

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1865.

FREEMASONRY AND THE POPE.

In our issue of 28th October last, we reproduced the address sent by the Freemasons of Lyons to the Pope in reply to his Allocution. This address has not been thought worthy of an answer by its *destinataire*, but Bro. A. G. Jouaust, a member of the Council of the Grand Orient de France, volunteers, in the last issue of the *Monde Maçonnique*, to impugn the circular of our Lyons brethren from a *quasi* clerical and ultra orthodox point of view. As a specimen of the ratiocination opposed by our French contemporary to the defence of the Order (the doctrines of which the Lyons Masons maintain to be in strict keeping with those of the Roman Catholic creed), we quote the following passage, embodying the substance of the article in question:—

“Have the Freemasons any desire of showing to the Holy Father that he is wrong in excommunicating them? If so, they must show that they have repudiated the principles of their fathers, and that their new doctrines are in keeping with Roman Catholic orthodoxy; for otherwise, since the Papacy is infallible, there is necessarily a concatenation between the acts of Clement XII. and those of Pius IX.”

Still, our Lyons brethren have endeavoured to prove this, and no doubt the sacred College will have a hearty laugh at their ingenuity, when its members read their address.

Look at the first clause of our Constitution; it is quite new, being of very recent date, having been voted only last June.

Freemasonry, being an institution essentially philanthropic, philosophical, and progressive, has for its object the search after the truth, the study of universal morals, of sciences and arts, and the practice of benevolence; it has for its principles the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and joint responsibility amongst men. It considers liberty of conscience as a right belonging to every human being, and excludes nobody on account of his religious persuasion, &c.

“Stop here, *Messieurs les Franc-maçons*,” the very first seminarist would interfere. “I mark three points in your first clause; they are like the three lines of writing on the faith of which the lieutenant of police would have his man hanged; I don’t want more to have you excommunicated.”

In the first place, you have for your object the search after truth. Well, an infidel only can shut his eyes to the light and search after the truth, when the latter has been found these nineteen cen-

turies. The truth is in the Roman Catholic and Apostolic religion; it is there entirely, and nowhere else. It is the truth, for it emanates from God or from those who have been endowed by God with infallibility in interpreting the word of God. To declare that you are searching after the truth, means logically that you do not believe the Church to be the sole and unique assignee of it. The Popes are quite right in excommunicating you.

Secondly, you say that you study universal morals. But all the faithful know that morals are derived from religion only. It is true that he who is guided solely by the *ignis fatuus* of reason may have some faint conception of some principles of morals. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius, Confucius, &c., serve to illustrate this fact. We may surmise that Providence, in his sovereign bounty, has taken so much compassion upon those paganists as to reveal to them some particles of the divine truth, to prevent the remainder of mankind wading (*patauger*) in crime and abomination, while the blessed people of Israel fulfilled their glorious destiny. In those ages of ignorance and darkness universal morals might have been studied; but since the epoch when the religion of Christ spread its divine light over mankind, the Church is the sole true school of morals; its ministers alone have a right to teach them; and no faithful Christian will resort to other quarters to look for such instruction. Hence, there are no universal morals, but Catholic morals, just as there is no universal religion besides the Catholic (*κατὰ, ἕλος*) religion. Your universal morals, therefore, mean nothing but natural morals, or naturalism; and you are astonished that you are censured and damned by the Church.

Thirdly, you admit of the liberty of conscience, and you elucidate the meaning of your words by adding that you exclude nobody on account of his religious persuasion. The Church also admits of the liberty of conscience, but it would prevaricate against its divine mission were it to interpret it like you. A distinction must be made between practical and philosophical liberty of conscience. The former the Church admits; it consists in using no violence to prevent a heretic from remaining in his error, or a Freemason from visiting his lodge. This toleration, as you are aware, does not imply the recognition of this error, or of religious indifference. Thus, *e.g.*, there are Jews at Rome; everything is done to convert them and

their children, but they are not driven from the eternal city. But your philosophical toleration, which you call, very improperly, liberty of conscience, leads you to treat on the same terms of equality all men, to whatever creed they may belong. How is it you could not perceive that this toleration clashes with the maxims of the Church, since it was one of the motives for the excommunication inflicted on you in 1738, as the Holy Father repeats in his last allocution, "What is the object of this association of men belonging to all religions, and every belief?"

"I will not allude," the *Seminarist* would add, "to your joint responsibility, that swells of heresy, and the most mitigated explanation of which would tend to corroborate your criminal practice, as regards religious toleration. I shall confine myself to quoting from your clause this passage:—

"In the elevated sphere in which it places itself, Freemasonry respects all religious persuasions and political opinions, &c."

"This is the complement and acme of all your heresies. You are in a sphere elevated—so elevated that the religious belief of your adepts is beneath you. Do you fancy the Church requires more than this to substantiate the charge of indifferentism, disguised in your first clause under such pompous titles as—search after the truth, universal morals, joint responsibility, liberty of conscience, &c.? You have been, you are, and you will be damned and excommunicated, *Messieurs les Francmaçons.*"

CHANDERNAGORE TAKEN FROM THE FRENCH.

Colonel Clive, towards the latter end of February, 1757, left his camp near Calcutta, and crossed the Ganges, which was equally convenient, to commence hostilities against the French, or to join the Nawab against the Pathan forces; but the intention both of the Nawab and the French being very manifest, on the 8th of March he turned his face towards Chandernagore, and on the 13th he invested it. On the 14th the enemy sallied out, in which affair Captain Coote greatly signalled himself, and soon after made them retreat. On this they quitted their outer works and became masters of the town, and the batteries in and about it, with very little loss; and the enemy, by this means, were shut up within their fort.*

* The fort was a regular square about three-quarters of a mile in circumference, with four bastions, each mounting, as stated by Mr. Ives, sixteen guns, besides some

As soon as everything was in readiness on board the fleet, and the ships cleared of their superfluous stores, they moved up the river with the flood tide. To the great mortification of the French (who had flattered themselves that it would be impracticable for us to bring up our large ships) on the 18th the *Kent*, *Tyger*, and *Salisbury* appeared in sight of the fort, and then, turning the point of Chandernagore Reach, anchored on the 19th off the Prussian Octagon, from whence we had a full view of the town and fortifications. As soon as we came to an anchor, the French threw a shell and fired a shot or two, to try if they could reach our ships, but they fell short.

The preparations for the attack of this place had unavoidably been carried on so openly, that it was impossible they should be kept a secret from the French, who had, therefore, made use of every possible method to frustrate our design. Just above the Fort of Chandernagore there was a large bank of sand, which made the passage very narrow. To block up this channel they had sunk three ships, loaded with ballast, the masts of which, however, appeared above the water. Three other large ships lay at anchor above the fort; these, it was said, were prepared as fire ships, to be sent down with the tide to burn our squadron in the middle of the night. The Admiral, therefore, resolved to be beforehand with them, and gave orders that all the boats of the ships should go up, as soon as the night came on, and endeavour to cut their cables. This was accordingly done, and they all drove upon the sands. It afterwards appeared that the crews belonging to those ships had been taken out to reinforce the garrison.

The attack on the fort would probably have taken place the next morning, had the tides in the river been at all favourable for that purpose; but, unfortunately for us, they served either too early in the morning or too late in the afternoon. This circumstance obliged the Admiral to postpone

on the curtain. Of these, two bastions remain, on one of which stands the staff from whence the flag of France fluttered. The mouldering walls of the Government House, which proudly rose in the centre of Fort Orleans, point out the spot where the vain and wily Duplex once dictated to admiring Frenchmen; and where, in distant idea, he first meditated the extirpation of the English and the aggrandisement of his own nation. The fine church of St. Louis stood at a small distance from the fort; the foundation remains, which proves it to have been a massy building, and calculated for military as well as divine service. Mr. Ives informs us there was a battery of four pieces of cannon on the top of this church.—*Sketches of Bengal.*

the attack for three or four days. In the meantime, he sent Lieutenant Key with a flag of truce to the Governor, demanding a surrender of the place, which the Governor politely, but absolutely, refused to give up. Mr. Key having observed, as he passed between the vessels' masts which were sunk in the channel of the river, that their hulls were not deep under water, Mr. John DeLamotte, a brave and active officer, and who was master on board the Admiral's ship, was the next day sent to sound them, and, notwithstanding all the efforts of the enemy to interrupt him, by an incessant firing of their cannon, he brought back the agreeable news that there was room for four ships to pass between them; but besides the obstruction which we expected to meet from these sunken vessels, the French had taken care to erect two batteries of heavy cannon, to render this narrow passage still more difficult and dangerous. One of these was constructed in the form of a half-moon, and lay on the very brink of the river, within musket shot of the sunken vessels; the other was a fascine battery on the glacis of the fort, and was intended to rake our ships fore and aft. The cannon on their south bastion could also be brought to fire down the river.

The disposition made for attacking the fort was as follows:—The *Tyger* was to be placed against the north-east bastion; the *Kent* against the curtain, between the bastions opposite the gate; and the *Salisbury* against the south-east bastion. Before we began the attack, it was judged absolutely necessary that Colonel Clive should erect a battery on the side of the river to fire on the south face of the enemy's south-east bastion, and, in case of an obstinate resistance, that we might breach that bastion by a cross fire from the ships and from this intended battery. Preparations were accordingly made for this purpose, but before they could be carried into execution, the army were obliged to make themselves masters of the half-moon battery, which they did with great gallantry, driving the enemy before them into the fort.

All things being ready, on the 22nd the Admiral appeared extremely anxious to begin the attack, but the flood time in the afternoon was so very late, that the ships could not possibly be placed in their proper stations while there was sufficient daylight to direct our fire; the enemy, therefore, would have a great advantage over us, for though

the nights were too dark for us to distinguish the embrasures of their fortifications, yet they could plainly see the hulls of our ships, which would have lain so near the fort that a shocking carnage would have been made amongst their crews. That another day, however, might not be lost, the Admiral the same evening ordered lights to be placed on the masts of the vessels that had been sunk, with blinds towards the fort, that we might see how to pass between them a little before daylight, and without being discovered by the enemy.

At length, on the morning of the 23rd March, the ships getting under sail, the colonel's battery which had been furnished behind a dead wall, began firing upon the south-east bastion. The *Tyger*, with Admiral Pocock's flag flying, took the lead, and about six o'clock in the morning got very well into her station, the north-east bastion. The *Kent*, with Admiral Watson's flag, quickly followed her; but before she could reach her proper station, the ebb tide made down the river, which made her anchor to drag; so that before she brought up, she had fallen abreast of the south-east bastion, the place where the *Salisbury* should have been, and, from her mainmast aft, she was exposed to the flank guns of the south-west bastion also. This accident of the *Kent's* anchor not holding fast, and her driving down into the *Salisbury's* station, threw this last ship out of action, to the great mortification of the captain, officers, and crew; for she never had it in her power to fire a gun, unless it was now and then, when she could sheer on the tide. The French, during the whole time of the *Kent* and *Tyger's* approach towards the fort, kept up a terrible cannonade upon them, without resistance on their parts; but as soon as the ships came properly to an anchor, they returned it with such fury as astonished their adversaries.

Colonel Clive's troops at the same time got into those houses which were nearest the fort, and from thence greatly annoyed the enemy with their musketry. The fire now became general on both sides, and was kept up with extraordinary spirit. The flank guns of the south-west bastion galled the *Kent* very much; and the admiral's aides-de-camp being all wounded, Mr. Watson went down himself to Lieutenant William Brereton, who commanded the lower deck battery, and ordered him particularly to direct his fire against those guns, and they were accordingly soon afterwards

silenced. At eight in the morning, several of the enemy's shots struck the *Kent* at the same time; one entered near the foremast, and set fire to two or three thirty-two pound cartridges of gunpowder, as the boys held them in their hands ready to charge the guns. By the explosion the wad-nets and other loose things took fire between decks, and the whole ship was so filled with smoke that the men, in their confusion, cried out she was on fire in the gunner's store-room, imagining, from the shock they felt from the balls, that a shell had actually fallen into her. This notion struck a panic into the greatest part of the crew, and seventy or eighty jumped out of the port holes into the boats that were alongside the ship. The French presently saw this confusion on board the *Kent*, and, resolving to take the advantage, kept up as hot a fire as possible upon her during the whole time. Lieutenant Brereton, however, with the assistance of some other brave men, soon extinguished the fire, and then running to the ports, he begged the seamen to come in again, upbraiding them for deserting their quarters; but finding this had no effect upon them, he thought the more certain method of succeeding would be to strike them with a sense of shame, and therefore loudly exclaimed—"Are you Britons, are you Englishmen, and fly from danger? for shame, for shame!" This reproach had the desired effect; to a man they immediately returned into the ship, repaired to their quarters, and renewed a spirited fire on the enemy.

In about three hours from the commencement of the attack, the parapets of the north and south bastions were almost beaten down, the guns were mostly dismounted, and we could plainly see from the maintop of the *Kent* that the ruins from the parapet had entirely blocked up those few guns which otherwise might have been fit for service. We could easily discern, too, that there had been a great slaughter among the enemy, who, finding that our fire against them rather increased, hung out the white flag, whereupon a cessation of hostilities took place, and the Admiral sent Lieutenant Brereton (the only commissioned officer on board the *Kent* that was not killed or wounded) and Captain Coote, of the King's Regiment, with a flag of truce to the fort, who soon returned, accompanied with the French Governor's son, with articles of capitulation, which being settled by the Admiral and Colonel Clive, they soon took possession of the place.—*Sketches of Bengal.*

Mr. Ives, who was a surgeon of H.M.'s ship *Kent*, mentions* that in this engagement thirty-seven men were killed and twenty-four were wounded on board that vessel. The *Tyger* lost nearly as many men as the *Kent*, and sent forty-one of her crew to the hospital on account of their wounds. The following affecting episode connected with the capture of Chandernagore, is related by Mr. Ives of Captain Speke, who commanded the *Kent*, and of his son, a midshipman, both of whom were severely wounded by the same shot:—

The behaviour of Captain Speke and his son, a youth of sixteen [eighteen] years of age, was so truly great and exemplary on this glorious but melancholy occasion, that I must beg leave to describe it with some of its most interesting circumstances. When Admiral Watson had the unhappiness to see both the father and son fall in the same instant, he immediately went up to them, and by the most tender and pathetic expressions tried to alleviate their distress. The Captain, who had observed his son's leg to be hanging only by the skin, said to the Admiral, "Indeed, Sir, this was a cruel shot, to knock down both the father and the son!" Mr. Watson's heart was too full to make the least reply; he only ordered them both to be immediately carried to the surgeon. The Captain was first brought down to me in the after-hold, where a platform had been made, and then told me how dangerously his poor Billy was wounded. Presently after, the brave youth himself appeared, but had another narrow escape, the quarter-master, who was bringing him down in his arms after his father, being killed by a cannon-ball; his eyes overflowing with tears, not for his own, but for his father's fate. I laboured to assure him that his father's wound was not dangerous, and this assertion was confirmed by the Captain himself. He seemed not to believe either of us, until he asked me, upon my honour, and I had repeated to him my first assurance in the most positive manner. He then immediately became calm; but on my attempting to inquire into the condition of his wound, he solicitously asked me if I had dressed his father's, for he could not think of my touching him before his father's wound had been already properly attended to. "Then" (replied the generous youth, pointing to a fellow sufferer), "pray, Sir, look to and dress this poor man, who is groaning so sadly beside me!" I told him that he already had been taken care of, and begged of him, with some importunity, that I now might have liberty to examine his wound; he submitted to it, and calmly observed, "Sir, I fear you must amputate above the joint!" I replied, "My dear, I must!" Upon which he clasped both his hands together, and lifting his eyes in the most devout and fervent manner towards Heaven, he offered up the following short but earnest petition:—"Good God, do thou enable me to behave, in my present circumstances, worthy my father's son!" When he had ended this ejaculatory prayer, he told me that he was all submission. I then performed the operation above the joint of the knee; but during the whole time the intrepid youth never spake a word, or uttered a groan that he could be heard at a yard's distance. The reader may easily imagine what, in this dreadful interval, the brave but unhappy Captain suffered, who lay just by his unfortunate and darling son. But whatever were his feelings, we discovered no other expression of them than what the silent trickling tears declared, though the bare recollection of

* Voyage and Historical Narrative.

the scene, even at this distant time, is too painful for me. Both father and son, the day after action, were sent with the rest of the wounded back to Calcutta. The father was lodged in the house of William Mackett, Esq., his brother-in-law, and the son was with me at the hospital. For the first eight or nine days, I gave the father great comfort, by carrying him joyful tidings of his boy; and, in the same manner, I gratified the son in regard to the father. But alas! from that time all the good symptoms which had hitherto attended this unparalleled youth began to disappear. The Captain easily guessed, by my silence and countenance, the true state his boy was in; nor did he ever ask more than two questions concerning him; so tender was the subject to us both, and so unwilling was his generous mind to add to my distress. The first was on the tenth day, in these words:—"How long, my friend, do you think my Billy will remain in this state of uncertainty?" I replied that, "If he lived to the fifteenth day from the operation, there would be the strongest hopes of his recovery." On the 13th, however, he died; and, on the 16th, the brave man, looking me steadfastly in the face, said, "Well, Ives, how fares it with my boy?" I could make him no reply; and he immediately attributed my silence to the real cause. He cried bitterly, squeezed me by the hand, and begged me to leave him for one half hour, when he wished to see me again, and assured me that I should find him with a different countenance from that he troubled me with at present. These were his obliging expressions. I punctually complied with his desire; and when I returned to him, he appeared, as ever after he did, perfectly calm and serene. The dear youth had been delirious the evening preceding the day on which he died; and at two o'clock in the morning, in the utmost distress of mind, he sent me an incorrect note, written by himself with a pencil, of which the following is an exact copy:—"If Mr. Ives will consider the disorder a son must be in when he is told he is dying, and is yet in doubt whether his father is in as good a state of health. If Mr. Ives is not too busy to honour this chit, which nothing but the greatest uneasiness could draw from me. The boy waits an answer." Immediately upon the receipt of this note I visited him, and he had still sense enough left to know who I was. He then began with me. "And is he dead?" "Who, my dear?" "My father, sir." "No, my love; nor is he in any danger, I assure you; he is almost well." "Thank God! Then why did they tell me so? I am now satisfied, and ready to die." At that time he had a locked jaw and was in great distress; but I understood every word he so inarticulately uttered. He begged my pardon for having (as he obligingly and tenderly expressed himself) disturbed me at so early an hour, and, before the day was over, surrendered up a valuable life.

Poor little Speke's tomb, with its inscription, may still be seen in the old cathedral yard.—*Indian Freemasons' Friend.*

THE WORTHIES OF FREEMASONRY.

SOLOMON, THE FOUNDER OF THE TEMPLE.

"Solomon was the heir of David. And he said, Mortals I understand the song of the birds; I possess every kind of knowledge; I have been raised to the sublime height."

AL KORAN OF MAHOMMED.

If the lives of Enoch and Noah have presented any topics of interest to the Masonic reader, that of King Solomon must claim his attention in a still greater degree. For the most important events of this monarch's career were so very inti-

mately connected with the very foundation of Freemasonry, that the Craft have not thought him unworthy of the honourable title of their first Most Excellent Grand Master. They look upon him with reverence, as their great and wise law-giver, and still submit with passive obedience to what they suppose to have been his will and his directions in the organisation of the Institution.

Solomon, the king of Israel, the son of David and Bathsheba, ascended the throne of his kingdom 2,989 years after the creation of the world, and 1,015 years before the Christian era. He was then only twenty years of age, but the youthful monarch is said to have commenced his reign with a decision of a legal question of some difficulty, in which he exhibited the first promise of that wise judgment for which he was ever afterwards distinguished.

One of the great objects of Solomon's life, and one which most intimately connects him with the history of the Masonic Institution, was the erection of a temple to Jehovah. This, too, had been a favourite design of his father David. For this purpose that monarch long before his death had numbered the workmen whom he found in his kingdom; had appointed the overseers of the work, the hewers of stones, and the bearers of burdens; had prepared a great quantity of brass, iron, and cedar; and had amassed an immense treasure with which to support the enterprise. But on consulting with the prophet Nathan, he learned from that holy man, that although the pious intention was pleasing to God, yet that he would not be permitted to carry it into execution, and the Divine prohibition was proclaimed in these emphatic words:—"Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars; thou shalt not build a house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight." The task was therefore reserved for the more peaceful Solomon, his son and successor.

Hence when David was about to die, he charged Solomon to build the temple to God as soon as he should have received the kingdom. He also gave him directions in relation to the construction of the edifice, and put into his possession the money, amounting to ten thousand talents of gold and ten times that amount of silver, which he had collected and laid aside for defraying the expense.

Solomon had scarcely ascended the throne of Israel, when he prepared to carry into execution

the pious designs of his predecessor. For this purpose, however, he found it necessary to seek the assistance of Hiram, King of Tyre, the ancient friend and ally of his father. The Tyrians and Sidonians, the subjects of Hiram, had long been distinguished for their great architectural skill; and, in fact, many of them, as the members of a mystic operative society, the fraternity of Dionysian artificers, had long monopolised the profession of building in Asia Minor.

Hiram, mindful of the former amity and alliance that had existed between himself and David, was disposed to extend the friendship he had felt for the father to the son, and replied, therefore, to the letter of Solomon, promising him assistance.

Hiram lost no time in fulfilling the promise of assistance which he had thus given; and accordingly we are informed that Solomon received thirty-three thousand six hundred workmen from Tyre, besides a sufficient quantity of timber and stone to construct the edifice which he was about to erect. Hiram sent him, also, a far more important gift than either men or materials, in the person of an able architect, "a curious and cunning workman whose skill and experience were to be exercised in superintending the labours of the Craft, and in adorning and beautifying the building. Of this personage, whose name was also Hiram, and who plays so important a part in the history of Freemasonry, we shall have occasion in our next article to speak more particularly.

King Solomon commenced the erection of the Temple on Monday, the second day of the Hebrew month Zif, which answers to the twenty-first of April, in the year of the world 2992, and 1012 years before the Christian era. Advised in all the details, as Masonic tradition informs us, by the wise and prudent counsels of Hiram King of Tyre and Hiram Abif, who with himself constituted at that time the three Grand Masters of the Craft, Solomon made every arrangement in the disposition and government of the workmen, in the payment of their wages, and in the maintenance of concord and harmony which should ensure despatch in the execution and success in the result. That no confusion might arise in consequence of the great number employed, which has been estimated by some writers at not less than two hundred and seventeen thousand two hundred and eighty-one, the workmen were divided into three classes, distinguished by their different

degrees of proficiency and skill. To each of these classes peculiar signs and words of recognition were entrusted, and of each distinct duties and labours were required. The most admirable methods of paying the Craft were adopted, so that every possibility of imposition on the part of the craftsmen, or injustice on that of the rulers, was easily avoided. All the stones were hewn, squared, and numbered in the quarries of Tyre, and the timbers felled and prepared in the forests of Lebanon, whence they were carried by sea, on floats, as King Hiram had promised, to Joppa, and thence by land to Jerusalem, where they were deposited and secured in their appropriate places by wooden mauls, so that, as Scripture as well as Masonic tradition informs us, "there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was in building." Another tradition seeks to impress upon our minds the favour with which the undertaking was viewed by the Deity, by affirming that while the building was in progress it did not rain in the daytime, lest the workmen should be interrupted in their labours.—*Masonic Miscellany.*

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

MASONIC EXTRACTS.

Would it not be desirable that our reading brethren should insert in the "Notes and Queries" column of the Magazine any extracts from books which they may be perusing, in which the Craft is mentioned or alluded to? It would be interesting to learn what friends and foes say of us. I send a few extracts that I have lately made.

In the "Hawaii," by Manley Hopkins, there is the following passage:—"Besides the two allied agricultural societies, other institutions sprang up; a Chamber of Commerce, a chapter and lodge of Freemasons, the king himself (Kamehameha IV., since deceased) being Grand Master of the Progrès de l'Océanie."

Will any brother who is acquainted with "Hawaii" kindly inform me as to the condition and prospects of Masonry in that kingdom?—JOHN KINGSTON.

KING LEOPOLD THE FIRST.

The late King of the Belgians was, I am informed, a distinguished Freemason. It would be interesting to me, and doubtless to many of the Craft, if any of our Continental brethren can supply the Masonic career of the deceased illustrious sovereign.—ENQUIRER.—[A Berne letter says, that the late King Leopold belonged for more than half a century to that friendly association (Freemasons) which has recently been made the object of such violent attacks. He was received in the Lodge of Berne in 1813, as he was passing through Switzerland in the interval between the two campaigns.]

FREEMASONS IN THE INTERIOR OF AUSTRALIA.

In "Explorations in Australia," page 213, we read that when within 19 deg. of the equator, Stuart was visited by some friendly natives, among whom he was startled to find one a Freemason: "After some time, and having conferred with his two sons, he turned round, and surprised me by giving me one of the Masonic signs. I looked at him steadily; he repeated it, and so did his two sons. I then returned it, which seemed to please them much, the old man patting me on the shoulder, and stroking down my beard."—JOHN KINGSTON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

CESAREE LODGE.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In the report of a meeting of the Césarée Lodge, printed in your MAGAZINE of to-day, it is stated that an exact copy is given of the letter of the Prov. Grand Master. Excuse my saying that there is a little error here. I intended that it should be an exact copy, but your printer has taken upon himself to correct false orthography and other mistakes in about a dozen instances, besides inserting numerous stops which were not in the original or in my manuscript. There is still quite enough remaining to justify the remark that it is an "extraordinary document;" but had my wishes been attended to, this would have appeared much more palpable, and the letter would have been much less intelligible than it is.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

THE REPORTER.

Jersey, December 23rd, 1865.

CHARITY STEWARDS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Under the above heading a letter appeared in the last number of your publication, which, from the kindness of its tone, the good feeling evinced towards the Charities of our Order generally, and more especially from the interest manifested in the success of the efforts now being made on behalf of the Boys' School demands from me an immediate reply. My regret is, that I am unacquainted with the writer with whom I should be only too happy to have direct correspondence. Under these circumstances, I must rely on your goodness to allow me to use your columns as a medium of communication.

The time-honoured custom of conveying to the members of the Craft the position and wants of our Charities by means of printed circulars addressed to the W. Masters of lodges in anticipation of the respective Annual Festivals, is one that could hardly be dispensed with, though I fear, in very many instances, it can only be regarded as a "waste of printing and postage," owing to the prejudice against printed communications, and the reluctance on the

part of many Secretaries of lodges to intrude upon the patience of the brethren present by reading them. I am sure, however, if the matter were well considered, this reluctance would soon cease, and it would be felt that these circulars are deserving of attentive consideration, inasmuch as they set before the members of the Craft—who cannot be more effectually addressed than when in open lodge assembled—in a condensed form, the requirements, objects, and position of the Institution on whose behalf the appeal is made. I am quite ready to admit that the circular would be improved by the addition of the information as to the responsibilities and duties of Stewards, and, so far as I am concerned, I will undertake that the annual circular from this Institution shall, for the future, contain such information. I feel deeply indebted to "Beta" for the hint, and, in the same spirit, shall always most thankfully acknowledge suggestions or advice, the object of which is to facilitate the means of touching the hearts and opening the purses of the enormous numbers of our brethren who have yet to be awakened to a due appreciation of the value of our noble Institutions, and to a practical sense of their duties in relation thereto. To show, however, that the information in question has not been overlooked, I inclose a copy of a card which I have largely distributed in the course of my various provincial visits, and which I hope you will be good enough to print at the end of this letter.

I trust no brother will be deterred from accepting the office of Steward, and thereby lending most valuable aid in the good work of Masonic Charity, by the fear of being unable to rival the results of the labours of others. Just as the widow's mite cast into the treasury was regarded as of equal value with the princely donation, so the assistance rendered by the humblest worker is equally valued with the splendid contributions raised by the distinguished and influential. The heart that prompts the work beats equally warm in the one as in the other; the desire to do good is equally strong, but the same opportunity occurcth not to all. Spheres of usefulness differ in every respect, and it cannot be expected that equal zeal will always produce equal results. On the occasions of the anniversary festivals of this institution during the last four or five years, I have received lists from individual Stewards, varying from £4 to £320, and lists from the united exertions of Stewards from a province varying from £40 to £1,500. Let everyone who feels within himself the wish, and, recognising the reality of his obligations as a Mason, is impressed with the duty to minister to the distresses of them "of the household of faith," set himself heartily to the task, give as liberally as his means will justify him in giving, and use his best endeavours to induce others to do the same, without thinking of the comparative result of his exertions and of those of others. At the same time I would do everything in my power to stimulate rivalry, to induce Stewards to emulate each other in the production of the richest fruit, and I know that those who have been the largest donors, would be glad to be excited to fresh efforts, by seeing themselves eclipsed by new labours in the vineyard. There is a mine of wealth in the Craft yet unworked: the lodes extend hither and thither, and remain yet to be cut. Notably in some Provincial Grand Lodges and in many private lodges there are

accumulated hoards—like the talent hid away in a napkin—that must sooner or later be distributed, and which will then produce good fruit a hundred fold, a thousand fold, in consoling, educating, maintaining those now kept from our door for the lack of means to provide for their admission.

I feel much delighted to hear a voice such as that of "Beta" sounding from the hitherto unproductive Cheshire soil, and I can assure him that I will do all in my power to assist him in his generous efforts to induce support to this Institution from the lodges and brethren in his province, on the occasion of our ensuing Anniversary Festival on the 14th of March next, under the presidency of the Grand Master of Cheshire, the R.W. Bro. Lord de Tabley.

Before this letter is in print, I hope every lodge in the province will receive a card explanatory of the duties and responsibilities of Stewards, and in the hope that a large number of brethren may respond to the appeals already sent, and that the result of their labours may produce a sum which will assist substantially in extricating this School from the burden of debt with which it is now oppressed, and justify the Committee in carrying out their wish to receive, during the coming year, twenty additional sons of Masons. I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours and "Beta's" most faithfully obliged,

FREDERICK BINCKES,

Secretary Royal Masonic Institution

London, Dec. 27th, 1865. for Boys.

There are many other topics suggested by the letter of your correspondent worthy of notice, but I dare not now trespass further upon your space.

TRAVELLING BEGGARS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Some weeks since I saw a letter in your paper from Bro. Bullock, of Crewe, on the subject of relief to itinerant Freemasons, and those claiming to be such. There can be no doubt that is a question of very considerable difficulty, and I have found it so during the four years I have acted as Almoner to the Lodge of Lights here. Warrington being midway between Liverpool and Manchester, and on the high road between the North and the South of England, we get a very large share of applicants; my rule has always been to relieve unhesitatingly when a *prima facie* case has been made out, and to expose unmercifully in cases of detected imposture. A few days since a gigantic Black called on me, giving the name of Julius Jones; he professed to be a Mason, and had by some means acquired a knowledge of what may be called the superficial jargon of the Craft; a previous attempt on his part to get relief some year and a half before, which I recollected, and other unmistakable evidence, proved him to be an impostor, and I have this morning been the means of getting him sent to gaol for one month, with hard labour, as a rogue and vagabond. When before the magistrate he gave the name of Henry Wilson. I send this communication as a hint to Almoners of other lodges, should they ever be similarly imposed upon.

Yours fraternally,

H. B. WHITE,

P.M., S.W., and Treas. 148, Prov. G. Steward.
Warrington, 27th Dec., 1865.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEM.

The Samson and Lion Mark Lodge (No. 86 E.C.) will be consecrated and opened on Wednesday, 3rd January, 1866, at 14, Bedford-row. Bro. A. D. Loewenstark, W.M. Bro. F. Binckes, G.S.M.M., has kindly consented to perform the ceremony of consecration.

METROPOLITAN.

GIHON LODGE (No. 49).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place on the 21st inst. at the London Coffee House, Ludgate-hill. Bro. Thomas H. Waterworth, W.M., having opened the lodge, passed Bro. Dr. James Langmead to the degree of a F.C. Bro. Hodson presented Dr. John Lacey to the W.M. for the benefit of installation. The W.M. elect having taken the obligation, the brethren left the lodge, and on being re-admitted saluted the W.M. in the three degrees. Bro. Waterworth, P.M., delivered all the charges in a most impressive manner, and, as a pupil of Bro. Muggeridge, did his preceptor the greatest credit. The W.M. appointed his officers:—Bros. Shotter, S.W.; Merrifield, J.W.; Monney, Treasurer; Cox, Secretary; Mills, S.D.; Thorpe, J.D.; Searle, I.G.; Longstaff, Tyler; and having invested them with the insignia of their respective offices, Bro. Waterworth delivered the charges to them. The W.M. then presented Bro. Waterworth with a P.M.'s jewel, for which the I.P.M. returned thanks. There being no further business, the lodge was closed till the third Thursday in February, 1866. The brethren then adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, at which the W.M. presided. The visitors included Bros. Goldbro' Allsop, Henry Muggeridge, A. P. Leonard (No. 619), Dr. John Dixon (P.M. No. 73), S. H. Rawley, Ulysses Latreille, E. J. Cowran, Prewett, H. Massey, J. Crompton, and others. About sixty members sat down to the banquet.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—One of this lodge's regular meetings was held on Tuesday the 19th inst., at the Green Man, Tooley-street. For the last time during his year of office, Bro. H. Moore, W.M., presided. The minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed, after which Bro. Dussek was raised, and Bro. Vachel passed. Satisfactory ballots having been taken for Messrs. James Elms, David Rice, and E. T. Moore, those gentlemen were introduced separately and initiated. The unanimous voice of the lodge elected Bro. J. C. Goody W.M. for the ensuing year; Bros. Harris, Treasurer; William Aldhouse, Tyler; and T. Vesper, Assistant-Tyler. Bro. Walters proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes to Bro. Moore, for his able conduct of the business of the lodge during his year of office, and the motion was seconded, and carried with acclamation. The W.M. returned thanks. Bro. Walters proposed Mr. C. Groom as a candidate for initiation, and Bros. G. R. Warren and W. Billington as joining members. He also gave notice of motion that the initiation fee be increased to five guineas, and the passing and raising fees to one guinea. The audit committee was appointed to be held on the 28th instant, at seven p.m. Bro. Goody returned thanks for his election as W.M., and Bro. Harris for his re-election as Treasurer. Bros. Vachel, Hide, and Symington, were proposed as seafaring members. Bro. Elliot Meyer, through Bro. M. A. Loewenstark, resigned his membership of this lodge, in consequence of his joining a lodge at Auckland, New Zealand. Bro. F. Walters, a Steward of the forthcoming Festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution, urged its claims on every member present. Bro. Harris explained that, having had a long interview with Secretary Bro. W. Gray Clarke, to whom he had produced the lodge books, he was satisfied, beyond the possibility of doubt, that this lodge would not be entitled to a centenary jewel till 1881. There being no further business, the lodge was closed, and a capital banquet followed. During the evening we noticed

among the brethren present, in addition to those before-mentioned, Bros. D. Rose, J. Donkin, T. J. Sabine, F. H. Ebsworth, G. Free, R. Ord, R. Watkins, F. Cooper, J. Delany, Parker, Stevens, Denton, J. Brookhouse, H. T. Turner, Gale; and as visitors, Bros. Melson and E. Chard. The lodge was very full. Bro. Morris, J.W., was unable, through illness, to attend.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 140).—This lodge met on the 20th inst. at the Lecture Hall, Greenwich. Bro. E. Hubback, P.M., presided in the absence of Bro. C. L. Smyth, W.M. Bro. E. Down was passed, and Messrs. Carter and E. Atkins were initiated. Bro. C. Badger was elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. G. Edington, P.M., was re-elected Treasurer; Bro. Riley, P.M., Tyler. After business the brethren adjourned for refreshment to the Globe, Royal-hill. Bros. Tattershall, G. Edington, G. N. Moutrylian, W. Noak, E. W. Pook, C. Hudson, H. A. Collington, Dr. Scott; and visitors Bros. F. Walters, S. Vinten, and A. D. Loewenstark were present. All the work was admirably performed.

LODGE OF TEMPERANCE (No. 169).—This lodge met on the 21st inst. at the Plough Tavern, Plough-bridge, Rotherhithe. Bro. J. Searle, W.M., presided, and initiated two gentlemen. The by-laws of the lodge were read. Bro. N. Wingfield, S.W., was elected W.M. by a triumphant majority, there being only four votes for a past J.W., Bro. J. T. Moss. Bro. G. Brown, P.M., was re-elected Treasurer. There were so many votes in his favour that Bro. J. T. Moss observed that the ballot-box might be called a charity-box, as it contained so many "Browns." Bro. Holt was unanimously elected Tyler. It was proposed, seconded, and carried *nem. con.*, that a five-guinea P.M. jewel be presented from the lodge funds to Bro. Searle, W.M., and also a vote of thanks to him be recorded on the lodge minute-book for his zeal and ability as W.M. during his year of office. Bro. Searle returned thanks. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet.

YARBOROUGH LODGE (No. 554).—On the 7th instant, the members of this flourishing lodge met at Bro. Walker's, Green Dragon, Stepney, when the W.M., Bro. Joseph Hudson, aided by his efficient officers, most ably initiated into the Order Messrs. George Bland, Evan J. Jones, Henry Jones, and James Johnson; conferred the second degree on Bros. Norris and Walton, and most impressively raised Bros. Taggart and Ireland to the sublime degree of a M.M. The lodge was then closed down to the second degree, when the brethren proceeded to the election of W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler for the ensuing year, which was most unanimous in favour of Bro. Clarke, S.W., as W.M.; Bro. Wynn, P.M., as Treasurer; and Speight as Tyler. Business being ended the lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to a splendid banquet. After the usual Masonic toasts and a little harmony, the brethren retired at eleven.

VICTORIA LODGE (No. 1056).—An emergency meeting of this young lodge was held at the Sir John Cass Tavern, Victoria-park-road, South Hackney, on the 22nd inst. The lodge was opened by Bro. W. Wrenn, W.M., assisted by Bros. A. A. Pendlebury, S.W.; W. Turner, J.W.; G. M. E. Snow, S.D.; J. Soilleux, J.D.; G. Morris, I.G.; J. Robotham, Sec.; Roberts, Williams, Moore, Humphris, Brown, Chittam, U. Latrielle, F. Latrielle, Grimmer and Steib. A ballot was taken for Mr. John W. Hill as a candidate for initiation, which being in his favour, he was regularly introduced and admitted into the mysteries of the Order. The ceremony of passing Bro. Moore then followed, after which Bro. Brown was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M., the whole of the ceremonies being worked in a most admirable manner by the W.M., his Wardens, and other officers. The lodge was then closed and the brethren adjourned to a capital supper provided by Bro. Steib, whose catering has given the greatest satisfaction to the brethren. On the removal of the cloth the W.M. proposed "The Health of the Queen," then "The M.W. G.M. the Earl of Zetland, the R.W.D.G.M. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Grand Officers." To this toast Bro. S. E. Nutt, P. Assist. G. Dir. of Cers., rose to reply, and, in thanking the brethren for the cordial reception of his name, expressed his conviction that in Lord de Grey the fraternity possessed a D.G.M. of whom they might well be proud. He (Bro. Nutt) was much pleased with the working of the officers of the Victoria Lodge, and in conclusion wished them every prosperity. The W.M. then announced "The Health of Bro. Hill, the newly-initiated Member," which was extremely well received, and Bro. Hill, in acknowledging the compliment, trusted that he should be found to be a worthy brother. He conceived that there was much to learn in Masonry, and would endeavour to render himself proficient in the degree to which

he had attained. Bro. Nutt, P. Assist. Dir. of Cers., then in highly eulogistic terms gave "The Health of the W.M.," and in doing so alluded to Bro. Wrenn's advocacy of the cause of charity—the brightest ornament of our ancient crown. The W.M. responded briefly but effectually to the toast. Bro. Saqui, P.M. 205, replied for the visitors, and spoke in commendatory terms of the working of the lodge, and the more so as with such Wardens and the rest of the officers, the chair would be equally well filled when they were severally called upon to assume the duties of W.M. At this period of the evening the brethren were delighted to find that Bros. Muggeridge, P.M. 192, and Cox, P.M. 49, had arrived, having been prevented attending earlier by a prior Masonic engagement. On their entering the room those worthy brethren received a hearty reception, and Bro. Muggeridge afterwards sang a capital song. Bro. Pendlebury responded to the health of the officers, and said he could only reiterate with, if possible, greater emphasis his sincere and cordial wishes for the prosperity of the lodge and their resolve to promote its interests to the utmost of their power. He then called upon the brethren to fill a bumper and drink long life and success to Bro. Wrenn, the W.M., as the birthday of their esteemed Master was close at hand. This invitation, we need hardly add, was responded to most heartily by all present. The visitors were Bros. Nutt, P. Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Barlow, W.M. 174; Saqui, P.M. 205; Gilchrist, S.W. 933; Davis, 188; Lee, 860; and Morley 742. The W.M., Bros. Moore, Morley, F. Latrielle, Muggeridge, Morris, &c., sang a variety of highly entertaining songs.

PROVINCIAL.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*John of Gault Lodge* (No. 523).—The December meeting of this flourishing lodge took place on Thursday, the 21st instant, and was well attended, there being present, in addition to the W.M. (The Rev. John Spittal), Bros. W. Kelly, P.M., and D. Prov. G.M.; R. Brewin and W. B. Smith, P.M.'s; Green, S.W.; G. H. Hodges, J.W.; J. E. Hodges, Sec.; Turner, S.D.; Moor, J.D.; Manning, I.G.; Bembridge, Tyler; Boulton, Buzzard, Barfoot, Orrock, Barwell, M. H. Lewin, W. H. Lewin, Atkins, Hunt, Ward Layle, and J. C. Clarke. Visitors: J. Malcolm, McAllister (Edinburgh), and W. Tibbit, W.M.; L. A. Clarke, T. Blunt, and A. O. Davies, of St. John's Lodge (No. 279). The lodge having been opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the last monthly meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. proceeded to initiate Mr. James Rome, of the National Provincial Bank of England, who was elected at the previous lodge. The charge and lecture on the tracing-board were then delivered to the novice by Bro. Brewin, P.M. Bro. Hunt having been called to the pedestal and examined in the E.A.'s degree, the lodge was opened in the second degree, and he was duly passed a F.C. by the D. Prov. G.M., who then raised to the third degree Bros. J. C. Clarke and Ward Layle, they having previously been examined as F.C.'s. The lodge having been closed down to the first degree two gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation; after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren, about thirty in number, adjourned to refreshment. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured by the W.M. and brethren, including the health of Bro. Rome, the newly initiated member, to which that brother duly responded, Bro. Brewin sang the Entered Apprentice's song. Several other brethren also contributed to the harmony of the evening.

SUFFOLK.

IPSWICH.—*St. Luke's Lodge* (No. 225).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge took place at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Brook-street, (Bro. C. W. Godbold), on Wednesday, December 13, 1865, for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. W. T. Westgate. There were present Bros. Richmond, I.P.M., W.M., *pro tem.*; W. T. Westgate, S.W.; J. Whitehead, J.W., *pro tem.*; J. Clark, Treasurer; A. Barber, Sec.; P. Whitehead, R. C. Brown, W. B. Rands, C. Davy, S. B. King, P.M. 17; W. Cockow, C. Hobart, C. W. Godbold, W. Flory, &c.; Visitors, H. Thomas, S.G.W., W.M. 114, 959; E. Dorling, P.M., Prov. G. Sec., W.M. 959; C. T. Townsend, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W. 757, 959; R. N. Sanderson, P.M., P.G. Chaplin 376, 959; J. Head, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.W. 376, 959; J. Pettit, P.M., P. Prov.

G.S. of Works 376, 959; J. Alloway, Prov. G. Steward; R. Ward, 959; W. Cobb, 959; J. H. Townsend, I.G. 959; G. Green, 959; J. Helms, S.D. 959; G. Light, 959; J. Williams, 376, 959; J. Chinnock, 959; J. Goodhew, 376; J. Farthing, 650; &c. The lodge having been opened in the second degree the W.M., Bro. Richmond, proceeded to question Bro. Westgate with regard to his willingness to abide by the ancient obligations. The lodge was then opened in the third degree and presented Bro. Westgate to a board of Installed Masters, the whole of the ceremony being very impressingly rendered by Bro. Richmond. The W.M. afterwards proceeded to appoint and invest his officers for the year: Bros. Richmond, I.P.M.; Clark, P.M., Treasurer; Barber, P.M., Sec.; Davy, S.W.; B. Smith, J.W.; P. Whitehead, S.D.; R. C. Brown, J.D.; W. Rands, I.G.; and J. Baxter, Tyler. The lodge was then closed, after which the brethren retired from labour to refreshment, and a very pleasant evening passed.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

LEEDS.—*Alfred Lodge* (No. 306).—The annual meeting of this lodge for the installation of the W.M. elect was held at the Alfred Rooms, on Friday, the 1st of December, when there was a very numerous attendance of the brethren. Bro. Faviat, W.M., presided. After the usual business, and before the installation, Bro. W. M. Nelson, Secretary, at the request of the W.M., read a paper on "Ancient Initiation." The paper was a very learned inquiry into the modes of initiating candidates into the mysteries of the most ancient brotherhood of the earth. He commenced by telling the story of Egyptian initiation, as revealed in the hieroglyphics and sculptures of those far distant ages. He then proceeded to describe the mysteries of initiation into the Worship of Ceres. He followed the candidate through the sacred groves, into the magnificent temple where the ceremonies culminated in the last trial of his faith, and his formal reception into the brotherhood. These scenes were described in a manner that spoke of deep research, and at the same time with much eloquence. The earliness of the hour compelled Bro. Nelson to stop at this point, and to defer to a future occasion his remarks about initiation in less distant, but still ancient times. He concluded by earnestly exhorting the brethren to study the beautiful and elevating science of symbolism, not to be content with mere external Freemasonry, but to acquire the power of reading in the symbols of the Craft those glorious truths that each one of them illustrates. Bro. Nelson was warmly applauded, and on the motion of the W.M., seconded by Bro. Harrison, P.M., the thanks of the lodge were tendered to him by a unanimous vote. The W.M. elect, Bro. F. Fox (who had been unanimously called to the chair by the vote of a very full lodge) was then installed into office by the Past Masters present, after which he invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Corker, S.W.; W. M. Nelson, J.W.; Sharp, Sec.; Carr, S.D.; Scholefield, J.D.; Masser, I.G.; Dr. Spark, Organist.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

SCARBOROUGH.—*Old Globe Lodge* (No. 200).—In the evening of the third Wednesday in December of the present year, this lodge was held by Bros. W. B. Stewart, W.M.; W. Bean, P.M.; Wm. T. Rooke, P.M.; W. E. Richardson, P.M.; James Fredk. Spurr, P.M.; J. W. Woodall, P.M. (Treasurer); H. C. Marten, P.M. (Hon. Sec.); Rev. D. L. Alexander, Chaplain; Hy. A. Williamson, S.W.; J. Hargrave, J.W.; Wm. Peacock, S.D.; J. Gibb, J.D.; R. H. Peacock, I.G.; Sanders and Ash, Tylers; Captain Geo. Symons, H. Johnstone, J. W. D. Middleton, Fairbank, Dove, Verity, Goodwin, Coulson, W. D. Woodall, Graves, Dr. Armitage, Raper, Hill, Houlgate, Crosby, Fletcher, Almond, &c. The lodge was opened in due form, with solemn prayer. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous lodge, which were confirmed. Bro. Armitage, M.D., of the Kilwinning Lodge, Scotland, was balloted for, and elected an affiliating member, and several new members were proposed. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Harcourt Johnstone, who previously underwent an examination, was duly passed to the second degree. Bros. Goodwin and Almond also took the degree of F.C. Bro. Symons gave a lecture on the tracing-board in that degree, and Bro. Spurr exhibited two ancient charts of the Temple and holy City of Jerusalem. The election of the W.M. for the ensuing year took place, and the lot fell upon Bro. Godfrey Knight (ex-Mayor). Bro. J. W.

Woodall was re-elected Treasurer. The lodge was closed in perfect harmony at nine o'clock, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment provided by Bro. John Chapman, of the Old Globe Inn, and the rest of the evening was spent in conviviality and good fellowship.

ROYAL ARCH.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—*Chapter de Sussex* (No. 406).—A chapter of emergency was held on Thursday, December 21st, in the Masonic Hall, Newgate-street. It was opened by M.E. Comps. R. Smaile, Z.; Hy. Hotham, P.Z.; H. and Jens Jensen, J. The other officers present being Comps. T. G. Strachan, E.; Jas. H. Thompson, N.; Wm. Foulsham, P.S.; Wm. G. Laws, and — Frolich, A.S. M.E. Comp. Robt. J. Banning, M.D., P.Z.; was present as a visitor. The chapter was held for the purpose of exalting Bro. Cooper, Lodge 24. The ceremony was very ably performed by the M.E.Z. Four brethren were proposed for exaltation. M.E. Comp. Henry Hotham was nominated as Treasurer and Comp. J. S. Trotter as Janitor for the ensuing year. The chapter was closed in due form at 8.45 p.m.

Poetry.

SECRET SERVICE.

Not half the good that's done is known,
For why should donors tell,
Or to each Christian action own,
When God perceives so well!
Our helping hands may oft bestow
The aid on those distressed,
And yet the world need never know
Those whom such acts have blest.

Samaritans do not repeat
Their goodly acts and deeds;
To "lend unto the Lord" is sweet,
And no compulsion needs;
And they who cheer life's leisure hour
Oft secret service give,
Aiding to raise when fortunes lower,
And helping others live.

To the profession of the Stage,
And Music Hall as well,
Belongs a pride which gems our age
Beyond what words can tell.
It cancels spleen and jealousy,
And stills the bigot's voice;
For o'er this hive of charity
The angels must rejoice!

CELINE.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—His Majesty the King of Portugal and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales arrived at Osborne from London on the evening of the 21st inst. on a visit to the Queen, and dined with Her Majesty and the Royal Family. The King and the Prince of Wales crossed over from Southampton in the Royal yacht *Alberta*, Captain His Serene Highness Prince Leiningen, and re-embarked on the morning of the 22nd inst. for Portsmouth, from whence the King proceeded to Dover on his return to Paris. The Prince of Wales, after accompanying the King of Portugal from Osborne to Dover, returned to Marlborough House. Her Majesty, their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena, Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, and Prince Leopold, and Her Serene Highness Princess Hohenlohe attended Divine Service at Osborne on Sunday morning, which was performed by the Rev. George Prothero. By Her Majesty's command a Christmas tree was prepared at Osborne

on Tuesday afternoon with presents of books, toys, and plum pudding, for all the boys and girls of the Whippingham Schools. Soon after half-past four o'clock Her Majesty entered the hall with their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena, Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, when the children, about one hundred in number, were introduced, and received their presents from Her Majesty and the Royal Family. The ladies and gentlemen in waiting were in attendance, and the Rev. G. Prothero, rector of Whippingham, Mrs. Prothero, and their family, had the honour of being invited.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The vestry of Marylebone has resolved to oppose a project for an underground railway from the Baker-street station of the Metropolitan Railway to Oxford-street. A deputation of the inhabitants of York-place and Portman-square waited on the vestry last week to ask that body to co-operate with them in opposing the bill. In the discussion which ensued the whole question of railway invasions was gone into. Finally, the court resolved to take action in accordance with the prayers of the deputation.—We regret to say that the number of lives sacrificed by the colliery explosion near Merthyr is probably above, instead of under, thirty.—On Wednesday night, the 20th inst., there was a destructive fire at Crewe, which destroyed an entire range of stores belonging to the London and North Western Railway.—The trial of the Russian bank note forgers was continued on the 21st inst. The jury found four out of the five guilty, and they were sentenced to varying but heavy terms of imprisonment. In the course of the case something like a dispute arose between Serjeant Ballantine and Mr. Justice Blackburn. The serjeant wished to sum up the evidence for the prosecution after the last witness had been called. The justice did not think such a course was necessary. Serjeant Ballantine, however, persisted that it was his duty, in accordance with a recent Act, to sum up, and he did so. In charging the jury Mr. Justice Blackburn commented on the conduct of the serjeant, and said if it was to become a rule that counsel for the prosecution should sum up, even where there had been no new feature in the evidence, the criminal practice would be assimilated to that of *nisi prius*, and counsel would become fierce partisans. Sentence was passed on the 21st inst. at the Central Criminal Court on the two men, Jones and Merrick, who were convicted of assaulting Dr. Hunter. Jones was sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and Merrick to a fine of £5 and to be imprisoned until it was paid.—The trial of Forwood *alias* Southey, the murderer of his wife and child at Ramsgate and of three children in a coffee-house in Holborn, has been brought to a close. The evidence was of considerable interest. Mr. Smith, for the defence, sought to prove that the prisoner was insane. The prison surgeon and other officials all expressed their opinion that he was perfectly sane. While the prison surgeon was being examined the prisoner several times shrieked out. For the defence three medical men were called, who all expressed opinions that the prisoner was insane. On some points, however, they differed. One of them said he did not think the prisoner comprehended the nature of the present proceedings, while another thought Southey knew perfectly well that he was being tried for murder. After a careful summing up the jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to death.—A wreck by which it is feared several lives have been lost has just occurred in the Mediterranean. The *Borysthènes* steamer struck on a rock near Oran and went to pieces. About 200 of her crew and passengers got upon Plane Island, but thirty persons are said to have been drowned.—An action was tried in the Court of Queen's Bench on Saturday last, in which Mr.

Swanborough, lessee of the Prince's Theatre, Birmingham, was the plaintiff, and Mr. Sothern (Lord Dundreary) was the defendant. The action sought to recover damages for a breach of contract. Mr. Sothern had agreed to play in the plaintiff's theatre for a certain number of nights, but when the time came, according to Mr. Swanborough's statement, the defendant refused to play, on the ground that he had not been properly advertised. He also pleaded illness. He played one night, and refused to play more, declaring he was too ill; but he left Birmingham two days before the expiration of the time for which he was engaged, and went to Dublin where he was to appear. Mr. Swanborough sued for damages on account of the loss he sustained by the defendant's not playing at his theatre. The defence was that Mr. Sothern was too ill to play, and medical evidence in proof of this was called. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, with £50 damages.—Rather an unusual defence was set up in a case at the Southwark Police-court on Saturday last. A young fellow was charged with having obtained several watches from different firms by means of forged orders. He declared that he was innocent, and that the real culprit must have been his twin brother. Several of the witnesses identified him, but he persisted in declaring that they were wrong. Unfortunately for him he did not know where his twin brother was to be found. It seems he really has such a twin brother, and that the likeness of one to the other is very striking. Both were brought up at the Worship-street Police-court on Wednesday, and remanded.—On Saturday last a man named Elia Fernie was charged at the Mansion House with stabbing Mr. James Dornbusch. The prisoner had assailed Mr. Dornbusch in Gresham House and stabbed him several times. There seems to have been a feud between the two, and in the court the prisoner complained bitterly of the prosecutor's conduct. Mr. Dornbusch was too much injured to be present, and the prisoner was remanded.—On Sunday morning a man named Cook killed his wife at a village called Wideopen, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. They had been out marketing. Both got drunk, and on their way home Cook beat the woman, so that she died. On Sunday morning, too, a man named M'Manus killed a poor fellow named Dowd at Manchester. They had quarrelled, and M'Manns stabbed Dowd in the groin so severely that he shortly afterwards died. The third affair took place in London. There was a great row on Sunday night in the Drummond-road, Bermondsey, in the course of which a man named Shee had his skull fractured so severely that he will die. A man named Edward Miles is in custody, charged with having struck the fatal blow.—A very suspicious death is reported to have taken place in a house, No. 5, Morpeth-road, Victoria-park. A retired tradesman named Bromage and his wife lived there. They kept no servant, and Mrs. Bromage has been bedridden for several months. On Sunday morning Mr. Bromage came out of his house and asked for assistance with his wife. Those who went into the house found the poor woman lying dead in the passage with her head resting on pillows at the foot of the stairs. There was blood in the passage which had flowed from wounds on the head of Mr. Bromage, whose story is, that on Saturday night he went out and that two strangers accompanied him home. One of these men assaulted him. Afterwards he found that Mrs. Bromage had by some means got downstairs. Finding he could not get her upstairs again, he brought down pillows and wrapped her up in a blanket, and then went to bed himself. Next morning when he came downstairs he found her dead. The surgeon who examined the body says death has been caused by cold and exposure. The business will be inquired into by the coroner.

—A man named Peasman was charged on Wednesday at the Middlesex Sessions with furious driving in the streets. He was driving an omnibus on the 15th of October very furiously, and a collision took place in consequence. For the defence several witnesses were called, who positively swore that the prisoner was not driving furiously. The jury, however, found him guilty, and he was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment with hard labour.—A resumed inquest was held on Wednesday, touching the death of two infants (twins), which some time ago were found in the house of a person named Wallace, living in Hoxton. Mr. Wallace's servant, a young woman named Field, admitted being the mother of the children. Medical evidence showed that one of the children had been still-born, and the other had been accidentally strangled through want of proper assistance. A corresponding verdict was given, and the young woman released from custody.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—A significant notice has been received at the English Foreign Office from the British Consul at Rome. It is to the effect that the brigands have poured into the Papal States from the Neapolitan territory in such numbers as to set at nought the efforts of the Papal troops. Three persons are in the hands of the brigands awaiting ransom. Meantime the Italian Parliament has been occupied with the subject of brigandage. The exceptional law for the suppression of the nuisance was reported against by a committee, and the Minister of the Interior withdrew the bill, admitting at the same time that the condition of the Southern provinces had greatly improved, brigandage there no longer having a political character. Exceptional measures are, however, to be adopted on the Pontifical frontiers. The Chamber of Deputies has adjourned to the 15th of January.—The students of Paris are not disposed to allow the expulsion of their comrades to pass without energetic protest. All the lectures in the university are interrupted. Indeed, none of the lecturers are permitted to make themselves heard. Outside there is much sympathy with the students, and consequent rows; and several people are said to have been arrested. The *Moniteur* of Saturday contains a notice that the students who disturb the lectures will be punished.—The Pope has delivered a Christmas speech. His Holiness is full of faith, and speaks with as much confidence as if he had lost nothing during the last few years, and the future contained no serious elements of danger.—A telegram informs us that the Belgian ministers tendered their resignations, but were requested by the King to continue in office. This resignation is, of course, a purely formal matter, done in order that the King might choose his own ministers. He was not likely, we imagine, to change any of them just now.—General La Marmora announced to the Italian Senate that he and his colleagues in the Ministry had resigned, and that their resignation had been accepted by the King. Who is likely to be the next Prime Minister of King Victor Emmanuel is not stated or surmised.—It is difficult to say what are the chances of a reconciliation of the Hungarian difficulty. Count Julius Andrassy, the First Vice-President of the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet, delivered an inaugural address recently. He desired it to be understood by the western portion of the empire that the interests of Hungary were one with those of the empire, but that Parliamentary centralisation was opposed to those rights. He cautioned his hearers, however, not to have in view in what they did the triumph of Hungary, but rather the interests of the empire.

AMERICA.—The *Scolia* has arrived with American news to the morning of December 13. Resolutions had been introduced into Congress, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, declaring the establishment of the Mexican Empire by France.

to be opposed to the declared policy of the Federal Government, offensive to the people, and contrary to the spirit of their institutions. The resolutions further require the President "to take such steps in this grave matter as will vindicate the recognized policy, and protect the honour and interest of the American Government." Both Houses had requested the President to furnish papers respecting Mexico. The Senate had considered the question of the admission of Southern members, and had permitted those from Tennessee the privilege of the floor. It is believed the opposition to the admission of the other members was decreasing. A resolution endorsing the President's reconstruction policy was not allowed to be introduced in the House of Representatives.—The Fenians have deposed their chief, John O'Mahony, and charged him with misappropriation of funds. A man named Roberts has been installed in his place, but O'Mahony's friends were forming an organisation of their own. Gold, on the 13th inst. was quoted 144½.—By Washington despatches we have intelligence from the United States to the 16th inst. The resolutions concerning the affairs of Mexico, which have been submitted to Congress, have stimulated the French Minister to action. He has opened a correspondence with Mr. Seward, and despatched his secretary to France for new instructions. It is rumoured that if the Federal Government accredit a Minister to Juarez, the French Embassy will at once leave Washington. "Rumour" also attributes to General Logan's mission to the Mexican President a plan for negotiating a treaty on highly advantageous terms to both parties. It remains to be seen how much or little of truth there is in these reports. When dealing with telegrams it is very difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff. The question of the admission of Southern members to Congress will be referred to a committee without any preliminary debate. When that committee reports, Congress will take final action in the matter. Mahoney appears to have been deposed, for a new Fenian president—one Roberts—who has issued an inaugural address, breathing fire and fury against England. The Fenians have some £100,000 in hand, a sum sufficient to maintain the various members of the Hibernian Cabinet in befitting splendour for some time to come, but scarcely large enough to enable the Fenians to cope with British forces either on land or sea.

NEW ZEALAND.—A telegram has been received in London which gives rather more favourable news as to New Zealand. It is stated that during October the native insurgents were surprised, and that 186 of the Hau-Hau fanatics had taken the oath of allegiance. Parliament had been prorogued on the 13th of October. The colony is described as being prosperous.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS.—Subscribers who are in arrears are requested to forward without delay the amounts due from them by Post-office Order, payable to the Proprietor, Bro. William Smith, C.E., 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ENQUIRER.—You will find in our issue of July 29th, of the present year, under the head of "Visible Speech," the particulars you are in search of as to Mr. Alexander Melville Bell's system.

EMIGRANT.—The lodges Australian Social (No. 260), and the Fidelity (No. 269), at Sidney, are both on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; the former has a Royal Arch chapter attached to it, and the latter a Royal Arch chapter and a Knights Templar encampment also.

