to the fund of Charity at the appointment of every Provincial Grand Master who had not served the office of Grand Steward. The most remarkable proceeding of the Duke of Beaufort was, his notice to the brethren, through the Committee of Charity, at a Grand Lodge held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, October, 1768, for the incorporation of the Society, if it met with their consent. The advantages of this measure, and the necessary means for carrying it into effect fully explained—the plan having been approved by the Grand Lodge—its thanks were voted to the Grand Master for his attention to the welfare of the Society. The Hon. Charles Dillon, D.G.M., informed the brethren that he had submitted to the Committee a plan for the furtherance of the design, should the majority of the brethren resolve to obtain a charter. This plan was maturely investigated. Its most prominent object was to raise a fund independent of the General Fund of Charity for the purchase of jewels, furniture, &c., for the use of the Grand Lodge, and building a Masonic Hall. Several amendments were proposed, and the whole referred to the next Grand Lodge for confirmation. It was also resolved, that in the mean time a copy of the plan be printed and sent to all the Lodges. The Grand Master, finding that a great majority of the brethren were in favour of incorporation, contributed his best endeavours to forward the measure. He therefore ordered a copy of the proposed charter to be also printed and sent to the different Lodges; and from the return it appeared, that one hundred and sixty-eight had voted for the incorporation, and forty-three against it; and on a motion made at a Grand Lodge, in April, 1769, that the Society be incorporated, it was carried in the affirmative by a large majority. At a Grand Lodge, held October, 1769, it was also resolved that the sum of £1,300, then standing in the names of Rowland Berkley, Esquire, the Grand Treasurer, and Mr. Arthur Beardmore and Mr. Richard Nevison, his sureties, in the three per cent. bank consolidated annuities in trust for the Society, be transferred into the names of the then Grand Officers; but a difficulty arose in consequence of the refusal of Mr. Beardmore to join in the transfer. This difficulty was shortly afterwards removed by his

death, and the compliance of his executor, Mr. Revison. The transfer was in consequence legally made; the Grand Master constituted several new Lodges, and granted the following provincial deputations, namely—for South Carolina, Jamaica, Barbadoes, Naples, and Sicily, the empire of Russia, and the Austrian Netherlands. The increase of foreign Lodges induced the Grand Master to appoint a Provisional Grand Master for foreign Lodges in general. Another new appointment also took place, namely, a General Inspector of Lodges within the bills of mortality; the appointment—which being disapproved by the majority of the London Lodges—was withdrawn. At a Grand Lodge, held in April, 1770, the Provincial Grand Master for foreign Lodge reported to the brethren that he had received a communication from Charles Baron de Boetzelaer, Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of the United Provinces of Holland and their dependencies, requesting to be acknowledged as such by the Grand Lodge of England, whose superiority he admitted; and promising that if the Grand Lodge would agree for the future not to constitute any new Lodge within his jurisdiction, that the Grand Lodge of Holland would observe the same restriction with respect to all parts of the world where Lodges were already established under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England. Upon these terms, he requested that an alliance might be established between the two Grand Lodges, and an annual correspondence kept up, in which each Grand Lodge was to be made regularly acquainted with the most material proceedings of the other. On the Report being made, it was resolved that an alliance should be entered into agreeably to the request of the Grand Master of Holland. In 1771, the Hon. Charles Dillon, D.G.M., introduced a bill into parliament for the incorporation of the Society; but being opposed on the second reading by Mr. Onslow, on the behalf of a number of brethren who had petitioned the House against it, Mr. Dillon moved to postpone the consideration of it *sine die*, and the design of Incorporation consequently fell to the ground.

The Duke of Beaufort was succeeded by Lord Petre, who was invested and installed Grand Master on the 4th of May, 1772. At this period several regulations were made for the better security of the property belonging to the Society. A Committee was appointed to manage the application of the funds subscribed for building the hall, by whom every exertion was made to enforce the laws for carrying the designs of the Society into execution. By their report to the Grand Lodge, on the 27th April, 1774, it was shown that they had contracted for the purchase of a plot of ground and premises, consisting of two large commodious dwelling-houses, and a large garden, situated in Great Queen Street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, late in the possession of Phillip Cartaret Webb, Esq., deceased, the particulars of which were specified in a plan then delivered. The real value appeared to be £3,205, but £3,180 was the sum contracted to be paid for the premises. It was stated the front house might be let for £90 per annum, and the back house would afford commodious committee rooms, offices, kitchens, &c., while the garden was sufficiently large to allow of the building of a com-

plete hall for the use of the Society, the expense of which was calculated not to exceed £3,000. This report, meeting with general approbation, Lord Petre, the Dukes of Beaufort and Chandos, Earl Ferrers, and Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward, were appointed trustees for the Society, and the conveyance of the premises, which had been purchased, was made out in their names.

At a Grand Lodge, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, February 22, 1775, the Hall committee reported that a plan had been proposed and approved for raising the sum of £5,000 to complete the designs of the Society, by granting annuities for lives, with benefit of survivorship, a plan now known under the name of *Tontine*. It was accordingly resolved that there should be one hundred lives at £50 each; that the whole property belonging to the Society in Great Queen Street, with the hall to be built thereon, should be vested in trustees, as a security to the subscribers, who should be paid £5 per cent. for their money advanced, the whole interest amounting to £250 per annum; that this interest should be divided among the subscribers and the survivors, or survivor of them; and upon the death of the last survivor, the whole charge should determine for the benefit of the Society. This plan being approved by the Grand Lodge, the subscription commenced immediately, and in less than three months was completed, when the trustees of the Society conveyed the estate to the trustees of the Tontine, in concordance with a resolution of the Grand Lodge. In the building of the new hall, and necessary alterations and repairs to the other premises, instead of the expenses not exceeding £3,000, according to the first estimate, the Grand Treasurer's accounts show that, in 1792 above £20,000 had been expended, and that, exclusive of the annuity of £250 on account of the Tontine, there then remained due from the hall fund to sundry tradesmen a considerable debt, which has since been paid off. The tavern has been since rebuilt and enlarged, by which the cost has been increased to £30,000.

The foundation stone of the new hall was laid in solemn form on the 1st May, 1775, in the presence of a numerous assemblage of brethren, and within the stone was deposited a plate bearing the following inscription:—

Anno Regni Georgii Tertii Quindecimo
 Salutis Humane, MDCLXXV. Mensis Maii
 Die Primo
 Hunc Primum Lapidum
 Aulæ Latomorum
 Anglicæ, Free And Accepted Masons
 Posuerit
 Honoratissimus Rob, Edv. Dom. Petre, Baro
 Petre De Mittle
 Summus Latomorum Angelæ Magister
 Assidentibus
 Viro Ornatissimo Rowlando Holt, Armigero,
 Summi Magistrî Deputato
 Viris Ornatissimis
 Joh. Hatch Et Hen Dagge

Summis Gubernatoribus
 Plenoque Coram Fratrum Concursu,
 Quo Etiam Tempore Requæ, Principium que
 Virorum Favore
 Studioque Sustentatum—Maximos Per
 Europam
 Honores Occupaverat
 Nomen Latomorum,
 Cui In Super Nomini Summum Anglæ Con-
 Veritum Præesse Feccrat
 Universa Fratrum Per Orbem Multitudo
 E Coelo Decendit

ΠΝΩΘΙ ΣΕΛΑΥΤΟΝ.

After the ceremony of laying the stone, the brethren proceeded in carriages to partake of an elegant entertainment at Leathersellers' hall; and on this occasion the office of Grand Chaplain was first instituted. The construction of the building proceeded so rapidly, that it was completed in little more than 12 months, and on the 23rd of May, 1776, was opened and dedicated in solemn form to MASONRY, VIRTUE, and UNIVERSAL CHARITY and BENEVOLENCE, in the presence of a brilliant assembly of brethren. A new ode, written and set to music for the occasion, was performed before a number of ladies, who honoured the Society with their company on that occasion. An exordium on Masonry, no less elegant than instructive, was delivered by the Grand Secretary, and an excellent oration by the Grand Chaplain.

The hall is as elegant and highly finished as any in the metropolis. Above the entrance is a gallery capable of containing about one hundred persons, supported by pillars and pilasters of the Composite Order. The length of the building is 92 feet, 43 feet broad, and upwards of 60 feet high. At the upper end of the room is a dais, allotted for the Grand Officers when the Grand Lodge meets, which takes up about one-fourth of the whole length. At the extremity is a beautiful alcove, of a semicircular form, in which was originally fixed a fine organ, but has since been appropriated to the reception of an elegant statue, in white marble, of our late much revered and greatly lamented Grand Master, His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex. The remaining part of the hall is for the Grand Stewards and the brethren in general when the Grand Lodge assembles. The pilasters on each side of the hall are fluted, and otherwise most beautifully decorated. Between these pilasters are panels appropriated for the reception of full-length portraits of the Grand Masters. Above them are smaller panels, for paintings having reference to the royal art or expressive of its virtues. All the other intermediate spaces are elegantly decorated with emblematical, symbolical, and hieroglyphical figures and representations of the mysteries of Freemasonry. Round the top of the side wall a number of semi-circular windows are placed, so contrived as to open and shut with the greatest facility, for the purposes of ventilation. The object of placing the windows so high is, that no spectators from the surrounding houses may view the Masonic ceremonies. In the centre of the roof a splendid sun is repre-

sented in burnished gold, surrounded by the twelve signs of the zodiac, with their respective characters. The hall is further ornamented with elegant cut glass chandeliers, the most magnificent of which hang over that part allotted to the Grand Officers.

The brethren of St. John's Lodge, Newcastle, imitated the example set them in the metropolis, and opened a subscription among themselves for the purpose of building a new hall in that town for their meetings, and on the 23rd of September, 1775, the foundation stone was laid by Br. Francis Peacock, then Master of the Lodge. This edifice was speedily finished, furnished, and dedicated.

The Masons of Germany, attracted by the flourishing state of the Society in England, solicited our friendship and alliance. The Grand Lodge at Berlin, under the patronage of the Prince of Hesse Darmstadt, requested a friendly union and correspondence with their brethren in England, which was agreed to, on the Grand Lodge of Germany engaging to remit an annual donation to the Fund of Charity.

In consequence of the great increase in the business of the Society, it was resolved that the Grand Secretary should be permitted in future to employ a deputy or assistant, at an annual salary proportioned to his labour.

At a Grand Lodge, held on the 14th of February, 1776, it was resolved, that in future all Past Grand Officers should be permitted to wear a particular gold jewel; each officer to be distinguished by the jewel which he wore while in office, with this difference, that such honorary jewel should be fixed within a circle or oval, on the borders of which were to be inscribed his name, and the year in which he served the office. This jewel was to be worn in Grand Lodge, pendant to a broad blue riband, and on other occasions to be fixed to the breast by a narrow blue riband.

Many laws for the government of the Fraternity were established during the administration of Lord Petre. The meetings of irregular Masons having again attracted attention, several severe laws were passed by the Grand Lodge for their suppression; and an appendix to the Book of Constitutions, containing all the principal proceedings of the Society, was ordered to be printed. A new annual publication, entitled "THE FREEMASON'S CALENDER," was also established; the profits arising from the sale of both were to be regularly brought to account in the Charity Fund. To preserve the consequence of the Society, the following law was also enacted, "That the fees for Constitutions, Initiations, &c., be advanced, and that no person be initiated in any Lodge, under the Constitution of England, for a less sum than two guineas, and that the name, age, condition or profession, and place of residence, of every person so initiated, and of every admitted member of a regular Lodge, since the 9th of November, 1768, be registered."

In consequence of the great increase of Masons in Sunderland, an elegant hall was built in that town for their meetings. On the 16th of July, 1778, this hall was dedicated in solemn form; on which occasion, an animated oration on Masonry, was delivered to a numerous company of

brethren, honored by the presence of above 120 ladies. This hall was destroyed by fire, on the 19th of November, 1782, and many valuable books and papers were burnt. Such, however, was the zeal of the brethren, that in the following year, they commenced another hall, named Phoenix Hall, the foundation of which was laid, with great pomp, on the 5th of April, 1784, and in the following year finished and dedicated in solemn form.

Lord Petre granted deputations for Provincial Grand Lodges at Madras and Virginia; also for Hants, Sussex and Surrey. During this administration, several Lodges were erased for nonconformity, but many new ones were added to the register, and under the Grand Master's fostering care, many improvements in the government of the Society were introduced.

Lord Petre, was succeeded by the Duke of Manchester, as Grand Master, 1st May, 1777; during his term of office the tranquility of the Society was somewhat disturbed. An unfortunate dispute occurred between the Grand Lodge and the Lodge of Antiquity, which first arose in consequence of a complaint that the members of that Lodge had attended divine service at St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-street, in the clothing of the Order, and walked back to the Mitre Tavern, in their Regalia, without having previously obtained a dispensation for that purpose. This, after long and repeated consideration, the Grand Lodge considered to be a violation of the general regulations respecting public processions, upon which several opinions were formed. The misunderstanding was still more increased by the interference of the Grand Lodge in the case of three brethren who were expelled from the Lodge of Antiquity by its members, and whom the Grand Lodge (it was thought by some, without due consideration,) ordered to be re-instated. With this the Lodge refused to comply, and contended that acting upon their privileges according to immemorial constitution, the Grand Lodge had no control over their proceedings, so long as they kept within the landmarks of the Order. This unfortunate dispute continued over a space of ten years, during which, the Lodge of Antiquity separated itself from the Grand Lodge in London, and united with the Old Lodge at York. To understand the principle on which they objected to the authority of the Grand Lodge as constituted by themselves in 1714, we must refer our readers to a former number of the "Masonic Mirror;" where it explains that, according to ancient usage, the Fraternity met by the permission of the Master of the work at convenient places during its progress, and initiated brothers and fellows, and practised the rites of Masonry without any other control than that of their ancient charges. To the award of the Fraternity, when in general meeting assembled, all the brethren were subject, and the authority of the Grand Master never extended beyond those bounds. This unfortunate misunderstanding, which appears to have arisen by inadvertence in the first place, and to have existed only in consequence of the precipitancy of one party, and the unyielding conduct of the other, was happily brought to an end by the kind exertions of Br. Birch, P.M. of the Lodge of Antiquity; the Master and Wardens of that truly ancient Lodge, took their seats in Grand Lodge as formerly, and perfect unanimity was restored.

During this period, Masonry made rapid progress in India, and many new Lodges were constituted, and supported by the most leading characters in the East. Omdit-ul-Omrah Bahauder, eldest son of the nabob of the Carnatic, was initiated into Freemasonry at the Lodge at Trichinopoly, near Madras, and expressed the highest veneration for the Institution. On the Grand Lodge receiving this report, it determined on sending a congratulatory letter to his Highness, and also a blue apron, elegantly decorated, with a copy of the Book of Constitutions, superbly bound. The execution of this commission was entrusted to Br. Sir John Day, Advocate-general of Bengal, and in the beginning of 1780, an answer was received from his Highness, acknowledging the receipt of the present, and expressing his warmest attachment to his brethren in England. This letter, which is written in the Persian language, replete with genuine good sense and benevolence, was enclosed in an elegant cloth of gold, and addressed "*To the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England.*" With this peculiar mark of attention the Grand Lodge was highly gratified, and led to a further correspondence, expressing the high opinion the brethren of England entertained of the merits of his Highness, and soliciting his continued friendship and protection to the Masonic Institutions in the East. The most appropriate reply to which was made by his initiation of his brother Omur-ul-Omrah, who was afterwards equally active in promoting the interests of the society.

An event took place at this time, which was very satisfactory to the society, namely, the uniting this interest of Masonry at Madras. The divisions and secessions which occurred in England in 1788, having unfortunately reached India, were happily adjusted by the intervention of Brigadier General Horne, who had been appointed by patent from the Duke of Cumberland, Provincial Grand Master on the coast of Coromandel. A Lodge No. 152, styling themselves Ancient York Masons, joined a regular Lodge under his government, and voluntarily surrendered the irregular warrant under which they had acted. This desirable object having been effected; the General called upon the brethren to assist him in forming a Grand Lodge, which was carried into effect with great solemnity, and the affairs appointed to the entire satisfaction of all parties. The Grand Lodge having been regularly established, it was unanimously agreed that a new Lodge should be formed at Madras under the name of Perfect Unanimity No. 1. The consecration of this Lodge was performed on Saturday, 7th of October, 1787, in commemoration of the happy union which had been adjusted on that day.

During the administration of the Duke of Manchester, several Lodges were constituted in different parts of the country, and considerable additions made to the general funds of the Society. The sums voted to distressed brethren, far exceeded those of any former period, and amongst other sums voted, was 100*l.* towards the relief of our brethren in America, who had suffered great losses in consequence of the unhappy war in that country.

At a Grand Lodge, held April, 1778, a singular proposition was made, namely, that the Grand Master and his officers should for the future be

distinguished at all public meetings by robes, to be provided at their own expense. This proposition was at first favourably received, but, ultimately the good sense of the brethren prevailed, and the measure, so diametrically opposed to the original spirit of the Institution, was very properly laid aside. In regulating the finances of the Society at this period, it appeared that the debts due on the account of the hall were very considerable. It was, therefore, resolved to make an application to the Lodges to raise 2000*l.* for their liquidation, and at a Grand Lodge in June, 1779, it was further resolved that a subscription be opened to raise money without interest, the amount of individual subscription being limited to 25*l.*, and the number of subscribers to one hundred, such monies to be repaid in equal proportions at such periods as the hall-fund would permit. It was also resolved that an honorary medal be presented to each subscriber in acknowledgment of the service rendered to the Society, and that the owner of this medal, if a Master Mason, should have the privilege of attending and voting in all future proceedings of the Grand Lodge. This induced several Lodges as well as individual brethren to contribute to the fund, and the greater part of the money was speedily raised and applied to the purpose intended. At this period the Grand Stewards' Lodge applied to the Grand Lodge for assistance, in consequence of the withdrawal of a number of their members, by which their finances were considerably reduced; upon which it was resolved that in future no Grand Officer should be appointed, who was not a subscribing member of the Grand Stewards' Lodge.

In consequence of a Committee of Charity being seldom held during the interim from the beginning of April to the end of October, and a number of worthy brethren in distress thereby subjected to great inconvenience, it was resolved unanimously that, an extraordinary committee should meet annually in the last week of July, or first week of August, to administer temporary relief to those who might regularly apply, not exceeding five pounds to one person. The business of the society having considerably increased, it was also resolved to appoint, *pro tempore*, an assistant to the Grand Secretary, to hold equal rank and power with himself in Grand Lodge. It was also determined that in future no person should hold two offices at the same time in Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of Germany having applied for permission to send a representative in order to cement the kind feeling existing between the brethren of the two countries, Br. John Leonardi was appointed to that office; and the Grand Lodge of England, in complying with the request, passed a resolution that Br. Leonardi should wear the clothing of a Grand Officer, and rank next to Past Grand Officers in all the public meetings of the Society.

At the Grand Lodge and annual feast, held on the 1st of May, 1782, the Duke of Cumberland was unanimously elected Grand Master, and his Royal Highness expressed his intention of appointing the Earl of Effingham, Acting Grand Master, the appointment was confirmed, and his lordship presided as proxy during the feast. On the 8th of January, 1783, it was resolved in Grand Lodge, that the interest of five per cent. on 1000*l.*,

which had been advanced from the Charity Fund, should cease to be paid, and the principal annihilated, and sunk in the hall fund. Many other regulations were made at this meeting to render the hall fund more productive, and to enforce the laws respecting it. At a Grand Lodge, held on the 23rd of November, 1783, an addition was made to the number of Grand Officers, by the appointment of the Rev. William Peters, as Grand Portrait Painter. On the 19th of November, information was given to Grand Lodge that two brethren, under the sanction of the Royal Military Lodge at Woolwich, which claimed the privilege of an itinerant Lodge, had held meetings in the King's Bench prison, and there initiated several persons into Masonry. This being considered an infringement on the privileges of every regularly constituted Lodge, it was determined to be inconsistent with the principles of Masonry, to hold any Lodge for the purpose of Making, Passing, or Raising Masons in any prison or place of confinement, and that the Lodge which had sanctioned such proceedings should be erased from the list. On the 20th of March, 1788, an additional regulation was made to the effect "That ten shillings and sixpence be paid to the Grand Lodge for registering the name of every Mason initiated in any Lodge under the Constitution, after the 5th of May, 1788," and at this meeting it was also resolved, "That no Lodge should be permitted to attend or vote in Grand Lodge, which did not comply with this regulation."

On the 9th of March, 1786, His Royal Highness Prince William Henry, afterwards Duke of Clarence, was initiated into Masonry, at Lodge No. 86, held at the George Inn, at Plymouth.

On the 4th of January, 1787, the Grand Chapter of Harodim was opened in London. Though of ancient date and patronised in different parts of Europe, there appears no record of its regular establishment previous to this period. For some years it was but little supported, until its merits became better known, when it gained the patronage of several distinguished Masons.

On the 6th of February, 1787, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, was initiated into Masonry, at an occasional Lodge held for that purpose, at the Star and Garter Tavern, Pall Mall, over which the Duke of Cumberland presided in person. On the 21st of November following, His Royal Highness the Duke of York was initiated into Masonry at a special Lodge convened for that purpose, at the same place, over which the Grand Master also presided in person; His Royal Highness was introduced by his brother the Prince of Wales, who assisted at his initiation.

On the 25th of March, 1788, was instituted the Royal Freemasons' Charity for female children, for maintaining, clothing and educating the female children and orphans of indigent brethren. To the exertions of Chevalier Ruspine the brethren are indebted for this excellent establishment. It was originally founded under the patronage of the Duchess of Cumberland, and to her fostering care its success may be greatly attributed. On the 1st of January, 1789, fifteen children were admitted to a house provided for them at Somers Town, St. Pancras, and by the liberal support of the Craft, in India as well as England, the Governors were enabled to increase the number of children from time to time to sixty-five.

In 1793, a piece of ground belonging to the city of London, situated in St. George's Fields was hired on lease, on which was erected a commodious school house, at the expense of £2,500; this lease expiring in 1854, an elegant building has been erected at Wandsworth which reflects great credit to the Craft, and more particularly, on those brethren whose benevolent exertions and enlightened management its prosperity may be attributed, under whose watchful care no doubt its usefulness will be further extended.

The Duke of Cumberland continued Grand Master till his death in 1790, an event much regretted, as his administration conferred many permanent benefits on the Society.

On the 10th of February, 1790, regular intimation was given to the Grand Lodge that His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, while on his travels had been regularly initiated into Masonry in the Union Lodge at Geneva, and also that His Royal Highness, Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex had been initiated into the Order at a Lodge at Berlin.

The Grand Lodge in testimony of their sensibility of the honour conferred by the initiation of these royal personages unanimously resolved that each of them should be presented with an apron lined with blue silk, and rank as Past Grand Masters.

Thus Freemasonry in England again became supported by royalty, and although much altered in its local system of government since it last sought that protection, enough is left of the ancient forms to prove its genuine antiquity, whilst the government is sufficiently progressive to render it of great utility in the present age. Its conclaves no longer requiring the protector of some magnate to defend it against the *unprovoked* attacks of ignorance and fanaticism, seeks only to court the patronage of the virtuous and influential for the support of its charities, and by giving as much publicity as possible to its proceedings, to prove to the world the happy and beneficial effect it produces wherever it is established, and the genuine principles inculcated. For many ages may this usefulness be extended, and although pre-eminently conservative, sufficiently progressive to keep pace with modern institutions. The divine origin it claims is sufficiently proved by the benefits it has conferred on mankind from the remotest periods when the minds of men were steeped in the greatest darkness down to the present age of enlightenment, and the worst its enemies can say, is that, it still takes the lead in moral, and social improvements.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

BY Φωτοφίλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

(Continued from p. 658.)

CHAPTER XII.—MRS. PHIL IS DOMICILED IN HER FUTURE HOME.— THE EARLY HISTORY OF MAURICE DE COURCY, THE HIGHWAY- MAN.—MARY BUTLER, &c., &c.

In the last chapter we somewhat ungallantly flew off at a tangent, and left a young bride to suffer, in lonely silence the pangs of a first parting from one, who, whatever he might have been to the rest of the world, was to her a most indulgent father.

The bridegroom had but little tendency to the "melting mood," and was by no means suited to the gentle office of ministering, in the soothing accents of sympathetic tenderness, to beauty in tears; he was quite unskilled in the intellectual operation of "plucking from the memory a rooted sorrow," no matter how little beneath the surface, the root of woe might have penetrated, and as far as Phil was concerned, she might have met the fate of the grief stricken *Niobe*, and be carved into a monumental ornament for the family *Mausoleum* of the Simpsons.

Fortunately, however, other cares and duties required her attention, and her grief gradually evaporated in the bustle of preparation for her journey to her future home. The distance was but short, yet it took nearly as much time to get her under-weight as if she were about to make a voyage to Canton, or become a settler in the far west, beyond the broad Atlantic.

Her *paraphernalia*, if not very valuable, were very varied; all sorts and sizes of boxes, bandboxes, and *bijouterie* cases—the presents of many a slighted or faithless beau, seemed interminable; the live stock, too, was considerable; dogs, cats, birds of many lands, claimed her protecting care; among the first were, of course, our old friends, Sappho and Tasso, and among the latter a pair of ear-piercing paroquets, which seemed in a state of perpetual exasperation, with every thing and every body, and from morn to night, sent forth the most execrable sounds.

The Colonel had a strong presentiment that she would be accompanied by a very heterogeneous, and by no means agreeable retinue, and accordingly laid his plans to get rid of the most troublesome and mischievous part of the live stock, as summarily, and as quietly as possible. This deed of generalship he entrusted to an old pensioner, rejoicing in the euphonious name of Phelim, who had accompanied his Colonel from the wars, in which he had lost an arm and a leg, and had now become a sort of *Major-domo* at the Hall; he was a most faithful and trustworthy servant, and exercised a sort of good-natured supervision over every department but the wine cellar, a becoming consciousness of his own weakness on this point, induced him to decline the responsibility of the duty.

When the long expected train arrived, Phelim was in attendance, to see

every thing marshalled to its proper place; the bride retired to change her travelling dress, but the instant she left her dressing room, she proceeded to look after her motley group, when, to her intense vexation, she found her pets, Sappho and Tasso, missing, the cage door of the paroquets open, and the birds flown; all was uproar in a moment; messengers were dispatched in various directions, but no trace of the truant members of the happy family could be found; Phelim was examined very closely, but stoutly insisted that every thing that reached the Hall, had been safely deposited in its *proper place*.

The Colonel contemplated the scene with arch composure, and took an occasion jokingly to reprove Phelim for so boldly maintaining a falsehood; the *Major-domo* explained, "That in his opinion the most proper place for malicious curs was the cesspool, or the horse pond, and surely, there could be no more proper place in the world for poor feathered prisoners, than the wild wood among the trees, and flowers; to be sure the natives may not receive the gaudy strangers in the most friendly spirit, but what's to prevent them winging their way to their own land when they are at liberty." The Colonel attempted to "explain that they were not migratory, and but ill adapted to so long a flight." Phelim, however, would have it that "they could not be worse off any where than shut up in a cage, suffering all the whims and oddities of"—

"Hush," said the Colonel, "that will do," and proceeded to console the bride, whom he found lamenting the loss of her favourites with a vehemence of grief quite unreasonable; she deplored them as her dearest companions, that she had now nothing left to amuse her, and indulged in a variety of other querulous puerilities; the contempt which might have been naturally excited in his strong mind by such trifling, was absorbed by a stronger feeling of good-natured pity; he kindly attempted to impress upon her the necessity, "now that she had assumed the grave responsibility of a wife, of elevating her mind from cur dogs, and screaming birds, to a higher companionship; that there was a good selection of books in the library, in which she would find an ever springing source of entertainment, and instruction."

She pettishly replied, "that the only sentiment she had in common with Phil was a hatred of books; that she never read any thing, her papa never asked her to read, it gave her a headache; that he had better advise Phil to read, he required it more than she did, and perchance it may tend to keep him from the rude foxhunters with whom he associated; but, she added, after all it would be only a choice of evils, for if he were much in your company, I feel assured, "you'd persuade him to become a Freemason, and of the two, I should much sooner see him devoted to foxhunting than Freemasonry."

"And now," said the Colonel, with a smile, "what possible objection can you have to Freemasonry?" She did not exactly know; she heard her papa say, it was something wicked, and she was sure it must be so, otherwise why exclude ladies? "Well, my dear," said the Colonel, calmly, "suppose some person who had never seen, or known anything about you, should hazard the assertion that you were foolish or ill-tempered, what should you think of the reckless assertion?"

“I should think it absurd, and unreasonable, and wicked, and”—

“Don't get into a passion, it is a mere supposition, but just as unreasonable are they who abuse Freemasonry without knowing anything whatever about it—I need scarcely tell you, that none but Freemasons can know any thing of it; from them alone can be learned what it is, or what it is not; your father is not a Freemason, and with all possible respect, he cannot be received as good authority on the point. Your friend the Rector, you will admit, is a good man, and not likely to belong to, or sanction anything wicked, yet he is a most zealous Freemason: you have heard me profess myself one, and I should feel but too happy, if I thought my nephew had intellect sufficient to understand and appreciate its social usefulness, and moral beauty—to see him also a member of an Order, which comprehends within its sacred circle a large portion of the good and wise of every civilized land; it is true that in these Islands ladies have hitherto been excluded, but I may mention to you one extraordinary exception (the interesting particulars of which we shall place before our readers in a future paper) of a highly respectable lady in a southern city, who was found concealed in a Masonic Lodge (fact), and who afterwards during a long life, energetically devoted herself to the dissemination of our principles and the support of our charities, and whose portrait (we believe) to this day forms a graceful ornament in the Masonic orphan school of her native city of Cork.”*

The Colonel ceased: Mrs. Phil vouchsafed no reply, she was silenced, but not convinced; in truth she now seemed truly miserable, and lost no opportunity of endeavouring to make all within the reach of her influence as wretched as herself, by those numberless little peevish absurdities resulting from an uninformed, and ill-regulated mind; she would first order the close carriage, when that was announced, it was sent back, and she should have the open phaeton; when that was ready, she changed her mind, and fancied horse exercise; the horses were dismissed to the stable; she now preferred a walk, from which she speedily returned, to abuse her unoffending maid for not having foretold the light shower in which she had just been caught.

While at Elysium, the necessity of economizing gave her employments, which, in her home hours, preserved her from that lassitude, often of laziness, known as *ennui*, there she generally dispensed with the services of milliners and dress makers, but since she became the wife of a man of fortune, she endured the self-inflicted torture of idleness; she gave up, as quite beneath her dignity, all that nervous activity and exercise of harmless ingenuity, which in ladies of peculiar temperaments degenerates into a troublesome malady, unpleasantly known to many a suffering Benedict, under the title of “fidgets.” The presence of this disease may be sometimes detected by a restless disposition to turn things inside out, or upside down without any very definite object, or when it assumes its milder form, in strenuous efforts to adapt the dress or bonnet of a bye-gone date, to some *outré* fashion of the day.

* In order to learn the exact particulars of this strange episode in Freemasonry, we have written to the proper source for the true history of this lady Mason, and shall make it the subject of a future paper.

Mrs. Phil would not read, could not paint, cared little for music, and the *crochet* stitch was not as generally known in her day, as at present. Like the lily of the field, pale and interesting, "she toiled not, neither did she spin," but passed the chief portion of her time, in quarrelling with and being reconciled to her maid, to whose tender care we shall now leave her, and turn to our brother the Rector, who has just arrived, to communicate to the Colonel all he knew of the generous highwayman who had been so strangely influenced by Freemasonry.

An interchange of the usual greetings had scarcely passed, ere the anxiety of the Colonel impelled him to enquire if the Rector knew anything of Mr. Starlight. He had the gratification to hear in reply, "Yes, peculiar circumstances have made me acquainted with his mournful history; the main points of which I shall sketch for you as briefly as I can."

"Maurice de Courcy is the son of one of my oldest friends, his father and I were class fellows at school, chums in College, initiated as brother Masons, in the same lodge, on the same night, and remained firm friends, and brothers to the close of his stainless and honorable life; he was descended from an ancient and illustrious family, but being a younger son was rather limited as to fortune. Maurice, the subject of our present conference, was handsome, talented, accomplished and daring; his father entertained high hopes that his career would be a brilliant one, and had sufficient influence to have him appointed, while yet very young, *attaché* to an important embassy, the duties of which he most creditably discharged, but unfortunately, the noble ambassador, under whom he served, got into a bad state of health, and resigned, and Maurice joyfully returned to the home he loved, and the attractive sports and friends of his boyhood, but there was *one* for whom Maurice's true heart throbbed more fondly still, than for friends, or home, or all the world beside.

"In a modest and secluded villa, not far from the old mansion of De Courcy, resided Mrs. Butler, the widow of as distinguished a soldier as ever won glory on the red field of war. With her pension and small patrimony, she contrived to educate two lovely daughters, the treasured idols of her heart, and the admiration of all who knew them. The Butlers, like the de Courcys, could also look back to ancestors high in the roll of fame as warriors and statesmen; both families were proud, and of high bearing; they had none, however, of that mushroom pride which looks with disdain upon all of humbler birth, but rather that higher pride of true nobility, which disdains to disgrace their high lineage by any act of meanness or dishonour, and who think the best tribute they can offer to the illustrious dead, is to imitate their virtues, and when their ashes shall mingle with their fathers, to leave behind a pure and stainless name.

"Mary, the elder daughter, was now budding into the lovely and luxuriant roundness of incipient womanhood, like some lovely flower opening its glittering petals to the sun, and sending forth in sweet perfume, its noiseless hymn of grateful incense to its Maker, so the rich treasures of Mary's mind shone out, as her beauteous form expanded; mind and body in her seemed meetly wedded, and both approached as close to perfection as aught of earth can. Maurice de Courcy and Mary Butler were playmates from childhood, together in the buoyancy of youthful innocence they

roamed o'er hill and dale, every feeling of their young hearts seemed intertwined, as if born to love and bless each other; their sympathies and antipathies were as one; they tended the same flowers; they read the same tales of romantic love, or glorious chivalry. Can we wonder, 'that their green affections grew apace,' and strengthened into a tender and abiding love. Each saw centred in the other, every attribute the utmost stretch of fancy could conceive necessary, to produce perfect happiness; their hearts were satisfied, and they had no earthly wish beyond. On Maurice's departure they exchanged vows of unalterable love; they met on his return, with hearts unchanged by time, or distance, and vowed to part no more!"

CHAPTER XIII.—THE EARLY HISTORY OF DE COURCY CONTINUED.—
AN ARISTOCRATIC ROUE.—AN ABDUCTION.—A RESCUE.—SUFFERINGS OF INNOCENCE.—PHIL'S MISHAPS AND MISERIES THE NIGHT HE THOUGHT HE WAS MADE A MASON.

"THE lord of the soil in that locality was an accomplished and profligate nobleman, whose occasional visits to his estates were generally marked by the disappearance of some rustic beauty, seduced by his lordship's presents and promises. His evil eye fell on the beautiful Mary, and he formed the resolve to add her to his list of victims; he knew he must use more than his usual caution and delicacy, as Mary was of gentle blood, and as highly connected as himself; she was poor, however, and his experiences led him to believe, that what his attractive and dashing person failed to accomplish, could be done by the power of his purse.

"His visits to his paternal estates became now more frequent and prolonged than usual; even in the height of the London season, he seemed to prefer the bracing breezes, and romantic scenes of his native hills, to Almack's, the parks, and the opera; he made himself acquainted with Mary's usual hours and places of recreation, and never lost an opportunity of throwing himself in her way, and making himself as agreeable as possible. He found the conquest of Mary a more difficult task than he anticipated; his pride was piqued, to think that he, who had been hitherto almost irresistible in his gallantries, who had fought under the banners of Venus in many lands, and triumphantly borne off some of her richest spoils, should now be at fault in trying to win the heart of a simple village maiden in his own.

"He redoubled his attentions, he plied her with flattery, he pressed her acceptance of the richest presents, but Mary was too well schooled in virtue and truth to be affected by flattery, or dazzled by wealth. She laughed at his honied phrases with the sparkling haughtiness of youth and beauty; she declined his gorgeous gifts with dignified pride; she was armed in a panoply, against which he shot his arrows in vain; she felt the purifying influence of true and changeless love.

"The noble gallant was not to be easily diverted from his purpose; each time he saw Mary, the impression of her grace and beauty sunk deeper still, and what at first was but a feeling of ordinary gallantry, swelled into a passion so deep and intense, that if he had not been engaged to a rich

citizen's daughter, through whose wealth he hoped to clear his deeply encumbered estates, he felt strongly disposed to offer his hand, fortune, and title, to Mary, little dreaming, that for Maurice De Courcy's love, her true heart would not only have given up a coronet, but a crown. Money and a wife, however, he must have, but Mary, at all hazards, he resolves to have too.

"Mary now seldom ventured abroad without De Courcy, who knew his lordship's character, and seldom gave him an opportunity of addressing her. Foiled in this, he tried the effects of a letter, avowing his love in the language of deep passion, yet so cautiously and delicately, as to leave an impression that his intentions were strictly honourable. Mary placed the letter before her mother, with a request that she would at once return it with a suitable reply, that her heart and hand were engaged to one, in comparison with whose love and worth, wealth and titles were as nothing, and proudly throbbed Mary's pure heart, as in her innocence she believed she was giving a proof of her constancy to De Courcy.

"The return of his lordship's love-letter, and the coolness with which his suit was dismissed, pierced his bad heart, and stirred up all the evil passions within him; insulted pride, jealousy and revenge prompted the fiendish notion of getting possession of Mary, even by force.

"Shortly after this, on a calm and balmy evening, as the mellow rays of an autumnal sun were shedding their sweet influence over the profusely beautiful landscape in that favoured spot, and was blessing with genial beams the rich promise of many a golden field, Mary, with her younger sister, was enjoying the inspiring scene not far from her dwelling, in all the freedom of purity and innocence, when she was suddenly seized by two ruffians, who with rude force hurried her off to a bye road close by, where a vehicle awaited them, in which they placed her, and drove off rapidly towards a solitary house among the distant hills, a sort of shooting lodge, but occasionally used for less innocent purposes by the *roué* lord.

"Mary's nervous system, though strong and healthy, was unable to withstand so sudden and unexpected a shock; she swooned into utter unconsciousness, and was thus saved from feeling the insult to her maiden pride and purity, from the contact of such degraded ruffians. Her sister, almost frantic with fright, rushed home to give the alarm. De Courcy had arrived a few moments before. Few and incoherent were the exclamations of the bewildered girl, but quite sufficient to convey to him a full explanation of the horrid plot.

"He took a pair of pistols, which he carefully loaded, with the calm and stern purpose of desperation he bounded on his horse, and was soon in hot pursuit, and high should be the fence, and broad and deep the river that could make Maurice De Courcy turn aside in that moment of maddening agony. Pale and rigid as marble, he uttered not a word, he scarcely breathed, but the lightning flash of his dark eye, told of the fierce and fiery conflict within; who could paint the torture of his frenzied brain, when he thought of his first, his only love, in the rude hands of ruffians, on her way to the spoiler; his own betrothed Mary, with whom from childhood, hand in hand, he roamed to cull the wild flowers in the green wood,

or from the sunny hill count the white sails on the smooth blue ocean. Mary, who was soon to be his own, his treasured wife, torn from him; all his hopes of earthly bliss now depending on the fleetness of his steed, and the strength of his arm, but he neither fears nor falters, God and the right are with him. Speed and guard him on his holy way, ye gentle spirits of love, and truth, and purity.

“He gallops towards a neighbouring hill which commanded a view of the country round, and from its summit distinctly saw the vehicle, and a man on horseback beside it, whom he had no difficulty in recognizing. Now for the struggle of life and death, and what was to him of more value than either, the salvation of the honour of his chosen bride; he must overtake them ere they reach the hideous den, where many an innocent victim had been sacrificed before. His gallant steed answers his urgent efforts as if conscious of the glorious chase; he gains on them at every stride; they now see him, and redouble their exertions, but Maurice’s foaming steed is closing on them fast, they are within a hundred yards of the lodge, when he calls on them, pistol in hand, to stand; he is now within shot; his lordship turns round, glaring the most deadly vengeance, draws a pistol and fires. *Maurice is hit, but feels it not; he fires in turn; his lordship’s hand falls by his side, and before he could draw a second pistol, is prostrate on the ground from a blow of Maurice’s discharged pistol.* The two miscreants fled for their lives, and the gallant De Courcy folded in his arms the insensible form of his lovely Mary.

“For many days she scarce shewed signs of life, and when returning life and health again reanimated her peerless form, alas! the soul was gone, ‘the delicate web of thought was tangled,’ she recognized no beloved face. To De Courcy she would cling as if attracted by some irresistible and innate sympathy, but still she knew him not, and long ere the intellectual light shone out again from Mary’s eyes, Maurice De Courcy, her deliverer, was a convicted felon.

“The malevolence of the disappointed profligate, adopted a demoniac form of revenge; he had poor De Courcy arrested on a charge of robbery, and attempt to murder. On the testimony of suborned and perjured witnesses, an over credulous jury brought in a verdict of guilty. Maurice had no evidence to produce but Mary, and the sad darkness of mental night still spread its melancholy shadow o’er the once bright intelligence of that gentle being. Sentence of death was recorded against him. Maurice spoke for several hours, and at the conclusion of his address there was not a shadow of doubt in the mind of any present as to his innocence. The forms of law must, however, be gone through, and Maurice was committed to prison to await the issue of the strong recommendation to mercy which the judge promised to urge on the government.

“But life or death was now of little consequence to Maurice; he felt himself a disgraced and ruined man; he became reckless and formed the desperate resolve of escaping from prison; the officials were suspected of conniving at his escape, and it was supposed that he and his faithful Mary fled to America, but the consciousness of his innocence, the sense of his grievous wrongs working on his wounded pride, and acute sensibilities,

overclouded his reason, and prevented his seeing that he was the victim of bad men, not of bad laws, and thus as noble and gallant a spirit as ever animated human bosom, now leads a life of wild and lawless crime, defying and trampling on those laws, which, in his eyes, condemned the protector and avenger of innocence and purity, to the degrading doom of a guilty felon.

“Such is the sad history of this poor highwayman’s early life, and if the erring child of a worthy brother can be won back to virtue, it will be a truly Masonic work, honourable to our Order, and grateful to heaven.”

It was near midnight when the reverend brother concluded his narrative, and as he was about to say farewell, they were startled by the cries of marder from the back of the mansion. On reaching the spot whence the cries seemed to proceed, they found Phil prostrate, presenting a most grotesque and ludicrous appearance, in a state of stupid bewilderment, from terror and intoxication; his coat turned inside out, half his face and head closely shaven, the other half as black as a negro’s, and altogether reeking with mud, and the fumes of whiskey. As intelligibly as he could, he gave his astonished uncle to understand “that he had that night been made a Mason by the members of the Hoaxtown Lodge; that he bore it all very well till old sawney himself, with glaring eyes, as large as saucers, and horns blazing forth like a fiery furnace, with hollow voice, and a wave of his huge hand, bid me advance; I could stand it no longer, I bolted from the room, rushed to the stable, mounted without hat or boots, and galloped home at the top of the horse’s speed; he chased me the whole way, and there he stands this moment, as big as a mountain, pouring fire and brimstone from his distended jaws exactly in the spot where the old pump used to be.”

The Colonel at once guessed that a very unbecoming practical joke had been played off on his silly nephew. It would seem that on that day the members of the hunt had a long and splendid run, and killed their game close to a well known hostelry, in a beautiful and picturesque part of a most romantic country; all being in good humour and high spirits, those who were in at the death agreed to dine at the hotel, which was, at that time, famous for a good cellar and larder. After dinner, the conversation turned on a splendid Masonic ball, which had lately taken place in the metropolis, at which were assembled all the rank and beauty of the island. Phil said he would never rest until he was a Mason. The wink was passed round, and as most of them detested Phil’s wife, a practical joke was resolved on; the chairman said, “Well Phil, my boy, you’re in the very zenith of good luck; order in a dozen of claret, and you shall be gratified this very night, as all here are Freemasons, with the exception of yourself.”

As soon as the claret was nearly discussed, and Phil exhibited manifest symptoms of its influence, a consultation was held as to the *modus operandi*, a question arose as to who should represent his satanic majesty; deeming the presence of that personage essential on the occasion, it was suggested that as “mine host” was considered the greatest rascal in the parish, and dearly loved a joke, that he should be requested to take the part. On being consulted, he entered into it with a *gusto*, and said, leave that to me, I’ll

manage it, Robin is the very lad for your game." Robin was a huge old he goat, up to all sorts of tricks—indeed, it was a question among the visitors, which was the greater rogue, Robin, or his master.

Things being thus far arranged, Phil was ushered into a small room at the end of the dining room, which opened by a glass door on a *plateau* leading by steps to the back of the house; they turned his coat inside out, took off his top boots, shaved one side of his head and face, and blackened the other; they put him through a variety of absurd postures, which he was to go through before the Grand Master to whom he would be introduced in a few minutes.

While these operations were going on, the landlord planted himself at the far end of the dinner table, with a large table cloth, concealing all his person but his naked arms, which surrounded Robin as if they belonged to him, who stood before him on his hind legs, his fore legs resting on the table, and also concealed by the white cloth, nothing of him appearing to view, but his head, ornamented with immense horns, and a most venerable beard.

The door was now thrown open, and Phil was told to advance, and go through his lesson. Phil stood in the doorway petrified with horror; he believed to a certainty he stood in the veritable presence of the "evil one," and when he saw his arm wave, and heard a hollow unearthly voice order him to advance, his knees trembled, and he could not stir. In a moment all was darkness, and nothing could be seen but the glaring eyes, and the horns of the goat, which had been rubbed over with phosphorus; thunder and lightning were now imitated after the best theatrical fashion. Phil could stand it no longer, he rushed through the glass door, down to the stable, mounted his horse without hat or boots, and never slacked rein till he reached home. Entering the stables the curve was rather sharp, the horse stumbled, and pitched Phil into a cess-pool; half suffocated but not hurt, he made his way in the dark to the pump to try and get rid of a portion of the mud and filth before he entered the house.

He seized what he believed to be the pump handle, and after working it a little, and ducking under the spout to receive the stream, became suddenly impressed with the notion, that the old pump had become animated. Looking up he distinctly saw the head of a man, with distended and straining jaws, which his fears magnified into the most gigantic proportions, pouring forth what he vowed was fire and brimstone; in the very frenzy of frantic terror he rushed towards the house, shouting murder, and fell exhausted at the entrance, where his uncle found him.

The Colonel, having procured a light, proceeded to unravel the mystery of the pump; he there discovered Phelim, pale, sick, and almost paralyzed with terror, hugging the old pump with his only arm, in an embrace closer than he ever bestowed in war, friendship, or love. As a substitute for his lost arm, he had contrived an ingenious piece of mechanism of wood and iron, which Phil grasped in mistake for the pump handle. It appeared that on that day, Phelim had received his pension, and, as was his invariable custom, got most gloriously drunk; he had but arrived a few moments before Phil, and went to the pump to cool his parched and burning throat;

at the moment a winged horse, he said, rushed by him like a whirlwind, and an enormous spectre approached, seized his wooden arm and nearly shook his life out; his eyes lost the power of vision, and he could remember no more. Such was a portion of mishaps and sufferings of poor simple Phil the night he fancied he was made a Mason. It is scarcely necessary to add, that there was no member of the Masonic Order among the perpetrators of this cruel practical joke.

(To be concluded in the next.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON LODGES.

LODGE OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—This Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 14th November, when Br. Lowe, W.M. initiated a duly qualified candidate into the Order, and passed one, and raised another brother to their respective degrees.

ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE, (No. 7).—On Wednesday, November 21st, a meeting of the members of this Lodge, took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, Br. J. S. S. Hopwood, W.M. During the evening, Br. Wilkinson was passed, and Br. Warr, raised, both ceremonies being performed in a manner reflecting the highest credit on all the officiating parties. Among the visitors present, we noticed Br. Crombie, P.G.S. and P.M., 223; Br. Artuis, W.M., 40; Br. Samuel Smart, of the Lodge Good Intent, Sierra Leone, No. 721; Br. Shaboe, Chaplain of the Yarborough Lodge, 812, &c., &c. The banquet was presided over by the W.M., assisted by the Wardens, Br. John Hervey, P.G.D. and P.M. of the Lodge, and Br. J. Levinson, and the harmony of the evening was much enhanced by some excellent singing. The brethren separated at an early hour in perfect harmony.

BRITISH LODGE, (No. 8).—This highly distinguished Lodge held its first meeting for the session, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, November 19th. In the absence of Br. Massey Dawson, Br. Bisgood, P.M., presided. A gentleman was initiated into Masonry in a most able and efficient manner by Br. Gillman, P.M. The charge was also most impressively delivered by Br. Bisgood. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to partake of a most elegant banquet. In proposing the health of the Queen, Br. Bisgood, W.M., *pro tem.*, expressed the hope of all Englishmen, and Masons in particular, that she might live long to exercise the many virtues which so much endeared her to all classes. After proposing the health of the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., in which he dilated on the excellent qualities of that nobleman, he proposed the health of the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., and all Past and Present Grand Officers. And, after adverting to the great attention and valuable assistance given by his Lordship to Masonry in general, but more particularly to the Masonic Charities, congratulated the Lodge in the presence of Br. Dr. Rowe, Past Grand Officer, Br. Ransford, G.O., visitors, and more particularly on the honour of having as a member of the Lodge, Br. Purton Cooper, D.G.M., of Kent; on the many excellent qualities of which brethren he severally dilated, and trusted that they were gratified with the hospitality of the Lodge, and that they might often have the pleasure of meeting them, especially his old and esteemed friend Br. Cooper. In returning thanks for the Grand Officers, Br. Cooper expressed his high opinion of the antiquity and excellent tendencies of Masonry, and bore testimony to the readiness of the Earl of Yarborough and the Grand Officers to discharge the arduous duties incumbent on them. The health of the W.M. in the chair (Br. Bisgood) was then proposed, with the thanks of the Lodge, for his readiness to afford his valuable assistance, in whatever office he might be required, from the W.M. to the J.G. The W.M. in returning thanks, expressed the pleasure he felt, in rendering the Lodge any service in his power, and, in proposing the health of the Past Masters, descanted on their several good qualities, and the valuable assistance they had rendered; more particu-

larly Br. Noke, P.M., Treasurer and father of the Lodge, who always seemed to experience the greatest delight in witnessing the happiness of his children. Br. Noke in return, expressed the readiness of the Past Masters to do all in their power to further the interests of the Lodge; and, on his own part as an anxious father, the satisfaction he felt in seeing it in so happy and prosperous a state. Br. Guitton, of the Lodge de l'Amitié, at Paris, having requested admission, and being duly tested and approved by Br. Purton Cooper, and Br. Gillman, was duly introduced by Br. Cooper; who, in doing so, expressed the pleasure he felt, inasmuch, that the nation to which the brother belonged was as much allied to them, and he trusted ever would continue to be, as the brother himself, as a member of their ancient Fraternity. On the visitor being conducted to his seat, the W.M. proposed the health of the Emperor and Empress of the French, which was received with the greatest enthusiasm. The healths of the visitors, Brs. Guitton, Rowe, Ransford, C. Locock Webb, W.M., No. 4, Paravashine, No. 5, Somers, No. 225, and Suttan, 324, were then proposed, and the W.M. expressed to them severally the great pleasure felt by the Lodge, in having such distinguished visitors amongst them; and trusted that the hospitality had been such as to induce them to repeat their visits. The visitors in return, individually expressed the great pleasure they had experienced; and Br. Somers thanked the W.M. for his readiness at all times to render assistance to the distressed, but more particularly for that rendered to the widow of Br. Pryor, late a member of his Lodge. The healths of the officers was then proposed, with thanks for the able discharge of their various duties. After a suitable reply by the Senior Warden, the health of W.M. Br. Massey Dawson, who is unfortunately absent in Italy, in consequence of the indisposition of his amiable wife, was then drunk, and a hearty wish expressed that her health might soon be perfectly reinstated, and he be thereby enabled to resume his public duties. After spending the evening with the most extreme hilarity, to which the excellent singing of Br. Ransford greatly added, and also the excellent and liberal catering of the hosts of the tavern, to which the W.M. and brethren repeatedly expressed their satisfaction, the brethren separated.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—The brethren of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, Nov. 6. When the W.M., Br. J. Burton in his usual efficient manner, raised two brethren to the third degree, one of them being a member of the Polish National Lodge. He also passed one brother to the second degree, and initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of Masonry. At the close of the business twenty-eight brethren sat down to a banquet, and spent the evening in a most harmonious manner. Amongst several visitors was our old friend Br. Beulah who much amused the brethren by his comic songs.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—This numerous and distinguished Lodge held its first meeting for the season at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, Nov. 14. The W.M. Br. Spooner, in his usual lucid and expressive manner, raised one brother to the degree of a Master Mason, and initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of Masonry, in which he was most ably supported by his officers. After taking into consideration the best means of relieving a necessitous brother, the brethren adjourned to partake of an elegant banquet. The W.M. in proposing the health of the Queen, said that all Englishmen, and Masons in particular, were ever most desirous of shewing their loyalty to their sovereign, but it was never more necessary than at the present time, when unfortunately the country was engaged in war. He then proposed the health of the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., and also the Earl of Yarborough, and the rest of the Grand Officers, and trusted that the latter nobleman whose many virtues had endeared him to the Craft, would soon be restored to health, that they might again have the pleasure of seeing him amongst them. Br. Kingsbury, visitor, 227, returned thanks for the Grand Officers. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors, Br. Mallahue, No. 22, Br. Helsham, 113, Roxbey, 114, Barry Sullivan, Kingsbury, 227, and Augustus Braham, and expressed the thanks of Lodge for the pleasure of their visit, and more especially to Brs. Braham and Kingsbury, for the great musical treat they had afforded the brethren. Br. Barry Sullivan, in a concise and appropriate manner, returned thanks for the visitors. The W.M. next proposed the health of the newly initiated brethren, and expressed his confidence that

they would not only reflect honour on this Lodge, which felt great happiness in being the means of introducing them into Masonry, but also on the Craft, by acting according to its principles. Brs. Bell and Rymer returned thanks for the kind manner in which they had been received, and expressed a determination to do all in their power to carry out the beautiful precepts they had heard inculcated that evening. Br. R. Williams, P.M., then proposed the health of the W.M., and thanked him on behalf of the brethren for the able manner with which he presided over the business of the Lodge, and also at the banquet, and congratulated them in having the right man in the right place. The W.M. in return, thanked the brethren for the kind and able support he had received during his term of office, and in proposing the health of the Past Masters, expressed the gratitude of the Lodge for the great support they now, and in times gone by afforded it, and which has been the means of placing it in its present high position. Br. Potter in return expressed the satisfaction felt by the Past Masters in seeing the Lodge in its present happy and flourishing condition. He had been for many years a member of it, when numbering but eleven members, and he felt happy in bearing witness, that the adding to its numbers had not detracted from its comforts, and the high name it had ever borne in the Craft. The W.M. in proposing the health of the officers, thanked them individually and collectively for the talent they displayed, and efficient service they rendered him in the discharge of his arduous duties. Br. Bincks, S.W., at some length, returned thanks for the officers, and eloquently dilated on what he considered to be their duties. He at the same time expressed their determination to discharge those duties to the utmost of their power. This was received with much applause, and a general wish expressed that the speech should be reported in the "Masonic Mirror."

LODGE OF FORTITUDE AND OLD CUMBERLAND (No. 12).—This Lodge met on the 12th November, Br. Louis Meunier, W.M. presiding, when Br. Donald King, the eminent vocalist, was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. We regret that Br. King was unable to attend, in consequence of the death of his mother, which took place somewhat suddenly on the previous Thursday night. Amongst the candidates for initiation, are Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Coward.

KENT LODGE (No. 15).—This increasing and flourishing Lodge met on Wednesday, the 14th ult., at Br. Harris', the Three Tuns, High Street, Boro'. The duties of the evening consisted of three initiations, which were well performed by Br. Whitehouse, P.M., assisted by Br. Anslow, P.M. as S.W., *pro tem.*, and Br. Trebeck, J.W. The Lodge being closed, the brethren, about thirty in number, adjourned to the banquet, which was served in Br. Harris's usual exquisite style. On the cloth being cleared the usual loyal toasts were given and responded to with good spirit. The W.M. then proposed the health of the newly initiated members, viz., Brs. Burns, Randall, and Shorter. Br. Burns in rising to reply in behalf of himself and colleagues, begged to tender the W.M., officers, and brethren, their grateful acknowledgments for the honor conferred in their admission into a Society so ancient and honourable, and concluded by assuring the brethren, their best efforts would be used to carry out the sublime principles to which they had listened that evening—more especially to the charge so ably delivered by Br. Barnes, P.M., and Father of the Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visiting brethren, Brs. Arnold and Stuart, of the Lodge of Faith, (No. 165.) Br. Arnold in reply assured the brethren he felt much gratification in visiting the Lodge, and observed with pleasure the unanimity and brotherly kindness which prevailed among the members. Br. Smith, P.M., proposed the health of Br. Whitehouse, as W.M., *pro tem.* Br. Whitehouse replied in terms of willingness at all times to render any assistance the lodge might require at his hands. The W.M. then proposed the health of the P.M.'s of the Lodge, Br. Barnes, Prince, Anslow, Hawkins, Manse, Smith, and R. E. Barnes. To which Br. Smith, P.M., replied, assuring the members of their continued desire to promote the best interests of the Lodge, which they were happy to see was making rapid strides in numbers and respectability. The W.M. then proposed the health of Brs. Richd. Barnes, P.M. and Treasurer, also Br. R. E. Barnes, P.M., and Hony. Secy., who severally responded to the eulogiums passed on them. The officers of the Lodge, was the next toast given—to which Br. Trebeck, J.W. responded, and tendered his

best thanks to the brethren, not only for the honor conferred, but likewise the position he held as Junior Warden of the Lodge, and assured them his utmost endeavours would be used to discharge the duties of his office as efficiently as possible—that he felt great pleasure at all times in attending their meetings, and spoke forcibly of the principles of Masonry, which he not only admired, but would ever be his study to maintain, and concluded with observations expressive of the information afforded the brethren by the *Masonic Mirror*. The harmony of the evening was much enhanced by the excellent singing of Brs. Harris, Plummer, Mariner, and Arnold.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The members of this distinguished Lodge met on Thursday, Nov. 15, for the purpose of raising a brother to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and passing one to the degree of a Fellow Craft, which ceremonies were performed in a very efficient manner by the W.M. Br. Humphreys.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—This numerous Lodge held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday Nov. 5, when five brethren were passed to the second degree by the W.M. Br. Dyte, in his usual efficient manner. After the banquet, to which about forty sat down, the brethren were much delighted by a solo on the violin, by Br. John Bradley, who was passed on this occasion.

UNITED MARINER'S LODGE (No. 33).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at Br. Jagel's, the Chequers Tavern, Providence Row, Finsbury, on Tuesday, the 6th Nov. Br. Hookey, W.M., presiding. The absence of Br. Taylor, S.W., was much regretted—being unable to attend the duties of the Lodge. The Masonic duties being concluded, the brethren retired to refreshment. The visitors on the occasion were Brs. the Rev. Dr. Shaboe, Chaplain of the Yarborough Lodge, (No. 812); Br. T. B. Deplock (No. 4); Br. Purday, P.M., (53 and 212); Br. Fitch, P.M. (212); and Br. Thomson (No. 812). The brethren spent a pleasant evening, harmony reigning throughout.

BRITANNIC LODGE (No. 38).—The members of this Lodge met on the 9th Nov., at the Thatched House, St. James's Street, Br. Gooch, W.M., presiding. Mr. Jonathan Mellor was duly initiated into the Order, and Brs. Hawkins, Craven, and Underdown raised to the third degree. The Lodge stands adjourned until February.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Bridge House Hotel, on the 15th Nov., when Br. England, W.M., passed two, and raised two brethren in their respective degrees. Br. Wilmot, the S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year.

ST. MARY'S LODGE (No. 76).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 15th November, when Br. Geo. Kelly, W.M. most ably initiated two gentlemen into the Order. Upwards of 20 of the brethren afterwards dined together.

LODGE OF PROSPERITY (No. 78)—This fast rising Lodge held its first meeting on the 16th November, at Br. Morris's, White Hart Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, it having been recently removed there for the accommodation this first rate house affords. The W.M. Br. Thomas Weeks, having raised two brothers to the degree of M.M.'s in an efficient manner, and transacted the remaining business of the evening, the Lodge was duly closed. After which about 20 of the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, and having duly honored the usual loyal and complimentary toasts, the brethren departed highly pleased with their evening's entertainment and the present position, and future prospects of the Lodge. Among the visitors were Br. Rule, P.M. and P.G.P.; Br. Edwards, P.M., Temple Lodge, and Br. H. A. Isaacs, S.W., 247, and Honorary Lecture Master of the Prosperity Lodge of Instruction, which meets at the White Hart Tavern, every Friday evening, at 8 o'clock (third Friday in each month excepted), and we can assure the brethren, they would do well to visit or join this excellent Lodge.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—This old and distinguished Lodge held its first meeting for the season at the Freemasons' Tavern, Nov. 8th. After the business of the Lodge, which was merely formal, the brethren adjourned to partake of their usual splendid banquet. The W.M. Br. Solomon, proposed the health of the Queen,

accompanied with remarks on her many virtues, which was received with acclamations by the brethren, and after giving the health of the W.M. Grand Master, and dilating on his excellencies as a nobleman and a Mason, he proposed the health of the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, and congratulated the Lodge on being honoured by the presence of Br. Crohn, a member of that excellent and honourable body. Indeed, they might almost consider Br. Crohn as one of themselves, as he was ever ready to attend the Lodge of Regularity whenever his assistance might be required. Br. Crohn returned thanks for the Grand Officers, and in a feeling manner expressed the pleasure he felt at all times in visiting this Lodge, and his happiness in being considered serviceable in any way. Br. Johnson then proposed the health of the W.M. Br. Lewis Solomon, and expressed the thanks of the Lodge for the kind solicitude with which he had promoted its interests during his term of office. The W.M. after a suitable reply, proposed the health of the visitors, Br. Crohn, Br. Lowick of the Kent Lodge, and Br. Solomons, of the Joppa Lodge, thanking them for their attendance, but more particularly for the great musical delight the two last named brethren had afforded the Lodge by the exercise and display of their musical talents. Br. Lowick in reply stated the happiness he felt in attending this Lodge, and affording any amusement in his power to the members. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Past Masters, two of whom, Br. McCallan and Br. W. Johnson were only present, and thanked them for the able manner in which they had discharged their duties while in the chair. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Treasurer and Secretary, eulogising the able and correct manner in which they discharged their arduous duties. Br. McCallan in return, hoped that he should long have the pleasure of rendering whatever service laid in his power to promote the harmony and prosperity of the Lodge. The Secretary (Br. Augero) also returned thanks, and expressed his readiness to render every service in his power to promote the interests of the Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Officers, and, after a suitable reply from them, this most harmonious meeting was closed.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 118).—The members of this Lodge met at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street, on the 6th November, under the presidency of Br. Weeden, W.M., when the business consisting of three raisings and two passings, was most impressively performed.

LONDON LODGE (No. 125).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 3rd November, Br. Mackenzie, W.M., presiding, a brother was raised to the third degree. It is gratifying to observe some of the old members of the Lodge again rallying under its standard. Amongst those present on this occasion, were Br. Willett, P.M., of No. 2, and D.P.G.M. for Dorset; and Mac Mahon, P.M.

LODGE OF FAITH (No. 165).—The annual meeting of this Lodge was held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 30th of October, when Br. Mc Manus was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year by Br. P.M. Rackstraw, assisted by Br. P.M. Adams. The other business of the evening consisted of one raising and four initiations.

ST. THOMAS'S LODGE (No. 166).—At the first meeting of this Lodge for the season, held on the 3rd November, Br. Dr. A. Normandy, W.M. presiding, a brother was raised to the third degree. The attendance of the brethren was very limited.

SAINTE JOHN'S LODGE (No. 196).—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the Holly Bush Tavern, Hampstead, on the 13th of November, when Br. Samuel Aldrich, the W.M., initiated Mr. Joseph Barnes, Mr. George Hart, Mr. Charles Hale, and Mr. Jonathan Ware. Brs. Collins, Smith, and Pritchard were passed to the second degree. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet, and passed an evening of unalloyed enjoyment.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The members of this Lodge held their second meeting, since the recess, on Tuesday last, at the Freemasons' Tavern. It was fully attended, and the business (as is always the case at this Lodge,) was very ably performed, Br. Kennedy, P.M., presiding, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M. During the evening, Mr. Jabez Hogg was duly initiated into the noble Order. Br. Emmens, P.M. and Secretary, announced, that during the recess, a brother, formerly a member, had departed this life, soon after which the widow also died, leaving a poor orphan girl totally destitute. He trusted the brethren would use their influence in assisting this poor child to obtain admission into the Royal Freemasons' School,

which was unanimously agreed to. Business being concluded, about forty of the brethren adjourned to the banquet, after which the usual Masonic toasts were given, and duly responded to. The W.M. then took the opportunity of reminding the brethren, that at their last meeting he had to regret the absence of their "chaplain" through illness; that worthy and respected brother was now present, and he most sincerely congratulated him on his recovery, and begged to propose his health. In responding to the toast, the Rev. Br. Laughlin begged to thank the W.M., and his brethren most sincerely for the feeling and affectionate manner in which his health was proposed and received. He could not, however, say that he was surprised at this kindness, for he knew that such brotherly affection was the essence of Masonic Laws and Constitutions. He saw with great satisfaction the continued increase of the brethren of this Lodge, and begged to congratulate the W.M. and brethren upon it. It could easily be accounted for, from the fact, that in the Old Concord Lodge, there was to be seen working surpassed by no other, and he hoped also that it might be attributed to the increasing sense entertained of the necessity for the spread of the principles of the Order. He did not consider himself touching upon the forbidden ground of politics, when he remarked that there never was a time when these principles were more necessary to actuate men than the present. As a minister of peace, he felt it, and he believed that to bring back and secure in perpetuity the blessings of peace, those principles of harmony and brotherhood, of good order and love, which are the very foundations of our constitutions, ought to be more and more widely spread abroad: and the Masons could do both consistently with their Laws, and effectually, by exhibiting the working of those principles within them, and by their conduct towards each other. In this age of wide-spreading unbelief, Masonry would afford a valuable corrective, based on the belief of the one great Creator whom all adored. However they might believe as to the extent to which He has as yet developed His plans for the regeneration of mankind, and founding all their ideas of morality upon the same volume of the sacred Law, Masons do right to form a strong barrier against the tides of infidelity and licentiousness, which seem like an overrunning flood, likely to involve all things in its mighty and destructive course. After again thanking the W.M. and brethren, the worthy and Rev. Brother resumed his seat. Several other appropriate toasts being given, the brethren retired, after having spent a very happy and harmonious evening.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 296).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held on the 12th of November, the W.M. Br. T. A. Adams passed three, and raised two brothers to their respective degrees. Br. Marshall, the respected J.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and a P.M.'s jewel voted to Br. Adams, in testimony of the respect of the Lodge, and the great success which has attended it during his year of office.

LION AND LAMB LODGE (No. 227).—On Thursday, the 1st November, the members of this excellent Lodge met at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, under the presidency of Br. Muggeridge, P.M., acting for the W.M., who was unavoidably absent. Br. Muggeridge performed the ceremony of raising Br. Symon to the sublime degree of a M.M. in his usual impressive style, and was ably assisted by the Wardens of the Lodge. At the conclusion of the Lodge business, the brethren retired to an elegant repast, served in excellent taste by the worthy host of the house. Br. Muggeridge in the chair supported by P.M.'s. Sotheron, (the Treasurer and father of the Lodge) Thompson, (son of the lamented Peter Thompson), Butler, Goodyer, White and Bohn, 201. A very pleasant evening was spent and the brethren separated at 11 o'clock in perfect friendship and harmony.

JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).—The first meeting of this season was held on the 7th November, under the presidency of Br. Lewis Crombie, W.M., who raised a brother to the third degree.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—This Lodge commenced its meetings for the season at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, the 16th ult., Br. Spooner, W.M. presiding; when Mr. Mapp, Dr. Willshire, and Mr. Laughton were initiated into Masonry by the W.M., in his usual able and impressive manner. The other business being merely routine, the brethren adjourned to banquet, which by the excellent style it was served up, evinced the determination of Messrs. Elkington and Co. to maintain the high character of their establishment; and the evening was spent in the enjoyment of every

Masonic feeling. Among the visitors were Brs. Stuart, Past P.G.T. Kent ; Burton, W.M., 9 ; Thorp, W.M., 425 ; Knight, 9 ; Joy, 425.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 318).—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 5th November, Br. Blair, W.M. presiding, when the business which consisted of two raisings was gone through to the great satisfaction of every brother present. About 20 of the brethren afterwards dined together.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Gun Tavern, Br. Cross was passed to the second degree, and Br. Nunn raised to the third.

PHENIX LODGE, (No. 202).—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 10th of November, Br. Harrison, W.M., presiding, when Br. Herbert Ingram was passed to the second degree. Br. Houghton, the respected Treasurer of the Lodge, having resigned, from the pressure of other engagements, he was unanimously elected an honorary member. Br. Warren, P.M., was elected Treasurer. At the conclusion of the business, this being the first meeting of the season, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet, and the harmony of the evening was much enhanced by the exertions of a more than usually strong muster of professional brethren, including Brs. Genge, Leffler, Lawler, Smythson, Holmes, Taylor, Ford, and Beular. In the course of the evening some admirable five-part glees were sung, and a rich musical treat was afforded to the brethren.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

DEVONSHIRE.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, EXETER (No. 46).—The brethren of this Lodge met for the first time after the summer vacation, at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 18th October, when Br. Wm. Langworthy Channon, of Heavitree, was initiated, and another brother proposed. A brother from the Lodge of Union, Starcross, was also raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

LODGE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PLYMOUTH (No. 83).—An emergency meeting was held on Tuesday, Nov. 6th, at six o'clock, for the purpose of initiating Mr. Nicholas Clark, a stranger to this town, but bringing with him the tongue of good report from several well-known brothers. The ceremony was, as usual, most ably performed by Br. P. M. Pollard, P.P.G.T. The Lodge having been closed, was again opened in form for the dispatch of the usual monthly business, when Mr. Edward Joseph Mullins, publisher, of this town, was also initiated into the Order, the ceremony, as in the former instance, being conducted by Br. Pollard. The previous minutes were unanimously confirmed, and the meeting closed with solemn prayer, the brethren retiring to refreshment. After the public and Masonic toasts, Br. Foulds, S.W., proposed in highly flattering terms the health of the W.M., Br. Gambell, to which the worthy brother suitably replied. The healths of the other officers followed, and were warmly responded to. Br. Pollard proposed the healths of the newly initiated brethren, strangers till then, henceforth strangers no more, and presented each with a Masonic glass, having thereon the number of their parent Lodge. Br. Mullins thanked the brethren for receiving him, and observed that as he had always been an ornament to the society in which he had previously moved, so would he endeavour to be an ornament to the Masonic Order. Br. Clark returned his sincere thanks in a very modest speech, saying how glad he was to be admitted amongst the brethren. The health of Br. P. M. Pollard was drunk with enthusiasm. Lodge 83, and indeed some others, are much indebted to this zealous brother for his constant exertions in behalf of the cause—for several years he has conducted the whole of the ceremonies, but it is hoped that the W.M. for the next year will relieve him of some part at least of the arduous duties, which must encroach so much on his time. Br. Pollard warmly reciprocated the kindly feelings evinced by the brethren ; he always felt a pleasure when he could be of service to any brother or any Lodge,

and prayed the G.A.O.T.U. that he might always meet the brotherhood in peace and harmony below, and be at last united with them in the G.L. above, where the world's Great Architect rules and reigns for ever. The health of the W.M.'s bride was drunk, and neatly responded to by Br. Gambell, when the brethren retired to their several homes.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, EXETER (No. 129).—The second Lodge for the season was held on Thursday, the 8th inst., but as there was nothing particular to be done, the Lodge was closed at an early hour.

LODGE OF HARMONY, PLYMOUTH (No. 182).—A meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, Oct. 1, when two brethren were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., and two gentlemen initiated into the Order. On Monday, Nov. 5, another meeting was held, when the two new brethren were passed to the second degree. The ceremonies on both occasions were performed by the W.M. (Br. Earl) in a very impressive manner. At the conclusion of business the brethren adjourned to refreshment, when a very pleasant evening was spent. It may not be out of the way to state, that during the year, twelve gentlemen have been initiated into the mysteries of the Craft by Br. Earl—a fact which not only proves the prosperity of the Lodge, but reflects great credit on the W.M., who is a Mason of less than three years' standing. It would be as well if young Masons generally would endeavour to emulate him in making themselves acquainted with the ceremonies—as it would save many Masters in this and other towns the mortification of being dependent on others for the performance of their duties.

LODGE OF SINCERITY, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, STONEHOUSE (No. 224).—The members of this aristocratic Lodge met on Monday, 12th inst., when Br. W. H. Evens, jun., W.M., proceeded to pass Br. E. Sale, solicitor, of Devonport, to the degree of Fellow-craft, and would no doubt have reached a satisfactory conclusion, had it not happened that "Thioden's" Theatre of Arts is located *pro tem.* in the same building, and both being in action at one and the same time, the blast from the instrument of sixteen trumpet power, sent the W.M.'s ideas nowhere, totally upsetting the propriety of the Lodge, and leaving the W.M. nothing for it but to cut short this beautiful and interesting ceremony. No sooner was it thus prematurely brought to a close, than it was proposed and carried unanimously that the Lodge be removed to a private place of meeting, where the public have not access. We should mention that, in addition, and as an accompaniment to Mons. Thioden's music, there was a second addition, in the shape of a dancing academy, whose meeting was held at the same time and place, of course in a separate room, but still so favourably situated as to enliven and annoy both front and flank. The propriety of removing has been heretofore debated, but the interests of the proprietors of the hall (two at least of whom are members of the Sincerity) was paramount for the time; however, the danger of Mr. Thioden's cavalry band (as he terms his instrument) bore before it every argument, not excepting even that most potent one, the breeches pocket. This question decided, there came a very serious one for Masons of the fourth degree. We allude to the annual banquet. It was debated at great length as to whether they should dine on St. John the Evangelist's day, with the Stars of Brunswick, but on the principle that two dinners are better than one, it was ultimately carried that they should dine on St. John the Evangelist's day, inviting the aforesaid Stars of Brunswick to partake of their hospitality, in return for the same kind action at Christmas, 1854. We regret that there was a very limited attendance, thereby showing but small courtesy to their most talented W.M. Amongst those present, we noticed Brs. J. C. Hancock, S.W.; J. P. Mann, J.W.; R. R. Rodd, J.D.; — Gilbard, S.D.; W. G. Clase, J.G. Great regret was expressed at the absence of their sheet anchor, Br. Tripe, P.M., P.P.G.S.D. Br. Lidstone, P.J.W., was most cordially received, and heartily congratulated on being once again amongst them. There being danger of the intrusion of Cowans, the Tyler was not only without the entrance, but without the outer-court, viz., on the stairs. The Lodge being closed in form, the brethren, unable longer to stand the powerful nature of the musical entertainments, so unexpectedly prepared for them, the potency of which we have so often referred to, retired unrefreshed to their respective homes, there to sup at their own proper costs and charges.

KENT.

LODGE OF FREEDOM, GRAVESEND (No. 91).—The monthly meeting of the brethren of this Lodge took place at Br. Wates' Hotel, on Monday, Nov. 19. After the Lodge was opened by the W.M., Br. R. Spencer, with solemn prayer, the business, being very heavy, was done in the following manner:—Mr. E. Wates, Mr. E. Hills, and Mr. Olive were initiated into the mysteries of the Craft by the W.M. and P.M., Br. Sharland, P.P.G.S.W., and from the excellent manner they both went through the ceremony, we can assign the palm to neither. P.M. Br. Gore performed the ceremony of passing Br. Everist to the Fellow-Craft degree, also exceedingly well done. Brs. Brown, Davis, Denton, Fletcher, Martin, and Williams, were raised to the third degree by the W.M., and we have seldom or ever heard that sublime degree of raising done (as it had to be repeatedly by the W.M.) with such feeling and pathos, so as to delight and rivet the most minute attention of the very numerous assemblage of the brethren, as also the W.M. (Br. Munns), and several of the brethren of the Dartford Lodge. Business concluded, the brethren proceeded to banquet, and after the usual toasts were given and responded to, separated at rather a late hour.

MAIDSTONE.—The Installation of the W.M. of the Belvidere Lodge will take place on Tuesday next, at the Star Hotel, when visitors are expected from Sheerness, Chatham, Gravesend, and other parts of Kent.

LANCASHIRE.

LODGE OF FIDELITY, BLACKFRIARS (No. 336).—The meeting of this Lodge took place on Friday evening, 26th October, at the Angel Inn, Br. Stocks, P.M., presiding, assisted by Brs. Sawes and Sheppard, P.M.'s. The W.M. and Wardens being absent, and the attendance of other members very meagre, the brethren present agreed to postpone several business matters, and an initiation, &c., to next Lodge night.

OXFORDSHIRE.

ALFRED CITY LODGE, OXFORD (No. 425).—The brethren of the Alfred Lodge met on Tuesday, Nov. 20th, when they unanimously elected Br. J. T. Hester, surgeon, of this city, W.M. for the ensuing year. Br. Thomas Randall was unanimously elected Treasurer, and Brs. Frazer and Thurland, Stewards. Br. Bull was re-appointed Tyler.

APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE, OXFORD (No. 460).—The first meeting this term was held on the 7th of Nov., when Viscount Howard, of Christ Church, eldest son of the Earl of Effingham, Viscount Vaughan, of Christ Church, eldest son of the Earl of Lisburne, the Hon. Augustus Bamfylde, eldest son of Lord Poltimore, and Messrs. Brassey and Hitchings, were initiated. Several brethren were passed and raised, the ceremonies being performed in admirable manner by Br. W. B. Beach, of Christ Church, P.M., who officiated, in the absence of Br. J. W. Malcolm, P.J.G., W.M. On the motion of Br. Lord Lincoln, seconded by Br. Cox, the P.G.M. for Oxfordshire, Br. Captain Henry Bowyer was unanimously elected a joining member. The banquet which followed, and was attended by the P.G.M., passed off with great *eclat*.

WARWICKSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The P.G. Lodge was held at Alcester, on Friday, Nov. 23, at the Lodge-room of the Abbey Lodge, Angel Hotel, at 1 o'clock. Amongst the brethren we noticed the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, P.G.M.; Bro. Boughton Leigh, D.P.G.M.; Bro. Chas. W. Elkington, G.S.B., and P.G.D.C.; Bro. Lane, Chaplain; Bros. Empson, P.S.W.; J. W. Lloyd, P.J.W.; Newton, P.G.R.; Dec, P.P.S.W.; Machin, P.P.S.W.; James, P.P.S.W. Staffordshire, Robins, Hopkins, Bingham, Lingard, Blenkinsop, Clarke, W. Lloyd, J. P. Motteram, Overell, Freer, Ross, &c. &c. After the usual business of the Grand Lodge the Brethren proceeded to the parish church, where a most appropriate Masonic sermon was preached by the Rev. Chaplain.

After service the brethren returned to the Lodge, and business was closed.

In the evening about 50 sat down to banquet, provided in the Town-hall, which was most gaily decorated for the occasion.

The Most W. the P. G. Master presided, and in proposing the first toast, of "The Queen and the Craft," spoke very highly of the domestic and other virtues of our beloved Queen. The toast was received with due honors.

"Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the other Members of the Royal Family," was then given; the P.G.M., speaking of the visit of the Prince at Birmingham the previous day, and the very hearty welcome he met with.

The Chairman next proposed, "The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, G. Master," alluding, in appropriate terms, to the high qualifications of our distinguished Grand Master. The toast was received with Masonic honors.

The Chairman next proposed "The Deputy Grand Master, Lord Yarborough, and the Grand Lodge of England," coupling with his toast the name of the Grand Sword-bearer, Bro. C. W. Elkington. The Noble Lord said he had had a promise from the D.G. Master to visit that meeting previously to his severe attack of indisposition, and that the Brethren were prevented having that distinguished visitor, solely from the ill state of Lord Yarborough's health. The toast was received with Masonic honors.

Bro. Elkington acknowledged the compliment in an appropriate speech. The P.D.G. Master then proposed the health of Lord Leigh, as a truly Christian man and Mason; alluding to the munificent offer of land which the Noble Lord had made to the Reformatory Committee, of 30 acres, an act abounding with the Masonic virtue of charity. The toast was received, as Lord Leigh's health always is amongst the Craft; a more popular man, or Mason, does not exist.

The P. G. Master responded to the toast in a Masonic spirit, alluding to the great pleasure he had always derived from these meetings, and stated that one of the happiest days of his life was the day he was received a member of the Craft.

The P. Deputy Grand Master's health was then proposed by the Senior Warden, J. W. Lloyd, and responded to in an eloquent speech; the Right Worshipful Brother entering into some most interesting Masonic statistics. "The Wardens and Officers of the Lodge" was proposed from the Chair, and the following toasts were afterwards given: "The Visiting Brethren," proposed by Br. Dec; "The Past Officers of the Lodge," proposed by Br. Lane, Chaplain; "Br. Lane, Chaplain," with thanks for his excellent sermon, by Lord Leigh; "The Lodges of the Province;" "All poor and distressed Masons," and "The Ladies," by Br. Newton; Br. Maclin responding in a most humorous speech. During the evening several good songs were sung, and a most pleasant day was spent.

WILTSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at Calne, at which about forty members of the Order attended. After the preliminary business had been disposed of, the Deputy Grand Master (Br. D. Gooch) re-appointed some of the Provincial Grand Officers, and appointed other brethren to fill the remaining offices. The following is a list of the Grand Officers, as now appointed:—Brs. M. C. Rea, S.G.W.; E. Roberts, J.G.W.; J. H. Sheppard, G. Treas.; Rev. G. Campbell, G.C.; Major Goddard, G.R.; H. Weaver, G. Sec.; — Hodgkinson, S.G.D.; W. F. Gooch, J.G.D.; C. W. Hind, G. Super. of Works; T. L. Henley, G. Dir. of Cer.; J. N. Ladd, G. Sword Bearer; T. E. M. Marsh, G. Pursuivant; C. G. Owen, W. Rogers, Josh. Burt, and J. Spencer, G. Stewards.

The D.P.G.M. congratulated the brothers on the prospects and steady increase of Masonry in the province; the number of Lodges having been increased from three to six in the last two years, during which period many brethren had been initiated, especially in the Calne Lodge, which had attained a very prosperous state under the auspices of its Worshipful Master, our zealous Grand Secretary. At three o'clock, the brethren formed in procession, and proceeded to church in the following order, viz. :—

Tyler.

Grand Steward

Grand Steward.

Visiting Brethren not Members of Lodges in this Province.

Lodge of Concord, No. 915.
 Methuen Lodge, No. 914.
 Banner of the Lansdowne Lodge.
 Lansdowne Lodge of Unity, No. 909.
 Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation, No. 453.
 Provincial Grand Pursuivant.
 Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.
 Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.
 Provincial Grand Secretary.
 Provincial Grand Registrar and Provincial Grand Treasurer.
 Corinthian Light.
 Provincial Grand Junior Warden with Plumb Rule.
 Doric Light.
 Provincial Grand Senior Warden with Level.
 Provincial Grand Junior Deacon.
 The Volume of the Sacred Law,
 (With square and compass borne on a crimson velvet cushion.)
 Grand Steward. Provincial Grand Chaplain. Grand Steward.
 Ionic Light.
 Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.
 Deputy Provincial Grand Master.
 Provincial Grand Senior Deacon.
 Provincial Grand Tyler with Banner.

Amongst the brethren who attended we observed, in addition to the provincial officers above-named, Br. S. H. Smith, P.P.G. Pursuivant, and Brs. Wm. H. Poynder, Wm. Homfray, S. Wittey, George Osbaldistone Budd, J. Cartwright, F. R. Parsons (of Reading Lodge), and numerous other brethren. After the usual service of the day—portions of which were beautifully chanted by some of the brethren—had been performed, the Rev. A. Roberts, of Barkham Parsonage, near Wokingham (a member of the Order), ascended the pulpit, and preached one of the most eloquent sermons upon Masonry we have ever heard. The rev. gentleman selected his text from the 7th of Matthew, and the 20th verse—"By their fruits ye shall know them;" and in a clear and forcible manner he showed that it was by a man's deeds alone that we could form a just and fair estimate of his character. It was not by the bright green leaves, nor yet by the fragrant blossom which it bore, that the tree was known and valued; nor was it by a fair outside and a decent exterior, that the good man was appreciated; by his fruit shall ye know him. At the conclusion of the service, the Masons again formed in procession, and returned to the Town-hall, where they remained in Lodge for a short time, and then adjourned to the Lansdowne Arms to dinner. Deputy Provincial Grand Master Gooch was in the chair, a brother to whom the province owes more than to any other member of the Order, for the interest he takes in Masonry, and everything connected with it. The proceedings were much enlivened throughout the evening by some excellent songs and glees, to a piano-forte accompaniment, in fact, nothing was omitted which could add to the enjoyment of the meeting.

YORKSHIRE.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, DONCASTER (No. 298).—The brethren of this Lodge held their regular Lodge meeting in the Town-hall, at the usual period, viz., the last Friday in October. The brethren were honoured on this occasion by the attendance of several visitors from a distance, amongst whom were Br. Hearn, P.D.P.G.M., from the Isle of Wight; Br. Chas. Bailes, and Sherwin, Sheffield; Br. C. Wand, Bradford; Br. T. Dixon, Leeds; Br. Liddle, &c. After the first-named brother had been received with the usual honours, the business of the Lodge was proceeded with, and closed in the three degrees. The brethren then adjourned to the Rein Deer Hotel, where a sumptuous banquet had been prepared, and was done full justice to, the Worshipful Master, the Rev. J. G. Fardell, P.G.S.W., occupying the chair, and Br. Sherwin the vice. A most delightful evening was spent by the

brethren, who were highly gratified with the kindness and urbanity of their highly-respected W.M. During the proceedings, a very interesting and instructive conversation took place on various subjects connected with Masonry, such as the difference of ritual as observed by various Lodges, and also as to the true meaning and pronunciation of certain words well-known to Masons. The brethren departed at an early hour, well pleased with the evening's proceedings.

INSTRUCTION.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—On Wednesday, the last day of October, the members of this flourishing Lodge of Instruction assembled at Br. Ireland's, the "Queen Elizabeth," King's-row, Walworth, for the purpose of working the 15 sections, Br. Garrod, as W.M., putting the questions, and the following brethren answering them.—1st Lecture—1. Br. Wm. Stuart; 2. Br. D. R. Farmer; 3. Br. Wm. Plummer; 4. Br. Chas. Ellis; 5. Br. T. A. Adams; 6. Br. J. R. Warren; 7. Br. John Thomas. 2nd Lecture—1.—Br. Robert Wadson; 2. Br. T. Warren; 3. Br. J. W. Ward; 4. Br. J. R. Warren; 5. Br. John Thomas. 3rd Lecture—1. Br. Thomas Anslow; 2. Br. Chas. Ireland; 3. Br. D. R. Farmer. We may truly say we never heard the sections worked in a more efficient manner, and we recommend any brother in search of Masonic Instruction to pay this Lodge a visit. The brethren meet every Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock.

ROYAL ARCH.

GRAND CHAPTER.

The quarterly convocation of Grand Chapter was holden in the Temple attached to Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, Nov. 3, when Comp. Hall, acted as Z.; Comps. Crohn as H.; Comp. Rawson as J.; Comp. Patterson, N.; Comps. H. Lloyd, Eaton, and Tombleson, Sojourners. There were also present on the dais, Comps. Tomkins, Le Veau, J. Hervey, Havers, Chas. Elkington, P. Matthews, and several others.

The minutes of the previous Chapter having been read and confirmed, it was resolved, on the recommendation of the General Committee to grant a charter for a Chapter to be attached to the Glamorgan Lodge, No. 43, to be held at Cardiff, on the 1st Monday in each month. The parties named as principals were Comp. R. F. Langley, Z.; Comp. Thomas Hogg, H.; and Comp. Samuel Laing, J. A charter was also granted for a Chapter to be attached to the Dalhousie Lodge, of Mussoorie and Deyrah, East Indies, No. 992, to be called the Chapter of St. John the Baptist, and to meet on the third Tuesday in the months of June, July, August, and September. The principals named were Comps. T. Cartwright Smith, Z.; W. R. Ford, H.; J. Abercrombie, J.

A petition was then presented from the members of the Thanet Chapter, of Margate, stating that on the 2nd August, 1854, a charter had been granted to them to hold a Chapter at Margate, but owing to the removal from the district of two of the companions, named as principals, they had been unable to open, and they therefore prayed to have the names of two other companions inserted as principals, the requisite fees having been paid at the time of taking up the charter. It was resolved that the charter previously granted should be cancelled, and a new charter issued, on the payment of a fee of £1 1s.

A resolution was then brought up from the Board of General Purposes, stating that various complaints having been received of the difficulties which the Lodges in the colonies experienced by not being enabled to confer the "Mark" degree on brethren, as was done by the Scotch and Irish Lodges in the same district; they had appointed a committee of six to consider whether the "Mark" was a part of ancient

Masonry, and if so, to report to the G. Master whether it ought to be attached to the Craft or the Arch ceremonies.

Comp. White, G.E., stated that he had recently taken the "Mark" in an Irish Lodge, in the Isle of Wight, in order to make himself practically acquainted with its nature, and it was his opinion that it was a part of Craft Masonry, though in Scotland he understood it was considered a portion of Archmasonry.

Br. H. G. Warren begged to be allowed to correct Br. White on that point, having himself taken the Mark degree in Scotland. The Masons of Scotland did not consider the Mark as a part of Archmasonry, but inasmuch as the Grand Lodge of Scotland acknowledged no other Masonry than the "blue" or Craft—not even the Arch as in England—the G. Chapter, which was a perfectly independent body from the Grand Lodge, issued Craft warrants enabling Lodges to be formed for granting to regular Masons the degree of Mark and Past Master *only*, as without being members of those degrees, no brother could be exalted into the Royal Arch, to which they naturally led.

After some further conversation, seven companions, four being Mark Masters and three not, were appointed to assist the Committee of the Lodge of General Purposes in their deliberations.

The meeting then separated.

LONDON CHAPTERS.

DOMATIC CHAPTER, No. 206).—The Companions of this Chapter met at the Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane, on Thursday, the 22nd November. Comp. Selig, P.Z., acting as Z.; Comp. Buss, H.; and Comp. T. A. Adams, J. Brs. Tyrrell (168), and R. Wadson (805), were balloted for; and the ballot being unanimous in their favour, they will be exalted at the next Convocation, to be holden in January. Comp. Lowenstark, formerly of this Chapter, was re-elected a member. The resignation of Comp. W. Nicholson, (Lodge 201), having been read, the companions accepted it with regret. Several matters of a private nature connected with the Lodge having been satisfactorily disposed of, the companions retired to refreshment, which was provided in Comp. Ireland's usual liberal manner, and the companions separated with feelings of much gratification at the proceedings of the evening.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER, (No. 218).—A convocation of this Chapter was held at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, on Tuesday, the 13th ult., Comp. Scambler, M.E.Z., presiding. Brs. Tappolet, 198, Lippman 218, Aznavour, 237, and Watts, 237, were exalted to the sublime degree of R.A. Masons. The ceremony was most ably and impressively given by the M.E.Z. In this respect, we think No. 218 may be ranked as one of the best worked Chapters in the Order; for each officer performed his portion of the duty in the most perfect and efficient manner. The business being concluded, the companions, to the number of twenty-four, sat down to banquet; among whom were Comps. Elgee, formerly of this Chapter, Beuler, 593, and Hart, 697.

POLISH CHAPTER, (No. 778).—In consequence of some inaccuracies in the printing, last month, we republish the names of the officers of this Chapter: J. W. Adams, Z.; H. G. Warren, H.; Michalski, J.; Limanski, Treas.; Blackburn, E.; Detkins, N.; Johnson, P.S.; Haywood, Webber, Ass. S.; Limanski, P.Z., Boyd, Stewards.

SHROPSHIRE.

EYTON CHAPTER, WELLINGTON.—It will be in the recollection of our readers that last month we gave an account of the Provincial Grand Master of North Wales and Shropshire having held the Provincial Grand Festival at St. John's Lodge, 875, Spa Hotel, Admaston, when it was stated, that a charter for the Royal Arch Chapter in connection with that Lodge had been applied for and obtained, to be called the Eyton Chapter of St. John. The three first principals named in the petition being Comp. George Marriott, Z., P.Z. of Chapter No. 12; Comp. William Brightwell, H., Z. of Chapter No. 328; Comp. P. C. Eyton, J. Chapter No. 12.

The M.E.Z. summoned the first Convocation of the said Chapter for Friday, November the 9th, when the first Principals were duly installed in their respective chairs, after which, with the kind assistance of Comp. Goring, P.Z., Chapter No. 25, and other companions of the Salossian Chapter, fourteen duly qualified brethren were exalted to the sublime degree of Royal Arch Masons. Eight other brethren for whom the ballot was unanimous, will be exalted at the next Convocation, the first Monday in January, 1856. The M.E.Z. then appointed his officers, and invested them for the ensuing year. The Convocation of the said Chapter was postponed in consequence of the unavoidable absence of the Right Worshipful Grand Master. A sumptuous banquet was provided by Br. Purcell (the squire of Eyton presenting the venison). After dinner, ample proof was given of their loyalty to the Queen of England, and her allies. The first Principal then gave the health of the Earl of Zeeland, the Grand G.Z. of the Order, and the Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl of Yarborough, whose zeal in serving the best interest of the Masonic charities was ably descanted upon in very energetic language, and both toasts were received and given with due honours.

The M.E.Z. then proposed the health of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Sir Watkyn Williams Wynn, Bart., wishing him a safe return to Winstay, blessed with good health and long life. The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

Comp. White, the P.G. Treasurer, returned thanks, expressing the delight he experienced, and the great pleasure he felt in having been proposed a joining member, and congratulated the Chapter on the prospect of future excellence.

Comp. Brightwell, the second Principal, rose, and before introducing the toast which he was called upon to propose, from the position he had the honour of occupying in the Eyton Chapter of St. John's, hailed with much satisfaction and pleasure the visible prosperity Masonry had acquired and was acquiring in this province, but more particularly the extraordinary success which had favoured the St. John's Lodge, No. 875, which, comparatively speaking, was a very young one, having been a little more than three years in existence, and in that short period, (owing to the indefatigability of its numerous members) to have a Chapter attached to it, therefore it may justly be said the refulgent star of Freemasonry has shone with full meridian splendour on this Lodge, untarnished and undimmed. In alluding more particularly to the toast which I have the honour to propose, in approaching it, believe me, I feel my utter incapability adequately to do that justice which it so amply merits and deserves, in announcing our distinguished brother and talented companion Marriott. (Cheers.) Companions, those cheers strongly and powerfully ratify the high opinion I have entertained of him, both as a man and a Mason—in the former, for his uniform uprightness of character and integrity, in the latter for those truly and unsophisticated sentiments of Masonic sympathy which in him appears so peculiarly characteristic. In conclusion, companions, permit me to express my strong feeling of satisfaction in which I myself feel persuaded, and I feel persuaded I have your coincidence in witnessing this day the solemn, impressive, and imposing manner in which Comp. Marriott performed the ceremonies of exaltation to the fourteen candidates. You, companions, and I, have great reason to congratulate ourselves in being so very fortunate in having such an excellent companion to preside over us in this our first convocation under the warrant from the Grand Chapter of England; and may the G.A.O.T.U. long spare him to continue an ornament to the Craft of which he is so distinguished a member, and when it shall please the Almighty to remove him from this sublunary and transitory abode, may he be translated to that celestial Lodge above, where peace, order, and harmony reign. The toast having been Masonically responded to,

The M.E.Z. said, Comp. Brightwell, your fulness of heart and great flow of language has placed me in great embarrassment; and, companions, in acknowledging the kind sentiments of your second Principal, I feel my inadequacy to do justice in language suitable to the high encomiums passed upon me by him; it is a source of great pleasure I feel to find my services are considered of so much importance to the welfare of Masonry in this Province, and I have great satisfaction also in knowing that the seed I have sown has not fallen on barren ground, and I have equal pleasure

in looking forward to the time of reaping, for, rest assured, no man ever planted a tree that he did not wish to see it grow to perfection. Therefore, companions, no sustenance I can furnish shall be wanting to enable your Lodge and this Chapter to arrive at that great climax. I thank you most kindly for your kind expressions and good wishes, and, believe me, I am proud in having gained your good opinion, for there is no gratification to me so great as that of living in the high estimation of those I have the honour and pleasure to associate with. I congratulate you in having chosen companions of such untiring zeal to assist me in conducting this Chapter, and from the ability your second and third Principals have this day displayed in their respective duties, augurs well for its future prosperity, and I call upon you to drink with all sincerity to the health of the second and third Principals, who have so efficiently discharged their duties, and I cannot allow the present opportunity to pass without giving Comp. Eyton (whose name the Chapter bore) that meed of praise so justly due to him, as one of its principal promoters, and for the valuable assistance he has given to the Lodge and Chapter by becoming one of their greatest supporters, and I hope that he may be spared for many years to see them flourish. (Great cheering.)

Companion Brightwell returned thanks, stating that it was a pleasure for him and his colleague in office to work in conjunction with the first Principal, and they should strenuously endeavour to assist him in the office they had been appointed to.

Comp. Eyton, in giving the health of the visitors who had that day honoured them with their presence, one, a comparative stranger, said he was sure from the very able way in which Comps. Goring and White assisted in the ceremonies, their names would be long remembered in the Eyton Chapter.

Comp. Goring returned thanks, and said he had much pleasure in coming amongst them, and should at all times be glad to render any aid in his power in forwarding their interest.

The M.E.Z., in proposing the officers, said, Companions, it must have been pleasing to you all to have heard the principal Sojourner discharge his duties, as it was satisfactory to me to find a member so young in Masonry so very proficient in his duty; therefore I will thank you to charge your glasses, and join me in drinking to the health of the principal Sojourner and the rest of the officers.

In proposing the health of the newly exalted companions, Br. Rowlands, Past P.G.S. Warden (being the only member not belonging to the St. John's Lodge), was thanked for giving the Eyton Chapter the preference, and the members generally expressed their delight and satisfaction at his coming amongst them.

Br. Rowlands returned thanks, expressing the pleasure he experienced in doing so. Several other toasts followed, and good fellowship prevailed, and the companions separated, deeply impressed with the solemnity of the ceremony, and with a determination under the able guidance of their esteemed M.E.Z., to work with zeal and fidelity.

THE COLONIES.

ADELAIDE.—(AUSTRALIA.)

A Chapter of the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Masonry was held at the Masonic Hall, on North-terrace, on Monday evening, April 23. The Hall as it was decorated and arranged for exaltation—brilliantly lighted with three very splendid chandeliers and countless wax tapers—presented, together with the mystic embellishments of the Craft, a most gorgeous appearance. At the eastern end of the Hall is a canopy of crimson silk velvet surmounted by a very splendid cornice exquisitely painted with Masonic heraldry. On an elevated platform covered with crimson cloth, were placed three thrones of elaborately carved oak and covered with blue silk plush, whilst above it waved the four banners of the cohorts of Judah, Reuben, Ephraim, and Dan, and a fifth being the mystic banner of the Chapter. The floor of the Hall was covered with mosaic, upon which were painted appropriate devices of the Order.

The Brethren of the Lodge of Unity, No. 872, and the Adelaide Lodge, No. 341, met at the Britannia Hotel, Port Adelaide, on Wednesday evening, April 18, to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Baptist. A sumptuous and elegant entertainment was prepared by Host Smith; and the cellar was of the choicest description. D.P.G.M. Lazar took the chair at 7 o'clock, supported on the right by W. M. Chambers, Adelaide Lodge; and on the left by P.M. French, Lodge of Unity. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, when the D.P.G.M. Lazar in an appropriate address presented to P.M. French a handsome silver goblet of colonial manufacture, as a token of respect and esteem, from the Port Adelaide Brothers of the Lodge of Unity, for his zeal in the cause of the Craft. In the course of the evening the chairman also presented, on behalf of Brother T. F. Smith, a very large and handsome cut-glass goblet, lately brought out by Mr. Smith from England, beautifully engraved with various Masonic emblems, &c., and the following inscription: "Presented to Lodge of Unity, No. 872, by Brother T. F. Smith, 1855." The utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed, and the health of the chairman and the host concluded a most agreeable evening.

The D.P.G. Master, with several of his officers, in the early part of June, consecrated a new Lodge at the Masonic Hall, under the name of the Lodge of Concord. R. W. Moore was installed as first Master; E. A. Phillips and J. Daniels, Senior and Junior Wardens; Alfred Cleve, Senior Deacon; and William Gosse, Treasurer. The evening passed off with the greatest hilarity, which at all times marks the character of Freemasons. Previously to the conclusion, the announcement was made that his Excellency and family had arrived safely in the Burra Burra. This gratifying intelligence was immediately communicated to the brethren by the D.P.G.M., who at once proposed their healths, which toast was hailed with three hearty cheers, the Freemasons reserving to themselves the pleasing honour of first welcoming his Excellency and family with hearty and cordial welcome.

HOBART TOWN.

Two Masonic festivals were celebrated on Monday, June 25, in accordance with annual custom, and in celebration of the anniversary of St. John the Baptist, namely, that of the Tasmanian Union Lodge, No. 781, at the Lodge Room in Collins-street, and that of the Tasmanian Operative Lodge, No. 3. 4. 5., at the Lodge Room in Argyle-street, both on Monday. The attendance of the brethren of both Lodges was numerous, and the Festival was celebrated with all the usual forms and ceremonies. At the latter Lodge some 40 of the initiated congregated at the mystic hour of High Twelve, and after the transaction of the business of the day, assembled at the festive board at half-past six, and partook of a banquet, consisting of all that was really good, and put upon the table in a most *recherche* style, which with the enlightening music of the Chamber Band of the 99th regiment, kindly placed at the disposal of the Lodge, by the Colonel commanding the troops, enabled the brethren to enjoy an evening of uninterrupted harmony.

JAMAICA.

The following vote of thanks of the Metcalfe Lodge, Westmoreland, to James Silk Buckingham, Esq., Past Master of the Lodge, is highly complimentary to that gentleman by the "brethren of the mystic tie," and we give it place with much pleasure.

Metcalfe Lodge, No. 746. Sav.-la-Mar, 14th June, 1855.

To the Worshipful James Silk Buckingham, Past Master.

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER,—At an ordinary Lodge held last evening, and after the usual vote of thanks to yourself, Worshipful Sir, and the Officers of this Lodge for the past year, it was unanimously resolved—

"That a letter be addressed to the Worshipful J. S. Buckingham, expressing the cordial thanks of the brethren to him for the unwearying zeal, and the ability he has

ever displayed, in governing the Lodge for the past two years as its Master; and to which is attributed the prosperity which has attended the Society from its commencement."

I feel much pleasure in being the medium of communicating these sentiments of the brethren to you, in which I cordially concur, and I am, Worshipful Sir and Brother, faithfully, and paternally yours,

(Signed) D. F. THOMAS, *Master*.

On behalf of the brethren of the Metcalfe Lodge, No. 746.

Montego Bay, 18th June, 1855.

To the Worshipful D. F. Thomas, Master of the Metcalfe Lodge, No. 746, Savanna-la-Mar.

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER.—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication covering copy of a Resolution, unanimously adopted by the Members of the Metcalfe Lodge, conveying me their thanks on my retirement from the high position of its Master, which I have held for the last two years.

I beg to assure you that, although I consider myself totally unworthy of so very flattering a mark of their approbation, yet I cannot but feel highly gratified by the the kind and friendly disposition which it manifests for me; and for the favourable sentiments they have been pleased to express on the occasion, of my past services, I beg them to accept my best acknowledgments and gratitude.

If any credit is due for the manner in which I performed the duties of Master, it is, I am confident, mainly to be attributed to the uniform courtesy, kind assistance, and cordial co-operation, which I have invariably received at the hands of all.

Although I am now removed from your parish, the Metcalfe Lodge will always be attended by my best wishes for its prosperity; and I sincerely hope that all its members will long enjoy the happiness which ever results from the performance of charitable actions whilst they live here; and that, hereafter, in another world, they will be rewarded by being raised to the all perfect Lodge above, be seated on the right hand of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, and receive the refreshment their labours have merited.

I have to request your intervention to convey to the Brethren of the Metcalfe Lodge these sentiments; and, with paternal regard,—I have the honour to be, Worshipful Sir and Brother, faithfully and paternally yours,

J. S. BUCKINGHAM, *Past Master*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

INSPECTORS OF LODGES.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER,—The necessity which exists for some more efficient supervision of the working of Lodges has been exemplified in a very striking manner in this district since I last addressed you, and as past experience has convinced me of the utter hopelessness of ensuring improvement by the means at present in existence, I do not hesitate to draw public attention to the following circumstances, in the hope that the Masonic authorities may be thereby induced seriously to entertain the suggestion thrown out by you for securing the better working in our Lodges of the beautiful ceremonies of our Order.

At the last meeting of a Lodge in this province, a candidate for Freemasonry was initiated into the mysteries of the first degree, and to the disgrace of the Lodge (aye, and of the province, too) be it told, that, with the exception of the Secretary, no

officer of the Lodge was in his proper place in the Lodge during the ceremony. The W.M.—who by the way does not reside in the town where the Lodge is held, but who lives in another town several miles distant, and is irregular in his attendance even at the monthly meetings of the Lodge—was, however, present on the occasion of which I speak, but being incapable of conducting the initiation efficiently, he was obliged, during the ceremony, to resign his chair to his immediate predecessor in office, whose *protégé* he is, and who was chiefly instrumental in securing his election. The Senior Warden was prevented by circumstances from being present, and the W.M. took his place during the initiation. Such a public and unmistakable exhibition of incompetency must infallibly diminish the respect felt by the members of this Lodge for their W.M., who thus acknowledged himself unfit for the office which he had aspired to and obtained, nor can it add to the consideration in which the office itself is held in this Lodge, when the members see that incompetency to fulfil its duties forms no bar to the possession of its honors and privileges. Neither J.W., S.D., J.D., or J.G., were present at all during the evening.

Surely, Sir, these are proceedings which call loudly for interference on the part of the superior authorities, and the more so as it is not long since that a fully equal amount of incompetency was as publicly exhibited by the then W.M. of another Lodge in this Province, and it will hardly be believed that this W.M. was shortly afterwards selected by the W.D.P.G.M. for high office in our P. G. Lodge.

I have long been of opinion that it may be taken to be an axiom in Masonry that, the decline of the moral and material prosperity of a Lodge bears an exact proportion to the indifference of its members to the conduct of its business and efficient working of the ceremonies, and estimating the present position of some of the Lodges in this province by this standard, the truth of the axiom is sufficiently evident.

I would, therefore, earnestly urge upon all true Masons to lose no time in uniting to devise some acceptable means whereby proceedings so injurious to the best interests of the Craft may be arrested and prevented, and in a future letter I will venture to suggest to my brethren of this province a course of action which, in my opinion, would tend greatly to mitigate the evil, and which could be easily adopted until some better means could be devised, or until Grand Lodge could be moved to act in the matter.

I am, Sir, and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

A PAST MASTER OF A YORKSHIRE LODGE.

20th Nov., 1855.

LODGE OFFICERS.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR,—I am a London Mason, and the affairs of the Lodge in which I was initiated are conducted in every way most proper—there are Secretary and Treasurer, and payments of the dues are acknowledged by a printed receipt, and the accounts audited annually.

I was last year induced to join a Lodge in a province adjacent to the metropolis, and for my entrance fee and subscription got no acknowledgment. In paying my subscription this year, I asked the Secretary, who is also Treasurer, for a receipt, and judge my surprize on being told “he never gave receipts.” I thought this very unusual, and mentioned it to two other members, and they informed me they got no receipts, and that no receipt book was kept in the Lodge; and one of them, a P.M., said, “The entries in the cash book are all lumped together, so that we don’t know who pays and who does not.” He also said the same brother has other Lodges which he manages in the same way; that when any enquiry is made as to the finances of the Lodge, the answer is, “I am your only creditor,” and always a balance against the Lodge defers further enquiry.

The system of uniting the offices of Secretary and Treasurer is very pernicious, and

never ought to be allowed; it, although not forbidden, is evidently not contemplated by the Book of Constitutions.

As a new member, I do not like to be the one to create any unpleasant feeling, but as I know your publication is read by some of the members, the appearance of this letter may perhaps draw their attention to the matter.

I am, yours, &c.,

SURREY.

October 12.

LITERATURE.

THE LIFE OF HENRY FIELDING; *with notices of his writings, his times, and his contemporaries.* By FREDERICK LAWRENCE, of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-law. HALL, VIRTUE, & Co., 25, Paternoster Row, London.

A life of Henry Fielding—the greatest of English novelists—in a compact and readable form has been long much required; and the author of this volume has rendered good service to Literature by supplying the desideratum. Amongst the books of the season it will hold a high rank, both as a gossiping, chatty, and pleasant narrative, and as a carefully digested record of entertaining facts. The subject of Mr. Lawrence's biography was a most interesting personage. In early life a dramatist and man of pleasure; then a barrister, periodical critic, and author-of-all work, and finally a paid justice of the peace for Middlesex and Westminster, in which equivocal position (for so it was considered at that time,) he distinguished himself by his energy, intelligence, and public spirit. The following passage selected at random from the volume before us, conveys a good notion of the state of the metropolis in Fielding's days;—

“The times are strangely altered since Henry Fielding presided in the justice-room at Bow Street, committing rogues and vagabonds to Bridewell, and highwaymen to Newgate. Every facility was then offered to the proceedings of the lawless depredator and bold-faced villain. The streets of the metropolis were dangerous after nightfall. When a peaceful tradesman had to take a journey of fifty or sixty miles, he made his will before he took his place in the Mail. Notorious highwaymen and swindlers swaggered about in public places, winking at the officers of justice, and enjoying the admiration of the rabble. To prevent the commission of crime, and to detect and secure offenders, the very feeblest means were employed. The nocturnal guardians of the ill-lighted, narrow streets of London were infirm old men, who would have been chargeable to a parish, and shut up in a workhouse, if they had not been employed in *protecting* the lives and property of the devoted inhabitants of the metropolis. Fielding himself has admirably described the London watchmen of these days, and has not, in all probability, exaggerated their impotence and incapacity:—‘To begin,’ he says, ‘I think as low as I well can, with the watchmen in our metropolis, who, being to guard our streets by night from thieves and robbers—an office which at least requires strength of body—are chosen out of those poor old decrepid people who are, from their want of bodily strength, rendered incapable of getting a livelihood by work. These men, armed only with a pole, *which some of them are scarce able to lift*, are to secure the persons and houses of his Majesty's subjects from the attack of gangs of young, bold, stout, desperate, and well-armed villains.’”

In conclusion, we may remark, that in a work frequently quoted by Mr. Lawrence, written by a clergyman of Bath, (Some Account of the English Stage) there is evidence that the genial and high-minded author of *Tom Jones* and *Amelia* belonged to the Craft to which our pages are specially addressed. On more than one occasion his plays were performed for the benefit of different Lodges,—a fact, perhaps slight in itself, but furnishing a proof, with which most Masons will be gratified, that one who had so glorious a sympathy with humanity, was connected with the most humanizing institution on earth.

MUSIC.

WE have the pleasure of recommending to the favourable notice of our musical brethren a very graceful song by Br. Bathurst, the tenor singer, entitled "Whence those Thrilling Accents." The melody to which it is wedded is easy and flowing in its cadence, and illustrates very happily the words of the song. At this indoor time of the year, any contribution of merit is a general benefit to the community, and Br. Bathurst's little gem will add to many a musical gathering.

We are happy to announce to our readers the publication of a beautiful little song, "My Cottage Home," by Mrs. Octavius Freire Owen, the talented composer of that exquisite ballad which made much noise a few years back, and is entitled "How Fondly yet." This lady is more known to the world by her literary than by her musical productions, but we earnestly hope that she will not allow so long an interval to elapse as heretofore between the publications of music so calculated to please all, as those she has already composed. "My Cottage Home" is published by Messrs. Cocks, New Burlington-street.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR NOVEMBER.

MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. Labouchere has been appointed Secretary for the Colonies, in lieu of Sir Wm. Molesworth, deceased; the Duke of Argyll, Post Master General, as successor to Lord Canning, who goes to India; Lord Harrowby, Lord Privy Seal, in lieu of the Duke of Argyll; and Mr. Baines, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, as successor to Lord Harrowby. Mr. Baines and Lord Stanley of Alderley, the President of the Board of Trade, are to have seats in the Cabinet.

THE WAR.

Although the season has arrived when very little can be expected to be undertaken in the way of active operations in the field, and the best that can be done is to prepare for the next campaign in the coming spring, still the past month has not been without its successes for the Allies. On the 5th, Omar Pacha attacked the Russians, who had 16,000 troops strongly entrenched on the banks of the Ingour, in Mingrelia, and having forced a passage at four points, completely defeated them with great loss. Omar Pacha then pushed on to Kutais, a considerable distance on the road to Kars. The loss of the Russians is estimated at about 500, and that of the Turks 300. Omar Pacha is said to have since effected a junction with the Circassians. General Mouravieff is stated to have become insane, in consequence of the failure of the attack upon Kars (which by the bye has been revictualled) and to have been succeeded in the command of the Russian Army in Asia, by Prince Bebutoff. On the 15th, an explosion of a French Park of Artillery, at Inkermann, it is supposed by accident, caused considerable loss, both in the French and English Camps. A detachment of General d'Alonville's Army under the command of Ali Pasha, has executed a *coup de main*, eight leagues to the north of Eupatoria, and captured from the Russians 270 oxen, 3540 sheep, and 50 horses and waggons.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

On the 2nd, Dr. Nerman France, a German gentleman, about 50 years of age, with his son, a lad of about 17 or 18, arrived at the Albion Hotel, Brighton, and passed the

evening in the company of a friend. On the following morning, the unfortunate gentleman precipitated himself from his bed-room window, and was immediately killed. The son was afterwards found apparently strangled in his bed, having a handkerchief round his neck; but it is generally supposed that he died from natural causes, and that on the father waking and finding his son dead, he, in a moment of temporary insanity, threw himself from the window.

The Rev. Dr. John Vaughan, incumbent of St. Matthew, Brixton, has been committed for trial, on a charge of having defrauded the parish of burial fees.

On the 3rd, Robert Phillips, ex-provost of Leith, a man upwards of 60 years of age, was sentenced to 15 years' transportation, for indecent assaults on female children.

A woman calling herself Alice Gray, who is supposed to have many aliases, was committed for trial at Wolverhampton, on the 7th, for perjury, it being stated that she has secured the conviction of many persons in different parts of the country, on false charges of robbery, in order to excite sympathy in favor of herself.

On the 10th, Robert Martinson, cashier in the Newcastle District Bank, was committed for trial, on a charge of having absconded with between £4000 and £5000, belonging to the Bank. He was arrested at Southampton, just as he was about to sail for America.

A terrific explosion of a boiler of a steam engine, took place at Messrs. Hall and Boyd's, Sugar refiners, St. George Street, St. George's-in-the-East, on the 12th, by which three persons lost their lives, and several others were severely wounded.

On the 18th, the Military Bakehouses on the Quai de Billy, at Paris, in which were large stores of corn, flour, &c., for the Army in the Crimea, caught fire, and fears were entertained that the whole would be destroyed. Luckily, however, only one storehouse of corn was destroyed, though the total value of the stores and buildings destroyed are valued at 4,000,000*fr.*

PROVIDENT.

A meeting of the Gresham Life Assurance Society was held on the 8th, when a report was read and adopted, which said that the proposals for assurance submitted during the past year have been 807 in number, of which 616 have been completed, representing policies for 428,249*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, upon which 9,118*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* has been received as new premiums for the year. The total claims paid during the year in respect of deaths amounted to 5,998*l.* 8*s.*, and was only about half the sum to be expected. The total number of policies in existence at the close of the year was 2,607, assuring 1,155,538*l.*, and yielding an income of 40,523*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* The total funds amounted to 119,376*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

The Solvency Mutual Guarantee Society held its second annual meeting on the same day. The progress of the business of the Society will be seen from the following statement:

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS UP TO 31 DECEMBER, 1854.

	Guarantees.	
Six months ending Christmas, 1852.....	£42,528	13 11
Six months ending June, 1853	2,874,384	9 8
Six months ending Christmas, 1853	1,040,197	13 7
Six months ending June 1854	3,720,406	8 10
Six months ending Christmas, 1854	2,069,926	1 7
Total.....	£9,687,533	7 7
	<hr/>	
	Period.	No. Claims Admitted.
Six months ending June, 1853	6	£151 3 5
Six months ending Christmas, 1853	64	3,314 18 10
Six months ending June, 1854	143	11,775 18 2
Six months ending Christmas 1854	397	19,297 15 10
Total.....	610	£34,539 16 3

A bonus, varying from 20 to 70 per cent. on the premiums paid, was declared; the bonuses varying according as the assurers have had to make claims for losses sustained. The applicability of the principle is now considered fully established.

The Waterloo Life Assurance Company held its fourth annual meeting on the 15th, when a very favourable report was presented, from which the following is an extract:

“Your directors would now draw attention to the proceedings of the past year, and in order that the amount of business may at once become apparent, they annex the following tabular statement, viz.:

Proposals made to the Company during the year.....	No.	Sum Assured.	Annual Income.
	618	£151,050	£5,136
Policies issued	405	104,750	3,458
Proposals accepted, but not yet completed.....	114	20,800	891
Proposals declined.....	34	14,750	497
Proposals under consideration	65	10,750	290
Total.....	618	£151,050	£5,136

From this it appears that 405 policies have been issued since the last meeting, producing an annual income of 3,458*l.*; and that the average amount assured under each policy is 258*l.* By the report last submitted it was shown that the amount of business done by the company up to that date was as follows, viz.:

	No.	Annual Income.
Number of policies issued.....	1,091	producing £11,400
To which add the business of the present year	405	“ 3,458
	1,496	£14,858

And the result is that, notwithstanding the agencies have been limited to this country, in less than four years there have been issued 1,496 policies, producing in the aggregate 14,858*l.* per annum. Six policies have lapsed by death in the course of the year, assuring 1,200*l.*, which is very far below the number and amount calculated upon. The following table exhibits the total claims, as they have arisen in each year, up to the 30th September last:

Date.	Number of Live Assured.	Number of Deaths.	Amount Paid.
First year	203	—	—
Second year.....	603	2	£600
Third year	1,091	—	—
Fourth year.....	1,496	6	1,200
		8	£1,800”

The report was adopted, and a dividend of 6 per cent. declared. It was stated that the excellent manager of the institution is making arrangements for extending its business to many parts of Germany and the colonies.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A clerk at Messrs. Twinings, having left a bag containing 300 half sovereigns, in a cab, the number of which he did not know, had it returned to him by the cabman, in the course of the afternoon. The cabman was presented with £20. as a reward for his honesty.

On the 5th instant, a meeting was held under the auspices of the Lord Mayor, to

found a free library in the city of London, but the proposition was rejected by a large majority.

On the 6th, two Russian Prisoners made their escape from Lewes, and are stated to have arrived safe at Hamburg, *en route* for their native land.

The Arctic discovery ship "Resolute," which was abandoned in the ice, in August, 1854, by direction of Sir H. Belcher, in opposition to the protest of Captain Kellett, her commander, has drifted out safe by Cape Mercy, Davis's Straits, and has been taken possession of by the crew of the whale ship "John Henry."

The Paris Exhibition was closed on the 15th, by the Emperor in person.

On the 20th, Sir Charles Napier, was returned to Parliament as member for Southwark, in the room of the late Sir William Molesworth.

The cotton spinners of Manchester, have turned out, in consequence of an attempt of the masters to reduce their wages. As yet, however, they have not committed any acts of violence.

On the 22nd, Prince Albert laid the foundation stone of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, a new Literary and Art Society, for the benefit of the working classes. The day was observed as a holiday throughout Birmingham, and the Prince was most enthusiastically received.

The King of Sardinia arrived at Paris, on the 23rd, on a state visit to the Emperor His Majesty is expected to arrive in England, on Monday next.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. S., Torbay.—*There is not, at present, a Distinct Provincial Grand Lodge in each of the English counties. In some counties, however, there are as many Grand Lodges as there are divisions.*

Hiram, Lovestoft.—*The Book of Constitutions is to the full explicit upon the point which you raise, and no bye-law can be allowed to contravene it.*

P.—k., Neuagh.—*Surely our Irish brother must be better acquainted with the history of the Order in his own country, and, indeed, of the nature of Masonry itself, when he asks us to confirm for him his assertion that, the Duke of Leinster is hereditary Grand Master of Freemasons in Ireland, and that the Duke of Athol holds a similar honour in Scotland. The idea of an hereditary office in Masonry is preposterous. Besides, if he will look to the list of Irish Grand Masters, as given in Br. Furnell's Irish Masonic Calendar, he will find that the Earl of Mornington, the Duke of Wellington's father, surely not a member of the Fitzgerald family, was, at one time, Grand Master of Freemasons in that country. It is true that several of the Dukes of Athol have presided over our Scotch brethren.*

3***.—*We will make inquiry, and write in a few days. Our correspondent is thanked for his favours, which have duly come to hand.*

P. M., Bristol.—*The Lodges in the British colonies are not self-constituted bodies, but sit, some under warrants from the grand Lodge of England; some under warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland; some under warrants from the Grand Lodge of Scotland; and some, as in the Mauritius, under warrants from the Grand Orient of France. The Provincial Grand Lodges in the Colonies are all, however, subordinate to the Grand Lodge of England, with the exception of that of Canada, which has lately become independent. The Grand Lodge of Portugal is a Provincial Lodge, subordinate to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.*

Ethee.—*We cannot see what necessity there was to hold the Lodge of Emergency at all. If the regular eight days' notice had been given by the fiat of the W.M. to the brethren that the candidate was to be ballotted for, and (if approved) initiated, the Lodge of Emergency was unnecessary, and if not, the whole proceeding would be clearly illegal. This, however, we do not anticipate, knowing how well the Lodge conducts its business.*

The illegal Lodge of Mark Masons continues to meet. Four brethren joined it at its last meeting.

P. S.—*The brother was perfectly right.*

A COUNTRY SUBSCRIBER had better apply to Br. Crew for the information.

S. T. DURHAM.—*We have repeatedly announced that we will never apply to the Grand Secretary's Office for any information whilst it remains under the present management, as Br. Farnfield will be sure to tell us that he has Br. White's orders not to give it to us.*