

THE
FREEMASONS'
MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

APRIL 1, 1857.

ELECTION OF GRAND MASTER.

ON the question of the re-election of the M.W. Grand Master at the last Quarterly Communication—a motion of course carried all but unanimously—for, however much some of the Brethren may desire to see an occasional change made in the head of the Craft, as tending to bring with it a new and important connection to the Order, none desire to cast, however remotely, even what may be considered a slight upon so estimable a nobleman and Mason as the Earl of Zetland—a desultory discussion arose as to the right of one Brother to nominate another for the office without his authority. We should not have alluded to the subject, considering it as only trifling with the time of Grand Lodge, were it not to point out the diversity of opinion existing between the Grand Master and those who may be presumed to be his more immediate supporters. At the meeting in December, on a Brother rising and nominating Lord Southampton for the office of G.M., he was asked by another Brother whether he had the authority of that nobleman to make use of his name; upon which the G.M. ruled—and properly, as we think—that the question could not be put. The Brother had the power to nominate, but it was for Lord Southampton himself to determine whether he would stand by the nomination. But what says Lord Panmure (the reputed future D.G.M.) three months afterwards? That no Brother should be allowed to nominate another without being prepared to declare he has received the consent of the nominee to stand, and to take upon himself the duties of his office. On what ground is he to be called upon to make such a declaration? We will give it in our noble Brother's own words:—"Why, you may some day elect some one to the highest honour to which, as a Mason, he can attain, who, from circumstances over which he has no control, or from not taking sufficient interest in the Craft, may refuse to accept the honour." Now, we will put it to the Brethren whether

a more utter confusion of ideas on the real subject under discussion could have existed in the mind of any man? No one had proposed to go to election, nor could it be imagined that the majority in Grand Lodge would blindly vote for any person without being assured that the candidate would serve if elected; but the right of an individual Brother to nominate is altogether different—the nomination, by law, always coming three months before the day of election, surely ample time for a Brother to be enabled to determine whether circumstances will allow him to accept the office if elected to it. If such be the logic Lord Panmure is to bring into Grand Lodge—admirable speaker as he is—we are afraid, that rather than assist in clearing away the stumbling-blocks which have of late led to more protracted and animated discussions than were wont for some years to distinguish that august assembly, he will be augmenting them by introducing too subtle interpretations of the Book of Constitutions and of the English language. At all events, we must protest in opposition to his lordship, that there is a broad and marked distinction between “nomination” and “election;” and maintain the right of every member of Grand Lodge to nominate yearly such candidate as he may think fit to fill the chair, if only to remind the G.M. that under the Book of Constitutions the office is not one for life, but temporary, in the hands of the Craft. The election being over, we can as sincerely as any of the Brethren wish his lordship may be blessed with health to be often amongst us, and that the proceedings of Grand Lodge, under his guidance, will in future be more harmonious and business-like than they have occasionally been during the past year.

THE CANADAS.

WE congratulate the Craft on the result of the proceedings of Grand Lodge on the 4th of March, relative to the disputes which have unhappily too long existed in regard to our relations with the Lodges in Canada West. And we are the more pleased because the olive branch has been held out temperately and opportunely by the M.W.G.M. His Lordship frankly admitted to Grand Lodge, that, when he made his former statement in June last, he was not fully acquainted with the facts of the case, and that the Canadian Brethren have not received at the hands of the authorities in this country all the consideration they had a right to demand. This is a most important admission, and will, we are sure, fully justify the *Freemasons' Magazine*, and the influential members of Lodges supporting it, in the part they have taken in impressing a knowledge of those facts on Grand Lodge and the Craft. We do not, however, wish to recur to the past; we would rather with Bro. Portal let “by-gones be by-gones,” and look to the future. In his last communication, the G.M. promises the Canadian, and, we presume, other colonial Brethren all they can well desire. His Lordship will not forego any of his

prerogatives nor attempt to bind his successor, but whilst he continues in office, will allow the Brethren in Canada, and of course in Australia also, to nominate their own Prov. G.M., subject to his approval. And, says the G.M., "I shall not withhold my approval from any Brethren so recommended, unless for weighty reasons, which I shall be prepared to state and justify." This is fair and honourable, and such a condition as no reasonable body of men can object to. His Lordship then alluded to a proposed reduction of the colonial fees, a matter we regard as of very secondary importance, and stated that he had already provided for the issue of blank certificates to the Prov. G.Ms. in the colonies, which would prevent any complaints relative to the delay of their transmission from England. On the proposal to allow the Prov. G.Ms. to issue warrants for new Lodges, the G.M. has very properly determined that the power must continue with himself, though he says that an equivalent prerogative has always been exercised by the Prov. Grand Masters of Colonial Lodges, "for they have granted dispensations for holding new Lodges, the warrants for which are never withheld." The G.M. further promises to subdivide the Colonies as much as possible, so that every Lodge may be brought within a convenient distance of its Prov. Grand Lodge. We believe that this communication will prove satisfactory to the great majority of our Canadian Brethren, and it gives us sincere pleasure to see the conciliatory spirit manifested by Grand Lodge, a spirit exemplified in the kindest manner by the Grand Master, who consented that a petition from Canada West, on the subject of what we trust we may henceforth consider as past grievances, should be referred to the Colonial Committee, in conjunction with himself.

THE RIGHT OF REPORTING IN GRAND LODGE.

THE Emperor of the French reserves to himself the right of giving notice to the proprietors of newspapers and literary publications, when they do not exactly accord with his own ideas of government; the third notice being sufficient to destroy the property of the luckless proprietor. It would appear that the G.M., or rather, we are inclined to believe, those advisers who have so often led him into difficulties, is desirous, by a too literal construction of the Book of Constitutions, of possessing the same power; and accordingly the *Freemasons' Magazine* has received the first notice, and should the second and third come, we shall hail them as most fortunate, since the effect is likely to be just the reverse to what would happen were we publishing in France instead of England. The Grand Master has reminded us that only one Brother is allowed to take notes in Grand Lodge; that nothing is to be published which has not been approved by the G. Sec. or G.M.; and expressed a hope that the practice of taking notes may be discontinued for the future, the

Freemasons' Magazine not being officially acknowledged as an organ of the Craft. Whether officially acknowledged or not, it cannot be doubted that it is generally recognised as the organ of the Order, whose increasing patronage proves their conviction of its value, and that nothing has ever appeared in its pages to which the most conscientious Mason could object. The House of Parliament once stood out against the right of publishing their debates, but public opinion has long since forced them to succumb, and now reporting is not only acknowledged, but every accommodation is afforded to the representatives of the Press. We respectfully warn the M.W.G.M., therefore, not to enter upon a Quixotic crusade against the Press, which is sure to end in his disgrace, since the Craft at large will speedily demand that the right of reporting shall be accorded. If the G.M. does carry out his threat to the full, what must be the result? The reports will be written from memory, there being always a Brother in the Lodge who is a practised memory reporter, and the G.M. will have no right to complain if the reports of discussions do not then exhibit that verbal fidelity which we have for some time endeavoured to impart to every speech of importance, especially when coming from the dais. As to the reports issued by Grand Lodge, approved by the G. Master, or G. Sec., we put it fairly to the Craft, whether the miserable abortion of Minutes dignified with the name of Quarterly Communications are worthy of that title, and what kind of reporting that can be considered which, a few months since, gave the G.M.'s statement on the Canada question, on which he now admits at the time he was not fully acquainted, verbatim, and ignored the whole of the remaining proceedings of the evening! But even allowing that the Quarterly Communications were the very acme of reporting and impartiality, are they issued with such regularity as to render them of real value to the Craft? Rare indeed is it that they are seen until a few days before the next Quarterly Meeting, and it is not two years since five Quarterly Communications were issued to the Brethren by the same post! How truly useful it must have been to tell the Craft in the early part of 1855 what had taken place in Sept. 1853, and confirmed in December of the same year! But we fear that it is not the reporting of the discussions which has given offence, but the spirit of inquiry and determination to remove abuses which has been by our means raised in the Craft, and rendered the seats of some Brethren not quite so soft and pleasant as they formerly were. For ourselves, we are determined to do our duty to the Craft despite all threats, and to support a great principle threatened in us, namely, the liberty of the Press. We may add, that we have perfect confidence that the public spirit of the Brethren will sustain us in this determination, whose rights and liberties are assuredly imperilled the instant "Press-gagging" is attempted.

NOTICE OF GRAND LODGE BUSINESS.

WE regret that the motion carried by the Earl of Carnarvon some time ago, for having the business to be brought before Grand Lodge printed in time to be circulated amongst the Country Lodges, by providing that the Board of Masters should be held a month earlier than at present, has been got rid of by a side wind, and referred back to the Board of General Purposes to consider what effect it will have on the constitutions generally. Such reference is unnecessary in an assembly like Grand Lodge, where the effect of every alteration of a comma or letter is most thoroughly sifted by our legal Brethren. All the alterations required could have been made in five minutes, and the spirit of the constitutions in no wise injured. The argument that it would deprive the Brethren of five weeks out of thirteen during which to consider their notices, is perfectly puerile, as it could have that effect only upon the occasion of the first change; and the loss of the one five weeks could be of little consequence, seeing that, at the rate at which business is generally conducted in Grand Lodge, there is already sufficient before it to last to the end of 1860, even with the assistance of two or three Lodges of Emergency.

Whilst on the subject of printing the notices of business to be transacted in Grand Lodge, we must protest against the publication of the names of parties recommended by the Board of Benevolence for relief. It would be sufficient to put the names in blank, thus, "Bro. ———, of No. (say) 1119," leaving them only to transpire in the discussion upon the grant. Though charity be twice blessed, half the blessing is destroyed if, excepting under very peculiar circumstances, the name of the recipient be made more public than absolutely necessary, and we at least, in our reporting, have always acted here upon the principle of suppression.

THE CANADIAN MOVEMENT.

THE interest which necessarily attaches to the views entertained by the American Lodges upon the recent movements in Canada, induces us to place before our readers the following important document, extracted from the *Canadian Masonic Pioneer*. The name alone of Bro. Tucker, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, suffices to enhance its value, whose knowledge of the history, usages, and principles of Freemasonry is justly said to be unsurpassed by that of any living man:—

"MY BRETHREN,—During the past year the important question relating to the Grand Lodge of Canada—and which this Grand Lodge passed upon, to its own entire satisfaction, at its last annual communication—has been agitated in other Grand

Lodges, with differing results. The Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the Grand Lodges of Kentucky, South Carolina, Louisiana, Iowa, the District of Columbia, and some others, I am advised, agree with the decision made by Vermont. The Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, abroad, and those of Massachusetts, New York, Missouri, and Virginia, at home, hold adverse opinions to ours. The Grand Lodges of Maine, Wisconsin, Connecticut, and some others, have the subject under consideration; and some of the Grand Lodges of the United States, have not, so far as I am informed, yet taken it up for consideration at all.

“It is not to be doubted, that if this Grand Lodge saw even specious reasons to sustain the opinion that its action had been premature on this important subject, it would, from a sense of duty, review it. Assuredly, if I had been convinced; or—even less than that—had I seen any strong reason to create doubt as to the entire correctness and soundness of our action of last year, I should feel it to be my duty now to recommend a new investigation. I have endeavoured to obtain all the information in my power, and to examine carefully and impartially all the argument which has come to my hands during the year; and so far from finding any weakening of my opinion, the result has been to strengthen and to confirm the judgment I had previously formed—that both as matter of duty, of honour, of policy, and of sound Masonic principle, the Lodges of Canada which assembled at Hamilton on the 10th day of October, 1855, and formed an Independent Grand Lodge for Canada, acted lawfully and right, and upon every correct principle of Masonic law, usage, practice, and precedent—as well as brotherhood—ought to be sustained by the Grand Lodges of the United States.

“In the differences of opinion which have arisen out of the consideration of this subject, *one* Grand Lodge—out of great caution—has *reviewed* its action of last year. Massachusetts, with her aged Grand Lodge and her acknowledged Masonic bearing and talent, staggered the district of Columbia by her adverse action; or rather, perhaps, shook the opinion of its Grand Master. A re-investigation was directed by that Grand Master, the chairman of the committee for the purpose being that enlightened, learned, and well-informed Mason, Brother Benjamin B. French, of the City of Washington. The result is before the Masonic world. A thorough re-examination of the subject confirmed a most intelligent committee in the former view taken by that Grand Lodge, and their views were confirmed by it, supporting the decision which had been previously made. Brother French and his associates are among the most intelligent Masons of the United States, and they are Brethren who can never be justly charged with lending their sanction to law-breaking or revolution in the Masonic world.

“When this subject was under consideration in our own Grand Lodge, at its last annual communication, I studiously withheld any expression of my own opinion; nor was that opinion known beyond myself, until you, my Brethren, had, by a unanimous vote, extended the right hand of Masonic fellowship to the independent Grand Lodge of Canada. As I was not heard in argument then, I anticipate your willingness to hear me patiently now, when the correctness of your action has been questioned elsewhere.

“Grand Lodges, as they exist at the present, and as they have existed from the year 1717, are wholly *new* institutions. They are not institutions of ancient date, and have no odour of antiquity about them. In the olden time every single Lodge was wholly independent, and the privilege of practising the Masonic rites was *inherent* in Masons, when assembled together in due form, as individuals. The Charter obtained, not far from the beginning of the fourth century, ‘from the King and Council,’ by Saint Alban, empowered those Masons simply to hold a ‘general council,’ which was called an ‘Assembly.’ That ‘Council,’ or ‘Assembly’ did not consist of members by delegations from Lodges. It was a *general* one, embracing the Craft, as it then existed, in England, *at large*; and it was the duty of *every* Mason to attend it, if he lived within fifty miles of the place of assemblage, and had ‘proper warning.’

“Nor was the gathering of the Masons at the City of York, under Prince Edwin, in 926, a *Grand Lodge*, in any fair modern understanding of those terms. It was a ‘congregation’ of Masons only, who composed a ‘*General Lodge*,’ of

which he was Grand Master. He was Grand Master of *Masons*, but not of a *Grand Lodge*, as now understood; for no such *Grand body* then existed.

“It is doubtless true, that the York ‘Assembly’ exercised jurisdiction, in its day, over *all* the Masons of England; probably from 926 to 1567, but such jurisdiction was not considered, by those Masons, as *exclusive*. It was not thus acknowledged by them; for in that same year, 1567—without reference to the York ‘Assembly’ at all—the Masons of the Southern part of England placed themselves *independently* under a new Grand Master, and there was for a long period of years, two Grand Masters of that kingdom.

“In the early part of the 18th century, Masonry generally in England had fallen into disuetude. In the year 1715 four London Lodges assembled upon their own motion, and by their own voluntary action constituted themselves a ‘*Grand Lodge, pro tempore*.’ At the annual assembly and feast, on Saint John the Baptist’s day, 1717, these same Lodges, thus by self-action constituted into a Grand Lodge, for the first time adopted a regulation to restrain the old unlimited manner of Masonic meetings, and to establish Lodges in certain places, which should be legally authorized to act by a warrant from the Grand Master, with the consent and approbation of the Grand Lodge, and that, without such warrant, no Lodge should thereafter be deemed regular or constitutional.

“Here, then, we have four Lodges, arranged upon the *old* system, congregating themselves together to inaugurate and establish a *new* one. The whole history of things at York was unheeded by them; no consent is asked from that quarter, nor is even the *then Grand Master of the Masons of England* consulted, who was living in that same city of London, and who did not pay the debt of nature until the year 1723.

“From this action sprang the Grand Lodge of England, which has come down to our times. Ireland followed first, and Scotland succeeded her. I do not refer to any Masonic organizations of this kind upon the continent of Europe, because with them we have no common policy, no long connection, and especially because, upon this continent, we have never looked to that quarter for Masonic precedent.

“The beginning of Grand Lodges, as we understand these institutions in our own day, was established at the London meetings of the four Lodges of 1715 and 1717. Ireland followed the path made by *them*. Scotland followed in a manner, though not *identical*, quite as *independent*, and the Grand Lodges on this side of the Atlantic have found no occasion for widening and enlarging the precedent of 1715-17.

“I do not mean, for a moment, to doubt the *wisdom* of the action of 1715-17, or the *right* of the four London Lodges to *do* precisely what they *did* do. I intend to claim, however, that *other* Masonic action, equally legitimate, equally worthy, and equally important, is *as equally* to be *recognized*, at this hour, as if it had the sanction of one hundred and forty years to strengthen the foundation of its *right*. I am not aware that any intelligent Mason desires to disturb a system of action which has been sanctioned by long acquiescence, and which has resulted in the harmony and happiness of the Order. I yield to the power of a precedent, however established, which settles a wise course of future action, but I can never agree to see a *mere* precedent tortured into working the highest practical injustice.

“The Grand Lodge of Ireland dated from 1730. It was formed in ‘imitation of the Grand Lodge of England,’ and chose for its first Grand Master a Brother who had been, the previous year, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. The constitution and usages of the Grand Lodge of England were adopted by it.

“The Grand Lodge of Scotland was formed in 1736. Masonry had then existed in that country for centuries; but not until November the 30th—Saint Andrew’s day—of that year, did the Lodges of that country assemble to organize as a common body, and choose their own Grand Master. Previously the Grand Mastership of Masons for Scotland had been hereditary in the family of Roslin. William Saint Clair of Roslin, having intimated to his Masonic Brethren his wish to resign his hereditary Grand Mastership, assembled his Brethren of the Lodges in and about Edinburgh, and wished them to determine upon a plan for the *election*

of a Grand Master. Thirty-four Lodges appeared, or were represented by their proxies, and at this meeting the office of Grand Master in Scotland became, for the first time, *elective*. This Grand Lodge had the assent of the *Grand Master of Masons* of Scotland for its formation, differing, in this particular, from the Grand Lodge of England.

“The entire history of the formation of these three Grand Lodges is overwhelming—I had almost said omnipotent—to prove, that they were all *voluntary* Masonic associations, growing naturally out of the necessities of the Order, and assuming, as associations, the power of proper organization as an *inherent* right. It was never claimed—and it never can be truthfully claimed—that any *ancient constitution* conferred the right which was exercised. Old constitutions and charges may be studied for that in vain. The right to form such bodies was *assumed*, and the *extent of jurisdiction* was also *assumed*, and engrafted upon it, as well as the form and manner of Masonic government.

“Neither of the three Grand Lodges thus formed, went so far as to assume *exclusive* Masonic jurisdiction out of England, Ireland, and Scotland. The only *exclusive* power assumed was to their own respective territories. When those were passed at home they exercised a common power. Whenever any one of them might grant a warrant of constitution, or locate a Provincial Grand Master *abroad*, either of the others might do the same. The Grand Lodges of England and Scotland so understood the subject, and both of them created Provincial Grand Masters in the colonies antecedent to the revolution. The subsequent history of the Masonic bodies established by these Provincial Grand Masters, is full of interest, as bearing upon the question under consideration, and I shall have cause to refer to it in the course of my examination of this subject.

“One at least of the Provincial Grand Masters, appointed by the Grand Lodge of England, did not understand that the American revolution severed the *Masonic* connection between the parent power and the newly-created States upon this northern continent. In 1791 the R.W. John Johnson, then the English Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada, granted a warrant of constitution to his Excellency Thomas Chatterton, then Governor of the State of Vermont, and his associates, for the establishment of a Lodge at Vergennes, by the name of Dorchester Lodge. This Lodge was duly constituted under that warrant, and worked under it until October, 1794, when, in connection with the other Lodges in the State, which had charters from the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts and New York, it aided in forming the present Grand Lodge of Vermont, and forcibly severing its connection with Canada, has ever since hailed under the new jurisdiction. The Provincial Grand Master of Canada never complained of this action, or denied the right of Dorchester Lodge, of its own motion, to make the severance and aid in establishing a new and independent jurisdiction.

“It was assumed by all the State Masonic institutions of this country, which existed before the revolutionary war, that the dissolution of the *political*, necessarily involved a dissolution of the *Masonic*, tie, and they acted accordingly. This, in my judgment, was a farther stretch in the line of *Masonic independence* than anything which has happened since. I am not aware that a Masonic pen was ever raised to sustain this assumption as resting on authority, precedent, or principle:—and yet three out of four of the Grand Lodges of the United States, who shrink instinctively from the word independence when the stern north wind bears it to us from Canada, found no difficulty either in using the word, or carrying out the full force of its meaning practically in their own cases.

“Ever since the American revolution the Masonic practice in the United States has been,—that when three or more warranted Lodges are established in any State or Territory where no Grand Lodge exists, they possess the *inherent* right to meet together and form one themselves, and it is not and never was considered necessary to ask the consent of the Grand Lodge, or Grand Lodges, from which their respective warrants emanated, for this purpose. Most of the Grand Lodges in the United States have been formed in this way, and every Grand Lodge has sanctioned this mode of action, so that the practice and principle are beyond dispute. I need only name Iowa, Texas, California, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas,

Grand Lodges all comparatively of yesterday, and all formed in this, and in no other manner.

“With what show of reason, then, can we discard this acknowledged principle and practice? England, Scotland, Ireland, assumed it, and the Grand Lodges of the United States have followed out the assumption. What decent apology can we give for attempting to discard it now, only because our northern Brethren have followed in the common path?”

“Nice distinctions have been drawn, and all kinds of contrasts and comparisons invoked, to show differences between the case of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada and all antecedent precedents. I have been unable, thus far, so far to stultify my own intellect as to appreciate them as proving distinctions in *principle*. Two, or a dozen, sets of facts, may fall within the fair application of the same principle, though, in many respects, variant from each other. It requires none of the subtle logic of special pleading to make this obvious to every unprejudiced and clear-minded man; but when a set of facts, having no common analogy whatever with another set of facts, are drawn into a controversy, and made the basis of an argument, those who rely upon them ought at least to be able to show their assimilation, as bearing upon the principle they are relied on to sustain.

“The Canadian Masonic action of the 10th of October, 1855, has, in some quarters, been treated as analogous to the various Masonic revolutions in the State of New York. To my own conceptions no analogy was ever more absurd. Had England experienced a division of her own Grand Lodge, by revolutionary means, on the soil of England, at home, the cases would have some resemblance to each other; but they have no more resemblance of revolution now than the formation of the last Grand Lodge of Michigan—by Lodges holding warrants from the Grand Lodge of New York—has of revolutionary action towards that State. Michigan had the right to go alone when she was Masonically and constitutionally strong enough, on well recognized principles; as Vermont had, and many other States, and as they *did* without exception from any quarter.

“And precisely with as much propriety might Massachusetts, with her two warranted Lodges in Vermont in 1794; New York with the same number, and England itself with its *one*, granted through its Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada, declare the Grand Lodge which those subordinate Lodges formed, to be un-Masonic and revolutionary, as they may now make such an assertion as to the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada.

“Until it be proved—which it has not been, and cannot be—that the constitutions and charges of Edwin transmitted to us some ‘ancient land-mark,’ recognizing Grand Lodges in their present manner of formation, and recognizing also the powers now claimed by the Grand Lodge of England and its supporters, as well-established portions of legitimate ancient Masonic law and right, it is worse than idle to maintain, in the face of the Masonic usage and precedent of the last one hundred and forty years, that a competent body of regular Lodges existing in a state or territory where there is no independent Grand Lodge, have not the right to form one. *If they have not, it is more than doubtful whether there is a legitimate Grand Lodge on the continent of North America.*

“I have thus far treated this important question as Masonic history, principle, and usage bear upon it; and I most sincerely regret that it was not placed upon this *sole* ground from the beginning. Broadly sustainable as it is here, it needed no other argument to contribute any additional support. Still, there are other facts connected with the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, which cannot be forgotten, and *ought not* to be forgotten, in considering the subject.

“The Masons of Canada were, to a large extent, men whose birth-places were abroad. Their Lodges existed by power derived from abroad. The sympathies of their members were largely with their mother-country across the ocean, and this natural and honourable feeling was all-powerful with them to prevent any rashness or disrespect towards those foreign Masonic jurisdictions to which they acknowledged allegiance. Knowing and feeling the inconveniences of their position, the neglect of their wants, and the denial of their just rights, they submitted to years of humble complaint, of brotherly solicitation, of manly petitioning, and of mild remonstrance, and they submitted in vain. No kind response, no appre-

ciation of self-evident wrongs breathes its gentle breath across the broad Atlantic. They were compelled at last, unwillingly, to realize that all foreign hope was ended, and that the future of their Masonic happiness must depend upon themselves. Thus situated, forty-one Lodges, holding warrants of constitution under the authority of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, after circulating notice of their intention for several months, assembled at Hamilton, on the 10th day of October, 1855, severed all foreign connection, and constituted themselves a Grand Lodge for Canada.

“The wrongs and grievances to which I refer have been sometimes denied, and the representations of these forty-one Lodges have been cavilled at by enmity and hawked at by ignorance; but an earlier justification has already come than the new Grand Lodge could have anticipated, and its own truth is sustained even from the mouths of its opponents. On the 23rd day of October last, the body of Canadian Masons which styles itself “The Provincial Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada West, under the United Grand Lodge of England,” *which body still acknowledges and adheres to its foreign allegiance*, memorialized the Grand Lodge of England upon its position, and in that memorial has set forth substantially the existence of the same grievances which had been previously set forth, and which, having been treated with scorn and contempt in the quarter to which they were addressed, had *forced* the forty-one Lodges to their independent action of October 10, 1855.

“Had the forty-one Lodges of Canada postponed their action and continued to bear oppression longer, subsequent events have shown that ‘scorpions’ were doomed to succeed the ‘whips,’ and that while they remained within the portal of foreign jurisdiction, they must leave all hope upon the outside. At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of England, on the 4th of June, 1856, when a petition from Canada West was alluded to by a member upon the floor, which petition had been presented to the Grand Master, and notice had been given of a motion by Bro. Portal, ‘for granting privileges to the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West,’ the Grand Master announced, *even before the motion was brought forward*, that he should ‘refuse putting it from the chair.’ He went on to remark that ‘the *Grand Lodge* had nothing to do with the petition,’ and added, ‘that he was perfectly justified in *ignoring* it.’ He refused also to read a part of the petition.

“Upon this practice the Grand Lodge of England is a myth, having no substantial entity whatever; or, if it has any appreciable existence, it is but as the *shadow* of the Most Worshipful Earl of Zetland. I know not how these occurrences may strike the minds of the Brethren of this Grand Lodge; but I am compelled to admit that no intellectual chemistry can find anything in my own conceptions which has the least affinity for them. A Grand Master quite as many years as any other living Brother on this side of the Atlantic, and—so far as I know—on the other, I have a right to believe that the Masonic world will give me credit for having no disposition to restrict the legitimate prerogatives of that exalted station; but when the Brother thus situated, and thus responsible to the Masonic world at large, assumes an entire personal control over petitions, gratuitously refuses to put motions growing naturally out of them, even before they are offered, and withholds from his Grand Lodge the contents of papers in which that body is interested, I can see only in those acts simple, unmitigated, unalloyed despotism. It is receding to the age of darkness and of iron. Masonry is too intelligent and enlightened to sanction it. If the Grand Lodge of England yields to it, she has arrived at the hour when the rising sun of her East should be transferred to represent the setting sun of her West, and in that changed position it will most appropriately emblemize her declining Masonic glory.

“I am not ready to say, and I by no means intend to say, that neglect and oppression by a Grand Lodge of her subordinates, will in all, or in a majority of cases, justify revolutionary measures. I design always to distinguish between that which is justifiably right and that which is obviously wrong. And I think that, in most cases which arise, there is usually a well-marked line of distinction, which a well-informed and dispassionate man will experience no great difficulty in finding. I think, for instance, that I can perceive a very plain difference in the relations

between a Grand Lodge and its subordinates existing in a single state or territory, and a Grand Lodge and its subordinates existing in different countries, thousands of miles apart, and separated by an ocean. I think I can appreciate the existence of a very clear distinction between the difficulties of a few years ago with the Grand Lodge of New York and a portion of her subordinate Lodges, and of those existing in 1855 between the Grand Lodge of England and her subordinate Lodges in Canada. In the first case, the disaffected Lodges, in the outset, formed a part of the Grand Lodge of New York. They were represented upon its floor, with as full privileges as to being heard as their associates; and, if injured, with the undoubted right of renewing the consideration of the subject-matters of difference, from time to time, and of labouring to bring the majority to their views, and of convincing them by fact and argument, if they could. Thus situated, they preferred secession, and formed a new Grand Lodge for themselves. This was *revolutionary* beyond doubt, and so has the Masonic world at large almost unanimously decided. But there is no fair parallel to this state of things in the case of Canada. The subordinate Lodges of Canada had no representation in the Grand Lodge of England. They were in a state of complete and absolute dependence and pupilage. They could only appear at the door of that Grand Lodge as humble suppliants for their rights by written petition, without a single voice of their own upon its tessellated pavement to sustain and enforce their supplications. Their prayers of years were unheeded, their solicitations scorned, their injuries unredressed, and even their money taken from them without acknowledgment or notice. Are these cases analagous? It would be the most palpable and wicked mendacity to say so. Wrongs, such as I have named, could not be borne for ever. They left the Canadian Lodges but a single alternative,—either to give up Masonry wholly and entirely, or to raise an independent Masonic standard. The impassable point had been reached; the last drop of the cup of forbearance had been drained; and—unwilling to be *forced* from the privileges and enjoyments of the Order—they made the selection of honourable independence, and appealed to the justice of a world-wide Masonry for sanction and brotherhood. This, in my judgment, was *not* revolution but the exercise of a proper, necessary, and just *right*; and the Masonic world will so decide, unless it is prepared to hold that there is not, *in any case whatever*, a remedy for Masonic oppression.

“Upon both grounds then, my Brethren, as I view this subject—of the *inherent* right of every state, territory, or country, to establish a Grand Lodge of its own, and the right of a country holding its Masonry from a foreign source, to make a severance for unmitigated oppression—I maintain, that the independent Grand Lodge of Canada, established at Hamilton on the 10th day of October, 1855, is legitimately and masonically established, and is entitled *justly and of right* to the sanction, countenance, and support of all the Grand Lodges in the world.

“Within a few days after the Masonic action of the forty-one Lodges at Hamilton, the then Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York seems, evidently, to have become alarmed. Before the infant Grand Lodge of Canada was fairly invested with its swaddling-clothes, he appears perfectly prepared to strangle it in its cradle. Seven days only were suffered to pass before he stigmatized many as good men and worthy Masons as the world can elsewhere boast of, as being guilty of Masonic ‘rebellion,’ and then sounded the old atabal alarm of ‘rebellion’ at home. Without taking the trouble to distinguish between Canadian and New York ‘rebellion,’ he seized upon the matter—a *petitio principii* assimilated the two unlike cases by a single dash of pen—raised from their quiet graves the long laid skeletons of ‘heresy and schism,’ looked anxiously across the Atlantic to the long withheld patronizing smile which had a few years past almost emblazoned the waves of old ocean in its passage from London to New York, and concluded that it would be the ‘height of ingratitude’ to England to anything less than proscribe the new and independent Grand Lodge of Canada. The same panic alarm seized upon his Committee of Foreign Correspondence in June following. Leo the Tenth and the Cardinals of the Vatican could hardly have been more alarmed at the appearance of the new dogmas of Luther. The shadows of ‘heresy and schism’ triumphed, and glorious

New York, at the hands of her strong and great men, chose to confine her Masonic sympathies to her own side of the St. Lawrence.

“Not thus did the Masonry of the Empire State reason when she formed her own independent Grand Lodge. She did not rely upon the ‘implied or express consent of England,’ nor seek the sanction of any Provincial Grand Lodge which had chartered local Lodges in her territory; nor did she then understand that *rebellion* and *independence* were synonymous terms. She then felt the ability to stand up and walk in her own legitimate inherent strength; she threw the crutches of English dependence in England’s face, and marched on triumphantly to her own high and glorious Masonic destiny. When I assert this, I do it upon the authority contended for by the legitimate Grand Lodge of New York, which has always claimed that ‘in 1785 it adopted a new constitution, and thereby *threw off all allegiance* to the parent body.’ Unless this be true, I see no escape from the position contended for by the revolutionary Grand Lodge of that state, which I understand to hold, ‘that, down to 1849, the Grand Lodge of New York continued to be *Provincial* to the Grand Lodge of England.’

“Before the declared independence of the Grand Lodge of New York, by the alleged action of 1785, that grand body had, for several years, been independent *de facto*. Her provincial Charter required her to make returns of her proceedings to the Grand Lodge of England, and allow appeals to be taken thereto. But from and after September, 1777, she made no returns, and suffered no appeals to be taken; styled herself the Grand Lodge of New York, and not the Provincial Grand Lodge, and claimed the independent title of *Most Worshipful* instead of *Right Worshipful*, the latter being the title of all Provincial Grand Lodges. For the term of about eight years, then, she acted independently, without declaring herself so, and her action, during that interregnum between dependence and undeclared independence, she has always claimed to have been correct and legitimate, and the Masonic world has not denied it. Upon principle, however, it would be difficult to find anything as irregular as all this in any of the acts and doings of the forty-one Lodges of Canada.

“Missouri, in refusing to acknowledge the independent Grand Lodge of Canada, offers no argument but the first impressions of her Grand Master, acquiesced in, apparently *pro forma*, by a Committee. The decision of Virginia, I only know by a statement in the *Freemason’s Magazine* of Boston. I have not yet seen her proceedings; but if the Grand Lodge of that venerable old state is perfectly satisfied with the facts and arguments on which her own independence was established, it is not easy to understand her want of appreciation of those which exist as to the independent Grand Lodge of Canada.

“I have read the Report of the Committee on this subject, adopted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; and considering the names it bears, and the history of the formation of the Grand Lodge of that ancient Commonwealth, I have been more than surprised at some of its positions.

“The Report begins with the expression of a great deal of sympathy, and expresses the opinion that an independent organization is essential to the effective and proper working of the Order, in the opinion of the entire Craft in Canada; but professes to find ‘well-tryed principles’ in the way of recognition, and then states the question at issue to be, ‘whether it is consistent, with the recognized laws or customs of Freemasonry, for any Lodges under a particular jurisdiction, to secede from the parent body without its consent, and to form, of their own authority, a new body, having an independent existence and independent powers.’

“Although the question might have been stated with greater fairness, I do not object to it, as thus expressed. And I feel no difficulty in saying, that if the *consistency of such action* is denied, *Massachusetts herself has no legitimate Grand Lodge whatever*. She asked no ‘consent’ to ‘secede’ from the ‘parent body,’ by either of her Provincial Grand Lodges. Both on the 2nd day of January, 1783, when the old Massachusetts Grand Lodge assembled, after an entire suspension of eight years; and in August, 1785, when her Saint John’s Grand Lodge met, after a suspension of more than twelve years—we find no such idea dreamed of, so far as she has seen fit to disclose her history to the Masonic world. The Grand Master of one of her Grand Lodges lay in his shroud of glory under the King’s

Chapel, and the other also had passed away from earth. An assumed 'elective supremacy' in the one case, and a silently assumed *right* to act in the other, were all that were thought necessary in those 'good days of old.' Nor was more thought needful when the Massachusetts and St. John's Grand Lodges united in 1792, and formed the present Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

"If all this action was not secession, by what name is it to be described? Whoever *heard*, among it all, that the 'consent' of the 'Grand Body' was asked, and who so ignorant as not to *know*, that upon *self-assumed* authority, Massachusetts inaugurated a 'new body, with an *independent* existence, and *independent* powers.' This being true, the committee of Massachusetts must either disavow themselves, or admit that *independent* action is to be enjoyed by them only in common with others.

"I quote another paragraph from the report of the Massachusetts Committee. 'Each Grand Lodge in the United States rules and governs without interference from any other, all Lodges within the civil jurisdiction of the State in which she is situated—holding the *Territories* as common ground, wherein each Grand Lodge is free to charter Lodges at pleasure, until *each Territory, by being regularly admitted to the Union as a State*, acquires the right to form a Grand Lodge, for itself. Your Committee are aware that this has sometimes been done before admission *as a State*: but although it may be alleged in excuse that *Territories* are States in process of formation, we still think the practice illegal, and *not to be justified in any case*, the only safe rule, in our opinion, being that laid down.'

"The first portion of this opinion admits of no controversy:—no one denies its truth and correctness. The second portion has no truth to sustain it, and, if Massachusetts holds to it, she stands *alone*. I would be highly thankful to know, *when, where, and by whom* any such rule, as to the Grand Lodges of the *Territories*, was established, and *what* Grand Lodge has either assented to or acquiesced in it. For myself, I know of none. If such Grand Lodges are of doubtful validity, I cannot withhold the question, whether my own native and loved State is not now in full Masonic communion with Minnesota, Oregon, and Kansas?—and if she is *not*, why she does not inform her sister Grand Lodges that her Masonic compasses do not embrace them in this circle of Masonic Brotherhood.

"The Committee of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts find no difficulty in deciding, that all the reasons given by the formers of the Grand Lodge of Canada make out only a case of 'simple inconvenience'; hold the action they have taken to be rebellion; assert that 'in Masonry there can be no long-continued oppression,' that 'there can be no temptation to tyranny, for nothing is to be gained by it,' and that 'within certain bounds the will of the majority is absolute.' They then most fraternally call the Grand Lodge of England 'our venerable Mother,' protest against the newly formed Grand Lodge of Canada by resolution, and forbid all Masonic communication with it or with any Lodge or individual having any connection therewith.

"It is doubtless always 'inconvenient' for Masonry to be governed by a power three thousand miles off and across an ocean. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts itself found it so at the close of the revolutionary war, and remedied the 'inconvenience' *by its own act*. Canada, even more inconveniently situated than Massachusetts, has simply done an act of the same kind. Is it possible, in the world's or in Heaven's high chancery, to hold one to be loyal and the other treasonable? That 'side of the majority' which 'within certain bounds is absolute,' and which the Massachusetts Committee see clearly to be a protection against 'oppression and tyranny,' has been prostrated upon the floor of the Grand Lodge of England by the despotic will of the present Grand Master, and has at this moment, as every well-informed Mason knows, only a mythical existence, at least within that Grand Lodge of 'our venerable Mother.'

"In the *full* meaning of the second resolution passed by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, at the recommendation of its committee, a very large range is taken. Carried out to its results, as it obviously reads, some seven or eight State Grand Lodges, all their subordinates, and all the members of each, are literally excommunicated from association with that Grand body,—inasmuch as that number of Grand Lodges have agreed that they *will* have 'connection' with this same

independent Grand Lodge of Canada. If this was actually intended, it seems to me to open a fountain of bitter waters, ill adapted to promote the growth of charity and brotherly love.

“I have examined, with some care, the communications of some Masonic writers on this highly interesting subject, with a view of learning all that was accessible; and I am obliged to express my surprise at what has appeared in relation to it in some of the leading Masonic publications. It has been contended in one quarter that the recognition of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada by the Grand Lodge of Ireland is of no great importance, *because she had only about fifteen Lodges in Canada, and did not burthen them with charges so harshly as the Grand Lodge of England did the Lodges holding warrants under her.* This is a singular argument to be urged, and very naturally leads to the inquiry, why, if Ireland’s *acknowledgment* is of no importance, Scotland’s *refusal* is of even as much weight, when it is known that *she* had a far *less* number of lodges in the Province under her care. If in a territory free and open for the admission of warranted Lodges by different foreign Grand Lodges, the question of right and wrong is to be settled by the greater or lesser number of Lodges introduced by each, then we have introduced a new Masonic rule of practice, the existence of which is yet unknown to our constitutions, and equally unknown to the intellectual tribunals of Masonic equity and justice.

“And it has been contended too, strange as it may seem, that since the separation of Canada from France, the three Grand Lodges of Great Britain and Ireland, have ‘held and improved’ that Province, (to use the language of the writer,) as a ‘*coparcenary* or a partnership inheritance, with a *joint* right of succession’—as ‘one heir holding the premises as an *estate in common.*’ With such a view of her position, Canada might well complain that this interesting Masonic *partnership* of the rose, the shamrock, and the thistle, did not transact its business under some regular partnership title, and issue its Lodge warrants in the name of the firm. It might also have been important to inquire, in what respective individual proportions these *joint partners of Canadian Masonic rights and privileges* owned the Masonic stock of such a glorious inheritance, and not have left so important a matter wholly to inference. The author of the argument to which I am addressing myself, brings down his statistics no farther than the year 1848, at which time, according to his information, said stock consisted of ninety-seven shares, of which England possessed eighty, Ireland fifteen, and Scotland two.

“Upon the loyal theory suggested, the writer might with propriety have insisted that England and Scotland should have *enjoined* Ireland from interfering with their partnership rights, by acknowledging Canadian Masonic Independence.

“A *partnership* where each separate partner acts independent of the firm, transacts his part of the business independent of his associates, carries it on in his own name and on his own responsibility, and has a ‘joint individual interest’ and a ‘right of survivorship’ besides, in so large a property as the Masonic territory of Canada, *without knowing it or suspecting it himself,* is an invention which leaves steam and telegraphs in the far distance, and will only be equalled by the discovery of a partially successful rudder to the balloon.

“It is among my strongest wishes, personally, to see the Masonry of this continent firmly established on its own unsculptured Doric column, as strong in its moral as are the Pyramids in their physical strength. Every lawful Masonic act which, to a fair and unbiassed judgment, has a tendency in that direction, has always had, and always will have, my warmest encouragement and firmest support. I sincerely and solemnly believe the movement in Canada to have been one of that kind, and in common with the members of this Grand Lodge, I have felt bound to give it the best support in my power. I have no doubt of its eventual success, and none that such success is most highly important both to the Masonry of Canada and of the United States. To ourselves, my Brethren, who are the immediate neighbours of Canada, and who know personally many of the officers and members of the Independent Grand Lodge, and of the Lodges which recognize its organization, it is wholly idle to talk about Masonic ‘rebellion.’ We know

them to be legitimate and true Masons, and worthy of the name ; law-abiding men ; men whom we esteem for their manliness and their virtues ; men with whom it is our pleasure and our pride to exchange the right hand of fellowship, and from an association with whom no bull of excommunication—come it whence it may—will ever be able to separate us. The Masonic course of their predecessors, more than forty years ago, and when the unfortunate cloud of war hung over our respective countries, is not unfamiliar to me. Some of its unpublished annals have survived, and are in my possession, preserved and transmitted to me by that most worthy Grand Master who preceded me in the oriental chair. Those annals show the same honourable, exalted and brotherly spirit, which characterizes our Canadian Brethren of the present hour. In sustaining such men, and their lawful Masonic acts, we sustain the Order in its purity, and strengthen the foundation on which rests the Doric column of American Freemasonry.”

THE QUARRYMAN OF ST. POINT.

FROM THE FRENCH OF LAMARTINE.

LONG or short,
Time is only time ;
Once pass'd away,
As tho' it had not been ;
Yet tho' it be
All vanity,
'Tis pleasant to ourselves to say,
“ My work will aye be seen,
When I am only clay.”

Who writes books,
Thinks of unborn eyes
To pore and read,
Which for a thousand years
Will not see light ;
Yet he will write,
With trustful hope he may be read
And studied carefully
Long after he is dead.

He who plants
Acorn or chestnut,
Has a small seed
Between his fingers twain ;
Yet its husk holds
In its thin folds
More life, more time, than does the breed
Of man, born and unborn,
For ages to succeed.

But he who cuts
Stone from the quarry
Of God's own world,
Leaves graven into it
A mark to last
When time has pass'd
Away, at the great judgment day,
The impress of his hand
Will reach eternity.

From Le Tailleur de Pierres de St. Point.—Ch. viii.

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 Masonic Journal.*" Brunswick, Maine, U.S. The number for March contains some admirable maxims for Masons and two good tales; the transactions in the Lodges of Kentucky, Iowa, and Oregon, are unimportant. We select the following easy translation into poetry of the celebrated passage from Ecclesiastes XII., by Gold Penn.

Remember thy Creator,
 While the pulse of youth beats high;
 While the evil days come not,
 Nor the weary years draw nigh;
 When man can find no pleasure
 In the hollow things of earth,
 And the heart turns sick and sad,
 From the jarring sound of mirth.

Ere the light of stars is darkened,
 Ere the glorious sun grows dim,
 And the bitter cup of sorrow
 Is filling to the brim.
 When the grinder's song is low,
 And the wailing mourners come,
 Marching in the death-procession,
 As man goeth to his home.

Ere the golden bowl be broken,
 Or the silver cord unwound,
 The pitcher shattered at the well,
 The broken wheel be found.
 In the day when keepers tremble,
 And the strong men bow the knee,
 Then shall dust to dust return,
 And to God the spirit flee.

"*The Canadian Masonic Pioneer.*" Montreal. The most important feature of the current number is the address of the G.M. of Vermont, P. C. Tucker, Esq., to the Grand Lodge upon the Canada Question, in which he traces the foundation of the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and, vindicating the inherent right of self-constitution to the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, comes down most severely upon the M.W. the G.M. of England. This document is so important, that we have printed it *in extenso* issues in the present of the "Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror." Nevertheless, we would earnestly express our hope that the annunciation of some semblance of courtesy, kindness, and justice, yet animating our own Grand Lodge towards the Canadas, may, tardy as it is, obliterate the heart-burnings which previous neglect and gross official incompetency have engendered. Bro. Tucker's is doubtless a masterly address, and well merits the praise awarded to it by the editor of the "Canadian Masonic Pioneer."—"*The Masonic Messenger.*" New York. This paper gives its usual amount of chatty extracts, although the local news is but trifling. It is not our fault if the "Freemasons' Magazine" reaches our con-

temporary late.—“*The Origin of Freemasonry*,” by R. LONGFIELD, Q.C. : Dublin. A lecture under the above title has been published, and was delivered at the Lodge of Instruction attached to the Victoria Lodge, No. 4, Dublin, to the Master, Wardens, and Brethren, to which Society it is also dedicated. It evinces much research, and is written in a very attractive style. The argument by which the writer seeks to identify St. Paul with Masonry, is at all events ingenious, if it be not convincing.—“*Correspondence upon the Saturday Half-Holiday Movement*,” compiled by Bro. J. R. TAYLOR. London : V. & R. Stevens. The fourth edition of the account of proceedings relative to the great victory achieved over self, by principle, is before us, and attests the success which is surely attendant upon perseverance in a righteous cause. We are happy to find that the *Correspondence* quotes the strongly and frequently repeated opinions of this journal upon the Saturday half-holiday and entire closing of the legal courts on that day, and we now reiterate our conviction, that to Bro. J. R. Taylor’s exertions, this vindication of moral rights to the subserviency of mere monetary interest, is mainly owing. Having dismissed our pamphlets, we now would draw attention to larger works.—“*Glory of Paradise*,” a rhythmical Poem, by PETER DAMIANI. Translated by H. Kynaston, D.D., High Master of St. Paul’s School. Fellowes, 1857. To Peter Damiani, a learned cardinal, is justly ascribed, by the learned editor, this poem, which we concur with him in considering certainly the noblest literary production of the century in which he lived. But if the original be good, the translation, strange as it may seem, is superior, and may well challenge comparison with a similar effort of this, or any other age. Dr. Kynaston’s high position, as a poet and a scholar, have hitherto kept him off the episcopal bench, open in these days to few but toadies and drivellers, yet posterity will doubtless recognize in these lines the genius of one of the most comprehensive and finished scholars of the day. We regret that the great press upon our columns and the late introduction of this notice, prevent our giving lengthened extracts from this beautiful poem, yet some conception of its rhythmical ease and antithetical imagery may be formed from the following exquisite description of the saints glorified in heaven :—

“Purified of unwrought leaven, warring sin they know no more,
 Spirit now is flesh, and spirit what was only flesh before ;
 Peace, intensest peace, enjoying, stumbling ways no more to scan,
 Changed from every shift of changing, mount they where their life began,
 Present, not through glasses darkly, see the glory, face to face,
 Lift their pitchers to the fountain, welling with eternal grace.”

—“*Ernest Basil* :” a Novel, by J. M. ALLAN. London : Newby, 1857. An admirable exposure of the Free Church heroes, and of designing hypocrites of all sorts, withal a severe critique upon the specious hollowness of our social system. These volumes will have a great run ; they are genuine, caustic, and just, and to any observer of the “faces” and “phases,” both of men and manners, in this evil generation, they will present such lively impersonations as indeed make “the cold reality too real.”—“*The Press and the Public Service. By a Distinguished Writer.*” London : Routledge and Co., 1857. In an evil hour, Lord Clarendon, of Bolgrade notoriety, made an unconstitutional attack upon the liberty of the Press, by a missive, as foolish as it was unjust, to the effect that a person should not be employed on the public service who could not disprove (!) himself the author of an anonymous work. No one but a minister as silly as Lord Clarendon would have thrust himself into such a hornet’s nest of indignation as will justly invade him for his attempted violation of the liberty of the Press. The present volume cuts up the Foreign Minister utterly, exposes his ignorance, and will utterly shatter his pretensions to the premiership, which all the world knows is the “*summum bonum*” of Lord Clarendon’s aspiration. It is far too important a work to be dispatched summarily, seeing that it concerns the most vital interests of the country. We shall, therefore, return to it in our next number ; but meanwhile will remark, that every one will recognize in its pages the style and genius of one of the most gifted writers of the age, to whom the country has been most deeply indebted and to whom, for that reason, its rulers give—*nothing*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MASONRY IN AMERICA.—LETTER II.

(Continued from page 191.)

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—In my last communication, I gave you a brief outline of the position, &c., of the American Grand Lodges, in alphabetical order, as far, I believe, as *Michigan*. I will now resume the subject, and begin with the next on the list.

Minnesota.—This Grand Lodge has only been a few years established. Henry Reynolds, Esq., of St. Anthony's, is the Grand Secretary; and M. W. A. T. C. Pearson, of St. Paul's, the Government Indian Agent at that place, is the Grand Master. There are twelve subordinate Lodges, and about 150 members.

Mississippi.—That excellent Brother Mason, scholar, and man, Bro. Wm. P. Mellen, of Natchez, has been the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge "from time immemorial." He resigned his Office, however, in January last, and R. W. Bro. R. W. T. Daniel, of Jackson, is his successor. The subordinate Lodges under this Grand Lodge are 200, and about 8,000 members. At Natchez, in this state, a beautiful evergreen, entitled the *Acacia*, sprang into existence with the beginning of 1855. It is ably edited by Bro. Mellen; but I see by your frequent reviews of it in the *Magazine*, that you not only receive and acknowledge, but you appreciate it; I will merely say that it is a "sprig" that should be in the button-hole or bookcase of every Mason. I might add, that there is this difference between Bro. Mellen's *Acacia* and the *Acacia* of Mount M. While tradition informs us that the latter had no root, the *Acacia* of Natchez is *deeply-rooted* in the affections of the Craft in this country.

Missouri.—A. O'Sullivan, of St. Louis, is the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge. He is, in every sense of the word, a "fine old Irish gentleman," kind, hospitable, Masonic. There are 140 Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and about 3,000 Masons. For many years Bro. J. W. S. Mitchell published his *Signet* at St. Louis, but two years ago he blended its interests with Bro. Lawrence's *Journal*, of Georgia.

New Hampshire.—R. W. Horace Chace, of Hopkinton, Grand Secretary. Twenty-two Lodges, and 1,000 Masons, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

New Jersey.—R. W. Joseph Haugh, of Trenton, Grand Secretary. There are forty subordinate Lodges, and about 1,500 Masons under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

New York.—There are 400 Lodges in this state, and about 20,000 Masons. The Grand Lodge meets in the city of New York; R. W. James M. Austin is the Grand Secretary. There are three or four other bodies here claiming to be the "Grand Lodge of New York," but I believe their claims are not recognized by any Grand Lodges in this country; and the Grand Lodge of England affiliates only with the "Willard," or "Austin," Grand Lodge, above. There is a racy little sheet, entitled the *Masonic Messenger*, published here by Bro. Drummond, the celebrated

regalia man. Bro. John W. Simmons, an able writer, has, I believe, the editorial management of it. It is only 2s. a year, and is more than a *quid pro quo* for the money.

North Carolina.—There are about 160 Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and about 4,500 Masons. R.W. Bro. Wm. T. Bain, of Raleigh, is the Grand Secretary.

Ohio.—Bro. John D. Caldwell, of Cincinnati, is Grand Secretary. There are about 300 Lodges, and 10,000 Masons in this state, all in a flourishing condition. One of the best Masonic magazines in the country is published here (Cincinnati), by that sterling, well-trying, true, and trusty Brother, Cornelius Moore. I believe Bro. Moore's *Review* has the largest circulation of all the Masonic magazines in the country. Indeed, it is my opinion that it circulates nearly as many as all the other monthlies put together: and well does it merit the support it receives.

Oregon.—Like Minnesota, this country is yet but a "territory," and, like every thing else, Masonry is young there. R.W. Benjamin Stark, of Portland, is the Grand Secretary, and few of the older states can boast of a more efficient and intelligent officer than Bro. Stark. There are about twelve Lodges, and 250 Masons in the territory.

Pennsylvania.—Benjamin Franklin, the philosopher, was at one time Grand Master of this Grand Lodge. He published, as early as 1734, a reprint of Dr. Anderson's Book of the Constitutions, "for the use of the Brethren of Pennsylvania." This fact is not generally known, but I have seen a copy of the work myself: it was purchased in Gowan's second-hand book-shop, in Fulton-street, New York, by a gentleman not a Mason, who valued it on account of Franklin's *imprint*. He paid two guineas for it. The Grand Lodge of this state does not publish its proceedings, so it is very difficult for "outside barbarians" to know anything of the Craft here. The Grand Lodge meets in Philadelphia, and may be justly entitled the Grand Lodge of the City of Philadelphia, for very little is either known of it, or done in it by the country Lodges in the state. There is a weekly Masonic newspaper published here, entitled the *Mirror and Keystone*. It is well conducted by Brother Leon Hyneman, of Philadelphia, and able correspondents. Its price is 8s. 4d. a year. It has a circulation of about 6,000 or 7,000.

Rhode Island.—R.W. W. C. Baker, of Providence, Grand Secretary. The Grand Lodge meets in Providence in September.

South Carolina.—R.W. Bro. Albert G. Mackey, M.D., of Charleston, is the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge, and M.W. Alfred Price, Grand Master. As Egypt was the cradle of the sciences and learning of the ancients, so has South Carolina been the cradle of Masonic learning in this country from the days of Dalcho to Mackey. Dr. Mackey is regarded in this country as the most learned and *soundest* writer that has ever written on Freemasonry. His *Lexicon of Freemasonry* is an Encyclopædia in itself; and his *Principles of Masonic Law* is found in the library of every Mason in the country. It is regarded as the standard of Masonic law and usage throughout the Union, and well does it merit that position. His *Ohiman Rezon* is the text-book of South Carolina; while, as Dr. Oliver says, his *Mystic Tie* "should be in the hands of every Mason." But his *facile princeps* was his *Miscellany*, and its discontinuance for want of support was a sad blow to Freemasonry in this country. There are 100 Lodges, and about 5,000 Masons, in this state.

Tennessee.—M.W. Bro. Charles A. Fuller, of Nashville, is the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge. There are 200 Lodges, and about 8,000 Masons, under its jurisdiction. In 1824, Bro. Wilkins Tannahill, a Grand Master of this Grand Lodge, published a *Masonic Manual, or Freemasonry Illustrated*. It was a large 8vo. of 400 pages. Dr. Oliver quotes it in some of his works. A second edition of it was issued by the sanction and recommendation of this Grand Lodge in 1840. In 1848, Bro. Tannahill commenced the publication of a monthly magazine, a demy quarto, and continued it for three years; when his valedictory appeared in these words:—"With much regret I announce to the readers and subscribers of the *Portfolio*, that my sight has become so much impaired by the disease called *Amaurosis*, that I am compelled to discontinue its

publication. Of the restoration of sight so as to continue the work I have but faint hopes; but I have been taught to bow with submission to the will of God, who in the course of His providence orders all things for the best."

Texas.—In Texas there are nearly 200 Lodges, and near 7,000 Masons. R.W. Bro. A. S. Ruthven, of Galveston, is the Grand Secretary, and J. B. Sexton, of San Augustine, is the Grand Master. Bro. Ruthven is one of the most intelligent Grand Secretaries in the Union, and contributes largely, by his affability and thorough devotion to the duties of his office, to the general prosperity of the Craft in the state. Bro. Ruthven, I have heard, is compiling a history of Freemasonry in Texas. Bro. J. C. Harrison, of Linwood, in this state, a very worthy and intelligent Mason (he was First Principal of the Royal Grand Arch Chapter), has recently been called to the Grand Lodge above. He was universally esteemed by all who knew him; and it is hoped his work has passed the Master Overseer's square, and that he has received to the wages of eternal life.

Vermont.—There are forty-two Lodges in this state, and 1,500 Masons, under their jurisdiction. R.W. Bro. J. B. Hollenbeck, of Burlington, is the Grand Secretary, and Philip C. Tucker, of Vergennes, the Grand Master.

Virginia.—There are 175 Lodges, and about 6,000 Masons, in Virginia. R.W. Bro. John Dove, M.D., of Richmond, is the Grand Secretary. Bro. Dove is the author of the *Text Book*, and a history of Freemasonry in Virginia. He is one of the most intelligent Masons in the United States, and universally respected. Virginia is one of the three states whose Grand Chapters do not affiliate with the General Grand Chapter of the United States. (Florida and Pennsylvania are the other two.) This state was the natural and Masonic birth-place of the immortal WASHINGTON.

Wisconsin.—R.W. Bro. W. R. Smith, of Mineral Point, is the Grand Secretary. There are fifty Lodges, with about 2,000 Masons, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

This closes the list of Grand Lodges in the United States, with such statistics as I could get respecting each. It is as near an approach to accuracy, as can be well come to on floating statistics of the kind. I would remark, generally, that the Brethren here are, on the whole, more acquainted with the principles, history, and laws of the Order, than the generality of our Brethren in England. This is owing, no doubt, to the prevalence of Masonic literature here. I hope your excellent *Magazine* will get into the hands of five times as many of the Brethren as have heretofore taken it. Since coming to this country, and *seeing* and *feeling* and *hearing* Freemasonry here, I must confess that in point of Masonic intelligence, an acquaintance with Masonic history, and Masonic usage, there is great room for improvement in England. The By-laws of nearly all the Lodges in the country should be revised, and the large sums appropriated for banquets should be devoted to the diffusion of Masonic literature. If the Lodges themselves will not do it, the Provincial Grand Lodges should impose a *per capita* tax on the Lodges and Members, and devote the amount to the object I have just named. I have no objection to banquets, but, in my opinion, they should be borne by the Brethren individually, and not be a compulsory rule or law of a Lodge, as you know is the case in most Lodges in England. But the mail is about closing, and I must close too. Wishing you a Happy New Year, and hoping to address you again shortly.

I am, yours Fraternally,
THETA.

BOSTON, MASS., Jan. 1857.

MEMORABILIA HIBERNICA.

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

SIR,—In the *Illustrated London News* of November 29, 1856, under the head of "Memorabilia Hibernica," mention is made of two caverns in Ireland, one on the north-west side of Shive Cruib, a mountain near the centre of Down; the other on the north side of the Boyne, between Drogheda and Stane. The former is

stated "to extend from east to west in a right line, about thirty yards. The sides are built with rough unhewn stones, inclining inwards in the form of an arch, until the space was narrow enough to be closed with broad massive slabs used for that purpose. About the middle of the main structure a transept or recess was found, crossing directly north and south. The northern portion nearly filled up by a large granite flag, excavated as if for the purpose of receiving some fluid, and on the margin some rude scroll carving was to be seen. The height of the cave was about seven feet, the breadth about ten. At a short distance from this place, on the side of the mountain, there is one of the stone altars so common in Ireland, consisting of a broad mass of granite, supported by three low pillars of the same material, indicating, it should seem, that some connection might exist between the altar and the cave, and that both were devoted to the purpose of Celtic rites before the introduction of Christianity into Ireland. The cave near Drogheda is precisely similar, its direction being east and west, with a north and south transept only on an enlarged scale. This description is sent to the *Illustrated London News*, in the hope that it may induce some of its learned antiquarian readers to favour the public with conjectures as to the object and uses of these subterranean caves." As no answer to this article has appeared in the *Illustrated London News*, we think it right to inform the public that some explanation in reference to this subject may be found in the following numbers of the *Freemasons' Monthly Magazine*, viz.:—No. 2, February, 1856, page 73; No. 7, July, 1856, page 475; No. 8, August, 1856, page 550; No. 12, December, 1856, page 832.

N. T. S., P.M. No. 725.

MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Permit me, through the medium of your valuable publication, to address a few words to the members of the Masonic body upon a subject worthy their most serious attention, viz., the formation of "Benevolent Funds" to each Lodge, having for their object, the relief of indigent members, their widows or orphans.

I am a subscribing member of two Lodges to which Benevolent Funds are attached, and can, therefore, advocate the principle with greater confidence, from having witnessed its beneficial results, and have been induced to bring the subject under the notice of my Brethren in Masonry by the following circumstance:—At a Lodge I visited very recently, a petition was presented by an old member praying for relief, to whom *One Guinea* was voted, being the largest amount the Lodge had at its disposal. Now mark the difference: a similar appeal was made to one of the Lodges I have alluded to, which (thanks to our Benevolent Fund) was met by a vote of *Thirty Guineas*; this opportune assistance, strengthened by the kindness of friends, has since enabled a worthy Brother to provide an honourable maintenance for himself and family.

"To wipe all tears from off all faces" is a task too hard for mortals; while to alleviate misfortunes is often within the most limited power; then surely from the sums subscribed in the smallest Lodge an amount might be annually deducted (say 5s. from each member's subscription) which would be sufficient of itself, if untouched for three or four years, to form a secure basis for a "Benevolent Fund," and every Brother would be happy to contribute his mite at starting, for the advancement of so praiseworthy an object.

Let us for a moment direct our thoughts to that Brother who, in the hour of trial and trouble, poor and infirm, received *One Guinea* from his Lodge; and now let us picture him (as he might have been by the aid of a Benevolent Fund) wending his way home with a light and cheerful heart, blessing the name of Masonry, and those who in the hour of prosperity had so kindly and Masonically provided for their Brethren in adversity.

In conclusion, I would say dispense with a banquet or two during the year; the cause is a noble one, and you will never regret the little self-abnegation it may

require. Remember, to help the poor, clothe the naked, and feed the hungry, is our peculiar duty as Masons, and rest assured there are no better means at our disposal than the formation of Benevolent Funds.—I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours truly and Fraternally,
 11, CITY TERRACE, CITY ROAD. HENRY A. ISAACS, P.M. No. 247.

MASONIC HOSPITALITY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—On Tuesday the 10th March, being in town, I went intending to visit the Canonbury Lodge, 955, according to Book of Constitutions (page 72, article 4).

Having put aside business matters with that object, changed my dress to "Masonic full dress," and gone a distance above a mile, I was somewhat surprised on presenting myself to be kept on the landing for about ten minutes, without being allowed even to see inside the "convenient room." After which a Brother came to me, to whom I showed a *bundle* of certificates from E.A.P. upwards to the R.A., K.T., R.⌘, &c.; when I was asked, first, "If I knew any Brother there," and having replied that I was not aware I did, I was then asked, "What was my object in visiting them?" and "if I wished to dine with them?" I felt somewhat *grieved* at such questions, but contented myself with saying, "I wished simply to see their working;" when I was told their business was over, although I knew, from certain matters known to Masons, they were installing their W.M. elect. The Brother then retired into the "sanctum sanctorum" which I before alluded to, without even wishing me good night, inviting me to stay, or even the slightest courtesy due from one gentleman to another, much less from a Mason to one of his Brethren.

As we do not manage things after this fashion in Lancashire, perhaps by it being made known through the *Magazine*, the Brethren from the N.S.E. and W. will spare themselves the trouble of going to the Canonbury Tavern until the Canonbury Lodge say in a like manner that they do *not object* to receive visitors from the country or elsewhere.—I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours Fraternally,
 MANCHESTER, March 7, 1857. A PAST MASTER, R.A., K.T. R.⌘, &c.

"THE FIRE NEVER DIES OUT."—A venerable Mason, upwards of eighty years of age, Bro. Hosford, of West Poulteney, V.T., in forwarding his subscription to a Masonic charity in Philadelphia, says, in a letter enclosing the same:—"I am in my fiftieth year of Masonry; I am old, and cannot *hear* the word, or see the *signs*, but I can yet *feel* the true grip of Masonry." How significant of the beauty and durability of Masonic teachings! Let the senses lose their powers and die out, as age comes on, so that we can hear no more the sounds that were once so welcome to the Masonic ear; let the eyes grow dim, so that we can no longer look upon signs and symbols, once so grateful to the Mason's eye; yet the *grip*, even until the life blood is frozen in the veins by the icy touch of death, remains with us all, until the last nerve is shattered, and we have passed over the valley. Truly, "the fire never goes out," aged Brother; our hand is in thine, even while we write this, in as pure a communion as men ever knew.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

THE GRAND MASTER.

We regret to hear that the Earl of Zetland has been labouring under severe illness ; the last accounts, however, state that he is considerably better, and hopes are expressed that he will soon be restored to health.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' SCHOOL FOR FEMALE CHILDREN.

We earnestly call the attention of Brethren to the announcement in the first page of our advertising space, of the festival in aid of the funds of this most excellent and truly deserving institution. The list of stewards, with Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon for President, is a very influential one, and we have every confidence that a brilliant result will crown the efforts of those who are associated on this occasion. Nor must we omit to mention the advantage that cannot but accrue to the charity from the fact of its claims being advocated by Bro. Lord Panmure, who, after a long absence from the active duties of Masonry, has kindly consented to preside at the forthcoming anniversary. The preliminary meeting of the stewards has been held, and already the arrangements for giving due effect to the celebration are in a forward state. With regard to the music, we think we can promise a treat of no mean order, Bro. Horsley (one of the stewards, and a recent acquisition to our ranks) having volunteered his services and advice, in conjunction with Bro. F. Crew, the valued Sec. of the school, with a view to promote entire success in this department. Our fair friends and relatives too, who so materially assist at these annual *réunions*, and who by their presence lend to them so much of grace and refinement, may rely upon their comfort and happiness receiving every study and attention which the miserable room allotted them will allow. Previously to the festival, which is fixed for Wednesday, the 13th of May, every Brother who has not already done so, should make a point of visiting the school, as we have done, and examining into its details and management. He will be pleased and delighted at what, we are sure, will be the unexpected treat afforded him ; and the pleasure and information derived from his visit, after a short journey from Waterloo Station to Wandsworth Common, will well repay the time bestowed upon it. Like a landmark of our ancient Order, the beautiful building rears its head on an eminence, which commands attention and insures support, for we are certain that those Brethren who are not at present subscribers have only to visit it, and they will, at once, become so.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

Never was a more gratifying festival for any of our charities than that held in aid of the Boys' School on the 11th ult., under the presidency of our noble Bro. Lord Goderich, G.S.W. A better chairman for a public dinner it has been

rarely our lot to meet; his speeches were neat, brief, and appropriate; the intervals between the toasts well filled up with music, and the result was a most harmonious and orderly meeting, and an addition of £1,200 to the funds of the School; notwithstanding his lordship was very meagrely supported by the heads of the Order. The Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., however, though absent in body, owing to illness, was present in spirit, and forwarded a most liberal subscription, thus evincing the deep interest his lordship continues to take in our charitable institutions. At the close of the festival, those Brethren who had the *entrée* joined the ladies in the glee-room, which, as usual, was most inconveniently crowded, so that it was impossible to listen to the music in comfort, or move from the position first occupied. When will the Brethren take the matter up, and insist upon better accommodation being afforded to the ladies on the occasion of these festivals? This we know, that many of the Brethren are deterred from serving as stewards to the charities from their determination not to introduce their ladies into such an utterly comfortless apartment as the glee-room is at the close of a Masonic festival. The committee have had under their consideration the appointment of a master and matron to the new schoolhouse; and we regret to hear rumours not altogether favourable to the impartiality of one or two members of the sub-committee appointed to examine the testimonials of the 135 candidates; but as the Brother who feels himself more particularly aggrieved has appealed to the subscribers to the Institution, we shall refrain from doing more than express a hope, that if any injustice has been committed, it may be speedily remedied. The balance-sheet for the year ending the 27th of February last we regard as highly satisfactory. The receipts (including £205. 9s. 1d. in the bankers' hands at the close of the previous year) amounted to £1,733. 2s. 4d.; and the expenditure, £988. 9s. 2d. The amount funded was £529. 3s. 9d., leaving a balance at the bankers' of £215. 9s. 5d. It must be recollected, however, that with the increased expenditure necessarily consequent upon the opening of the school, additional funds will be required—a fact which we trust will be borne in mind by the Brethren and the Lodges.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

MISS NIGHTINGALE paid an unexpected visit to the hospital in Gray's-Inn-lane, on Wednesday, 18th March. Miss Nightingale, who was unaccompanied, remained upwards of two hours. She questioned almost every in-patient in the respective wards, conversed with each nurse, examined the bread and diet generally, went into the kitchen, storerooms, &c.; asked innumerable questions as to the regulations and management of the in-patients' department; expressed her admiration of the cleanliness, ventilation, and general comfort of the Sussex Wing, and the new part of the building adjoining it, opened last year. Miss Nightingale also inspected the out-patients' new rooms, saw the immense concourse of out-patients who were in their respective waiting-rooms (male and female), looked into the dispensary, and remarked on the facility with which the applicants obtained advice and medicine; and before leaving, gave her unqualified approval of all she had seen and heard. We are sorry to add that the hospital is just now sadly in want of funds, consequent upon the numerous claims made upon its resources. A Nightingale Wing to this hospital would form an appropriate companion to the Sussex Wing—Freemasonry and Female Devotion and Charity hand in hand. Will any one take the hint, and commence the raising of a fund for such a worthy completion of this noble institution?

GRAND LODGE.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION, *March 4, 1857.*

THE Quarterly Communication was held on the 4th March, the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland presiding, supported by Bros. Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. Hants, as D.G.M.; B. B. Cabbell, *M.P.*, Prov. G.M. Norfolk, as S.G.W.; Thomas Tooke, J.G.W.; R. J. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. Essex; Alexander Dobie, Prov. G.M. Surrey, and G. Reg.; Col. W. Burlton, P. Prov. G.M. Bengal; Lord Panmure, P.S.G.W.; W. F. Beadon, P.J.G.W.; Revs. John E. Cox and Edward Moore, G. Chaps.; S. Tomkins, G. Treas.; W. H. White, G. Sec.; Jones, G.S.D.; F. R. White, as G.J.D.; John Hervey, P.G.S.D.; Dawkes, G. Supt. of Works; Havers, P.G.J.D.; J. N. Tomkins, P.G.J.D.; G. W. Potter, P.G.J.D.; Jennings, G. Dir. of Cer.; Chapman, Assist. G. Dir. of Cer.; C. W. Elkington, P.G.S.B., as G.S.B.; R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; Evans, P.G.S.B.; A. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; John Masson, P.G.S.B.; George Biggs, P.G.S.B.; William Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Edwin Ransford, G. Org.; Joseph Smith, G. Pursuivant, &c. &c.

Grand Lodge having been duly opened,

The Grand Secretary read the rules and orders of the business.

The minutes of Quarterly Communication (3rd December) and Special Grand Lodge (11th February) were read and confirmed.

OMISSION OF NOTICE.

Bro. H. G. Warren (P.M. No. 202) asked, how it was that Lodges No. 313 and No. 819 had not received the summonses for the Grand Lodge of Emergency?

The Assistant Grand Secretary said, that Bro. Warren had called at the office and given notice of this question, and he had then informed him that on looking over the list from which the circulars were directed, he found that the Lodges in question were "ticked off" as well as the rest, and he presumed therefore that they had been sent as well as the rest. (Hear, hear.)

THE CANADIAN RETURN.

The Rev. Bro. Portal said, that he did not wish to trouble the Grand Secretary to write to Canada for the return he had obtained on a previous occasion, inasmuch as he had now procured the facts he wanted, in a petition which had been sent him for presentation to Grand Lodge. The fact appeared to be that out of thirty-three meetings of the Prov. Grand Lodge since its inauguration only five had been presided over by the Prov. Grand Master. (Hear, hear.)

The Assistant Grand Secretary said, that the application ordered by Grand Lodge had been sent off. (Hear, hear.)

RE-ELECTION OF THE EARL OF ZETLAND AS M.W. GRAND MASTER.

Bro. Bradford proposed the re-election of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland as M.W. Grand Master for the ensuing year. As the Earl was present upon the throne, it would ill become him (Bro. B.) to expatiate at any length upon his varied excellencies at that time. During his presidency, Masonry had greatly flourished (hear, hear), and he felt sure that Grand Lodge would agree with him in the proposition of his lordship's re-election, and carry the motion unanimously. (Loud cheers.) He was glad, on so important an occasion, to see so many of the Brethren around him agreeing with him in this expression of his feelings, and as the Grand Master was present, he would simply content himself with moving the resolution. (Loud applause.)

Bro. Hinxman, G. Steward, seconded the motion.

Bro. C. W. Elkington (on the dais to the left of the Grand Master): "Most worshipful Sir,—Having had the honour of knowing Lord Southampton for many years, and having been present in September, when the name of that noble Brother was proposed as Grand Master for the ensuing year, I wrote to inform him of the

fact, and I will now read the letter which I received from him upon that subject." (Hear, hear; and cries of "No, no!")

[The letter was dated December 13, and his lordship after an apology for not having sooner answered his letter, said that he was startled and annoyed very much at his name having been proposed without his having first been consulted; and that he knew nothing of the matter till the writer had informed him. Lord Southampton concluded by begging that a notification to this effect might be made to the Grand Secretary.]

Bro. Warren said: "Most worshipful Grand Master,—I feel that I have some reason to complain of the way in which I have been treated on this subject. I am present to withdraw my nomination of Lord Southampton. (Hear, hear, and ironical cheerings.) I, too, have had a letter from Lord Southampton, couched in somewhat different terms, and written in a very different tone from that which has just been read to Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear! cheers, and cries of 'Read, read.')

' Whittlebury, Towcester, Dec. 15th, 1856.

' SIR,—I beg to apologize for not having sooner answered your letter of the 4th December; I sincerely regret to find that I have been put in nomination as a candidate for the office of Grand Master, without my sanction having been first obtained, more especially under existing circumstances. I feel much flattered by the very kind expressions which you make use of towards me, and by the very high compliment which you propose to pay me, but I must beg you, for the present, not to take any further steps in the matter. I am, Sir and Brother, faithfully yours,

' SOUTHAMPTON.'

"On the receipt of that letter, of course I took no further steps in the matter. (Hear, hear.) Nor did I ever intend to go beyond simply withdrawing the name, if it was at all objected to; and I may repeat now what I said when making the proposition, that it was out of no disrespect towards yourself. (Oh, oh; hear, hear and cheers.) I say, it was out of no want of respect towards your lordship, but simply as a protest against the continual re-election of the same Brother as Grand Master (hear); because I am strongly convinced that an infusion of new blood, occasionally, is very desirable. (Applause, and cries of 'Question, question.')

This is the question." Bro. Dobie begged Grand Lodge not to allow this debate to go on, and expressed a hope that not a word of it would be recorded upon the minutes. He considered that it was a great insult to the respected nobleman whose name had been mentioned, that it should have been brought forward in the Grand Lodge of England in the way that it had been. He knew him too well to suppose for one moment that he would give his consent to such proceedings. (Cries of "Order, order," and confusion.)

A Brother: "Most worshipful Sir,—I rise to order. A Brother was on his legs, apologizing. (Oh, oh, and No, no.) Well, at any rate, if he was not apologizing, he was withdrawing the name he had proposed, and what right has the Grand Registrar to interrupt him in the way he has done?" (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

Bro. Warren: "Had I been allowed to proceed I should have concluded long before this. What I wanted to say was, that it would add honour to the dais, and materially contribute to the usefulness of the Grand Officers, if they had the advantage of Past Grand Masters to whom reference could be made in cases of difficulty." (Hear, hear, laughter, and cheers.)

Lord Panmure: "On these occasions, instead of smiling at what occurs, we should consider whether we are not bringing Grand Lodge into discredit. (Hear, hear.) I am not one of those who would destroy the right of any Brother to name a fresh Grand Master, and to infuse, if it was thought right, fresh blood into Grand Lodge every year. The Grand Lodge of England differs from the Grand Lodge of Scotland in this essential particular. You have the power annually of re-electing a new Grand Master, if necessary; whereas we, in Scotland, look upon our Grand Master as a kind of fixture. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I do

not, of course, object to your power ; but when you have a Grand Master who discharges his duties to the Craft with satisfaction to the body, I think it is for the advantage of the Craft that they should continue to avail themselves of his experience. But when we are to make a change, I think at least it is due to Grand Lodge that we should be assured that the individual who is proposed has given his consent (hear, and cheers), because if every Brother is to be at liberty, without consulting the person whose name he proposes, what will be the position of Grand Lodge ? Why, you may some day elect some one to the highest honour to which, as a Mason, he can attain, who, from circumstances over which he has no control, or from not taking sufficient interest in the Craft, may refuse to accept the honour. (Hear, hear.) I think it is not fit that Grand Lodge should be put in this position. I think therefore, reserving to every Brother the right to nominate any Brother he may think proper, he should always be asked this question, whether he had the consent of the Brother whom he nominated, and whether, if elected, that Brother would fill the chair ?" (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Aria said, the question before Grand Lodge was the election of Grand Master, and it was but an ill compliment that Bro. Warren, when about to state the course which circumstances had compelled him to take, should have been interrupted as he had been by the Grand Registrar. The worthy Brother was interrupted by calls of "Hear, hear," and "Order ! order !"

Bro. Havers said : for one moment he would claim attention, but Grand Lodge would not hear him.

The Grand Master being appealed to, said that he was loth to interrupt a Brother on such a question as that which was now before Grand Lodge, but he should be glad if he would keep to the point.

Sir Lucius Curtius then, as acting D.G.M., put the question with the usual formalities, and the M.W. the G.M. was duly elected P.G.M. for the ensuing year, with three dissentients.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland was then duly proclaimed, and saluted in the ancient form.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master then returned thanks in the following terms : " I assure you I find it difficult to express my feelings on this occasion, when you have, in so highly flattering a manner, placed me again in this position. I am not at all unaware of the many disqualifications which I possess. (No, no.) I feel that I have not now that activity which I had some years ago, and I feel, also, that I have now a much more difficult task to perform. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, I have received from you such continual support, and have been so often re-elected to this chair, and in so flattering a manner, that, however difficult I may find it, I will, to the best of my ability, continue to serve you so long as I can continue to do so with advantage to the cause of Masonry, and do my duty satisfactorily to the Craft. (Applause.) In reviewing the state of Masonry in this country since this time last year, I think we have great cause for congratulation. (Hear, hear.) The number of Lodges is continually increasing in this country from year to year, and the number of certificates granted show that Masonry is increasing, and has been increasing, in a progressive ratio, for several years past. But not only is Masonry increasing in this country, it is also flourishing in other parts of the world, such as India, Australia, and other colonies. From those places I am pleased to say that no complaints whatever have been received as to the ruling of Grand Lodge. (Loud applause.) On the contrary (renewed cheers), last year the worthy Brother, now present, from Western Australia, where Masonry is increasing and flourishing to a great extent, had a very long interview with me on the subject of Masonry in that part of the globe ; the suggestions which I then made have since been carried into effect, and have, I believe, given complete satisfaction. (Cheers.) But, Brethren, there is one part of our Colonial possessions, upon which we cannot look with so much satisfaction—I mean Canada. (Hear.) That subject has had my long and deep consideration ; and I think I shall consult the convenience of Grand Lodge, and I hope I may take away some of the asperity of feeling which I regret to find now exists, by stating to you the result of the long and anxious consideration which I have given to the subject. (Applause.) It is a subject which not only affects

the Grand Lodge of England, but also the numerous and flourishing Lodges in Canada. I am therefore anxious that my observations should be completely understood; and in order to prevent any misunderstanding, I have made copious notes, from which I shall now state to you the course I shall adopt."

STATEMENT OF THE GRAND MASTER WITH RESPECT TO THE CANADIAN LODGES.

The Grand Master said: "Brethren, I regret, as much as any one, the present position of affairs, and I frankly confess that the Canadian Brethren do not complain without some degree of truth, and that they have not altogether received at our hands that consideration which they had reason to expect. (Hear, hear.) I do not, however, see any advantage which could arise from reopening the subject on its merits. Our chief object now is to amend our past shortcomings, and endeavour to keep matters moving more smoothly for the future. (Hear, hear.) I am bound to say, however, that I was not acquainted with the whole state of affairs relating to Canada West when I addressed Grand Lodge on a former occasion. (Hear, hear.) There has been some confusion with respect to the so-called 'independent' Grand Lodge, and the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada. With the former I need hardly say that we can have nothing whatever to do. (Hear, hear.) They have thrown off their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, and that without even returning the warrants which they hold under it. It was to them that I applied the term 'rebels,' and I think Grand Lodge will agree with me that I do not unjustly apply that term. (Hear, hear.) Since my former address on this subject, I have carefully reconsidered it. I have now given it the best attention in my power (cheers), and the conclusion at which I have arrived is that I may, without any sacrifice of the privileges with which I am invested as Grand Master, make such concessions to them as shall meet their wants and satisfy them. In order that I may be understood, I must call your attention to the requests made in the petition. The first was for the power to elect their own Prov. Grand Master; the second, that they should retain all fees of every sort and kind; thirdly, that their Prov. Grand Master should grant warrants for new Lodges; fourthly, that he should be empowered to appoint subordinate Prov. Grand Masters; fifthly, that the Grand Lodge of England should still retain a supervising power. This, it will be at once perceived, if granted, would make them to all intents and purposes an independent Grand Lodge (hear, hear), to which I need hardly say we could not give our consent, as it would be a subversion of the constitutions of Freemasonry, and such a demand could only of course be met by a distinct negative, as I wish to maintain in my own person, and to hand to my successor, the prerogatives of my office in their integrity. As far as I am personally concerned, the appointment of officers is an irksome, unenviable task (hear, hear, hear); but although, as representing the Grand Lodge of England, I am as anxious now as I was then to maintain the privileges of Grand Master intact, because I think it conducive to the welfare of the Craft that I should do so, I am, nevertheless, of opinion, that I can satisfy their desires without any sacrifice of my privileges. (Loud applause.) The Canadian Masons contend that they have ample means of determining who would best serve their interests and the interests of Masonry as their Prov. Grand Master, while I, at this distance, have not the same favourable opportunity. (Hear.) Brethren, I feel that there is force in that remark (applause), and taking that into consideration, I am prepared to say that I will consider the propriety of appointing as Prov. Grand Master of Canada West any Brother whom they shall report to me as most acceptable to themselves. (Loud cheers.) They may do this, if they desire it, either in the form of a resolution of Prov. Grand Lodge, or in such other mode as they shall think proper. Such nomination will be subject only to my approval; and I shall not withhold my approval from any Brother so recommended unless for weighty reasons, which I shall be prepared to state and justify. In making this concession, I only announce my personal intention; I do not propose to consent to any alteration of the laws. (Hear, hear.) In nominating as Prov. Grand Master the Brother recommended by the Prov. Grand Lodge, I shall do so of my own free will and accord; and though I set the example, I shall not consent to bind my successors. (Hear, hear.) As regards the question of fees, that is a matter of secondary

moment. Monetary considerations, I trust, will never influence us in our dealings with our Canadian Brethren. The fees at present payable are—

	£.	s.	d.
Registration	0	10	0
(Of which half goes to the Prov. Grand Lodge.)			
Certificates	0	6	6
Total received by us	0	11	6

The scale of fees which I propose is as follows :—

	£.	s.	d.
Registration and Certificate combined	0	7	6

This is a diminution of 4s., and the whole scale of fees would stand thus :—

	£.	s.	d.
Registration and Certificate (London)	1	7	6
Ditto ditto (Country)	0	17	6
Ditto ditto (Canada)	0	7	6

Fees to the Benevolent Fund :—

	£.	s.	d.
London	0	4	0
Country	0	2	0
Canada	(Nil.)		

(Loud cheers.)

I have already provided for the issue of blank certificates in such numbers as will prevent complaints on that score, while, as regards the issue of warrants, such a power, or one equivalent to it, has always been exercised by the Prov. Grand Masters of Colonial Lodges; for they have hitherto granted dispensations for holding new Lodges, the warrants for which are never refused. This is a matter, however, which I confess may be left to the Colonial Board. (Cheers.) Some representations have reached me on the subject of subdividing the districts, which I am inclined to consider. I think it would be advisable, after consulting with the Brethren on the spot, so to subdivide the districts, and to appoint Prov. Grand Masters over them, that no Lodge shall be at too great a distance from its Prov. Grand Lodge. There is one point more to which I must refer, and that is, the request with respect to the appointment of the Masters of those Prov. Grand Lodges, which is and must remain in the hands of the Grand Master, just as the appointment of the Officers of a private Lodge is and must ever remain in the hands of the Worshipful Master thereof. (Hear.) I shall subdivide the districts, and shall not be slow in listening to the expressed wishes of the Brethren as to the appointment of Prov. Grand Masters who will be acceptable to them. (Hear, hear.) I may now remark, that these have been my expressed determinations ever since January last, in proof of which, if it were necessary, I could appeal to at least one worthy Brother now present (hear), and who heard me express the conclusion at which I had arrived on the subject so far back as the 3rd of January. (Hear, hear.) I believe that by this concession I shall not diminish those powers and privileges which I have received from you. My object has been to preserve those privileges, but not from any personal motives. (Applause.) If the Canadian Masons remain in allegiance to us, it is quite as much to their advantage as it is to ours (applause), and I believe that the plan I have now stated will be satisfactory to them (hear, hear) and to you. (Renewed applause.) I thought it better to mention these things now, as it would bring the matter to an amicable termination, and spare Grand Lodge protracted discussions. (Hear, hear.) Such are my general principles, and the details may safely be left to the Colonial Board. (Cheers.) I trust that justice has now been done, and must repeat my regret that the matter has not been settled before. (Hear.) I know that I may rely with full confidence upon you for that support which you have never yet withheld from

me in my endeavour to discharge my duty to the best of my ability." (Loud applause.)

GRAND TREASURER.

Bro. Barratt proposed, and Bro. Roxburgh seconded, Bro. Tomkins as Grand Treasurer. That worthy Brother was duly elected, and proclaimed with great solemnity by Bro. Chapman.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The election of a member of the Board of General Purposes, in the room of Bro. F. Burges, deceased, was the next business. The only nomination was Bro. Edward Roberts, W.M. of Lodge No. 914, New Swindon, who was duly elected.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

This report being brought up, recommending the grant of three sums of £50, two of £30, and one of £100, to distressed Brethren or their widows, was considered and approved, with the exception of one of the votes of £50 being increased to £100.

The report concluded by stating that there was a balance in hand of £200. It was ordered to be entered upon the minutes.

THE KING OF HANOVER.

The Grand Master stated he had been officially informed of the initiation of the King of Hanover into the Order by a Worshipful Brother, whom he had directed to attend upon the occasion, as the representative of the Grand Lodge of England. He held in his hand a letter from that Worshipful Brother, giving an account of that initiation, which ought to be entered upon the minutes, he thought. (Hear.)

In reply to Bro. Aria,

The Grand Master said the letter contained no allusion whatever to the reported exclusion of the Jews from the Hanoverian Lodges.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

This report was then read. It was as follows :—

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Board of General Purposes beg, in accordance with the resolution of the Special Grand Lodge on the 19th November, to recommend that the following alteration be made in the Law relating to the General Committee at page 20 of the "Book of Constitutions:" after the words "shall meet," instead of "on the Wednesday immediately preceding each Quarterly Communication," insert "on the last Wednesday in January, July, and October, and in April on the Thursday next after the last Wednesday."

And also to order, "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."

The Board beg to report, that a complaint was preferred by the Lodge of Benevolence against the W.M. of the Eastern Star Lodge, No. 112, which had recommended the petition of Brother Charles Hamond, late a member thereof, for relief, which Brother attended at the meetings of the Lodge of Benevolence in December and January; but in consequence of the non-attendance of the W.M., or any other member of the Lodge as required by the Laws, the case of the petitioner could not be taken into consideration.

The Worshipful Master attended the Board pursuant to summons, together with his Senior Warden, and stated that he was not Master at the time, but that the last Master, Bro. E. U. Gardner, who had signed the recommendation, did attend on the first occasion; but in consequence of the serious illness of his Brother, he was compelled to quit before the petition of Bro. Hamond was called on. Upon the second occasion some very urgent business prevented his leaving home. The present Master promised that due attention should be paid to the

case at the next meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence. Under these circumstances the Board has deferred passing any vote on the subject, until they shall be informed of the result of the next meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence.

(Signed)

A. DOBIE,
President.

24th February, 1857.

The above report was adopted, and ordered to be entered upon the minutes.

Bro. Dobie made the formal motion necessary to give effect to the suggestion therein made, that documents, &c., be not read *in extenso*, &c. It was only just, he said, to Bro. Warren, to say that the suggestion came to him (Bro. Dobie) in consequence of one of his (Bro. Warren's) notices of motion. (Hear, hear.) He thought this was a recommendation which it would be obviously for the advantage of Grand Lodge to have adopted and carried into effect. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Warren seconded the motion with much pleasure, and said that he did not expect to have received such a compliment. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) He was glad to see the Board of General Purposes admit that, for once, he was in the right. (Laughter, and cheers.)

The question was then put, and carried unanimously.

Bro. Portal asked if Bro. Dobie was going to omit the recommendation in the first paragraph of the report?

Bro. Dobie said he had no resolution on the subject. It was not brought forward by him, and it would not be unanimously agreed to if put, as it would interfere with the report of the Board of Benevolence to the Board of Masters.

Bro. Portal: "Then I move it. (Hear.) The country Masons should know what is going on in Grand Lodge, and this can only be secured by sending to the country Lodges a paper of the business to be brought forward. They need not insist on the report of the last meeting of the Board of Benevolence passing through the Board of Masters at all. Practically it did not pass through the Board of Masters at present. The provincial Masons ought to have the same privilege as the London Masons of knowing what was going on."

Bro. Allan Herbert seconded the motion, and expressed his cordial concurrence in the observations that had fallen from the Rev. Bro. Portal.

Bro. Roxburgh admitted that it was desirable to study the interests of country Lodges, but he did not wish that to be done at the expense of the London Lodges, whose interests he did not wish to see altogether sacrificed for the sake of the provincial Brethren. He objected, also, to the perpetual tinkering at their laws, which Grand Lodge had recently seemed disposed to keep up. (Hear, hear.) In making alterations absolutely required, they must consider their Constitutions as a whole. (Applause.) The alteration now proposed at page 20 would in fact take away five weeks out of the thirteen which they had to consider what should be brought before Grand Lodge; and if a matter occurred within four weeks' before Grand Lodge, they would not be able to move in it for five months. The consequence of the proposed alterations would be to make their laws contradictory. He had the greatest desire that the Brethren in the country should know what was going on, but he contended that these alterations should be made with consistency and with regularity. He proposed as an amendment:—"That the first paragraph of the Board of General Purposes, which refers to the alterations to be made in the Book of Constitutions, be referred to the Board of General Purposes, with the recommendation that they should consider the effect which such a change would have on the Constitutions generally." (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Binckes said, he could not bring to the discussion of this question such legal acumen as Bro. Roxburgh, but he thought he could show that the objections urged by that Brother were of little real value or weight. There would be some inconvenience to London members to wait five weeks, but this would only occur once, viz., when the change first came into operation; and even if it occurred every quarter, eight weeks out of the thirteen afforded quite sufficient time for Brethren to settle what questions should be brought before Grand Lodge, except in a case of emergency. The inconvenience to the London Lodges was far outweighed by the convenience to the country Brethren, who formed after all so large a proportion of the Craft in this country (hear, hear); and he thought that the

country Brethren ought to have ample opportunity of being made acquainted with the subjects proposed for discussion in Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear.) This being done, they could discuss those questions in their Lodges, and depute some well-qualified Brother to come to town, and give utterance to their opinions. Five weeks were not too long a period to carry these arrangements into effect. (Hear, hear.) The advantages derived by the country Brethren from such an arrangement as that which was now proposed, would be far more than an equivalent for any inconvenience which could be experienced by the London Brethren. He concluded by declaring that Bro. Roxburgh's objections must fall to the ground.

Bro. Aria thought that the information should be communicated to the London and country Lodges contemporaneously.

Bro. Savage thought this was a serious matter, and they should not divide upon it without due deliberation. He thought that there was much weight in the objections urged by Bro. Roxburgh. For five weeks they would be tied up, however important the nature of the questions they might wish to bring before Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear.) He could not support the amendment either, because it implied the principle that the Board of Benevolence must make their reports to the Board of Masters, which is not required by the Book of Constitutions. The Board of Masters was closed long before these recommendations were come to, and therefore, how could they be reported? (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Havers thought that the Board of General Purposes should reconsider the question, and send it back to Grand Lodge in a form in which it would be likely to be agreed to.

Bro. Gregory, while fully acquiescing in the importance of communicating to the country Brethren the business which it was intended to bring on in Grand Lodge, thought the present motion would involve them in a serious difficulty.

Bro. Benson alluded to the "tinkering" with the laws and constitutions of Masonry, to which reference had been made, and said that the only difference between the Grand Registrar's "tinkering" and the "tinkering" of other Brethren was, that the Grand Registrar had taken a piece of tin or some better metal than other Brethren were "tinkering" with. (Laughter.) What could be easier than to alter two or three words in section 8, page 26? He himself submitted that it was quite out of place for Grand Lodge to throw aside, on the motion of any individual Brother, the report of the Board of General Purposes, which ought to be adopted; and if Grand Lodge was to lay down a law against "tinkering," let the Grand Registrar and Bro. Roxburgh fight that matter out together. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

The question being put, the amendment was declared to be carried.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL BOARD.

On the motion of the Rev. Bro. Westall, the following report was taken as read:—

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Colonial Board beg to present the following Report upon the M.W. Grand Master's communication relative to Colonial Lodges and Brethren:—

1st. The M.W. Grand Master states, that "representations have been made to him by memorials and otherwise from Lodges and Brethren in some of the colonies, as to the great inconvenience experienced by them, owing to the inevitable delay in obtaining Grand Lodge certificates, which occupies in some cases twelve months; and further, some thinking that the interests of the Craft in such colonies would be greatly promoted, if power were given to them to nominate at stated periods their own Prov. Grand Masters, subject to the approval of the M.W. Grand Master."

2nd. The M.W. Grand Master further states, "that he has taken these several matters into his consideration, and after the most mature deliberation, is of opinion that some remedies ought to be applied to meet the alleged inconveniences."

3rd. The M.W. Grand Master is of opinion that the same measure of relief should apply to all District Grand Lodges without distinction.

4th. The M.W. Grand Master proposes that the registration fee for every newly-initiated Brother be 7s. 6d., which will entitle the Brother to a Grand Lodge certificate; the registration fee for joining Brethren to remain at 2s. 6d. That each Lodge shall make a return to Grand Lodge annually, together with the amount of dues payable, unless there be a District Grand Master, in which case the payment may be made to him or to his Deputy, to be by him transmitted to London. That the District Grand Master shall be supplied with blank forms of certificates for distribution.

5th. With a view to remedying the grievance relative to the appointing of the District Grand Masters, the M.W. Grand Master proposes that every third year an account should be furnished him by every District Grand Lodge of their proceedings and transactions, on receipt of which he will determine whether the interests of the Craft would be best promoted by the continuance in office of the District Grand Master, and the decision of the M.W. Grand Master will be communicated to the District Grand Lodge.

6th. The Board is of opinion that the remedies proposed by the M.W. Grand Master, as regards the payment of fees and issuing of certificates, are satisfactory, but they would recommend the attachment to the latter of the seal of the District Grand Lodge, as well as the counter-signatures of the District Grand Lodge authorities.

7th. The Board regrets that it cannot express its approval of the proposal relative to District Grand Masters, as affording a remedy for the grievance complained of, since it only involves the exercise of a power which has already been vested by the Constitutions in the M.W. Grand Master, and which the Grand Lodge is bound to suppose has hitherto been exercised with all the vigilance which is demanded by his high responsibility.

8th. With regard to the Brethren in Canada West, the Board find that there is a special grievance complained of, viz.: that while they have no voice in the election of the M.W. Grand Master of England, they have no control over the conduct of their own District Grand Master, and that while they are themselves best qualified to select fit persons for that important post, Brethren have been appointed by an authority altogether external to them, who have not possessed their confidence, and who have neglected their interests; and that Masonry has, in consequence, suffered much damage.

9th. The Board does not consider that these grievances would be remedied by the transmission to England, once in three years, of the minutes of the District Grand Lodge.

10th. In accordance, therefore, with the precedent afforded by the Grand Lodge of England, the Board unanimously directs that a meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Canada West should be held annually, on the first Wednesday in December, at which nominations should be made by ballot of Brethren to fill the Office of District Grand Master. That of these names not more than three (having the largest number of votes) should be forthwith transmitted to the M.W. Grand Master, with the number of votes given to each. That he shall, within a month after the receipt of such list, appoint one of them to the Office of District Grand Master, and the installation shall take place on the first Wednesday in March. If no appointment shall have been received by the Prov. Grand Secretary at that time, the Brother having the greatest number of votes shall be so installed, and shall be considered, to all intents and purposes, to have been appointed by the M.W. Grand Master.

11th. The Board further recommends that with a view to the better representation of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West, in the Grand Lodge of England, the said Prov. Grand Lodge should be permitted to appoint a representative in the Grand Lodge of England, subject to the same conditions, and having the same rank as the representative of a Foreign Grand Lodge.

The Board cannot conclude this report on the communication of the M.W. Grand Master without expressing its deep sense of the careful consideration given by him to the subjects treated of, whilst, at the same time, they feel bound to express a unanimous opinion that nothing but the prompt concession of the

points they have recommended will be accepted by the Canadian Lodges, or avail to remedy the unhappy discontent at present existing.

Referring to an application received from Canada West, and under present circumstances, the Board unanimously recommends the Grand Lodge not to recognize the Grand Lodge of Canada West.

(Signed) WILLIAM BURLTON,
Prov. P.G.M. Bengal. P.M. Nos. 97, 126, 552, and 596,
Freemasons' Hall, 6th Feb. 1857. Chairman.

THE MARK DEGREE.

Bro. H. G. Warren asked the Grand Master whether he was aware that notwithstanding Grand Lodge had decided against the Mark Degree being given in Lodges holding under them, it was constantly so given in our Colonial Lodges, and that the practice of the Degree in those Lodges was sanctioned by the Provincial Grand Masters? He had, through the Grand Secretary, given his lordship notice of this question.

The Grand Master assured Bro. Warren that he had not received such information from the Grand Secretary.

The Grand Secretary said, Bro. Warren's notice *got mislaid amongst his papers!!!!* (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

The subject dropped, with the understanding that the G.M. had received no official information on this subject.

THE COLONIAL BOARD.

The Colonial report was then received and ordered to be entered upon the minutes.

Bro. Colonel Burlton moved that the report be adopted.

Bro. Harvey Boys seconded this motion.

After some discussion,

The Rev. Bro. Portal moved an amendment—"That the report be adopted as far as paragraph VI., and that the remainder be left to the G.M. to carry out."

Bro. the Lord Panmure seconded this motion, and said: "I have a deeper interest than perhaps any Brother present in seeing peace restored between the Canadian Lodges and this Grand Lodge, because I can never forget that I was initiated into the Order in Canada, and one never forgets his mother Lodge. (Applause.) I have seen with great pain, the gradual alienation which has been going on; but what has been passed this evening, I think, they will receive with satisfaction, and it will lead to a reconciliation. The motion of my friend Bro. Portal is honourable to his character as a Mason, and as a restorer of peace amongst Masons." (Loud applause.)

Bro. Colonel Burlton said nothing would give greater satisfaction to himself and to other members of the Colonial Board than such a motion, which seemed so likely to lead to an amicable adjustment of the question. (Loud applause.)

Bro. Portal's amendment was then agreed to amidst loud cheers.

A CANADIAN PETITION.

Bro. Portal presented a petition from Canada West, entering into a statement of their grievances, which he said, under the circumstances, he would not enter into. At the same time he wished to call attention to the fact, that the Prov. Grand Secretary of Canada expressed an earnest wish that the petition should be answered by the May Communication, when there would be a Prov. Grand Lodge. He would move, therefore, that the petition be referred to the Colonial Board for consideration, in conjunction with the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, and that such an answer may be returned as shall appear most consistent with the interests of the Masonic Order. (Cheers.)

Bro. Roxburgh seconded this motion.

The Grand Master expressed his concurrence in it, and trusted that there would be no difficulty in his agreeing with the recommendations of the Colonial Board. But this must be taken as an exceptional case. (Hear.) It was quite an unprecedented mode of dealing with a petition, that it should be referred to the Colonial

Board, *in conjunction with the Grand Master*. It must not be taken as a precedent, but as an exceptional case only justified by circumstances.

The Grand Master put the motion in the following form:—"That, in consequence of the emergency of the case, the petition be referred to the Colonial Board, to be taken into their careful consideration, and that they, in conjunction with the Grand Master, shall return such answer as they may conceive the interests of Masonry require."

Carried unanimously.

STRANGERS AT MASONIC FESTIVALS.

Bro. Warren moved:—"That in future no person not being a member of the Craft be allowed to dine at any of the Masonic Festivals." He said: "I believe the Brethren are generally aware that this in some measure alludes to the practice of introducing to the table at our Masonic festivals gentlemen as singers who are not members of the Craft, thereby leading the Brethren unconsciously to do wrong, by making allusions to matters affecting the Craft which ought not to be alluded to in the presence of strangers. This is another point on which I feel I may fairly ask and expect the support of the Grand Registrar (hear, and laughter), whose attention I beg to call to rule 11, page 22, of the Book of Constitutions. (Hear, hear.) That rule says:—'There shall be a Masonic festival, annually, on the Wednesday next following St. George's Day, which shall be dedicated to Brotherly love and refreshment, and to which all regular Masons may have access, on providing themselves with tickets from the Grand Stewards of the year. No private Lodge within the London district shall have a Masonic feast on the day of the grand festival.' I submit that the words 'all Masons' are superfluous, if other persons may sit down. (Hear.) This motion is chiefly addressed to the musical profession; but if gentlemen of one profession may be present, there is no reason why gentlemen in other professions should be excluded. (Hear, hear.) There are, moreover, so many excellent and efficient musical Brethren connected with the Craft, that it is not necessary to introduce any who do not belong to our Order." (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Dobie: "There are the ladies!"

Bro. Warren: "The ladies do not sit down at the table with us, and they do not come into the gallery till after dinner. I have served as Steward to the charities, and have called the attention of the other Stewards to the question. On the last occasion the Grand Stewards did take notice of it, but that is the only time, in the course of four years, that I could get the Stewards to do so. Therefore it is that I have thought it necessary to bring the matter before Grand Lodge. About three years ago, at one of the Masonic festivals, a ticket was sent to a Brother who was proprietor of one of the daily papers, and that Brother sent one of his reporters, who was not a Mason, to take a note of the proceedings at the festival. His presence was, however, objected to, on the ground of his not being a Mason, and I supplied an account myself. (Hear.) If they admitted musical gentlemen not Masons, they ought to admit reporters not Masons; they were inconsistent in making a distinction between one profession and another in such a matter."

Bro. Binckes seconded the motion, on the ground that the admission of strangers amongst the Brethren at the festivals was productive of evil, as the Brethren might be inadvertently led to make use of words and signs in the presence of such strangers, which ought carefully to be concealed. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was agreed to.

REPORTING THE PROCEEDINGS OF GRAND LODGE.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master then said, there was a point to which he wished to call the attention of the Brethren before they separated. He had seen a Brother taking a note of the proceedings throughout the whole of the evening. (Hear.) He had sent a message to that Brother, asking for what purpose he was so taking notes, and the reply was, that they were for the *Freemasons' Magazine*. (Hear, hear.) Now, he wished to remind that Brother and Grand Lodge that the *Freemasons' Magazine* was not a publication officially recognized by Grand Lodge, and that, moreover, they had some years since laid down a rule

that there should be *one* authorized reporter present, and that no other Brother should be allowed to take notes of the proceedings, and only so much should be published as was authorized by the Grand Master. He must therefore request that, for the future, this regulation might be attended to.

Grand Lodge was then adjourned in due form.

[Nothing can equal the ingratitude of human nature! Neither the ills done to the Canadas, nor the somewhat dilatory and involuntary remedy at last proposed for them, would have been known or obtained but for us; yet here is the Grand Master repudiating the very medium which will carry the tidings of justice to Canada, long before his own officials. Whence did the spirit of improvement, now rife amongst us, first draw breath, we boldly ask, but in the pages of the *Freemasons' Magazine*? America and England, however, both appreciate our efforts, whatever the G.M. may do. His opposition will be the finest stimulus to our circulation, we can assure him, which we could possibly desire, so we do not fear, but welcome it.—ED. *F. M. & M. M.*]

FREEMASONS' BOYS' SCHOOL.

The annual festival of the supporters of this school took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 11th March, and more than ordinary exertions had been made to secure a good attendance, owing to the circumstance of a school-house having just been bought, and which it is designed to open in March next. The chair was taken by the R.W. Bro. Lord Goderich, G.S.W., who was supported by Bro. Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. of Hampshire; Bro. Fleming, Prov. G.M. of the Isle of Wight; Bro. the Rev. J. E. Cox, G. Chap.; Bro. Spiers, P.G.S.B., and Dep. Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire; Bro. Jno. Hervey, P.G.D.; Bro. Forster White, P.G.D.; Bro. Giraud, P.G.D.; Bro. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Bro. Potter, P.G.S.B.; and about 250 of the Brethren ranged under the banners of the respective Stewards.

At the conclusion of the dinner, which was excellently served,

The R.W. Chairman rose to propose a toast, which he was sure required no preface—"The Health of Her Majesty the Queen." On this occasion he was sure they would not only drink the toast with that enthusiasm with which Her Majesty's name was always received by Englishmen, as a model of a wife, a woman, and a queen, but it would receive additional zest from the interest which Her Majesty had always taken in the prosperity of the institution. He therefore asked them to drink to the "Health of Her Majesty, the patroness of the Freemasons' Boys' School." (Cheers.)

The R.W. Chairman next proposed the "Health of H. R. H. Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the royal family." H. R. H. the Prince of Wales was the son of a Mason; and he trusted, when he was old enough, His Royal Highness would come amongst them as one of the Craft. (Cheers.)

The R.W. Chairman would now call on the Brethren to drink the "Health of the M.W.G.M., the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland." It would be unnecessary, and indeed almost impertinent, were he to occupy their time at any length in dilating on the good qualities of the noble earl as a Mason, or his virtues in private life. Those who had had the opportunity of coming in contact with the Grand Master were well acquainted with his zeal for the Order, his urbanity, and the dignity with which he presided over Masonic affairs (cheers); whilst those who knew him in private life were convinced that kindness of heart was the guiding principle of his nature. He begged them to drink to the health of their "Illustrious Grand Master." (Loud applause.)

The R.W. Chairman would next call upon them to drink "The Health of the R.W.D.G.M. the Earl of Yarborough, and the rest of the Grand Officers, past and present." They had again to regret the absence of the Earl of Yarborough in consequence of the state of his health. The noble earl, however, continued to take the liveliest interest in the Boys' School, as was evinced by the handsome donation

he had sent them, £10. 10s. as an annual subscription to the general funds, and £50 to the building fund. (Cheers.) He would couple with the toast the name of "The Rev. Bro. J. E. Cox, Grand Chaplain."

The R. W. Bro. Rev. J. E. Cox begged to return them the most cordial thanks of the Earl of Yarborough and the other Grand Officers for the compliment paid them. With regard to the Earl of Yarborough, though unable to be amongst them that evening, he was happy to say that his health was improving (cheers), and he was sure the noble earl would at all times be happy to join, as far as possible, in promoting the peace and harmony of the Craft, and the prosperity of its charities. (Cheers.)

After a song from Miss Messent, which was encored,

The Rev. Brother again rose and said, he had great pleasure in proposing a toast, which he felt assured would be cordially received, "The Health of their excellent and esteemed Chairman." (Cheers.) It was quite unnecessary for him to dilate on the manner in which his lordship filled the chair, as they would be enabled to estimate that for themselves. (Cheers.) It afforded him the greatest satisfaction to see his lordship presiding over them, and displaying the interest he took in the Boys' School, in common with the other charities. (Cheers.) He was sure their R. W. Bro. Lord Goderich could not better have evinced the interest he took in Freemasonry than by his patronage of the Boys' School, over which he had that evening presided. The toast was drunk amidst loud applause.

The R. W. Chairman was extremely grateful for the kind manner in which his health had been proposed, and the exceedingly cordial manner in which it had been received by the Brethren. He could assure them that he felt he had not done more in presiding over their meeting that evening than they had a right to expect from him in the position he held. He was extremely glad to find himself able to be present that evening, and preside over the festival of one of the most valuable institutions connected with Freemasonry. He felt that he should not be worthy of the office he had had the honour to receive from the hands of the Grand Master had he refused to occupy the chair, when requested to do so, of such a valuable and excellent Masonic charity. (Cheers.) He was aware that it would have been extremely easy to find an abler chairman ("No, no"), but they could not so easily have found one with more desire or greater zeal to serve the cause of the charity. (Cheers.) He begged once more to return them his grateful thanks for their kindness. Such manifestations as they had expressed towards him that evening could not be otherwise than most gratifying to a young Mason like himself, and he hoped he should never give them cause to regret their kindness. (Cheers.)

Bro. the Rev. J. E. Cox said, he had the honour to present to his lordship, for some mark of his approbation, those boys who had particularly distinguished themselves at the recent examinations. He, however, regretted much to have to state one circumstance to him which he wished to have made known to the members of the Craft generally. He regretted to say, that he had not, on examining the boys, found them as proficient on this as they had shown themselves to be on former occasions. Last year, indeed, that want of proficiency had been so great, that he had been conscientiously prevented from attending, as he could not express satisfaction at that which did not satisfy him. On the present occasion, he had pleasure in admitting the boys were in advance of last year (hear, hear), but the company must pardon him for saying, that he was convinced that the boys of the institution would never be sufficiently educated until they were housed and educated in one building, under the care of a clever, active, and experienced master (hear, hear)—until they were cared for and regarded as the girls were. They had now for some time tried the system of district schools, and although it had worked well for two or three years, it had in the long run entirely failed. He would not hesitate to say, that the education which the boys had hitherto received was not one at all worthy of the Craft. He would say no more on that head, because it rested with the members of the Craft themselves, and with themselves entirely, whether their education should continue as it had been, or whether it should progress with the wants and requirements of the times. If they wished for the latter result, he would call on them to aid the committee in their

endeavour to have them all housed, and receiving an education worthy of the Craft which professed to cultivate the arts and sciences.

The following is a list of the prizes and the boys to whom they were awarded :—*Writing* (Silver Medal), Roland Horatio Ward. *History* (Annals of the Hebrew Nation), Alfred James Crichton. *Geography* (Nineveh and its Palaces), Joseph Gray. *General Information* (a Million of Facts), Frederick Kislingbury. *Arithmetic* (Wonders of Science), Joseph Gray. *French* (Repertoire des Prosateurs Français), Louis Gamauf. Ditto, Frederick Kislingbury.

The boys who had been awarded prizes were then severally presented to his lordship, and received from him kind words of congratulation and encouragement.

The R.W. Chairman then rose to propose the toast of the evening, "Success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," coupled with the health of the R.W. Bro. Bond Cabbell, *M.P.*, Treasurer; and in doing so, said—"Brethren, I have now to propose to you a toast which is intimately connected with the object which has called us together. The sight which we have just witnessed must be always a pleasant one, for who can deny that it is pleasant to be brought face to face with those youths, engaged as they are in a system of intellectual and moral training, to fit them for taking a place in society. (Cheers.) I trust these young lads will form the future generation of Freemasons when we shall have passed away, and I hope the remembrance of your kindness will impress on them the value of that Order which has afforded them the means of education. The Royal Masonic Institution for boys has, as you are all aware, been in existence for no less a period than sixty years. At the present moment it stands at a turning point in its history; for after five years' exertions on the part of the committee, a building fund has been raised, which has enabled them to purchase a mansion in the neighbourhood of Hornsey as the school-house of the institution, in which they now propose to make the commencement of an establishment, in which the boys will be both lodged and instructed. Bro. Cox has told us some truths not very palatable. (Hear, hear.) It seems to me that the best remedy for these defects will be found in the establishment of such an institution as that which is proposed at Lordship Lodge. At the present moment the committee are not able to receive within that building more than twenty-five boys; and as there are altogether as many as seventy on the books of the charity, it must be clear to you all that it is but a small portion of them we are at present able to accommodate in the manner we wish. It seems to me, Brethren, that it ought to be the first object of the Craft, by a great effort, to extend the usefulness of these premises by rendering them more complete. Lord Yarborough has in that respect set us a worthy example. (Hear, hear.) Let us follow it, and not rest satisfied until we are able to say that the boys of the Royal Masonic Institution are all educated under our own eyes, and in a manner which enables us to control their moral training. (Hear, hear.) In these days no one can doubt that the spread of education is one of the most important matters that can engage our attention. Unhappily, in another place (laughter), we are more inclined to quarrel than to agree upon any particular system. This, however, only makes it the more imperative upon the friends of education, to devote themselves with more zeal to the promotion of it. (Hear, hear.) We know that among those nations which take the lead in civilization, we shall soon lag in the race of human progress if we overlook the importance of education. It is on behalf of an institution which seeks to realize this we are this evening met together, and I call upon you to support it with that spirit and self-denial from which the great and noble principles of our Order take their rise. (Cheers.) Those cheers tell me that you do not misinterpret the appeal which I have made to the Craft. Brethren, I call upon you to drink with me, 'Success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys,' coupling with it the health of Bro. Cabbell."

Bro. John Hervey, in the absence of Bro. Cabbell, replied to the toast, and handed in that worthy Brother's thirtieth subscription of £10. 10s.

The R.W. Chairman then said, that they should not forget that the toast which they had just drunk was that of the only charity connected with the festival of the evening, nor overlook the other charities of the Order, and he would therefore

ask them to toast the Girls' School and the Asylum for Aged Freemasons and their Widows. (Loud and continued cheering.)

Bro. Crew, having been most enthusiastically called upon, replied to the toast, and in doing so said, it was impossible not to feel most warmly the manner in which he had been called upon to come forward and return thanks on behalf of the Masonic charities. (Hear, hear.) He felt some difficulty in addressing so large an assembly as the one he saw before him. It had, it was true, often fallen to his lot in private Lodges to speak on behalf of that particular charity, with which he was himself connected, but there was no one of the charities in which he did not feel the same interest. The great basis of Freemasonry was charity, and if they were to strike that foundation away, the building would at once fall to the ground. He had especially to thank them on behalf of the Girls' School, for unless it had received the support of the Brethren, it could not have effected the vast amount of good which had flowed from its institution. The girls, he could assure them, were taught to feel, that although they might, in the ordinary course of things here below, have lost their natural parents, they might be sure of finding parents and Brethren in the members of the Craft. (Cheers.) He was not less anxious to thank them on behalf of the other Masonic charities, which he hoped to see flourishing; for, although it was desirable that they should have schools for the education of the young, it was no less important that they should have an asylum for the aged, and for the widows of those who had passed away from among them. To show the advantages of the charities generally, he would mention a few facts. Among the names of the boys who were that evening presented to receive prizes, he recognized one boy whose uncle had subscribed £300 to the institution. (Hear, hear.) If then the institution received that money from the uncle, it was fairly repaying it to the nephew. The moral of this was, that they should never forget that it might be their own turn, or the turn of their children, to become dependent on these institutions; and as they now supported them by their subscription, so they might, should such a day ever happen, fairly claim that relief as a right. (Hear, hear.) He could, from his own experience, bring before them the particulars of cases which would strike them with dismay. He could tell them of a child at present in the Girls' School, who had been, in the time of her father's prosperity, made by him a life governess of the institution. Much, then, was required from them in the support of these institutions, and they had no right to shrink from proving to the world that Masonry was something more than a name.

Bro. Thiselton, the Secretary, then read a list of subscriptions, which, with £10. 10s. from the Queen, a like sum from the noble chairman, and £50 a special subscription from the D.G.M., the Earl of Yarborough, for the purchase of furniture, amounted to £1,200.

The following is the return of subscriptions:—The R.W. B. B. Cabbell, *M.P.*, Prov. G.M. for Norfolk, £10. 10s.; Thomas Willis Fleming, Prov. G.M. for the Isle of Wight, £29. 3s.; George Harcourt, *M.D.*, D. Prov. G.M. for Surrey, P.M. No. 486, £18. 18s.; the Rev. W. H. Lyall, P.M. No. 10, £46. 17s.; William Blenkin, J.D. No. 1, £52. 10s.; John Randall, *M.D.*, S.W. No. 4, £27. 8s.; B. Head, P.M. No. 5, £68. 5s.; Isidor Levinson, W.M. No. 7, £58. 16s.; Thomas Fenn, No. 8, £37. 16s.; William Stanley Masterman, W.M. No. 11, £23. 11s. 6d.; Samuel Glover, W.M. No. 14, £18. 18s.; Henry James Godden, No. 21, £27. 6s.; Thomas Yallop, No. 30, £25. 4s.; Richard Dames, No. 32, £24. 3s.; William Kynaston, No. 66, £31. 10s.; H. Gregory, No. 87, £34. 2s.; Pierre F. J. Grosjean, W.M. No. 108, £34. 13s.; Edmund Phillips, J.G.D. No. 113, £44. 2s.; John Horatio Wynne, No. 118, £19. 19s.; Charles Morbey, P.M. No. 169, £12. 1s. 6d.; J. F. Van Hoppen, £27. 6s.; George Gurton, P.M. No. 201, £26. 5s.; James Burton, P.M. No. 202, £16. 16s.; Morris Levinson, W.M. No. 209, £9. 14s.; John Gurton, W.M. No. 211, £39. 7s.; Thomas Green, P.M. No. 212, £73. 13s.; John Watson, No. 229, £50. 8s.; Joseph Freeman, No. 233, £78. 15s.; James R. Sheen, P.M. No. 237, £25. 4s.; Charles Bailey, No. 269, £29. 8s.; H. K. Furnell, W.M. No. 275, £28. 10s.; Geo. Jos. Lyons, No. 324, £15. 15s.; Zachariah Watkins, P.M. No. 329, £27. Cs.; George J. A. Luff, W.M. No. 318, £42; James Robins, P.M. No. 661, £33. 12s.

His lordship then proposed "The Health of the Auditors and of the Members of the Committee."

Bro. John Hervey replied to the toast.

His lordship next proposed "The Health of the Board of Stewards," who had, he said, secured them a pleasant meeting, and a very good dinner.

Bro. Fleming replied to the compliment.

The toast of "The Ladies" followed, after which the Brethren having tickets retired to the Glee-room, which the greater majority were glad to quit as early as possible, notwithstanding the excellence of the musical arrangements under the direction of Bro. Donald King, who was ably assisted by Miss Messent, Mrs. Thomas, Bros. Genge, Lawler, and Winn; Mrs. King presiding at the piano-forte. In the course of the evening Bro. Hamilton Braham, who attended as a visitor, also favoured the company with a song, accompanying himself.

MASONIC ON-DITS.

That the R.W. Bro. Lord Panmure is to be appointed D.G.M., in the room of the R.W. Bro. the Earl of Yarborough, who retires in consequence of ill health. Should his lordship decline the appointment, it will be offered to the R.W. Bro. Lord Goderich.

That Bro. Roxburgh is to be G. Reg. vice Dobie, who retires.

That the Earl of Durham is to be G.S.W., and that Earl Carnarvon has been offered the J. Wardenship.

That Bro. White has withdrawn his resignation and is to be re-appointed G. Sec. This we doubt—sure we are, a more unpopular step could not be taken, much as Bro. White is respected for past services.

That the M.W. G.M. and a large body of distinguished Brethren have accepted invitations to be present at the installation of Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon as Master in May next. Nearly 200 Brethren are expected to be present.

PORTRAIT OF THE GRAND MASTER.

A beautiful half-length portrait of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W. G.M., drawn and engraved by Bro. H. C. Shenton, P.M. No. 40, has just been published. It is admirably executed in the most finished style of line engraving, is an excellent likeness, and reflects the greatest credit on our worthy Bro. Shenton. A limited number of proofs on India paper will be issued, and doubtless there will be a ready demand for them by the Brethren. The portrait is enclosed in an appropriate Masonic border.

METROPOLITAN.

GRAND STEWARDS' LODGE.—The Brethren of this Lodge held a public night on Wednesday, the 18th March, when Bro. Johnstone, W.M., presided, and every officer was in his place before the opening. The first lecture was worked in sections by the following Brethren:—1. Bro. Stohwasser, S.W.; 2. Bro. Grosjean; 3. Bro. Hewlett, S.D.; 4. Bro. Warren, J.D.; 5. Bro. Watson, Sec.; 6. Bro. Warren, J.D.; 7. Bro. Watson, Sec. There was a numerous attendance of visitors.

ROYAL SOMERSET HOUSE AND INVERNESS LODGE (No. 4).—At the monthly meeting of this excellent Lodge, Bro. Francis Roxburgh (who, by the by, it is reported is to be the future G. Reg.), passed three Brethren to the 2nd Degree. At the close of the business, the Brethren, to the number of twenty-three, adjourned to refreshment. During the evening, a pleasing compliment was offered this Lodge by Bro. Slight, who presented the Brethren with a very beautiful balloting-box. The W.M., on behalf of the Lodge, acknowledged the compliment, and paid a well-merited tribute to the kindly feeling evinced by Bro. Slight towards this Lodge.

ST. GEORGE AND CORNER-STONE LODGE (No. 5).—The Brethren of this very respectable Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 9th March, when the W.M., Bro. A. Perkins most ably initiated one gentleman into the mysteries of the Order. Other business having been disposed of, the Brethren retired to banquet. Among the visitors present we noticed Bro. H. K. Furnell, W.M. No. 275.

ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—Masonic Lodges, in common with other kindred bodies and societies, are liable to those alternations of fortune incident to every human institution, and like empires and nations they have their rise and fall—they flourish and decay. It is often difficult, in some instances impossible, to account for the stream of prosperity running in any particular channel; equally so to assign any reasons why the tide of adversity should set in any specific direction. Knowing how impracticable the research into these mysteries, the depths of which are past finding out, we will quit the region of speculative philosophy, and descend to dry matter of fact. The Royal York Lodge has enjoyed a long career of success; but we question if it has ever equalled its present condition. What measure of prosperity is in store for it, we cannot pretend to determine; but we are far from thinking it has attained its culminating point. At all events it gained additional renown on Wednesday, 18th inst., when it was honoured by being selected as the medium for the introduction to that light which the "divine art" is so well calculated to afford, of a highly distinguished personage from a distant land, who on that day carried into execution a long-cherished wish of entering into the glorious fellowship of Freemasonry. A heavy day's "work" was commenced by Bro. Hervey, P.M. and P.G.S.D., who raised three Brethren to the Sublime Degree of M.M. Bro. J. Levinson, W.M., then passed five Brethren to the 2nd Degree; after which he initiated Mr. G. Jackson, H.M.'s Consul at Kertch, and Mr. E. Lees Coffey, Private Secretary to H.H. Meer Ali Morad Khan, Ameer of Scinde; these ceremonies concluded, His Highness the Ameer was himself introduced, and initiated into the Order,—Bro. Coffey acting as interpreter. There was a numerous assemblage of members of the Lodge, and visitors, all of whom evidently felt a deep interest in the proceedings. And surely the ceremony and the circumstances connected with it, were calculated to make a deep impression on the minds of all present. There stood an alien in country and in blood, professing a strange creed, differing in colour, ignorant of our language, about to be admitted as a "friend," and to be received as a "Brother" by the members of an institution, the branches of which are spread over the four quarters of the globe; which knows no difference, and draws no distinction, between climes, creeds, colours, languages, requiring simply a reverence for the "good" and the "true," with an acknowledgment of our Supreme Being. Considering the difficulties attending it, the ceremony was ably and impressively performed; and at its conclusion the venerable chief, a native of Beloochistan, and belonging to a race supposed to be descendants of one of the lost tribes of Israel, was congratulated on his reception into the folds of the "Universal Brotherhood." The banquet followed in due course, and proved a most excellent repast. The interest of the proceedings was continued throughout the evening; Bro. Coffey responding on behalf of H.H. Bro. Morad Khan, and affording much valuable information on the subject of Masonry in the East, and giving the result of his conclusions so far as he could deduce them, by the help of his hitherto vague ideas. Bro. Jackson replied on behalf of "The Initiates," assuring the Brethren how anxious he felt to improve his acquaintance with the

principles of Masonry, and to disseminate them amongst those with whom he was about to take up his residence. Bro. Coffey having been loudly called for, again delighted the company with his earnest and intelligent remarks. H. H. The Ameer took his departure early, amid the hearty plaudits of his newly-found Brethren. The W.M. was unfortunately suffering from indisposition, in consequence of which a portion of his duties in Lodge and at banquet devolved upon Bro. Hervey. How they were performed needs not to be mentioned. The visitors to this Lodge are generally numerous, and on all occasions cannot fail to be gratified at the manner in which the "work" is done by all concerned—W.M. and officers being alike thoroughly efficient. The list comprised the names of Bros. J. Havers, P.G.J.D. ; W. P. Scott, W.M. No. 2 ; F. Slight, W.M. No. 109, and G. Steward ; D. Gooch, P.M. No. 38, and D. Prov. G.M. Wilts ; M. Levinson, W.M. No. 209 ; S. Hopwood, W.M., No. 329 ; Richie, P.M. No. 5 ; F. Binckes, P.M. No. 11 ; Staples, P.M. No. 66 ; G. Lambert, P.M. No. 234 ; King, Marshall, Milson, James, No. 61 ; Barnard, No. 63 ; Walker, No. 212 ; Bainbridge, No. 329 ; Stevens, No. 527 ; Panchaud, No. 778 ; De la Chaumette, &c. &c. The large influx of visitors somewhat taxed the energies of Bro. Adlard, Dir. of Cer., but, as usual, he surmounted all difficulties, and was entirely successful in giving satisfaction to all, and in promoting their comfort and enjoyment. We must not omit to mention that Bro. T. Lucas, who has already served the stewardship for each of the schools, offered himself in the same capacity for the Festival in aid of the Benevolent Institution in June next. On Friday, March 20, a Lodge of Emergency was held, when his Excellency's son, Meer Franz Mahomed Khan Talport, was initiated by the W.M., Bro. Levinson. The newly-initiated Brother left almost immediately on the conclusion of the ceremony, in consequence of labouring under severe illness.

BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).—This distinguished Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, March 16th, when a Brother was passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft. The Lodge was visited by Bro. Hunter, of No. 76.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—A large number of the Brethren of this Lodge assembled at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, March 3rd, the business being more than usually voluminous ; the W.M. Bro. Friend presiding with great ability. There were two initiations (Messrs. Hunt and Taylor), one passing (Bro. Poussin), and three raisings (Bros. Steven, Helger, and Pouton) ; the whole of the ceremonies being most beautifully performed by the W.M. The P.Ms. present included Bros. Burton, Manin M'Culloch, Woods, Valentine, and Wm. Rackstraw, the indefatigable Secretary. A little after eight the Brethren retired from labour to refreshment. The usual complimentary toasts were given and responded to, Bro. C. D. Furber, of Lodge No. 276, returning thanks as a visitor, and Bro. Burton replying for the Past Masters, upon which he took the opportunity of calling the attention of the Brethren to the fact of his being one of the Stewards of the Boys' School, and soliciting co-operation upon the occasion. Bro. Burton expatiated most elaborately upon the value of the Institution, showing how valuable Masonic Institutions were, they being of no sect or party ; that even if application was made for a Jewish orphan of a Freemason, and it was incompatible for his admittance upon religious scruples, the Craft would find assistance to place him elsewhere.

WESTMINSTER AND KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 10).—A meeting of the above Lodge was held on the 4th March, when the chair was occupied by Bro. Wyndham Portal, Prov. J.G.W. Hants, W.M., supported by Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal, as S.W., Bro. Benson, J.W., &c. Bro. Nelson Rycroft was raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., and Bro. Viscount Valletort was passed to the 2nd Degree. The Brethren then adjourned to a banquet. Among the visitors present was the Hon. Alan Herbert, J.W. No. 460, Oxford.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—At the ordinary monthly meeting of 11th March, Mr. Masson was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, and a Brother passed to the 2nd Degree, both ceremonies being very ably performed by the W.M., Bro. W. S. Masterman, who, at their conclusion, resigned the chair to Bro.

Binckes, P.M., when Bro. Birch was raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M. On the resumption of the chair by the W.M., the Lodge resolved itself into a committee, for the purpose of considering the proposed alterations and amendments of the By-laws, which were unanimously approved, and ordered to be printed for circulation amongst the members. Bro. Masterman, W.M., very handsomely volunteered to represent the Lodge as Steward at the Festival in aid of the Benevolent and Annuity Funds in June next, and notice of motion was given that the sum of £5. 5s. be granted from the Charity Fund, and placed on Bro. Masterman's list on that occasion, £5. 5s. having been subscribed at a former Festival. At the termination of business the Brethren adjourned to the Great Hall, where they reassembled at the Boys' School Festival, under the banner of their W.M., who acted as Steward.

TUSCAN LODGE (No. 14).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on the 24th March, under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. Samuel Glover, who passed two of the members to the 2nd Degree.

NEPTUNE LODGE (No. 22).—This long-established and flourishing Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Thursday, the 26th of March, at Radley's Hotel, in new Bridge Street, and there was a great amount of business. Bro. Joseph Ashwell, the W.M., presided, and was supported by all his officers. Mr. William James Scott was initiated; Bros. Dew and Kelland were passed; and Bros. Le Cren, Lemare, and White, were raised. The correct and impressive manner in which the ceremonies were gone through by the W.M., was acknowledged as it deserved by the P.M. of the Lodge. Bro. Clarke, P.M., pursuant to notice in brief but feeling terms, moved, "That a Jewel of the value of £5 be presented to Bro. Theophilus Goodwin, P.M., as a testimony of the high appreciation of the Lodge at the manner in which he presided over its Members during the year 1856;" which was carried unanimously. All business being ended, the Brethren adjourned to banquet, and spent a most pleasant evening; the visitors tendering their meed of praise to the W.M., for the excellent working of the Lodge; and Bro. Scott, the newly-initiated member, in his address afforded promise of being a most efficient addition to the Craft. There is always a goodly array of Past Masters in attendance, who not only take active part in the business of the Lodge, but at the festive Board, by their social qualifications, render all around them happy and united.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, 19th March. A Brother was efficiently passed to the 2nd Degree, and a gentleman initiated into the Order by the W.M. Bro. Goodman.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 2nd March; Bro. Jno. Clements, W.M., presiding. Bros. Batson and Pierpoint having been raised as M.Ms., the W.M. most efficiently initiated his son, Mr. G. W. Clements, into the Order. Bro. Wm. Watson, P.M., who has belonged to the Lodge for nearly twenty years, was unanimously elected an honorary member, the compliment being briefly and appropriately acknowledged. As is usual with this Lodge, it had a large number of visitors; and, at the proper time, their feelings were unanimously expressed as to the working of the Lodge. Among them we noticed Bros. Baxter, C. Lee, J. W. Adams, Hewlett, P.Ms.; J. Levinson, Garrod, Sacqui, W.Ms., &c. &c. The W.M. called the attention of the younger members to the great benefits of attending proper Lodges of Instruction, the attendance at which enabled them to fulfil their duties in their respective Lodges. Bro. C. Sloman, who has become a joining member of the Lodge, contributed much to the harmony of the evening, in the course of which he introduced the following new Masonic song, written and composed by himself:—

To feel for mankind as we feel for ourselves,
Is a maxim we ever should hold;
From the monarch who reigns, to the peasant who delves,
We are all of the very same fold.

Let the cynical fool the opinion despise,
 But this truth everlasting will stand :
 When we see others fall, we should help them to rise,
 And assist them with heart and with hand.
 Then be reason your guide, of excesses beware ;
 Still keep within compass, and act on the square.

From the point in the circle we wisdom can glean,
 Unto all we a limit should see ;
 For even economy may become mean,
 And bounty profuseness may be.
 Thus virtue itself demarcation should find,
 And the boundary line keep within ;
 For if prudence, true pilot, we once leave behind,
 We know not where regret may begin.
 Then be reason your guide, of excesses beware ;
 Still keep within compass, and act on the square.

Let's be taught by Dame Nature, her laws are the best,
 Hath not ocean the land as its bound ?
 The earth in its orbit is never at rest,
 Yet in safety the planet goes round.
 Autumn comes before winter ; ere summer the spring ;
 Thus a proper succession they keep ;
 For each season its own gracious blessing doth bring,
 From which Man his enjoyment can reap.
 Then be reason your guide, of excesses beware ;
 Still keep within compass, and act on the square.

EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 29).—The members of this Lodge met on the 5th March, at the George and Blue Boar Tavern, Holborn, for the dispatch of Masonic business, which consisted of the passing of Bro. W. Rice, and the raising of Bro. Benjamin Banks, jun. ; the ceremonies being performed by Bro. Shepherd, the W.M., with great ability. The labours of the evening being ended, the Brethren retired to refreshment, served in Bro. Hayne's best style, and a very pleasant evening was spent. The visitors were numerous, and included Bros. J. Smith, No. 201 ; Alfred Suckling, No. 51 ; F. Clemow, No. 85 ; T. L. Fox, W.M. No. 19 ; Thomas Bohn, W.M. No. 955 ; S. M. Lazarus, P.M. No. 61 ; E. T. Fernandez, &c. &c.

OLD KING'S ARMS LODGE (No. 30).—In the absence of "business" the only noticeable feature in the meeting of Monday, 23rd February, was the presentation of a P.M.'s Jewel to Bro. William Paas, the immediate P.M. Addressing Bro. Paas, the W.M. (Bro. Croft) assured him how much satisfaction it gave him to present in the name of the Lodge that token of regard and esteem, which had been justly earned by the admirable manner in which he had acquitted himself, both in the Lodge and at banquet. In reply Bro. Paas said : "Worshipful Master and Brethren, believe me I feel deeply indebted for this renewed mark of your kindness. I am myself conscious of many deficiencies and short-comings, which you have been good enough to overlook. I can, however, fearlessly assert that it has ever been my anxious endeavour to do my utmost to ensure your approval, and, being aware of my deficiencies in some points, I have endeavoured to support the honour and character of the Lodge, and to maintain its fame and name by a constant attendance at the Quarterly Communications and at the Board of Benevolence. I have only once again to return you my sincere thanks for the handsome embodiment of your good wishes just presented to me, which I shall ever continue to prize and value." The banquet was provided with every regard to elegance and plenty, and the "good cheer," provided by Messrs. Elkington and Co., was done ample justice to. The pleasures of the evening were materially enhanced by the admirable musical treat afforded by Bros. Lawler and Jolly, and more particularly by Bro. F. Crew, who is equally at home and equally excellent in solo, duet,

glee, or anything connected with the "heavenly art." The visitors were Bros. Bisgood, D. Prov. G.M. Kent, and P.M. No. 8; F. Crew, P.M. and Sec. No. 1; F. Binckes, P.M. No. 11; H. Canton, No. 444 (Frankfort, under English Constitution), King, United States, &c. There was only one feeling, namely, of regret, at being compelled to "break the links" of such joy and harmony so soon, but as "evanescence" is stamped on everything human, the social delights of the Old King's Arms must, perforce, share the "common lot." But while we mournfully exclaim "Vale, vale," we are cheered by the thought "Redeunt saturnia regna."

ST. ALBAN'S LODGE (No. 32).—This Lodge held its meeting at the London Coffee-house, on Monday, March 9th, when Bro. George Dames was raised to the 3rd Degree, and Mr. Owen Bower was most efficiently initiated into the secrets and mysteries of the Craft by Bro. P.M. Simmons, after which the Brethren retired to banquet, and passed an extremely pleasant evening.

BRITANNIA LODGE (No. 38).—A Lodge of Emergency was held at the Thatched House Tavern, on the 13th March, when Bro. Lord Alfred Paget and Three other Brothers, were passed to the 2nd Degree, and five Brothers raised to the 3rd Degree. The installation of Bro. Geo. England, as successor to the present excellent Master Bro. H. Bridges, P. Prov. G.W. of Surrey, when, in consequence of the large attendance which is expected, the Lodge will be held at Willis's Rooms, the Thatched House not being sufficiently spacious to afford the required accommodation.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 25th March, the W. M. Bro. Jno. Absolon, raised Bro. Lemon to the 3rd Degree. The other business was merely formal.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—At the meeting of this Lodge at the Bridge House Hotel, on the 19th March, Bro. Sheriff, W.M., raised three Brothers and passed two to the Degrees for which they were respectively qualified.

ROYAL JUBILEE LODGE (No. 85).—This Lodge held a meeting on Monday, March 2, at Bro. Clemow's, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. There being no business on the books, some of the sections were worked; after which the Brethren retired to supper, which was admirably served by the worthy host. The W.M., Bro. Sargent, most ably discharged the duties of the chair, assisted by P.Ms. Bros. Hayward, Parr, &c. The visitors were Bros. Easter and Charnock, of the United Pilgrims.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—This Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern for the despatch of business on Thursday, March 12th. One initiation and a 3rd Degree were the only matters before the Lodge, the ceremonies being performed by the W.M., Bro. Grosjean, in admirable style. Bro. Solomon, P.M., presented the Lodge with a very handsome Master's Jewel, and on the motion of Bro. Warren, seconded by Bro. W. Johnston, P.M., it was resolved that a vote of thanks should be recorded on the minutes for the present. Several distinguished visitors were present, who expressed themselves highly delighted with the entertainment afforded them. The Brethren departed at an early hour, after partaking of a splendid collation, to which ample justice was done.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 118).—The Brethren of this Lodge met on Tuesday, March 3, at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, when the W.M., Bro. Scott, initiated Messrs. Mobbs and Aldberry, and passed Bro. C. Southall to the Degree of a Fellow Craft. After the disposal of the usual business, Bro. Beard, the Hon. Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Tutill, for his kindness in giving the gratuitous use of his flags and banners on the occasion of the Lodge ball; the proposition was seconded by Bro. Farthing, and carried unanimously. The Hon. Secretary also alluded to the result of the ball, and said there would be a good surplus for the charities. It was also proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously, that a vote of thanks be proffered to Bro. Beard, for his kind and efficient services as Hon. Secretary to the ball. The Brethren then adjourned, and partook

of a banquet prepared by Bro. George Painter, in his usual excellent style. The visitors included Bro. R. Jones, No. 25; Knowles, and Price.

LONDON LODGE (No. 125).—The members of this Lodge assembled together at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday, March 7th, when the W.M., Bro. Dr. Dowman, very ably initiated a gentleman into Freemasonry, and advanced a Brother to a further Degree, both ceremonies being creditably performed.

LODGE OF GOOD REPORT (No. 158).—The members of this Lodge met at Radley's Hotel, on Thursday, 5th of March, when three Brethren were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Masons. The Lodge was visited by Bro. Byron, of Lodge No. 57.

ST. THOMAS'S LODGE (No. 166).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday, the 7th of March, Bro. James Batsford, W.M., in the chair, who most efficiently raised a duly qualified Brother to the Master Mason's Degree, and initiated a gentleman into the Order, assisted by Bro. Frampton, P.M., there being several visiting Brethren present.

LODGE OF PRUDENT BRETHREN (No. 169).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Tuesday, 24th March, there being a goodly assemblage of Brethren. Bro. Blackburn, the W.M., presided with great ability, initiating into the Order Messrs. Henry Muller and William Greygoose, advancing Bros. Holt, Jones, and Hammond to the 2nd Degree, and conferring the Master Mason's Degree upon Bro. Sharpe; all of which duties were performed in a manner to give the highest satisfaction.

CADOGAN LODGE (No. 188).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, March 17th, for the installation of the W.M., and other business. The retiring W.M., Bro. Hall, initiated Mr. William John Leach into the mysteries of the Order, and raised Bro. Henry Kirkman to the 3rd Degree in a very able and impressive manner. The W.M. then resigned his chair to Bro. William Hardman, P.M., and Sec. of the Lodge, who proceeded to install the W.M. elect, Bro. Edmund Read, he having been unanimously elected to fill the office at the previous meeting. The next duty was the appointment and investiture of the Officers, viz. :—Bros. H. C. Read, S.W.; Richardson, J.W.; Sandon, P.M., Treas.; Hardman, P.M., Sec.; Francis, S.D.; S. W. Daukes, Grand Supt. of Works, J.D.; Hall, P.M., Dir. of Cer.; Meusch, I.G. The proceedings were conducted in a manner reflecting the highest credit on all the Brethren, and after partaking of an excellent banquet, and spending a most delightful evening, which was much enhanced by some admirable singing, the Brethren separated with the greatest harmony and cordiality. Among the visitors present were, Bros. Smith, Quebec, Canada, No. 214, and Greville, No. 212, Universal.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The members of this still increasing Lodge assembled at the Freemasons' Tavern, for the despatch of Masonic matters, on Tuesday, March 3rd, Bro. Jeffries, W.M., in the chair. The business was of a most voluminous character, comprising three initiations (Messrs. William Jackson, J. Corben, and W. Davis), one passing (Bro. Potts), and the conferring the third Degree upon Bro. Harvey, the whole of these arduous duties being performed by the W.M. in a highly creditable manner. Lodge having been closed in due form, the Brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, at the conclusion of which the Master gave "The Queen and Craft," which was received with that true loyalty for which the brotherhood are famous, the national anthem being beautifully rendered by Bros. Emmens, P.M., and Secretary, Henry Taylor, and Webb. Bro. G. F. Taylor presided at the pianoforte. The usual toasts to the G.M. and D.G.M., the Earls of Zetland and Yarborough, followed, after which the W.M. proposed the health of Bro. Laughlin, the chaplain, expressing the pleasure the Brethren felt in seeing him once more amongst them. Bro. Laughlin, in reply, said, "Worshipful Master,—I have upon this, as upon all other occasions, felt it my duty, as well as my pleasure, to be amongst you. It is at all times a gratification to be present at this delightful Lodge; and this is the first time I have

had the opportunity of thanking the W.M. for his appointing me to another office, in addition to that of chaplain. I was not aware that two offices could be held at the same time in one Lodge. Still, if it is admissible, I shall be but too happy to discharge the duties to the best of my ability. I cannot conclude without offering a word or two upon the subject of Freemasonry—the good feeling which it engenders; that although we may be seated next a brother with whose name we may be unacquainted, still as Masonic Brethren, we warm towards each other, showing the essence of Freemasonry—unity, concord, and brotherly love. The initiates must have observed, on their admittance to the Order this night, that there was a great moral truth in Masonry, and, to a feeling mind, must engender a greater love towards all mankind than felt heretofore. Our benevolence is not confined to a small circle; for if, by the inscrutable will of the Great Architect, a Brother is snatched from us, the widow is never forsaken, nor the orphans compelled to beg their bread. Brethren, I am happy to find that we have invested one hundred pounds for our benevolent fund. [This remark was the more affecting from the fact of a Brother having died since the previous meeting, his widow having been relieved by the Lodge, and his child being a candidate for the school.] It is a good beginning, and I trust may go on increasing from year to year, without one of us requiring to be a recipient. There is one observation respecting Lodge matters, I should wish to place before the W.M.; that Brethren should obtain the assistance of a learned brother, or attend Lodges of Instruction, to learn the necessary duties, and the answers required in progressing from one Degree to another; for, to visitors, it cannot appear that we are too careful in our Lodge business, when continual prompting is required. Brethren, I thank you.” Several other toasts were given and responded to, among which were “The Visitors,” Bros. S. E. Davis, Wentworth Davis, P.Ms. No. 812, and Pringle, No. 211, acknowledged by Bro. T. Davis. The W.M. returned thanks, in a neat speech, for his health being drunk. Bro. Nicholson returned thanks for the Past Masters, and Bro. Jackson, S.W., for the officers. A most delightful evening was passed, and thanks were due to Bros. Walters and Swainson, the stewards, for their attention, not forgetting the excellent treasurer, Bro. Kennedy, for the careful outlay of the funds.

PHENIX LODGE (No. 202).—A very numerous meeting of the members of this flourishing Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday, March 14, when two Brothers were ably raised to the 3rd Degree by Bro. Burton, W.M. and his officers. At the close of the Masonic business, the Brethren adjourned to dinner, after which a truly musical evening was passed, there being present Bros. Hamilton Braham, Donald King, Genge, Lawler, Wyndham Winn, Fielding, J. L. Toole, and C. Sloman. The five part glees and madrigals were beautifully performed, and it is rare indeed so much musical talent is concentrated at the festive board of a single Lodge.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—There was a large assemblage of the members on Monday evening, March 8th, at Bro. Ireland's, Fetter Lane, Bro. Garrod, the W.M., initiated a candidate, and passed one Brother, and raised another, after which Bro. W. Carpenter, P.M., moved a resolution, expressive of the opinion of a committee appointed at the previous Lodge meeting, to inquire into an initiated Brother's character, which resolution respectfully but strongly urged upon the W.M. not to confer upon the Brother referred to the 2nd Degree, inasmuch as the imputations to which he had subjected himself since his initiation were of a very grave description, and such as the Brethren could not undertake to defend him against. The resolution was seconded by Bro. Marshall, P.M., and unanimously adopted. The Lodge having been closed in due form, the Brethren retired to refreshment.

MANCHESTER LODGE (No. 209).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Thursday, the 19th March, Bro. M. Levinson, W.M., presiding. The business consisted in initiating Mr. P. Wallis, several passings, and a raising. The visitors present were Bros. Laffitte Bordeaux; P.Ms. Couchman, No. 165; Morby, No. 169; Harrison, No. 202; Andrews, No. 752; Garrett,

No. 745; Helfrich, No. 19; Robinson, No. 237; Hewson, No. 281; &c. The Brethren then adjourned to a banquet, which was served with the usual liberality by Bro. Rackstraw, who, to the regret of all the Brethren, is obliged to quit the tavern, in consequence of public improvements in that locality.

ST. JAMES'S UNION LODGE (No. 211).—This Lodge resumed its Masonic labours on Tuesday, March 7th, at the Freemasons' Tavern. A large amount of business being announced, the Brethren assembled at an early hour, the W.M. Bro. John Gurton presiding. Three gentlemen, Mr. John Webb, Mr. Edward Abrahams, and Mr. Peacock, were initiated into the Order; Bros. Smithurst and Morley were intrusted with an advanced Degree; and Bros. Daniel and W. H. Roberts had the Degree of M.M. conferred upon them. The following Brethren were balloted for, and admitted, as joining members:—Bro. Edward Smith, No. 756; Bro. Edward Hart, No. 139; and Bro. G. F. Taylor, No. 201, the working, which was admirably performed, being entirely carried through by the W.M.; after which the Brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet.

LODGE OF TRANQUILLITY (No. 218).—This Lodge, at its first meeting under the W.M., Bro. J. Davis (who was initiated at the last meeting), on Monday, 10th March, initiated one gentleman into the mysteries, passed a Brother, and raised three Brothers to M.M.;—most excellently were the duties performed. After which the Brethren adjourned to banquet, numbering close upon forty, including visitors. Bro. Burton, the W.M. of Phoenix Lodge, acknowledged the toast by returning thanks for the visitors. There were collected in aid of the Benevolent Fund attached to the Lodge, £7.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 223).—This numerous and excellent working Lodge held their usual monthly meeting on Monday, March 2, at the Albion Tavern; the W.M. Bro. Alexander presiding, supported by a large body of P.Ms., among whom we noticed Bros. Henry Lyons, Jones, Ellis, Canstatt, Arons, Canard, Harris, and Selig, Secretary. The business consisted of one passing (Bro. Reisner), and three raisings (Bros. H. Levy, Magnus, and Schapira), these ceremonies being efficiently performed by the W.M., and most ably assisted by the Wardens, Bros. H. Harris and David Marks. This business ended, the Brethren adjourned to a very splendid banquet. The cloth being cleared, the W.M. proffered the toast of "The Queen and Craft," followed by that of "The Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master." After which Bro. H. Lyons, P.M., proposed the health of the W.M., thanking him for his urbanity, and congratulating the Brethren upon having a Master who, for admirable working, would sustain the high position the Lodge of Joppa held in the Craft. The Master briefly returned thanks, and trusted the Brethren would pardon his taking an early leave of them, he having very recently lost a dear relation. The W.M. then retired, and the chair was taken by Bro. H. Lyons, who carried out the further duties of the evening with that courtesy and kindness for which he is so proverbial. Among the most important toasts was one to the success of "The Joppa Benevolent Fund," which met the response of a liberal subscription. Bro. Canstatt, the president of the fund, returned thanks for the support this fund had met with since its formation about six years since. It amounted to nearly seven hundred pounds; he believed that no other Lodge in the Craft could boast of such a benevolent fund. Yet, although (continued Bro. Canstatt) this appears a large amount, it does not follow that we should relax our exertions for its continued prosperity. The chairman, in proposing "The Visitors" (Bros. Davis, W.M. No. 218; M. Harris, S.W. No. 218; and G. F. Taylor, No. 201), mentioned the fact, that the Brothers of the Tranquillity were offshoots from the Joppa, this being the Mother Lodge, from which emanated the strength of the Tranquillity, the child being now as strong as the parent. He (the W.M.) was glad that such a reciprocity of feeling existed between the two Lodges. Bro. Davis acknowledged the toast, and said that the Lodges of Joppa and Tranquillity might almost be said to be one vast Lodge, merely divided into sections, for the interchange of kindly feeling between the members of these Lodges was well known. Bro. Lyon proposed the better health of Bro. David Moses, who had been prevented from being amongst them latterly,

on account of severe illness. Bro. Moses had held the office of Treasurer of this Lodge for upwards of forty years; and he (the W.M.) fervently hoped the Great Architect of the Universe would spare him for many years to come. Before the conclusion of the evening, it was proposed and seconded that a dispensation should be applied for, to enable Bro. Lyon to introduce his second son, Mr. Isaac Lyon, into the Order, he not being of the full age required by the Masonic law.

LODGE OF CONFIDENCE (No. 228).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Monday, 8th March, at Anderton's Hotel, there being a good assemblage of the members. The W.M., Bro. Jackson, presided, and performed the ceremony of initiation with a great deal of pathos, and impressed the initiate with an idea of the beauty of the Order. The W.M. also conferred the highest Degree in Craft Masonry upon a Brother. After which the Brethren retired to dinner, which was excellently served by the host, Bro. Clemow. The Brethren appeared to enjoy themselves, and separated early, highly delighted with the entertainment.

LODGE OF ISRAEL (No. 247).—At the regular meeting of this numerous Lodge, on Thursday, the 12th of March, held at Seyd's Hotel, in Finsbury Square, Bro. I. M. Isaacs, W.M., the following gentlemen were initiated into Masonry:—Lazarus Sampson, Robert Philip Noah, Thomas James Vallance, Henry Sibling, and Joseph Platnour. Bros. A. Solomon, D. Davis, S. Joseph, and Howell, were passed to the 2nd Degree; and Bros. S. Solomon, Fernandez, Abrahams, and Clare, were raised to the 3rd Degree. The entire business, occupying five hours, was gone through by the W.M. most excellently. There was a full attendance of the members, some new members proposed, and several more, we understand, are waiting for initiation. We are gratified to report that the Benevolent Fund continues to increase.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 10th March, Bro. Carter, W.M. passed Bros. Hodgkin and Morris to the 2nd Degree. The next meeting of this Lodge will be the last Masonic gathering at the Gun, which is about to be demolished for the Pimlico improvements. May we soon meet Bro. Rackstraw in another, and, if possible, better house.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—This Lodge met on Thursday, the 5th March, for the despatch of Masonic business, Bro. Pierce Egan, W.M., presiding. The business consisted of advancing to a further Degree Bro. K. D. Hughes, which was admirably performed by the W.M. After which a very pleasing and elegant compliment was paid this Lodge by the presentation of a valuable Master's Jewel, by Bro. P.M. Benjamin West, being that of the square, in solid gold, the seal of the Lodge attached thereto, to be worn by the W.M. and his successors in office. It was resolved that the same be accepted, and that the warmest thanks of the Brethren be proffered to Bro. P.M. West, for his munificent present. Bro. West thereupon invested Bro. Egan with the Jewel, in a neat speech redolent of Masonic kindly expressions of his regard to this Lodge, which he had had the pleasure of being associated with for many years. The W.M., in returning thanks, alluded to the honour done the Lodge by the kind donor of the Jewel in a feeling and eloquent speech. These matters ended, the Brethren adjourned to banquet, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to.

LODGE OF UNION (No. 318).—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 2nd of March, Bro. Luff, W.M., presiding. The business before the Lodge was the ceremonies of the various Degrees, the performance of which was admirably rendered by the W.M., assisted by his Officers. Other business having been despatched, the Brethren adjourned to dinner, and spent a most harmonious evening.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 778).—This distinguished Lodge resumed its Masonic labours on Thursday, the 12th March, at the Freemasons' Tavern, W.M. Bro. Johnson presiding with his usual ability; the business being the advancement of two Brothers to the 2nd and 3rd Degrees, which ceremonies were performed by the W.M. with his accustomed taste. The Brethren appeared in

mourning, on account of the recent death of P.M. Bro. Detkins, to which a most feeling allusion was made by P.M. Bro. Shujewski adverting to the kindly feeling evinced towards the Brethren by their deceased Brother. He was one of the earliest members of the Lodge, and had passed through the various offices leading to the Chair in a manner to reflect the highest credit on himself and the Lodge. After passing the Chair, instead of retiring from active duty, which is usual, Bro. Detkins proffered his services to the Brethren as Secretary, the office being vacant through unavoidable circumstances, which was gratefully accepted and held by the lamented Brother until it pleased the Great Architect to call him to that undiscovered country from which no traveller returns. It was further stated that his almost sudden death had left a widow and six children totally unprovided for. It was proposed and seconded that the sum of five guineas should be handed to the widow from the Lodge funds, for the present necessity, until arrangements for farther assistance could be made. Bro. Paas kindly undertook the office of Secretary, without the usual privileges attending that office, for which he was thanked by the Brethren. An excellent banquet was provided by the proprietor of the Freemasons' Tavern; the members separating early, dispensing with the hilarity usual to this Lodge, in consequence of the circumstance above referred to.

FITZROY LODGE (No. 830).—This Lodge of Military Masons met at the headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company, Finsbury, on Friday, 27th of February, when Bro. Ballin (Quartermaster) was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, and Captain Jay was initiated into the mysteries of the Order. The visitors were Bros. German and Pain, No. 11; Helsham, No. 113; and Goepel, No. 580.

CANONBURY LODGE (No. 955).—The first meeting of this Lodge, since the installation of the present W.M., Bro. Bohn, took place on the 12th March, at the Canonbury Tavern, Islington. The business of the evening consisted of the raising of Bro. George Duke, the passing of Bros. Stroud, Driver, and Willis, and the initiation of Mr. Alfred Folkes, the whole of the ceremonies being ably worked by the W.M., assisted by a very competent staff of Officers. At the conclusion of business, the Brethren sat down to a banquet of a more than usually *recherché* character, personally superintended by Bro. Todd, the worthy host of the tavern, whose restoration to health was the subject of great gratification to the members present. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were received with a kindly and unanimous feeling, which reflected great praise, whilst the introduction of them was given in a style which the W.M. of this Lodge has made peculiarly his own; the generous sentiments he expressed in favour of the individuals selected, and his deserving eulogiums on the character of the much-esteemed nobleman, the Deputy Grand Master, served to exhibit the honest intensity of his feelings, and rendered, if possible, each toast more acceptable to the Brethren of the Lodge. In the course of the evening, Bro. Edward Cox, with the permission of the W.M., proposed the health of the Brethren passed that evening, paying to each a well-timed compliment; the health of the initiate having been in due course proposed by the W.M., who made some very striking and forcible remarks upon the demeanour of candidates during their terms of probation, and descanted at some length upon the excellencies and privileges of Freemasonry, as tending to improve the morals of the human race, and at the same time to mollify and tone down the acerbities and short-comings of society. Many of his comments were heartily responded to by the members present, among whom were several visitors, and were evidently well and highly appreciated. The proceedings were agreeably diversified by the vocal abilities of Bros. Salt, Ensom, Filer, and others; and on the company separating, the farewell was given with a feeling that unmistakeably evinced the perfect harmony that exists in this young but prosperous Lodge.

INSTRUCTION.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—Bro. Morbey's house, the Sun Tavern, Long Acre, having been rebuilt, this Lodge of Instruction reassembled under his roof

on the 3rd of March, when the ceremonies of consecration and installation were ably worked by Bro. W. Watson, P.M., in the presence of a large number of the Brethren; Bro. Watson was assisted by the veteran Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson as S.W., and Bro. Garrod, W.M. (No. 206), as J.W. The music was chanted by the Bros. C. Hart and James Wilder Adams, accompanied by Bro. E. Hart on the harmonium. At the close of business, the Brethren retired to a cold collation, amply supplied by Bro. Morbey. The loyal and Masonic toasts were enlivened by the vocal talents of the Brethren, varied with selections from several eminent composers, performed by an Italian band, engaged by Bro. Morbey, stationed in the anteroom, thus closing a delightful evening, replete with instruction, finishing with harmony, brotherly love, and friendship. We strongly recommend this Lodge of Instruction to Brethren who are desirous to work and improve themselves in the Craft, it being conducted by Brethren eminent in the Order as Masters and Past Masters. The accommodation is most excellent.

PROSPERITY LODGE (No. 78).—The above Lodge of Instruction, under the direction of Bro. H. A. Isaacs, Hon. Lecture Master, holds its meetings on Thursday evenings (at the White Hart Tavern, Bishopsgate-street) instead of Monday, as heretofore. We can confidently recommend this Lodge to our Brethren in the east.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 196).—This excellent working Lodge, which meets at the Holly-bush Tavern, Hampstead, has changed its meeting from Wednesday to Thursday, at seven. It has been unanimously resolved to subscribe £1. 1s. annually to the old men's and widows' funds of the Benevolent Institution.

MANCHESTER LODGE (No. 209).—This well-known working Lodge having granted permission for a Lodge of Instruction, to be held at Bro. John Gorton's, 10, Old Bond-street, the first meeting took place on Thursday, March 12; Bro. Morris Levinson, W.M. of the Manchester, working two Degrees, and Bro. Isidor Levinson, W.M. Royal York, working a third. The arrangements were of that nature to ensure, not only good information, but a degree of comfort most desirable.

PROVINCIAL.

CESHIRE.

FLOWERY FIELD, HYDE.—*Lodge of Fidelity* (No. 623).—The members held their usual monthly meeting at the White Hart Inn, on Saturday, the 14th March. After the transaction of the usual routine business, Bro. P.M. Eichholz initiated Mr. Henry Frankan into the secrets and mysteries of the Order; after which Bro. John Yarker, W.M., initiated Mr. Frederick Riley, and passed two Brethren to the 2nd Degree. The business of the evening being concluded and the Lodge being closed, about twenty of the Brethren partook of supper, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, and appropriately responded to. Bros. Bell, Harrison, and several other Brethren of various Lodges, were present as visitors.

DEVONSHIRE.

EXMOUTH.—*Sun Lodge* (No. 123).—On Monday, March 8, the Brethren of the Sun Lodge held their monthly meeting, when they presented Bro. George William Turner, of Exeter, with a very handsome silver salver, together with the splendid regalia of a Past Principal Z. of the Chapter. The silver salver, value 25 guineas, was of a chaste and elegant design, and beautifully engraved in the centre with the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. George William Turner, with a Royal Arch Regalia of a P.Z., by the Members of the Sun Lodge and Chapter 123, Exmouth, as a token of their personal regard, and acknowledgment of his valuable services to their Lodge and Chapter, March 9, 1857." The Lodge was

fully attended, and the presentation was made by Bro. Bickford, P.M. and P.Z., with a neat and appropriate address; and was acknowledged by Bro. Turner in a most eloquent and suitable reply, delivered, evidently, with feelings of deep emotion.

SOUTHMOLTON.—*Loyal Lodge of Industry* (No. 610).—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 3rd February. The W.M., Bro. Oram, duly passed Bro. Tanner to the 2nd Degree, and initiated Mr. John Cock, jun., into the Order. Two gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation. The Brethren adjourned from labour to refreshment, and spent an hour in social converse and harmony.

ESSEX.

COLCHESTER.—*United Lodge* (No. 998).—One very marked effect of the establishment of a military camp at Colchester has been to give a strong impetus to Freemasonry. Both officers and privates on foreign service, as well as in passing from town to town on home duty, find this universal bond of brotherhood of such important advantage, that Masonry is perhaps more general in the army than in any other single profession. The Angel Lodge, No. 59—one of the most ancient in the kingdom—has from the cause referred to experienced a large accession of members; and is probably in a more flourishing condition than at any former period of its history. Of course, it is the desire of every sincere Freemason to advance through the various degrees and honours of the Craft; and in this respect the military Brethren experience a disadvantage, as their sojourn in a place is rarely of sufficient duration to enable them to obtain and fill offices, the appointments to which only recur annually, and to which in old Lodges resident members have naturally a prior claim. With a view to obviate this difficulty in Colchester, a proposal was recently started for forming a second Lodge, under military auspices. An application for the recommendation of the existing Lodge to the petition to the Grand Lodge of England for the grant of a warrant (the usual course of proceeding) was not unnaturally regarded with some jealousy, but was eventually obtained; and the Prov. G.M. granted a dispensation for immediately opening the Lodge, although unable at present to make arrangements for its consecration in regular form. The designation of this new body is the "United Lodge, No. 998," and the George Hotel has been selected as its *locale*. The installation of the Master, and the appointment of officers, took place on Wednesday afternoon; the former ceremony being performed, at the desire of the Prov. G.M., by the W.M. of the Angel Lodge—Bro. Thomas Hall. There was a great muster of the Craft, including visitors from a distance, and several Brethren of the Angel Lodge. Among these were—Bros. Saul Isaacs, P. Prov. G.J.W., Kent; Lieut. Gutzmer, W.M., Harwich; J. Patridge, Prov. G.S.W., Essex; Hall, W.M. Angel Lodge, and Prov. G.J.W.; Miller, Osborne, and Root, Angel Lodge. Of the Brethren of the United Lodge there were present—Bros. Sir William O'Malley, Lieut.-col. Whitmore, Majors Maydwell and Blankley; Captains Burney, Perry, Browne, Marriott, Thelwall, and Renny; J. Pattison, P. Prov. G.S.W.; S. D. Forbes, Prov. G.J.W.; E. Williams, P. Prov. G.J.W.; W. Wiseman, P. Prov. G. Dir. Cer.; Rev. R. Bewick, T. Moy, Lieuts. Amiel, Williams, Fitzgerald, and Bennett; Ensigns Davies, Yardley, Cunningham, Sharpe, and Blake, Quartermaster Morris, &c.

Bro. H. Law Maydwell, major 3rd battalion, was installed as the first W.M. of the United Lodge; and the following were appointed as its Officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. Burney, Captain and Paymaster, S.W.; Perry, Captain, 89th, J.W.; John Mann, Treas.; S. D. Forbes, Sec.; Rev. R. Bewick, Chap.; Wm. A. Neck, S.D.; T. Morris, Quartermaster, depôt bat. J.D.; Davies, Ensign, 4th, I.G.; O'Brien, Paymaster-sergeant, Essex Rifles, Tyler.

The appointment of Dir. of Cers. was postponed.

Several candidates for initiation and joining members from other Lodges were proposed, and will be balloted for at the next meeting.

At seven o'clock, the members of the Lodge and most of the visitors sat down to an excellent banquet, supplied by host Bro. Forbes; the W.M., Bro. Maydwell, presiding.

On the removal of the cloth, the Worshipful Master proposed in succession, "The Queen and the Craft," "The Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of England," "The Earl of Yarborough, Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Officers;" each of which toasts was drunk with Masonic honours.

The next toast was "The health of the Grand Master of the Province of Essex, Bro. R. J. Bagshaw;" in giving which the W.M. described him in warm terms as a good man, an excellent Mason, a sincere promoter of the welfare of the Craft, and an ornament to the Province.

Bro. Forbes, as the Senior Grand Officer present, returned thanks for the Prov. G.M., and alluded to his unavoidable absence, which he was sure no one regretted more than the Prov. G.M. himself.

"The health of the Dep. Prov. G.M., Bro. Skinner, and Officers," was also acknowledged by Bro. Forbes.

The W.M. proposed the health of Bro. Hall, W.M. Angel Lodge, and acknowledged his kind and courteous assistance in the formation of the United Lodge.

Bro. Hall, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed his opinion that the promoters of this Lodge had a fair and just right to take the course they had done; and his belief that its establishment would result, as they had anticipated, in the benefit of Masonry generally, without materially interfering with the prosperity of the Angel Lodge.

The W.M. gave the health of the visitors, particularly mentioning Bro. Isaacs, P. Prov. J.G.W. Kent, and Bro. Lieutenant Gutzmer, W.M. Harwich Lodge; and thanking the former for his assistance and a promised contribution towards the paraphernalia of the new Lodge.

Bro. Isaacs returned thanks, and congratulated the W.M. upon the successful establishment of the Lodge, which he believed would be considerably increased in numbers before three months had elapsed. With regard to any little assistance he might have rendered, he had been a Mason fifteen years, and considered it his duty to assist, whenever it was in his power to do so, either in the formation of a Lodge or in its subsequent working.

Bro. Isaacs proposed "The health of the W.M., Bro. Maydwell," expressing his conviction that he would rule and direct the United Lodge to the entire satisfaction of every one of its members; and eulogising him not only as a good Mason, but as brave a soldier, a kind and dutiful son, and an affectionate parent. (Drunk with all the honours.)

The W.M. returned thanks for the exceedingly kind manner in which his health had been proposed and drunk. It was with no small feeling of pride that he occupied his present position for the first time. He had been eighteen years a Mason; and it had always been his wish and hope to attain to the Mastership of a Lodge; but from being so frequently removed from place to place, he had never till now remained long enough in any town to reach that high office in which he had that day been installed. Masonry, he need not remark, was the most ancient as well as the most honourable Order in existence. They were told in their earlier ceremonies that it was more ancient than the Golden Fleece—more honourable than the Star and Garter, and he felt it to be so. A Mason's apron was a passport to friendship, go where they would; and the lives and fortunes that had been saved by the exchange of signs could hardly be enumerated. The Square was justly represented as the jewel of the Craft; but the Level was almost equally important, because it signified equality: and wherever Masons met there was no difference between the prince and the lowest in the land, except the distinction arising from superior skill, which the one might obtain equally with the other. He would only repeat that he felt highly honoured in being chosen the first Master of this Lodge, and, if it should please their rulers to continue the present camp arrangement for twelve months, he hoped to rule his Lodge, not only in strict accordance with the laws of the Grand Order, but—if possible—so as to please everybody.

Bro. E. Williams proposed the health of the Senior and Junior Wardens of the United Lodge, for which Bro. Burney, S.W., returned thanks, and remarked that he had seen so much good result from Freemasonry, that it gave him the greatest pleasure to witness the advancement of the Craft.

Other toasts were drunk, after which the Brethren separated.—*Essex Standard*.

HAMPSHIRE.

BOURNEMOUTH.--*Hengist Lodge* (No. 230).—This Lodge assembled its members for the despatch of Masonic business and the installation of Bro. W. Rebbeck, as Worshipful Master, on Thursday, March 12th. The ceremony was performed by Bro. P.M. Greaves, assisted by P.M. Sydenham, P.M. Bayley, and P.M. Moores, from Poole. After the installation, the W.M. appointed his officers for the ensuing year, as follows:—Bro. P. Tuck, S.W.; Bro. Jno. Hibbidage, J.W.; Bro. Ingham, S.D.; Bro. Rogers, T.G.; and Bro. Bayley, Sec. After the business of the Lodge a banquet was held, at which the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and responded to, and a most delightful evening was spent.

ISLE OF MAN.

DOUGLAS.--*Royal Isle of Man Lodge* (No. 123).—A warrant, No. 123, having been granted by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the first meeting under such warrant was held on the 16th March at the house of host Bro. Butterworth, Prospect-hill, Douglas; upon which occasion Bro. Mayle, late P.M. of the Athol Lodge, No. 88, Birmingham, was unanimously elected W.M. There was a very good attendance of the Craft, and from the propositions made, there is every probability of the Lodge being very successful. A Lodge of Emergency was held on the Wednesday evening following, when Dr. Ring was initiated into the mysteries of the Craft, and Bro. John Bowman and two other Brethren were passed to the 2nd Degree. The duties of the chair were most ably performed by Bro. Mayle, and it is a matter of congratulation to the Lodge that they start under the auspices of such an able W.M., nor must we neglect to particularise Bro. Reid, late of Huddersfield, who, during the evening, most ably worked the whole of the sections of the first lecture. On being called from labour to refreshment, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were severally given and responded to, and a very happy and pleasant evening was enjoyed by the Brethren present. The visiting Bros. S. Clark, of No. 316, Coventry; J. N. Ward, of Sheffield; and A. Burns, of Liverpool; who, with the worthy W.M. and Bro. Reid and Capt. Long, much added to the harmony of the evening, by some very excellent songs; nor must we omit to mention the banquet, which was served up in a most liberal manner by Bro. Butterworth. A Lodge of Instruction in connection with the Lodge will be held every Wednesday evening; Bro. Reid, Lecture Master.

KENT.

MARGATE.—*Union Lodge* (No. 149).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge took place at the King's Head Hotel on Friday, March 6th; on which occasion Bro. Capt. Goodriche Armstrong Fisher, 1st Regt. Bengal Native Infantry, was raised to the Degree of M.M. by Bro. Osmond Phipps, P.M. Prov. G.Org. Several members of the Royal Navy Lodge, No. 621, Ramsgate, were present, and much good feeling and the greatest cordiality prevailed throughout the evening.

RAMSGATE.—*Royal Navy Lodge* (No. 621).—A large muster of the Brethren of this Lodge assembled at the Royal Hotel on Wednesday evening, the 18th March, and being visited by several of the Margate Brethren, the noble Lodge-room was more than ordinarily furnished with guests. The business of the evening consisted of a raising and a passing: Bro. Cullen was raised most impressively, by the indefatigable Bro. Osmond Phipps, P.M. of this and the Union Lodge, Margate, and Prov. G. Org. for Kent; and Bro. Close was passed by the excellent W.M. Bro. Hodge. Among the visitors from Margate were—Bros. Boys, P.M.; P. Prov. S.G.W. Hayward, W.M. No. 149; Feekin, S.W.; Stockley, J.W.; A. Hamilton, Grothall, Robinson, Gardner, Gurton, &c. &c. After the Lodge was closed, the Brethren spent two hours in agreeable intercourse, and friendly and brotherly conversation.

LANCASHIRE.

BOLTON.—*Anchor and Hope Lodge* (No. 44).—The monthly meeting was held at the Swan Hotel on Thursday, the 5th of March, when the W.M. Bro. Musgrave

was as usual supported by the attendance of all the officers and several visitors, including Bro. Higson, J.W. of Lodge No. 436. Bro. Livy was passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft, and several matters of private Lodge business transacted. The whole of the furniture of this first-class Lodge is now in course of being redecorated, and many improvements effected, and by the next meeting, without copying any of the tinsel decorations adopted by any recently disinterred Lodges, will present a really brilliant appearance.

St. John's Lodge (No. 268).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 18th of March, the W.M. Bro. Mitchell presiding. The alterations of several of the by-laws constituted the business of the evening, except the appointment of Bro. Smith as Treasurer to the Lodge, in the room of Bro. Platt, deceased. It was during the evening announced by the Secretary that the sum of £10 had been voted from the funds of the Prov. Grand Lodge, at its meeting in Ashton, to Bro. James Isherwood, the oldest member of the Lodge, and who had been nine times an unsuccessful applicant for the benefits of the Annuity Fund in London.

St. John's Lodge (No. 436).—The W.M. of this Lodge has evidently no reason to complain of being unable to perfect himself in the ceremonies for want of material at the last meeting: three candidates were approved, and two of them initiated; one Brother passed, and one raised, the whole being performed by the W.M. personally. The Lodges here appear to have been touched with an *improvement mania*; and following the example set them by the Sister Lodge, No. 268, are rendering the Lodge much service by adopting in their additions and improvements not only such things as are useful and substantial, but such as may make considerable pretensions to elegance, and yet avoiding everything gaudy and unnecessary. We wish them all the prosperity they deserve.

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 March, to hold the usual monthly meeting; the Lodge was opened in due form by the W.M., Bro. Jas. Baythorp, at seven p.m., supported by his full staff of officers. The minutes of last Lodge meeting being read and confirmed, the W.M. proceeded to pass Bro. Robert Whewell; the efficient manner in which he performed the ceremony elicited the congratulations of all the Brethren present, this being the first time of his performing the ceremony in open Lodge; the officers of the Lodge performed their duties in a most satisfactory and efficient manner. The Lodge being closed to the 1st Degree, and the business being disposed of, two gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation.

In accordance with a circular from the Prov. Grand Lodge of the Eastern Division of Lancashire, and by the especial desire of the Very Worshipful Bro. A. H. Royds, D. Prov. G.M., that the Brethren of the province should manifest their regard for the memory of the late P. Prov. G.M. the Right Hon. the Earl of Ellesmere, deceased, the Lodge and Brethren were in mourning; the strict discipline observed caused the Lodge to bear a very solemn and imposing appearance which could not fail of reminding every Brother present of the uncertainty of human life, and that a Masonic Lodge was no ordinary place of meeting, more especially when we find the Brethren paying that respect due to the memory of deceased Brethren. The Lodge was closed in form, and the Brethren sat down to refreshment; the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to, but singing on this occasion was dispensed with. The W.M. called on Bro. R. Mitchell, P.M., to respond to the memory of the late P. Prov. G.M. of East Lancashire, the Right Hon. the Earl of Ellesmere; in doing so Bro. Mitchell passed a high eulogium on the character of the late earl, not only as a Mason but as a nobleman, respected amongst all classes from the humble cottager to the highest in the land.

MANCHESTER.—*Lodge of Integrity* (No. 189).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Brunswick Hotel, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, February 25th. After the usual preliminary business, Bro. John Baker, W.M., initiated Mr. Thomas Gilbert Buckhouse and Mr. William Wright Stewart. The discussion

of other business followed, which was concluded by the proposition of a gentleman for initiation, and the Lodge being closed, the Brethren retired to supper, at the conclusion of which the usual toasts were given, and very appropriately responded to. The Brethren separated after having spent a very agreeable evening. Among the visitors present were Bro. T. F. Pollitt, W.M. No. 177, and Prov. G. Reg. of East Lancashire, and Bro. John Tunnah, P.M. No. 44, and Prov. G. Sec. of East Lancashire.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

BOSTON.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 339).—The Lodge of Instruction in connection with No. 339, held a meeting on the third Thursday in February, at which Bro. Close, J.W., as W.M., very ably initiated a candidate into the mystic ties. At the regular monthly communication of the Parent Lodge, holden on the 10th March last, Bro. Greenwood, P.M., and Prov. G. Dir. of Cer., in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Pocklington, the W.M., very ably discharged the duties, and raised Bro. Lewin to the 3rd Degree. The Brethren afterwards retired to banquet, after which several excellent songs were sung by Bros. Close, Bothamley, Thomas (a visiting Brother), and others. The Brethren parted at low twelve, well satisfied with the evening's proceedings, and in harmony with each other.

SPALDING.—*Hundred of Elloe Lodge* (No. 690).—At the monthly communication of the members of this Lodge, holden on 3rd March last, Bro. Tidswell, P.M. and Prov. G.J.D., raised Bro. Preston to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. It was also unanimously resolved to raise the yearly subscription to the Lodge, to enable it to subscribe to the different Masonic charities; which is a step in the right direction.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE.—*Northumberland Lodge* (No. 985).—The last meeting of the Masons of this new Lodge took place on Monday, the 2nd of March; present, the W. M., Bro. M. L. Jobling in the chair, supported by P.M. E. D. Davis, Bros. B. J. Thompson, S.W., Wm. Johnston, J.W., and other officers and brethren. Several Brothers were proposed as joining members. The W.M., P.M., and Wardens of St. Hild's Lodge, No. 292, of North Shields, paid a visit to the Lodge, and were fraternally and cordially greeted by the Brethren present, and the complimentary remarks of the W.M. were ably and feelingly answered by P.M. R. B. Ridley, Prov. J.S.W. of Durham, and by the W.M. of St. Hild's.

OXFORDSHIRE.

BANBURY.—*Cherwell Lodge* (No. 878).—On Monday, March 2, the members of this Lodge held their anniversary festival. The Lodge was opened at half-past three p.m., and an initiation, with other business, proceeded with. The S.W. Bro. J. T. Cooke was installed W.M. in the place of Bro. Haward, whose year of office has expired. The ceremony of Installation was most impressively performed by P.M. Hester (of Oxford). After which the W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—W. Dryden, S.W.; J. B. Looker, J.W.; C. C. Dormer, S.D.; J. Scroggs, J.D.; C. D. Faulkner, Sec.; J. Graves, Dir. of Cer.; T. Calcutt, Org.; W. Coleman, I.G.; and W. W. Floyd and W. J. Rowell, Stewards. The installation of officers completed, the Brethren and a distinguished company partook of a dinner in the banquet-room.

SOUTH WALES.

CARNARVON.—*St. Peter's Lodge* (No. 699).—The usual monthly Lodge was held on the 6th of March, when Bros. H. Norton and R. J. H. Thomas were raised to the S.D. of M.M. by Bro. W. H. Cole, in his usual impressive manner. The lecture on the Tracing Board in the 3rd Degree was also given by Bro. Cole, and seemed to excite great interest, if one may judge from the particular attention paid during its delivery. We are glad to see that this lecture was given, and hope to see the ceremony universally adopted in all Lodges, both on account of its own intrinsic beauty, and from the fact that the S.D. of M.M. is really incomplete without it.

A Lodge of Emergency was held on the 16th of March, when Mr. Oliver Powell (barrister,) was initiated into the mysteries of the Order by the W.M., Bro. W. G. S. Thomas, in a particularly impressive manner; and Bro. W. Morris was passed to the 2nd Degree by Bro. W. H. Cole. There was a very full Lodge on the occasion, and on a letter being read from the G.S. informing the Brethren of the appointment of Bro. John Johnes as R.W. Prov. G.M. for the Western Division of South Wales, the Secretary was unanimously requested to write to that Brother congratulating him on his appointment.

LLANDILO.—*St. Teilo Lodge* (No. 996).—The Warrant of Constitution has been granted by the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland, for this Lodge, and Bro. Johnes, R.W. Prov. G.M. has promised to open it in person, assisted by Bro. F. D. Michael, P.M., and Prov. G. Dir. of Cer. for the Eastern Division of South Wales. Every endeavour has been made to open it with *éclat*, and a large gathering of Brethren is expected. We intend giving a full account of the opening in our next.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—*Loyal Welsh Lodge* (No. 525).—The affairs of this Lodge are in a most flourishing condition. A great number of candidates have been initiated during the past year, and everything goes on prosperously. The landlord of the Victoria Hotel, where the Lodge has long been held, is providing a capacious Lodge-room in the additions he is making to his premises; and when finished, new regalia will be provided, for which the funds are ample. On the recent St. John's day, the Brethren, as has been their custom for many years, dined together, the new Master, Bro. Captain Gillies, presiding, supported by Bro. Harries as S.W., and Bro. Warlow, J.W., the whole of the arrangements being under the especial superintendence of Bro. Dr. Thomas, Prov. G. Dir. of Cer. (under whose able direction every public ceremony in the county for the last twenty years has been effected), and who conducted the business in the most efficient manner imaginable. The dinner took place at six P.M., and the Brethren enjoyed themselves exceedingly, breaking up, it being Saturday night, just before the moon had reached

“Of Heaven's high arch—the *key-stone*,”

singing, at the instigation of Bro. P.M. Sturband, one verse of the national anthem. Among the members present, besides those above named, were Bros. P.M. Llewhelling, P.M. McLean, Hutchings, Chappel, Captain Reese, James, Rollings, Ben, Teeadale, J. Thomas, Cargill, Braine, and many others.

SUSSEX.

CHICHESTER.—*Lodge of Union* (No. 45).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held on Thursday, March 12, the W.M., Bro. James Powell, jun., P.M. No. 45, in the chair, about thirty members of the Lodge were present, and the following visiting Brethren:—Bros. Rastrick, P.M. No. 428; Kirton, No. 717; Capt. Topham, 4th Light Dragoons, No. 246; Capt. Dashwood, 20th Regiment, No. 437; Capt. Hawkins, 20th Regiment, No. 437; and Lieut. Thomas Peach, 20th Regiment. Mr. Charles Henry Adames and Mr. George Holmes were balloted for and accepted as candidates for initiation. Bro. Halsted proposed, in a few appropriate remarks, that a donation of Ten Guineas be given from the Lodge funds to the West Sussex, East Hants, and Chichester Infirmary, which was seconded by Bro. George Smith, S.W., and carried unanimously. On the motion of Bro. Gambling, P.M., a committee was appointed to take the necessary steps to secure, if possible, the election of Bro. Simmons, P.M. No. 45, to an annuity in May next. Messrs. C. H. Adames and G. Holmes were then severally initiated. By command of the W.M., the Junior Warden explained the tools of an E.A.A.; and Bro. Halsted, late S.W., and W.M. *in esse*, delivered the charge with due emphasis and discretion. Bros. Murless and C. Adames were then passed to the degree of Fellow Craft; and Bros. Dawet and Hoblyn were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The Lodge closed in harmony.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM.—*Howe Lodge* (No. 857).—A numerous meeting of the members of this Lodge, was held in their rooms, Newhall-street, Birmingham, on Monday, March 9, under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. E. Marshall, when Bros. Lindner and Johnston were raised to the 3rd Degree, and three gentlemen accepted for initiation. This Lodge has taken another step in the right direction, having commenced the formation of a library, so that when the candidate is requested to make the liberal arts and sciences his study, the means will be at his disposal. The Secretary Bro. Broughton, presented to the Lodge a very handsomely bound complete set of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, and the *Penny Encyclopædia and Supplement*. Several Brethren also promised presents of books. The Secretary stated, that as the rooms were unfinished, it would be well to read a statement of accounts, showing how the money had been raised and expended, and concluded by doing so; and in the most generous manner presented his forty shares of £5 each in the building to the Lodge. At the conclusion of the business, the usual collection for benevolent purposes was made by the Treas. Bro. J. W. Lloyd, P.M., in a very elegant box, presented by him to the Lodge for that purpose. The Brethren then separated in harmony and brotherly love.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY.—*Harmonic Lodge* (No. 313), *Freemasons' Tavern*.—The W.M., assisted by his Officers, opened Lodge on Tuesday, the 3rd, at the customary hour of half-past six, P.M. Soon afterwards, the Right Worshipful Brother, H. C. Vernon, the Prov. G. M., was announced, together with Bro. the Rev. A. G. Davies, M.A. (P.M. No. 730, and W.M. No. 819), his Prov. G. Chaplain; Bro. M. Masefield (P.M.), Prov. G. Treas.; Bro. the Rev. E. H. A. Gwynne, M.A., Prov. G. Chaplain of Staffordshire (P.M. No. 435, and Chap. to No. 819); and Bro. W. Howells, Prov. G. S. of Works, Staffordshire. The Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master was received with the customary honours, and welcomed with the greatest cordiality and delight by the Brethren present, although they were taken unawares. The W.M. then proceeded with the business upon the circular, and initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of the Craft. The charge being delivered by the immediate P.M., great attention was paid to the working by the R. W. Brother, who corrected one or two little irregularities in the working (though most universally committed), and proved by the observations addressed to the Brethren, his own proficiency and efficiency in the science. Lodge being closed, the Brethren adjourned to banquet, at which the Right Worshipful the P.G.M. most ably presided. The other visitors present were Bro. J. Williscroft, P.M. No. 838, and J. Davies (M.R.C.S.), J.D. No. 435, and S.W. No. 960.

Royal Standard Lodge (No. 730).—At the March meeting of this Lodge at the Dudley Arms Hotel, two gentlemen were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the 1st Degree. There were many visitors present, and a fair muster of Brethren.

The Vernon Lodge (No. 819).—The meeting of this Lodge took place at the Old Town Hall, Dudley, on Wednesday, 18th March, the ceremonies being performed by the Rev. W.M., an initiation and a passing.

Perseverance Lodge (No. 838).—At the meeting of this Lodge on 25th March, two Brethren were initiated, and other business transacted. It was expected that Bro. Sheridan, the candidate for Dudley, and who has since been elected, would have attended, but an important meeting prevented him.

WORCESTER.—*Worcester Lodge* (No. 349).—At the usual March banquet of this Lodge, held at the Bell Hotel, on Wednesday, the 11th March, a pleasing testimonial of the esteem entertained by the Brethren of that Lodge for the zealous services rendered for so many years by Bro. Joseph Bennett, P.M., was presented by Bro. P.M. Griffiths, in the shape of a portrait of that gentleman, in an en-

riched gilt frame, surmounted with Masonic emblems. The portrait, executed by Mr. W. W. Nicoll, is an admirable likeness, beautifully painted, and finished with elaborate minuteness.

YORKSHIRE.

A Provincial Grand Lodge is to be held in the Masonic Hall, Huddersfield, on the 8th instant.

HUDDERSFIELD.—*Huddersfield Lodge* (No. 365).—On Wednesday evening, March 11, Bro. Hanson, the W.M. of this Lodge, initiated into the mysteries of the 1st Degree of our Order Messrs. James and Edward Battye, of this town. The duties of the evening were performed with that accuracy which ever distinguishes this Lodge, and affords so much pleasure to every working Mason to witness. The circumstance of the candidates being twin brothers imparted a peculiar interest to the ceremony. After the business, sixty-seven Brethren sat down to refreshment, including the Worshipful Masters of each of the other Lodges in the town, and a very harmonious evening was passed.

JERSEY.

Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 722).—Through the kindness of Bro. Spencer, we have been favoured with a view of three gavels about to be presented to the Lodge by Bro. C. Williamson, Lieut. 60th Rifles, J.W. ; they are made of Rhinoceros Horn, the ends and handles of the hammers are ornamented with richly-chased silver, the emblems of office, inscription, and crest, are also of silver inserted in the horn, and beautifully executed, the whole showing great taste and skill in the manufacturer.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTERS.

ST. JAMES'S CHAPTER (No. 2).—The Companions of this eminent Chapter met on Thursday, the 5th of March, at the Freemasons' Tavern, for the installation of the Principals elect, Comps. William Stuart, jun., M.P., M.E.Z. ; I'Anson, H. ; and R. Wheeler, J., presiding. The newly-elected Principals were presented by Comp. John Henderson, P.Z., who assisted Comp. Stuart in performance of the imposing ceremony of Installation, Comps. I'Anson, M.E.Z. ; Wheeler, H. ; and W. P. Scott, J. Comp. Crew was reinvested as E. ; N. Solomons, N. ; W. R. Wood, P.S. At the conclusion of the business the Companions adjourned to an excellent banquet ; the three new Principals presiding, supported by many of the members, among whom were the M.E. Comp. William Stuart, G. Supt. of Herts ; there being also present as visitors Comps. J. H. Law, Z. No. 324 ; W. Farnfield, P.Z. No. 7 ; J. How, P.Z. No. 593 ; and F. Slight, No. 109. In proposing the healths of the three Principals, Comp. Stuart said, the manner in which those Companions had discharged the duties of their previous offices was a guarantee for efficient performance of those now committed to them, and he complimented them on the attention they had each paid to the business. Comp. Henderson, as a P.Z. of many years' standing, expressed his great pleasure at witnessing the presence of all the newly-elected Principals, as well as the other Officers, on the night of installation. The viands and wines were first-rate, nothing was omitted that could contribute to the comfort of those present, and the vocal talent of some of the members aided in the enjoyment of a pleasant evening.

FIDELITY CHAPTER (No. 3).—At a Convocation of this Chapter held at the London Tavern, on Friday, 6th March, Comp. J. C. Shackleton was presented with a handsome gold Jewel, bearing the following inscription :—“ Presented by the members of the Chapter of Fidelity, No. 3, to Comp. J. C. Shackleton, P.Z.,

in token of their approbation of his efficient services, while presiding over them as First Principal, 1856."

BRITISH CHAPTER (No. 8).—This distinguished Chapter met at the Freemasons' Tavern on Friday, 6th March; Comp. Stohwasser, P.Z., was inducted into the chair of the First Principal for the ensuing year; and Comp. Ridgway was installed as I. by Comp. Gibson, P.Z. Comp. Wellington Vallance was invested as S.E., Else N. Pepper, P.S. Bro. Harris, of the British Lodge, was exalted to this Sublime Degree. The Chapter marked its sense of the eminent services of Comp. Stohwasser during the past year by presenting him with a handsome Past Principal's Jewel.

ROBERT BURNS CHAPTER (No. 25).—A convocation of this excellent and numerous Chapter was holden at the Freemasons' Tavern on Monday, the 23rd March, when Comp. W. Watson, P.Z., in the unavoidable absence of Comp. Elmett Robinson, exalted Comps. Marcius and Braham into the Supreme Degree. Comps. Kirby, Carpenter, and Allen were then respectively installed as First, Second, and Third Principals; but having all previously passed the chair in the Gravesend Lodge, the ceremonies were shorn of much of their impressiveness. The other Officers were invested as follows:—Comps. Wm. Blackburn, Treas.; Tombleson, Scribe E.; Hewlett, N.; Frampton, P. Soj.; C. W. Harrison and Collard, Assist. Sojs. On the motion of Comp. Tombleson, seconded by Comp. Blackburn, it was unanimously resolved, that Comp. Watson be elected an honorary member, in testimony of his long and important services to the Chapter in the obtaining the Charter, of which he was mainly influential. A P.Z. Jewel was also voted to Comp. Elmett Robinson, for his attention to the duties of his office and interests of the Chapter during the past year. The Comps., to the number of nearly 40, afterwards supped together, and spent a very pleasant evening, which was much heightened by the vocal exertions of Comps. Genge and Lawler, who visited the Chapter. Amongst the other visitors we observed Comps. Jos. Smith, G. Dir. Cer.; T. A. Adams, Z. elect, of No. 206; Norman, Copus, and others.

MOUNT SION CHAPTER (No. 169).—At a Convocation holden on Monday, the 23rd of March, at Radley's Hotel (present—Comps. Henry Muggeridge, as M.E.Z.; R. Sharpe, H.; J. Johnston, J.; and others), a communication from Comp. Steele, M.E.Z., was read, regretting that illness alone prevented his attendance on the duties of his office. A ballot was taken for the admission to the Royal Arch Degree of Bro. John S. Boughey, of Lodge No. 22, which being in his favour he was admitted and exalted into this Sublime Degree, by the Acting First Principal Comp. How, P.Z., performing the duties of P.S. in the absence of Comp. Spooner. After the discharge of the several duties of the Chapter the Companions adjourned to the banquet. The M.E.Z. *pro tem.*, in proposing the health and a welcome to Comp. Boughey, congratulated the Chapter on the accession of that worthy Brother to the Chapter, as his assiduity and attainments in Craft Masonry afforded great promise of his diligence in the superior rank he had that night attained; and he mentioned that Comp. Boughey had undertaken to work one of the sections at the anniversary meeting of the Lodge of Instruction connected with the Lodge of Stability on the 24th of April.

DOMATIC CHAPTER, No. 206.—On Thursday Evening, the 26th March, the installation of Officers in this Chapter, took place at the Falcon Tavern, Fetter-lane, when Comp. T. A. Adams was installed into the chair, as M.E.Z., by Comp. Crawley; Comp. Thompson, into the chair of H. by the M.E.Z.; and Comp. Shury, into the chair of J. by Comp. Watson. The other officers are as follow:—Comp. Bone, P. Soj.; Comps. Tyrrall and Suter, Ast. Soj.; Comp. Odell, N.; Comp. Blunt was duly elected as Janitor. Bro. J. R. Smith, of No. 196, and Bro. Dixon, of No. 203, were ably exalted by the M.E.Z. At the close of the business, the Comps. retired to a most excellent banquet, provided by Comp. Ireland. The visitors who were present on the occasions, were Comps. Kirby, Watson, Crawley, Daly, Blackburn, Couchman, Potter, Lee, &c., &c. Everything passed off throughout the evening with the utmost *éclat*.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—The Companions of this Chapter met in convocation on Tuesday, 10th March, at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. The only business of the evening was the election of officers for the year ensuing, and the unanimous result of the ballot was as follows :—Comps. Sheen, M.E.Z. ; Levy, H. ; McCulloch, J. ; Manico, P.Z., S.E. ; Burton, S.N. ; Shepherd, P.S. ; and Patten, P.Z. and P.G.S.B., Treas.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS.

CHELTHENHAM.—*Chapter of Unanimity* (No. 97).—This flourishing Chapter held its annual meeting on the 11th of March, when the three Principals for the ensuing year were installed by the M.E.P.Z., Comp. Newmarch :—Comp. the Rev. T. A. Southwood, Z. ; Comps. Ticehurst and Trinder, J. The other Officers for the year are Comp. the Hon. James Dutton (Prov. G.M.), P.S. ; Comp. Slead, E. ; Comp. Gurnett, N. ; Comps. Rev. H. Price and Alex, Assistant Sojourners ; Comp. Smith, Organist. There were also present the following Companions :—McDonell, P. Prov. G.S. Madras ; Bayly, Smith, Brandon, Williams, Ball, Atkins, Elcum, Douglas. Bros. J. B. Smith, Cottle, Brookes, Hunt, Shirer, and Reece, were exalted to the Sublime Degree. Several Brethren were proposed for exaltation at the next Convocation of the Chapter in June. The recent revival of the Provincial Grand Lodge has given an impetus to Masonry in Gloucestershire. No less than ten candidates were to have been exalted on the occasion alluded to, and it is beginning to be discovered in this neighbourhood that there is something beneath the surface of Masonry which recommends itself to the respect and admiration of those who have been admitted to a participation in its mysteries and benefits.

IPSWICH.—*Royal Sussex Chapter* (No. 522).—This respectable and flourishing Chapter held their usual quarterly meeting on the 11th instant, in the New Assembly Rooms. The Chapter being duly opened, the following Brethren were balloted for, and exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch :—Bro. J. Crispine, P.M. No. 522 ; Bro. H. Neeve, J.W. No. 131 ; Bro. H. Luff, J.W. No. 522 ; Bro. the Rev. H. Eaton, No. 757. The duties of the exaltation were performed by the most excellent Z., Comp. S. B. King, in a manner which reflected great credit upon the worthy Companion, and the Chapter of which he is First Principal ; the second chair was filled by Comp. the Rev. F. W. Freeman ; Comp. J. Head (*pro tem.*) in the third ; the duties of the Principal Sojourner by Comp. C. J. Townsend.

MAIDSTONE.—*Belvidere Chapter* (No. 741).—The second convocation of the newly constituted Chapter at Maidstone was held on Wednesday, January 28. The chairs were filled by Comps. Whittaker, Z. ; Pike, H. ; and Crutterden, J., with the assistance of that distinguished and enthusiastic Mason, Comp. Keddall, P.Z. of Sheerness, who expounded "the mystical portion," and the other officers of the Chapter ; the impressive ceremony of installation was performed in a style highly creditable to the infant Chapter. A most agreeable and Fraternal party afterwards dined together at the Star Hotel, under the presidency of the M.E.Z., Whittaker ; Comp. Crutterden, jun. filling the vice-chair. Amongst the visitors were P.Z. Isaacs, of Chapter No. 20, Prov. G. Sec. of the county of Kent ; P.Z. Vale, of Hereford ; Comp. Gammell, No. 20, &c. &c.

NEWCASTLE.—*Chapter de Swinburne* (No. 24).—This Chapter held its regular meeting on Tuesday, the 10th of March. The Chapter was opened by the M.E. First Principal, B. J. Thompson, and other present and past Principals. Three Brethren were balloted for exaltation, and one being present was duly exalted by the M.E. First Principal. After the ceremony and other routine business, three other Brethren were proposed for exaltation, and the business concluded in love and harmony.

Chapter de Sussex (No. 586).—Friday, the 13th of March, was the regular convocation for the election of officers for the ensuing year, when the Chapter was

opened by R.Z.M.E. Comp. John Barker and other Principals present. On the ballot being taken, the following were duly declared elected as Principals and officers for the ensuing year, viz. :—M.E. Comps. George Beldon, as Z. ; J. R. Hodge, H. ; Henry Bell, J. ; Henry Hotham, E. ; Wm. Phies, W. ; Robert Fisher, P.S. ; E. D. Davis, Treas. ; J. Trotter, Jan. There being no further business, the Chapter closed in love and harmony.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—*Northampton Chapter* (No. 463).—This Chapter, composed of the most distinguished companions of the province, met at the George Hotel, Northampton, on Friday, March 13, on which occasion the Marquis of Huntley, who in early life was one of the best promoters of all truly British sports, and is now the most able supporter of Masonry in his province, was installed as Z. ; Comps. Styer, H. ; Welchman, J. ; Roberts was invested S.E. ; Wartenbeg, N. ; and Capt. Andrew, P.S. Two Brethren were exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Masons. The Companions then proceeded to partake of an elegant banquet, and after the usual Masonic toasts, Comp. Styer rose to propose “The Health of the Noble Marquis,” and congratulated the Chapter on being presided over by so noble and justly-esteemed a Companion, who had exerted himself so much for the benefit of the province of which he is Prov. G. M., and thereby gained the love and affection of his Brethren. The noble Marquis, in return, expressed the great pleasure he felt at all times in furthering the interests of Masonry, and in proposing “The Health of the Visitors,” Comps. James, P.Z., No. 607 ; Dr. Burlton, P.Z., No. 756 ; Crawley, P.Z., No. 25 ; Lingard, No. 51 ; and Mulliner, No. 356, thanked them for their eminent services in performing the services of the evening. Comp. Dr. Burlton thanked the Chapter for the compliment, and at the same time expressed his sorrow that the ceremony of Exaltation had been unavoidably curtailed from want of time, as he thought it was always of the greatest importance to impress the minds of the newly-exalted as much as possible. At this period the before-named inexorable progressionist, who waits no more for the most exalted than for the most humble, caused the noble Marquis and several Companions to leave, and proceed to the railway terminus ; and we left Comp. Higgins, Mayor of Northampton, proposing “The Health of the newly-exalted Companions,” with his usual manly eloquence.

TAUNTON.—*Chapter of Sincerity* (No. 327).—On Monday, March 2, a Chapter was held for the purpose of installing the three Principals Elect, and exalting five Brethren to this Supreme Degree ; and Comp. Percy Wells, M.E.Z. No. 48, was honoured by being invited to perform the ceremonies. After the Chapter was opened in ancient and solemn form, the M.E.Z., Comp. Wells, assisted by M.E. Comps. Cave, of Yeovil, and Horniman, of Taunton, installed Comps. May as Z., Waghorn as H., and Kingsbury as J. Comp. Rogers, of Yeovil, was also installed into the chair of J., in order that he might take that seat in his own Chapter. After the Chapter of installed Principals had been closed, and the Officers of the Chapter inducted, the M.E.Z. resigned his seat to Comp. Wells, who exalted Bro. the Hon. Major Charles Napier, P.J.G.W., Somerset ; Bros. Abrahams, P.M. No. 327 ; Butler, P.M. No. 327 ; Oakley, W.M. No. 327 ; and Mitchell, Prov. G. Pursuivant, in which duty he was assisted by Comp. Ashley, S.W. and P. Soj. of the Royal Cumberland Chapter, No. 48, Bath, whose beautiful working elicited the unqualified approbation of the Principals, Companions, and Candidates. At the conclusion of the ceremony the whole of the members present adjourned to a *recherché* banquet ; and it has never been our lot to be present at any festive board where more “unanimity and sincerity” and Brotherly love prevailed. After refreshment, the Companions resumed their labours, when the lecture was given by the M.E. Comp. Percy Wells ; and after some little routine business, the Chapter was closed in harmony. These accessions to the Order, which are only a prelude to still greater ones, proceed from the intended establishment, in a few days, of a Camp of Knights Templar, which will be opened in the presence of, and be named after, the G.M., Colonel Tynte.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

WE have been requested to publish the following important Circular Letter, relative to this exalted Order of Masonry.

To the State Grand, and Subordinate, Commanderies, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, for the United States of America.

SIR KNIGHTS,—At the Triennial Session of the *General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the United States of America*, held at Hartford, Connecticut, in September, 1856, “Sir Knight Gourdin offered the following resolution :

“ ‘Whereas, a correct history of the Order of Knights Templar, subsequent to the martyrdom of our revered Grand Master, James De Molay, has never been written ; and whereas, such a history would greatly tend to produce unanimity of sentiment among the Brethren of the various Masonic rites, and to place our illustrious Order in its true position before the world ; and whereas also, the materials for such a work can only be obtained in Europe. *Be it therefore resolved, That a Committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to report, at their earliest convenience, concerning the feasibility of producing an accurate history of the Order of Knights Templar from the death of the martyr to the present time ; and the best method of accomplishing this object.*’

“Which was read, and, on motion of Sir Knight Morris, laid upon the table until the new Constitution is acted upon and disposed of.”*

But, subsequently, this resolution “was, on motion of Sir Knight Morris, taken up and referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Sir Knights *Gourdin, Tucker, and Gould.*”†

We desire to report at the next Triennial Session of the *Grand Encampment*, at Chicago, Illinois, in September, 1859 ; and in order that we may do so advisedly, beg leave to solicit your views concerning the Resolution proposed. To enable you fully to comprehend the importance of the proposition, we crave your attention to the following

REMARKS.

The Templars seem, after the death of De Molay on the 11th March, 1314, to have become divided into at least four parties,‡ viz :—

I. The Knights in Portugal and Italy, subsequently called Knights of the Order of Christ.

II. The followers of Peter D’Aumont. These Knights are principally found in Sweden ; and Stockholm is said to be the chief seat of their Order. They contend that Peter D’Aumont was the legitimate successor of De Molay, and produce a list of Grand Masters down to the present time. Their Grand Masters have never, we believe, been acknowledged except in the Masonic System of *Strict Observance*.

III. The followers of John Marc Larmenius, who claim that he was the successor of James De Molay, and the founder of the present *Order of the Temple*

* “Proceedings of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the United States of America,” &c. Washington: Printed by J. T. and Lem Towers, 1856, p. 29.

† Ibid, p. 50.

‡ “Historical Sketch of the Order of Knights Templar,” &c. By Theodore S. Gourdin, S.P.R.S. Commander. Published by request of the Encampment, Charlestown, S. C. Walker & Evans, Book and Job Printers, 1855, pp. 21, 28, and the authorities therein cited.

in France. They produce a list of Grand Masters from Larmenius to the present day. But these Grand Masters have never, it seems, been recognized as such except in France.

IV. The Templars who are not embraced in either of these three divisions. And these may again be divided into the *Scotch* and the *English*.*

The Scotch Templars may be subdivided into two classes:—

1st. Those who fought for Bruce at Bannockburn.

2nd. Those who entered the Order of Knights Hospitallers.

To the first of these we are probably indebted for the Rite of *Heredom*, of twenty-five degrees, which was subsequently amplified into the *Ancient and Accepted Rite* of thirty-three degrees; and to the second, for the degree of *Malta*, which is incorporated into our Ritual. A portion of the Templars in Scotland, however, at the present day, contend that they have preserved the Order in all its purity from the time of De Molay unconnected with Freemasonry.

The English Templars may be subdivided into three classes:—

1st. The Knights of Baldwin.

2nd. The Templars who owe allegiance to the Grand Conclave of England.

3rd. The Templars of the United States.

The *Knights of Baldwin* assert that their Encampment at Bristol, termed the *Baldwyn Encampment*, was established about the time of the return of Richard Cœur de Lion from the Holy Land;† and that it has been in active operation ever since. The *Grand Conclave* of England claims to be the legitimate head of the Order in England and Wales. The *Templars of the United States* generally suppose that they derive their origin from the three original Encampments of Baldwin—at Bristol, Bath, and York, the two latter of which became extinct many years ago;‡ though at what time, and by what authority, the Order was introduced into North America, seems to be involved in obscurity.

To elucidate the mystery which hangs over our Order since the death of De Molay; to investigate the claims of these and other (if there be any) branches of our common family to legitimacy; to unite them, if possible, as of yore, under one common head; and to ascertain the real connection between Freemasonry and Templarism, at what time it occurred, and whether it should be continued, are the great objects we have in view in recommending such a work.

No correct history of our Order, subsequent to the martyrdom of De Molay, has ever been written. Such a work, besides being a great desideratum to the literary and Masonic world, would probably be the means of accomplishing the following highly desirable objects:—

1st. It would dispel the obscurity which envelopes the second and most interesting period of the history of our Order. It would enable each Templar to give a reason for the Faith that is within him; and would convince the uninitiated of the truth of our claim to antiquity; for we should then have what we have too long needed—Facts supported by dates. In a word, it would show in what manner the Order has been transmitted to modern times.

2nd. It would, probably, be the means of uniting under one Common Head, as in the days of our prosperity, the Templars of every land and of every rite. It is a well-known fact that, in almost every Masonic rite, there is a Degree in which the candidate is constituted a Knight Templar; and this Degree is usually at or near the summit of the rite. Then would we, as in the olden time, form one mighty Brotherhood, under the auspices of one Grand Master for the *whole world*, united by the sacred tie of love and a common creed, for the purpose of recovering, not Palestine from the Infidel, but the world from the *Evil One*. Then might we hope to accomplish the holy object of our warfare:—*to benefit the human race by propagating the knowledge of Truth.*

* I regret that I do not know under which head to class the Irish Templars.

† "Historical Sketch of the Order of Knights Templar," &c. &c., p. 10.

‡ "A Lexicon of Freemasonry," &c. By Albert G. Mackey, M.D. &c. Philadelphia: Moss & Brother, South Fourth-street, 1855, p. 265.

3rd. It would, perhaps, be the means of inducing the Freemasons of the lower degrees of the various rites to unite in the practice of one uniform rite. Masonry is unfortunately, as you are doubtless aware, divided into different Rites* or systems, as the religion of the blessed Jesus into various sects; but, with this marked difference, however, that, while a Christian can be a member of only one church, a Master Mason of one rite is not only acknowledged as such everywhere, but he may be, and indeed often is, a member of *two* or *more* rites. We hold that Ancient Craft Masonry consists of three Degrees and no more: *Entered Apprentice*, *Fellow Craft*, and *Master Mason*, including the *Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch*.†

How did Masonic rites originate?

Though the design of Ancient Craft Masonry and its modes of recognition are the same in every country, yet having no central governing power to control the Order and to preserve uniformity in our rituals, as soon as men began to study scientifically our symbolism, there being no scientific treatises on Masonry, they would naturally, from their peculiar habits of thought, differ concerning the interpretation to be given to certain Emblems and Traditions. During the last century, the obligation not to divulge the secrets of Freemasonry was construed more strictly than it now is in this enlightened age. Many things which are now in print, would then only have been communicated within the tyled precincts of the Lodge. The learned Mason of the last century, to instruct his Brethren in his peculiar views concerning the true interpretation of the symbols of the *three* Degrees, would compose Degrees; the learned Mason of to-day, for the same purpose, writes books. Several of these Degrees combined together constitute a rite. Everything beyond the *Royal Arch*, which is undoubtedly the completion of the *third* Degree, should, therefore, be regarded as extraneous. The Royal Arch Mason, or he who has found that which was lost, is alone the *true Master Mason*, for at this stage only, is his education completed. The superior Degrees being explanatory of the *three* inferior Degrees and the *Royal Arch*, are merely superstructures reared thereon. A rite, therefore, philosophically considered, is merely the peculiar system of Lectures adopted by the Masons of a country. If this be the true theory of the origin of the numerous Masonic rites now in existence, let us unite the Templars, who are at the head of each rite, and it will be an easy matter to unite the Brethren of the inferior Grades, not under one Grand Master (we doubt whether this would be desirable); but into one rite‡ or system, which shall be practised throughout the civilized globe as the *true system of Masonry*. Then would Brethren from every clime be able to visit our Temples, and to participate in our Mysteries in all the Degrees, without being first formally healed.

Are you willing to assist in this great and glorious undertaking? If so, you will favour us with your views on this subject. We are not wedded to any particular plan. We merely desire that the *great object* shall be accomplished in the best possible manner. We shall be happy to receive suggestions from all; and shall endeavour, in our Report, to give them their due weight.

* For a list of Masonic Degrees and Rites, see "The Historical Landmarks, and other Evidences of Freemasonry," &c. By Rev. G. Oliver, D.D. &c. London: Richard Spencer, 314, High Holborn, Vol. ii. p. 37-139. "Southern and Western Masonic Miscellany," edited by Albert G. Mackey, M.D. Charleston: S. C. Walker & James, 1851, vol. ii. pp. 21, 52.

† "Historical Landmarks," vol. ii. p. 670. "Dalcho's Ahiman Rezon (1822) Articles of Union," &c., p. 213.

‡ This has frequently been attempted in Europe, but has as often failed; because the advocates of it commenced it in the wrong way. They begun by first endeavouring to unite the Brethren of each rite. They should have begun by endeavouring to unite the Masons of the highest rank—the Templars. For a notice of some of these Conventions, see "Rebold Histoire Generale de la Franc-Maçonnerie." Paris: 1857, p. 207.

We think, however, that to produce a *correct history* of our Order, it will be absolutely necessary that the materials should be obtained in Europe, and under the auspices of the *Grand Encampment* of the United States. No individual, however wealthy he might be, could accomplish this work alone and unaided:—because he could not, as a private individual, enjoy such free access to the Manuscript Records of the old Encampments, as he would if acting officially. We therefore propose, should such a course meet with the approbation of a majority of the Commanderies, that the *Grand Encampment* of the United States, at its next Triennial Session, should select some learned Sir Knight and send him to Europe for *two or three* years, to visit England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Portugal, Italy, Germany, and Sweden, to examine the Manuscript Records of the old Encampments, and to ransack the immense libraries which, in many places, have been accumulating for ages, in order to obtain proper materials for compiling a history of our Order subsequent to the death of De Molay. In addition to the actual travelling expenses of the Brother employed to accomplish this work, we must defray the cost of purchasing, *occasionally*, rare works, and obtaining copies and translations of Manuscripts and Engravings; and we should bear in mind that one employed to leave his home and his occupation for such a purpose, and for so long a time, should be amply compensated for his personal services. It is estimated that there are 4,710 affiliated Templars under the jurisdiction of the *Grand Encampment* of the United States.* Let each of these subscribe 200drs. per annum for *two* years, and the mighty work can be accomplished. Will your Commandery consent to make such an appropriation? If not, what amount will you contribute towards the accomplishment of such a work? Your subscription for the first year may be transmitted to the *Very Eminent* and Hon. BENJAMIN B. FRENCH, of Washington, D.C., *Grand Recorder*, at any time previous to the next Triennial Session of the *Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the United States*, which will occur on the second Tuesday in September, 1859. Should a sufficient amount be subscribed at that time to warrant the undertaking of such a work, the *Grand Encampment* may, should they think proper to select a competent person to perform it, make suitable arrangements for the safe keeping and judicious expenditure of the funds collected; and the distribution of the work, when published, among the subscribers to it. But it is absolutely necessary that we should learn the views of each *State Grand and Subordinate Commandery*, before we can prepare any Report whatever on this highly important subject. We trust, therefore, that we shall hear from each of you as soon as practicable.

The Committee also desire, at the next Session of the *Grand Encampment*, to report concerning the time when and authority by which the Knightly Orders were introduced into North America, their proper costume, jewels, furniture, and Ritual. In other words, we wish to furnish the *Grand Encampment of the United States* with a correct history of the Order in North America from its first introduction to the present time. We therefore pray you to lend us all the assistance in your power, either by furnishing us the information above specified, or by giving us an account of the organization of the various Encampments or Commanderies in your State, and their history. We will thank you for any old documents in your possession, or for any rare works on this subject. All information thus received shall be credited to the proper source. Thus the distinguished body whom we represent will, we trust, be in possession of a vast fund of Statistical and Historical information of the utmost importance to our Order; and will be fully enabled to determine concerning the feasibility of the work proposed in the resolution, and the best method of accomplishing it; and the History of our Order in this country will have been written ere her next Triennial Session; and at a *very trifling* expense.

We trust that, for the love which you bear our time-honoured Order, you will seriously consider the matters herein proposed, and will cheerfully consent to be our

* "Proceedings of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, for the United States of America," &c., p. 73.

co-labourers in our endeavours to shed light over a subject now shrouded in darkness, the elucidation of which is well worthy of the most strenuous efforts of every true Templar.

We have the honour to remain, in the bonds of the Order,

Yours fraternally,

THEO. S. GOURDIN,

Com'r of South Carolina, Com'y No. 1,

Charlestown, S.C.

PHILIP C. TUCKER,

Dep. G'd Master of the Grand Encampment at Vermont,
Vergennes, Vt.

WM. TRACY GOULD,

Past Dep. Gen. Gd. Master.

Augusta, Ga.

FEBRUARY 1, 1857.

The Grand Conclave of Knight Templars will meet in Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 12th of May, when a numerous attendance is expected.

CROSS OF CHRIST ENCAMPMENT.—At the quarterly meeting held at Radley's Hotel, on the 20th of March, Sir Knight Samuel Rawson, Prov. G.M. and Grand Superintendent for China, was installed with all due solemnity as E.C. by Past Com. Sir Knight R. Costa, assisted by Sir Knight J. Masson, Grand Chancellor, and the venerable Sir Knight J. H. Goldsworthy. The E.C. appointed the following Officers:—Sir Knight B. A. Kent, 1st Capt. ; Sir Knight A. M. Moore, 2nd Capt. ; Sir Knight the Rev. J. E. Cox, Prelate ; Sir Knight R. Spence, Reg. We hear it reported this Encampment is about changing its name ; if so, we hope many new banners will be unfurled at the future meetings of this old and influential Encampment.

BOLTON.—*St. James of Jerusalem Encampment.*—The annual conclave of this Encampment was held on Friday, the 13th March ; Sir Knight G. P. Brockbank, E.C. Comp. Sinclair, of Chapter of Concord, No. 44, was balloted for as a candidate for installation and approved. The E. C. elect, Sir Knight John Butler Parkinson, was duly installed into Office by Sir Knight W. H. Wright, the Dir. of Cer. for the province of Lancashire. The following Sir Knights were appointed to the respective Offices:—W. B. Birch, 1st Capt. ; R. Mitchell, 2nd Capt. ; W. H. Wright, Prelate ; T. Higson, Expert ; W. Redick, Almoner ; L. Winstanley, Capt. of Lines ; Musgrave and Smith, Standard Bearers. Knight Equerry banquet was celebrated at seven o'clock, and a most agreeable evening passed.

NEWCASTLE.—*Royal Kent Encampment.*—The Conclave met on Friday, the 13th of March, for the election of M.E. Com. for the ensuing year, and M.W. for the higher Degrees attached to this field of encampment. The Conclave was regularly opened by P.M.E. Com. E. D. Davis, assisted by P.E. Coms. W. L. Jobling, W. Punsheon, W. Dalgish, Wm. Berkley, P. 1st Capt., John Barker, 2nd Capt., Henry Holborn, Treas., Fred. P. Jones, and other Sir Knts. and Fraters. The ballot having been taken for M.E. Com. and Treas., the present M.E. Com. declared the suffrages as follows:—Past 1st Capt. John Barker, as M.E.C. and M.W. ; Past M.E. Com. Fred. P. Jonn, as Treas. ; and Com. John Trotter, as Equery *without*. There being no further business, the Encampment adjourned to Good Friday, the 10th of April, for installation of the M.E. Com. elect and Officers for the ensuing year.

SOMERSETSHIRE.—On the 5th of March, a new Encampment was consecrated in the town of Taunton. On this occasion there was a large gathering of Knights, many coming from great distances, desirous of paying their respects to the V.G.M. of the Order, Colonel Charles Kemys Kemys Tynte, whose name the Encampment bears. The Most Eminent and Supreme G.M. attended, and, in a most feeling and beautiful speech, gave his reasons for consenting to the petition

for an Encampment to be held in Taunton, bearing his name. After expressing his regret that the loss of sight would prevent his performing the ceremony, he deputed the V.E. Prov. G.C. of Dorset, Fr. Charles John Vigne, to act for him on this occasion. The ceremony was impressively performed, and the Most Eminent and Supreme G.M. gave his benediction. The first Eminent Commander named in the Warrant is Sir Knight James Randolph, the V.E. Prov. G.C. of Somerset, who was then placed in the chair by Fr. Vigne, and proceeded to appoint his officers, and to install several candidates. Among the visitors of distinction, besides the V.E. Prov. G.C. of Dorset, were the V.E. Prov. G.C. of Devon, Sir Knight Huysh; the V.E. Prov. G.C. of Worcester, Sir Knight H. Vernon; Fr. Kent, 2nd C.G.C.; Bryant, Evans, Hind, Harvey, Montagu, &c. After the conclusion of the ceremonies, a large party enjoyed the hospitality of the members of the new Encampment, and partook of an excellent and *recherche* dinner at Giles's Hotel. On the following day, the Most Eminent and Supreme G.M. entertained a large party of Sir Knights at his own hospitable board at Halswell.

THE HIGH GRADES.

A meeting of the Metropolitan Chapter, K.H., 30°, for the reception of candidates, will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, the 21st of April. We understand that there is every prospect of a distinguished member of a sister Supreme Grand Chapter attending the meeting.

MARK MASONRY.

WE are happy to notice the progress this Degree is making, under the guiding auspices of those Brethren, who by their activity and energy obtained the first charter last July. The St. Mark's Lodge now numbers upwards of sixty members, and three other lodges have sprung from it, one of which, No. 2, it will be seen is already in active operation—the St. John's at Bolton, in Lancashire, where in two preliminary meetings nineteen members have been advanced. Nos. 3 and 4 will be at work in a few days. May they all flourish and prosper.

ST. MARK'S LODGE (No. 1).—The last regular meeting of the season was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 18th March, Bro. Hughes, D.R.W., presiding. In the course of the evening seven Brethren were advanced, three of whom came from Canterbury, where it is in contemplation almost immediately to apply to the Grand Chapter of Scotland for a charter. At the close of business the Brethren supped together, and in the course of the evening drank prosperity to the three other new Lodges—the St. John's, Bolton; the Thistle; and the Arnott (a name adopted in compliment to Dr. Walker Arnott, the G.Z. of Scotland). It was resolved to open a Lodge of Instruction at Bro. Sheen's, St. Martin's Stores, Long Acre, to meet on Monday evenings.

BOLTON.—*St. John's Mark Lodge* (No. 2).—Two preliminary meetings of this Lodge have been held: one, on the 11th March, when twelve candidates were advanced to the Degree; and another, on the 19th March, when seven candidates were also advanced: the R.W.M., Bro. Brockbank, presided, ably assisted by the Wardens, Bros. Thomas Entwisle and John Mitchell. The ceremony was most creditably performed by the various Officers, more particularly by the Senior Warden, whose admirable manner of performing the duties allotted to him by the R.W. Master, elicited unanimous approbation. The following is a list of the Officers appointed, viz.:—Bros. John Smith, M.O.; J. Howarth, S.O.; Thos.

Forster, J.O.; T. Dawson, Reg. of Marks; T. Morris, Sec.; J. Fitznewton, Treas.; Thos. Mitchell, S.D.; J. Bromley, J.D.; W. Bawden, Conductor; P. Charlton, T.K.; E. Greenhalgh and W. Naisby, Stewards; and W. Dawson, Tyler. The Lodge has been promised the support of many of the most eminent persons in the province of Lancashire. Amongst the Brethren now forming the Lodge are the R.W. the D. Prov. G.M. A. H. Royds; Bros. Matthew Dawes, P. Prov. G.S.W. for East Lancashire, Prov. G. Commander of Knights Templar, Lancashire, and Sov. G. Inspec. Gen. 33rd Degree; Law, Newall, Littleborough, and other Brethren of distinction.

The next meeting is intended to be held in April, but the precise date is not yet fixed.

SCOTLAND.

ABERDEEN.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The following officers were elected on Thursday, March 12.—Bros. A. Hadden, R.W.P. Prov. G.M.; Sir Thomas Blaikie, Prov. G.M.; Alexander Martin, Prov. G.S.M.; James Rettie, Prov. G.S.W.; John Sheed, Prov. G.J.W.; Charles Winchester, Prov. G. Sec.; The Rev. James George Wood, Prov. G. Chap.; Alex. Stables, jun., Prov. G. Treas.; William Duthie, Prov. G. Clerk; George Mitchell, Prov. G.S.D.; James Harvey, Prov. G.J.D.; William Ramage, Prov. G. Architect; John Duncan, Prov. G. Jeweller; Robert Hughes, Prov. G.I.G.; W. Sandieson, Prov. G. Tyler. The Prov. Grand Lodge resolved to visit the various Lodges in the Province in the course of the season.

EDINBURGH.

St. Stephen's Lodge.—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held in St. Giles' Hall, High-street, on Monday, the 9th March, when a very large number of the Brethren assembled, deputations being present from the Lodges, Mary's Chapel, Canongate, Kilwinning, Leith and Canongate, St. David's, Celtic, Edinburgh and Leith, Roman Eagle, Defensive Band, St. Clair, and Journeymen, headed by their R.W. Masters. The ordinary business of the Lodge having been concluded, the R.W.M. Bro. J. S. Taylor, R.E., delivered a lecture on the telescope and its discoveries, which was listened to, with much interest, by a most attentive audience. On the conclusion of the lecture, the R.W.M. of Mary's Chapel, in a neat and appropriate speech, moved that the thanks of the meeting be given to Bro. Taylor for his very lucid and instructive lecture; this being seconded by Bro. Dryburgh, the R.W.M. of Lodge No. 2, was unanimously approved of and recorded in the minutes of the Lodge. Excellent speeches having been made by Bro. Downie, the R.W.M. of St. David's Lodge, the other R.W. Masters, and several of the Brethren, the Lodge closed at high twelve.

GLASGOW.

St. Clair Lodge (No. 362).—On Monday, February 23rd, the fifth annual festival of this Lodge was celebrated. The supper was highly creditable to the purveyor, Bro. Coulthard, of the Albert Hotel. Though one of the youngest Lodges, the Brethren of the St. Clair are already numerous and enthusiastic; and, as a very worthy and ably-managed society deserves, it has of late been joined by many new members.

After the Brethren had refreshed themselves at an inviting board, the Lodge was opened by R.W.M. Bro. Hugh Mair, with the assistance of the Brethren, and his Wardens, Bros. M'Lellan and Brownlie.

The Secretary read the last minutes, and there being no other business, the G. W.

exercised an agreeable portion of his duties. From the chair the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft," "The Grand Lodges of England, of Scotland, of Ireland," and of "The Provincial G.L. of Glasgow, and their respective Grand Masters," were given. To the last of these,

Bro. Dr. Walker Arnold, as D.Prov. G.M., returned thanks, amidst the applause of the Brethren.

Bro. the Rev. Dr. John Graham, who was received with much applause in giving the toast, "The world a Lodge, and every man a Mason," humorously showed the Brethren to what straits they would of necessity be reduced should the literal meaning of the words in the toast, ever be fulfilled. The Rev. Bro. then eloquently described the various methods of initiation pursued by many nations, and ended by proposing the toast, to which the Brethren responded enthusiastically.

The very fine lyric the "Woods of Dunmore" was sung most effectively by Bro. D. Winton, of St. John's Lodge, who, for an amateur, has much compass and sweetness of voice.

Bro. R. Black, in giving "The Lodge St. Clair," lauded the ability of P.M. Bro. James Thomson, who, it had been remarked, had come here to-night, though an invalid and supported on crutches, for his two wardens. Bro. Mair, too, a young Mason, was a zealous and progressing one; and, though an old Master might hold the square up to him, his desire to raise and spread Masonry was undoubted, and he trusted the Lodge would long flourish.

Bro. Mair felt highly the honour done to the Lodge over which he presided by the presence of such large deputations from the sister Lodges of the province. He requested the Brethren to drink the health of Bro. Dr. Walker Arnott, the Prov. G.M., who had so greatly contributed to the success of the Prov. G. Lodge, and wished that the evening of his days would be spent more at ease than its industrious morning.

Bro. Arnott returned thanks.

Bro. the Rev. W. D. Henderson gave "The Benevolent Fund of the Prov. G.L. of Glasgow," and remarked that the name of the toast was quite enough to recommend it to the notice of the Brethren. In the neutral world there was a great misconception of Freemasonry and its principles. He had found people ever ready to attack the Order in any supposed vulnerable point, ignorant though they might be of the very nature of the Craft and its many virtues. In all societies and communities there was always something to blame, but much of that arose from incompetency and want of knowing thoroughly what they professed. Wherever he happened to be—in public or private—he invariably gave all assertions tending to the detriment of Masonry an unqualified denial. They assembled for the very highest of purposes—to spread brotherly love, charity, and a fear of God. There was that great virtue in the Craft—Charity. Charity, whose fountainhead was in heaven, and which flowed thence to earth; charity, whose roots were firmly fixed there, and whose foliage overshadowed the world; under whose branches Freemasons gathered, and shook down the rich fruit to all who were worthy and desired to partake. With these virtues, Masons should not give heed to the remarks of the neutral world. Besides, what institution, what art, what invention, had not suffered from the cavillings of ignorance or indolence? Christianity itself had been, and was still, assailed with a bitterness unparalleled, but yet increased, and he hoped Masonry would have the same to say for many years to come.

The other toasts on the list—viz., "The Lodge St. John, No. 32, and Bro. Cruickshanks, R.W.M.;" "Kilwinning, No. 4, and Bro. J. W. Flemington;" "Thistle, No. 87, and Bro. John Millar, R.W.M.;" "Bro. James Thomson, P.M. of St. Clair;" "The Lodge Star, No. 219, and Bro. R. Black, R.W.M.;" "St. George, No. 333, and Bro. N. Dalveen, R.W.M.;" and "Commercial, No. 360, and Bro. Davidson, R.W.M."—were then given; and those Brethren who respectively headed numerous deputations answered their toasts, for themselves and the members of their Lodges. Altogether, about seventy Brethren had met on the occasion, and the proceedings, from first to last, afforded them much gratification,

ROYAL ARCH.

EDINBURGH SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

A quarterly meeting of this Supreme Body was held on the evening of the 4th of March, in the Star Hotel, M.E. Comp. W. D. Mackitchie acting Z.; M. E. Comp. John Deuchar, H.; and M.E. Comp. Donald Campbell, J. A letter was read from M.E. Comp. Walker Arnott, G.Z., stating his inability to attend by reason of severe indisposition.

The minutes of the previous Quarterly Communication were read and approved of.

A Proxy Commission from Chapter Josiah St. Andrews, No. 10, was read and sustained in favour of Comp. Robert Hunter, a regular Royal Arch Companion of the Edinburgh Chapter, No. 1.

Applications were read, praying for the issue of warrants constituting Mark Master Lodges at Bolton, in Lancashire, under the name and title of the St. John's Lodge of Mark Masters: Bro. G. P. Brockbank, R.W.M.; Thomas Entwisle, S.W.; and John Mitchell, J.W.

At London, under the title of the Thistle Lodge: Thomas Alexander Adams, R.W.M.; James Richmond Sheen, S.W.; Joseph Cotterell, J.W.

Also at London, under the title of the Arnott Lodge: Henry Aaron Isaacs, R.W.M.; W. Frederick Blackburn, S.W.; William Hugh Fenn, J.W.

And further, a third at London, under the name of the Kilwinning Lodge: Henry Riseborough Sharman, R.W.M.; Robert William Armstrong, S.W.; John Mott Thearle, J.W.

The three applications first mentioned being found regular, were sustained, and Charters directed to be issued in favour of the applicants, assigning to them the rank of Nos. 2, 3, and 4, in the order above stated. With regard to the last-mentioned application, namely, that of the Kilwinning Lodge, in which it was proposed to appoint to office two Brethren already holding office in another Lodge in the same Province, it was moved, seconded, and agreed to, "that the consideration thereof be delayed till next quarterly meeting, that the Chapter may have an opportunity of considering in how far the sanctioning of such a proceeding might not tend to excite feelings of rivalry and jealousy, destructive to that harmony which the Chapter is desirous at all times of maintaining amongst those under her control." With a view to the consideration of this question, a motion was tabled by M.E.J. John Deuchar, to the effect of it being declared that in future, "no Mark Master shall be allowed to hold office in more than one Mark Lodge in the same Province;" on the result of which motion will depend the granting or refusal of the application referred to.

A report from the committee was read, wherein it was stated that no important changes were this year called for in reference to the office-bearers falling to be appointed on the 21st. The former office-bearers were accordingly, with little variation, again nominated. The report further contained a recommendation, that with the view of lessening the amount of labour incurred in carrying on the business of the Chapter, certain of the offices which have heretofore existed in the Chapter should be declared honorary merely, and the duties performed by one individual having time and accommodation suitable for the management of the Chapter's business; also a recommendation that certain offices in the Chapter which were considered by the committee not to be in accordance with the Order, but inadvertently borrowed from Craft Masonry, should be wholly suppressed; both of which recommendations, it was agreed, should be taken up and disposed of at a special meeting to be called for the 23rd.

Instructions having been given to the committee in reference to the approaching celebration of the Festival of the Vernal Equinox, the meeting was closed in due form.

This Supreme body again met on the 23rd, at 4 P.M., in their usual place of meeting, in the Star Hotel, in order to consider and adjust certain recommenda-

tions by the Grand Committee, to the effect of simplifying and lessening the labour consequent on the management of the Chapter, by combining the duties heretofore performed by several of the office-bearers, and suppressing those of others which it was thought were not in accordance with the Order, but had been inadvertently borrowed from Craft Masonry. These matters having been disposed of, the Chapter, at 5 P.M., proceeded to the election of office-bearers for the year ensuing, when the following Companions were declared duly elected and installed in office, viz:—Dr. George Arnott Walker Arnott, G.P.Z.; John Whyte Melville, Pro. G.Z.; Captain Patrick Deuchar, D. Pro. Z.; Dr. W. D. Mackitchie, P.H.; John Deuchar, P.J.; William Gaylor, E.; Edward Main, N.; John Henry, Treasurer; Thomas Bøgg, Recorder; Donald Campbell, Chancellor; John Gellatly, 1st Sojourner; Alexander Dounie, 2nd Sojourner; Robert Ramage, 3rd Sojourner; George Darling, Sword Bearer; Stewart Watson and Thomas Drybrough, Standard Bearers; David Crichton, Janitor.

The election and installation being concluded, the Chapter was closed in ample form; after which the Companions, according to usual practice, adjourned to an adjoining hall, tastefully decorated with the emblems and insignia of the Order, to dine together in honour of the occasion of their present meeting. The assemblage of the Companions outnumbered those present on any similar occasion during the last ten or twelve years. The chair was occupied by Dr. Arnott, the M.E.P.Z.; supported on the right by Dr. Mackitchie, G.P.H., and on the left by John Deuchar, of Morningside, G.P.J.; Comp. John Gellatly, 1st Grand Sojourner, performing the duties of Croupier. Grace having been said by M.E.P.J., the Companions partook of an excellent repast, provided in a style of elegance and comfort peculiar to Comp. Beattie, the worthy landlord. The excellent chairman, having disposed of the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, and fraternally acknowledged the heads of the Sister Grand Chapters of England and Ireland, proceeded to notice the prosperous condition to which the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland had now arrived. Already were there on the Roll seventy-seven Chapters, some of which, no doubt, had, through adverse circumstances, now ceased to exist; but to compensate for this, new Charters were from year to year being applied for, and it might reasonably be anticipated that from these sources, and from the accession daily received by the establishment of separate Mark Lodges, which were eagerly applied for by English Brethren, the Supreme Chapter would find itself in a position of strength and importance which it had not hitherto been its fortune to possess. In reply to his health being proposed by M.E.P.J., the M.E. chairman stated that he duly felt and appreciated the honour which had this day been done him, by electing him for the second time to the high office of P.G.Z., an office which he acknowledged it to be his pride to occupy, and by every effort in his power was willing and anxious to render serviceable to the Companions, so long as he should be enabled to hold it; but looking at the fact of this day being the commencement to him of the fifteenth year of office in the Chapter, and that his health had of late been declining, while he felt advanced years were now approaching, he greatly doubted whether this was not the last occasion on which he might have the pleasure of meeting with the Companions at the festive board. It would be well, therefore, for the Chapter to be prepared with a successor for him. This announcement was received with deep regret by the Companions.

The healths of various others of the Office-bearers having been proposed and suitably acknowledged, the excellent chairman took occasion to notice the growing desire which had of late manifested itself in England to obtain, in a legal manner, warrants to work the Mark Master Degree, from which, by the Constitutions of England, they were excluded, as that Degree was ignored by both Blue and Red Charter. There had already been four warrants granted for this Degree to different parts of England, and four or five more were in embryo, and it was considered that before another year should have revolved, that number might be tripled or quadrupled, such was the spirit and eagerness evinced by the English Brethren to possess this Degree. He concluded by proposing, "Prosperity to the Mark Master Lodges holding Warrants under Scotland."

Three Chapters, Edinburgh, No. 1, Glasgow, No. 50, and Canongate Kil-

winning, No. 56, headed by their respective First Principals, favoured the meeting with their presence. They were severally addressed by the excellent chairman, who received in return able replies and congratulations.

The evening was spent in a most agreeable and instructive manner, the remarks made by the chairman in introducing the various toasts in the programme abounding with incident and illustration, for which few, who do not like himself feel a deep interest in Freemasonry, would be found capable. The proceedings were, at intervals, relieved by some excellent singing by Comps. Ebsworth, Manning, Darling, Law, &c.

The meeting closed shortly after ten o'clock, the Companions joining in the national melody of "Auld Lang Syne."

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN SCOTLAND.

The following brief history of Knight Templarism in Scotland we extract from the preface to the Statutes of the Order just published, in which we think we trace the hand of our esteemed Bro. and Comp. Dr. Walker Arnott, of the Glasgow University:—

"It is a matter of history that the Order of the Temple was endeavoured to be suppressed in 1309. In France it was extinguished by Philip le Bel; in England by King Edward II.: only two remnants are known to have survived the general persecution;—one of these was saved in Portugal on condition of changing the name to that of 'Knights of Christ,' and of becoming a mere honorary Order, of which the Crown alone was to have right of nominating the members;—the other was in Scotland, probably saved by the determined stand which the Scotch were then making against Edward, and which resulted in the freedom of their native country.*

"About the commencement of the reign of James IV., or prior thereto, a union was effected by the Knights of the Temple and those of St. John, and the lands belonging to either body were consolidated. This union appears to have continued till the era of the Reformation, when the Act 1560 prohibited all allegiance within the realm to the See of Rome. The combined Orders then lost their estates, and ceased to be known as a military body. Unwilling to drop their ceremonies, they fraternised with the Freemasons, and in their Lodges continued to receive postulants. By the ancient laws of the Temple no one could be admitted to the privileges of a Knight who could not show a certain descent; and it is probable, therefore, that it was at this time a distinction took place among the members, and that two classes originated: the one open to the Freemasons in general, although they could not show a genealogical tree; the other was restricted to those who could. There is no evidence that there was any difference of initiation, nor was this at all likely. These two sections may be styled

* "During the last and present centuries it was supposed that a third, and, according to some, the only, branch of the Order in existence, had been preserved in France, but such claim was unsupported by *extrinsic* evidence, and, as is now well known, was founded on a charter, the fictitious nature of which is obvious, from Bertrand Duguesclin's name being adhibited to it, while history declares that he could not write. To this surreptitious body the late Duke of Sussex and Sir Sidney Smith both belonged before its origin had been ascertained. By some it has been asserted that the Order was established by a Pope, and that another Pope could extinguish it at his pleasure by a Bull or otherwise; but a Charter of Privileges cannot be so arbitrarily suppressed: besides, the Order was only confirmed by a Pope, and continued whether the then temporal head of the Church pleased or not, so long as a sufficient number of its members survived to carry on its affairs. The present body in Scotland merely claims to be the legitimate descendants, by adoption, of the original Knights of the Order. The Royal Order of Scotland has never claimed, as alleged by some writers, to be 'derived from the Ancient Order of Knights Templars.'"

the Democratic or Masonic, and the Aristocratic or Chivalric branches of the Order. No one could be admitted to the Aristocratic branch without the permission of those who held the sway in Scotland. The Chivalric class was one and indivisible, and alone had the right of appointing the Grand Master, and although permanently located in Scotland, its powers extended over the whole world. It was Cosmopolite. The Democratic branch might have many heads, and was, ere long, carried by Freemasons to England and Ireland, and ultimately found its way to North America; but it seems never to have been much fostered except in these countries. As gentlemen of rank in Scotland joined the Order from time to time, they were, after first joining the Masonic branch, admitted into the Chivalric, which was thus never allowed to become dormant; at times it appears even to have attracted much attention, but the limits between the two were never clearly defined.

“In 1811 an attempt was made to bring all the Encampments in Scotland under a common head, to take out charters, and be regulated by a uniform code of laws. This was at length accomplished under the patronage of the late Duke of Kent, who was then Master of the English Masonic Templars; and the supreme power was called the Conclave. This Conclave appears to have been formed by a combination of the two classes in Scotland. Some years afterwards the grades of Knights with a patent from the Grand Master (now called *Knights Companions*), *Knights Commanders* and *Knights Grand Crosses* were instituted, with the intention to confer these titles on the Chivalric body *only*; but others received them, and as all Knights Commanders and Knights Grand Crosses had the privilege of a Seat in Conclave, confusion if not jealousy soon arose. Those with commissions from the Grand Master were more numerous than the representatives of Encampments. Laws were passed which Encampments considered detrimental to their interests. The result was that most of the Encampments ceased making returns of their Intrants; or indeed taking any part in the general business of the Order, and either became dormant or held illegal meetings in virtue of their Charter, after that Charter had been forfeited by their disobedience, and declared cancelled.

“In 1843 the supreme power of the whole Order or Chivalric class began to take the name of ‘Grand Chapter’ in place of Conclave, and in 1845 this gave way to the more correct one of ‘Chapter General.’ The Grand Priory of Scotland, corresponding to what is called ‘Grand Encampment’ or ‘Grand Conclave’ in other countries, retained the name by which it had been known for several years.

“It is obvious from the above that the only distinction between the two classes of Knight Templars was in the *civil rank* of the members. In the Statutes that were published in 1843 it is declared that Grand Priories, each in its own language or country, are at the head of the *Masonic degrees* practised in Priories or Encampments, and shall make regulations for these; but unfortunately it was not stated what these Masonic degrees were, or if that of Templar was to be held as one. The consequence was, that ere long there were Priories formed holding of the Chapter General, with power to make Chivalric Knights, without these having to pass through an initiation in an ordinary Encampment as Masonic Templars; and ultimately a law was passed* to admit gentlemen into the Chivalric body who were not Freemasons, provided they paid a much higher fee. These new regulations prevented those being present at meetings who had been obligated to recognize no one who had not previously attained the Royal Arch degree, and proved otherwise detrimental to both the Masonic and Chivalric bodies, as appears from the rarity of the meetings and paucity of attendance.

“As, at the present day, the civil rank of individuals does not lie solely in a long line of ancestors, or in landed estates, or in acquired wealth, or in a profession, or in talent, but sometimes in the one, and sometimes in another, it was suggested, in 1855, that the proper distinction between the Masonic and Chivalric Knights should consist in the recognition of the latter by a patent from the

* “As all the Charters granted between 1800 and 1836 stipulated that no one was to be admitted a Templar who was not previously a Royal Arch Mason, grave doubts may be entertained if the Chapter General had power to pass such a law.”

Grand Master or Sovereign of the Cosmopolite body, while a Masonic Knight can get a Diploma from the Master of his langue (whether known as 'Grand Commander,' or 'Grand Master,' or 'Grand Prior'), or a certificate from the Grand Secretary of that country. This principle, with some of the details requisite to carry it out in practice, was submitted to the Chapter General on 11th March, 1856, and met with so favourable a reception, as tending to do away with all doubt and jealousy in future, that a series of Statutes founded thereon was permitted to be laid on the table, and ordered to be taken into consideration on the 1st April, to which day the Chapter General was adjourned. At this last meeting they were fully discussed and finally agreed to, and amongst them it is declared that every one received into the Order must be previously a regular Royal Arch Mason."

COLONIAL.

AUSTRALIA.

MELBOURNE.—*East Collingwood Bridge*.—November 7th was a day which will be long remembered by the residents of East Collingwood, for there could not have been less than 3,000 persons, chiefly local residents, assembled to witness the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone, with Masonic honours, of the new bridge to be carried over the Yarra, in the line of Johnston Street. The procession formed in Gertrude Street, and included

The Masonic Brethren, in Full Costume
(Seniors Last).

SCOTLAND :

Australasian Kilwinning Lodge, No. 337.

IRELAND :

Washington Lodge.

Hiram Lodge, No. 349.

ENGLAND :

The Collingwood Lodge.

The Hobson's Bay Lodge.

The St. Kilda Lodge, No. 917.

The Australasia Lodge, No. 773.

The Australia Felix Lodge, No. 697.

The Worshipful Master of the Collingwood Lodge, bearing the Mallet ;
The Worshipful Master of the Washington Lodge, bearing the Trowel ;
The Worshipful Master of the Hobson's Bay Lodge, bearing the Inscription Scroll
for the Foundation Stone ;

The Worshipful Master of the St. Kilda Lodge, No. 917, bearing a Phial
containing the Coins to be deposited in the Stone ;

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Australasia, No. 773, bearing the
Square, Level, and Plumb.

SCOTLAND :

The Right Worshipful Master of the Lodge Australasia, Kilwinning, No. 337,
bearing a Ewer with Wine.

IRELAND :

(Senior Local Rank,)

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Hiram, No. 349, bearing a
Cornucopia with Corn.

ENGLAND :

The Worshipful Master of the Australia Felix Lodge, No. 697, bearing a
Ewer with Oil ;

Provincial Grand Lodge for Victoria, under the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

P. G. Tyler.

V. W. Provincial Grand Officers.

A considerable number of persons followed the line of procession, and the windows of all the surrounding houses were filled with smiling faces. A few of the houses also had flags hoisted in honour of the event. For a considerable time before the procession arrived at the site of the bridge, a large assemblage had collected, consisting chiefly of ladies, to the number of several hundred, and the children of nine or ten schools in East Collingwood, altogether about six hundred. The ladies occupied raised seats in front of the spot, and the children, under the care of their teachers, and many of them bearing banners, drew up in line and exercised their tiny voices in a "Hip, hip, hip, hurrah," as the procession passed. The whole spectacle had a most cheerful and interesting appearance, and the cheers of the spectators on this side of the water were caught up and reverberated by numbers of children and their friends who had been ferried across the river, and occupied the heights on the other side.

The bridge will be supported by a massive blue stone abutment on each side of the river, and will consist of a laminated wooden arch, 170 feet in span, and therefore the widest at present in the colony, Prince's Bridge being 150 feet only. The abutments, which will be ready for the bridge to be thrown over in about six weeks from the present, are based—the one on the east side of the river on a solid rock, at an elevation of 30 feet from the level of the river, and the western side on piles averaging 25 feet in length, filled up with concrete to a depth of three feet. The height of the centre of the span of the arch from the level of the river will be about 50 feet. The whole cost of the bridge and approaches will be about £20,000. The contracts are three in number, viz., for the abutments, £8,000; the span, in wood, £7,000; and the approaches, £5,000. Of this sum, £8,000 were voted by the Government, and a few hundreds of pounds raised among the inhabitants. The contracts for the span and approaches are taken, but they cannot be proceeded with until additional funds are forthcoming in the shape of a further grant from the Government.

On the arrival of the procession at the spot, the band played, and the assemblage took up the 100th Psalm. The upper stone was then raised and the lower one adjusted, the Master depositing the phial of coins in the cavity of the lower stone. The Master then read the inscription-roll, and placed it in its proper position. The acting Prov. Grand Chaplain offered up a prayer; "So mote it be," by the Brethren. The chairman of the Municipal Council then presented the trowel to the Prov. G.M.

The trowel, which was manufactured of silver, was an elegant piece of workmanship, and bore a suitable inscription. Its value is £25, and it was subscribed for, for presentation to Captain Clarke, by the chairman and members of the East Collingwood Municipality from their private funds.

Captain Clarke, on receiving the trowel, said he accepted it as a present to Freemasonry in the colony, of which he had been appointed the Prov. Grand Master, rather than to him as an individual. He received it with the fullest assurance that he could do so with honour to himself, for his sympathies were closely bound up with the best interests of the colony. (Cheers.)

A workman with the cement having previously rough-spread it on the stone, the Prov. Grand Master with the trowel completed the work. The upper stone was then lowered slowly, the band playing at the time. The Master bearing the plumb, level, and square, presented them successively to the Prov. G.M. Bro. Smith; and the acting Prov. S. and J. Grand Wardens, who respectively proved the stone with each. The Prov. G.M. then received the mallet from the Master bearing it, and gave three knocks on the stone, and said:—

"Having laid this foundation-stone in just position, according to the rules of our ancient Craft, we pray the G.A.O.T.U., of his kind Providence, to enable us to carry on and complete the work we have begun, and that he would be pleased to guard the structure, and preserve it from ruin and decay, to the latest posterity." "So mote it be," by the Brethren.

The cornucopia with corn, the ewer with corn, the ewer with wine, and the ewer with oil were then successively presented to the Prov. G.M., who said:—

On strewing corn on the stone,—“I scatter this corn as a symbol of plenty.”
“So mote it be,” by the Brethren.

On his pouring wine on the stone,—“ I pour this wine as a symbol of joy and gladness.” “ So mote it be,” by the Brethren.

And on his pouring oil on the stone,—“ I pour this oil as a symbol of peace and contentment.” “ So mote it be,” by the Brethren.

Saying also :—

“ May the Creator, the Architect, and the bounteous Author of nature, the Omnipotent and Merciful Father of all, bless this town and this land in general with corn, wine, and oil, and all necessaries, conveniences, and comforts of life ; and may the same Almighty Power make us humbly grateful for all His mercies.”

“ So mote it be,” by the Brethren.

The Prov. G.M. now received the plan, &c. of the works from the engineer, after inspecting which he returned them, and said :—“ Mr. Engineer,—The foundation-stone of the Collingwood Bridge, planned in much wisdom by you, being now laid, and these implements having been applied to it by me and my Provincial Officers, and approved of, I return them to you, in full confidence that, as a skilful and faithful workman, you will use them in such a manner that the bridge may rise in order, harmony, and beauty, and being perfected in strength will answer every purpose for which it is intended, to your credit and to the honour of those who have selected you.”

The National Anthem, by the band and the assemblage.

After the ceremony of laying the stone had been concluded,—

Captain Clarke said, that according to an old custom the Prov. Grand Masters, on occasions like the present, addressed a few words to the assemblage. He hoped that the ceremony which they had just performed had been carried out to the satisfaction of all parties present. (Cheers.) When he looked around, and observed the number of bright faces that had assembled to do honour to the occasion, he confessed that he felt somewhat nervous in making a speech ; but he thanked those present, who were not of their Order, for the honour which they had conferred upon them in surrounding them that day to assist them in the discharge of their duties. (Cheers.)

Mr. T. T. A'Beckett, as chairman of the East Collingwood Municipality, on the part of himself, and his colleagues, thanked the assemblage for the honour which had been conferred upon them, especially by the fairer portion of the creation, in their attendance to assist in their procession that day. He was not a Brother of the honourable body of Masons, but having witnessed the good effects which flow from their organization, he had often regretted that he was not, and perhaps he should have the honour yet. It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance to the district of the work which they had met that day to advance. He again thanked the Masons and the Prov. G.M. for their attendance that day, which had given so much *éclat* to their proceedings.

Three cheers were then given for his Excellency the acting Governor, the Prov. G.M., the Chairman of the Municipal Council, the ladies, and the Masonic procession re-formed and proceeded to Abbotsford House, situate on the rise of the hill. In the evening there was a grand dinner, and everything passed off most satisfactorily.—*Melbourne Argus*.

VICTORIA.—*Portland Lodge of Victoria* (No. 841).—On the 10th of November, 1856, Bro. Philip Scott, who has during the past two years ruled the Lodge as Master, resigned the chair to his successor, Bro. T. W. Watson, who was duly installed according to ancient custom by Bro. Scott. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following Officers :—Bros. Charles, S.W. ; Hughes, J.W. ; P. Scott, Treas. ; Rose, Sec. ; Burn, S.D. ; Liddell, J.D.S. ; McConachy, J.G. ; Crabbe, Dir. of Cer. ; Roberts, Steward. In the course of the evening an address and a P.M.'s Jewel were presented to Bro. Scott by the W.M., in the name of the Lodge, in testimony of his services in “ ruling ” the Lodge during the two first years of their meeting. The Lodge is in a healthy state, and Freemasonry may be said to be firmly rooted in this town and port.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

*Grand Festival of the combined Lodges the "Goede Hoop" and the "Goede Trouw" *
[working under the Grand East of the Netherlands, at Cape Town].*

The existence of the Grand East of the Netherlands for the period of 100 years, and his Royal Highness Prince Frederick of the Netherlands having filled the chair as M.W. Grand Master for the period of forty successive years, during which time he has meritoriously gained the love and esteem of every Brother under that authority, caused the two Dutch Lodges here to unite and to hold a festive Lodge in commemoration of these events. About three o'clock, on the 19th of December, 1856, the spacious ground surrounding and belonging to the Goede Hoop Lodge began to get filled with Brethren and spectators (chiefly ladies), when the members of the Dutch Lodges retired to the Temple, where the Masters of the Goede Hoop opened the Lodge with his Wardens, in due form. The Hoop Lodge, No. 173, and members were now introduced with due honours, the orchestra playing some sacred music, and being welcomed by the W.M., a commission was despatched to introduce the British Lodge, No. 419, and the Royal Arch Chapter with the same ceremonies, after which the R.W. Prov. G.M. was received with his Standard-bearers, in due and solemn form. The W.M. of the Goede Hoop Lodge having shortly explained the purport of the meeting, desired the R.W. to direct the labours of the day, tendering his own assistance as well as the assistance of the W.M. of the Goede Trow, which being accepted, they took the seats of the Wardens. The R.W. addressed the Brethren in English, expounding on the glorious event they had met to celebrate, and dwelt on the good feeling which existed between the Grand Lodge of England and that of Holland, even at the time that Holland formed a province of the Grand Lodge of England. The orator of the Goede Trow Lodge having been called upon by the R.W., then delivered an oration in Dutch, with great declamatory *éclat*, which no doubt would have been more impressive if one-half of it had been left for another occasion. A grand procession was then formed and proceeded over the grounds of the Lodge, the band of H.M.'s 89th regt. playing the Masonic march. Having returned to the Temple, the R.W. desired the W.M. of the Goede Trouw to conclude the business, who, having taken the chair and his Wardens taken their seats, exhorted once more the Brethren and proposed to them to raise a monument on this glorious day, by uniting together for the purpose of establishing a Masonic Widow and Orphan Fund (which, however, we are sorry to say, did not appear to meet with any support from the Goede Hoop Lodge), after which the Lodge was duly closed. During the different intervals the choir attached to the Goede Trow Lodge performed several appropriate pieces with their usual tact and good taste. In the evening the Brethren (about 120) dined together in the hall of the House of Assembly, and separated in love, peace, and harmony, at the smaller hours.

CANADA (WEST).

HAMILTON.—We have been favoured with a letter from the Secretary of the Lodge of Strict Observance, which is dated, Festival of St. John the Evangelist, A.L., 5856, and says, travelling the circle of time, we are again permitted to reach the anniversary of our patron saint, and, in conformity with the established custom, the Officers of this Lodge have this day been installed, whose names I have the pleasure of transmitting herewith. The Lodge of Strict Observance tenders its hearty wishes for the continued prosperity of yourself and that of the *Magazine and Mirror*, and desires to express its unalloyed happiness in acknowledging the Grand Lodge of Canada as the only supreme Masonic authority in this country, in finding her position prosperous and happy, and in anticipating for her a bright future of usefulness, when, untrammelled by indifference, and

* Goede Hoop, *anglicè* Good Hope; Goede Trouw, Good Faith.

unchilled by neglect, she will extend the pure principles of our beloved Institution through a long career of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

The following is the list of Officers referred to:—R.W. Bro. Richard Bull, W.M. ; R.W. Bro. John Osborne, P.M. ; Bro. Samuel George Patton, S.W. ; Bro. James Mounsey Rogerson, J.W. ; R.W. Bro. William Bellhouse, Chap. ; Bro. Richard Benner, Treas. ; Bro. Henry Grist, Sec. ; Bro. John Barklay Ellison, S.D. ; Bro. John Alexander Bruce, J.D. ; Bro. John Phineas Dowker, M.C. ; Bro. Hugh Morrison Melville, Org. ; Bros. Joseph Mills, Hugh McInnes, Stewards ; Bro. George Wright, I.G. ; Bro. John Morrison, T.

I N D I A.

SINGAPORE.

Lodge Zetland in the East (No. 748).—St. John's Day, the 27th December, 1856, will ever be a memorable day in the annals of the Craft in this settlement. The Brethren of Lodge Zetland in the East have for a long time felt the inconvenience of insufficient accommodation in their Masonic Hall ; and owing to the zeal and spirited exertions of the Worshipful Bro. W. H. Read, who is ever foremost in the field when anything for the benefit of the Craft in general, or this Lodge in particular, can be accomplished, a building fund was established in the month of June last, and the sum of 8,000 dollars subscribed in a very short time for the erection of a new Temple. A spot of ground had for some time past been purchased for this object, and every necessary preparation was made for the immediate commencement of the building, for which a very beautiful design was supplied by Bro. J. Bennett, a member of the Lodge, and a talented engineer and architect. This plan was submitted to the building committee ; and the details being found in every way complete and satisfactory, the thanks of the Lodge and a handsome Jewel were voted to Bro. Bennett, in acknowledgment of his zealous and skilful labours for the assistance of the Lodge.

At this juncture of the proceedings it became known that the residence of the Hon. Mr. Church on the Esplanade was about to be disposed of, in consequence of that gentleman's retirement from the service of Government and departure to Europe, and the superior advantage of that site at once became manifest. After due consideration and discussion, it was decided at a meeting of the Trustees and building Committee, assisted by all the Officers of the Lodge, that Worshipful Bro. H. T. Marshall should be authorized and requested to purchase this desirable property, and that the scheme for the building fund should be remodelled accordingly, so that any shareholders not disposed to approve of the new arrangement might have the opportunity to withdraw their subscriptions.

The purchase of Mr. Church's house was then effected for the sum of 9,300 dollars ; and at a subsequent meeting of the shareholders, the new proposal was approved and sanctioned without a single dissentient voice, and the thanks of the Brethren were most warmly accorded to Worshipful Bro. Marshall, for the trouble and responsibility he had taken to secure such superior accommodation for the Lodge. The building was found to be admirably adapted for the purposes of a Masonic Hall ; and with a few necessary alterations and repairs, it has been rendered as well suited for our wants as if it had been expressly designed and erected for a Masonic Temple ; whilst its locality in one of the most conspicuous and most respectable situations in the settlement fronting the Esplanade (the Hyde Park of Singapore, and commanding a delightful view of the harbour), cannot but be of the highest advantage to the character and permanent success of the Craft.

The arrangements being completed, it was determined that the inauguration of the new Temple should take place on the Festival of St. John the Baptist, and accordingly at half-past 3 o'clock, P.M. of that day, the Brethren assembled in their old Lodge-rooms in North Bridge Road, and walked in procession to their New

Hall on the Esplanade. The important proceedings of the day were conducted under the skilful directions of the Worshipful Bro. W. H. Read officiating as Pro-Prov. G.M., and the Worshipful Bro. R. Taylor as Marshal.

The spectacle was witnessed by great numbers of the European community and vast crowds of Chinese and other natives, who assembled to behold a sight which possessed additional interest from the fact of this being the first time the Masonic Brethren had appeared in public procession within the precincts of the town, and much admiration was expressed at the elegance and taste exhibited on the organization of the procedure.

On arrival at the new Temple, the ceremony of its dedication to Masonry, to Virtue, and to Universal Benevolence, was conducted with his usual excellence and ability by the Worshipful Bro. W. H. Read as Prov. P.G.M.; and suitable and eloquent addresses were delivered by the Worshipful Bros. J. B. Cumming and J. C. Smith, illustrative of the proceedings of the day, the former on the difference between theoretical and practical Masonry, and the latter upon the important duties and responsibilities which devolved upon the Craft in general, and this Lodge in particular. After the dedication was completed, the Prov. P.G.M. proceeded to install the Worshipful Bro. H. T. Marshall the Master elect for the ensuing year, and the following Officers were also invested with their respective collars:—Bros. H. W. Wood, S.W.; W. Wilkinson, J. W.; J. C. Smith, Treas.; F. M. Goss, Sec.; J. Baxter, S.; J. G. Boyd, J.; J. F. Davidson, I.G.; W. Kraal and C. Perreau, Tylers.

The important proceedings of the day did not terminate until a little after six o'clock, when the Lodge was closed in due form; and at half-past six, seventy-four of the Brethren (including visitors) sat down to their annual banquet, during which various toasts were proposed and responded to, with the utmost spirit and enthusiasm.

The enjoyment of the evening was much enhanced by the beautiful performances of the band of the 38th regiment, and the admirable tact and courteous bearing of the installed Master.

The Brethren finally separated at eleven o'clock, "happy to meet, happy to part, and happy to meet again."

It would be unjust were it not recorded that the success accomplished on this auspicious day is chiefly owing to the pre-eminent zeal, untiring exertions, and notable ability of the Worshipful Bro. W. H. Read, who, with so much aptitude and efficiency, officiated as Pro-Prov. G.M. on this occasion. This Lodge now exhibits a list of 120 Members, including some who reside in neighbouring towns, and amongst them Sir James Brooke, K.C.B., the world-renowned Rajah of Sarawak, and His Highness the Sultan of Linga, a prince of paramount power and influence amongst the Malayan chiefs. The interests of Masonry in the Malacca Straits and Archipelago urgently demand the permanent institution of a Provincial Grand Lodge at this settlement, and we do not hesitate to say that there is not one who could so deservedly and so appropriately be nominated to the Supreme dignity as the distinguished Brother who has with so much promptness and benefit added this claim to the important office, to his many other services to the Craft in these parts.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

BRO. ADAMS'S BALL.—The attendance at Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's, on Tuesday, the 10th of March, fully shows not only the increasing popularity of the delightful recreation of dancing, but also the estimation in which our Bro. Adams's ball is held by the votaries of Terpsichore as well as personal friends. It has seldom been our lot to witness a more crowded suite of rooms than was presented upon this occasion. The band did not occupy the usual orchestra, being much too numerous, but a temporary one erected at the end of the large room;

whether this was an improvement is doubtful, as a large space was lost to the dancers, but as so large a number of performers could not be accommodated in any other way, we were content to take things as we found them, and feel, as Adams had done his best to make us, satisfied. We need scarcely say the band was excellent. We had a well-arranged programme, an obliging M.C. in Bro. Framp-ton, and though last, not least—but most important—a galaxy of beauty left but little to be desired, and rendered it one of the most pleasing *réunions* of the season, and one that no doubt will be oft remembered by the many present—more particularly if Bro. Adams should make this, his twenty-first annual ball, his last; but we hope he will listen to the suggestions of his friends, and commence a fresh series, which will extend to the same number, and that we shall have the pleasure of congratulating him upon the success of his *next twenty-first Annual Ball*.

BIRMINGHAM.—The excellent and greatly esteemed Secretary of the Howe Lodge, No. 857, Bro. Broughton, thought it desirable that the wives and daughters of the Masons of Birmingham should join in the inauguration of the suite of rooms erected by members of the Howe Lodge for their use; he, therefore (having had the rooms placed at his disposal by the W.M., Bro. Marshall, and the permission of the Right Hon. and R.W. the P.G.M., Lord Leigh, that the Brethren should appear in Masonic costume), invited one hundred and fifty of the Fraternity to a ball on the 20th of February. Accordingly, on that evening assembled in these rooms one of the most pleasant, social, and enjoyable parties ever congregated: after coffee was served, at nine o'clock, the company, fully determined to enjoy themselves, were conducted to the ball-room, which was decorated tastefully with evergreens, flowers, the beautiful banners of the Prov. Grand Lodge, the Templars, and Royal Arch Degrees. Dance followed dance in rapid succession, assisted by an excellent band and very spirited music. One o'clock having brought the first part to a conclusion, supper was announced, which proved to be a truly Masonic repast; in fact, a more sumptuous or profuse entertainment could not possibly be conceived. The health of Bro. Broughton was proposed, and the toast most enthusiastically responded to in bumpers of champagne. Bro. Broughton briefly thanked his guests, and told them it was the happiest moment of his life to have the Brethren of the various Lodges meeting him there, and hoped it would not be the last time he should have the pleasure. "Mrs. Bedford and the Ladies" was the next toast, which was also most heartily responded to; the company then returned to the ball-room, where they continued the dancing with vigour and spirit until five o'clock in the morning, when "Sir Roger" brought the ball to a conclusion, and the party separated, acknowledging it to be *the* ball of the season. We must not forget to mention that the appearance of the Brethren in the various Masonic costumes added much to the gaiety of the scene, and we prophesy that this will not be the last meeting of the kind held in the Howe Rooms.

GLASGOW.—*St. Mark's Lodge*.—On the evening of Thursday, the 12th March, the Lodge *St. Mark's* annual assembly took place in their chaste and unique hall, which had a most imposing and brilliant appearance, not only from the richness of the artistic decorations and the magnificent display of banners hanging from its walls, but also from the floor having been laid with white linen, painted with appropriate designs, among which was the Lion of *St. Mark*, encircled by a wreath of the choicest flowers. About nine o'clock the members of the Lodge, accompanied by their fair friends, began to assemble, and by ten there was nearly a hundred present; and from the beginning, on till past three o'clock, the dancing was kept up with great vigour, to the spirit-inspiring strains of excellent music. The rich white dresses of the ladies presented an ample contrast to the Brethren in their full Masonic costume, almost all of whom wore the brilliant decorations of the higher Masonic orders, whilst there were a few attired in the white robes of the order of Knights Templar. The "adjacent" occasionally proved a grateful and a cool retreat, where an abundant supply of creams, jellies, and the creature comforts, refreshed and reinvigorated the exhausted dancers, and did great credit to Bro. Charles Wilson, of the Royal Restaurant, who was the purveyor on the occasion.

The Lodge St. George (No. 333).—On Thursday, the 5th of March, the members of this Lodge held their annual winter festival in the Trades Hall, Glasford Street, on which occasion this magnificent hall was decorated with flags of all nations. The Brethren appeared in full insignia of the Order, the Office-bearers being distinguished by the gorgeous jewels of the Lodge which they wore, whilst their wives and fair friends were dressed in unique and varied ball costumes, which presented a very gay and animated appearance. On the entry of the Grand Master (dancing having continued for two hours), at ten o'clock, the company, numbering about 120, adjourned to the saloon and took their seats around the festive board, and from the indications we observed, the most cordial and unbounded feelings of mirth and conviviality prevailed throughout. The W.M. Bro. Neil B. Dalveen presided, supported on the right by Bro. James Muir, P.M.; Bro. Munn, Chap.; and Bro. Marshall, Sec.; and on the left by Bro. R. Black, W.M., No. 219; Bro. Simpson, Treas., and Bro. G. Purdon; the Wardens, Bros. A. Dougall and Bro. Wm. White, were supported on the right by Bros. A. Fulton, Wm. Gillis, and R. Park; on the left by Bros. S. Brown, R. Jack, and Morton. Blessing being asked by the Chaplain, the company proceeded to do ample justice to the choice eatables of a luxuriantly laden table, which did credit to Bro. McLearnie, as purveyor. The W.M. then gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were duly responded to. Bro. Black afterwards gave, "Prosperity to the Lodge St. George," alluded to the W.M. Bro. Dalveen in very flattering terms, for the able and efficient manner he had discharged the duties of the chair during the three successive years he had been unanimously elected to that office, and said that grand meeting was a great proof of the estimation in which he was held by the Office-bearers and members of this Lodge. The R.W.M. made a very appropriate reply, stating that their progress since last year had been steady, the Lodge was still increasing, and the members joining seemed to be mutually anxious to help in the noble work of making life's path smooth to each other, and that was what he understood the principles of real Freemasonry to consist. "The Visitors, Brethren, and Bro. Black, No. 219," was given by Bro. Muir, P.M., to which Bro. Black replied. "The Ladies" was proposed in very graceful terms by Bro. Gillis, which was rapturously applauded. During the evening the company were greatly delighted by the excellent singing and recitations of Bros. Jack, Dickie, Menzies, &c. A vote of thanks being unanimously given to the croupers and committee of management, which was heartily responded to, the company again adjourned to the ball-room, where, under the able direction of Bro. Professor J. K. Hunter, and the aid of Bro. Man's celebrated quadrille band, the magic dance was kept up until an early hour, when all parted in peace, happiness, and concord.

LIVERPOOL.—A grand amateur performance took place at the Theatre Royal, on the 13th March, under the patronage of the M.W. the Prov. G.M., the Prov. G. Officers, the W. Masters, and Officers of the Masonic Lodges in the Western Division of Lancashire; the proceeds to be applied in aid of the Fund for building a Masonic Hall in this town. The performance consisted of the "Rent Day," "Taming a Tiger," and the burlesque of "Richard ye Third," the characters being admirably supported by Brethren, assisted by members of the literary and dramatic clubs. The stage direction was confided to Mr. James Walton, and to that gentleman's patience and industry, as well as to his acknowledged ability, the amateurs are, in a great measure, indebted for their success. After defraying the usual expenses, a sum of about £100 will be contributed to the Fund—not a bad night's work.

It is, perhaps, stepping a little out of our usual course to notice the grand fancy dress ball, held at the St. George's Hall, Liverpool, on the 3rd of March; but we do so for three especial reasons: first, because a very great many Freemasons patronized it; secondly, because it was a very grand affair and *deserves* to be noticed and handed down to posterity in the pages of the *Magazine*; and thirdly, because, to our disgrace be it said, we in London, the first city in the world, have not a similar place where we could invite so many of our friends to assemble upon any one occasion. Why the provinces take the lead in these

matters, it is not for us here to enter upon, but we cannot help regretting we are so much in the wake. Three magnificent bands of music, the hall most gorgeously decorated, and 1,700 persons in fancy costume (and upon whose dress, taste, art, and talent had been for months laboriously employed), must, we think it will be freely acknowledged, present a scene that would have delighted the author of the "Arabian Nights' Entertainments." Everything passed off very satisfactorily, and though it would almost appear invidious to select any from the crowd of beauties present, we cannot—must not—pass Dolly Varden, or her friend Madame Pompadour, without saying to our mind's eye, the laurels of the evening were due to them for the exquisite taste and *perfection* of their assumed characters. Whether we lost our heart or whether we looked upon them as princesses (merchant princes' daughters), and our case hopeless, it is not our intention now to inform the world. There was not so much dancing as is usual at a ball, to see and be seen appeared the order of the evening, consequently a promenade was more in vogue than a waltz, and it was not until the larger hours had passed that we managed to *enjoy* a dance. What would our ancient friend Mr. Pepys have thought if he had found such an entry as this in his diary—of course in his own quaint way. March 3. Dressed and dined by half-past four—took a cab to Euston Station—express to Liverpool at five—arrived safe—made my appearance in St. George's Hall at eleven—remained till half-past three—breakfasted and off to London by five minutes past four—in town by eleven. We do not say that we did so, but merely show what might have been done, and what our young friends in London can do if they feel disposed to patronize the next ball in St. George's Hall.

SHEFFIELD.—The Brethren of the Britannia Lodge of Freemasons gave an entertainment to their friends at the Music Hall, on Tuesday, February 24th. Dancing commenced a little before nine, and was continued until eleven. The company then partook of an elegant collation, after which dancing was resumed, and kept up until a late hour.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR MARCH.

THE COURT.

On the 3rd, the Court returned to Windsor, and remained there until the 13th, when it came back to Buckingham Palace. The Prince of Wales continues to enjoy the sports of the field.

On the 26th of February, Prince Albert held a levee for her Majesty; another on the 11th of March.

The Earl of Fife died on the 9th of February; the Earl of Amherst on the 13th.

PARLIAMENT.

On the 26th of February, the adjourned debate on the Canton question was resumed in the Lords, and concluded with a majority of 36 in favour of the Ministry. On the same evening, Mr. Cobden brought the same question under the consideration of the House of Commons, upon which one of the ablest debates on the records of Parliament took place, and was continued on the 27th, and on the 2nd and 3rd of March, when it was brought to a close by a division, resulting in a majority of 16 against the Ministers. In the Lords, on the same evening, a long discussion took place on the Matrimonial and Divorce Causes Bill, which was read a second time.

In the Commons on the 4th, the Industrial Schools Bill was read a second time, as was also the Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill.

On the 5th, Lord Granville, in the House of Lords, and Lord Palmerston, in the House of Commons, declared that in consequence of the hostile vote of the latter House on the evening of the 3rd, her Majesty intended to dissolve Parliament at an early date.

On the 6th, the House of Commons agreed to reduce the Tea and Sugar Duties on the scale proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

On the 9th, the Earl of Shaftesbury brought the question of the Opium Trade with China under the consideration of the House of Lords. On the same evening, the Speaker announced his intention to retire at the close of the Session. The Income Tax Bill was read a second time, and the House went into committee of supply on the Naval Estimates.

On the 10th, the thanks of Parliament were voted to the Speaker for his long and able services in the chair, and an address was agreed to, calling upon the Crown to confer upon that Right Hon. Gentleman some distinguishing mark of its favour. The Right Hon. Gentleman was highly complimented by the leading members of each party in the House. Mr. Gladstone, on the same evening, insisted on the necessity of reducing the public expenditure.

On the 11th, the Ecclesiastical Corporation Bill was withdrawn, and the Imprisonment for Debt Bill negatived without a division.

On the 12th, the Earl of Ellenborough, in the House of Lords, again called attention to the Chinese war, suggesting the best means of bringing it to an honourable termination. In the Commons, Government ran a great risk of a second defeat on Mr. Palk's motion with reference to the remuneration of the Crimean Commissioners, Sir John McNeil and Col. Tulloch, but Lord Palmerston gave way, and showed that discretion is still the better part of valour. The Army Estimates were agreed to, and the Queen's answer to the address upon the retirement of the Speaker brought up.

On the 13th, Lord Campbell brought the subject of the Law of Libel in connection with newspaper reporting before the consideration of Parliament, and the Marquis of Clanricarde called attention to the circumstances of the war with Persia. In the House of Commons, it was resolved to grant the Speaker a retiring pension of £4,000 per annum.

On the 14th, the bill for the renewal of the Mutiny Act for six months was read a second time.

On the 16th, in the House of Lords on the second reading of the Income Tax Bill, the Earl of Derby reviewed the circumstances under which the appeal was being made to the country.

On the 17th, both China and Persia again employed the attention of the House of Lords, while the abolition of the Sound Dues and the affairs of Naples were the staple of discussion in the Commons.

On the 18th, the House of Lords met to advance certain bills a stage, and in the Commons the Ministers' Money (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

On the 19th, the Earl of Clarendon in the House of Lords, explained the provisions of the Treaty of Peace with Persia, and also gave an account of how our foreign relations stood in reference to Naples.

On the 20th, the Marquis of Westmeath brought the subject of the indiscriminate Sale of Poisons under the notice of the House of Lords, and the Earl of Ellenborough called attention to the peculiar circumstances of the dissolution.

On the 21st, Parliament was prorogued by Royal Commission, and in the course of the same evening dissolved by proclamation.

FOREIGN.

Under the head of foreign intelligence, the most important events we have to chronicle for the past month, have been the treaty of peace with Persia, the abolition of the Sound dues, the meeting of the Conference at Paris to settle the points in dispute between the King of Prussia and the Swiss Confederacy; the initiation into office of Mr. President Buchanan; the interruption of diplomatic

relations between Austria and Sardinia; the withdrawal of the armies of occupation from Greece, and from the Danubian Principalities; and the birth of a Bourbon prince, as increase to the family of the King of Naples.

JUDICIAL.

On the 2nd, the Central Criminal Court was opened for the trial of prisoners. On the 4th, Dr. Winn and his secretary, Thomas Linley, were acquitted of the assault upon Mr. Benham, a lodger in the same house.

On the 5th, commenced the trial of the Saward gang of forgers, which resulted in a verdict of guilty against the prisoners. They were the next day brought up for trial, and sentenced to transportation for life. On the 7th was tried at Durham, *Bell v. Jackson*, for breach of promise, with a verdict of £50 damages to the plaintiff.

On the 11th, Philip White, who had been also accused of poisoning his wife, was found guilty at Aylesbury of administering drugs to procure abortion, and was sentenced to be transported for life. On the same day, Mr. Esdaile, formerly governor of the Royal British Bank, made some most startling disclosures with respect to that concern, on his examination in the Court of Bankruptcy.

On the 14th, after a trial of four days' duration, was terminated at Aylesbury the great will case of *Lovett v. Lovett*, with a verdict for the plaintiff, thereby establishing the will.

On the 18th, at the York Assizes, three men were convicted of burglary at Manor Oaks, near Sheffield, and sentenced to transportation for life.

On the 21st, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council delivered judgment in the celebrated cause of *Liddell v. Westerton*, approving of church decorations.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

On the 1st, several cases of severe stabbing took place at Liverpool.

On the 2nd, a fire took place at the Essex Tavern, Aldgate, when the landlady was most courageously rescued by George Harmsworth, the man in charge of the fire escape.

On the 2nd, Thos. Wooton, a ticket-of-leave man, was committed, charged with the Ashover burglary.

On the 6th, a man named Webb, attempted to murder a passenger on the North London Railway.

On the 7th, an inquest was held upon the body of the late Mr. T. Taylor, a retired quartermaster of the Coldstream Guards.

On the 9th, four men were drowned at Shoreham.

On the 15th, there was a fire, with the loss of three lives, at Providence-row, Worship-street.

On the 18th, a similar accident took place at Walworth. A woman and her four children perished in the flames.

PROVIDENT.

On the 4th, the Railway Passengers Assurance Company met. The following is the substance of their report for the last half year:—"The income received and due, is £6,023. 11s. 9d., being £3,175. 19s. 3d. on account of railway accidents, and £2,847. 12s. 6d. on account of general accidents. The total income for the year ending 31st of December last is £12,000. 16s. 11d. against £8,782. 0s. 5d. in 1855. In the half-year, £9,832. 6s. 2d. has been carried to the credit of the revenue account. The expenditure, including the ordinary working charges, £1,295. 16s. 6d. for commission, policy stamps, and commuted stamp duty, and

£3,495. 2s. 9d. for compensation, amounts to £7,604. 13s. 9d., leaving a balance of £2,227. 12s. 5d.; which, with the amount due from the clearing house and agents, makes the sum of £2,891. 11s. 3d., from which the directors propose the payment of interest at 4 per cent., free of income tax. The amount paid as compensation during the half-year ending 31st of December—£3,494. 2s. 9d.—includes the sum of £2,000 paid to the representatives of the late Messrs. Shilling, of West Malling, Kent.

On the 10th, the Conservative Land Society held its eighteenth quarterly meeting. The following is the substance of the report:—The sale of the Kentish Town estate was commenced on the 22nd of January with such a satisfactory allotment as to afford the confident expectation of the disposal of the remaining plots before the end of the financial year. Some of the best sites might still be selected on this valuable property, although nearly £10,000 in amount were realized on the first day. The returns of the business showed that up to March 7th, the number of shares in progress was 10,973; shares completed, 2,118; total, 13,091; and that £284,970 had been received. The total quantity of land sold up to the 7th of March was £203,046. The register of order of rights showed that 2,344 shares had been completed, 2,582 drawn, and that 1,331 had become entitled by seniority, making a total of 6,257. The number of rights exercised was 3,621, leaving 2,636 unexercised rights.

On the 19th, was held the meeting of the Merchants' and Tradesmen's Assurance Society, when a report, which stated as follows, was submitted to the members:—“Seven hundred and twenty proposals were submitted to the board during the year, for sums amounting to £187,870, of which there were completed from 1st of February, 1856, to 31st of January last 493 proposals, assuring £118,535, the annual premiums on which amount to £3,998. 12s.; there were uncompleted at 31st of January last, from various causes, 178 proposals, assuring £52,875, and declined 49 proposals for £16,460; the amount assured prior to the 31st of January last, and still in force, is on 2,207 policies, £560,065, the annual premiums, on which are £17,863. 12s. 6d.; 69 proposals have since passed the board, assuring £19,025, the annual premiums in respect of which are £564. 8s. 11d., making the number of policies in force 2,769, the amount assured £697,625, and the annual income of the society from premiums £22,426. 13s. 5d. Claims in respect of deaths, with bonus additions, amounting to £4,317. 10s., have been duly discharged. The business submitted to the board considerably exceeded that of the previous year, and the amount actually completed was nearly the same.

On the 24th, the British Empire Mutual Assurance Society held their tenth annual meeting, and received the following report of their business:—There were received during the past year 1,199 proposals to assure £257,519, and there were issued 1,113 policies, assuring £240,436; 45 proposals were declined for £10,775; 41 proposals were under consideration for £6,308; eight immediate annuities were granted for £255. 13s. 4d. The annual income is now £51,389. 14s. 7d. Fifty members have died during the year, and the claims arising therefrom, including bonuses, amount to £9,018. 13s. 11d. The total number of members deceased since the commencement of the company is 238, and the amount paid to their widows or other representatives has been £45,845. 9s. 9d. The accumulated fund, after deducting the cash bonus paid on the last division of profits, amounts to £110,000.

The annual meeting of the Professional Life Assurance Company was held on the 26th, when a report was read, which said, notwithstanding that the effect of the late war and the continuance of the income and other war taxes have been most adverse to the business of life assurance, yet the company has issued during the past year 530 new policies, the amount thereby assured being £150,910, producing an annual income of £4,887. 19s. 9d. This result, the directors are happy to state, has been obtained with a less amount of aid from the loan department than was rendered in the preceding year. The claims by life losses under policies of the company during the past year have been 31 in number, and the sums so assured amount to £10,649. The report was adopted and a dividend of 5 per cent. declared on the paid up capital. A gloom was thrown over the meeting by the death of Mr. Massey, the manager, which occurred somewhat suddenly only

about a week before the meeting—but the utmost satisfaction was expressed at the appointment of Mr. George Winter as his successor.

On the 27th, the Anglo-Australian Assurance Company held its annual meeting. The report stated:—During the year 1856, 641 life proposals had been received for the sum of £113,583, representing a new premium income of £4,305. 9s. 5d., and ten proposals for annuities amounting to £1,188. 10s. 7d. purchase money, together with twenty-nine annuity proposals for £237. 6s. 4d., in which the company has a beneficial interest. The directors accepted and completed 445 proposals, covering assurances to the amount of £72,425, and creating a new premium income of £2,449. 1s. 1d. Ten annuities had also been completed, yielding a present income of £1,188. 10s. 7d.; thus making the total number of policies completed from the commencement of the company to be 1,369, and the gross sum assured to be £220,868, representing a gross premium income of £7,413. 9s. 6d. The claims for the year amounted to £437. 10s. A dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. was declared.

BENEVOLENT.

On the 25th February, the governors of the City of London Lying-in Hospital met, and reported that, with an expenditure of £1,700. 10s. 8d., they had afforded relief in their travail to 468 poor women.

On the 26th, the committee of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital reported, that during the past year they had admitted 1,533, being an increase of 132 on the year. The income of the charity amounted to £4,022.

On the 28th, was celebrated the annual festival of the Seamen's Hospital, Lord Stanley of Alderley presiding. It was stated that the expenditure had been for some time past in excess of the income.

On the same evening was celebrated the festival of the Welsh School, when £800 were collected in aid of that charity.

On the 4th March, the Earl of Shaftesbury presented rewards to 402 domestic and other servants educated in the Ragged Schools, for good conduct in their situations.

On the 5th, there was a public meeting in aid of the Reformatory Institutions.

On the 9th was the annual festival of the Dispensary for Diseases of the Chest. The number of patients last year relieved amounted to 2,500.

On the 18th took place, the festival of the Cognate Charity of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest. There were collected £5,399. 16s.

The anniversary festival of the Asylum for Idiots was held on the 26th, Lord Monteagle presiding. From a special appeal of the committee it appears that the Asylum at Redhill will accommodate 500 persons, having been erected at a cost of £30,000, or about £60 per bed. At present there are 254 patients and pupils on the foundation; there is, therefore, still abundant room to be occupied, and there are upwards of 200 applicants earnestly craving admission, but the board cannot advance on their present numbers, except as their current annual increases. In addition to this circumstance, £5,000 are almost immediately required for furniture and fittings. The collection of the evening was about £3,000.

The British Orphan Asylum held its annual festival on the 25th, under the presidency of Bro. Alderman Wire. The Chairman, in an eloquent appeal on behalf of the Charity, which is much in want of funds, said, upwards of 400 children had now been educated within the school, and the directors had from time to time been much gratified by employers volunteering testimony to the honesty and aptitude of the boys and girls in their service; and not the least gratifying fact was, that some of the boys, now grown to men and become masters, had renewed their relations with the asylum by becoming annual subscribers. The subscriptions of the evening amounted to between £700 and £800.

The ninety-ninth anniversary of that useful institution the Orphan Working was celebrated at the London Tavern, on the 25th, the Duke of Argyll in the chair. It appears that the school was originally founded at Hoxton, for the edu-

cation of 20 destitute boys, it being one of the earliest of the charities so established. From time to time the school has been enlarged, until the children were in 1847 removed to the present premises at Haverstock Hill. There are now in the school 169 boys and 78 girls; and next year being the centenary, it is proposed to celebrate it by enlarging the building so as to accommodate 400 children, for which purpose a special fund of £25,000 is to be raised. The subscriptions of the evening were announced by Mr. Soul, the secretary, to amount to about £500 for the general fund, and £500 for the centenary fund, in addition to a donation of 250 guineas from Her Majesty to constitute his R. H. the Prince of Wales a life governor with the privilege of nominating children to the foundation.

JOINT STOCK.

On the 25th of February, the General Steam Navigation Company, at their half-yearly meeting, declared a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus.

On the 27th, the directors of the Kent Guarantee Society reported the receipts for the past year at £2,614. 4s. 7d., and the expenditure at £2,343. 3s. 6d.

On the same day was made public the result of the first year's working of the Victoria Docks. The ships docked numbered 1,541, with a tonnage of 500,463 tons.

On the 3rd March, the directors of Mexican and South American Company reported that their yield of copper for the past twelve months had reached 1,500 tons.

On the 16th, the London and Paris Joint-Stock Bank was dissolved.

On the 19th, was held the half-yearly court of the Bank of England, at which the chairman, Mr. Weguelin, made the following statement:—The profits of the last year, ending on the 28th of last month, were £686,330. 2s. 10d., making the rest £3,719,855. 10s., which would allow a dividend of 4½ per cent., and leave the rest at £3,064,970. 10s. The directors therefore proposed to declare a dividend of 4½ per cent., free of income tax.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

On the 2nd, "A Cure for the Heartache" was revived at Drury Lane, Mr. C. Mathews sustaining the part of *Young Rapid*.

On the 6th, an amateur performance took place at the St. James's Theatre, for the benefit of the General Theatrical Fund.

On the 19th, a new piece, called "A Life's Travel," was brought out at the Haymarket with tolerable success.

The great event of the month, however, has been the revival of "Richard II.," on a most magnificent scale, on the 12th, at the Princess's.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 26th of February, a public meeting was held at Barnsley, on behalf of those bereaved by the awful explosion at the Lundhill Colliery.

On the same evening there was a meeting in Lambeth, in opposition to the alteration of the site of Westminster Bridge.

On the 2nd of March, the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House, expressed his pleasure at finding that the Poor Law Board was taking in hand the subject of the houseless poor.

On the 11th, there was a very stormy meeting of the Literary Fund.

MASONIC ARCHITECTURE.

FROM THE FRENCH.

GENTLE reader, wouldst thou know,
 Where our Masonry is based?
 Then to nature must thou go,
 There alone thou'lt find it placed.
 Mansart and Vitruvius,—
 Sages they of by-gone years,—
 Honour to them! but with us,
 Art has greater ends than theirs.

Works of glory, works of might,
 Grandeur far than tongue can tell,
 Only built to please the sight,
 These we aim not to excel.
 In the noblest of them all,
 Rear'd with all the skill of man,
 There is nought, however small,
 For our own far nobler plan.

Them, and others such as they,
 Honour, as is justly due;
 And let us, as well we may,
 Imitate their virtues too.
 But he who ever zealously
 Aims at good with soul and heart,
 That man shall the model be
 Of our pure Masonic art.

When King Solomon of old
 To the honour of God's name
 Rear'd a temple, rich with gold,
 And the earth was fill'd with fame
 Of its glories,—though for years
 'Twas the pride of human skill,—
 Our art no such structures rears,
 But our works are greater still.

Let men wonder, as they must,
 At the pinnacles of yore,
 Till they crumble into dust,
 Types of our works,—nothing more:
 We too build; but ivory,
 Marble, wood, and stone, and lime,—
 These things are not used, for we
 Build for ever, not for time.

In the hearts of men we lay
 Our foundation; and where'er
 Vice reigns, labour if we may
 Rear a fane to virtue there.
 With love, truth, and equity,
 We build, for the good of all.
 Such *our* works of Masonry,
 Shall they, can they, ever fall?

Obituary.

BRO. EUGENE DETKINS.

The late Bro. Eugene Detkins (P.M. and Secretary of the Polish National Lodge, No. 778), who died suddenly on the 28th February last, had resided in this country for about twenty-four years. He had served as an officer in the Polish War of Independence in 1830-31, and had, of course, incurred the penalty of exile. He succeeded, soon after his arrival in this country, by his great activity and engaging disposition, which made him many friends, in placing himself in a situation of comparative independence. For many years he carried on business as a stationer and keeper of a circulating library, Davies-street, Berkeley-square, and laboured indefatigably in other pursuits for the support of his wife and six children. Finding, for some months past, that his health was giving way, he applied for permission to return to Poland, where an excellent appointment as land steward (a situation for which he was peculiarly qualified by early education) had been offered to him. Whilst awaiting the reply to this application, he was seized by the illness (disease of the heart), which in a few minutes terminated fatally. So heavy and unexpected a blow has plunged his family in the deepest distress and embarrassment. In order to meet some liabilities, and to place the widow of Bro. Detkins in a situation to carry on business for the support of herself and family, exertions are being made to raise, by subscription, a sufficient sum for that purpose. The late Bro. Detkins also belonged to the Polish National Chapter, where he held the office of Third Principal. Of a noble character and kind disposition, he was ever ready, within his limited means, to do good to his fellow-creatures and to his Brethren. The true Masonic virtues, fraternal love and charity, shone in him prominently, and he was a contributor to our excellent benevolent institutions. It is to be hoped that his poor widow and six orphan children will receive from the Lodge of Benevolence that support which they so urgently stand in need of, when the case is brought under its notice.

BRO. JOHN SIMONS.

On the 20th January last, aged 46 years, Bro. John Simons, J.D. of the Howe Lodge, No. 857. Bro. Simons was a native of Birmingham, in which town he acquired the rudiments of learning, and was transferred thence to the preparatory branch of Christ's Hospital at Hertford; his ancestor, the celebrated Thomas Guy, of Tamworth, having bequeathed the sum of £400 for the purpose of placing four of the family yearly on that foundation. In 1823, he was removed to the establishment in London, where his education having been completed, he was placed with the late Dr. Russell, of Newhall-street, Birmingham, after remaining with whom several years, he commenced practice in his native town, and continued until the period of his death a much honoured and respected member of the medical profession. Our Brother was but a young Mason, not having seen the light until the year 1855; but so forcibly was he impressed with the beauty of the system, that he speedily became one of its most ardent devotees, and had his life been spared a few years longer, would doubtless have been a distinguished member of the Craft—but it was otherwise ordained. Being medical officer to the Birmingham Board of Guardians, his duties necessarily led him into scenes where the danger of infection was imminent, and to this pestiferous agency he fell a victim. In the *Birmingham Journal* of January 31, there appeared the following report of proceedings at the meeting of Guardians, which took place the week after his death:—

“The Clerk said he had the melancholy duty to announce to the Board the decease of Mr. John Simons, medical officer for district No. 5, which took

place a few days since. The Chairman, in feeling terms, expressed his deep regret at the loss of Mr. Simons, who had fallen in the faithful discharge of his duty to the parish. He had known Mr. Simons as a medical officer for ten years, and he had always been really kind to the poor. (Hear, hear.) He had desired the Clerk to prepare a resolution of condolence to be forwarded to Mrs. Simons, to this effect:—‘That this Board deeply regrets the demise of Mr. John Simons, and desires very respectfully to offer to his widow and family its sincere condolence in their bereavement.’ Mr. John Aston very cordially moved the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Maher, who also expressed his deep sympathy at the loss of so valued an officer. The motion was supported by several Guardians, and unanimously adopted.”

Out of evil arises good. The sacrifice of Bro. Simons has aroused attention to the sanitary condition of many parts of Birmingham which have heretofore been grossly neglected, and it is to be hoped that stringent measures will speedily be adopted for remedying in some degree the existing evils. It may be mentioned, as somewhat remarkable, that at his last meeting with a few Brethren, who had assembled on the first evening of the present year to converse upon matters connected with the Howe Lodge, Bro. Simons, after rising to take his departure, remained for a long time standing, dilating with considerable earnestness upon the perils to which those are exposed whose professional duties call them to the sick beds of poverty and wretchedness, dwelling most impressively and with much feeling upon the self-devotion he had witnessed amongst members of the priestly order, in placing themselves in contact with paupers dying of malignant fevers. Was this presentiment, or did he even then feel within himself the seeds of that disorder which three weeks later stretched him upon the bed of death? Who shall determine?

“ They say the words of dying men
Enforce attention, like deep harmony ;”

and the writer of this notice well remembers the fixed regard with which, on that occasion, Bro. Simons was listened to.

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. 6*d.* Covers may be had at the office, price 1s. ; or the Brethren may have their Numbers bound for 1s. 6*d.*

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.

At a special meeting of the subscribers of the Boys’ School, on Monday, March 30, it was resolved to have the recommendations of the Committee relative to the appointment of Master and Matron printed, and their consideration was adjourned until the regular meeting on the 20th instant.

“*Δ.*”—The By-laws having received the sanction of the Prov. Grand Master, the Lodge can legally act upon them; but we are of opinion with the late Grand Registrar, that the By-law in question is a very improper one, the mode of proceeding indicated by the “Book of Constitutions” being quite sufficient.

Our esteemed correspondent at the Cape of Good Hope is assured that Bro. Muggridge is not asleep. If we have not had many reports of the Lion and Lamb Lodge lately, we suppose it is because the Brethren have not considered the proceedings of sufficient importance to communicate to us.

“*W. H.—693.*” The innovation you allude to is impossible, and correspondence, upon it therefore, would be only productive of harm.

“*J. W.*” asks:—

1.—“May a Lodge give a Brother, leaving it, a certificate of his having passed the Warden’s chair?”—Yes.

2.—“May a Past Warden wear a collar and the jewel of his late office?”—No.

3.—“May a Past Officer of a private Lodge wear the jewel of his late office suspended by a ribbon, and if so, by what coloured ribbon?”—The immediate Past Master should do so, none other. The collar must of course be blue, unless the Brother is by rank authorized to wear the red or purple.

“*J. P. C.*” writes:—“A Brother who has been initiated, passed, and raised, in an English Lodge, under charter from the Grand Lodge of England, goes to Scotland or Ireland and is exalted to the Royal Arch (this ceremony includes the Mark Master’s degree, also the installation into or passing the chair), is the Brother so exalted allowed to rank as a Past Master, wear the Past Master’s jewel and levels on the apron in an English Lodge of Craft Masons, and be present at installations of Masters to the chair, and in all other respects rank as a Past Master?”—To this we reply most certainly not. The ceremony of the Past Master’s degree in Ireland or Scotland is only a preliminary to the taking of the Royal Arch Degree, and confers no rank whatever upon the Brother receiving it.

“*A MASTER MASON.*”—We are not aware of any fund for assisting Brethren with advances of money by way of loan. If such a fund existed, we have no doubt there would be plenty of applicants, and we fear persons might be led to enter our Order with a view of availing themselves of it.

WE are requested to correct one or two errors in our account of the Aggregate Banquet at Devonport, which was kindly supplied us by a local correspondent. It was not the Chairman, but the Provincial Chaplain, the Rev. W. E. Hadow, who said grace; and it was Bro. Horace A. Lloyd, W.M. of No. 46, Exeter, and not Bro. Southwood, who acknowledged the toast of the Worshipful Masters of local Lodges.

“*H. V. B.*” shall be attended to next month.

“*C. J. C.*” writes—“I should feel greatly obliged if you would inform us what is the customary mode of electing the W. Master of a Lodge? Our plan is to propose and second some deserving Brother, and then, at the next meeting, to send the ballot-box round. As we have never had more than one Brother nominated, the elections have always been unanimous; but being informed that this is not the proper mode, we are anxious to follow the course generally practised. I ought, in explanation, to add, that although numbering seventy members, our Lodge is but thirteen years old.”—You adopt the course of Grand Lodge; but in private Lodges, the usual, and, we should rule, the most regular plan is, on the night of election to read the names of all the Brothers eligible for the Office, and then take a ballot, the members writing the name of the Brother for whom they wish to vote. This course gets rid of the invidiousness of placing up one Brother in opposition to another.