

THE
FREEMASONS'
MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

MARCH 1, 1857.

MASONIC QUESTIONS.

THE proceedings in Grand Lodge upon the occasion of its last convention must have struck even a casual observer with the conviction of great results being in dependence upon the present questions in agitation. Not less indeed from the nature of these questions, than from the temper in which they are discussed, do we gather that a spirit is abroad of reform, which conveys its demands almost in the determined tone of rebellion; while, on the other hand, the subjects which evoke it almost justify the sternest pertinacity. We should regret indeed that any insubordination or disrespect of authority should be manifested towards the nobleman whose promptitude in meeting evils at present leads us only more to lament that it was not continuously displayed towards their prevention. We admire highly the temper and courteous forbearance, mingled with firmness, with which Lord Zetland has sustained assaults, generated chiefly by the neglect which it is asserted has too long existed in the Secretary's department. But to suppose such a state of things can continue is really to connive at them, and therefore, as we earnestly enjoin our Brethren to show all due respect to power, we advocate a correspondent resolution in eradicating those monstrous abuses of delay and mismanagement which have stultified the philanthropy of Masonry by ignoring the official duties of common life.

Bro. Portal's motion for a return of the number of Prov. Grand Lodges at which the Prov. Grand Master had personally presided, cuts very deep, and, although turned in an oblique direction by its alleged informality, will, if prosecuted further, shake a great deal of the present rottenness out of the still sound core of English Freemasonry. But the Masonic reformers have no steadiness nor unity of plan. Their purpose is identical, but they pursue it without either system or method. For a spectator to watch their attacks is to witness a repetition of the cavalry charge at Balaklava. Brave, irregular, and indiscreet, without discipline or able conduct, they

overthrow by violence the first opponents who meet them from the dais but retire ingloriously before the serried ranks who fall back upon the Book of Constitutions. A justly indignant onslaught in favour of the Canadas is parried by a shrewd pass from these worshippers of defunct usage, adherents of the past—" *laudator temporis acti*,"—who would sooner steal a horse by precedent than restore him from a sense of justice. Such fulsome adulators of misrule, ought themselves to be put away into past tenses, for certain is it that they are totally unfit to cope with the pressing emergency of the present times. We have specimens in Grand Lodge of men who really seem to value everything for its antiquity; probably they would not even eat eggs until they were rotten; though subject, as far as words go, in Grand Lodge lately, to the punishment of being pelted with them.

As to the subjects discussed, many of them resolve themselves into matters already decided by Constitutional Law, which has apparently given the Grand Master such an authority as, when *interpreted by courtiers*, amounts to a downright irresponsible autocracy. He may put what he likes; stop what he likes; talk, and check others from talking; interpret or misinterpret rules, canons, and orders at his pleasure; and be always certain of friendly approvers of his legislation. Indeed, at present, by no wish of his own we virtually believe,—for Lord Zetland is a most urbane and mild ruler, and not merely a nobleman, but a gentleman,—the Grand Master is endowed with such powers as place him at once in a position realizing the fullest notion of despotism which exists in modern times.

Popish antagonism to the Craft was properly discussed by Lord Carnarvon, and as far as a memorial can take away any pretended ignorance of our principles from Romish priests, and inform them, when really unaware of our tenets, as well as corroborate the adherence of our foreign Brethren, we think that it would be useful; at least it would be an official test of sympathy with the persecuted, and a great encouragement to them, if not a check to their oppressors. Yet, it must be allowed, that if not an antidote, such representation would be an irritant. No system is so intolerant of rebuke as Popery; even explanation is considered by it equivalent to rebellion. The "Charge" already suffices to indicate our principles, provided its perusal were extended; and a memorial containing a recommendation to disseminate it, and full of sympathy with the oppressed, cannot but be beneficial. At present, as was well remarked, no official notice has been taken of the sufferings of our Brethren, the only pretext for which neglect must be that it is chiefly in accordance with the method wherein Grand Lodge has misconducted itself for years, and thus driven its Colonies into rebellion.

Bro. Havers observes that many Romanists oppose our principles, but that Masons are *de facto* excommunicated. This is correct; but that gross ignorance, real or pretended, of us prevails amongst the Popish priests, we can declare from a conversation we ourselves had recently in France, with one of the most learned and liberal abbés in that kingdom. He evidently had framed his notions upon the

spurious Freemasonry of the revolutionary period, adverted to by Bro. Beech; and, we must add, our French friend evinced great reluctance to be undeceived. What can be a greater contrast to such sectarian bigotry, than the behaviour of the Right Reverend Protestant Bishop of Antigua, who, as reported in our pages of this month, addressed an appropriate exhortation, in the true spirit of Christian love, to the members of the Order to which he himself belongs? We cordially commend the observation of Bro. Locock Webb, as to our deeds being exponents of our principles; and therefore heartily advise our Romish vituperators to copy the charity and loving-kindness so nobly exemplified by the Protestant Prelate.

If any Brother be offended at our remarks, we regret it; let it be remembered that we do not discuss religion, but neither will we allow priestcraft of any denomination to tyrannize over Freemasonry. If, therefore, this is attempted in any sphere, let such invaders of our liberty for a moment reflect upon the victories achieved by our Fraternity, in the darkest days, over barbarism and intolerance, and observing now the loftiness of our intellectual development, the power and extent of our organization and its indissoluble bands,—clamped by the virtues and riveted by mind,—let them pass away, nor touch us; “remember the battle, do no more.”

Upon the matter of adjournment of Grand Lodge, it is perfectly inconsistent with the amount of Masonic business, augmented by long inattention, and the vast increase of colonial and domestic Lodges since the Union, to endeavour to dispatch it in four Quarterly Communications. We concur, therefore, with Bro. Stebbing, in advocating more frequent meetings; no doubt much time is wasted at present, probably from there being so much to do, that, literally, to use the quaint and expressive adage, “the speakers do not know which way to turn.” Here, again, we recommend methodical arrangement of the topics to be discussed, and, not least, of *qualified persons to discuss them.*

PORTRAIT OF THE R.W. BRO. I. WARD, D. PROV. G.M. FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.—By the courtesy of Bro. Dilworth of Newcastle, Staffordshire, we have been favoured with a copy of the above portrait, lithographed in their celebrated style of excellence by Messrs. Day and Son, Gate-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields. As a work of art it deserves the highest commendation; there is a vitality about it which would strike even those who have not the pleasure of Bro. Ward's acquaintance, as evidencing an admirable likeness; so truly consistent with natural force and expression are the whole details of the face and figure. But to ourselves, who know the D. Prov. G.M., the fidelity of the copy to the original is most startling, and we congratulate the Craft that so admirable a likeness is preserved to posterity of one of the most efficient Brothers, and excellent men and Masons, that ever adorned society. We understand the issue is limited to about 150 subscribers; depend upon it, when the picture is once seen, the Fraternity severally, and admirers of our excellent Brother, will not be content with so small a number. The Sutherland Lodge of Unity (No. 674) and the Chapter of Perseverance attached to it, inaugurated the portrait some time ago, as we noticed in the Magazine, and great credit is due to them for the taste of selecting an artist who would do such justice to their desire and the merits of the subject.

THE VISIBLE SYMBOLISM OF FREEMASONRY.

BY R.W. A. G. MACKEY.

SYLLABUS.

Science of Symbolism in General—Its application to Freemasonry—Symbolism of the Ancient Priesthood—Symbolism of Moses—Of Solomon—Of the Union of Operative and Speculative Masonry—Particular Symbols Interpreted—The Temple—First, or Entered Apprentice Degree—Its Symbols and Symbolism—Fellow Craft's Degree—Its Symbolism—The Degree of Master Mason—Coincidences of the Ancient Mysteries with the Organized Symbolism of Freemasonry—The Construction of the Temple an important Symbol—Abstruser Symbols—The Form of the Lodge—Its Officers—The Point within a Circle—Covering of the Lodge—Mystical Ladder of Jacob—Deductions—Conclusion.

THE lectures of the English Lodges—which are far more philosophical than our own, although I do not believe that the system itself is, in general, as philosophically studied by our English Brethren as by ourselves—have beautifully defined Freemasonry as “a science of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.” But allegory itself is but verbal symbolism; it is the symbol of an idea or of a series of ideas, not presented before the eye in the form of a visible image or action, but clothed in language and exhibited in the form of narrative. And therefore the English definition amounts in fact to this, that Freemasonry is a science of morality, developed and inculcated by the ancient method of symbolism. As to the subject of the science, that belongs to the design of the institution; the mode in which that science is taught is to constitute the subject of the present lecture. But, in introducing this topic for consideration, it may be permitted me to say that it is this symbolic character of the institution which causes it to differ from every other association that the ingenuity of man has devised, and gives it that attractive form which has always secured the unwavering attachment of its disciples, and its own unalterable perpetuity.

Since then, symbolism forms so important a part of the system of Freemasonry, it will be well that we should commence our inquiries on the subject by an investigation of the nature of symbols in general. There is no science so ancient as that of symbolism; and no mode of instruction has ever been so universal as was the symbolic in former times. “The first learning in the world,” says the great antiquary, Dr. Stukely, “constituted chiefly the symbols. The wisdom of the Chaldeans, Phœnicians, Egyptians, Jews; of Zoroaster, Sanconiathon, Pherecydes, Syrus, Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato, of all the ancients that is come to our hand, is symbolic.” In fact, man's earliest instruction was by symbols. The objective character of a symbol is best calculated to be grasped by the infant mind, whether the infancy of that mind be considered *nationally* or *individually*. In the first ages of the world all propositions were expressed in

symbols. The first religions were eminently symbolical, because, as that great philosophical historian Grote has remarked, "at a time when language was yet in its infancy, visible symbols were the most vivid means of acting upon the minds of ignorant hearers."

Again, children receive their elementary teachings in symbols. "A was an archer." What is this but symbolism? The archer becomes to the infant mind the symbol of the letter A, just as in after-life the letter becomes to the more advanced mind the symbol of a certain sound of the voice. The first lesson received by a child in acquiring his alphabet thus conveys a symbol. Even in the very formation of language, the medium of communication between man and man, and which must have been an elementary step in the history of human existence, it was found necessary to have recourse to symbols; for words are only and truly certain arbitrary symbols by which, and through which, we give an utterance to our ideas. The construction of language was therefore one of the first products of the science of symbolism. We must bear this fact of the primary existence and predominance of symbolism in the earliest times constantly in mind, when we are investigating the nature of the ancient religions with which the history of Freemasonry is so intimately connected. The older the religion the more the symbolism abounds. Modern religions may convey their dogmas in abstract propositions—ancient religions always did so in symbols. There is more symbolism in the Egyptian religion than in the Jewish; more in the Jewish than the Christian; more in the Christian than in the Mohammedan.

But symbolism is not only the most ancient and universal, it is also one of the most practically useful of sciences. We have already seen how actively it operates in the early stages of life and of society. We have seen how the first ideas of men and of nations are impressed upon their minds by means of symbols. It was thus that the ancient peoples were almost wholly educated.

In the simpler stages of society mankind can be instructed in the knowledge of abstract truths only by symbols and parables. Hence we find most heathen religions becoming mythic, or explaining their mysteries by allegories or instructive incidents. "Nay, God himself," says one writer on this subject, "knowing the nature of the creatures formed by Him, has condescended, in the earlier revelations that He made of Himself, to teach by symbols; and the greatest of all teachers instructed the multitudes by parables. The great exemplar of the ancient philosophy, and the grand archetype of modern philosophy, were alike distinguished by their possessing this faculty in a high degree, and have both told us that man was best instructed by similitudes."

Such is the system adopted in Freemasonry for the development and inculcation of the great religious and philosophical truths of which it was for so many ages the sole conservator. And it is for this reason that, in the commencement of this lecture, I have invited your attention to the nature of the science of symbolism in general, that you might the better be enabled to appreciate its particular use

in the organization of the institution which is the topic of our investigation. And now, in the first place, let us apply this doctrine of symbolism to an investigation of the nature of the speculative science as derived from the operative art. For the fact is familiar to all that Freemasonry is of two kinds. We work, it is true, in speculative Masonry only, but our ancient Brethren wrought in both operative and speculative; and it is now well understood, that the two branches are widely apart in design and in character—the one a mere useful art, intended for the protection and convenience of man, and the gratification of his physical and temporal wants,—the other, a profound science, entering into abstruse investigations of the soul and a future existence, and originating in the craving need of humanity to know something that is above and beyond the mere outward life that surrounds us with its gross atmosphere here below. Indeed, the only bond or link that unites speculative and operative Masonry, is the symbolism that belongs altogether to the former, but which is throughout its whole extent derived from the latter.

Our first inquiry, then, will be into the nature of the symbolism which operative Masonry gives to speculative; and thoroughly to understand this, to know its origin, its necessity, and its mode of application, we must begin with a reference to the condition of a long-past period of time.

Thousands of years ago this science of symbolism was adopted by the sagacious priesthood of Egypt to convey the lessons of worldly wisdom and religious knowledge which they thus communicated to their disciples. Their science, their history, and their philosophy were thus concealed beneath an impenetrable veil from all the profane, and none but those who had passed through the severe ordeal of initiation were put in possession of the key which enabled them to decipher and read with ease those mystic lessons which we still see engraved upon the obelisks, the tombs, and the sarcophagi, which lie scattered at this day, in endless profusion, along the banks of the Nile.

From the Egyptians the same method of symbolic instruction was diffused among all the Pagan nations of antiquity, and was used in all the ancient mysteries as the medium of communicating to the initiated, the esoteric and secret doctrines, for whose preservation and promulgation these singular associations were formed.

Moses, who as Holy Writ informs us, was skilled in all the learning of the Egyptians, brought with him from the cradle of all the sciences, a perfect knowledge of the science of symbolism as it was taught by the priests of Isis and Osiris, and applied it to the ceremonies with which he invested the purer religion of the chosen people of God.

(To be continued.)

HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

BY A SUBLIME PRINCE OF THE ROYAL SECRET.

(Continued from page 86.)

IN the year 1740, Frederick, King of Prussia, chartered a Lodge at Berlin, by the name of "The Three Globes," and organized it as a Grand Lodge. The Degrees of Craft Masonry were governed by this Grand Lodge, and the higher Degrees of the rite of Harodim, or of Perfection (with its twenty-five Degrees), were under the government of an "Inner East," whose members were elected by the Grand Lodge. Until the year 1740 there was no record to show that the Ineffable and Sublime Degrees were known by any distinctive title or name as a rite. In the year 1745, when the "Chapter of Clermont" was established by the Chevalier de Bonneville, in France, they were known by the same name. This rite of Perfection, or Harodim, comprised the eleven Ineffable Degrees (the highest of which is called the Degree of Perfection), conferred in a "Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection," the order of Knight of the Sword (or East) and Prince of Jerusalem; Knight of the East and West and Sovereign Prince Rose Croix, H.R.D.M.; and seven of the superior Degrees belonging to consistories of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, including the last. A few years after the Degrees were increased in number to thirty-two, by properly making three grades of the thirty-second, and adding Prussian Knight, Knight of St. Andrew, and two or three other preparatory Degrees to the series.

Although this rite, or the principal Degrees constituting it, were cultivated all over the Continent at the commencement of the last century, it was not until the middle of that century that they acknowledged any royal patron, protector, or governing head, as it had, from time immemorial, been the custom of symbolic or blue Masons to do. The great and illustrious Frederick II., King of Prussia, condescended to become, and was acknowledged and "proclaimed Chief of the Eminent Degree," with the rank, as declared by the Constitutions of the Order, ratified at Berlin on the 25th of October, 1762, of "Sovereign Grand Inspector-General and Grand Commander."

These Constitutions were "proclaimed for the government of Sublime and Perfect Masons, Chapters, Councils, Colleges, and Consistories of the Royal and Military art of Freemasonry over the surface of the two hemispheres." There are "Secret Constitutions" which have existed from time immemorial, and are alluded to in these instruments.

On the 27th of August, 1761, a Grand Consistory of Princes of the Royal Secret was convened in Paris, presided over by the King of Prussia's deputy, "Chaillon de Joinville, Substitute General of

the Order, Right Worshipful Master of the first Lodge in France, called St. Anthony's, Chief of the Eminent Degrees, Commander and Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret," &c. The following illustrious Brethren were also present:—The Bro. Prince de Rohan, Master of Grand Intelligence Lodge, Sovereign Prince of Masonry, &c.; La Corne, Substitute of the Grand Master R.W. Master of Trinity Lodge, Grand Elect Perfect Master, Knight and Prince of Masons, &c.; Maximilien de St. Simon, Senior G. Warden, G.E.P.M., Knight and Prince of Masons, &c.; Lavalette de Buchelay, Grand Keeper of the Seals, G.E.P.M., Knight and Prince of Masons, &c.; Duc de Choiseuil, R.W. Master of the Lodge of the Children of Glory, G.E.P.M., Knight, and Prince of Masons, &c.; Jopin, Grand Ambassador from his Serene Highness, G.E.P.M., Knight and Prince of Masons, &c.; Boucher de Lenoncour, R.W. Master of the Lodge of Virtue, G.E.P.M., Knight and Prince of Masons, &c.; Brest de la Chaussée, R.W. Master of Exactitude Lodge, G.E.P.M., Knight and Prince of Masons, &c.

At this meeting of the Grand Consistory, illustrious Bro. Stephen Morin was appointed* "Inspector-General over all the Lodges, Chapters, Councils, Colleges, and Consistories in the New World, with power to appoint his deputies," and the following year a certified copy of the Secret Constitutions was transmitted to him. Upon the arrival of Bro. Morin in St. Domingo, he appointed Bro. Moses Michael Hayes, an opulent and learned merchant, previously a resident of Kingston, Jamaica, as his deputy for North America, with full power to appoint others. Bro. Hayes accordingly appointed Isaac Da Costa, Deputy Inspector-General for South Carolina, in the United States, who, in 1783, established a Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection at Charleston, in that state. He (Morin) also appointed Henry Andrew Francken Deputy Inspector-General "for North America and the West Indies," and Bro. Col. Prevast for "the Windward Islands and the British Army." Bro. Hayes appointed Bro. Solomon Bush Deputy Inspector-General "for the State of Pennsylvania," and Bro. Barend M. Spitzer to the same rank "for the State of Georgia:" and these appointments were confirmed by a convention of Inspectors assembled in the city of Philadelphia, on the 15th of June, 1781. After the death of Da Costa, Bro. Joseph Myers was appointed by Bro. Hayes deputy in his place.

In 1795 we find Bro. Myers acting as Deputy Inspector-General for Virginia, Bro. Hayes in Massachusetts, and Bros. Jonathan Bayard Smith, P. Le Barbier Duplessis, and J. Puglia, in Pennsylvania.

In 1767 Bro. Francken (then holding a diplomatic station under the British Government in the West Indies) visited the city of Albany, in the State of New York, and there held happy fraternal

* The seals of the Order were affixed, and the Patent countersigned by Dubertain, G.E.P.M., Knight and Prince of Masons, R.W. Master of the Lodge of St. Alphonzo, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge and Sublime Council of Princes of Masons, &c.

communion with Bro. Sir William Johnson (then superintendent of Indian affairs under the British Government), and with Major Giles Fouda,* an intimate friend of Sir William; and also with Dr. Samuel Stringer, Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, Peter W. Yates, and other distinguished Brethren of Albany. On these Brethren he conferred the Superior Degrees, and established a Lodge of Perfection at Albany. As this was the *first* working body of any of the Sublime or Superior Degrees established in America, I give a *verbatim* copy of the warrant granted it by Bro. Francken. It is well known that at the time I now write about there were none of the "Chapters of Royal Arch Masons," "Encampments of Knights' Templars," and "*Councils of Royal and Select Masters*," which have since sprung from the fertile brains of Masonic itinerant lecturers (*marchands de maçonnerie*), and now scattered broadcast over that country, then in existence.

Bro. Francken did not establish a Symbolic, or Master Masons' Lodge, nor did he in any way interfere with the rights, privileges, or prerogatives of Ancient Craft Masonry, so called, except so far as to ascertain that the Brethren he selected for the Lodge of Perfection were good men and true, and had regularly received their Degrees, and were working in a regularly warranted Lodge of M.M., *the only prerequisites that can be constitutionally required of any candidate for the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite*—the regulations of the Boston Supreme Grand Lodge of Perfection to the contrary notwithstanding.

By the Glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

LUX E TENEBRIS.

Unitas Concordia Fratrum.

"At the East, where shines the Great Light, and where reign silence, concord, and peace: the 29th day of the ninth month, called Kisleu, 1767, A.M., 5528, equal to 20th December, 1767.

"By virtue of a full power and authority committed to me by the most illustrious, most respectable, and most sublime Brother Stephen Morin, Grand Inspector of all Lodges relative to the superior Degrees of Masonry, &c., and confirmed by the Grand Court of Princes of Masons in the Island of Jamaica, &c.

"We, Henry Andrew Francken, Dep. Inspector Gen. of all the superior Degrees of Masons in the West Indies and North America, have duly examined and found worthy our dear Brethren William Gamble, Francis Joseph Von Pfister, Thomas Swords, Thomas Lynott, and Richard Cartwright, and find them well qualified in the mysteries of Masonry, to the 14th Degree, known by us to be the highest Degree of Ancient Masonry by the name of *Perfection of Masonry*. Now, know ye, that in consequence of such power we have constituted, and by these presents we do constitute our said worthy Brethren, William Gamble, Francis Joseph Von Pfister, Thomas Swords, Thomas Lynott, and Richard Cartwright,

* I would here mention that this illustrious Brother and distinguished British officer, Major Fouda, was the grandfather of our illustrious and much respected Bro. GILES FOUDA YATES, of New York, Mo. Puis. P.S.G.C. of the Sup. Council for the northern jurisdiction of the United States, and one of the most—if not *the* most—learned Masonic antiquarians and archæologists now living.—COMPILER.

into a Regular Lodge of Perfection, by the name of *Ineffable*, to be held in the City of Albany, in the Province of New York, whereof, by these presents, we appoint (*pro tempore*) our worthy Brother, William Gamble, to officiate as Master, with power to appoint his officers until another Master shall be appointed by virtue of an instrument in writing under our hand and seal for that purpose, to proceed to initiate the younger Brethren into every Degree of said higher Degrees, as they shall be found worthy, to the 14th Degree, or *Perfection*—having a due care and regard never to give more than one Degree at a time, to regulate themselves according to their well-calculated *laws and regulations*, to be approved of, and signed by me, their founder; taking especial care to admit none who have not been, or are officers of a regularly constituted Lodge, and that *their number never exceed 27 members in all*, who shall be residents in the province, but with a power to keep said number up, provided *death, absence* from the province, or a *removal of 25 leagues*, shall render it impracticable for any particular member or members to give due attendance. That in case of our removal from this province, we authorize the said members of said Lodge of Perfection, named the *Ineffable*, to choose every year their own Master (and he his officers) by a majority of votes. Further, that said Lodge of Perfection, at all times shall pay due obedience to our mandates, and the mandates of the Grand Council of Princes of Masons (if any established in this province), and transmit to us, quarterly, a list of the members and their qualities, with every transaction of note; and in case they do find, and should conclude on any articles for the benefit of said Lodge, such articles are to be sent us by petition, and if found beneficial, shall be granted under our hand and seal. And further, that the above-named Lodge, the *Ineffable*, shall fully conform and behave themselves to this our Constitution and Patent, to which I have set my hand and seal at arms with the Grand seal of the Perfection of Masonry, in the place where the greatest of treasures are deposited, the beholding of which fills us with comfort, joy, and acknowledgment of all that is great and good. Done near the B. B., at New York, the day and year above written.

“HENRY ANDREW FRANCKEN,

[L. S.]

“Sovereign Prince of Masons, Dep. Gr. Inspector Gen.”

(*To be continued.*)

MASONIC SONG.

HAIL, Masonry! thou Sacred Art
Of origin divine!

Kind partner of each social heart,
And fav'rite of the Nine!

By thee we're taught our acts to square,
To measure life's short span;
And each infirmity to bear
That's incident to man.

Though Envy's tongue should blast thy fame,
And Ignorance may sneer,
Yet still thy ancient honour'd name
Is to each brother dear:
Then strike the blow, to charge prepare,
In this we all agree,
May Freedom be each Mason's care,
And every Mason free.

FROM THE SILURIAN.

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

[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.]

"*The Book of Ecclesiastes or the Preacher*," by the Rev. AARON MORGAN. This is a versified translation of the portion of the inspired volume alluded to, and besides being recommended by great beauty of type and illustrations, comes to us from the pen of a most eminent Hebrew philologist. Mr. Morgan's work is exquisitely beautiful, and savours as much of the genius of the poet as it does of the soundness of the scholar and the earnestness of a right-minded theologian.

—"The Canadian Masonic Pioneer." Montreal. Two numbers for the same month have reached us, containing a full account of the memorial of the Grand Lodge of Canada West to the Grand Lodge of England, and revealing in a leading article much bitterness towards those Canadian Lodges who have still adhered to our constitution. The following extracts will prove sufficient to show both views and feelings. The writer says:—"We present our readers to-day with the memorial to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, designed to be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of England as '*the last time of asking*,' for independence, or the privilege of self-government. With the exception of the address of the Grand Lodge of Canada to her sister Grand Lodges, this is perhaps the most important document ever issued by any body of Masons. We trust our New York and Massachusetts Brethren, who declined to receive the truth from the Grand Lodge of Canada, will accept it from those who have denounced that body, and will embrace the earliest opportunity of undoing the injustice and injury which their unwarranted repudiation of the legitimate Independent Grand Lodge of Canada has inflicted. As long ago as June, 1855, they prevented many Lodges and Brethren from uniting in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, by issuing an *official circular* declaring that Canadian Masonic affairs had then been taken up by the Grand Lodge of England in earnest, and that there was every probability that all our *grievances* would be speedily remedied and our *requirements granted*. What has been the result? Nothing! worse than nothing done. Forgetting that it is possible for a 'subject to be more loyal than his sovereign,' they denounced the Grand Lodge of Canada as a schismatic body—pronounced the Brethren under its jurisdiction *rebels*, and at the earliest possible moment, in the most haughty and high-handed manner, excluded them from the pale of the Fraternity, fully expecting that their conduct would be sanctioned and applauded by the Grand Lodge of England. What has been the result! *Their expectations have failed*. Still later, they issued to the Grand Lodges of the world a circular, in which the Grand Lodge of Canada was accused of 'fraud,' falsehood, and misrepresentation—represented as a very small affair—and the Masonic world admonished to regard and treat it as a spurious thing, to be spurned with dignified scorn. New York and Massachusetts alone obeyed. Other Grand Lodges, by careful investigation, discovered the true state of the case; and promptly and cordially extended to the repudiated Brethren the just recognition of their claims and the warm hand of Fraternal fellowship. Now, every statement made—every grievance complained of—every reason assigned by the Grand Lodge of Canada, in justification of her organization and legal position, is confirmed not by admissions merely, but by the explicit, forcible *official* declaration of facts contained in this memorial. The presentation of this petition to the Grand Lodge of England to invest them with the attributes of 'entire independence' as the '*essentially English*' (*Richd*) 'Grand Lodge of Upper Canada,' backed by resolutions of the private Lodges, a full recital of their past labours and sufferings in maintaining

their allegiance, and a *resolute* menace of rebellion, is to constitute the next step in the career of 'loyalty,' which so highly distinguishes our Brethren of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West. They seem to think that either gratitude, or fear, or both, *must* move that 'august body,' to say—yes. If not, then they are prepared to become *rebels*. Oh! shocking! The result of this movement it is not difficult to divine. The Grand Lodge of England has no authority to dismember herself; and, she has already shown, that, did the constitutions of Masonry invest her with that power, she would not exercise it. Failing in this, the next step of our 'loyal' Brethren will be, as intimated in the programme, a declaration of independence, and the organization of '*the Grand Lodge of Upper Canada*.' This would prove another sad act in the 'Comedy of Errors,' long and deeply to be deplored. There is another wiser, better course to pursue. Let our Brethren of the Prov. Grand Lodge, 'dismount their high horses,' divest themselves of some portion of their fancied loyalty, and of their real toadyism, put on a little more manliness, invest themselves with the ample, generous, true spirit of *Masonry*, and, in the strength and power of truth and love, of right and duty, unite with the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada in building up an 'essentially,' not English, not American, but *Masonic* temple, where all can harmoniously join in devotion to the great principles of our venerable and noble institution. This memorial to the Grand Lodge of England we therefore regard as another step in the wrong direction. She has already been memorialized too frequently and too long. This, almost the entire Craft, under her own jurisdiction admit, and the Masonic world fully understands. Neither the constitutions of Masonry, honour, or gratitude, require any further petitions to be sent across the Atlantic. Self-respect and duty to Masonry forbid it. The Fraternity generally throughout the world expects Canadian Masons to settle their own difficulties, and harmonize their differences. This can be done infinitely better now than after long years of strife and alienation. We therefore sincerely hope that the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West will withhold this memorial, and at the meeting to be held on the 8th proximo, in the spirit of manly confidence and generous love resolve to co-operate in an honest effort for the immediate union of the entire Craft in Canada under one jurisdiction. The task, if approached in the spirit of self-sacrifice and love for the permanent interests of *Masonry*, can be easily accomplished, and this consummation, so devoutly to be wished, once effected, there will be no difficulty with England or Ireland, with Vermont or New York, or any other Grand Lodge."

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The annual festival of the friends of this institution will be held on the 11th instant, when more than usual exertions will be made to increase the funds, in consequence of the enlarged expenditure rendered necessary by the opening of the New School-house. Bro. Donald King will have the superintendence of the musical department.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

There will be seven vacancies in April, but there being only that number of candidates, they will be received without election. The R.W. Bro. Lord Panmure has consented to preside at the next festival.

THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the meeting of the 25th of February, the amount voted to distressed Brothers and their widows amounted to £243.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MASONRY IN AMERICA.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—The title which I give this communication is so extensive that I hardly know what branch of the subject to begin with. It is, indeed, an extensive subject. Poor Burns, peace to his memory, would be surprised to see in this "land that's far awa'," the numerous offspring of that "favoured and enlightened few," whom he addressed on the occasion of his "Farewell to the Brethren of St. James's Lodge." I am sometimes compelled to think that Masonry is too common here. It is the property of the masses, and the privilege of every one who commands the necessary sum to pay for the initiation, and enjoys "a tongue of good report." I fear that in the investigation of the latter the Brethren are hardly strict enough, and the result is that many, I fear very many, unworthy persons are admitted within the portals of our time-honoured and illustrious order. The Brethren here are really go-a-head Masons, as well as go-a-head business men. A candidate is entered on one night, passed at the next (weekly) meeting, and in a fortnight after the mysteries of the *sanctum sanctorum* are explained to him!

The work also is very different to what we practised in England; so much so that an English Mason coming into a Lodge here, almost fancies himself in a Druidical temple, or amongst the practical workers in some other order! You are aware that at home I was considered somewhat of an expert, but here I am a perfect numskull, and before I can make any advanced movement, I must try to forget all I ever knew, and start, as the lawyers say, *de novo*.

By the way, this difference of work is a very important subject of study, and some of your numerous readers, on both sides of the Atlantic, may be able to shed more light upon it. I have conversed with very intelligent Brethren here, and they say that the American mode of working is the correct one. Whether their position be exactly right or not I cannot say, but their account is a very plausible one, and will repay an examination into it. One gentleman, who was evidently well acquainted with the subject, said the work practised in England is new, while the system worked in this country is the old English work of Preston. He says that, at the beginning of the present century, Thomas Smith Webb (a very popular lecturer on Freemasonry he became subsequently) went from here to London, to learn the work and lectures, theoretically and practically, from the lips of William Preston, and remained three years, until he was thoroughly master of the Prestonian work, which was the only work then practised in England by the legitimate Grand Lodge. He states that, at the union of the two Grand Lodges (Sussex and Kent), in 1813, there was a new system of work adopted—a blending of the two systems of Preston and Dermott, and that this is the system now practised in England, while the Simon Pure, taught by Preston, and imported by Webb, is still practised here, as it was handed down and

communicated by Webb, Cross, and many others who learned from Webb, a few of whom are still living. I shall revert to this subject hereafter.

GRAND LODGES.

A circumstance which strikes the English Mason on coming to this country is the independent sovereignty of the Grand Lodges of each state. The oldest in America is the Grand Lodge of this state, Massachusetts. It was organized on the 30th of July, 1733, by a warrant granted by the duke of Montague, Grand Master of Masons in England, dated the 30th of April in the same year, and appointing Bro. Henry Price the first Prov. G.M. This Grand Lodge has been the parent, directly or indirectly, of all the Lodges in America.

The Grand Lodge of New Hampshire was organized July 8th, 1789; but I had better give you the list in alphabetical order. It is as follows, and is pretty accurate:—

Alabama.—Amand P. Pfister, Grand Secretary—has 217 subordinate Lodges, and about 7,500 affiliated Masons. The Grand Secretary resides at Montgomery.

Arkansas.—Thomas D. Merrick, of Little Rock, is the Grand Secretary. This Grand Lodge has about 120 subordinate Lodges, and an affiliated membership of about 3,700 Brethren. The Grand Lodge meets at Little Rock. Albert Pike is a member of it.

California.—Bro. L. Stowell, of San Francisco, is the Grand Secretary. This Grand Lodge has only been organized a very few years, yet it is, like the golden country itself, going ahead in a most wonderful manner. The Grand Lodge meets in San Francisco. A Masonic newspaper, entitled *The Record*, was started here two years ago, but I believe it died out in a few months. The number of subordinate Lodges in this state is 120, with a membership of 4,000 Brethren.

Connecticut.—Bro. E. G. Storer, of New Haven, Grand Secretary. About fifty subordinate Lodges, and about 2,500 members. The Grand Lodge meets in Hartford.

Delaware.—Bro. Daniel R. Wolfe, Grand Secretary. Twenty subordinate Lodges, and about 500 Brethren.

District of Columbia.—Samuel T. Shugart, Grand Secretary, Washington. Twenty subordinate Lodges, and about 500 Brethren. B. B. French, the celebrated Masonic orator, is a P.G.M. of this Grand Lodge. It meets at Washington.

Florida.—Bro. John B. Taylor, of Tallahassee, Grand Secretary. About thirty subordinate Lodges, and 1,500 members. The late Judge Douglass, of Jacksonville (peace to his memory!), was a P.G.M. of this Grand Lodge. His oration on Masonry, to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Washington's initiation into the Order, delivered on the 4th of November, 1852, is perhaps the most brilliant essay on the subject ever written. I will try and send you a copy.

Georgia.—Bro. Simri Ruse, of Macon, Grand Secretary. About 230 subordinate Lodges and 4,000 members. R. W. Bro. Samuel D. Rockwell, of Milledgeville, in this state, is the most astrusely learned Mason in the United States, Dr. Mackey, of Charleston, only excepted. At Marietta, Bro. Samuel Lawrence publishes the *Masonic Signet and Journal*—a very excellent monthly, well deserving the support of the Craft. Bro. Mitchel, formerly editor of the *Signet*, which was published at St. Louis, but merged in the journal two years ago, is now a resident of this state. I understand he is preparing a history of *Freemasonry in America*. Such a book by him would be a valuable accession to the Masonic library.

Illinois.—Harmon G. Reynolds, of Knoxville, Grand Secretary. Two hundred subordinate Lodges, and nearly 10,000 members.

Indiana.—Bro. Francis King, of Indianapolis, Grand Secretary. One hundred and seventy subordinate Lodges, and over 11,000 members.

Iowa.—Bro. Theodore S. Parvin, of Muscatine, Grand Secretary. About eighty subordinate Lodges, and 1,500 members.

Kentucky.—This Grand Lodge was established in 1800. It holds its meetings at Lexington, within three miles of Ashland, the residence of the late Henry Clay, who was G.M. of this Grand Lodge. Bro. J. M. S. McCorkle is Grand Secretary,

and Bro. Robert Morris, the well-known Masonic author and lecturer, and editor of the *American Freemason*, is Warden of this Grand Lodge. There are, I believe, 340 subordinate Lodges, and about 10,000 members.

Louisiana.—Samuel G. Rusk, of New Orleans, is the Grand Secretary. A great many of the Lodges in this state work in the French language, and many in the French rite. There are about 150 Lodges here, with a membership of nearly 6,000 Masons.

Maine.—Bro. Charles B. Smith, of Portland, Grand Secretary. There are about eighty Lodges here, with a membership of over 1,500 Brethren. Bro. G. W. Chase, of Brunswick, publishes a Masonic Monthly sheet here, entitled the *Masonic Journal*, at fifty cents (2s.) a year. It is about value received for the money.

Maryland.—Bro. Josh. Robinson, of Baltimore, Grand Secretary. This Grand Lodge was established in June, 1783. It now numbers 100 subordinate Lodges, and has a membership of about 2,000. The celebrated Bro. Samuel Cole, author of the *Freemasons' Library and General Aliman Rezon*, published in 1817, was a Past Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge.

Massachusetts.—This Grand Lodge is not only the oldest in America, but stands now, *de facto*, the oldest in the world, as the present Grand Lodge of England can hardly be said to be the same as that formed in 1717. We have also here the oldest Masonic editor now living, Bro. Charles W. Moore, at one time considered very high authority on Masonic matters. Our present G.M. Bro. Winslow Lewis, *M.D.*, is certainly one of Nature's noblemen, the gentleman, the Mason, the scholar, the antiquarian, and the man. Bro. Moore is the Grand Secretary. He is editor of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, the oldest and one of the best Masonic periodicals now published in America. On the whole, as a writer on Masonry, while he confines himself to what he knows, Bro. Moore is sound; yet there are some of his decisions on disputed points, or *vexatæ quæstiones* in Masonry, that are screwed together rather loosely.

Michigan.—James Fenton, of Detroit, is Grand Secretary. There are eighty Lodges, with about 2,000 members. In 1855, Bro. Alleyn Weston commenced the publication of a Masonic Monthly Magazine, entitled *The Ashlar*. Bro. W. is a good writer, of no mean talent, and his enterprise appeared to deserve success. Hoping to return to this subject, I am,

Yours fraternally,

THETA.

BOSTON, MASS., Dec. 1856.

CANADIAN MASONS.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—I am one of those who are termed "*rebels*" in your Grand Lodge, and with what justice I will endeavour to show. I am a Master Mason, raised under a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and a Royal Arch Mason exalted in a Chapter, working under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England, and at this moment an Officer in a Chapter under it. At the time the Grand Lodge of Canada was formed, I was a member of my mother Lodge, and also of a Lodge holding an English warrant. These are my premises.

A number of Brethren, resident in this city some months ago, deemed it expedient to form a new Lodge, and accordingly applied for and received a dispensation from the M.W. the Grand Master of Canada, and subsequently a warrant from the Grand Lodge. I (with other members of the new Lodge) retired from the English Lodge with a certificate of having "conducted myself as a worthy Mason," and am "recommended to all Lodges and Brethren after due examination." This certificate I have under seal, granted to me after I was installed W.M. of a Canadian Lodge.

This, I think, proves my being a Mason in good standing, to say nothing of my holding office (and acting) in the Chapter connected with the English Lodge referred to. Will you believe it? I am actually refused admission into the Blue Lodge "as a clandestine Mason," because the Grand Lodge of England does not yet

think proper to recognize us, forsooth! What allegiance do I owe to the Grand Lodge of England? I have paid my fees and dues, and have got my demit. The Grand Lodge of Canada is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Ireland—*my Mother Grand Lodge*, and by what authority am I, and those in my position, pronounced “rebels,” and refused the privileges of Masonry? Is that what English Masons call extending the right hand of fellowship? or is it doing the second great duty that is imposed on both men and Masons?

May I mention another circumstance to prove the good feeling of our “Provincial Brethren?” They freely visit us, and are cordially welcomed, and what is the return made? When a Canadian Mason craves admission into an English Lodge, he is turned from the doors, as a cowan would be, by those very men who do not scruple to sit with him in his own Lodge.

Do you think that such a course is likely to prove beneficial to the interests of the Craft, especially when the strings of this opposition to over forty Lodges are pulled by a “Provincial Grand Secretary,” who gains a salary from the existence of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and some few others who could never elsewhere attain the honour of wearing garter blue aprons.

My case is one of many, and the publication of it may open the eyes of the Craft in England in some degree as to the real state of Masonry in Canada.

Yours fraternally,

CANADA WEST, 20th Jan. 1857.

A CANADIAN MASON.

THE MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The fact that the funds of our Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, available for present purposes, at the disposal of the committee, are wholly inadequate, is being felt by many members of the Craft, and there are some, I know, who are devising means to augment them, in the hope that all proper applicants for the annuity may be at once admitted. In order that their good intentions may not be frustrated by the way in which Lodges vote assistance, I would remind them that all sums given as donations are invested in Government securities, and carried to the Permanent Fund of the Institution, so that the only present benefit derived therefrom, is the amount of interest they produce in the Three per Cents. By the recently amended By-laws, all yearly subscriptions are periodically applied to grant annuities; therefore I would strongly urge Provincial Grand Lodges, private Lodges, and individuals, not to give donations, but annual subscriptions; and were all the Lodges in England and Wales to give but one guinea annually to each, a fund would be raised that would be more than sufficient to provide for every claim. I will, with your permission, enter more fully into this subject in your next number.—And remain, dear Sir and Brother, faithfully and fraternally yours,

SAMUEL ALDRICH, P.M., No. 196,

HAMPSTEAD, Feb. 20, 1857.

and one of the Committee of R.M.B.I.

THE MARK DEGREE.

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

SIR,—I have for some years past been an attentive observer of the progress of our Order, as developed in your Review and Magazine. I have perused with much interest your Reports of Proceedings in Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter; and latterly, the discussions upon that very interesting and important subject—the recognition in English Masonry of the Mark Degree.

All Masons residing on this continent, and belonging to the higher Degrees, know very well that a Royal Arch Mason, as exalted in England, or under the English Constitution, is incapable of visiting a Chapter either in America or in Scotland.

It appears, that although the subject has been presented in every possible form to Grand Lodge, and supported not only by a large amount of argumentative

ability, but also by the paramount plea of absolute necessity, that body has decided to abide by the strict and literal terms employed at the Union in establishing a landmark.

I am entitled to assume this decision as tantamount to a declaration that no Lodge, Chapter, or Officer belonging to the Grand Lodge, or Grand Chapter of England, can, without a violation of that landmark, confer or authorize the conferring of any Degree in Masonry except that of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, and Royal Arch Companion, that is, four Degrees, and no more, except to an elected and installed Master of a Blue Lodge, who, previously to his installation, receives the Degree or *privilege* of a Past Master.

In this view of the case, I am desirous to learn by what authority certain Lodges or Bodies in Canada and Nova Scotia, enrolled on the Registry of the United Grand Lodge, or the Grand Chapter of England, have undertaken to confer the Mark Degree.

Have the Grand Bodies one code of laws for their own government, and another for their Colonial Grand Lodges and Chapters?

If it be inadmissible for Lord Zetland, and the Grand Bodies over which he presides, to warrant Mark Lodges, it surely cannot be proper for his colonial representatives to do so.

If the Bodies so established by this very questionable authority be illegal, their progress ought to be at once arrested; if legal, then the necessary measures should be adopted to secure their recognition in Scotland and America.

A MARK MASTER.

FREDERICKTON, *New Brunswick*, Feb. 7th, 1857.

WEST LANCASHIRE MASONIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

A special court of the governors of this Institution was held on Thursday evening, 19th of February, at the Royal Hotel, Dale-street, Liverpool. The chair was taken by Bro. H.M. Molyneux, W.M. No. 294, one of the vice-presidents. The business of the court was to determine the number of children to be elected as objects of the charity, to elect them, and to determine the amount of money to be applied on behalf of each child. The three sons of a deceased Brother were elected, and the sum of £37 placed at the disposal of the Finance Committee to defray the expense of their education for the next twelve months. Two of the children are placed in the Middle School of the Collegiate Institution in this town. A very satisfactory letter, dated from Calcutta, from one of the objects of the charity, on his arrival there, having been apprenticed to the Messrs. Lockett by the governors of the Institution, was read at the meeting. Another letter, from the captain with whom he sailed, was also read, wherein he spoke in the highest terms of commendation of his conduct. This terminated the business of the court.

MASONIC HALL.—After the above a meeting was held of the subscribers to the Masonic Hall. The report of the General Committee recommending the purchase of a plot of leasehold land in Hope-street was received. The feeling of the meeting being strongly in favour of the purchase of freehold land, the Committee were directed to make inquiries respecting two freehold lots in the same neighbourhood, and report as early as possible to the subscribers. The Committee appointed for conducting the amateur performances to be held at the Theatre Royal, on the 13th of March, in aid of the above, announced the performances for that evening. We are glad to hear that in less than six months nearly £1,000 has been paid into Messrs. Moss and Co.'s Bank for the above undertaking, and that ere long the Freemasons of Liverpool will have a noble and commodious building for their meetings. What are the Manchester men about that they are not moving in a like direction?

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

THE KING OF HANOVER.

WE regret to see it stated (on the authority of a letter from Hamburg) that on the occasion of the King of Hanover assuming the function of Grand Master of the Hanoverian Freemasons, it was declared that Jews are henceforth to be excluded from the privileges of the Order. We hope to find that the writer of the letter is in error, as such a regulation would destroy the universality of our Order, and violate the traditions on which it is founded. We can bear testimony to the many excellent qualities displayed by Jews as Masons, and most assuredly there are no members of the Order who carry out the principle of charity to a greater extent, and no Lodges which have larger benevolent funds for the relief of the distressed Brother, the widow, and the orphan, than those which are principally supported by our Brethren of the Hebrew persuasion. Besides, to go no further, we repeat such restriction is totally subversive of the first principles of Masonry.

GRAND LODGE.

PROV. GRAND LODGES IN CANADA.

A Lodge of Emergency was held in Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 11th February, to consider the motions undisposed of at the December Communication. The chair was occupied by the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., who was supported by Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. for Hampshire as D.G.M.; Lord Goderich, S.W.; Bro. Tooke, J.W.; and other Officers. We also observed present the following Brethren:—Lord Panmure, Prov. G.W.; Rawson, Prov. G.M. China; H. Vernon, Prov. G.M. Worcestershire; Hall, Prov. G.M. Cambridgeshire; Kent, Prov. G.M. Australia; Col. Burlton, P. Prov. G.M. Bengal; Dobie, G.R.; Beadon, Prov. G.W.; Parkinson, Prov. G.W.; Hervey, Prov. G.D.; Spiers, Prov. G.S.B.; Patteson, Prov. G.D.; Rev. E. Moore and J. E. Cox, G. Chaps.; Jennings, G.D.C.; Chapman, Asst. G.D.C.; White, G. Sec.; Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; Smith, G. Purs.; &c. &c.

The Lodge having been opened,

Bro. the Rev. G. Portal rose to present certain petitions relative to Canadian affairs.

Bro. Dobie called attention to the mode in which these petitions were presented to Grand Lodge, without having first been presented to the Board of Masters. That was, he said, a Lodge of Emergency, and he did not think it right that the petitions should be submitted that evening.

Bro. Portal called attention to the following passage from the Book of Constitutions in reference to this subject:—

“When any memorial, petition, or other document shall be presented by a member of the Grand Lodge, either on behalf of himself or another, he shall declare that such document does not contain improper matter, or offensive or indecorous language.”

Having read the passage, Bro. Portal said: I do declare that the petitions contain no such matter as that specified, and I apprehend this clause would not have existed had not there been the right of petitioning Grand Lodge.

The G.M. : This is a Grand Lodge which has been held for the purpose of taking up the business which could not be brought forward on the last occasion. I do not think we should take up any other business than that which is down upon the notice-paper.

The W. Bro. Rev. G. R. Portal, P.M. Nos. 460 and 10, then moved, "That a return be forthwith ordered from the G. Sec. of Canada West, stating the number of Prov. Grand Lodges held during the Mastership of the present Prov. G.M., and specifying those at which he presided in person," and said : One of the complaints made by the Canadian Brethren was, that their Prov. G.M. neglected, to a considerable extent, the business of his province. I therefore think that it is important, in order that we may be rightly informed concerning such a state of things as that which exists in Canada, that we should know whether the Prov. G.M. has held Prov. Grand Lodges in that province, and whether he has been present at those Lodges. (Hear, hear.) His high position must prevent him from attending so much to his Prov. Grand Lodge as he ought to do, because he is the first Minister of the Crown in the colony. (Hear, hear.) But his being the first Minister of the Crown in that province does not do away with the necessity for holding Prov. Grand Lodges, at which, of course, his Deputy could attend. In the month of June last remarks fell in this Lodge from the M.W. the G.M., which have been received as a matter of great offence in Canada ; and I cannot but hope that those remarks are capable of explanation—(hear, hear)—and I hope they have been merely misunderstood. (Hear, hear.) The Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West agreed on the 23rd of October to a resolution expressing dissatisfaction with the statement. A great deal will turn upon the question as to whether the Prov. G.M. has or has not been present in his Prov. Grand Lodges. If he has been unavoidably absent, it would devolve on his Deputy to conduct the business. I am anxious, therefore, that we should know whether the Prov. G.M. of Canada has or has not regularly held his Lodges, or whether he has been unable to attend in person ; I therefore hope that there will be no opposition, and that Grand Lodge will grant me the return I ask for.

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon seconded the motion.

Bro. Dobie : No doubt Bro. Portal wants to get a correct return ; but he will not get what he wants if he uses the words he has just read from the notice paper. If you refer to the Book of Constitutions you will find that the Prov. G.M. is an officer under the immediate control of the M.W. the G.M., and that Grand Lodge has no power over him at all. He is appointed by the G.M., and he is removable at his pleasure. You cannot ask for the interference of Grand Lodge with respect to the return you want from Canada ; and I would suggest that you should alter the language, so as to request the M.W. the G.M. to direct the G. Sec. to make this request of the G. Sec. of the province. By that means you may get the return you want ; but with the present phraseology you will never get it. (Hear.)

Bro. Portal : The motion orders the return from the Prov. G. Sec. and not from the Prov. G.M.

Bro. Dobie : Yes, but the Prov. G. Sec. is only an Officer of the Prov. G.M.—[A voice : No ! no !]—I think you will find that he is.

The G.M. : Of course it is my duty to put this motion as it stands, and therefore—

Bro. Portal : May I just say a word or two in reply ?

The G.M. : Certainly.

Bro. Portal : I cannot amend the motion as the G.R. suggests, because it seems to me that the power and authority of the Grand Lodge of England over its provincial and subordinate Lodges is involved in my motion. The Book of Constitutions, page 56, sec. 6, says :—"A book shall be kept in every Lodge in which shall be entered the names of its members and of all persons admitted therein, with the dates of their proposal, admission, or initiation, passing and raising ; their ages, titles, professions, or trades ; together with such other transactions of the Lodge as are proper to be written. The Master is responsible for the observance of this law." I don't think we should forego this authority, or ask indirectly that which we have a right to demand in our own name. (Hear, hear.)

I have no intention to cast a slur on any Prov. G.M. whose Prov. Grand Lodge is presided over by deputy, because then no injury is done to the Craft. The motion was then put and agreed to.

PROV. GRAND LODGES IN ENGLAND.

Bro. Portal then moved "That the Board of General Purposes be requested to procure a return of the number of Prov. Grand Lodges held in each province during the last ten years, specifying those at which the Prov. Grand Master has presided in person, and to report the same to Grand Lodge."

Bro. Beadon doubted whether the Book of Constitutions gave them power to do anything of this kind. The return could not pass through the Board of General Purposes. He wished it to be understood that he was not opposing the return. The Book of Constitutions gave no power to Grand Lodge to order this return, but the Grand Master might order copies of the minutes of the Prov. Grand Lodges, so far as they showed how often those Prov. Grand Lodges had been held, and how often the Prov. G.M. or the D. Prov. G.M. had presided. But it could not be made to the Board of General Purposes; and yet to put the thing in that order in which it ought really to be, according to the proposal of Bro. Portal, it ought to be made to them. I have not the slightest objection to the return in any way, so long as it is made in the proper form, viz. at the request of the M.W. the G.M., or of the Grand Lodge, instead of the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. Portal: The whole point between myself and the Brother who has just addressed you is, whether the Board of General Purposes or the Grand Lodge should get this return. I have said, in order to be more courteous, "be requested," which simply means desired to procure a return, &c., according to the Book of Constitutions, which states that the Board of General Purposes shall conduct all correspondence between Grand Lodge and the subordinate Lodges.

Bro. Beadon: That is "correspondence," this is a "return," which is quite a different thing. I shall be happy to move an amendment—"That the Grand Sec. be directed to obtain from the Prov. Grand Lodges a return of the number of Prov. Grand Lodges which have been held during the last ten years, and the names of the presiding officers." You will find that that will be the best way.

Bro. Portal was understood to agree to this, and the motion was passed unanimously.

ANTAGONISM OF ROMAN CATHOLICISM TO FREEMASONRY.

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon, S.W. No. 10, moved: "That Grand Lodge, having seen with regret the antagonistic position assumed by the Roman Catholic Church towards Masonry, desires the Board of General Purposes to draw up a statement of the principles of the Order, that the same be sent to the Masters of all Lodges under the Grand Lodge of England in Roman Catholic countries, to be read by them as they shall think fit." He said: Most Worshipful Sir and Brethren, I regret that this motion has not fallen into abler hands than mine. As the subject is so important to the interests of Masonry, not merely in this country, but throughout the world, I regret that such a motion as this should not have been brought forward by some Worshipful Brother upon the dais. (Hear, hear, and applause.) His words would have fallen with far greater weight than mine can have; but, in the absence of any one of them, I have very cheerfully undertaken the task myself. (Hear.) It is painful, M.W. Sir, for me to dwell on the subject of this motion—upon the persecutions which so many of our Brethren abroad have suffered. It is still more painful to me to think that there exists at this day a Church which can believe that her faith is upheld, and that the cause of religion is advanced, by placing under the ban of excommunication, and by subjecting to oppressions so undeserved, those members of her communion who differ from her on no article of her faith, refuse assent to no one single dogma, but only claim the right of membership in our ancient, noble, and honourable Order. (Loud applause.) But unhappily such is the case. The Roman Catholic Church now, as in former times, does not hesitate to avow its intolerance of every study and pursuit which she cannot control; and, unfortunately, untaught by tradition and by the experience of

centuries, she commits herself now to a strife in which I venture to say she will prove ultimately unsuccessful. (Loud applause.) In other countries and in other ages—nay, even in this very day, there are countries in Europe where the Roman Catholic Church has exercised its sway with no moderate influence—in Spain, for instance,—where the name of Freemason is altogether unknown, or it is clouded by bigotry, and is regarded as a synonym for atheist. I have myself heard the name Freemason, ancient and honourable as it is, calumniated, traduced, misrepresented, and loaded with reproaches too monstrous for me to allude to. (Sensation.) As it is now, so was it also in former times with those societies which reflected somewhat of our own organization and our own principles. They also suffered in the same way. So also did our own great Order at one time; but our predecessors never wavered for a moment in their allegiance; they steadily upheld the principles of the Order; and, in one firm and unbroken phalanx, they gallantly fought their fight, and at length the victory was theirs. Their successors here, and our Brethren in foreign lands, must cling fast to our principles, with the constancy and fidelity of their forefathers, and then they will meet with a like reward. (Applause.) Sir, as to these persecutions I shall not go into details, as many of the facts relating to them have already appeared in the publications which are issued amongst the members of the Order. It will be in the recollection of most of the Brethren in this room, that in Belgium, Malta, the Mauritius, China, and several other parts of the world, Roman Catholic Freemasons have undergone very severe persecutions, and have been interdicted almost from civil as well as from religious privileges. (Hear, hear, and cries of no, no.) They have been refused the rites of marriage and of burial. (Applause.) And if that is not being deprived of civil and religious privileges, I don't know what is. (Renewed applause.) Lately, the Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France, a country which has sympathized warmly with Masonic principles, addressed a communication on this subject to the authorities in this country, entreating their advice and co-operation. I have heard also a report—though I for one have not given credence to it, nor shall I believe it unless I hear it officially and authoritatively declared to be a fact by some one who is competent to speak upon the subject, and I shall await with interest the denial. I have heard it also stated that that despatch remained unanswered and unacknowledged for a period of ten months. (Oh, oh! and loud cries of shame.) I leave it to those who are competent to give an answer, to say whether this is true or false; and no one will more unfeignedly rejoice than I shall, if that denial can truly and authoritatively be made. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The remedy I propose is simply this: that a statement of the principles of our Order be drawn up with the greatest possible care and despatch, showing the basis of our society in every age. Let that statement clearly show, that if there be one great principle which has been the main-spring of our Order, that principle has been religion. (Protracted applause.) And that if there be any practice which has been rigidly adhered to, it has been that of non-intervention in political and religious matters. (Tremendous and protracted applause from all parts of the room.) The noble Earl explained that it was to a Committee of the Board of General Purposes that he wished to refer the question of drawing up a memorial.

Bro. Aria seconded the motion, and in so doing called attention to the recent events which have taken place in the kingdom of Hanover, where the monarch has taken the head of the Craft, and the Brethren have declared that it is a Christian system, and that Jews cannot be admitted as members of the Order. (Hear, hear.) This was a question which was eminently deserving of their attentive consideration. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers.) A similar attempt to limit their Order had been made in Prussia; but eventually it was abandoned. The Grand Lodge of England did act, on that occasion, in a manner worthy of it, and protested against such a restriction on the part of the Prussian Brethren. He hoped this motion would be so altered as to apply it not alone to Roman Catholics, but to all foreign countries, especially to those Protestant lands where Freemasonry, instead of being universal, was to be restricted to the professors of Christianity alone.

The Earl of Carnarvon said he had, of course, no objection to alter the word;

but he thought it better that the important question to which the worthy Brethren had referred should become the subject of a separate motion.

Bro. Aria then seconded the motion as it originally stood.

Bro. Havers: M.W. Sir, — During the whole of my experience, I never addressed Grand Lodge with deeper emotions than at present, for I never listened to such observations in Grand Lodge with respect to any existing religious system. It is a new thing in my experience to hear reproaches uttered in Grand Lodge against any system of religion. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) We are taught to view the errors of mankind with compassion, and to strive, by the purity of our own conduct, to demonstrate our superior excellences. (Applause.) No matter what his object, if any Brother is permitted in such terms to rate the professors of another religion—that which is applicable to one is applicable to all—if you rate Romanism, why not Judaism, Methodism, and the Scotch Kirk? (Loud cheers and laughter.) It is contrary to our laws, both in letter and in spirit, and opposed to the traditions of our Order. (Applause.) I do hope, therefore, that such expressions will be confined within the walls of Grand Lodge (hear, hear); for I am perfectly convinced that they were uttered without thought and without consideration. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Should they be taken as breathing the spirit of our Order, we shall have cut away one of our foundations; and I am sure that I shall carry with me the hearts and feelings of all when I say that, as Masons, we must not, on any account, vilify the religion of any one of our Brethren. (Loud and protracted applause.) I entirely agree, however, with the noble Brother who has moved this resolution, in deploring the intolerance of any religion which can refuse its consolations to members of our Society. (Hear, hear.) We know, and we are proud to acknowledge, that we interfere with no man's religion or politics. (Loud cheers.) I am treading now on delicate and dangerous ground (hear), but if you will give me your indulgence I shall be able to show you not only that this motion cannot be carried out, but that the plan proposed is utterly inadequate to accomplish the objects desired, viz. the condemnation and diminution of persecution. (Hear.) The means by which this object is proposed to be accomplished are, that the Board of General Purposes should draw up a statement of the principles of Freemasonry. What power has the Board of General Purposes to draw up such a statement, and what statement can they draw up superior to "*the Charge*" which already exists? (Hear, hear, and applause.) Is there anything which the Board of General Purposes knows which every Freemason does not know? (Applause.) Then, what do you propose to do with this statement? Certain Brethren complain that they are persecuted for being Freemasons. What do you propose to do with this statement? Are you going to send it to the persecutors? No! You are going to send it to the victims of the persecution. (Hear, hear.) You are going to send it to the Masters of those foreign Lodges, that they may read it when and where they think fit. Do you suppose that they want to be instructed in the fundamental principles of our Order? The priests are the persecutors, and they are only carrying out their orders. I have taken some pains to inquire into this subject, and the result has been that I have found, from persons of the Roman Catholic persuasion in this country, that there are many Romish priests who approve of our principles, but they have no discretionary power to offer the rites of their church to those who are Freemasons, because every man who is a Mason, is *de facto* excommunicated. [Lord Carnarvon was here understood to intimate that he was aware of that fact.] The noble Lord says he is aware of that fact; and, being aware of it, I can only express my surprise that he should have made such a motion as that which has now been placed upon our books. We should not remonstrate with individual priests, but with the Pope himself. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) We ought to get some Brother to represent the matter who has some interest with him. (Hear, hear, and applause.) The remarks of the Brother, who seconded the resolution, have great force, and should he bring forward his resolution, I shall be happy to support it; but there we take a totally opposite line: we are remonstrating with members of our own Order for violating one of the fundamental principles of our Order, and yielding to religious prejudices. The same thing is complained of by our Jewish Brethren as by our Roman Catholic Brethren. Reference is made in

the noble Brother's motion to Lodges in Roman Catholic countries under the Grand Lodge of England. Now the only Lodges under the Grand Lodge of England I know of in Roman Catholic countries are those in South America, and I think we have sufficient before us of domestic interest without intermeddling with foreign affairs. (Hear.) I protest against such interference, because, when the Grand Orient of France felt they could not interfere in a similar case, they referred the matter to us. We also, on that occasion, declined to interfere, but we sent the persecuted Brethren a resolution expressive of our sympathy; and there the matter ended, and they were contented. Last December twelve months came a communication from Trinidad on the subject. Their petition was read here, and it was suffered to drop without a single remark, vote of sympathy, or anything of the kind. (Hear, hear, and expressions of disapprobation.) I shall now address myself for one moment to the main question. (Hear, hear.) I mean to give the words no more than they are worth, when I say that the selection of our Society, and of any particular form of religious worship, is a purely voluntary act on the part of the individual. We cannot, as Masons, interfere between a Mason and the ministers of the religion which he may have adopted. (Applause.) The moment we do so, we shall violate one of our fundamental principles. (Applause.) I therefore regret that such a motion should be brought forward in Grand Lodge, and that Grand Lodge should be asked to interfere between a man and his religion. (Applause.) If a man finds that the principles of Freemasonry, and the principles of the system of religion which he has adopted are incompatible, one or the other must be given up; let him make his election. (Hear, hear, cheers, and protracted applause.) I think, now, that I have proved, both that we cannot interfere at all in the matter, and also, that if we could interfere, the means which the noble Earl proposes would be found ineffectual. I therefore earnestly call upon Grand Lodge to resist the motion, unless (as I would fain hope) the noble Brother withdraws it. (Loud applause.)

Bro. Beech said that the motion simply asserted that the Roman Church assumed an antagonistic position to our Order, and certainly refusing its rites to our Brethren must be deemed an antagonistic position. The opinion of the Roman Church with respect to Freemasonry appeared to have originated in the time of the French Revolution, when a spurious Freemasonry existed for the promulgation of the principles of that revolution. It was introduced by the *Illuminati*. Its object was to subvert the then existing institutions, and to sweep away the altar and the throne. It was necessary therefore that people should be told that these were not the principles of our Order, and they could not do better, in order to ascertain what those principles were, than to peruse "*the Charge*" given to newly-initiated Brethren. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. Locock Webb thought that it was contrary to their principles to discuss the matter, and that no action of Grand Lodge, or document issuing therefrom, would put an end to the persecutions. They, as Freemasons, held out the right hand of fellowship to men of all religions, and therefore he objected to the first part of the motion; and, as no further statement of our principles was at all necessary, he objected to the second part of it. Our great principles, he said, as is well known, are "brotherly love, relief, and truth;"—(cheers)—and it is not by merely professing these principles, but by acting up to them in our intercourse with the world, that we can convince people of the intrinsic value of our Order. (Cheers.) Let us show "brotherly love" amongst ourselves, and then people will believe us. (Cheers.) Let us carry out "relief" by better supporting our charities—(loud applause)—and let us practise truth towards every man. (Cheers.) If we do this, we need fear no calumny. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. Binckes expressed his opinion that Lord Carnarvon had applied a specific remedy to a specific grievance, which was brought before them as a matter with which Grand Lodge was qualified to deal. He thought they were called upon to deal with it, whether the persecutors were Roman Catholics or anybody else. But they could not show him in all the world any sect which had assumed towards Masonry a position so antagonistic as that assumed by the Romish Church. When they did point out to him such an example he would propose to deal with it as it was now proposed to deal with the case before them. The course pro-

posed by the noble Brother might possibly not accomplish any great amount of good, but it could not be productive of harm amongst the popular world who were not Masons, that such a statement should be officially and authoritatively issued as an exposition of our principles. There was a vast amount of ignorance as to what Freemasonry really was. He agreed with Bro. Havers that it would not be right to interfere in purely Roman Catholic countries, and in the case of Lodges not holding under our constitution. But the Island of Trinidad was neither in South America nor in Spain. It was a British possession, and we had a specific complaint from a Lodge in it holding under the Grand Lodge of England. (Hear, hear.) A proposal like this aimed no insult at any specific religion, and he would not have supported it if it did. On these grounds he appealed to them not to be led away by the eloquence of Bro. Havers. (Laughter and applause.)

Bro. James Mason said, that although as Masons they could not discuss religious dogmas, yet they were not forbidden to sympathize with Brethren in affliction, or to express that sympathy when occasion offered. If the Church of England were to attempt any such interference in this country, he hoped that there was no doubt but that every Brother would give vent to the principles of Freemasonry, and exercise his powers to the utmost to prevent any interposition on the part of any Church, between the privileges of Freemasonry and the privileges of religion. Although they could not discuss the forms of any Church, yet when that Church placed itself in direct antagonism to Freemasonry, they had a most undoubted right to let that Church know, and let the whole world know, what the grand principles of Freemasonry were; and he could not conceive any evil whatever which could arise from the adoption of such a course. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Bro. J. E. Cox: The Church of Rome declares itself infallible, and must therefore continue to oppose our Order, as it has done. (Hear.) The Brother who has said that our principles are not known to the Roman Church, is wrong. The Romish priests understand what are the principles of Freemasonry as well as any Brother in this room; and it is rather because of, than for want of, that information, that they act towards us as they do. As surely as any resolution of this kind should be carried out and sent to Roman Catholic countries, so surely will it become the cause of an aggravation of that persecution which is now complained of. (Hear, hear, and cheering.) I am satisfied of this, that the only course we can pursue in this case, is to do as we did in the case of the Mauritius Brethren—to pass a resolution expressive of our heartfelt sympathy with them. (Applause.) The Romish priesthood have a certain course to take, and they will take it, and no statement read to them will make them alter their system. (Hear, hear.) I earnestly therefore entreat Grand Lodge not to adopt the proposition before it, as it would only tend to increase the existing persecution of the Brethren, and to aggravate the annoyances to which they are at present subjected. No one felt more for their Roman Catholic Brethren than he did; but he knew that this motion, if carried out, would only injure those whom it was intended to benefit. (Applause.)

The Rev. Bro. Portal, who was assailed with boisterous calls for a division on every hand, said he had mixed with Roman Catholics to some extent, both in this country and on the Continent, and he could assure the Brethren that much misapprehension prevailed amongst them as to what Freemasonry was. He had found Roman Catholics shrink from him when they found he was a Freemason. They said, "You are a Mason? You Masons stir up sedition wherever you go!" (Loud laughter and applause.) He said, "We don't do anything of the sort." (Hear, hear.) There was a great difference between the *de facto* excommunication under which all Roman Catholic Masons are supposed to lie, and excommunication in the ordinary acceptation of the term. He had met with a Roman Catholic Brother once at a place on the Continent, and asked him how he managed in this respect. His reply was, "Oh! my priest is a good fellow." (Applause and laughter.) He maintained, therefore, that such a brief statement as that which had been referred to would do good.

Bro. Lord Panmure, who was received with loud applause, said: I think Grand Lodge would fall into a great error if they passed this motion. (Hear,

hear.) No person can sympathize more deeply than I do with any person persecuted for his opinions. (Loud applause.) Any man persecuted for conscientiously adhering to an opinion is worthy of the sympathies of all good men; and if a Mason is persecuted for being a Mason, he is not only deserving of our sympathy, but the persons who persecute him are guilty of a great crime. (Loud cheers.) But it is one thing to see suffering and sympathize with it, and it is a totally different thing to attempt to relieve a man's sorrows by remonstrating with his persecutors. If we have authority over the persecutor, let us put an end to the persecution; but if we have not, the persecutor will no more turn from his course than the Thames at Richmond—(hear, hear, and laughter)—except at tide time. (Renewed laughter.) In this case, however, our interference with the persecutors would only make their persecutions worse. It is proposed to declare to the world what are the principles on which the Craft is founded. That is unnecessary, as all the world knows what our principles are. (Hear.) The Romish priests have access to our deepest and most sacred secrets [by means of the confessional]. Don't tell me, Brethren, that we require to inform the Roman Catholic priesthood on this subject. (Hear.) The noble Brother concluded by protesting against the resolution, as calculated to give the persecutors the opportunity of offering a direct and open insult to Grand Lodge; and he begged Grand Lodge not to allow itself to be drawn into the false position into which this motion would inevitably lead it.

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon: One word before this question is put. (Loud cries of "Divide, divide.") I for one cannot acquiesce in any mere cold formal expression of sympathy. (Cheers.) I have been accused of having brought forward a motion which was insufficient; why, then, was I not anticipated by an adequate proposition from the dais? (Applause, and "Divide, divide.") I will say no more, as Grand Lodge is impatient, and the hour is late. I will leave with you the onus of accepting or rejecting this, the only motion which has ever been made to afford solace to our Brethren abroad. (Hear, hear, and loud calls for a division.)

The question was then put and negatived without a division.

FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.

Bro. George Barratt moved, "That instruction be given to the Board of General Purposes to report the present income of the Fund of Benevolence, and to recommend how the surplus may be usefully and legally applied." He thought the money might be much more usefully applied than in giving casual relief.

Bro. Aldrich seconded the motion.

Bro. Dobie opposed the motion on the ground that the money was in their hands for the purposes of charity, and could not legally be otherwise disposed of. Why the distribution of the fund should be taken away from them and given to others he could not see.

Bro. John Savage also opposed the motion, which was then put and lost.

VISITATION OF PETITIONERS.

Bro. John Hervey moved, "At page 93, 'Book of Constitutions' (Edition 1855), Art. 6, line 15, to insert after the word 'shall,' the following words: 'Visit the petitioner at his own residence, and afterwards.'" Sometimes this question was settled one way and sometimes another; what he wanted was to decide the matter.

Bro. John Savage seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

THE ADJOURNMENT OF GRAND LODGE.

Bro. James Mason, P.M. No. 168, moved, "Any meeting of the Grand Lodge may, by a resolution of a majority of the members present at such meeting, and on a motion, of which no previous notice need be given, be adjourned from time to time for the discussion of and adjudication on any motion or other matter respecting which due communication shall have been previously made to the

General Committee, and all undisposed of business on the agenda paper of the Lodge at which any such resolution for an adjournment shall be adopted, may be brought forward and disposed of at any such adjourned meeting." He contended that the Grand Lodge met for the purpose of discussing propositions, and not to legislate without discussion; and if their business could not be completed within the time usually allotted to their proceedings, as had frequently been the case, the necessity for some such proposition as that which he submitted was sufficiently obvious. On the last occasion they only got as far as the end of the orders of the day, and left twenty-two notices of motion standing upon the paper untouched. (Hear, hear.) Much dissatisfaction prevailed throughout the Craft at the mode in which the business of Grand Lodge had been conducted. As for the allegation that there were parties in Grand Lodge, he contended that there ought only to be one party in any body of Freemasons. (Applause.) He thought that the four Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge were now no longer adequate to meet the wants of a large and increasing Fraternity such as Freemasonry had now become. If the Order was to continue prosperous and esteemed, the important resolutions submitted to Grand Lodge ought to receive careful attention and deliberate discussion. This could not be done with only four meetings a year, of three hours each, when an hour or an hour and a half was spent in reading the minutes. (Hear, hear.) He believed that this resolution, instead of detracting from the honour or lustre of the office of Grand Master, or of any of the Grand Officers, it would increase their power, and the system of Freemasonry would rise in the esteem of the outer world. (Applause.)

Bro. H. G. Warren, P.M. No. 202: I second the motion with peculiar pleasure, because it arises out of a motion of mine in September last for the holding of a Lodge, which your lordship declared illegal. I am not going to dispute that decision, as we are bound by your lordship's decisions as G.M. But I do consider that the power of adjournment is more particularly necessary, because meetings like this are in themselves anomalous; for it has been held, that when once we give notice of motion, if it is not brought on before eleven o'clock at night, notice must be given again, and then we find perhaps ten or twelve new motions before those previously put on the paper. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Thus we may go on for years without being able to bring on our motions. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The G.M., by calling a special meeting, decides that the motions are not to drop, but that we are now to begin where we left off in December, though the motions are held by the Board of Masters to be dropped. I think, if for no other reason than to remedy this anomaly, we ought to have the power of adjournment. (Hear, hear.) I can assure your lordship, that there is no Brother here who will support the motion for adjournment from factious motives. (Applause.) What we want is to go on with the questions before us, and avoid, as far as practicable, continual adjournments.

Bro. J. R. Stebbing, W.M. No 462, P.M. Nos. 152 and 155, moved the following amendment: "That the following addition be made to the 7th section, p. 19, 'Book of Constitutions':—'That it shall be competent for a majority of the members present at any of the before-mentioned or at any other Grand Lodge, to adjourn any portion of the business appointed to be transacted, to some day to be appointed by the M.W. Grand Master or his Deputy for the holding of a Special Grand Lodge, within one month from the day of adjournment, if at or after eleven o'clock any portion of such business shall remain undisposed of.'" He said he came 100 miles himself to attend Grand Lodge, and was sometimes accompanied by eight or ten Brethren (hear, hear), and then they found that the business appointed to be transacted was postponed. (Hear, hear.) Sometimes it appeared purposely postponed. It was impossible to carry on the increasing business of Masonry with the four Quarterly Communications. If the Grand Lodge was not held legally, several Grand Lodges would be held illegally. He hoped they would avoid the quicksand lying before them in their path, by holding Grand Lodges so often as to allow every Brother a chance of bringing his motions forward. He had himself seventeen motions he was anxious to introduce. (Loud laughter and cheers.) No institute could live without full and free discussion. (Laughter and applause.) There was great dissatisfaction in the country; his

own province was almost in a state of rebellion (hear, and laughter), not from any fault of their excellent Prov. G.M. (applause), than whom no man had done more for the Craft in Hampshire; but not all his influence, personal and Masonic, could stop rebellion there, unless there was free and full discussion in Grand Lodge, which could only be obtained by having as many meetings as were necessary for the transaction of the business. No motion ought to be burked by reading such a ridiculous amount of nonsense as so long occupied the attention of the last Grand Lodge. (Laughter).

Bro. Binckes seconded this amendment because it was more respectful to the M.W. the Grand Master.

Bro. Hall said this motion, if carried, must either produce great good or great evil. He had his fears about it. They should not lightly make any alteration in their laws. The power of adjournment would imply that the Grand Master had not sufficient powers, or else that he abused them—either that he could not call special Lodges to wipe off arrears of business, or else that he would not do so. But he thought that the Grand Master had sufficient power, and that there was no fear of his abusing it. (Applause.) There was no reason to suppose that he would ever neglect or refuse to call a Grand Lodge of Emergency whenever the necessity of the case required it. (Loud calls for a division.) He could only say, that if this motion was carried, he doubted whether his Lordship would continue to fill that chair. (Divide, divide.) Since 1850, only six instances had occurred in which Grand Lodge had not concluded in time, and up to March, 1853, there was not one instance of it. (Applause.) On that occasion a special Grand Lodge was called to dispose of the arrears of business. In the cases of the last three Grand Lodges of 1856, Lodges of Emergency were necessary, and there had been no hesitation on the part of the Grand Master to call Grand Lodges of Emergency. To have Grand Lodge too frequently would encourage that spirit of discussion, or rather, he might say, disputation (hear, hear), which he grieved to see creeping in. (Hear.) He would be sorry to oppose the amendment of any law the working of which was shown to be prejudicial; but these frequent changes were very injurious. It was not more than three years ago that the Constitutions underwent a complete revision. (Hear, hear.) As to this love of debating, there were plenty of other places where those Brethren who were so gifted with the powers of oratory might exercise them. (Loud and protracted shouts of disapprobation greeted this remark.) The worthy Brother tried in vain to continue his observations, but after this Grand Lodge would not listen to him. Bro. Binckes rose to order, and complained of the time being wasted.

Bro. Aria repudiated the idea that the motion had any reference to the present Grand Master. It was not a personal question. Nor was it any infringement on the privileges of the Grand Master. This motion would give general satisfaction. As to altering our laws and constitutions, when it was decided to have four Quarterly Communications in the year, such a pressure of business as they now experienced was never anticipated.

Bro. Taylor, No. 21, opposed the motion. During the last twenty-one years there had been thirteen Lodges of Emergency; but only three of them were really required for business, the others were votes of condolence or of congratulation, and in connection with the revision of the constitutions. During the past seven years there had been thirty-five Grand Lodges, of which twenty-eight had been concluded before eleven o'clock. The necessity for this motion to take the power out of the hands of the Grand Master, and give Grand Lodge the power of adjournment, had not been shown. Such a change in the fundamental laws of the Order would be very disastrous, as it would virtually exclude the Masters of country Lodges from participating in their discussions. (Hear, hear, and cries of no, no.) The motion before Grand Lodge would enable them to meet week by week, and even day by day. (No, no, and disapprobation.) There was no limitation in the terms of the motion. (Divide, divide.) It would introduce discord and dissension. (Cries of no, no, and sit down, sit down.)

Brother the Lord Panmure said: There are two motions before Grand Lodge, the original motion which is only standing for a division as a matter of form, and the other is the proposition which has been brought before you as an amendment,

because from the lateness of the hour it was thought that there would not be time for it to come on as an original motion. Of those two propositions I certainly prefer the latter. (Hear, hear.) The motion itself, in its present shape, goes to deprive the Grand Master of a portion of that power with which you have deliberately invested him, and it goes so far as to render possible an adjournment of Grand Lodge from day to day after the assemblage of a Quarterly Communication. This is turning Grand Lodge from its specific objects into a mere Masonic Parliament. Would it be for the benefit of the Craft to carry such a motion? (Cries of no, no, and hear, hear.) Suppose the business not to be transacted at one meeting, and Grand Lodge were to be adjourned for a week or ten days, or a month, could you expect the country Brethren to remain in town during that period in order to go on with the business not disposed of? Is it not better to let matters stand as they are, and appeal to the Grand Master to hold a Grand Lodge of Emergency? The Grand Master has that authority, and no Grand Master has ever yet been found to use it contrary to the Constitutions, and we have no right to expect that the present Grand Master or any future Grand Master will do so. (Cheers.) You had far better do this than resort, especially at the present moment, to a change, the necessity of which has really not been shown. I would be the last in the world to interfere with the fullest and the freest discussion. (Hear.) I do not care if the motions are 220 in number instead of 22. (Applause.) When the pressure of business demands it, I would be one of the first to call on the Grand Master to-morrow, and ask him to fix a day for a Grand Lodge of Emergency (cheers), and if, the necessity being shown, he did not choose to do it, then, not till then, I would propose to transfer the power of calling such Lodges to Grand Lodge itself. (Applause.) But do not let us rashly alter our fundamental laws. (Hear.) I have perceived with great regret, that since I last attended Grand Lodge, though it is deprecated by very many of the Brethren, a party feeling is beginning to be exhibited amongst us. (Hear.) I do implore the Brethren, as they value the influence of Grand Lodge from one end of the country to the other, to let "party" be the last word which is found in our vocabulary. (Cheers.) It is not Masonic. Let us keep Grand Lodge, as the root of Masonry, wholesome, and all its branches throughout the country will remain in a healthy condition. (Cheers.)

Bro. Mason briefly replied that he did not believe Grand Lodge would ever adjourn on frivolous pretences. (Hear.)

The Grand Master said: Before I put the question, I think it due to Grand Lodge to state my opinion both on the motion and on the amendment. (Hear, hear.) It has been said that Grand Lodge would never adjourn without just cause, but let me ask of any Brother or member, if Brethren ever expressed a wish in vain to the Grand Master to summon a special Grand Lodge? (Hear, hear.) Certainly, since I have held this chair I have never refused to do so, and I look on this motion as a vote of want of confidence in me. (Loud cries of no, no.) If carried, it will induce Brethren to bring forward numbers of motions not absolutely required for the good of the Craft; and Grand Lodge would be continually adjourned for the purpose of discussing them. I believe that Grand Lodge would become a Masonic Parliament, and that we should not have Quarterly Communications, but weekly meetings, and perhaps oftener than that. Would this, I ask, be fair to Brethren who live 200 or 300 miles away? (Hear, hear.) Could you ask them to come up once a fortnight to adjourned Grand Lodges?

Bro. Stebbings: I live 100 miles distant, and I'll come up once a week, if necessary, my lord. (Loud laughter, and cheers.)

The Grand Master: I live in a part of the country whence the Brethren would think it a great hardship to come up even once a month. It would show a great want of confidence in me (no, no), and even were I to disregard that want of confidence, which I could not, I should, under the circumstances, feel quite incompetent to continue in my present position; and I do not believe that you could get any nobleman or gentleman largely connected in the country, in important affairs, to undertake on such terms the office I have now the honour to fill, if the motion were carried.

The motion was then put and lost.

THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

A discussion then arose on the insertion of Bro. Aria's name in the list of members of the Colonial Board. It was argued that before long the election would take place, and that the motion was therefore unnecessary. It was negatived.

A large number of Brethren now left Grand Lodge, and considerable amusement was caused by the Grand Master ordering the Brethren to take their seats, and the doors to be locked. One Brother was particularly irate at this, and appealed to the Grand Master, who showed his authority from the Book of Constitutions; but, after a few moments, during which the greatest merriment prevailed, he said he had also undoubtedly power to permit any Brother to leave, and he accordingly allowed the Brother in question to do so.

Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form, and with solemn prayer.

NOTICES OF MOTION FOR GRAND LODGE.—*March 4.*

By Bro. Henry George Warren, P.M. No. 202. "That in future no person not being a member of the Craft be allowed to dine at any of the Masonic Festivals."

"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.

"That in future Reports, Communications, or Documents approved or rejected at one meeting of Grand Lodge be not read in extenso, with the Minutes at the next Grand Lodge, excepting when called for by any Brother with a view of founding some motion thereon."

"That from the date of the resignation or voidance of Office from any cause whatever of the M.W. Grand Master the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland and the R.W.D.G. Master the Right Honourable the Earl of Yarborough, no Brother (excepting he be a prince of the reigning family of Great Britain) be eligible to be elected or appointed as Grand Master, Prov. Grand Master, or Dep. Grand Master, for more than five years in succession; but any Brother who has once served either of those Offices shall be eligible for further re-election or appointment at any time after the expiration of twelve months from the date at which he retires from office."

Bro. W. Portal, W.M. No. 10. "That no Brother, with the exception of the M.W.G.M. and the proposer, be allowed to speak to any motion for any greater length of time than five minutes."

Bro. Rev. G. R. Portal, P.M. No. 10. "That an addition be made in the Book of Constitutions, at page 10, sec. 7, to the effect, 'That it shall be lawful for a number of a Brethren to request the G.M. to summon a special Grand Lodge to transact any business which want of time may have caused to remain unfinished.'"

Bros. R. H. Townend, P.M. Neptune Lodge; C. H. Gregory; Wm. Harwood; Jno. Kirby, Prov. J.W., Bristol.

Notice of motion from each of the above, "That the interests and well-being of the Craft imperatively demand the resignation of the G.S., and the substitution of a Brother younger, more vigorous, and whose energies are better calculated to conduct with satisfaction the increasing business of the office; and that, duly acknowledging the great services rendered by Bro. White, a retiring pension equal to the full amount of his present salary be granted to him."

Bro. F. Binckes, P.M. No. 11. "That it is not consistent with the principles of Masonry as laid down in the Book of Constitutions, that the M.W.G.M. should hold that office simultaneously with that of Prov. Grand Master."

"For an additional grant of £500 to the Widows' Fund."

Bro. H. G. Warren, P.M., No. 202. "That the M.W.G.M. be requested to determine the form of the clasp to be worn on the ribbon of the jewel granted as a distinction to those Brethren who have served the stewardship of two of the charities, and who shall serve as stewards for the third charity."

Bro. R. I. Spiers, P.G.S., No. 13. "That with a view to economize the time of Grand Lodge, the regulations for business of Grand Lodge be no longer read

at the Quarterly Communications, and that any orders to that effect at present contained in the Book of Constitutions be expunged."

Bro. Louis Aria, P.M. No. 291. "To submit certain resolutions touching the exclusion of Brethren of the Jewish persuasion from Lodges in Hanover."

Bro. Jno. Symonds, P.M. No. 275. "That the G.S.'s office be closed at two o'clock on Saturdays, unless in cases of emergency."

Bro. H. G. Warren, on behalf of Bro. Wigginton, P.M. No. 313. "That in future the addresses of W.Ms. of country Lodges be entered on the books at G.S.'s office, to which addresses all communications shall be forwarded."

Bro. F. Binckes, P.M. No. 11. "That a document purporting to be a copy of a Memorial from the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West,—the original of which has been forwarded to Bro. Rev. G. R. Portal—having been transmitted to the G.S., such memorial be received and considered by this Grand Lodge."

Bro. H. G. Warren, P.M. No. 202.—"That any notice of motion, the discussion of which time may not permit, shall not require renewal, but shall take precedence, at any ensuing Grand Lodge, of all notices of motion subsequently given."

METROPOLITAN.

GRAND STEWARD'S LODGE.—At a meeting of this Lodge on the 18th of February, Bro. Johnston was installed W.M. for the year, when he appointed Bros. Stohwasser, S.W.; Cotterell, J.W.; Hewlett, S.D.; Warren, J.D.; Watson, Sec.; Bro. Giraud continues Treasurer of the Lodge, which much requires an infusion of new blood.

LODGE of FIDELITY (No. 3).—This Lodge held its first meeting since Christmas on the 11th of February, the occasion being that of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. Gillespie. A large number of Brethren were present, who expressed themselves highly gratified with the excellent ceremony of installation, performed by Bro. Grant, P.M. The W.M. being duly installed, appointed his Officers as follows:—Bros. Wotton, S.W.; Wenham, J.W.; Best, S.D.; Oliff, J.D.; Berry, I.G.; Bros. Williams and Squires, P.Ms., were re-elected Treasurer and Secretary. Messrs. Neville, Farrant, Finley, and Smith, were initiated; Bros. Phillip and Odell passed; and Bros. Arthur, McNamara, Hardy, and R. Phillips, raised to the Degree of Master Mason. These ceremonies were performed by the retiring Master, Bro. Shackelton, in his usual excellent style, and, on leaving the chair, he received the thanks of the Brethren for the kindness and urbanity he had shown during his Mastership; in fact, he has endeared himself to the Brethren by that brotherly love which is so characteristic of the genuine Mason. All Lodge business being ended, the Brethren adjourned to the dining-room, where a most sumptuous banquet was laid out. The W.M. most elegantly introduced the various toasts, and they were tastefully responded to. The evening's entertainment was much enhanced by some excellent singing from Bros. Phillips (a son of the celebrated vocalist of that name), Becket, Kincaid, G. F. Taylor, and Lawler.

ST. GEORGE AND CORNER STONE (No. 5).—A very numerous gathering of this excellent Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Monday, February 16, when Bro. P.M. Havers efficiently installed the S.W., Bro. A. Perkins, into the chair, who afterwards appointed as his Officers, Bro. Fenwick, S.W., and Bro. Stone, J.W.; the names of the other officers did not transpire. All Masonic business being brought to an end, and the Lodge closed in due form, the Brethren adjourned to a splendid banquet, consisting of all the delicacies of the season; the table was beautifully adorned with plateaus and epergnes, which presented a magnificent appearance. The visitors were twenty in number, among whom we observed the following:—Bros. Keightley, P.S.G.D.; Potter, P.G.D.; Hervey, P.S.G.D.; and Henderson, P.G.R.

ROYAL YORK LODGE (No. 7).—Another of those agreeable meetings for which this Lodge is celebrated was held on Wednesday, 18th. ult., when Bro. I. Levinson initiated two gentlemen, performing the ceremonies in a manner every way consistent with his extended reputation. Before adjourning to refreshment, Bro. Hopwood, in a speech replete with good feeling, tendered the thanks of the Lodge to Bro. Levinson for the very handsome presents he had made, assuring him of the grateful appreciation by every member of kindness at once so thoughtful and appropriate. The gifts in question comprised three handsome ivory gavels, and a set of working tools in ivory, of most chaste and elegant workmanship. On being handed round the Lodge, they elicited, as they deserved, universal approbation. On rising to acknowledge the vote of thanks just passed, the W.M. was visibly affected, so much so as materially to interfere, as he confessed, with a reply suitable to the occasion. He assured the Brethren, so highly did he value and esteem the honour they had conferred upon him by placing him in his present high position, that he felt some difficulty in showing how he could best mark his appreciation thereof. It had occurred to him that the working tools set before them would not be unacceptable, and he had accordingly presented them. He admitted too, that loving his Lodge as he did, he was anxious to contribute something by which his name would be remembered amongst them after it had pleased the Great Architect to remove him from this transitory sphere! During the address of the W.M. there was scarcely a Brother in the Lodge who did not share the emotion which agitated him. The scene was one which, from the simple unaffected pathos attending it, we think will long be remembered by all present. Bro. Jenkins, J.W., volunteered to undertake the Stewardship for the Girls' School Festival, in May. The banquet was most excellently furnished, and partaken of by about thirty-eight. The W.M. acquitted himself admirably, and the evening was enlivened by the exquisite singing of Bro. Crew, &c. The visitors were Bros. F. Crew, P.M. No. 1; F. Binckes, P.M. No. 11; A. D. Filer, P.M. No. 30; Dashwood, No. 259; Jno. C. Stevens, No. 725; I. Panchaud, No. 778; Clarke, No. 38, America; Childs, &c.

BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).—After a recess of two months the members of this Lodge re-assembled on Monday, 16th ult., at Freemasons' Tavern, Bro. Cotterill presiding. Owing, however, to his unavoidable absence at the early portion of the meeting, Bro. Bisgood, P.M., and D.P.G.M. Kent, ably discharged the duties of W.M., and raised two Brethren to the 3rd Degree. Bro. Cotterill then took the chair, and having disposed of the routine business before the Lodge, Bro. Bisgood resumed it, and proceeded with the installation of the S.W., Bro. Pigott, who had been unanimously elected for the distinguished post of W.M. for the coming year. The ceremony throughout was performed most ably and impressively, Bro. Bisgood receiving at its close the thanks of the assembled visitors for the manner in which he had conducted the business of the evening. The W.M. appointed his officers, as follows:—Bros. Baxter, S.W.; Hamilton, J.W.; Noakes, P.M. Treas.; C. Robinson, Sec.; Couland, S.D.; W. Noakes, J.D.; Maxwell, I.G. Bro. Crawley was re-elected Tyler. —A P.M.'s Jewel was unanimously voted to Bro. Cotterill, to mark the sense entertained by the Lodge of the efficient performance of the duties during his year of office. Bro. Hamilton was elected Grand Steward for 185-8. About thirty Brethren sat down to the banquet, which was supplied in a style that left nothing to be desired, the wines being of corresponding excellence. The W.M., Bro. Pigott, presided over the festive board in a manner that drew forth the encomiums of all; and Bro. C. Robinson, the respected Secretary, was as successful as he was assiduous in providing for the comfort and happiness of all, the arduous duties of Steward and Dir. of Cer. devolving upon him in addition to his other labours. The visitors were Bros. D. Rowe, P.J.G.D.; John Hervey, P.S.G.D.; F. Binckes, P.M. No. 11; O'Dower, P.M. No. 195; Sutton, No. 324; Hogg, (late) No. 8; Cross; and G. F. Taylor, No. 201. The latter contributed to the enjoyment of the Brethren by singing some excellent songs, being assisted by his daughter Miss A. Taylor.

WESTMINSTER AND KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 10).—This Lodge met on the 4th inst. at Freemasons' Tavern, Bro. Wyndham Portal, W.M., in the chair, who was

supported by Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon, S.W.; Bro. Benson, J.W.; and numerous other Brethren. Among the visitors were Bros. Davison, S.W. No. 269; Spencer, P.M. No. 329; Law, P.M. No. 212; and Poynder. Bro. Nelson Rycroft was passed to the 2nd Degree, and the following Brethren were elected joining members; Bros. F. Symonds, P.M. No. 425; the Rev. H. A. Pickard, W.M. No. 460; the Earl Cowper, No. 460; and the Lord Skelmersdale, No. 460. The Brethren afterwards adjourned to a banquet, at which some excellent speeches were delivered by Bros. Col. Burlton, P. Prov. G.M. for Bengal; and Spiers, P.G.S.B.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—The first meeting under the presidency of the new W.M., Bro. W. S. Masterman, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, 11th ult., when Mr. G. Tedder was admitted a member of the Ancient Order. One Brother was passed to the 2nd Degree, and five Brethren were passed to the Degree of W.M. The initiation was efficiently performed by the W.M.; Bro. F. Binckes, the immediate P.M., conducting the second and third ceremonies. The consideration of the By-laws was postponed until the next meeting, and nothing further offering, an adjournment took place to the banquet, which was of the usual excellent description, about forty-five Brethren partaking thereof. In consequence of the Special Grand Lodge being fixed for the same night, the hour for refreshment was appointed somewhat earlier than usual, and the toasts were given in rapid succession, to suit the convenience of those whose duties summoned them to the Hall. In proposing the healths of the P.Ms. the W.M. stated that he had that evening to present to their immediate P.M. the Jewel which had been unanimously voted him by the Lodge on the last occasion of its meeting, and he assured him that he felt a peculiar degree of pleasure in so doing. In placing that Jewel upon his breast, he would, in the name of the Lodge, wish him health, happiness, and prosperity. Bro. Binckes responded to the toast, and after thanking the W.M. and the Brethren generally on behalf of the P.Ms., said, "I have now to return my individual acknowledgments for the handsome recognition of my poor services. While I believe there is no source of satisfaction equal to that derived from a conscientious performance of those duties which may devolve upon us, or which we may undertake; so I must confess that, to poor, frail, vain humanity, there is nothing more gratifying than to find that our exertions and efforts are appreciated. That such is the case in the present instance I have every reason to believe, though I am disposed to regard the splendid Jewel just presented to me—which I hope I may accept as an embodiment of the kind feeling entertained by the Brethren of this Lodge—as an incentive to the future rather than as a reward of the past. Believe me, I shall ever esteem it a pride and pleasure to do everything in my power to contribute to the prosperity of the Enoch Lodge, and to promote the happiness of each of its members. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this renewed testimony of your favour and kindness." The enjoyment of the evening was very considerably added to by the comic effusions of Bro. W. G. Ross, and by the delightful strains of Bros. G. Tedder and F. Crew, the latter of whom responded to the toast of "The Masonic Charities," in his usual eloquent and happy vein. At the conclusion of his address, Bro. F. Binckes offered himself as Steward for the Festival of the Girls' School in May next. We regret our inability to give a complete list of the visitors, but amongst them we noticed Bros. F. Crew, P.M. No. 1; Belford (late No. 11); W. G. Ross, &c. &c. &c.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Thursday, February 19th. Bro. Collins was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, and Bro. Rebbuk was elected to represent the Lodge as G. Steward for the ensuing year.

ROBERT BURNS (No. 25).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 5th inst., when two Brethren were raised to the 3rd Degree, by the late W.M., at his express desire, he having initiated them during his year of office. The W.M. then passed two Brethren, Messrs. Pierpoint and Batson, and initiated Mr. Parker into the Order, with his usual

ability. After the business of the evening, the Brethren retired to a banquet on the O.S.Q., provided in the usual style of excellence by the proprietor of the Freemasons' Tavern, which elicited from the Brethren the highest satisfaction at the unexpected treat afforded by the W.M. The harmony of the evening was contributed to by several Brethren, particularly by a joining member, Bro. Ramas, his singing calling forth unanimous and renewed applause. The Brethren retired, as is their usual custom, at an early hour, well pleased with each other and the Order to which they belong.

BRITANNIC LODGE (No. 38).—This Lodge, which has attained to a pitch of prosperity unprecedented in the Craft, when the comparatively short period is considered which has elapsed since its resuscitation, held its usual quarterly meeting on Friday, 13th ult., at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James's Street. The W.M., Bro. H. Bridges, presided, and in the course of the evening initiated four gentlemen, passed three Brethren to the 2nd Degree, and raised one Brother to the 3rd. These arduous duties discharged, the Brethren proceeded to elect a W.M. and Treasurer for the ensuing year, when the suffrages were declared to be unanimous in favour of Bro. Geo. England as W.M., and equally so in favour of Bro. L. Crombie, as Treas. The banquet followed in due course, to which seventy-six sat down, the visitors numbering twenty. We found it quite impossible to ascertain the styles and titles of even a moiety of these, but noticed several Prov. G.Os, and recognized Bro. Roxburgh, W.M. No. 4.; F. Crew, P.M. No. 1; F. Binckes, P.M. No. 11; L. Manby, No. 255, &c. &c. With the toast of "The Initiates," the W.M. coupled the name of Lord Alfred Paget, expressing his gratification at the noble Lord's accession to Masonry, and at his having selected "No. 38" for that purpose. Bro. Lord Alfred Paget replied, thanking the Brethren for the handsome manner in which the mention of his name had been received. "I assure you," said his Lordship, "that I am delighted at having been admitted a member of your Order. I have long wished to be so, but candidly confess that I have been deterred through sharing to some extent in the prejudices which exist with regard to Freemasonry. Glad am I to find how groundless such prejudices are, and that, taking religion as its basis, there is not only nothing in the professions of Masonry incompatible with my duties as a Christian man; but, on the contrary, I have every reason now to believe what I was only very lately told, that a good Mason must of necessity be a good Christian. Believe me, Brethren, it is my firm intention to persevere in the new duties I have undertaken, and I trust that opportunities may occur in which, from the lot in life in which it has pleased Providence to place me, I may be enabled to promote the prosperity of an institution of which I have already seen sufficient to induce me to regard and esteem." His Lordship resumed his seat amid long-continued and hearty applause. Bro. Alderman Rose undertook the Stewardship for the Annual Festival in aid of the Funds of the Royal Freemasons' Girls' School, in May, when we doubt not he will be munificently supported by the members of "The Britannic." We should not omit noticing the manner in which the health of Bro. Gooch, D.G.M. Wilts, and P.M. of this Lodge was received. To Bro. Gooch much of the eminence to which the Lodge has attained is owing; no wonder, therefore, that his health was cordially responded to, and that the greatest attention was paid to the few seasonable and judicious remarks which fell from him when returning thanks for the compliment paid him. In the course of the evening several songs were contributed by various Brethren, Bro. Crew's strains proving as fresh and delightful as ever!

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).—At the annual meeting of this Lodge on the 26th of January, Bro. John Absolon was installed W.M. by his brother, P.M. W. H. Absolon. The new Master appointed Bros. Browne, S.W.; Vine, J.W.; Oliver, S.D.; Evan, J.D.; and Mackenzie, I.G. A Brother was passed to the 2nd Degree.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—A Lodge of Emergency was held on the 13th of February, Bro. Sheriff presiding, when a Brother was raised, and four passed to their respective Degrees. On the 19th three gentlemen were initiated.

CONSTITUTIONAL LODGE (No. 63).—This Lodge held its meeting on Thursday, February 19th, at the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall Street, when three gentlemen were initiated into the mysteries of the Order, after which Bro. G. Grumbridge was ably installed W.M., by Bro. P. Moss, the retiring Master. The W.M. appointed his Offices as follows:—Bros. J. Smith, S.W.; J. W. S. Dosell, J.W.; J. Shirley, Treas.; W. Farnfield, Sec.; A. J. Dorward, S.D.; Ingram, J.D.; W. Grant, I.G.; Atkinson, Tyler. The W.M. then ably raised a Brother to the 3rd Degree. The Lodge was closed in due form, and the Brethren retired to the banquet, when in the course of the evening, Bro. J. Shirley in a neat and appropriate speech presented Bro. P. Moss with a P.M.'s Jewel, as a testimonial of the kind and efficient manner in which he had performed the duties of W.M. for the year 1856, for which he expressed his thanks, and with a fervent hope that he might continue many years amongst them to wear the honorary testimonial bestowed upon him. The visitors were Bros. J. Smith, G.P.; T. Lewis, M. elect of No. 53; and R. Spencer, P.M. No. 329. The evening passed off with every social comfort and happiness.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, 12th February. Bro. Alberts, after passing a Brother to the 2nd Degree, installed his successor, Bro. Grosjean, into the chair of K.S., in a most excellent and efficient manner, which elicited the warmest praises of the Brethren present. The W.M. then invested Bro. Haywood, sen., as S.W.; Trubner, J.W.; McCallan, Treas.; Haywood, jun., Sec.; Jachow, S.D.; Wylie, J.D.; Bowers, I.G.

MOIRA LODGE (No. 109).—At the regular meeting of this excellent and numerous Lodge on Tuesday, February 24th, held at the London Tavern, present Bro. Frederick Slight, W.M., Bro. Moss was raised to the 3rd Degree, and Bro. Neale Horne was passed to the 2nd Degree. A ballot was taken for the admission of Mr. Josiah Houle, and being present, he was initiated; another gentleman was also proposed for admission at the next Lodge. The W.M. went through the business most excellently. Nearly fifty Brethren were present, and among the visitors were Bros. England, P. Prov. S.G. of Surrey; Bellinger, P. Prov. J.G.W. of Herts; Fred. Crew, P.M. No. 1; Westall, W.M. No. 194; Simpson and Frend, P.Ms. of No. 233; and Barnard, P.M. No. 275.

EASTERN STAR LODGE (No. 112).—The Annual Installation Festival of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, February 11, at Bro. Holt's, the Wade's Arms Tavern, East India Road, Poplar, when some thirty of its members were present; Bro. E. Gardner, W.M. The Lodge was opened at three o'clock, and Messrs. H. R. Heseltine and Henry D. Cuff initiated. The report of the Audit Committee was received and approved, and the installation ceremony of Bro. George Frayling Grimes, W.M. elect, was performed by Bro. D. S. Potts, P.M. of No. 208, in that clear and impressive manner for which he is widely known. This is the second time Bro. Grimes has filled the office of W.M., and his re-election shows the high estimation in which he is held by the members of No. 112. We have noticed the progress of the Lodge under this worthy Brother and his immediate predecessor, Bro. Gardner; their attention to the duties of the office is recorded by the acknowledgment of all the members. The W.M. appointed and invested as his officers:—Bros. G. Allison, S.W.; J. W. H. Vousley, J.W.; George Blackman, S.D.; W.M. Evans, J.D.; Joseph Redpath, I.G. Bro. W. Wentworth, who had been re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Hookey, Tyler, were also invested. At seven, the Lodge being closed, the Brethren adjourned to banquet, and spent a very pleasant evening in the temperate enjoyment of excellent wine. Bro. Holt's attention to the comforts of all around demands our commendation. Among the visitors present were P.Ms. and Bros. Thomas E. Davis, J. How, D. S. Potts, Perkins, Knibbs, Mobbs, and Allan. Thirty-five Brethren were present at the banquet. After the usual loyal Masonic toasts were disposed of, Bro. Gardner expressed in a few brief remarks the pleasure he felt in thus greeting Bro. Grimes a second year of office as Master, and asked the Brethren by their immediate rising to give the warmest welcome to the toast, "The Health and

Happiness of the W.M." The W.M. acknowledged the kind reception his name had met with, and said, that it afforded him much pleasure in having again to preside over them; of course, he could but conclude his conduct had been satisfactory to the members, and he therefore asked them to give him the same support as before. "The Visitors" was responded to by Bro. How, who, after congratulating the Lodge on its marked progress under the able conduct of Bros. Grimes and Gardner, availed himself of the opportunity then afforded him of calling the attention of the younger members to the literary organ of the Craft—the *Freemasons' Magazine*; and as the Eastern Star Lodge often initiated Brethren whose occupations carried them to distant parts of the Globe, said that through its pages they would be enabled to see what was doing by others at home, and by its means made regularly acquainted with the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of England. To the toast of the P.Ms., of whom there were then present Bros. Gardner, Marriott, Reed, and Davis, Bro. Gardner said they one and all considered it to be the bounden duty of the P.Ms. to show a good example by regular attendance; for himself he would say he had been absent but twice during the past year, once by sickness, and on another occasion through business of importance; and he took that opportunity of acknowledging the faithful attention of the Officers to their respective duties. "The newly-initiated Brethren" was briefly acknowledged by Bros. Cuff and Heseltine; and, after doing honour to "The Officers," the Brethren separated.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 118).—The Brethren met at the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street, on Tuesday, February 3rd, when Bros. Barnett and Greenland were raised to the Degree of M.M. Bro. Wynne, P.M., in a highly creditable manner installed Bro. Scott as W.M., who selected as his Officers Bro. Haslow, S.W.; Bro. Christie, J.W.; Bro. Aldridge, S.D.; Bro. Grimes, J.D.; Bro. D. Forrester, I.G. Bro. Keast was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Perren, M.C. The W.M. was about to invest the J.W. as Hon. Secretary, which proceeding was objected to by Bro. B. Mayers, as being contrary to the Book of Constitutions, and he concluded his observations by proposing that Bro. T. Beard be Hon. Secretary, which proposition was seconded by Bro. Braham; and several of the Brethren having expressed a feeling that the offices should be filled by different Brothers, the W.M. adopted the proposition, and duly invested Bro. Beard as Hon. Secretary. At the conclusion of business the Brethren, about fifty in number, adjourned, and partook of a banquet prepared in Bro. Painter's usual style.

LONDON LODGE (No. 125).—The Brethren of this Lodge met on the 7th February, at the Freemasons' Tavern, when the W.M., Bro. Dr. Bowman, most ably initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The meeting was attended by a large number of visitors, among whom were Bros. Peter Mathews; F. Toole; J. L. Toole; Cox; and Williams. At the close of the Masonic business the Brethren dined together, and spent the afternoon in perfect harmony.

LODGE OF GOOD REPORT (No. 158).—This Lodge met at Radley's Hotel, Bridge Street, Blackfriars, on Thursday, February 5th. Two Brethren were passed to the 2nd Degree.

LODGE OF PRUDENT BROTHERS (No. 169).—After a lull comes a storm, and after a period of inactivity a reaction in all the walks of life—and in none more so than in Masonic Lodges. After three years of comparative inaction, Bro. Morbey, the immediate P.M., took the chair, and his year of office was distinguished by the introduction of ten or a dozen new Brethren, of the highest respectability; and the stream of prosperity appears likely to continue through the reign of his successor, Bro. Wm. Blackburn. On Friday, the 6th February, a Lodge of Emergency was held, when Messrs. Daker (an officer in the Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company), Hammond, and Thos. Jones, were introduced, and initiated into the Order; the ceremony being performed, at the desire of two of the initiates, by Bro. Morbey, and the Charge being afterwards delivered with great impressiveness by the W.M. On the 24th the regular Lodge was held, when Mr. Thos. Littelton Holt (a gentleman well known in literary circles) was initiated; Bro. Sharpe, who, after an absence of some time, has rejoined the Lodge, passed to the 2nd

Degree ; and Bro. Purkiss raised to the 3rd. At the close of the business the Brethren adjourned to a very elegant supper, and in the course of the evening the W.M., in the name of the Lodge, presented Bro. Morbey, the P.M., with a P.M.'s Jewel, in token of their esteem for him as a Brother Mason, and their acknowledgment of his valuable services whilst in the chair. Bro. Morbey briefly and appropriately acknowledged the compliment ; and the evening was spent in the utmost harmony.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern on Tuesday, February 3rd, for the first time under the presidency of the newly-installed W.M., Bro. Jeffries, who began the business of the evening by passing Bros. Harvey and Cuddeford to the Degree of Fellow Crafts, and raising Bros. Croft, Blundell, Minnis, and Clayton to the Degree of Master Masons, which ceremonies were performed in a most able and masterly manner. It was then stated by the Secretary, Bro. Emmens, that their annual ball had taken place since the last time they had met, and he was delighted to say was highly successful ; so much so, that he was able to tell them, after all expenses being paid, there was still a surplus of thirty-five guineas, which, in the names of the Stewards, he had to present to the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge, and he was also happy to add, this thirty-five guineas made their Benevolent Fund amount to nearly £100. It was unanimously agreed that a vote of thanks be recorded on the Lodge minutes to the Ball Stewards, for the handsome sum presented. It was also announced that Bro. G.M. Gurton, P.M., would represent this Lodge by serving as Steward at the forthcoming festivals of the Boys' and Girls' School, and the sum of five guineas was unanimously voted from the funds of this Lodge to be subscribed to each of the above charities.

PHENIX LODGE (No. 202).—The usual monthly meeting of this flourishing Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 14th February, when the W.M., Bro. Burton, very ably initiated three gentlemen into the mysteries of the Order. Before the Lodge was closed, the W.M. announced his intention of serving as Steward for the Boys' School, and Bro. Armstrong, D.C., consented to fill the same Office at the Girls' Festival. The Brethren afterwards supped together, and spent a most agreeable evening ; the advocacy of the Masonic charities, in a great measure, taking the place of the vocal harmony for which this Lodge is celebrated. There were several visitors present. On the 26th an Emergency meeting was held, when Mr. Pigott, who is about to proceed forthwith to Malta, and Mr. Arnold, who sails next month for Canada, were duly initiated into the Order.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—The Lodge met numerously on Monday, the 9th February, Bro. Garrod, W.M., presiding. Mr. H. Wilson was initiated ; Bro. Longe was passed, and Bros. Bishop, Rodrigues, Ellis, and Needle were raised. The Lodge having been closed, the Brethren sat down to one of Bro. Ireland's well-provided banquets, and spent a very pleasant evening. The visitors present were Bro. Emile Brugeille, Ch. R. Etoile du Progrès, Bordeaux ; and Bros. Regis, Zeles, Philanthrope, Paris ; and Bros. Erwood, Earon, Salmon, and Charnock, of various London Lodges.

MANCHESTER LODGE (No. 209).—On Thursday, January the 19th, this Lodge held its regular meeting, and has fully sustained its renown for perfect working, which contributes not a little to its popularity, as is shown by the many visitors who expressly attend to watch the ceremonies, which are emphatically performed by the W.M., Bro. Livinson, and his Officers. The business consisted of a passing and two initiations. A new feature, worthy of general imitation, was introduced in this Lodge in having solemn music to accompany a portion of the ceremony. A P.M.'s Jewel was voted by the Brethren to Bro. Collard, whose Masonic worth is well known and fully deserves this tribute of respect. Amongst the visitors present were Bros. Tull, P.G.O. for Berkshire ; Grosjean, W.M. 108, and G.St. ; Busher, P.M. 79 ; Odell, W.M. ; Couchman, P.M. 165 ; Gurton, W.M. 211 ; Birt, 25 ; Robinson, 237 ; &c. Great cordiality reigns in this Lodge, which augurs well for its prosperity.

LODGE OF TRANQUILLITY (No. 218).—The Installation Festival of this thriving Lodge was held on Monday, the 16th of February, at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, Bro. Coleman Van Goor, the W.M., presided, and Bros. Cox and Wagner were passed to the 2nd Degree. Mr. Morris Hart was initiated. Bro. S. Selig then assumed the chair, and Bro. Van Goor presented the W.M. elect, Bro. Noah Davis, for installation, which ceremony was performed with the precision and accuracy for which Bro. Selig is distinguished. There was a goodly attendance to witness the installation, there being between seventy and eighty Brethren present, amongst whom were fifteen P.Ms. The handsome ballroom of the hotel was used for the occasion, the ample space adding much to the effect of the rites. We understand that the gavels of this Lodge, which was formerly held at the Freemasons' Tavern, are the same as were used by H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex at the first meeting of the Grand Lodge after the Union. The W.M. then appointed and invested as his Officers for the year Bro. Van Goor, P.M.; Bro. Meyer Harris, S.W.; Moss Ansell, J.W.; Charles Herrman, Hon. Sec.; M. B. Levi, Chap.; Andre Fresco, S.D.; J. Kidstone, J.D.; Bro. Moses, Dir. Cer.; Bros. Smith and L. Levi, Stewards; Morris Hart, I.G. Bro. Alexander Levi, who had been unanimously elected Treasurer, as well as Bro. Crabtree, the Tyler, were also invested by the W.M. Bro. Herrman, the Secretary of the Lodge, by desire of the W.M., addressed Bro. Van Goor, the immediate P.M., and presented to that worthy Brother a very elegant Jewel, as a memorial of the kind feeling of the Lodge towards him for his regular attendance to the duties of the office of W.M. during the past year. It had been the custom of the Lodge to raise the funds for a present to the P.M. by a subscription among the members, but as all members were not equally blessed with riches, this method was considered to be rather invidious, and therefore Bro. Alexander Levi proposed and Bro. Abrahams seconded a proposal that this act of grace and gratitude should come out of the Lodge funds, and the motion was carried unanimously. He (Bro. Herrman), in placing this testimonial on Bro. Van Goor's breast, had very great pleasure, as he was sure it was well earned, and that the givers and the receiver were equally honoured. Bro. Van Goor said he should ever highly prize the present of his Lodge; it would be an everlasting record of the kindness of his Brethren. He feared his services were scarcely commensurate with their handsome gift, and he thought that he might mention that one worthy friend had added a personal addition to the amount voted, that had been expended on the purchase of a diamond, set in the Jewel. Bro. Alexander Levi said there had not been time to submit the report of the financial state of the Lodge, but he could assure the members that the funds were in a prosperous condition. At seven o'clock the Brethren were called off to refreshment, and assembled at the banquet, which was well served by the worthy host, the Hebrew grace before and after being most efficiently chanted by Bro. M. B. Levi, the Chaplain. The cloth being removed, the W.M. called on the Brethren to do honour to the Masonic toast of "The Queen and the Craft," which was followed by the national hymn, admirably sung by Bros. H. and J. Isaacs, of the Lodge of Israel and Alexander. Next followed, of course, "The Earl of Zetland, the M.W.G.M.," and following it the same Brethren gave Bishop's admirable glee of "Mynheer Van Dunk." The next toast was one immediately connected with the Lodge, "Prosperity to the Benevolent Fund, and the Health of the Treasurer, Bro. Alexander Levi." The W.M., in proposing this toast, explained the origin of the fund; in 1853 it was thought, that should a member fall into distress, it was derogatory to the Lodge that he should go to the Board of Benevolence for relief, and it was determined to establish a fund for the especial purpose of providing for such contingency; this fund had now reached the sum of £250, and hence the Lodge was prepared, should any case come which demanded great commiseration, to grant as much as £100 for the relief of a Brother, and thus set him on his legs again. The Brethren of No. 218 thus in times of prosperity provided for a day of adversity, to which all were liable, and they all knew that the G.A.O.T.U. ordained the poor that the rich might find objects to relieve. A subscription was then entered into, which resulted in an addition to the fund of £23. Bro. Alexander Levi expressed his grateful thanks for the contributions that had been made to the Benevolent Fund,

and said he was pleased to inform the W.M. it was the largest amount that had been collected on one evening, and he felt assured, that should an unforeseen calamity alight on one of its members, the Lodge would be enabled to place him in a position that the world at large might never hear of his distress. He was thankful that the efforts of himself and others had achieved this glorious issue. The W.M. then proposed the newly initiated Brother, and declared his intention in all cases to refuse to grant to a Brother a superior Degree until the candidate gave proof of his proficiency in the former. Bro. Hart said he was much gratified in being so kindly received into the Order, and hoped that his efforts would enable him to become a worthy ornament of the institution. Bro. Van Goor claimed the expression of hearty good-will of all present to the W.M. His attention to the duties of the various offices he had passed through was well known, and the firmness of his demeanour on that evening enabled them to say they had in Bro. Noah Davis one who would in all cases be able and willing to do his duty. "The Health of the W.M." was then drunk with the utmost honours. The W.M. said he thought the most difficult task a man could have was to speak of himself; he tendered his thanks for the kind reception given to his name, and trusted his conduct in the chair would be such that the Brethren would be as pleased with him at the end of twelve months as at the present time. The W.M. concluded by calling on the members of No. 218 to give a cordial greeting to their visitors, and particularized Bro. Alexander, W.M. of the Lodge of Joppa, Bros. J. Isaacs, W.M., and H. Isaacs, P.M. of No. 247, which had risen to a high position in the Craft. Among the visitors were Bros. Alexander, Selig, and Solomans, of No. 223; H. and J. Isaacs, Abrahams, and Cohen, of No. 247; Braham, of No. 201; Ghrimes and Bowden, of No. 172; and Captain Knipe, of No. 718. Bro. Alexander in brief terms acknowledged the kind and hospitable reception that the Lodge of Tranquillity had given to the visitors. The W.M., in proposing "The Past Masters," tersely referred to their great value, and particularized their peculiar merits. Bro. Van Goor thanked the W.M. for the complimentary terms in which his efforts had been mentioned. He had always aimed at acting up to the maxim, that if anything was to be done at all, 'twas right it should be well done; having so recently entered into the ranks, he thought he might say, without egotism, that Past Masters would always endeavour to do their duty. Bro. Solomans, in a speech of much humour, and Bro. Herrman also, appropriately responded. The W.M., in proposing "The Installing Master and the Wardens," referred to Bro. Selig's known talent in conducting that imposing ceremony, and said, further, that to Bro. Selig's instruction he was indebted for his capability of holding the high position to which he had been elevated. Bro. Selig, in acknowledgment of the manner in which he had been mentioned, and the honour he had in being so long connected with the Lodge and assisting in its ceremonies, assured the Brethren that so long as they were pleased with his services he should continue most readily to aid them in any way in his power. Other toasts followed, and concluded one of the most satisfactory and pleasing meetings the Tranquillity had ever known.

ST. JAMES' UNION LODGE (No. 211).—This still-increasing Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Tuesday, 10th February. The W.M. Bro. John Gurton, in his usual efficient manner, raised two Brethren to the 3rd Degree, passed two to the 2nd, and initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of Freemasonry. Bro. P.M. Kelly, with a becoming address, invested the W.M. with a P.M.'s Jewel, as a testimony of the respect and gratitude of the Lodge for the great services he had rendered during his past year of office. The W.M., after thanking the Brethren, said he also felt a great pleasure in investing an old P.M., Bro. Falke, with a Jewel, in consideration of the services he had rendered to the Lodge in years past. The W.M., in the course of the evening, congratulated the Brethren on the entire success of the St. James' Union ball, the arrangements of which had given universal satisfaction, and expected, after all expenses were paid, to hand over forty pounds for the benefit of the charities.

JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).—A large muster of the Brethren of this Lodge took place on Wednesday, February 4th, at the Freemasons' Tavern, when Bro.

P.M. Charles Hutton Gregory ably initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of our ancient Order. This being the only business before the Lodge, the Brethren adjourned to dinner. Bro. Gregory presided, in the absence of the W.M., Bro. Saunders. Visitor Bro. Crew, P.M. No. 1, sang several of his favourite ballads.

LODGE OF ISRAEL (No. 247).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at Bro. Saed's, Finsbury Square, on Tuesday, the 10th of February, under the presidency of the new W.M., Bro. J. Isaacs, assisted by the immediate P.M., Bro. Henry Isaacs. There was a monster bill of fare as regards business—that actually performed consisting of three initiations, eight passings, and six raisings, the whole of the ceremonies being most excellently performed. At the close of the business Bro. Briggs, P.M., took occasion, during the temporary absence of Bro. Henry Isaacs from the Lodge, to express his regret that he was unable to be present, being too far distant from London, at the installation of the W.M. by his Brother, not only in Masonry, but by birth. He was glad to see the handsome Jewel which now decorated Bro. Isaacs, the gift of the Brethren: it would no doubt descend as a proud heir-loom to his family; and when the Great Architect of the Universe was pleased to remove their worthy Brother from amongst them, which he trusted would be at a far distant date, they would wish to have some memorial of him in the Lodge. He was sure, when they recollected what Bro. Isaacs had done for the Lodge—the number of good men and true he had introduced—the high state of prosperity which had attended his year of office—and the fact that the Lodge Fund of Benevolence, which already approached £200, was founded by him, they would agree with him, they should have some lasting memorial of such a Brother in their Lodge. He would therefore move that a subscription be opened amongst the Brethren, for the purpose of obtaining a portrait of their worthy P.M., to decorate the Lodge walls. The motion, which was received with loud applause, was seconded by Bro. P. M. Cohen, and unanimously carried. The Lodge having been called off, the Brethren adjourned to a light and elegant supper; after which they spent a most agreeable evening, to which the Bros. Isaacs and others mainly contributed by their vocal abilities. In the course of the proceedings an eloquent appeal was made on behalf of the Benevolent Fund, to which a very liberal addition was made by a subscription amongst the Brethren present—one of the initiates of the evening heading the list with a donation of £5. 5s. There were a large number of Brethren present, who expressed themselves delighted alike with the working of the Lodge and the entertainment of the evening.

LODGE OF STABILITY (No. 264).—Bros. Mathew Patten, W.M.; Thomas E. Bradley, S.W.; William D. Whaley, J.W.; James King, Treas.; Henry James, Sec.; E. Sillifant, S.D.; G. A. Taylor, J.D.; T. W. Rayner, I.G. This Lodge held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, 6th January, at the Green Dragon, Bishopsgate-street, when Bro. M. Patten, Master Elect, was installed in the chair, which ceremony was ably and impressively performed by Bro. H. Muggeridge, P.M., an honorary member of this Lodge, and Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction held under this Lodge. The ceremony of installation being concluded, the W.M. appointed and invested the following Officers, and afterwards initiated Mr. E. Deutsch in the 1st Degree; and Bros. F. R. Reed and R. F. Norman were elected joining members. The Lodge being closed in due form, the Brethren proceeded to the Banquet.

LODGE OF THE UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—At the meeting of this Lodge on the 10th of February, Bro. Lugg was installed W.M. by Bro. H. S. Cooper. Bro. Jno. Coggin was appointed S.W., and Bro. Bromley J.W. A gentleman was then initiated into the Order.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—The inauguration of the W.M. elect took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 5th ult., Bro. Mills, P.M., performing the ceremony of installation in a manner to elicit the approbation of the Brethren, and to uphold the dignity of the Lodge. Bro. Pierce Egan having been duly installed, proceeded to invest his assistant Officers, viz., Bros. Alfred Richards, S.W.; J. Messent, J.W.; F. G. Aubin, S.D.; Wm. Aubin, J.D.; Warr, I.G.;

Farbourg, Treas. ; and Geo. Hooper, re-elected Hon. Sec., which office he has filled for several consecutive years, to the satisfaction and benefit of the Lodge. Two gentlemen, Messrs. David Henry Owen and Henry Bews, were initiated, and appeared duly impressed with the ceremony. A feeling appeal was made by Bro. Geo. Hooper, on behalf of the Girls' School, soliciting the aid of some Brother as a Steward for the next festival. Bro. Newson, with that kindness which has always distinguished him, immediately proffered his services, and was accepted as the representative of this Lodge at the Girls' School, on the 13th of May next. All Lodge matters being ended, the Brethren adjourned to the banquet, at the conclusion of which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, the W.M., Bro. Egan, most ably and eloquently introducing the various toasts.

PRINCE OF WALES LODGE (No. 324).—The annual meeting of this distinguished Lodge was held on Tuesday, February 24th, at the Thatched House Tavern, in St. James's-street ; the R.W. Bro. Thomas Henry Hall, Prov. G.M. of Cambridge, P.M. of No. 224, presided ; and Bro. Robert Wooner Wheeler, the W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. Mortimer, and duly installed, proclaimed, and saluted. The W.M. then appointed the following Brethren to the respective offices :—George Atty, P.M. ; J. D. Rigby, S.W. ; Mereweather, J.W. ; Mortimer, Sec. ; Simpson, S.D. ; Ruddock, J.D. ; Sutton, I.G. ; Powell, Steward ; Bromton, M.C. ; Bro. Nelson, Prov. G.D., who was re-elected Treas., was also invested. Bro. Mereweather was elected to be returned as G. Steward. The application of the committee of the Royal Benevolent Institution, soliciting a Steward from the Lodge for the festival in June, having been read, the W.M., who has already served the stewardship for the other institutions, most readily offered himself to represent the Prince of Wales Lodge for that admirable charity—Bro. Wheeler was already passed through the chair—the Castle Lodge of Harmony, No. 27. All business being concluded, the Lodge was closed at seven o'clock, and the Brethren adjourned to banquet. The W.M. was supported by Bros. Atty, Thomas Jones, S.G.D. ; John Nelson, Prov. S.G.D. ; Mortimer, and others ; and among the visitors were Bros. Henderson, Prov. G. Reg. ; and William Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec. ; and the health of those distinguished Brethren having been honoured, Bro. Henderson, in reply, congratulated the Lodge on the accession to the chair of so excellent a Mason and munificent a patron of the charities as Bro. Wheeler, whose careful and correct attention to the ceremonials and workings were worthy of all praise. Bro. Wheeler, who first saw the light of Masonry on the banks of the Cam, was now elevated to the highest position in the Order, in the most celebrated of the metropolitan Lodges. Bro. Atty, in proposing the health of the W.M., bore testimony of Bro. Wheeler's efficiency in the different offices through which he had passed, and he hoped the example of the W.M. would be followed by those who would succeed him. The W.M., in a brief reply, assured the Brethren that nothing should be wanting on his part that might contribute either to the efficiency of the working of the Lodge, or the happiness of the Brethren, whilst he had the honour of ruling. The health of the other visitors, Bros. W. R. Wood, G. Folkard, J. How, Room, &c., was acknowledged by Bro. Wood, who eulogized his friend Bro. Wheeler's devotion to Masonic business, and whose care and correct working he had many opportunities of witnessing. The visitors generally expressed their pleasure at the elegant hospitality which they had received, and truly kind and brotherly feeling evinced by all around. Bro. Young and two other Brethren contributed, by some capital singing, to a most pleasant and agreeable evening.

BANK OF ENGLAND LODGE (No. 329).—This distinguished Lodge met at Radley's Hotel on Thursday, the 8th January, when Bro. S. W. Hopwood, S.W., was installed in the chair as W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being most ably performed by Bro. Graves, one of the P.Ms. of the Lodge. The W.M. appointed the following Officers: Bros. Arthur M. Moore, S.W. ; Z. Watkins, J.W. ; W. L. Wright, P.M., Treas. ; G. Chance, P.M., Sec. ; O. Donovan, I.G. ; W. Murie, D.C. Bro. G. Chance was presented with a handsome Gold P.M.'s Jewel, having the following inscription : " Presented to Bro. Geo. Chance,

P.M., by the members of the Bank of England Lodge, No. 329, on his retirement from the chair, as a Fraternal token of their esteem and regard, 1857." After the banquet, which was of the most *recherché* description, Bro. Chance rose and proposed the health of the W.M. in a very able and complimentary manner, which was drunk enthusiastically. Bro. S. W. Hopwood, in returning thanks, expressed the great pleasure he felt in being elected by the unanimous voice of a Lodge like the Bank of England to be W.M. He had looked up to the position which he now filled from the earliest period when he was initiated into Masonry, and he trusted that when he, at the expiration of the period of his office, quitted the chair, it would lose none of the lustre which had been cast upon it by the numerous worthy P.Ms. who had gone before him. Bro. J. S. S. Hopwood returned thanks on behalf of the visitors, and expressed the gratification which he felt at being present on the occasion of the installation of his son, the W.M. The Brothers who honoured the W.M. and the Lodge with their presence on this occasion were: Freeman, No. 1; Hutchins, No. 92; Wilson, W.M., Burlington, No. 113; Faudel, P.M., No. 113; Barber, No. 113; John Hervey, P.S.G.D., No. 7; J. S. S. Hopwood, P.M. No. 7; F. Adlard, P.M. No. 7, P.G.D.C. for Essex; Anderson, P.M. No. 85; W. F. Moore, No. 5; George Gandell, No. 5; W. A. Harrison, P.M. No. 7; J. N. Higgins, Middlesex, No. 167; W. H. Nash, Lodge of Faith, No. 165.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 778).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Thursday, February 12, Bro. Johnstone, W.M., in the chair, when Bro. Harris attended and was passed. Mr. Augustine Belletti presented himself, and was duly ballotted for and initiated into the Order. This not being a banquet night, and so many Brethren present, the W.M., with his usual liberality, invited the Lodge as his guests, when about thirty Brethren sat down to a most excellent repast, which was much enlivened during the evening by Bros. Herr Wilhelm Ganz and Herr Karl Goffrié, who gave with brilliant effect, and to the great delight of the Brethren, the following selections:—Grand Duo for Piano and Violin, from *Guillaume Tell* (Osborne and De Beriot); a Solo Pianoforte Mazurka de Concert, *Souvenir de Wrest*, composed and performed by Herr Wilhelm Ganz. Before closing, the Brethren were agreeably joined by Bros. F. Crew, W. Jones, and Hart, who, with Bro. Michalski, obliged the Lodge with some excellent singing, terminating a most delightful evening, spent with harmony and good fellowship.

CANONBURY LODGE (No. 955).—On Wednesday, Feb. 11, we were transferred through the agency of an intelligent Hansom cabman, from our city location, to the very hospitable, extensive, and semi-rural edifice, the Canonbury Tavern, there to take a part in, and receive the benefit of the excellent working that has so distinguished this Lodge for the past year. We were much pleased with the appearance of the Lodge-room, with its very beautiful furniture, made for it by Bro. Crawley, very much adorned by the three superb candlesticks presented by Bro. A. J. D. Filer, bearing upon the base this inscription, "Presented to the Canonbury Lodge, by Bro. A. J. D. Filer, first W.M., 1856." The following Brethren were present: viz., Bros. Filer, Hill, Bohn, Wilson, Friend, Euston, Cox, Kirkman, Hallon, Duke, and Bake. The visitors were Bros. Potter, John Mott Thearle, Levinson, Adlard, Kendal, Nutt, Archer, Philips, Underwood, Row, and many other distinguished Brothers. The duties of the evening were splendidly performed; Bros. Stroud, Driver, and Willis being initiated with all Bro. Bohn's marked ability. The installation of Bro. Bohn as W.M. followed, an installation that marked most distinctly the estimation in which that Brother is held as the founder of the Lodge. Bro. Cox then begged leave to present the Lodge with a gavel, the head of which was made from the tree planted by order of Charles I. over the grave of the young princes smothered in the Tower, and the handle made from one of the trunnions of the old Royal George, which, as our readers will remember,—

First gave a heel, then a lurch to port,
And going down head foremost, sunk, in short,

The Lodge received the present with a unanimous vote of thanks. At the close of the business, the Brethren adjourned to one of Bro. Todd's excellent repasts, after which the usual toasts of the evening were given by Bro. Bohn, with so much taste and eloquence as to entitle him to the highest commendation. The event of the evening, however, was the presentation to Bro. A. J. D. Filer, of a very beautiful diamond ring, finished in all parts, even to the microscopic engraving inside, with the perfect taste which always distinguishes the productions of Bro. John Mott Thearle. The speeches of both Bros. Bohn and Filer upon this event were most excellent, and to the purpose ; and so, with capital speeches and good singing, we kept on until it occurred to us that the time had arrived for departing. When we left, the moon was shining full and clear from the cloudless sky, bringing Todd's house and the old Canonbury Tavern out as sharp and well defined as one of Bro. J. C. Hughes photographs (in parenthesis we may say Hughes, of 431 and 432, Strand, which the inquiring mind may discover from the striking picture of Bro. H. G. Warren, which he exhibits). Bidding good bye to Bro. Nutt, with some misgivings lest he should be garotted and lose that handsome red apron of his, we, arm-in-arm with Bros. Archer and Cox, wended our prudent way home, which we reached about the hour when ghosts are supposed to be looking up a bit, and poverty, jaded and cold, is hustled out of door-ways by too active policemen—vice and thievery having it all their own way, like the dogs do on their particular day ; love and innocence dreaming of bliss on happy pillows, and doubtless Bro. Filer turning his highly-prized diamond ring about to see how the gem flashed by the last glimmer of the rushlight. And so good night, Canonburyites. Work well, love and assist each other, and take the Magazine in regularly.

INSTRUCTION.

A meeting of the members of the Kent Lodge (No. 15), and other Lodges of Instruction, was held at Bro. Ireland's, Fetter-lane, on the 18th February, for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to Bro. Anslow as an acknowledgment of his zealous attention to the interests of the Lodge and the instruction he had afforded to the Brethren. After the Brethren, of whom nearly 100 were present, had done full justice to the elegant banquet which the worthy host had placed upon the table, the chairman, Bro. E. Dresser Rogers (of the Kent Lodge, No. 15) proposed the usual introductory toasts, which were drunk with Masonic honours.

The chairman then rose to bring before the Brethren the purpose of the meeting, and in doing so apologized for his occupying the position he did, he being only a lieutenant, and stepping into his captain's place from the unavoidable absence of his senior Officer. Bro. Brett, the chairman of the Committee, was to have taken the chair, but from official duties was unavoidably absent. They were all aware of the reason they had met that evening ; it was for the purpose of doing honour to a good and worthy man and Mason, one who was never tired in the cause of Freemasonry, and who was always ready to give his junior Brethren the benefit of his Masonic knowledge. The best proof of the estimation in which the receiver of this testimonial was held, was the very spontaneous manner in which the amount of the subscription was raised, and the great enthusiasm that prevailed in reference to the matter the whole time it had been upon the *tapis*. He then proceeded to introduce Bro. Carpenter to the meeting, for the purpose of presenting the testimonials.

Bro. Carpenter stated that he was called upon quite suddenly and unexpectedly, but still he felt great pleasure in doing his best. He was sure all must deeply regret the absence, through severe illness, of Bro. Thomas, whose post he would now endeavour to fill. He dilated upon the many excellent qualities of Bro. Anslow as a Mason, and spoke particularly of the true Masonic feeling expressed in the desire that the testimonial should partly assume the character of a Life Governorship of the Masonic Girls' School, thus giving the Brethren subscribing a double pleasure, as by their efforts they were assisting in the Masonic charities. Bro. Carpenter then proceeded to present Bro. Anslow with the receipt for the

subscription, making him a Life Governor of the Masonic Girls' School. After which, with some prefatory remarks, he presented and placed upon the Brother's left breast a superb P.M.'s Instruction Jewel, and then presented to him the remaining testimonials, which consisted of an electro-plated tea and coffee service and a massive silver snuff-box.

Bro. Anslow returned thanks in a manner which produced a strong feeling of gratification to the Brethren. He stated why he particularly felt pleasure in having the Life Governorship of the Girls' School presented to him, and repeated his desire that junior Masons should apply to him for instruction, being willing at all times to give them all the information in his power.

The snuff-box bore the following inscription, "This silver snuff-box, with a tea and coffee service, a P.M.'s Jewel, and a Life Governorship of the Masonic Girls' School, was presented to Bro. Thomas Anslow, P.M. No. 165, by his Brethren, members of several Lodges of Instruction, where his brilliant Masonic knowledge has so often assisted them to an acquaintance with the beautiful working of the Order."

A variety of toasts having been drunk, interspersed with songs, the Brethren separated.

PROVINCIAL.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The meeting of the above took place on Monday, the 9th instant, at the Lodge-room of the Scientific. The Rev. Arthur R. Ward, D. Prov. G.M., presided. It being the first gathering of the Grand Lodge since the appointment of Bro. Ward, he was received and saluted in the three Degrees, "in due and ancient form." There was no business of interest transacted, and after the usual proclamations and solemn prayer, Grand Lodge was closed.

Scientific Lodge (No. 105).—On the completion of Grand Lodge, the usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held. Some private business having been disposed of, the Treasurer's report for the previous year was read. Bro. C. J. Jones, P.M., then resigned his office of Treasurer and was unanimously re-elected. Bro. Horton Smith was then raised to the Sublime Degree. The following gentlemen were then balloted for, and unanimously elected as fit and proper persons to be made Masons, viz.:—Mr. Herbert Snow, of St. John's College; Mr. Smith, of Trinity College; Mr. Moyse, of the Bull Hotel; Mr. Stormer, of Cambridge; Mr. Alwyn, of Christ College; Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Hamboro, Hon. E. Bourke, and Lord Pelham, all of Trinity College. The initiation of Messrs. Moyse and Alwyn stands over till next Lodge night. The other two gentlemen were initiated into the mysteries of the 1st Degree. Bro. Stork was elected an honorary member of the Lodge. Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren adjourned to supper, the evening being spent Masonically and quietly. Bro. Rev. Arthur R. Ward, W.M., presided, and was ably assisted by his new staff of Officers, who give every promise of future excellence as working Masons.

CHESHIRE.

FLOWERY FIELD, HYDE.—*Lodge of Fidelity* (No. 623).—The members of this Lodge held their usual monthly meeting at the White Hart Inn, on Saturday, the 14th February, when the W.M. (Bro. John Yarker, 189), assisted by Bro. P. M. Adolphus Eichholz, 189, as S.W., and Bro. Jas. Relph, J.W., initiated Dr. Shaw and Mr. Jas. Barlow into the secrets and mysteries of the Order. A Brother was admitted a joining member, and a gentleman proposed for initiation. The first section of the lecture was worked, the questions being put by Bro. P. M. William Hill. Several visiting Brethren were present from the neigh-

bouring Lodges. The Lodge being closed, the Brethren, to the number of about fifteen or twenty, sat down to supper, provided in Bro. Stott's usual good style. Subsequently the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, and a very agreeable evening spent. This Lodge, we may add, has for a few years been principally supported by our Manchester Brethren; but we are happy to say that there appears every chance of a good accession of members from its own district.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH, DEVONPORT, AND STONEHOUSE.—In the above-named three towns, the Triopolis of the West of England, there are some 400 or 500 Brethren of the Craft, and seven Lodges. At a meeting of Lodge Sincerity, No. 224, in December last, the idea of an aggregate meeting of the Freemasons of the neighbourhood was incidentally thrown out. It was caught at with avidity, as a good idea. The W.Ms. of the several Lodges met, a committee was formed, and an annual aggregate banquet was eventually determined on. The approval of the R.W. the Prov. G.M. for the province, the Earl Fortescue, *K.G.*, was obtained, and the first banquet fixed for Wednesday, February 18th; the R.W. the D. Prov. G.M. for the province, Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, having consented to preside, and Bro. W. Denis Moore, the able and most worthy Prov. G. Secretary, to fill the post of vice-chairman. Arrangements were also made with Bros. Branscombe, Risdon, and Carpenter, of Exeter, to be present, and give the benefit of their great musical and vocal talents to the meeting. The assembly-room at the Royal Hotel, Devonport, fixed upon as the scene of the banquet, was decorated by the flags, banners, &c. of the several Lodges with admirable taste by Bro. J. Killingly, P.M. of No. 122, P.A. Dir. of Cers., a member of the banquet committee, and the Director of Ceremonies on this occasion. About 200 Brethren sat down to a good substantial dinner furnished by Mr. Moorshead of the Hotel. The R.W. the Chairman was supported right and left by past and present Prov. G. Officers; the V.W. the Vice-chairman by the Secretary of the banquet committee, Bro. William Hunt, S.W. No. 224, and the Secretaries of the Lodges. Immediately before the Chairman were the W. Masters of Lodges, and before the Vice-chairman the Past Masters. The centre of the room being filled by the Officers of Lodges and Brethren, amongst whom were several connected with the Army and Navy, decorated with marks of their valour and of their services. The arrangements as to seating were admirably carried out by Bro. Killingly, and the room, when filled, presented an appearance with which every one present was pleased and gratified.

Grace before and after refreshment was said by the R.W. Chairman, and *Non nobis Domine* was sung by the company.

On the removal of the cloth,

The R.W. Chairman proposed "The Queen and the Craft," at the same time remarking that "The Queen" was a toast always most heartily responded to in any society of Englishmen, and never more so than when the company consisted of those who were Masons.

The toast having been duly honoured, the National Anthem was sung by the Brethren.

The Chairman then proposed "His Royal Highness Prince Albert, the duke of Cornwall, and the rest of the Royal Family."

The young Prince, he hoped, would one day become a member of their band. (Cheers.)

The Chairman then proposed "The M.W. the G.M. of England, the Right Hon. the earl of Zetland, and the Grand Lodge," which was duly responded to.

The Vice-Chairman having intimated that several letters had been received from Brethren unable to attend,

Bro. W. Hunt, S.W. No. 224 (Sec. of the Banquet Committee), read letters from Bros. the earl of Carnarvon; Augustus Smith, D. Prov. G.M. for Cornwall; Ellis, Falmouth, P.D. Prov. G.M. for Cornwall; Tunstall, Bath; and J. Edmonds, Plymouth, stating their regret at circumstances rendering them unable to attend, and generally expressing a desire to attend on some future occasion. Bro. Hunt

intimated that he had received other letters, but did not believe it necessary to read the whole of them.

The Chairman said that, for numerous reasons, he believed they would drink with gratitude and spirit the toast of their Prov. G.M. He believed he was one of the most competent and best Prov. G.Ms. in England, and one who always attended to his duties unless absolutely prevented, and performed those duties courteously and cordially. He eulogized the Prov. G.M.'s qualities as a man, a nobleman, and a Mason, and believed he would have been there that night had it been possible; in fact, he still thought there had been a letter from him which the Secretary had omitted to read. He concluded by proposing "The R.W. the Prov. G.M. for Devon, the Right Hon. the Earl of Fortescue, *K.G.*, &c." (Drunk with all the honours).

The Vice-Chairman said he had the authority of the Prov. G.M. to state that nothing but the strict command of his physician prevented his being present that evening.

The Chairman then, in complimentary terms, proposed "The R.W. the Prov. G.M. for Cornwall, Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., *M.P.*, and the Prov. Grand Lodge of Cornwall."

Bro. Mason, W.M. No. 815, Callington, returned thanks.

Bro. Julian, W.M. No. 83, after remarking that every Brother would respond with spirit to the toast he was about to propose, gave "The R.W. the D. Prov. G.M. and the Officers of the Prov. G.L. for Devon." He spoke of the kind and courteous feelings which existed between Prov. G.L. and the Lodges in the neighbourhood, praised the idea of bringing together so many of the Brotherhood of the province, which he believed originated with Bro. Tripe, and he hoped it would be continued. After referring to the Masonic charities, he concluded by proposing the toast.

The Chairman said he should have another opportunity of speaking, and consequently called on Bro. Evens, to return thanks.

Bro. Evens, P.M. No. 224, in the course of his remarks, said he was proud to see so many present belonging to the neighbourhood wearing the Purple, and hoped that fact would be an encouragement to the younger Brethren.

The Vice-Chairman said the committee had acted very wisely in placing the next toast in his hands, not because there were not others present who could propose it better, but because, after twenty-seven years of service in office, he could say that no one present had had more to do with the Lodges in the province than he had. He referred with great pleasure and satisfaction to the manner in which the business of the seven Lodges in the three towns had been conducted, and the amount of zeal and spirit they had displayed in the performance of good works. When the funds of one of the best institutions in the neighbourhood—the Hospital—required assistance, the Lodges in the three towns came forward, and held a festival for its benefit, and, besides, subscribed liberally, in order that the Craft should testify its appreciation of the object. When the committee of the Royal British Female Orphan Asylum were about to erect a new building, the Craft came forward, and by subscriptions and other assistance materially aided their endeavours. When a short time since he was present on Dartmoor, to assist in the formation of a Lodge in the wilderness, that Masonry might be extended; he met, although they would remember the weather on that occasion was most unpropitious, a large number of the Brethren of the Three Towns. The Vice-chairman then referred to the truly Masonic conduct of Bro. J. R. Newcombe, of the Plymouth Theatre, on the occasion of the well-remembered accident to Madlle. Julie, and regretted that circumstances prevented his being present with the Brethren of the Three Towns on the occasion of the presentation of the Testimonial to Brother Newcombe. After some practical remarks suggesting the establishment of a General Fund for purposes of casual charity instead of the present system of relief by individual Lodges, and expressing his belief that the bringing together the members of the seven Lodges in the Three Towns would be beneficial to each individual member and do honour to the Craft, he concluded by proposing "The Union and Prosperity of the Seven Lodges."

Bro. R. May, W.M. No. 122, returned thanks in an able speech, in which he

remarked that the greatest unanimity existed between the Seven Lodges ; in fact, never more so. He was glad their first Banquet had met with so great success, as he well knew that many Brethren were prevented by business and other causes from attending on the regular Lodge occasions. He concluded by returning thanks for the toast.

The health of the Chairman was proposed by

Bro. L. P. Tripe, P.M. No. 224, who said : As Chairman of the committee, a duty has been imposed upon me which is at once easy and embarrassing. Easy, for I have but to speak a plain unvarnished truth, which will find an echo in the breast of every Brother present ; but embarrassing, because on the principle that the greater the truth the greater the libel, so the greater the need of praise, the greater my difficulty in steering between coldness or affectation on the one side, and the fear of wounding the sensitive feelings of our Chairman on the other. My only way out of the difficulty is to suppose our Chairman placed for the time in the dark corner, to vote our Vice into the chair, and then we can discuss the merits at our ease, and we can talk of Brother Hushye as we do when we retire from labour to refreshment in our Lodges, when

————— His name,
Familiar in our mouths as household words,
Is in our flowing cups freshly remembered.

Not many years have elapsed since our Brother was raised to the high position he at present occupies, succeeding one who endeared himself to every member of the Craft by his prompt attention to any summons, and by his personal kindness and urbanity. Indeed, it is not too much to say, that by the eminent qualities of the Dep. Prov., as well as those of the Prov.G.M., this Province was now raised second to none in the kingdom. Bro. T. here alluded to the last time he had met Dr. Carwithen. It was, he said, in that room in the chair then occupied by the Prov. Grand Secretary, at a mixed meeting of Brethren and Laity, to commemorate laying the foundation-stone of the Royal British Female Orphan Asylum. On that, as on every other occasion, we were indebted to him for the most loyal and Brotherly assistance. The reminiscences are, however, accompanied with some most painful reflections,—for he has been moved to the Grand Lodge above, and with him two near relatives of mine—a brother and a brother-in-law, who in the Masonic procession of that day bore the standards of the Prov. Grand Master and Deputy Prov. Grand Master ; one died in the actual service of his Queen and country, and the other removed from us on his return to England after forty years' arduous service in India. They were in every sense of the word good and loyal Masons. In continuing his remarks, Bro. Tripe observed : It is said that a very indifferent ruler appears to subjects endowed with every good quality when he succeeds a Nero, while, on the other hand, our present heir apparent must be a paragon, if, when he succeeds to the throne, he rivals our Queen in the affection of his subjects. Such was the disagreeable position of Bro. Huyshe when he succeeded our late lamented friend Dr. Carwithen but a few years since. By what slow but sure degrees he thus won golden opinions from all, and what position he occupies now in the estimation of us all needs no speech of mine ; for is it not recorded in the memory of all, and do not his Masonic merits rise before us, written "in the mind's eye" of each more clearly and more graphically than I can describe it ? He has won his present proud character not by an over-strained effort at popularity, nor by the exercise of commanding eloquence or talent, but simply by recognizing the axiom that his position had its duties as well as its privileges, and that those duties, often unpleasant, he has discharged with uprightness and firmness, but at the same time, with urbanity, forbearance, and brotherly love. He has done all he could ; witness his presence here to night and his more fatiguing journey to Dartmoor lately to encourage industry and reward merit in deserving Brethren ; while in the decision of every trespass against our rules he has judged with candour, administered with friendship, and reprehended with mercy. Such qualities will always command respect and regard in the profane world, how much more then among us, a "band of Brothers ?" Let us then drink, with all the

honours, health and long life to our worthy Chairman, and long may he be spared to us. (Loud cheers.)

The Chairman, in rising to return thanks, was warmly applauded. He said that, from his long experience of office, he knew something of the Seven Lodges in the Three Towns, but would not refer to anything that was past, whether for praise or censure, but let bygones be bygones. He did not wish to appear as their D.Prov.G.M., but as one of themselves. He was always happy to meet them, and was glad of the present opportunity of forming a re-union with some old friends and brothers, and meeting others with whom he was not previously acquainted. The R.W. Brother concluded by expressing a hope that the Masonic conduct of his Brethren present would be such, that when they had passed through this mortal life, they might, by the help of the G.A.O.T.U., again meet in the Grand Lodge above, there to remain united for ever.

Bro. G. T. Roberts, W.M. 182, proposed the health of the Vice-Chairman, and, in the course of a few able remarks, highly complimented him on his cordial and courteous bearing on every occasion and his zeal in the Order.

The Vice-Chairman returned thanks, and introduced a few remarks on the value of Masonry and its effect on the conduct of those who rightly understood and practised its principles. He referred also to the manner in which it promoted intercourse and hospitable feeling. He had lately paid a visit to the Scilly Isles, the Lord of which, Bro. Augustus Smith, the D.Prov.G.M. for Cornwall, to whom he was previously unknown, finding he was in the neighbourhood, invited him to his house, and treated him like a Brother. He stated an anecdote illustrating the kindness of heart of the Earl Fortescue, the Prov.G.M., and argued that Masonry must have a beneficial effect upon one's feelings. In speaking of Earl Fortescue, he called attention to his lordship's military and civil services, and more particularly referring to the former, he praised the manner in which they had been performed. This reminded him of the benefit of Masonry to those engaged in the military service, and also of the services which had been rendered by the Army and Navy in the recent war with Russia, and he concluded by proposing "The Army and Navy" as a toast, which he asked them to drink with heartiness, and accompany with a true British cheer worthy of Inkermann. The toast was drunk with cheers again and again renewed.

Bro. Serjeant Press, Royal Artillery, a fine specimen of the British soldier, whose manly breast was adorned with numerous honours, returned thanks on behalf of the army, regretting that some one higher in rank than himself had not risen to do so. He had been in every part of the world, and everywhere he had found Masons. He had been through the Crimean campaign, and had many times fraternized with Brethren belonging to other countries, receiving and doing each other kindness, when they had not the power of making themselves understood in language. (The gallant Brother resumed his seat amidst loud applause.)

Bro. Taylor, R.N., returned thanks on behalf of the Navy.

The Vice-Chairman proposed "The Health of the W.Ms. of the Seven Lodges."

Bro. Southwood, W.M. No. 270, returned thanks.

The Chairman proposed "The Visiting Brethren."

Bro. Captain Trower, Exeter, returned thanks. He was pleased at the opportunity which had been afforded him of meeting so large a number of the Fraternity, and on behalf of the visiting Brethren returned thanks.

The Chairman proposed "The Banquet Committee."

Bro. L. P. Tripe (Chairman of the Committee), in responding to the toast, said that though a member of the Committee, little thanks were due to him. He had acted merely as Chairman, whilst the arduous duties had been performed by Bro. W. Hunt, the Secretary, and Bro. Killingly, the Master of the Ceremonies. With himself, however, he might say, had originated the idea of the aggregate meeting, and he was led to make the suggestion that Masons, who were immersed in business, and whose time, therefore, like his own, was fully occupied, might have the opportunity once a year of meeting and becoming acquainted with each other. He concluded by urging upon old Masons the duty of extending the hand of fellowship to their younger and more struggling Brethren, to assist needy and

deserving members of the Craft, and in every relation of life to act as true Masons, remembering that

“Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;—

“Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing o’er life’s solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.”

The last toast, “Our Distressed Brethren,” having been given and honoured, the Brethren dispersed at an early hour, much pleased with the evening’s enjoyment. We may add that the glees sung by Bros. Branscombe, Risdon, and Carpenter, afforded much pleasure, and the greatest concord and brotherly feeling characterized the proceedings.

SOUTHMOLTON.—*Loyal Lodge of Industry* (No. 610).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their usual monthly meeting on Tuesday, the 3rd February, when Bro. J. T. Shapland, P.M., was duly elected a joining member, and, by permission of the W.M., took the chair, and initiated Mr. Henry Tanner into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. All business being ended, the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to refreshment.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

CHELTENHAM.—*Royal Union Lodge* (No. 307).—At the regular meeting of this Lodge, held at the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday, 18th February, there was a large assembly of the Brethren to assist at the initiation of Capt. F. W. F. Berkeley, Royal Horse Guards, who had been regularly proposed and approved at a previous Lodge. Besides the members of the Royal Union, there were present Bro. the Hon. James Dutton, the Prov. G.M. of the Province; Bros. Newmarch, Dep. Prov. G.M.; Frindu, Prov. G. Reg.; Nash, Dep. Prov. G.M. of Bristol, and several other Visiting Brethren. The ceremony of initiation was performed by the W.M. Bro. J. Brook Smith (Bro. Alex, P.M., acting as J.D., P.T.) in a most able and impressive manner, and the Lodge then proceeded to ballot for Messrs. W. Philpot Brookes, *M.D.*, and W. S. Wallace, both of whom were approved, and afterwards initiated into the mysteries of the Craft, the lecture on the Tracing Board and the Charge being most admirably delivered to the newly initiated Brethren by the W.M. The labours of the evening being ended, the Brethren adjourned to the Banqueting Hall of the Lodge, when an elegant supper was served, presided over by the W.M., supported on his right by the P.G.M., D.P.G.M., and P.G.R. of the Province, and the D.P.G.M. of Bristol. In the course of the evening the W.M. proposed the health of the Prov. G.M., alluding to the fact of its being his first visit to the Royal Union Lodge, since his recent inauguration. In returning thanks, the Right Worshipful Brother took occasion to compliment the W.M. and his Officers on the admirable working of the Lodge, which was echoed by the D.P.G.M. and the D.P.G.M. for Bristol. The healths of the newly-initiated Brethren having been proposed and duly honoured, Bro. Berkeley, after expressing his high sense of the honour conferred upon him by his admission to the Craft, said that he was desirous of presenting the Lodge with a set of Tracing Boards, which liberal offer was most warmly received and accepted. Bro. J. O. Smith presided over the musical arrangements, and with several other Brethren added much to the pleasure of the evening by a number of excellent and appropriate songs, among which we must notice the beautiful one, so much admired at the Prov. G. Lodge meeting (for which it was written, by Bro. Douglas Thompson), “The Masons’ True Jewels.” After the final toast, “To all poor and distressed Masons,” had been given by the Tyler, and the usual collection made on their behalf, the Brethren separated, highly delighted with the profit as well as pleasure of the evening.

HAMPSHIRE.

SOUTHAMPTON.—*Southampton Lodge* (No. 555).—On Thursday, 19th February, Bro. P.M. J.R. Stebbing, President of the Chamber of Commerce, was this day installed W.M. of the above Lodge, No. 555, by dispensation, holding by recent installation the Office of W.M. of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 462, Sherley. Bro. Stebbing appointed and invested Bro. Geo. Mills, Supt. Engineer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, S.W., and Bro. Henry Sampson Easty, J.W., after which and a passing, about twenty-six of the members of the Lodge partook of a sumptuous banquet.

KENT.

GRAVESEND.—*Lodge of Freedom* (No. 91).—The Brethren of this Lodge met at Bro. Wate's Hotel, at 7 o'clock, on the 16th February. In the absence of Bro. Watson from indisposition, the chair was ably filled by Bro. Spencer, P.M., who raised Bro. Turner to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason; after which he gave the Charge and explanation of Third Tracing Board, in his usual masterly style. Lodge business being concluded, the Brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet. The usual toasts of the Craft were given with great *éclat*. The health of the visitors, Bros. Manley and Smith, of the Quebec Lodge, was given and responded to. Bro. Manley next gave the health of the chairman, Bro. Spencer, passing very high encomiums on the manner in which the work was performed by him. The evening passed away in a very pleasant manner, the singing of various Brethren being excellent.

LANCASHIRE.

BOLTON.—*Anchor and Hope Lodge* (No. 44).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, February the 5th, when Bro. Musgrave, W.M., presided, assisted by the whole of his Officers. The Lodge opened on the 1st Degree, when a gentleman who was proposed at the last regular meeting was balloted for, approved, and initiated into the mysteries of the Order, by Bro. W. H. Wright, the D.C. of this Lodge—the Charge usually given on these occasions being very impressively delivered by Bro. Sinclair. After the transaction of some private Lodge business, the Brethren adjourned to refreshment, where the visitors were entertained in that truly hospitable manner for which old 44 has ever been renowned.

St. John's Lodge (No. 268).—The monthly meeting was held at the Commercial Hotel, Bolton, on Wednesday, February the 18th, Bro. John Mitchell, W.M., presiding. The W.M. proved his efficiency as a working Mason, on this, the first occasion of his ever performing any ceremony in a Lodge, by raising Bro. Dean to the Degree of Master Mason, in a manner which elicited the warmest expressions of admiration from the Brethren present. The Lodge was placed in mourning as a tribute to the memory of the late Treasurer, Brother William Platt, one of the oldest P.Ms. of the Lodge, a notice of whom will be found in the obituary of this month.

St. John's Lodge (No. 436).—The monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, January the 28th, Bro. John Bromley, W.M., in the chair. After confirmation of the minutes of the preceding meeting, the W.M. proceeded to pass Bro. Houtt, of Whittle, near Chorley, to the Degree of Fellow Craft. Mr. Chambers having been approved, was duly initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. Both ceremonies were performed in a manner highly creditable to the W.M. and his Officers. Three gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation at the next meeting, to be held on the 25th instant. The position and prospects of this Lodge are highly encouraging.

BOLTON-LE-MOORS.—*Lodge of Antiquity* (No. 170).—The Brethren of this Lodge assembled at the One Horse Shoe Inn, on Wednesday, the 11th of February, to hold their usual monthly meeting. The W.M. being unavoidably absent, the Lodge was opened in due form at 7 p.m. by Bro. Reuben Mitchell, P.M., after which the

minutes of the last Lodge-meeting were read and confirmed; the presiding W.M. then proceeded to raise Bro. Smith, and initiate Mr. Robert Whewell into the mysteries of the Order. Bro. Baythorp, W.M., having entered the Lodge, took the chair, and delivered the Charge in a very solemn and impressive manner. At the conclusion of business, the Lodge was closed in form, after which the Brethren sat down to refreshment for a short time, when the usual loyal toasts were given and responded to in a truly Masonic spirit; the pleasures of the evening being much enhanced by the harmony of Bros. Greenhalgh and Fowler. We are happy to see the example set by the efficient working of this Lodge by its Officers, and its splendid decorations are being copied by other Lodges in this town. The Masons of Bolton are emulating each other in that true spirit which the Brethren of all other towns would do well to imitate.

FARNWORTH, NEAR BOLTON.—*Ellesmere Lodge* (No. 976).—The monthly meeting was held on Tuesday evening, February the 10th, at the Bowling Green Inn, when there was a very good attendance of the members of the Lodge. The business was very heavy, but was ably and cheerfully performed by Bro. Peat, the W.M. of the Lodge, who, on this occasion, raised three Brethren to the Degree of M.M., passed one to the F.C. Degree, and initiated one gentleman into the mysteries of the Order. This Lodge, which has only recently been opened, is in a state of great prosperity, and bids fair to become one of the most important in the district.

MANCHESTER.—*Lodge of Integrity* (No. 189).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their usual monthly meeting on the 28th January, at the Brunswick Hotel, Piccadilly. Amongst other general business, Mr. Henry Lewison was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our Order, by the W.M. (Bro. John Baker), in a way which, as this is only his second night of office, did him great credit. A Brother was passed to the 2nd Degree in an able manner by Bro. P. M. Robinson, another raised to the Sublime Degree by Bro. P. M. Blackley, with his usual impressiveness, and a gentleman proposed for initiation. Among the visiting Brethren were Bros. W. R. Callender 75; J. O. Surtees, W.M. 246; and Walter Montgomery, 246. After the transaction of so much business, it was of course necessary that the inner man should be replenished, which was amply provided for by our worthy host, Bro. Watson, and about thirty Brethren partook of refreshments. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk. Bro. J. O. Surtees responded to the toast of the visiting Brethren in an eloquent speech, expatiating on the three Grand Principles of our Order, "Brotherly Love," "Relief," and "Truth," and remarked that they were never more shown than when congregated round the festive board; and that the visiting other Lodges cements that good feeling which fortunately (and almost of necessity) exists among the members of our noble Institution. A most agreeable evening was spent, to which Bro. Montgomery considerably contributed, and the Brethren did not separate until a late hour. We have no hesitation in asserting, that the excellent manner in which the general business is conducted, and the unanimity of feeling and truly Masonic spirit which prevail among the Brethren of this Lodge, are unsurpassed by any Lodge in the province. There is only one regret among a majority of its members, and that is, that they are unable to meet in private rooms; the matter has been mooted, but owing to the impossibility of finding suitable rooms at a reasonable rate, has fallen through, and attempts at meeting the different Lodges in the city have hitherto failed. We are, however, certain that there are sufficient good men and true in Manchester to establish a Masonic Hall, or something of the kind, where all the Lodges, Chapters, and Encampments, might meet; it only requires a few influential Brethren to take the matter up, and we are sure that it would succeed; we believe something of the kind is on the *tapis*, and we cordially wish it every success.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

SPALDING.—*Hundred of Elloe Lodge* (No. 690).—At the monthly communication of this Lodge, holden on Tuesday, February 3rd, Bro. Wood, W.M., in the chair, Mr. Samuel Fisher, of Stamford, was initiated into Freemasonry by Bro. Pock-

lington, the immediate P.M. of the Lodge. Notice of a proposition to be made at the next meeting was given, to increase the annual subscriptions, and enable the Lodge to subscribe to the several Masonic charities.

NORFOLK.

NORWICH.—*Social Lodge* (No. 110).—On Tuesday, January 20th, the Brethren of the above Lodge met for the purpose of installing Bro. Addison J. Cresswell W.M. for the ensuing year. Lodge being opened in due form by the W.M. Bro. A. W. Ray, the ceremony of the installation was performed by P.M. Bro. W. R. Redgrave, in presence of one of the most numerous Masonic gatherings that it has been our fortune to witness for several years past in this Province. We were happy to see members of almost every Lodge in the Province present. The W.M. then appointed Bros. Sir H. J. Stracy, Bart. *M.P.* as S.W. ; W. Cooper, J.W. ; A. J. Collins, S.D. ; A. F. Morgan, J.D. ; J. Marshall, Treas., and by the universal desire of the Lodge he was re-appointed Secretary. The business for the day being satisfactorily concluded, the Brethren celebrated St. John's day, with a banquet supplied in very excellent style by the host, Bro. Heseltine ; the R.W. the Mayor (Bro. R. Chamberlin), Bro. the Honble. Harbord Harbord, and several other distinguished visitors, being amongst the number of those collected around the festive board. From the number of members joining this justly popular Lodge, it has been found necessary to hold a Lodge of Emergency every Tuesday evening, for passing and raising, until further notice.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

KETTERING.—*Lodge of Perseverance* (No. 666).—The Brethren held their regular meeting on the 9th ultimo. After the routine of business had progressed, for the sake of instruction and information to the newly-initiated, Secretary Chapman delivered to the Lodge an elaborate lecture "on Symbolism ;" it was received by both senior and junior Brethren with the highest satisfaction, doing the worthy and respected Secretary the greatest credit, not only for the elocution thereof, but for the great labour and researches he must have been at in bringing before his hearers such a mass of information.

• WELLINGBOROUGH.—The members of the Perseverance Lodge of Instruction, at their last meeting for Masonic information, were highly gratified by the presence of P.M. Bro. Wm. Goring, of the Robert Burns Lodge (No. 25), London District, who gave them an unexpected and gratuitous visit, which will be long borne in remembrance by that little but sanguine band of Masons. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, a unanimous vote of thanks was given to Bro. Goring, for the manner in which he went through the lectures, and his talented explanation of the Landmarks of the Order, as also a remuneration for sacrifice of time and travelling expenses. The former was responded to in a manner that did great credit to the speaker ; the latter was very briefly but politely complimented, and its acceptance respectfully declined.

SOUTH WALES.

Bro. J. Johnes, of Dolancothy, has been appointed Provincial Grand Master for South Wales, *vice* Lord Milford, deceased.

CARDIFF.—*Glamorgan Lodge* (No. 43).—The usual monthly meeting of this prosperous Lodge took place on February the 9th, 1857, and presented a considerable array of business. The Lodge was opened at eight o'clock, by Bro. Alexander Bassett, W.M., in the presence of a large number of Brethren. After the minutes of the meeting held in the previous month had been read and confirmed, a ballot took place for several gentlemen who had been proposed as candidates for Freemasonry, who were all unanimously elected ; two of the candidates being in attendance, they were duly initiated in accordance with ancient usage. The Lodge having been raised to the 3rd Degree, Bro. R. F. Langley, P.M., at the request of the W.M., raised Bros. John Whitlock Nicholl Carne, D.C.L., and David Brown to the Sublime Degree of M.Ms. We are glad to hear such good accounts of this Lodge—the oldest in South

Wales. The Lodge numbers nearly seventy subscribing members, with a prospect of a constant increase from the unexampled rapidity with which the town of Cardiff is increasing. It is also intended to erect suitable Lodge-rooms as soon as a convenient site can be procured.

CARMARTHEN.—*St Peter's Lodge* (No. 699).—This Lodge is still flourishing, and on the 8th January last, Mr. William Morris, banker, was very ably initiated by the W.M. Bro. W. G. S. Thomas. Bro. David Davies was also passed to the 2nd Degree, and Bro. Hamptman raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by Bro. Ribbans in his usual excellent manner. The working of this Lodge has hitherto fallen on Bro. Ribbans, but he must now find his labours materially decreased by the exertions of the W.M. and Bro. W. H. Cole. 6th February.—The regular Lodge of the month was held this evening, when Bro. N. J. H. Thomas was passed to the 2nd Degree, and Bro. David Davies raised to the Degree of Master Mason by Bro. W. H. Cole, both ceremonies being performed in a very able and impressive manner, the latter particularly, for which Bro. Cole was highly complimented by Bro. Ribbans. The subject of the appointment of Bro. John Johnes, of Dolancothy, D. Prov. G.M. for the Western Division of Wales, as Prov. G.M., in the stead of the late Prov. G.M. Lord Milford, deceased, was discussed, but no resolution passed, because it was feared the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland, might consider his prerogative interfered with. We are happy to state that since then Bro. Johnes has been appointed Prov. G.M., and that the appointment has given the utmost satisfaction to the whole of the Brethren. The members of St. Peter's Lodge are particularly gratified thereat for many reasons, one of which is, that they hope Bro. Johnes will inaugurate his appointment as Prov. G.M. by holding a Prov. Grand Lodge at Carmarthen, and we are sure Bro. Johnes will excuse us saying that, considering the fact of a Prov. Grand Lodge not having been held at Carmarthen for years, on account of the indisposition of the late Prov. G.M., and from other causes connected with him, and also considering the fact that St. Peter's Lodge, Carmarthen, was at one time the Grand Lodge of the Province, there really seems to be some justice in this hope.

LLANDILO.—*St. Teilo Lodge*.—A Dispensation for opening a new Lodge at the Cawdor Arms Hotel, Llandilo, has been granted by the M.W.G.M., and the Lodge will shortly be opened in ancient form by that worthy and talented Mason, Bro. F. D. Michael, P.M., &c., of the Swansea Lodge, No. 288. Bros. W. G. S. Thomas will be the first W.M.; W. H. Cole, the first S.W.; and Hutchings (P.M.), the first J.W. We wish the new Lodge every success, and have no doubt, from its vicinity to the residence of the Prov. G.M., it will ultimately become one of the best in the Province.

SUFFOLK.

IPSWICH.—*Lodge of Perfect Friendship* (No. 522).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the New Assembly Rooms, Ipswich, on the 15th ult., when Bro. Luard, Captain Royal Artillery, was duly passed to the 2nd Degree; Mr. Henry Augustus Bale and Mr. Geo. Snow, both of London, were regularly balloted for and initiated by the W.M., Mr. G. B. King, in his usual solemn and impressive manner. There was a large assemblage of Past Masters, who show their general attachment to Masonry, and their own Lodge in particular, by regularly attending to their Masonic duties, thus setting a good example to their younger Brethren, which it is hoped they will zealously follow. The visitors present were Bros. Pearson, No. 252; Clarke and Steverin, of the Joppa Lodge, No. 223.

SURREY.

REIGATE.—*Surrey Lodge* (No. 603).—In a previous number we reported the proceedings of a Lodge of Emergency to resuscitate this distinguished Lodge after a slumber of fifteen years. On Wednesday, January 21st, a regular meeting of the Lodge was held at the Swan Inn, when the minutes of the last regular Lodge, and of the intervening Lodge of Emergency, were read and confirmed. The following Brethren were elected joining members, viz.—V.W. Bro. John Evans,

P.G.S., No. 318.; Bros. George Lyall, Lodge of Friendship, No. 6.; C. Holman, Matcham, Froom, Kline, Burns, and Scisson. The candidates who were initiated consisted of Bros. G. C. Morrison, Smith, Carruthers, and Blakinston, "mine host" of the Swan. The V.W. Bro. John Evans was elected the W.M. for the ensuing year. The duties of the Lodge having been satisfactorily discharged, the Lodge was closed in form. The Brethren then adjourned to an excellent banquet. On the removal of the cloth, several good toasts were proposed and responded to. After some capital songs from Bros. Hart and Morrison, the party broke up, with a feeling of regret that the Lodge had been allowed to remain so long dormant.

SUSSEX.

CHICHESTER.—*Lodge of Union* (No. 45).—At the monthly meeting of the members of this Lodge, held at the Council Chamber, on Thursday, February 12th, the W.M. Bro. Jas. Powell, jun. presiding, Messrs. John Barnard Murless and Charles Adams were, on a ballot, accepted as candidates, and duly initiated in the mysteries of the 1st Degree. Bros. Cotell and Collens, having given proofs of their proficiency, were passed to the Degree of F.C.; and Bro. Thomas Bulbeck was raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. The whole of the ceremonies were performed by the W.M. in a very impressive manner. The Lodge having resumed to the 1st Degree, during the temporary absence of the W.M. Bro. Gambling, P.M., ruled the Lodge, and Bro. Geo. Smith, S.W., proposed, and Bro. Halsted, late S.W., seconded, that a P.M.'s Jewel should be presented to the W.M. by the Lodge, as a recognition of his valuable services in the cause of Masonry in general, and of this Lodge in particular. The proposition was carried unanimously, and it was resolved that the presentation should take place at the next banquet. The W.M. having resumed the gavel, the Lodge closed in harmony.

WARWICKSHIRE.

COVENTRY.—*Trinity Lodge* (No. 316).—The Brethren of this Lodge met on Tuesday, December 30, 1856, at the Castle Inn, to celebrate the festival of St. John the Evangelist, and after the usual preliminaries, Bro. Bursell was duly installed, with ancient honours, as W.M. for the ensuing year, after which the Officers were appointed, viz.:—Bros. Bliss, S.W.; Robinson, J.W.; Webster, P.M., Sec.; Matterson, S.D.; Tomkinson, J.D.; Glover, Treas.; and Astley, I.G. A candidate for initiation was proposed. The Brethren then sat down to a capital dinner, which was served in the usual excellent style of the host, Bro. John Hall. Loyal and Masonic toasts and songs were given, and Masonic harmony prevailed during the evening.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY.—*Harmonic Lodge* (No. 313).—At the regular meeting of this Lodge, on Tuesday, February the 3rd, Lodge was opened by the Rev. T. W. Herbert, M.A., W.M. A Brother was then raised to the Sublime Degree, and a gentleman proposed as a candidate for initiation. Three visitors were present, representing a Liverpool and neighbouring Lodges. At the banquet the toasts were given in solemn silence, out of respect to the memory of Bro. J. Mantle, late of this Lodge, who had departed this life only a day or two previous to the meeting.*

* "A Visitor" complains of the bad working of this Lodge on the above occasion, and the absence of several of the Officers. We find, on referring to our last number, that it was the first night of the W.M. after his installation, and this, (with the shortness of his Officers, without whom no Master can work well) may partially account for it. Another correspondent, however, informs us that the W.M. was not *two years* a M.M. on the night of his installation. If this is correct, we can hardly look for good working, and, unless justified by circumstances with which we are not acquainted, the election was unwise, and calculated to inflict injury upon the Lodge. We shall be glad to know the particulars of the election, and the causes or influences which led to it, although scarcely anything can justify so rapid a promotion.—(Ed. F.M. & M.M.)

Royal Standard Lodge (No. 730).—The customary monthly meeting took place at the Dudley Arms Hotel, on Tuesday, the 10th of February, but no business being upon the circular, it was a barren night. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the next Lodge-night, and the Brethren then adjourned to supper.

The Vernon Lodge (No. 819) assembled at the Old Town Hall, on Wednesday, the 18th of February, when Lodge was opened by the W.M.; Bro. the Rev. A. G. Davies, M.A., P.M. and Prov. G. Chaplain. A Brother was passed to the 2nd Degree, and a gentleman initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the 1st Degree, another gentleman being proposed for initiation. At this meeting, also, the Right Worshipful Bro. H. C. Vernon, the Prov. G.M. for Worcestershire, was balloted for and unanimously elected an honorary member of the Lodge.

Lodge of Perseverance (No. 838).—This Lodge promises to have some work in hand, two candidates for initiation being proposed at the last meeting in January. The W.M. of this Lodge, Bro. Patterson, is said to be a good and correct worker.

YORKSHIRE.

HUDDERSFIELD.—*Lodge of Truth* (No. 703).—At the regular meeting of this Lodge in January, two gentlemen were initiated into the Order and two Brethren raised to the Degree of M.M. At the February meeting Bro. C. K. Hare was passed to the Degree of F.C., in a highly creditable style, by the W.M. Bro. Walter Matthewson, and the Tracing Board in the 2nd Degree was explained by Bro. J. T. V. Hardy, R.A., P.M. Nos. 342 and 763. On this evening, to the sincere regret of all the members of the Lodge, Bro. J. Webb Tempest resigned his collar of office as Hon. Sec., owing to his being about to leave the town. A vote of thanks for the assiduous manner in which he has so long performed the onerous duties of that important office was proposed by Bro. J. Read Dore, and seconded by the J.W. Bro. Benton, and carried unanimously.

United Lodge of Instruction.—This well-attended Lodge, which is worked under a dispensation from the Prov. G.L. for all the Lodges in the town, held its annual banquet at the Zetland Hotel, on Wednesday, the 4th of February, on which occasion there were present, besides a goodly number of Brethren, some of the Officers and Past Officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge, and nearly a dozen W.Ms. and P.Ms. The W.M., Bro. P. M. Thompson, P. Prov. G.J.D., being absent, the chair was occupied by Bro. J. R. Dore, the S.W. Bro. Jowett acted as S.W. and Bro. P. M. Thomas, P.G.P. as J.W. The viands were served in Bro. George Milnes' best style, and gave universal satisfaction. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, interspersed with some excellent songs, and a very pleasant evening was passed.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

THE Quarterly Convocation of Grand Chapter was holden in the Temple on Wednesday, the 4th ultimo, M.E. Comp. Dobie acting as Z.; Comp. Rawson, H.; Pattison, J.; Comps. Crohn, Parkinson, and Tombleson, as Soj. There were also present Comp. White, E.; Comps. Havers, Le Veau, G. Biggs, J. H. Hervey, Potter, J. Smith, Farnfield, &c.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, a report was read from the committee of Grand Chapter, from which it appeared that the balance of money in hand up to the 15th October, 1856, was £534. 19s. 2d., and there had been received from that date to the 21st of January £204. 8s. 6d., making £739. 7s. 8d. The disbursements had amounted to £384. 4s. 6d. (including the purchase of £100 three per cent. stock), leaving a balance in hand of £355. 3s. 2d.

The committee had received a communication from the Grand Chapter of Scotland, suggesting the appointment of representatives from the one body to the other, as was the case in other Masonic bodies.

Applications had been received for charters from Companions in Antigua, for a Chapter to be attached to the St. John's Lodge, No. 723, of Antigua, and entitled the Mount Lebanon Chapter, with Comps. Sherrington, Z. ; Bourne, H. ; and M'Guire, J.

From Stockton-on-Tees, for a Chapter to be attached to the Tees Lodge, No. 749, under the title of the Tees Chapter, with Comps. Handyside, Z. ; Milner, H. ; and Dodds, J.

From Ormskirk, for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge of Harmony, No. 845, to be called the Chapter of Unity and Perseverance, with Comps. Laidman, Z. ; Goss, H. ; and Sherlock, J.

From Stoke-upon-Trent, for a Chapter to be attached to the Portland Lodge, No. 920, to be called the Staffordshire Knot Chapter, with Comps. Harvey as Z. ; Glover, H. ; and Mason, J. All of which the committee recommended to Grand Chapter.

The committee had also received a petition from St. Kitts, praying for the confirmation of a charter which was granted to certain Companions in 1792, to hold a Chapter to be called the "Mount Horeb Chapter of St. Christopher." This Chapter was acknowledged by the Supreme Grand Chapter as late as 1803. The Chapter having ceased its workings for a time, ineffectual attempts were made to revive it both in 1810 and 1814, and subsequently it was revived in 1832, when the Companions petitioned the Supreme Grand Chapter to be again taken under its protection. In 1833 it again ceased working, and remained in abeyance until 1849, when it was again revived, and had since continued in regular working ; but having heard that their charter was not recognized by the Supreme Grand Chapter, they now prayed for recognition and the confirmation of the members they had exalted.

This report of the committee having been received and ordered to be entered on the minutes, the letter from the Grand Chapter of Scotland was read.

The acting P.Z. (Comp. Dobie) said that as this was the first application of the kind which had ever been received, he would suggest that it be referred to the M.E.G.Z. for consideration.

This course having been agreed to, the charters for Chapters to be attached to Lodges, Nos. 723, 749, 845, and 920, were unanimously granted.

A communication was then brought forward from the Prov. G. Superintendent of Bengal, setting forth the hardship suffered by the Craft in the colonies, owing to the law which did not allow a Brother to be exalted to the Royal Arch at a less period than twelve months after his advancement to the Degree of a Master Mason, as placing it at a disadvantage compared with the Scotch and Irish Chapters, in which no such restriction existed ; and praying that the law should be exercised with greater liberality, and power given to the Prov. G. Superintendents to lessen the period from twelve months to four weeks, as the Prov. G.M. in Craft Masonry in the colonies is enabled to grant dispensations for conferring the various Degrees in Craft Masonry at a period of not less than one week's interval, instead of four, as in this country.

Comp. Rawson, having been Prov. Grand Superintendent in China, could bear testimony to the hardship which the Brethren and Companions experienced from the home regulations in the colonies. The members of their Order in the colonies were, in a great measure, necessarily a moveable body—it consequently followed that they had often to leave the place where they were initiated before they had an opportunity of being passed through the various Degrees ; and more especially before they could be exalted under the English constitution, and they were therefore led to join Irish and Scotch Lodges and Chapters, to the detriment of those holding under the constitution of England. He begged to move—

"That Grand Superintendents of Districts and Provinces abroad be authorized to grant a dispensation, in case of necessity, for the exaltation of a Brother to the Royal Arch, at the expiration of four weeks from the period of his having received the Degree of Master Mason."

Comp. John Hervey had great pleasure in seconding the motion, as he could easily imagine the position in which officers of the army were placed by these regulations, in consequence of their rarely stopping more than six or twelve months in a place.

After a short conversation, in which Comps. Dobie and Havers supported the motion, it was put and unanimously carried.

Comp. Symonds having called attention to the petition from St. Kitts,

Comp. Farnfield stated that shortly after the union in 1814, and again in 1821, a return was called for of its members, which had not been responded to; and from every inquiry that could be made it was considered the Chapter was altogether extinct. It appeared that meetings were afterwards held for a short time in 1832, and subsequently it was again revived about six or seven years since; when, in consequence of applications being made by Companions exalted in it for their certificates, Comp. White had represented to them that it no longer had any legal existence, and they were not regularly exalted. Some of them had since put themselves right with Grand Chapter, and it was to Companions originally exalted in the Mount Horeb Chapter that they had that evening granted a charter for a Chapter to be held in Antigua.

Comp. Warren moved that the petition be remitted back to the committee for further consideration, and to report thereon to Grand Chapter at greater length, as he did not think they were in possession of sufficient information to come to a resolution on the subject at present.

Comp. Havers seconded the motion, which having been carried unanimously, the Convocation was closed in due form.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTERS.

ST. JAMES'S CHAPTER (No. 2).—The Companions of this Chapter met in Convocation on Wednesday, the 5th of February, at the Freemasons' Tavern. There were present E. Comps. William Stuart, jun., *M.P.*, as Z.; J. Henderson, as H.; R. W. Wheeler, J.; and other members. Bros. Measor and Ambrosioni, of the Lodge of Union, No. 318, and of the Royal York Lodge, of Brighton, No. 394, were exalted into the Sublime Degree. The entire ceremonial was gone through by the acting Principals in the most perfect manner. This being the meeting for the election of Officers for the year ensuing, the ballot was taken, and the unanimous result was—Comps. I'Anson, *M.E.Z.*; R. W. Wheeler, H.; W. P. Scott, J.; F. Crew, *Sc. E.*; N. Salomons, N.; W. R. Wood, *P.S.*; Samuel Tomkins, *Treas.* The Companions, in number twenty-four, afterwards adjourned to a most elegant and excellent banquet, for which Bro. Elkington and Co. received the thanks and commendations of all present. Among the visitors were Comps. John Hervey, J. Masson, Nelson, and other Officers of Grand Chapter.

BRITISH CHAPTER (No. 8).—This distinguished Chapter met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Friday, 6th February, it being the night of election. Comp. Stohwasser was elected Z.; Purton Cooper, H.; Ridgway, J.; Bisgood, *Tr.*; Wellington Vallance, *S.E.*; E. Else, *S.N.*; and Tepper, *P.S.* It was also unanimously resolved, that a testimonial be presented to Comp. Stohwasser, for the kind and able manner in which he had presided during his past year of Office.

ENOCH CHAPTER (No. 11).—The Companions of this beautifully furnished Chapter, met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, 17th February. Bro. Watson, of the Enoch Lodge, was exalted to the Sublime Degree, by Comp. W. Young, Z., assisted by his Officers, in that excellent manner for which his working is always distinguished.

MOUNT ZION CHAPTER (No. 169).—The Companions assembled in Convocation on Monday, the 26th of January, at Radley's Hotel, in New Bridge-street. Comp. Muggeridge, *M.E.Z.*, presided, and installed into chairs Comps. Sharp, H.; and Johnstone, J. Comp. Steele, *M.E.Z.* elect, was unable to attend. Comps. Good-

win, E. ; Long, N. ; Spooner, P.S. ; Partridge, Treas. ; and Hookey, Jan., were also invested. The Companions met again in Convocation on Monday, the 23rd of February, when Comp. Steele, M.E.Z. elect, was duly installed by Comp. Muggeridge.

HOPE CHAPTER (No. 248).—A Convocation of this Chapter was holden at the Globe Tavern, Greenwich, on Wednesday, the 11th February, for the purpose of installing Comp. T. Hutchings into the chair of H., he not having been able to attend the last Chapter, owing to his professional services having been required in Wales. The ceremony was performed by Bro. George Biggs, P.G.S.B., with his usual knowledge and ability, assisted by Comps. Noble, P.Z. ; Simmonds, P.Z. ; and Dr. Lee, P.Z. At the conclusion the Companions retired to a most excellent banquet, provided by their esteemed host, Comp. Moore, and finished an evening replete with harmony and friendship.

YARBOROUGH CHAPTER (No. 812).—At the regular Convocation on the 15th of January, the members met at Comp. Williams', George Inn, Commercial-road East. Comp. Biggs, P.Z. and P.G.D.C., presided, and exalted into the Sublime Degree Bro. Robert Bruce Walker, of the Lodge of Faith ; and afterwards installed the elected Principals, Edwards, M.E.Z. ; Biggs, P.Z. as H. ; and Bettger, J. The Comps. Purdy, E. ; Kindred, N. ; Taylor, P.S. ; Williams, Treas. ; Rev. Shaboe, St. B. ; Freeman, D.C. ; Philpott and Watts, Stewards ; Hookey, Jan., were also invested. Comps. Day and Crisp were appointed A.S. The Companions adjourned to banquet, and spent a pleasant evening in enjoyment of the good things Comp. Williams provided on the occasion, as he does for all these meetings so entirely to the satisfaction of every one.

At the Convocation on Thursday, the 19th of February, present Comps. Edwards, M.E.Z. ; Wynne, P.Z. as H. ; Bettger, J. ; and others, Bro. Alonzo Thornhill, of the Zetland Lodge, at Hong Kong, was exalted by the new first Principal in a manner that would have done credit to many of his seniors in the Royal Arch. A ballot was taken for the admission into the Degree of Bro. Henry Murray Dean, of the 22nd regiment, and of the Hope Lodge, but he did not present himself for exaltation. Comp. Purdy discharged the duties of P.S. There were sixteen Companions present. The evening concluded by a social supper. The M.E.Z., after due honour to the Queen, &c., proposed the better health of their esteemed Comp. George Biggs, P.Z. and P.G.D.C., who, by an attack of gout, was prevented being with them ; E. Comp. Edwards said they all knew the worth and good service of Comp. Biggs, and he could bear testimony to the kindness and patience of that excellent Mason, as for all he knew in Royal Arch Masonry he was indebted alone to Comp. Biggs' instructions. Comp. F. Crew, P.Z., said from old associations and many years' friendship, he would venture on the task of acknowledgment for the affectionate manner in which the first Principal had spoken of Comp. Biggs, whose true Masonic conduct and genial manner were patent throughout the Craft ; his courteous and affable demeanour shed a halo around every circle in which he mingled ; and he was sure that if anything could alleviate Comp. Biggs' suffering, it would be the knowledge of the kindness of the Companions on that occasion.

POLISH CHAPTER (No. 778).—At a Chapter of Emergency held on the 23rd February, Bro. Saunders, of Lodge No. 25, was exalted into the Sublime Degree, and a resolution passed for altering the day of installation from October to April.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS.

BOLTON.—*Chapter St. John* (No. 268).—The quarterly meeting of this Chapter was held on Tuesday, the 10th February, Comps. Brockbank, Z. ; Dawson, H. ; Hamer, J. ; and many other Companions being present. The Principals were re-elected for another year. Three Brethren of Lodge No. 268 were balloted for and approved, and will be exalted at a Chapter of Emergency, to be held in the month of April next. This Chapter, which has recently been renovated and im-

proved by many additions to the furniture and appointments, is now in a satisfactory condition, and it is to be hoped will in a short time be in as complete working order as the Lodge to which it is attached.

STONECLOUGH. — *Chapter of Marabah* (No. 439). — A Chapter was held on Friday, the 13th February, at the usual place, Railway Hotel, Comp. Barrow, Z., in the chair, supported by Comps. Peat, H.; Broadbent, J. Bros. John Smith, of Lodge No. 268, Bolton; and Kay Greenhalgh, of Lodge No. 439, Stoneclough, were exalted to the Sublime Degree by Comp. Broadbent, in a very efficient and correct manner. The Chapter was visited by Comps. Dawson, H., No. 268; Brockbank, Z., No. 268, Bolton; Jones, No. 430, Radcliffe; &c.

YORK. — *Zetland Chapter* (No. 287). — This Chapter held its annual meeting on the 22nd January, when the three Principals for the ensuing year, Comps. Cowling, Z.; Farrer, H.; T. Simpson, J., were installed by the M.E.P.Z. Comp. Hollon. Comps. Newton was elected P.S.; Redpath and March, Scribes; Hornby, Treas. The Chapter was honoured with the presence of E. Comp. Geo. Marwood, of Bushby Hall, D. Prov. G. Sup. for the North and East Ridings, Yorkshire; E. Comp. Handyside, &c. &c. The Companions, after the installations and exaltations, spent the evening in love and harmony in true Masonic style in their banqueting-room.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

BOLTON. — The united Encampments of Almeric de St. Maur and Geoffrey de St. Omer met at the Lever's Arms Hotel, on Wednesday, the 11th February, when Comp. Henry Brock Hollinshead (P.G. Reg., East Lancashire) was, in the absence of the E. C. Sir Knight Royds (D.P.G. Commander of Lancashire), duly installed a member of the Order by the V.E. the P.G. Commander of Lancashire, Sir Knight Matthew Dawes; on which occasion the Encampment was visited by Sir Knight Bennett, E.C. of the William de la More Encampment, stationed at Manchester; and by Sir Knight Captain Layton, of the 25th regiment, King's Own Borderers.

LIVERPOOL. — The V.E. Sir Knight Matthew Dawes, Prov. G. Commander of Lancashire, held his Provincial Grand Conclave at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, on Tuesday, the 6th January. After the Jaques de Molay Encampment, within which the Prov. Grand Conclave was held, had been duly opened, the Prov. G. Officers were announced and entered in procession, marshalled by Sir Knight W. H. Wright, the Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., whose efficiency in that, and in every other office he undertakes in Masonry, is proverbial. The Prov. Grand Conclave was then opened in ample form, and the alms of the Sir Knights collected according to ancient custom; and the V.E. Prov. G. Commander then proceeded to appoint the following Sir Knights as Prov. G. Officers for the year, viz.: — D. Prov. G. Commander, A. H. Royds; P.G. Prior, Thos. R. Bridson; P.G. Sub-prior, Thos. R. Bridson, jun.; P.G. 1st Captain, L. Newall; P.G. 2nd Captain, Henry Bridson; P.G. Prelate, Rev. E. J. Bolling; P.G. Chancellor, G. J. French; P.G. Vice-Chancellor, R. F. Ainsworth, M.D.; P.G. Reg., Richard Burton; P.G. Treas., S. Smith (who was unanimously elected on the resignation of Sir Knight Edward Barlow); P.G. Chamb., J. R. Lingard; P.G. Hospitaller, H. A. Bennett; P.G. 1st Expert, Geo. Barlow; P.G. 2nd Expert, J. O. Surtees; P.G. 1st Standard-bearer, C. Clay, M.D.; P.G. 2nd Standard-bearer, Thomas Parker; P.G. Almoner, W. Romaine Callender, jun.; P.G. Dir. of Cer., W. H. Wright; P.G. 1st Aide-de-camp, Lieut. Wentworth Dawes, 97th regiment; P.G. 2nd Aide-de-camp, Chas. Chandos Pole; P.G. 1st Captain of Lines, J. G. Blackburne; P.G. 2nd Captain of Lines, W. Redick; P.G. Sword-bearer, H. Alpass; P.G. 1st Herald, W. Greenwood; P.G. 2nd Herald, J. Lancaster Hine; P.G.

Organist, B. St. John B. Joule ; P.G. Banner-bearer, Richard Crabtree ; and Equerry without, W. Dawson. A committee of nine was then appointed for the year ensuing, five being nominated by the Sir Knights present, and four by the V.E.P.G. Commander ; after which the returns were made from the nine Encampments represented at the P.G. Conclave, the four other Encampments in the province having omitted to send their returns. The general business on the paper being disposed of, the P.G. Conclave was then duly closed in solemn form, and the assembled Sir Knights adjourned to the banquet ; at which the V.E. the P.G. Commander was supported on his right by Sir Knight Masson, of the Observance Encampment, London ; with the Grand Chancellor of the Order, Sir Knight Captain Layton, 25th regiment K.O.Bs., of the Royal Naval Encampment, Portsmouth ; and on his left by Sir Knight the Rev. E. J. Bolling, the P.G. Prelate, with Sir Knight H. Bridson. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been duly honoured and responded to, the Sir Knights separated before ten o'clock, to attend the Masonic ball at the Liverpool Town Hall, in aid of the funds of the Masonic Charities of West Lancashire.

TEMPLE CRESSINY, COLCHESTER.—This Encampment was consecrated on the 4th February, at the George Hotel, by the Grand Chancellor of the Order, John Masson, Esq. We congratulate the Sir Knights on this establishment of the noble Masonic Order in Essex, this being the first Encampment in the county, and has taken its name from an ancient preceptory of Knights Templars, which existed at Cressiny, near Witham ; and we hope, especially from the manner in which the proceedings were conducted, that it will lead to other Encampments being established. The Encampment was first consecrated in due and ancient form by the Grand Chancellor, who afterwards installed Sir Knight Major H. L. Maydwell as the 1st Eminent Commander, who then invested Sir Knights H. S. S. Burnay and S. D. Forbes as 1st and 2nd Captains ; Sir Knight Marriott as Prelate ; Sir Knight Lieut.-Col. E. Whitmore as Treas. ; and Sir Knight C. Townsend as Expert. Comps. Hall, Mann, Eddy, Morris, and Ellisden, were then severally installed as Knights of the Order ; and it certainly was no slight pleasure to witness the solemn manner in which the E.C. performed his duty, the ceremony being gone through separately with each candidate, and without the least hurry. After this the Grand Chancellor delivered a most interesting lecture on the Christian Degrees, showing, in a very masterly manner, the antiquity of the Order, and deservedly received a vote of thanks from the Encampment. Other necessary business was then proceeded with, such as passing Bye-Laws, proposing new candidates, after which the Sir Knights assembled round the festive board, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and among others that of the Grand Chancellor, who in returning thanks paid a high compliment to the infant Encampment, and expressed his highest approval of all the regalia being strictly in accordance with the Statutes of the Order. He also complimented the E.C. and the Officers of the Encampment on the regular manner in which they had performed their respective duties. Several other Companions are, we hear, candidates for installation, and we cordially wish prosperity to the Encampment of Temple Cressiny.

MARK MASONRY.

ST. MARK'S LODGE (No. 1).—A meeting of this Lodge was holden at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 15th February, when the D.R.W.M., Bro. Hughes presided, and most impressively advanced Bros. Hooper, Swainston, Stacey and Kaiser into the Order. The beauty of the ceremony was much enhanced by the introduction of music, Bro. Edward Hart having kindly taken the office of organist. In the ceremonies of opening and closing, the following hymns, written for the St. Mark's Lodge, No. 1, by Bro. John Mott Thearle, P.M., No. 82,

P.G.J.D., Herts, and Secretary to the St. Mark's Lodge, No. 1, were introduced with good effect :—

OPENING HYMN.

Grace this Lodge, Great Overseer,
 With all Thy pure and earnest truth,
 That it may flourish thro' all time,
 Ever in unabated youth.
 Bless the advancing ones this night,
 That thro' their lives they'll onward go,
 Marking their progress by the light
 Acknowledged, and derived from You.
 Their mark in hand, Thy mark at heart ;
 Oh ! may they ever constant prove,
 And in all time and circumstance,
 Unite in brotherhood and love.

CLOSING HYMN.

Have we mark'd well, Great Overseer,
 A work to last beyond all time,
 Each his allotted task fulfilled,
 The glory and the praise be Thine.
 In this degree we find the truth,
 On earth below, in heaven above,
 The corner-stone of every work
 Should be unselfish, lasting Love.
 Still will we work, and working pray,
 Trusting that in a better land,
 Our Mystic key-stone may be raised,
 And fitted by Thy Master hand.

We have pleasure in recommending for adoption in all regularly constituted Mark Lodges the above hymns, to which Bro. Hart has composed most suitable and effective music, and which will be forthwith published for the benefit of Brethren at a distance. At the close of the business the Brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet—and in the course of the evening various congratulatory speeches, on the progress the Order and the Lodge were making, were delivered ; and Bro. Warren, the R.W.M., who had joined the Lodge in a late period of the proceedings, expressed the gratification he felt—a gratification which he was sure every Brother present would participate in, in knowing that the Lodge was about to become the parent of many others—applications have been already made to the Grand Chapter of Scotland for two, if not three new Charters, through which their principles would be extended throughout England. He might mention that one of these Charters would be granted to three Brethren advanced in the St. Mark's Lodge, from Bolton in Lancashire—and would, he believed, be called the St. John's Lodge. A very agreeable meeting having been spent, the Brethren separated at an early hour.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.—*St. John's Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 2).—We have been favoured with a view of the very beautiful Lodge jewels intended for the above Lodge, which is expected to be opened in the course of the month. The emblem of each Officer is of gold, mounted upon a back of solid silver, shaped as a key stone. Bro. John Mott Thearle is the designer and manufacturer of the jewels, which reflect the highest credit on him as an artist.

SCOTLAND.

ALLOA.

St. John's Lodge (No. 69).—A meeting of Emergency was held on the evening of Monday, January 22nd, for the purpose of initiating new members, when the Right Hon. David Erskine, Lord Cardross, Captain Grove, of the 42nd Highlanders, Alexander Somerville, the well-known writer under the signature of "one who has whistled at the plough," and four other gentlemen, were initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. Bro. W. Downing Bruce, in proposing Lord Cardross, alluded to the connection of his lordship's ancestors with this county from a very early period. His lordship's ancestor, John, eleventh Earl of Mar, married a sister of the great King Robert Bruce. The Earls of Mar had been Regents and Chamberlains of Scotland, and perhaps there was no family whose name was more famous in the history of the country. They had fought at Bannockburn—one of them fell at Flodden field. The fourth Earl of Buchan was Lord-Lieutenant of this county in 1727, and he was the grandfather of that great statesman and distinguished lawyer, the English Lord Chancellor Erskine, who was the uncle of the noble lord whom he (Bro. Bruce) now proposed for initiation into the mysteries of Freemasonry. Lieutenant Gordon Alexander then proposed Captain Grove. Bro. Bruce next proposed Mr. Alexander Somerville, and alluded to the services he had rendered to his country by the part he had taken in the abolition of the corn-law.

After the business had been concluded, Lieutenant Alexander presented to the Lodge a handsome pair of batons, richly mounted with silver, and ornamented with his own arms and those of the Lodge, bearing also the following appropriate inscription:—"Presented by W. G. Alexander, Esq., 93rd Highlanders, to the Alloa Lodge, No. 69, 19th January, 1857."

The toasts proposed by the R.W.M. were the health of "Her Majesty the Queen," which was received with Masonic honours. Also "Prosperity to the Lodge of St. John," responded to in like manner. The healths of the six new Brethren initiated on that occasion. Lord Cardross being called on to respond, his lordship requested that Bro. Somerville would address the Lodge instead.

Bro. Somerville thereupon spoke as follows:—"Right Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Brethren, being called on to respond on behalf of all the newly initiated Brethren, as well as myself, I am embarrassed, not for want of matter on which to speak, but from a want of knowledge how to speak. I need say little on behalf of Bro. Lord Cardross. His lordship's ancestors belong to this county and town, and to history. You know them by reputation, and you know his lordship personally. You have reciprocated honours with him in admitting him here. Captain Grove, of the 42nd Highlanders—to name whose regiment is to strike a chord in the heart of Scotland, which instantly carries us, as if electrically, to a hundred battle-fields, each a field of victory—of Captain Grove I need say but a few words, yet the few words are a great chapter of modern history—Captain Grove is one of the heroes of the Crimea. (Cheering.) In that terrible campaign his services were co-equal with any of the heroes there. He has returned to his native land for a brief season, and may on any day—possibly on a very early day—be ordered abroad on new services of peril and honour. He will carry with him the brotherly sympathies of this Lodge, and, be it where it may, in the far East, Persia, Affghanistan, or China, that he achieves new honours, or fresh renown, and higher rank, we at home shall not be insensible to the honour that we have a Brother serving his country, serving the cause of civilization and free institutions in those distant lands. Although not one of the newly initiated, we have the presence of our gallant Bro. Captain Alexander, of the 93rd Highlanders, one of the 'long red line of Balaklava'—(cheering)—who may also be called away to distant scenes of action on an early day. But he has

written his name on your memory in such a way that you cannot fail to follow him in your sympathetic souls throughout the world, and throughout life. (Cheers.) Of the young Brethren newly initiated, who are natives of this town or neighbourhood, I need not speak. Hitherto they have been unknown to me, but being well known to you all, the best proof of their excellence and worth is that you have admitted them to be Brethren of this Lodge. (Loud cheers.) Of myself I can only say that I am deeply affected by the grand events of this evening, and feel myself honoured beyond expression by all your kindness. It seems I am not a stranger to you all, some Brethren being pleased to say that they remember my literary productions, as "one who has whistled at the plough," but none of you know that I have some claim, though remotely, to belong to this town. About eighty years ago, a young man, aged from eighteen to twenty, lived here. He was a native of the Yetts of Muckhart, not far distant, where his forefathers had resided for several generations. That young man, James Somerville, left Alloa about the year 1775 and settled in Berwickshire, where many years afterwards I was born as his youngest son, so that, though a stranger, I feel that the ground beneath my feet is native when on this side of the Forth. (Cheers.) In the name of the younger Brethren and of myself, let me say, in conclusion, that with the higher, deeper, grander transaction of this evening, your kindness and courtesy transcend my power of utterance." (Loud cheers.)

Bro. W. Downing Bruce gave the health of "The Highland Brigade and the gallant Bro. Captain Grove, of the 42nd Highlanders," and adverted to the many eminent personages who had in the last hundred years been Brothers of this Lodge, not a few of whom were distinguished soldiers, among others, General Sir Ralph Abercromby.

The gallant Captain replied in an animated and brotherly address.

Bros. Syme, of Stirling, and Edwards, of Hilton, two of the new Brethren whose healths were proposed by the Junior Warden, also responded in speeches expressive of gratification at being admitted to this Lodge.

Bro. Warden, of the St. Luke's Lodge, Edinburgh, addressed the Brethren, and in reference to the diversified pursuits in life, the various scenes and distant countries which some of those present had witnessed, said that his father had been, as a naval surgeon, in attendance upon the dethroned Emperor Napoleon on the passage to St. Helena, and subsequently in the Emperor's captivity. He was struck off the list of naval surgeons for having presumed to criticize the treatment of the imperial prisoner, but the sentiments of the country had happily changed.

The evening was spent in the happiest manner.

DUNDEE.

On the 29th December the various Lodges of Dundee met in their respective halls to celebrate the festival of St. John, exchanging deputations, and spending the evening in the most Masonic and brotherly manner. An interesting incident occurred in the Ancient Lodge in the presentation of an elegant and valuable gold watch and chain, bearing a suitable inscription, to the retiring R.W.M. Bro. Patrick Gardiner, who has presided for the last three years with much credit to himself, advantage to the Lodge, and satisfaction to the Brethren. The testimonial was presented in suitable terms by the R.W.M., Bro. David Nicoll, and accepted by Bro. Gardiner in a very feeling manner.

EDINBURGH.

St. David's Lodge.—With the view of making the meetings of the Lodge Edinburgh St. David's more interesting and intellectual, the P.M., Bro. Douglas, at their last meeting, delivered a succinct and very interesting lecture on the origin of cities, from the creation of the world till the time of Abraham going down into Egypt. The lecture was listened to with great attention by the Brethren. Bro. Joseph Ebsworth, sen., will deliver a lecture next monthly meeting on music, interspersed with song to illustrate the subject. Several Brethren have kindly consented to deliver each month lectures on various subjects. [Bravo, Scotland!]

On Tuesday, February 17th, Bro. Ebsworth, sen., delivered a concise and very edifying lecture on the History of Music in St. David's Lodge. He commenced by stating that, although many lovers of music might have the inclination to wade through all the works on the subject, it was only an enthusiast in the art that could do it. From the number of authors he quoted in the course of his lecture, the Brethren were astonished at the trouble he had taken. At its conclusion he stated it was his intention to deliver a lecture at a future period, when he would illustrate it with song, &c. He was further pleased to intimate that he would be most happy to deliver a lecture to any of the Lodges in Edinburgh. Several of the R.W. Masters congratulated the R.W. Master of St. David's Lodge on presiding over the first Lodge in Edinburgh that had introduced these lectures. This circumstance, they were convinced, would tend to raise the opinion of the Craft in the eyes of the Brethren at large.

Lodge Journeymen.—The monthly meeting of this Lodge took place on the evening of Thursday, February 19th. The attendance was numerous. Deputations were present from the following Edinburgh Lodges, headed by their respective R.W.Ms., viz., the Canongate Kilwinning, the Defensive Band, the Roman Eagle, the Celtic, and the St. Clair. Some excellent speeches were delivered during the course of the evening, the most noticeable of which was one by Bro. Brown, P.M. of the Lodge Industry and Perseverance, Calcutta. This Brother gave a cheering account of the progress of Freemasonry in India, and the good effects which it produced in that extensive region.

St. Stephen's Lodge.—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held in St. Giles's Hall on Monday the 9th ult., when the Brethren had the pleasure of receiving large deputations from the Lodge, Mary's Chapel, Canongate Kilwinning, Defensive Band, and St. David's, headed by their R.W.Ms. At the close of the proceedings, Bro. Dr. F. D. M'Cowan, R.W.M. No. 1, and Bro. T. Dryborough, R.W.M. No. 2, were appointed honorary members by the unanimous voice of the Lodge. The R.W.M. Bro. J. S. Taylor, R.E., and Bros. E. Mitchell and J. Brown, the Senior and Junior Wardens of this Lodge, had the honour of being presented to his Grace the Duke of Athol, the M.W.G.M. at the last quarterly communication, by Bro. Dr. F. D. M'Cowan.

Dalkeith Kilwinning Lodge.—A few of the Brethren of the Dalkeith Kilwinning Lodge turned out on the 25th ult. to welcome the R.W.M. and his amiable and accomplished bride from their marriage tour. The avenue leading to the house was decorated with festoons of variegated lamps, the conservatory and hall were filled with a choice selection of camelias and exotic plants, interspersed with variegated lamps, banners of the Order, amongst which was observed a crimson velvet, beautifully embroidered, date 1736; also banners of the Knight Templars, &c. The company assembled at 9 o'clock, when dancing commenced under the spirit-stirring strains of Mr. Stewart's band from Edinburgh. The happy couple arrived at half-past 10 o'clock, when the company lined the avenue and hall to greet their distinguished host and hostess, whilst a magnificent bonfire was lighted, and kept burning until a late hour, illuminating the whole horizon. The *jet d'eau*, which was lighted with gas and variegated lamps, had a most pleasing and beautiful effect. Amongst the company were observed representatives from the Army and Navy, and of our noble Allies in the person of Magor Norrie Effendi, whose amiable and gentlemanly bearing won laurels. A most sumptuous supper was served at one o'clock. The health of the bride and bridegroom was proposed, received most enthusiastically, and was duly responded to. Dancing was resumed, and kept up till six o'clock in the morning, when the company separated with the old saying, "Happy to meet, and sorry to part, and happy to meet again."

THE SCOTTISH MASONS AND THE VICTIMS OF THE INUNDATIONS IN FRANCE.
—The following is a translation of a letter received by T. Ill. F. M'Cowan, Representative of the Grand Lodge of France at the Grand Lodge of Scotland, from the Chief of the Secretariat General of the Masonic Order in France. The

letter is dated Grand Orient de France, Paris, 9th Jan. 1857.—“ Very dear Brother,—Prince Lucien Murat, Grand Master of the Masonic Order in France, has received the letter you addressed to him, dated 20th December, 1856, enclosing an order on London for 2004 francs, being the amount of a subscription raised by you among our good Scottish Brethren, in aid of the unfortunate victims of the inundations in France. The Prince desires me to convey to you his deep and lively gratitude for such an act of sympathy on the part of your countrymen, and especially to thank you for the care and pains you have taken in collecting this offering. I enclose a receipt for 2004 francs you sent to the Grand Master, and which the cashier of the G. O. F. has paid into the treasury, for distribution among the sufferers. Receive, T. Ill. Brother, the assurance of my devoted esteem and fraternal regard.—(Signed)—P. Claude, 33, Chief of the Secretariat General of the Order, Representative of the Grand Lodge of Scotland at the Grand Lodge of France.”

ROYAL ARCH.

DUNDEE UNION ROYAL CHAPTER (NO. 6).—

Presentation of a Portrait to Comp. James Jack, M.E., Past Principal Z.—The Companions of this Chapter, being highly sensible of the eminent services rendered by Comp. James Jack, not only to the Union Chapter, but to the Royal Arch Order in this part of Scotland for nearly half a century, resolved to request him to sit for his portrait, to which he readily assented. On the evening of Monday, 26th January, a meeting of the subscribers to this testimonial took place in the British Hotel for its presentation; Comp. G. L. L. Alison in the chair, who presented the portrait in eloquent and graceful terms. Comp. Jack acknowledged the compliment in a feeling manner, assuring his Companions of the high estimation and value in which he regarded their kindness; and in return requested that it might be accepted by the Union Chapter, to be placed in their hall, and preserved along with the Charter of the Chapter. Comp. James Chalmers, M.E.Z., accepted the portrait in the name of the Chapter, assuring Comp. Jack that it would be carefully preserved, cherished, and highly esteemed, but with the fervent hope that he may long be spared to represent himself personally at their meetings. The portrait is a splendid one, on a large scale, and placed in a handsome frame. The likeness is perfect, and the artistic work of a superior class, highly creditable to the talents of the artist, Comp. James Irvine, of Montrose, a member of this Chapter. In the meantime, the picture has been sent to the Royal Exhibition of Paintings in Edinburgh.

IRELAND.

CORK.

THE regular Quarterly Convention of the above-named Grand Lodge for this year assembled on Monday, the 16th of February, in the handsome Lodge Room (in Turkey-street, Cork), of No. 1 on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. As our Prov. G.M. was absent, the Lodge was opened as heretofore in the 3rd Degree by the Dep. Prov. G.M., Bro. W. Atkins, of Waterpark, after which our P.G. Sec., Bro. George Chatterton, read the record of the previous meeting, held in same room, in Nov., 1856. He stated, he had not any particular subject to lay before the Brethren assembled, beyond the necessity of expelling an unworthy member of *two* of the Cork Lodges from our Order; and, as every Brother present was well aware of the case alluded to, the suggestion was immediately acted on, and the record of expulsion sent to the Supreme Grand Lodge in Dublin for confirmation. A lengthened discussion followed, showing the advantage to the Order from an uniformity of opening and closing, initiating, crafting, and raising in the

three established Degrees in Craft Masonry in the Lodges of the province. The result is, that the P.G. Sec. will summon the Masters and Past Masters of the province on some convenient day in the ensuing month, when it is hoped their united wisdom will produce the deserved object. After the suitable prayer, by command of the R.W.M., the P.G.S.W. closed Lodge in harmony.

The following are the present Officers of the "Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster:"—The illustrious Major-General Sir James Charles Chatterton, Bart., K.H., Sov. Grand Inspector-Gen., 33rd or dernier Degree, Prov.G.M.; Major Robt. Atkins, J.P. P.G.R. ✠ D. Prov. G.M.; Anthony Perrier, P.G.R. ✠ and K.H., S.G.W.; Richard Mearce, P.G.R. ✠, J.G.W.; Godfrey Brereton, S.G.I.G. 33rd, S.G.D.; James E. White, P.M., No. 8, J.G.D.; Rev. John D. Penrose, H.K.T., No. 1, G. Chap.; George Chatterton, P.G.R. ✠ K.H., Prov. G. Sec. Quarterly days of meeting third Monday in February, May, August, and November. Lodges meeting in the province of Munster—Symbolic, Nos. 1, 3, 8, 15, 67, 68, 71, 84, 95, 99, 190, 385, 555, 27; Royal Arch Chapters, Nos. 1, 8, 15, 67, 71; H.K.T. Encampments, Nos. 1, 67, 71; Prince Masons Chapter, No. 1.

Masonic Female Orphan Asylum, Mary-street,
E. CLEBURNE, P.M., 71, Great Georges-street; Treas.

NORTH MUNSTER.

LIMERICK.—The Provincial Grand Lodge met at high noon on the 7th February, being the regular quarterly meeting; the most illustrious Bro. M. Furnell, No. 33, Prov. G.M., presiding, who communicated the half-yearly report of the district which he intended for the Grand Lodge. At two o'clock p.m. the Union Lodge, No. 13, held their periodical sitting, at which the Prov. G.M. M. Furnell, No. 33, presented a Masonic portrait of himself by Bro. Hughes, 432, Strand, London, together with the lecture delivered by Bro. Townsend, No. 33, D. Prov. G.M., on the 5th of January; both elicited the warmest encomiums from the Brethren. At five p.m. Prince Masons, Chapter No. 4, held their usual quarterly meeting, and were subsequently entertained most sumptuously by their Bro. Furnell. In the evening the Prov. G.M. Bro. Michael Furnell, D.L., entertained at dinner, at his house in George-street, the Earl of Donoughmore, Major Massy, Captain Westropp, and a select party of Prince Masons.

COLONIAL.

ANTIGUA.

St. John's Lodge (No. 723).—The Brethren of this Lodge assembled at a quarter past ten o'clock on the 27th December, and Lodge opened, the members formed in procession in High-street, and proceeded, headed by drummers and fifers, to the Cathedral, at the gate of which the procession halted, and in inverted order entered the sacred building. After the ordinary service of the day, his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese delivered from the altar an able and instructive Masonic address to the Brethren, which was attentively listened to by a large congregation assembled on the occasion. At the conclusion, a collection was taken for charitable purposes, after which the Brethren retired by the north gate, and marched in procession back to the Lodge-room. On arrival, and the W.M.'s call to order, the Lodge business was resumed, and Bro. John Shervington, who had been unanimously re-elected Master for the ensuing year, delivered the following address:—

"Brother Officers, and Members of the Lodge,

"Having on our last stated communication expressed my gratitude, and tendered my thanks for your unanimous re-election of me to preside over No. 723 for the ensuing year—I shall only on the present occasion detain you for a few moments, while addressing you briefly. Our Lodge has so steadily and satisfactorily

advanced under the administration of my predecessors, and the Brethren have on several occasions testified their approbation of the able guidance of their former Masters, tending as it did to ensure the gratifying working of the Lodge, that I consider the way paved by following their immediate footsteps for furthering and securing the best interests of the Fraternity, and for obtaining that unanimity and good fellowship among us all which I thankfully acknowledge to have been manifested during the year now closed, evincing that Masonic consideration and attachment which should on all occasions characterize, and be uppermost in the hearts of all really good Masons. Although in times past there was a Prov. Grand Lodge in Antigua, presided over by the R.W. William Jarvis, who had the title and exercised the authority of 'P.G.M. of his Majesty's Leeward Caribbee Islands,' together with the 'Mount Sinai Chapter' of Royal Arch Masons, 'The Saint John's,' 'The Kilwinning,' and 'Concord Lodges';—yet in course of time and events—the dying off of the old Worthies and other circumstances, Freemasonry fell, as it were, into abeyance, and remained so for thirty or forty years; but Phoenix-like, as has been the case in many countries, it rose from its ashes, became itself again, and in 1843 vigorously seized the Square and Compass, the Plumb, the Level, and the Trowel, and forthwith commenced rebuilding on the ancient superstructure. Its onward course, Brethren, is known to all, and is indeed more fully exemplified by the fact of a new Lodge, 'The Star in the West,' No. 967, springing into existence, its Master installed, and its organization effected in this Lodge three months ago. This circumstance has been hailed with satisfaction, for indeed such a step was recommended from this chair by one of our Worthy Past Masters on retiring from it some time ago, and is another proof, if any were wanting, of the glorious progress of our hoary-headed and highly venerated institution. I only give utterance to the sentiments of the St. John's Brethren when I bid those of 'The Star in the West,' God speed, and offer our best wishes for its success and prosperity.

"The Officers who assisted me during my first year's presidency I pray will accept my cordial thanks; the period of their respective appointments having now ceased, I have to request the restoration into my hand of their jewels and insignia of Office."

The Brethren replied as follows:—

"Worshipful Sir,—The Brethren, to the beneficent Author of Life, return their grateful thanks that on this day, with yourself, they have another opportunity of meeting within this building, for the purposes of Freemasonry. With welcome they receive the remarks which you have addressed to them, and thank you for your past services. Like your predecessors in office, in whose 'immediate footsteps' you have followed, you have secured approbation and esteem.

"Life has been truly and emphatically denominated 'a chequered scene,' wherein joy and sorrow are alternate attendants. Notwithstanding the gratification naturally experienced in being permitted to assemble here to-day, the present anniversary of St. John the Evangelist painfully recalls the past, for memory brings in array familiar faces, who on the last occasion, with true Masonic devotion, joined in the celebration of this festival, but whom the hour of death has since overtaken; they have passed away from this transitory existence, 'their place shall know them no more.'

"Notwithstanding Freemasonry fell into abeyance for many years in Antigua, yet subsequently resuscitated, and its banners again unfurled, it has received considerable reinforcement; and while the procession to the parish church this day exhibited a goodly number of its followers, it by no means displayed the entire strength of the local Brethren. During the bygone year, the Institution has been steadily keeping its onward course, an event which proves that the principles of the Royal Craft, which cements men of various creeds and of all nations into bonds of friendship and charity, are more generally understood.

"The Brethren concur in the fraternal sentiments to which you have given expression with regard to the new Lodge. They cordially offer their congratulations to the Brethren of the 'Star in the West Lodge,' No. 967, on having obtained a charter, and wish them prosperity in their labour of brotherly love. This occurrence, while interesting to all who sympathize in extending and per-

petuating the ancient glory and usefulness of the Order, possesses for the members of this Lodge an additional interest, from the circumstance that, individually, the Brethren of the 'Star in the West Lodge' received their Masonic existence in the parent Lodge of St. John, No. 723, Antigua."

The Master then proceeded to appoint the Office-bearers, when the under-mentioned Brethren were duly installed:—Bros. C. H. Curtis, S.W.; C. Alexander, J.W.; W. H. Davey, Treas.; W. H. M'Feeters, Sec.; Robt. M'Donald, Rec.; Daniel Wright, Dir. Cer.; Joseph F. Smith, S.D.; R. K. Nanton, J.D.; J. Sutherland, I.G.; Wm. Miller and Chris. Seaton, Stewards; Geo. Young, Tyler.

It was then unanimously resolved,—That the Lodge justly appreciating the Masonic spirit and kindness of his lordship, the Bishop of the Diocese, manifested on this as on former occasions, the Brethren tender to his lordship their best acknowledgment and thanks for the excellent address which he has been pleased to deliver this day in the Cathedral, in celebration of St. John's day, and which they pray him to accept, with the full assurance of their highest esteem and respect.

Whereupon his lordship, an old and distinguished Brother, who honoured the Lodge with his presence, returned his acknowledgments, and expressed the happiness he always felt in affording his assistance to the Craft on all occasions when the opportunity had been afforded him.—After other routine business the Lodge was closed.

In the evening the Brethren assembled at the hall, and at the banquet which took place were joined by several invited guests. Various appropriate toasts were drunk. Appropriate pieces of music were performed by some of the gentlemen of the former Philharmonic Society, who kindly gave their assistance.

BAHAMAS.

At a meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge, under the English Constitutions, on Tuesday, the 23rd December, 1856, Bro. Stephen Dillett was appointed and installed as D. Prov. Grand Master.

ST. JOHN'S DAY, *Dec. 27th*.—The Royal Victoria and Union Lodges met this day for the purpose of installing the Masters elect and other Officers for the ensuing year. The Office-bearers are as follow, viz. :—

Royal Victoria Lodge.—Bros. T. B. Thompson, W.M.; P. Treco, P.M.; A. D. Taylor, S.W.; J. M. Draper, J.W.; G. Renouard, P.M., Treas.; P. Treco, P.M., Sec.; H. Lightbourn, S.D.; F. A. Williams, J.D.; Wm. Sawyer, I.G.; J. R. Ritchie, Tyler.

Union Lodge.—T. E. Murphy, W.M.; C. R. Perpall, P.M.; J. H. Minns, S.W.; J. Musgrove, J.W.; F. Williams, P.M., Treas.; A. J. Thompson, P.M., Sec.; J. M. Draper, S.D.; C. R. Perpall, P.M., J.D.; J. R. Hall, I.G.; J. R. Ritchie, Tyler.—*Bahama Herald*.

TURK'S ISLAND.—*Forth Lodge* (No. 930).—At a meeting held at the Masonic Hall, on Saturday, 27th Dec., 1856, being the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, the following Brethren were installed Officers for the ensuing year :—John Crisson, W.M.; Thomas Francisco, S.W.; Nath. T. Godet, J.W.; Henry J. Murray, Treasurer; Albert G. Wynns, Secretary; Theodore J. Godet, S.D.; George D. Jones, J.D.; John H. Frith, I.G.; Alfred P. Darrell, Tyler.

TRINIDAD.

Royal Philanthropic Lodge (No. 585).—The most Worshipful Grand Master having been pleased to permit this Lodge to assume the word "Royal," in addition to its other title, the Worshipful Master, Officers, and members, celebrated this event on Tuesday, the 30th of December, by a banquet, upon which occasion a select party of the most distinguished gentlemen of the island were invited. The front of the temple was beautifully illuminated. The five orders of architecture, supporting large and heavy arches of masses of light, were thrown out in bold relief, the letters F. H. and C. being placed within the arches of the second floor; the point within a circle being also illuminated. The road leading to the

temple was lighted by large glass lanterns. The *coup-d'œil* of the whole was surpassingly beautiful. A large concourse of persons assembled at the foot of the hill on which the temple is erected, to gaze on the magic scene. It did indeed appear as though some fairy hand had been busy there.

The company were received by the Worshipful Master, Officers, and members in their splendid Lodge-room. At 7 o'clock P.M., the Junior Warder announced that everything was in readiness in the spacious banquetting-room beneath the Lodge, upon which the Master invited the company to repair thither. The banquetting-room was decorated with the choicest of our floral collection. The windows were richly festooned in colours of red and blue, and on the walls between were placed the beautiful star palm. Three large arches formed by the luxuriant and flowing bamboo extended the whole length of the hall. The base of each to four feet high was made basket shape, in which flowers were placed, mingled with branches of the cinnamon tree, which threw its aromatic odour over the whole hall. Lights were placed on pedestals between the arches.

The eastern part was decorated with various Masonic devices. The banner of the Lodge with others bearing Masonic emblems were placed on either side of a large arched window, over which was placed the motto "Audi, Vide, Tace." The table was horse-shoe form, and decorated with large and handsome vases containing flowers. The dinner was of *recherché* description, and provided by Bro. George Gellies. Full justice having been done to the dinner, the Worshipful Master gave "The Queen—God bless her," amidst great applause. In proposing this toast, the Worshipful Master made allusion to the royal line of our sovereign's ancestors, who had appertained to the Mystic Tie.

There was a variety of music, both vocal and instrumental, during the evening, and the party separated at past "High Time," well satisfied with the pleasures and hospitality they had met with at the hands of the Royal Philanthropic Lodge.

AMERICA.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF THE UNITED STATES.

From the able Report of the G. Grand Secretary, B. B. French, we extract the following:—"The number of States having Grand Chapters, working under the authority of the G. G. Body, is twenty-six. Three, viz., Pennsylvania, Florida, and Virginia, do not affiliate with the G. G. Body; and two, viz., New Jersey and Delaware, have no Grand Chapters. The number of Royal Arch Masons in the twenty-six States, in good standing, is 26,411; Virginia, 32 Chapters, 1,000 members; Florida, 11 Chapters, 293 members; Pennsylvania, reckon about 2,000—the number of unaffiliated is supposed to be about 10,000—making in the whole 40,000 Royal Arch Masons of the States. New York has the largest number, viz., 5,509, and Rhode Island the least, 222.—*New York Masonic Messenger*.

GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY.

The Grand Lodge met at Trenton on the 14th December; there was not much of interest to the Craft during its session. The Craft are in a highly prosperous condition. Receipts, 1,442drs. 23c.; expenditure, 776drs. 76c. Six Lodges were chartered and revived. Resolutions were adopted to purchase fifty copies of Morris's Code of Masonic Law, and present one to each Lodge, also to Grand Officers. The Grand Secretary's salary was raised to 400drs., and a general regret was displayed that it was not made 600drs. instead, but no one moved to amend it. It must be highly gratifying to this faithful and efficient officer to see the warm Fraternal regard manifested by the Craft on all occasions to himself. The foreign correspondence was not read in the Grand Lodge, but through the politeness of the Grand Secretary every information was afforded. We found in the

manuscript the most cordial feeling ; the warmest sympathy was expressed for the success of the Grand Lodge of Canada by the Committee, who recommended them to the favourable consideration of the Grand Lodge.

The Committee on Uniformity of Work make but slow progress. A new Constitution was proposed for the government of the Craft, and the action of D.G.M. Varick in healing the members of a clandestine Lodge at Hoboken, who had been working under the so-called St. John's Grand Lodge of New York, was confirmed. Some of the members expressed themselves very bitterly against the St. John's people, and the Grand Lodge refused to recognize the Past Master of the clandestine Lodge as a member of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. There appears to be some misunderstanding between the Grand Lodge and one of its Past Officers in some financial matters. The action of the called meeting was, without question, irregular. We append the names of the Grand Officers elect : Trimble, M.W.G.M. ; Van Wagenen, D.G.M. ; Whitehead, G.S.W. ; George Finch, G.J.W. ; who was re-elected without a dissentient voice, a tribute to merit. Joseph Hough, Grand Secretary, Elias Phillips, Grand Treasurer, both re-elected. Jas. Cassidy, G.S.D. ; S. Thompson, G.S.D. ; John Rogers and J. R. Chapin, Grand Stewards.—*New York Masonic Messenger.*

UNION OF THE CRAFT IN NEW YORK.

The Committees on the side of the Grand Lodge of the State, and the seceding party, whom our English Brethren may recollect as the two parties who submitted their cases to the Grand Lodge of England for adjudication, have closed their labours with entire satisfaction to both parties. We learn the best feeling has animated the breasts of the Brethren who formed the Committee, during the whole of the conference ; and we believe the principal reason the matters were not settled before was the questionable propriety of putting Brethren on the Committee heretofore, who had an hostile feeling against each other. D.G.M. Macoy ; H. W. Turner, W.M., of Amity ; A. Cassard, W.M., of La Fraternidad ; Rev. Bro. Gray, and J. S. Perry, of Troy, on the one side ; the other is Bros. John A. Kennedy, Thos. Cook, and S. Jenkinson. These Brethren formed the two Committees, and we will venture to say no question for years past has agitated the minds of the Fraternity more than the proceedings of this Committee. The Craft owe these Brethren a deep debt of gratitude for their untiring efforts to produce peace after so many lamentable failures, and we hope to chronicle on next St. John's day the Masonic marriage of the two Grand parties, who will hereafter be known as the Grand Lodge of the State of New York ; and may the words once applied to us be applied to them for all time—"Those whom God hath joined, let no man put asunder." *So mote it be.—New York Masonic Messenger.*

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

In the way of amusement, few things afford the writer more gratification than witnessing the innocent enjoyment of young folks in a ball-room. He even thinks a dance occasionally does himself good ; and if he does not enter into the spirit of a *deux temps* or a *varsovienn*e with the zeal or zest of his younger Brethren, there is still that left in him to enjoy a sober quadrille, or a turn or two in a polka. It relieves the mind after laborious pursuits, freshens the body after close confinement, and enables it to return and pursue official avocations with increased pleasure. That he is not alone in this opinion, the number of Masonic balls noticed in this and our last number will fully testify ; and those who attended them will bear out an assertion, that there is a good deal of dancing left in the human frame even after it does get to the wrong side of five and thirty or forty. We say this by way of a little encouragement to those who *fancy* they are getting too old for a dance, and would rather have a

banquet than a ball; but we say throw aside those feelings, and once a year at least, give the ladies a little insight into Masonry, as far as a Masonic festival will show them. The veteran, Bro. Adams, has his Twenty-first Annual Ball at Willis's Rooms, on Tuesday, 10th March, we look upon it as a Masonic Ball, though not announced as such; and invite those who think themselves a little too old for dancing, to attend upon that occasion, and try if they can resist the spirit-stirring music of the present day. We have no doubt that those of our Brethren who venture, will, upon the first occasion that offers, be in the van to get up a ball in their own Lodges. We take this opportunity of thanking our metropolitan and provincial Brethren for the many kind and pressing invitations we have received this winter to their festivals, but however much our wishes and inclinations would lead us to be with them, it is morally impossible to be at half or a quarter of those we are solicited to attend. Under these circumstances we shall feel obliged to any of the Brethren who may favour us with a report of their proceedings if we are unable to be with them, as it is our intention to devote a few pages in the *Magazine* to a report of the various Masonic festivals that take place either in London or the provinces.

BRO. G. HAYWARD'S ball took place on Thursday, the 12th of February, at the Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Hayward's band was first-rate, numbering twenty-four experienced and skilful musicians, who did good service, and kept to their work with untiring energy, playing with equal spirit the first quadrille and last galop. An elegant and most liberal champagne supper was partaken of at one o'clock, ably presided over by Bro. Peter Matthews, who, in very witty and flowery language, proposed the health of the ladies.

TEMPLE LODGE.—On Wednesday, the 11th of February, this ball, for the benefit of the charities, came off at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, when about 150 ladies and gentlemen assembled together, including the Officers of the Lodge and a large number of the Craft, who appeared in their costume. The room was most tastefully adorned with banners and flags, gratuitously lent for the occasion by Bro. Geo. Tutill, which elicited much admiration. Dancing commenced soon after nine o'clock, and was continued until nearly one, when the company partook of a supper, the preparation of which did great credit to Bro. Holt. After supper dancing was resumed with great vivacity until a very late, or rather early hour in the morning, and when the company separated, they did so expressing in unqualified terms the great pleasure they had derived from the night's entertainment. Praise is due for this to the Stewards, especially to Bro. Scott, W.M., Bros. Cutt, Bush, Grimes, Farthing, and Aldridge; and particularly to Bro. T. Beard, the Secretary, who was most indefatigable in his exertions to carry out the arrangements to the comfort and satisfaction of everybody: in his endeavours so to do, we are happy to say he was most successful. Bro. G. F. Taylor's band played some very excellent and well-selected music, and Bro. H. Taylor also acquitted himself most creditably as M.C.

ST. JAMES'S UNION LODGE (No. 211).—The Brethren of the St. James's Union Lodge had their first ball at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, on Thursday, February 5th. We have much pleasure in congratulating them upon the highly successful result of their first attempt, and assuredly they fully deserved the success they met with, all the Stewards being indefatigable in their endeavours to carry out every arrangement for the comfort and gratification of their visitors. It is not surprising that their mutual endeavours were fully appreciated by those present, and everything passed off in a most satisfactory manner. The music was spirited and good; Ollivier's band, under the able direction of Mr. H. Henderson. The dances were carefully selected to please all; Bro. Frampton, the worthy M.C., was untiring in his exertions to provide every one disposed to dance with a partner; and the stewards were assiduous in showing every attention to the ladies, and preventing confusion in the dances. Bro. Gunton, the twice elected W.M., presided at supper, and in a very eloquent speech proposed the "Health of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen and Craft," which toast was most enthusiastically responded to in bumpers. "The Ladies,"

"The Stewards," and several other toasts followed; after which the company returned to the ball-room, when dancing was resumed, and continued until a very very late hour.

BLACKBURN MASONIC BALL.—The first public ball in the Assembly-room at the Town Hall, was held on Thursday, the 5th of February. This festivity was got up by the Masonic Brethren for a purpose which was strictly in accordance with the professed and recognized principles of the fraternity—those principles being the three hallowed ones of *brotherly love, relief, and truth*. The ball was a signal manifestation of the beneficent designs of Masonry. The object was to benefit the funds now being raised for the purpose of erecting and endowing an infirmary in Blackburn, and we rejoice to learn that, after deducting all expenses, there will be a surplus of upwards of £40 to be appropriated to the above benevolent object. It is highly gratifying to find that the effort made by the Brethren to join charity to festive enjoyment has not proved a failure, but that it has resulted in substantial benefit to the object contemplated. Amongst the attractions of the ball-room, we must not omit to mention the costumes and insignia of the Masonic fraternity, every variety of which was exhibited, from those of the newly initiated "Apprentice" to those of the "Royal Arch" Brethren and the cloaked "Templars." Amongst the Provincial Grand Officers present we noticed Bro. Henry Brock-Hollinshead, P.G.J.W.; Bro. Barlow, P.G.T.; and Bro. Wilding, P.G.S.B.; all officers connected with the Eastern Division of Lancashire. The "Knights Templars" present, who appeared in their peculiar robes, were Bro. Sir W. H. Fielden, Bart., Bro. Capt. Whitle, Bro. Barlow, Bro. W. Harrison, and Bro. J. Houliker. We have reason to believe that the arrangements for the supper—if we may apply that term to the entertainment—were such as not only gave general satisfaction, but that they are likely to be reproduced on subsequent occasions, when similar entertainments are held at our Town Hall. Dancing was kept up with great spirit until about half-past five o'clock in the morning. There can be very little doubt that a Masonic ball is destined to become an annual affair in Blackburn. The *éclat* which has attended the last entertainment given under the auspices of the "Brethren of the Mystic Tie," forms a certain passport to future favour, and cannot fail to be remembered with feelings of peculiar gratification by all who had the pleasure of joining in their last delightful reunion—one which must be looked upon as combining the pleasantest and loveliest stage in the chequered journeys of life.

DUDLEY MASONIC BALL.—The committee have wound up the affairs of this ball (held on the 21st of January), the profits being about £16. There has not been a single donation this year, which probably accounts for the smallness of the sum to be given away to charity. The ball was well attended, and otherwise successful.

DUNDEE ANCIENT LODGE (No. 49).—On the evening of 6th February the Brethren of this Lodge, with their usual gallantry, gave a ball in the Thistle Hall, which was numerously attended. The Brethren appeared in full Masonic costume, and the ladies, who honoured them with their attendance, afforded a display of beauty and elegance rarely to be surpassed. Dancing was kept up with great spirit until four o'clock, to the strains of an excellent band, led by Mr. F. McKenzie, of Edinburgh.

GRAND MASONIC BALL AT EDINBURGH.—The annual ball of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and other Masonic bodies, took place on Tuesday evening, 3rd February, in the Assembly Rooms, George-street, and was attended by a large assemblage of the beauty and fashion of the surrounding counties, as well as of the city of Edinburgh. The Masonic Brethren present all wore their distinctive decorations, and numerous military uniforms added to the attractiveness of the spectacle. The ball-room was brilliantly lighted up, and the ornamentation of the dais, on which sat the Lady Patronesses, was particularly admired for its elegant simplicity of design. The Music Hall was thrown open at one o'clock, when the company partook of a sumptuous banquet provided by Mr. Blair. The dancing was once more resumed in the ball-room, where Mr. Mackenzie's band performed, and was continued till an advanced hour in the morning. We understand that a

more successful ball in all particulars has not been held in Edinburgh for a considerable period. Among those present were—The Duke and Duchess of Atholl, the Earl of Rothes, Lord Stormont, Lady M. Erskine, Lady Macdonald Lockhart, Lady and Miss M'Neill, Lady Margaret Dalrymple, Lady and Miss Russell, Lady Clerk, Sir A. and Lady Alison, Lady C. Fletcher, Viscountess Strathallan, Lord and Lady William Kennedy, Lady H. Leslie, Lady Forbes, Hon. Mrs. and the Hon. Miss Drummond, Lord Cardross (Alloa, St. John's Lodge) and Lady Cardross, Sir A. G. and Lady Gordon Cumming, Sir W. Forbes, Major Jordan, Mr. W. S. A. Waldron (Alloa, St. John's Lodge), Mr. and Mrs. H. Inglis and the Misses Inglis, Miss Stewart, of Glasserton; Mrs. and Miss Dempster, of Skibo; Mr. Hope Vere, Miss Wharton Duff, Miss Dalrymple, Mrs. and Miss C. H. Inglis, of Cramond; Miss Davidson, of Tulloch; Miss Dick Lauder, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Gordon Alexander, Lieutenant Gordon Alexander, 93rd Highlanders (Alloa, St. John's Lodge); &c. &c.

HULL AMATEUR THEATRICALS.—On Thursday evening, January 29, an immense audience assembled at the Jarratt-street Rooms, to witness the long-talked-of performance, for the benefit of the Benevolent Fund attached to the Minerva Lodge of Freemasons. Through the instrumentality of Messrs. Wolfenden and Melbourne, of the Queen's Theatre, a very handsome and compact little stage had been erected at one end of the room, with beautiful scenery, and machinery that worked to perfection. Everything was got up *en règle*; an excellent amateur orchestra filled up the intervals, and Bro. F. Jackson accompanied the vocal portions of the entertainment on the pianoforte. "You Can't Marry Your Grandmother," "Bombastes Furioso," and "The Two Bonnycastlees," were the entertainments of the evening, all excellently represented by Bros. B. Jacobs, J. Jacobs, Jones, J. Harrison, Mrs. Wilson, and the Misses Cudworth and Seyton, professional actresses, who kindly gave their services. The responsible duties of stage-manager were undertaken by Bro. Arden, the W.M. of the Lodge, to whom is due the entire credit of having originated the performance and carried out the arrangements, by which we are glad to hear upwards of £70 have been added to the Benevolent Fund.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The annual ball and soiree given by the W.M. and Brethren of the Huddersfield Lodge, No. 365, took place on Friday, the 20th of February, at the Zetland Hotel. The Lodge-room was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and presented an appearance rarely to be surpassed for beauty and gaiety. The attendance was very good, the Brethren appearing in full Masonic clothing, from the Royal Arch downwards, with jewels, collars, and badges of office. The music, on which the life of a ball depends, was everything that could be wished. We were particularly delighted with a new Masonic polka, played during the evening, which has just been published by Bro. Joe Wood, P.G.O. of West Yorkshire, in which certain airs, well known to the initiated, are introduced with good taste and the happiest effect, and the time is so distinctly marked, that it is next to impossible to get out of step. We have no doubt but that this polka will become, as it richly deserves to be, a great favourite at all Masonic dances. At half-past eleven o'clock the supper-room was thrown open, where the tables were furnished in a *recherché* manner, and did much credit to the worthy caterers, and gave great satisfaction to everyone present. Bro. J. Brook was appointed Master of the Ceremonies, and he performed the duties of that office in a very able manner. Dancing was kept up with great spirit till past four o'clock, when the band struck up "Roger de Coverley," after which the party separated, the Brethren having enjoyed themselves exceedingly; and if we may judge from the happy faces of the ladies, they also passed an agreeable evening. This is the third Masonic ball given in Huddersfield since Christmas, all of which have passed off with *éclat*.

PORTOBELLO MASONIC BALL.—This assembly came off in the Town Hall, on Friday evening, February 20, with *éclat*. The hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Upwards of thirty Brethren, in full Masonic costume, with their wives and "bright particulars," kept up the dance, in all its varied forms, with unwearied spirit, until five o'clock next morning, to the excellent quadrille band

of Bro. Johnston, Elder-street, Edinburgh. The Brethren of the Portobello Lodge must be congratulated on the brilliant appearance of Friday evening, as we understand that it is now about twenty years since a similar ball was given in the town. Great credit is also due to the efficient R.W. Master, Bro. Alexander Scott, and the committee of management, for the manner in which the arrangements were made.

SOUTH WALES.—Bro. Dr. Wastfield, the celebrated organist in these parts, consented to preside at the pianoforte and to sing at the Benefit Concert for the lessee of the Carmarthen Assembly Rooms on Friday last; and it is but an act of justice to record here that the worthy doctor's condescension on the occasion gave earnest of unmistakable support. The evening, unfortunately, was excessively wet, and in the neighbourhood some large parties were engaged at private festivities; but the tickets disposed of for the concert amply displayed the interest felt for the treat. Blest with one of the finest voices, matured with sound judgment, and high artistic skill in his performance of the instrument at which he presided for the evening, Dr. Wastfield was received in the most rapturous and sincere manner by as respectable and as numerous a company as Carmarthen has seen collected together since the opening of their beautiful rooms (erected by that promising architect, Mr. James Wilson of Bath), with one exception, namely, Dr. Wastfield's Farewell Concert, when *standing-room* was hardly attainable. Another circumstance induced the audience to give this welcome to their favourite leader, and that was the readiness of Dr. Wastfield in coming forward to serve one who had on several well-remembered occasions took very active parts both in the public newspapers and in his private circle, to lessen the reputation which the doctor had earned for pure musical taste and indomitable industry, thus showing to the people that, in the cause to do good, no private pique and no public act could deter Dr. Wastfield from endeavouring to serve his fellow-man by returning, as it were, to his former enemy "good for evil," and thereby transforming a foe into a friend, and fulfilling the beautiful commandment of brotherly love. Suffice it to say, that the concert gave universal delight and satisfaction, and passed off with a vote of thanks to Dr. Wastfield for the evening's entertainment. The doctor was in excellent voice; his songs were encored and encored again. The duets between him and Mr. Shackell were charming, as also those by Mr. and Dr. Wastfield. In short, the hours passed but too quickly; and when the "Finale" was given, but one sentiment prevailed in the room, namely, that the evening had been too short. We understand that Dr. Wastfield has received the commission to place a very beautiful organ in the church at Llandilo, and that Lord Dynevor had subscribed handsomely towards the work. It is expected that the opening service will take place about May next.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR FEBRUARY.

THE COURT.

During the early part of the month, the Court was residing at Windsor, but on the 12th ult. it removed to Buckingham Palace, where it will remain until after the Queen's approaching accouchement. On the 16th her Majesty visited the New Houses of Parliament, and on the 20th the youthful members of the royal family visited the Princess's Theatre. The Prince of Wales has taken to field sports, and bids fair to be a regular Nimrod. His Royal Highness lately visited the Electric Telegraph Offices in Lothbury.

PARLIAMENT.

Parliament commenced a new session on the 3rd ult., when the proceedings were opened by royal commission. The debate upon the address, which gave the

noble and learned members of either House an opportunity of reviewing the political events of the last six months, occupied the first night.

On the 4th the answer to the address was brought up in the Commons, and on the following day in the Lords.

On the 5th Lord Cardigan brought under the notice of the Lords the attacks made upon his conduct in the Crimea by a staff officer, alleging that they had no foundation in fact.

On the 6th the question of the renewal of the Bank Charter occupied the House of Commons, and Mr. Lowe introduced a new measure for the repeal of Passing Tolls.

On the 9th Sir George Grey introduced and explained the provisions of a new bill to modify the present system of secondary punishments.

On the 10th the Lord Chancellor introduced a series of measures for the transfer of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction in matters testamentary and marital to the civil courts.

On the 12th Sir Robert Peel entertained the House of Commons with a jovial explanation of the after-dinner speech, in which he fell foul of certain high personages on the Continent. On the same evening Lord Palmerston (having previously denied the fact) acknowledged that there was a secret treaty between France and Austria, guaranteeing to the latter the possession of her Italian territories. Mr. Napier the same evening brought under the consideration of the House the necessity of establishing a department of public justice.

On the 13th the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced his budget, reducing the income-tax from 1s. 4d. to 7d. in the pound sterling for three years, and arresting the decline of the duty on tea and sugar.

On the 16th Lord Campbell brought the law of libel before his brother peers, arguing for the exemption of newspaper reports from the responsibility of libel. On the same evening Mr. J. Sadlier was expelled the House of Commons for complicity in his brother's frauds.

On the 17th the Marquis of Clanricarde called the attention of the Lords to the subject of our government in India.

On the 18th the question of National Education occupied the attention of the House of Commons.

On the 19th the extension of the franchise and the Maynooth grant were both debated in the House of Commons. On the former question Government defeated Mr. Locke King's motion by a majority of thirteen, and on the latter question Mr. Spooner was put *hors de combat* by a majority of eight against his motion.

On the 20th Mr. Disraeli moved an amendment on the budget, in which he was supported by Mr. Gladstone; the debate occupied the whole of that evening, and was renewed on the 23rd, when Government carried the day by a majority of eighty.

On the 24th the Earl of Derby moved in the House of Lords a resolution condemnatory of the conduct of the British authorities at Canton, when a most animated debate ensued, which was postponed until the 26th, when it was renewed by the Earl of Carnarvon in an able speech.

FOREIGN.

With reference to foreign events, the most worthy of mention during the month have been the execution of Verger, on the 2nd; the arrangement for the withdrawal of the armies of occupation from Greece; the amnesty published in Lombardy, by the Emperor, of Austria; the proposal of the King of Naples to send his political prisoners to the Argentine Republic, as emigrants; the attempted assassination of the Archbishop of Matera; the opening of the French Legislature, by the Emperor, on the 16th, and the investiture of the Sardinian officers with the Order of the Bath, by the British Minister at Turin.

LEGAL.

On the 4th, in the Court of Queen's Bench, was tried, with a verdict for the defendant, the case of *Harrison v. Marquis of Bath*, which was a plan to extort money from his lordship for the concealment of his gallantries.

On the 5th, John Paul, formerly clerk of the City of London Union, was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation for forgery and embezzlement.

The same day, a Mr. Fish obtained, in the Court of Queen's Bench, £150 damages for injuries he had received in an omnibus belonging to the General Omnibus Company.

Burrough, the druggist's assistant, who supplied the oil of bitter almonds instead of castor oil for the use of the late Mr. Marcooley, was this day acquitted of the manslaughter.

On the 10th, the case of *Woulfe v. Propert* was tried in the Court of the Exchequer, with a verdict for the defendant, whose son, under age, had been supplied both with money and expensive clothing by the plaintiff. The case opened up a full view of how young lads at college were entrapped into extravagant habits, and their parents made to bear with it rather than risk exposure. Several actions against the Railway Companies, for accidents arising from negligence on their parts, have been lately tried, and in each case the verdict has been for the plaintiff.

On the 17th, Mrs. McIntosh, for a broken leg, recovered, in the Common Pleas, £450 from the North-Western Company. And, on the same day, Mrs. Hicks, a widow, whose husband was killed while travelling on the Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford line, recovered from that Company, in the Queen's Bench, £2,500.

On the 18th, a Mr. Allen, for injuries done to his head by a collision on the Chester and Holyhead line, obtained, in the Common Pleas, damages to the extent of £1,400.

On the 21st, in the Secondaries Court, damages in a case of crim. con. (*Tomkins v. Dradge*) were assessed at £1,000.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

On the 31st of January, a man named Collins killed another named White, in a quarrel, at Manchester.

On the 3rd, a gentleman, supposed at first to be Colonel Wyndham, died suddenly while looking at the skating in Kensington Gardens.

On the 4th, several boys were punished by the magistrate in Marlborough-street, for throwing snow-balls in Hyde Park. An inquest was on the same day held on a girl named Mary Read, a servant in a convent, who committed suicide by swallowing oxalic acid.

On the 11th, the Saward gang of forgers was committed from the Mansion House, for trial, at the Old Bailey.

On the 12th, a colliery explosion took place near Wigan, attended with the loss of several lives.

On the same day, Mr. Ovendon, a tradesman of Reigate, was robbed and shot on the highway near that town. There is as yet no clue to the assassin.

On the 13th, while one of the guns of H.M.S. *Arrogant* was being lifted in a crane, the gear broke and it fell upon the head of a sailor, making a mummy of it.

On the 16th, at Barnes, on the South-Western Railway, a woman, while attempting to remove her child off the rails, fell herself upon them, and the train just passing, severed her legs from her body.

On the 17th, Mr. Broughton, in the Marylebone Police Court, exposed the tricks of a begging-letter impostor named Mrs. Allsopp, who had been going about complaining that Prince Albert had refused to relieve her, although she had lost two sons in the Crimea; the fact being that she had never lost a son at all.

On the 18th, Bacon and his wife were committed for the murder of their children at Walworth. The same day a coroner's jury at Stamford, having held an inquest on the exhumed body of his mother, returned a verdict of wilful murder against the male prisoner.

On the 19th, a frightful accident took place, by the explosion of fire-damp in a coal mine near Barnsley, in Yorkshire, by which 170 people lost their lives.

On the 21st, the Rev. Mr. Nodder, of Ashover, near Chesterfield, shot a burglar who had broken into his house.

COMMERCIAL.

On the 28th of January, the Mexican Mining Association empowered the Directors to raise £6,500, to work the concern.

On the 29th, the Maraquita Company divided 1s. per share on their profits for the last half-year.

On the 30th, the Australian Agricultural Company met, and reported that the expenditure for the year exceeded the income by £4,410.

On the 1st, the International Telegraph Company divided their profits at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the half-year.

On the 5th, the London and County Bank divided 6 per cent. out of the profits of the last half-year, added £500 to the Provident Fund, and carried £7,795. 14s. 3d. to the next account.

On the 6th, the National Discount Company declared a dividend for the half-year of 3s. per share (£5) paid up. The same day, the Scottish Australian Company declared a dividend of 8 per cent. per annum.

On the 10th, the Peel River Company declared a dividend of 1s. per share.

The Railway Companies have been holding their usual half-yearly meetings, and making the same dividends as heretofore.

PROVIDENT.

The London Life Assurance Company met on the 2nd. We take the following from the report. On the 31st of December last, the guarantee fund amounted to £615,858, and the directors had agreed to a dividend of £2. 10s. per share, equivalent to 25 per cent. upon the paid-up capital of the company, payable on the 6th of April next. On the 1st of January, 1856, the balance of the assurance fund was £3,786,488. The new premiums for the year amounted to £14,218, and the renewals to £296,130, and the balance on profit and loss to £130,483—in all, £413,832—which, with the above balance, made the total amount of insurance fund, on the 31st of December, £4,200,320, short the expenses of the year.

The Mutual also met in the course of the month, and reported that in the year 1856 the directors had issued 243 new policies, assuring £126,400, and producing an income of £4,326. 5s. 2d. The invested fund had increased during the year £27,725. 7s. 5d., and the fund, after payment of all claims and expenses, now amounted to £263,568. 13s. 1d. The increase of business had not been attended by a proportionate increase to the amount of loss. The claims which might have been reasonably expected were from 28 to 30 lives, and £21,000 in sums assured. Those actually occurring within the year were on 22 lives, and £12,700 in sums assured. The total money loss in the year 1856 was £15,283, against £26,780 in 1854, and £23,347 in 1855. Since the commencement of the present year, only one loss had occurred, in a policy for £500; and the new premiums received since the 1st of January were larger than had been received during a similar period for several years. The report concluded by announcing that the members would receive, in a few days, a circular informing them of the additions made to their respective policies.

A special meeting of the members of the Briton Life Association was held on the 5th ult., for the purpose of considering the propriety of amalgamating the business of the Brunswick Life Office; Mr. B. W. Wells, presided, and the report of Mr. Walker, the consulting actuary, was read, detailing the terms on which it was proposed to amalgamate the business of the two Offices. The chairman explained, that the Brunswick Office had a safe and respectable connection—that the annual income was secured upon the ordinary risks, and that the Directors were unanimous in recommending the amalgamation. The amalgamation was agreed upon, and resolutions to that effect were carried *nem. con.*

BENEVOLENT.

On the 5th the annual meeting of the Governors of Middlesex Hospital was held, when it was stated the ordinary income for the twelvemonth had been £6,617. 10s. 6d., and the ordinary expenditure £11,511. 0s. 3d.; the excess of the

ordinary disbursements on the ordinary expenditure having been £4,893. 9s. 9d. The account was received, and ordered to be printed and circulated among the governors in the usual form. The in-patients during the year had been 2,268, and the out-patients 16,844, making a total of 19,112. The report of the registrars showed that there had been during the past year 11,600 medical cases, and 1,107 surgical cases.

The same day the Royal Maternity Charity met and reported that last year there were delivered in the hospital 3,297 women, 433 more than in 1850; and, from the report of the medical committee, there had been many cases of a difficult and complicated nature. There was now deposited in the London Provident Institution, Moorfields, to the account of the superannuation fund, originated for the relief and assistance of the charity's infirm and aged midwives, £182. 17s. 7d. £5. 15s. was in the hands of the secretary, and £300 invested in the Three per Cent. Consolidated Annuities. Since its commencement, in 1839, the fund had dispensed in assistance £630. 1s.

At the meeting of the Governors of St. Mark's Hospital it was determined to raise a fund for the perpetual endowment of that institution. Later in the month the Seamen's Hospital Society met. The annual court of the Governors of the Seamen's Hospital Society took place on Wednesday, at the Offices, King William-street, City—Admiral Hope, K.C.B., in the chair. The report stated that the Society had been instrumental in saving life and restoring health to many thousand seamen of various nations, upwards of 77,000 having been admitted into the floating hospital since its establishment, besides 43,000 relieved as out-patients. The desire of the committee to obtain another ship in lieu of the Dreadnought (of which they had now held possession for upwards of 25 years), had been satisfied by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having granted them H.M.S. Caledonia, a larger and more commodious vessel. Their lordships, however, had consented to alter the name to that under which the hospital had been so long known—the Dreadnought. The greater portion of the expense of fitting up this ship had devolved upon the Society, and the amount had already reached £11,000. Little, however, now remained to be done, and the ship would, in the course of a few days, supersede the present Dreadnought. The committee hoped that the cost incurred in providing an hospital of so efficient and durable a character would not be allowed to occasion a permanent diminution in the income of the Society. The number of patients admitted into the hospital during the past year had been 1,851; and the number supplied with medical and surgical attention during the same period, as out-patients, was 1,658; making a total of 3,509. The contributions to the subscription-boxes at the several ports in the United Kingdom had amounted, during the year, to £998. 11s. 3d.; and the Society had received legacies to the amount of £594. The statement of accounts, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1856, showed that the receipts had amounted to £19,840. 6s. 8d.; and the expenditure, including loans returned to bankers, to £21,125. 0s. 1d.; leaving a balance against the Society of £1,278. 13s. 5d.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

The dramatic muse has during the past month shown herself extremely prolific. The following new pieces have been produced: At the Haymarket, on the 7th, "Double-Faced People." On the 11th, at the Olympic, "A Splendid Investment." At the Haymarket, on the 16th, "A Wicked Wife." At the Lyceum, on the same night, "Life's Ransom," a five-act piece in blank verse. The same evening, at the Adelphi, "Barney the Baron." On the 19th, at the Olympic, "A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing;" and on the 23rd, at the Adelphi, "In and Out of Place."

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 30th of January, there was a grand Educational Conference at Manchester.

On the 31st, there was a new Public School opened at Stepney, on which

occasion both the Bishop of London and Mr. Gladstone spoke in favour of Church extension.

On the 2nd ult. Mr. Rogers, the actor, presented to one of the metropolitan magistrates 13s. 4d., which he had received for acting before Her Majesty in the Windsor theatricals. On the first blush of the thing the public were prepared to cry out against regal parsimony, but a letter from Mr. C. Kean placed the matter in its proper light, and showed that Mr. Rogers had no possible reason to complain. On the same day, Mr. Langworthy was returned for Salford, in the room of the late Mr. Brotherton. On this day too, Peter M'Clean was executed at Linlithgow, for the murder of a person named Maxwell. Calcraft officiated, and expressed himself greatly pleased at the perfection of the dread machinery of his office.

On the 3rd, the Rev. M. Wilberforce, formerly a dignitary of the Church of England, died near Rome.

On the 4th, Convocation sat, and disposed of several matters of great clerical interest. A deputation of the Society for the Removal of Taxes upon Knowledge waited this day on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, relative to the removal of the duty on paper. On this day too, the Earl of Yarborough was nominated Lord Lieutenant of the county of Lincoln.

On the 9th, on the occasion of the funeral of M. Worsell, a Pole, the political refugees resident in London were forcibly addressed by several of their leaders, upon the present prospects of the advance of liberal principles on the continent. On the same day, the Attorney-General was re-elected for Aylesbury, and the Hon. Mr. Cowper for Hertfordshire. A great public meeting of those who sympathize in the wretched condition of the dressmakers of the metropolis, was held at Exeter Hall, for the purpose of forwarding the efforts which are being made by many philanthropic persons to rescue them from their misery.

On the 10th, there were contested elections at Newport, Greenwich, and Southampton, resulting in the election of Mr. Kennard, General Codrington, and Mr. Weguelin, in the room of Mr. Biggs and Mr. Rolt resigned, and of Sir. A. Cockburn promoted to the Bench as Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas.

On the 11th, Mr. James Clay was once more returned for Hull in the room of Mr. Baron Watson. Mr. Ker was on the same day returned for Downpatrick, as successor to Lord Hardinge. There was this day at Willis's Rooms an important meeting in support of reformatories.

On the 12th, Mr. Hope Johnston was returned for the county of Dumfries, and the Solicitor-General was re-elected for Buteshire.

On the 13th, Mr. Clive was returned for Hereford, and the Honourable Mr. Barnard for Bandon.

On the 14th, Mr. Bagwell was elected Member for Clonmel, in the room of Mr. John O'Connell.

On the 16th, the Marylebone Poor Law Authorities dismissed one of their Medical Officers for cruelty to a patient.

On the 17th, there was a meeting of roughs in Smithfield, when Mr. E. Jones endeavoured to make the present general distress subservient to the promotion of his political sentiments.

On the 18th, the Earl of Ellesmere died, respected and lamented by all who knew him.

On the 19th, Mr. W. Martin was returned for West Kent, in the room of the late Sir E. Filmer. On the same day, the Lord Mayor presided at a public meeting in favour of the Ragged School Union, when upwards of £2,000 were subscribed in aid of the funds of that Institution. His lordship gave a harrowing account of a visit which he had made the previous evening to the casual wards of the West London Union.

On the 20th, Sergeant Channel was sworn in as one of the Barons of the Exchequer, in the room of the late Baron Alderson.

On the 22nd, the Earl of Harewood died after lingering for some time from the effects of a hurt he had received while hunting.

Obituary.

BRO. JOHN MANTLE.

On the 29th of January, at the "Stewponey Inn," of which he was landlord, Bro. John Mantle, aged 55. The deceased Brother was for many years a member of Lodge No. 313, in which he was initiated, and was well known and highly esteemed in the Craft. He was formerly landlord of the Freemasons' Tavern, Dudley, where the Lodge was and still is held, and which is now carried on by his son-in-law, Bro. E. Roberts. His remains were interred in the family vault at Claverly, on Wednesday, the 4th February. At the meeting of Lodge No. 313, on February the 3rd, the toasts at banquet were drunk in silence, out of respect to his memory.

BROTHER WILLIAM PLATT, P.M.

Died on Monday, the 8th February, 1857, Bro. William Platt, a P.M., and the Treasurer of St. John's Lodge, No. 268, Bolton. The deceased, who was initiated in Lodge No. 268, in the year 1818, has, during the whole of the period which elapsed since his initiation to his death, been an active and useful member of the Lodge; he served the office of Secretary for fifteen years, and retired only when he felt the weight of years begin to press more heavily upon him; he was, however, soon elected Treasurer, and continued in that office to the day of his death, having been re-elected so recently as January 21st in the present year. He was elected W.M. in 1823, and was seldom absent from the Lodge: and in the middle of last year, the Brethren presented him with a Silver Jewel as a mark of their high regard and esteem. At the meeting held the 18th February, the Lodge was placed in mourning, as a mark of respect to his memory, the Brethren mustering strong to testify their regard, and also their sorrow at the dispensation which had deprived them of one of our ancient "Standard Bearers." His remains were interred in the beautiful churchyard of St. Michael Great Lever, on the 12th ult., and were followed to the grave by the W.M. and other officers of the Lodge.

NOTICE.

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

THE "FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR."—The Brethren are respectfully informed, that the Volume for 1856, in a handsomely embossed symbolic cover, is now ready, price 13s. 6d. Covers may be had at the office, price 1s.; or the Brethren may have their Numbers bound for 1s. 6d.

Those Brethren whose Subscriptions expired with the Number for December, will oblige the Publisher by forwarding a Post-office order for the present year.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A PAST MASTER."—We are assured that neither the Grand Secretary nor any of the Brethren in his office had anything to do either in the preparation or

circulation of a "Past Master's" letter alluded to in our last; the first notice they had of its being in existence, being the reception of a copy addressed to Bro. White.

"J. C.," Dundee.—We have applied for the information, and expect to receive it before our next publication.

"W. K.," (No. 624).—The Lodge, in the various Degrees, must be closed with the usual ceremony.

"No. 610."—You cannot adjourn your Lodge to the following day for the completion of business. The Grand Master has decided that in the case stated the business must stand over to the next regular night of meeting, or you must call a Lodge of Emergency.

"E. A."—The Lodge may elect honorary members if it thinks fit, but their names will not be entered on the books of Grand Lodge, without they are contributing members.

"J. W."—Visiting Brethren can have no right to vote for a candidate for initiation, any more than upon any other subject affecting the interests of the Lodge.

Our very esteemed old friend and Brother at Carmarthen knows well enough that we shall at all times be most happy to hear from *him*, and that his forthcoming tale of the "Jackal" shall have our best attention.

"VERITAS."—The society named is not recognized in England, nor are we aware that it has any regular organized head even in America.

"A. B."—The confirmation of minutes is not a matter of form. A resolution come to at one meeting, would, if not confirmed at the next, fall to the ground. More than one resolution has of late, after being approved at one Grand Lodge, been defeated on the question of confirming the minutes.

"HIEROPHANT."—We are sorry we were not sufficiently explicit. The Brother who first filled the Warden's chair, would, if otherwise eligible, be preferred probably for the office of W.M., but no claim can exist to a position which is entirely at the disposal of the Lodge.

"MASONIC KNIGHTS TEMPLAR."—The address to the State Grand and Subordinate Commanderies of the United States of America shall appear in our number for April.

"R. B."—In visiting a Lodge, you should not wear the collar or jewel of the office you hold in your own.

"TYRO."—The W.M. having been re-installed cannot resign, but another Master may be re-elected, as the W.M. takes the chair for twelve months, or until his successor be legally appointed. In the case of the Wardens, if the S.W. dies the W.M. can appoint another to his place, but the newly-appointed Warden will not be eligible for the chair, until he has himself served the office of W. for twelve months, such period being made up either from the whole tenure of his office unbroken, or by his being a W. by election and re-election consecutively.

"GLASGOW, ST. CLAIR LODGE."—The communication from this Lodge came too late for insertion, and is postponed until next number.