

THE
MASONIC MIRROR:

JUNE, 1855.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

As we anticipated, this interesting meeting went off with as much *eclat* as could be desired. It does not, however, prevent us from repeating the words of the excellent chairman, the Deputy Grand Master, that "Economy was everything in an establishment of this character, and that of itself gave a support to the Institution it was hoped to gain from the Craft generally." Indeed, from the admirable address of his Lordship as to the future prospects of the Charity it would appear that to ensure success much must be looked forward to from a careful house committee, and above all, from the vigilance of the Secretary. The amount collected at the Dinner was astonishing; indeed, the charity appears each year to recommend itself. What benefits then would result from the indications above alluded, viz., Economy, and a Reserve Fund in case of need or the disappointment of the Festival? We have it before us that two-thirds of the children admitted and educated for the world in this school, are from the Provinces, and yet, on looking over the subscription list, how few of the country Lodges are found as subscribers to this charity. We hold that each Lodge should subscribe towards this School. The first founded, the most interesting, and the one the most called for. What an income would be raised if each Lodge added but twenty shillings annually. Should we then see but eleven pounds in the bankers' hands? This indeed struck us with surprise and regret; the shades of those great men who have been called from us, and who have so strongly advocated this charity, would be alarmed to think that so little had been done in half a century to raise a fund beyond the expectation of annual appeals. It is absurd, also, to suppose that the school can be supported by 400% only, from subscribing members, when the annual income required amounts to 1500*l*. We say, at once appeal to every Provincial Lodge, and the fair conclusion is, that two-thirds would become subscribers. Public charities and benevolent associations for the gratuitous relief of any species of distress, are peculiar to Masonry and Christianity—no other system of civil or religious policy has originated them—they form their highest praise and characteristic feature. Thus far we have only spoken of the

Festival, but we have since heard that a select committee met on Thursday the 24th ult. to inquire relative to the general affairs of the institution, when from the evidence produced an opinion was at once formed that a great reform is required, not only in the food of the children and the general system upon which the school is provisioned, but also in the mode of providing for the clothing and other necessaries. This we have given merely in outline, but we intend hereafter to refer in the "Mirror" more fully to the subject, and especially to the balance sheet, to which numerous correspondents have called our attention.

AGED MASONS' ASYLUM.

THE special subscription for relieving this Institution from debt has not yet closed, not more than one hundred out of nine hundred Lodges, acting under the warrant of the Grand Lodge of England—600 or 700 of which are held in this country—having as yet responded to the appeal made to them for assistance. Many others, however, we are aware have voted sums of money to the fund, which we earnestly entreat them to forward, as early as possible to the Committee, who, we can assure the brethren, well appreciate the value of the proverb, of a bird in hand being worth two in the bush. To those Lodges which have not yet subscribed, we would observe, that they must not imagine the work is done when the 360% asked for in the special appeal is obtained. No! There will yet remain much for them to accomplish—that of placing the various funds in a proper condition. A reference to our report of the proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Royal Benevolent Institution, will prove the accuracy of our present assertion—and it certainly was not without feelings of grief, that we read in the Committee's Report, that they were only enabled to recommend the election of two male annuitants this year, notwithstanding four had died since the last annual meeting, owing to the falling off in annual subscriptions and donations—and that too, notwithstanding a very extended list of candidates shows us how much remains to be done before we can refer with pride—as we trust we shall some day be enabled to do—to the fact that no aged Mason, being worthy, ever asks for the annuity in vain. The Widows fund appears in a somewhat better position than the Male, but each want increased assistance, and the subscribers to the Asylum fund should be careful to remember, that any excess beyond the 360% above named, will be applied for the general benefit of the Institution—and that therefore the larger a Lodge or individual brother can make it's or his subscription, the more acceptable it will be to the Committee, and the more advantageous to the Institution. Some brethren have appeared to suppose that because the Grand Secretary, in his letter referred to what 1% from each lodge would do, that that was all that was desired, or it was necessary to subscribe. Not so. The Grand Secretary stated 1% from each Lodge would liquidate the debt on the Asylum, but he also said, "should any surplus arise, it will be appropriated to the Annuity fund for Aged Masons." The brethren appear somewhat apathetic in supporting the Benevolent In-

stitution—but we hope they will throw off their apathy and that a general effort will be made throughout the country to increase its permanent funds and annual subscriptions, which ought to stand at least ten times as high as they do at present.

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

THE brethren are reminded that the Board of General Purposes for the ensuing year, will have to be elected at the meeting of the Grand Lodge on Wednesday next, the 6th inst. The Board have great and important duties to perform, and the utmost care should therefore be exercised in the selection of its members, that none but those who are able to devote their time to those duties, should become members of it. Indeed, we do not know that the brethren can do better than re-elect the present members—making only such alteration as may become necessary from a known non-attention to the duties, or the wish of a brother to retire from the board.

MASONIC STANZAS.

Brother, let me grasp thy hand,
 Let me press thy heart to mine,
 Let the *true cement* combine
 Our souls in *mystic union grand!*

Let our feet together move
 Through this thorny world below,
 Let us still, in weal or woe,
 Show the world *our creed is love!*

Let our knees together bend—
 Ours still be the reverent prayer
 Rising to the Great Throne, where
 Mercy doth with Justice blend!

Let us still as brothers love,
 Let no harsh word e'er be spoken,
 Be the tie till death unbroken;
 Let us hope to meet above!

While on earth Heaven's blessing given
 Shall pour balm upon the soul,
 Be to us unroll'd the scroll:—
 Mercy is the dew of heaven!

ROBERT FISHER (Lodge 706).

Newcastle-on-Tyne, March 14, 1855.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 310.

In the rebuilding of the city of London, which was carried on with the utmost diligence, the work of Masonry became more directed towards the convenience of commerce and manufacture than the beauty of design, and in descending from the sublime to matters of more general utility, it appears to have lost a great deal of the poetry with which it had hitherto been invested. The style of classic architecture now in general use, molded by the master mind of Sir Christopher Wren, no doubt produced buildings better calculated for domestic and public convenience than any that had preceded them, but still they are copies from other masters, and want the charm of nationality and peculiarly English design which so strikingly distinguish the works of our more early brethren. It also appears that the uninitiated of this period had greater influence than heretofore in altering the plans laid down by time and experience, and every gentleman who by travel had the opportunity of viewing foreign works of art, had his peculiar taste, and considered that his notions of construction were worthy of consideration. Hence we find that the Deputy Grand Master had greater difficulties to contend with than his predecessors, in preserving anything like order and regularity; and it was only by the greatest exercise of patience and perseverance that he was enabled to gain scope for the exercise of his great genius; and we regret to find that although later ages have recorded their debt of gratitude towards him, his great works did not procure for him an exemption from the annoyances of little minds. And, with shame be it spoken, that in his latter days, he was suffered to sink into obscurity, to escape the malevolence of those who were envious of the superior blessings with which the Great Architect of the Universe had endowed him.

In the great mass of building in this period, the restoration of St. Paul's Cathedral claims our peculiar attention. Dr. Wren produced several designs in order to consult the public taste, and finding an universal desire for something magnificent and worthy of a great metropolis, and to be the principal Cathedral of the Reformed Church, he constructed a model of wood which was submitted for approbation; but the bishops deciding that it was not sufficiently in the Cathedral style, he was ordered to amend it; he then produced the scheme of the present structure, which was honoured with the King's approbation. The surveyor, however, appears to have preferred his first model, which was of the Corinthian order, like St. Peter's, at Rome, and would have executed it with more cheerfulness than the one now erected. This elegant model is still kept in an upper apartment of the Cathedral, and is a real curiosity.

The King, with Grand Master Rivers, his architects and craftsmen, nobility and gentry, lord mayor and aldermen, bishops and clergy, &c., in due form levelled the footstone of the present Cathedral, 1673. The Deputy Grand Master Wren conducted the building, as master of the

work and surveyor, with the assistance of his warden, Mr. Edward Sturg and his son.

The mallet with which the King levelled this foundation stone was delivered by Sir Christopher Wren to the old Lodge of St. Paul, now the Lodge of Antiquity, where it is still preserved as a great curiosity.

In pulling down the walls of the old building, which were about eighty feet high and five feet thick, and clearing away the foundation, the builders met with great difficulties, which were only surmounted by untiring labour and perseverance.

The history of the ancient structure is interesting, and claims peculiar notice. It was generally supposed to have been founded on an ancient temple of Diana, built by the Romans, but with which supposition the son of Sir Christopher Wren differs, and in his *Parentalia*, observes, that the first Cathedral of the episcopal see of London was built in the area, where had been the Roman *Præterian* camp, and in the situation on which all the succeeding fabrics stood, and that this structure was demolished during the great and general persecution under the Emperor Dioclesian. The church is supposed to have been re-erected under Constantine, but it was afterwards destroyed by the pagan Saxons, and restored on the old foundations when they embraced Christianity, in the seventh century, when Sebert, King of Essex, advanced Milletus to the bishopric of London. In 675, Erkenwald, fourth bishop of London, from Milletus, expended great sums of money in repairing and beautifying the ancient edifice, and for that and many other benefactions, he was canonized at his death, and his body placed in a glorious shrine above the high altar in the east part of the church, the admiration of succeeding ages, till the destruction of the whole fabric by fire, in the year 961, but as it was rebuilt in the same year, it is highly probable that those early structures, however magnificent they might then be thought, were only small wooden buildings. During the Saxon heptarchy, under succeeding kings, this church flourished exceedingly, and Ehelred and Canute confirmed the charters which solemnly imprecated curses on all those who dared to violate it. Its next benefactor was Edward the Confessor, but at the Norman invasion which followed, some of its revenues were seized by the Conqueror. He was, however, no sooner seated on the throne than he caused full restitution to be made, with benedictions on those who should augment its possessions, and solemn imprecations upon all who should violate any of the charters made in its favour. In that reign, a dreadful conflagration consumed the church a second time, and by this conflagration, which happened in 1036, the greatest part of the city was also laid in ashes; this destruction served to make way for a more magnificent building than had ever been yet applied to the purposes of devotion in this kingdom. Maurice, then bishop of London, having undertaken this great work, obtained of the King the old stones of a spacious castle in the neighbourhood, called the *Palatine Tower*, situated near the river Fleet, and employed the Craft in its completion with unremitting industry for twenty years. At the expiration of this period he died, and left the completion of the work to his successor, who

followed his example, and even appropriated the whole revenue of his see towards its advancement; but, like his predecessor, he also left it unfinished, and it is supposed to have been completed by some lay persons, but at what time or in what manner, is nowhere mentioned. William Rufus, who succeeded the Conqueror, is said to have exempted all ships entering the river Fleet with stone or other materials for the new Cathedral from toll and custom. But, notwithstanding the length of time and great expense bestowed on this church, it had not been long completed when it was thought not sufficiently magnificent. The steeple was therefore rebuilt, and finished about the year 1221; and Roger Niger being promoted to the see of London in 1229, proceeding with the choir, completed it in 1240, and solemnly consecrated it afresh the same year, in the presence of the King, the Pope's legate, and many lords, both spiritual and temporal.

This spacious and magnificent edifice being thus finished, a survey was taken of it, by which its dimensions appear to have been as follows:— The length of the body of the church was six hundred and ninety feet, the breadth, one hundred and thirty, the height of the roof in the west part, within one hundred and two feet, that of the east, eighty feet, and that of the body, one hundred and fifty; the height of the tower from the ground was two hundred and sixty feet; from whence arose a wooden spire, covered with lead, two hundred and seventy four feet in height; on the top of which was a ball nine feet one inch in circumference. This was crowned with a cross that was fifteen feet high, and the traverse six feet in length.

The ornaments of this Cathedral exceeded those of any other church in the kingdom. The high altar, which stood between two columns, was adorned with precious stones, surrounded with images most beautifully wrought, and covered with a canopy of wood, curiously painted, with the representation of saints and angels. The new shrine of St. Erkenwald stood on the east side of the wall, above the high altar, and was adorned with gold, silver, and precious stones; but not being thought sufficiently rich, in 1339, three goldsmiths of London were retained by the dean and chapter to work upon it for a whole year, at the end of which, its lustre was so great that princes, nobles, ambassadors, and other foreigners of rank, flocked from all parts to visit it, and to offer their oblations before it. Amongst these embellishments were all the rings and jewels of Walter de Thorp, and the best sapphire stone of Richard de Presten; which last was applied to the curing of infirmities of the eyes, and proclamation of its virtues were made by express will of the donor.

The picture of St. Paul, finely painted, was placed in a wooden tabernacle on the right side of the high altar, and was esteemed a masterly performance. Against a pillar in the body of the church, stood a beautiful image of the Virgin Mary; and John Burnet, Bishop of Bath and Wells, bequeathed a handsome estate, that a lamp might be kept continually burning before it, and an anthem sung every day. In the centre of the church stood a large cross, and towards the north door a crucifix, at

which offerings were made that greatly increased the revenue of the dean and canons. The last piece of ornament deserving of mention was the fine dial belonging to the great clock, which being visible to all who passed by, care was taken that it should appear with the utmost splendour; and in particular an angel pointed to the hour.

About the year 1109, St. Paul's Cathedral was encompassed with a wall, which extended from the north corner of Ave Mary lane, eastward along Paternoster-row, to the north end of the Old Change in Cheapside; whence it ran southward to Carter-lane, and passing on the north side of it to Creed-lane, turned up to Ludgate-street. To this wall there were six gates; the principal was situated near the end of Creed-lane, in Ludgate-street; the second was at St. Paul's-alley in Paternoster-row; the third at Cannon-alley; the fourth, called the Little Gate, was situated at the entrance into Cheapside; the fifth, called St. Austin's, led to Watling-street; and the sixth fronted the south gate of the church, near Paul's Chain.

In the middle of the church-yard, within the north side of this enclosure, was situated a pulpit-cross, at which sermons were preached weekly; and here was held the folk mote, or general convention of the citizens. Facing this cross, stood a chapel, called the charnel, in which the bones of the dead were decently piled up together. A thousand cart loads of them were removed to Finsbury-fields in the reign of Edward VI., and there laid in a moorish place, with so much earth to cover them as caused a considerable mound, on which was erected three windmills. At the north-west corner of the church-yard was a cemetery, denominated Pardon Church-haw; where Gilbert Becket erected a chapel in the reign of King Stephen. This chapel was rebuilt in the reign of Henry V., by Thomas Moore, Dean of St. Paul's, who also encompassed it with a cloister, on the walls of which was painted the dance of death. In this chapel, were several sepulchral monuments which, according to Stow, exceeded in curious workmanship those in the neighbouring Cathedral. Over the east side of this cloister was a handsome library, founded by Walter Sheyington, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. On the east side of the church-yard was a clockier, or bell tower, by St. Paul's school, wherein were four great bells, called Jesus-bells, from their belonging to Jesus Chapel, in St. Faith's Church.

Such is a survey of the ancient and venerable structure of St. Paul's in its flourishing state and greatest magnificence, with its appendages. It appears to have been very unfortunate in having its steeple set on fire by lightning, in 1444. This damage was not fully repaired till the year 1462, when the spire was completed, and a beautiful vane of gilt copper in the form of an eagle was placed upon it. About a hundred years after, it suffered by a similar accident. This calamity was repaired to a certain extent by a general subscription of the clergy, nobility, and great officers of the State, to which Queen Elizabeth herself gave a thousand marks in gold, and a warrant for a thousand loads of timber to be cut in any of her woods; but, owing to a difference of opinion with regard to the design of the spire, and the general structure being found to be more damaged

than was at first supposed, it was left in an unfinished state. In the following reign, attempts were made to save it from general decay, and by the assiduity of Archbishop Laud, in the reign of Charles I., sufficient money was collected, and Inigo Jones, his Majesty's surveyor-general, was ordered to begin the repairs at the south-east end, and to carry them on by the south to the west end.

The Deputy Grand Master, Jones, prosecuted the work with such diligence that in nine years time the whole was finished within and without, except the steeple, which was intended to be entirely taken down. A magnificent portico of the Corinthian Order was also erected at the west end, at the sole expense of King Charles I., ornamented with the statues of his royal father and himself. Everything being in readiness for erecting the steeple and spire, which were to be of stone, an estimate was made of the money contributed and that already expended in repairs, whereby it appeared that one hundred and one thousand three hundred and thirty pounds four shillings and eightpence had been received into the chamber of London, on this account, and but thirty-five thousand five hundred and fifty one pounds two shillings and fourpence paid out; so that there appeared to be sufficient funds in hand to erect it in the most magnificent manner.

The flames of civil war now broke out, and put an end to this great design. The revenues were now seized, the famous pulpit cross in the church-yard was pulled down, the scaffolding of the steeple was assigned by parliament for the payment of arrears due to the army, the body of the church was converted into saw-pits, part of the south cross was suffered to tumble down, the west part of the church was converted into a stable, and the new and stately portico into shops for milliners and others, with lodging-rooms over them, in the erecting of which the magnificent columns were piteously mangled by the ends of beams which penetrated nearly to their centres.

At the Restoration, a new commission was procured for its immediate repair, and great sums of money were raised by voluntary contribution, but before anything worthy of notice could be carried into effect, the dreadful fire of London reduced it to little better than a heap of ruins. After two years of fruitless labour in endeavouring to fit up some part of it for the purpose of divine worship, it was finally determined to raze the whole foundation, and to erect a new building, which should equal if not excel the old in the display of wisdom, strength, and beauty.

Contributions came in so exceedingly fast, that in the first ten years above one hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds were paid into the chamber of London; a new duty was laid upon coals for defraying the expenses of the work, which averaged a produce of five thousand pounds per annum, and the King annually contributed one thousand to the fund.

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

BY Φωροφίλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

(Continued from p. 318.)

CHAPTER III.—REFLECTIONS ON THE INFLUENCE OF MASONRY UPON
DUELLING CONTINUED—DR. PALEY'S COURTS OF HONOUR—
THEIR FAILURE—THE APPLICATION OF THE MASONIC PRINCIPLE
SUGGESTED AS THE TRUE ANTIDOTE.

"*Oho! Jam satis*, enough of this, from the sublime to the ridiculous, as somebody has said, is but a step, and I think," said our veteran friend, "I have shewn it to be a very short one if I have not blotted out the step of demarcation altogether, and subjected myself to the penalty of him who removes his neighbour's landmark. Come, Tim, mix your liquor, and pass the steam engine; let us drink courage to this hopeful aspirant. If I am any judge of the human face divine, I should say there are about as convenient materials for a shindy in yonder room, as I ever saw in my life."

"You're quite right, father, the elements are there; and it would not require the nice diplomacy of Sir Lucius, to work them into a little practice for a friendly surgeon. Sir H. Davy, with all his knowledge of chemical affinities, could not produce a homogeneous compound from such atoms, that loud voice and defiant tone, give sure earnest of the coming storm; but *n'importe*, we are quietly ensconced in this snuggery, and can enjoy the fun without interfering; I avoid all quarrels, since I joined the Freemasons,—I wish I had done it long before."

Happy would it have been, if Br. W—e had taken Tim's suggestion; poor Tim! who that visited Dublin some twenty years ago could fail to meet the gay, rollicking, handsome, chivalrous Tim; he too, alas! has been summoned to the Grand Lodge above.

The row by this time had become fast and furious, and despite all entreaties, as if impelled by some mysterious influence, poor W—e would go and see what it was all about.

In the room, his evil stars drove him near the table at which sat a Mr. W—ld—n, with whom he was formerly acquainted, and to whom he made some remark relative to the scene before them; that gentleman had the bad taste to reply, "*Sir, I have not the pleasure to know you,*" which drew forth a retort, and thus, these simple words, so easily recalled or explained, swelled into a deadly quarrel; a message was sent, and accepted, and though all the arbiters of the day, upon points of honour, (among others, our old and esteemed friend and Brother, I—s J—h I—ss—n, Esq., then a first-rate authority, and now settled down into a quiet County Magistrate), agreed that there was no *casus belli*, yet through some obstinacy or mismanagement, they were allowed to fight.

The meeting took place on the banks of the Portobello canal, and in accordance with a request from the fallen, we rode to the ground, but only in time to receive a waive of his hand, for the next moment the leaden messenger of death was lodged in his brain; and thus fell in the prime

and pride of his manhood, one whose social qualities and gentlemanlike bearing fitted him to hold a high and dignified position among his fellow-men; thus sunk into an unhonoured grave, the victim of a savage code. An affianced bride, was left to mourn the loss of a betrothed bridegroom, for a day or two would have seen him the happy husband of a blooming wife, peace to his ashes! let us hope he received mercy, at the judgment seat; there was no malice in his light and buoyant heart.

This was one of the last fatal cases of duelling in Ireland, for very soon after, Masonry began to spread among those classes with whom the *duello* was most frequent and fashionable, and we have no hesitation in tracing to the spread of those principles, the abatement of a crime at once disgraceful to christianity and civilization.

The philanthropists, moral philosophers, and religionists who have written, spoken and reasoned against the practice of duelling, all admit the difficulty of establishing any system, or creating any tribunal with sanctions sufficiently powerful to supersede the arbitrary laws of honour which certain classes of society feel constrained (and many no doubt reluctantly) to obey. The law of the land is still so far from perfect, that frequently it is insufficient effectually to reach certain cases of offence, "certain wrongs without a remedy," which are more deeply injurious and more keenly hurtful to sensitive minds than more open and flagrant breaches of the law.

To meet instances of this nature, no doubt, this fashionable code was first instituted, though it savours strongly and would almost seem to be a remnant of that obsolete barbarism which we will not dignify by the name of law, known in the old books as "the trial by Wager of Battle," where the rights of parties was decided in deadly conflict, by which the clearest title to a disputed estate or to the contested hand of some queen of beauty was demonstrated by killing an adversary in single combat, and presenting to the Lords Justices the severed head, by whom it was received as the unerring proof, the unfailing evidence of the survivor's claim both in law and equity.

In the eyes of the present generation these things seem so wicked and absurd, as to be almost incredible, yet in the *enlightened* days of our forefathers, in the vaunted days of chivalry, such hideous deeds have been done under the sanction and authority of British law.

"The trial by Wager of Battle" has disappeared before the common sense and civilization of an improved age, but its prototype still remains; though "scotched not killed."

Dr. Paley in his moral philosophy speaking of duelling says—"public opinion is not easily controlled by civil institutions, for which reason I question whether any regulations can be contrived of sufficient force to suppress or change the rule of honour which stigmatizes all scruples about duelling, with the reproach of cowardice.

"The insufficiency of the redress which the law of the land affords for those injuries which chiefly affect a man in his sensibility and reputation, tempts many to redress themselves."

This learned divine and philosopher, as well as others who have written

on the same subject, recommend the establishment of "COURTS OF HONOUR," with power to award those submissions and acknowledgements which it is generally the purpose of a challenge to obtain.

We can remember that not a great many years since, an attempt was made to establish such tribunals, and the most eminent men of the day both civil and military lent the sanction of their names to carry them into practical operation; but, unfortunately, the highest members of the court were sometimes found to be the first to violate its rules, and thus demonstrate its inefficiency. Even the iron Duke himself, the hero of Waterloo, whose well-won fame could triumphantly laugh to scorn the imputation of cowardice, was unable to resist the fashionable vice, and was weak enough to submit to its despotic influence by going out in his old age, and in the full blaze of his military renown, with the Earl of Winchelsea.

Thus these refined courts of honour, as well as the ordinary courts of law, have been insufficient to remedy this great social evil; indeed, all the efforts of philanthropists have hitherto signally failed, and we are firmly impressed with the conviction that the true and radical cure will be found in the application of the Masonic principle, by the extension of Freemasonry.

Within the small sphere of our own experience we have known several quarrels adjusted, and, in all probability homicide prevented, by the interference of brothers, and an appeal to the fraternal bond. *NIL PROSUNT LEGES SINE MORIBUS.* Let Masonry become universal, let the mystic tie bind man and man together "from Indus to the Pole," then may the philanthropic anti-duellist exclaim, *EUREKA.*

Each Lodge would become a true court of honour, an *Areopagus* where justice would be sought with confidence, each Master an *Aristides*, from whose decisions there need be no appeal; the most sensitive would be satisfied, for he should feel his honour was in the guardianship of a brother and a friend, and if Freemasonry effected no greater benefit than abolishing this unsocial, and unchristian practice, it would deserve the support and countenance of the great and good of every land where the divine principles of peace, love, and charity, are cultivated.

The suggestions in this short episode on duelling have been forced upon us by the recollection of many a foolish quarrel, *et quorum pars PARVA fuimas*, in which it was frequently our lot to be called upon to act as arbitrator; we generally found little difficulty in arranging differences between Masons, and men who were utterly regardless of the penalties of the law of the land and upon whom an appeal to a higher law had little effect, often yielded a willing and gentle obedience to the laws of Masonry.

It naturally occurred to us that the extension of the fraternal tie would prove to be that *panacea* which benevolent ethical doctors had been so long perplexing their ingenuities to discover, and as it is not our object in these gleanings of memory to dive into the dread obscure of the misty past for the purpose of tracing out and bringing to the light the ancient traditions of our Order (this archaological inquiry we leave to other and abler hands), but rather in a simple spirit of utilitarianism to point out its aptitude as a remedy to a particular evil, as well as its practical usefulness and social influence generally in the transactions of this work-

day world in which we live, we felt it our duty to place those considerations before our readers, and with their leave shall now pass on to our initiation.

CHAPTER IV.—THE INITIATION SCENES CONTINUED—THE SOLDIER-MASONS IN THE CRIMEA—A SHORT TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF FALLEN BROTHERS, &c.

WITH mingled sensations of hope and pride, but with feelings somewhat overcast by the recollection of the sad event of the morning, we approached the scene of our long-sought, long-wished-for ordeal.

On our way we took the precaution of paying a visit to "FATTY KARNEY," the gentle minister to the wants of gentlemen fond of late suppers and early hours, and the benevolent inventor of an agreeable and then well known compound called a "Doctor," an unfailing cure for aching heads, and delicate stomachs. After fortifying our inner man with one of this lady's renovating prescriptions, we wended our way to the Masonic Hall, where, while awaiting the arrival of our proposer and seconder, we had to endure a shower of jokes from a number of quizzical friends who generally congregated on such occasions in the public room.

Many and wondrous were the tales of horror told of the awful cruelties inflicted on aspirants to the Masonic secret. One old quiz seriously recommended us to make our will, as he had been well acquainted with a young gentleman who had been once traced to a Masonic Lodge for the same purpose as, he presumed, accounted for our presence that evening, and was never heard of afterwards; another joker hoped in consideration of his great regard for us we should leave him a small memento in the shape of our black cob, "Just up to his weight, and which he would take the most tender care of through respect for the memory of the donor;" a third hoped we had the good sense to look in at the medical hall, and provide ourselves with certain lenitive medicaments which, with the gravest face possible, he assured us we should find most useful; after some mysterious operation hinted at, we were also treated to a detail of the sufferings endured by Mr. Phil Simpson, on his initiation and admission into the Hoaxtown Lodge, contrary to the advice and warning of his wife.

This ridiculous tale of Mr. Simpson placed to the credit of Freemasonry which in a future paper we shall give our readers in all its unembellished racings, had its origin in one of those practical jokes which, in Yankee and would have won laurels for the perpetrators, and been hailed as a treasure by "Old Barnum," in whose recently published biography, an attempt is made to perpetuate a greater number of dull jokes than we ever had the evil fortune to see condensed within one small volume.

Our friends having now arrived, and to our great joy rescued us from the arrows of these merciless quizzes, we were soon ushered into another scene, and while dropping a veil over that which "none but Craftsman ever saw," we will only assure our readers, that unscared by the threatened horrors of our joking friends, and unawed even by the terrors of the

“actual cautery,” we passed through the sublime ceremony scatheless, and unharmed, and that the lofty grandeur, the moral beauty of that order of peace and love so impressively explained to us on that and subsequent occasions sank deep into our hearts, and proved a guide and a comfort to us through life in many a scene of trial and difficulty.

All by which we were surrounded on that occasion, every object that met the eye, every sound that fell upon the ear, seemed to affect us with an unusual solemnity.

No anthem ever led our senses captive with such touching tenderness as the sweet peals of that organ, which in bursts of swelling melody intoned our inauguration. The voice of the Chaplain seemed more in heavenly accord with the divine words he uttered, the language of prayer, grand in its simplicity, seemed to us a homage more suitable to the GOD OF ALL than any we had ever heard before.

The whole *coup d'œil* was more gorgeous and dazzling than we could have thought it possible to compress within so narrow a compass. It was a living picture of all that was bright and beautiful, and to make it truly perfect but required the presence of those beings, whose countenance sheds a grace, and holiness where'er they move, and whose brighter eyes would have claimed and won divided empire with the brilliancy of the gold and diamonds which glittered around.

Men eminent in art, science, and literature, in music, poesy, wit, and song, formed the chief constituents of that brilliant assembly. Every branch of the naval and military services was there represented in its varied and brilliant costume, and many a gallant brother whose heart throbbed proud and high at Lodge 50 that night, now lies still and cold in his cheerless but glorious grave in the far off land of the tyrant foe.

The incarnated fields of Alma, Balaklava, and Inkerman, can bear sad and sanguinary testimony how freely the *Soldier-Mason* can pour out his heart's last “ruddy drop,” for the honour of the crown, the glory of his country, and the liberty of the world.

May the MANES of the fallen brave be soon appeased by the demolition of the despot's stronghold in the stormy Buxine, may no foot of serf or tyrant desecrate the turf that covers their mouldering forms, and when a column shall arise inscribed with the imperishable record of the glorious deeds of the heroes of two mighty nations who went forth in their might to do battle, and win freedom for the weak, and shall stand forth to the admiring chivalry of future ages.

“Alight a land-mark, on the cliffs of fame!”

Let it also, while perpetuating the martial deeds of the once rival empires, consecrate the peaceful union of the rose of England with the fair lily of France.

And if any turbulent spirit in either land shall hereafter attempt to sever the fraternal tie cemented with the blood of heroes, the patriot will need no other *talisman* to wither the miscreant into shame, and silence than the glorious *spell-word Inkerman*.

To this holy alliance we would say, with the good and wise of both empires, ESTO PERPETUA.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual meeting of this Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows, was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 18th of May, Br. Ed. H. Patten, P.G.S.B. in the Chair.

Br. Wm. Farnfield, the Secretary read the Report, which stated that the Committee regretted it was not in their power to recommend the election of more than two male pensioners, though four had died since the last annual meeting, as a reference to the balance sheet would show, that the amount of annual subscriptions and donations had decreased as compared with those of the two or three previous years. It must, however, be borne in mind, that since the establishment of the Widows' Fund, many persons who approved of the establishment had used their influence in aid of that instead of the male fund, so, that although the subscriptions had not diminished in the aggregate, they had become divided between the two charities. It must also be borne in mind, that since the amalgamation of the Asylum with the Annuity fund, an expense of about £30 per annum has been caused for maintenance and management, equal to the charge of one Annuitant, but the advantage and accomodation to those who could avail themselves of a residence in the Asylum, was greatly enhanced by giving them a comfortable abode. Of the Annuitants at the period of the election in May, 1854, thirty-nine were subscribers to country Lodges, receiving £803, per annum, and thirteen to London Lodges, receiving £270 per annum. The Committee had the greatest pleasure in referring to the fact, that the Grand Lodge of England had increased the grant to the Widows' fund to £200 per annum, thus enabling the Committee to recommend the election of four Annuitants, and increasing the number to seventeen. Since the last annual meeting, the building Committee had delivered the Asylum at Croydon, into the hands of the general Committee in a substantial condition, leaving a debt upon it of £291 12s. 6d., which with the cost of improved drainage of about £70, left a debt upon the Asylum of £362, which had to be paid. The kind way in which the Craft had responded to the special appeal for money to complete it, justified the Committee in entertaining the hope, that in a short time they would be able to discharge the amount of debt. In conclusion, the Committee had only to express a hope that the brethren would not relax in their exertions to maintain this valuable Institution in their various branches.

The balance sheet showed on the male Annuity account, that the balance in hand on the 31st March, 1854, was £375 13s., the donation from G. Lodge, was £600, do. G. Chapter £100; donations from Lodges, Chapters, and individuals £99 6s.; Annual subscriptions £618 3s.; dividends on stock £249 9s. 8d., making a total of £1833 11s. Of this amount there had been expended (including payments to the Annuitants of £1016, and £460 12s. 6d., paid for the purchase of £500 (3 per cent stock), £1721 6s. 6d., leaving a balance in hand of £112 5s. 2d.

On the Widows' fund the balance to the 31st March 1854, was £357 2s. 10d.; and there had been since received, donation from G. Lodge, £100; do. G. Chapter £35; do. from Lodges, Chapters and individuals, £115 7s.; Annual subscriptions £98 3s. 6d.; dividends on stock, £30 18s. 3d., making a total of £736 11s. 7d. Of this amount there had been expended (including £225 paid to annuitants, and £368 10s. in the purchase of £400 stock) £648 11s. 11d., leaving a balance to the credit of the fund of £87 19s. 8d.

On the building fund the balance in hand on the 31st March 1854, was £71 12s.; and there had been since received £230 17s. 6d., together £301 19s. 11d.; and there had been disbursed £195 13s. 5d, leaving the balance in hand £106 6s. 6d.

Since the Audit, £173 had been received on account of the building fund, and now stood in the names of the trustees.

The amount of stock now standing to the Credit of the Institution, was as follows:— Male Annuity Fund, £8116 1s. 9d.; Widows' Annuity, £1195 3s. 2d.; Building Installation Fund £567 7s. 9d.

The Report having been adopted, the Committee for the ensuing year appointed, and other formal business gone through,

Br. White gave notice that at the next General Meeting he should move, that from and after the election of 1856, Rule 45 of the Male Annuity, and 31 of Widow's Fund, bye-laws should be expunged. The rule alluded to is as follows:—"The total number of votes announced at the last or two last preceding elections, as polled on behalf of an unsuccessful Candidate, shall be carried forward to the credit of such Candidate at the succeeding election."

The election was then proceeded with, and the following were declared the successful Candidates.

John Commins - - - -	5647	Mary Pearson - - - -	882
Jonas Jowett - - - -	5349	Sarah Leamar (London) -	868
Ann Clark (London) - -	1430	Elizabeth Westoby - - -	592

Mrs. Elizabeth Bird of London polled 795 votes, but as article 33 of the bye-laws declares that only half the Annuitants elected shall be the widows of Brs. from Lodges in London, she could not be declared elected, notwithstanding the large majority she possessed over Mrs. Westoby.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and Scrutineers closed the proceedings.

ROYAL FREEMASON'S GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The annual festival of this most excellent charity was celebrated at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday last, the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., presiding, supported by the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland; Br. B. B. Cabbell, P.G.M. for Norfolk; Br. Giraud, P.G.W.; Br. Tomkins, G.J.D.; Br. John Hervey, P.G.D.; Br. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; and about 300 other members of the Craft, whilst the gallery was filled by ladies.

The cloth having been removed,

The R.W.D.G.M. said he had to propose a toast which he was sure would be received with the greatest enthusiasm, more especially amongst Freemasons. He would therefore give them "The Queen"—God bless her—(Cheers).

The R.W.D.G.M. had now to propose to their acceptance "The health of H.R.H. Prince Albert, Albert, Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal family." He was sure they all highly respected H.R.H. Prince Albert, who from his first arrival in this country had shown himself anxious to promote the welfare and happiness of the people. Nor could they forget H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, who had just returned from the Crimea, where he had distinguished himself by his gallantry and soldierly bearing—(Cheers).

The R.W.D.G.M. said he had now to propose a toast not usually given at Freemason's Assemblies, but he was sure, at a time when the army and navy were engaged in the service of their country, that he should not be considered out of order in giving the toast—(Hear, hear). Neither, he was sure, would they forget their gallant allies. He therefore proposed to them to drink to "The combined Army and Navy of England and France"—(Cheers).

The D.G.M. had next to give them a toast which he was sure they would all most heartily respond to, as he knew how anxious they were at all times to show their feelings of respect to the M.W.G.M.—(Cheers). He might be allowed to say that it gave him great satisfaction to be supported by his noble friend and brother that evening; for at the time when the dinner was fixed, the health of the noble Earl was such that his medical attendants advised him not to attend meetings of this festive nature. Therefore it was that he (the Earl of Yarborough), as D.G. Master, had consented to preside; but as the M.W.G.M. was now present, he would request him to give the toast of the evening. He begged to propose to them the health of the M.W.G.M., and might he long be spared to preside over the Order, and receive continued marks of their confidence—(Cheers).

The M.W.G.M. rose amidst loud cheers, which lasted some time, and said he most

cordially thanked them for the handsome manner in which the brethren had drunk his health, which had been so kindly proposed by their worthy D.G.M. On all occasions he had great pleasure in meeting the brethren, from whom he had received so many marks of kindness. As his noble friend had told them at the time when the dinner was fixed, he was interdicted by his medical attendants from attending public meetings, and he had therefore requested the noble D.G.M. to take the chair, which he had kindly consented to do. At the same time, finding his health sufficiently restored, he could not refrain from attending the meeting, and supporting the D.G.M. who he rejoiced to see in the chair—(Cheers). His noble brother had asked him to propose the toast of "Prosperity to the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children." He had great pleasure in doing so, and in briefly adverting to the history of that School. It was established in 1778, through the exertions of Chevalier Ruspini, a dentist in London of great repute. Such, however, was the uncertainty of events, that although Chevalier Ruspini had a large practice, and was considered "well to do in the world," he failed to make a provision for his family, and two of his granddaughters were educated by the bounty of the brethren in the School which he had been instrumental in establishing. Since the foundation of the School, upwards of 600 girls had received the benefits of education within its walls, and he was proud to say that not one of them had been known to misconduct herself in after life.—(Cheers). He considered that fact reflected great credit on the schoolmistress (whose loss they had lately to lament) who had presided over the School for a period of fifty-four years. There were now sixty-six girls in the School, but that number would shortly be reduced, by two who were about to leave—one of whom would that day receive the medal of the School.—(Cheers). A few days ago he went down to the School, and he was much struck with the difference in the appearance of the children to what it used to be, when they were in the Westminster Road. They were now very healthily located, the children presented a very healthy and robust appearance, and it was worthy of remark that throughout the past severe winter there had not been a cold, a cough, or a chilblain in the School.—(Cheers). He went down to the School perfectly unexpected, but he found everything in the most perfect order—and if any of the brethren or ladies present would do as he had done, visit the School, they could not fail to be struck by the healthy appearance of the children and the order and regularity which prevailed throughout the establishment. The establishment, however, could not be supported without a large expenditure, and though the donations and subscriptions last year were unusually large, they were, he was sorry to say, exhausted—though many of the expenses would not again occur. He had now great pleasure in asking them to drink "Success to the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children."—(Cheers).

The Children were here introduced into the room, and presented a most healthy and cheerful appearance, but we certainly should like to see the R.F.S. charity badge removed from their arm, as it ought never have been allowed to be worn.

The children having sung an appropriate hymn,

The D.G.M. addressed them in most feeling terms, and begged them to bear in mind that if they continued to walk in the path of rectitude they would never be forgotten by the brethren in after life, and if they needed any assistance or advice, they had only to apply to the Secretary of the School or himself to receive it. He also presented the medal to Matilda Clubb, who is about to leave the School, and a number of prizes for reading, writing, domestic duties, &c., &c.—the prizes, which are the gift of Br. Wm. Smith, of St. Martin's-lane, consisting of elegantly bound books. The noble Earl then, in his own name and that of the brethren, thanked Miss Jarwood, the matron, and Miss Souter, the schoolmistress, for the care and attention which they had paid to the welfare and comfort of the children entrusted to their care.

The children, having sung "Good Night," retired.

Br. R. H. Giraud, P.G.M., said he rose with the greatest of pleasure to propose to them the health of the D.G.M.—(Cheers.) They knew his lordship to be a most earnest supporter of the School—they had seen how well he had discharged the duties of the chair that evening—and heard the kind words of encouragement he had

addressed to the children.—(Cheers.) The toast was “The Health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough,” and thanks to him for his kindness in presiding that evening.—(Cheers.)

The D.G.M. begged leave to return them his sincere thanks, not only for the cordial reception just given to the toast so handsomely proposed to his health, but also for the support they had given him on that occasion. He trusted they were all highly gratified with the pleasing sight they had just witnessed, and that the ladies present had found no reason for disappointment in the appearance of the children, but that they would be able cordially to recommend it to the support of their relatives and friends. He had had great pleasure in presiding that day, though he believed had they found some other brother to preside for the first time, it might have been more advantageous to the institution.—(Cheers, and cries of “No.”) He had presided at the festival before, and he was always anxious to aid the school when in his power. He was anxious to see the school flourish, because he believed it did a great deal of good, not only by the education it afforded, but by encouraging others to support that and similar institutions. Allow him to remark that an error appeared to have got abroad in the country, that the children for the greater part belonged to the metropolis. Now that was not so, as the larger portion of the children came from the provinces—for although nine-tenths of the funds were subscribed by the metropolitan Lodges, nothing like partiality was shown towards them.—(Hear, hear). He hoped they would not think he had been wrong in the earlier part of the evening, in recommending the children, after they had found them situations, if they had anything to complain of, to write to himself or the Secretary, because he felt the importance, after they were educated, they should have some person to whom they could apply for advice, as it was only by that means the high character of the school could be maintained. The M.W.G.M. had alluded to the expenses. Now, he had looked over the balance-sheet, and, seeing some unusual items which would not again occur, he had doubled his usual subscription—(cheers)—and he trusted other brethren might be induced to increase theirs.—(Cheers.) At the same time he felt their funds were well applied, and properly looked after, and the school could not be kept in efficiency without the aid of brethren who gave their time in looking after it. He therefore begged to propose the health of Br. B. B. Cabbell, and the House Committee.—(Cheers.)

Br. CABBELL acknowledged the compliment, and expressed the deep interest he at all times took in the prosperity of the school.—(Cheers.)

The health of the medical officers; Prosperity to the other Masonic charities. The Stewards, The Ladies, &c., was then drunk, and the R.W.D.G.M. left the chair shortly before eleven o'clock, when a portion of the company retired to the glee room.

The subscriptions of the evening amounted to £1,407 13s. 6d., including £25. from the R.W.D.G.M.; £10 10s. from the G.M.; £10 10s. from each of the Stewards; £2 2s. from the “Masonic Mirror,” &c., &c.

The following were the lists as returned from the Stewards, as nearly as we could collect them :—

Bro. William Pulteney Scott, Grand Steward, 1855, S.W. 2, <i>President</i>	.. .. .	£	20	5	0
“(The W.) Pro. D. Gooch, Prov. G.M. Wiltshire, P.M. 453, S.D. 167, <i>Vice-President</i>	.. .. .		177	8	0
“Alexander James Duff Filer, P.M. 30, <i>Treasurer</i>	.. .. .		40	9	0
“The Hon. W. E. Vernon, J.W. 460, <i>Honorary Secretary</i>	.. .. .		23	2	0
“Harris, A. S. D	.. .. .	S.W.	1	87	3
“Shackleton, S.C., P.M. 340	.. .. .	S.W.	3	31	7
“Joseph, J. A., Jun..	.. .. .	S.D.	4	30	8
“Smedley, J.	.. .. .	S.W.	5	62	19
“Wood, Western, Jun.	.. .. .	.. .. .	6	42	0
“Baxter, E..	.. .. .	J.D.	8	22	1
“Burton, J..	.. .. .	W.M.	9	18	0
“Spooner, I. W..	.. .. .	W.M.	11	53	11
“Lee, H. J..	.. .. .	S.W.	14	28	7
“Beveridge, J. E.	.. .. .	P.M.	21	39	18
“Adams, J. W.	.. .. .	.. .. .	23	17	0
“England, G., P. Prov. S.G.W. Surrey	.. .. .	W.M.	57	48	6

" Morris, J.	P.M.	66	£39	18	0
" Vile, G.	W.M.	87	25	4	0
" Grosjean, E.	S.W.	108	23	12	0
" Slight, F.	J.D.	109	40	10	6
" De Bruyn, C.	S.W.	116	143	5	0
" Von der Heyde, I. J.	I.G.	225	25	3	0
" Watson, J.	J.W.	229	50	8	0
" Saunders, G. H.	J.W.	233	81	18	0
" Haggart, D. B., P.P.G.W., Hertz, P.M. 578	W.M.	269	23	2	0
" Warner, A.	W.M.	286	28	5	0
" Measor, J. . . . .	...	318	55	9	0
" Crotch, Rev. W. R.	W.M.	327	21	0	0
" Atty, G. . . . .	...	324	50	8	0
" Samuel, Ho. S.	I.G.	778	25	4	0

The dinner was very excellently served, and the approaches to the hall, as well as the hall itself, being carpeted and decorated with flowers and evergreens, it had a very cheerful and handsome appearance.

The musical arrangements were conducted by Br. Geo. Genge, who was assisted by Miss Birch, Miss E. Birch, Miss M. Wells, Miss J. Wells, Brs. Geo. Porren Smythson, Farquharson, &c. The music was very well performed, and the ladies of the party, the more especially Miss M. Wells, received numerous encores.

Br. Crawley officiated as toastmaster.

LONDON LODGES.

GRAND MASTER'S LODGE (No. 1).—The closing meeting of the season of this excellent Lodge was held on the 21st May, under the able presidency of the W.M. Br. G.W.K. Potter, but the business was principally of a formal character. The brethren to the number of 35, afterwards dined together—the visitors being Br. Winsor, P.M., 76; Br. Webber, P.M., 202; Br. Payne and Br. Lea. The evening's amusements were enlivened by the singing of Brs. Donald King, Lawler, and Jolley.

LODGE OF ANTIQUITY (No. 2).—This venerable Lodge, a relic of ancient Masonry, held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, May 23rd. The brethren, who were all Grand Officers, spent the evening in the greatest harmony, assisted by the talented exertions of Brs. Jolley, King, and Lawler.

BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).—This distinguished Lodge held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern on Monday, May 21st. The W.M. Br. Massey Dawson delivered a lecture "On the Antiquity of Masonry, as illustrated by recent discoveries amongst ancient works of art." The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to partake of an elegant banquet. After proposing the health of "the Queen," and also of "the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland," which was heartily responded to, the W.M. proposed the health of "the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers," and in doing so expressed the great satisfaction with which the toast was always received in the British Lodge; but more particularly on the present occasion, when it was honoured by the presence of two brethren so distinguished for learning and ability, and also for their high position in Masonry, as Br. Preston Cooper, P.G.M. of Kent, and Br. Dr. Bowles, P.G.M. of Herefordshire. Br. Bowles, in returning thanks for the Grand Officers, observed that to those who felt that praise was undeserved, the words of praise conveyed rebuke. He trusted that such was not the case in the present instance, though he felt that much must be set down, *cum grano salis*, to the eloquence of such a practised speaker as the W.M. Unfortunately his attendance had not been sufficiently early to hear the whole of the lecture, but he had heard sufficient of Nineveh and Memphis, as connected with ancient Masonry, to make him regret not being in time to hear the former part. In conclusion, he thanked the brethren for the high compliments paid to the Grand Officers, though he felt that much that had been said regarding them was to be attributed to the imagination of the W.M. and his kindness of heart. The W.M. then said that it was always a peculiar pleasure to the British Lodge to propose the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent, it having had the honour of being connected for a number of years with its most distin-

guished members, amongst whom were Br. Bisgood and Br. Gill, and he felt still greater pleasure on the present occasion in coupling it with the Provincial Grand Lodge of Herefordshire, he having the honour of a visit from Br. Bowles, P.G.M., and also Br. Westmacott, D.P.G.M. He trusted that from what they had seen of the Lodge they would be induced to pay it another visit. Br. Westmacott, in acknowledging the toast, expressed his thanks for the kind and hospitable manner in which he had been received, and assured the brethren that he should feel the greatest delight in receiving a visit from them in Herefordshire, and returning the kind welcome he had received. Br. Cooper then proposed the health of the W.M., and expressed himself much amused by the manner in which he had discussed Masonry in its most ancient forms. He (Br. Cooper) had always held in high estimation the present system of Masonry, as he considered it did a vast amount of good in the way of charity, and on the principle laid down by their late G.M. the Duke of Sussex, constituted an universal club, extending liberality and good-fellowship all over the world. In conclusion, he thanked the W.M. for the able manner in which he had discharged his duties during his past and present year of office. The W.M. thanked the brethren for the compliment paid him, and observed that, with regard to his lecture, if he had been able to display either wit or learning to a sufficient extent to afford instruction and amusement, he was sufficiently repaid for his exertions. He then proposed the health of the P.Ms., and thanked them for their numerous attendance, distinguished as they were for their standing in the world, their position in Masonry, and also for their readiness at all times to render their assistance to the Officers of the Lodge when called upon. Br. Bisgood, in acknowledging the toast, admitted that the P.Ms. were ever ready to render their assistance to the Lodge on all occasions when necessary, but he felt great satisfaction in the conviction that, under its present government, their exertions were not required. The W.M. then called upon the brethren to drink the health of the Treasurer, Br. Nokes, and the Secretary, Br. Robinson, and to thank them for the able manner in which they discharged the duties of their respective offices, the more particularly the Treasurer, Br. Nokes, who had held the office for upwards of twenty-seven years. Br. Nokes thanked the Lodge on behalf of himself and Br. Robinson, for drinking their healths, and assured the brethren that he could not picture to himself a greater calamity than feeling he had lost the esteem of his fellows in Masonry. The W.M. then called the attention of the Lodge to that which was always considered in the British, the toast of the evening, "The Visitors," more especially on the present occasion, when honoured with the presence of so many distinguished members of the Order, two of whom from their position had been already noticed, but there was another present whom they were equally happy to see, namely, Br. Cornwall, P.M., 802, and he hoped to have the pleasure of meeting all the visitors for many years to come. Br. Cornwall expressed his regret in not being able to receive the Brethren in his Province with the same Masonic splendour displayed that evening, owing to the want of a P.G.M., that office having been vacant since the death of the late lamented Duke of Beaufort. It had not yet pleased the M.W.G.M. to appoint a successor, and he earnestly solicited the brethren who might have interest with the M.W.G.M. to suggest the propriety of such an appointment being made, as the brethren in his Province were both numerous and influential, and true Masonic hospitality existed amongst them in its fullest sense. After drinking the health of the Officers, for which the J.W., as *locum tenens* for the S.W., returned thanks, the brethren separated in perfect harmony.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 8th May, when three Gentlemen were duly initiated into the Order—a fourth Candidate being prevented attending in consequence of meeting with an accident. The brethren next took into consideration the subject of a summer excursion, and it was resolved that the members of the Lodge should dine at Br. Parry's, Willesden Green, on Tuesday, 17th July. It was also resolved that a Lodge of Emergency should be held at the Freemason's Tavern at half-past 11 on the morning of the same day to pass the newly initiated brethren, and initiate the gentleman who had been prevented attending that night. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment, and spent a pleasant evening. Br. C. R. Harrison, W.M., No. 202, and other visitors, were present.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—An “emergency” meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons’ Tavern, on the 16th, for the purpose of receiving and considering a report from the Committee of P.M. and Officers, with reference to the approaching Centenary, and the best mode of celebrating so interesting an occasion. The report recommended that a banquet be held at the Brunswick, Blackwall; and also, proposed that the M.W.G.M. be memorialized for his sanction to a jewel commemorative of the event, which all present members of the Lodge will have the privilege of wearing. The report was unanimously adopted, and a Committee appointed to carry its recommendations into effect.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE AND OLD CUMBERLAND (No. 12).—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season on Monday, May 14, when two brothers were passed, and one raised to their respective degrees, by Br. J. Marriott, P.M. At the conclusion of the business the brethren adjourned to dinner, which was presided over by the W.M. Br. Louis Meunier. The visitors present were, Brs. Rowland (No. 328), and W. R. Inglis (No. 231, *Scottish Constitution*). The brethren spent a very pleasant evening, to the enjoyment of which the S.W., Br. Donald King, materially contributed by his excellent singing.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons’ Tavern on Thursday, May 17th. The W.M., with the assistance of his Officers, raised two brethren to the Third Degree, passed one to the Second Degree, and initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of Masonry, in that able manner for which this Lodge is distinguished. The brethren then voted two guineas to the widow of their late Tyler, Br. Dalton, and arranged their summer banquet for the 4th of July.

ROBERT BURNS’ LODGE (No. 25).—This Lodge met for the last time this season on Monday last, the brethren mustering to the number of about thirty, an unusually small meet for this numerous Lodge. Br. Goring, P.M. (who filled the chair in the absence of the W.M., Br. Dyte), initiated a gentleman into the Order, and raised two brethren to the Third Degree. At the close of the Masonic business the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The visitors were Brs. J. Burton, W.M. (No. 9), F. Bincks, S.W. (11), C. J. Waterhouse (276), and Kemmish (745). In the course of the evening 10*l.* was voted out of the Lodge Benevolent Fund in aid of an old P.M. of the Lodge, whom the force of circumstances compelled to make the appeal.

OLD KING’S ARMS LODGE (No. 30).—The April meeting of this Lodge was held on the last Monday, when the W.M. Br. Ed. Warwick passed a Br. to the second degree a most able manner. Br. P.M. Filer, Sec. and P.M. of the Lodge, presented to the W.M., in the name of the brethren, a vote of thanks for his liberal feelings and general attention to the interests of the Lodge, most beautifully written, framed, and glazed. The W.M. returned his sincere thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and concluded by saying, that he hoped all the brethren would support Br. Filer in his office of steward of the Girls’ School Festival. The brethren at the conclusion of the business adjourned to a very elegant banquet, and after spending a very happy evening, the brethren separated at an early hour. We omitted to mention in our last notice of the Lodge, that the brethren had voted £5 in aid of the funds of the Royal Freemasons’ Asylum.

BRITANNIC LODGE (No. 38).—This Lodge, after lying for some time dormant, only three members continuing to belong to it, and no meeting having been held for nearly four years, has been taken up by the railway interest, and promises to become in a very short time one of the strongest in the Order. The first meeting under the new *regime* was held at the Thatched House Tavern, on the 10th of April, when about 20 joining members having been elected, the Lodge proceeded to elect a Master, Br. Gooch, D.G.M. for Wiltshire, being selected for the office. Br. Lewis Crombie was elected Treasurer, and Br. Hensley, one of the old members, continues as Secretary. The second meeting was held on the 11th May, when Br. J. A. D. Cox, P.M., who has during the past four years held the warrant of the Lodge, proceeded to instal Br. Gooch as W.M. for the ensuing year; but Br. Gooch having been more than once previously installed, the ceremony was very much curtailed of its fair proportions. Br. J. Freeman, 233, C. R. Mansell, 70, and George Furness, 70, having been elected joining members, the new W.M. initiated into the Order the

following five candidates, all of whom are gentlemen well known in the railway world;—Ed. Watkin, R. G. Underdown, Geo. Hawkins, J. Chester Craven, and A. E. Williams. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren, to the number of 30, adjourned to dinner. Amongst the visitors, we observed Brs. Owen, P.G. Chaplain of Surrey; John Hervey, P.S.G.D.; John Ross, P.M., 696; and P.G.O. Warwick; W. Bragge, 857; A. P. French, &c., &c. After spending a very pleasant evening, the brethren adjourned until August.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Bridge House Hotel, May 17, the W.M., Br. Geo. England presiding, when there were three raisings and passings, and an initiation—the whole of the ceremonies being extremely well performed. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren partook of a cold collation, and separated at an early hour.

CONSTITUTIONAL LODGE (No. 63).—This Lodge met at the Exeter Hall Hotel, on Thursday, May 24th. One Brother was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and one passed to the degree of Fellowcraft.

LODGE OF PROSPERITY (No. 73).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at Br. Stanton's, the Earl of Durham, Murray Street, New North Road, Islington, on Friday, 18th ult., when the W.M. Br. Thos. Weeks, who initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of Freemasonry, in a very efficient manner. In the course of the evening Br. Saque, with the assistance of the brethren, worked the lecture in the first degree. The business of the Lodge being concluded, it was closed in due form, and the brethren about 30 in number, adjourned to the banquet, which was well furnished by Br. Stanton, the worthy host. The usual toasts having been duly honoured, Br. Richd. Barnes, P.M., proposed the health of the W.M., adverting in eulogistic terms on the very able and efficient manner, in which the duties of the Lodge, had been worked by so young a member of the Craft. The W.M. in reply assured the brethren that his utmost endeavours would be used to ensure the well working, as well as the unanimity of the Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the health of the newly initiated Br., who replied in suitable terms, in which he expressed his admiration of the principles of the Order, and tendered his sincere acknowledgments for his admission among Masons that evening. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visiting brethren; Brs. Wilson, No. 218; Rev. D. Shaboa, Chaplain, No. 812; Isaacs, S.W. No. 247; W. Edwards, W.M. No. 218; R. E. Barnes, P.M. No. 15; who severally returned thanks. The health of the P.M.'s was next proposed, to which Br. Lehmann, P.M. replied in a very pleasing and energetic manner, expressive of his delight at seeing so many old faces around the board. He thanked the members generally for the liberality of sentiment at all times evinced towards him by the Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Officers of the Lodge. In reply, Br. Saque, as S.W. pro. tem. in the absence of Br. Goodwin, S.W., adverted to the principles of the Order, and the beneficial results arising from the working of the lectures, and expressed his willingness to render them any assistance in his power. He also alluded to the able manner in which he had been assisted in working that evening, by his worthy Br. Isaacs. Br. Barnes, Senr., in rising to propose the next toast, claimed the attention of the brethren, as he felt assured it would meet with the unanimous and cordial feeling of every member present. He alluded to the health of their highly esteemed, and much respected Treasurer, Br. Day, whose zeal for the Craft, and interest for this Lodge in particular, had been the sole means of raising it from the low ebb to which it had been fallen, to its present proud and high position, not only by the increase in numbers and the *respectability of its members*, but for the many and valuable services rendered to the various Masonic Charities. Such, observed Br. Barnes, had been the conduct pursued by Br. Day, since his introduction amongst them, that he felt assured such marked conduct merited the entire approbation of the Lodge, and that the feelings of the members would accord with his in tendering to Br. Day, that meed of praise, which his truly Masonic actions so richly deserved. Br. Day, in returning thanks, assured the brethren he felt highly gratified at the manner in which his name had been introduced to their notice, on that occasion, by P.M. Barnes. It was not his intention to dilate on the excellences of that institution, amongst whose members he was happy to be enrolled, but he begged to assure them, that having been appointed to the honourable post of Treasurer to the Lodge, he felt it his bounden

duty to discharge that office with credit to himself, and honour to the Lodge. He should at all times give the Lodge his most cordial support, and was glad to find it was working steadily, and well supported. The W.M. then proposed "the health of Br. Richard Barnes, P.M.," whose zeal for Masonry was known to the Craft, his readiness at all times to impart Masonic information to the younger brethren, and his indefatigable exertions in the cause of charity, were such characteristics as called forth the approbation of his brethren. Br. Barnes thanked them sincerely for the kind sentiments entertained by the brethren towards him, and strongly exhorted them to persevere in the cause of that most excellent virtue, charity. The pleasure of the meeting was greatly enhanced by the beautiful singing of Br. P. Corri, (the celebrated Baritone) and Mrs. Isaacs and Buckingham.

LODGE OF UNITY (No. 82).—The following are the Brethren to whom P.M. Jewels were presented at the last meeting of this Lodge: Mrs. F. Vickers, Jas. Vickers, Walmsley, Rev. J. E. Cox, G.C., J. Howe, J. W. Thearle, Sturns, Pitman, and Geo. Robins.

VITRUVIAN LODGE (No. 103).—This flourishing Lodge held its meeting on the 9th ult. In the absence of its highly respected W. M. Br. Maudslay, who was prevented attending from ill health, Br. Crosby very ably initiated Mr. James Smith into the secrets and mysteries of the Order. Mrs. Webb, Whiting, and Davies were afterwards impressively raised to the degree of M.M. Other important matters having been disposed of, and the Lodge closed, the members sat down to supper, to which ample justice was done, and the evening terminated in a truly Masonic manner.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—The last regular meeting of the season was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 10th May, the W.M. Br. L. Solomon presiding, when Br. Alfred Haward of the Reunion Lodge, Bex, Switzerland, was unanimously elected a joining member. On this occasion the brethren wore for the first time their Centenary Jewel, as approved by the Grand Master. The jewel, which is of very elegant design, reflects great credit on the taste and artistic execution of Br. Charles Robinson, of the Strand, to whom it was entrusted. Arrangements having been made for the celebration of the Centenary festival, at Blackwall, the Lodge was closed, and formally adjourned until October.

LODGE OF FAITH (No. 165).—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 29th May, when the W.M. initiated a candidate into the Order, and raised Mrs. Best and Cragg as M.M.'s.

ST. THOMAS'S LODGE (No. 166).—The members of this Lodge met for the last time this season, on Saturday, May 5th, when P.M. Br. Frampton very ably raised two Brothers as W.M.'s. All business being ended, the brethren dined together under the presidency of Br. Normandy, W.M., and great gratification was expressed at the return amongst them of P.M. Br. Strutt, who has been absent sometime on account of severe illness.

PRUDENT BROTHERS (169).—The members of this Lodge met for the despatch of Masonic business on the 22nd of May, but nothing of importance being before the Lodge, Br. Kirby, P.M., gave the members a lecture in Masonry with his usual ability. Br. Hewlett, W.M., presided at the banquet, to which he kindly invited the brethren, and after spending a pleasant evening, the members retired at an early hour.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, HAMPSTEAD (No. 196).—This Lodge met for the first time this season on the 8th of May, when there was a goodly muster of the brethren, but the business was purely formal.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season, on Tuesday, May 1st, upon which occasion there was a large assemblage of the Brethren; the business of the evening being the Initiation of two gentlemen into the Order, and the raising to the third degree of Br. Dadswell, which ceremonies were performed by Br. Kennedy, P.M. The visitors present were Mrs. Matthew, P.M. (11), W. Bishop (57), G. Sams (752), Keley (211), Le Gassick (25), Haywood (752). Br. Matthews returned thanks for the reception the visitors had met with, and remarked that he had been in the habit of being a frequent visitor of this Lodge some few years since, and although he congratulated the Lodge upon its present

numerical strength he could not but regret the dearth of "old familiar faces;" in fact, but one remained of the many he (Br. Matthews) had been accustomed to meet in the Old Concord, and that was Br. Emmens, the worthy Secretary. In the course of the evening £5 5s. were subscribed to assist the Widow of the late Br. Barnstaff, and it was announced that she would become a candidate for the benefits of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at the next vacancy.

PHENIX LODGE, (No. 202).—The members of this very thriving Lodge held its last meeting for the season on Saturday, May 12th, the W.M. Br. Webber presiding. Br. Maslin having been raised to the third degree, the W.M. turning towards Br. Warren, P.M., said that he was about to resign his office to the W.M. elect, but before doing so he had the gratification of presenting him (Br. Warren), a P.M.'s jewel from the members of the Lodge as a testimony of the respect held for him,—the exertions he had made two years since for the resuscitation of the Lodge—his general attention to the duties of Freemasonry—and the courteous and successful manner in which he had conducted the Lodge during his year of office. In presenting him with that jewel he (the W.M.) trusted he would long be spared to wear it, and that they might ever have the pleasure of his company and assistance in the Lodge. Br. Warren, on receiving the jewel, which is very handsome, and does great credit to the manufacturer, Br. Thearle, thanked the W.M. for his kind expressions, and assured the Brethren that he received that mark of their favour with deep gratitude, and though nothing could add to the pleasure and gratification he had at all times felt at being amongst them, it would be an additional incentive to induce him to do the utmost in his power to promote the prosperity of the Lodge. From the very moment he had determined in conjunction with the W.M., Br. Harrison, S.W., and other friends to endeavour to resuscitate the Lodge, he had always felt the deepest interest in its prosperity, and he could assure the brethren it would be his aim to endeavour to secure a continuance of their good opinion, trusting that he might continue a member of the Lodge so long as the G.A.U. gave him strength and means to continue in Freemasonry. The jewel bears the following inscription: "Presented to Br. Henry George Warren, P.M., by the members of the Phoenix Lodge, No. 202, in acknowledgment of his services as W.M., on the resuscitation of the Lodge, A.D. 1853-4." After the presentation of the jewel, the W.M. resigned the chair to Br. Warren, who proceeded to instal the W.M. elect, Br. Charles Russell Harrison into the chair for the ensuing year. This ceremony having been completed, the new W.M. invested the officers of the Lodge as follows: Br. Burton, W.M. No. 9, as S.W.; Br. Barton, J.W., and Sec.; Br. Lewis Houghton, Treas.; Br. Sharman, S.D.; Br. Capt. Creaton, J.D.; Br. Dumpy, J.G., and Br. Williams, D.C. At the conclusion of the masonic business, the Brethren, to the number of thirty, adjourned to a very elegant dinner and passed a most agreeable evening. There were several visitors present, amongst whom we observed Br. Scott, P.M. No. 2; Br. Rackstraw, P.M. No. 9; Br. Adams, P.M., 196, and W.M. 206, &c., &c. The evening presented a musical treat of rare occurrence at a dinner-party, even in connection with Freemasonry; several glees, duets, songs, &c., being rendered in their best style by Br. Genge, Br. Lawler, Br. Donald King, Br. Geo. Perren, Br. Taylor, Br. Holmes, and Br. Ford. The last named Br. is certainly one of, if not the very best comic singer of the day, and his "Joe in the Copper" convulsed the Brethren with laughter.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—Two emergency meetings of this Lodge have been held during the past month, at which three candidates have been inducted into Freemasonry, one of whom, Lieut. Munro, left England for the Crimea the day after his initiation.

ST. JAMES'S UNION (No. 211).—A Lodge of emergency was held at the Westmoreland Arms, George Street, Portman Square, on Friday, the 11th May, when the W.M., Br. W. G. Kelly, passed Brs. Woods and Russel, and raised Brs. Durley, Crofton, and Lock, performing the ceremonies with care and ability, assisted by Brs. John Gurton, S.W. and Br. Figg, J.W. who, with the junior officers, discharged the duties of their respective offices, with great credit to themselves. Several propositions having been made for new members, the brethren at the conclusion of their Lodge duties, retired to refreshment, which was supplied in Br. Frampton's best style, and a

very pleasant evening was spent. This Lodge under the excellent direction of Br. Kelly, is assuming a distinguished position in the Craft, and the young blood which is being infused into the Lodge, and which has so long been wanting, promises well for the future.

UNIVERSAL LODGE (No. 212).—This Lodge met at the Freemasons Tavern on Friday, May 25th. In the absence of two raisings and one passing that were expected, five sections of the First Lecture were worked in a manner which reflected great credit on the brethren.

ST. PAUL'S LODGE (No. 229).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting according to summons, on Tuesday, the 15th inst. This Lodge numbers amongst its members some of the most distinguished Masons in the Craft, alike known for their Masonic learning as well as for their hospitable and brotherly feelings. The W.M. Br. Randall proceeded, after opening the Lodge in due form, to raise two brethren to the sublime degree of Master Masons. It is needless to say how much instruction and example this excellent Mason displays in the Lodge, and with the admirable charge given by the Treasurer, Br. Foster White (who, by the way, we are happy to see restored to health after a severe illness), nothing more could be desired. We noticed amongst the visitors Br. Dr. Bowles, of the Hereford Lodge, Br. Nicoll, Br. Dr. Lawrance, and others; the Lodge assembled in full numbers, with the exception of that worthy and excellent Mason, Leonard Chandler, whose cordial and happy face all welcome and are glad to see among them. The W.M. announced a meeting of recreation, to be held at Blackwall in June.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The last regular meeting of this Lodge for the season was held on Friday, the 18th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, Br. Spooner, W.M., presiding. One gentleman was proposed for initiation, and it was unanimously carried that the annual summer recreation dinner should take place at Br. Bailey's, Southampton Hotel, adjoining the Kingston Railway Station, on the third Friday in July. There being no other business before the Lodge, the Brethren retired to refreshment, and after partaking of a well spread banquet, the evening passed in the expression of every kindly masonic feeling, with "hearty good wishes" to the "next merrie meeting." The visiting Brethren were Brs. Wylde, W.M. 13, Laird P.M. 13, Fox, P.M., 87, Mugeridge P.M. 227, and Bowman 125, and formerly of this Lodge.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—The members of this very excellent Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern on Thursday, the 3rd of May, when Br. James Linton, P.M., acting for the W.M., initiated Mr. John Messent into the mysteries of Freemasonry, passed Br. Newson, and raised Br. Thomas Evans—performing the several ceremonies with great ability. At the conclusion of all Masonic business the Brethren retired to refreshment, Br. Dyke, W.M. presiding. Br. P.M. Thomas Bohn (No. 7), returned thanks for the visitors on their health being drank, and paid a well-timed compliment to the excellent working of Br. P.M. Linton and the officers assisting him, and expressed his appreciation of the kindness and hospitality of the Lodge, in which Br. Phillips (No. 30), the only other visitor, most cordially concurred. "The P.M.'s, (of whom there were eight present), "The W.M.," "The Initiate," and other toasts were then proposed and warmly received. Much gratification was afforded to the Brethren by the very pleasing singing of Br. Messent, the newly initiated Brother, and Br. Crew, calling in during the evening for a few moments, sang one of his delightful melodies. Thus a most pleasant hour or two passed away, and the Brethren separated in perfect harmony and truly masonic feeling.

LODGE OF NINE MUSES (No. 286).—At the last monthly meeting of this Lodge for the season, on Tuesday, May 8th, a duly qualified candidate was initiated into the Order, by the W.M. Br. Warner. About fifteen of the brethren afterwards dined together, and concluded the evening by a fervent hope that they might all re-assemble with the blessing of the G.A.U., in health and prosperity at the commencement of the next season in October.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 318).—The closing meeting for the season, was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday, May 7th, when the W.M. Br. Geo. Blair, had a full programme of business before him, consisting of two initiations, two passings, and a raising; the whole of which were most admirably gone through. Nearly thirty

of the brethren afterwards dined together, amongst whom were Br. G. Marriott, P.M. (112), Br. Nead (167), and Br. Capt. A. K. Hunter (No. 183).

PRINCE OF WALES' LODGE (No. 324).—This highly distinguished Lodge held its last meeting for the season, at the Thatched House Tavern, on Tuesday, May 22nd.

LODGE OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 745).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at Br. Wales, the Manor House Tavern, Walworth, on Wednesday, the 23rd of May, under the able presidency of Br. D. R. Farmer, W.M., who raised one brother, (Br. Wales), to the third degree, passed Br. G. L. Collis to the second degree, and initiated a gentleman, Mr. George Martin, into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry, in his usual able manner. The business of the Lodge having been concluded, the Brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was served in Br. Wales' usual excellent style, and the remainder of the evening passed in the enjoyment of every social and Masonic feeling. We may add, that notwithstanding the great Derby event occurring on this day, there was an excellent gathering of the Brethren.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 778).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on the 10th inst., after the other business had been disposed of, Br. Detkins was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year.

LODGE LA TOLERANCE (No. 784).—This Lodge held a meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, May 1st, when Br. Captain, W.M. initiated Lieut. Mitford, of the 19th Regiment, into the mysteries and secrets of Freemasonry.

INSTRUCTION.

PHOENIX LODGE (No. 202).—This excellent and well supported Lodge of Instruction held its first annual banquet at the Freemasons Tavern on Saturday, May 19th. Br. Harrison, W.M. of the Parent Lodge presided as W.M.; Adams, W.M. 206, S.W.; Kirby, P.M. 169, J.W. Three sections of the first lecture ably worked. Several brethren from different Lodges were proposed to join and were unanimously admitted. The brethren then adjourned to partake of an excellent banquet. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the health of the W.M. of the Parent Lodge was drank and the united thanks of the brethren rendered to him for his Masonic ability and regular attendance. The W.M. thanked the brethren for their support, and more particularly those who had taken this opportunity of joining the Lodge of Instruction. Amongst them were several brethren distinguished for their Masonic talent, and whose valuable assistance would be gratefully received, whilst those who required instruction might depend on receiving it in the greatest purity whenever they could make it convenient to attend. The health of Br. Burton, W.M. No. 9, Treasurer, was drank, with thanks for his constant attendance to the Lodge and able discharge of the duties of his office. Br. Warren then proposed the health of Br. Crawley, Secretary, thanking him for having accepted the office, and for his regular attendance; he believed that in all branches of the ceremonies and lectures, Br. Crawley was universally admitted to be one of the best authorities in the Craft. Masonry being traditional, little innovations would unavoidably creep in, and it was therefore most essential to have amongst them one on reference to whom they were sure of receiving the original text. The health of the founders was then drank with much enthusiasm coupled with the name of Br. Warren as the W.M. of the Parent Lodge, who granted the first sanction for this Lodge to meet, and to which he had ever since rendered his most valuable support. The W.M. proposed the healths of Br. Adams, S.W., and Br. Kirby, with thanks for their assistance on this and all other occasions. After drinking to the prosperity of the respective Lodges to which more than half the brethren individually responded, the meeting broke up, after spending the evening with the greatest harmony.

PERCY LODGE (No. 234).—The anniversary festival of this excellent Lodge of Instruction was celebrated on the evening of the 1st ult., by an elegantly served supper, at the Marquis of Granby, Down-street, Picadilly. Br. Adams, P.M. of St-

John's Lodge, 196, Hampstead, and W.M. of the Domestic Lodge, 206, presided. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly responded to, the presiding Master presented a beautiful silver snuff-box, on behalf of the Lodge, to its able, energetic, and untiring Secretary, Br. Bywater, P.M. of the Jerusalem Lodge, No. 233, as a small mark of the respect, esteem, and affection in which they hold him, on account of his many virtues, both as a man and a Mason. The address of Br. Adams was purely Masonic, and evinced a spirit which we hope may never be effaced from the hearts and memories of those who heard it, and closed with a prayer in which we most heartily join, that our worthy Br. Bywater may long live to appreciate the gift, and that when he shall be removed to the Grand Lodge above, his children and his children's children may proudly point to it as a memorial of the respect in which their ancestor was held, and be by it warned to an imitation of his virtues.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—We have to acquaint our Masonic brethren that this old established Lodge of Instruction is now held in the large room at Br. Lloyd's, the Enterprise Tavern, Long Acre, on every Wednesday throughout the year. We are pleased to see that this Lodge is well supported by some most learned Masons, such as Brs. Adams, Fisher, Crawley, &c., &c.

LODGE OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 745).—This excellent and well-working Lodge of Instruction met on Friday evening, the 18th May, at the Clayton Arms Tavern, Kennington Oval, for the purpose of going through the 15 sections—Br. Adams in the chair, who, with his usual ability, put the questions, and the following brethren assisted him in a very able manner in working the sections of First Degree:—1. Brs. G. Howard; 2. C. Foulsham; 3. W. T. Pitcher; 4. I. Thomas; 5. D. R. Farmer; 6. H. Garrod; 7. Adams. Second Degree Sec.:—1. Brs. C. Ellis; 2. J. W. Ward; 3. T. Thomas; 4. D. R. Farmer; 5. W. Burden. Third Degree Section:—1. Brs. J. Collins; 2. P. Moss; 3. G. Haward. The brethren afterwards partook of a supper provided by Br. C. Foulsham, in his usual satisfactory manner, and the evening passed off in social harmony. The brethren separated, expressing the pleasure they had received in hearing the questions so ably put by the W.M., and responded to by the brethren in the like manner. The Masonic ball given by the Lodge on the 7th May, went off with great *eclat*, and a vote of thanks was given to Br. P. Moss for his presiding as the Hon. M.C. on the occasion, as also to Br. T. R. Warren as the Hon. Sec., the Stewards expressing their entire approbation of manner in which each brother discharged his duties. The dancing was kept up with great spirit until a late hour, with the assistance of Br. Adams' celebrated quadrille band, and the company separated, highly delighted with the evening's entertainment. The refreshments met with unanimous approbation.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

CHESHIRE.

EATON LODGE, CONGLETON (No. 777).—Br. Ullivero entertained the Brethren of this Lodge at dinner on the 9th of May, to celebrate his becoming the host of the Bull's Head Hotel. A goodly company sat down to table, G. C. Antrobus, Esq., W.M. of the Lodge, presiding, supported by his worship the mayor of the borough, the town clerk, the Rev. W. C. Arnold, &c., &c. The usual loyal and fraternal toasts were given and responded to, together with the health and success of the host and hostess, which was proposed in very complimentary terms. Br. Ullivero has provided a spacious Lodge room, which has been handsomely decorated, and affords every accommodation necessary for the performance of the "mystic rites."

DEVONSHIRE.

LODGE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PLYMOUTH (No. 83).—This Lodge met on Tuesday, 1st May. The minutes of the last Lodge were confirmed and some business of

a private nature having been disposed of, the W.M. Br. Gambell, read a memorial from the widow of a Brother formerly belonging to this Lodge (who died about three years since), praying for relief, she being in very reduced circumstances. It was resolved that Br. Ash, P.M., Treasurer, be requested to visit and relieve her according to her necessities and the ability of the Lodge funds. There were two visitors present, (Brs. Woodhouse, of 122, Stonehouse, and Reid of 17, Quebec), who also kindly added a small amount for this object. The Lodge having been closed in form and with solemn prayer, the Brethren retired to refreshment, and passed an hour very pleasantly, with that unanimity and harmony which should always characterize our ancient and honourable fraternity.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—The members held their usual monthly meeting on Wednesday, 9th of May, at the Prince George Hotel, for the purpose of raising Br. Dyer to the sublime degree of M.M. The worthy Brother not making his appearance, in the absence of other business, the Brethren retired to refreshment at an early hour. From the universal respect in which Br. Dyer is held, it was a source of great regret and disappointment to those present that the magnitude of his engagements prevented his attendance.

St. GEORGE'S LODGE, EXETER (No. 129).—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season on Monday, the 23rd ult., when Br. Pope was installed W.M. for the year ensuing. The Brethren afterwards adjourned to the Half-Moon Hotel, and partook of dinner, served by Br. Routley in his usual style.

LODGE OF HARMONY, PLYMOUTH (No. 132).—This Lodge held a meeting on Monday, the 7th of May, when Br. Earle initiated Mr. W. H. Langford into the Order, and Br. Gidley raised Br. Harvey to the degree of M.M.

STAR OF BRUNSWICK LODGE, STONEHOUSE (No. 185).—The members of this Lodge were summoned to meet at seven o'clock on Wednesday, the 2nd of May, at the George Hotel, Plymouth, for the purpose of raising Br. Nemacatt to the sublime degree of M.M. The ceremony was performed by Br. P. E. Rowe, P.P.G.D.C., &c., in his usual style of solemnity. It was proposed and carried that the Lodge be removed to a private room in Union Road, Plymouth, where the meetings will in future be held, as from the amount of inconvenience suffered in their present quarters it was quite out of the question remaining. The same reasons ought to apply to the other Lodge meeting in the same locale.

LODGE OF SINCERITY, STONEHOUSE (No. 224).—This Lodge held its usual monthly communication on Monday, the 14th of May, when Br. W.G. Clare, B.A., &c., &c., was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by Br. Tripe, P.P.G.S.D., in his usual style. The Lodge was closed at 9:30, when notice was given of a R.A. Chapter to be holden on an early day, a great number of Candidates coming forward to partake of the privileges thereby conferred.

LODGE OF UNION, STARCROSS (No. 650).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their first meeting for the season on the 5th inst., when Br. Wilcockson was elected the W.M. for the year ensuing.

ESSEX.

A meeting of the P.I.G.L. of Essex was held at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, on Thursday, the 17th of May, for the purpose of installing into office the new P.I.G.M., Br. J. R. Bagshaw, of Dovercourt, near Harwich. The Lodge having been opened by the D.P.G.M., Captain Skinner, of the Royal Artillery, Br. Bagshaw was introduced, accompanied by the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. of England, the Rev. J. E. Cox, G.C. of England, Brs. John Harvey, P.G.S.D., Leveau, P.G.S.B., Dr. Kent, P.I.G.M. of Australia, Bisgood, D.P.G.M. for Kent, and a number of P.I.G. Officers. The chair having been resigned by Captain Skinner to the R.W.D.G.M., the noble Earl proceeded to the installation of the new P.I.G.M., being assisted in the performance of the ceremony by Br. the Rev. J. E. Cox and Br. John Hervey. On the completion of the installation, the P.I.G.M. proceeded to re-appoint Br. Captain Skinner as D.G.M. An election for Treasurer took place, and unanimously fell on Br. Andrew Meggy. The other G. Officers appointed were Brs. S. J. Surridge, S.W.; Peter Matthews, J.W.; Rev. R. Bewick and Rev. F. Gray, Chaps.; A. N. Thistel-

ton, Reg.; Jos. Burton, Sec.; T. H. Devonshire, S.D.; A. Stone, J.D.; Peter Bruff, Sup. of Works; Wm. Wiseman and Lieut. Crow, Dirs. of Ceremonies; Capt. Robert Honeywood, S.B.; Jas. Dace, Organist; Geo. Addison, Pursuivant.

At the conclusion of the appointments, the P.G.M. proceeded to address the brethren, and congratulated them on the prosperity of the Craft in the Province, the Lodges being generally more numerous and the working better than for some years past. He was also happy to inform them that the M.W.G.M. of England had been pleased to grant a Charter for a new Lodge, which would shortly be consecrated at Harwich.

Some routine business having been gone through, a vote of thanks was given to the R.W.D.G.M. and the rest of the G. Officers for their attendance, and the Lodge was closed in due form.

A large number of the brethren afterwards re-assembled at a very elegant dinner, the band of the West Essex Militia, in which corps many of the brethren present hold commissions, attending, and playing several favourite marches with great spirit and precision. At the conclusion of the dinner a large number of ladies were introduced into the room amidst loud cheers. Grace having been said,

The P.G.M., in giving "The Queen and the Craft," said, there was never a period in this country's history when the Sovereign was more dear to the people than at the present moment, and he was sure they would in all due loyalty drink her health, and wish the country through this time of severe trial. Her Majesty was educated in their principles, as the daughter of a Mason, and was entitled to their utmost devotion—(Drunk with loud cheers).

The National Anthem was finely executed by the professional party.

The P.G.M. said the next toast was "The health of Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family"—(Applause).

The P.G.M. said he had on this occasion rather to depart from the usual routine of masonic toasts, feeling this was peculiarly an occasion for doing so, and he could not permit any other toast to be given to them till they had done due honour to the army and navy for their distinguished services—(Cheers). He felt deeply for those connected with the brave and gallant men who had to sustain the conflict in which they were engaged, and many had to lament the loss of friends whose memory was treasured in their affections; but if there was anything from which these men could derive consolation amidst their sufferings, it was the knowledge that when their brethren met together on these occasions, with their dear sisters, they could think of those brave spirits that thus gloriously fought their battles. He gave them, "The Army and Navy," and he would connect with it the D.P.G.M., Major Skinner, and the gentleman at his side, equally distinguished, Br. Dr. Rowe, P.Pl.D.G.M., who had served through all the Peninsular campaign—(Cheers).

The D.Pl.G.M., Major Skinner, said he rose under strong feelings of gratitude to their Pl.G.M. for introducing his name in the way he had done, or rather for coupling it with the distinguished service to which for many years he had the honour to belong, for at a time like this, when the army and navy were engaged in conflict with a foreign enemy, they felt deeply and sensibly that this was no common toast—(Cheers). The army and the navy for the last forty years had never been forgotten by Englishmen when assembled round the festive board; and certainly on an occasion like this, a peculiar occasion never before witnessed in this town, and in a society like that, gathered from the Province, from the Metropolis, and other parts of the kingdom, he was quite certain the toast would be given, and when given would be responded to in the way it had been—(Cheers). The army in the Crimea, for the last twelve months, had been in their daily thoughts; it had striven through a winter of great severity, suffering from famine and disease, and exposed to every privation that could visit the soldier, but under their noble commander they were ever ready to do their duty, notwithstanding all these privations and sufferings—(Cheers). He must say he did not feel so much for the friends of those who fell by the bullet and the sword, for they had the sympathy of the whole country with them; but he did feel deeply for the wives, and mothers, and sisters of those husbands and sons, and brothers, who had dropped down at their posts from famine and disease—(Hear). But the courage of

the British army would never be vanquished. The discipline of that army was witnessed in an extraordinary scene that took place four years ago, on board a ship off the Cape of Good Hope, where a band of noble soldiers stood on the deck, and perished nobly in doing their duty for the preservation of the lives of others—(Cheers).

The P.G.M. said, they would now come nearer home, as the next toast he had to propose was the health of their distinguished chief and G. M., “the Right Hon. Br. the Earl of Zetland”—(Cheers). They all as Masons were greatly indebted to him, for he set them a brilliant example of consistency in his whole walk through life; and though unfortunately his health would not permit him to attend their meetings so often as they could wish, they had reason to congratulate themselves that they had such an exalted man at the head of the Craft—(Cheers).

The P.G.M. said he had no doubt that every brother present would be satisfied with the next toast he had to propose, and would receive it in the manner that it deserved. This was the first occasion on which they had had the happiness of seeing the Earl of Yarborough in the county of Essex; and he had come to-day to aid in bringing about those noble and beautiful qualities which they so cherished in Masonry—(Cheers). He was witness to a scene last night at the meeting of the girls’ school belonging to the Order, in the metropolis, which he was sure would have melted a heart of stone, and the happy and judicious manner in which the noble Earl honoured and supported their charities, and the way in which he came amongst them to harmonize all matters of the Craft, placed them under a deep debt of gratitude to him. In the noble Earl’s presence he would not say more of him, as he might otherwise do with respect to his noble qualities, both as a man and as a Mason; but would at once call on them to drink “the health of the D.G.M. of England.”—(Cheers).

The Earl of Yarborough D.G.M. could assure the brethren he felt very sensibly the marked manner in which they had received the toast proposed to them. They had heard from the P.G.M. sentiments relative to him, which he had expressed in consequence of his friendship, though he did not deny that he had been at all times anxious to promote the working out successfully the objects and the benefits of Masonry, but at the same time he felt that the observations made by Mr. Bagshawe had been dictated by friendship, for if he had been absent on this occasion terms more flattering could not have been employed. It was true that last night he presided over the festival of the girls’ school, and he alluded to it now because they were graced by the presence of the ladies, and he wished to assure them that if it had been possible for them to have been present last night at Freemasons’ Hall, nothing could have interested them more than that scene—(Cheers). They had there sixty-six daughters of Masons who had once been in prosperous circumstances, but from misfortune had not the means of providing for their children. These girls were presented in a state of general health and comfort, and at the same time their manners were such as showed that they had been well cared for and properly educated—(Cheers). He was sure if the ladies present had had an opportunity of seeing that scene, they would have felt it was their interest, as it would be their inclination, to assist in that branch of the Masonic charities—(Cheers). Last night, too, there was collected at the festival upwards of £1,400—(Cheers). He mentioned this because though they as brethren knew it, it was not always known, that they as Masons were not devoted exclusively to their own comforts, but were anxious in every way to benefit their fellow-creatures—(Cheers). And he did not know that they could in any way do more good than in educating the rising generation, and training and teaching those who would be unable to provide for themselves without this benevolent assistance of the brethren—(Cheers). He must observe that though he had been received by them in so marked a manner, it was not more than he expected when he was told there was an anxiety in the Province to see either the G.M. or himself amongst them. If it had been possible for the G.M. to have come nothing would have been more enthusiastic than his reception, for he was sure, from what he had seen to-day, that they would have welcomed him most heartily, and would have been glad not only to see him coming to support their P.G.M., but at the same time to show their devotion to the Craft—(Cheers). They had been in this Province presided over for many

years by one generally beloved, but whose health prevented his coming amongst them so often as they could wish; and there had now been selected one who was most acceptable to them, as he could see from what had passed to-day—(Cheers). Except in passing in the train, this was the first time he had been in the Province, but the cordiality with which they had received him to-day would encourage him to find opportunities of coming again, for from what he here saw he was satisfied there was no part of the united kingdom in which the Lodges wished him better than they did here. He could not sit down without remarking upon the spectacle before him. He was never present before when the same interest was shown by the ladies in the Craft, and, without flattering, he said on the part of the brethren generally, he looked on this as a great compliment—(Cheers). They might be assured that what the ladies were always desirous of promoting, they, as Masons, were anxious to assist them in—namely, the good of others, and however they might set about their plans, they both equally meant well: he believed they did a great deal of good, and though the ladies might be disappointed with the proceedings of the day, they would at least give them credit for the very best intentions—(Cheers). He could only consider this as a passing visit on his part, but he assured them if he could be of any assistance to them, that assistance should be freely given; for though he could not for a moment question that the Worshipful G.M. would be inclined to listen to any reasonable proposition, yet it might happen that they could more readily approach one whom they were acquainted with than an entire stranger; and, therefore, he wished them to consider him as their friend, whom they could freely approach to express their wishes—(Cheers).

Major Skinner D.P.G.M. said the emblem of office had been placed in his hands by the P.G.M., to entitle him to perform a pleasing duty, which was that of giving the next toast—one which he approached with some degree of diffidence, but which at all events his brethren would feel and receive in the same sincere manner as he proposed it. He had on his right side a phalanx of officers distinguished in the Grand Lodge of England, not only for their virtues as Masons, but their honour as men, and as patrons of all their excellent charities. "Ladies," said he, "we have in our societies charities of the most benevolent kind. We have a school, as you have been told, of girls, in which they are taught and educated in the fear of God; and if you could have been present yesterday you would have gone home and persuaded your husbands, brothers, and fathers to have become Masons—(cheers). With this toast I couple the name of a distinguished grand officer, our Rev. Br. John Edmund Cox, the G.C. of our Order—(Cheers)—and I only regret, in common with all my brethren, that he has had no opportunity of explaining in your beautiful church what Masonry is—(Outcries of 'hear, hear'). I have no doubt if he had the ladies here would have been present in the house of God, and they would have heard such a sermon in explanation of true charity that they would have gone home and said, 'Thank God there is such a society'"—(Cheers). The toast is, "The Treasurer and the rest of the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of England," and with that I couple the name of the Rev. J. E. Cox—(Cheers).

The Rev. J. E. Cox G.C. could assure them the toast just offered to their notice had come upon him with some degree of surprise, for he was not at all prepared for it. He knew that the health of the Grand Officers would be proposed as a matter of course, but he did not think he should be called on to respond to it, but as it had happened that the D.P.G.M. had coupled his name with it, he returned his sincere thanks, not only on his own behalf, but on that of his brethren. The D.P.G.M. had alluded to a matter that had caused him some little pain, for he had looked forward to testifying in the house of God to-day to the character of Masonry; circumstances over which they had no control had, however, prevented that; but he was sure they would take his assurance here, that Masonry was of a character to promote the highest interests of humanity, to excite the best feelings of charity, to strengthen virtue, and to induce brotherly love between man and man—(Cheers). Had he been able to address them in the church, it would have been his happiness to tell them that there could be no animosity, no antagonism between Masonry and Christianity, but that they went hand in hand, and one was the handmaid of the other—(Cheers). But as this

opportunity did not occur, they would pardon him for what he had now said. They had heard from the D.G.M. of the scene of last night. Let him add, that school had been in existence since 1788; they could therefore suppose the number of children that had been educated in it was somewhat large—being nearly 700—and it was with gratitude to the Great Architect of the Universe he was able to tell them that not one child educated there had ever disgraced herself or the charity—(Cheers). As to their boys, they endeavoured to educate them in high and noble principles, and they had been successful; but he looked forward to the time when they would have a building for them also, and house them, and take care of them, as they did of their dear girls, so that the charity might flourish and prosper to the same extent as their girls' school. As to old and decayed Masons they found for them a home if they were disposed to place themselves in it, and if not, they gave them the means whereby the sorrows of age might be mitigated, and their latter days smoothed—(Cheers). They also took care of the widows, and he heartily hoped and trusted they would shortly be able to do more for them than they had done. For his part he wanted to see Masonry what it ought to be, more diffuse in principle and more active in operation. They did a great deal of good, but not so much as they might, and he would rather see some of their festivity laid aside and more done for their decayed brethren. But there was a good time coming. The time demanded now a larger amount of philanthropy and of education for their children; and Masonry he knew would never be behind in the great march of human progress that was going on, and on, and on to civilize and better the world—(Cheers). He would not detain them longer, but he must observe he was sure their new P.G.M. would do honour to the Province, and that Essex would stand in that high and palmy position which it ought to occupy—(Cheers). Once more he thanked them heartily for the kind manner in which they had received the toast, and they would let him add his prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe that they might pass through the trials of this world, and meet again in that Lodge above where the world's Great Architect reigned and ruled for ever and ever—(Cheers).

The Earl of Yarborough gave "The health of the new P.G.M.," who was esteemed by them all, and he was sure they would take the earliest opportunity of testifying their regard to him—(Cheers). He was right, he thought, in saying that the choice had been judicious, so that they would work with him, and they would find him ready to assist them in any way. His Masonic character was such that they could put full confidence in him, and he thought he should find from their reception of this toast that they were anxious to testify their regard for him—(Cheers).

The P.G.M. said there were moments of life when the heart was too full to give utterance to its sentiments, and he confessed that he felt considerable difficulty in replying to this toast. He had been placed in a position of great distinction: in accepting it, it was his desire to do his duty, and he could only hope that power would be given him to carry out these principles of Masonry, which in his heart he valued. He had listened with delight to what had fallen from the Rev. Mr. Cox on the subject of the Masonic charities, and also from the G.M., for these were his own sentiments, as he cared nought for Masonry unless it was what he felt it to be—the means of extensive usefulness—(Cheers). If they found they really could not, as men and as Masons, make themselves useful, the Craft ceased to be of any value. But he felt it was of great use, for he had been a Mason 30 years, and had been much abroad, and there the comforts of it were indescribable. They did not know one half of its comforts in this country, for here they did not know what it was to be without friends; but he was sent at fourteen years old to India, to make his way in life, which, thank God, had been tolerably successful, and he attributed half his success and comforts to the privilege he enjoyed of being early initiated as a Mason—(Cheers). He had as a Christian seen the most blessed effects spring from it, persons being drawn to a knowledge of the truth, and induced to read their Bible because they were Masons—(Cheers). He felt anxious to cultivate their esteem, and when he found he could not do it he would retire. He would only add, he drunk all their healths, and if the ladies would permit him to drink theirs it would add much to the obligation—(Cheers).

The Earl of Yarborough gave "The health of the D.P.G.M., Major Skinner, on whose exertions much depended, and of the P.D.Pr.G.M. Br. Dr. Rowe"—(Cheers).

Major Skinner, D.P.G.M., said this was the third time he had risen to-night, and the other two occasions were easy to him in comparison to this, for it was difficult at all times to speak of himself, and he found himself received by the brethren in the manner he always had been for several years past; but he assured them it was with more than ordinary feelings of gratitude that he returned them his heartfelt thanks. He begged to inform the ladies that their day was divided into three parts—part to prayer to God, part to labour, and part to serve a Brother—(Cheers). They came here to-day especially to honour the head of the Craft in this province; their labours had been discharged in another room, and he only regretted those labours were not commenced with public prayer and thanksgiving to God in their beautiful church, whose bells they had just heard chime—(Cheers). They considered Masonry as the standard of truth and justice, and they endeavoured to regulate their actions by the divine precepts it contained, and the important duties they owed to God, their neighbour, and themselves—(Cheers)—to God by never mentioning his name without that reverence due from the creature to the Creator, and looking up to Him in their emergencies for comfort; to their neighbour by acting with him on the square, by relieving his suffering and soothing his afflictions, and doing to him as they would wish him in similar circumstances should do to them; to themselves by such well-regulated conduct as would conduce to the improvement of their corporeal and mental faculties, thereby to exercise their talents for the good of themselves and their neighbours. “Ladies,” continued he, “when you go home this evening you will probably be asked by your fathers, and brothers, and husbands, what is Masonry—what are the secrets of Masonry? Tell them this—it is a great arrangement for benevolent acts; tell them Freemasonry is to be found in the sacred volume, and that its three grand principles are—Charity, Relief, and Truth”—(Cheers). He thanked the P.G.M. for placing him in the situation he held; his predecessor did the same; and if he had gained the esteem of his brethren of the Lodge, it would reward him for any little trouble he had taken in visiting the lodges, since for four years he had taken upon himself this duty in the province, and he trusted he might say he had in some small degree thus tended to confer a little benefit on the Craft—(Cheers).

Dr. Rowe, P.D.P.G.M., also returned thanks, observing he was rude in speech and little acquainted with the ways of oratory, but thus much he would say, that he begged to greet Br. Bagshaw on arriving at the distinguished position which he occupied, and also on the attendance of the D.G.M. of England, who was always received by Masons with that kindness which his merits so fully entitled him to, for he possessed those excellent qualities that most strongly endeared him to them; and in truth he might say to the whole world, “There is a man”—(Cheers). Ladies were not always admitted into their meetings, but they gave a charm to them, and he could tell them in the words of an old song—

“No mortal no more can the ladies adore
Than a free and accepted mason.”

(Cheers). He (Dr. Rowe) was for many years the D.G.M., and some of the happiest moments of his existence were passed there, and though he was not now in office he hoped he still possessed the esteem of the Masons of Essex. The last time he addressed the Lodge in Essex was on an occasion when their late P.G.M., whose illness he extremely deplored, called them together, and as one fact was worth a thousand theories, he would state the circumstances of the case then submitted to them, as it was calculated to impress on their minds the value of Freemasonry. A few years ago their P.G.C., Br. Hewlett, became in distress; he had a wife and nine or ten children, with little means of providing for such a family. His wife died, leaving him with nine or ten children in pecuniary difficulties; this was succeeded in a few weeks by his own death. He was a man distinguished in the literary world; he was the author of “Peter Priggins,” and he charmed and delighted the world at large. When he died, there was an execution in his house, and he need not tell them the accumulation of misery which that produced. But when it came to the ears of the Rochford Lodge, they nobly came forward, paid out the execution, buried their Rev. Brother, started a subscription to relieve the necessities of the family, and at once collected £20. It

was afterwards carried to the Grand Lodge of England, and thence throughout the whole of England. Now, he told the ladies they must not consider Masonry as "an idiot's tale, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing"—but it was a Jacob's ladder, leading to Heaven, and full of faith and hope—(Cheers). That call was nobly responded to by the Grand Lodge; it was responded to nobly by the whole of the provinces in England; and the result was that upwards of £4,000 was raised, and the children of their Br. were provided for by the Masonic body. This was so delightful a topic, that, graced as they were by the presence of ladies, he was glad to have the opportunity to explain to them the duties, and objects, and practical working of Masonry; and moreover, he was happy to say that though the event took place many years since, so prudently had the fund been managed, that not more than £300 of the principal had yet been touched—(Cheers).

The P.G.M. gave the health of Br. Kent, the P.G.M. from Australia—(Cheers).

P.G.M. Kent returned thanks, and said, when he first went to South Australia, many years ago, there were but few inhabitants, and many parts were only trodden by the savage or the Kangaroo; but some were so satisfied that the establishment of a Lodge would be beneficial to it, that one was formed. The Craft had always maintained the position in the province it was anticipated it would, and without claiming to themselves anything more than they were justly entitled to, he could tell them that the most energetic men, the best citizens, the most distinguished brothers, husbands, and fathers had been enrolled amongst the Masons there, and the Order held a prominent place in the esteem of their sisters of South Australia. The Craft, which had only one single Lodge sixteen years since, now numbered eight or nine in Adelaide alone; in other parts there were several others; and his last act was to constitute a new Lodge. In many parts of Australia, particularly in the gold-fields, the state of society was singular, but when he arrived at one of the most distant, where the state of disorganization was the greatest, a number of Masons offered to do anything they could for him, and invited him to an entertainment, though such things were not done there without a great deal of trouble and cost—(Cheers).

"The health of Br. Bisgood, P.G.M. of Kent," was next drunk.

P.G.M. Bisgood returned thanks, observing that many had wondered what the secrets of Masonry were, but they had now been told that the grand secret was to benefit their brethren and all mankind—(Cheers). If the ladies required any other secrets he could heartily wish they could have been in the Grand Lodge to-day, when the ceremony was performed, for if they had the secrets they should have communicated to them would have been nothing but what they had heard on this occasion—(Cheers).

"The healths of Senior G.W. Surridge and other Officers of the Provincial Lodge of Essex" was drunk, and Mrs. Surridge and Matthews returned thanks.

The Earl of Yarborough, in proposing the health of the ladies, said, they would allow him to explain to them, they having sons or brothers of their own, that they had a boys' school as well as a girls'. They did all in their power to well educate the sons of Freemasons, but in consequence of not having funds they had not a building, and they educated them in the schools of which they heard the best character in the immediate neighbourhood in which they resided—(Hear). He believed there was an erroneous idea that in the girls' school a marked preference was given to Masons in the metropolis who had their children educated there. That was a mistake. The contributions to that school were derived, nine-tenths of them, from lodges in the metropolis, but they would find in the school that the daughters of Masons in the different lodges in the provinces were more in proportion than the daughters of those who were in the metropolis. He stated it without fear of contradiction, that there was no favouritism shown, and it was an error to suppose that anything like injustice was done to the children of those who resided in the country.

During the evening the band of the West Essex Militia played several favourite marches, airs, &c., and Miss Ransford, Br. Ransford, and Br. Grattan sang several excellent songs, the lady being more than once honoured by an encore. The company separated shortly after ten o'clock, many of the Brethren returning to town by a special train.

HAMPSHIRE.

LODGE OF HENGIST, BOURNEMOUTH (No. 230).—On the 3rd of this month, the Lodge met to instal Br. Bayley in the room of the late Dr. Mainwaring, and thirteen of the brethren were hospitably entertained by the W.M., who is the owner though not the landlord of the Bellevue Hotel. It was there and then determined on the 10th to give at the Bellevue a return dinner to Br. Bayley, and the whole of the thirteen met at the appointed hour, several having come at great personal inconvenience and many miles to do honour to the worthy Master, who has been twenty years an installed Master, and for some years the main support and stay of the Lodge of Hengist, and one who knows the forms, and, above all, respects the spirit of Masonry, and observes it “*Sit Lux*.”

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

The anniversary meeting of the P.I.G.L. for the counties of Huntingdon and Northampton was held at Huntingdon, on Wednesday, the 2nd of May, the Marquis of Huntley, P.G.M., presiding. There was a large assembly on the occasion, and after the business of the Lodge had been concluded, the brethren dined together at the Fountain Inn, where the afternoon was spent in good fellowship, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were intermingled with those of the Masonic Craft.

LANCASHIRE, EAST.

LODGE OF FIDELITY, BLACKBURN (No. 336).—This Lodge held its regular monthly meeting on Friday, the 4th of May. Br. J. Wells, P.M., in the absence of Br. D. Thwaites (West Bank), W.M., presiding. The Lodge was opened in due form, and the Brethren ably worked the First Degree. There being no business to transact, the Lodge was closed finally and with prayer at half-past nine o'clock, when the Brethren retired for refreshment, and passed a short time in harmony.

LODGE OF FRIENDSHIP, OLDHAM (No. 344).—The Brethren of this Lodge, at their meeting on the 2nd of May, were honoured with the presence of their R.W.D.P.G.M., Stephen Blair, Esq., Br. J. Bell, Esq., P.S.G.W., and others of the P.G.O.'s. of East Lancashire being present. The ceremonies of Instruction, Passing, and Raising were performed in a very able and impressive manner by the W.M., Br. Daniel Evans, whom the R.W.D.P.G.M. highly complimented on the excellent working of himself and Officers, as deserving of his warmest approval; and could the Brethren persuade themselves that the commendations bestowed were justly merited, they might indeed feel proud of their position. A donation of 1*l.* to the Building Fund was voted, and after the transaction of other ordinary business, the W.M., in a very feeling address, presented Br. W. Hudson, P.M., the Secretary of the Lodge, with a purse of £20 and a P.M.'s Jewel bearing the following inscription, “Presented, with a purse of £20, to Br. W. Hudson by the brethren of the Lodge of Friendship, 344, in acknowledgment of his long and valuable services as Secretary.” Br. Hudson, under strong feelings, expressed the deep sense he entertained of the kindness of his brethren, and his determination to merit its continuance. The R.W.D.P.G.M., for the very satisfactory manner in which the books of the Lodge were kept, expressed the great satisfaction which this presentation of such a token to Br. Hudson afforded him, and the pleasure he felt of being present on the occasion. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment, and the remainder of the evening was spent in a very pleasant and instructive interchange of sentiment and ideas, and the Brethren finally separated delighted with their meeting, and highly gratified by the kindness of their R.W.D.P.G.M., who, wherever he is known, whether as a man or a Mason, never fails to steal and carry off with him the fraternal regards and the best wishes of everybody.

The Lodge of Friendship, 344, meets on the *Wednesday on or before each full moon*, and the Tudor Chapter, 344, meets on the *third Monday in February, May, August, and November*.

LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE, BLACKBURN (No. 432).—The usual meeting of this

Lodge was held on Monday, the 6th of May, Br. C. Boardman, W.M., and Brs. W. Harrison and J. Yates as Wardens, presiding. After the transaction of business the brethren present, among whom was Br. Hanley, G.S.W., Cumberland, adjourned for refreshment, and spent the evening in harmony, to which Brs. Hanley, H. Backhouse, and Pearson ably contributed.

KEYSTONE LODGE, FACIT (469).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Bay Horse Inn on Wednesday, the 9th instant, under the presidency of the W.M., Br. A. Shackleton. The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, Mr. E. Law was duly ballotted for, and initiated into the Order, the ceremony being ably performed by the W.M. and the different Officers. At the close of the Masonic business the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and the remainder of the evening was spent without the usual songs or toasts, owing to the sudden death of the hostess's father.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, LEICESTER (No. 348).—We hear with pleasure that Mr. E. Galer and Mr. H. Corri, the popular vocalists, members of the Kilwinning Lodge, Glasgow, were ballotted for and elected as joining members on Wednesday, May 2nd. A large number of the brethren of the Lodge, as well as many belonging to John of Gaunt's, were present at the reception.

SIR FREDERICK FOWKE, Bart., P.G.M. for Leicestershire, having been suffering from a severe attack of illness during the past four months, from which he is only now slowly recovering, the members of the John of Gaunt Lodge of Freemasons have presented him with an address, expressive of their high estimation of his Masonic services, and of their wishes for his speedy recovery; and in these wishes we are sure all our readers will cordially unite.

The address, which has been beautifully executed upon vellum, with illuminated capitals and appropriate devices, was presented to Sir Frederick on Monday last by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Secretary, and was as follows:—

“ To Sir Frederick Gustavus Fowke, Bart., &c., &c., Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Leicestershire.

“ Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,—We, the Master, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the John of Gaunt Lodge of Freemasons, No. 766, Leicester, having learned with great regret the long and severe indisposition with which you have been afflicted, avail ourselves of this, the earliest opportunity, of approaching you with our sincere expressions of condolence, and of deep sympathy for your sufferings.

“ Although we, in common with every brother in the province, can never be unmindful of the benefits conferred by you, Right Worshipful Sir, on Masonry in general, and on this province in particular, it is at such a time as this, when sickness has unfortunately deprived us of your presence and assistance for an unusually long period, that those benefits are more peculiarly impressed upon our minds.

“ We cannot forget that the record of those services extends over a period of nearly forty years, during which, whether as a private member of the Craft, as the Master of a Lodge, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, or as holding that high and most important office of Provincial Grand Master (to which, unsolicited, and prompted by your merits alone, it pleased the Most Worshipful Grand Master to appoint you, to the heartfelt gratification of the brethren), your best exertions have ever been used in supporting the cause, and extending the principles of Freemasonry; and that by your urbanity, fraternal kindness, and readiness at all times to impart those instructions in our mysteries which your high attainments therein so pre-eminently qualify you to convey, you have endeared yourself to the fraternity; whilst by the manner in which you have displayed the virtues of Freemasonry in your daily life, you have rendered yourself esteemed and respected by all classes of the community, and thus, by a reflected light, you have conferred an additional honour on the Order in popular estimation.

“ We hail with delight, Right Worshipful Sir, the pleasing intelligence of your

partial convalescence, and we pray that the G. A. O. T. U. may be pleased to restore you speedily to perfect health, and preserve you for many, many years to rule over us.

"Given under our hands and the seal of the Lodge, at Leicester, this Seventh day of May, A.L. 5855, A.D. 1855.

(Signed) "FREDERICK GOODYER, Worshipful Master. (L.S.)
 "W. B. SMITH, Senior Warden.
 "WILLIAM MILLICAN, Junior Warden."

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NORTHERN COUNTIES LODGE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (No. 586).—The brethren of this Lodge assembled on Wednesday the 25th April, in their Lodge room in the Freemasons' Hall, Newgate Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for the installation of Br. Wm. Dalziel (P.M. 706, and P.G.D.C., for Northumberland), the W.M. elect for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was impressively and admirably performed by Br. E. D. Davis, P.M. 56. At the conclusion of the installation ceremony, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest with the various insignia of office, the following brethren as officers for the year, viz :—Brs. H. P. Mörk, P.M. ; G. D. Davies, S.W. ; John P. M. Harrison, J.W. ; Wm. Punshon, Treasurer ; G. W. Fenwick, Secretary ; John Clay Gibson (P.G.S.D., for Northumberland), D.C. ; John Shield, S.D. ; George Hardey, J.D. ; Henry Bell (P.M. 706), I.G. ; Luke Haslam, S.S. ; Edwd. Holloway, J.S. ; Alex. Dickson, Tyler. After the appointment and investiture of the various officers, Br. E. D. Davies, P.M. 56, and S.W. of this Lodge, presented to the Lodge three beautiful Tracing-boards in gilt frames, for which handsome presentation the brethren feel under the liveliest obligation. The brethren then proceeded to the Queen's Head Hotel, Grey Street, where Br. Miller had a sumptuous entertainment provided for them, with dessert comprising every delicacy, and wines of *recherche* quality. Upwards of forty brethren dined on the occasion, and did full justice to the ample spread of the social board. The W.M. presided, supported on his right by Brs. Rd. Medcalf, D.P.G.M. for Northumberland, and Wm. Penson, P.M. 586, and treasurer of the Lodge ; and on his left by Brs. H. P. Mörk, P.M. 586, and Wm. Berkeley, P.M. 586, and P.G.S.W. for Northumberland. The vice-chairs were ably filled by the S.W. and J.W. Amongst the company we observed Brs. Geo. Weatherhead, P.P.G.J.W. for Northumberland ; J. S. Challoner, P.G.J.W. for Northumberland ; Geo. Fenwick, P.G.S.B. for Northumberland ; John Hodge, P.M. 24 ; Wm. Johnson, W.M. 24 ; F. P. Jonn, P.M. 56 ; John Hopper, P.M. 614 ; John Cook, W.M. St. Peter's Lodge, 706 ; D. W. Spence, J.W., 614 ; and Neimitz, J.W. ; 706. The following Masonic and loyal toasts were ably given and warmly responded to. "The Queen, Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal family ;" "the G.M. of England and the D.G.M. the Earls of Zetland and Yarborough ;" "the G.Ms. of Scotland and Ireland, the Dukes of Athol and Leinster." The W.M. again rising, said brethren, I call upon you to fill a bumper. We drank the last toasts most enthusiastically with Masonic honours, I now call upon you to do honour to the toast I am about to give you, I mean the health of "the G.M. of the U.S. America," and I will couple with the toast the health of "Br. Lee," whom I am happy to see present today. Br. Lee made a neat and truly Masonic reply, thanking the brethren for the high compliment paid to the G.M. of the U.S., and for the honour they had done himself (Br Lee), in drinking his good health. After a short pause, the W.M. rose and said—brethren, the last toast was the health of a distant G.M., we will now with pleasure come nearer home, I give you with extreme satisfaction "the health of Br. John Fawcett, P.G.M. for the province of Durham." Thanks were returned by Brs. E. D. Davis, P.M. 56, and Brignall, of the Granby Lodge. The W.M. next gave "the health of the P.G.M. for Northumberland," whom they all loved, he said, as a Mason, and respected as a man. Drunk with Masonic honours. Again, brethren, said the W.M., I must rise, and in calling for a bumper for the forthcoming toast, I do so with peculiar pleasure. I beg to give you "the health of our much respected, much loved D.P.G.M. Br. Rd. Medcalf," who has honoured us with his presence to day—(cheers). He is always ready to give advice, and available to every one. The health, then, brethren, of

our D.P.G.M., with all the honours. Drunk with enthusiasm, and honours. Br. Medcalf, the D.P.G.M., in reply said—W.M., my much loved brother and highly esteemed friend, also my much beloved and respected Br. Davis, S.W., Br. J.W., and brethren generally, to you all for the kind manner in which you have drunk my health, I am deeply grateful. There are, it is true, amongst you many warm and personal friends, at the same time amongst my brethren I now begin to see many strange faces, but I cannot but dwell on this feature, without viewing in it the increase of Freemasonry. I am delighted to see so large a company assembled to day to do honour to the W.M., who is most deserving of all the honour we can do him. I hope this day will make impressions on his (the W.M.'s) mind, never to be effaced, and may the Great Architect of the Universe long spare our much-loved Br. Dalziel to be with us. Brethren, I love you as men and as Masons. I shall always do all in my power to promote harmony and affection.—(Cheers). Brotherly love is the only solid ground of union and prosperity. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless your families and firesides. May all our future assemblies be as harmonious and peaceful as we have been to day. Br. Wm. Berkley, P.M. 586, and P.G.S.W., next rose and said—Brethren, often have I risen to address my brethren in various Lodges in the province, but never have I risen with feelings of more pleasure and pride than on the present occasion in rising to propose to you the health of our well beloved brother and W.M., Br. Dalziel—(cheers). Ever active—what Lodge has not been indebted to him? Looking back, we see him as the founder of Northern Counties, the father of St. Peter's, the mainstay of 24, and the sheet-anchor of all the Lodges in the province—(loud cheers). I might go on eulogising, but you all know how deeply Br. Dalziel is respected and beloved both in Masonic and in private life. With the warmest feeling of my heart, I beg to propose to you in a bumper, "the health of our W.M., Br. Dalziel"—(cheers). Drunk with enthusiasm, and Masonic honours. The W.M. in reply said—brethren, it is impossible for me to express to you my feelings—Br. Berkley has used much flattering compliments. I will not say flattery, because I believe it proceeds from the inmost recesses of an honest heart; but I cannot but feel, brethren, that I am undeserving of that compliment. I do thank you all most sincerely, for the honour you have conferred on me in drinking my health in so warm and brotherly a manner. I am deeply grateful. The officers I have chosen are, I believe, men with a high sense of their duties, and, with their assistance, I hope this day twelve months to resign the trust reposed in me, if not improved, at any rate not impaired. My highly respected Br. Davis, who has kindly consented to be my S.W., is qualified to do any duty in a Masonic Lodge, and so is Br. Harrison, my much esteemed J.W.; in all my officers I have the fullest confidence. Brethren, I again thank you for the honour you have done me in drinking my health in the very warm manner you have done—(cheers). The W.M., after a short pause, rose and said—Now, brethren, for the next toast do charge a bumper. A more pleasing duty has not devolved on me than to propose the health of Br. Mörk, your much-respected late W.M.—(cheers). And whom now we are proud to have as a P.M. of Northern Counties Lodge. During my whole Masonic career never have I seen a Lodge more harmoniously conducted than this Lodge has been under Br. Mörk, during the past twelve months; I have extreme pleasure, therefore, in proposing "the health in a bumper, of Br. Mörk, now a P.M. of this Lodge"—(cheers). Br. Mörk in reply, said—brethren, I shall not attempt to be eloquent, but shall simply, but gratefully return my sincere thanks for the very flattering manner in which you have drunk my health—I am deeply grateful. I am happy, also, to know that the Lodge is in a very prosperous state on my leaving the chair, much of that prosperity, is, brethren, as you know, owing to the indefatigable exertions of Br. Punshon, our much-respected treasurer—(hear, hear). Again, brethren, I thank you all most sincerely. The W.M. then gave "Prosperity to Lodge 24," coupling "the health of Br. Johnson," the universally respected W.M. of that Lodge. Br. Johnson made a neat and feeling reply. Then followed the health of Br. Wm. Berkley, by Br. E. D. Davies, the S.W., who said Br. Berkely not only was a P.M. of Northern Counties Lodge, but held the high office of P.G.S.W. for the province, and also enjoyed the universal respect of his fellow-citizens, who had conferred on him one of the proudest civic distinctions—(cheers). Br. Berkley in feeling terms acknowledged the com-

pliment paid him in drinking his health. The D.P.G.M., Br. Medcalf then rose and said—W.M., and brethren generally, I esteem the privilege, a high one, in being permitted to propose to you the health of Br. Davis—(cheers), who is respected as a gentleman, and beloved as a Mason, and who is truly worthy of our respect and love. I would scorn to eulogise except in the sincerity of my heart; Br. Davis is worthy of those expressions, for a more finished gentleman I have never met with, or a better hearted brother. Had I the eloquence of Cicero I could not say more. I give you, then, “the health of our much beloved brother, the S.W. of this Lodge and P.M. of Lodge 56, Br. Davis”—(cheers). Br. Davis, in reply, said—For the flattering manner in which you have responded to my health proposed to you by my friend and brother, the D.P.G.M. for this province, I return my most sincere thanks. Though I have no pretence to deserve the very complimentary remarks made upon me, I am grateful for your good opinion, and shall always endeavour to deserve it. I have, brethren, always been willing to give my services, and I trust I shall not see the day when the inclination will be wanting. Before sitting down, I would make one remark; I think young Masons should always be educated in Masonry, to be able to fill the offices, and I trust my younger brethren will exert themselves so as to attain to that position—(hear, and cheers). Next followed “the health of Br. Punshon the much respected treasurer,” by Br. Mörk P.M. Br. Punshon rose to reply—brethren, said he, I can scarcely express the pleasure and pride I feel on this occasion, after the handsome manner in which you have drunk my health. I shall always endeavour to discharge the duties of my office faithfully. The Northern Counties Lodge is now, I rejoice to say, in a highly prosperous state, and I trust it may ever continue so; may God’s blessing be with us, and may we be happy, is the breathing of the inmost recess of my heart—(cheers). The W.M. then gave “Prosperity to the various Lodges, whose prosperity had not already been drunk,” and coupled with the toast “the health of Brs. Wm. Berkely, P.M. 586; John Hopper, P.M. 614; John Cook, W.M. St Peter’s Lodge, 706; Henry Bell, P.M. 706; and J. C. Gibson, P.M. 706.” Br. John Cook, W.M. St. Peter’s, returned thanks and said—I am most happy to see the large muster to day, and it must be most gratifying to the W.M., Br. Dalziel. I rejoice that St. Peter’s has mustered so well on this occasion to do honour to one to whom honour is so justly due as to our well-beloved brother, the present W.M. of this Lodge—(cheers). Br. Wynne gave “the other officers of the Lodge,” coupling in a graceful manner, “the health of Br. John T. M. Harrison, J.W.” Br. Harrison made a neat and appropriate reply, and assured the brethren that he should exert himself to the very utmost to perform his duties to the satisfaction of the W.M., who had honoured him by appointing him J.W., and also to merit the approval of the other brethren of the Lodge. The health was next given of “Br. Hy. Bell, I.G. of the Lodge, and P.M. 706,” whom the W.M. said had conferred an honour on the Lodge by taking office—Drunk amid much enthusiasm. Br. Bell made a graceful and happy reply—saying he did so with peculiar pleasure, and adding that to have office under the W.M. he considered an honour. Br. Berkely gave the “Army and Navy,” in a warm patriotic speech, coupling “the health of Br. Meade,” of H. M. Royal Sappers and Miners. Br. Berkeley said our gallant soldiers and sailors and those of our allies were suffering for us, and that the independence of nations should not be trampled down, and that the progress of civilization should not be stayed. Br. Meade in a sensible speech replied, and said that he felt nothing would be wanting in the energies of the soldiers and sailors to merit the approval and everlasting admiration of posterity. “The health of Br. Miller” as a junior member of the Lodge, was given, and gracefully replied to Br. Hopper, in a warm and beautiful speech, gave “the Ladies.” Drunk amid tremendous enthusiasm. “The health of Brs. John Hodge, P.M. 24, and Geo. Fenwick, P.G.S.B. for the province,” were then drunk, and replied to in appropriate terms. “The health of Br. Challoner, P.G.J.W.,” was given in complimentary language by Br. Davis, S.W. Br. Challoner returned thanks and said it was his great aim to deserve the kind feelings of all with whom he became associated in life. Several beautiful songs from Brs. Davis, Thompson, Hopper, Joel, and Meade, added much to the harmony and enjoyment of the occasion. The W.M. gave “the next merry meeting,” and the brethren retired highly pleased with the days proceedings.

OXFORDSHIRE.

THERE was a grand week for Freemasons at Oxford in the early part of the past month, when a very large assemblage of the brethren were brought together. The chief occasion of their gathering was to do honour to Br. Capt. Henry Atkins Bowyer, of Steeple Aston, who had been appointed by the Grand Master of England (the Earl of Zetland) to the high and honourable office of Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, vacant by the death of the Rev. C. J. Ridley. The high position which Br. Bowyer held in Masonry as Deputy P.G.M. of this province, and his long-established fame as a Mason, drew together an unusually large number of officers and members of the Grand Lodge and of the Provincial Lodges.

On the evening of Monday the 7th, the late Mayor (Br. R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B.) and Mrs. Spiers gave a Masonic evening party, at their residence, to the visitors who had arrived in Oxford, and to many of the resident Brethren. This afforded an agreeable opportunity of introducing them to each other, and enabled them to become better acquainted before entering on their Masonic duties. The evening was spent in that agreeable and intellectual manner which Br. Spiers's resources enable him to accomplish with so much facility. On the following morning the P.G.M. (Br. Bowyer) gave a breakfast in the Council Chamber, which was attended by the Mayor, all the distinguished visiting brethren from various provinces, and the Provincial Grand Officers of Oxfordshire.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—At twelve o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, the 8th of May, a Provincial Grand Lodge was held for the purpose of installing the P.G.M. elect, and there was a more than usually numerous attendance, owing to an anticipation that the ceremony would be performed by the G.M. or D.G.M. of England—an anticipation which could not be realised, owing to the other engagements of those distinguished individuals; the duty, therefore, devolved upon Br. Hall, the P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire.

The brethren being assembled in Lodge, Br. Hall stated that by this meeting they were painfully reminded of the great loss which they had sustained by the death of the late P.G.M., Br. Ridley, a loss that was great to Masons in general, but more especially to the brethren of this province, to whom he had endeared himself by his many amiable qualities, and by his zeal for Masonry. He was gone to his rest, and in obedience to command of Grand Lodge, they were assembled to instal a worthy successor to that office, which he had filled with so much ability and fidelity. The P.G.M. then instructed seven of the Senior Past Masters to induct the P.G.M. elect, who was in attendance in another apartment.

The P.G.M. was then introduced by P.M. Sadler, Mayor of Oxford, who presented him to the presiding P.G.M. in a short address, in which he adverted to his high qualifications for the honourable office conferred on him by the G.M. of England. The P.G.S. read the patent of office, after which the P.G.M. assented to the ancient charges which were read to him.

The presiding P.G.M. next inducted Br. Bowyer to his seat, and congratulated him and the Province on the appointment, and remarked that there was no Province in the kingdom where the proceedings were regarded with so much interest as those of the Province of Oxford. He expressed an earnest hope that he might long be spared to rule over the Province, and to exemplify those great Masonic qualities for which he was so distinguished. The brethren then saluted the P.G.M. in the customary manner.

The P.G.M. said that his first duty was to appoint a Deputy P.G.M. for this Province, and that it afforded him the highest gratification to confer that office on Br. R. J. Spiers, who was not only highly esteemed in the Province, but had enjoyed the confidence of the G.M., who had honoured him a short time since with the office of Grand Sword Bearer of England. He knew that Br. Spiers's services to Masonry would be gratefully acknowledged by the whole Province, and constituted sufficient grounds for his conferring upon him that important office.

Br. Spiers, having made the usual declaration, was inducted to his seat, and saluted by the brethren.

The P.G.M. said that the Reports from the Lodges in the Province were of a gratifying nature, and showed them to be in a high state of prosperity. During the last year there had been, in the Alfred City Lodge, 12 passings, 13 raisings, and 16 initiations, making a total of 41 ceremonies. The funds of the Lodge were in a most satisfactory state, and, under the rule of the late W.M. and the present W.M., the Lodge continued to prosper. In the Apollo Lodge, which was peculiarly constituted, there had been a much larger number of ceremonies, namely, 55 passings, 42 raisings, and 54 initiations, making a total of 151 ceremonies. The Lodge was well conducted, and its funds were in a very prosperous condition. The Churchill Lodge, a very useful and skilfully worked Lodge, had prospered under its able officers, and had gained 10 additional members, while its funds were in a very satisfactory state. The Cherwell Lodge, the youngest in the Province, was rising rapidly; its initiations in the last year amounted to 6, and the state of its funds was most satisfactory, for it had a good balance, notwithstanding that it had had to incur heavy expenses for furniture, jewels, &c., necessary on the formation of a Lodge. It was now in such a position that it was enabled to do its part towards the maintenance of the masonic charities.

On the motion of Br. Beach, P.M., of the Apollo Lodge, seconded by the P.G.M., Br. T. Randall was unanimously elected P.G. Treasurer.

The P.G.M. then invested the following brethren with their insignia of office, and spoke of each in complimentary terms, which were much applauded:—Prov. Senior Gr. Warden, Br. James Wyatt; Junior Warden, Br. Malcolm, Christ Church; Chaplains, the Rev. J. Sedgwick, of Magdalen College, and Rev. J. S. Sidebotham, of New College; Registrar, Br. W. Martin Atkins, Farleycastle; Secretary, Br. the Earl of Lincoln; Senior Deacon, Br. J. T. Hester; Junior ditto, Br. W. J. Birch, of Pudlicote House; Superintendent of Works, Br. Looker, of Banbury; Directors of Ceremonies, Br. Hon. W. J. Vernon, of Christ Church, and Br. T. Houghton; Sword Bearer, Br. Joseph Plowman; Organist, Br. Dr. S. Elvey; Pursuivant, Br. J. Bossom; Stewards, Brs. the Hon. G. Dillon, the Hon. W. H. North, C. C. Dormer, Rev. T. Russell, Rainsford, E. G. Bruton.

The following subscriptions were voted to the under-mentioned charities:—Masonic Boys' School, 2 guineas; Masonic Girls' School, 2 guineas; Annuity Fund, 2*l.*; Widows' Fund, 2*l.*; Masonic Asylum, 1*l.*; Oxford Baths and Washhouses, 2 guineas; Radcliffe Infirmary, 3 guineas; Medical Dispensary, 2 guineas; Blue Coat School, 1 guinea; Anti-Mendicity Society, 1 guinea.

The P.G.M. then handed to Br. Barter the Charity Jewel, voted by the Grand Lodge to that Brother, for having acted as Steward to the Boys' and Girls' Festivals.

The P.G.M. said he could not look on the many distinguished Masons around him, many of whom had come from a long distance to pay honour to him and to the office which he held, without feeling truly grateful to them for their kindness and assistance. He thanked especially the P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire, who had done him the honour to conduct the installation, and in so masterly a manner, and begged to move that the names of the visiting P.G. Officers present be entered on the records of the Lodge, by way of acknowledgment. The D.P.G.M. seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The Lodge was then closed, after which the brethren separated.

In the evening the Installation Festival took place at the Town Hall, which was decorated in exceedingly good taste with Masonic banners and devices. Elegant vases and other ornaments, filled up with choice flowers, were interspersed on the tables, and a nosegay was placed in every plate. The arrangements were under the superintendence of Br. W. Thompson and twelve stewards. The presence of a large number of ladies at the end of the hall imparted additional brilliancy to the scene.

The P.G.M., attended by his distinguished visitors and his grand officers, entered the hall in procession about six o'clock, Grimmatt's band playing the well-known air, "The Roast Beef of Old England."

The P.G.M. presided, and amongst those present were the D.P.G.M. (Br. R. J. Spiers); Br. Sadler, P.S.G.W., Mayor of Oxford; the P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire; the P.G.M. of South Australia; P.P.G.M. of Bengal; P.G.M. of Essex; P.G.M. of Staffordshire; P.G.M. of Worcestershire; D.P.G. Masters of Wiltshire, Kent,

Staffordshire; W.M. 620 of Ireland (Br. K. Clay); Br. Coakley, P.G.S.; Br. Compigne, P.M. 597; Br. J. A. D. Cox, W.M. 317; the P.M. of Gr. Steward's Lodge; Br. H. Chilton, S.W. 317; Br. Dawes, P.P.S.G.W. Lancashire; Br. Dudley, P.P.G.W. Oxon; Br. C. C. Dormer, S.D. 873; Br. Fardel, P.G.C.; Br. Giles, P.M. 772; Br. Hervey, P.G.D.; Br. How, P.G. Dir. Cer. Surrey; Br. Jenkins, P.M. 252; Br. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Br. Looker, P.G.S. Works, Oxon; Br. Rev. W. H. Lyall, W.M. 10; Br. Drummond, Christ Church, P.G.St., Oxon; Br. Masson, P.G.S.B.; Br. Martin, P.G.W., Oxon; Br. the Rev. O. F. Owen, P.G.C. for Surrey; Br. Owen, P.P.G.D., Oxon; Br. Patten, P.G.S.B.; Br. Joseph Plowman, P.G.S.B.; Br. Rev. T. Pearce, P.G.C., Dorset; Br. Rev. C. R. Pettat, P.P.G.C., Oxon; Br. Rev. A. Roberts, Prov. Grand Chaplain, Berks; Br. J. Symonds, P.M. 275; Br. Spencer, P.M. 329; Br. the Rev. J. Sedgwick, P.G.C., Oxon; Br. Sydenham, P.G.R., Dorsetshire; Br. Thisseton, P.G.St.; Br. Thorp, W.M. 425, P.P.G.D. Oxon; Br. Wing, P.M. 21; Br. Rev. J. G. Wood, P.P.G.D., Oxon; Br. J. Wyatt, S.G.W. Oxon; Br. F. Symonds, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. Watkins, P.G.S.; Br. E. Cripps, W.M. 862; Br. W. S. Portal, S.W. 10; Br. T. Walker, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. Rev. G. R. Portal, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. Beach, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. J. C. Dudley, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. T. Randall, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. Harrison, S.W., 460, P.P.G.S., Oxon; Br. Leslie, P.P.G.S.W., Oxon; Br. Fraser, P.P.G.S.W., Oxon; Br. J. T. Hester, P.S.G.D., Oxon; Br. the Rev. J. Sidebotham, P.G. Chap., Oxon; Br. Dr. Elvey, P.P.G.O., Oxon; Br. Bruton, Steward; Br. Lord Garlies, Steward; Br. the Rev. T. Russell, Steward; Br. the Hon. H. Wodehouse, St.; Br. Houghton, G.D.C., Oxon; Br. Cox, 460, St., &c., &c. The number present exceeded 200, and the costly dresses and jewellery of the brethren had a very imposing appearance.

The P.G.M. gave, as the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft," after which the band played the National Anthem and the French air, "Partant pour la Syrie,"—the latter eliciting much applause.

The P.G.M. next proposed "The health of the G.M. of England, the Earl of Zetland."

The P.G.M. of Bengal (Br. Col. Burlington) proposed "The D.G.M. of England, the Earl of Yarborough, and the Grand Officers of England."

The Rev. E. Moore, of Brasenose College, Grand Chaplain, responded, and stated that it was the anxious endeavour of the G.M. and his Officers to maintain the reputation of the Craft. The present occasion was one of unmixed delight, and it was with great satisfaction that they had witnessed the installation of a brother so eminently qualified as Br. Bowyer to fulfil the duties of his high and honorable office, and they could not but feel grateful to the G.M. for the wisdom he had displayed in making such a selection—(Cheers).

Br. Dr. Kent, P.G.M. of South Australia, proposed "The Grand Masters of Ireland and Scotland, the Duke of Leinster and the Duke of Athol." He alluded to the presence of Br. Clay, W.M. of Lodge 620 of Ireland, and to the interest which that brother took in the Masonic charities. After some remarks on the nationality of Masonry, Br. Kent observed that when he went to Australia, in 1839, there was but one Lodge there, whereas there were, at the present time, no less than eight in Adelaide alone. He was initiated in the Lodge of Harmony at Richmond, over which their present P.G.M. had presided; and out of respect to that Lodge, and its worthy brethren, one of the Lodges in Australia was called the Lodge of Harmony. The Craft was making great progress in that country, and, as a proof of the estimation in which it was held by those who were not Masons, he mentioned that a short time since, when the Masons had the use of the Cathedral granted to them, on which occasion the Grand Chaplain preached, they found the Dean and Senior Canon there, prepared to take their part in the services—(Cheers).

Br. Clay responded to the toast, and expressed the pleasure it afforded him to represent on this occasion the G.M. of Ireland, the Duke of Leinster, who, for Masonic zeal and worth, was not exceeded by the distinguished brother who presided over this meeting. He congratulated the province on the elevation of two such worthy Masons as Br. Bowyer and Br. Spicers, the latter of whom had evinced his

sympathy for Ireland, when visiting that country recently, by becoming a Governor of her Masonic Schools.

Br. Masson, P.G.S.B., acknowledged the toast on behalf of Scotland, and remarked that he had the happiness and delight of first seeing the light of Masonry in 1812, and on every return to his native land he found Masonry on the increase, and its benefits extending—(Cheers).

Br. Sadler, the Mayor, proposed "the Army and Navy," and, after eulogising, in eloquent terms, the bravery of our troops and allies in the present war, adverted to the noble conduct of Miss Nightingale and the other ladies, who had forsaken their homes and country, in the true spirit of Masonry, to succour the distressed and alleviate the sufferings of the wounded—(Much cheering).

Br. Colonel Vernon, of the Coldstream Guards, thanked the brethren for the compliment which they had paid to that profession to which he had the pride and honour to belong; and, after adverting to the wonderful endurance which their armies had evinced, and which had enabled them to overcome difficulties more trying than actual warfare, assured them that their best reward was the approbation and consideration of their countrymen; and it was a common remark with them, and doubtless operated as a stimulus, "what will they think of us in England?"—(Loud cheers).

Br. Spiers, D.P.G.M., proposed the health of the P.G.M. Br. Bowyer, and, after alluding to his high qualifications for the office of P.G.M., said that no appointment could have been more grateful to the feelings of all in the Province, where he was so much esteemed, and that the attendance of so many distinguished Masons from various parts of England, as well as from abroad, afforded the best testimony that his merits were appreciated by the Masonic body generally—(Much cheering).

The P.G.M., in returning thanks, assured the brethren that it would be his earnest desire to promote the interests of the Craft, and to show that he was not unmindful of the responsibility, or insensible of the honour, of that high position which the G.M. had been pleased to confer upon him, an honour which he valued the more, because he had reason to believe, from the kindness which he had always received at their hands, that the appointment was one which was approved of by the whole Province. He was devotedly attached to Masonry, and looked back with pride and pleasure to that hour when he first joined its ranks—(Loud cheers). He then proposed the healths of his distinguished visitors, "the various P.G. Officers, who had done him the honour to attend on this occasion, and more especially the P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire," who had performed the ceremony of Installation with so much zeal, kindness, and ability—(Much cheering).

Br. Hall, P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire, responded to the toast, and adverted to the fact that he presided over a Province in which the Sister University was situated, and that tended to make him feel deeper interest in the Masonic progress in Oxford. He stated that he had enjoyed the friendship of their lamented P.G.M., Br. Ridley, than whom a more estimable man, or better Mason, he had never met. He congratulated them on the appointment of so worthy a successor, and as Masonry was an accomplished fact in Oxford, there was every prospect that, under his auspices, it would long continue to occupy its present proud position. Where could it be expected to flourish more than here and in the Sister University, where they were surrounded by the noblest records of Masonry, and where the pursuits tended to humanize the disposition, and to lighten the understanding?—(Cheers).

The toast was also responded to by the P.G. Masters of Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Australia, and Bengal.

Br. Rev. G. R. Portal proposed "The Mayor, and prosperity to the city of Oxford," and expressed his conviction that the increasing unity between the University and City had been, in a great measure, owing to the fact that for the last four years the civic chair had been filled by Masons—(Cheers).

Br. Sadler returned thanks in an eloquent address, in the course of which he stated, that after forty years' experience, he could truly say that there was no institution more entitled to the esteem and affection of every true Christian and loyal subject than Freemasonry; for it inculcated reverence to the Great Architect of the Universe, loyalty to the Sovereign, obedience to the laws, attachment to the institutions of the

land, and the practice of every moral and social virtue essential to the well-being and good of society; and he desired no better epitaph than this—"Once here lived and now lies an honest Mason"—(Much cheering).

The P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire proposed, in complimentary terms, "The health of the D.P.G.M. of Oxfordshire, Br. R. J. Spiers"—(Loud cheers).

Br. Spiers returned thanks, and stated that in all the positions which he had been called on to fill he had endeavoured to carry out those great principles which had been inculcated in the Lodge-room; and if he had been useful to society, it was only by putting in practice that which Masonry at every step enjoined, viz., to promote the welfare and happiness of their follow-men.

The D.P.G.M. then proposed "Prosperity to the Richmond Lodge of Harmony," in which the P.G.M. was initiated.

Br. Col. Macdonald, as the oldest member of that Lodge, responded, and expressed the gratification which it afforded him to witness the installation of Br. Bowyer, who had endeared himself to every member of that Lodge, in which he first saw the Light of Masonry.

At this state of the proceedings a splendid silver candelabrum, convertible into an epergne, and intended as a testimonial to Br. W. Thompson, was placed on the table. It is of chaste and elegant design, weighing about 300 oz., and was supplied by Br. Sheard, of this city.

Br. Beach, late W.M. of the Apollo University Lodge, rose and said that there was nothing more gratifying in every phase of life than to reward merit, and that the Masonic body had never been backward in manifesting that spirit. As a proof of it, they had embraced this opportunity of testifying to Br. W. Thompson their sense of his unwearied exertions and long services in the cause of Masonry, and delegated to him the pleasing duty of presenting him with the splendid piece of plate before them, on which was inscribed "Presented, by the Freemasons of the Province of Oxford, to Br. W. Thompson, P.M., P. Prov. S. W. Oxon, and P.Z., in grateful acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by him to the cause of Freemasonry during a long series of years, May 8th, 1855"—(Much cheering).

Br. Thompson said, that if on any ordinary occasion he had felt at a loss to convey his acknowledgments, how much more must he feel on this, when he found himself in the presence of so many distinguished Masons, from various parts of the kingdom, and abroad, assembled to do honour to their newly-appointed P.G.M. There were times when the heart was overcharged and the tongue could not give utterance to its emotions, and he was in that position at the present moment, in having to acknowledge one of the most gratifying testimonials that could have been presented to him. Although it was of great value in itself, it was to him of less value than the kindly feelings which dictated it; and in receiving it he could not conceal from himself that there were many others far more deserving of it, but it had been his good fortune to be more prominently brought before the Masonic body than many others, for on the decease of his father, the brethren of the Apollo Lodge, out of respect to his memory, elected him to fill the same office. For a quarter of a century he had been a Mason, and to it he had been indebted for much happiness and for many valuable friendships which he had formed. He thanked the brethren, and Br. Beach in particular, for their kind expressions; and while he should ever retain a grateful recollection of this occasion, he trusted that he never should do any thing to forfeit their good opinion, or to lose that confidence which they had been pleased to repose in him—(Cheers).

The toasts which followed were, "The P.G. Officers of Oxfordshire," responded to by Br. James Wyatt, P.G.S.W.; "The late Grand Chaplain," acknowledged by Br. Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes.

The P.G.M. then gave "The healths of the W.M. and Officers of the Lodges of the Province of Oxford."

Br. J. Thorpe, W.M., returned thanks for the Alfred; The Rev. J. Sidebotham for the Churchill; Br. Birch for the Cherwell; and Br. Harrison for the Apollo Lodges.

Br. Sir John W. Hayes proposed "The healths of the Stewards," which was acknowledged by the Rev. T. Russell.

Br. Colonel Vernon proposed "The health of our gallant Allies," and remarked that the Emperor of the French was a Mason. He expressed a hope that they should for a long series of years be bound in bonds of union with that most warlike and gallant nation, and that the recent visit of the Emperor and the Empress would serve to cement that union. After dilating on the indomitable courage of their noble ally, he begged them to pledge a bumper to him, and to express an earnest hope that the Great Architect of the Universe would long preserve a life which might truly be said to be, under every circumstance, one of the most precious lives in Europe—(Loud cheers).

Br. Mons. Baume responded to the toast, and remarked that it must be a proud reflection to both countries to see England and France taking part, side by side, in the war of civilization against barbarism. England was renowned as a commercial nation, but when the great principles of freedom were endangered, there was no nation who threw aside the scabbard more readily, or wielded the sword more nobly. England and France were now united in that common object in protecting the weak against the strong, and to such an union Russia must succumb, for both countries were prepared to shed their best blood, and to spend their treasures, in defence of those principles of liberty upon which they had taken their stand, and were bent in carrying out. It was true that this must be attended by increased taxation, but he knew that neither the people of this country, nor of his own, would grudge what was necessary in order to uphold the liberties and secure the peace of Europe—(Much cheering).

Br. Randall proposed, in eloquent terms, "Success to the Masonic Charities," and strongly urged the brethren to give the best practical illustration of Masonry by affording them all the support in their power.

The brethren then withdrew to tea and coffee, which were served in the Council Chamber, after which the proceedings were brought to a close.

MASONIC BALL—The *Oxford Journal* says, we understand that the Freemasons of the Province of Oxford intend to give a grand ball on Tuesday the 19th of June, at the Town Hall. The Earl of Derby is expected to honor it with his presence, and all the arrangements are matured. Sir H. Peyton, Bart., the Earl of Lincoln, Capt. Bowyer, the Mayor of Oxford, J. Morrell, jun., Esq., Viscount Fordwich, Lord Garlies, and about 20 other brethren of rank and influence, have consented to act as stewards.

CHURCHILL LODGE, NUNEHAM (No. 702).—The Annual Meeting of this Lodge was held at the Harcourt Arms Inn, on Monday, May 7th, when the W.M. elect, Br. the Rev. J. Sidebotham, was installed by Br. J. Thorp, W.M. of the Alfred City Lodge. After this ceremony the W.M. appointed the following to be his officers for the year:—Past-Master, Br. T. Toy; Senior Warden, Br. Fraser; Junior ditto, Br. Rev. T. Russell; Chaplain, Br. Rev. J. G. Wood; Treasurer, Br. W. Gardiner; Secretary, Br. Joseph Plowman; Senior Deacon, Br. G. Druce; Junior ditto, Br. Bigge; Master of the Ceremonies, Br. Cartwright; Inner Guard, Br. Vincent; Organist, Br. Gordon; Stewards, Brs. Faber and Hon. W. J. Vernon; Tylers, Brs. Bull and Tipton. The following brethren were balloted for, and elected joining members:—Br. Strother, Robbuis, Hutton, and J. Hurst. The following were proposed as joining members:—Br. Hope, Bliss, Hayward, Dr. Elvy, and Cole-ridge. The brethren proceeded from labour to refreshment, and, under the auspices of the W. M., a very agreeable afternoon was spent.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

SUTHERLAND LODGE, BURSLEM (No. 660).—The brethren of this Lodge celebrated the festival of St. John by a sumptuous banquet, at the George Hotel, on Wednesday, May 9. The office of president was ably filled by Br. C. T. Davenport, W.M., supported by Br. W. H. Wright, of Hanley, Provincial Grand Chaplain, and other members of the Provincial Lodge. Br. W. K. Harvey, P.M., occupied the vice-chair. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, the latter eliciting various replies from the brethren, and in some of them pleasing facts were stated as

to the onward progress of the Order of Freemasons in all parts of the world, and the beneficial effects which the system everywhere produced. Brs. G. Simpson, T. Simpson, and others, in the intervals of the addresses, favoured the company with various Masonic songs, and a very social and agreeable evening was spent.

SOUTH WALES.

INDEFATIGABLE LODGE, SWANSEA (No. 288).—The brethren of this Lodge celebrated its jubilee on Tuesday, May 8, by a supper at the Assembly Rooms. There was a full attendance of brethren on the occasion, and we hear that the evening passed off most harmoniously. The Indefatigable Lodge, under the able presidency of the present Worshipful Master, Br. F. J. Lloyd, promises to be, if it is not already the most flourishing Lodge in South Wales. It may be interesting to remark that the warrant for holding this Lodge is dated 8th May, 1805, and was granted by his late Majesty George the Fourth, then Prince of Wales and Grand Master of England

WORCESTERSHIRE.

HARMONIC LODGE, DUDLEY (No. 313).—The brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, Stone Street, on Tuesday, the 1st May, under the presidency of Br. Bristow, W.M., who raised a brother to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was honored by the presence of several visitors.

YORKSHIRE.

St. GEORGE'S LODGE, DONCASTER (No. 298).—The brethren of this Lodge assembled on the afternoon of Friday last, the 25th of May, for the purpose of installing Br. the Rev. J. G. Fardell, P.G.S.W., Master of the Lodge for the year ensuing, a dispensation having been granted by the D.P.G.M. for the worthy Master to govern the Lodge for the third year consecutively. Several brethren from neighbouring Lodges were present at the ceremonial, which was conducted in a very able manner, Br. W. H. Bailes, of Sheffield, acting as Installing Master. The Master then appointed his officers as follows, and they were invested with the respective jewels:—Senior Warden, Br. George Brooke; Junior Warden, Br. Clarke; Deacon, Br. Smith; Secretary, Br. George Brooke. Br. Webb, P.M., retains his office as Treasurer; and Brs. Smith and Hirst, theirs as Inner Guard and Tyler. After the proceedings the brethren partook of an excellent banquet, provided by Br. Clarke, at the Rein Deer hotel, in his usual elegant and profuse style. The usual loyal and masonic toasts were proposed and drank, and the brethren enjoyed an intellectual evening, the predominant feelings being those of friendship, love, and truth.

IRELAND.

GRAND LODGE.

A meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, was held at the Masonic Hall, Dublin, on Thursday, May 4, when the following noblemen and gentlemen were installed into office:—His Grace the Duke of Leinster, G.M.; the Earl of Donoughmore, G.S.W.; Sir J. S. Robinson, Bart., G.J.W.; Sir Joshu Hort, Bart., G. Secretary; Br. Thomas James Quinton, G. Treasurer; and Br. J. Adams, G. Pursivant.

DOWNSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH DOWN.—The following are the Officers of the P.G.L. for 1855:—P.G.M., W. B. Forde, P.M., Lodge 86; D.P.G.M., Wm. Henry, P.M., Lodge 18; P.G.S.W., P. E. Brabazon, P.M., Lodge 86; P.G.J.W., W. J. Barre, P.M., Lodge 23; P.G.S.D., Jas. Cunningham, P.M., Lodge 197; P.G.J.D., John Ellis, P.M., Lodge 18; P.G.C., Rev. J. C. Quin; P.G.I.G., Wm. Keown, P.M., Lodge 86; P.G.S.T., George F. Echlin, P.M., Lodge 86.

The P.G.L. of South Down held their Half-Yearly Meeting, in Newry, on the 8th instant. The chair was taken by the Right Worshipful the P.G.M., Br. W. B. Forde, assisted by his Deputy Br. Wm. Henry. The following Officers were also present:—Br. P. E. Brabazon, P.G.S.W.; Br. W. J. Barre, P.G.J.W.; Br. W. Madden, Acting P.G.S.D.; Br. John Ellis, P.G.J.D.; Br. the Very Rev. the Dean of Dro-more, Officiating P.G.C.; Br. W. Keown, P.G.I.G.; Br. Isaac Parsons, Acting P.G.S. There was a good attendance, the majority of the Lodges of the Province being represented. The business, which was of peculiar interest to the Craft, having been transacted, the brethren retired for refreshment, and having partaken of an excellent dinner at the Victoria Hotel, the usual Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and a handsome collection made for "the distressed brethren;" the Lodge was closed, and the brethren, many of whom had come from a considerable distance for the occasion, separated at an early hour in "peace, love, and harmony."

COUNTY OF DOWN LODGE, DOWNPATRICK (No. 86).—The Officers of this Lodge for the first half year of 1855, are—W.M., Henry Smyth; S.W., Spencer Perceval; S.W., W. Keown, P.M.; S.D., W. N. White, P.M.; J.D., George Hastings, P.M.; I.G., John Craig, P.M.; Sec. and Tr., George F. Echlin, P.M. This Lodge consists of about thirty-two members, many of whom have attained high rank in Masonry. They meet in their room, Downpatrick, on the last Wednesday but one in each month, and on the 24th of June and 27th of December, on which days they dine together.

ST. JOHN'S BLUE LODGE, DONAGHADEE (No. 675).—Monday the 8th May—being the regular Lodge night, a number of the brethren met to transact the business of the Lodge, the W.M., Br. John Smyth, in the chair, when there was presented to Br. Capt. Nicoolas Delacherois, a splendid Masonic Jewel, with the following suitable inscription (Presented by Masonic Lodge, No. 675, to Br. Capt. N. Delacherois, as a token of respect). Br. Thomas Pentland, P.M. 675, in presenting it to him in the name of the Members of the Lodge, took occasion to thank him for the interest he felt in the prosperity of the Lodge and Masonry in general. Br. Delacherois, in returning thanks for the present, feared that the Lodge had complimented him too much on what he had done, but said he was still willing to go on doing all he could to further the interests of Lodge 675, and Masonry in which he delighted. After some toasts being drunk the brethren separated, well pleased with the proceedings of the evening.

ROYAL ARCH.

GRAND CHAPTER.—QUARTERLY CONVOCATION.

At a meeting of the Supreme Grand Chapter, holden at Freemasons Hall, on Wednesday, 2nd May, 1855. Present, E. Comp. Thos. Henry Hall, as Z.; A. Dobie, as H.; Fredk. Dundas, J.; W. H. White, E.; J. Hervey, as N.; H. L. Crohn, P.S.; G. W. K. Potter, T. Tombleson, P. Secs. Comps. E. Moore, J. Goldsworthy, R. J. Spiers, H. Lloyd, F. Patterson, T. Parkinson, C. Baumer, S. Rawson, &c., &c., &c; The Grand Chapter was opened in ancient and solemn form, and the Minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation were read and confirmed. The M. E. Comp. Hall, installed the E. Comp. Fredk. Dundas, to the chairs of H. and Z. The M. E. Z., was then pleased to appoint and invest the following Comps. Grand Officers for the ensuing year, viz:—E. Comps. The Earl of Yarborough, H.; Fredk. Dundas, M.P., J.; William H. White, E.; Fredk. Pattison, N.; H. Lloyd, P. Sec.; W. Stuart, M.P., 1st Asst. Sec.; H. W. Eaton, 2nd Asst. Sec.; Saml. Tomkins, Treas.; A. Dobie, Registrar; J. N. Tomkins, Sword Bearer; C. W. Elkington, Standard Bearer; Peter Matthews, Dir. of Ceremonies. A New Chapter was granted to be attached to the St. Peters Lodge, No. 699, at Carmarthen, South Wales. All business being concluded, the Grand Chapter was closed in ancient form, and adjourned.

BRITISH CHAPTER (No. 8).—This distinguished Chapter held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, May 4th. After voting five guineas to the Widow of their late Janitor Companion Dalton, the Companions adjourned to partake of an elegant banquet. In proposing the health of the Earl of Zetland G.Z., the M.E.Z.

observed that the noble Earl was only to be known to be respected, as he was ever ready to come forward when called upon, to support the principles of charity. Also in proposing the health of the Earl of Yarborough, G.H., and the Hon. F. Dundas, G.I., he adverted to the readiness with which those Grand Officers attended to every Masonic Festival, and supported the Charities not only with their presence, but with their purses. Comp. Robinson, P.Z., then proposed the health of the M.E.Z. Comp. Herbert Lloyd, and expressed the pleasure the Chapter felt in being presided over by a Member of such great experience and high standing in the Order, whose smiling face he was always happy to see; it was with the greatest satisfaction he had witnessed his investment as P.S. of the Grand Chapter; with regard to the two other Principals, Comp. Stohwaster and Comp. Dawson, he should have been glad to have seen them perform the Ceremony of Exaltation, as it was expected they would have to do, as he was sure they would have discharged their duties with credit to themselves and the Chapter. The M.E.Z., in returning thanks, expressed his readiness in conjunction with the other Principals, to do every thing in their power for the advancement of the Chapter. In proposing the health of the Past Principals, the M.E.Z. thanked them for their services, more particularly Comp. Robinson, who had served the Office he now had the honor to hold, during the preceding year; at the same time he felt a great pleasure in presenting to that worthy Comp. a Jewel from the Chapter, as a mark of their esteem, which he would place over his heart, as he believed it was entirely in Masonry. Comp. Robinson thanked the Companions for their kind mark of respect which he should receive with pleasure, wear with pride, and he hoped with credit to the Chapter. Other toasts having been drunk, the Companions separated in the greatest harmony.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER (No. 49).—A convocation of this Chapter was held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 15th inst., at which a numerous assemblage of the Order were present. The business of the evening consisted of two exaltations and the installations of Principals. Bros. W. F. Blackburn (169) and J. F. Paul (211), were impressively exalted to the sublime degree, by M.E.Z. Andrews, who afterwards duly installed Comps. J. Smith Z, Cooper H, and Potter J. The M.E.Z. then rose and said, that the first duty he had to discharge was indeed a most pleasing one. At all times it delighted him to be the medium of conveying the esteem of a Lodge or Chapter, to a deserving member, and no occasion could he possibly experience greater pleasure than when presenting a P.P. Jewel, to Companion Andrew, whose great services were too well known to every member of the Chapter, to require any comment on the present occasion. No greater evidence of his ability was needed, than the specimen they had heard that evening of his efficient working of their beautiful ceremonies. In presenting him with the Jewel, he could assure him that it was the sincere and cordial wish of every Comp. that he might live for very many years to wear it. Comp. Andrew, who up to this moment had been kept in ignorance of this intended mark of respect, with great feeling and eloquence, expressed his grateful acknowledgements of the kindness of the Comps. All business being concluded, the Comps., to the number of 40 (of whom 12 were visitors), sat down to an elegant supper, provided in Comp. Rackstraw's best style. Comp. J. Clark (206) returned thanks for the visitors, in a neat and pleasing speech, and the usual toasts having been duly honored, the Companions separated, highly pleased at the true spirit of masonry which prevailed.

KENT.

HERMES CHAPTER, GRAVESEND (No. 91).—A convocation of this Chapter was held at the Falcon Hotel, Gravesend, on the 22nd ult., for the despatch of business relating to the sublime degree. Several brethren were proposed for exaltation. The Companions afterwards sat down to an excellent banquet. This Chapter is now in possession of very splendid furniture, in lieu of that destroyed by fire some few years ago, and there can be but little doubt, that were the Gravesend Brethren reminded of the great conveniences which this Chapter offers to them, it would in a very short time, be one of the most flourishing in Kent. Indeed, such is the facility afforded by the two railways, that many of the London Comps. are amongst its members. It remains to be seen whether at the next meeting (in August), these expectations will be realized.

OXFORDSHIRE.

ALFRED CHAPTER, OXFORD (No. 425).—There was a very large convocation of the Companions on Monday, May 8, when the Chapter having been opened and a number of brethren duly examined, they were exalted into the Royal Arch with all becoming solemnity. The business having been brought to a close, the Comps. separated, the majority of them afterwards attending the *soirée* of Comp. Spiers to meet the new P.G.M., whose installation, as we have elsewhere recorded, took place on the following day.

KNIGHT TEMPLARS.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Encampment, took place on Friday, May 11th, at 4 o'clock, the most eminent and supreme G.M. Col. Tynti presiding. The business was only of a routine kind, concerning the furniture of the Grand Encampment; the nomination of Grand Officers for the year ensuing, and the election of the Committee of Management. The Banquet was of the most *recherché* description, the noble haunches of venison (the kind and thoughtful gifts of M.E.G.M.), were duly honored by the Sir Knights esurient, and the whole entertainment appeared to give unlimited satisfaction. The health of the Grand Master; success to the Army and Navy combined, with our gallant Allies (responded to by Lieut. Col. Simon and Capt. Maher), and of Sir Knights Emly and Law, were received with the utmost enthusiasm. Some excellent singing, and a most felicitous recitation by an Irish Sir Knight (whose name has escaped us), caused the evening to pass most agreeably to all present.

OXFORDSHIRE.

The Knights of the Cœur de Lion Encampment assembled together at the Masonic Hall on Tuesday, the 8th of May, and several candidates were admitted into the Order in due form. At the conclusion of the business, about forty Sir Knts. dined together and enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

ROYAL KENT ENCAMPMENT, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (No. 44).—On Good Friday the Companions of the Encampment held their anniversary at their field of encampment, Freemasons' Hall, Newgate Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The following Comps. were installed Officers for the ensuing year:—Fra. E. D. Davis, E.C.; Fra. John Barker, 1st Capt.; Fra. H. Bell, 2nd Capt.; Fra. Thos. Pattinson, Registrar; Fra. W. Punshon, Prior; Fra. V. C. V. Surtees, Almoner; Fra. Jas. Donald, Herald; Fra. Wm. Dalziel, Sub-Prior and Expert; Fra. F. P. Joun, Capt. of Lines; Fra. Thos. Hornsby, Equerry. The E. Commander, Fra. E. D. Davis, presented the conclave with a richly ornamented altar. After the conclusion of the ceremonies, the Knts. Comps. sat down to a sumptuous repast at the Queen's Head Hotel, Grey Street, the evening being spent in love and harmony.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SPURIOUS MARK MASONRY.

SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

3, Duncan-street, Edinburgh, 10th May, 1855.

STR.—I use the freedom of subjoining copy correspondence which has passed between the Editor of the "Freemasons' Monthly Magazine" and me, on a subject which I am informed you are already acquainted with, and which arose from my having observed on the cover of their magazine an advertisement in the terms I refer

to. Conceiving that I have been discourteously treated by the Editor of that magazine in refusing the insertion of my letters, and that I have shewn him he is completely in error, I commit the correspondence to your editorial care to make what use of it you think proper, and have the honour to be,

Sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. GAYLOR.

Grand Scribe N. for Scotland.

MR. GAYLOR TO THE EDITOR OF F. M. MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

Edinburgh, 7th April, 1855.

MY attention has been called to an advertisement by Br. Spence in your magazine for April, wherein he states that he has been appointed to furnish the Badge and Jewel of the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters, held under the warrant of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.

I beg to inform your readers that no Mark Lodge in London holds any warrant from the Supreme Grand R. A. Chapter of Scotland, and that any such self-styled body is illegal. The only Mark Lodge called "Bon Accord" in connection with us is the Mark Lodge attached to the Bon Accord R. A. Chapter of Aberdeen (No. 70), and it has no power to grant a warrant to any London Lodge.

In Scotland there are three degrees given under authority of our warrants before one can obtain the Royal Arch Degree, properly so called. The *first* is Mark; the *second* the Past, which in England has been taken from the Royal Arch Series, and attached to the Chair-master of a Blue Lodge; the *third* is the Excellent Degree of Three Points or Parts, and is given only to those who are about to receive the Royal Arch itself. Separate warrants are not now given, and have not been given for many years to practise the first, or first two degrees only; indeed, none but three such warrants were ever given: two of these have been recalled, and the third has long been dormant.

I shall in the circumstances consider it my duty to institute an inquiry into the cause of this irregularity, with a view alike to the suppression of usurped powers as to the prevention of brethren being thereby misled.

I am, &c.

THE EDITOR OF THE MAGAZINE TO MR. GAYLOR.

London, 21st April, 1855.

A REPLY to your note will be found in the Notices to Correspondents, "Freemason's Monthly Magazine," May number. The Bon Accord Lodge of London is legitimate, and received their warrant from No. 70, Aberdeen, before the law you allude to was abrogated.

I have the honour, &c.

MR. GAYLOR TO THE EDITOR OF THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

Edinburgh, 25th April, 1855.

I AM favoured with yours of 21st, and trouble you at present to correct a mistake into which you seem to have fallen. The Chapter (No. 70.), of Aberdeen, at no time had power from the Supreme Chapter to issue warrants for the exercise of the Mark Degree, and those Lodges to whom Mark Warrants were granted by the Supreme Chapter had ceased working under them long prior to the constitution of Bon Accord, Aberdeen (No. 70). The warrants I allude to were issued between June, 1845, and September, 1846, at which latter date they were recalled. The Charter to No. 70, was not granted till December, 1850.

I am, &c.

Then appeared the following notice in the F. M. Magazine:—"W. Gaylor.—Had our worthy correspondent instituted inquiry before, instead of after he wrote his letter, he would have discovered that the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters is quite legitimate, and that it is working under the warrant granted from Chapter No. 70, Aberdeen, before the abrogation of a law to which he alludes. We have investigated the matter from the records, and find that the brethren of the London Bon Accord are right and he is wrong. His second letter does not alter our opinion.

MR. GAYLOR TO THE EDITOR OF THE F. M. MAGAZINE.

7th May, 1855.

I HAVE seen your reply to my note on the subject of the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masons, and cannot help thinking you have either far misunderstood the nature of my several communications, or are unwilling to believe what I represent. I had hoped different things from a party occupying the position of editor of a public journal, and feel induced once more to trouble you in case that, upon reconsideration, you may have any wish of putting yourself right.

I need not have troubled you, except for explanation, with any notice regarding the Mark warrants which were at one time granted by this supreme body and afterwards recalled. None of these were ever granted to the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen, or to any party in connection with it. They were granted between the years 1843 and 1846, while the Chapter in question did not receive its constitution till December, 1850, a period long subsequent to their recall. It is evident, therefore, that any power which that Chapter possessed could only be exercised subsequent to December, 1850, and is not to be affected by anything done in reference to proceedings enacted long previous to their existence, and to which they were no parties, even had the warrants to which I refer stood unrecalled. The question then comes to be, what powers do they possess under their present Charter? Assuredly none for granting warrants of the nature of that now called in question. Independently of being limited by their charter to the exercise of the Mark Degree *within their own body*, no intelligent Mason will, I think, assent to the principle of Lodges or Chapters, when once constituted, being at liberty to multiply *ad infinitum*, and become totally independent of the authority whence they derive their existence.

I cannot make the matter plainer, and if you shall still fail to see it, I do not ask you to give yourself any further trouble. It is enough for me that I have your authority for fixing the irregularity complained of on Chapter of Aberdeen (No. 70) and the necessary inquiry shall forthwith be instituted.

I am, &c.

BON ACCORD LODGE OF MARK MASONS.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Sir,—The attention of several Royal Arch Masons in Scotland has been called to an advertisement in the "Freemasons' Magazine," for April last, wherein Br. Spencer advertises the Jewel for the Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters of London.

I perceive also by the last number of that publication, that the Grand Scribe N. (Comp. Gaylor) has officially written to the Editor, explaining that there is no such Lodge, but that the Editor declines to publish his communication. I trust you will have more candour, and thus prevent individuals countenancing a surreptitious body of Masons.

Only three Mark Lodge warrants, unconnected with Royal Arch Chapters, were ever granted by the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. The two first numbers, 1 and 2, were to Scotland, and were expired on 21st December, 1842. No. 3, to Manchester, was made out on 21st March, 1845. The last was, a few years after, recalled. The law permitting warrants of that kind has been since rescinded, and the power to grant the degrees of Mark or Past Master refused, unless the parties take out an ordinary Charter for all the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry. There is no Mark Lodge, holding of the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, called "Bon Accord," except the Mark Lodge attached to the Bon Accord Royal Arch Chapter, Aberdeen, and which was instituted *since* 21st March, 1850.

In your Notice to Correspondents, p. 352, you intimate that the Bon Accord Mark Lodge of London does not hold its charter directly from the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, but from the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen. This, if correct, makes matters worse, and would render that Chapter liable to suspension or deprivation of its charter, for it had no right whatever to grant such a warrant; or, as you very properly say, the Aberdeen Masons had no more power to grant it "than has any

private Lodge in England to delegate its powers to others," those others not even being in the same country. Either the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen is hearing you Masons in the South, or you are very easily satisfied about your title deed.

In conclusion allow me to say, that I am one of those who deeply regret that the Grand Lodge of England ever assumed to itself the Past Master degree. The true and only degree characteristic of the *Master* of a Blue Lodge is the degree of *Master Mason*; but when that sublime degree began to be given by brevet to every *F. C.*, although not elected *Master* of a Lodge, the Blue Lodges looked out for some distinguishing mark for their *R.W.M.*, and for that purpose stole one of the degrees of the Royal Arch series—that for the *Master* of a Mark Lodge. It would, in my opinion, add much to the value and consistency of the Royal Arch degrees were the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter of England to order that the four direct degrees of *Mark, Past, Excellent, and Royal Arch* should be granted in the above order, under its *charter*, as during last century, and as they are now protected in Scotland. When I became a Mason I was led to understand that Masonry divided itself into three classes:—1st. The Gentile or Jewish, consisting of *E.A.P., F.C., and M.M.* degrees, which *have* were under the cognizance of the Grand Lodge. 2nd. All the other Jewish or non-Christian, including *Mark, Past, Excellent, Royal Arch, and some collateral degrees*, under the authority of the Supreme Royal Arch. And 3rdly. All the *Christian* degrees came under the *Templar* charters, except such as had been previously, or even more properly, arranged under some other supreme head. Were the Supreme Arch Chapter of England to assert the supremacy firmly belonging to it, although of late in desuetude, we should hear no more of spurious *Mark Lodges* in London, or of warrants being asked from Scotland.

Glasgow, 5th May, 1855.

G.A.W.A.

Deputy Gr. Princ. Z. of Scotland.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR MAY.

THE WAR.

Events in the Crimea appear to be advancing towards a close, although the absolute bombardment of Sebastopol has been suspended. A sharp engagement took place on the 1st of May, when a number of rifle-pits, eight mortars, and 200 prisoners were taken. The Russians made sorties on the 10th and 13th, which were repulsed, the English loss being inconsiderable as compared with that of the attacking party. On the 22nd and 23rd the French carried further works of the Russians in front of the Flagstaff battery. On the 24th the French occupied the lines of Tchernaya, and the Russians are stated to have sustained a loss in killed and wounded of from 5000 to 6000. An expedition, under Sir George Brown, had taken Kertsch, where the fortifications and a foundry of shot and shells had been destroyed, and several vessels of war taken. Sir George afterwards proceeded to Yenikale, and the combined fleets were completely in possession of the Sea of Azoff. General Canrobert having resigned the command of the French army, has been succeeded by General Pelissier. Reinforcements continued to arrive in the Crimea, and everything was looked upon as proceeding satisfactorily, though it is much to be deplored that cholera has again appeared in the army.

PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, on the 30th of April, the Militia Bill was read a third time. On the 1st of May the Stannary Court Amendment Bill passed through Committee, and the Cambridge University Bill was reported. On the 3rd the Loan Bill was read a third time, and a conversation of no importance took place on the subject of the Vienna Conferences. The Loan Bill was read a third time on the 4th. On the 7th the Affirmation (Scotland) Bill and the Income Tax Bill were read a second time. On the 8th papers relative to the Vienna Conference were laid on the table.

and the Income Tax Bill passed through Committee. On the 10th and 11th some Bills of minor importance were advanced a stage. On the 14th Lord Ellenborough moved a series of resolutions against the manner in which the war was conducted, and appointments to situations under government made. The resolutions were negatived by a majority of 115 against 71, irrespective of 66 proxies also received in favour of the government. On the following day the Earl of Albemarle moved a resolution for making the blockade of the Russian trade more vigorous, but as the government said every means would be taken for making it as effective as possible, the motion was negatived by a majority of 47 to 31. On the 18th Lord Panmure brought forward a plan for the consolidation of the civil department of the army, so as to make them more efficient. On the 21st and 22nd several bills went through their respective stages. On the 24th the Newspaper Stamp Bill was read a second time. On the 25th Earl Grey brought forward a motion in favour of concluding a peace on the terms offered by Russia, but the feelings of the House were so against him that he withdrew it without a division. Their Lordships then adjourned for the Whitsun holidays.

The House of Commons on the 3rd April, considered in Committee, the Loan bill, the Income Tax bill, and the Newspaper Stamp bill. The subject of discussion on the 1st May, was the proposed withdrawal of the endowment to Maynooth College, which was resisted by the Ministers, and the debate adjourned. Sir John Pakington's Education bill came under consideration on the 2d, and was also adjourned. On the 3rd the Poor Law (Scotland) bill was withdrawn, and the Sunday Trading (Metropolis) bill read a second time. The Tenants Compensation (Ireland) bill, was read a third time, and the Customs duties bill, passed through Committee on the 4th. On the 7th the House was principally engaged in Committee of Supply, other business being postponed in consequence of the illness of the speaker. On the following day the members did not make a House. On the 9th the Marriage (Scotland) bill intended to place further restrictions on irregular marriages, was negatived by 143 to 40, as not likely to be efficient. The bill for authorising marriages with a deceased wife's sister, was read a second time by a majority of 145 to 157. On the 10th, Sir Erskine Perrys motion for a select Committee, to inquire how the Army of India might be rendered most available for the War in Europe was negatived by a majority of 171 to 62. A debate on the Newspaper bill, took place on the 11th, when the 3rd reading was carried by a majority of 138 to 60. The proposed stamp upon bankers cheques was withdrawn. On the 14th, one or two bills having been considered *pro forma*, the House went into Committee on the Metropolis Local Management bill, with which considerable progress was made. On the 15th, Mr. Hadfield, brought in a bill to extend the provisions of the 6th and 7th Vic., relative to the manufacture of Metals, &c. to Birmingham, Sheffield and Wolverhampton. A bill was also brought in to make better provision for the formation and endowment of distinct parishes. On the 16th the Church Rate Abolition bill, though opposed by Lord Palmerston, was read a 2nd time by a majority of 217 to 189. The Carlisle Canonries bill was also read a second time, by a majority of 102 to 98. On the 17th the Public Prosecutors bill was postponed, that the questions might be referred to a select Committee—the Parish Constables bill to make it compulsory on parishes to appoint Constables where the rural police act is not in operation, read a second time—and leave given to Lord John Russell to bring in a bill to enable her Majesty to assent to a bill passed by the Colonial Legislature for conferring a constitution on New South Wales. On the 18th, after a division of 149 against 142, the Education Scotland bill went into Committee. On the 21st after some discussion, Mr. Milner Gibson withdrew his notice of motion condemnatory of Ministers for their conduct of the war. On the 22nd a motion of Mr. Wise, expressive of the opinion of the House, that a complete revision of the diplomatic establishment, as recommended in the Report of a Select Committee of the House in 1850 should be carried into effect, was opposed by the Government, but affirmed by the House by a majority of 112 to 57. Mr. H. Berkeley's annual motion in favour of the ballot was negatived by a majority of 218 against 166. On the 24th (the 23rd being Derby day) Mr. Disraeli brought forward a resolution condemnatory of the Government for not using sufficient vigour in the conduct of the war. After a long discussion the debate was adjourned till the 25th, when the motion was nega-

tived by 319 against 219, giving a majority of 100 to Ministers. The House now stands adjourned for the Whitsun holidays.

BENEVOLENT.

A Festival was held at the Albion on the 2nd, to celebrate the opening of the new wing of King's College Hospital. Mr. Sidney Herbert, in the absence of Lord Palmerston presided. It appears that in the year 1854, there were entered on the books 27,694 patients; and since the year 1839, when the hospital was first opened, no less than 282,705 patients have been admitted to the benefits of the charity, of whom 17,943 were in-patients, 259,235 out-patients, and 5,527 poor married women attended at their own homes. The annual subscriptions only amount to about £1500, whilst the expenses exceed £5000. The subscriptions of the evening were nearly £3000.

The Anniversary Festival of St. Mary's Hospital was held the same day, Viscount Ebrington presiding. He stated that the patients attended last year were 9140, and the total number since the opening in 1851, 26,078. The subscriptions of the evening amounted to about £1500.

A Meeting was held at Willis's Rooms on the 8th, to inaugurate a new society, under the title of "The Soldiers' Infant Home," the object of which is to clothe, maintain, and educate the infant daughters of soldiers.

On the 14th, the Anniversary Festival of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, established for the cure of club foot, lateral curvature of the spine, &c., was held—the most noble the Marquis of Westminster in the chair. The total income for 1854 amounted to £2724 15s. 11d., and the expenditure to £2644 11s. 7d., leaving in hand a balance of £81 4s. 4d. The subscriptions announced at the festival amounted to £2100.

The Festival of the Royal Literary Fund was held on the 22nd, and £300 added to the funds.

The Annual Prizes to the Girls, who, having been educated in the St. Ann's Asylum, have conducted themselves well, were delivered at Willis's Rooms on the 25th by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Amongst those receiving prizes was Miss Fanny Souter, the newly-elected school-mistress of the Royal Freemasons' Girls' School—a situation which she obtained in consequence of the high certificate she holds from the Government Examiners.

The Annual Meeting of the Cambridge Asylum, the only permanent home for soldiers' widows, was held on the 26th. Br. Leeks, the Hon. Sec. read the report, which stated that the number of widows now in the asylum was 21, and that 14 rooms still remained unfurnished; 10 of these would shortly be required for as many widows of soldiers who had fallen in the Russian war; a special election of whom had been advertised. It was also stated that the Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund had undertaken to provide the means of sustaining four other widows, to be nominated by them, in the Asylum, and hopes were expressed that the liberality of the public would soon enable the committee to complete the building.

The Annual Meeting of the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear, was held at the Board-room in Dean-street, Soho-square; the Rev. T. Davis Lamb in the chair. The Secretary read the report, from which we give the following extracts:—"To provide a source available for the industrious classes, this useful and excellent Institution was established in 1816, under the patronage of their late Majesties George IV. and William IV., and the object of this Institution is the Cure of Deafness, Discharges, Noises in the Head and Ears, and other distressing diseases of a kindred nature, generally incapacitating the poorer classes from pursuing their avocations. This valuable Institution has been in active operation for 40 years. During the past year 1410 patients have been admitted on the books; 371 have been cured; 300 have been relieved, consisting of clerks in offices, needlewomen, domestic servants, artisans, soldiers, sailors, distressed foreigners, and police, who have received advice and assistance from the surgeon, William Harvey, Esq." The report then sets forth the more prominent causes of Deafness which are indeed numerous and such as do not occur to the mere casual observer. The various resolutions were moved, of thanks to the nobility,

sternly, and subscribers, and a vote of thanks being given to the surgeon, Mr. Harvey, and to the reverend chairman, the meeting separated.

PROVIDENT.

The annual meeting of the Kent Mutual Life Assurance Society was held on the 5th, when Br. Cumming, the manager, read a report, which stated that since the last annual meeting new business had been transacted, "yielding new premiums of £6195 19s. 5d. a year, by the issue of 509 new policies; that the assets of the society now amount to £31,398 8s. 1d.; and that, under the division of profits realised at the 24th of March, 1854, a cash bonus of 20 per cent., or one-fifth of the premiums paid, was declared upon all policies on which two or more annual premiums had been paid, is to be found, in the opinion of the board, the most conclusive evidence that the condition of your society continues to be most satisfactory and prosperous." The report was adopted.

The Metropolitan Life Assurance Society held its 20th annual meeting. It appeared from the report that the number of policies issued has been 3876, of which 849 have ceased, leaving 3036 existing policies, the annual premiums receivable on which amount to £96,887 12s. 5d. The aggregate of the claims on the society by death has been £307,667 15s. 5d., and of that sum £32,397 has arisen during the past year. The total amount of abatement of premiums made to its members has been £254,633 4s. 1d. The accumulated capital to the 5th of April last was £679,417 10s. 1d.

On the 24th the National Provincial Fire Insurance Company held its second annual meeting, when a report was presented which stated that the number of new policies effected during the past year is 2349, insuring £1,300,221, the premium and duty received on which amount to £5898 5s. 4d., whilst the net amount of losses for the same period is £5871 8s. 5d. The following is a statement of the transactions of the last two years:—Number of policies, 4649; sum insured, £2,562,221; premium and duty, £10,240 16s. 3d.; number of claims, 51; net amount of losses, £6911 8s. 11d.; average amount of loss, £117 10s.; average amount of policies, £559. It was explained that the past year has, from the number of fires, produced losses to all offices much above the average—as must occasionally be the case. A dividend of five per cent. per annum was declared.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

There was a great fire in Leadenhall Street, at the house of Mr. Preston, a Stationer, on the 1st; in which property of the value of about £15,000 was destroyed, and the apprentice boy lost his life.

A destructive fire broke out at the ship building yard of Messrs. J. Scott, Russell & Co., Millwall, on the 3rd, when a floating battery, and other property of the estimated value of £120,000 was destroyed.

The Russian prisoners at Lewes rebelled against the authority of the Governor of the prison, on the 4th, but were soon reduced to obedience, and they have since been more closely confined than before.

On the 3rd, the barque John of Plymouth, with emigrants bound for Quebec, struck on the Manacles Rock, and was wrecked. About 195 individuals, chiefly passengers, lost their lives. A Coroner's Jury have brought in a verdict of manslaughter against the captain who appears to have been guilty of neglect of duty.

On the 29th of April, an attempt was made to assassinate the Emperor of the French, in the streets of Paris, by an Italian refugee, named Pianori, who has since been condemned and executed.

Mr. C. A. Dyer, one of the confidential servants of the North London Railway, has lost his life by being knocked down by an engine, whilst walking on the line in a state of mental abstraction. The family of Mr. Dyer will receive £1000 from the Railway Passengers Assurance Company, he having taken out one of the annual policies for that amount, which cost £1 each.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 1st there was a lunar eclipse, when for a short time nothing but a thin rim of the moon could be observed—the eclipse being very nearly total.

The National Provincial Bank of England have declared a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

On the 15th the Paris Industrial Exhibition was opened by the Emperor. It is not likely to be completed, however, for a month or six weeks to come.

At the Annual Meeting of the National Bank of Ireland, the usual dividend of 4 per cent. was declared, together with a bonus of £1 on every £100 share, and 8c. on each £10 share.

During the month there has been an eruption of Vesuvius, which though it has done great damage to the surrounding property, appears to have been regarded by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood as a grand gala got up for their amusement.

The National Bank of Ireland at their Annual Meeting adopted a report recommending the continuance of the dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and hopes were held out of a speedy increase.

The Crimean Medals were distributed to the officers, soldiers, sailors, and marines, by Her Majesty in St. James's Park on the 17th. There was a large concourse of lookers-on, who appeared deeply interested in the scene.

AMUSEMENTS OF THE MONTH.

At the Royal Italian Opera Verdi's *Il Trovatore* has been produced with complete success, and Mario and Grisi have returned to the scene of their former triumphs, and received a welcome which their popularity could not fail to secure them.

The Managers of the Royal Opera at Drury Lane failing to make it remunerative, Mr. Smith has taken it into his own hands, and by low prices is nightly filling the house.

Henry the Eighth has been produced at the Princesses with immense splendour and historical accuracy, and Mrs. Kean, after an absence of 18 months from illness, having returned to the stage, the house is nightly crowded.

"*Still Waters run deep*," a new Comedietta, has been produced at the Olympie and promises to hold its place in the bills for some time to come.

Opera supported by Sims Reeves, his *cara sposa*, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss, &c., has proved highly successful at the Haymarket; and on the 23th, Miss Faucit made her first appearance for the season in the *Lady of Lyons*.

The Lyceum opened for a series of farewell performances by Madame Anna Thillen, but the lady was very indifferently supported and the house is now closed.

Cremerne, the Surrey Zoological Gardens, and other places of amusement, put forth attractive bills of fare for Whitsuntide, but the weather was not so propitious as could have been desired.

 TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The season of Freemasonry, at least so far as London is concerned, may be said to have closed with the past month—a circumstance which in some measure accounts for the crowded state of our pages, and compels us to offer our apologies to many of our valued correspondents for the omission of their communications, and to our readers for once more being compelled to postpone the continuation of "Brotherly Love," which we hope to conclude in one or two more numbers. We are sure the importance of the news of the past month will be a sufficient justification for the space we have allotted to it—and to do justice to which, we have enlarged our usual space by 8 pages.

Our Brethren in Ireland and Scotland are earnestly entreated to favour us early with the Masonic doings in their various districts.

A. P. says, "Will you inform me what step is to be taken in obtaining an admission into the Girls' School of an orphan girl of a Freemason. The Lodge held in the town of Bradford does not subscribe. Is this child ineligible on that account?"—A form of application is the

Committee should be obtained from the Secretary of the Institution. The child is eligible, notwithstanding the Lodge does not subscribe.

The late Duke of Sussex succeeded his Br. the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV., as the Most Worshipful Grand Master. The Earl of Zetland has held the post of Most Worshipful Grand Master about twelve years.

The accounts of the late Secretary to the Girls' School, William Fletcher Hope, were never satisfactorily cleared up; we believe there was a defalcation to some amount. Write a letter to Br. Lee Stevens, or Br. Lewis—the latter you must direct, Boulouge Sur Mer.

A COLONIAL CORRESPONDENT asks the following questions:—"When a member is called to order by the W.M., for making use of unbecoming language towards the W.M., or any member of the Lodge, and also behaves in an unruly manner, refuses to obey the mallet of the W.M., and continues in his conduct, what ought the Master to do on such occasion? In case the harmony of a Lodge is disturbed by unbecoming conduct on the part of a member or members, is the Master justified in closing the Lodge himself either for a time or during his pleasure?" [To the first question we reply, the W.M. should interdict the Br. from re-entering the Lodge until he has made a sufficient apology for his conduct. If the Br. feels aggrieved, he can appeal to the Board of General Purposes. To the second, the W.M. has the power and is fully justified in exercising it.]

F. B. R. Carmarthen, would do well to change his bookseller or forward a P. O. order to our Office for a stamped edition. The "Masonic Mirror" is, as a rule, issued to the trade on the last day of the month. We have never been later than the 1st.

A CORRESPONDENT FROM PLYMOUTH says—I noticed that the W.M. of No. 224, and a visitor to that Lodge, from the Lodge of St. Andrew, Madras, wore medals on their left breast; the former, a silver square and Compass, the latter ditto, within a circle, with the words, "St. Andrews." Both brothers state they are Master Mason's jewels. Will you kindly inform me if such is the fact, as I am very incredulous on the subject, believing that only a P. or D. G. M. is entitled to the emblem, and then in gold. [The jewels referred to are not recognized unless indeed they are jewels allowed by the G. M. to be worn by Members of special Lodges. We are ourselves Members of two Lodges having such permission.]

PLYMOUTH.—We should be glad if our Correspondent would send us one of the summonses of the Lodge to which he alludes. The returns to the Grand Lodge show everything to be conducted according to the Constitutions. If, therefore, the alleged irregularities exist, the returns, if not the books of the Lodge, must be falsified. We trust, for the honor of the Craft, that if some irregularities have crept in in the conduct of the Lodge, members will be found of sufficient firmness to correct them. Indeed, we are informed by another correspondent, Ethée, that new blood has been lately introduced into the Lodge, determined to set everything right and that the majority of the old members are good, zealous, and sincere Masons, who, if they have erred, have done so unintentionally, and only wanted to be reminded of their irregularities to determine to correct them.



ETHÉE.—The authorities of St. Helena are not justified in giving the three degrees in one night; but under the Book of Constitutions the Colonial Lodges have the power of granting the various degrees at intervals of seven days each. This concession in favour of the Colonial Lodges was made in consequence of many representations to the G. L. of England that they stood in an unfavourable position, under the law applicable to the mother country, in comparison with Lodges under Irish and Scotch Charters, in the same Colonies—in which facilities were given for passing through the various degrees in less time than would be allowed under the English Constitution. It is to be regretted that entire uniformity of action cannot be obtained throughout the three (masonically speaking) kingdoms, which, by a little arrangement, might easily be done, without interfering with the independent power of the G. L. of either. For his observations on other subjects, Ethée is thanked.

The Freemasons' Girls' School was founded by the Chevalier Ruspini. The letter respecting the late matron, Mrs. Crook, shall be attended to, and an answer given in the next number of the "Mirror."

THE BON ACCORD MARK MASONS.—Dr. Wm. Jones is the Founder of the London Mark Masons Lodge, the illegality of which is so clearly proved by the Correspondence we publish in another page. Dr. Jones is said to have obtained the Charter, if it has a right to be designated by such a title, through a Br. Ritchie. The crowded state of our pages has alone prevented us drawing more marked attention to the subject in our present number.

A BOY'S MOTHER should apply to the Secretary, Brother Augustus Thisselton, at the Offices, 34, Great Queen Street, opposite the Freemason's Tavern, any Saturday between 10 and 4.

DR. CRUCIFIX must certainly bear the credit of being the Founder.

THE Letter of S. P. G. M. T., on the Banffshire Lodges, shall appear next month.