

THE  
FREEMASONS'  
MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

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SEPTEMBER 1, 1856.

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THE MARK DEGREE.

It is doubtless much to be lamented, that ignorance and want of common sense should disturb fraternal unanimity, and in a present instance tend to deprive the Craft of a very essential prerogative. We, of course, allude to the subject of the Mark Degree, to the confusion about which, we drew the attention of our readers in the *Masonic Mirror* for July; and we cannot forbear enjoining a vigorous exertion upon the part of members of the Grand Lodge to restore what is confessedly of immemorial annexation to Masonry, and to redeem the Craft from the ill consequences attending the self-stultification of the Grand Master. The case is the most simple which ever came before us, notwithstanding the obfuscation of our worthy Brother Henderson upon it; the just jealousy entertained by the Craft of laying additional expense upon the Brethren for initiation into what should have accompanied their previous process; and the antagonism now got up by rival Mark Lodges, holding under different, some under no warrants.

First, then, the Mark is no new Degree, as Bro. Henderson might have seen by examination of the tressle-boards and other authentic records previous to the Union. It is, as Bro. Hearn well expressed it, "an integral portion of Freemasonry," and its omission by the English Mason places him in a most difficult position relative to foreign Lodges. We have nothing to do with its non-recognition at the period of the Union. The simple fact is, *that recognized it must be* if we would put the Brethren upon the same independent footing as foreign Brethren enjoy, of admission into Chapters holden under other than English Constitutions. If the whole world, except England, should agree to reckon a Wednesday as one of the seven days of the week, it might do very well for us as Englishmen to ignore that day in our computation of time, so long as the matter in

hand was confined, to the British shores; but vainly should we endeavour to force our maimed and crippled weak upon the adoption of the rest of Europe, upon Asia, Africa, or America. Just so is it with the Mark Degree. Whilst we are all contending here, and splitting straws upon a few shillings extra expense, or upon the particular position the Mark should occupy in the Masonic system—whilst the Grand Master is correcting himself wrong, after being inadvertently right, and venerable Brethren are exhorted with no other purpose than to declare their own conscientious ignorance, upon their honour, of what they ought to have been acquainted with long ago;—whilst, in a word, all this pestiferous and unseemly disorganization is going on, the English Brethren are being turned back and rejected even from Scottish, much more continental, Chapters, or obliged to take an additional obligation. The mistake of Brother Havers and his party is in the primary misconception that the Mark is a new Degree, and the subsequent rejection of it upon that fallacious assumption. We therefore sincerely regret that, by a sort of surprisal, the sensible recognition of the Mark, by Bro. Dobie, and the confirmation of the minutes in that particular, were frustrated at the quarterly communication, and we trust that the Country and Metropolitan Lodges will send up a strong muster to restore what is at present a dormant but assured portion of ancient Freemasonry. Meanwhile, we think the St. Mark's Lodge of Mark Masters has done good service to the Craft, in obtaining a warrant from the Grand Chapter of Scotland, thereby recognizing authority in the midst of confusion, and preserving the Brethren from inconvenience in visiting foreign Chapters, until the Mark be duly acknowledged by the Grand Lodge of England, and the common sense of Bros. Dobie, Hearn, Beach, and Aria, penetrate the density of that restricted sphere.

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MASONIC DECORUM IN LODGE.—Let your makings, passings, and raisings be conducted with seriousness and decorum; otherwise the candidate will be disgusted, and any respect for Masonry which he may have previously entertained will be cast to the winds of heaven. I once knew a Lodge where these ceremonies were conducted with unbecoming levity; the consequence was, that while several candidates halted on the threshold, and never advanced beyond the 1st Degree; others, who possessed sufficient perseverance to become Master Masons, ultimately abandoned the Society as a frivolous and trifling pursuit; and at length the Lodge itself terminated its proceedings by surrendering the warrant, when it had not the legal number of members on its books to conduct its ordinary business.

MASONIC STUDIES.—I cannot be too particular in recommending you to habituate yourself to serious application to Masonic studies, if you are desirous of distinction. Without excellence you can never become a bright Mason; and excellence can only be acquired by application in the Lodge, and study and reflection beyond its walls.

Nil sine magno  
Vita labore dedit mortalibus.—HOR.

*Dr. Oliver's Book of the Lodge.*

# PENCILLINGS FROM THE SKETCH-BOOK OF A MADRAS OFFICER.

BY AN INFANTRY M.M.

## CHAPTER I.

### RECOLLECTIONS OF A DEPARTURE FROM LONDON WHEN FIRST PROCEEDING TO INDIA.

“Go where the sun is very hot and fervent,—  
Go to the land of pagod and rupee,  
Where every black will be your slave and servant :  
And think of me.”—HOOD.

How rapidly does each succeeding year appear to pass after we have reached the meridian of the age of man! Methinks it cannot be, and yet it is true, that it is now twenty-eight years ago, when, having bid “farewell” to relatives, old friends, and associates, and being fully equipped as an infantry cadet, and prepared to say good-bye to Old England, I, on a cold and rainy day in the often dismal month of November, took my seat on the roof of one of those ancient vehicles, which ere the gigantic polypus of railways had cast its net-like arms over the surface of our island-home, were the ordinary conveyances for travellers. To Gravesend, at that time the general depôt for the East-India shipping, I now wended my way. There lay the vessel in which a passage had been taken for me to the shores of Ind.

We had proceeded but a short distance through the streets of the metropolis, which were rendered almost impervious by a long train of coaches, blocking up the passage,—not excepting the old hackney in those days so common, but long since gone no one seems to know whither,—when the atmosphere became more and more dense, and the rain fell in torrents. A thick fog, the frequent accompaniment of a winter’s day in town, had now overspread the city, which, in combination with the black smoke of its millions of chimneys, enveloped it in uncomfortable obscurity, and so murky was the scene presented, that, by the time we had crossed the venerable old London Bridge, time-honoured, and of many arches, long since replaced by its modern substitute, the dome of St. Paul’s was no longer visible. The abodes of commerce were lighted up, not as now with gas, but the more humble luminary of oil; and it appeared as if night had stolen a march upon us; but speedily emerging from our London gloom, Southwark and its suburbs were successively passed, and we soon found ourselves on the old Kent-road, rapidly driving towards our destination.

The night of arrival at Gravesend was a cold, wet, and thoroughbred November one,—anything but agreeable; and as the host of “mine inn” assured me that my ship would sail for the Downs in the morning, it behoved me to look well to getting aboard with as little delay as might be; so after enjoying a certain degree of resuscitation of limbs by a blazing fire, I called for a boat to take myself and “traps” alongside. I was soon beset by a host of would-be Charons. Selecting one, “How much to pay?” said I. He, in reply, asked a sum I thought exorbitant. “So much?”—“Oh, yes, sir; all gem’men” (*gent* is a word belonging to a later date) “pay *well* on a night like this.” I inferred from his answer that I was probably now for the first time in my life to be subjected to that sort of extortion which the juvenile and inexperienced traveller has often to submit to from the job-hunters at out-posts; but the night was a wretched one, and I consoled myself with a hope that the charge after all was not so very unconscionable, under the circumstances; perhaps, too, I was expected to pay a sort of footing, as the saying is. The watermen knew that I was booked for India. I was, in their imaginings, on my way to the magnificent East, the spicy Orient,—thermometer at 99 of Fahrenheit, mines of Golcondah, the land of palaces, gold, and precious stones; elephants, camels, and mosquitoes, all elegantly jumbled together in one grand mass of beatitude. And had I no ordeal to pass through to entitle me to a participation in such grandeur? Was I to escape scot-free? So I acceded to the demand upon my purse as a thing that must be. However, I thought then, and have often thought since, when landing at various ports of the United Kingdom, that our boasted freedom in matters of this nature is apt to degenerate into unrestricted impudence, and requires some sort of check. Is its endurance up to this time to be ascribed to apathy, or indolence, or what? Is its continuance to be traced to the vanity of a class, which being wealthier than its neighbours, is willing to receive a vulgar homage by paying accordingly? An atrabilious Indian, in particular, on his return from the East, will have his patience put severely to the test after being long accustomed to the obsequious obedience of the poor natives, when he finds himself attacked in a besieging and bullying strain by a whole host of touters, and such-like creatures, who absolutely take one by storm at watering-places,—each vigorously seizing a part of the baggage, and quite alarming the nervous comer as to the final security of the entire quantity.

Amiable reader, bear with me if I ask you, Have you ever ventured out on a cold night in an open boat, dark and rainy withal; the wind whistling about your ears; the seats wet, watermen squabbling about the division of a miserable sixpence; and one and all, in the full exercise of their several undistinguishable dialects, making such a fearful gabble and noise as to preclude the possibility of your understanding the commonest phrase? And such confusion is there afloat, that the people on board the vessel you are nearing cannot understand whether you are seeking to make their acquaintance, or

that of another ship hard by; and therefore not until you are thoroughly drenched, and your baggage in a very moist condition, do you get the assistance of a rope from the sailors to enable you to haul alongside—I say, have you ever been thus situated? If your reply be in the affirmative, then do you know what is, so long as it lasts, one of the minor miseries of human life. The only comfort is, that the duration of such a position is a brief one; and now I got on board, not, however, without making some affectionate inquiries regarding the disposal of a trunk which it seems had not been cleared with the rest of my things, and in respect of which a very conscientious officer of excise at the gangway demanded a certificate that it contained nothing contraband. Here was a dilemma to be placed in, when we were to sail the following morning. I most anxiously assured him all was right, offering him the alternative of searching to satisfy his scruples, when the chief mate hearing a demur on deck, came to my rescue, and all the turbulence of spirit of the revenue man at once subsided under the pacifying influence of a glass of “*cold without*,” to which we helped him.

I introduced myself to the cuddy of the private trader, *John*, Benjamin Freeman, commander, bound to Madras and Calcutta,—burthen 350 tons, carrying, as the advertisements of the London papers of the day expressed it, an experienced surgeon.

Somehow or other, all ships are described as having experienced surgeons; and yet a friend of mine, on his voyage home from India, has a son of his a cripple for life in consequence of the exceedingly bungling way in which an arm, dislocation of which had resulted from a fall on board ship, had been set by the medical gentleman.

In the aforesaid chief-cabin, I found several youths, who, like myself, were destined for a military life. There they were, with merry smiling faces, delighted with the novelty of the scene, to which was added the elation of feeling, natural on first finding themselves enrolled among the sons of the sword—of itself no inconsiderable gratification to a young and ardent temperament. With these and other passengers I soon made myself at home. A comfortable fire, in as large a stove as the place would admit of, was no bad magnet to attract around it all who could find room; and did not the jolly cadets, of all others, contrive this? There each sat apparently possessed with an all-conquering faith in a fortunate future. And what, indeed, is more exhilarating to the youthful mind, than when on the entry to a life of public service, in sound health, and with the elastic and buoyant spirits of his age, the stripling first takes his place on the world's great stage?

“Through what scenes and changes must *he* pass.”

And hopefully and trustfully he essays to perform his part in the first act of the drama of life. What honours, distinction, and fortune might be in reserve for him! Very pleasing and flattering all this to the boy, viewed through the vista of a long perspective. Happy, too, is he who in after life shall have been doomed to disap-

pointment, and when the experience of manhood shall have sobered down juvenile fancy, the romantic spell of fiction be displaced by dull matter of fact, and the vision of glory prove, as it too often does, to have been a phantom of the imagination, can rise above its bitterness. Happy is he whose mind is so constituted, that in its ingredients may be found a resiliency in proportion to its sanguine character.

It being now eight bells, or grog-time, on the long table situated athwart ships in the cuddy was placed sangaree, with a variety of other liquids for thirsty souls; backgammon, chess, and cribbage-boards, with cards, offered enticements to beguile the time; and though but on the eve of starting, already did the young aspirants to military fame in the Company's service begin discussing the knotty point of seniority, interrupted by a little harmless banter directed against them by officers of the Royal army. At length the mooted question being left as undecided as ever, and wearied with conjectures, which turned out after all to be of not the slightest importance, each passenger separated from his fellow to enter his berth, and take his first night's rest on board ship.

I, for one, scarcely got a wink of sleep on going below, for the chum assigned me, a brother cadet (for although the passage-money in those days was upwards of a hundred pounds, it only entitled one to half a cabin), already showed symptoms of becoming a *first-rate arithmetician*, or in other words, *a fast man at casting up his accounts!* Evidently he had not yet proved the truth of Byron's preventive of the unpleasant feeling so many suffer from, for which he affords the sea-going landsman a specific. Probably he had not even heard of it. Saith his lordship,—

“The best of remedies is a beefsteak  
Against sea-sickness; try it, sir, before  
You sneer, and I assure you this is true,  
For I have found it answer, so may you!”

By the bye, it is singular, but the fact that, although in voyages round the Cape of Good Hope and elsewhere, I have traversed so many thousands of miles of ocean, never did I suffer so much from the malady till crossing the English Channel in after life in a small steamer, which I think is attributable to the jerking and oscillatory motion of the fire-ship. With regard to the sailing-vessels of the olden time, I may say that the peculiar odour arising from tar, and a variety of causes I need not enter into a description of, was often of itself sufficient, even before starting, to give disagreeable sensations to those wholly unaccustomed to it. A close cabin below, too, was no recommendation, and ours was one in which was just room enough for the suspension of two sea-cots side by side. Over our heads were swung two globe lamps, and beneath us, in considerable disorder, were piled up such articles of baggage as, being for more immediate use, had not been stowed away in the hold. Scarce room was there for ingress, and to keep the door open was impossible. Though we were yet at anchor, the vessel rolled heavily, and alto-

gether I was glad to vacate for the nonce so uncomfortable a place, for the more agreeable though chilly and damp atmosphere of the deck, which, as the captain, it was understood, would be on board in the morning, and the chief mate had received orders to prepare for weighing anchor, was now in much seeming confusion, from the laying out of spars, booms, and sails. But I found my advantage in this move; for seeing a Bengal cadet in a similar plight, and like myself anxious to escape from his companion, we devised, and pondered together on the feasibility of securing a cabin betwixt us for the voyage. From the non-arrival of an expected passenger, we ultimately succeeded in accomplishing our object, gaining joint-possession of a large and excellent one, that of the lower stern or port side.

As day dawned, our party were aroused from their slumbers by the wheeling of the capstan, the rough and jarring noise of which would awaken the most lethargic subject. The scene now became of a very heterogeneous character: combined with the weighing of the anchor, were to be heard the loud voices of the mariners, all actively employed in making sail, mingled with the unceasing clamour and cackling of some hundreds of fowls and ducks, styled in nautical phraseology, *sea-organs*, all huddled together in the hen-coops—squeaking of pigs, bleating of sheep, and last, though not least of all, the barking and yelling of a pack of hounds in a crib, destined for some sporting gentleman in India. The morn was a delightful one: the sun shone forth in unclouded majesty, and the clear horizon was in striking and pleasing contrast with the wretched weather of the previous day. While we were viewing Tilbury Fort on the one side of the Thames, and Gravesend on the other, ruminating on a start, our skipper arrived, bringing with him two gentlemen, owners of the ship, who, after a brief inspection, and satisfying themselves that all was snug and right, left us to our own meditations, wishing us, on their departure, a short, safe, and pleasant voyage.

“Yeo, ho! my hearties, ho! yeo! heave and go!” sung the Jack Tars, as, hauling in the cable with might and main, the more immediate preparations for sailing commenced. Our anchor being in, the rotatory movement of the capstan was at an end, the pilot’s loud and sailor-like voice was heard fore and aft with deferential silence and attention, and by noon our sails being fully spread, a fine and stiff breeze in a moment filled them, and off we started on the passage, scudding under unfurled royals with all possible expedition. Majestically gliding through the waters, our bark bore in some degree a resemblance to many aboard her. With fair prospects she had set out on her voyage, and so too had the youthful soldier started on the passage of life.

“The wind sung, cordage strain’d,  
And the ship creak’d, the town became a speck,  
From which away so fair and fast we bore.”

There is something far higher and more fascinating, I conceive, in witnessing the departure of a ship in full sail, than that of a steamer;

and how does the former, when manned with skilful and active seamen, seem to possess a nobility and dignity peculiar to herself! How truly does she

“ Walk the water like a thing of life,  
And seems to dare the elements to strife !”

But are our commercial vessels manned in these days, numerically speaking, as in the time I write of? Has not the advance of science in its application to nautical matters been supposed erroneously to be a sufficient substitute for the old number of brawny arms once thought necessary when encountering the terrific hurricane? Is it not too true, that in these days the cuddy servants even, in some cases have been without a knowledge of the sailor's duties, yet, to save expense, borne on the ship's books as able seamen? And if so, is it to be wondered at, that we should have lately had to read so many painful accounts of shipwrecks in the papers of the day, more especially since the *auri sacra fames*, the burning desire to obtain gold at all hazards in California and Australia has been the temptation to cupidity, and its infallible consequence, in such instances, a reckless disregard of the securities necessary for the protection of human life?

Our crew were of the true caste, the genuine old British Tar, who from early discipline acquires a manly hardihood in his vocation unsurpassed by any; but it seems quite a pity, as far as the picturesque is concerned, that with the march of intellect, the distinctive features of dress and style, and the old pigtail with which, in Dibdin's time, the jolly English sailor was in our minds so completely identified, should have given place to the more amphibious-looking character of the present age. Altered, however, in professional ability we may believe he is not. Alacrity, obedience, and heroism, are qualities which yet distinguish him. Those in the *John* were men of the right sort: at sea they were in their element. They were made of that stuff which, while it commanded the admiration of their countrymen, was the envy and surprise of foreigners. To see the noble fellows steadily reefing before the approaching gale, and when in the roughest weather with outstretched arms they shortened sail, was enough to fill the beholder with entire confidence in their powers, and make him feel proud that such men were of his own nation. Our pilot, who was to conduct us through the Downs, was a humorous old fellow, and a thorough Welchman: just the sort of man to tell a tale over a glass of grog, and smoke a pipe of tobacco in congenial company. He had a variety of droll stories at call, which to us youngsters afforded great fun and amusement, and, as I learnt, of many a ship's party had he in his time been the life and soul. I question whether in these days the common sailor is so superstitious as formerly, probably from being better educated, though, even yet, he objects to sail on a Friday; and in earlier times, his love of the marvellous and his credulity were proverbial. Our facetious pilot having brought us through the Downs, left us, in his little cutter, for

the shore, and I saw him no more till sixteen years afterwards, when again on my way out in command of some troops to India, I welcomed the old fellow's jolly face a second time, he being employed to navigate us as before.

Suffice it to add, that our time now, till reaching Portsmouth, was rather dully spent, as many suffered from sea-sickness; but bating this, we had the prospect of a very pleasant voyage, as all evinced so much good-humour,—all seemed to be so impressed with the necessity of, even from selfish considerations, when brought together under such circumstances, being agreeable, and dropping all senseless etiquette, that those who a week previously were utter strangers to each other, might, by a casual observer, have been imagined to be friends of a long standing. It was amusing to see the various expedients adopted to dispel squeamish feelings. Some passed their chief time in bed; others in drinking cold brandy-and-water;—a few would set to work at reading and writing, and perhaps give it up in despair; then try what good a very hearty meal would effect; in general it may be said, that where people make up their minds to employ themselves, and can manage to eat and drink pretty well, mental energy and physical organization being kept in tone, they are not very long in getting over their troubles.

At Portsmouth, where we spent a week, the time was passed in visiting friends, the dockyard, ship *Victory*, of course, and the Isle of Wight; the headquarters of the party being for the greater number of us an inn, then well known by the name of "The Blue Posts," and regarding which, as being much frequented by young naval officers, the following humorous distich was in vogue at the time:—

"The Blue Postesses,  
Where the middies leave their chestesses,  
To pay for their morning's breakfastesses."

But the day of real departure from Great Britain at length arrived; and we rejoined our ship. Doubtless each one of the party there assembled indulged in the depth of his heart the pleasing hope of one day being permitted to return to his native shores, in the enjoyment of earthly blessings: some have realized this desire,—they have again set foot in the land which gave them birth; but to others this boon, I, alas! know too well, was not given; for Death, the great destroyer of human wishes, has stepped in between them and their plans. Mercy had hidden the future from their view; else, under the solemn impression that they were now looking for the last time on their fatherland, how painfully would a chord have vibrated in their hearts in unison with the words of a well-known song:—

"So, farewell, England, farewell for evermore!"

## THE MONK OF ST. DUNSTAN.

IN a remote county of England, there is an extensive tract of land, which, though now for the most part enclosed and brought into cultivation, still bears a name that indicates it to have been a large wooded highland. Not a tree, however, is now to be seen there; the portion of it which remains as waste ground is a range of hill and valley, covered with furze, broom, and heather. In one part of it, many centuries since, stood the church and monastery of St. Dunstan in the Wood. The site of these buildings is still distinguished from the surrounding heath, not so much by the swelling heaps of earth that cover their mouldering foundations, as by a fresher and livelier green that clothes the sacred turf, like the smile of nature resting on the sanctuary of this world's peace. But the simple peasantry of the neighbourhood attribute the peculiar aspect of the spot to other than natural causes; looking no deeper than the surface, they imagine that sinful deeds, or the agency of wicked spirits, must have rendered the soil accursed, so that neither wild flowers, furze, nor heather, will flourish there. Many a tale of horror is told of that lonely spot; and these traditions have doubtless been kept alive by the gipsies, one of whose favourite haunts is this heath, even at the present day, and who must have found it answer their purpose to scare away from it all nocturnal intruders. Certain it is, that no peasant will venture near it after dusk, owing to the fearful sights and sounds which, they say, are to be seen and heard there at the witching hour, according to authentic reports handed down from generation to generation.

One of the tales before mentioned relates to a martyrdom said to have been perpetrated there, in commemoration of which the monastery was afterwards built. Other legends tell of still more fearful events, in which figure conspicuously a lady of rare beauty—a black-robed monk—and an old witch, called the Crone of Dussindale. The following legend puts the last-named wild stories into a connected form, clothing them in a marvellous dress, as suited to the superstition and ignorance of past ages, whence its origin is derived.

The sequestered monastery of "St. Dunstan in the Wood" was a cell, belonging to a neighbouring Benedictine Priory. In the course of years, the celebration of the masses and obits appointed by the wills of the founders became irksome to the brethren of the order; and those who were selected for these services regretted, in this lonely and cheerless abode, the better entertainment and boon companionship that prevailed within the walls of their parent establishment. The solitude which the distant cell afforded was, however, so congenial to the studious and devout habits of one of the fathers, that he took up his permanent residence there, and occasionally assisted by some of his brethren, he strictly performed the solemn duties of the

place. The austerity of his life, his rigid observance of the rules of his order, and unwearied application to study, acquired for him the highest reputation for sanctity and learning. All the principal families in the surrounding country, attracted by his exalted character, resorted to him as their confessor and spiritual guide. In this capacity he became acquainted with the lady of a noble knight, whose beauty was the theme of universal admiration, and such was the power of her charms, that even the cold and stubborn heart of this holy father yielded insensibly to their resistless influence. So ignorant was he of the nature of love, that he knew not the motives by which his conduct was actuated, and he gave himself up unconsciously to the absolute dominion of this insidious passion.

The pleasure which he felt in her company allured him even from the deep seclusion of his chosen retreat; and his frequent visits to her lord's castle he regarded as proceeding only from a lively interest in her eternal salvation, and an ardent desire that so fair a flower might be worthy of blooming in the gardens of paradise. But he was soon undeceived by a mournful event; the lady died suddenly, and was buried in the church of the monastery. The monk was inconsolable for her loss; a large portion of every night he passed in the gloomy crypt, in which her unconscious remains were laid; here he vented his sorrows in bitter tears, and wearied heaven with unceasing prayers to restore her to life. So sinful a request could not be heard in heaven; but there was at hand a minister of evil, laying wait to catch unwary souls, but above all, desirous of ensnaring one who had long been the most zealous and formidable antagonist of the powers of darkness. One night, his passion rose to such a height of wicked madness, that after exhausting himself with fruitless prayers to the heavenly saints, he upbraided them with ingratitude for not lending a more favourable ear to the petitions of so faithful a servant, who had brought so many pious worshippers to their shrines, and to their altars so many costly gifts. While he was in this frame of mind, he was startled by the sound of approaching footsteps, and by the glimmering light of his lamp he perceived, hobbling towards him, an ugly, deformed old woman. Surprised at so strange an appearance, he hastily demanded, in an angry tone, who she was, and the cause of her intrusion. "Fair words, good father," muttered she in reply; "you and I shall soon be better acquainted, or I am much mistaken." He now recognised in her, a witch, who inhabited the neighbouring glen, and was famed through all the adjacent country as the "Crone of Dussindale." The eye of the Church had long been fixed upon her, but she had hitherto constantly eluded its utmost vigilance. Without giving her, therefore, an opportunity of explaining herself, he exclaimed abruptly, "Satan, avaunt! Tempt me not—I know thy cursed designs; and by that dreaded name from which thou and thy legions shrink in terror, I defy thy power and charge thee to begone." "Nay, holy father," she replied; "first hear me; hard words shall not shake my purpose. Satan, Beelzebub, or Baal; call me which you like—I

come to serve you. You see how little your prayers avail in Heaven ; therefore be not too sure of their procuring for you that assistance which you threaten to ask against me. I can do more for you than all your saints ; transfer your services to me, and I will instantly accomplish all your fondest desires. She, over whom you have just been weeping, shall live again—shall live for you—and years of love and happiness shall be your portion.” The monk waved his hand and shook his head in silence. “ You doubt my power,” continued the old crone ; “ behold ! and be convinced.” As she said these words, she touched with her stick the lid of the coffin, which instantly flew open ; and having sprinkled a few grains on the lamp, it shot forth a lambent flame, which filled the vault with a brightness more glorious than the summer noon. Then, approaching the body, she breathed on the face, when the symptoms of decay and the shades of death immediately disappeared, and the renovated features were again overspread with the glowing hues of life, and health, and beauty. The wondering father looked on in ecstasy ; each reviving grace, each tint of freshening bloom, fixed more intently his eager gaze, and beamed on his soul another ray of hope. He saw no longer before him a mouldering tenant of the grave—but one of nature’s fairest, loveliest, forms, lapped in delicious slumbers, and lulled by gentle breathings from the world of spirits. In speechless, breathless rapture, he hung over this enchanting object, awaiting the moment when the opening eye should pour on him the lustre of its eloquent glance, and the first smile of recognition play around the moving lips. But he watched in vain,—no signs of animation appeared : the beautiful statue lay before him motionless and insensible. After an interval of agonising suspense, the old woman again addressed him : “ Does this sight convince you ? The rest depends upon yourself alone—pledge yourself to me by signing this contract of obedience, and at that instant this yet unconscious body shall wake to perfect life, and, living, shall be yours. Refuse my offer—the grave and its worms will have their prey again.” As she pronounced these words, she held to him the scroll for his signature ; but still he hesitated ; observing which, she exclaimed impatiently, “ Obstinate fool ! ’tis all over, then ;” and having put forth her stick, the lid of the coffin was already descending, when the monk frantically seized the parchment, affixed his name, and at that moment the promise of the sorceress was accomplished. The lady was restored to life, fairer and more captivating than ever before, and the same spells which had loosened the iron grasp of death, dissolved with equal facility the influence of virtuous habits and the ties of connubial faith. Beguiled by powerful and wicked devices, she was willing to live for the monk alone, and hidden from a world she once adored so much, she remained the contented partner of his solitary cell. But years rolled on, and the allotted term of their guilty enjoyment expired. The dreadful hour of retribution came—consuming fires and uprooting hurricanes executed the judgments of offended Heaven—the profaned building fell, and its wretched violators were entombed within the desolate

ruin. Yet for them the grave has no repose—that day of wrath consigned them into the power of the fiend, to whose counsels they listened in an evil hour; and on stated nights, the wild shrieks heard there attest that their undecaying bodies are dragged forth to endure fresh torments on the spot which was desecrated by their heinous crime.

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#### A MASONIC BURIAL AT SEA.

DURING the recent trip of the steamer *Empire City* from Havana to this port, an incident occurred which left a deep and permanent impression upon the minds of all who were on board. Death is at all times a fearful thing, but when the King of Terrors claims his own upon the sea, and rudely severs the associations which invariably connect those who journey together upon the great deep, a peculiar feeling is experienced that lingers upon the mind and causes one to remember vividly for years, what would under other circumstances pass away like the summer breeze, leaving little or no trace upon the memory.

The same day the steamer left Havana, April 11, it was reported to Captain Windle that one of the cabin passengers, Mr. Joseph Watermyn, formerly of Galveston, Texas, had died at three o'clock of consumption; and in accordance with the customary usages at sea, the remains were placed in a hammock and laid upon the quarter-deck, in order to be buried at sunset. The deceased was a Royal Arch Mason, formerly attached to a Lodge and Chapter of the Fraternity of the City of Galveston, and as there was several of the mystic tie on board the steamer, it was resolved that the deceased should be interred with the Masonic honours peculiar to the Order.

A formal demand was made upon Captain Windle for the remains, who promptly acceded to the request with that urbanity which is a marked trait in his character as a gentleman; and as the sun was about sinking beneath the wave, they were placed in charge of such of the Fraternity as were on board, to be buried by them with the last rites peculiar to the Institution.

The remains, which have been covered by the United States flag, were laid upon a plank at the stern of the steamer, and as the ship's bell began to toll the intervals, the Brethren formed a circle around the corpse, when the Masonic burial service was beautifully delivered by P.M. J. E. Elliott, of New York, who presided as Master upon the occasion.

The ceremony, beautifully impressive at all times, were remarkably so upon that occasion; and when the Worshipful Brother pronounced the words, "We, therefore, commit the body of our departed Brother to the great deep, his memory shall remain engraven upon the tablets of our hearts, while his spirit shall return unto God who gave it," a single plunge was heard, and the deceased had gone to his last long home, accompanied by the last few words of "Alas, brother!" from those of the Fraternity who formed the broken chain upon the quarter-deck of the steamer.

It is a very rare occurrence that any member of the Craft is buried with the honours of the Fraternity while at sea; but the character of the deceased was so well known as a "just and upright Mason," that it was considered but a just tribute to his memory. It was a scene marked with more than an ordinary degree of solemnity, and will not readily be forgotten by those who participated in the obsequies of the deceased.—*N. F. Picayune.*

## MASONIC SONG.

COME, Brothers, while the social glass so gaily smiles before us,  
 We'll join together heart and voice in glad Masonic chorus ;  
 United by the Mystic Tie, and trusting in each other,  
 Shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand, let's drink to each true Brother !

Hearts true and good as those who now around this board are meeting,  
 Here met long since, and pass'd like us, our dear Masonic greeting,  
 The memory of their virtues past, with hallow'd light shines o'er us,  
 In solemn silence let us drink, "Our Brothers gone before us !"

While musing o'er the noble truths our mystic science teaches,  
 O ! ne'er forget the Mason good, will "practise what he preaches ;"  
 Our next toast, Brothers, then be one shall consecrate the draught,  
 "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth," the watchwords of "the Craft."

And let us never while amid the "changing scenes of life"  
 We pass, forget an unkind word stabs keener than the knife ;  
 A nobler toast ne'er gusto gave to Claret or to Port,  
 Fill, Brothers, fill, and drink with me, "The Tongue of Good Report !"

There is a noble saying, which we get from sages olden,  
 Which tells us speech is silver, but that *silence, ay, is golden* ;  
 No Mason true, but in his breast, its truth and beauty feels,  
 Your glasses charge, and drink we all, "The heart that still conceals !"

Before I close my simple chant, of toasts there's yet another,  
 "Throughout the world to every poor distress'd Masonic Brother :  
 Praying that whatso'er may be his trouble or his grief,  
 He may obtain a speedy and effectual relief !"

*Chorus*—"Then Brothers while the social," &c.

W. P.

## TO THE OCEAN.

O ! who that views thee in thy angry hours—  
 Thy mighty brow so terrible with frowns,—  
 Would think that thou couldst wear so sweet a smile ?  
 So deeply calm, reflect the varied hues  
 Of earth and heav'n,—the beaming smile of love  
 On Nature's glorious face !—yet e'en thy rage  
 Can steep the soul in melting Charity ;  
 Unconscious render it of selfish woe ;  
 And make another's agony its own !

HAMPSTEAD.

CHARLES GRAY.

## REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

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[Publishers are requested to send works for review not later than the 20th of the month, addressed to the Editor of the "Freemasons' Monthly Magazine," 74-5, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields.]

"*What Popery is, when armed with Power ; and what Tractarianism leads to :*" by E. YATES, B.A. London : Boone. This is a powerful and just stricture upon the dulness of those who suppose that Popery has changed its spirit, or has less persecution rife in it than of yore. The author analyses the history of the Inquisition, and exposes the cruelty, ignorance, and sensuality of the judges in that modern hell with severe integrity. "Such," he exclaims "are the monsters which await the sons and daughters of heretical Protestant countries, beneath the flowery wreaths, lighted candles, and silly mummeries of Puseyism, no less than beneath the splendid music, sweet incense, and gold and crimson raiment of blood-stained Rome." He draws attention to the fact that all the great and powerful minds who have received the religion of Christ at the hands of Popery have been infidels—Voltaire, Lagrange, Laplace, D'Alembert, Frederick the Great, Poisson, Pontecoulin ; whereas Protestantism may claim her Newton and Bacon as believers and adorers of Christianity. There is nothing astonishing in this, since one system is the parent of ignorance and absurdity, the other the generator of truth and intelligence. The following account of the demolition of the Palace of the Inquisition at Madrid, by Colonel Lemanoir, of the 9th Polish Lancers, in 1809, will be found interesting: "Ordered by Marshal Soult, the Governor of Madrid, to destroy the buildings of the Inquisition, conformably to the decree of the Emperor, I observed to him that the 9th Lancers were insufficient for that service ; the Marshal then added two regiments of infantry, one of which regiments, the 117th, was under the orders of Colonel Delille. With these troops I marched to the Inquisition, the buildings of which were surrounded with strong walls, and guarded with 400 soldiers. On my arrival I summoned the fathers to open the gates. A sentinel, who was on one of the bastions, appeared to converse for an instant with some one in the interior, after which he fired upon us, and killed one of my men. This was the signal for the attack, and I ordered my troops to fire upon all who appeared upon the walls. It became soon evident that the combat was unequal, and I changed the mode of attack. Some trees were cut down and made into battering-rams, and two of these machines being well directed, under a shower of balls a breach was made, and the Imperial troops rushed into the Inquisition. Here we had a sample of what Jesuitical effrontery can do. The Inquisitor-General and the Father Confessors solemnly issued forth from their retreats, clothed in their sacerdotal robes, and with their arms crossed upon their breasts—as if, knowing nothing, they came to learn what was the matter. They rebuked their soldiers, saying, 'Why do you fight with our friends, the French?' They appeared to wish to make us believe that they had not ordered the defence, and they hoped, no doubt, to be able to make their escape during the confusion occasioned by the pillage. They were deceived. I gave strict orders that they should be kept in view, and all their soldiers were made prisoners. We then began our examination of this prison of hell. We saw chamber after chamber, altars, crucifixes, wax tapers in abundance ; riches and splendour were to be seen everywhere. The floors and walls were highly polished, and the marble mosaic inlaid with exquisite taste. But where were the instruments of torture of which we were told, and where were the dungeons in which it was said that human beings were entombed alive ? We sought for them in vain ; the holy fathers assured us that they were calumniated, and that we had seen everything. I was about to abandon my researches, persuaded that these

Inquisitors were different from those of whom we had heard spoken ; but Colonel Delille would not give up so easily. He said to me, 'Let us examine again the floors ; let us pour water upon them, and we shall see if it does not run through some part.' The flags of marble were large and quite smooth. After we had poured the water, to the great displeasure of the Inquisitors, we examined all the interstices, to see if any oozed through. Very soon Colonel Delille cried out that he found what he sought for. In the joinings of a flag the water disappeared very quickly, as if there was an empty space beneath. Officers and men set to work to raise the flag, whilst the priests cried out against the desecration of their beautiful and holy house. A soldier struck a spring with the butt-end of his musket, which disclosed a flight of steps. I took a lighted taper, four feet long, from a table, in order to explore our discovery, but was stopped by one of the Inquisitors, who gently placed his hand upon my arm, 'My son,' said he, with a devout air, 'you ought not to touch that taper ; it is holy.' 'Well,' I replied, 'I require a holy light to fathom iniquity.' I descended the steps, which were under a ceiling without any opening except the trap-door. Arrived at the bottom, we entered into a vast square room, called the Hall of Judgment. In the middle was a block of stone, upon which was fixed a chair for the accused. On one side of the room was another seat, more elevated, for the Inquisitor-General, called the Throne of Judgment ; and there were lower seats for the fathers. From this chamber we passed to the right, and found small cells extending the whole length of the edifice. But what a spectacle presented itself to our eyes ! How the beneficent religion of the Saviour had been outraged by its professors ! These cells served as dungeons, where the victims of the Inquisition were immured, until death relieved them from their sufferings. Their bodies were left there to decompose, and that the pestilential smell might not incommode the Inquisitors, ventilators were made to carry it off. In the cells we found the remains of some who had died recently, whilst in others we found only skeletons, chained to the floor. In others we found living victims of all ages and both sexes,—young men and young women, and old men up to the age of seventy, but all as naked as the day they were born. Our soldiers first busied themselves to free these captives from their chains, and then took off part of their clothes to cover them. After having visited all the cells, and opened the prison-doors of those who yet lived, we went to visit another chamber on the left. There we found all the instruments of torture that the genius of men or demons could invent. At this sight, the fury of our soldiers could not longer be contained,—they cried out that every one of these Inquisitors, monks and soldiers, should undergo the torture. We did not attempt to prevent them, and they immediately commenced the work upon the persons of the fathers. I saw them employ four kinds of torture, and then withdrew from the frightful scene, which lasted as long as there was a single individual in that antechamber of hell upon whom the soldiers could wreak their vengeance. When the victims of the Inquisition could be brought without danger from their prison into the light of day, the news of their delivery spread abroad ; and those from whom the Holy Office had torn their relations or friends came to see if there was any hope to find them alive. About one hundred persons were rescued from their living tombs, and restored to their families. Many found a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister. Some found no one. A large quantity of powder was placed in the subterraneous passages of the building, the massive walls and towers were blown up into the air, and the Inquisition of Madrid ceased to exist."

—"Boyle versus Wiseman." London: Partridge and Co. In appropriate juxtaposition with the former book, appears on our table an account of the infamous persecution of one of his own clergy by Dr. Wiseman. This nefarious case is in the memory of most of our readers, who also recollect the thorough exposure given of the defendant cardinal, in a court which, unfortunately for him, had not the fear of the Inquisition before its eyes. Such a trial as this did more to open the eyes of thoughtful Catholics to the perilous position in which property and reputation stood in the clutches of a Church, whose highest ministers can stop witnesses, break promises, slander merit, and, after all, fall back upon the aid of benighted credulity to reimburse their expenses, than volumes of polemics or whole libraries of controversial divinity. Mr. Boyle is a man of unim-

peachable character, great mental acquirement, and considerable zeal and energy, and we can only hope that a Divine irradiation may lead him to see the errors of a Church which sacrifices truth and justice, the attributes of God Himself, to priestly arrogance and unchristianlike persecution. He will then, in abjuring the errors of Rome, prove himself far greater than his besotted antagonist; who considered it below (!) his dignity to make reparation for a wrong, and had not magnanimity enough to own himself wiser to-day than he was yesterday. The pamphlet will excite the sympathy with Mr. Boyle, of every honourable and well-regulated mind, and the calm, clear common-sense of Baron Platt, so completely subversive of all the "refuges of lies," common to Romish reasoning, will elevate the reader's estimation of that eminent judge.—"*Plain Instructions for the Management of the Aquarium.*" London: Dean and Son. We strongly recommend this manual to all those zoologists who wish to combine with their favourite study of the habits of animals a taste for ornamental addition to their domiciles. The whole treatment of gold and silver fish, water-plants, and insects is clearly stated, together with the best plans for manufacturing abodes for them. Exquisitely beautiful are some of the veronica plants, and when visiting the Zoological Gardens recently, we confess to having received as much, and even more pleasure, from the contemplation of the aquatic than from that of the supereaqueous world.—"*Characters and Incidents; or, Journeyings through England and Wales,*" by J. W. KING, Author of "*The Patriot*," a Poem, "*Life of Gavazzi*," &c. London: J. W. King, 172, Fleet-street. The portentousness of a title is seldom any indication of the power or utility of a book. The plain, unvarnished text includes generally the richest discourse. The volume now open before us illustrates this; it assumes to be only mere jottings of the author as he passes up and down the country—a hastily-penned genuine log-book. Were it no more than this, it would be as interesting as a description of the familiar, as well as the less known, places and institutes of our country could be. For in the easy and graphic manner in which every scene is depicted, we recognise the hand, not of the pupil, but the master-artist. Scarce a page but affords a picture in word-painting, perfect as Nature herself. But the book's merit does not end here; at least its utility lies deeper. In the form of familiar letters to a friend, we have some passages of powerful writing upon subjects of deep and universal interest. The soul of this volume stands forth in a man of intense thought of sternest truth, and of the most determined courage. His individuality is distinct; and his mental self is shown forth in strong relief, with his impressions of things, his knowledge, and his prejudices. Universal and devoted in most of his sympathies, still he is less the citizen of the world than of England, while to her honour and safety as a Protestant nation he is keenly alive, warning her of the evil of Popery, and against its insidious approaches, with an earnestness and eloquence almost fierce. The journeys to Oxford and Cambridge are pregnant with interest. Sensible discoveries are made in them of things which exist, but are overlooked for lack of courage, or from an undue reverence for worldly position and wealth, or else from that laxity of religious principle, which readily yields up even conscience to the rulership of any spiritual priest, good or bad, sacred or profane. Most crushing, most authoritative are the writer's remarks on both Universities, startling every true Protestant from his apathy, by their stern, uncompromising truth. Leaving the Tractarian warfare, one walks cheerily enough with the writer through the time-honoured halls, listening to his often beautifully-expressed sentiments, and picking up choice crumbs of information with pleased avidity. Indeed, we are truly glad to quit this passionate spiritual and party conflict, and to find the author's essentiality omnipresent in the poet and the man. To find noble thoughts, nobly spoken forth, fine sentiments well expressed, and sympathies pure, glowing, and wide; these make the poet, and these we find strewn thickly through the whole work. After this comes the individual, a combination of vivid originality, of rich quaint humour, of pungent satire, and of rugged, forceful language. Yet over all is a mantle of philanthropy, from the depths of a liberal and poetic heart. Read the book, and it will be enjoyed for its naturalness and its beauty; for its wit and for its wisdom; for its strange characters and for its numberless amusing

incidents. It is the work of a *man*, and for its intrinsic literary merit deserves to take a high and independent position.—“*The American Freemason*.” Louisville and New York. Copies of this admirable periodical have reached us up to July, and we shall best attest our estimation of the contents by quoting considerably from them. To be appreciated, however, fully, it must be seen, when even a brief inspection of the numerous topics of interest, illustrated by an almost endless variety of engravings, will equally surprise as delight. How such a paper can be concocted at the price, is to us a marvel, and we do not hesitate to pronounce our unqualified admiration at the manner in which it blends general as well as Masonic information with entertainment and mental exhilaration. All honour be to its supporters.

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## MUSIC.

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### ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

DURING the past season, ten operas have been produced at the Lyceum. Of the manner in which these operas were performed we now proceed briefly to speak.

*Il Trovatore*.—This opera has gone through many changes as regards its cast. The first change, on the first night of the season, was the substitution of Madame Didiée for Madame Viardot; the latter lady, however, has made the part of *Azucena* so entirely her own, that rivalry here is quite out of the question. The next change, which came somewhat later, was unavoidable; for Signor Tamberlik's engagement terminating early in the season, if the opera was to be performed at all, no one but Signor Mario could fill his place. Another change was rendered necessary by the subsequent departure of Madame Jenny Ney, who had so thoroughly identified herself with the part of *Leonora* (the only one in which she has appeared in England, if we except her *début* in *Fidelio*), that even Madame Bosio, coming after her, could hardly escape disadvantageous comparison. As regards the “mounting” of the opera, it was nothing short of magnificent; and the orchestra and chorus were of course up to the true Covent Garden standard.

*L'Elisir d'Amore*.—Ronconi was *Dulcamara*; Gardoni, *Nemorino*; and Mdlle. Marai, *Adina*, on the occasion of the first performance, Madame Bosio being unwell. The opera went admirably from beginning to end, Mdlle. Marai proving, by no means for the first time, that she is fully capable of taking leading parts when necessary. A new *ballet* (*Les Hamadryades*) was produced after the opera, but was not very successful. Subsequently the opera was repeated, with Madame Bosio as *Adina*.

*Il Conte Ory*.—The cast was the same as last year; the music, of course, as delicious as ever, and relished more and more on each successive performance.

*Rigoletto*.—The original cast. The entire performance, including scenery, dresses, &c., as near perfection as possible.

*Il Barbiere*.—A splendid performance of Rossini's comic masterpiece, Mario, Ronconi, Formes, Tagliafico, and Madame Bosio, taking the principal parts. In the singing lesson, Madame Bosio introduced, with great success, a new and lively air, which was also very popular at the Crystal Palace concerts.

*Don Giovanni*.—We render ourselves liable to a charge of musical high-treason when we say that this opera is not at all to our taste. The music is, of course, splendid, magnificent, incomparable; but somehow or another it is not, as a whole, effective. Then for the plot—what can be more dreary than the abortive gallantries of the hero, and the pointless buffooneries of his valet?—what more dismally uninteresting than the exits and entrances of those two ladies so hapless and so ill-used?—what more absurd and tedious than the stony *Commendatore*, first astride on his stony steed, and then, with ghost-like steps, marching into the supper-room?—what more melodramatically inconsistent with all our modern ideas, than the last fire-and-brimstone scene, where conventional demons, in tight-

fitting dresses of fiery red, carry the hero off to the infernal regions, and are thus supposed to inculcate a healthy and impressive moral, as if any one could be made the wiser or the better by such foolish teaching? The only interesting—not to say respectable—character in the entire opera is *Zerlina*; and Mozart seems to have been much of this way of thinking, for he has given her the most beautiful music—music without which, we are convinced, the opera would long since have been banished to the pianoforte desks of the initiated. “*La ci darem*,” “*Batti batti*,” and “*Vedrai carino*,” are, to the great majority of every audience, the opera of *Don Giovanni*; and fortunate the manager who has a Bosio to set off that beautiful music to the best advantage! He knows well enough that, once safe there, he may let the critics grumble their worst about his *Don Giovanni*, or his *Leporello*, or his *Donna Anna*, since he has provided for the proper performance of all that the public care two straws about in the opera. As for the proper *Don Giovanni*, he, we are convinced, is a myth. Ronconi (admirable in every other part) is nothing here. Belletti is not the man either. It has been asserted, and, we believe, justly, that even Tamburini could only be said to give a distant idea of the veritable Spanish lady-killer as imagined by a long succession of enthusiastic critics. Who, again, in our time, has given satisfaction as *Donna Anna*? There is always some grievous fault found with any *Leporello* that you can name. *Elvira* seldom gives much content. The fact is, that, with the exception of pretty little *Zerlina* (who, accordingly, has seldom much trouble in finding a representative), all the *dramatis personæ* are a wrong-headed set, with whom it is impossible to sympathize, except on the condition of being as wrong-headed as they. The opera always will fail until the advent of the true *Don Giovanni*, and most likely even then; the audience, listless, except when encoring “*La ci darem*,” “*Batti batti*,” and “*Vedrai carino*,” yawned at the fun, and laughed at the demons; the critics (next morning) wondered and grumbled, as it is their nature to do; and there the matter rests till next year, when the same dreary farce will come on for repetition. Of the many things that have outlived their day, *Don Giovanni*, as an acted opera, is one of the most remarkable.

*Norma* was the first opera in which Grisi sang this season, that great artist proving herself, as the stern Druidess, still without a rival on the operatic stage. In the *Puritani*, also, she once more renewed her earlier triumphs, by her exquisite singing and acting as *Elvira*. In the latter opera Gardoni replaced Mario as *Arturo*, and sang so well that the change was less felt than might have been expected.

The most attractive performances of the season, however, were those in which Grisi and Mario appeared together, in *Lucrezia Borgia* and *La Favorita*. Both operas were put on the stage with the utmost care and elaboration, and were received with an enthusiasm rarely displayed by a genuine operatic audience.

It was a matter for regret that, owing to ill-health, Signor Lablache did not once appear. With this exception, the Covent Garden Company was complete.

The house, which had been elegantly re-decorated for the season, is not well adapted for operatic performances; we are therefore glad to learn that it will not be called into requisition for a second season. The latest *on dit* is that Drury-lane is to be the new home of the Royal Italian Opera; and if the report be true, a house better suited for the purpose could hardly have been found.

On the whole, the past season has been both successful in itself, and a hopeful augury of still greater successes yet to come.

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PORTRAIT OF LORD ZETLAND.—The picture of the M.W.G.M., by Grant, has been engraved, and copies are now being distributed from Bro. Spencer's, 314, High Holborn. The style of etching, by Bro. Shenton, has been brought to the highest point of finish by Bro. Brown, and both artists deserve commendation for the happy manner in which they have caught the sterling likeness of the Grand Master, which characterizes the painting. As a work of art, the picture is admirable, and exhibits at once a freedom and naturalness constituting the beautiful of etching. The price also places it easily within the scope of Brethren who may wish to present an appropriate token of respect to their several Lodges.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[THE EDITOR *does not hold himself responsible for any opinions entertained by Correspondents.*]

### BEGGING LETTER IMPOSTOR.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I consider it my duty to the Craft in general, to put them on their guard against the practices of a man, who appears to have imposed on the members of our Order to a considerable extent. This individual, styling himself William Barr, was taken into custody by the police at Walsall, whilst endeavouring to get into the churchyard of St. Matthew's after eleven o'clock on the night of Sunday, May 25th, and not able to give a satisfactory account of himself. On being searched, several suspicious documents were found in his possession; among them, a paper purporting to be a memorial in favour of the widow of the late Bro. Thomas Hamilton, of the Union Waterloo Lodge, No. 13, signed by William H. Stephenson, W.M., and dated *Dec. 16, 1856*, to which was appended the names of many well-known Brethren, with donations amounting to upwards of £70; a certificate from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, dated April 12, 1856, to the effect that William Barr was duly made, passed, and raised in the Lodge St. Stephen, No. 145, Edinburgh; and a certificate purporting to be signed by two magistrates at Folkestone, that William Barr had been shipwrecked, and recommending his case to the consideration of the benevolent.

I happened to be in court when he was examined by the magistrates, who remanded him for a week, in order that some information might be obtained respecting him. Feeling convinced that he was not "a true and worthy Brother," I communicated with the W.M. of No. 13, who informed me that no memorial had been sanctioned by that Lodge for Mrs. Hamilton, nor could it be traced that Thomas Hamilton was ever a member, and that no person of the name of Stephenson has ever been Master of that Lodge within the recollection of the oldest Brother in it. I also wrote to the W.M. of St. Stephen Lodge, No. 145; from him I learned that the Bro. William Barr, a member of that Lodge, was a respectable man, who had gone to New York about five years ago, and that very favourable accounts have been received from him within the last three or four months; he also suggested that certain questions should be put to him, which would prove whether he were the real William Barr or not. The superintendent of police also wrote to Folkestone to inquire into the correctness of the certificate received from the authorities there: the reply was, that no such persons resided in that district, and that it was entirely a fabrication. On being again brought before the magistrates on Monday, the 2nd June, he impudently denied all knowledge of the memorial from No. 13, and his answers to the questions suggested by the W.M. of No. 145 at once proved him to be an impostor and a vagabond: he was thereupon sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour. On leaving the dock, he boldly demanded his papers, which were, of course, refused, when he very coolly said, it did not matter, as he could obtain another Grand Lodge certificate. No doubt when his term of incarceration expires, he will be again attempting to victimize, but I should hope that this narrative of his pro-

ceedings, which I have to request you will insert in the next number of your Magazine, will in some measure frustrate his designs.—I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours truly and paternally,

WALSALL, *June 11th*, 1856.

THOMAS JAMES,

P.M. No. 786, W.M. No. 960.

P.S., *July 26th*.—I had intended to have sent the foregoing in time for insertion in your July number, but Bro. Barr's friends in Edinburgh wished me to delay it till he could be communicated with. The fellow who had assumed his name, obtained possession of the certificate from the Grand Lodge of Scotland by writing to the Grand Secretary from London that all his effects had been destroyed by the fire at Covent Garden Theatre, and requested that another certificate should be sent to him, which request was unfortunately complied with, as by means of that certificate he imposed on a considerable number of the Craft. I have now received through Bro. W. Bryce, Tyler, Grand Lodge of Scotland, a letter from the real Bro. William Barr, dated New York, July 1st, with his original Grand Lodge certificate, which he says has never been out of his possession, and is at a loss to account for the manner in which the exact dates, &c., had been obtained. The only conclusion he can arrive at is, that as it is generally suspended in his store, a copy of it must have been taken by one of two persons who have left New York, and who were in the habit of frequenting his store. No doubt the fellow in Stafford prison was the man; the name is certainly assumed, as Bro. Bryce, having an extensive knowledge of the Masons in and around Edinburgh for a number of years past, never knew but one of the name of Barr, which is his friend in America. If any Brother who has been imposed on by this fellow would wish to see the documents now in my possession, I will send them to your office or to Bro. Spencer's for their inspection.

We have been requested to publish the following Correspondence, as a caution to the Brethren:—

MY DEAR SIR,—A female, stating herself to be the widow of James Mackie, formerly a member of No. 65, has presented herself here to-day, requesting relief to assist her in going out to Australia. I offered to write to the Lodge, which she was evidently unwilling I should do, and having been many times victimized, I declined assistance without. Will you do me the favour to let me know whether you are acquainted with the case? The certificate she handed me was a Scotch one, but I very foolishly did not make a copy. Pray excuse the trouble I am giving you, and believe me,

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

JOHN HERVEY.

*11th August*, 1856.

A. BANNISTER, ESQ., HULL.

P.S.—I think the same woman has visited me more than once before.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have your always-esteemed favour of yesterday. In reply, I beg to say the widow of James Mackie is not known to us here; he never belonged to No. 65, nor have we the slightest knowledge of him or her. You must not let your good-nature be over generous with the parties calling themselves poor Masons; if you do, you will never have your hands out of your pocket. I always make it a rule never to give except through the Lodge.

Yours very truly,

*Hull, August 12th*, 1856.

A. BANNISTER.

JOHN HERVEY, ESQ., 84, King William-street.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have got the enclosed from our Treasurer:—

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I find in my book a James Mackie applied to me for assistance to go out to Australia, May 8th, 1854, and he produced a

list of subscribers, and in that list was the W.M. of the Humber Lodge for 10s., which was a forgery, he never having signed the document at all; and I have no doubt but these are the same parties, who are rank impostors.

Yours fraternally,

Tuesday Morning.

ANTHONY BANNISTER, ESQ.

THOMAS FIETAM.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—The intelligence you published in your last number from Canada, demands the earnest consideration of every one who is interested in the well-being of the Order. The Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West, after expelling those Lodges which have seceded, and thrown up their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, has gone on to resolve “that this Grand Lodge has seen *with satisfaction* a notice in the April number of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, signifying the intention of Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal, Prov.\* S.G.W., Oxon, to introduce at the next Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of England, a motion to the following effect [here follows Bro. Portal's motion for granting independent powers to the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West]; that this Grand Lodge *heartily approves* of the principle contained in the said intended motion, and would respectfully but *strongly urge its adoption* by the Grand Lodge of England, *satisfied as they are that wide-spread dissatisfaction, resulting in disastrous consequences to the peace and prosperity of the Fraternity in Canada, will follow, should immediate action on their just complaints be longer delayed.*” When the ship is in the midst of breakers, it is no time to trust to incompetent pilots. It behoves every Mason to bestir himself if he would avert a catastrophe from which *all*—not the dais only—will suffer. If the above resolution means anything, it means this: that there is a limit to Canadian patience; and that unless their “just complaints” are “immediately” attended to, they will take the law into their own hands. The patience of the Canadian Prov. G. L., great as it is, may well be outraged by the apathy of the Grand Lodge of England. *They*, however, feel some indignation at the consignment of their “just complaints” to that convenient receptacle, the waste-paper basket; and strange to say, they do not seem to consider that the fact of the place of deposit in question being the property of the peerage, makes much difference. Their English brethren are more discriminating! Meanwhile, something must be done, and it is Grand Lodge alone that can do it. In spite of the want of courtesy and power of dealing with questions which has characterized his conduct throughout, we have no desire to believe that the Grand Master is otherwise than sincerely of opinion that his obligation to hand down his authority unimpaired to his successor, prevents his acquiescence in the Canadian demands. But Grand Lodge is superior to Grand Master, who holds his authority *subject to theirs*, and they have therefore clearly the right, if they think fit, to modify that authority, or to redistribute it, giving up a portion of it to the Grand Master of Canada. The conflict between the royal conscience and public opinion upon the question of the Roman Catholic claims was a precisely similar one. We know how that ended; and I trust to the good sense of the Grand Master, and the influence of Grand Lodge, to avert the catastrophe which seems imminent, and by a timely concession to prevent the secession of the entire Canadian body, whose claim upon us is much increased by their former steady adherence, under circumstances of no ordinary trial and provocation.—I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

S. T.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Will you allow me to suggest to country Brethren that a great obligation lies upon them to take a more active part in the business of Grand Lodge. We should gain much by the influence of so large and so inde-

pendent a body upon our deliberations. For instance, the Canada question affects the whole Craft. If Canada secedes, it will be a disgrace to the *whole* Grand Lodge,—not to the London members only. I would therefore propose that this question should be discussed by country Brethren *in Lodge*, and that petitions to Grand Lodge should embody the result of such discussions; the moral effect of such a course would be incalculable. Again, Lord Carnarvon has given notice of a motion, the effect of which will be to communicate to country Brethren the business to be brought forward in London, in time for them to attend its discussion. This is a point which affects them very nearly, and is a fit subject for deliberation amongst themselves, and upon which to petition Grand Lodge.—I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

P.M.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—My attention has been directed to a letter published in your May number of this year signed Δ, and dated Bombay, 5th March last. Without commenting upon the un-Masonic style of the production, or upon the disgraceful expressions with which it teems, I have no hesitation in declaring the letter to be full of the most gross misstatements, and I challenge the writer to declare his name, as I do mine.—I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

BOMBAY, 20th June, 1856.

HENRY D. CARTWRIGHT,  
Prov. G.M. of Western India.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—So long as I was simply referred to as Past Master of the Lodge No. 48, by your Correspondents "Justitia," "A. Z.," and "Sile," it was my duty, in deference to the former, to remain quiet; but as my name has been brought publicly before the world by Drs. Tunstall and Falconer, and C. W. Oliver, in your magazine for June, I should be unjust to myself if I did not take the place of "Justitia," and reply to these three letters. I trust your own sense of justice will permit me this opportunity of placing a right and proper construction upon certain statements adduced by them. In the first place, allow me to observe, that they evade to a great extent most of the facts stated by "Justitia," and content themselves by introducing new matter, in many cases quite irrelevant to Masonry:—Knight Templarism, for instance. Had your correspondents from the commencement contented themselves with adhering to the subject matter of "Justitia's" letter, the affair would not have branched off and assumed its present limits; but I must take matters as I find them, and in common justice assume, that such statements of the latter as are not contradicted must be considered to be proved and incontrovertible facts. Now, I would preface my letter by stating that I am not going to use hard names nor indulge in any un-Masonic or ungentlemanly language, but content myself with writing a plain unvarnished tale.

I will first begin with Dr. Tunstall: the Brother who hissed me whilst I was acting as W.M. was Bro. Wm. Smith, and he made it his business, prior to the commission of this act, to go round to the P.Ms. and other members of my Lodge, and in conjunction with another Brother, endeavoured to get up a party against me; but, thanks to the Brethren of my Lodge, he could not succeed. This Brother did not hiss me, for I had merged in the Master of No. 48, and as its representative he insulted the Lodge. Prior to his being led out of the Lodge, however, my Dir. Cer., Bro. Bagshawe, entreated him to be allowed in his name to apologize; but this Bro. Smith indignantly refused, and left the Lodge, saying to me that he would never put foot inside the room again. Now, with regard to some members of my Lodge hissing Dr. Tunstall: he was invited by our W.M., contrary to my advice, as one of the banquet stewards, to be present at the annual festival. I was surprised to see him, as some time before I had written to him and told him he had

better stay away from my Lodge, for as a visitor he was always creating a disturbance by addressing the chair upon all matters under discussion, and much ill feeling was the result. However, he came : he sat on the right of the W.M. and I on the left, and we were surrounded by many Brethren of the highest rank from the province of Bristol ; we were all joking Dr. Tunstall about his having transferred his allegiance, as a member of the Camp of Baldwyn, to Colonel Tynte. This subject made him very sore, and he appealed to the W.M. for protection, which was granted to him as a matter of courtesy. After the Brethren had been at the table four hours (having previously been at the Lodge for three hours), some of their number, by permission of the S.W.—including gentlemen of high standing in society, one a nobleman,—lit their cigars ; upon which Dr. Tunstall rose and begged that they might be put out, which was at once acceded to, and an apology tendered by Bro. Bagshawe. A short time afterwards the health of the Lodge No. 61 was proposed, and Dr. Tunstall rose and prefaced his remarks by saying “That as a *P.M.* of No. 48” (*mark*, not as W.M. of No. 61, or as our guest), “he told the Brethren that they did not come there to smoke, and if they wanted so to do, Odd Fellows’ Lodges and the bar of the inn were open to those who wished to do so ;” forgetting in his charity that during dinner, and up to the time he was speaking, he had indulged rather copiously, as is his wont, in snuff-taking ; thus using tobacco in another form. Now, after this gratuitous insult had been offered to the S.W., who had apologized for giving permission to Brethren to smoke, I own that three of the youngest members of my Lodge did involuntarily hiss Dr. Tunstall ; and although he deserved to be ejected from the room, I rose, out of deference to his age, and asked the W.M. to request his Dir. Cer. to lead the offending Brethren from the table ; but this our guest, who by his discourtesy had called down upon himself the angry feelings of a few Brethren, would not permit.

I leave the cause of the Camp of Antiquity of Knights Templar and the Rose Crucis Chapter attached thereto by Dunckerley himself, in 1793, in the hands of our acting G.M., and if Dr. Tunstall or any one else has aught to say, let them appeal to him as the head of the Grand Commandery from time immemorial.

I can only, in taking leave of Dr. Tunstall, hope that at this late period of his life, his heart has been imbued for some wise purpose with the principles of Masonry, which has induced him to show that light to his Brethren as a true Christian, *sans peur* and *sans reproche*, which during his lengthened Masonic career has, I am sorry to say, hitherto been hid under a bushel. The postscript to his letter, however, almost forbids the hope. What affinity there is between the purple and Knight Templarism I know not, and if the Prov. G.M. brings his prejudices as G.M. of that Order into his Prov. Grand Lodge, I maintain that he violates the Constitutions. As a proof that this feeling operates, I may mention, that when we applied to Colonel Tynte for a dispensation, Bro. Vigne (who boasts that he can do what he likes with the Prov. G.M.) called upon the Brother upon whose behalf the application was made, *and asked him if he belonged to my camp*, as it was necessary this should be known before an answer was given ! Surely these facts need no comment, and, I opine, Colonel Tynte will not thank his Bayard-like champion for compromising him so much in the eyes of the world.

My answer to Dr. Falconer must necessarily be brief, inasmuch as he confirms nearly all that “Justitia” stated. If Dr. Falconer fancies there is an intimate connection between that individual and myself, I opine that the idea can emanate only from his prolific imagination. Now I unequivocally affirm that Dr. Falconer told me that tradesmen had no right to visit gentlemen’s Lodges, and that it was an act of condescension on the part of a gentleman to visit a Lodge of tradesmen. This was uttered to me in the coffee-room of the Castle Hotel when I was S.W. of No. 48, prior to our departure to attend Prov. Grand Lodge at Shepton Mallet in 1853. This speech, so much in violation of every principle of Masonry, and coming as it did from the W.M. of No. 528, surprised me not a little. I could not understand it, and consequently have only visited his gentlemen’s Lodge four or five times at the outside, and I can answer for every member of No. 48, many of whom are of higher standing in society than Dr. Falconer, that they have never in or out of Lodge thrust themselves upon the society of any member of

No. 528. I know full well that I have incurred the bitter enmity (this is their Masonry) of many members of the Lodge of Honour for my uncompromising opposition to the un-Masonic custom of drawing a distinction between tradesmen and gentlemen. I pride myself upon following in the steps of our respected and esteemed P.M. Bro. Haseler, and of being instrumental in overthrowing one of the greatest curses which ever befell Masonry in Bath. But for many years in our Lodge this distinction has been done away, for we hold that *every man is a gentleman so long as he acts as one*, and men are or ought to be judged by their actions, not by their trades or professions; and if the possession of this feeling of caste, which would do honour to a Brahmin, is Dr. Falconer's public exposition of his feelings as a Mason, I can only say, in all charity, I trust it may die with him.

The Prov. Grand Lodge minutes will show that I did propose that a committee should be appointed to inquire into the affairs of this Province, and that I included the names of the committee in that motion; the Prov. G.M. wished me to insert my own name, which I declined, because I was not a Master or P.M., or a Provincial officer. A few more words, and I have done with Dr. Falconer. I would thus publicly ask him, why he, as W.M. of No. 528, in 1853, allowed the Dep. Prov. G.M. to confer upon the S.W. of his Lodge, Bro. Allen, the collar of Prov. S.G.W., and upon Bro. Adair, a newly-raised M.M., the collar of Prov. S.G.D.? Upon that occasion another M.M., a member of No. 528, of a few months' standing, was made Registrar, and he himself J.G.W. If the custom of Grand Lodge, which ought to govern Prov. Grand Lodges, be followed, the office of Prov. G. Reg. can only be conferred upon a Master or P.M., for in the event of any dispute, the Registrar ought to be able to consult with, and if needs be, advise the Prov. G.M. Surely, as a Master in the Craft, Dr. Falconer ought not to have sanctioned, at least in two instances, a violation of the constitutions; and your readers can now understand why he evades the reiterated statements of "Justitia," by saying that in this Brother's letters there is a certain approximation to truth!

With regard to Bro. C. W. Oliver, I would ask him why, if he objects so much to anonymous letters, he did not advise his friend "A. Z." to sign his name; and why, as he *furnished* information to this writer, he did not reply to Bro. Peach's letter, signed "J. W.," challenging him to substantiate the grave charges he brought against me?

I fearlessly and truthfully assert, that your correspondent did leave the Royal Cumberland Lodge, because he was offered the collar of Dir. Cer., and because our present S.W. was placed before him, as he told me that he deserved this office, being better qualified to fill it than Bro. Bagshawe. Your correspondent has given several versions of the cause which induced him to tender his resignation; all of which I could give,—but the true one, *and the one on which he acted*, was that stated above. I presume that Bro. Oliver, who implies that his qualifications are at least equal to those of our esteemed S.W., ought not to be the judge of his own abilities. Our W.M., and the *board of Past Masters*, did not consider them so. Now I am well aware (and this I coolly write as the result of long observation) that Bro. C. W. Oliver thinks very few equal to himself, though I never heard or saw him fulfil the duties of any office I ever asked him to take without making some egregious blunder, and marring my ceremony; and I may, without being accused of vanity, assert that no one will deny that I am competent to give an opinion upon this matter.

Now, about the collar of Prov. G. Reg., which was offered to me in 1854, and about which so much has been written. What I said was, that as W.M. of No. 48, I could not take that collar, because the year before I had refused the collar of J.G.W.—*not being entitled to accept it*; and as one of our P.Ms. was told by the Dep. Prov. G.M., that when I was W.M. of No. 48, I had, under the circumstances every right to expect the collar of Prov. S.G.W., I did, and do maintain, that to offer me the collar of Registrar in open Lodge, when I told the Prov. G.M. before Lodge was opened, through his deputy, that I refused it, was to say the least of it, a *gratuitous insult*, and done to prevent my saying that the purple had never been offered to me!

With regard to the odium which your correspondent says I showered on the Prov. G.M., I can only indignantly deny his assertion. Whatever I may have uttered respecting the Prov. G.M. was the truth, and I am prepared to repeat. Truth cannot be *unjust*, though it may be called sarcastic; but perhaps Bro. Oliver would kindly favour your readers with some of these unjust and sarcastic remarks, as he calls them? Let me assure you they will bear investigation.

In conclusion, allow me to add, that it has been my fate, from time to time, conscientiously, to oppose Bro. C. W. Oliver, whose conduct I could not approve. I knew that he joined our Lodge merely to make it a stepping-stone to the purple, and to use his own words, "He did not care for Masonry after that was obtained, as his father particularly wished him to get the purple in the Province of Somerset." Besides, he was an E.A. ten or eleven years before he came to Bath, and took his F.C. and M.M. degrees in our Lodge; and as I knew his motives, for they were communicated to me after he had joined, I did not feel myself justified in gratifying his *laudable* ambition, and in placing him in office over the heads of Brethren better Masons, in and out of Lodge, than himself.

I feel some little difficulty in replying to this Brother, because I will frankly own that I have to overcome a great temptation to tell him a few more wholesome truths: from this I forbear at the present time; but I can only say, in taking my leave of him, that the Royal Cumberland Lodge is fortunate in having received his resignation, and I trust he will for the future abstain from telling people that I drove him from the Lodge, for he knows full well that disappointment alone was the cause of his un-Masonic conduct.

I trust that this letter will close\* the correspondence, and if you admit any others in your pages, written in a spirit of hostility to me; I feel assured that your high and well-known sense of justice will permit me the privilege of replying thereto.—I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

PERCY WELLS, P.M. and H., No. 48,  
M.E. Commander Camp of Antiquity, and Grand  
Captain of the Grand Commandery.

BATH, *July 10th*, 1856.

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### THE GRAND CHAPLAIN OF KENT.

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

SIR, — A few days after the preparatory meeting of the Freemasons of Kent, held at Maidstone on the 11th of May, I received a letter from the Prov. Grand Secretary, to announce that the annual Provincial festival would be held at Dartford on the 16th of June; among other subjects he told me, that the Prov. G.M. had displaced me from the office of Prov. G. Chap. without assigning any cause whatever, and without his worship's compliments or respects even to be addressed to me; and that a Brother Kingsford, of Brenchley, was appointed to officiate this year instead of me; from whom, on application, I received a note soon afterwards to say, that he would not accept the office. Now, I think that I have great reason to complain of so unkind and un-Masonic treatment at the hands of the Prov. G.M. Bro. Cooper, in this instance. I was appointed to the office of Prov. G. Chap. in the year 1828 (*by request*), and I officiated at the annual festivals every year since, and all the Brethren present expressed their great satisfaction respecting the sermons, for which service I received a fee or gratuity of *five guineas* to defray my expenses. When the annual meeting was held at Margate, Ramsgate, Hythe, Dover, or Chatham, which was always on a Monday, I was compelled to go down on the previous Saturday (as I did not think it right to travel on a Sunday), and to remain till the following Tuesday morning; so that I had to pay my travelling expenses and those incurred at the tavern from Saturday night till Tuesday morning, and also to pay a substitute for discharging my heavy duties at home; so that, generally, the five guineas were far from being sufficient

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\* It must.—[Ed. P.M. & M.M.]

to pay my account at the time. Besides, I never applied for the said fee, but it was given me freely from the first, and I felt no reluctance, on the score of justice, to continue receiving it; no objection has ever been made to it, as far as I know, but from one Brother at Gravesend, in the year 1853, when the Prov. G.M. was referred to on the subject, who having never *himself* objected to the fee in question, wrote the following note:—

“ No. 12, New Square, Lincoln’s Inn, 27th May, 1853.

“ DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As no notice of motion has been given in reference to the amount of the fee which has been usually paid the Grand Chaplain for his service on the day of our festival, I do not see how the question may be mooted. Be assured, however, that I am quite indisposed to make any alteration in such a point; *first*, because the fee appears to me not unreasonable; and, *next*, because it has been approved by my predecessors.

“ Very truly and fraternally,

“ REV. D. JONES.”

“ CHAS. PURTON COOPER.”

Now I cannot reconcile this note with the language of the Prov. G.M. reported to have been uttered on the day of the annual festival at Dartford, 16th of June, ult. :—“ It had been represented that he had treated the Prov. G. Chap. with disrespect, in *objecting* to the fee he had been accustomed to receive for his sermon, on the annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge, and he therefore craved the attendance of Bro. Owen on this occasion; he believed the payment of the Prov. G. Chap. to be without precedent, but he had decided at present not to fill up that appointment.”

Under all these circumstances I have reason to complain that the Prov. G.M. has been unkind and un-Masonic towards me; if he had wished me to resign, why did he not openly and candidly tell me so? and I should have done it with the greatest readiness; but to be displaced, in the uncourteous way I have been, could not be looked for nor expected from the director of an institution which has been always noted for brotherly love, friendly feelings, and all the amiable virtues that adorn human nature. I feel displeased, and convinced that I have been undeservedly treated with great want of candour and respect in this instance.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

GREENWICH,  
29th July, 1856.\*

DAVID JONES, B.D.,  
Chaplain to the Marine Society and the  
Greenwich Union.

## GRAND CHAPTER.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—At a Convocation of the Grand Chapter last May, a motion for reducing the time between the M.M.’s Degree and exaltation to that of Royal Arch was carried. Another Convocation was held on the 6th ult., and that portion of the minutes of the May Convocation relating to the reduction of the time between the aforesaid Degrees was *not confirmed*.

Before, however, I enter into any analysis of the arguments advanced for the non-confirmation of that portion of the minutes, I must say something on the subject of the imperious necessity that exists for some regulations to be adopted to provide, for the information of all the Chapters in England, what business is to be brought forward in Convocation. Surely, Mr. Editor, it cannot be right that any question of importance should be decided by so *few* (thirteen)† as I am credibly informed were present in the Convocation. Why, the very paucity of the numbers present was sufficient to invite opposition from those who are disposed to

\* This was not received until after the publication of our last number.—[Ed. F.M.]

† Our correspondent is mistaken in his number. It was thirteen below the dais—about thirty in all.—[Ed. F.M.]

indulge in an adherence to a law that has once been established, as if there were no circumstances whatever to occur that would render a modification of any one law desirable. I therefore hope, before long, to find that some active member of the Grand Chapter will propose and effectually carry a resolution, That a fortnight before the quarterly Convocation, each Chapter in England and Wales should have a copy of the questions to be submitted to the forthcoming Convocation. The Provincial Chapters would then have no excuse if they did not attend, to consent to or oppose anything that was important.

It appeared to me, sir, that there was not much reasonable argument advanced by those who advocated the non-confirmation of the minutes. It was advanced by one, that it would cause an influx of young Masons into the Supreme Degree, that would tend to lessen its importance. To the inference thus drawn I object; if a candidate be initiated at twenty-one, can you deny him accession to the Royal Arch beyond fifteen months? he is but little more than twelve months older,—a difference not worth notice; and it is a foregoing conclusion to assert, that he would think the less of the Royal Arch Degree if he were exalted at the end of a month from taking his Degree of M.M. Another view I take is, that the advocates for the twelve months, in my humble opinion, lose sight of that important and justly-styled Sublime Degree of M.M., in their over-estimation, comparatively speaking, of the Royal Arch. The grandeur and sublimity of the M.M. Degree are, I think, unquestionable; and if such a Degree, involving in its ceremonial subjects of such vital importance to every one who has a soul susceptible of the sublime impressions it is calculated to make,—if such a Degree as this can be conferred at the termination of two months in his Masonic life, by what process of reasoning can it be maintained that twelve months should elapse before he can be permitted to take the Royal Arch Degree? Would he not be better fitted for it at that time? Would he not be better able duly to appreciate the Supreme Degree, while his mind was keenly alive to the remembrance of the M.M.'s Degree, than after the lapse of twelve months' time had to some extent lessened and weakened his impressions? I do not mean to undervalue the importance of the Royal Arch Degree, but I cannot suffer the M.M.'s Degree to be as it were ignored and rendered so subservient to the Royal Arch. There is, in my judgment, no difference in their importance, or, as I have already said, their grandeur and their sublimity: if I am in error on this point, I should feel grateful if any more competent companion would in kindness correct me.

Another objection was started, viz., that the charities would suffer: it may perhaps be asked, how? It was stated, that if a young and aspiring candidate could obtain the Royal Arch Degree in a month instead of twelve, he would be debarred from being a Steward in one or other of the Charities, on account of the expenses of his initiation and exaltation, so that what ought to go to the Charities, would come to the Grand Chapter funds, which (it was also stated) were in a flourishing state. Now this objection has nothing in it; in twelve months the aspiring Mason, eager for honours, would be quite free to do his utmost in behalf of the Charities, and the Grand Chapter might also cure the evil so pointed out by more extensive support to the Charities on their part.

A few words on the cause of the proposed shortening of the time, viz.—Colonial complaints, of which I have only to say, that for consistency's sake I should put colonists on the same level with their Brethren in the Craft. There is, however, another reason, viz., the facility with which the Royal Arch Degrees may be obtained by just popping over the border into the Sister Kingdom. The establishment of an uniform system of Masonry in the three kingdoms would be highly desirable: is it impracticable? There are two representatives from Scotland and Ireland in Grand Lodge, who are doubtless Royal Arch Masons: if they were accredited by the Grand Chapters of Ireland and Scotland as representatives of those Grand Chapters in the Grand Chapter of England, I think much good might be effected. If it was practicable to effect an union in 1812 between the Grand Lodges in England, and, as an effect of that union, an uniformity of practice was established, I can see no reason why a conference on such subjects as may be deemed necessary be not held, the detail of which I will say nothing of here, whereby an uniformity of at least *the times* between the different Degrees in Masonry might

be established, which would put an end to all these perplexing circumstances, and establish a Masonic Union that would be beneficial and advantageous to the Sister Grand Lodges. It would thus be an United Kingdom in a Masonic as well as a civil point of view.

Having written thus much, and occupied, I fear, too much space, I shall resume the subject, if need be, in a future number, and now content myself by being

Yours, fraternally,

Q IN THE CORNER.

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## MASONS IN THEIR HOURS OF RELAXATION.

“AND NOW,” the Square continued, “after leading you, as John Bunyan did his pilgrims, through the gardens of Beelzebub, to show you the forbidden fruit, rank and unwholesome, that flourishes there,—the apples of charlatanism, the grapes of antimasonry, and the cowans’ figs, not particularly wholesome,—I must return to the ever-blooming delectable mountains and sunny vales, which are situate in the midst of a Lodge, just, perfect, and regular, when it is open, but closely tiled.

“The eighteenth century was the age of clubs,” said the Square, “and their public suppers were generally scenes of unmixed, though rather turbulent enjoyment; but there was a festive gratification thrown over a Masonic banquet, which was unapproachable by any other society. Even the celebrated Heidegger, the *arbiter elegantiarum* of high life, was often heard to say, that if he had not been a Mason, he should never have had a perfect zest for the exercise of his art. It is not in the viands—they are the same everywhere; it is not the wines—we cannot boast of any superiority there. The secret may be found in the congeniality of feeling which mutually exists amongst the Brethren—knit together by closer ties, cemented by a chain of more sincere and disinterested affection—each and all being determined to give and receive pleasure, to be happy themselves, and the source of happiness to others. By this means a Lodge of true-hearted Brothers, during its hours of relaxation and refreshment, is a region of peace, and the patented abode of good temper and unmixed enjoyment.”

“This result,” said the Square, “arises out of a community of interests, so nicely balanced and regulated by the Constitutions of the Order, that being directed by Wisdom, supported by Strength, and ornamented by Beauty, harmony establishes itself without any artificial assistance; and the Lodge, like a well-constructed machine, true in all its parts and proportions, performs its work with the most perfect accuracy and unvarying correctness. Interests seldom clash, each officer’s duty being so clearly defined as not to admit of any mistake; the springs and wheels execute their respective functions so truly as to preserve their symmetry, and contribute to the beauty, magnificence, and durability of the whole.”

“This exact regularity, as I once heard Bro. Calcott say,” continued the Square, “so far from occasioning a melancholy seriousness, diffuses the most pure delights, and the bright effects of enjoyment and hilarity shine forth in the countenance. It is true that appearances are sometimes a little more sprightly than ordinary, but decency runs no risk of violation, it is merely wisdom in good humour. For if a Brother should so forget himself as to use any improper expressions, a formidable sign would immediately recall him to his duty. A Brother may mistake as a man, but he has ample means of recovering himself as a Freemason; and although order and decorum are always scrupulously observed in our Lodges, we do not exclude gaiety and cheerful enjoyment. The conversation is always animated, and the kind and brotherly cordiality that is found there, gives rise to the most pleasing reflections.”

“These particulars may justly recall to our minds the happy time of the divine Astrea, when there was neither superiority nor subordination, because men were as yet untainted by vice on the one hand, and uncorrupted by licentiousness on the other.”—From Oliver on *Masonry*, pp. 305—307.

# THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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## THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the Monthly Meeting of this Board, on the evening of the 27th, £80 were voted amongst seven applicants. Two or three apparently deserving cases were passed over on matters of regulation, which would seem to us to want revisal, and we trust the members of the Board will see the necessity of obtaining a proper and more liberal code of regulation than at present exists for the distribution of the benevolent funds of the Order.

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## ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED MASONS.

The M.W.G.M. has fixed Wednesday, the 17th of June, 1857, for the next festival of this Institution. Bro. Davis has been appointed collector in the room of Bro. Nicholls, deceased.

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## GRAND LODGE.

### NOTICES OF MOTION.

The M.W.G.M. to propound a scheme, and propose resolutions founded thereon, for the improved government of the Colonial Lodges.

Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, S.W., No. 10, has given notice of the following motion for the 3rd inst. :—"That in order that Masons resident in the country may be aware of the business to be brought forward in Grand Lodge, it is expedient that the Board of Masters meet at such a time as that the Paper of Business may be issued with the minutes of the last Quarterly Communication; and the Board of General Purposes is requested to give effect to this resolution."

Bro. Henry G. Warren, P.M., No. 202 :—1. "That it is expedient that the privilege of wearing the Charity Jewel, now confined to Brethren who have served the office of Stewards at the festivals of the Boys' and Girls' Schools, be extended, and that Brethren having served as Steward at the festival of any two of the Masonic Charities be entitled to wear such Jewel; and that Brethren serving the office for the three Charities, be also entitled to wear a clasp on the ribbon by which such Jewel is suspended."

2. "That, in future, no person not being a member of the Craft be allowed to dine at any of the Masonic festivals."

3. "That henceforth the use of the Temple be granted to the Stewards of the four Masonic festivals, for a music-room at the conclusion of such festivals."

## METROPOLITAN.

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**LODGE OF FRIENDSHIP (No. 6).**—We have great satisfaction in hearing that the Right Hon. the Earl of Durham has enrolled himself in the Lodge of Friendship, and has joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. This exemplifies that the spirit of Masonry, which so characterized his excellent sire, lives in the worthy son; and the truest friend of the Craft can only hope that our newly-initiated Brother may long be spared to follow in the steps of his noble progenitor, whose death deprived Masonry of one of her brightest ornaments, and society of a most excellent man.

**CONSTITUTIONAL LODGE (No. 63).**—This Lodge held a meeting of emergency, on Aug. 8, at the Ship and Turtle, for the purpose of initiating two gentlemen, and passing another, previous to their going to sea, the ceremonies being ably performed by the W.M. Bro. P. Moss.

**VITRUVIAN LODGE (No. 103).**—This old and much respected Lodge met by summons of emergency, at the White Hart tavern, College-street, Lambeth, Tuesday, Aug. 19th, to initiate Mr. Bell, whose residence is in the island of Havannah, which ceremony was performed in an able manner by Bro. Cherry, well assisted by his officers. Two Brethren were also passed to the 2nd Degree. In the course of the evening, the candidate, in returning thanks for the manner his health had been proposed, expressed the pleasure he felt in being admitted into the Order, and his intention, as far as laid in his power, to promote its principles in the distant country to which he was about to proceed, and in which he believed there were a number of Masons who met occasionally, but without the sanction of the government of the island.

**ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 196.**—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting, at the Holly-bush Tavern, Hampstead, on the 12th August: Bros. Samuel Aldrich, the W.M., in the chair; R. Hazard, S.W.D. Treas.; H. Cornick, J.W. *pro tem.*; J. R. Smith, S.D. *pro tem.*; G. Pritchard, J.D. There was a strong muster of the Brethren present, and amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. G. W. K. Potter, Prov. G.D.P., P.M. No. 109, and G.M. Cer.; W. Simmons, Prov. G.D. Hants, P.M. No. 428; J. T. Archer, P.M., No. 108, and No. 183; Capt. Edward Thompson, No. 306, Banagher, King's Co. Ireland (just returned from the Crimea); W. Williams, P.M., No. 11; R. Cowdrey, No. 276, &c. &c. Bros. Purkiss and Birchmore were raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M.; and Messrs. James Alborn, Thomas Dale, and Isaac Douglas, were initiated. The W.M. read a letter which he had received from Bro. J. Fisher, Sec. to the Fidelity Lodge, No. 364, held at Leeds, stating that a Brother, a native of France, had applied to that Lodge for pecuniary assistance, and the recommendation of the Brethren, to enable him to procure employment in his business (that of a dyer or chemist), and that he represented himself as being a P.M. of the St. John's Lodge, No. 196, at Hampstead, and requesting to be made acquainted with that Brother's antecedents. The W.M. stated that he had informed Bro. Fisher that the person named in his letter had never been a member of the Lodge; therefore, it was clear he was so far an impostor. The other business of the Lodge having been disposed of, and the Lodge closed, the Brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, reflecting the highest credit on the worthy host, Bro. Dale. In the course of the speeches of the visiting Brethren, the W.M. and the Officers of the Lodge were highly complimented on the accurate and skilful manner in which the several Degrees were conferred, and the excellent working of the Lodge.

**ST. JAMES'S UNION LODGE (No. 211).**—The members of this greatly-improving Lodge met on emergency at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Aug. 1st. Four gentlemen were initiated into the Order, and three Brethren raised to the Degree of Master

Mason ; after which the Brethren proceeded to banquet, and during the evening the greatest harmony prevailed.

LODGE OF ISRAEL (No. 247).—This Lodge, which is now located at Bro. Seyd's Hotel, in Finsbury-square, has found ample accommodation for its increasing strength. Under the conduct of Bros. Freeman and Biggs it made great strides, but at every meeting of the present year new members appear. At the Lodge held on Tuesday, Aug. 12, Bro. H. A. Isaacs, the W.M., initiated Messrs. Joseph and John Abrahams, two of the sons of Bro. P.M. Abrahams, and Mr. Henry Phillips. He also passed Bros. Brown and Lyons, and raised to the 3rd Degree, Bros. Garcia, Jacobs, Solomon, and Walker. One gentleman was proposed for initiation at the ensuing Lodge. There was a pretty fair attendance of the members, and several visitors ; amongst others was Bro. Lhose, an officer of the Grand Lodge of Berlin ; from this Brother we learned that the Prince of Prussia, who, report says, is to be allied to the royal family of England, is a Master Mason. The banquet, a cold collation, was spread with very good taste ; and the excellent working of the W.M., Bro. Isaacs, was the theme of praise both on the part of the Past Masters of the Lodge and the visitors. The Benevolent Fund of the Lodge is well supported.

BEADON LODGE (No. 902).—The installation of Bro. John Scott as W.M. of this Lodge took place on Wednesday, the 20th August, and was the occasion of a remarkably agreeable and convivial meeting. The ceremony was performed by Bro. W. Watson, P.M., on the conclusion of which the W.M. appointed Bros. Goodman, S.W. ; C. Potter, jun., J.W. ; Potter, sen., Treas. ; Blackburn, Sec. ; White, S.D. ; the other offices remaining vacant *pro tem*. The Lodge having been closed, the Brethren sat down to a most excellent banquet, served in a style that reflected the highest credit on the new proprietor of the Star and Garter, Kew-bridge (Bro. Charles Cooper, of the Old King's Arms Lodge). The visitors were Bros. F. Binckes, W.M., No. 11 ; G. States, W.M., No. 166 ; W. Williams, P.M., No. 11 ; H. Carpenter, P.M., No. 219 ; H. Bignell, No. 206. The newly-installed W.M. performed his duties most admirably, and under his sway we augur for the Lodge a year of unprecedented prosperity. Bro. Beadon sent a letter expressing his regret that he was unable to be present on the occasion.

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## PROVINCIAL.

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### CHESHIRE.

CHESTER. — *Cestrian Lodge* (No. 615).—On Wednesday, Aug. 6, a special Lodge was held at the Royal Hotel, for the purpose of conferring a Degree, and receiving the new-joining members—Bros. George C. Legh, *M.P.* for North Cheshire ; Capt. Devonport ; Capt. Frederics, Capt. Lock, &c., with the learned Brethren of the bar then on this circuit ; Bros. Welsby (our respected recorder), Horatio Lloyd, Hon. Mr. Burke, I. B. Macintyre, E. B. Wood, W. L. Foulkes, Henry Latham, &c. Bro. Charles Dutton, P.M. and W. Prov. G.S.D. for the province of Cheshire, as acting Master (in the absence of the W.M. Bro. Truss), the W.M. who presided at the banquet, but was obliged to retire on the cloth being removed, being telegraphed to London on special business, went through the business of the Lodge with his usual ability. The Brethren being called from labour, retired to the banquet-room to partake of turtle and venison, which were served in first-rate style by the liberal host and hostess, Bro. and Mrs. Macgregor. On the removal of the cloth, "Non nobis, Domine," was beautifully given by the professional Brethren present, Bros. Walker, Cuzner, and Brown, and Signor Sapio. Then followed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, with appropriate glees, excellently given, Bro. Harrison, P.M. and Prov. G.S. and a Knight Templar of the University of Oxford, presiding with his usual talent

at the grand piano-forte, Bro. Brown giving the honours as the director of the ceremonies. A most agreeable evening having been enjoyed, the Brethren (nearly forty in number) were called from refreshment, and the Lodge finally closed with the usual ceremonies, and adjourned.

### DEVONSHIRE.

DARTMOOR.—*Lodge of Benevolence* (No. 964).—On Wednesday, August 20th, a large number of Freemasons met at Prince Town, Dartmoor, for the purpose of assisting at the ceremonies incident to the institution of a Lodge, to be denominated the Lodge of Benevolence, No. 964 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England. The morning, although not such as to give promise of a very fine day, did not deter many of the numerous Brethren resident in Plymouth, Devonport, Stonehouse, and Exeter, from being present on this occasion, but the day turned out anything but a pleasant one for visiting the forest of Dartmoor. Still, notwithstanding the drawback of the weather, the entire proceedings connected with the opening of the new Lodge passed off in the most satisfactory manner, to the great gratification of all concerned. The visiting Brethren arrived at Prince Town, which is situated in the midst of the "Forest of Dartmoor," about ten o'clock in the morning, having travelled some in phaetons, others in gigs, chaises, omnibuses, and coaches. There were the scarlet liveries of the Royal Hotel, Plymouth, and some of the horses of Mr. Chubb, of the "Commercial," but the smartest and most unique turn-out, and which attracted the greatest share of admiration, was a coach and four splendid greys, driven by Bro. H. Ward, the panels and back of the coach bearing the insignia of the Order and number of the Lodge, 224, the W.M. and Officers and Brethren of which it conveyed. This excellent turn-out was most creditable to Mr. Radmore, of the Globe Hotel, by whom it was furnished, and to the Brethren by whom it was used.

It is impossible to give a complete list of the Freemasons present on this occasion; but the following were amongst them:—Bros. Rev. John Huyshe, the D. Prov. G.M. for Devon; W. Denis Moore, the D. Prov. G.J.W., and Prov. G.S. for Devon; C. J. Laidman, Prov. G.S.; W. Opie, P.M., No. 123; H. Clarke, J.W., No. 129, acting Prov. G.S.; J. Burrington, P.M., No. 46; J. Drew, S.W., No. 650; and Gregory, P.G., Tyler, from Exeter; Foulds, W.M.; Pitchford, J.W.; Gambell, P.M.; Pollard, P.M. and P. Prov. G.T.; Maynard, P.M. and P. Prov. G.T. of No. 83; Browning, W.M.; Roberts, S.W.; Gidley, P.M.; Shepherd, P.M.; Watts, P.M.; Davies, J. W. Ellis, Clarke, Dyer, Shillabeer, Witheride, Greenwood, Oules, Bowers, and Isaacs, of No. 182; Clark, W.M.; Clase, S.W. and Prov. G.S.; Mackey, S.W.; Joll, S.D.; Pearse, P.M.; Schelesinger, P.M. and Prov. G.A.D.C.; Martin, P.M., and V. Narracott, Sec. of No. 185; W. Lazarus, P.M. and G.W.M. of No. 270, from Plymouth; R. Pomeroy, W.M.; May, S.W.; Woodhouse, J.D.; Phillips, P.M.; Eyre, Hodge, Kerslake, Peters, and J. Rowe, P.M. and Sec. of No. 122; J. Cree Hancock, W.M.; W. Hunt, S.W.; J. Gilbard, J.W.; R. R. Rodd, S.D.; G. J. Gilbard, J.D.; H. J. Templer, J.G., *pro tem.*; W. H. Evens, P.M.; R. Lidstone, Sec.; J. Rogers, P.M. and Tyler; J. Hughes, P.M.; L. P. Tripe, P.M. and P. Prov. G.J.W.; J. Honey, Treas. *pro tem.*, and T. Russell, P.M. and P. Prov. G.S.W., No. 224, from Stonehouse; H. Ward, of No. 415, Truro; Elphinstone, W.M.; Netten, S.W., *pro tem.*; Barrett, J.W., *pro tem.*; Emmett, S.D.; Hooper, P.M.; Spriddle, P.M., and Copplestone, of No. 238, Devonport; Snell, W.M.; Merrifield, P.M.; Matthews, P.M.; Bawden, J.W.; Rev. W. E. Hadow, Chap.; R. Robjohns, Grey, P.M.; Uren, Merrifield, jun., Williams, Parsons, Worth and Andrews, Tyler, of No. 351, Tavistock; J. Read Dove, No. 763, Huddersfield.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened by the following officers:—Bros. the Rev. John Huyshe, A.M., R.W., Prov. G.M., *pro tem.*; W. Denis Moore, Prov. G.J.W. and Prov. G.S., R.W.D. Prov. G.M.; the Rev. W. E. Hadow, of Tavistock, acting Prov. G. Chap.; W. H. Evens, P.M., No. 224, Prov. G.S.W., *pro tem.*; John Cree Hancock, W.M., No. 224, Prov. G.J.W.; J. J. Clase, S.W., No. 185, and Prov. G.S., Prov. G.S.D., *pro tem.*; Charles J. Laidman, Prov.

G.S. and Prov. G.J.G., Prov. G.J.D., *pro tem.*; R. R. Rodd, S.D., No. 224, Prov. G. Tyler, *pro tem.*; J. Rogers, P.M., No. 238, and Tyler, of Nos. 122, 185, and 224. Bro. Rogers was relieved by Bro. Gregory, the Prov. G. Tyler. The petitioning Brethren having made their request, the new Lodge was instituted, and dedicated with the proper ceremonies, and subsequently Bro. Chapman was installed as its W.M. for the year ensuing by Bro. W. Denis Moore. The newly-installed W.M. then appointed as his officers, Bros. Pyper, S.W.; Rowe, J.W., Gibson, Sec. In the course of the day the Rev. F. S. Batchelor, the chaplain of the Convict Prison of Dartmoor, was initiated into Freemasonry in the new Lodge, No. 964, Bro. W. D. Moore acting as W.M.

It was intended to have proceeded in state from the Duchy Hotel, where the Lodge was held, to Prince Town Church, but the heavy fall of rain made it impossible. However, despite the torrents of water, some hundreds or so found their way to the sacred edifice. Prayers were read by the newly-initiated Bro. the Rev. F. S. Batchelor, and a very appropriate and admirable sermon preached by Bro. the Rev. W. E. Hadow, of No. 351, Tavistock, from 10th verse of the xii. chap. of the Romans. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;" and the sermon commenced by calling attention to this, one of those short and practical sentences that abound towards the close of St. Paul's Epistles. It then went on to show that this precept was especially a Christian precept; that the whole text was summed up in one comprehensive word, "Charity," and therefore was very suitable for the consideration of a Fraternity who claim "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth," as the grand principles on which their Order is founded, and who ought therefore to be very careful in the observance of so noble a rule. That though it might be thought the text inculcated an impracticable duty, yet that much good might be done by asserting our principles, even though we failed to effect all we sought. Two things were necessary in order to produce brotherly love in all its fulness, viz., self-knowledge and self-government, for by them we should be restrained from everything that was opposed to charity, and should be making a daily advancement towards the duty so strongly enforced by the Apostle in the text. Brotherly love also is needful for our comfort here, as well as our everlasting happiness hereafter, not that by possessing it heaven could be demanded as of right, but that its possession showed the love of God working in us, and proved us to be striving to have in us "the same mind that was in Christ." Thus religion was the only ground on which brotherly love could rest; and Freemasonry agreed with this in principle and practice. To the initiated it would be enough to say that religion prompts all our acts, and justice guides our motives; but that we shrink not from the world's examination, and therefore the uninitiated should know that, although Freemasonry was not religion itself, nor intended to supersede it, yet it was an assistant to it; that there was nothing in our principles opposed to either Old or New Testament, and that to be a good Mason, was to be a religious man. That although the system of Masonry was veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols, and therefore might by some be thought to be vain, yet really such was not the case, for these symbols taught each Mason a lesson calculated to make him a wiser and a better man. That the use of symbols was no new thing, but that the Bible was full of such modes of instruction. Again, as to our public duties, the charge was quoted to show that Freemasonry had a good effect as to its teaching; and the necessity of concealing the terms and ceremonies of the Fraternity, while the fruits of the system were patent to all, was insisted upon. That although the Order had been abused by improper Members being admitted, yet abuse of a thing is no argument against its legitimate use; and he was the best champion of the Order who defended it with his deeds rather than his words. The sermon concluded with an appeal in behalf of the Royal British Female Orphan Asylum at Devonport, the Brethren being called on to remember their obligation, and the great lesson taught them at their initiation, and all being reminded that their principles must be proved by their practice. The collection amounted to about 13*l*.

After the conclusion of the service at the church, a large number of the Brethren sat down to a substantial and well-served banquet at the Duchy

Hotel. The duties of president were ably and most happily supplied by the acting Prov. G.M. W. Denis Moore, who was ably supported by Bros. W. H. Evens and J. C. Hancock, as Prov. G.S. and J.Ws. The usual Masonic and loyal toasts were duly honoured, and the party was dispersed at an earlier hour than it otherwise might have been, in order that, in the then prevailing rain and storm, the Brethren might be able to secure sufficient light to get out of the forest-road. It is due to Bro. T. Gibson, of No. 325, Grand Lodge of Ireland, and Sec. of the New Lodge, that his Masonic Brethren should know he was most energetic and active in advising, arranging, and making the preliminary steps for the warrant of its institution being obtained, and in the preparations for the ceremony of its dedication. In these labours he was heartily assisted by Bro. Piper, of No. 351, Tavistock, and the S.W. of the New Lodge. The other Members of the New Lodge are Bros. R. J. Rowe, J.W.; E. W. Wren, B. Worth, and the Rev. F. S. Batchelor.

#### HERTFORDSHIRE.

BERKHAMPSTEAD.—*Provincial Grand Lodge.*—The Grand Lodge of this province was held at the King's Arms Hotel, in Berkhamstead, on Wednesday, August 27th, under the warrant of the Berkhamstead Lodge, No. 742. Present:—The R. W. Bro. William Stuart, of Aldenham, Prov. G.M.; the V.W. Bro. Thomas Abel Ward, D. Prov. G.M.; the V.W. Bro. George Francis, P.D. Prov. G.M. of Surrey; the W. Bro. H. H. Burchell Herne, P. Prov. G.S.W.; the W. Bro. J. H. Patten, Prov. G.S.B.; the W. Bro. F. Crew, Prov. G. Stew.; the W. Bro. Thomas Rogers, Prov. G. Treas.; the Rev. Bro. Frederick B. Harvey, Prov. G. Chap.; Bros. John Sedgwick, Prov. G. Sec.; E. H. Law, Prov. G.S.D.; J. How, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; John M. Thearle, Prov. G.S.B.; John Lane, P. Prov. G. Purs.; and several other Brethren.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened in due form, with solemn prayer. The minutes of the Prov. Grand Lodge, held at Hitchin, were read and confirmed. The Treasurer's Report, showing the financial state of the Grand Lodge Funds, was received and adopted.

Bro. Thomas Rogers was unanimously re-elected Grand Treasurer, and invested with the Jewel of Office.

The Prov. G.M. then appointed and invested the following Brethren as Prov. Grand Officers:—Thomas Abel Ward, D.G.M.; C. H. Law, S.G.W.; D. G. Thane, T.G.W.; John Sedgwick, G. Sec.; George Francis, G. Reg.; Rev. Fred. Burne Harvey, G. Chap.; John Lane, G. Supt. of Works; H. Webber, G.S.D.; J. M. Thearle, G.J.D.; J. How, G. Dir. Cer., G.S.B.; Davey, G. Purs.; Hervey Lane, G.S.; T. Thomas, G. Tyler.

All business being disposed of, the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in due form. At half-past four the Brethren assembled at

#### THE BANQUET,

which was laid out in the noble ball-room of the Hotel, and was amply supplied with the viands of the season, two fine haunches of venison being furnished by the Grand Lodge. The cookery and wines were alike creditable to Bro. Softlard's good taste and culinary skill.

The cloth being removed and the grace sung by Bros. Shoubridge, Lawler, and Young, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts duly honoured, and Bro. Lawler having given the song of "The Oak and the Ivy,"

Bro. Ward, the Dep. G.M., asked the Brethren to fill bumpers to honour the toast, "The R.W. Bro. Stuart, their G.M., who had so long and so ably presided over the province of Hertfordshire, and whom he prayed the G.A.O.T.U. would for many years support with health to continue with them, taking the sentiment of Bro. Lawler's song, may Bro. Stuart be the oak and we the ivy that clings around him"—(cheers)—and a musical chorus, led by Bro. Crew.

The Prov. G.M. said, they all knew that he was not accustomed to make long speeches, and that he would simply say, that he was much gratified with the reception his name had met. He was always kindly received by the Brethren in the province, and he hoped that many years might yet be spared him to preside

over them, for he assured them that some of the happiest days of his life had been spent among the Masons of Hertfordshire, "and from the bottom of my heart, Brethren, I thank you!" (Cheers.)

The Prov. G.M. then gave "The Dep. G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers that day appointed," which was responded to by Bro. Ward, who said that in so good a cause as furthering the interests and increase of Masonry in the province, himself and the other officers could not fail being ever ready and willing to aid the work of their esteemed superior.

The Rev. Bro. Harvey, the G. Chap., rose and said he was commanded by the G.M. to perform a most agreeable duty, in proposing the health of the visitors who had that day honoured Hertfordshire with their presence. The interchange of hospitality was one of the peculiar features of Masonry, which embodied a system of morality embracing all the cardinal virtues; and hence, as a member of the Church, he was sure it was well entitled to be called, what it had often before been asserted to be, "the handmaid of Christianity." Without a man is possessed of all those great principles that are enforced as essential to constitute a good Mason, how can he be expected to become a good Christian? Among the visitors he particularly noticed that worthy and excellent Mason, the indefatigable Secretary of the Girls' School, and he therefore proposed "Bro. Crew and the Rest of the Visitors."

Bro. Crew said, it afforded him very great pleasure to meet the Masons of Hertfordshire, as he was one of the first to assist in forming a Lodge in that Province, and among others, he had the honour of initiating the Marquis of Salisbury. The small plant then fixed had since become a noble tree, and he saw with much gratification the great interest taken by persons of consideration in Hertfordshire. The Rev. Chaplain had eloquently painted the beautiful principles of the Fraternity, and it was most pleasing to hear him, as one of the Holy Brotherhood, urging its claims on society. 'Tis the happiness of Masonry to teach all that is good, its tendency is at all times to soften differences and smooth difficulties. But for Masonry, how should he have been able to make the many acquaintances throughout the land, and by that means aid the cause of that noble institution, the Freemasons' Girls' School, of which he was the Secretary, an institution that the Order might well be proud of? He did not hesitate saying, that the system there adopted fitted the scholars for any station in life. He was warmed to speak of all the Masonic institutions, by which we support the aged, feed the hungry, and instruct the young. He could not avoid remarking that it was on these festive occasions that opportunity was afforded of making more widely known the benefits that result from the support of those admirable charities; and hence these moments of enjoyment tend to disseminate a knowledge of their usefulness among the Brethren. The children they had protected and nurtured would be prospered by the education afforded them. Heartily grateful for the bounty conferred on them, their prayers and praises would ascend to the Grand Lodge above, and testify the glorious service rendered to man's happiness by the fulfilment of the great principles of our Order. (Loud cheers followed Bro. Crew's address.)

"The Health of Bro. Capt. Stuart, Prov. S.G.W. of England," was proposed by Bro. Francis.

The Prov. G.M. regretted that an important engagement prevented his son being present; he thanked the Brethren for the notice of his name.

Bro. Burchell Herne, at the request of the Prov. G.M., asked the Brethren to join in a kindly greeting to a Brother who had so well and ably conducted the proceedings, and who, by his connection with the press, was well known as being untiring in the cause of Masonry in general, and he might say in Hertfordshire especially,—“Bro. How, the Director of Ceremonies.”

The reception the toast had met, Bro. How said, was so much above his merits as to be almost beyond his gratitude, if it was to be measured by words. He was sufficiently rewarded for his exertions by finding that they were so kindly received, and he hoped he might ever continue to be deserving of such acknowledgments.

The Grand Lodge now broke up, all being much pleased with the day's proceedings, the enjoyment of which was not a little enhanced by the vocal abilities of Bros. Shoubridge, Lawler, and Young.

## KENT.

NEW ROMSEY.—A Lodge of Instruction was held here on Tuesday, the 12th August, similar to that held at Ashford in August last year. The Lodge was principally attended by Brethren belonging to the Hythe and Folkestone Lodges.

## LANCASHIRE.

MANCHESTER.—*Provincial Grand Lodge.*—On Thursday, August 25th, the annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Freemasons of East Lancashire was held at the Royal Exchange, Manchester, where about 400 of the Brethren assembled to transact the business of the province. The Craft Lodge commenced at half-past ten, and at half-past eleven the Prov. Grand Lodge was opened by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Stephen Blair. The minutes of the last annual meeting at Bury were read and confirmed, and also the minutes of various meetings connected with the establishment of a Masonic Benevolent and Annuity Fund.

Bro. Pitt, Prov. Grand Dir. of Cer., announced that he held in his hand a document from the Earl of Zetland, the G.M. of England, appointing Bro. Stephen Blair, their present highly-esteemed D. Prov. G.M., to the office of Prov. G.M. for East Lancashire, in the place of the Earl of Ellesmere, who had resigned.—(The announcement was received with great applause.) The document was then read by Bro. Tunnah, Prov. G.S. ; after which, the Masters and Past Masters of Lodges retired into an adjoining room, where the ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Pitt. On their return to the Grand Lodge, the Prov. G.M. was received in the most cordial and enthusiastic manner.

The Prov. G.M., in acknowledging the appointment, said he felt proud of the honour that had been conferred upon him, and more especially so as he knew that it was the wish of the Brethren of the province that he should receive the appointment. It was most gratifying to his feelings, after a service of ten years in the office of D. Prov. G.M., during which period he had had to carry out the wishes of the Grand Lodge in London, to find that he had discharged the duties of the office to the satisfaction of the Earl of Zetland, from whom his present appointment emanated. It had been his desire to hold his position with becoming dignity, yet he had ever done all in his power to meet the wishes of the Brethren of the province, and to promote the interests of Freemasonry. He was well aware that, in accepting the office of Prov. G.M. for East Lancashire, he took upon himself a great amount of responsibility ; but he could assure his Brethren that he did not hesitate a moment in accepting the office, when he knew that he should be supported by so many good men and free. When he entered upon his late office of D. Prov. G.M., the number of Brethren in the province was 847. The number now was 1,400, an increase of which they had reason to be proud. But, whilst they increased so satisfactorily in numbers, let them hope and pray that they advanced also in intelligence and virtue. They were assembled in a large city, from the provinces of which it was the centre. The eyes of thousands were upon them, and he exhorted them, as Brethren, to show the community of Manchester that they were not only good Masons but good Christians. The regulations of the occasion did not admit of a procession to the cathedral, but they could assemble there for divine service ; and when they retired to their homes, he trusted that they would not leave behind them in Manchester a feeling that they were undeserving members of the community.

The Prov. G.M. then proceeded to the appointment of the Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year, as follows :—Bros. A. H. Royds, of Rochdale, D. Prov. G.M. ; J. Bell, of Manchester, Prov. S.G.W. ; B. Hollinshead, Blackburn, Prov. J.G.W. ; Rev. P. C. Nicholson, of Salford, Prov. G. Chap. ; Edward Barlow, of Bolton, Prov. G. Treas. ; T. F. Pollitt, of Manchester, Prov. G. Reg. ; John Tunnah, of Bolton, Prov. G. Sec. ; Charles Agar, of Manchester, Prov. G. Superintendent of Works ; James W. Pitt, of Manchester, Prov. G. Dir. of Cer. ; John Wilding, of Accrington, Prov. G. Sword Bearer ; John Fawcett, of Manchester, Prov. G. Org. ; Henry Greenhalg, of Bolton, Prov. G. Pursuivant ;

William Dawson, of Bolton, Prov. G. Tyler; Prov. G. Stewards: G. B. Diamond, William Steele, J. O. Surtees, E. L. Glover, P. Bleakley, S. J. Samson, and William Summerskill.

The chief business of the day, and which will render this meeting memorable in the annals of Freemasonry, was the establishment of a "Masonic Benevolent and Annuity Fund," in connection with the Prov. Grand Lodge of Lancashire. This grand object has been in contemplation for nearly twenty years, and the honour of complete success has been reserved for this meeting, when it was happily initiated in conjunction with the installation of the new Prov. G.M., whose zeal in the cause of Masonry is well known and appreciated. The subject was introduced by Bro. John Bell, P.S.G.W., who proposed for adoption a code of bye-laws, which had been framed by a committee of Grand Officers, and Masters of Lodges within the Province.

Bro. T. F. Pollitt, P.G.R., seconded the motion, and in doing so remarked that the creation of a Benevolent and Annuity Fund in the province was a new feature in Masonry. Hitherto their charitable funds had been confined to the metropolis, but now, he was happy to say, the sphere of Masonic benevolence would be extended, and the principles of the Order must become better known and more fully appreciated. By the bye-laws now proposed the fund was divided into four sections. The first provides that a portion of the fund be appropriated to the maintenance of the honour and dignity of the Prov. Grand Lodge; the second portion to form a fund of benevolence; a third portion an investment fund; and the fourth an annuity fund. The fund of benevolence to be applied annually in granting relief to aged, distressed, or necessitous Brethren of the province, who may require the same, or to the indigent widows or children of the same, and for other benevolent purposes; the investment fund to be constituted of donations, fines, &c.; and the annuity fund to be composed of the fees of honour, payable by the officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge, &c., and shall be exclusively applied in providing annuities for aged and decayed Freemasons of sixty years of age, who are or have been subscribing members to a Lodge within the province for a period of five years. The only objection he had heard to these bye-laws was as to the election of the managing committee, and this regulation it was proposed to alter. The intention was, in order to avoid delay, to adopt the bye-laws at that meeting, to be called so soon as the regulations had been properly considered by the various Lodges, and time allowed for each to make suggestions, if they thought proper.

Bro. Wolfenden, P.Prov. G. Sec., of Bolton, suggested to the mover to omit the word "adopted" in his resolution, and insert the word "received" in its place, inasmuch as the resolution as it stood would have the effect of confirming the bye-laws at once, whereas it was most important that an opportunity should be given for their fullest consideration. One great reason for urging this was that the bye-laws had not been sufficiently circulated among the Lodges; and another, that in his opinion they contained provisions of an objectionable nature. One provision was to the effect that a committee should be constituted for the dispensing of charitable funds, but he contended that this was wholly out of place—that no machinery of such a character was at all called for, and that the privilege, for such it undoubtedly was, belonged of right to the Masters, Past Masters, and Acting Wardens of Lodges, together with the Provincial Officers for the time being. He recommended this view of the case most strongly to the notice of the province, in order that all parties possessed of privileges might not lightly part with them. In his opinion also, the exercise of this privilege, in the mode suggested, was the only safe means of perpetuating the charity, because parties would work it by virtue of holding offices which, as they all knew, were hereditary to the existence of Lodges. He did not desire to move an amendment, but he hoped the mover would give way to this view of the case, as he should be very sorry to damage the charity, which was one in which he had ever felt a warm interest.

Bro. Hollinshead, Prov. J.G.W., agreed with Bro. Wolfenden that the bye-laws should be well considered in the respective Lodges before they were adopted, and it appeared to him that if they were adopted by this provincial meeting they

could not be altered by a special meeting. He approved, therefore, of the course recommended by Bro. Wolfenden.

Bro. Pollitt said the only object in view was to prevent delay in the adoption of the rules, but as there were objections to the course proposed, the mover of the resolution and himself would adopt the suggestion of Bro. Wolfenden, and make the motion that the bye-laws be received, and that a special meeting be convened, after they have been duly considered by the various Lodges, to confirm the same.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. said the course proposed of adopting the bye-laws at this meeting was solely with the view of preventing delay, for his impression was that they could not be adopted at a special meeting.

The motion, as amended, was then put and carried, and Friday, the 24th day of October next, was fixed for holding a special meeting to confirm the bye-laws. The business of the Prov. Grand Lodge terminated soon after two o'clock.

At half-past two o'clock the Brethren assembled in the Cathedral for divine worship. They appeared in full Masonic costume, and the scene was novel and picturesque. The prayers were read by Bro. the Rev. A. H. Hulton, A.M., incumbent of Christ Church, Ashton-under-Lyne; the lessons by Bro. the Rev. J. B. Phillips, M.A., of Rossendale; and the sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. P. C. Nicholson, B.D., incumbent of St. Philip's Church, Salford, Prov. G. Chap. Bro. J. Fawcett, *Mus. Bac.*, Prov. G. Org., presided at the organ. At the close of the services, a collection was made, partly in aid of the Masonic Local Benevolence, and partly for the benefit of the national schools of Manchester. The amount received was £34.

At five o'clock the Brethren sat down to a banquet in the Exchange Room. Bro. Stephen Blair, R.W. Prov. G.M., East Lancashire, presided; supported by Bro. Albert H. Royds, R.W. D.Prov. G.M.; Bro. the Rev. P. C. Nicholson, Prov. G. Chap., and the other Prov. Grand Officers. On the removal of the cloth, "Non nobis Domine" was sung by a party of vocalists, whose glees, &c., during the evening, added much to the enjoyment of the company. The Prov. G.M. then gave the customary loyal toasts. Next followed from the chair, "The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.," which was drunk with Masonic honours, and followed by the glee, "When the temple's first stone." The next toast was, "The Earl of Yarborough, R.W.D.G.M.," which was drunk with full honours, and succeeded by the glee, "Hail to the Craft." The Prov. G. Chap. proposed the toast "Stephen Blair, Esq., R.W. Prov. G.M.," and in doing so observed that the time was fast approaching when men of all ranks and all parties would join their benevolent institution. During the last ten years, as they had heard from their worthy Prov. G.M., their numbers had nearly doubled in this province, and there was every reason to believe that the increase would be still greater in the future. With regard to the worthy Brother who had that day been placed at the head of the province, it was unnecessary to dwell upon his merits. Whatever honours might be heaped upon him, either from the Grand Lodge of England or elsewhere, the Masons of this province could not feel for him more affection than they did at present. The highest honours of this province had now been conferred: they all felt that he deserved them, and their ardent prayer was that his life might be spared to enjoy them. They had their chief before them,—let them rally round him and support him. May his government be long and prosperous, and may he enjoy himself, and be the source of enjoyment to others.

The toast was drunk with Masonic honours, and great applause, and was followed by a glee, the words from Dr. Oliver's "Illustrations of Masonry,"—the music composed for the occasion by Bro. John Fawcett, Prov. G. Org.

The R.W. Prov. G.M., in returning thanks, expressed his ardent hope that, as time passed on, the Masonic body might be even more united than they were at present, and he could assure the Brethren present that nothing should be wanting on his part to cement the bond of friendship and brotherhood to the utmost extent, and he well knew that in the pursuit of such an object, he should have the co-operation of the Dep. Prov. G.M. and the Brethren generally. He trusted that the Province over which he had the honour to preside would continue the first,

not only in extent of numbers, but the first in efficiency as working Masons. If the Lodges were to work well, the Masters and Wardens must be at their posts. If they attended, the Brethren would attend also. For ten years he had made it a point not to miss a single Provincial meeting, and he had travelled hundreds of miles to keep that resolution, and he hoped that in his new capacity he should be found equally attentive to his duties. He congratulated his Brethren and himself that on the day of his installation as Prov. G.M., they had accomplished the great object that had been held in view for years, viz., the establishment of a Masonic Benevolent and Annuity Fund, to relieve their poorer brethren who might be sunk to the lowest ebb of poverty. The object was a noble one, based upon true Masonic principles, and if they all pulled together, they would be able to raise a fund creditable to the Province. When Bro. Wolfenden introduced the subject at the Provincial meeting at Blackburn, and organized the machinery for carrying it out, he estimated that we might raise an annual fund of £1,000. This might be considered a high estimate, but when they considered that there were 1,470 subscribing Masons in the Province, he did not see why that amount might not be, at any rate, approached. Some years ago, when he represented the borough of Bolton in Parliament, a local Bill was introduced to supply the townships of Farnworth and Kersley with water. An opposition was got up in these townships, and a deputation was sent to London to oppose the Bill. This deputation waited upon him (the Prov. G.M.) and asked him to oppose the measure. He asked them why? and the answer was that the Bill would inflict a great hardship upon the inhabitants, who would be charged 12s. per house for a supply of water. Well, said he, and will that be a hardship? What do you pay for your water now? The deputation replied that water was brought to their doors, and that they only paid a halfpenny a canful, which served them all day. If this be the case, said he, how can you be injured? It now costs you 15s. for one canful per day; but by this Act you may have twenty cansful if you want them, and have it constantly in your house for 12s. Dear me, said the deputation, we never thought of that; we had better return home again. In the same way his Brethren would see that if they calculated each member to give only one penny per week, such a payment would realize a considerable amount in twelve months. There were a great number of Brethren, however, who would give handsomely when they knew that the fund would be properly distributed. He therefore again congratulated every Freemason in the Province upon what had that day been done, and concluded by thanking the meeting for the toast they had so cordially received. (Cheers.)

Bro. Bell, Prov. S.G.W., next proposed "Bro. Albert H. Royds, R.W.D. Prov. G.M.," which was responded to by Bro. Royds, with an earnest assurance that the duties of his new office should receive his best attention, and his unwearied exertions.—Bro. Holland, of Prestwich, proposed "The Provincial Grand Officers of East Lancashire," which was responded to by Bro. Bell, on behalf of himself and colleagues.—Bro. Hollinshead proposed in complimentary terms, "The Earl of Ellesmere, P. Prov. G.M.," which was responded to by Bro. M. Dawes, of Bolton.—Bro. Royds gave "The Provincial Grand Masters of West Lancashire, Cheshire, and other neighbouring provinces, and their Grand Masters, past and present."—Bro. Pollitt proposed "Success to the Masonic charity established in the province of East Lancashire," which was very cordially received, and responded to by Bro. Shaylor, of Manchester. The remaining toasts were, "The Rev. and W. Provincial Grand Chaplain," "The Masters, Past Masters, and Officers of Lodges," "The Visiting Brethren," and "The Provincial Grand Stewards."—The Brethren separated about half-past nine o'clock.

#### NORFOLK.

NORWICH.—*Social Lodge* (No. 110).—On Tuesday, July 8th, the Brethren of this Lodge met for the first time at the Royal Hotel, Bro. A. W. Ray, W.M., presiding. The spacious room provided for them was well lighted, and the Lodge furniture having been renovated, the *tout ensemble* was very striking. The business having been disposed of, the Brethren sat down to an excellent supper provided by host Bro. Heseltine. Many good speeches were made in the course of the

evening, bearing upon the efforts made by the Lodge to effect a reform, and tending also to show the improving state of Masonry in the province. Officers:—Bros. A. W. Ray, W.M.; W. R. Redgrave, P.M.; W. Cox, S.W.; C. Tadman, J.W.; Commins, S.D.; R. Kent, P.M., J.D; Diver, I.G.; J. Marshall, Sec. The Brethren of the above Lodge held their second meeting at the Royal Hotel, on Tuesday, 12th August, Bro. W. R. Redgrave, P.M., in the chair; about twenty Brethren assembled, and several visitors. The usual routine business having been gone through, the acting W.M. initiated the Rev. Mr. Valpy, and subsequently a serving Brother, Austin Piper, was passed, and the Brethren partook of refreshment. We hope shortly to be able to report great doings in this long-neglected province. Bro. B. B. Cabbell, the Prov. G.M. elect, having fixed his installation for the 25th of September, at his request Bro. Purton Cooper, Prov. G.M. for Kent, will perform the ceremony; after which it is confidently anticipated that the interests of the Craft will be better cared for, Masonry having become almost a dead letter in Norfolk since the demise of the late Prov. G.M., Lord Suffield.

#### SOMERSETSHIRE.

BATH.—*Provincial Grand Lodge.*—On Friday, the 25th day of July, the R.W. Prov. G.M., Colonel Tynte, held his annual Prov. Grand Lodge in Bath, and on this occasion visited the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 61, which was opened at one o'clock to receive him. At two o'clock the Prov. G.M., accompanied by his D. Prov. G.M. and the Present and Past Prov. Grand Officers, entered the room, and were received with the customary honours.

The attendance of Brethren from all parts of the Province was more numerous than we have seen before, consequent upon a supposed opposition to the re-election of the retiring Prov. G. Treas. The proceedings commenced by submitting to the Brethren the Treasurer's accounts for the past year, which were ordered to be read, upon which Bro. Percy Wells, P.M. No. 48, rose and begged to call the attention of the Brethren present to two items of four guineas each for boxes for the Secretary and Treasurer, which appeared in the account, and asked by whose authority they had been ordered; and if the By-law requiring all accounts to be certified by the Prov. G.M. before payment had been strictly adhered to?

The Prov. G. Treas., Dr. Falconer, rose and said, that he had purchased the boxes without the authority of the Prov. Grand Lodge, as it was necessary that the Secretary and himself should have something in which their papers may be kept; and in reply to the latter part of Bro. Wells's question, he begged to observe that many of the bills were paid without the sanction of the Prov. G.M., but that he subsequently approved of and certified them. The V. W. Bro. then indulged in a few further observations, which elicited the approval of many present.

Bro. Wells then rose to reply, and disclaimed being actuated by any personal feeling towards Dr. Falconer. His only object was to obtain an answer to his questions, in which he had succeeded. But he could not in justice sit down without remarking, that if security was needed and economy practised, two boxes of a less expensive character would, in his opinion, have answered equally as well.

The enunciation of this remark was received with evident disapprobation. The Brother against whom this angry feeling was directed seemed somewhat surprised, and, if we may judge from his generally unchangeable countenance, to be not a little amazed, for, upon its subsiding, he very quietly threw himself upon the protection of the Prov. G.M., whom he addressed in these words:—

“R.W. Sir,—I throw myself upon and claim your protection. If I were addressing a mob, I should possibly meet with the reception your Grand Lodge has thought fit to accord to me, but here, among Masons, who ought to be gentlemen, I regret to say, the treatment I have experienced is almost unprecedented. As a member of your Lodge, I thought it my duty to make a remark, and to point out that a violation of the By-laws had been committed by the Prov. G. Treas. and Prov. G. Sec., and I expected, at least from Masons, the courtesy and treatment which one gentleman accords to another. I find I have been mistaken;

and although I could demand that every Brother who hissed me should, according to the Constitutions, be forthwith solemnly excluded, I forbear from pressing that point, and trust that throughout this day whatever I may utter will be at least received with common courtesy."

A Brother then rose and said, that no hissing had taken place (!), but this was immediately contradicted by several Brethren ; and throughout the remainder of the day the proceedings passed off in their accustomed order.

The accounts were now put to the Lodge and passed. Upon which the W.M. of No. 61, Bro. Tunstall, rose and proposed Bro. Falconer as Prov. G. Treas. ; which motion having been seconded and put, was carried *nem. con.*

Up to this time, and, in fact, throughout the whole of the time the Prov. Grand Lodge was held, it was neither opened with the Ritual proper for the occasion, nor was it declared open by the Prov. G.M. ; and although Bro. Wells has remonstrated with Col. Tynte, through his Prov. G. Sec. upon this evasion of ancient custom, still it is persevered in.

The Officers for the past year then divested themselves of their Badges of Office, and the following Brethren were invested as Prov. Officers for the present year :—Bros. Randolph, D. Prov. G.M. ; Tunstall, S.G.W. ; Cave, J.G.W. ; Brown, Chap. ; Falconer, Treas. ; Brown, Sec. ; Oliver, S.D. ; Robinson, Supt. Works ; Mitchell, Purs. ; Hopkins, Tyler. We could not catch the names of the Brethren who were severally invested with the Collars of Registrar, J. D., Dir. Cer., and Org.

Several petitions were presented, praying for relief, which was in each case granted, and a sum, amounting in the aggregate to 50*l.*, voted on the occasion.

The Prov. G.M. then stated that he had received seven notices of motion from Bro. Percy Wells, all for altering the By-laws, but if that Bro. would withdraw them, he promised to call a Prov. Grand Lodge of Emergency, to take the laws of the province into consideration.

Bro. Wells rose and said that he had much pleasure in acceding to the wish of the Prov. G.M., with the distinct understanding that a Lodge of Emergency should be convened at an early period. Bro. Wells then stated that it was with much regret and pain he felt himself called upon to submit to the Prov. G.M. officially a most unpleasant circumstance, namely, a trespass which had been committed upon the hall and property of the Cumberland Lodge (of which he was one of the lessees and trustees) by one of the Brethren, whose name, for obvious reasons, we do not give.

The Prov. G.M. here interrupted Bro. Wells, and told him that if he would make his complaint to him through his Sec., the matter should receive his attention ; but he thought the affair was too trivial to be taken any notice of, and would better be dealt with by a magistrate.

Bro. Wells begged to reply, and told the Prov. G.M. that they were especially ordered by the Constitutions not to engage in law-suits if the case could be otherwise decided, and it was therefore determined to lay the matter before him, as the Bro. had refused to apologize for his conduct, which should be formally done.

There were several visitors present on the occasion, among whom we noticed the Prov. G.Ms. for Gloucestershire and Staffordshire.

The usual vote of thanks to the Prov. G.M. was then proposed and carried, to which Col. Tynte very feelingly replied.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was now closed in the same manner as an ordinary Lodge, and upwards of seventy Brethren adjourned to Amery's Hotel, where they partook of a banquet, which, for the taste displayed by Bro. Amery in placing before his Brethren every delicacy which could be procured, was unequalled in the annals of the province.

GLASTONBURY.—*Grand Masonic Pic-Nic.*—Monday, the 11th August, 1856, will not soon be forgotten by the inhabitants of the pretty town of Glastonbury. For some weeks it had been noised abroad that invitations had been issued by the Rural Philanthropic Lodge (No. 367), for a meeting of Freemasons on that day. Great were the expectations of the natives who were without the pale of the privileged Fraternity, their notions of the Brotherhood being derived either from vague report, or from the testimony of some travelled eye-witness, whose remi-

niscences were of quaint devices, knightly jewels, and marvellously-wrought aprons. These expectations were not disappointed, and the Glastonbury folks earned whatever enjoyment the sight of so many strange faces may have afforded them, by the cordial greeting they bestowed upon the Fraternity, the very churches giving tongue in one harmonious peal of welcome as the Brethren approached within the precincts of the time-honoured borough. The W.M. Bro. William Harwood, with the Brethren of the Rural Philanthropic Lodge (No. 367), and several visiting Members of various Lodges, met at an early hour in a Lodge of Emergency, at their room in the Highbridge Inn, Huntspill, and having initiated three gentlemen into the solemn mysteries of the most ancient and noble order of Freemasons, and transacted other business of detail, repaired, per train, to Glastonbury, where, as we have above stated, a hearty reception was given them. After partaking of a cold collation at Bro. Bailey's, of the George Hotel, they proceeded to visit the far-famed Tor, better known to our forefathers as the Mount of St. Michael. The weather was refreshingly cool, and the state of the atmosphere enabled the Brethren to enjoy the extensive panorama which, at the summit of the ascent, unfolds itself to the beholder; next in order came the beautiful remains of the venerable Abbey, once sacred to the Benedictine Monks, and now the favourite resort of the artist and the poet. Arrived there, the Brethren did not fail to pay due homage at the fallen shrine of this glorious temple, and numerous were the exclamations of wonder and delight as each new beauty disclosed itself. At three o'clock the Brethren, to the number of seventy and upwards, assembled in the Abbot's Kitchen, another venerable relic of a by-gone age; here a sumptuous banquet was prepared, and too much praise cannot be lavished upon our worthy Bro. Bailey, of the George Hotel, for the excellent fare and the good wines he provided; indeed, the whole of the arrangements were good. The old hall was handsomely decorated with flags and evergreens of an emblematic or festive character, and an immense Masonic banner, which must have sadly puzzled the brains of the gaping multitude without, coquetted with the breeze, as it hung suspended from the roof of the building. In a word, good cheer and harmony prevailed throughout on this festive occasion, and nothing occurred to interrupt the good fellowship. The chair was ably filled by Bro. Dr. Charles Pope, the Worshipful the Mayor of Glastonbury, P.P.S.G.W. for Somerset, and P.M. (No. 367), who was supported on the right by Bro. Randolph, the D.P.G.M. of Somerset, and on the left by Bro. W. Harwood, W.M. of No. 367, and Brethren of the following Lodges:—Westminster and Keystone, No. 10, Freemasons' Tavern; Britannic, No. 38, Thatched House Tavern, St. James's; Cumberland, Bath, No. 48; Royal Sussex, Bath, No. 61; Loyal Vacation, Dulverton, No. 67; Royal Clarence, Bristol, No. 81; Beaufort, Bristol, No. 120; Lodge of Perpetual Friendship, Bridgewater, No. 157; Old Concord, Freemasons' Tavern, No. 201; Royal Sussex, Bristol, No. 221; Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity, Taunton, No. 327; Lodge of Harmony, Boston, No. 839; Lodge of Love and Honour, Shepton Mallett, No. 357; Moira, Bristol, No. 408; Lodge of Science, Bourton, No. 640; Benevolent, Wells, No. 653; Silurian, Newport, No. 693; Lodge of Benevolence, Bideford, No. 719; Royal Sussex, Jersey, No. 722; Hammond, Guernsey, No. 829; St. John's, Newfoundland, No. 844; Colston, Bristol, No. 886. The usual official toasts for the Queen, the Grand Master of England, the Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Somerset, having been proposed and responded to, the healths of the Chairman and the Visitors were then drunk, nor were the last two the least of the toasts of the evening. To the W.M. Bro. William Harwood, great credit is due for the excellent manner in which he conducts the business of the Highbridge Lodge, and the health of Bro. Henry Bridges, P.M. and Sec. was drunk with much enthusiasm, which all our Masonic readers will know how to appreciate. With that feeling of benevolence and Brotherly love which is the very life and soul of Freemasonry, the Brethren did not break up without making a liberal subscription for "Mine Host of the George," to provide him with the means of assisting the poor of the district on the following day, in remembrance of the Masonic Pic-Nic at Glastonbury.

## SOUTH WALES.

SWANSEA.—*Indefatigable Lodge* (No. 288).—The Brethren of the above Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Assembly Rooms, as above, on Tuesday, August 12th, when there was an unusually large attendance of members, and also visiting Brethren from various English and foreign Lodges, including a coloured Brother from Philadelphia, whose appearance, as a member of the Craft, excited much attention and sympathy. The chair was ably occupied by Bro. Munroe, W.M., who, assisted by Bros. Lloyd and Michael, raised Bro. Morris to the 2nd, and Bro. Dr. Thomas, of Llanelly, to the 3rd Degree. After the business of the evening, the Brethren adjourned to refreshment, when, with the assistance of some very able speeches and capital songs, to which the visiting Brethren largely contributed, a very pleasant and instructive evening terminated.

We understand it is in contemplation to open a Lodge at Llanelly.

## STAFFORDSHIRE.

TIPTON.—*The Noah's Ark Lodge* (No. 435).—Under the able management of Bro. William Howells, the W.M., this Lodge was opened to the 3rd Degree, on Friday, the 15th August, in the new room just erected by Bro. Benjamin Whitehouse for Masonic and other purposes. It seems well calculated to answer the object he had in view, and reflects the greatest credit upon him for his public spirit and liberality. Bro. Bannister was brought forward, properly prepared, and raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M.; Bro. E. S. Cresswell showing that, in spite of his late charming honeymoon tour, he had not forgotten the Craft, nor neglected to think sometimes of the duties he had still to perform as S.W. The Lodge was closed in due form. The visitors present were—Bros. W. Bristow, P.M., No. 313; W. Wigginton, Sec., No. 313; Dudley Parsons, No. 786; Humphreys, No. 786; Taylor, No. 960. Some very good speeches were made after supper, which we regret we have not space for. We may be pardoned, however, for thanking Bro. the Rev. E. A. Gwynne, P.M., No. 435, and Prov. G. Chap., for the very eulogistic terms in which he spoke of this *Magazine*, while introducing the toast of "The Visitors," when he especially and honourably mentioned "Our own Correspondent," Bro. Wigginton. We still say our efforts are to *improve the Craft, and afford free expression of opinion to all.*

WESTBROMWICH.—*Dartmouth Lodge* (No. 960).—The members of this thriving young Lodge assembled at the Dartmouth Hotel, on Friday evening, the 8th Aug., under the able supervision of Bro. Robinson, W.M. of St. Mathews, Walsall, who officiated for Bro. T. James, No. 960, and P.M. of 786, the first W.M. of the "Dartmouth," who was absent through illness. The consecration of this Lodge will take place, we believe, at the Prov. G.L. meeting at Tipton, in September, Bro. Col. Vernon, the Prov. G.M., not being able (from other engagements) to fix an earlier day. Bros. Cotteril and Kite were severally passed to the 2nd Degree; Bro. Robinson's maiden effort in this Degree being highly successful. The Lodge having been closed, the Brethren adjourned to banquet, where they were also joined by Bros. Robinson, W.M., No. 786; the Rev. E. A. Gwynne, P.M., No. 435, and Prov. G. Chap.; and Wigginton, S.D., No. 730. The loyal and Masonic toasts having been drunk, that of Col. Vernon, the Prov. G.M. of the Province, was introduced in terms at once just and truthful, as well as complimentary. It was well known that he was devoted to his Craft; that a better working Mason could not be found, and that it was entirely his zeal for the Order that induced him so repeatedly to visit his Lodges, see to their working, and correct their defects. To this were they indebted for the very admirable Lodges which he might well be proud of; and to his choice selection of the right man for the right place were they indebted, also, for the efficient officers that ruled the Prov. G.L. This toast, together with that of Bro. Ward, Dep. Prov. G.M., &c., was drunk with enthusiasm and musical honours.

Bro. the Rev. E. A. Gwynne responded to the toast of the Prov. G.L. officers, in which (as Prov. G. Chap.) he had been most kindly mentioned, and hoped

that upon the occasion of the Prov. Grand Meeting at Tipton, in September, he might be able to earn, if not confirm their good opinions, as that was almost the only duty he had to perform. As a visitor he congratulated the Brethren upon the manner in which Lodge business had been transacted that evening.

Bro. Robinson being compelled to leave at a very early hour, the chair was taken by the Rev. Bro. Gwynne, who introduced the toast of the absent W.M., in highly eulogistic terms. In speaking of the W.M. *pro tem.*, he said that Bro. Robinson bid fairly to become equal to the most experienced Mason of his Lodge,—a greater compliment than which, considering the Brethren to whom he alluded, he thought could not be passed upon him. Considering the manner in which he had performed the ceremony of passing (the first of that degree he had gone through in public, as he was a young W.M.), he thought he was fully justified in making it.

“The Officers,” &c., having been duly proposed, drunk, and responded to, Bro. Wigginton introduced, by permission of the W.M., a toast that Brethren in general are not accustomed to; it was, nevertheless, he said, a toast of very great importance, and one which would meet with as fraternal a welcome as any possibly that they had had brought before them. The Brethren need not be reminded that they had now an organ devoted exclusively to the interests of the Craft; a publication which had shown fully and practically that on every occasion those interests alone had been cared for, and well and ably watched. To the *Freemasons' Monthly Magazine* was Royal Arch Masonry indebted for the very great victory it had achieved over a most dangerous resolution, which had for its object an innovation seriously derogatory to the dignity of that Degree. To the able report of the meeting of the Supreme Grand Chapter, which the Magazine published, they were indebted for information as to what was contemplated: to the notice of that report which their most highly respected Bro. the Rev. E. A. Gwynne (P.M. No. 435, and Prov. G. Chapter) brought before the Royal Standard Chapter, No. 730, did they owe the memorial for which they requested insertion in its pages, and which had, from the prominent position given it, drawn universal attention. The opposition thus begun and thrown into shape by the Prov. G. Chap. for this Province, had ended in the victory that had been announced to them that evening, a victory which would tend to make the London Chapters cautious, and not rashly to bring before their convocations movements antagonistic to the principles of the Order. To Craft Masonry, in an equal degree, had the Magazine rendered essential service, and thus had the Lodge even, individually, benefited by the advantages gained to the Craft in general. He therefore gave, with all the sincerity and cordiality possible,—“The Editor of the *Freemasons' Magazine*.”

The Rev. Bro. Gwynne could not let the toast pass without bearing witness to the zeal and talent displayed in this Magazine by its able Editor. He joined most cordially in all that had been said in his praise, although he could not take all that had been given to *him* in *his* efforts to overthrow the “probationary resolution,” as he had a most able coadjutor in Bro. Wigginton. To the Magazine were they indebted for the overthrow of a resolution which he had rightly said was couched in a “reckless and revolutionary spirit,” and he would therefore most cordially join in the toast which had just been drunk.

Bro. John Davies (*M.R.C.S.*), J.W., having proposed “The Visitors,” it was responded to by Bro. Wigginton, who expressed himself anxious, while holding a subordinate office in Lodge, to make himself acquainted with the working of other Lodges, in which much that was valuable might be continually gained. He thought it was necessary to keep up a similarity of work, as well as to exchange fraternal greetings.

The other toasts having been duly honoured, the Brethren separated at an early hour. [We have to thank our Rev. Bro. Gwynne and Bro. Wigginton not only for their courteous recognition of our efforts, attested by their good wishes upon this occasion, but also for never losing an opportunity to substantiate our labours for the benefit of the Craft. We gratefully acknowledge their attention, and shall not forget our debt to the worthy brethren of the Dartmouth Lodge, whom we thank cordially.—Ed. F.M.]

## SURREY.

CHERTSEY.—*Provincial Grand Lodge.*—The Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Tuesday, July 29th, at the George Hotel, in Chertsey, in the neat little Lodge-room attached to that house. The business of the day was commenced by the meeting of the members of the St. George's Lodge, and, in addition to the routine affairs of the Lodge, Bro. Christopher Rawson, W.M., initiated Mr. Robert Martin into the Order; the Lodge was closed, and at three o'clock the Grand Lodge of the province was opened, present, the R.W. Bro. Alexander Dobie, Prov. G.M., and G. Reg. of England; the V.W. Bro. George Francis, D. Prov. G.M.; the V.W. Bro. Rev. O. F. Owen, Prov. G. Chap.; the V.W. Bro. George Price, as Prov. S.G.W.; and the V.W. Bro. J. B. King, Prov. S.G.D., as Prov. G.J.W.; the V.W. Bros. G. Harcourt, Prov. S.G.W.; J. J. Blake, Prov. G. Sec.; J. How, Prov. G.D. Cers., and near thirty other Brethren of the province.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened with due form, and with solemn prayer. The minutes of the last Prov. Grand Lodge were read and confirmed.

The report of the finance and audit committee was read and adopted.

The Prov. G.M. called on the Brethren to elect a G. Treas.; thereupon Bro. Blake, the Prov. G. Sec., rose and said that, as the worthy Brother who had held that appointment for some years never attended the meetings, and, he believed, was not a member of any Lodge in the province, it was right and proper that some Brother who did mix with their assemblies should be selected to fill that office, and he proposed that Bro. George Price, the Sen. Prov. G.W., should be the G. Treas. This was duly seconded, and no other name being offered, a ballot was taken, and declared unanimous in favour of Bro. Price. The Prov. G.M. then proceeded to appoint his officers. Before doing so, he said that it was necessary to appoint a new deputy, as the very worthy Brother who had held that office for several years, by non-residence had rendered himself ineligible; therefore, on looking around the province for one most fitted to fill that onerous and distinguished position, he had selected a Brother well known to them all for his zeal in the cause of our institution, and to whom the oldest Lodge in the province (No. 486) was mainly indebted for its prosperity. He therefore requested Bro. Dr. Harcourt to accept the appointment of D.G.M.

The other appointments were:—Bros. Blenkin, S.G.W.; Maudslay, J., G.W.; Rev. O. F. Owen, G. Chap.; White, S.G.D.; Freeman, J.G.W.; Howe, G.D.C.; Bruce, G.S.B.; Besham, G. Org.; Lynn, G. Tyler, who were, with the G. Treas., invested with the badges of office.

The Prov. G.D. Cer. then called on the Brethren to salute, in due form and order, the R.W.G.M., and his officers newly appointed.

The Prov. G.M., being desirous of acknowledging the long and valuable services of Bro. George Francis, who, for a long period, had so ably discharged the duties of D.G.M. of Surrey, in feeling terms proposed a vote of thanks to that most excellent man and Mason, which was seconded by Bro. Dr. Harcourt, and carried unanimously.

The Prov. G.M. asked that a like record might be placed on the minutes of the Grand Lodge of Surrey, in testimony of the able and efficient services of the Sec., Bro. Blake, which, being seconded by Bro. King, was also carried unanimously.

The Prov. G.M. addressed the Brethren on the movement respecting the Mark Degree, which he thought ought to be calmly considered, and the subject set at rest. It appeared that its not being recognized by the Grand Lodge of England interfered very much with the Lodges holding under our Grand Lodge in the colonies.

Bro. Blake, P. Prov. G. Sec., rose and stated the distressing case of a Brother who had been initiated in the Grove Lodge, No. 593, at its formation, as a serving Brother, and paying no dues to the Fund of Benevolence, was debarred from its benefits, and now, at nearly ninety years of age, was wanting

the necessities of life. The members of No. 593 had supported him for some months, and he thought, under the circumstances of the case, the Prov. Grand Lodge might grant a sum of ten pounds to his aid. This being duly seconded, and also recommended by the Prov. G.M., was voted unanimously.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was then duly closed with solemn prayer, and the Brethren, after a sojourn on the lawn of the house, moved into the Town-hall adjoining, where a dinner was provided, in the worst possible style.

The Prov. G.M. took the chair, having on his right and left the R.W. Bro. S. Rawson, Prov. G.M. of China; Bros. Sir John Harrington, Col. Brownrigg, Sir George Smart, Prov. G. Org.; Harcourt and Francis, Present and Past D. Prov. G.Ms.; Rev. O. F. Owen, Prov. G. Chap.; J. B. King, P.S.G.D.; G. Price, C. Rawson, Blake, Cave, Crew, Robinson, Spencer, and some forty more Brethren.

The cloth being removed, after grace by the Prov. G. Chaplain,

The Prov. G.M. called on the Brethren to rise and do honour to the first toast. Our Sovereign, whether as the head of the people or the excellent mother of a family, was entitled to every praise; but to give it due effect among Masons he gave "The Queen and the Craft."

After doing honour to our queen, the Prov. G.M. said the next act of obedience was to pay due respect to the Sovereign of our Order. The Earl of Zetland, in following so celebrated a Mason as the Duke of Sussex, could not but find considerable difficulty in discharging the business to the entire satisfaction of every member, and he (Bro. Dobie), taking into consideration the attention that was required at the hands of the G.M., thought we might have gone further and fared worse. Looking to the aristocracy of the country to preside over the Order, they might congratulate themselves on having a nobleman of so excellent a character at the head of the institution as "The M.W. G.M. the Earl of Zetland."

In proposing the Earl of Yarborough and the rest of the Grand Officers, Past and Present, some of whom were then present, he called on Sir George Smart to respond, which he did by saying that the honour was by him unexpected. He supposed the appointment he had held some years back made him the *organ* of the other Grand Officers on this occasion, who were all united in desiring him to express their grateful thanks for the reception they had met.

Bro. Crew, whose voice appears to improve with his years, sang most beautifully "Thine am I."

The Rev. Bro. Owen rose and said, that in conjunction with the office of Prov. G. Chap. was that of Orator, which two offices were blended in those Lodges where a distinct Orator was not appointed. Brethren might not be aware that the one peculiar privilege attached to the ancient office of Orator was to propose the health of the Prov. Grand Master, and he therefore, in accordance to that privilege, proposed to them, "The Health of Bro. Dobie, the Prov. G.M. of Surrey." It was with great pleasure he spoke of a man so well known throughout the Province, and indeed the whole world of Masonry, as endowed not merely with habits of business and general ability, but with that rare—almost extinct—qualification, common sense. "Our Prov. G.M.," proceeded Bro. Owen, "is one who can clear out the devious paths and blocked-up passages of Grand Lodge without kicking up a dust. (Laughter.) The Masons of Surrey have reason to be proud of him, and the highest aim of their ambition should be to render him proud of us. As to Masonry at large, I desire it not to resemble a skeleton exhumed from the tombs of by-gone time, but to be animated with a living principle of intellect and action, that a heart should beat beneath the hollow ribs—intelligence beam forth from the otherwise empty skull. (Loud cheers.) We have heard something of the Mark Degree from our Prov. G.M.; he is one who is always, in every sense, up to the mark, but whose discretion keeps him from going beyond the mark.—(Laughter.) Bro. Dobie's experience and business talent cannot be surpassed, and every Mason would regret any change that should deprive us of his services. The business he does in Masonry for other incompetent or inattentive officials is incalculable; he attends, in endless instances, not only to his own matters, but to the correction of their blunders also; and many a trembling Teucer, whose incompetency would have exposed him to ridicule, has been glad to shrink behind the shield of our Provincial Ajax. I conclude with proposing Bro. Dobie's health;

and although, whilst toadyism and venality of patronage prevail, I don't expect to see things better than they are, but continue to look for merit in the hedges and ditches, not in the high offices of society; yet I rejoice that in our Prov. G.M.'s instance, we have the right man in the right place,—where long may he continue!"

Bro. Owen sat down amidst loud applause, which lasted for a considerable time, after which the toast was drunk with all the honours, and a musical chorus, led by Bro. Crew.

The Prov. G.M. rose and said, that although he was not gifted with the eloquence of Bro. Owen to reply with the same readiness of expression, he thanked the Brethren for this addition to the many occasions of kindly greeting. He had always been well received in the province of Surrey, and his reception each year seemed more kindly than the preceding; he was pleased to see so many friends gathered around him, who by their countenance and support proved that his acts met with their approval. Bro. Dobie then said that he was much gratified by the presence of the visitors who had honoured the Grand Lodge of Surrey. There was among these Brethren his friend Sir John Harrington; Colonel Brownrigg, one of the heroes of the Crimea; also a son of that distinguished general, Sir George Pollock; the rest of the visitors he need not name, as they were more familiarly known to all, and he concluded by calling the Brethren to join in the toast, "Bro. Sir John Harrington and the Visitors." (Loud cheers.)

Bro. Sir John Harrington acknowledged the kind reception the visitors had met with, to which he was unable to do sufficient justice. For himself he could but say he was a hero neither in nor out of Masonry; but, at the same time, he, as well as the rest of the visitors, was much pleased with the assemblage they witnessed. Sir John then most kindly volunteered a song, and sang, very nicely, "Sing, who sings."

The Prov. G.M. then proposed the health of a Brother who had been that day appointed to the office of Dep. G.M., Bro. G. Harcourt, whose zeal in the cause of Masonry was well known, and in whom he was quite satisfied they had a most able coadjutor.

Bro. Harcourt said, as Masons they knew that there were regular steps, and having been through many offices in the province, the Prov. G.M. had been pleased to consider him fitted for the office to which he had that day appointed him. He could but hope that he might realize all the good wishes and kind anticipations of Bro. Dobie, and that in addition to the performance of his duties as a good Mason, he might be able satisfactorily to discharge his duties as Deputy, and if he succeeded in any measure, it would be by endeavouring to follow in the footsteps of his able superior.

Some other toasts followed, and the train starting at nine o'clock, the meeting broke up, all present acknowledging they had spent a pleasant day.

[We have been informed that the paucity of attendance at Grand Lodge was owing to the various Lodges in the province not having received any intimation of the intention to hold it. It is also with regret we call attention to the wretched apology for a dinner set before the Brethren, to which the bad attendance by the waiters was an unpleasant but appropriate adjunct. Voltaire, when he took leave of Holland, signified his disgust at his visit by "Adieu! canaux, canards, canaille!" We echo with empty stomachs, Farewell, cold chops, chilled fish, cramped waiters, cheerless Chertsey!—Ed. F. M.]

CROYDEN.—*Lodge of Unity* (No. 661).—This Lodge is rapidly rising in numbers and repute. At the last meeting Bro. Wilson was passed to the 2nd Degree, Bro. Aneline became a joining member, and a Lodge of emergency was called for September 2, when several additions will be announced. The W.M., the Rev. O. F. Owen, is most ably seconded by the members of the Lodge, and the greatest unanimity and efficient working prevail. The entertainments also, provided by Bro. Bean, of the Greyhound, are unexceptionably good.

#### SUSSEX.

BRIGHTON.—*Royal Clarence Lodge* (No. 338).—Bro. Henry Smithers, W.M. The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Friday, August 15th, when

Bro. Colonel McQueen, the V.W. Prov. D.G.M., paid an official visit, and expressed his approbation of the manner in which the business and work were conducted. Two Brethren were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and one raised to that of M.M. We sincerely congratulate our Sussex Brethren on having such an energetic D.G.M. as the gallant colonel; since the resuscitation of the Prov. Grand Lodge, Masonry has considerably increased in Sussex. We understand he intends to visit Lodge No. 394, on September 2nd, and Lodge No. 390, at Lewes, on the 3rd of September. The annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge will this year be held at Chichester on Tuesday, September 23rd.—(*Vide Advertisement.*)

*Royal York Lodge* (No. 394).—The members of this Lodge met at the Old Ship Hotel, on Tuesday, August 5th, when the Lodge was opened in due form by Bro. R. W. Wood, W.M.; a ballot took place for three gentlemen, after which the Lodge was opened in the 2nd Degree, when Bros. Cordy Burrows, Vincent P. Freeman, and Warren, were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. The Lodge was then closed down to the 1st, when Mr. Taffte and Mr. Smith were initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. The Lodge was then closed in due form.

### WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE FOR WORCESTERSHIRE is appointed to be holden at the Old Town Hall, Dudley, on Tuesday, the 9th of September, at ten o'clock, A.M. The procession to church will be about two o'clock, and the banquet will take place at the Hotel. From the notes of preparation now sounding, and from the large muster of distinguished Brethren expected, it is presumed that it will pass off with unusual *éclat*.

DUDLEY.—*Harmonic Lodge* (No. 313).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was convened for Tuesday, the 5th of July. Bro. T. R. Cooper, being again absent through indisposition, Bro. Wm. Bristow, the immediate P.M., opened Lodge. The ordinary business of the evening being transacted, Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to refreshment. Bro. W. Finch, of No. 730, attended as visitor, together with Bro. W. Barns, P.M. and M.C. of No. 730, who made a very good speech relating to the regulation of Grand Lodge business, suggesting that a P.M. or two from every province should be sent up to every quarterly communication, to watch the movements of Grand Lodge, and report progress to their own private Lodges. His suggestion met with some discussion, and subsequent approval. We are glad to announce that No. 313, the oldest Lodge in the province, will have the honour of entertaining the Provincial Grand Lodge early in September. The Dudley Lodge visited in 1854 was the Royal Standard, No. 730, whose meetings are held at the hotel. The decision of the Prov. G.M. has given great satisfaction to the members of the Harmonic.

*Lodge of Emergency*.—A Lodge of Emergency was called for the 14th, to arrange matters for the approaching Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, at which it was unanimously resolved to have a procession and attendance at church, with sermon by the Rev. Bro. A. G. Davies, Prov. G. Chap. (P.M. No. 730, and W.M. Elect of the Vernon Lodge, No. 819). A committee was appointed to act with the W.M. and Warden of Nos. 730 and 838, to carry out the detail. The Lodge is to be held in the Old Town Hall, and the banquet at the Dudley Arms Hotel. The 9th of September, the day suggested by the Prov. G.M., was unanimously adopted, and a valuable suggestion by Bro. H. C. Vernon, to have each Lodge in the province pay its share of Prov. Grand Lodge expenses, so that towns with one Lodge only should not be crippled, met with universal approbation, and a hearty hope that it would be adopted. The P.M. and W.M. of No. 730, and W.M. and S.W. of No. 838, attended as a deputation from their Lodges by invitation.

*Royal Standard Lodge* (No. 730).—Lodge was opened on Tuesday, the 12th, at the Dudley Arms Hotel, by Bro. W. Mascfield (P.M., Prov. G. Treas., &c.), the

W.M.\* The ordinary business having been transacted, Bros. Johnson and Finch were raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., the W.M. doing his own work in that superior manner so well known to other Lodges, which he has so readily, and at all times, assisted in on emergency. The W.M. announced to the Brethren the intention of the Prov. G.M. to hold the Prov. Grand Lodge at Dudley, and it was resolved to appoint the W.M. Wardens and Sec. as a committee from No. 730 to act with No. 313 (the Lodge visited) in arranging preliminaries. Upon the question of a procession, the general feeling was in favour of it, although last year, at Worcester, it had been dispensed with. Bro. the Rev. A. G. Davies, P.M., Prov. G. Chap., was afterwards added to the Committee of Management. Other business having been gone through with, and nothing further, &c., Lodge was closed in due form. The visitors present were Bros. W. Bristow, P.M., No. 313, and Prov. G. Swordbearer, and T. Wright, Hon. Sec., No. 838, who adjourned, with the Brethren, to supper, at which the greatest harmony prevailed.

BROMSGROVE.—*The Clive Lodge* (No. 819).—A meeting of this Lodge is called for Wednesday, the 27th, to confirm the minutes of the preceding Lodge, relating to the transfer of the warrant to Dudley, and its change of name to the Vernon Lodge. Three candidates will be balloted for, but the ceremony of which will take place at its new place of meeting.

DUDLEY.—*The Vernon Lodge* (No. 819).—The first installation meeting of this Lodge after its transfer from Bromsgrove (in which town, as on the Book of Grand Lodge, it was known as the Clive Lodge), will be held on Wednesday, the 17th of September, at the Old Town Hall, Dudley. As the R.W. Bro. H. C. Vernon, the Prov. G.M., has announced his intention of honouring the meeting with his presence, and performing the ceremony of installing the Rev. Bro. A. G. Davies, M.A., P.M., of No. 730, and his Prov. G. Chap., it is expected there will be a large muster of the Craft, and some few Prov. G. Officers to receive him. Lodge will be opened, we believe, at half-past three o'clock precisely; banquet at five o'clock. The future meetings of this Lodge will be held at the Old Town Hall, on the third Wednesday in the month, at the customary hour of six P.M. We cordially wish it success, and although the motto of the Prov. G.M. (which they have incorporated in their banner, says—

“Ver non semper viret,”

we say, heartily and truthfully,

“May THE VERNON ever flourish.”

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## ROYAL ARCH.

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### LONDON CHAPTERS.

#### SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The Quarterly Convocation of Grand Chapter was held in the Temple on the 6th of May, Comp. A. Dobie acting as Z.; S. Rawson, as H.; F. Patterson, as J.; and Comps. Crohn, Tombleson, and Jones, as Sojs.

The G.E. (Comp. White) having read the minutes of the last meeting, petitions from Berkhamstead, Liverpool, Dudley, and other places were read, protesting against the proposed alteration of the period for exalting a Master Mason to the Royal Arch from twelve months to one.

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\* We have to apologize to this Bro. for the mutilation to which his name is sometimes subject,—*Manfield*, *Marefield*, &c., being frequently substituted. We will endeavour to call him right in future, although with even these names this Bro. is “not taken for another.”

Comp. Havers thereupon rose and moved that that part of the minutes referring to the proposed alteration be not confirmed. He regretted that neither the mover nor the seconder of the resolution was present that evening; but that regret was lessened by the fact that they were aware he was about to move that the resolution be not confirmed, he having given them notice of his intention. He could see no fair reason for the proposed change, and he denied that it was a fair reason that the law was not enforced in the colonies. In the old rules it was necessary they should be twelve months craftsmen before they could become Master Masons; and that period having, under the new arrangement, been fixed upon as the distinctive time during which a Mason could not be advanced from the Craft to the Royal Arch, he thought it ought to be maintained. He thought they ought to be very careful how they made alterations in their arrangements, for the same arguments which told against the period which ought to elapse between being made a M.M. and exalted to the Arch would tell against the period now allowed to elapse between the conferring of the three Craft Degrees. He knew that there was a very strong feeling throughout the country against the proposed alteration, and he thought it would be most unwise to persevere in it, seeing that there were only thirteen Companions below the dais at the time the resolution—which took him, and he believed the majority of the Companions, by surprise—was brought forward. Furthermore, he felt that it was very objectionable to increase the expenses of Masonry on the Brethren just as they entered it, as would be the case were Brethren immediately after their initiation called upon to pay £5 or £6 to enter the Arch. He trusted they were bound together by a fraternal bond far more powerful than that of *£. s. d.*; and sure he was that the Grand Chapter could have no occasion to augment its funds by the introduction of Brethren amongst them who, but being new to Masonry, had not had time to consider the further great obligation they took on entering the Royal Arch. He sincerely trusted they would now agree with him in his determination not to confirm that portion of the minutes of their last meeting which reduced the period after a Bro. was a M.M. for his being advanced to the Royal Arch from twelve months to one.

Comp. Savage seconded the motion of Comp. Havers. He did so with the more confidence, because he was aware that, throughout the country Chapters, there was a great feeling on the subject, and he knew that there were then present many Companions who attended as deputations from country Chapters, determined to oppose the proposed innovation on the customs of the Order. If they found they could not carry out their regulations in the colonies, in consequence of the laws of the Irish and Scotch Grand Chapters, that might be a reason for relaxing their regulations so far as regarded the colonies, but not as respected England; and that they had a precedent for making the distinction could not be doubted, if they only referred to the law which allowed the colonial Prov. G.Ms. to grant dispensations—a power he believed generally acted upon—for the conferring of the Craft Degrees at a distance of seven instead of twenty-eight days.

Comp. Dr. Jones supported the same view of the question, and expressed his opinion that it would be even better for the Craft if the period of probation was increased from one year to seven.

The G. Scribe E. (Comp. White) entered into a history of the Degree too minute for a Masonic publication, and contended that they ought not to negative the resolution until the whole of the Chapters had been consulted, and suggested that it would be better only to defer the confirmation of the minutes for a time, until the result of such a consultation could be obtained.

Comp. Symonds defended the resolution. He thought that there had been no reason shown why the resolution should not be confirmed, and could only express his opinion, that if a change were good for the colonies, it must also be good for the mother country.

Comp. Gole took quite a different view to the previous speaker. It was true that they were told in theory that this was not a new Degree—that it was only the completion of the Third Degree. But custom had made it a Fourth Degree, and one he must be allowed to say of great importance; and he therefore objected to the proposed alteration in their constitutions.

Comp. James, of No. 786, Walsall, supported the amendment. He spoke the sentiments of the Comps. throughout Staffordshire, Worcestershire, and the neighbourhood, when he stated that the proposed alteration was most distasteful to them, and felt to be highly injurious to the Order. He would suggest that in future, before any such proposed alterations in the laws were brought forward, the Comps. in the provinces should be made acquainted with the resolutions intended to be brought forward.

Comp. Barnes, as representing Chap. No. 857, Birmingham, and No. 313 (Dudley), as well as other Chapters in the neighbourhood, supported the views of Comp. James, and represented that the Comps. in Warwickshire, as well as in Staffordshire, were decidedly opposed to the proposed alteration, as unnecessary, and tending to injure the Order.

Comp. Havers having briefly replied, Comp. Dobie (G.Z., *pro tem.*) expressed his opinion that, instead of negating the resolution altogether, it would be better to postpone it for twelve months, until the opinion of the various Chapters throughout the country could be obtained with regard to it.

Comp. Havers expressed his willingness to alter his motion as suggested by Comp. Dobie, if the Comps. present would consent to his withdrawing his original resolution.

This, however, they refused to do, by a large majority, and the non-confirmation of that portion of the minutes which reduced the time for exaltation from twelve to one month was negated by a large majority.

The accounts, showing a balance of 666*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* in hand, were then presented, and 150*l.* ordered to be paid for the new chandeliers, which, by the bye, only about half light the room, two more chandeliers or brackets being required on the dais, which at present appears to be in all but total darkness.

Petitions were received for the following new Chapters, and unanimously granted :—

A Chapter to be attached to No. 540, Bangor, to be called the Star of Gwynedd, with Comps. Martin, Z. ; Newbery, H. ; Wheeler, J. To No. 847, Openshaw, Lancashire, to be called the Chapter of Rectitude, with Comps. Swindells, Z. ; Merritt, H. ; Hill, J. To No. 555, Southampton, to be called the Chapter of Concord, with Comps. Stebbings, Z. ; Coxwell, H. ; Abraham, J. To No. 741, Maidstone, to be called the Belvedere Chapter, with Comps. Whitaker, Z. ; Pike, H. ; Cruttenden, J.

All business being ended, the convocation was closed in due form.

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### PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS.

BRIGHTON.—*Royal Lennox Chapter* (attached to No. 338).—The Companions of this Chapter met on Friday, 22nd August, Companion Geo. W. King, M.E.Z. Annual subscriptions were voted to the Boys' and Girls' Schools ; two Brothers were proposed as candidates for exaltation. About seventeen Comps. partook of the banquet, amongst whom were Comps. James McQueen, the Prov. D.G.M. of Sussex ; John McQueen ; Leveau, of the Supreme Grand Chapter, &c. &c. A most delightful evening was passed ; indeed, no meetings can be more pleasant and agreeable than those of the Lennox Chapter.

BOLTON.—*Chapter of Concord* (No. 44).—This Chapter held an Emergency on Friday, 25th of July, when Comp. W. Dawson, in the absence of Comp. Tunnah, M.E.Z., took the chair of First Principal, and exalted to this Sublime Degree Bro. Wentworth Dawes, Lieutenant 97th Regt., assisted by Comps. W. H. Wright, H., and R. Mitchell, J. ; Comp. Redick most efficiently discharging the duty of P.S. After the ceremony, which was performed throughout with the utmost accuracy and precision, the Companions adjourned to refreshment ; from which they retired, much pleased by the proceedings of the evening.

GRAVESEND.—*Hermes Chapter* (No. 91).—The Companions of this Chapter held their regular meeting on Monday, Aug. 11th, at the Falcon Tavern, Gravesend. Bro. Campbell, No. 8, was exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Masonry.

The ceremony was ably performed by Comps. Watson, P.Z. as Z. ; Allen, H. ; Carpenter, P.Z. as J. ; Goring, S.E. ; Southgate, S.N. ; and Sheen, H., No. 218, as P.S. Comp. Sharland, being unavoidably absent at the last meeting, was on this occasion installed as M.E.Z. The business being completed, the Companions retired to an excellent repast, which reflected great credit on the taste and arrangements of the worthy host; and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts concluded the proceedings of a day most delightfully spent. The visitors present were Comps. Robinson, P.Z., No. 8 ; Sheen, H., No. 218 ; Munns, No. 13 ; and Cooke, No. 368.

MAIDSTONE, KENT.—*Belvedere Chapter*.—A new Chapter, No. 741, under the above title, is to be opened at Maidstone on the fourth Wednesday in the ensuing month. The offices of principals will be filled by Bros. Whittaker, Pike, and Cruttenden, sen., who were the first three Masters of the Belvedere (Maidstone) Lodge ; and the office of Scribe E. will be discharged by the present indefatigable and zealous W.M. Bro. Cooke, who will, no doubt, consider it as the crowning glory of his unusually prosperous year of office. No fewer than twenty of the Brethren of the Lodge, including some of its most valuable Past Masters, are anxious for exaltation, and it is probable that the Chapter of Maidstone, the metropolitan borough of the county, will at once take the first place in the Arch Masonry of Kent.

YORK.—*Zetland Chapter* (No. 287).—The Companions of this Chapter held their quarterly convocation on the last Wednesday in July, M.E. Comp. R. W. Hollon, Z. ; E. Comps. W. Cowling, H. ; J. Farrer, J., were present. After the list of candidates for exaltation was gone through, the Chapter was closed in love and harmony, and the Companions retired to their banqueting-room.

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## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

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LANCASHIRE.—*St. James of Jerusalem Encampment*.—This Encampment was convened at Bolton on Tuesday, July 29th, for the special purpose of installing Lieut. Wentworth Dawes, of her Majesty's 97th Regt., and of the Royal Arch Chapter of Concord, No. 44. The Encampment was opened by Sir Knight Brockbank, E.C., and his 1st and 2nd Captains, Sir Knights Parkinson and Birch ; after which the E.C. surrendered his baton to the V.E. the P.G.C. of Lancashire, Sir Knight Dawes, who performed the ceremony of installing the candidate (his second son) in a most able and effective manner ; his eldest son, Sir Knight Captain Dawes, 97th Regt., 2nd Grand Expert, officiating as Prelate, in the absence of Sir Knight Riley ; and Sir Knight W. Redich acting as Expert. The proceedings of the evening were highly satisfactory, and great cordiality was expressed by the assembled Sir Knights towards the 2nd Grand Expert and the newly-installed Sir Knight, both of whom have lately returned from the Crimea.

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## MARK MASONRY.

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ST. MARK'S LODGE (No. 1).—We have great pleasure in calling the attention of the Craft to the very beautiful jewels intended for the above Lodge, designed and manufactured by Bro. John Mott Thearle, the Masonic jeweller, of 198, Fleet-street. The novelty of the designs, and the extreme beauty of the finish, entitle Bro. Thearle to all praise as an artist, and every recommendation as a skilful worker in metals. The above may be seen at Bro. Thearle's establishment for the next week, and every particular obtained by Brethren desirous of being advanced to the degree of a Mark Mason.

## SCOTLAND.

## AIRDRIE.

*Laying the Foundation Stones of Public Buildings.*—On the 31st July, the foundation-stones of the Court-houses, the Market-house, and the Railway-station, of the town of Airdrie, were laid with Masonic honours. The day was delightful, and the turn-out of spectators immense. At twelve o'clock the Lodges, consisting of the 7th, 12th, 13th, 30th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 102nd, 166th, 177th, 181st, 187th, 199th, 203rd, 219th, and 362nd, assembled in front of the Royal Hotel, where they were formed, headed by bands of music, the Junior Lodge facing the west. The procession then marched to the West Church, where the Rev. B. C. Brown preached, and afterwards paraded the principal streets of the town, in the course of which it was joined by Sir Archibald Alison, who was driven from the Coatbridge terminus in a carriage and four. The procession then reached the Court-house building. Platforms had been erected for the accommodation of ladies and gentlemen, and were crowded. The streets in the vicinity were also crowded; indeed, every available space, including the house-tops, was made use of to get a glimpse of the ceremony. Amongst the gentlemen present were—Sir A. Alison, Bart.; James Baird, Esq., M.P.; Dr. Clark, of Wester Moffat; Wm. Murray, Esq., Monkland House; James Thomson Rankine, Esq., jun., of Auchingray and Otter; John Bain, Esq., of Morriston; — Lyon, Esq.; Hugh Brown, Esq.; Wm. Brown, Esq.; D. C. R. C. Buchanan, Esq., of Drumpeller; the Provost of Airdrie; Bailie Taylor; Bailie Colquhoun; Bailie Eddie; Thomas Jackson, Esq., Coats House; the Rev. B. C. Brown; Wm. Forrest, Esq., of Meadowside; Wm. Baker, Esq., Clifton-hill; and Robert Scott, Esq., of Greenockhill. After prayer by the chaplain, the usual documents, coins, and papers, enclosed in a glass case, were deposited in the cavity of the stone, which was adjusted, and three knocks having been struck by Sir Archibald, and the usual passages read, three hearty cheers were given, which were re-echoed by the immense assemblage.

Sheriff Sir A. Alison, R.W.G.M., then addressed the Deputy Grand Master, Wardens, and worthy Brethren. He said they had now concluded one of the most interesting ceremonies that could be witnessed in a Christian country. They had laid the foundation-stone of an edifice destined, he trusted, to perpetuate, in future times, the reign of justice, peace, goodwill, and charity among men. They were assembled on an occasion the most interesting and memorable that he ever recollected—they were assembled to lay the foundation, not of one, but of three edifices; and the one at which they were now engaged would, he trusted, be the means of diffusing justice, peace, and tranquillity through that great community. Another was to be the means of largely ministering to their material wants; and the third to improve the communication with distant places, and to give to others a part of the blessings which itself enjoyed. It was no small satisfaction to see three works of such importance and magnitude begun at the same time and in the same town. He remembered that town when it was only a small burgh, he might almost say a village, containing a few thousand inhabitants, and he now saw it the centre of a great, populous, and commercial district. He trusted that the edifice, of which they now laid the foundation, would be only the commencement of a work which would tend to perpetuate the opulence and prosperity of that great community; that the principles of concord and unity would never desert that society, and that the principles of the Order to which they belonged, and which commenced with the foundation of Solomon's Temple, would remain for the perpetuity of Christian union and the blessing and benefaction of mankind.

The foundation-stone of the Market Houses was next laid, after a similar ceremony had been gone through. The procession then moved to the Railway-station, at which a triumphal arch was erected, when John Bain, Esq., of Morriston, laid the foundation-stone of that structure.

In the evening, the commissioners of Airdrie, the provost, magistrates, and

town council, and the Monkland Railway directors, dined in the Royal Hotel—Sir A. Alison, Bart., in the chair; Provost Davidson, croupier.

#### DUNDEE.

EXCURSION TO DUNKELD.—On the 7th August upwards of a hundred of the Brethren belonging to the various Lodges in Dundee paid a visit to their G.M., his Grace the Duke of Athol, at Dunkeld. Leaving Dundee station at a quarter-past eight, P.M., the party arrived at Dunkeld about eleven, where they were met by R. C. Carrington, Esq., the Duke's factor, and Dr. Duff, who preceded them to the beautiful grounds of his Grace. The Brethren formed in front of the Lodge, where the Masters and Wardens of the Lodges were introduced to the G.M. The whole were then regaled with refreshments, and some ladies with the party were kindly attended to by the duchess. Refreshments over, three separate rounds of hearty Masonic cheers were given to his Grace, the Duchess, and the Marquis of Tullibardine. The duke gave a very kind response, thanking the Brethren for their visit, and the pleasure he experienced in receiving them at Dunkeld. His Grace, accompanied by the Marquis, Mr. Carrington, and Dr. Duff, conducted the party through the grounds, in which they spent two pleasant hours. The Brethren then proceeded to the Operative Mason Hall, where a Lodge was opened by the G.M. After the usual proceedings had been gone through, the Lodge was closed, and the party again invited to visit the magnificent kennel, built on a commanding eminence, in which are kept a splendid and powerful stud of otter hounds. While the visitors were enjoying themselves in the grounds, the thunder commenced, and the rain poured down in torrents. Every one made his way in the quickest way possible to the town for shelter. Notwithstanding this drawback on the pleasures of the day, the excursionists were all highly delighted with its enjoyment, which was greatly enhanced by the kindness and affability of the Duke and Duchess. The day's excursion will be long remembered by the Brethren as one of the most pleasant reminiscences of their life. To Mr. Carrington and Dr. Duff the Brethren were deeply indebted for their close attention to them during the entire day; also to several Brethren belonging to the Operative Lodge of Dunkeld, led by Bro. Jack, sen. The excursionists returned to Dundee at half-past seven.

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### COLONIAL.

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#### CANADA.

TORONTO.—The following gentlemen were elected on the 24th June, St. John's Day, as officers of two of the Masonic Lodges in this city. The day was a gala-day with Masons throughout the world, as on that day the officers are elected, and there are generally social reunions afterwards:—

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE.—The Brethren of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 487 E. R., No. 1 P.R., C.W., assembled in their Lodge Room, St. Lawrence Hall, at half-past seven o'clock in the evening, and elected the following:—Wor. Bros. Samuel B. Harman, W.M.; Wm. M. Jameson, P.M.; Bros. F. W. Cumberland, S.W.; Charles Thompson, J.W.; W. R. Harris, Sec.; D. Macdonald, Treas.; N. Bethune, S.D.; J. T. Kirby, J.D.; John Tully, M. of C.; W. G. Storm and Thos. Ridout, Stewards; W. F. M'Master, I. Guard; Jules Hecht, Organist; James Forman, Tyler. *Benevolence Committee*—The W.M. Bros. H. Pyper and G. B. Wyllie. *Auditors*—Bros. H. Rowsell and H. Thompson.

KING SOLOMON LODGE.—W. Bros. James E. Smith, W.W.; Charles Fitzgibbon, P.M. Bros. W. H. Miller, S.W.; J. A. Fisher, J.W.; Rev. T. P. Mayerhoffer, Chaplain; Charles E. Holiwell, Sec.; William C. Morrison, Treas.; Edward Osborne, Organist; John Griffith, S.D.; William De Grassi, J.D.; F. C. Capreol, M.C.; John Hill, I.G.; J. Clarke Tyler. Stewards—Bros. A. De Grassi and M. Marcoso. *Managing Committee*—Bros. Saulter, Hults, and Strachan. *Charity Committee*—Bros. Smith, W.M.; R. Arnold, and J. Clarke.

## I N D I A.

### TRINIDAD.

*Philanthropic Lodge* (No. 585).—A funeral service to the memory of ten Brethren, who appertained to this Lodge, was, on the 13th July, performed in the most solemn and impressive manner. At half past twelve o'clock the members began to assemble, and at one p.m. a procession was formed in the lower hall, and proceeded upstairs (to the Lodge-room) in the following order:—

- Tyler with sword.
- The banner of the Lodge covered with black crape.
- Two Stewards with white rods.
- Brethren out of office two and two.
- The Secretary with roll.
- The Treasurer with badge of office.
- The Director of Ceremonies.
- Three-branch light carried by a M.M.
- The Junior Warden with his column.
- Five-branch light carried by a M.M.
- The Senior Warden with his column.
- Seven-branch light carried by a M.M.
- The W.M. of Lodge Eastern Star, No. 368.
- Nine-branch light carried by a M.M.
- The Holy Writings, on a cushion covered in black with silver fringe, carried by an old member of the Lodge.
- The Worshipful Master.
- Two Deacons with their wands covered with black crape, and carrying a basket of flowers each.

On arriving in the Lodge-room, the procession moved gradually round the room, and then halted, while all gazed upon the mournful scene presented to their view. The seats of the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary, were all covered in black with silver fringe. A beautiful purple and black-flowered carpet, with the Mosaic pavement in the centre, covered the room, in the centre of which was placed a catafalque covered in black velvet with broad silver lace, above which was suspended a blazing star of two feet in diameter. The banner of the Lodge, covered in crape, was placed in a drooping position at the head of the catafalque. An urn, with burning incense, was placed on a pedestal in the east. Three columns, with a large wax light in each, were placed at the east, west, and south parts of the Lodge. After a short funeral ceremony, the catafalque was removed by twelve of the members, and on its being removed, the blazing star was made to gradually descend until it reached the centre of the Mosaic pavement. On the star being removed from its position, a dove, with extended wings, and an olive-branch in its mouth, was seen suspended in the centre of the ceiling of the Lodge-room. The effect was most imposing.

The members having returned from putting away the catafalque, the Brethren formed in line, and saluted each other on the five points of fellowship. Bro. Daniel Hart, W.M., addressed them as follows:—Brethren, "On looking round upon these emblems of mortality which are here displayed to our view, and reflecting on the imposing ceremony which we have now concluded to the memory of our departed Brethren, I feel assured that there can be but one sentiment and wish prevailing within the breast of all present, and that is, that they have all passed from this to another and a better world, with the bright hope upon their minds of rest and peace—

‘In the world beyond the grave.’

To us who have survived them, the important truth is this day forcibly brought to our minds, that man was born to die. The rich and poor, the high-born and

low, the crowned prince and lowly peasant, must alike be cut down by the all-devouring scythe of time, and gathered to the land whither their fathers have gone before them. 'Man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain; he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.' Heed we then, my Brethren, betimes, while the light of life is still strong within us, for we know not how soon we may be summoned by the Grand Master of all to meet our Brethren in the Grand Lodge above, where we trust and hope, they now sojourn. When the cold and clammy sweat of death shall be on our brow, when our spirits shall be on the wane, and rapidly traversing the dark and dismal vale of Jehoshaphat, it will then be too late to think of whether we have done our duty here below to God, our neighbours, and ourselves. At that time, what will be all the trappings of wealth, the glittering gloss of this world's riches? Its pleasures we will no more enjoy, for we go to our long home. Let us, then, as Masons, act up to the doctrines laid down by our ancient and honourable institution for our guidance, but above all, let us lay our faith and hope in God's Holy Word, act agreeably to its precepts, square our actions and adorn our lives according to the plans and designs laid down by Him in that book of truth and revelations, which is the Mason's spiritual, moral, and Masonic tressel-board. Let us act up agreeably to our profession, and ever hold in sacred remembrance those solemn obligations which we have taken upon the altar of Masonry. Remember that our hand given to a Brother shall be a proof of our fidelity, and a readiness to assist him when he shall need our aid and support. Let not indolence cause our footsteps to halt, nor wrath to turn them aside, but support him in all his just and laudable undertakings; remember him in the posture of our daily supplications, and when we offer up our prayers to the Most High for ourselves and families, let us also mingle therewith a prayer for him who is bound to us by the sacred ties of brotherhood. Ever remember that our breasts are the safe and sacred repositories of all his just and lawful secrets. And though last, not least, be ever ready to support his character from the vile and wicked imputations of the foul slanderer. By thus acting we shall all be linked together in one indivisible chain of brotherly love, relief, and truth; and when the angel of death shall announce to us 'prepare to meet our God,' we may then render up our immortal souls unto Him who gave them, with a sure but humble confidence that 'we have not here laboured in vain nor spent our strength for naught.' Furthermore, my Brethren, take we heed betime while the day of salvation lasteth, for the night cometh when none can work; but let us while we have light believe in the light, and walk as children of light. In conclusion, permit me, my Brethren, to thank you for your kind co-operation and assistance in carrying out the sad and melancholy ceremony of this day; and let us part in that faith that our hopes may be realized on similar acts of charity being extended to us when it shall please the Almighty to call us to that bourne from whence no traveller returns."

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REGALIA FOR THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS.—We have been favoured by Bro. Spencer, of 314, High Holborn, with an inspection of the remaining regalia for this Lodge, consisting of ornamental aprons, jewels, and gauntlets for the Grand Stewards, Pursuivant, and Grand Tyler. The Lodge has been so gratified, and most justly, with the fine taste and splendid execution displayed in the former regalia sent out by Bro. Spencer, as to commission him to provide the clothing for their Junior Officers. Magnificent is a poor term to represent the chaste richness of the whole manufacture of these most costly articles. Nothing we have ever seen in Masonry at all approaches them, and we trust that the Brethren will not lose this opportunity of beholding furniture which courts admiration both in an artistic and Masonic point of view.

## AMERICA.

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*Extracted from the "American Freemason."*

### GRAND BODIES OF INDIANA.

THE Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters met at Shelbyville, on Tuesday, May 20, 1856. This was the first grand annual communication of this grand body. The number of councils represented was eight—and this is being rapidly increased. Very considerable attention is directed to this branch of the Order in Indiana. It will probably be but a short time before a council will be found in the immediate neighbourhood of each Chapter in the State.

The Grand Chapter met at Shelbyville on Wednesday, the 21st May, 1856, a very full representation present. Under the very able and active administration of M.E. Companion William Hacker, G.H.P. for the past year, Capitular Masonry has flourished without precedent in Indiana, and is in a very healthy condition. The number of dispensations issued to new Chapters is ten, all of which came up and asked for Charters, which were granted.

The address of the G.H.P. is an able document, comprehending many matters of interest to the Craft, besides much that is local in its nature. A lengthy and luminous report from Comp. Rabb, of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, was read. The business of the Grand Chapter was transacted in great harmony.

The Grand Lodge met at the Grand Hall in Indianapolis on Monday, the 26th May, the G.M. and Dep. G.M., both being absent, R. W. Lewis Burk, S.G.W. in the Grand East. There was a very full attendance, very few of the two hundred Lodges of Indiana being unrepresented. There was a considerable amount of local business transacted, and but little of much general interest to the Craft. The project of building up a mammoth Masonic School was before the Grand Lodge, and was warmly advocated, but the sense of the Grand Lodge is wisely against the scheme. The subject was referred to a committee, which will report upon it next year. That which is undoubtedly the wisest plan is generally favoured, to wit: the idea of leaving the education of the indigent children and orphans to the subordinate Lodges in each neighbourhood, where it can be well and cheaply accomplished through the generous system of free schools in such successful operation throughout the State.

The Grand Lodge decided to increase the *per diem* of the delegates to two dollars. The discussion upon the simple proposition to pay an additional fifty cents. per day, showed the dangers to a Masonic Grand Lodge of possessing any extraordinary revenue. A want of temperate feeling and manner is more likely to be seen in discussions respecting the revenues, than upon any other subject likely to arise. The want of funds is not half so dangerous as an excess.

### GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK.

The Grand Lodge of the State of New York closed its annual communication, June 7th, 1856, after one of the most harmonious sessions which it has ever held.

Among a vast amount of other business transacted, the following distinguished Brethren were duly elected to fill the various offices, and were subsequently installed by W. H. Milnor, P.G.M.:—John L. Lewis, Jun., M.W.G.M.; Robert Macoy, D.D.G.M.; Finlay, M. King, G.S.W.; James Hyde, J.G.W.; James M. Austin, G. Sec.; Charles L. Church, G. Treas.; D. H. Van Sice, G. Pursuivant; Sewal Fisk, G. Tyler; W. H. Drew (of Buffalo), G. Lecturer.

The M.W.G.M., Joseph D. Evans, delivered his annual address, which was received with much unanimity, with the exception of a single subject, and reflected much credit upon him as a vigilant observer of current events, and a devotion to the trusts which had been intrusted to him. His official acts were all confirmed without a dissenting voice. His associates, R.W.G. Sec. James M. Austin and R.W.G. Treas. Charles L. Church, presented each their official reports, which were subsequently found to be correct in every particular, and showed the

Fraternity in this jurisdiction to be in a highly prosperous and harmonious condition.

The delegation was very large—unusually so, and yet there was the most friendly spirit prevailing. This was so apparent that it called forth remarks, after its termination, from all with whom I was brought in contact.

The venerable and universally-esteemed “Father in Masonry,” in this State, the Rev. G. Chaplain, Salem Town, was present, and enjoyed the privilege with great satisfaction; and it may not be void of interest to your readers to know that he is enjoying remarkably good health for one so far advanced in life. He is hale and hearty, vigorous and cheerful, firm and energetic, in his devotion to the interests of the Fraternity. Long may he be spared to cheer us with his presence and kindly counsels, warning the Brethren when they may be inclined to wander from the landmarks, and furnish a living example to all who desire to exemplify the truthful nature of our principles, and the effects of a conscientious devotion to them.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented a report which will eclipse all their previous efforts. Every topic which has been agitating the Fraternity in the various jurisdictions, has received attention, and is treated upon in a clear, concise, and, I may say, masterly manner, which will cause this document to compare favourably with similar ones from other jurisdictions.

It will render my letter too long for your columns if I dwell, and must, therefore, proceed to give you an account of such prominent acts as will be of general interest.

The mediation of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was most respectfully and fraternally declined, and it is perhaps to be regretted that the course of that Grand Body, during the past year, rendered it necessary to suspend intercourse between the two bodies, in consequence of the edicts of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania having deprived New York Masons of the privilege of visiting Lodges in their jurisdiction.

The election of the present Grand Officers, and the passing of certain resolutions giving to them certain powers during the recess, will, it is confidently anticipated, bring about a more fraternal feeling among *the Masons of New York* than could possibly have resulted from any mediation, even if the mediators had stood in a more friendly relation to the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, as now universally recognized, except by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Before closing this long communication, I must revert to the spirit of *Brotherly Love* which seemed to mark every act and movement during the deliberations of the sessions just closed. The former distinctions and rivalries, which have heretofore obtruded themselves into the deliberations, are “in the deep bosom of *oblivion* buried.” Our future prospects are bright and cheering.

The Subordinate Officers have not yet been appointed. As soon as I learn who they are, I will apprise you.

M.W. Bro. Joseph D. Evans, though still a cripple, was present, and is gradually recovering.

#### TEXAS.

*Morton Lodge* (No. 72).—In the year 1825, American settlements on the Brazos river were few and far between. Almost the only one between the present site of San Felipe De Austin was that of William Morton, who had commenced a plantation at the place where the flourishing town of Richmond now stands. Morton was a Mason, and, as such, nearly alone on the Brazos. In those days travellers were always sure of a welcome when it was their good fortune to be overtaken by night at a settler's house, and at no place in the country was there a more hospitable door than that of William Morton.

It fell out that a native of Scotland, and a recent emigrant from the land of the thistle, Robert Gillespie, by name, was seeking a home in the newly-found Utopia, as Texas was then, and is now, by many regarded. Whilst travelling over the almost boundless prairies, he was attacked with fever, and only by dint of great exertion did he succeed in reaching shelter. It was his good fortune to find this under Morton's roof. His disease and exposure proved too much for his

constitution, and after lingering along for days, his weary spirit took its flight. Before he died, he had discovered himself to Morton as a Mason. However kindly he might have been treated before, it could not be otherwise than that the heart of the latter at once warmed towards his suffering *Brother* as it could not have done towards a stranger.

Who shall tell of the kind words and gentle acts to that dying Brother, of the cooling draughts, the tender care, the days and nights of sleepless watching at that bedside, the prayers to the Grand Master above for his recovery? Morton hath his reward, as we hope for many such, in the Temple not made with hands, and the memory of his acts is in *the book*.

The stranger died, and alone, beneath the old trees above the "bayou," Morton hollowed out his grave and deposited the body in its last resting-place, breathing a Mason's prayer above the grave, and placing the Mason's offering within the coffin. It was a solemn scene. A Mason, alone in the wild forest, and with no eye but that of the All-seeing bent upon him, thus paying the last sad rites to mortality.

Nor was he satisfied with this. With his own hands he made his bricks and erected a monument above the grave, which remains there yet, a relic of the earliest times of Texan history.

In after years a town grew up upon the spot, which, however, Morton was not permitted to behold. He died, nor was a Brother by to receive his last words, or to give to his remains those rites which he so zealously had paid to the stranger. But he was not forgotten, and the principal street of the young city of Richmond now bears his name.

In 1849, this town, hitherto of slow growth, hardly numbered a hundred people. At this time there were three or four Masons there, who, after much deliberation, determined to try to establish a Lodge. They got up their petition and "borrowed" enough from neighbouring jurisdictions to make up the required number, obtained a dispensation, and at the meeting of the Grand Lodge in 1850, received a charter for Morton Lodge, No. 72, named in honour of William Morton. Morton Lodge, although feeble in numbers, was founded on ground consecrated by the first Masonic burial ever known in Texas, and has always been characterized by freedom, fervency, and zeal. For the time in which it has been in operation, it is probably the most flourishing Lodge in Texas.

Richmond is now a growing place. It is the western terminus of the first railroad in Texas. This has been completed to this point for about six months, and bids fair to become the great thoroughfare of travel from Galveston to Austin and San Antonio. On coming into Richmond, almost the first object that meets the stranger's attention, is a large three story brick building in Morton-street. This is the Masonic Hall, which was completed and dedicated last year. It is said to be the finest Masonic building in Texas. Its dimensions are forty by sixty feet, and the hall for meetings, in the third story, is forty feet square, and has three ample anterooms. This is the place of meeting of Morton Lodge, No. 72, presided over by Bro. A. E. Ford, and of Richmond Chapter, No. 44, whose high priest, Comp. W. D. Mitchell, is a comparatively recent emigrant from Kentucky. The Lodge now numbers something over sixty members. The mantle of the first active Mason in Texas has fallen to a worthy heritage. Let the members of Morton, No. 72, keep his memory living in their hearts!

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FREEMASONS IMPRISONED FOR LIFE.—The *Messaggere di Modena*, the official journal of that duchy, in its number of the 18th ult., publishes another sentence pronounced by the military commission now sitting at Massa, in virtue of the state of siege existing at Carrara. By this sentence four persons, one of whom is 60 years of age, and another 19, are convicted of having belonged "to the Secret or Mazzinian Society, otherwise called, Society of Freemasons, and of having sworn to exterminate the true religion, to overthrow kings, &c.," in consequence of which two of the culprits are condemned to the *ergastolo* (imprisonment in irons with hard labour) for life; another to the same punishment for twenty years, and the fourth to ten years' hard labour.

## SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR AUGUST.

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ALL the world being out of town, the past month has been very barren of incident, and the newspapers have been chiefly filled with anticipatory notions of the coronation of the Czar of all the Russias, to which all who can afford the time and money have been hastening. Others, who cannot well do so, are filling the various watering-places and mountain homes of their own country, or making short excursions to the Continent. Her Majesty and the Royal family, after cruising about the Channel, and visiting various towns in the West of England, have gone for their summer sojourn amidst the beautiful scenery of the Highlands. The harvest, which is most plentiful, and of superior quality, is being well got in, notwithstanding that at one time a few wet days gave rise to some gloomy anticipations, which, however, were soon dispelled.

### ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

On the 1st August, Hastur, late manager of the Lord Warden Hotel, at Dover, and Pavilion Hotel, Folkestone, was convicted of stealing 1,600*l.*, part of 50,000*l.*, intrusted to the care of his employer, and sentenced to three years penal servitude.

On the 5th, two sisters, named Caroline and Maria Back, were murdered at Dover by a soldier in the German Legion, named Redannes, who had been paying his addresses to the former, of whom he appears to have been jealous. The murderer afterwards attempted to commit suicide.

Murdock, who murdered the Warden of Hastings Gaol, was executed at Lewes on the 5th. On the 9th, William Dove, for the murder of his wife at Leeds, by poisoning, met with the like fate, having first fully confessed the crime. Mary Brown was executed on the same day at Dorchester, for the murder of her husband. It would appear, from the poor woman's confession, that, being deeply aggravated by his brutality, her crime was rather that of manslaughter than murder.

On the 6th, Mr. J. Whitmore Winslow, aged twenty-one, of Trinity College, Dublin, eldest son of the Rev. Dr. Octavius Winslow, of Leamington, and nephew of Dr. F. Winslow, lost his life whilst bathing in the sea at Dover.

Messrs. Broadwood's celebrated Pianoforte Manufactory, in the Horseferry-road, was destroyed by fire on the 12th. Nearly 400 men are thrown out of employment, and deprived of their tools by the accident.

Ten men were killed by an explosion in one of Lord Ward's collieries, at Dudley, on the 14th, caused, it would appear, by the incaution of one man, who was warned that it would be dangerous to use an unprotected light.

There was a terrific gale round the South Coast on the 20th, and eight lives were lost in it at Brighton.

A fire took place at Liverpool on the 21st, in which a man named Fagan, with his wife and three children, and an old man named Wade, lost their lives.

Another fire occurred on the 25th, at Limehouse, on the premises of Mr. Gilbert, a sailcloth manufacturer, which destroyed several houses; the loss being estimated at some thousands of pounds.

### JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

On the 1st the Royal British Bank Proprietors met, and declared a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

The Railway Companies have been meeting throughout the month; the North London taking the lead on the 5th, when a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. was declared. The dividend on the London and North Western was 5 per cent.; East Lancashire, 4 per cent.; Great Western, 2½ per cent.; South Western, 5½ per cent.; South Wales, 3½ per cent.; South Devon, 7*s.* per share; North

Eastern,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. ; South Eastern, 9s. 6d. per £30. share ; Eastern Counties, 2s. per share ; Midland, 4 per cent. ; Lancaster and Carlisle,  $7\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. ; Great Northern,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. on the original stock and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the B Stock ; Bristol and Exeter,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. ; Ambergate and Nottingham, 2s. 6d. per per share.

On the 7th, the London and County Bank held its meeting; the dividend declared was 5 per cent. for the half-year, leaving a balance of 10,819*l.* to be carried to the next account.

The Southampton Dock Company met on the 27th, and declared a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

The General Screw Steam Navigation Company is being wound up, and the vessels are for sale.

#### PROVIDENT.

We have to report this month some interesting news with respect to life assurance bodies. The "English and Cambrian" Life Assurance Society has changed its appellation to "the Commercial," an excellent change. Amalgamation appears to be in high favour with the shareholders of even successful assurance bodies. For instance, the "Eagle" and the "Palladium," the "Medical, Legal, and General," and the "New Equitable" Offices, which had earned a large amount of public support, have been completely amalgamated ; and at the special meetings, held for that purpose during the last few days, not a dissentient voice was raised against the conjunction of these bodies ; indeed, on the contrary, the proposition may be said to have been "carried with acclamation." The "Deposit," the name of which has been often before the public, and generally in an unfavourable light, has concluded an alliance with the "City of London Assurance Society ;" about the best thing the directors could do.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The freedom of the city of London and a magnificent sword has been presented to Sir Win. Williams of Kars.

The celebrated actress, Madame Vestris, died on the 9th, aged 59, having long suffered from cancer.

On the 10th, the Right Rev. Dr. Charles Baring, who has been appointed Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and the Right Rev. Dr. Henry J. C. Harper, who has been appointed Bishop of Christchurch, New Zealand, were consecrated in the private chapel of Lambeth Palace.

The long vacation—the holiday of lawyers and unfortunate debtors—commenced on the 11th. It will close on 24th October.

The long-vaunted dinner to the Guards came off at the Surrey Gardens on the 25th. About 2,000 men sat down to the entertainment, which certainly did no credit to the providers, either for quantity or quality.

The will of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol was sworn under £140,000 personality ; the Hon. Rachel Ramsey, of Cheltenham, £20,000 ; Sir Jeffery Prendergast, £16,000 ; Sir Alexander Crichton, £7,000 within the province ; Mr. Charles Shaw, of the Stock Exchange and Myddleton-square, £12,000 ; Mrs. Anna Shaw, of Baker-street, £10,000 ; the Rev. James Ellis, of Clothall, Herts, £90,000 ; the Rev. R. Lyon, D.D., of Bishop's Caundle, £25,000 ; Rev. E. W. Estcourt, M.A., of Long Newnton, £20,000 ; Rev. G. G. Townley, D.C.L., £10,000 ; Mr. John Wilkinson, of Leeds, £50,000 within the province of Canterbury ; Mr. R. V. Hooper, of Islington, £60,000 ; Mr. W. Evans, of Chelsea, £60,000 ; Mr. J. C. Chaplain, Elms, Tunbridge, £10,000. The will of Sir Edwark Tierney, of Dublin, was proved first in Ireland under £60,000, and since in England under £45,000 within the province of Canterbury.

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FREEMASONS IN THE EAST.—A correspondent from Belgrade (in the *Daily News*, writes of the Freemasons in Turkey).—It may be stated that they eschew polygamy, and only recognise one wife, whom they permit to appear at the Lodge banquets unveiled. At these banquets wines are drunk, toasts are proposed, and

the Masons are acquainted with the "Kentish fire," though under another and more barbarous appellation. In addition to a brown shawl or handkerchief worked with certain Masonic symbols, and worn round the neck, the Turkish Freemasons wear in open Lodge, also round their necks, as insignia of the Order, a flat white marble polished slab, of twelve sides, and two inches in diameter. On these are a number of reddish brown spots to represent blood, and indicate that the founder of the Order in Turkey, Ali Effendi, suffered martyrdom rather than reveal the secrets of the Fraternity. The convent of Senkedgi Teckar, belonging to the sect known as the "Dancing Dervishes," is the largest establishment belonging to the Order in Constantinople. In Persia Freemasonry is also widely distributed, the Brethren being estimated at 50,000. In Arabia there are about 20,000 Freemasons.

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## **Obituary.**

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### **BRO. JAMES HODGSON COMPIGNE.**

ON the 12th of August, after a short illness, aged 36, Bro. James Hodgson Compigné, of Reading, of the Lodge of Union, No. 597, Sov. P.R.C., &c., and member of the High Grades Union.

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### **BRO. JOSEPH PITCHFORK.**

THIS Brother (who was for thirty-three years Master of Bayliss's School, in Dudley) died at his residence, Bond-street, Dudley, on Wednesday morning, the 20th August, after only a few hours' illness. His remains were consigned to the cold tomb on Sunday, the 24th, in the presence of most of the present scholars, and many of his friends and Brethren. A meeting was to be held the next Friday, August 29th, to take some steps to raise a memorial to him, a committee for which purpose was appointed on the 22nd. We shall further allude to this in our next number, merely adding now, that he was for many years the leader of "Whig politics" in Dudley. He was initiated in the Harmonic Lodge, No. 313.

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### **BRO. HENRY JAMES PRESCOTT.**

THIS highly-respected Brother, who was formerly Governor of the Bank of England, died at Brighton on the 13th August, in the 55th year of his age. Bro. Prescott, who was initiated into the Order in No. 6 (the Lodge of Friendship), on the 12th of May, 1831, was a P.M. and Treasurer of the Lodge, as well as a P.G. of the Chapter. He was also a P.J.G.W. of England; and P. Asst. Soj. in the Royal Arch.

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### **BRO. JOHN NICHOLLS.**

WE have to announce the death of this esteemed Brother, which took place, after a long illness, on the 17th ult., in the 53rd year of his age. Bro. Nicholls was initiated on the 7th Feb., 1833, in the Strong Man Lodge, No. 53, and presided over it as Master in 1836. He was also a member of the Arch and the High Degrees. Bro. Nicholls was well known to the Craft as Collector to the Girls' School and the Royal Benevolent Institution, which he has held for many years to the full satisfaction of the committees and all with whom his duties brought him into contact.

## NOTICE.

THE EDITOR requests that ALL COMMUNICATIONS may be sent to him, at 74-5, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields, by the 20th of each month AT LATEST, to insure their insertion.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE GRAND LODGE.—THE GRAND MASTER HAVING GIVEN NOTICE OF HIS INTENTION TO BRING FORWARD SOME MOST IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS WITH REGARD TO COLONIAL LODGES, WE TRUST THERE WILL BE A NUMEROUS ATTENDANCE OF THE BRETHREN AT GRAND LODGE ON WEDNESDAY NEXT.

“BRO. RAWLEY” will see that we have attended to his communication.

★ Asks, “1st. In the event of the Second and Third Principals of a Royal Arch Chapter dying or resigning, what is to be done by the First Principal, there being no Companion in the Chapter who has been in either chair? 2nd. In the event of the M.E. First Principal's term of office expiring, and there be no Companion qualified to be put in election for that chair, what is to be done in order that the working of the Chapter may not be interrupted?”—In case of the first contingency arising, a dispensation must be obtained from the Grand Z.; and in the second, the Z. must occupy his chair until a dispensation be obtained. We are aware that in colonies great inconvenience may be occasioned by such a contingency, and no doubt on a proper representation it will be duly considered in Grand Chapter. We are not aware that the G.M. has any intention of appointing a Prov. G.M. for the West-India Colonies.

“D. H.”—If at the proper time for the election of W.M., there should be no person in the Lodge eligible for that office, and you say that in your Lodge the Wardens had left the colony, it would be evidently the duty of the W.M. to continue in office, notwithstanding he had served the two years to which he is limited by the Book of Constitutions, until he could apply for a dispensation to continue in the chair, he having bound himself at his installation to discharge the duties until some other Brother is regularly installed therein.

“T. F. P.” must have misunderstood our notice. If he refers to the speech of the Prov. G.M. he will find the sum of £1,000 per annum was stated as an amount which might be raised, or at least approached, as a benevolent fund, in East Lancashire. We wish our Lancashire Brethren all success; but knowing how apathetic Freemasons are as a body, we ventured to throw out an observation to guard them against being too sanguine in their anticipations. The by-laws appear to be generally excellent, but we would recommend that £15 in Rule 20 be raised to £20, in order to harmonize better with Rule 21.

“O. E. N.”—The two members in question ceased to be members of the Lodge under its by-laws, but are not thereby excluded from the privileges of the Order, and are of course quite competent to attend the meetings of the Chapter to which they belong. It would tend much to remove such feelings as appear to exist here, if Brethren would bear in mind and act upon the advice they received from the W.M. when they were first invested with their E.A. apron. The Royal Order of Scotland is not one of the 33 Degrees conferred in England and France, but is peculiar to Scotland. It does not give the Degree of “Rose Croix,” but under recent arrangements the members of the Royal Order are entitled to receive that Degree at a reduced figure.

“W. H.,” No. 224, is thanked for his kindness.

BEGGING PETITIONS.—We are requested by Comp. John Hervey, P.G.S.D., to state that should his name be found attached (as he has reason to believe it is) to any begging petition, the signature is a forgery.