

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1867.

FREEMASONRY.

An oration delivered by Bro. Dr. J. HAYNES, at the St. John's Festival, Lodge No. 70, Plymouth, of January 3rd, 1867.

Old institutions, like grey hairs, are venerable and honourable if they be found in the way of righteousness. The golden locks of childhood that glisten in the splendour of youth's life-morn, have not that solid and substantial charm that appertains to old age whose hoary locks are silvered by the hands of time, before whom the summer winds pause in their airy flight, the sunny locks to fondle, kiss, and toy. Institutions, like ourselves, have a period called childhood; another, called maturity; and another, called old age. When the rosy buds of childhood's spring-time burst into bloom in the midsummer sunshine of our maturity; then, as becoming men, we put away childhood's follies with childhood's feebleness, and act as men. The growth of childhood and the maturity of manhood, were periods in which we ploughed and sowed,—the periods of follies and failings, labours and anxieties; it is the spring-time and seed-time of life, and not the harvest-time of old age, when Autumn flings in our laps the ripened and accumulated fruit of three score years! Freemasonry, like all other Institutions, has had its childhood and maturity; but *unlike* all other institutions it has its *old age*. It was, doubtless, as puny as other societies in its childhood, but it had a good *constitution*; and is as likely to live four thousand years in the great infinite future, as it has survived four thousand in the profound and stupendous past. If the stability and utility of anything is to be known by its age, then have we reason to congratulate ourselves that we are free and honourable Masons. As Masons, we make no ostentatious display of our good works; we have not, as yet, turned our mouths into trumpets to sound our own praise, much less have we boasted and advertised our peculiar excellence to the outside world. There is an unspeakable merit in that unpretending charity that shrinks from the vulgar and impertinent gaze of a selfish world. It's that quiet charity that cryeth not, "Lo! I am there; lo! I am here," that challenges our admiration. We have said that Freemasonry has had its childhood and maturity, and that we live in the age when the luxuriant fruits of a great and wonderful past

are filling our too limited laps with a profusion of goodness that is unequalled and unlimited. Our forefathers have done wonders; they have laboured, and we have entered into their labours, and to-day we stand on the centre of Truth, with relief and brotherly love surrounding us. We are now sitting in the lap of a kind and indulgent parent, who, although in the yellow and sear leaf of old age, has more vigour and vitality in his constitution than the most active and energetic of all his contemporaries. And what is it that has given to this society its wonderful vitality and endurance, if it be not that truth which is both immortal and immutable? "Truth, though crushed to earth, will rise again," and live the eternal years of God! Reason is strong, so is prejudice, so is love, so is malice, but truth is stronger than all. If truth be the foundation on which we build the great temple of virtue, the gates of Hell cannot prevail against it. We are in a school of experience—we have Jacob's ladder in our midst, consequently, the truth we seek is not at the bottom of a well, but at the top of a ladder. The truth we seek is not earthward, but heavenward. It is not enough for us, however, to lie down at the foot of this ladder and dream of heaven; not enough to be led from darkness to light by taking one, two, or ten steps on this ladder; he, and he only, will be crowned Master of Ceremonies whose motto is "Excelsior;" who continues to rise higher and higher through the atmosphere of tangible signs and symbols, until he reaches that climax where Moses stood, and basks in the full blaze of that splendour that surrounds the great Architect of the Universe. Truth, like its Author, has no beginning nor ending, it is eternal; it can never be exhausted, nor will it ever die.

In the school of Freemasonry we learn truth by degrees; it is line upon line, and precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. The hidden mysteries of nature and science are so plainly taught that "a wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err." By the compass and square, and the great moral truths of the Bible we accomplish two objects:—we teach the *honour of labour* and the *beauty of truth*. We are not of that class who think hard work to be a crime. We do not think honest labour to be a disgrace. Far from it. We honour labour as God has honoured it. It is not to labour, but to laziness, that a curse is attached. Freemasonry is a school in which the hand and the heart are taught their respective

duties. Here they are blended and wedded together in the most solemn and sacred manner, to the end that they may adorn manhood with the evergreens of industry, sobriety, and every good word and work. We are not to suppose, however, that he is a Mason who is one outwardly, but it is he who is one in spirit, truth, and brotherly love. There are those who come in among us, and go out from us, because they are not of us. A true Mason is not a creature of man's making, but one of God's creation. When the Great Architect of Heaven has set up in the temple of the soul the two great pillars of honour and truth, you may shake that temple from centre to circumference, and, though heaven and earth may move, that temple will stand for ever! Shaken that temple will be by the cold and wintry tempest of human scorn and indignation; but like the gigantic oak of the forest when shaken with the mighty winds, it will take deeper root in the earth and spread its mighty branches up to the very gates of heaven! Freemasonry, like all other institutions, has had its sunshine and its shade; but unlike all other societies, it has weathered the tempest and the gale; and to-day, like a staunch bark, rides proudly on the crest of the troubled waters of this world, without starting a timber or losing a splinter, and all because she has had the Great Architect of Heaven for her captain and pilot. Boasting is not our business; we do not arrogate to ourselves perfection; we have not said that we can count our kings and princes by hundreds, our earls and dukes by thousands, our knights and ministers by tens of thousands; our officers and brethren by millions. We do not prosper by pride, nor lengthen our chords and strengthen our stakes, on the golden fields of vanity and vain glory.

Many object to the institution of Freemasonry because it is to them a mysterious and secret society. For the same reason we might object to everything in the universe. Nature is full of mysteries and secrets. Man is a mystery himself, and but little can be known of the vital springs of his own life and action. Whenever he turns his eye up to the heavens above or to the waters under the earth; or if he look to that equally mysterious world, he will find secrets that will baffle the profoundest intellect and the most discriminating investigator.

How foolish, then, to object to a system because it is secret to those who have not availed them-

selves of the privilege of investigating its nature and beauty. The question was once asked, "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" The answer was, "Come and see." What say the orphan children who are cared for by the beneficence of our brethren? Who cared for the tender plants by the wayside of life, who are exposed to the crush of every careless foot, to the pluck of every cruel hand, and to the withering blast of every immoral gale? Who smooths the path of life for their youthful feet to tread on; who succours with the hand of charity the tottering steps of want and inexperience; and brings to the pinnacle of self-reliance the trembling hands of meek dependence? Ah, brethren, this society requires no monuments of pride, no temples of fame to perpetuate its honour and worth. Yet, have you erected, in the hearts of thousands, monuments of praise and temples of thanksgiving, monuments and temples whose altitude is inaccessible, and whose endurance is eternal!

The children of our brethren are near and dear to us, and as such they should be:—

Ah! they are spring flowers with wreathed smiles,
 Flinging the morning glories of their youth
 Heavenward; unconscious of weeds and wiles,
 That strangle beauty in her budding truth.
 Their mellow hearts with angel kisses warm,
 Make joy more joyful; and the rosy rays
 Of their young souls vie with the purple morn,
 Nor dream they once of sorrow's weeping days.
 Life's summer drought and autumn's withering blight
 Have not yet struck the hope-buds of their years,
 And heart-flowers, blooming in perennial light,
 Are not yet moistened with their dewy tears.
 Mirth laughs with merry accents, blithe and gay,
 And starry love, bedewed with heart-throbs stray,
 With wild enchantment charms their fear away.—
 Oh! that their hearts were but for ever young!

No less attention, brethren, have you bestowed on the heart-stricken and sorrowing widows of your departed brethren. Like good Samaritans, you have poured the oil of consolation on the terrible wounds of disappointed expectations. You have wiped the tears from the weeping eyes of disconsolate sorrow; and from the heart bowed down by weight of woe, have you removed the heavy burdens of grief and despair. You have washed and sanded the bleeding feet of family affliction; and succoured the weak and tottering limbs of broken-down bereavement! You have caused the forlorn wilderness of deep dejection, and the barren desert of poverty and humiliation to bud and blossom like the rose. And to-day there are thousands of hands and eyes that were

once dejected, that are now uplifted to the great Architect of Heaven, who is the ever-living fire on the altar of our great Masonic Temple.

(To be continued.)

BRO. DR. OLIVER'S ORATION ON FREEMASONRY AND FAREWELL ADDRESS TO THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE, LINCOLNSHIRE.*

We are glad to find the oration and farewell address, delivered by our Venerable Bro. Dr. Oliver, at the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at Lincoln, in May last, published in the shape of a small pamphlet at 1s. 6d., 1s., and also in a cheap form for general circulation at 3d. per copy, is receiving the support of the brethren; we trust, however, that the increased patronage which its merits entitle it to, will be afforded to it so as to render it of material service in tending to promote the usefulness of the very excellent charity—the Provincial Grand Lodge Fund of Benevolence for Lincolnshire,—to which the profits arising from the sale of the oration and address are devoted; this fund which has been promoted by the present Prov. G. Sec., Bro. C. E. Lucas, it is pleasing to learn has, during the past six months of its existence, met with such liberal support from the brethren in the province, that it had some short time back a balance in its favour of £200.

We recommend to the Craft a careful perusal of the pamphlet under notice, containing as it does the admirable teachings inculcated by our venerable brother in the few brief arguments adduced by him to shew the superiority of our Order over all other social institutions.

Our venerable brother sets forth in a few introductory remarks the reasons why he consented to the proposal of the Prov. G. Sec., for the publication of the oration, which he states, was originally never intended to be published; the reasons given are two, viz. :—

“First, because it would afford me a graceful opportunity of bidding farewell to the brethren of a province with which I have been connected for more than half a century: having established the Apollo Lodge, at Grimsby, in 1811; appointed Prov. G. Steward in 1814; Prov. G. Chap. in 1816; and D. Prov. G.M. in 1833; and secondly, that it might be accepted as an exemplifica-

* An oration on some of the peculiar excellencies of Freemasonry, delivered at a Provincial Grand Lodge, holden in the City of Lincoln, 10th May, 1866, by the Rev. G. Oliver, D.D., P.D.G.M., of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, U.S., P.D. Prov. G.M., Lincolnshire, &c. Also his farewell address to the Provincial Grand Lodge. 1866. London: Bro. R. Spencer, Great Queen-street; Louth: Bro. W. A. Larder, 26, Market-place.

tion of the fact, that a clergyman of the establishment, tolerably well versed in antiquarian lore, after a critical investigation of the esoteric principles of the Order for more than half a century, had found no reason to change his opinion on its unrivalled purity as a humble handmaiden of religion.

“The oration itself must pass *quantum valeat* as a simple expression of my own opinion, at an advanced age, of the pure teaching of Freemasonry. It is indeed a fruitful subject on which volumes might be written.”

After referring to the successful establishment in the province of Lincolnshire of a benevolent fund, the venerable brother concludes his oration in the verses of a celebrated Masonic poet of the last century :—

Blest Masonry !

The art sublimely free ;

Heaven bids thy happy sons, and they thy worth proclaim
With loud assent ! their cheerful voices raise,
Their great, immortal Masonry to praise.

The tower, sky-pointing, and the dome sublime,
Rais'd by thy mystic rules and forming power,
Shall long withstand the iron tooth of time ;
Yet still their fall is sure.

But Masonry,

The art sublimely free,

Founded by God himself, thro' time shall firm endure.
To worlds unknown its heaven-born light dispense,
And systems own its sacred influence.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

(Continued from page 366, vol. ix.)

The following with reference to Masonic Jurisprudence in the United States appears in our transatlantic contemporary, *The National Freemason* :

OHIO.—The Grand Lodge sustained the following decisions of the Grand Master, Bro. Sparrow :

Officers of a lodge cannot be installed by proxy. A brother who was elected to office in a lodge, and installed by proxy, cannot serve in the office to which he was elected. A brother who was elected and served as Warden of a lodge, but was never installed, except by proxy, is not eligible to the office of W.M. of a lodge.

A brother who is a petitioner for a new lodge, and in the dispensation is appointed W.M. of such lodge, and who is also a member of a lodge recommending the establishment of such new lodge, is not eligible to office in such recommending lodge.

The rule of the Grand Lodge requiring an applicant for the degrees to reside one year within the jurisdiction of the lodge to which he makes application, cannot be evaded by procuring the

assent of the lodge in whose jurisdiction such applicant last resided.

A lodge cannot examine a candidate for advancement, except at a stated meeting.

A candidate cannot be examined at a special meeting, nor a ballot taken at such meeting. The examination and ballot must be had at the same stated meeting.

The dimit of a Master Mason will not entitle the person presenting it to enter a lodge without examination. Every visitor must be examined strictly, before admission, either as a member or a visitor, unless he is vouched for by a Mason who has sat with him in a lodge.

A Fellow Craft bringing a permit to a lodge to confer the degree of M.M. upon him must also be examined, unless vouched for. He must petition for the degree of M.M., and such petition must take the regular course.

A person who is engaged in any business or occupation which is forbidden and against the exercise of which penalties are denounced by any law of this State or of the United States, cannot be a Mason.

If the W.M. elect declines to be installed, the Wardens in succession being installed, take his place, and the right of the late W.M. to hold this office ceases. In such case, the M.W. Grand Master may, if the lodge desire it, issue his dispensation authorising the election and installation of a W.M. for such lodge.

ILLINOIS.—Decisions by M. W. J. R. Gorin, Grand Master.

Q. How long does an E. A. or F. C. have to wait, whose application for advancement has been rejected, before he can renew his application?

A. One year.

Q. How long does a Master Mason whose petition for membership has been rejected, have to wait before he can renew the same?

A. Until the next regular meeting.

Q. Can a brother who has not served as a Warden be elected and installed Master, while there are those who have served as Master or Warden in the lodge?

A. Yes, by dispensation.

Q. What officers are elected, and what appointed, by the W.M.?

A. There are different customs in the lodges. Some elect all; others elect W.M., S.W., J.W., Treas., and Sec., and the rest are appointed. The latter is the more usual custom.

Q. Where a committee on the petition of a candidate report unfavourably, is it necessary to take the ballot, or does the report reject the candidate?

A. A ballot should be taken, although the committee may have reported unfavourably.

Q. Can a brother who has lost his left hand be elected and legally preside as Master?

A. I know of no law in Masonry which renders a brother who has lost an arm ineligible to the office of Master.

THE NEMESIS: A TALE OF THE DAYS OF TRAJAN.

By BRO. A. ONEAL HAYE, K.M., K. Cal., Corresponding Member of the German Society, Leipzig; Knight Templar, Scot.; Author of "The History of the Knights Templars;" "Vera Queer;" "Gatherings in Wanderings;" "Songs and Ballads;" "Poemata;" "Legends of Edinburgh;" &c., &c., &c.; Poet Laureate of the Camongate, Kilwinning; P.M. St. Stephens; P.P.Z. of St. Andrews, R.A. Chap.; &c.; &c.

(Continued from page 108.)

CHAPTER XXI.

UNDER THE PORTICUS CONCORDIÆ.

"Listeners never hear good of themselves."—*Proverb.*

A sharp shower of rain fell in the forenoon, shortly before Adrian and Caius set out for Murtius's house. It caught Balbus as he passed the Porticus Concordiæ, and he stepped under a porch to shun it. Among the buildings of Rome, the porticoes have ever held an honourable place, many of them were works of curious and extraordinary beauty, and were built adjacent to sacred and public edifices, being designed as much for use as for ornament. They derived their names either from the temples against which they stood, such as the Porticus Herculis, from authors as the Porticus Pompeia, from the nature or form of the building, as the Porticus curva, or again from the shops that were kept in them, such as the Margaritaria and Argentaria. The Senate sometimes held assemblies there, the jewellers, and dealers in precious stones were accustomed to expose their wares also under them, but their general use was for the purposes of recreation, the Romans walking or riding in them, to avoid the sun in summer, the wet in winter.

Balbus had withdrawn himself into a recess, behind a statue of the Emperor Augustus, just as two other persons made their appearance in the Portico. These were the High Priests of Vesta and of Mars. Deep in an interesting conversation,

they paused short before the hiding place of Balbus, and ignorant and unsuspecting of the presence of an eaves-dropper, continued their talk.

"Yes," said he of Mars, "these city troubles alone keep Trajan from the East, where his presence is urgently demanded, but his merciful policy will prevent the discovery of these miscreants. What a squeamish fancy it is, when he has the names in his hands, not to seize upon the ringleaders."

"The second letter too, that he has received. I cannot see that their being anonymous, prevents them being true."

"He had the same foolish notions in the matter of the Christians, and commended Pliny for ignoring all such communications. A noble theory, but bad practice."

"Have you any idea when the Christians are to be seized? there has been abundant time."

"Not I. Cassius says the nest is cold, that they have been warned of the discovery of their haunts. A watch has been kept, but no one came near."

"Yet they may meet elsewhere."

"The Catacombs are wide enough. I hear they extend some thirty miles. The whole army could not command such a distance, and the windings are most perplexing."

"The Bacchanals have no haunt there?"

"No, their orgies need a warm house. I think Cassius would not have been so bitter against them if they had asked him to join their society."

"He is a disgrace to the priesthood, clever man as he is. The Flamen of Jupiter ought to look to his character, especially with such an exemplary wife."

"I hear he aspires to the Pontifex Maximus."

"Nay, he is over-ambitious—that he will never obtain. Trajan seems not to know his character?"

"Few do. Wine and lust have led him fearfully astray."

"Do you know the leader of these Bacchanals?"

"Balbus, you mean. I know him by sight, and as the author of a scurrilous work called the '*Gentes Romae*.'"

"Faith, in many points a true work, a bold man he to show up so many of the best Roman families. A Jew I think he is, or some such vile reptile."

"I hear Caius Fabius affects him?"

"Or he Caius Fabius. I am sorry to see so

gallant a noble consort with him, but I presume he will be ignorant of his true character. A Cunning dog is Balbus."

"I would he and Maremma were arrested. We could learn enough from them by wholesale coercion than we can otherwise hope for. What think you?"

"The same. I wonder if any of them knows of the strange disappearance of the Vestal Sempromia!"

"Doubtless, birds of a feather flock together, but the rain is over, let us go home."

Not till long after their footsteps died away, did Balbus leave his lurking place. When he did so his features were pallid with deadly fear, his knees knocked together, and he leant against the base of the statue to prevent himself from falling. He saw a terrible abyss yawn to engulf him, death and open disgrace before him. He had been denounced, denounced by some one belonging to the society; who could it be? Maremma's name too coupled with his. A cold dew broke out from every pore of his body, as he thought of that banquet so fatal to Cenna. The others, who had been present had fled, could they have betrayed him? He was in a horrible position, he, too, had better flee, till the storm should blow past, but would Lais go with him?

He ground his teeth as he thought how all might have been avoided by drafting Cassius into the Bacchanal ranks, and Cenna too, but the mischief was done, and the sole question was how to avoid the storm. He must see Lais, everything depended upon her.

(To be continued.)

[The Author reserves the right of reproduction and translation.]

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE "IRISH FREEMASONS' CALENDAR."

For the information of "Hibernian in London," I have a copy of the above for the present year. It may be obtained from the London publisher, Bro. R. Spencer, the Masonic Depot, 26, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields. The price is 2s.

DARKNESS.

The darkness of Masonry is invested with a pure and dignified reference, because it is attached to a system of truth. It places before the mind a series of the most awful and impressive images. It points to the darkness of death and the obscurity of the grave, as the forerunners of a more brilliant and never-fading light which follows at the resurrection of the just. Figure to yourselves the beauty and strict

propriety of this reference, ye who have been raised to the third degree in Masonry. Were your minds enveloped in the shades of that darkness? So shall you again be involved in the darkness of the grave, when death has drawn his sable curtain round. Did you rise to a splendid scene of intellectual brightness? So, if you are obedient to the precepts of Masonry and the dictates of religion, shall you rejoice on the resurrection morn, when the clouds of error and imperfection are separated from your mind, and you behold with unveiled eye the glories which issue from the expanse of heaven, the everlasting splendours of the throne of God!

KING CHARLES'S GOLDEN RULES.

1. Urge no healths.
2. Profane no divine ordinances.
3. Touch no state matters.
4. Reveal no secrets.
5. Pick no quarrels.
6. Make no companions.
7. Maintain no ill opinions.
8. Keep no bad company.
9. Encourage no vice.
10. Make no long meals.
11. Repeat no grievances.
12. Lay no wagers.—J. F. SPURR.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

FREEMASONS' HALL.

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

Dear Sir and Brother.—I hope that on the completion of our new building, the progress of which does us much credit, there will be due provision made in the lodge rooms for all requirements of working the degrees with due attention to details, which cannot be done in their present state, and also that the decorations and fittings will be strictly Masonic in all rooms not intended for general public use, and that even in such Masonic emblems will not be avoided, where they can be with propriety allowed.

As a matter of decoration the style of ornamentation should not be left to any tradesmen who supplies upholstery and chandeliers, but should show the supervision of the masterhand. The new front in Great Queen-street is very suggestive, and calculated to impress the public. Let not our interior lack the like care.

Yours fraternally,
TEKTONIKUS.

'THE BOYS' SCHOOLS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother.—I hail with thankfulness the letter you inserted in your last issue from W. D., P.M., for there is nothing like ventilating a subject to understand all its bearings.

I am not offering W. D., P.M., an answer directly, but indirectly. Bro. Binckes is quite able to answer for himself; I know no man more capable than he to give a substantial reason for all his plans, proposed or accomplished. What he has already done for the school is quite sufficient guarantee to all concerned, that not his heart only but his head also are trustworthy, and that what he suggests as conducive to

the permanent benefit of the charity is worth the most careful consideration. I may add that certainly he will be a very bold man who, *in limine*, should dare to use the words "the proposed scheme would in probability be a failure." Such is W.D.'s *ipse dixit*. Now, sir, this brother may be behind the scenes occasionally: I am not. Once only have I had a short conversation with Bro. Binckes upon the subject of the school; and my impression on leaving him was easily summed up; that it would be strange if he was capable of a failure. Still this was only *my* impression; let Bro. Binckes stand on his own merits and footing.

But the puzzle to me is why there should be this failure. W. D. is very illogical, "let well alone," for if you do not, *one* only is the result, a *failure*. Surely *well* may grow to better. Never was a more obstructive expression used, and never was an idea more detrimental to Masonry entertained than this. Let well alone, as the result (not a word of reason being offered) may be a failure. It is well—may I add Cæsar's death words?

Now in the first place, I cannot see what analogy there is between our school and the Blue-coat School; I suppose Christ's Hospital is meant. From W. D., P.M.'s expressions I should say that he would not be capable of enlightening me, as he surely is not quite up in the "Blues." Do the Blues pay? Next, if he is correct in an analogy, what does this prove but that the one school is perverted in its purposes; but it would be absurd to argue thence that the other *must* become so. Next, is W. D., P.M., aware that all our schools are established on the paying and non-paying system? What are our kin-foundationships, our scholarships, our exhibitions? Are the boys so perverted, are things so horrible as he pictures, at the Charterhouse? or does Tom Nameless (as his father, if he has one, was before him) very successfully *look down* upon King Henry's descendants at Winchester?

If he knows school-boy nature,—if he knows anything of public schools,—he will know his argument is perfectly untenable. But once more, and to this I call the attention of the Craft generally, and of Bro. Binckes especially; whilst I wish him God-speed in his hearty and *Masonic* endeavours:

"Aide-toi, et Dieu t'aidera."

How many an anxious, struggling father, working hard to give his sons a really good education, our school, as an instrument in God's hands, might help!

Are we are only to help the orphans? Is it really a rule amongst Masons not to aid the struggling? not to lend an assisting hand to the hard working? Is it a landmark that we are never to make any progress in Charity? Are we to stand and say to the parent: "Yes, things are bad; education for the middle class is shameful,—the cheap is bad, the high-priced unattainable, we know by you; but strive on, and hope never; we intend to leave well alone, although we might do a great deal of good by a little change; no, we intend to bar progress, and insult Charity and, by and bye when you are dead, make your orphans change the dirge for the jubilate, whilst we declaim about our bountiful assistance." No, sir, help the living brother to rear his little ones by offering him what he wants for them at a reasonable price; and you will do good to Masonry, further Charity, and promote progress in the world.

I may write strongly, but I own I feel strongly. Ever since I have been a Mason, my heart's longing in Masonry has been to assist in ornamenting those two noble temples of ours, the Boys' and Girls' Schools. My heart's longing, I say, for I can do but little; but if I have written too strongly in W. D.'s opinion, let me now assure him that it is in no disrespect to him, and that to him, as to you, I am,

Yours fraternally and truly,
W. N. KIM.

FREEMASONRY.

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

Of the various subjects which have occupied my time and attention, about which I have thought, spoken, and written, during the last twenty years, there is probably no one which has so sustainedly maintained a hold upon my mind as that of Freemasonry. To many it may appear a mystery that such should be the case, since its operations may be considered as very limited; nor can I myself satisfactorily explain it, for there are many other subjects, which, under the view generally taken of the Craft, seem to be of far higher importance, unless on the supposition that it is more suitable to the constitution of my mind, added to the belief that if carried out in its integrity, it is capable of producing great effects on the habits and morals of mankind, as well as on their intellectual powers, that it has elevating tendencies, secondary only and ministering to the effects of pure and practical Christianity. With this view, it has been my object, as far as my limited influence extends, to endeavour to make the principles understood by our members, to induce higher aspirations among them, to eradicate all that appears vicious or calculated to bring our professions into contempt, to show that the duties of Masonry are not confined to the ritual and ceremonies of the lodge-room, but should be carried into all the circumstances of social, professional, or commercial life, in fact, that its principles, which are perfectly in accordance with and based upon the revealed Word of God, should be the guide of all our actions. I cannot but confess that I have often been disappointed in regard to the accomplishment of my aims, that some of the difficulties which have arisen appeared insuperable, and this to a great extent springing from a want of appreciation of the grandeur of our objects, from low views of them, from want of care in the selection, first of candidates for admission into the Order, secondly in the choice of rulers, and thirdly in the administration of our rites. I much fear that with very many of us Freemasonry is adopted as a profession and valued chiefly on account of the advantages it offers, by introduction to persons from whom we imagine we have thus obtained a right to claim aid, patronage, and other benefits, rather than from the opportunities we derive of doing good to our fellow creatures, of "pouring the healing balm of consolation into the bosom of the distressed." Further, I conceive that a large proportion of our members look mainly to the enjoyment of social intercourse and of a good banquet. I know nothing personally of the Craft as it exists in the metropolis, but in several instances I have received reports from provincial Masons after visiting lodges in London, conveying their impression that at most of the

meetings the banquet appears to be the main object to which the work of the lodge and the inculcation of our principles are held as completely subordinate. If these surmises be correct, no doubt Freemasonry is generally misunderstood even by its members and admirers. Some colour is given to the opinion now expressed, by reference to the reports in our pages of Masonic meetings, in many of which great stress is often laid on the variety and extent of the viands, the quality of the wines, the good management and liberality of the host, matters which in any accounts I send you are entirely omitted as irrelevant to the matter in hand and of no interest to distant readers. That our charities exist in some sort of efficiency is so far satisfactory, but if we may judge from the constant appeals for help made by those who have the conduct of them, they are by no means fully appreciated, they might be extended far beyond their present limits, the blessedness of their doing good is not practically comprehended. It cannot be denied however that the progress of the last few years marks an increasing interest in them. That large sums of money are given away by members and lodges to relieve temporary distress we know to be the case, but if we are to believe a statement recently made openly at a Masonic meeting by an officer of Grand Lodge, a very large portion of this is misapplied, so as to do positive mischief, thus seriously reflecting on the wisdom and judgment of the donors.

In the course of the last twenty years, I have resided and taken an active part in three Masonic districts. In the first, at the time I was initiated, there seemed to be great irregularities and deficiencies in the mode of administering the rites in the several lodges, and so fully was this felt, that at considerable cost measures were taken to produce uniformity, and to instruct the rising officers, who up to that time had with difficulty obtained the requisite knowledge, which was monopolised by a few. I have every reason to believe not only that Masonic matters have progressed satisfactorily ever since, but that the character of the Craft has so greatly advanced, as to treble the number of lodges and of members, and at the same time to attract the attention of men of high moral worth, social position, and intellectual attainments, who had before held aloof. A powerful auxiliary in bringing about so satisfactory a condition has been the conduct of the nobleman who holds the office of Prov. Grand Master, who is not only worthy of all regard, but takes an active part in his province. The second Masonic district in which I was located for some years presents some discrepancies. Peculiar circumstances have caused a great number of initiations, and numerically the Craft has made great strides. There are many most excellent men among them, but in view of the manner in which the province has been ruled, the Order seems to some extent under a ban, for on no consideration will many gentlemen of high character join it, or, having joined it, they decline to take any part in the proceedings. There, too, I found what to me was most repugnant, namely, that the chief instructor took upon himself to make alterations in the verbiage and mode of administering the rites according to his own notions. I am now in a third district, in which I find Masonry existing indeed, but in a very languid state. There are Past Masters who have never been

able to perform a ceremony, scarcely to open and close the lodge in a very imperfect manner. Though there are three lodges, I fancy there are but two, or at most three, Masons who know how to instal a Master. No subscriptions are sent to the Masonic Charities, and there is no benevolent fund, though in justice to the D. Prov. G.M., I must state that he is establishing one, and to the brethren, that in cases of urgent need, they are ready to relieve distress from their own pockets.

The young officers have complained that they cannot obtain instruction, which causes the working to be loose; a remedy for this is now being applied as a temporary expedient, advantage being taken of the short residence of a skilled and enthusiastic Mason, to form a class for instruction from him. I should add that the D. Prov. G.M. is fully alive to the deficiencies, and anxious to do all in his power to remove them, but he cannot succeed in rousing the members from the state of apathy into which they have fallen, as especially marked by the scanty attendance at all lodge meetings. I am told that the Craft once flourished in this quarter, and that all the best among the residents belonged to it, but that some few years ago it fell into disrepute, owing to peculiar circumstances of laxity which gave great offence to the most high-minded of the brethren, and led to their withdrawal, from which it has never recovered. Caste was, as it were, thus lost, and it is well known that in certain districts where it is made part and parcel of social life, this feeling operates to a very powerful extent.

In all quarters, though in some to a greater extent than in others, a most disreputable practice exists, one calculated to degrade us in the eyes of the external world. I refer to the exhibition of Masonic symbols on the walls, and in the windows of places of trade, and more particularly of such as minister most to sensual indulgence, established as a fertile source of crime. I refer to public-houses, gin palaces, and houses of entertainment generally. What can be more inconsistent than to see the double triangle and the initial of the sacred name in such situations? No wonder that, by persons who have a reverence for holy things, we are deemed not only disregarding, but as acting in direct violation of them.

I intended concluding what I have to say in one letter, but finding that it is likely to extend beyond reasonable limits, I pause here, hoping in a second communication to draw some inferences from the statements now made.

P.M.

F.R.S.N.A.—At the meeting of the "Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries of Copenhagen," lately held in the Castle of Rosenborg, Mr. George Markham Tweddell, of Stokesley, F.S.A. Scot. and Newc. &c., author of several well-known works, and Mr. John Ryley Robinson, of Dowsbury, F.R.G.S., F.S.A. Scot. and Newc. &c., were elected Fellows of the Society. The Society's principal object is the publication of old Icelandic manuscripts and of other old Northern literary remains. Its place, however, comprehends besides whatever else may serve to throw light upon the ancient history, the language, and the antiquities in general of the North. The Society elects as Fellows, in foreign countries as well as in the North itself, literary men and patrons of science, and other persons who take an interest in historical and antiquarian pursuits. His Majesty Christian IX., King of Denmark, is President of the Society, and takes a warm interest in its success, and the diplomas of the Fellows bear his autograph.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

An interesting lecture on "Superstition and Fairyland," was delivered on Wednesday evening, the 6th inst., in the school-room of the St. John's Mission, Charles-street, Backchurch-lane, E., by Bro. James Mason, G.S.B., in aid of the funds of the institution. The attendance was extremely good, and the auditory evidently enjoyed the treat afforded them by the excellent matter of the lecture which combined the *utili dulci* in an eminent degree, and elicited frequent applause. Several young ladies kindly officiated in turn at the pianoforte, and sang some pleasing duets. At the conclusion of the entertainment a vote of thanks was proposed by Bro. Vaughan, J.D., Chaplain No. 907, seconded by Bro. Little, P.M. 975, and cordially awarded to the able lecturer, and the proceedings terminated with the National Anthem. The district of St. John is under the supervision of Bro. the Rev. J. M. Vaughan, who is untiring in his efforts to ameliorate the condition of the poor around him, and whose praiseworthy zeal deserves the support and admiration of every member of the Craft.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.—The Board meets on Tuesday afternoon next, the 19th inst., at three o'clock.

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF BENEVOLENCE OF GRAND LODGE.—The committee meet on Wednesday next, the 20th inst.

THE MASONIC UNION HALL.—We understand the Masonic Union Hall, in Bedford-row, which has hitherto been the property of a limited liability company, has been purchased by Bro. William Stuart, Prov. G.M. for Hertfordshire. There has been laid out on the erection and decoration of the hall upwards of £6000. It resembles, but is much superior to, the Masonic Hall in Dublin. It is admirably adapted for Masonic meetings, lectures, and balls, having every convenience requisite for them, and we are informed that lodges, &c., held there can have their own cellar and provide their own wine, merely paying a small sum for corkage. We have likewise heard of a plan, not yet quite matured, which will render the establishment one of great utility to the Masonic body. A brother, well known in the Craft as a P.G.S. and life governor of all the charities, has provisionally undertaken the management, and from his previous reputation we have every reason to expect success. We shall watch with a critical eye this undertaking, and report from time to time our impression; but, as it may promote the interest of the Craft, we wish it every success.

BRO. GEORGE TEDDER'S CONCERT ON THE 20TH INST.—It may not be generally known amongst the brethren that our esteemed Bro. Tedder has unfortunately been labouring under severe affliction for nearly four years. Several of our friends have resolved to testify their esteem for Bro. Tedder by lending their assistance towards promoting a concert which is intended to be given in St. James's Hall, on Wednesday the 20th inst., and a committee has been formed for the purpose of organising and carrying out the necessary arrangements to ensure the concert being successful, and resulting in substantially benefitting so worthy a Mason as our afflicted and esteemed Bro. Tedder. We trust the brethren will muster in strong numbers at the concert. Tickets may be had of any of the committee, the president of which is the Grand Registrar Bro. R. J. M'Intyre. As the brethren on the committee number some 60 influential names, our space will only permit us to add that tickets ls.

2s., 3s., and 5s. each, may be had of the Hon. Sec., Bro. J. Linnaeus Banks, 2, Malvern-terrace, Barnsbury Park, N.; and of Bro. George Tedder, 3, Amersham Villas, Upper Lewisham-road, New Cross.

THE DEVON AND CORNWALL MASONIC CALENDAR FOR 1867.—We are pleased to announce that a copy of this useful local Masonic Calendar has reached us for review. Want of space compels us to defer giving until next week the notice of it which we have prepared.

METROPOLITAN.

EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 27).—This ancient and flourishing lodge held its annual installation meeting at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Thursday the 7th February. The business commenced with the confirmation of the minutes of the preceding lodge, including a grant of £25 to our Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows. Four brethren were then passed to the second degree and two others raised, the ceremony being ably performed by Bro. Hoare, P.M. Bro. John Savage, P.G.D. (who is an Honorary Member of this lodge), then assumed the Masters chair—the S.W. chair being occupied by Bro. Farnfield, Past Assist. G. Sec., and the J.V. chair by Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G. Purst. A board of twenty-two Installed Masters being formed, Bro. John Coutts was duly installed W.M. of this lodge; this beautiful ceremony being rendered by Bro. Savage in that superior manner which has made his name so celebrated. The officers appointed and invested were Bros. John May, S.W.; W. H. Libbis, J.W.; Todd, P.M., Treas.; H. G. Buss, P.M., Sec.; Rev. Henry Ducat, Chap.; Poole, S.D.; Cooper, J.D.; Frank May, I.G.; Paine, P.M., Steward; J. Cole, Dir. of Cers. The lodge was closed down in a most correct manner by the W.M., who is well known to be an efficient worker in the Craft. Several propositions were received for initiations, and some liberal grants made from the Charity Funds of the lodge towards the relief of needy brethren. The newly installed W.M. proffered his services to represent the lodge at the forthcoming festival in aid of the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children, which will be holden at Freemason's Hall on the 8th of May next. The brethren, nearly seventy in number, then adjourned to a sumptuous banquet provided by the Messrs. Clemov. Amongst the visitors, twenty-eight in number, in addition to Bro. Savage, P.G.D., were observed Bros. Patten, P.G.S.B., the Secretary of the Masonic Girls' School; Farnfield, P. Assist. G. Sec., the Secretary of the Masonic Institution for Aged Freemasons; Joseph Smith, P.G. Purst.; John O. Truman, P.M., No. 5; Watson, P.M., No. 25, P.G. Steward; Levy, P.M., No. 188; Wescombe, P.M., No. 905; Purdy, W.M., No. 861; Terry, P.M., No. 228; Pendlebury, W.M., No. 1,056; Richard Thwaites, No. 34; Tyler, P.M., No. 63; Roberts, No. 657; Fox, P.M., No. 19; Hughes, P.M., No. 179, &c. After the banquet the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to with enthusiasm. Bro. Patten, P.G.S.B., returning thanks for the Grand Officers. Bro. Savage's health as the Installing Master was responded to by that brother, and in so doing he passed high encomiums on the lodge, and the members generally, for the liberal manner in which they supported the several Masonic Charities, which was still further evinced by the very ready way in which the W.M. had responded to the call that evening on behalf of the Masonic Girls' School, and expressed a hope that he might be present on many similar occasions, to witness the prosperity of the lodge, and instal their W.M.'s; he having done so for the past twenty years. Bro. Watson returned thanks for the visitors. The W.M.'s health was proposed by the I.P.M., and responded to in suitable terms. In the course of the evening Bro. Todd, in a few appropriate remarks, presented a very handsome P.M.'s jewel to Bro. Tomlinson the I.P.M., and alluded to the happy and prosperous state of the lodge under his management. Bro. Tomlinson feelingly expressed his acknowledgements for the honour conferred upon him, and also for the support he had received during his year of office. The several other toasts having been proposed and replied to—enlivened by several excellent songs, and a very graphic imitation of some of the living actors by Bro. Levy, the brethren separated highly pleased with the entertainment of the evening.

JUBILEE LODGE (No. 72).—At the meeting of this lodge held on Monday, the 4th inst. Bro. Oxford, the W.M. of this lodge, worked the three degrees in a manner which reflected great credit upon him, seeing that he has so recently been elevated to the chair of K. S. Bro. James Danu was initiated; Bros. Setchell, Button, and Berger were passed, and Bros. Morgan, Poole, and Blackshaw were raised to the sublime degree of M.M.

YARBOROUGH LODGE (No. 554).—The annual banquet meeting of this hard working and prosperous lodge of instruction was held on the 5th inst. at Bro. Walters, the Green Dragon, Stepney. The W.M. Bro. Hamilton, P.M. of the Parent Lodge, presided and was supported by his officers and a numerous attendance of members of the lodge of instruction, and visiting brethren. The *pro forma* business having been disposed of, the brethren, about forty in number, adjourned to an excellent banquet, complete in every respect, and which reflected great credit upon mine host of the Green Dragon, Bro. Walters. The cloth having been drawn and grace returned, after the customary loyal and Masonic toasts had been given, and right heartily received, the toast of "The Visiting Brethren" followed; the W.M. then proposed in very eulogistic terms, "The Health of the Committee of Stewards," who had managed so admirably all the arrangements appertaining to this annual reunion; no pains had been spared by them in their efforts to provide for the comfort and happiness of the brethren, and they deserved the warmest thanks that could be accorded to them; they had each individually earned it so justly. The W.M. identified with this toast the names of Bros. Scurr, Morrison, Verrey, Chadwick and Sherrea. Bro. Wainwright returned thanks on behalf of the Visitors, and Bros. Verrey, Scurr, Morrison and Chadwick, each in a very retiring manner, returned thanks for the Banquet Committee. Bro. Saqui, P.M., and Preceptor of the lodge of instruction then proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master Bro. Hamilton, Past Master of the Parent Lodge," and in doing so paid a well merited tribute to the many distinguishing points which had so endeared their W.M. to all who had the advantage of knowing him either in or out of lodge. Bro. Hamilton was one of those who was ever ready to assist his fellow men when called upon to do so; and with reference to the way in which he had discharged the duties of W.M. of this lodge of instruction, it was a gratification to him (Bro. Saqui) to witness, and he felt assured it must also have been so to the brethren to experience, Bro. Hamilton's ever readiness to impart Masonic instruction, coupled with the pleasing urbanity of manner which characterised the W.M. whilst in discharge of his duties, and in imparting the truths of Freemasonry. Bro. Saqui felt assured that all present would heartily reciprocate the sentiments he had expressed; the brethren testified their hearty endorsement of all that had just fallen from Bro. Saqui's lips by receiving the toast most enthusiastically. The W.M. expressed his thanks for the kindly manner in which the last toast had been given and so cordially received. He said he was very glad to contribute in any way in his power towards the instruction and enlightenment of the brethren in their onward path in search of the truths and beautiful teachings of Freemasonry. The W.M. then proposed, with much pleasure, the next toast, that of "The Officers of the Yarborough Lodge of Instruction." He thanked them most cordially for the hearty co-operation and assistance they had rendered him, and complimented them upon the efficiency which distinguished them in the discharge of their respective duties. Bro. Morrison having returned thanks on behalf of the officers—Bros. Chadwick, Verrey, &c.—the W.M. then proposed, as the next toast, "Prosperity to the neighbouring Lodges of Instruction," and identified with the toast the name of their esteemed Bro. D. Scurr, P.M. of the mother Doric Lodge, and who had so pre-eminently distinguished himself as a zealous worker in the cause of Freemasonry in general, and of Masonic Instruction in particular. Bro. Scurr was unremitting in his attendance at lodges of instruction, and more especially at this lodge of instruction, the United Mariners, and the Doric, and he was ever ready to impart to the brethren that knowledge of the teachings and truths of Freemasonry which he had acquired as the fruits of his own assiduous studies and constant attendance at those fountains of Masonic vitality, lodges of instruction. Bro. Scurr, P.M., in his usual pithy manner, briefly, and to the point, acknowledged the kind manner in which his name had just been identified with the toast of the neighbouring lodges of instruction. He said that the knowledge of Freemasonry which he possessed had been freely imparted to him, and in the

same spirit would he at all times gladly impart, and to the best of his ability, that knowledge to all brethren who were desirous of Masonic instruction. The W.M. then proposed the toast of "Our Three Great Charities," and in doing so made a powerful appeal to the brethren on behalf of the institutions which reflect so much lustre upon the Order, and he pointed out in a well-delivered speech the especial claims which the admirable institutions referred to have upon the hearts and purses of the Craft, he concluded by reminding the brethren not to forget the Charities, and as Bro. Mosely, the W.M. of the Parent Lodge, who was present amongst them this evening, was going to represent the Yarborough Lodge at the next Festival of the Boys School, he trusted the brethren would afford him every material support which it was in their power to give him, he therefore called upon the brethren to drink to the success of our three great Charities, coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Mosely, W.M. of the Mother Yarborough Lodge, as Steward for the Boys' School Festival. And as the "Wee short hours" were not far distant, he would to save time make a compound of the present toast by incorporating with it the name of Bro. James Stevenson who was in their midst this evening as the representative of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR, which was pre-eminently distinguished not only as the only journal published in Great Britain solely devoted to the interests of the Craft, but its pages were ever ready to advocate the claims of our Masonic Charities, and were teeming with suggestions for their further success and prosperity. In mentioning Bro. Stevenson's name he did so with a pleasure which was alloyed with regret inasmuch as it had just come to the knowledge of him (the W.M.) that Bro. Stevenson whose face was so familiar to many present as the "Chiel amongst them taking notes," was "in search of fortunes sliddery'da" about leaving London to reside in Glasgow. Bros. Mosely and Stevenson having appropriately returned thanks, the toast of "The Health of Bro. Saqui," the Preceptor of this lodge of instruction, and the customary Tylers toast brought the proceedings of this happy evening to a timely conclusion, and the brethren dispersed in love and harmony. We must not omit to add that Bros. H. and J. Wainwright, Jarman and other obliging brethren, exerted their vocal and recitative powers with marked effect.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 147).—This old lodge met on Wednesday, the 12th inst., at the White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford. Bro. J. Chapman, W.M., presided, and there were present—Bros. J. Patte, S.W.; W. Andrews, J.W.; J. Lightfoot, P.M., Treas.; J. Bavin, P.M., Sec.; G. Patt, S.D.; Percival, J.D.; J. Whiffen, I.G.; G. Bolton, P.M.; C. H. Davis, P.M.; Parsons, P.M.; F. Walters, P.M.; H. Moore, P.M.; N. Wingfield, P.M., and a large number of members. The visitors, as usual, were numerous, and we noticed Bros. E. Palmer, 33; Gale, W.M. 548, and several others. The only ceremony worked was raising Bro. D. Davies to the third degree, which was admirably done, and every portion of it gone through, even to the tracing board. Bro. J. Patte, S.W., worked the first section of the first lecture. Bro. S. Garrett was re-elected and re-invested as Tyler. Two guineas was unanimously voted to a relative of an old past officer of this lodge. The initiation fee was raised from five to six guineas by the unanimous consent of the members present. The lodge was then closed. Refreshment followed after labour.

INSTRUCTION.

MERCHANT NAVY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION (No. 781).—This lodge held its usual weekly meeting at the Silver Tavern, Limehouse, on the 6th inst. Present:—Bros. Daniells, W.M.; Davis, S.W.; Bracebridge, J.W.; Michaelson, S.D.; Bradbury, J.D.; Holt, I.G.; Potts, Preceptor; Lowman, Killock, W.M.; Medland, Armstrong, and several other brethren. The lodge having been opened in the first degree with solemn prayer, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of opening the lodge in the second and third degrees respectively having been worked, the lodge was then closed in the third, and in the second degree. Bro. Potts, the Preceptor of the lodge, for the instruction of the brethren, worked the first section of the second degree. The lodge was then closed in the second degree. It was then proposed by Bro. Daniells, W.M., seconded by Bro. Davis, S.W., that one guinea out of the funds of this lodge of instruction be presented to the Committee of the Central Soup Kitchen and Relief Fund, 196, High-street, Poplar, which was carried unanimously. The brethren then individually subscribed 15s. 6d. to the same fund. We are pleased to be able to record this additional evidence of the sympathy of the Craft for

the sufferings of the thousands of unemployed at the east of London. The heart of every true Freemason must bleed at the accounts given in the daily papers of the starvation and misery prevailing at the East End.

PROVINCIAL.

CUMBERLAND.

CARLISLE.—*Union Lodge (No. 810).*—On Tuesday, the 29th ult., a regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall. Bro. G. G. Hayward, W.M., P. Prov. G. Steward, occupied the chair of K.S., and was ably supported by Bro. J. Slack, S.W.; W. Carrick, J.W.; W. R. Hayward as S.D.; G. Somerville, J.D.; J. B. Paisley as I.G.; G. Murchie, Sec.; W. Court, Treas.; A. Woodhouse, S.W. 412. Steward, as Tyler; J. Gibson, I.G.; J. Rodney, R. Metcalf, W. H. Pulford, T. Cockburn, W. Irwin; R. M. Hill, J.W. 412. The minutes were read and confirmed, and the lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Capt. Owen Jones, of Lilloth, was tested as to his proficiency in the F.C. degree, and being found worthy, retired, and after the lodge was opened in the third degree, the candidate was admitted and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, by Bro. F. W. Hayward, P.M. and Dir. of Cers., P. Prov. S.G.W., in that quiet and impressive manner which has been so often remarked as Bro. Hayward's style; after which the lodge was closed according to ancient custom to the E.A. degree, and after the roll was called a letter of condolence, written by Bro. G. T. Clark to Mrs. Howe on behalf of this lodge, was read in affectionate remembrance of Bro. J. Howe, J.P., P.M. 310, for which Bro. Clark received a vote of thanks from the brethren present, for the beautiful letter he had written. The lodge was then called from labour to refreshment, and the brethren enjoyed themselves with toasts, speeches, and sentiments, all parting in good fellowship at a convenient hour.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge (No. 279).*—The first meeting of this lodge for the present year was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 6th inst., under the presidency of the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly, a letter having been received from the W.M., Bro. L. A. Clarke, expressing his regret that, being detained at Liverpool by business, he was unable to attend on this occasion. A letter was also received from the Rev. Bro. Anderson, S.D., expressing his regret for his unavoidable absence. Amongst those present were Bros. Pettifor and Marris, P.M.'s; Adlard, S.W.; Ride, J.W.; Stretton, Sec.; Gosling, J.D.; Thorpe, I.G.; Visitors, Bros. Major Brewin, P.M.; Atkins, S.D.; J. E. Clarke, G. Toller, Baines, Sculthorpe, and Partridge, of the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 523. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the last lodge and anniversary, on St. John's Day, read and confirmed, a communication was received from Bro. C. Morris, P.M., stating that he must decline to undertake again the office of Treasurer, to which he had been re-elected. Bro. Morris's resignation of the office was received with regret, and a ballot having taken place, Bro. W. Weare, P.M., was unanimously elected to the office. A letter was read from the Secretary of the Hall Committee, informing the brethren that the committee had found it necessary to increase the rent paid by the several lodges and chapters, in order to make the increase from that source equal to five per cent. per annum on the entire outlay, and that the rent payable by St. John's Lodge would be £21, in lieu of £15, which was agreed to. Notice of motion was given by the D. Prov. G.M., that in future the fee for initiation be, as formerly, £5 5s., in lieu of £4 4s., as at present, and that one guinea out of every such fee be paid at the end of each year to a sinking fund, for the liquidation of the debt on the Masonic Hall. Two gentlemen having been proposed as candidates for installation at the next meeting, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent a few hours very pleasantly in the interchange of social intercourse and harmony.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

LOUTH.—*Lindsey Lodge (No. 712).*—At the last regular lodge in January Bro. Edmund Locket, Capt. Royal North Lincoln Militia, was installed W.M. by Bro. Waite, P.M., and the following brethren were duly invested with their respective badges of office, viz.:—Bros. Simons, J.P.M.; Griffin, S.W.; Seaton, J.W.; Nash, Chap.; Robinson, Treas.; W. L. Mason, Sec.; England,

S.D.; Birkett, J.D.; H. Porter, Org.; Robson, Dir. of Cers.; W. Simons and J. Raishley, Stewards; Andrews, I.G.; and R. P. Hodgson, Tyler. Mr. Upton having been well and worthily recommended, regularly proposed, and accepted, was initiated into our mysteries and privileges. The lodge being afterwards closed, the brethren adjourned to the Masons' Arms Hotel, where Mr. Birkett, the respected J.D.'s father, provided an elegant supper, which was much enjoyed by all present. The usual loyal, Masonic, and complimentary toasts were given, and a truly harmonious evening spent. The W.M. must be congratulated upon the pleasing prospects of the lodge under which he enters upon his year of office, as not only is a new and elegant lodge-room being built, and we trust will be consecrated, but peace and harmony reigns supreme, and while we wish Freemasonry in general may become influential in diffusing the light of wisdom, dispensing the beauties of virtue, aiding the strength of reason, and lessening the aggregate of human misery and vice, we hope the Lindley Lodge in particular will do its share in promoting the growth of those excellent virtues, Faith, Hope, and Charity.

SUSSEX.

CONSECRATION OF THE MID-SUSSEX LODGE (No. 1,141), AT HORSHAM.

Friday, the 1st inst., having been appointed by the Prov. G. Master for the consecration of the Mid-Sussex Lodge, and the installation of the first W.M., a most successful meeting took place in the Assembly Rooms at the King's Head Hotel, Horsham. The consecration was fixed for 1.30, and the lodge having been opened in due and ancient form, the ceremony of constituting and consecrating the "Mid-Sussex" was performed by Bro. Edmund Joseph Turner, the D. Prov. G.M., in the absence, through indisposition, of Bro. Col. George C. D'Albia, the Prov. G.M. The other Prov. Grand Officers who took part in the ceremony were Bros. J. Griffith, No. 811, Prov. G. Chap.; John H. Scott, Prov. G.S.W.; W. R. Wood, Prov. G.J.W.; G. E. Pocock, Prov. G.S.B., and Prov. G. Sec.; C. J. Conder, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; D. P. Freeman, P. Prov. J.G.W.; H. Potter (Brunswick), P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Richard Butcher, P. Prov. G. Purst.; Jesse Mann, P. Prov. G.J.D.; and U. Hewin, P. Prov. J.G.W. The visitors included several Prov. G. Officers, and other brethren standing high in the Craft.

The installation of Bro. Frederick Slight, P.J.G.D., as first Master of the Mid-Sussex Lodge, was then proceeded with, according to ancient form, by Bro. Gaven E. Pocock, P.G. Sword Bearer and Prov. G. Sec. The W.M. then proceeded to invest his officers for the ensuing years, viz.:—Bros. William Curtis, S.W.; William Challin, J.W.; Henry Horne, S.D.; J. B. M. Camm, J.D.; William Lintott, jun., Treas.; John Thorpe, I.G.; John H. Tucker, Sec.; and George Amcock, Tyler.

The brethren afterwards, to the number of about eighty, adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided at the King's Head. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and heartily responded to, and the brethren dispersed at an early hour, a special train having, through the kindness of the W.M., been provided, leaving Three Bridges, at 8.38 p.m., for Brighton.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

GUERNSEY.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting for the appointment of officers was held at the Masonic Rooms, on Thursday, Jan. 31st. The chair was taken at 8.30 by Bro. Gallienne, D. Prov. G.M., acting as P.G.M.; indeed, he took this high position with the understanding that the rule of the province would be entirely in his hands. He was supported by Bro. Hutchinson, P.M., acting as D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. Guilbert, W.M., as S.W.; Bro. Smithard, P.M., as J.W.; the W.M.'s of all the Guernsey Lodges; Bros. Collette, P.M., Sec.; Dr. Hopkins, P.M., and P. Prov. S.G.W. for Warwickshire, as a visitor, most of the members of the Prov. G. Lodge, and several other brethren.

The minutes of the last meeting, held in July, were read and confirmed. The Secretary announced that the returns had been made, and the provincial dues forwarded by all the lodges except one, to which he had, under direction from the D. Prov. G.M., sent several communications. He afterwards read these,

together with the only reply he had received, namely, one from the newly-installed W.M.

Resolutions were passed ordering the purchase of new provincial jewels, to replace such as were missing, and it was also determined that in future the Treasurer shall be considered as keeper of the jewels, for which he shall be held responsible, and that he be directed always to take a receipt on giving up a jewel to any Prov. Officer. Bro. Hutchinson was re-elected to fill the office of Treasurer.

Before appointing the officers for next year, the D. Prov. G.M. explained the principle on which he had determined to act, namely, the promotion of each officer by one step, the vacancy thus left being filled up by one who had previously discharged the duties of Steward, the wearing of the red clothing being always regarded as an indispensable preliminary to investiture with the purple.

Brother James Gardner, acting as Dir. of Cers., presented the following brethren, on whom were conferred the collars and jewels of the respective offices:—Bros. Smithard, S.W.; Wakley, J.W.; Churchouse, Reg.; Collette, Sec.; Hutchinson, Treas.; Stickland, S.D.; De Garris, J.D.; Wilcocks, Supt. of Works; Gaudion, Dir. of Cers.; Martin, Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Prevot, Sd. Bearer; De Carteret, Purst.; Mauger, Tyler; Turton, Stoneleigh, Smythson, Gardner, Thurston, and Glencross, Stewards.

Owing to peculiar circumstances the accounts had not been audited. Bros. Guilbert, Smythson, and Stickland were appointed auditors, and requested to present their report at a meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge to be held in April.

A little difficulty appears to have arisen in this province, owing to one of the lodges having declined paying the Prov. Grand Lodge dues, until certain explanations have been given. The D. Prov. G.M. was consequently under the necessity of directing the Prov. G. Sec. to summon the W.M. to appear before him with the books and the warrant, to show cause, &c. At the request of the W.M., however, who has but lately been installed, he consented to postpone proceedings until after the next meeting of the lodge. This matter elicited many questions, and, in reply to them, an explanation of the responsibilities of the W.M. of a lodge, about which the ideas of some of the brethren seemed to be very vague.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was finally closed at a quarter to ten. DOYLE'S LODGE OF FELLOWSHIP (No. 84).—The monthly meeting was held at the Masonic rooms on Thursday February 7th, and was more numerously attended than previous ones for a long time, there being about thirty brethren present. The lodge was opened soon after eight o'clock by Bro. Guilbert, W.M., supported by Bros. Gallienne, D.P.G.M., Churchouse, Collette, Sparrow, Hutchinson, Stickland and Smithard, P.M.'s; Martin, S.W.; Gardner, J.W., and all the other officers in their places. As visitors there were Bros. Millington, P.M. 601; Dr. Hopkins, P.M. 43 and 958; Dawson, S.W. 243. The minutes having been read and confirmed, Bro. Carré was presented for examination before proceeding to the second degree, who, after having satisfactorily answered the questions, was entrusted and dismissed for preparation. The lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Carré on his return was duly passed as a F.C. by the W.M., after which the D.P.G.M. gave him the lecture on the tracing board in a most lucid and emphatic manner. The lodge was then closed in the second degree. The Treasurer reported that his accounts had been audited, and that there was a balance in hand of about £12 besides a considerable amount of dues not yet paid. A candidate for initiation was proposed by the D.P.G.M., and the lodge was finally closed soon after nine o'clock. The brethren then adjourned to the refreshment room. The whole proceedings of the evening, it should in justice be added, were conducted in a most satisfactory manner, and this was the more creditable as it was the first meeting after the installation of the new officers, who were well up to their work.

SCOTLAND.

GRAND LODGE.

The quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, held on the 4th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, was characterised by only one event of importance. The following motion was discussed: By Bro. J. T. Douglas, R.W.M. 405, seconded by Bro. John A. Stevenson, Pr. M. 43, "That every Master of Lodges holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland

and P.M.s, being members of Grand Lodge, by *ex-officio* members of grand committee; and that the same meet on the last Friday of every month for the dispatch of business." And lost by a small majority. It is, however, but right to state that the greater part of the majority did not understand the effect of the motion, and those in the minority, hard working, and intelligent brethren, did. The election of the grand committee was, for a long while, one of those magnificent farces, which is a characteristic of Scottish institutions. When the period for nomination came round, the outgoing members were quietly renominated by the others, and thus a beautiful little clique ruled Grand Lodge. A most disgraceful incident which happened about a couple years ago, in an attack upon certain officers of the Grand Lodge, opened the eyes of the brethren to the dark doings, and the clique was smashed into pieces, and the members for ever parted from each other. A strong infusion of Glasgow blood, with such brethren as Bros. Barrow, Wallace, &c., into grand committee has worked like a miracle, but still the whole system of representation and of Grand Committee is rotten, and must speedily come to an end. Bro. Douglas, perhaps the most intelligent, at least the most hard-working and far-seeing W.M. in Edinburgh, put the case fairly and calmly before the Grand Lodge, but there are none so deaf as those who will not hear.

A Prov. G.M. for New Brunswick was appointed, and Charters were granted to 1. St. Andrew, Glasgow; 2. St. Fergus, Wick; 3. Westland Kilwinning, Hokitiku, New Zealand; 4. Oswald of Dunikier, Kirkcaldy.

Upon the motion of Bro. Anthony Oneal Haye, the following list of names of brethren were directed to be sent to the Grand Lodge of Prussia for that body to choose a representative from Henry Inglis, Esq., of Torsonce; Colonel Campbell, of Blytheswood (a distinguished Crimean hero), and William Chambers, of Glenormiston.

The other business was of no importance.

INDIA.

BOMBAY.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF BOMBAY AND ITS TERRITORIES

At a half-yearly communication, holden at the Freemasons' Hall, at the rear of the Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy's Hospital, on Wednesday, the 5th December, 1866. Present—Bros. G. Taylor, D.G.M.; the Hon. J. Gibbs, Deputy D.G.M.; A. C. Gumpert, D.G.J.W., as D.G.S.W.; H. Avron, D. G. Reg., as D.G.J.W.; H. Gamble, D.G. Treas.; C. F. Mitchell, D.G. Sec.; W. C. Penson, as D.G.S.D.; E. Parker, D.G. Sword Bearer, as D.G.J.D.; H. Prescott, D.G. Dir. of Cers., as D.G. Sword Bearer; A. Swift, D.G. Purst.; E. W. Keily and S. Trenn, D.G. Stewards; H. E. Gabler, as S.W. Lodge Concord No. 757; Freeman, as J.W. Lodge Concord No. 757; C. Thwaites, as S.W. Lodge Star of India No. 1,062; H. J. P. Thompson, Lodge Star of India No. 1,062; J. Dixon, J.W. Lodge Truth No. 944; Rev. E. Dubois, J.W. Lodge Emulation No. 1,100.

The District Grand Lodge was opened in due form at 6.30 p.m. The summons convening the meeting was read. The minutes of the last half-yearly communication were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported several dispensations that had been granted since the last half-yearly communication.

The Secretary read a letter from the W.M. of Lodge Industry, dated 23rd April, on the subject of a candidate for initiation, who had been allowed to be balloted for three times, the box on each successive occasion showing more blackballs than the former.

The District Grand Master intimated that he had informed the Master of Lodge Industry that the procedure was altogether illegal, and had impressed the Master with the fact that great care should always be taken in balloting, so that such irregularities be prevented.

The Secretary read the following letter and enclosure that had been received from the G. Sec., on the question of Scotch Wardens being eligible for the W.M.'s chairs under the English Constitution:—

"Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C., June 29th, 1866.

"Sir and Brother,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 8th ultimo, with the following question:

"Are Wardens of lodges working under the Scotch Constitution eligible, or not, to be elected to the W.M.'s chairs in English lodges?"

"Enclosed I send you a copy of a letter I wrote by direction of the D.G. Sec. of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, in October, 1862, on the above subject, and which perhaps will be considered as a satisfactory answer to your question.

"I have added a copy of another letter, addressed to the same officer in October, 1864, which gives the opinion of the Grand Lodge as to the eligibility of a P.M. to be elected as Master of an English Lodge.

"I remain, Sir and Bro., yours fraternally,

"(Signed) W. GRAY CLARKE, G. Sec.

"C. E. Mitchell, Esq., District G. Sec. of Bombay."

"20th October, 1862.

"I have the honour to report to you for the information of the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, that the extract from a letter, Melbourne, the 24th May, 1862, which was forwarded with your letter of the 21st August last, has been duly considered by the Most Worshipful Grand Master the Earl of Zetland, and his Lordship's opinion ought to have been communicated to you some weeks ago, but absence from London at the moment, and a press of other business since my return, have prevented my writing to you.

"The subject to which the Melbourne letter refers is a suggestion that reciprocal arrangements should be made by which brethren who have been installed as Masters of Lodges under one Constitution should be permitted on their joining lodges under another Constitution to bring with them the rank they held, and certain other privileges they had attained under their Mother Grand Lodge. It is instanced as a grievance that a brother who has qualified himself by twelve months' service as a Warden under a foreign Grand Lodge, (I make use of this general expression as denoting any Constitution other than that of the Grand Lodge of England), cannot be elected as Master of a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of England until he has again served as Warden the full period required, by our laws, and it is argued that this is an interference with the right of a lodge to elect its own Master by limiting the number from whom the selection is to be made.

"The Grand Master has given the fullest and most attentive consideration to this subject, and is of opinion that although at first it may seem hard, that a Master belonging to the Irish, Scotch, or any other duly constituted Grand Lodge, who has been regularly installed as Master of a Lodge, and served the full time required by the laws of such Constitution to entitle him to the rank of a P.M. shall not import into an English Lodge the position he has attained under another Constitution, or that the one who has duly served as Warden for twelve months in a lodge under his own Constitution shall be required, in the event of his joining an English Lodge, to qualify for election to the Master's chair by again serving the required period of twelve months as a Warden, yet that in reality there is no hardship.

"A Mason belonging to any regular Constitution and recognised Grand Lodge is entitled to acknowledgment by, and free intercourse with, our lodges, and this privilege is ever readily and willingly conceded to him. He is admitted without let or hindrance as a visitor, or if he desire it, as a joining member, and thus far the spirit and intention of the laws of Freemasonry are carried out. But when such foreign brother seeks advancement in our lodges, when he seeks to rule over our members, it is but just and natural that he should be required to pass through the probationary term in precisely the same manner as the children of our own lodges before he can attain the highest rank.

"With respect to the alleged interference with the right of the lodge to elect its own Master, to which allusion is made in the letter from Melbourne, I am to point out to you that this is more imaginary than real, for the Grand Lodge has enacted that no brother shall be eligible to be elected Master of a lodge until he has served for twelve months as a Warden of a warranted lodge, that is, a lodge holding a warrant granted by the Grand Master of England, and the members have no power to elect a brother who is not duly qualified; consequently the only interference with the right of free choice, is the requiring that the law be observed and that none but properly qualified brethren be put in nomination.

"I may add, that a P.M. of a lodge under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, or any other recognised Grand Lodge, is always allowed to be present when a board of installed Masters is formed for the installation of the Master elect of a lodge under the English Constitution, and the rank he has elsewhere attained is thus fully acknowledged, and all that is required is,

that he pass a probationary period as one of the Wardens of the lodge to which he has been affiliated, before attaining the highest rank."

"Oct. 3, 1864.

"I have the honour to inform you that your communication of April 27, 1864, has been laid before the Grand Lodge of England.

"In reply to that communication, I am directed to state for the information of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, that the P.M. of a lodge under the Irish Constitution joining a lodge under the English Constitution, is entitled to be present at all the ceremonies, including the ceremony of installation of the W.M. He is not entitled to attend the meetings of the Grand Lodge of England, and he is not eligible to be elected Master of one of our own lodges until he shall have served as Warden of a lodge under the English Constitution for one year.

"I am further directed to state that the Grand Lodge of England does not in any way recognise the degree of P.M. other than that of an installed Master who has duly served the office of Master of his lodge."

The Secretary reported that the by-laws of this district Grand Lodge had been revised and printed, and that copies had been sent home to the Grand Lodge.

The Secretary reported that the committee had met to consider the advisability of having a banner made for the District of Grand Lodge. The conclusion they came to was, that as the Grand Lodge itself did not use banners, District Grand Lodges had no right to use them.

The Secretary reported that the committee on the subject of a Benevolent Fund had decided that the scheme proposed, viz., "That the Benevolent Funds of all lodges in Bombay be merged into one common fund," could not be carried out by the District Grand Lodge, as it was not in accordance with the laws laid down in the Book of Constitution.

It was resolved, that a donation of 100 rupees be granted from the funds of the District Grand Lodge to the Diocesan Board of Education in the Island of Bombay.

It was resolved, that the District Grand Lodge do purchase (Ten) Debentures in the Freemasons' Hall, of fifty rupees each, bearing six per cent. interest, towards the expenses of the hall.

The Secretary reported that the Warrant of Constitution for Lodge Corinth, No. 1,122, had been received and forwarded to Nagpore.

The Secretary read a circular that had been issued to the W.M.s of all the lodges, by direction of the District G.M., on the receipt of a confidential letter from the Grand Secretary to the District G.M.

The business being concluded, the District Grand Lodge was closed in due form with solemn prayer at half-past seven, and adjourned.

Lodge Star of India (No. 1062).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall on December 6, 1866. Present: Bros. W. C. Penson, W.M.; Rev. J. J. Farnham, P.M. and Treas.; A. Swift, S.W.; F. D. Parker, J.W.; J. Thomas, Sec.; Rev. E. H. DuBois, as S.D.; Wetherell, J.D.; Thompson, I.G.; Duffy, Tyler; and several members and visitors. The lodge having been properly tyled, were opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Messrs. T. B. Kirkham and C. N. Wood, which proved favourable. Mr. Wood being in attendance, was admitted properly prepared and initiated into the mysteries of our order. The charge was delivered by the acting S.W. in a very able manner. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bros. Bransom and Langley were called before the pedestal and examined, and having satisfactorily acquitted themselves, were passed out for preparation. The lodge was opened in the third degree, and the abovenamed brethren re-introduced properly prepared and raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was then lowered to the second and first degree. The W.M. proposed Bro. H. H. Avron as an honorary member of the lodge, which was seconded by Bro. Rev. J. J. Farnham. Bro. Farnham informed the brethren that Bro. Duffy had very generously refused to accept 60 rupees due to him as Tyler, and requested that the amount be placed in the Charity Fund. The W.M. proposed that the lodge place on record their high sense of appreciation of Bro. Duffy's generosity. One brother was proposed as a joining member and one candidate for initiation. There being no further business before the lodge, it was closed in peace and harmony.

Lodge Concord (No. 757).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, near Baboola Tank, on the

26th November, 1866. Present—Bros. T. Diver, as W.M. Bros. E. Parker, S.W.; H. Freeman, as J.W.; H. Prescott, Sec.; H. Bailey, as S.D.; H. E. Gabler, J.D.; J. Powell, as I.G.; W. J. Seager, Tyler. Members—Bros. A. Moorehouse, P. T. Harris, J. Axford, and several others. The lodge having been properly tyled, was opened in the first degree. The notice convening the meeting was read. The ballot was taken for Bro. Capt. Jones as joining member, and he was declared duly elected. The ballot was then taken for Messrs. Charles Holloway and Daniel McAlister, candidates for initiation, and they were declared duly elected. Messrs. Holloway and McAlister being in attendance, were duly prepared and initiated into the secrets of the Order. The lodge was then opened in the second degree. Bros. F. C. Kirkman, Jones, and W. Bainbridge were examined, and having passed a most satisfactory examination were passed out for preparation. The lodge was then opened in the third degree, and the above-named brethren were re-introduced, properly prepared, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The lodge was then lowered to the first degree. The best thanks of the lodge were voted to Bro. H. E. Gabler for the gift of two punkahs for the banquetting-hall, which was unanimously carried. The best thanks of the lodge were voted to Bro. Diver for his kindness in watching the interests of the Lodge Concord, the Bro., although indisposed, was at his post. The lodge was then closed in love and harmony at eight p.m.

An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on the 4th December, 1866. Present—Bros. A. King, as W.M.; E. Parker, S.W.; H. Freeman, as J.W.; H. Prescott, Sec.; A. Baillie, as S.D.; H. E. Gabler, J.D.; J. Powell, I.G.; Seager, Tyler. Members—Bros. D. McAlister, J. Axford, J. Carrs, A. Moorehouse, C. Holloway, H. H. Avron, G. L. F. Connell, S. Lake, J. Armeson, W. Whittaker, J. Rotchell, J. Lockley, and others. The lodge having been properly tyled, was opened in the first degree, the notice convening the meeting was read. The dispensation from the District Grand Lodge to Pass Bros. C. Holloway and Daniel McAlister within the period of four weeks was read and recorded. Bros. C. Holloway, D. McAlister, and H. Stevens were then examined as to proficiency as E.A.'s, and having acquitted themselves creditably, were passed out for preparation, when the lodge was opened in the second degree, and the above-named brethren were re-introduced, properly prepared, and passed to the second or F.C. degree. The lodge was then lowered to the first degree. Bro. Prescott stated that Bro. Diver had desired him to express his regret that he was prevented by sickness from being present. A vote of thanks was tendered to Bro. A. King for conducting the work of the evening. The lodge was then closed in love and harmony at seven p.m.

The regular meeting of Lodge Concord was held on the 15th December, 1866. Present—Bros. Dr. T. Diver, as W.M.; Alfred King, P.M.; E. Parker, S.W.; H. Freeman, J.W.; J. Lockley, as Sec.; G. Giffert, J.D.; J. Powell, I.G.; J. W. Seager, Tyler; Members—Bros. H. H. Avron, C. Holloway, F. Llewellyn, T. Ford, R. Dryhurst, J. Burton, and many others. The lodge having been properly tyled, was opened in the first degree. The notice convening the meeting was read. The minutes of the last regular and two emergent meetings were read and confirmed. The minutes of the Standing Committee were also read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Bro. Darashaw Dorabjee, and the result was declared clear. The ballot was also taken for Messrs. Graham, E. F. Stripe, and T. Teasdale, and the result was announced clear. Messrs. Martin, Graham, and Stripe being in attendance, were introduced, properly prepared, and initiated into the secrets of the Order in due and ancient form. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bros. F. Brooks, J. Axford, R. Abraham, and C. Holloway were examined as to their proficiency as F.C.'s, and having satisfactorily acquitted themselves, were passed out for preparation, when the lodge was opened in the third degree, and the last-named brethren were re-introduced, properly prepared, and raised to the sublime degree of M.M. in due and solemn form, Bro. Diver having given the charge in an impressive manner. The lodge was then in rotation lowered to the first degree. The next work before the lodge was the election of the W.M. for the ensuing year. The brethren then proceeded to ballot. Bro. A. King and Bro. H. Prescott were appointed scrutineers, when it was announced that Bro. Edward Parker, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year; whereupon Bro. Diver congratulated the lodge on the choice they had made, and that without a single dissenting voice. What he knew of Bro. Parker was, that he was true and staunch to Lodge Concord. Bro. Parker rose much affected, and returned thanks to the

brethren, assuring them that he would ever have the good of Lodge Concord at heart. Bro. Prescott appealed to the sympathy of the lodge on behalf of a distressed lady, when Bro. Diver proposed, and Bro. E. Parker seconded, a donation of fifty rupees from the Charity Fund of this lodge. Several candidates were proposed for initiation, and several brethren were proposed as joining members, and the lodge was closed in love and harmony at 8.40 p.m. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet table. The cloth having been removed, Bro. Diver rose and proposed the following constitutional toasts, which were drunk with all honours—"The Queen and the Craft," and "The Three Most Worshipful the Grand Masters of England, Scotland, and Ireland." Bro. Diver then said: Brethren, let us now drink to the health of our rulers in this land, Bros. G. Taylor and R. B. Barton, coupling with those the name of the Hon. J. Gibbs. This toast was drunk with all honours, and three hearty cheers were given. Bro. Diver, in proposing "The Health of Bro. Wickham," said: We have thought of him, be it at our regular work, or at the emergency meetings, and I am sure he is at this moment thinking of Lodge Concord, for he was a warm friend, not only to this lodge, but he is a friend to all Masons; let us drink to his good health and prosperity. Bro. Parker, Senior Warden responded to the toast, and said: On behalf of the Worshipful Master, who is absent, I return you thanks for the honour you have done him. He said: I am sure he reads the reports of this lodge, and it must be a source of gratification to Bro. Wickham to think that although distant, he is not forgotten by the brethren. Bro. Diver then asked the brethren to fill their glasses, and that with bumpers. He said: I am truly pleased to see love and harmony ever the predominant feeling pervading in these rooms, the work of this evening reminds me that Lodge Concord does not forget her friends; you have really, brethren, pleased me greatly, for the large gathering I see before me, notwithstanding the meeting of another sister lodge, impresses on my mind that you came here with an object, and that object was the election of a Worshipful Master for the next year. What I rejoice at is that you selected the right man in the right place, and I rejoice the more because there was not a single dissenting voice. Bro. Edward Parker has rendered this lodge and me most valuable aid, and if he will but work as he has begun, I hope yet to see the lodge increasing in prosperity. I am sorry that on such an occasion our amiable Worshipful Master should be absent, but he will indeed be proud to learn that his Senior Warden is about to fill the eastern chair. I wish Bro. Parker every success, and promise him on my part to render him all the aid in my power, and I hope and trust that you, brethren, one and all will give him that support you have rendered to me; let me now ask you to drink to the health of Bro. Parker, our W.M. elect. Bro. Parker rose and said: W. Bro. Diver and Brethren,—I am quite overcome this evening, seeing what amount of kindness you have one and all shown me, both upstairs and at this board. I am far from being an able speaker, but I thank you one and all; I hope and trust ever to remain true to Lodge Concord, and do all for the good of this lodge, and I hope you, Worshipful Sir and Brethren, will give me your best support; with that support I shall be able to walk in the steps of my predecessors. To you, Bro. Diver, this lodge owes a deep debt of gratitude; for two successive years you have ruled this lodge with great success; during your short absence an able brother, Bro. Alfred King, acted for you, but you returned in time to resume the rule of this lodge, when Bro. Wickham was about to leave Bombay, and, indeed, as his Senior Warden, I say that Bro. Wickham gave over the charge of this lodge with feelings of great satisfaction and pleasure. You, Worshipful Sir, have so worked, that our finances, too, have increased. I again hope that you, Worshipful Sir, and the Brethren, will not forget to give me your best aid. I now ask you, brethren, to fill your glasses and drink success, prosperity, and long life to Bro. Diver. Bro. Diver, in returning thanks, said: Brethren,—It is so often that I address you, that I find it difficult what to say on this occasion. It is not to me the brethren are indebted, for my work was indeed a poor one; I owe you all much for the kindness with which you have treated me. I say that the pleasantest evenings that I spend are in these rooms. Bro. Parker has alluded to me regarding my work. I only say that the prosperity of a lodge is not only due to the work of a Worshipful Master, but to the warm support of the brethren. Bro. Parker will have my best support, and I am sure every brother will treat him as they have treated me. Bro. James Gleave then said, as perhaps this was the last time this year

that Bro. Diver was presiding, he would propose with permission, "The Health of Mrs. Diver and those dear to her." In proposing "The Health of the Visitors," Bro. Diver assured them that Lodge Concord would ever receive worthy men and Masons who were visitors with the greatest cordiality, and he hoped they would come oftener. Several visitors returned thanks, and expressed a hope soon to join a lodge where true hospitality was ever shown. "The Health of the Newly-initiated," was proposed, who returned thanks for the honour. "The Health of the Newly Raised," was next proposed, and drunk with honours. Bro. Captain Holloway returned thanks in a few words. The toast of obligation was then proposed, and the brethren parted, after singing "Auld Lang Syne." The singing of Bros. M. J. Higgins, F. Smith, J. Smale, and others was really excellent, and called forth loud applause.

LODGE PERSEVERANCE (No. 351).—The regular meeting of the above lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Colaba, on the 15th December, 1866. Present: Bros. R. L. King, W.M.; R. B. Barton, Prov. G.M. of W. I.; J. Mackinlay, P.M.; J. Jamieson, D.M.; D. Henderson, as S.W.; J. Bedford, J.W.; C. Jones, Treas.; Henry Prescott, Sec.; J. Lambourne as S.D.; S. Hodgart as J.D.; S. C. Woods, as Dir. of Cers.; J. B. Jones as I.G.; C. Sorabjee, as Tyler; A. Scobia, G. L. F. Connell, J. Christopher, C. Cayzer, T. Hammond, J. Greenwood, A. Mitchell, J. Masson, E. Chapple, G. Brooks, H. Rydle, H. Krushlett, A. Harvey, A. McKenzie, J. Spiers, J. Lord, G. Wilkinson, J. Bonner, W. Smith, &c. Visitors: Bros. R. T. Rundle, Pestonjee Dhunjeebhoj, H. Nowrojee, M. C. Murzban, J. Cleary, R. Gray, F. R. Webb, R. H. Wadia, J. Dhunjeeboj, W. C. Barnes, G. D. Furdoojee, M. Lungrana, and others. The lodge having been properly tyled, was opened in the first degree. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The notice convening the meeting was read. The first business before the lodge was the election of the W.M. for the ensuing year. The W.M. remarked that he must beg of the brethren not to vote for him, as he had no desire to stand for the eastern chair, he already having filled that chair for twelve months. At present the number of P.M.'s in this lodge was indeed very small; there were but two, and from that small number one was about to retire to Europe. He should, therefore, ask the brethren to elect one who had not previously filled the W.M.'s chair. The brethren then proceeded to the ballot. Bros. J. Mackinlay and J. Jamieson were appointed scrutineers, when the result was announced that Bro. H. Morland was elected W.M. for the ensuing year. The W.M. was pleased to remark that Bro. Morland would have been present, but he was called on duty to render some aid to a vessel in distress. The W.M. proposed, and Bro. J. Jamieson seconded, that, as Bro. Jones performed the duties of Treasurer so ably during the past year, he be re-elected. The proposition was unanimously carried. The ballot for Mr. J. Orr, candidate for initiation, was declared clear. Bro. Chapple then made an appeal for a distressed lady, and proposed that a donation of fifty rupees be given out of the lodge funds. The proposition was duly seconded and carried. The lodge was closed in love and harmony at 7.30 p.m.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

At the convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter, held at Freemasons' Hall, on the 6th inst., the business was very light and uninteresting. Comp. John Havers presided as Z., supported by Comps. Thomas Gole, as H.; B. Head, as J.; W. Gray Clarke, E.; W. E. Walmisley, N.; Nicholas Bradford, Prin. Soj.; A. W. Woods and Laurence Newall, Assist. Sojs.; Edmund S. Snell, Sword Bearer; William Young, Past Dir. of Cers. The Committee of General Purposes made the usual report as to their having examined the accounts of the Grand Chapter from 17th October, 1866, to the 15th January, 1867; and the petition from Comps. William Ough, as Z.; Henry Garrod, as H.; and John George Bond, as J., and six others, for a chapter to be attached to the Belgrave Lodge, No. 749, to be called the Belgrave Chapter, to meet at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the last Friday in the months of February, May, August, and November, was granted.

METROPOLITAN.

PANMURE CHAPTER (No. 720).—A convocation of this chapter

was held on Monday last at the Loughborough Arms Hotel, Brixton, and was very fully attended. Comp. Stevens, M.E.Z., exalted Bro. Oxford, W.M. of Lodge No. 72, and also Bro. H. Smith, of Lodge, No. 902, the ceremonies being worked by all concerned with great accuracy and precision. This being the occasion for the annual election, the following proved to be the unanimous result of the ballot in each case, viz., Comp. Nunn, M.E.Z.; Thomas, H.; Hodges, J.; Shaw, E.; Worthington, N.; Gates, P.S.; Levander, Treas. Comp. A. B. Smith, was re-appointed Organist. The M.E.Z. elect intimated his intention of appointing Comp. Niblett, Dir. of Cers., and Comp. H. Smith, Wine Steward. The Principal Sojourner elect also nominated Comps. Harvey and Ord as first and second Assistants. Comp. Bradley was re-elected Janitor. Comps. Baster, Cronin, Ord, and Harvey were elected members of the Committee for General Purposes in conjunction with the Principals, Scribes, Treasurer, and Principal Sojourner. A discussion took place as to the presentation of P.Z. jewels to the First Principals, who, with the M.E.Z. elect and Comps. Thomas and Shaw, were the virtual founders of the chapter. The feeling was unanimous that Comps. Read, P.Z.; and Stevens, about to become P.Z., were eminently entitled to a marked recognition of their services, but both those companions deprecated, in the strongest manner, any grant for such purpose until the funds were more prosperous. The state of the chapter was considered to be most healthy and encouraging, but the companions, whom it was sought to honour, wished, before receiving such a testimony to the value of their services, to see the whole of the balance due on account of the beautiful furniture and decorations entirely discharged. It was accordingly resolved to place upon the minutes the expression of opinion on the part of the chapter, that as soon as circumstances permit, jewels should be presented to the P.Z.'s above-named. After the closing of the convocation the companions sat down to banquet, when the usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts were given. The health of the M.E.Z., was received with applause, and in reply he congratulated the chapter on having made such an excellent selection of officers for the ensuing year. Comp. Read, P.Z.; and Comps. Nunn, H., and Thomas, J., also replied to the toast of their health. "The Health of the Newly-exalted Companions," was given and responded to by Comps. Oxford and Smith. Comp. Platt, P.Z. 946, replied for the visitors. "The Health of the Officers," was next given coupled with the name of Comp. Hodges, Principal Sojourner. Comp. Hodges, in reply, expressed the pleasure it gave him to find that as he had succeeded in the mother lodge to the chair so worthily filled by Comp. Thomas as W.M., so now he had to succeed that companion in his chair in the chapter. He rejoiced that Comp. Shaw, to whom the chapter was so much indebted, had consented to retain the office of Scribe E. for another year, as he knew it would be greatly to the advantage of the chapter, and he could safely promise the M.E.Z. elect that all the officers, from the highest to the lowest grade, would zealously and efficiently support him during his year of office. Several excellent songs were given, and a more harmonious evening both in chapter and at banquet we never remember to have passed.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 185).—On Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, this prosperous chapter held its usual meeting. Comps. Goldsboro, Z.; Dyer, H.; Loewenstark, J.; Patten, P.Z. Treas.; Sheen, P.Z., S.E.; Harris, S.N.; Stevens, P.Z.; May, Levi, and many others present. The visitors were numerous, and amongst them Comp. Walters, Z 73. Six out of sixteen candidates attended, and were regularly exalted into this supreme degree. Elections for officers for the ensuing year were unanimous in giving each officer a superior position except Treas. and Scribe E., who, as usual, were unanimously re-elected to those offices. Five guineas were unanimously voted from the Chapter Funds to the Boys' School, and placed on the list of the M.E.Z., who was a steward for that charity at the forthcoming festival, to be held on Wednesday, March 13. The chapter was closed, and the usual good banquet followed.

INSTRUCTION.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—The usual weekly meeting of this chapter was held at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on the 12th inst. The chapter was duly opened by Comps. R.W. Little, Z.; Halsey, H.; Pendlebury, J.; Clarke, N.; Turner, P.S.; Brett, President; Foulger, Cox, Smithers, Hamilton, Lemaitre, Tyrrell, Todd, &c. The ceremony of exaltation was then ably rehearsed, after which the first

second and third clauses of the third section were admirably worked by Comp. Brett assisted by the rest of the companions—this section includes the beautiful illustrations of the ensigns and banners. Comp. T. Wylie, P.Z. 86 and 292 Liverpool, was duly elected a joining member, and expressed himself highly pleased with the great proficiency displayed by the officers under the tuition of Comp. Brett; the chapter was then closed and adjourned to Tuesday, the 19th inst.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

HULL.—*Humber Chapter* (No. 57).—The annual convocation for installation of Principal and investment of officers, was held on Thursday, 31st ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Osborne-street, Hull. The chapter was opened by Comps. Wm. Croft, M.E.Z.; M. W. Clarke, H.; M. Kemp, J. The minutes having been read and confirmed, Bros. Thomas Ross and Edwin Raw, members of the Humber Lodge, were balloted for and accepted. A conclave of Installed First Principals was formed, and Comp. J. P. Bell, P.Z., the M.E. Grand Supt. of Works, for the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, having assumed the chair. Comp. W. Croft presented in succession. Comps. M. W. Clarke, as 1st Principal elect, M. Kemp, as 2nd Principal; and W. D. Keyworth as 3rd Principal; and they were severally duly installed in their respective chairs according to the established rites and ceremonies; the other officers are Comps. Fountain, Treas.; J. Walker, S.E.; Middlemist, S.N.; R. T. Vivian, P.S.; Hudson and Haigh, Assist. S.; Kemp, Janitor; Storey, Org.; Needler and Leggott, Stewards; P.Z. Comp. Croft then proposed and M.E.Z. Comp. Clark seconded, "That this chapter do most cordially present their best thanks to Comp. J. P. Bell for his kindness in performing the duties of Installing Principal on this occasion" which motion having been unanimously passed, Comp. J. P. Bell suitably acknowledged; he stated that as Grand Superintendent for the North and East Riding he should always be happy to do all he could for Royal Arch Masonry in this province. The three newly-installed Principals briefly returned thanks to the companions for the honour they had conferred upon them and one and all pledged themselves to faithfully discharge the duties of the office to the best of their ability and endeavour to make the Humber Chapter second to none. Bro. Hammerton and Thompson of the Humber Lodge were proposed as fit and proper persons for Royal Arch Masonry. Hearty good wishes were proposed and the chapter was closed in due form, Comps. W. Reynolds, M.E.J., and Brooke, P.S. Minerva Chapter, 250; H. Adams, M.E.Z.; J. Kemp, M.E.H.; T. Turner, M.E.J., Constitutional Chapter, 294; and Hodgkinson, Oliver Chapter, Grimsby, were present as visitors. The companions and visitors adjourned to the usual banquet, and spent a very pleasant and harmonious evening.

SCARBOROUGH.—*Old Globe Chapter* (No. 200).—A convocation of this chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Scarborough, on Wednesday, the 6th inst., and was opened by Comps. Capt. W. E. Richardson, M.E.Z.; James Frederick Spurr, H.; Major J. W. Woodall, J. About twenty members of the chapter were assembled, amongst whom were Comps. C. H. Martin, Scribe E.; T. W. Farthing, Scribe N.; Dr. Wm. F. Rooke, P.S.; Capt. Knocker and Richard H. Peacock, Assist. S. The minutes of the former chapter were read and confirmed. Bros. D. Fletcher, John Raper, and John Verity, three M.M.s of the Old Globe Lodge having been balloted for, were exalted to the Royal Arch degree. The election of officers for the ensuing year then took place, and was as follows: Comps. James Fredk. Spurr, M.E.Z.; Major J. W. Woodall, H.; Dr. Wm. Foster Rooke, J.; H. C. Martin, S.E.; Dr. Armitage, S.N.; T. W. Farthing, P.S., the latter to elect his assistants, after which the chapter was closed in due form at nine o'clock.

MARK MASONRY.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

HULL.—*Minerva Lodge* (No. 12).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, Feb. 4. Present: Bros. M. C. Peck, W.M.; J. Scherling, S.W.; G. Hardy, J.W.; J. F. Holden, Treas.; W. Reynolds, Sec.; J. Lumwood, M.O.; F. Jackson, S.O.; H. Haigh, J.O.; S. R. Hensen, S.D.; W. K. Brown, J.D.; R. T. Vivian, J.G.; W. Johnson and J. Faulkner, Tylers. Also Bros. W. Scott, J. Martin, C. E. Lucas, A. Rasmussen, C. Pool, J. Burn, O. Hammerton, and W. E. North.

The lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last lodge were read and confirmed. The secretary then announced that since the last meeting in November he had made the annual return to Grand Lodge he had returned the name of 89 members, the dues from whom amounted to £8 10s. The ballot box was then prepared for Bros. J. Carr, Hy. Vise, and Mr. Drury, of the Minerva Craft Lodge. Bro. J. Sherwood, of the Humber Craft Lodge, Hull, and Bro. F. Watson, of the Wilham Craft Lodge, Lincoln, all of whom were unanimously accepted. Three brethren, with Bro. Wm. Scaton, being in attendance, were then admitted and regularly advanced to this honourable degree by the W.M., the J.W. giving the working tools and charge. This being the meeting for installation of the W.M. for the ensuing year, the S.G.W. presented the W.M. elect. Bro. W. Reynolds, who was regularly installed by P.M. Bro. M.C. Peck. The W.M. then appointed his officers as follows: Bros. W. Reynolds, W.M.; W. Scott, S.W.; J. Linwood, J.W.; J. F. Holden, Treas.; M. C. Peck, P.M. Sec.; W. K. Brown, M.O.; H. Haigh, S.O.; J. Walker, J.O.; J. G. W. Willows, Reg.; S. R. Henson, S.D.; R. T. Vivian, J.D.; G. Hardy, Dir. of Cers.; J. Carr, Org.; J. Burn, Steward; W. H. North, I.G.; J. Faulkner, and W. Johnson, Tylers. Two brethren were then proposed for ballot at the next meeting, and the lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer.

LODGE SIRUS (No. 90).—The regular quarterly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday, December 13, at six p.m. Present: W. Bro. the Rev. J. J. Farnham, W.M.; Bros. S. Trenn, S.W.; A. Swift, J.W.; T. Mills, M.O.; W. S. Wetherell, S.O.; H. I. P. Thomson, J.O.; E. H. Warren, S.D.; Avron, J.D. and I.G.; Seager, Tyler. The lodge having been properly opened by Right. W. Bro. T. Gibbs, P.G.M., the minutes of the last meeting and the circular convening the meeting were read. Minutes confirmed. The R.W. Bro. the P.G.M., then requested all brethren below the rank of Installed Master to retire, when in the presence of W. Bro. H. Avron, W.M. of Holmesdale, he re-installed W. Bro. Farnham in the Master's chair, and invested those of the officers who were present. Ballot was then taken for Bro. C. Clifton, of Lodge Holmesdale in the East, as a joining member, and for Bros. Percy, E. Laurent, of Lodge Truth, C. A. Langley, of Lodge Star of India, and R. M. A. Branson, of Lodge Star of India, and was in each case clear. Bros. Laurent and Langley were then, after proper preparation, admitted to the lodge, and advanced to the degree of M.M., with all the appropriate rites and ceremonies. The lodge then proceeded to elect the following brethren to serve on the permanent committee for the ensuing year, Bros. E. H. Warren, C. S. Craig, and H. H. G. Tippet, after which the lodge was closed about eight p.m., and the brethren adjourned to the banquet. The following are the officers for the year: Bros. the Rev. J. J. Farnham, W.M.; A. C. Gumpert, S.W.; A. Swift, J.W.; W. S. Wetherell, M.O.; H. I. P. Thomson, S.O.; E. H. Warren, J.O.; H. H. Avron, Treas.; E. P. Laurent, Sec.; C. S. Craigs, S.D.; H. H. G. Tippet, J.D.; T. R. Light, D.C.; C. Clifton, Org. I.G., not yet appointed J. W. Seager, Tyler.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

CHESHIRE.

DUKINFIELD.—*Royal Edward Encampment.*—This encampment held its annual meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 30, for the purpose of installing Sir Knight David Turner, as E.C. for the ensuing year, who, after his installation, performed the ceremony of installing as a Knight Comp. Michael Coffey, of the Royal Cheshire Chapter, No. 89. The business of the encampment being concluded, the members sat down to an excellent repast, provided by the host Sir Knight Ditchfield. When the cloth was drawn the usual loyal toasts were given, after which Sir Knight Neale rose, and said that he had great pleasure in proposing the health of the newly installed E.C., who had that night entered upon his duties and discharged them in so able a manner, and he felt certain that the ability and zeal evinced by him augured well for the prosperity of the encampment. The E.C. then responded to the toast in a very feeling manner, and touchingly expressed his gratitude for the high honour conferred upon him, that he trusted he should, and with the aid of the Most High, he would perform those duties efficiently and effectually, and that nothing should be

wanting on his part to render the encampment a model of good working, for by such means we should make our meetings more attractive and pleasing, and our ceremonies more instructive and impressive, so that our principles may take deep root in the heart and affections, and by those means the outer world shall find that we are both wiser and better men for being received within those sacred precincts, and that we have learned and should practice does not lie within its neglected and suppressed to rise up in judgment against us at the great tribunal. May it not be so with us, but may we live to die, and die to live. The last regular toast was then given, and the brethren separated about two o'clock p.m.

RED CROSS KNIGHTS.

ORIGINAL OR PREMIER CONCLAVE OF ENGLAND.

The February meeting of this flourishing body was held at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on Saturday, the 9th inst. The conclave was duly opened by Sir Knt. Marsh, M.P.S., assisted by Sir Knts. G. Powell, V.E.; F. Walters, as S.G.; T. Westcombe, J.G.; Terry, as H.P. Little Recorder; Turner, as Prefect; Trickett, as Standard Bearer; Charlton, Herald; Comp. Gilbert, Sentinel, and other members. After the confirmation of the minutes, and the usual ballot having been taken, Bros. George Wilkinson, of Lodge No. 34, and Henry Parker, of Lodge No. 538, were regularly admitted, received, constituted, and installed as Knights of the Order, when Sir Knt. Parker was appointed. A Grand Organist College of Viceroy's was then opened, and Sir Knts. R. Thwaites, J. Bringlee, and W. Holman were duly consecrated as Priest Masons. The college and conclave were then respectively closed, and the Knights Companions adjourned to the banquet-room, where a most pleasant evening was spent, under the presidency of the M.P.S. The health of "Her Majesty the Queen" was received with musical honours, and the newly-appointed Organist, Sir Knt. Parker, gained golden opinions by the brilliancy of his execution as a pianist, during the evening, thereby adding most materially to the harmonious character of the evening. The "Health of his Lordship the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign," was received with equal enthusiasm; in short, all the toasts given were cordially received. Sir Knt. Thwaites, in responding for the new Viceroy's, made some eloquent remarks on the principles of the Order, and expressed his deep sense of the importance and solemnity of the ceremony of consecration, which he had witnessed that day for the first time. The Sentinel's toast concluded the proceedings of this happy *réunion*.

REVIEWS.

The British, Irish, and Colonial Masonic Calendar, Pocket Book, and Diary, for the Year 1867, containing a list of lodges, R.A. Chapters, &c., in England, Scotland and Ireland, Canada and the other Colonies; with lists of the Grand Orient de France, and a Vidimus of the other foreign Grand Lodges, &c., compiled from authentic sources. Ninth annual publication. Glasgow: Davidson and Muir. 1867.

The success which has attended the progress of this annual for the last eight years, is not likely to be wanting to its ninth issue. The late hour at which it makes its appearance this year, although in advance to previous years is accounted for by a wish entertained by the editor to give it the greatest actuality, and which was trammelled by the backwardness of secretaries and others in forwarding notices of changes that had occurred during the past year. However, this slight drawback is fully counterbalanced by the greater reliability of the data and considerable improvements made in this year's publication, as compared to its predecessors. The "Masonic information" relating to the Craft lodges, R.A. Chapters, K.T. Encampments, Conclaves, &c., as well as to Mark Masonry in each of the three component parts of the United Kingdom and its Masonic dependencies, is perfectly exhaustive and sufficient for every kind of reference, and we are glad to find that none of the changes known to have taken place during the last twelve months have been omitted. The Calendar comprises the names, places, and days of meeting of 1,141 Craft lodges under the Grand Lodge of England, 465 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and those under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, ranging from No. 1 to No. 1014, but numbering only about 300. The 300 and

odd R.A. Chapters of England and Wales range from No. 1 to 1055, but the 95 lodges of Mark Masters of England are numbered in the same manner as the Craft lodges. The Masonic information relating to foreign countries and to British America contains some 20 pages more than it did in the previous annual. The list of 248 lodges, under the "obedience" of the Grand Orient de France has been given here in full; however, "it is not intended as a permanent feature of the book, but has been got up this year specially for the information of brethren who may visit France during the forthcoming Exhibition." We would advise the editor of the Calendar that not only the preservation of this list of French lodges, very laboriously compiled, would be conducive to the success of the book in future years, but the introduction of similar lists of German and Italian lodges would greatly enhance its value. Many of the readers of the Calendar do not visit France during Exhibition times only; in fact, a large contingent of the British tourists on the Continent belong to the Masonic body, and fuller information on things Masonic in Continental Europe will be of permanent, not merely ephemeral utility. The *vidimus* (should it not rather be *videmus*) of foreign lodges in general is greatly improved this time; besides the greater extent of the data relating to France, British America, and the United States, it gives us pleasure to find that the whole of the foreign department has been recast, and proper regard paid even to the changes recently wrought in Germany by the civil war of last summer. Thus, the Grand Lodge of Hanover and the Eclectic Grand Lodge of Frankfort are now ranged under the heading Prussia, and in an annotation the state of the law as regards Masonry in that country is explained. On the whole, we may congratulate the compilers and publishers of the Calendar for having reached in this year's publication the greatest perfection that has yet been attained by any Masonic annual in Europe and America, and hope that further improvements, such as we have suggested, will ensure its permanent success in future years.

The Poets and Poetry of Scotland from James I. down to the Present Time, with Biographical Sketches and Critical Remarks. By the Rev. ANDREW R. BONAR, Minister of the First Charge of Canongate, Edinburgh. Second edition. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

Scotland, beyond a doubt, is the true land of song. Her towering mountains, her smiling vallies, her turbulent rivers, and her wimpling brooks, each give a character and a tone to the lays of her bards, not to be found in those of any other country. The songs of the Fatherland are the nearest approach, but there is too much of the student beer and smoke about them at all to render them competitors with the *verve*, the mountain spirit of Scotland. They even want that tone of distinct nationality, that love of country, which, by the way, they boast so much about, and that inherent independence of thought which constitute the birthright of a Scot.

Our Brother, the Rev. A. R. Bonar, has just issued a second edition of his "Poets and Poetry of Scotland," which is deserving of more than praise. Many great poets have attempted to give a *vidimus* of Scots poetry, but the attempts have proved comparative failures. Motherwell, Hogg, and Aytoun each have essayed the task, and have each fallen short of perfection. The reason of this is simple. They went in for too much, and were forced, before half done, to stop short, from the multiplicity of material. Bro. Bonar has not attempted anything on a gigantic scale, but, curious to say, he has succeeded in a gigantic manner. He has taken about forty of the most celebrated Scots poets, from such he has selected one or two specimens of the best style, affixed a charming but concise biography, with a critical remark here and there, and the work before us is a complete success. Aytoun's ballads of Scotland are only a phase in Scots poetry, and the same may be said of all other collections. Bro. Bonar has given us a bird's-eye view of Scots poetry, clear, concise, and most satisfactory.

If to be a poet one must be born a poet, so to be a successful compiler of poetry one must be a poet. Bro. Bonar comes of a family which has left its mark on the granite of Parnassus, and he is no mean supporter of the family credit. Dr. Horatius Bonar is widely known as a sacred minstrel, and the five examples given in the present work are alive with fire and burning thought. Bro. Bonar, under the head "Burns," gives as his own "Burns' Centenary," a commemorative poem read before Lodge Edinburgh St. Stephens—a poem which is surpassed by none and equalled by few of the good poems which

rose above the awful trash which heralded in the poet's natal day. Bro. Bonar, however, appears to have but a modest opinion of his own poetical powers, which is a pity, for in many of his prose works, especially in his Sermons, and in the Sketches contained in the present volume, we find the deep and solemn music of thought, swelling into that harmony of words which always indicate the true poet.

In our limited space, it would be absurd of us to attempt giving any just idea of the contents of the volume before us, or even to give one single extract. The fact of its being already in its second edition is the best proof of its excellence. For us to sit down and criticise the forty or so sketches would be impossible, for we fear we should have to quote them all. We will content ourselves with merely glancing at the contents.

The work opens with four pages of "Introducing Remarks on Scottish Poetry," in which Bro. Bonar has said all that has been said by another, but awfully verbose collector, in *ninety*. "The Romantic Scottish Ballads" follow, and here we have "The Battle of Otterbourne," that stream of fiery song, that makes the blood course like a levin-bolt through the veins. The sad, sad songs, those drops of blood, wrung from the very heart, "The flowers of the Forest," "The Dowie Dens o' Yarrow," and "Fair Helen of Kirconnel," with the grand chant of "Sir Patrick Spens" are among the rest. Then comes "Barbour" with his shout for "Freedom," and his war song of "The Bruce," two names well represented in "The Battle of Bannockburn." King James the First and Gawin Douglas follow, with that bitter old jolly satirist Sir David Lindsay. The sweet Willie Dunbar, the gallant Montrose, the pawky Allan Ramsay, Drummond, Thomson, Smollett, Beattie, Falconer, Blair, unhappy Ferguson, and our own Bobbie Burns, are on the list. Then Montgomery, Scott, Hogg, Fainnabill, Campbell, Tennant, Cunningham, Motherwell, Gilfillan, Delta Moir, Aird and Aytoun charge, all glorious sons of song, beneath the Ruddy Lion. The living Poets are represented by Mackay, Smith and others.

This is a volume which, when ruralising on a summer day, one may pass a few pleasant hours, stretched under the shade of some leafy tree, with the Tweed, or the Spey, or the Tay, flowing past at one's feet. Poetry never reads well in the house; you might as well expect the lark to sing blithely behind the bars of a cage, as poetry to impress you over a coal fire. Out to the open air, to the sea-swept shore, the lonely corrie, or the silent churchyard,—these are the places to feel your heart melt and your eyes moisten, as the words of the bards rivet your attention.

We should have liked to have dipped into this volume, we should have liked to have said something of the author. Another time the opportunity may come; meanwhile we can only heartily recommend it to our readers, as a work gemmed with the rarest jewels of Scots poetry, fretted with biographical sketches of rare excellence, and finished off in a body of ink, paper, and binding of the most gorgeous beauty.

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, MUSIC, DRAMA, AND THE FINE ARTS.

Marshal Niel, the new French Minister of War, is collecting materials for a life of Vauban.

The *Orchestra* says Artemus Ward is still in bad health, and his lecture is discontinued.

Mdme. Ristori has signified her intention of remaining twelve months longer in the United States, and, at the end of that time, of retiring from the stage.

Mr. John Francis Barnett has been invited by the Birmingham Festival Committee to compose a cantata, and he is now writing it.

Mdme. Parepa, who is now in America, is about to marry Carl Rosa, the German violinist, with whom she is travelling on a musical tour.

Mr. Sims Reeves will receive £1,500 for twelve special performances at Drury Lane Theatre, which are announced for the week following the 16th of March.

The Rev. T. Keble announces that he intends publishing an edition of *The Christian Year* without

the verses for Gunpowder Treason, King Charles the Martyr, and the Restoration of the Royal Family.

A literary marriage is talked of—Miss Thackeray, whose stories in the *Cornhill* are so justly admired, with Mr. Leslie Stephen, second son of the late Sir James Stephen, who is himself a fine writer and scholar.

On the 1st of March a new monthly, to be called the *Churchman's Shilling Magazine*, will appear. The editor will be the Rev. R. H. Baynes, editor of "Lyra Anglicana." &c.

Mr. James Routledge, the late editor of the *Kendal Mercury*, has been presented with a testimonial, consisting of an address signed on his retirement by 250 persons, a massive signet ring with a suitable inscription, and a purse of gold.

Messrs. Watts and Armitage have been elected associates of the Royal Academy. The election excited unusual interest on account of its being the first under a new rule, by which Associates are allowed to vote in the election of Associates. Mr. Linnell was invited to become a candidate, but declined to stand.

Bibliomaniacs, bibliographers, and others interested in old books, woodcuts, ancient printers, their lives, works, and marks, may be served by our quaint and wonderfully erudite, but exceedingly whimsical, contemporary "The Book-Worm," which is published in Brydges-street, Covent Garden. The most valuable portion of the first volume now before us consists of a series of fac-simile copies of printers' marks and signs, also the memoirs of deceased worthies that are attached to these. The drawings are admirable. Many of the bibliographical notices are extremely interesting.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET.

The chief attractions here during the past week have consisted in Mr. Sothern's appearance in the comedy of "A Lesson for Life," and the revival of the popular Haymarket comedy "The Serious Family." Mr. Buckstone appears to great advantage in his original character of *Mr. Aminadab Sleek*.

THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.

There has been no alteration in the attractions here for the past week, which have consisted of "Terrible Hymen," followed by the pantomime of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves."

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

During the past week Mr. Vining has catered well for an appreciative audience in the piece put upon the stage, entitled "His Last Legs," followed by Mr. T. W. Robertson, entitled "Shadow Tree Shaft," a new drama by Mr. Robertson will be known to our readers, doubtless, as the author of "Ours," "Society," &c.

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE.

The bill of fare for the past week has consisted in the performance of Colman's tragedy of "John Bull," Macklin's comedy of "The Man of the World," concluding each evening with the pantomime

"Number Nip." As an additional attraction for Monday next, Colman's comedy of "The Jealous Wife" is announced. We must not omit to add that Mr. F. B. Chatterton has generously placed this theatre at the disposal of a committee formed for the arrangement of a grand morning performance on Thursday, the 21st inst., for the benefit of the five young children of the late Mr. Henry B. Webb, many years manager of the Queen's Theatre, Dublin, and late of Drury Lane Theatre. The leading stars of all the metropolitan theatres have kindly volunteered their services upon the occasion referred to.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

The popular and pleasing entertainers Mr. and Mrs. German Reed, with Mr. John Parry, by general request, are giving a limited number of representations of Tom Taylor's romantic entertainment, entitled "The Family Legend." Miss Susan Galton, as the Welch Girl, sings with marked effect the legend of "Sir Gryffyths of the Red Hand." The evening's entertainment is bound up with "The Wedding Breakfast," by Mr. John Parry.

Poetry.

REFLECTIONS OF A FREEMASON ON BEHOLDING IN HIS GARDEN THE FIRST SNOWDROP OF THE SEASON.

By T. J. SWAIN.

Sweet flow'ret springing from the earth,
Pale as the snow which gave thee birth,
Dear emblem of the wintry days,
Thy fragile bloom attracts my gaze.

No zephyr's breeze hath nurs'd thy form,
Reared 'midst the biting blast and storm,
No summer sun its rays hath shed
Upon thy fair and lowly head.

Yet still thou might'st have claim'd a place,
Thy loveliness seem'd form'd to grace;
But God thy lot hath fix'd to be
A more ennobling destiny.

Proof of His great Creator hand,
Here art thou found—at His command
Sent as a messenger to bring
Earliest tidings of the Spring.

So, like this flow'r an angel mind
Proves in adversity more kind,
Braving life's storms and trials, to share
Some fellow-creature's load of care.

Ever delighted to impart
Solace into the suffer'ing heart;
Soothing distress in sorrow's hour,
Calming sad thoughts with Heaven-sent power.

Such minds resemble this sweet bloom,
Fairer amidst affliction's gloom,
Doing their Master's work of love,
Fixing their trusting hopes above.

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEB. 23RD, 1867.

Wednesday, Feb. 15th.—UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION, at 3.

Monday, Feb. 18th.—UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION, at 8.30.

Tuesday, Feb. 19th.—INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.

Wednesday, Feb. 20th.—SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.

Wednesday, Feb. 20th.—GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

Thursday, Feb. 21st.—CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and their Royal Highnesses the Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, and Princess Beatrice arrived at Osborne on the 6th inst., at two o'clock from Windsor Castle, having travelled in a special train on the Great Western and South Western Railways, and crossed over from Gosport in the royal yacht *Alberta*, Capt. his Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen. Her Majesty drove out on the morning of the 7th inst., accompanied by Princess Christian. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice, drove out in the afternoon, attended by the Hon. Harriet Phipps. Lord Charles Fitzroy was in attendance upon horseback. Her Majesty drove out on the morning of the 8th inst., accompanied by Princess Christian. The Queen drove out in the afternoon of the 8th inst., with Princess Louise, and her Majesty and her Royal Highness walked and rode on ponies on the morning of the 12th inst. The Queen drove out in the afternoon, accompanied by Princess Christian.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—The only matter of special interest in the **HOUSE OF LORDS**, on the 7th inst., was the announcement by the Earl of Carnarvon that he would state what course the Government intended to take in reference to the Confederation of the North American colonies. Their lordships only sat forty minutes.—On the 8th inst., Lord Redesdale called attention to a pamphlet published by a Mr. Francis, in which his lordship was attacked. Next week he should move that Mr. Francis be called to the bar of the house.—The Duke of Somerset, in moving for some returns as to the navy, made a defence of his administration of the department, and wholly denied that the navy was in a helpless condition. He strongly urged that the building of ships should proceed slowly. It will probably be remembered that the charges which have brought about this defence of himself by the duke were made by Sir John Pakington. It is, then, rather remarkable that Lord Derby, in reply to the duke, complimented his grace on the manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office, and declared that he did not agree with the charges which had been made: It seems by this discussion that Sir John Pakington is not to have full swing with his new reconstruction craze.—On the 11th inst. there were only about five peers in the House, and the business lasted thirty-five minutes. The Bishop of Down wished to have some returns in reference to the Irish Church, which the Archbishop of Dublin thought unnecessary, and the production of which the Earl of Derby opposed. The motion of the Bishop was negatived.—On the 12th inst. the Earl of Carnarvon laid on the table a bill for the confederate union of the North American Colonies, and fixed the 14th inst. for the second reading.—A matter of much personal interest next occupied the attention of their lordships. Earl Russell presented a petition from Mr. Rigby Watson, praying that an inquiry might be instituted into charges which he made against the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Sir Fitzroy Kelly. These charges imputed to his lordship perjury and other offences of a similar kind. Earl Russell, in presenting the petition, declared that he did so with great reluctance, that he had no belief in the charges that were made, and that he had no doubt a perfect answer to them all would be forthcoming. The Lord Chancellor followed with a long vindication of Sir Fitzroy Kelly. He denied the truth of one and all of the charges made, and as to some of them declared that they were false within his own knowledge. He attributed the presentation of the petition to ill-feeling on the part of Mr. Watson towards Sir Fitzroy Kelly in consequence of a quarrel between them many years ago. The Lord Chancellor blamed Earl Russell for presenting the petition. Lord St.

Leonards insisted that Earl Russell ought to demand an inquiry into the truth of the charges. Earl Russell said he had presented the petition because it came from a subject of her Majesty, and he felt that if petitions were refused to be presented by their lordships it might be said that they were closing their doors against the just complaints of the people. He expressed his entire disbelief of all the charges, and said he should withdraw the petition. Lord Derby approved of this course, and the petition was withdrawn.—Lord Stanley of Alderley wished for some information about the alleged Fenian invasion of Chester, and Lord Derby detailed the steps which had been taken by Mr. Walpole.—Subsequently the Metropolitan Traffic Regulation Bill was read a second time, and the House then adjourned at a quarter to seven o'clock.—In the **HOUSE OF COMMONS**, after the questions had been disposed of, Sir Stafford Northcote asked leave to introduce a bill to meet the case of railway companies in financial difficulties. He made a lengthy statement, insisting that railways having received special Parliamentary favours in order that they might benefit the public, there was a right on the part of the public to see that its interests so acquired were not jeopardised. He reviewed the difficulties in the way of dealing with bankrupt railway companies, and then proceeded to discuss the means of obviating these difficulties. One way would be to remit such companies to the Court of Chancery, where a scheme for their relief might be devised. That he did not think would be advisable. Another suggestion was that debenture holders should be placed on the footing of mortgagees, and have power to foreclose if their interest was not paid. That would be most objectionable, because it would jeopardise the public interests. The only course he could see was to deal with each case by a special bill. But it would not be safe to leave to private individuals to bring in private bills, and the proposal he had to make was that on a requisition from the creditors of a bankrupt railway company, the Board of Trade should bring in a bill to deal with that special case. He asked leave to introduce a bill to enable this to be done. Mr. Watkin, Mr. Milner Gibson, and Sir Roundell Palmer criticised the proposed bill adversely, and then leave was given for its introduction.—Leave was subsequently given for the introduction of bills relating to shipping tolls, and to religious disabilities. The House adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.—On the 8th inst., Mr. Gladstone wished to get to know what the Chancellor of the Exchequer intended to do in reference to the Reform question. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, however, did not satisfy the curiosity of the House. He said he would rather not tell what was to be done. Yet, if we may believe the *Globe*, that which Mr. Disraeli refused to tell the House had been told to some one connected with that journal. "The Government," says the *Globe*, "is to proceed by resolution acting on the precedent of the India Government measure." In other words, the Government is to abdicate, while it will yet receive pay.—Mr. Gathorne Hardy brought in a bill relating to the administration of the poor-law in London, which was favourably regarded by all members who spoke. He proposes to have one great hospital for small-pox and fever patients. All the imbeciles are to be put into separate establishments, and children over two years of age are to be sent to separate schools. The workhouses are to be supervised by nominees of the Poor-Law Board. Dispensaries are to be appointed in the different districts, at which the out-door sick are to get their medicine made up from prescriptions given by the medical officers. The local Acts are to be abolished, and all the parishes

brought under the Poor-Law Board. Mr. Hardy was not prepared to equalise the rating of the Metropolis, but he proposes to put the district, certified, and industrial schools, the lunatics and the imbeciles, and the salaries of the medical officers, upon the common fund. The extra charge he estimates at £60,000 a year, which a penny rate will cover. A receiver is to be appointed by the Poor-Law Board to receive the rates and disburse them. The new buildings are estimated to cost £400,000, and they are to be paid for at £40,000 a year, for which a rate of two-thirds of a penny will be required.—On the 11th inst. the questions and preliminary business were very impatiently got through, and at a quarter to five o'clock the Chancellor of the Exchequer got up, as the House hoped, to explain all the Government propositions as to Reform. The House was mistaken. Mr. Disraeli began by declaring that the object of the Government was to remove this question from among those on whom the fate of the ministers hung. It was no longer to be a party question, which it had become in 1859, when the Derby bill was thrown out. The Government, therefore, proposed to proceed by resolutions. These resolutions would affirm what should be the character of the bill to follow. Reduction of the franchise must be in accordance with the English Constitution, and must avoid the preponderance of any class. It would be proposed that rating should be the basis of the franchise, and a measure would be introduced to remedy inequalities in rating. No borough would be disenfranchised. A boundary commission is to be issued to revise existing boundaries, with a view of eliminating the urban element from the counties. These are the chief features of the proposition made by the right hon. gentleman. He concluded by moving that on the 25th February the House should go into committee to consider the Reform Bill of 1832. Mr. Gladstone briefly commented upon the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He said he should not oppose proceeding by resolution, but he would oppose anything tending to delay the settlement of the question, and the rating proposal seemed to point to delay. There was no debate. The House agreed to the motion, and the crowd of members quickly dispersed. The remaining business was soon disposed of, and the House was up by eight o'clock.—On the 12th instant there was a large attendance of members to hear Mr. Walpole's account of what had been done at Chester. Mr. Walpole spoke of the matter very seriously. He told the House how, having received information on Sunday from Liverpool that a Fenian rising was imminent, he sent down a messenger; how he had received alarming telegrams from the Mayor of Chester; how he had sat up till after four o'clock waiting to receive a telegram from the general commanding the district; and how he had sent off the Fusilier Guards to Chester. The narrative was interrupted not unfrequently by bursts of laughter, which were not lessened by the suggestion subsequently made that the whole affair was a hoax, nor by a telegram which Lord Elcho received from Earl Grosvenor treating the affair as one of some importance.—Mr. Hardcastle obtained leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of church rates.—Mr. Torrens asked permission to bring in his bill of last session for the improvement of the dwellings of artisans and labourers. Mr. Walpole, on the part of the Government, expressed his approval of the measure, and leave was given to bring it in. Leave was subsequently given to bring in bills relating to the commutation of church rates, the fellowship of Oxford and Cambridge, to provide better security for holders of railway debentures and other matters, and the House rose at half-past six o'clock.—On the 13th inst. the House of Commons sat for some hours discussing a bill brought in by Mr. Ayrton, in reference to the Finsbury Estate. The Bill proposed that at least half of the revenue from the Finsbury Estate, which is

vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, should be devoted to the relief of the spiritual destitution of the metropolis. The bill was strenuously opposed, and finally rejected by 87 votes to 53. The other business was unimportant.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The health of London appears gradually to improve. The excess of deaths over the estimated number shown by the registrar-general's return is only 40, and even that seems to be covered by the 40 lives lost in the Regent's-park by the breaking of the ice. Under the influence of a milder temperature we are gradually approaching the ordinary state of affairs as regards mortality. The list of the forty persons drowned in Regent's-park at the late ice catastrophe is rendered curious and interesting by its classifying the sufferers under their respective social conditions. The annual rates of mortality per 1,000 were—Birmingham, 24; Bristol, 25; Sheffield, 26; Salford and London, 27; Leeds, 28; Hull, 29; Edinburgh and Manchester, 30; Liverpool and Glasgow, 32; Dublin, 37; and Newcastle-on-Tyne, 44.—A deputation waited, on the 9th instant, upon the Earl of Derby, to impress upon his lordship the necessity of something being done to relieve the distress in the east of London. Some suggestions and statements were made which deserve attention.—What, only for the action of the police authorities of the City, might have proved a very profitable swindle, was exposed on the 11th instant, at the Mansion House. The attention of the police having been called to an advertisement inviting applications for employment in the Paris Exhibition, the only condition being the sending of a stamped envelope to "No. 12, Great Trinity-lane, Cannon-street, City," they instituted inquiries, and discovered that the office named in Great Trinity-lane consists of two empty rooms; that the individuals renting them cannot be discovered; and that the next step, after the reception of the stamped envelope, is to send the applicant a form to fill up respecting his qualifications, and a demand for 2s. 6d. as a registration fee. The action of the police authorities seems, however, to have deterred the would-be swindlers from further operations; and the caution given by the Lord Mayor will, no doubt, have the effect of putting the public on their guard.—At Bow-street, on the 12th inst., Colonel Nelson and Lieutenant Brand, charged with the murder of George William Gordon, again surrendered. As Mr. Bristowe, the Admiralty solicitor, and Mr. Claudio Scott, solicitor for the War Department, appeared for the respective defendants, it would seem that their defence is to be conducted by the Government. After some evidence had been taken the case was remanded.—The ancient and usually quiet city of Chester has experienced the refreshing excitement of a threatened Fenian "invasion." Large numbers of strangers, mostly young men of the working class, commenced arriving in Chester on the 11th inst.—many from Liverpool—the news of their departure thence being telegraphed to Chester by the police. Telegrams of a very alarming character reached London in the course of the evening. The local authorities took prompt and energetic measures of defence. Volunteers and soldiers arrived from neighbouring towns, and a strong detachment of Scots Fusilier Guards was sent down from London.—At the Clerkenwell police-court, on the 13th instant, Antonio Galioni, Matteo Dacola, and an Italian named Ciocci, were again brought up on the charge of having entered the dwelling-house of Mr. J. Votieri, and stealing several onyx stones, valued at sixty pounds, and with assaulting a young lad, the only person in the house at the time of the attempted robbery. Some additional evidence having been adduced, tending to the suspicion that some dishonest bill transactions, involving the forgery of Count Saffi's signature, had been perpetrated, the magistrate decided on sending the case to a jury, and he accordingly committed the prisoners for trial.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

Bro. Ingham, P.M. 954, and Bro. A. Oneal Haye are thanked by our correspondent, W.B., for the information given by them as to the Masonic song, "We meet upon the Level," &c.

J. J. S.—Received with thanks.

J. R. B.—Thanks for your suggestions.

J. D.—The work to which you refer as having been mentioned to you by your friend, a Brother Mason, is doubtless "The Antiquities of Freemasonry," by the Venerable Bro. Dr. Oliver. You will obtain the work from Bro. R. Spence, 26, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields, W.C.