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THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE AND THE CRAFT.

WHEN, three weeks since, we addressed "A Few Words to the Craft" relative to the position and prospects of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, we scarcely anticipated that our appeal would be so promptly and so handsomely met as it has been. The publication of that address led to our receiving various communications from Brethren, which resulted in a meeting being held and the passing of resolutions most flattering to ourselves, which we publish in another part of our Magazine, under the head of the *Masonic Mirror*. At that meeting—comprising as it did many highly influential Brethren, whose names are known throughout the Craft—but one opinion was expressed as to the desirability of the Order possessing an independent, impartial, and temperately conducted organ in the press, through which the Brethren might express their opinions, and seek for reliable information, untainted by party bias.

Such a publication we have endeavoured to provide for the Order; and in proposing and seconding the resolutions which were passed at the meeting of which we speak, we were gratified to hear that the speakers not only bore testimony to the independence which has hitherto marked our progress—but distinctly enunciated the principle that, in coming forward to assist the *Magazine*, they offered that assistance only with the clear understanding that they did not seek to tie the hands of, or influence the independence of the Managers. It is with that understanding that we gratefully accept the aid offered us—being determined to consider the fund now being raised only as a trust, to be administered for the benefit of the Craft, to promote the welfare of the interests and the charities of the Order—for it is only through the pages of a fairly and honestly conducted periodical that the claims and wants of those institutions can be properly made known to the Brethren. It is only through such an organ that they can become acquainted with the manner in which their business is conducted at head quarters, and with the proceedings of the Craft generally. It is only through the influence of the press that the character of Freemasonry can be elevated and sustained, and the

Order can become what it ought to be—the ennobler and instructor of mankind. A mere party organ could, as we have already stated, produce nothing but mischief to the Craft, and would be such a blot upon our escutcheon as would cause many of our best and worthiest members to withdraw from a Society which could not discuss those measures which might be propounded for its benefit in temperate and becoming language, regardless of the quarter from whence they came. Nothing can be so unmasonic, so opposed to our first principles, or so full of mischief, as a recklessly conducted party journal. Such, whilst under our management, and while we continue to enjoy the confidence of the Craft, the *Freemasons' Magazine* shall never become; but we shall be prepared at all times fearlessly and independently to maintain our own opinions, whilst a portion of our pages will always be open for the communications of those who may disagree with us, upon the single condition that those communications are couched in proper and Masonic language.

In accepting, therefore, the aid now so handsomely offered us, and in again appealing to our friends throughout the country to assist us in our labours, by increasing the number of our subscribers—for to them alone can we look for maintained and permanent support—we do so unpledged to any given policy, unfettered in our movements—bound only as men of honour to maintain for the Craft, to the utmost of our ability, a fair, honest, and independent organ—“open to all, and influenced by none.”

The proffered assistance of our Brethren is acceptable to us, because we feel that we are engaged in the work of the Craft—that we are endeavouring to confer a benefit upon the whole Order—and that whilst we are so engaged the losses should not, to use the words of the distinguished Brother who did us the honour to preside at the meeting of Thursday last, be allowed to fall on the shoulders of one or two individuals (and those individuals the labourers in the vineyard)—but that those who think, with them, that they are tending to advance the best interests of the Craft, may fairly and honourably assist them in their endeavours.

We are grateful to those Brethren who have thus come forward to assist us; but believing that ere long the Craft will render any extraneous aid unnecessary—and, knowing that only one additional subscriber in each Lodge is more than sufficient to render our work remunerative—we pledge ourselves never to regard the guarantee fund as one through which we are to be personally benefited; but that, so soon as the *Magazine* is in a position to warrant it, without regard to the losses of the past, we shall appeal to the subscribers for their instructions as to the disposal of the fund now being subscribed; and in default of such instructions, we shall consider that its proper destination will be the funds of the Masonic charities.

During the eighteen months that the *Freemasons' Magazine* has been under our sole guidance, it has been our endeavour, whilst giving the fullest attention to the news of the Craft, to elevate its character as a

literary organ ; and we heard with much pleasure the compliments paid to us on that score by the different speakers at the meeting we have referred to—we have now another incentive to persevere in our endeavour to maintain and uphold the *Magazine* as a truthful and independent journal. During that period we have introduced to our Brethren the writer of our Architectural Chapter, in the person of an old and valued Mason, and we have obtained other efficient literary assistance, in order that we might do our part towards assisting the Brethren in their researches into Masonic lore, and in their endeavours to unfold the hidden mysteries of nature and science. We are certain there are yet many brethren of literary tastes and talents who will be willing to assist us in our labours, and we can assure them that we shall duly appreciate any articles of Masonic, scientific, architectural, or archaeological interest with which they may favour us ; and that no expense shall be spared by us to illustrate such articles by the aid of the engraver, whenever their interest can be thereby enhanced.

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## DIRECTORS OF CEREMONIES.

In many of our Lodges the Director of the Ceremonies is commonly one of the offices, and is the first step in the course of office, which leads to the chair. In some Lodges it follows or precedes the Stewardship. The practical operation is this, that the officer—very frequently a young Mason in the first year of his initiation—does nothing, for he does not know what to do ; he has never seen a Director of the Ceremonies discharging any duty ; he attends the Lodge or stops away as he likes, sits where he likes, witnesses various irregularities which he knows not how to correct, and at the end of his year of office finds himself Inner Guard. By some mysterious operation he has got from the inside of the Lodge, and the full range of it, to just within the door, and no further—and there for a year he stays and gets a little further on year by year. At some time he attends the Provincial Grand Lodge, and there he sees a Prov.G. Director of the Ceremonies with, perhaps, an Assistant Director, very busy, and with enough to do ; and finds they are chosen for their knowledge of the duties and are experienced functionaries. When he gets into high office he attends the Grand Lodge of England, and there he finds the Grand Director of the Ceremonies with wand in hand, and that he is truly a dignitary of importance, regulating the proceedings, and with the distinctive privilege of moving about the Lodge while the members are seated. The Master of a Lodge may or may not think about these things ; but he has appointed his officers, including the Director of the Ceremonies, in the usual course, and he lets his successors do the same, unadvised as to any necessity for change ; and so the Director (or, as

he is sometimes styled, the Master) of the Ceremonies continues to be appointed, oblivious of any obligations, but thinking possibly he may be called upon to officiate if there should ever be a Masonic ball, and wondering how he would get through his duties.

Still there are occasions in Lodge when the Master finds something wanting. One of his Deacons is not in his place, and occasionally there is no Deacon present. Any little matter that requires rectification is therefore directed by word of mouth, not to the great edification of visitors or of newly initiated Brethren. Much is left to the Tyler as to Lodge fittings and arrangements, and therefore much is left undone. In the midst of an initiation the working tools are found wanting, and there is a scamper for them; at another time a distinguished Brother arrives, and scrambles to a seat as best he may; then there are festivals and other occasions, when after a day of admirable work, a rout comes in the end, no one knowing where he ought to be, and the Past Masters have to set matters straight as best they may. So the Master gets through his year of office, and then comes installation day, for which considerable preparations have been made, numerous visitors invited, and upon which it is intended to eclipse other Lodges in the province; but which is not distinguished from them in occasional slips and even two or three scuffles. The Past Masters of the Lodge are found leaving the East, busy as bees, and setting the work to rights, anxious for the character of their Lodge in the eyes of strangers.

Masters on some occasions, conscious of the disorder, bestir themselves to provide assistance, and appoint Stewards. Such an expedient is seldom successful, for the Stewards, being young members, do not know what to do, and have no moral authority. We remember upon one occasion the Master naming two Stewards to conduct the strangers to banquet—one of the Stewards having newly joined that night, after ten years' absence from Lodge, and the other Steward being one of the initiates whose reception had within half an hour taken place. This was in a large and respectable Lodge. The result was they placed their own acquaintances in the best places, and a distinguished visitor was placed out of his rank, and below one of the musical Brethren, and thus the intended courtesy of the Master was frustrated.

Now comes the question—what is the Master of the Ceremonies, and what are his duties? The Book of Constitutions says, speaking of the officers of a private Lodge—"There must be also a Treasurer and a Secretary. A Chaplain, Master of the Ceremonies, and Stewards may be appointed." There is nothing more about the Master of the Ceremonies, and his jewel is not named.

Let us proceed a step higher, to the Provincial Grand Lodge. No Provincial Grand Director of the Ceremonies is named, but there is full power to the Provincial Grand Master to appoint Grand Officers as for the Grand Lodge of England, and Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies and their assistants are consequently appointed. Their

jewels are the cross rods of the Grand Lodge, placed within a circle, on which the name of the province is to be engraven.

Proceeding higher, to the Grand Lodge of England, we get further information, for the Grand Director of Ceremonies has definite rank in the table of precedence, in the twenty-fourth line, the Past Grand Director of Ceremonies standing in the twenty-fifth, the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the twenty-sixth, and the Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the twenty-seventh, before various other officers below the rank of Past Grand Deacon. Thus it will be seen that not only the past officers of this class have their definite rank, but that even the Assistant and Past Assistant take rank before several officers. In the clause relating to the duties of the Grand Director of Ceremonies it is stated that, "the Grand Director of Ceremonies, in addition to his other duties, has the care of the regalia, clothing, insignia, and jewels, belonging to the Grand Lodge." In another place, referring to the conduct of business in Grand Lodge, it is declared, "all members shall keep their seats, except the Grand Deacon, Grand Director of Ceremonies, his Assistant, and the Grand Stewards, who are allowed to move about in the discharge of their duties. The Grand Deacon of course can only move from pedestal to pedestal, but the Grand Director of Ceremonies has full scope. The Grand Director of Ceremonies and Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies are to be appointed annually by the M. W. G. M. on the day of his installation. They must be Master Masons, and are to attend the quarterly communications and other meetings. The jewel of the Grand Director of Ceremonies consists of cross rods within a wreath composed of a sprig of acacia and an ear of corn. The jewel of the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies is the same.

In foreign Lodges the Master of the Ceremonies is an officer of great importance, and is always an experienced member, who has gone through the higher offices.

We may now proceed to consider what are his duties from the data before us, first premising that the appointment is optional, as, in a small Lodge, such an officer would have nothing to do. In the first place we learn from Grand Lodge that he has outside duties, that he has the charge of the regalia, clothing, insignia, and jewels of the Lodge, and thereby of their disposition in the Lodge, and for this purpose the Tyler and the serving Brethren are at his disposal. It is his duty to see that his assistants have provided all the fittings and requisites for the duties of the Lodge, according to the order of business; he must provide each officer with his jewel in Lodge, and he should personally invest the Master. He will also ascertain what officers are present, and report to the Master those who are absent, so that the vacancies may be filled up, and the jewels be delivered to the new nominees. He will receive his jewel from each officer leaving the Lodge, and see that in case of need, as of a retiring Deacon, for instance, another occupant of the office be provided by the Master. He must see that without the Lodge everything requisite be provided in

the preparation room and ante-rooms ; but when once work has begun he cannot leave the Lodge.

He must arrange with the Master and Secretary, before work is begun, the mode in which the business is to be conducted, and will receive instructions thereon from the Master. His jewel is the cross rods or wands, and he bears a wand. In some of the old Lodges, a very handsome wand is provided. The wand should be different from Deacons' or Stewards' wands, and may be of a much more ornamental character. Where there are Stewards in a Lodge, they are under his direction ; and in case of regalia or tools being wanted, they should be fetched by a Steward or other Brother, as the Master of the Ceremonies should be on the spot. His station is, on ordinary occasions, near the Master, on the left hand ; but he moves about as there may be occasion, and on a report proceeds to the I.G. It is his duty to attend upon visitors, to assign seats to ordinary visitors, and, where they are of eminence, to present them to the Master. He sees that each visitor and incomer salutes the Master.

All ceremonies he superintends, that they may be properly provided and performed, but he has no claim to interfere, unless to set matters right, as he is not an officiator. He may, however, prompt the Deacons, when attending and assisting them. When the Master is officiating he attends upon him to see that he is properly vided, and to assist him. This is left too commonly to the immediate P.M. whereby the solemnity of his duties is interfered with.

As a matter of course, in all processions he makes the arrangements, and so at installations. At banquets, assisted by the Steward or Stewards, he sees to the placing of the members and guests, under the direction of the Master. Whenever any considerable ceremony is at hand, as an installation, or there is a large number of guests, it is his duty to sketch out and arrange with the Master, a programme beforehand, so that all may work well, and the character of the Lodge be upheld in the eyes of visitors and new members.

It will be seen from the above, how well calculated a member of two months' standing is for such an office, which requires knowledge and experience. From this cause has arisen the evil, that in small Lodges and decayed Lodges, in the attempt to fill up an accustomed office, this falls to a junior ; whereas it is much better that no such officer should be appointed, than that he should be inefficient, and the Master or Past Master can very well manage by himself. However, when the number of members and work is considerable, a Director of Ceremonies should be appointed, and appointed, as the Treasurer and Secretary most commonly are, from amongst the Past Masters.

There would thus be the advantage of having an officer who has the requisite knowledge and experience, and who, from his standing, has authority to enforce his precepts on the younger members, whether for silence, or in preventing irregularity and confusion. As the office is, when properly performed, an active an important one, it is a further means of rewarding a Past Master, and of securing the

attendance of another of that class, who are too apt to fall off after passing the chair, having nothing to do. There is, too, this to be considered in appointing a Past Master—that he can officiate throughout the installation, which a Worshipful Master cannot. When the Provincial Grand Lodge meets in a town, there will, with such an officer, be a chance of its being properly received, with no fear of the Lodge showing slovenly work in the presence of the assembled critics of the province.

It will very well be seen that what we have here described will tend very materially to the realization of what every enlightened Mason so zealously desires, and is now aiming at—and that is, good working; but it will not end in the local Lodge, for throughout every province there will be several Lodges, each having its competent Master of Ceremonies; and the result will be this, that instead of the offices of Grand Director of Ceremonies and Assist. Grand Director of Ceremonies going by chance, that the provincial purple may be given to some one for whom a corner must be found, the office would go, as a reward, to the Master of Ceremonies, and thus a Past Master would obtain another title to the purple by working. The Master of Ceremonies would thereby become a desirable office, as one leading assuredly to the purple. On passing the provincial dignity the Director of Ceremonies would in most cases, if he had worked well in his Lodge, have a jewel presented to him by his Brethren, and this would become a convenient period for resigning the office, and giving a reward to another aspirant Past Master, while the Past Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies would still attend, with the prospect of the Lodge Treasurership.

The first provincial step for the Master of Ceremonies should be Provincial Assist. Grand Director of Ceremonies, the next year Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies; he should then retire. In the first year the junior would get his training, and the next could take the principal part, but it is not desirable, as now, in some good working provinces, to keep either Grand Director of Ceremonies or Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies as a permanent officer; for with well trained men of the class we have described, competency for the discharge of the duties would always be found. It is desirable the Grand Director of Ceremonies should yearly retire, in order to offer a due reward and stimulus to the local officers, who, in five or seven years, would have an assurance of the purple in most provinces. In case of need they would have the counsel and help of the Past Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

It may occasionally happen in a Lodge that it is not desirable to appoint a P.M., when a well-instructed Brother may be found; or the duties may be discharged by some other officer, as the Treasurer or Secretary, for instance, but this is not desirable.

In some Lodges of Instruction, the office is the first in the list below the Tyler, strangely enough; but the occupant of it does nothing, and learns nothing, and stops away perhaps till he gets an

office with some work. A great improvement is, to make it next to P.M. when the learner has gone through the course, and then a member is likely to attend. In case of the absence of the P.M. he could go back to that office.

What we have here written is a very small point in Masonic reform so far as the practicability of its realization is concerned—but a very large one in its results, because it secures improved working ; and we trust that many days will not have elapsed before the Master or some member of each Lodge has brought the subject before his Brethren, and obtained its practical realization. No more incompetent Directors of Ceremonies should be appointed, and where there is a whole year to be served, it will be an act of Masonic virtue for the present occupants to resign, so that a regular appointment may at once be made. Such a younger member would, by taking such steps and thereby bringing the subject forward for discussion and determination give a real proof of his claims on the attention of his Brethren.

We particularly call the attention of Grand Officers and Prov. Grand Masters to the desirability of taking early steps in this subject ; a letter from a Prov. Grand Master recommending such a reform, and promising a reward for it, would at once produce a great effect on all the Lodges of his province.

## TIME AND TIDE.

BY BROTHER CHARLES SLOMAN.

### I.

Time and tide for no man wait ;  
 Say, who can that truth deny ?  
 Seize the moment, ere too late ;  
 Ev'ry hour we live we die.  
 Who can call back yesterday ?  
 Each new minute hath its gate,  
 Wending swiftly on their way,  
 Time and tide for no man wait.

### II.

Time and tide for no man wait ;  
 They delay will never brook ;  
 Peasants delve while kings hold state,  
 Each a page in this world's book.  
 Day by day the leaves turn o'er ;  
 Ev'ry life must have its date ;  
 Think then, think—lest you deplore ;  
 Time and tide for no man wait.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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### THE GLOBE LODGE.

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

"You promise that no visitor shall be received into your Lodge without due examination, and producing proper vouchers of his having been initiated in a regular Lodge."

"Do you submit to, and promise to support those charges and regulations, as Masters have done in all ages?"—*Vide* "ANTIENT CHARGES AND REGULATIONS," *Book of Constitutions*.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your number for December 29th, 1858, page 1237, I find a charge brought against me "of a want of courtesy in refusing admission to Bro. Henry Wilson, (of the Lodge of Friendship, No. 117, Great Yarmouth,) into the Globe Lodge." The facts of the case are these:—

Just as the W.M. had risen for the first time, a visitor was announced, "who was not personally known, recommended, or well vouched for." I was desired by the W.M. to examine, and report. In the adjoining room I saw a stranger, clothed, whom I asked for his certificate. He said that he had not brought it from the country with him. I asked him a few simple questions, which he answered with much hesitation, something in this way:—"Let me see—I don't quite remember,—I think,—" "Is this what you mean?" "This is right, isn't it?" Being unwilling to refuse him admission on my own responsibility, I requested the Tyler, Bro. Crawley, (than whom there is not a more experienced Tyler or Mason in the Craft), to try him, and give me his opinion. In the examination by the Tyler in the third degree, there were some important *points*, of which the visitor professed himself to be ignorant, and the Tyler declared that the examination was not at all satisfactory. I then told Bro. Wilson that I could not admit him into the Lodge, that I was very sorry for his disappointment, but the fault was with himself; that, however, the disappointment would not be very great, for if his object were to see the working of a London Lodge, he would not have had the opportunity of gratifying himself on the present occasion, as business was completely over, the Lodge would be closed on my return, and in a few minutes the Lodge-room would be cleared. He wished to go in and see the closing of the Lodge. I told him that I could not suffer him to see any portion of the working, as he had produced no certificate, and the proofs he had given of being a Mason were, in my opinion, most unsatisfactory. He was angry at being refused,

and went away threatening to "show me up in the *Mirror*." He was not refused admission because "the Lodge was about to close, or that there was no business before the Lodge," but because he had failed to prove his claim to admission.

Of all the duties attached to a Mason, there is not one more important than the examination and admission of visitors. I have sometimes wished that we had some control over the admission of those we do know, just because they are known. But at all times there is risk in the admission of strangers; and an individual, presenting himself for admission into a Lodge where he is utterly unknown, is bound, by his Masonic obligations, to give the fullest and most unequivocal proofs of his brotherhood. The very fact of being desirous to enter a Lodge without giving these proofs, shows a deficiency in one of the essentials of Freemasonry, viz.—obedience, "which must be proved by a close conformity to our laws and regulations."

I am sure the character of the Globe Lodge for giving a brotherly welcome to visiting—particularly provincial—Brothers, will not suffer depreciation from this event. My experience of London Lodges is, that no article in the Book of Constitutions is more widely interpreted, or more liberally carried out than that which "enjoins Masters and Wardens of a Lodge to visit other Lodges, in order that the same usages and customs may be observed throughout the Craft, and a good understanding cultivated amongst Freemasons." And in this respect, the Globe Lodge is not a whit behind her metropolitan sisters. For my own part, I think the presence of visitors necessary, to make a perfect Lodge, and at the festive Board,

"——— if they had been forgotten,  
It had been as a gap in our great feast,  
And all things unbecoming."

But for the purpose of gaining a fair name for being courteous and hospitable in making welcome strange visitors, am I to set at nought the laws and regulations of our Constitution; and, neglecting the caution imposed upon me at my initiation, am I to place in jeopardy the privileges and landmarks of the Order? I trust that I shall ever feel the full weight of responsibility imposed upon me when examining a visitor who seeks admission into my Lodge; and that I shall at all times greet well as a Brother him that proves his claim to the title, and not be deterred in refusing admission to him that thinks the only passport needful for admission into a Freemason's Lodge is to present himself with most lame and impotent conclusions, even though such refusal should subject me to the vulgar threat of being "shown up" in a periodical.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,  
WILLIAM BLACKBURN, P.M.,  
Sec. Nos. 23 and 1044.

### CHRISTIANITY *v.* UNIVERSALITY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Two letters in your *Magazine* by "W. II.," will be read probably with much pleasure by Christian Freemasons; another by a "Universalist," perhaps with pain. Fortunately the subject of these letters does not rest on the dictum of the latter. If I recollect

rightly, in a former letter he asserted he had never heard of, or never read "Pearson on the Creed;" probably he would do well to make himself acquainted with that work before commencing an argument against the Christian faith as generally held in this country; at any rate he might not be judged less qualified to form an opinion after having read one of the best works on the creed which was ever published. Surely he would not grudge a little time and attention to a matter of such vital importance—perhaps were he to study the Scriptures carefully, and with a little humility, giving some weight to the opinions of learned and good men, whose researches have thrown light on difficult points, not relying too much on his own powers, however great; and, moreover, not going to work with a pre-determination *not* to be convinced, he might be induced to alter his views. Be that as it may, he would probably be as much benefited by that course as by any result which might follow his published defiance.

Now, Sir, the recognition of Christianity in our Lodges is not a matter of moment to ministers of any denomination in this land alone. The episcopal church is not the only church in which Christianity is taught as the faith whereby men can alone be saved; there are many ministers besides those of the Church of England who go about their Master's work honestly; but they also preach Christ crucified, however they may differ on other points.

It is not then to one body alone of God's ministers that this matter is of moment; nor is it to those ministers of more importance than to the people at large; the great mass of the people are believers, thorough believers, in their Saviour—the number of those whose creed is as the Universalists is happily small. And however the opinions of the laity on other articles may vary, they are, as a body, Christians by profession. Many of them, when they thank God at the closing of their Lodge for his blessings already received, would like to acknowledge the greatest of them all; and their regret at the omission is increased when they are obliged to go back to olden times, and resort to what must be confessed to be ingenious reasonings to connect the honoured name of their Saviour with the work they have in hands.

It is absurd to say that the recognition of Christianity would contract the bonds of Freemasonry—not a tenth part of the candidates yearly initiated but are Christians. The obligation might remain as it is, also the ritual in applying it to special cases; but when Christian men meet together and unite in prayer for one of their own faith, that prayer should be made in the name of Him who can alone render it acceptable. Many Unitarians, who are good men, do not refuse to attend service in church and chapel, and they would hardly object to attend a Lodge because the majority of their Brethren thought fit to confess their faith. As regards our Brethren of the Jewish persuasion, I would add, they do not object to sit in a Christian hall of legislature; and it could not be with them a matter against conscience to sit in a confessedly Christian Lodge. It is a poor compliment to any man's good sense to imagine he respects you more because you conceal your religion studiously, as though you honoured his peculiar views rather than your God. It is also ridiculous to raise the cry of sectarianism, and to talk of attempts to bring the Articles of the Church of England into Lodge—as "A Universalist" writes in a former letter—it has nothing to do with the matter. It does not follow that a person who has read "Pearson on the Creed," and desires to see the name of his Saviour acknowledged in Lodge, must, therefore, be a member of the church of England; let him recollect there are many Christians not episcopalians who will read and admire a book which treats cleverly and convincingly the

faith which they hold (even though that book be written by a bishop) although they may differ from him on minor points. This is a Christian country, and the bulk of the Freemasons in it are Christians. In England Christianity is not a sect, and it is a disgrace to a community composed with but few exceptions of Christians, that they can only say there are allusions in their ritual to the Saviour. It cannot be denied, that this our great and excellent society lies under a heavy imputation; it is either indifferent to, or ashamed of, its faith. I may be told this society is a society in which morality is taught, and I must draw a distinction between morality and religion: if religion is so excluded, why do we open and close our Lodges with solemn prayer? Why do we offer a prayer at the conferring of each degree? Neither Jew nor Unitarian will respect us one bit less that we confess our faith. Both churchman and dissenter will meet just as happily, and will have no cause for secret shame when we openly acknowledge our religion; the minister of parish church and chapel will be spared the inconsistency of preaching to their several congregations faith in Christ as their only means of salvation and acceptance with God—and at their Lodge gatherings offering prayer and thanks without even the mention of His name.

This *Magazine* is not the place for a theological controversy as to the merits of Christianity; neither is it the place to publish a challenge to such controversy; but its pages have ever been open to those who urge reform where needed, and to those who would not otherwise be able to express their feelings. With many apologies for occupying your space at so great a length, permit me to remain,

Yours fraternally,

A PROV. GRAND CHAPLAIN.

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### “THE OXFORD PARTY (?)”

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—I see, in your *Magazine* of yesterday, that Bro. Heyes, W.M. of the Downshire Lodge, No. 864, Liverpool, is said to have asserted that certain members of Grand Lodge, whom he denominates “Ephraimites,” “had come from Oxford, and were called ‘the Oxford party.’” May I ask him, *who* has so called them, and why? The names of Bro. Portal and the Earl of Carnarvon have been too often before the public lately to make me guilty of any indelicacy in at once connecting their names with Bro. Heyes’s statement: but in connecting them with this statement, let me refer Bro. Heyes to the account in your pages some weeks back, of Bro. Portal’s observations, and of the general proceedings at the last meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Oxfordshire; and I think that, at the same time that he admits that Bro. Portal has done some good to the Craft (witness our pocket edition of the Book of Constitutions, and the business paper of Grand Lodge), and that no party spirit prevails in Oxfordshire, he will also allow that he has no right to identify a whole province—as he does—with the policy of a few men, to whom (however much public opinion may be at variance with them) we must at least, in justice, impute honourable motives. Moreover, I cannot see what right any one has, while denouncing the conduct of any person or persons as “unbrotherly,” or as the “cause of” unbrotherly conduct, in the very same breath to make use of an offensive expression with regard to those with whom he differs. May I be allowed to add, that after all the heart-

burnings and recriminations which have been bandied about from one to another, it will be well to let bygones be bygones, and not to revive a quarrel which seems, I hope, to be now fast expiring, by such expressions as that which is the cause of this letter, and which I should not have noticed but from a sense of justice, both to an absent Brother and to the province of which I am a member.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,  
AN OXFORDSHIRE P.M.

——— Rectory, Kent, 6th January, 1859.

P.S. I may add that Bro., the Earl of Carnarvon, was initiated not in Oxford, but in London, though the University of Oxford may well be proud to own him as one of her *alumni*.

## THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOMERSET.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am truly glad to find that a "Past Master" has contradicted the grossly inaccurate report which appeared in your excellent *Magazine* a short time since, of the late meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge. "The Past Master's" statement, both as regards the number of the Brethren present, the Lodges represented, and the disapprobation to which the appointment has given rise, is quite correct.

I can quite understand the ignorance of the "Past Master" with respect to Brother C. Babbage's Masonic antecedents—he is not the only *ignoramus* in this respect—this will partly be explained by my informing him that the Provincial Grand Secretary for Somerset was initiated into Freemasonry at the Bridgwater Lodge a little more than twelve months ago, and until within a week back the only office he has ever filled is that of I.G. in his own Lodge.

We do very strange and incomprehensible things in "Zummerzet," especially in the Masonic way, and it may not be uninteresting to your readers to know a little of our doings, and how peculiarly unfortunate our Provincial Grand Master has been in his selection of Provincial Grand Secretaries for some time past. But I must reserve the details for another letter, and merely confine the present communication to the matter in question, viz., the recent appointment of Provincial Grand Secretary. I most seriously and emphatically deny that the appointment of Brother Babbage has given even the slightest satisfaction to the Masons of Somerset; but, on the contrary, a feeling of extreme disapprobation, not to use a stronger expression, has been the result. To sum up in a few words—Brother Christopher Babbage is not the man for Provincial Grand Secretary, far from it; he might perhaps distinguish himself in other walks of life, but he has never shone as a "Masonic star," and, if report be true—never will.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours truly and fraternally,  
Jan. 8th, 1859. ANOTHER PAST MASTER.

[The report alluded to was copied from a local journal.—Ed.]

## THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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### MASONIC MEMS.

Bro. Dr. Dumas, Viscount D'Estrey, will lecture on Tuesday and Friday evenings at seven o'clock, at Bro. Seyd's Hotel, 39, Finsbury Square.

THE Eastern Star Lodge, No. 112, has removed from the Wade's Arms, Poplar, to the New Globe, Mile End Road.

THE Lodge of Israel, the Joppa Chapter, and the Arnott Lodge of Mark Masters, have all removed from Seyd's Hotel, Finsbury-square, to Bro. Burrell's, Bridge House Hotel.

THE Lodge of Freedom, No. 91, and the Lodge of Sympathy, No. 709, Gravesend, will meet at the Town Hall, Gravesend, on Monday, the 17th inst., at half-past five o'clock. The installation banquet, at eight o'clock, will be provided by Bro. Richard Watson, of the Belle Vue Tavern, who has just become the proprietor of the Freemasons' Tavern adjoining the Town Hall.

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### THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND THE CRAFT.

On Thursday last, a meeting, convened by Bro. Warren, and attended by many influential members of the Order, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, for the purpose of considering the present situation of the Craft with regard to Masonic publications. Amongst those present we noticed, Bros. T. H. Hall, Prov. G.M. for Cambridgeshire; F. Roxburgh, G. Reg.; Pulteney Scott, S.G.D.; Havers, P.S.G.D.; J. B. King, P.J.G.D.; Jennings, G.D.C.; J. Ll. Evans, P.G.S.B.; J. Masson, P.G.S.B. A. A. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Diplock; H. G. Warren; C. Hutton Gregory; Warrington; Hyde Clarke; Beaumont; C. Locock Webb; Freeman; F. Slight; N. Bradford; E. S. Snell; the Rev. C. Dickinson; Algernon Perkins; R. Warner Wheeler, &c., &c.

Communications were received from many other well known Brethren, regretting their inability to attend, and signifying their willingness to share in the objects of the meeting.

The Senior Grand Officer present, Bro. T. H. Hall, Prov. G.M. for Cambridgeshire, having been requested to take the chair, addressed the meeting, and stated that the object for which it had been called, was to consider the best means of establishing or supporting a periodical publication connected with Freemasonry, which should be conducted in an independent and impartial spirit, and should give a truthful report of such proceedings as might be proper to be published.

The following resolution having been moved and seconded, was carried unanimously:—

1. "That in the opinion of this meeting, it is indispensable that the Craft should possess an independent, truthful, and temperately conducted journal."

Bro. Warren, at the request of the meeting, entered into an explanation of the financial position of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, of his own connexion with it, and as to the manner in which it had been conducted whilst under his management; and stated the general principles which he desired to carry out to render the *Magazine* the organ of the Craft.

Many questions were put to Bro. Warren, and satisfactorily replied to; and after a discussion, in which many Brethren took part, the following resolutions were proposed *seriatim*, and carried unanimously:—

2. "That this meeting approves of the manner in which the *Freemasons' Magazine* has been conducted of late, and considers it worthy of the support of the Craft."

3. "Having reference to the explanation now given by the Editor as to the losses which he has incurred in carrying on the *Magazine*, this meeting—with the view of securing its continuance, but without in any way fettering the independence of its management, and under the conviction that the journal will continue to be conducted in a fair and impartial manner—resolves to enter into a subscription, with the view, as far as possible, of enabling the Editor to meet such losses; and the Brethren present pledge themselves to use their influence in increasing the number of annual subscribers, both amongst Lodges and the Brethren generally."

4. "That Bro. Algernon Perkins be requested to act as Treasurer to the fund about to be raised."

5. "That Bro. C. Leacock Webb, P.M., No. 4; Bro. E. S. Snell, P.M., No. 5; Bro. Fred. Slight, P.M., No. 109; Bro. Chas. Hutton Gregory, P.M., No. 233, and Bro. C. Beaumont, P.M., No. 661, be nominated a Committee to act with the Treasurer, in collecting and applying the funds about to be raised, in conformity with the foregoing resolutions"

6. "That the thanks of the meeting be given to Bro. Hall, for his kindness in taking the chair."

A subscription list was then opened, and a sum of about £130 contributed in the room. It was agreed that subscriptions should be paid to the Treasurer, to any member of the Committee; or to

Bro. E. S. Snell, Hon. Secretary, 27, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.

## METROPOLITAN.

### APPOINTMENTS.

*Wednesday, January 12th.*—Lodges, Fidelity (No. 3), Freemasons' Tavern; Enoch (11), ditto; Union of Waterloo (19), Freemasons' Tavern, Woolwich; Kent (15), Three Tuns, Southwark; Royal Athelstan (19), George and Blue Boar; Royal Naval (79), Freemasons' Tavern; Vitruvian (103), White Hart, College Street, Lambeth; Eastern Star (113), New Globe, Mile End Road, Justice (172), Royal Albert, New Cross Road, Deptford; Pilgrim (289), Ship and Turtle; Belgrove (1051), Gnu Tavern, Pimlico.

*Thursday, 13th.*—Lodges, Friendship (6), Thatched House Tavern; Regularity (108), Freemasons' Tavern; Friendship (248), Ship and Turtle; Bank of England (329), Radley's Hotel; Polish (778), Freemasons' Tavern; Canonbury (955), Canonbury Tavern, Islington.

*Friday, 14th.*—Lodges, Bedford (183), Freemasons' Tavern; Union (185), London Tavern; High Cross (1056), Railway Hotel, Northumberland Park, Tottenham.

*Saturday, 15th.*—Lodge, Honour and Generosity (194), London Tavern.

*Monday, 17th.*—Lodges, Grand Master's (No. 1), Freemasons' Tavern; Emulation (21), Albion Tavern; Felicity (66), London Tavern; Tranquillity (218), Bridge House Hotel; Panmure (1022), Swan Tavern, Stockwell. *Chapter.*—Prudence (12), Ship and Turtle. Quarterly Meeting of Boys' School, at 12.

*Tuesday, 18th.*—Lodges, Old Union (54), Radley's Hotel; Mount Lebanon (87), Green Man Tootley Street; Cadogan (189), Freemasons' Tavern; St. Paul's (220), London Coffee House Camden (1006), Assembly House, Kentish Town. *Chapter.*—Mount Sinai (49), Anderton's Hotel. Board of General Purposes, at 3.

*Wednesday, 19th.*—Lodges, Grand Stewards, Freemasons' Tavern; Royal York (7), ditto; United Mariners (33), Three Tuns, Southwark; St. George's (164), Royal Hotel, Greenwich; Sincerity (203), Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars; Oak (225), Radley's Hotel; Nelson (1002), Red Lion, Woolwich. General Committee of Grand Chapter, at 3; Lodge of Benevolence, at 7.

*Thursday, 20th.*—Lodges, Globe (23), Freemasons' Tavern; Gibon (57), Bridge House Hotel; Constitutional (63), Ship and Turtle; St. Mary's (70), Freemasons' Tavern; Temperance (198), Plough Tavern, Rotherhithe; Manchester (209), Anderton's Hotel; Westbourne (1035), Manor House, Westbourne Terrace North. *Chapter.*—Yarborough (512), George Inn, Commercial Road East. House Committee Girls' School, at 24.

*Friday, 21st.*—Lodges, Middlesex (176) Thatched House Tavern; Jordan (237), Freemasons Tavern.

*Saturday, 22nd.*—Lodges, Unity (215), London Tavern. *Chapter.*—St. George's (5), Freemasons' Tavern.

[The appointments of Lodges of Instruction will appear in the last number of each month.]

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**ALBION LODGE, (No. 9).**—The annual meeting of this Lodge took place on Tuesday, Jan. 4th, upwards of forty Brothers being present. Bro. Perryman, W.M., opened the Lodge in due form, and Bro. Bailey was passed to the second degree. The W.M. then resigned his seat to Bro. Cant, P.M. and father of the Lodge—who proceeded with the ceremony of installation. Bro. Moring was then introduced by the retiring Master, and impressively installed into the chair. The new W.M. appointed the officers, as follows:—Bro. Hughes, S.W.; Bro. W. Knight, J.W.; Bro. Young, S.D.; Bro. Abbott, J.D.; Bro. Brown, I.G. Bros. Charles Lee and Rackstraw were also invested as Treasurer and Secretary. Lodge having been closed in solemn form, the Brethren retired from labour to refreshment. Bro. Moring presiding, supported on the right by the visitors, amongst whom were Bros. Perren, P.M., No. 118; Rease, ditto; Bern, No. 955; Chancellor, No. 955; Beuler, No. 215; Young, P.M., No. 237; and on the left by P.Ms. Bros. Perryman, J. Burton, Geo. Friend, Cant, Valentine, and Lee. Upon the removal of the cloth, the P.M. proposed the first toast of the evening "The Queen and Craft. This was followed by the toasts of "The Earl of Zetland" and "Lord Panmure," which were given with the customary honours. The next toast was that of "The Visitors"—replied to by Bro. Perren. The W.M. said a pleasing duty now devolved upon him, that of proposing the health of their much esteemed Past Master, Bro. Cant, the father of the Lodge, who had that night performed the beautiful ceremony of installation in a manner to reflect lustre upon the Lodge. Bro. Cant was one of the most distinguished members of the Order, he being one of the nine worthies appointed in 1813 to arrange the union of the York and Athol Masons. Bro. Cant was (with the exception of Bro. White, the late Grand Secretary) the oldest and nearly the last of those worthies. It was an honour to have such a man associated with their Lodge. He would conclude by calling upon them to drink the health of Bro. Cant with the usual honours. The worthy P.M. briefly replied. The "Masters," the "Past Masters," "Officers," &c., were toasted and suitably acknowledged, the concluding toast being the "Masonic Charities," coupled as usual with the name of Bro. Burton, who said that he felt considerable pleasure in having his name associated with that toast. He had served the charities upon five occasions, and now he was about to act as steward for the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows, and trusted to be well supported on the 26th instant; it had always been his pleasure to represent No. 9 when serving the charities, it being his mother Lodge, although he had been favoured with high offices in other Lodges. In conclusion, he must again urge the assistance of the Brethren at the approaching festival, feeling that the Benevolent Institution was more in need of aid at the present time than perhaps any of the other charities connected with the Order. Bros. Wood Banks and Miss Ada Taylor added by their singing to the enjoyment of the evening.



**EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 29).**—This old established Lodge, having no connection with the spurious system of Egyptian Masonry devised by Cagliostro, and alluded to in the last number of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, held its first meeting for the present year at the George and Blue Boar, Holborn, on the 6th instant. At the primary meeting in each year it has been the custom of the Egyptian Lodge to instal its W.M. for the ensuing year, and on this occasion, as well as very many former ones, the task was kindly undertaken by the worthy Bro. John Savage, an honorary member of the Lodge, who, punctually to his time, assumed the chair and opened the Lodge. The preliminary business was confined to reading and confirming the minutes of the previous Lodge, and balloting for Bro. Matthew Cooke, late of No. 955, as a joining member, which ballot was unanimously in his favour. Bro. Savage then proceeded with the installation, and in his brotherly and unassuming way, kindly prompted the nervous without embarrassing them. In the installation he was assisted by seven other P.Ms., whose names appear below in the proceedings at the banquet. The choice of the Lodge having unanimously fallen on the late S.W., Bro. Chas. H. Gough, he was, by Bro. Savage duly installed W.M., with all the traditional honours of the Craft, and proceeded to appoint his officers as follows:—Bros. Wm. Chidzey, S.W.; W. D. Eves, J.W.; B. P. Todd, P.M., re-invested Treasurer; H. G. Buss, P.M., re-invested Secretary; C. B. Payne, S.D.; S. H. Perry, J.D.; H. F. Hoare, I.G.; and the veteran Rice, re-appointed as Tyler. Before closing the Lodge, Bro. Buss, the worthy Secretary, submitted a notice of motion to change the first meeting and installation from the month of January to that of February, as on the present occasion, and on previous occasions, owing to a very numerous party assembling in the large and commodious Lodge-room, the Egyptian had been forced to assemble in a much smaller apartment, scarcely adequate to the occasion. This, and the closing, having brought the business of the day to an end, the Brethren adjourned to the banquet, at which the following Brethren were present as visitors:—Bros. Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Smith, G. Purst; Hill, W.M., No. 966; R. M. Smith, W.M., No. 1044; A. P. Chamberlain, (from the United States) of the Lodge Clément Amitié at Paris; T. Boln, P.M., No. 201 and 966; J. Brett, P.M., No. 206; W. G. Jennings, No. 196; John Lane, No. 219; J. Dyer, No. 237; J. Willis, and J. Driver, both of No. 955. After the routine toasts had been disposed of, several capital speeches were made, the chief point of interest in that of Bro. Savage being his early connection with the Egyptian Lodge, which he was proud of being an honorary member of, as from it he first entered Grand Lodge in the character of J.W. of No. 29, in the year 1838. His reception was all that could be desired from the Brethren, who look up to him as one shedding a lustre on their Lodge. Bro. Smith also very happily alluded to the perfect harmony and goodwill which seemed to prevail among the Brothers of the Egyptian Lodge. Bro. Farnfield most ably and eloquently pleaded the cause of the Masonic charities. He gave an interesting *resumé* of the history and uses of each, generously applauding the good they individually did in their respective spheres, and urging the claims all and every one had to the sympathy of the Craft. Various other toasts were proposed and heartily responded to. Some very good songs were sung by Bros. Lane, Eves, and Chamberlain, and the Lodge broke up, after the Tyler's toast, in good time, each Brother, expressing himself gratified with the evening's enjoyment.

**ST. ALBAN'S LODGE (No. 82).**—The usual meeting was held on Monday, at the London Coffee-house, Bro. Samuel Nutt, W.M., in the chair. After two Brethren had been passed, Bro. Nutt proceeded to instal Bro. Boards as W.M. for the ensuing year, assisted by Bros. Jno. Nelson, P.G.D.; Isaac Butt, M.P.; Hutchings, Hyde Clarke, Simmonds, Cole, and other P.Ms. The W.M. appointed and invested as his officers, Bros. Simmonds, S.W.; Dawes, J.W.; Spencer Herepath, S.D.; Bowen, J.D.; Dawes, Treas., and Nutt, Sec. The installation was performed in an admirable manner by Bro. Nutt.

**STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).**—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, January 6th, at the Masonic Hall, Fetter Lane, Bro. Codnor, W.M., presided; Bro. Harrison, S.W., and Bro. Lundy, J.W. The Lodge having been opened in due form, Bro. Field was passed to the second degree and Bro. Thomas

raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The business of the Lodge having been disposed of, the Brethren adjourned for refreshment, and, after the cloth had been drawn, the W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were duly honoured, and the evening was spent in great cordiality.

**ROYAL JUBILEE LODGE (No. 85).**—This Lodge held its annual meeting on Monday, Jan. 3rd. Bro. Lawson, W.M., having taken the chair, the minutes of last meeting were read, and received confirmation, after which the ceremony of installation commenced, Bro. Thomas, P.M. of No. 742 (United Pilgrims) performing the ceremony with great ability, Bro. Frederick Clemow, who was unanimously elected at the last meeting, for the position of W.M., being inducted to the chair of this Lodge. The officers appointed were Bro. Clout, S.W.; Bro. Lascelles, J.W.; Bro. James, S.D.; (the appointment of J.D. deferred); Bro. Brandon, I.G.; P.M. Bro. Corfield, Secretary; Bro. Rhodes having been re-elected Treasurer at the previous meeting, was invested, as was also Bro. Young, Tyler. Lodge business concluded, the Brethren adjourned to banquet, provided in Bro. Clemow's usual style. The new Master presided, and was well supported on the left by P.Ms. Bros. Lawson, Corfield, Parr, Stroud, Nunn, Nunn, jun., Hayward, and Rhodes, and on the right by several visitors, including Bros. Thomas, P.M., Brett, P.M., 206, Stapylton, 1055, Webb, 228, and G. Taylor, 778. Upon the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed, Bro. Clemow introducing them with good taste. Bro. Thomas, in a neat speech, returned thanks for the visitors, assuring the Brethren of his readiness at all times to perform any ceremony in the Craft with which he was conversant, as also to afford instruction to Brethren requiring it, either at Lodges of Instruction, or at his private residence, feeling that knowledge was only entrusted to him to be dispensed whenever required. Bro. Parr acknowledged the toast of "the P.Ms." in a most eloquent oration, in which he showed the true value of Freemasonry, urging the claims of its charities, and asserting that the Royal Jubilee Lodge had ever been amongst the foremost in assisting those charitable institutions, which were the pride of, and an honour to, the Order. The Master's health was then proposed, and feelingly responded to by Bro. Clemow, who then proposed the Treasurer and Secretary. Bro. Corfield replied, and said he had been twenty-seven years a Mason, having been initiated by the celebrated Peter Gilkes, who then told him he had got into difficulties, and the sooner he got out of them the better; their present W.M. had got him into a difficulty, but he should remember the advice of the great Mason he had alluded to, and get out of it as quickly as possible. Bro. Corfield could not conclude without expressing his pleasure in having had the honour of being Secretary to this Lodge for more than five and twenty years, and he hoped to retain it until called by the Great Architect to that "bourne from whence no traveller returns." Several other toasts followed, and a pleasant evening resulted several songs being well sung by Bros. Hayward, Stroud, Webb, Nunn, jun., and G. Taylor.

**ST. LUKE'S LODGE (No. 168).**—This very prosperous Lodge held its usual monthly meeting, at the Commercial Hall, Chelsea, on Monday, January 3rd, presided over by Bro. Collard, P.M., owing to the regretted absence of the W.M. from indisposition, when Bro. Collard passed five Brethren to the second degree in his usual masterly style. The Lodge voted two guineas as an annual subscription to the Royal Benevolent Institution, and will be well represented at the festival to take place for the above charity by Bro. Birch, S.W. of the Lodge. Masonic business being over, the Brethren retired to banquet. The visitors were Bros. Couchman and Odell, of the Lodge of Faith.

**OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).**—The anniversary meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, January 4th, at the Freemasons' Tavern. Bro. Jackson, W.M., presided, supported by his officers and the following visitors:—Bros. J. S. S. Hopwood, J.G.D.; W. Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Manley, Gihon, No. 57; Osborne, P.M., Neptune, No. 22; Hooper, British, No. 8; Caplin, P.M., La Tolerance, No. 784; Blackburn, P.M., Globe, No. 23; Harper, Royal York; Blackburn, P.M., Prudent Brethren, No. 169; F. Young, Israel, No. 247; Collard, P.M., St. Luke's, No. 168; Wode, Unions, No. 318; Wilson, Bedford, No. 183; Whiteman, Unions, No. 318; Nunn, Caledonian, No. 156; Davis, Eastern Star, No. 112; Crew,

P.M., No. 1; D. Irwin, Industry, No. 219, &c. The Lodge having been opened in due form by the W.M., Bro. Kennedy, P.M. and Treasurer, took the chair, and raised Bro. Elliott to the degree of M.M., the ceremony being performed in Bro. Kennedy's usual able manner. Bro. Dunham was passed to the second degree, and Messrs. Sinclair, Bryant, Crossley, and Edmonds were initiated into the Order. The next business was the installation of Bro. Maney as W.M., the ceremony being ably performed by Bro. Kennedy, assisted by Bros. Emmens and Nicholson, and with musical accompaniments, Bro. Wilson presiding at the harmonium. The W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Swainston, S.W.; Rev. Bro. Laughlin, J.W., and Senior Chaplain; Bros. Emmens, P.M., Secretary; Waters, S.D.; Hogg, J.D.; Davis, I.G.; Nicholson, P.M., Dir. of Cers.; Bladon, Steward; and Rev. Bro. Hales, Chaplain. Bro. Kennedy, P.M., was reinstalled as Treasurer. The W.M. said he had a most pleasing duty to perform, viz., to present Bro. Jackson, their retiring W.M., with a P.M.'s jewel, which the Brethren had unanimously voted to him, as a testimony upon their part that he had done his duty, and in placing that jewel upon his breast, he trusted that he might long live to wear it. Bro. Jackson briefly returned thanks for the honour the Brethren had conferred upon him. The Lodge business having been disposed of, the Brethren adjourned, and about eighty Brethren sat down to a most elegant banquet. The cloth having been drawn, the W.M. gave "The Queen and the Craft," and "The health of the M.W.C.M., the Earl of Zetland," which having been duly honoured, the W.M. gave next "Lord Paumure, D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers," coupling with the toast the names of Bros. Hopwood, Junior Grand Deacon, and Farnfield, Assistant Grand Secretary, and in doing so passed a warm eulogium on the eminent qualities of Bro. Farnfield, whom he described as one of the most able and efficient officers of Grand Lodge. He had the pleasure of being present at Grand Lodge one evening, when Bro. Farnfield's services were spoken of, and he must say that he never heard such warm eulogiums passed upon any man as were conferred upon him. As for Bro. Hopwood, he had known him for twenty years, as a good Mason, and, necessarily, as a good man. The toast was most enthusiastically responded to. Bro. Hopwood said it was his pleasing duty, both on his own, and that of Bro. Farnfield's behalf, to acknowledge the toast which had been given by the W.M., and so cordially responded to by the Brethren, and he assured them that the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Officers, were most anxious to maintain the great landmarks of their Order in all their integrity; but above all things—and he trusted in that they were not singular in the Craft—that their great and useful charities should be fully maintained. It was not necessary that he should make a long speech upon this subject, but at the same time he could not forego the opportunity, which was thus presented to him, of congratulating the Lodge on the elevation of his old friend on his left to the chair. He had known him for many years as a neighbour and a gentleman highly respected. He had lived near him for thirty years, and he believed there was no man in the parish who was more truly respected. He was delighted at being present at his installation, and himself and Bro. Farnfield had derived equal pleasure in witnessing the excellent working, as they were grateful for the hospitality shown towards them, and he united with him in wishing long continued prosperity to their Lodge. The W.M. said the next toast was one that the Old Concord Lodge had always great pleasure in drinking, and it was that of "The Visitors," coupling with it the name of Bro. Crew, the Secretary to the Girls School. Bro. Crew, in an eloquent speech, returned thanks on the part of the visitors, reminding all present that throughout all their proceedings their distinguishing characteristic was charity. The W.M. next gave "The Initiates," for which Bro. Sinclair returned thanks on behalf of himself and fellow apprentices. Bro. Jackson, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said he was pleased to see him in the chair, particularly on account of his great abilities in working, for Bro. Maney was capable of going through all the degrees, and carrying out the Masonic duties of the Lodge. When he (Bro. Jackson) was elected, he was not unmindful of the great duties he had to perform, and he ought, perhaps, to have declined going into the chair for a year or two, so as to become better acquainted with them; but, like many more, he was ambitious, and, indeed, he had not been in the chair five minutes, when he regretted having taken it, as he found

many more capable of filling it than himself. Still he found their P.Ms. able and willing to render him every assistance. The W.M. returned thanks for the kind manner in which Bro. Jackson had proposed his name, and to the Brethren for the cordiality with which they had responded to the proposition. From the first time he entered the Lodge, he was impressed with the excellence of its working, and that, in the year 1854, induced him to join it. He had since that time always entertained an earnest ambition to gain the position he now occupied. In conclusion, he thanked them most sincerely for having placed him in that position, and for the handsome manner in which they had responded to the toast which had been proposed. The W.M. next gave "Bro. Kennedy, the Treasurer of the Lodge." Bro. Kennedy acknowledged the compliment, and after alluding to the very satisfactory state of the finances, said he hoped many years to give them, as P.M. of the Lodge, if not as Treasurer, the same satisfaction he had hitherto done. The W.M. gave "The Health of Bro. Emmens, their Secretary." Bro. Emmens, in responding to the toast, said he had just completed his eighteen years' service as their Secretary, and that they had been appreciated, the very liberal and handsome proposition made at the last Lodge, ought to convince every Brother. Services would be acknowledged if they only did what every Brother ought to do, and that was his duty, to the satisfaction of himself and the honour of his Lodge. It was now twenty-one years ago, on the very same day of the month, that he was installed into the chair in that Lodge, and it was more singular still that the very Brother who installed him into that distinguished office, was present that evening—he meant Bro. Farnfield—and he now took the opportunity of thanking him on account of that Lodge, for the kind and courteous manner he had at all times been willing to afford information to him, when attending to support any of their Masonic institutions. The W.M. gave "The Chaplains of the Lodge." Bro., the Rev. J. Laughlin, J.W. and S. Chaplain, said that whatever credit or discredit there was in his appointment to the office of J.W. rested with the W.M.; but, for his own part, he had set his sign manual to their principles, for they were those of true religion, piety, and virtue, which it might be useful that the outer world should know something about. As a clergyman of the Church of England, he had been five years amongst them, and from the first moment he entered he became more and more satisfied with himself at the step he had then taken, for he had never seen anything in Masonry that he could object to, and felt assured that the better the man, the better the Mason, the better the Christian. Everything he saw inculcated principles of brotherly love and honour, and taught them, as Christians, how to live, and it also taught them how to die. Having alluded to his appointment as J.W., he said his great desire was to be a good working Mason, for unless a man was so, he was of but little use in a Lodge, for he would be like the architect, who knew nothing of hewing stones, or the practical working of Masonry. For himself, he had entered heart and soul into it, and, although their emblems were veiled in allegory they inculcated piety, virtue, science, and all that was good for mankind. The Rev. Bro. Hales, Chaplain, also responded to the toast, and bore his testimony to the high character of their W.M. The healths of the P.Ms. was given, which were responded to by Bros. Jackson and Gurton; and several other toasts having been given, the Brethren separated, delighted with the business of the evening.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 223).—The members of this numerous Lodge met on Monday, the 3rd of January, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate street. There was one passing and one raising. Mr. John Battle and Mr. E. L. Levey were initiated into Masonry. Bro. Henry Harris was presented and duly installed W.M. by Bro. Selig in a most impressive manner. The W.M. appointed Bros. D. Marks, S.W.; Drinker, J.W.; I. Levy, S.D.; S. V. Abrahams, J.D.; P. Solomons, I.G. Bro. D. Moses was invested as Treasurer, and Bro. S. Selig, Secretary. A very splendid gold jewel was presented to Bro. J. Phillips, in acknowledgment of his services as W.M. for the past year. The Brethren then adjourned to a very splendid banquet. The cloth being cleared, the W.M. proposed the toast of "The Queen," and afterwards said I have now to propose "The health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of England." I feel a sincere pleasure

to do honour to a nobleman who has rendered such efficient services to the Craft; many of the Brethren who attend the Grand Lodge can bear testimony to the ability with which our G.M. presides over it. The W.M. rose and said, the next toast I have to propose is, "The R.W. Lord Pannure, D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of England." I am sure there is no one more fit to fulfil the office of D.G.M. than Lord Pannure. He has always been devoted to Masonic interests, a supporter of the charities, and an advocate for the improvement and welfare of the Craft. The Secretary then read the report of the Joppa Benevolent Fund, which amounted to £630, after deducting £50 that was voted to a Brother since the last report was presented. The W.M. proposed "Prosperity to the Joppa Benevolent Fund," which met with the response of a liberal subscription. Bro. Caustatt, the president of the fund, returned thanks. He hoped they would exert themselves for its continued prosperity. The W.M., in proposing "The Visitors," adding the name of Bro. M. Harris, W.M., of the Tranquillity, was glad that such a friendly feeling existed between the two Lodges. Bro. Harris returned thanks for the visitors Bros. P.M. Levy, 223; A. Levy, 223, late members, and several other Brethren. The immediate P.M. proposed "The health of the W.M.," who briefly returned thanks. Several other toasts were drunk, and responded to in the course of the evening. There was some excellent singing by Bro. de Solla and others, and a very pleasant evening was passed.

PERCY LODGE (No. 234).—This Lodge held its regular meeting at the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street, on Tuesday, the 14th of December, 1858, under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. Burrell, P.M., when Bro. Frederick Tyerman, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. A report was received from the committee relative to Bro. Key's testimonial; and the Brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet prepared for them by the host, Bro. Painter. Amongst the visitors present we observed Bro. Hervey, P.S.G.D.; Bro. Hast, and Bro. Hunter.

YARBOROUGH LODGE (No. 812).—The annual meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, Jan. 6th, at Bro. Williams's, George Hotel, Commercial Road East. The Lodge was opened at four o'clock, and Bro. W. J. Crisp, W.M., initiated Mr. W. J. Brewer and Mr. Wm. Bromscomb. By the audit report, which shows a good balance, it appeared that the receipts of the past year amounted to £125, and that £77 8s. had been paid as dues to the Grand Lodge. The Lodge out of their charity fund had paid the funeral expenses of the late Tyler, Bro. Hooker. Bro. J. H. Wynne, P.M. and Treas., then took the chair according to his wonted custom, and Bro. R. B. Hampton, S.W., was presented as the W.M. elect by Bro. John Purdy, P.M., for installation, which ceremony was fully performed. The following Brethren were then appointed—Bros. Samuel Vasey, S.W.; Rev. D. Staboe, J.W.; Rev. A. Douglas, Chaplain; A. R. James, Sec.; H. M. J. Gutierrez, S.D.; W. Wright, J.D.; J. D. Carr, Dir. of Cers.; T. J. Middleton, I.G. Bro. Wynne re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Speight, Tyler, were also invested. It was nearly seven o'clock ere the business was concluded, and the Brethren assembled at the social board, where, after duly honouring the loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M.'s health was proposed by Bro. Crisp, and greeted with loud plaudits. The cause of the charities was eloquently urged by Bro. T. E. Davis, P.M., and especially the claims of the Benevolent Institution to support. He said that more than thirty brethren and widows were seeking its benefits, some of them for above ten years; such scandal ought not to exist. What would become of our boasted tenets if these applicants remained much longer without relief? He had undertaken the stewardship at the approaching festival, and should not be satisfied unless he was able to take up £100 on his list.

## PROVINCIAL.

### BERKSHIRE.

NEWBURY.—*Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope* (No. 839).—This flourishing Lodge held its annual meeting at the Three Tuns, Newbury, on Friday, January 7th, the W.M., Bro. Astley, presiding. The minutes of the preceding Lodge having been read and confirmed, Bro. Farrow was examined as to his progress in the art, and having answered the necessary questions, was raised to the degree of M.M. The W.M. then initiated Capt. Vernon, of Hartingdon House, and his son, Douglas Vernon, Mr. T. Parr and Dr. Palmer, in a very efficient manner. Bro. W. Watson then took the chair and installed Bro. W. H. Cave for the ensuing year, who appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Marr. S.W.; Dellar, J.W.; Cossens Sec.; King, S.D.; Hall, J.D.; Sommerset, I.G. There were present as visitors, Bros. Jordan, from Reading, and Watson from London. All business being ended, the Brethren sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by Bro. Cossens. The usual loyal and appropriate toasts were given by the W.M., Bro. Jordan, who returned thanks for the visitors, and congratulated the Lodge on its efficient working and its prosperity as evinced by the initiation of four distinguished gentlemen of the county on that day. Bro. Capt. Vernon in returning thanks for the initiates, stated that he now appeared in a new character in returning thanks for members of a society whose motto was peace and universal benevolence; hitherto it had been his frequent lot to return thanks for his brother officers in arms, or colleagues in politics, but he had far greater pleasure in thanking them for the kind way in which he and his brother initiates had been received, and for the excellent precepts which had been inculcated by the W.M. in the beautiful ceremonies of the day. He had often heard much good of Freemasonry, particularly as ameliorating the evils of war; one instance he knew of his personal knowledge. During the war in Calabria, when Murat was general of the French army, an officer of the 21st Fusiliers was taken prisoner when on boat service. He was brought before Murat surrounded by his staff; knowing the French general to be a Mason, he made a sign, which was acknowledged; Murat ordered his staff to retire, and having proved the officer a Mason, he gave orders that he should be exchanged as soon as possible, though he previously ordered that no British officer should receive that privilege. The Brethren retired at an early hour, much pleased, having spent a happy evening.

### BRISTOL.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, January 19th, Colston (886), Freemasons' Hall, at 7; *Instruction*.—Friday 21st, ditto, at 7½.

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

#### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Monday last, the 10th instant, the annual convocation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire was held at the *Lion Hotel*, Cambridge, under the presidency of the R.W. Bro. Hall, Prov.G.M., assisted by the Grand Officers of the province.

The Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, and the minutes of the last convocation having been read and confirmed,

The R.W. the Prov. Grand Master said, that he had this year convened the Grand Lodge of his province at an earlier period than usual, because he was unwilling that they should be delayed in expressing a strong feeling of confidence in the integrity of the M.W. the Earl of Zetland, the Grand Master of England, and of reprobation of the calumnious attacks which had been made upon him. (Hear, hear). He was rejoiced on looking at the notice paper, to find that such a

motion was about to be submitted to them. He had told them that he had called them earlier than usual; but he might add, that he would have summoned them at even an earlier date, were it not that he wished the holding of the Grand Lodge of the province to coincide with the regular meeting of the Scientific Lodge—a Lodge of which he was most deservedly proud, as he regarded it as an honour to the province.

Bro. the Rev. A. R. Ward, Grand Chaplain of England, and D. Prov. G.M., then rose to move the following resolution, of which he had given notice:—

“That the members of this Prov. Grand Lodge, viewing with indignation the unfounded imputations on the M.W. Grand Master contained in the *Masonic Observer*, desire to express their gratification at the manner in which his refutation of these charges has been received by the Craft, their participation in the feelings of confidence and attachment which were unequivocally demonstrated by the Grand Lodge in September last, and their determination to support the Grand Master in the performance of the duties of his high office.”

He said, “Brethren, the proposition which I have to bring forward refers to our old Masonic friend and Grand Master the Earl of Zetland. In bringing it under your notice I feel I shall best consult your wishes by being as brief as possible in my observations; at the same time, I wish to state that, so anxious and so determined was I that every Brother should be acquainted with the particulars of the matter to which I am going to call your attention, that a fortnight ago I took the trouble of sending to every Mason in the province a copy of the *Masonic Observer*, containing the calumny upon the Grand Master of which I complain, and also a copy of the *Freemasons' Magazine*—a publication of a far different character—containing the reply of the M.W. the Grand Master to that charge so bitterly urged against him. I believe that every brother present has received those two publications, with the exception of Bro. Ransom, Prov. G. Reg. and I can now only express my regret that they were not sent to him, or rather, that they should have remained in the hands of the Worshipful Master of his Lodge without his presenting them in proper time. Now, Brethren, I have to tell you—and I am sincerely sorry that such is the case—that there has been for some time past what I may call a party in Masonry—a body of men who systematically oppose what they call “the executive” of Grand Lodge; meaning thereby the views of the M.W. Grand Master and of his warmest friends. It had been generally believed, that this Masonic clique was connected in some way with the province of Oxford, but the moment the knowledge of that fact reached the Oxford brethren, they assembled in Grand Lodge, and most emphatically denied that they had any sympathies in common with the views of the parties connected with the *Masonic Observer*. The accusation brought against the M.W. Grand Master in that publication was made six months ago. No doubt you think that six months is a long space of time, but you should recollect that the Grand Lodge of England meets only once in three months, so that a considerable delay takes place in the settlement of questions of this kind. The accusation which the *Masonic Observer* has brought against the Grand Master is this—I quote the publication itself; it says, ‘We had occasion this time last year to draw attention to the unblushing effrontery with which the principal appointments in Grand Lodge were prostituted to political purposes, and we are sorry to be compelled to occur to this very scandalous subject.’ Now I do think that no accusation could be brought forward so damaging to the Craft as that; for, by impeaching the integrity of the M.W. Grand Master, it completely upsets the universality of the Order. But listen to the Earl of Zetland’s reply. I now read to you the report of his lordship’s speech at the Grand Lodge in September last, as it is reported in that excellent publication the *Freemasons' Magazine*.

[The V.V. Brother here read the speech of the M.W. Grand Master, which will be found *in extenso* at pp. 467 & of our last volume (in the *Magazine* of Sep. 8), in which his lordship indignantly denied the imputations of the *Masonic Observer*, and eloquently defended his conduct and policy in the government of the Order.]

“At the conclusion of this speech, the acclamations,” we read, “were unprecedented.” In fact a scene took place which those who were then in Grand Lodge can never forget. The object of my motion is, that our Provincial Grand Lodge should endorse the opinion of the Grand Lodge of England. I must detain you for one

minute longer. The members of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Cambridge must feel that they have a personal interest in the question. We all recollect that on the day when we celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the Scientific Lodge, Lord Zetland, at great inconvenience to himself, attended our meeting and showed himself kind, courteous, and agreeable to us all. As his lordship's private friends, then, I ask you to support him in maintaining the dignity of the Grand Master's chair, and I will by and by state other grounds why you should do so. The province of Oxford has emphatically expressed its disapproval of the calumnies with which his lordship has been assailed; and all I now ask is, that Cambridge should not be behindhand in following that example. One thing brought forward by the clique to which I have referred, as a complaint against the M.W. Grand Master is, that he did not appoint the Earl of Carnarvon to the office of S.G.W. But who was appointed to that office—the Earl of Durham—a nobleman initiated in one of the Lodges of this province (the Scientific) and of which, to this moment, he continues a member. This is another strong reason why we should support the M.W. Grand Master. We do not offer any objection to the Earl of Carnarvon, for we believe him to be a good and excellent Mason, but we do deny that politics at all interfered in the selection of the Earl of Durham in preference to him. This is not the proper place to speak of politics, for such topics ought to be excluded from every Masonic Lodge. But those who know my political views know that they are diametrically opposed to those of the Grand Master—and yet he appointed me one of the Grand Chaplains. That does not look like a political animus. What I have put before you I have stated in plain, straightforward language, and I now call upon you to support the dignity of the Grand Master, as it is your Masonic duty to do when you find that he is anonymously attacked." The Rev. and V.W. Brother concluded his address in the terms of his motion.

Bro. Baxter, P.S.G.W., seconded the motion, and in doing so, said he had known his lordship for many years, both as a Mason and as a citizen of the world, having first made his acquaintance when he was a member of the university; and he was sure he carried with him into the government of the Craft those estimable qualities by which he was distinguished in private life. The motion was then put from the chair and carried by acclamation.

Bro. Ward then moved "That the R.W. Prov. Grand Master be requested to communicate to his lordship the vote of the Prov. Grand Lodge," and Bro. Baxter having seconded the resolution it was unanimously agreed to.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. said, he most cordially approved of the course which the Provincial Grand Lodge had taken in this matter, and should have great pleasure in conveying to Lord Zetland the votes to which they had been pleased to agree.

Some conversation then took place with respect to the officers of No. 105 being refused admittance to Grand Lodge of England, under the allegation of no return being made, whereas the Treasurer was most punctual in forwarding the Grand Lodge fees. The R.W. Prov. G.M. stated, that he should inquire into the occasion of the obstruction. He also, in reply to the question of a Brother, stated that he should institute a friendly inquiry into the present state of the School of Plato Lodge, with the view of preventing that old and honoured Lodge being erased from the register of the Grand Lodge.

He then appointed the following Brethren his Prov. G. Officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. J. Deighton, W.M., 645, S.G.W.; Westmoreland, W.M., 105, J.G.W.; Ransom, 105, G. Reg.; Edwards, 105, G. Sec.; Hall, 105, S.G.D.; Stretton, 645, Prov. G.D.; Beales, 105, G.S.B.; King, 105, Dir. Cers.; Owen Jones, 105 and 645, G. Treas.; the Bros. Collier, G. Tylers.

The Lodge was then closed in due and ancient form.

In the evening, the Brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge banqueted together under the able presidency of Bro. Westmoreland, and passed a most agreeable evening, to the harmony of which Bros. Jones, Sparrow, Smith, and Fuller greatly contributed.

CAMBRIDGE—*Scientific Lodge* (No. 105).—A meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday the 10th inst., when the W.M., Bro. Gulley, Fellow of King's College, initiated Mr. A. Fuller (brother of one of the most esteemed of the host of Past Masters belonging to this most influential Lodge), and Mr. Haclord, a gentleman connected



with the university, into the mysteries of the Order. At the conclusion of this portion of the ceremonies Bro. Gulley vacated the chair, his year of office having expired; when, on the motion of the Rev. Bro. Ward of St. John's College, Deputy Prov. G.M., and one of the Grand Chaplains of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England, Bro. Baxter, P.M., was called to preside over the Lodge: Bro. Baxter on taking his seat informed the Brethren that it was from time immemorial an established custom among Masons for each Lodge at a stated period once in every twelve months to select from among themselves a skilled Craftsman, who had filled the office of Warden in a regular Lodge, to preside over them in the capacity of Master for the ensuing twelve months, and as he understood the members of the Lodge had chosen such a Brother, he was at once prepared to confer upon him the benefit of installation. The immediate P.M., Bro. Gulley, then presented the S.W., Bro. Westmoreland, Fellow of Jesus College to the acting W.M. as the choice of the Lodge, whereupon that brother was installed by Bro. Baxter into the chair of King Solomon, in a style of excellence well worthy of imitation. At the conclusion of this interesting ceremony the newly elected Master made the following disposition of the offices of the Lodge for the ensuing twelve months:—Bro. Percival, of Trinity Hall, *LL.D.*, S.W.; Bro. C. W. Naidler, J.W.; Bro. C. J. Jones, P.M., Treasurer; Bro. H. Smith, Secretary; Bro. Beales, S.D.; Br. C. Claydon, J.D.; Bro. Cresp, P.M., Steward; Bro. Bentley, P.M., Dir.Cers.; Bro. T. F. Fowler, I.G.; and Bros. J. and T. Collier, Tylers. After the appointment and investiture of the officers, the Lodge was closed down in the three degrees, and declared adjourned until the second Monday in February, emergency excepted.

#### CHEESHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, January 19th, Zetland (782), Monk's Ferry Hotel, Birkenhead, at 4; Thursday 20th, Unity (334), Macclesfield Arms, Macclesfield, at 7; Industry (465), Norfolk Arms, Hyde, at 7; Combermere (880), Seacombe Hotel, Seacombe, at 5.

#### CORNWALL.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, January 17th, Phoenix of Honour and Prudence (415), Masonic Rooms, Truro, at 7; Wednesday, 19th, Cornubian (959), Crotch's Hotel, Hayle, at 7; Peace and Harmony (728), Dunn's Hotel, St. Austel, at 6.

#### DERBYSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Monday, January 17th, Devonshire (905), Norfolk Arms, Glossop, at 7.

#### DEVONSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodge*.—Tuesday, January 18th, Charity (270), King's Arms Hotel, Plymouth, at 7. *Chapter*.—Bedford (351), Private Rooms, Tavistock at 7.

#### DORSETSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Wednesday, January 19th, Amity (No. 160), Private Room, Poole, at 7½.

BRIDPORT.—*St. Mary's Lodge* (No. 1,009).—The members of this Lodge held their annual meeting on Dec. 27. In the absence of the W.M., the Brethren requested Bro. Collard, P.M., 168 (and also an honorary member of this Lodge), to undertake the duties of the chair, and were afterwards pleased to express their gratification at the impressive manner with which he initiated a candidate into the mysteries of the Craft, in which ceremony he was well supported by the officers—Bros. Cosens, S.W.; Manley, J.W.; Dunham, S.D.; Hounsell, J.D. At the banquet which followed, harmony and good fellowship were the characteristic features of the evening.

#### DURHAM.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Monday, January 17th, Borough (614), Grey Horse, Gateshead, at 7.

#### GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Monday, January 17th, Cottesswold (862), Ram Hotel, Cirencester, at 6½.

CHELTEMHAM.—*Royal Union Lodge* (No. 307).—On Wednesday, the 5th inst. the festival of St. John the Evangelist was celebrated by this Lodge, at the Masonic Hall, Cheltenham. The Lodge was opened by Bro. Williams, W.M., and immediately after the confirmation of the minutes of the last Lodge, the W.M. elect, Bro. Shiver, Prov. Grand Purs., Gloucestershire, was installed in the ancient form by Bro. Bennett, P.M., Nos. 349 and 779, P. Prov. G.S.W., Worcestershire. The ceremony was performed in a manner that elicited the warmest approbation of all the Brethren present. The W.M. then took the chair, and proceeded to appoint the following officers:—Bro. Power, S.W.; Bro. Tovey, J.W.; Bro. Wallace, Treasurer; Bro. Potter, Secretary; Bro. Ward, S.D.; Bro. Trimmer, J.D.; Bro. Hodge, I.G.; Bro. Wiggins, Tyler. It was proposed by Bro. Alex, seconded by Bro. Power, and carried unanimously, that a Warden's jewel be presented by the Lodge to Bro. Shipton, as a mark of respect from the Brethren, prior to his projected departure from the neighbourhood. On the conclusion of the business of the Lodge, the Brethren adjourned to the banqueting hall, where a most sumptuous banquet was provided by Bro. Phillips. The chair was taken by the W.M., supported on his right by the installing Master, Bro. Bennett; the Rev. George Roberts, Prov. G. Chap. of Monmouthshire; Bro. Collins, W.M., No. 7, P.M., No. 420, and Past Prov. G.R., Wilts; and Bro. Humphrey, No. 408; and on his left by Bro. Brandon, P.M., Past Prov. G.J.W., Gloucestershire; and Bro. J. Brook Smith, P.M., Past Prov. G.S.W., Gloucestershire. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been given, the W.M. proposed "The health of the Visiting Brethren," coupling therewith the name of the Rev. George Roberts, to which that gentleman responded in an able speech, in which he alluded in eloquent terms to the satisfactory progress made by Masonry during the last few years in the provinces of Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, and South Wales. Several songs of a high character enlivened the evening, the festivities of which were prolonged until a late hour, when the Brethren separated with those warm feelings of brotherly love and amity, which such meetings are so well calculated to promote. We may add that the names of two gentlemen were proposed as candidates for admission into this ancient Order, and we congratulate the W.M. on the prospect which his year of office in this flourishing Lodge presents to him.

#### HAMPSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, January 19th, Royal Sussex (428), Freemasons' Hall, Portsea, at 7; Thursday, 20th, Southampton (355), Freemasons' Hall, Southampton, at 7. *Chapter*.—Wednesday, 19th, Economy (90), Black Swan, Winchester, at 7.

#### HERTFORDSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Tuesday, January 18th, Hertford (571), Shire Hall, Hertford, at 4.

BERKHAMSTEAD.—*Berkhamstead Lodge* (No. 742).—There was a good attendance of the brethren on Wednesday, January 5th, at the King's Arms Hotel, it being the installation festival. Bro. John Webber, W.M.; Bro. T. J. Barringer as S.W.; Bro. J. How as J.W. The minutes of the previous Lodge were read and confirmed, and the finances showed a healthy aspect. Bros. Butcher, Gurdon, Hart, and Stevenson, were raised to the third degree. The Lodge having been resumed in the second degree, Bro. F. M. Shugar, the W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. Rev. F. B. Harvey, P.M., and duly installed by Bro. Henry Isaacs. The W.M. having been proclaimed, appointed and invested as his officers, Bro. T. S. Barringer, S.W.; Bro. H. G. Lane, J.W.; Bro. C. H. Law, Sec.; Bro. James Burton, S.D.; Bro. H. Norman, J.D.; and Bro. Shearnan, I.G.; Bro. John Lane, Treas., and Bro. Thomas, Tyler, were also invested. The business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to banquet. Bro. John Sedgwick, Prov. G. Sec.; Bro. C. Davey, Prov. G.S.D.; Bro. J. How, Prov. G.D.C.; Bro. H. Garrod, No. 11, and Bro. Quellhorst, were visitors. The Prov. G.M. has been pleased to confer on Bro. Henry Isaacs the office of Prov. G. Organist.

#### KENT.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, January 17th, Lodge of Freedom (91), and Sympathy (709), Town Hall, Gravesend, at 5½; Wednesday, January 19th, Royal Naval (621), Royal Hotel, Ramsgate, at 7; Friday, 21st, Union (149), King's Head, Margate, at 7.

## LANCASHIRE (EAST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, January 19th, Limestone Rock (481), Brownlow Arms, Clithero, at 7; St. John's (268), Commercial Hotel, Bolton, at 6½; Faith (817), New Inn, Openshaw, at 7; Friday, 21st, Virtue (177), Masonic Rooms, Manchester, at 6. *Mark*.—Faith (T.L.), Openshaw, at 3. *Encampment*.—Friday, 21st, St. George, Angel, Oldham, at 7.

## LANCASHIRE (WEST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Tuesday, January 18th, Sefton (980), Queen's Hotel, Waterloo, at 6; Thursday, 20th, Ancient Union (245), Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 6; Friday, 21st, Mariners (310). *Instruction*.—Ditto, at 7. *Chapter*.—Monday, 17th, Jerusalem (35), Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, at 4; Wednesday, 19th, Unity and Perseverance.

GARSTON.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 267).—This Lodge held a meeting at the Wellington Hotel, on Monday, Jan. 3rd, 1859, the W.M., Bro. Holme, initiated Messrs. Hewit and Wm. Woods into the mysteries of the Order. Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M., passed Bros. Wrenn, Gaskell, Morrison, and John Woods to the second degree. After voting two pounds out of the poor box to the widow of a Mason, the Brethren retired to the new banqueting room, and spent a happy evening. Visitors.—Bros. Allender, Atcherley, Walter, and Greaves, from Lodge No. 368; Venton, No. 980; Rothwell, No. 3, Kingston, Canada, with about thirty of the members of the Lodge.

LIVERPOOL.—*Mariners' Lodge* (No. 310).—This Lodge met at the Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool, on Thursday, January 6th, Bros. Pepper, P.M., as W.M.; Lester, S.W.; Banister, P.M., as J.W.; Swift, S.D.; Harrison, S.D. Bro. James Hamer, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., passed Bro. Josh. Thompson to the Fellow Craft degree. Four gentlemen were proposed for initiation and two as joining members. There were present, Bros. Wylie, Prov. G. Sec.; Edwards, Prov. G. Reg.; Maddox, Prov. S.G.W., and a fair attendance of the Brethren, members of the Lodge, and visitors. The business finished; the Brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent a very agreeable hour.

## INSTRUCTION.

The Lodge of Instruction, under the sanction of this Lodge, met on Friday, Jan. 7th, 1859, at the Temple, Hope-street. At the last meeting it was arranged that Bro. Pepper, P.M., should write to Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, inviting him to become patron of the Lodge, and honorary member. Bro. Pepper read a letter from his Lordship, in which he accepts the invitation, and considers that Lodges of Instruction are the best means of preserving that uniformity of working which is so desirable. Bro. Phillips was elected to the chair, and opened and closed in the three degrees. Bros. Pepper, P.M.; Banister, P.M.; Caldwell, Green, and May, worked the sections in the first degree, Bro. Caldwell putting the questions. This Lodge meets regularly on the first and third Friday in each month, and is appreciated by the Brethren of West Lancashire.

## LEICESTERSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Wednesday, January 19th, John of Gaunt (766), Three Crowns, Leicester, at 7.

## LINCOLNSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Wednesday, January 19th, Lindsey (1014), Public Buildings, Louth, at 6.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge* (No. 693).—On St. John's day, Dec. 27th, the members of this Lodge dined at the Westgate Hotel, according to annual custom. Bro. W. Pickford, W.M., presided, and there were thirty-six Brethren present. A long list of toasts was provided for the evening, which were pleasingly given, and done full honour to. The following are the officers for the year:—Bros. Wm. Pickford, W.M.; Joseph E. Davies, S.W.; Wyndham Jones, Treas.; Rev. H. W. Steel, S.D.; T. G. Harder and G. W. Jones, Stewards; G. Pfeiffer, Org.; Charles Lyne, P.M.; Thomas Beynon, J.W.; William Williams, Sec.; J. G. Huxtable, J.D.; H. L. Williams, I.G.; William McFee, Tyler.

## NORFOLK.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Monday, January 17th, Faithful (100), Exchange Rooms, Harleston, at 7.

NORWICH.—*Union Lodge* (No. 60).—The monthly meeting of this influential Lodge was held on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at the Norfolk Hotel, Norwich. Bro. Leeds Fox, Prov. G. Sec., presided as W.M., supported by the officers of the Lodge, Bros. Smith, S.W.; Scarby, J.W.; and the following Brethren:—Sir Henry Stracey, Bart., Provincial S.G. Warden; the Rev. S. Titlow, Provincial Grand Chaplain; Cresswell, Prov. G. Reg., and several visiting Brothers from the province were present. The minutes of the last Lodge were read and confirmed by the Brethren in the usual manner. The business of the evening was for the installation of Bro. Captain and Adjutant Smith, Prov. G.S.D., to be W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Fox in a most admirable manner, and listened to by the Brethren present with extreme pleasure. The newly installed Master appointed the following as his officers:—Bros. Scarby, S.W.; Biguold, J.W.; Lound, Sec.; Boulton, S.D.; Stevens, J.D.; Back, I.G.; and Wills, Tyler. The Lodge being closed, the Brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Forster. The usual toasts were given with great zest, and Bro. Sir Henry Stracey (who is highly popular in the Craft), on his health being proposed returned thanks in a speech imbued with genuine Masonic feeling. Bro. Fox, on returning thanks for his health being drunk, stated that the Craft in the province had increased more than threefold during the period the present Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Bond Cabbell, had been in office, and bore testimony to the increased popularity of Freemasonry since that appointment. His advice to the members present, which he tendered as Grand Secretary of the province, was given in the most eloquent manner, and elicited the highest expressions of admiration; and, after a most agreeable evening had been spent, the Brethren adjourned at an early hour, highly pleased with the entertainment.

## NORTHUMBERLAND.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Friday, January 21st, De Lorraine (793), Freemasons' Hall, Newcastle, at 7. *Mark*.—Newcastle and Berwick (T.I.), Freemasons' Hall, Newcastle, at 7.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Monday, January 17th, Fidelity (No. 662), Talbot Hotel, Towcester, at 6.

## OXFORDSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, January 17th, Chorwell (873), Red Lion, Banbury, at 7; Alfred (325), Masonic Hall, Oxford, at 7.

## PEMBROKESHIRE.

PEMBROKE.—*Loyal Welsh Lodge* (No. 525).—The anniversary of St. John was duly honoured by the members of this Lodge on the 27th ult., dining together in the large room at the Victoria Hotel, Pembroke Dock. The installation of the W.M. Bro. Thomas Harris, took place at four o'clock, and after he had appointed the following as his officers for the ensuing year, Bro. the Rev. G. F. Kelly, A.M., Chaplain; Bros. Bull, S.W.; Spitt, J.G.W.; Sutton, S.D.; Richardson, J.D.; Phillips, Secretary—the Treasurer, Bro. Cook, and the Tyler, Bro. Chappel, having been elected at the last Lodge—the Lodge was called off from labour to refreshment, and at seven o'clock sat down to as sumptuous an entertainment as ever was prepared for a similar occasion. The cloth being removed, the W.M. in appropriate addresses proposed "The M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland," "The R.W.D.G.M. Lord Pannure," "The R.W. Prov. Grand Master and Prov. G. Officers." Bro. Thomas, the senior P.M. of the Lodge and Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., rose and said; "Worshipful Sir and Brethren, as the only Provincial Grand Officer present, I rise in the name and on the behalf of our highly esteemed Provincial Grand Master and his officers, to thank you for the compliment you have paid them, and I shall not fail to inform them of it the very first time I meet them in Provincial Grand

Lodge. The poet sang that "there is a tide in the affairs of man, which, taken at the flood leads on to fortune." Now, if by the term fortune—and the Latin word *fortuna* will well bear such a construction—he meant to imply the acquirement of moral happiness as well as pecuniary advantages, I fully agree with him, and I think I took mine at the flood ;—and it must have been a spring tide from its rapid and extensive development, when as a poor candidate I first sought the light of Freemasonry ; for, from the time the words 'God said let there be light, and there was light,' I acquired a degree of personal happiness

'Which nothing earthly gives or can destroy  
The soul's calm sunshine and the heartfelt joy.'

Yes Brethren ; and such happiness is scarcely to be met with but in a Mason's Lodge, for after combating with the storms of life, battling with its prejudices and wrestling with its oppositions, where can such a calm be found as in a Mason's Lodge ? There at least, you are sure of sympathy ; there at least, you meet with brotherly love, relief, and truth ; there at least, faith, hope, and charity await us, and there we are sure of the balm of consolation being poured upon our bruised and broken spirit. Yes, and the signs there enacted are lasting, they are indelibly impressed upon the tablets of our memories as on those of stone or brass. For instance, do you think I can ever forget the pleasure I derived when I was presented with this P.M.'s jewel (pointing to a handsome one on his left breast), by my mother Lodge—the Haverford Lodge, at Haverfordwest, which, when I tell you it was numbered 79 on the register of the Grand Lodge, will be a sufficient guarantee for its antiquity. I say, do you suppose I can ever forget that scene. Never ! Again, after founding the Melford Lodge and having been installed its first Past Master (by special permission, though I had never then filled the Master's chair,) and witnessed the consummation of my utmost wishes in its opening, its public procession, and its sumptuous banquet ; I say, do you suppose I could ever forget my sensations on that occasion ? Never ! So when I had succeeded in establishing this Lodge, (only one of the original petitioners, Bro. Chapel, besides myself, being now subscribing members,) and worked it for some years, I was presented with this handsome medal (holding up one suspended from his neck), bearing the inscription that it was "Presented as a mark of esteem and regard for my attainments in Masonic love, and able conduct in the chair." I say, do you suppose I can ever forget the joy I experienced at that event. Never ! So when you have so kindly and so often pledged the wine cup to my health, this, the last, being by no means the least pleasing of the many, and for which I sincerely thank you, I say, is it to be supposed I can ever forget those happy events. Never ! No, my Brethren, they will all travel life's pilgrimage with me, and be forgotten only at the brink of the grave. Now, the younger members present may naturally be led to inquire how I obtained such honours and such compliments. In reply I would say, by strict attention to the principles of Freemasonry and a regular attendance at the Lodge ; yes, my junior Brethren, and these points I would strongly urge upon your attention, for, though Masonry should never interfere with your customary avocations, yet you should never allow the trivial excuses of the latter to interfere with the former ; bear this in mind, I pray you, and now, before I sit down let me propose a toast to your notice. You have to-day installed your new Master, and as he was elected by a majority, it becomes the duty of every member to render him their best support and assistance. His majority, it is true, was but small, and its smallness shows the equality with which each candidate was esteemed ; yet, to that majority all must bow, and which I trust they will do in the true spirit of Freemasonry, for which the royal art has ever been conspicuous. Bro. Harries expresses his sense of obligation for the assistance I have rendered him in conducting the business of the day : he is welcome to it,—heartily welcome, and I assure you, so would the other candidate have been had he been successful. I presided on the occasion of the election, and from the result of the ballot, I had it in my power to return whichever party I pleased. I did not do so, because, as I told you at the commencement, the two candidates were so equally respected by me that I should not vote at all ; and secondly, because, as the majority seemed in favour of Bro. Harries I would not interfere with their wishes this year, but reserve

my assistance in his favour until the next election, when, no doubt he will be similarly returned, and may depend upon every aid it is in my power to afford him. The health I have to propose is that of the Worshipful Master, who I trust will leave the chair with the same respect he has entered upon its duties." Brother Harries expressed his warmest thanks, pledged himself to conduct the duties of the chair impartially and to the best of his abilities, begged the kind indulgence of the Brethren, and concluded by proposing the health of Bro. Bennett and the Wardens and other officers of the past year. Bro. Gillies acknowledged the toast. The Worshipful Master then gave "Bro. Stanley and the visitors." Bro. Stanley in reply said, that he had ever been fond of Freemasonry, that he had long wished to attend this Lodge, but had unfortunately been prevented doing so on former St. John's days, by pressing engagements, but having at length been able to do so, he was, he confessed, highly delighted at the efficiency in which its business was conducted, and concluded by thanking the Lodge for the courtesy it had shown him. Bro. Harries then gave "The health of Bro. McLean, and the P.M.s. of the Lodge," the chorus to which being "Auld Lang Syne;" Bro. McLean instantly rose and said, "Worshipful Master and Brethren, had I risen earlier, and before the notes of that fine old chorus had died away on my ear, I should have been more eloquent in feeling, if not in words. There is a rich flowing measure and deep pathos in the air and words of 'Auld Lang Syne' which seldom fail to kindle the warmest emotions in the heart of every true Scotchman, and especially if he be at a distance from Scotland. 'Should auld acquaintance be forgot'—carries him in memory back to days gone by—to the happy reminiscences of early life—all endeared by the lapse of time and the distance it seems to have placed between them. But not only with the sons of the north is 'Auld Lang Syne' a favourite—it is a favourite with men of every land, and wherever the festive board is, there 'We'll take a cup o' kindness yet' is acceptable and welcome as were the wild strains of that dashing nothing-may-care air—'The Campbells are coming,' when they fell first on the intensely listening ears of our noble countrywomen and brave countrymen—the heroes and heroines at Lucknow. So much, Brethren, for a chorus. Let me now sincerely thank you, on my own behalf, and on that of my brother Past Masters, for the honour you have done us in drinking to our healths, and for the cordial manner in which you have done it. As Masons we receive the honour as sincerely bestowed, and as Masons we sincerely thank you. Our worthy and esteemed Brother Thomas, P.M., in responding, as Prov. Grand Master of the Ceremonies, to the toasts of 'The Prov. Grand Master and the Prov. Grand Officers,' happily related several pleasing incident which were associated with his long Masonic career, all of which prove how highly he is respected by the Craft, and how ready Masons are to acknowledge Masonic worth, and to confer 'honour where honour is due.' Masonic jewels and other marks of esteem have been from time to time presented to him, and did the spirit and laws of Masonry not forbid 'all envy,' such favours might well become objects of envy. They are, however, laudable objects of ambition; and let me remind the younger Brethren, that the path to them in every Lodge is open to all. Bear this in mind; and permit me further to remind you, that just a proportion as you abide by the 'ancient landmarks' and laws of Masonry, so will you be good Masons, good men, and good members of society—be esteemed and respected by the neutral world as well as by Brother Masons. There is everything, if rightly attended to in Masonry, to make men better in all the relations of life. Its laws, lessons and obligations, its spirit, principles and precepts, all enjoin and encourage a blameless propriety of conduct, and stimulate to the practice of all social and moral virtues. Remember, a good man may be a bad Mason; but a good Mason cannot be a bad man." The next toast was the new members, namely, Bros. the Rev. G. F. Kelly, Dr. Mansel, Dr. Dyer, and Capt. Maycock. Bro. Mansel briefly returned thanks. The healths of Bros. Husband and Chevallier, followed, and the evening was spent altogether in the most delightful manner imaginable, the true spirit of Freemasonry pervading the whole scene, and never did the Loyal Welsh Lodge appear to greater advantage. Among other Brethren present were Bros. Hutchings, P.M., Jenkins, Gillies, Cargil, Husband, and all the recently initiated Brethren.

## SOMERSETSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, January 19th, Sincerity (327), Clarke's Hotel, Taunton, at 7 *Chapter*.—Royal Cumberland (45), Masonic Hall, Bath, at 8 *Encampment*.—Bladud, Masonic Hall, Bath, at 8.

BATH.—*Royal Cumberland Lodge* (No. 48).—The first regular meeting of this Lodge took place on Thursday evening, the 6th instant, at the Masonic Hall, Bath, under the presidency of Bro. T. P. Asuley, W.M., (2nd year), and Prov. J.G.W. for Somerset. There was a large attendance of brethren and visitors. The ballot having been taken for one brother as a joining member, and another for initiation, the W.M. declared all offices vacant, and appointed the following Brethren his officers for the year:—Bro. T. Wilton, S.W.; Bro. T. B. Moutrie, J.W.; Bro. C. Haseler, P.M., Treasurer; Bro. White, P.M., Secretary; Bro. Peach, P.M., and Prov. S.G.W. for Somerset, Dir. of Cers.; Bro. F. Wilkinson, S.D.; Bro. S. Hellier, J.D.; Bro. F. George, I.G.; Bros. J. Rubie and G. Mann, Stewards; and Bro. H. Hopkins, unanimously re-elected Tyler. The W.M. addressed the Brethren in a short review of the past year, and thanked the P.Ms., who had rendered him much valuable assistance during that time, and also those Officers who had supported him by their punctual attendance to their duties. Amongst the visitors present were Bro. Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M., Hants; Bro. R. Costa, No. 329; Bro. C. Milsom, W.M., 61, and several others.

TAUNTON.—*Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity* (No. 327).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 22nd ult., under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. William Burge Hillard, P. Prov. G. Reg. The business of the evening consisted chiefly of raising Bro. Helliar to the third degree, which was undertaken, at the request of the W.M., by the Secretary of the Lodge, Bro. Butler, P.M., and performed by him in his usual correct and truly Masonic manner. Bro. Rd. Roger's was afterwards passed to the second degree. The Brethren, having proceeded to the election of their W.M. for the ensuing year, their suffrages were unanimously given to the J.W., Bro. Charles Bluett, P. Prov. G. Org. for Somerset (the S.W., Bro. Roberts, having, for private reasons, declined the honour which would otherwise doubtless have fallen on him.) Bro. Charles Lake was, for the seventeenth time, re-elected Treasurer for the ensuing year. The business over, the Brethren spent a most agreeable and harmonious evening. The celebration of the festival of St. John, by the Brethren of this Lodge, took place on Thursday, the 30th Dec. The Lodge was opened at high twelve by the W.M., Bro. Hillard, when there was punctually in attendance a large number of the members, as well as of visiting Brethren from other Lodges. The D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Randolph, in the absence of the Prov. G.M., Bro. Tynte (who, we regret to learn, was prevented from being present, as contemplated, by a domestic affliction), did the Lodge the honour of being present, and, on his entrance into the Lodge was received with due honours. Upon the solicitation of the W.M., the D. Prov. G.M. kindly undertook the duties of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. Charles Bluett, into the chair of this Lodge, in the presence of, and assisted by, a large board of installed Masters; and, to such of our readers as may ever have been privileged to have been present when that ceremony has been performed by him, we need scarcely add that it was correctly and beautifully done. The new W.M., then appointed the following Brethren as his officers:—Brothers Abraham (an old and valued P.M., who kindly consented to accept the office), S.W.; Clarke, J.W.; Meyler, S.D.; Denham, J.D.; Summerhayes, Org.; Ball, Dir. of Cers.; Kingcombe, I.G.; and Goldsmith and Woollen, Stewards. Bro. Lake was reinvested as Treasurer; and Bro. Butler again honoured with the Secretary's collar. At five o'clock the Brethren sat down to a most sumptuous banquet, at Clarke's Hotel, a fine haunch of venison having been kindly supplied from Halswell Park, by the R.W. the Prov. G.M., Col. Tynte; thus proving that although unable to be present with the Brethren at the banquet, he had not forgotten them. The cloth being removed, and grace having been said by the Rev. Bro. Codrington, W.M. of Lodge of Perpetual Friendship, Bridgwater (who, together with Bro. Babbage, the newly appointed Prov. G. Sec., and Bros. Rix and Leaker, P.Ms., did this Lodge the honour of attending), the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded

to, and a most delightful evening was spent, the Brethren breaking up about eleven o'clock, but not until the last toast of "All Poor and Distressed Masons," &c., had been given and responded to by the Brethren with that truly Masonic feeling which they know so well how to appreciate.

#### STAFFORDSHIRE.

**APPOINTMENTS.—Lodges.**—Tuesday, January 18th, Abbey (907), Private Rooms, Burton-on-Trent, at 6½; Wednesday, 19th, Sutherland (660), Town Hall, Burslem, at 6; Thursday, 20th, St. Martin's (115), Freemasons' Arms, Burslem, at 6; Friday, 21st, Noah's Ark (435), Navigation Inn, Tipton, at 7; Sutherland of Unity (674), Castle Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme, at 7.

#### SUFFOLK.

**APPOINTMENTS.—Lodges.**—Monday, January 17th, Providence (544), King's Arms, Halesworth, at 7; Tuesday, 18th, Apollo (383), White Lion Hotel, Beccles, at 7; Wednesday, 19th, Perfect Friendship (522), White Horse, Ipswich, at 7.

#### SUSSEX.

**1st APPOINTMENT.—Lodge.**—Friday, January, 21st, Royal Clarence (338), Old Ship Hotel; Brighton. Installation.

**BRIGHTON.—Royal York Lodge** (No. 394).—The annual meeting for the installation of the Master was held at the Old Ship Hotel, on Tuesday, January 4th, when the R.W. Bro. the Earl of Yarborough (who is a member of the Lodge), had signified his intention of being present. There was a full attendance of the brethren. Bro. Woolven, W.M., presided, and initiated two gentlemen into the Order. The installation was then about to be proceeded with, when the worthy Senior Warden, who had been, at the previous Lodge, unanimously elected to fill the chair, declined the office. The announcement appeared to be quite unexpected, and efforts were made to induce him to alter his resolve, but without success. Bro. Woolven therefore remains, for the present, W.M. The brethren at seven o'clock adjourned to the banquet, at which forty were present; Bro. Woolven, presiding, having on his right the noble Earl and Bro. Cordy Burroughs, the mayor of Brighton. The W.M., in proposing the D.G.M. and rest of the Grand officers, especially noticed the Earl of Yarborough, whose kindness the Lodge had to acknowledge on that as well as on previous occasions, in his attendance; considering the few visits his lordship was now enabled to make to Masonic meetings, they could not but consider it a high privilege. Lord Yarborough, in a brief reply said, it gave him much pleasure to be present among his brethren of the Royal York Lodge, and he could only repeat what he had before promised, that it was but needful to show him in what way he could be useful, to have his ready compliance with their wishes. The earl then proposed the health of the W.M., whom he complimented on his excellent conduct in the chair. Bro. Cordy Burroughs proposed the Past Masters, upon whom the wellbeing of the Lodge must necessarily depend. There were several visitors present, and amongst them Bro. D. Starr, of the Canongate Kilwinning Lodge. The dinner was excellent.

#### WALES (NORTH.)

##### CONSECRATION OF THE LODGE OF ST. TUDNO, AT LLANDUDNO.

This auspicious event took place at the Queen's Hotel, on Monday, the 20th ult., under the most encouraging circumstances. The inauguration of the Lodge, and the installation of the W.M., Bro. W. H. Reece, were assisted by the R.W. the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Dymoke; the Prov. G. Sec., Bro. Wigan; Martin, and several Brethren from the St. David's Lodge, Bangor; Bro. Bassett Smith, and Bro. Weiss, from Birmingham, &c., &c. In the course of the evening, several candidates were admitted into Masonry; and at the close of their labours, the Brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet. The W.M., Bro. Reece, presided. After the cloth was drawn,

The chairman rose, and gave "The Queen and the Craft."

The chairman said—The next toast I shall propose, is one also interesting to Masons, and particularly on the present occasion, as our Lodge is constituted and



this day opened in the principality of Wales. I propose "The health of the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the royal family." The prince, it is well known, is being educated in a way to fit him to adorn the throne he is, we hope, at a far distant day, to occupy; and we may fairly hope that he will not only join the Masonic Order, but identify himself with the Lodges of his province.

The chairman gave "The health of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Masons of England, the Earl of Zetland;" "The R.W.D.G.M., Lord Panmure, and the Grand Lodge," and observed that it was well for the Craft that it was presided over by such a Grand Master, who had its interests so much at heart.

The chairman then said, "The toast I have now the honour to propose, is that of "The Prov. Grand Master, the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge of North Wales and Shropshire." It is always gratifying to Masons, when those high in office, the rulers in the Craft, come amongst them. We have the happiness of being in one of the most important provinces in the kingdom, and of being presided over by men of acknowledged skill and ability in Masonry; and I am glad of this opportunity to say that I have never in the course of a long experience in Masonry, met with more courtesy than I have in the formation of this Lodge, and particularly from the R.W.D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Dymoke, and the Prov. G. Sec., Bro. Wigan; and I believe I may say that the prosperity of the Craft in this province is much to be attributed to the kindness and condescension of the Prov. Grand Master and his officers.

Bro. Dymoke replied that he had the greatest pleasure in being present among them, and in assisting in the important proceedings of that day. From the admirable manner in which the work had been performed by all the officers, he augured well for the new Lodge; and from the character of those he saw about him, the result must be the establishment of an excellent substantial addition to the province.

Bro. Wigan also tendered his thanks for the compliment paid him.

The R.W.D. Prov. G.M. then rose and said the honour of proposing the next toast devolved on him. It was that of the W.M., Bro. Reece. He said nothing could exceed his gratification at the manner in which he had performed his duties that day; and he was sure that under such an excellent Master the Lodge must thrive. He concluded a high eulogy of the W.M., by calling upon the brethren to drink the toast of his health, and prosperity to the Lodge of St. Tudno.

The W.M. replied—Right Worshipful sir, I thank you for the honour done to me in proposing my health, and the brethren for receiving the toast so enthusiastically. It is always a source of gratification to all good Masons to be present and aid in the opening of a new Lodge, inasmuch as they know that through it the blessings and privileges of Freemasonry will become extended and diffused, and many may be brought to the light who otherwise would not have had the opportunity. The present occasion is peculiarly gratifying to me, inasmuch as I have the honour of being the first Master of this Lodge; and that gratification is enhanced because, as is well known I believe, I have taken a lively interest in Llandudno and its institutions. I suggested the formation of this Lodge in connexion with Bro. Roden and other worthy and skilful Masons, because I thought it would conduce to the happiness of all who might join its ranks. My own conviction of the value of Masonry I have so often and so unequivocally expressed, as to make it unnecessary for me to dilate on its excellencies. I always, however, refer to the fact that so frequently occurs, namely, that of fathers introducing their sons into Masonry, as the best practical argument to be used with those who would endeavour to prejudice it; and particularly to circumstances which have occurred in Lodge No. 51, of which I have had the honour of being a Past Master for fifteen years, namely, that two highly respected brothers have successively introduced two sons each to the Lodge. Before I sit down, it gives me much pleasure to introduce "The health of the worthy and respected Secretary, Bro. Roden, as the Installing Master." It gives me peculiar pleasure to have the opportunity of doing so, inasmuch as he has been mainly instrumental in the formation of this Lodge, and has devoted much time and labour in doing so. I am perhaps the better able to speak to the Masonic qualifications of Bro. Roden, inasmuch as he joined, some years since, the Lodge of which I was a member. I have since observed his progress in Masonry with much interest, and can safely say I have never known a more earnest and energetic Mason, nor one

who more thoroughly appreciates and practises the principles of the Craft. And I can assure you that his conduct, both as a man and a Mason, has been most highly approved and appreciated by the brethren in Birmingham.

Brother Roden, in returning thanks said, the Brethren had done him very great honour in the flattering manner in which they had responded to the toast, and he felt greatly obliged to Bro. Reece for the very handsome terms in which he had alluded to the part he had taken in the establishment of the Lodge. He had experienced great pleasure in the labour he had undertaken; and for the future his poor services would be at their disposal for the benefit of the Lodge. Nothing, however, had given him greater satisfaction, than having that day had the privilege of installing his old and valued friend, and Brother P.M. in another Lodge, into the chair of the Lodge of St. Tudno; and from foundations laid that evening, he had no doubt they should raise a superstructure perfect in all its parts. He had to acknowledge the valuable co-operation of the other members, especially of their zealous and efficient S.W. Bro. Preece. He considered it a well established fact that the opening of a new Lodge was something more than a mere addition of a Lodge to the general strength of the Order; that it tended more particularly to the strengthening and developing of Freemasonry in the district in which it took place, and led to the formation in the course of time to other Lodges, where they might be desirable, in neighbouring portions of the provinces. He hoped to live to see the time when they would be so strong on this remote side of the province, as to lead to their being formed into an independent province. He should direct his labours to that end. In his opinion the province of North Wales and Shropshire was too extensive for the welfare of any part of it to be properly promoted, and that it would be better for the whole, that it should be divided, so soon as they were in a position for such a change. The attendance at Provincial Grand Lodge meetings could not be expected to be such as it ought to be, when Brethren have to travel from Carnarvon and Holyhead to Ludlow. The warmth and nurture which should emanate from the Provincial Grand Lodge could not penetrate such a straggling body, and animation could not reach its extremities. In conclusion, he entertained no doubt of its beneficial effects of their proceedings that day.

Bro. Bassott Smith proposed in an eloquent speech, to which it is impossible to do justice, "The Wardens and other Officers of the Lodge." He wished to impress upon them that it was the manner in which what are called the inferior offices were worked, which gave the stamp to a Mason's career, and that the Brother who discharged the duties of the lowest office in the Lodge with skill and ability, created for himself from that moment a character which endured through the whole of his Masonic life. His own fame and all the honours he had reaped, sprung out of the manner in which he had done the work of Junior Deacon.

Bro. Preece, S.W. ; Bro. Felton, S.D. ; Bro. Farrant, J.D. ; and Bro. Roden, Sec. and Treas., returned thanks.

Bro. Roden proposed "The Visiting Brethren." The Brethren from Birmingham had rendered valuable assistance by their presence that day, and he wished to thank the St. David's Lodge, Bangor, for their brotherly co-operation. Bro. Martin in particular had responded with the greatest good will to every request he had made for his help. He desired also to tender his thanks to the R.W. D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Dymoke, for the great courtesy with which he had conducted his correspondence with him, and the promptitude with which he had done everything which devolved upon him by virtue of his office.

The Brethren of St. David's Lodge having been compelled to leave, the R.W. Bro. Dymock, and Bros. Smith and Weiss, returned thanks.

The W.M. then gave "The newly initiated Brethren," and complimented them on their admission to Masonry.

Bro. Chapman responded to the toast, and said he was much gratified by the proceedings in which he had taken part, and was confident he should never regret the step he had taken in becoming a Mason.

Bro. Felton then proposed "The Donors to the Lodge," with thanks to Miss Mariana Reece, the daughter of the W.M., for her valuable and elegant present of a cushion for the Master's pedestal, evidently worked by her own hands ; to Bro. Westmacott, for the Bible ; and to Bro. Fairfax, for a silver square and compasses

Other presents were talked of, but he made it a point never to thank any body for what he had not got.

Bro. Reece returned thanks on behalf of his daughter, who he knew took a great interest in the Lodge. He could assure them she had worked very hard to finish the cushion in time for them.

The W.M. proposed "*The Birmingham Lodges, and the Lodges of the province of Shropshire and North Wales,*" which was replied to by the Brethren present.

The toast of "*The Ladies,*" was next proposed by Bro. Basset Smith, in a speech distinguished by his customary eloquence, and was replied to with great humour by Bro. Perks.

The proceedings were brought to a close by the usual toast, "*All Poor and Distressed Masons,*" &c.; a handsome sum being contributed to the charitable fund of the Lodge.

#### WARWICKSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodge*.—Wednesday, January 19th, Abbey (625), Newdegate Arms, Nuneaton, at 7. *Mark*.—Monday, 17th, Howe (T. I.), Nowhall Street, Birmingham, at 6.

#### WILTSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Tuesday, January 18th, Concord (915), Court Hall, Trowbridge, at 7; Thursday, 20th, Fidelity (961), Town Hall, Devizes, at 7.

#### WORCESTERSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, January 19th, Worcester (349), Bell Hotel, Worcester, at 6½; Vernon (819), Old Town Hall, Dudley, at 7. *Chapter*.—Dudley (313), Freemasons' Tavern, Dudley, at 3.

WORCESTER.—*Worcester Lodge* (No. 349).—The members of this old-established and prosperous Lodge celebrated the festival of St. John, on Thursday, the 30th of December last, at the Masonic Hall attached to the Bell Hotel, Worcester, under the excellent presidency of the W.M., Bro. John Barber, M.A. Lodge was opened at 4 o'clock, and, after the transaction of a little business, the Brethren were called to banquet at five, when about thirty obeyed the summons. Among the members were the R.W.Prov. G.M., Bro. H. C. Vernon; Bros. W. Wood, C. C. W. Griffiths, R. R. Hill, and H. Hill, P.Ms.; Rev. Bro. Franklin, Chaplain; A. W. Hill, P. Prov. G.C.; A. Hill, and Slater; Bros. S. Purchas, S.W.; M. M. B. Cooper, J.W.; R. Woof, S.D.; J. Jones, W.M., No. 772; T. Hopkins, P.M., No. 772; W. Haigh, G. G. Byrne, E. W. Elmslie, W. D. Lingham, &c. The entertainment was on that handsome scale, which usually distinguishes this Lodge, and apparently gave the most perfect satisfaction. The next meeting of the Lodge will be on Thursday, the 20th inst.

KIDDERMINSTER.—*Lodge Hope and Charity* (No. 523).—The Brethren of this Lodge held the annual festival of St. John the Evangelist, and the installation of W.M., on Monday, Dec. 27th, 1858, when Bro. Thos. Porter, S.W., was duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, by Bro. James Fitzgerald, P.M., and Secretary, and Prov. Grand Organist, according to ancient custom. The W.M. then appointed his officers as follows:—Bro. Alfred Cranger, P.M., S.W.; Bro. G. Southall, P.M., J.W.; Bro. J. Green, S.D.; Bro. G. J. Yeates, J.D.; Bro. Jos. Walters, I.G. Bro. G. Southall, P.M., was unanimously elected Treasurer, and Bro. S. Taylor, Tyler. The banquet was provided in Bro. J. Yeates's best style, and the Brethren spent a most harmonious evening. Among the visitors was Bro. J. Barfoot, of No. 400, Helston.

#### YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, January 17th, Union (287), Masonic Hall, York, at 7; Tuesday, 15th, Camolodunum (958), Freemasons' Hall, New Malton, at 7. *Chapter*.—Thursday, 21st, Constitutional (371), Assembly Rooms, Beverley, at 8.

#### YORKSHIRE (WEST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Thursday, January 20th, Harmony (874), Freemasons' Hall, Bradford, at 7; Harmony (342), Masonic Hall, Huddersfield, at 7; Friday, 21st, Zetland (877), Royal

Hotel, Cleckheaton, at 7; Holme Valley (937), Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth, at 7; Alfred (394).  
*Instruction*.—Griffin Hotel, Leeds, at 8.

DONCASTER.—*St. George's Lodge* (298).—A Lodge of emergency was held on Friday last, in the Town Hall, Doncaster, for the purpose of passing to the second degree, Bro. the Rev. Joseph Shervington, curate of Campsall near this town, who is about to take his departure for the island of Antigua. The usual tests having been applied, and the candidate having given proofs of proficiency in the former degree, the ceremony of passing to the second degree was performed by Bro. George Brooke, P.M., as W.M. Bro. Webb, P.M., acted as S.W.; Bro. Rigby, J.W.; and Bro. Acaster, S.D. After the ceremony, the reverend brother received from the Lodge a certificate duly signed, so as to entitle him to the third degree on his arrival in Antigua, for which he expects to sail in the latter part of the present month.

## SCOTLAND.

### CAITHNESS.

TAIN.—*St. Dulcie's Lodge*.—At a meeting on Monday, Dec. 27th, the following appointments were made:—Bros. Wm. H. Murray of Geanies, R.W.M.; Daniel Graham, D.M.; Fergus Ferguson, P.D.M.; Alex. Ellison, S.W.; Thomas Flint, J.W.; William Murray, S.D.; D. Mackay, J.D.; John Rose, S.S.; George Macdonald, J.S.; Hector Ross, S.K.K.; Wm. Ross, J.K.K.; W. R. Ross, Treasurer; James Christie, Secretary; David Macleay and D. Mackay, Tylers.

### EDINBURGH.

DEFENSIVE BAND (No. 151).—On Tuesday, Dec. 21st, a soirée was held in the Calton Convening Rooms, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Defensive Band Lodge, for the purpose of presenting Bro. James Finlayson, R.W.M. of the Lodge, with a Masonic jewel and silver cup, as a token of their respect and esteem for his unwearied attention in advancing the interests of Freemasonry during the three years he had held the office of Master of the Lodge. The hall, which was tastefully fitted up for the occasion, was crowded in every part, there not being less than three hundred persons present, including the ladies and the Right Worshipful Masters of sister Lodges. The splendid band of the 16th Lancers was in attendance, with a glee and choral party led by Bros. Pendrigh and Artley. The chairman, Bro. John McClumpha, D.M., after the customary loyal and Masonic toasts, gave the toast of the evening, "Bro. James Finlayson," and in an able address enlarged upon the services rendered by their honoured guest to Masonry, and referred to the high esteem in which he was held by the members of the Craft. He concluded by presenting him with a valuable Masonic jewel, and a silver cup, having the city arms on the one side, and on the reverse the following inscription:—"4th November, 1782.—Presented by the Brethren of the Edinburgh Defensive Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, No. 151, to their Right Worshipful Master, Brother James Finlayson,—21st December, 1858." Bro. Finlayson, who was evidently much affected, acknowledged the gift in a feeling and appropriate address, and resumed his seat amid the most enthusiastic cheering. Bro. Daniel Grant then gave "The Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the City of Edinburgh." In an elaborate speech he detailed the early history of the Lodge and of the Edinburgh Defensive Band Regiment of Volunteers, which was raised by the lord provost, magistrates, and council of the city of Edinburgh, for the protection of the city during the first American war. The magistrates had always taken a warm interest in this Lodge. Provost Coulter was one of its early members, and held the office of Treasurer for two years; and the magistrates had on

this occasion kindly granted the use of the die of the city for the two impressions which are stamped on the testimonials presented to Bro. Finlayson. A variety of toasts were afterwards given, and a pleasant evening brought to a happy termination.

**ST. JOHN'S DAY.**—The annual festival of our patron saint has this year been held with, we think, greater spirit by the Brethren of Edinburgh, than we ever remember having seen it before, the attendance at all the Lodges, with one exception, being far above the average. Masonry has within the last twelve months taken rapid strides within this province, aided no doubt by the building of the new Grand Lodge Hall, and the immense demonstration at the laying of its foundation stone in June last. The election of R.W.M. in some of the Lodges has been well contested—one Lodge having no fewer than six candidates for the chair, and three for Secretary. Mary's Chapel, No. 1, has elected for the fifth time R.W. Bro. Dr. Macowan, who sticks to his chair like a leech against all opposition. R.W. Bro. Drybrough was re-elected for Canongate, Kilwinning, No. 2. A smart contest took place for the Chair of No. 5, which has been gained by a very young member of the Craft, R.W. Bro. Duncan. In the Journeymen Lodge, R.W. Bro. Hunter is deservedly re-elected. The St. David's retain the able services of R.W. Bro. Downie. In St. Luke's Bro. Paterson, of Castle Huntly, has gained the election. In St. Stephen's R.W. Bro. Mitchell is again elected. St. James's have, out of their six candidates, elected R.W. Bro. James Leggat, and from the numerous attendance of his Brethren around him on Monday night, and the large deputations, and individual members of Lodges who visited him, we should say his election is greeted with satisfaction by all the Brethren of Edinburgh. Bro. Coghill has lost his seat in the Roman Eagle, and is succeeded by R.W. Bro. Dr. Middleton. The Defensive Band have elected R.W. Bro. Laing to the chair. The Celtic Lodge have unanimously and deservedly raised Bro. Cowan to be the R.W.M. of this, the most flourishing Lodge in Edinburgh, and, though last on the roll, not least, Bro. Mann succeeds R.W. Bro. Crichton in the Lodge St. Clair. The number of initiates for the past year may be safely estimated as averaging sixty for each of the twelve Lodges, which will give a total of seven hundred and twenty new members to the Craft in this province. The funds of the several Lodges are in a prosperous condition, notwithstanding the heavy expenses they have incurred for the different festivals throughout the year. The Celtic Lodges have already contributed £50 to the Building Fund, and we trust the other Lodges will not be behind them in contributing largely to so desirable an object as the new Freemasons' Hall, which, as far as it has gone, promises to be very remunerative to the Edinburgh Brethren. One of the splendid shops in front has been built for Bros. John Law and Son, the well-known Masonic jewellers, who enter upon their lease on the 2nd of February. The Hall itself is expected to be inaugurated on the 7th of February, but we are afraid the lodge and committee rooms will not be ready by that date. We trust, however, the Grand Secretary's and Grand Clerk's offices will then be finished. This is in every way satisfactory, and we heartily congratulate the Brethren of the Craft in Edinburgh upon the completion of their past Masonic season.

#### FIFE.

**GRIEF.**—*St. Michael's Lodge.*—On the evening of Dec. 27th, the annual general meeting of the members was held within their Hall. The Treasurer read the report of the income and expenditure for the past year, from which it appeared that the society was in the most flourishing condition. The following Brethren were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year, besides a Committee of Management:—Dr. Wm. Baxter, R.W.M.; John Gibson, D.M.; William Thompson, Sub.M.; William Hally, Senior Warden; Robert Clement, Junior Warden; George McCulloch, Treasurer; David Dinnie, Secretary; Robert Whyte, Chaplain; Andrew Morgan and James Anderson, Grand Stewards; John Gould, Representative Member in Grand Lodge; John M'Ara, Tyler and Brothering-master; Dr. Baxter, Representative Member in Parochial Board. After the business was transacted, the Brethren partook of a most sumptuous supper. Bro. Dr. Baxter occupied the chair, supported right and left by the Treasurer and Grand Steward. Bros. William Thompson and Swauston Drysdale discharged the duties of croupiers, supported

by the Secretary, Grand Steward, and the Senior and Junior Wardens. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed and responded to.

#### GLASGOW.

**ST. JOHN'S LODGE.**—The 801st anniversary of this Lodge, the most ancient in the city, was held on the 27th December, winter St. John's Day, in the Tontine Hotel. Shortly after five o'clock the members met for the purpose of installing the R.W. Master and office-bearers who had been elected to serve during the ensuing year. At the conclusion of this interesting ceremony they adjourned to the great hall, where, after they had taken their places, deputations were received from the Lodges Glasgow Kilwinning, No. 4; Glasgow St. Mungo, No. 27; Kirkintilloch Kilwinning St. John's, No. 28; Glasgow St. Mark, No. 102; Glasgow Star, No. 219; Shamrock and Thistle; Glasgow Commercial, No. 360; and St. Clair, No. 362. There were also present visiting Brethren from other Lodges, who vied with one another in showing the great esteem in which the St. John's was held throughout the province and west country. It may not be amiss for us to give a few sentences regarding its history, which we extract from a sketch of the Lodge—drawn up by Bro. James Cruikshank, builder, lately R.W.M. The St. John's hold a charter from Malcolm III., King of Scotland, of date 1057. This charter has been carefully handed down from generation to generation, and is still in their possession, and, although a little defaced, is in a tolerable state of preservation. It is believed to be a genuine charter; and along with it they have a translation of the original, which shows that the Lodge and Incorporation of Masons was constituted on the petition of the operative masons of Glasgow, for the purpose of building the cathedral, for keeping out unskilled workmen who had come to work there, and also for putting down irregular Lodges got up by them. They were therefore allowed to form themselves into one incorporation, and to have a free Lodge for ever; not only so, but in the very words of the charter—"None in my dominions shall erect a Lodge until they make application to the St. John's Lodge of Glasgow." This original charter is not the only guarantee to prove their antiquity, for we find, when Bishop Joceline commenced to re-erect the cathedral in 1181 (the former having been destroyed by fire), he received from King William the Lion a charter of confirmation in favour of the Lodge. It would appear the Corporation and the Lodge, chartered at one and the same time, have gone hand in hand up till the union with the Grand Lodge in 1849. Evidence of this is given in a charter of 1628, where it is stated—John Boyd is Deacon of the incorporation and Master of the Lodge. Their excellent and venerable Secretary, Geo. Young, Esq., who has held the office of Secretary to the Lodge, and clerk to the incorporation, for nearly half a century, tells us it has been the custom during the long time he has held both offices. And we find the last Brother who held both offices at the same time was William York, Esq., in 1849. Mr. York was also Deacon-convener of the fourteen incorporated trades about the same time. It is to be regretted that the books and records of the Lodge have been lost up till the present century. The members have, however, belonging to the Lodge a very fine old oak box, beautifully carved, with the date 1684 engraved on it, and a few very old sashes, with the year 1600 marked on them—these no doubt being the dates at which they were made. About one hundred and fifty Brethren sat down to dinner, presided over by Bro. Sir Archd. Alison, Bart., R.W. Prov. G.M., who was supported by Bro. David Winton, R.W.M., St. John's; Bros. Jas. Craig of Middleton, P.M.; Jas. Cruikshank; J. G. Houstoun; Bailie McCulloch; Kerr, Edinburgh; the Rev. W. D. Henderson, Chaplain P.G.L.; Deacon-convener, Morrison; and Donald Campbell. Bro. Gavin Park, S.W., officiated as croupier, and on either side of him we observed Bros. W. Yuille, Sutherland, Morrison, Hill, Robt. Craig, and Bryce. Bro. Alex. Christie, jun., who occupied the J.W.'s chair, was supported by Bro. Wm. Forbes and Dr. Wilson. Bro. the Rev. W. D. Henderson having implored the divine blessing, the assembled Brethren sat down to an excellent dinner. After the usual loyal toasts, the chairman gave the next toast on the list, "The Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Duke of Athole," coupled with the health of Bro. Kerr, who briefly replied.

"The Grand Lodges of England and Ireland, with their respective Grand Masters," having been given from the chair, Bro. Jas. Cruikshank proposed "The health of the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Glasgow," which was responded to by Bro. Bailie McCulloch, who wished that all the town council were members of the Order, as it might tend to put an end to many of the petty squabbles which occasionally took place. The Chairman then rose, and craved a special bumper for the toast he was about to give. It was one which would be responded to in the most cordial manner, not only by this assembly of Brethren, but by all in Scotland; for there was no name of which this nation had so much reason to be proud, nor one which had become so immortal throughout the length and breadth of Caledonia. He alluded to Bro. Robert Burns. They now saw a whole people prostrating themselves before the throne of his genius, preparations being made in every city, every town, nay, in every parish, to celebrate his nativity. The natives of Scotland in every part of the world intended to hold the day as a high festival, and he was sure that the words which were then to be spoken would, if that were possible, add additional lustre to Burns's already brilliant fame. There was no toast which would awaken more enthusiastic feeling in the hearts of Scotchmen than the one he had to propose. How had Burns, born a ploughman, whose inspiration was derived from the fields, the woods, the streams of his native land, gained a reputation in all countries beyond that of every other poet, but from the very fact that he was the poet and painter of nature? To us, who in this country could judge of the fidelity of his pictures, it was not surprising that his fame should be so great, for they came home to our feelings; and it was this which made all Scotland so enthusiastic in their praises of Burns. There was no Scotchman to be found in all the vast extent of Queen Victoria's dominions who did not recollect the poetry of Burns, and there were few under whose pillow a copy of his works was not found. During the war in India, he (the chairman) had been assured that there were many copies of them discovered in the knapsacks of the private soldiers and Laversacks of the officers, while not a few remembered his national hymn, "*Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled*," when engaged in combat with the insurgent sepoys. There was one point in connexion with Burns which he would briefly mention before sitting down, and that was that there was no man who, more than their repented Brother, had added dignity to the spirit of Freemasonry. The fact had been mentioned to him since he came into that room, that the signs of the Order were to be found on the pyramids of Egypt and the bricks of Nineveh. Masons had for long been accustomed to think that their Order could be traced only as far back as Solomon's Temple, but it now appeared that it showed back to the times of Pharaoh, nay, even to those when Nineveh rose from the slime left by the deluge; and those marks which were inscribed by the Masons of bygone days on their buildings were put by Burns on the Bible which he gave to Highland Mary; but when he did that he wrote them on a monument more durable than the pyramids of Egypt or the palaces of Nineveh. In conclusion, he had only to request that in drinking this toast they would do so with the customary solemn silence. The spirit of Burns still lived—it was immortal—and he accordingly hoped that the Brethren would drink it in the true Masonic style. The toast was drunk in solemn silence, the band afterwards playing "A man's a man for a' that," amidst much cheering. "The Trades' House, and other charitable institutions of the city," was next given, and replied to by Bro. Deacon Convener Morrison. The chairman again rose, and in proposing the next toast said that he saw from the card that this was the 501st anniversary of this Lodge, which was celebrated for its great antiquity and high respectability—but even that number of years was as nothing compared with the age of Freemasonry itself, as they had discovered from the ancient monuments he had already mentioned. They could with truth say that the institution was one which had survived all the changes of years, and alone, of all other founded by man, had outlived the wreck of time, coming down unaltered to the present day. There was something in this which pointed to its having inhaled a portion of the divine element into its composition, when they found that Masonry was now as full of life, and possessed the same constitution as it did in the earlier ages of the world's history. St. John's was one of the oldest Lodges in this country, and had contributed in no small degree to keep up th

high standing which Freemasonry had attained. He would therefore call upon them to drink prosperity to it in flowing bumpers. Bro. D. Winton, R.W.M., replied, after which, various appropriate toasts were given. The Bros. Adams were in attendance, and in the course of the proceedings played appropriate musical selections in a style which added greatly to the harmony of the meeting. The Christy Minstrels were present during the latter part of the evening, and enlivened the Brethren with some of their beautiful songs, choruses, &c. Bro. Stembridge Ray also sang some of his fine melodies, as well as others of the Brethren.

#### PERTHSHIRE.

**DUNBLANE.—Ancient Lodge.**—The Brethren met in the Hall of Bro. Dewar Burden's hotel, on Monday, Dec. 27th, to celebrate the annual festival of St. John. The office-bearers elected were—Bros. John Stirling of Kippendavie, R.W.M.; Jas Stirling of Holme Hill, D.M.; Alexander Young of Keir Mains, Sub. M.; Alexander Scott, Sheriff-Clerk, P.M.; Thomas Fotheringham, S.W.; Wm. Guthrie, J.W.; Thomas Barty, Secretary, &c. Bro. Stirling of Kippendavie, always anxious to promote the interests of the Lodge, resolved to revive the ancient custom of a procession by torch light, a custom which in times gone by was always popular with the inhabitants and much enjoyed by all, but especially by the younger Brethren; and judging from the interest manifested on this occasion, the feeling now is nowise changed from what it was in "days o' lang syne." The streets were literally crowded, and the windows were occupied by fair and joyous faces, contrasting strangely with the grave, serious, and even solemn aspect of the "sons of light," which, combined with the slow music and strong gleam of the torches in a pitch dark night, was something quite out of the way in these matter-of-fact days. Altogether we do not recollect of ever seeing this ancient city present such an animated appearance as it did that evening. The Brethren of the Lodge, after the procession, sat down to a sumptuous repast in the hotel. The proceedings throughout reflected much credit upon all taking part in them, and were conducted with the most gratifying fellowship.

#### RENFREWSHIRE.

**AUCHTERARDER.**—On St. John's Day, a meeting of the Freemasons was held within their Hall here. The office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year, as follows:—Bros. George Hally, R.W.M.—Josiah Smitton, Depute; Alexander Rintoul, Substitute; Peter Anderson, Senior Warden; Patrick Smitton, Junior Warden; James Smitton, Treasurer; 1st Key Keeper, Peter Malcolm; 2nd Robert Winton; George Mailer, Chaplain; William Miller, Secretary; Alexander Wilson and James Grant, Stewards; John Moir, Tyler; John Moir, Robert Winton, Lodge Letters. Committee—Alex. Reid, John McEwan, John Sinclair, John McDonald, Peter Malcolm, junior; David Martin. After the meeting a few Brethren sat down to dinner in the Hall, and the evening was spent in an agreeable manner.

#### STIRLINGSHIRE.

**STIRLING.—Ancient Stirling Lodge (No. 30).**—The Brethren of this most ancient Lodge met in their Lodge room, on St. John's day, for the purpose of installing the various office bearers for the ensuing year. Bro. Adam Dyson, who has now been elected for the third successive year to the office of R.W.M., was duly installed and placed into the chair. The R.W.M. then installed into office the other various office bearers, who were, Bro. Serjeant-Major McMillan, D.M.; Bro. David Bell, S.W.; Bro. D. Kilpatrick, J.W.; Bro. Wm. McLea, Sec.; Bro. Wm. McRobert, Treas.; Bro. P. Gardner, S.D.; Bro. Geo. Dunbar, J.D.; Bro. Alex. Herd, I.G.; Bro. Thomas Robertson, Tyler, and Bro. Wm. Belfrage, Edinburgh, Proxy Master. After an impressive address from the R.W.M., the Lodge was duly closed, and the Brethren adjourned to a most sumptuous banquet.



## IRELAND.

## COUNTY DOWN.

ST. JOHN'S DAY IN CASTLEWILLAN.—The above Masonic festival was celebrated by the Brethren of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 142, on Tuesday evening, Dec. 28th, in their Lodge room, when Bro. Dr. Chambers, W.M. and Prov. J.G.D., South Down, assisted by Bro. Herron, P.M., duly installed Bro. Hillyard as W.M. The newly elected Master then proceeded to install Bro. John M'Knight, S.W.; Bro. David Gibson, J.W.; Bro. James Hanna, S.D.; Bro. John Russell, J.D.; Bro. Thomas Ferguson, I.G.; Bro. Alex. Smith, Org.; and Bro. Andrew Kilpatrick, Secretary. After some business was transacted, the Lodge was closed in ample form. The Brethren then sat down to a banquet provided by Bro. Herron in his usual style. To which ample justice having been done, the usual loyal toasts were given from the chair; and the healths of the newly installed Officers having been received with enthusiasm, the Brethren separated at an early hour, more convinced than ever of the love, peace, and harmony pervading the fraternity.

## CANADA.

## ROYAL ARCH.

TORONTO.—*St. John's Chapter* (No. 75, S.R.).—The regular annual communication of this Chapter took place at Toronto, on 23rd September last, when the following office bearers were elected, viz.: M.E. Comps. Wm. Hay, M.E.Z.; A. De Grassi, H.; J. Jukes, J.; Hugh Millar, P.Z.; Wm. Gaylor, Proxy. Z.; Thos. Gundry, Scribe E.; Thos. Ellison, Scribe N.; P. T. Hill, Treas.; G. Smith, 1st Soj.; A. F. Scott, 2nd Soj.; Archd. McKinnon, 3rd Soj.; Jas. Foreman, Janitor. The office bearers were subsequently duly installed by M.E. Comps. T. D. Harrington, F. Richardson, G. B. Wyllie and Hugh Millar. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—1. Proposed by M.E. Comp. Hay, seconded by M.E. Comp. Wyllie, "That Most Excellent Comp. Wm. Gaylor, Grand Scribe E. of the Supreme Grand R.A. Chapter of Scotland, be requested to act as our representative in the Supreme Grand Chapter for the ensuing year, and that the thanks of this convocation are due and are hereby tendered to Comp. Gaylor for various important services rendered to this Chapter, by which its efficiency has been greatly promoted." 2. Moved by Comp. Hay, seconded by Comp. De Grassi, "That having heard read a letter from R.A. Comp. Tully, inviting this Chapter to join a body denominated 'The Grand Chapter of Canada,' it is hereby resolved, 'That whereas this Chapter cannot be transferred to another jurisdiction, unless in direct violation of solemn obligations on the part of the office bearers and members thereof, and whereas the existence of the various Lodges and councils in connection with Saint John's Chapter, No. 75, S.R., depends on the allegiance of that Chapter to the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, it is the duty of the Companions to maintain and uphold in its fullest integrity, the present connection between this Chapter and its supreme head in Scotland.'" 3. Moved by Comp. Gundry, seconded by Comp. McKinnon, "That the Secretary be instructed to forward a copy of the foregoing resolution to Comp. Tully, with a respectful acknowledgment of his letter." After the business of the assembly was over, the company retired to the refreshment room, where an excellent banquet awaited them.

## INDIA.

## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF BENGAL.

A SPECIAL meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal and its territories was held at the Freemason's Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 29th October, when there were present the R. W. Bros. John J. L. Hoff, D. Prov. G.M. as Prov. G.M.; Samuel Smith, P. Prov. G.M.; Henry Howe, P.D. Prov. G.M.; William Clark, Prov. S.G.W.; John B. Roberts, Prov. J.G.W.; William J. Judge, P. Prov. J.G.W.; V.W. Bros. John Gray, Prov. G.R. and Offg. Prov. G.S.; Michael S. Staunton, P. Prov. G.R.; the W. Bros. Charles F. Tommerro, Prov. J.G.D. as Prov. S.G.D.; Alexander H. Loddie, Prov. G.S. as Prov. J.G.D.; Thomas Jones, Prov. G. Sup. of W.; Henry Fraser, P. Prov. G. Sup. of W.; George O. Wray, Prov. G.P. as Prov. G.D. of C.; John Parry, Prov. G.S. as Prov. G.S.B.; Louis A. Emanuel, P. Prov. G.O. as Prov. G.O.; Joseph K. Hamilton, Prov. G.S. as Prov. G.P.; the Provincial Grand Stewards, and Representatives of Lodges, No. 80, No. 265, No. 282, No. 551, No. 715, and No. 740.

The District Grand Lodge was opened in form.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master stated that this meeting had been called for the purpose of receiving an important communication from the Provincial Grand Master, which he would now read for the information of the District Grand Lodge, and as the report of this evening's proceedings would be printed and circulated immediately, the same information would also be conveyed, generally, throughout the province. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master then read the Provincial Grand Master's letter, as follows:—

"To the Provincial Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, and Members of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal.

"DEAR BRETHREN,—As I shall not have the opportunity of meeting you again in Grand Lodge, I adopt this means of announcing to you, with deep regret, that the state of my health renders my immediate return to Europe absolutely necessary.

"It is not my intention to resign my office, at present; but as going beyond the limits of my province, and, as provided in Art. 10, p. 47 of the Book of Constitutions, I hereby appoint the Deputy Provincial Grand Master the R.W. Bro. John Jacob Louis Hoff, Past Junior Grand Warden of England, to execute all the functions of my Office, in my name; and for this purpose, I hereby invest him, under my hand and seal, with all the requisite powers, during my pleasure.

"Should it be determined that I am not to return to India, I shall, of course, tender my resignation of the office of Provincial Grand Master, to the M.W. the Grand Master in England. As, however, such an event is more than probable, I would recommend that you should, in the interim, nominate a Brother to be my successor; and forward your nomination, for submission to the M.W. the Grand Master. The supervision of this large province is very important: I trust, therefore, that you will give the nomination of a head to rule over it your serious consideration. I need hardly add, that, on taking my seat in the Grand Lodge of England, as P.Prov.G.M. of Bengal, I shall watch over the interests of this province; which, as having spent in it many happy years of my life, shall ever be cherished in my memory with the most kindly recollection. As your representative in England, my services may be freely commanded by the Provincial Grand Master and District Grand Lodge of Bengal.

"I thank you for the support and kindness I have experienced from yourselves, and from the Craft generally; and bidding you all an affectionate farewell, I remain, dear Brethren,

"Yours fraternally and affectionately,

"JAMES RAMSAY, Prov. G.M.

"Calcutta, October 22nd, 1858."

R. W. Bro. Smith, P. Prov. G.M., then rose and addressed the District Grand Lodge, as follows:—

"Brethren,—In reference to the letter which you have just heard read from our R.W. Prov. G.M., you will, I am sure, be all desirous to express the regret we feel, that failing health should render such a communication to this Lodge necessary.

"You will, I think, also join heartily in expressing the sentiments of respect and esteem we entertain for our departing Prov. G.M. I therefore propose—

"That this District Grand Lodge do express and record its deep regret that a necessity should exist for the immediate departure from India of our respected Prov. G.M., and our sorrow at the cause which renders that departure imperative.

"That this District Grand Lodge, in its collective capacity, recognizes with deep feelings of affectionate gratitude, the dignified and impartial manner in which our R.W. Prov. G.M. has, for a period of upwards of five years, administered the duties of his high office; the Masonic social feeling which has characterized his communications with the Craft generally; and the urbanity of his manner towards all Brethren who have had occasion individually to seek advice at his hands personally.

"That these resolutions be recorded in the proceedings of the District Grand Lodge, and that a copy thereof be forwarded, with a suitable letter, to the R.W. the Prov. G.M. of Bengal, Lieut.-Col. James Ramsay."

The above propositions having been seconded by R.W. Bro. Judge, P. Prov. J.G.W., were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

The D. Prov. G.M., with reference to the arrangement made by the Pr. v. G.M. for the conduct of business during his absence from India, expressed his hope that (though this would not be the first time that the executive duties of this province would devolve upon him) during the short time that he would rule over the District Grand Lodge, he would meet with its support.

The District Grand Lodge was then closed in form.

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## THE WEEK.

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THE festivities usual at this period of the year are not omitted at Windsor. Her Majesty has had several dinner and evening parties during the week. The whole of the royal family are in the enjoyment of good health. There have been numerous visitors at the castle. The Prince of Wales has started on a tour on the continent for some months; he will then go to Rome, where he will reside for some time to enable him to study the antiquities and objects of classical and artistic interest. He will travel *incognito*, and be accompanied by his governor, equerry in waiting, chaplain, and doctor. The Queen of Spain has conferred the Order of the Golden Fleece on the Prince of Wales. Prince Alfred would sail from Malta, it was expected, on the 30th ult., for Tunis, and, after visiting the principal Mediterranean ports, return to England, preparatory to undertaking the circumnavigation of the globe.—In Paris there has been an extraordinary panic at the Bourse, in consequence of a rumour of something said by the Emperor to M. de Hubner on New Year's day, from which it is inferred that the relations between France and Austria are in a very critical state. Some have suggested a similitude between that incident and the famous interview between the First Consul and Lord Whitworth in 1803, just previous to the rupture of the peace of Amiens. In the *Constitutionnel*, however, we find what purports to be the exact text of the words employed by the Emperor to M. Hubner, namely:—"I regret that our relations with your government are not so good as they were, but I request you to tell the Emperor that my personal feelings for him are not changed." A Paris correspondent writes:—"The impression that we are on the eve of a general war gains ground immensely. A few days ago it was said—and said truly—in a Belgian journal, that war was not believed in except in barracks. That exception had, perhaps, far more importance than

was generally attributed to it. I can now assure you beyond a doubt, that whatever turn events may subsequently take, the French 'army of Italy' is at this moment ready to march 'on paper.' Whatever may be the intentions of the Emperor, he disclaims any warlike intentions for the present. The *Moniteur* of Friday has the following:—"For some days public opinion has been agitated by alarming reports, to which it is the duty of the government to put an end, in declaring that nothing in our diplomatic affairs authorises the fears which these rumours tend to create." The government has also spoken on the question of the slave-trade. At the reception at the Tuileries on New Year's-day, Prince Napoleon announced that the imperial government was ready to abandon the existing system of immigration, provided Great Britain would frankly undertake to assist France in obtaining coolies from the English possessions for her colonies.—People at Vienna are no less persuaded of an approaching war than at Paris. At Vienna they think the recent occurrences in Serbia were brought about through the instigation of France, with a view to compromise Austria. It has been reported at Vienna that a conspiracy has been discovered at Cracow, and that forty persons had been arrested, some of whom were Russian agents. A well informed correspondent at Milan, says the Austrians seem bewildered, and are taking measures never heard of before, and which some think perfectly absurd. In 1848 you would meet scores of people that upheld Austria's good right and her virtuous intentions, but you would not find now half a dozen in the whole Lombardo-Venetian kingdom. Every one is now convinced that if the Austrians were only once out of Italy, the King of Naples, the Pope, and all the petty princes of the peninsula would soon change their tone, and that a lasting peace might then become a possibility. No one dreams of a republic; no one hints at socialism. What Italians desire is, to have Italy governed rationally by native princes and native laws.—The King of Sardinia opened the Chambers on Monday last. In his speech he remarked that the political horizon was not clear—that the future must be awaited with firmness—that the policy of Piedmont was based on justice and liberty, and that though Piedmont was small, she was great in the councils of Europe. "It respects treaties," says the King, "but it is not insensible to Italy's cry of anguish." That is to say, circumstances may induce the Sardinian government to pay no attention to treaties. "Let us resolutely await the decrees of Providence," said the king in concluding his speech. No doubt can be entertained that he spoke words of fire, and the legislature which heard them is said to have cried, "Long live the King," in acclamations that were prolonged. The war feeling is very strong in Sardinia. Either there is to be war between France and Austria, or Napoleon III. is duping the Sardinian government, or that government has taken leave of its senses. It is quite evident to everybody at Turin, that the government desires war, means war, and is confident that war is at hand. The ministerial party, the intimate friends and daily companions of the ministers, make no secret of it.—The petition of the Servian National Assembly that the Sultan will be pleased to instal Prince Milosch as hereditary prince of Servia, is already on its way to Constantinople. Milosch has arrived at Cernitz, in Wallachia, and there met the deputation sent to offer him the crown. He has accepted it for himself, and not for his son Michael. The Porte does not require that Prince Alexander should be restored.—Mr. Gladstone has sent home his report from the Ionian Islands, and expects instructions before the opening of the Ionian parliament. If England refuses her consent to the union of the Ionian Republic with Greece, the representatives of the people will communicate the wish of the nation to the powers which signed the Paris treaty.—The Spanish government and legislature have taken great offence at the way President Buchanan alluded, in his message, to the probable purchase of Cuba. The supposition that Spain would sell Cuba is protested against as offensive. A resolution proposed to the cortes in support of this declaration was agreed to. The Spanish government has been informed officially that complete satisfaction has been granted to Spain for the exactions of which the Spaniards had been the victims at Tampico, in conformity with the demands of the authorities of Cuba.—The immense majority of the electors just chosen in Moldavia for exercising the trust of electing the

Hospodar, are conservatives in the Austro-Turkish sense; and, consequently, Michel Stourdza, the candidate of that party for the Hospodariate, has the greatest chance to become the future ruler.—Lord Stratford has left Naples for Rome. His long visit has been solely in consequence of Lady Stratford's weak state of health. He has not meddled with politics. The Grand-Duke Constantine has left the Sardinian territories for Palermo. The King of Naples is said to have flatly refused the request to erect a coaling station at Brindisi, on the ground that Russia is in friendship with Piedmont.—Everything connected with the Turkish treasury is more or less complicated with wrong. A strange scene was lately enacted, the Sultan playing a new part. He was beset by a crowd of working people clamorous for arrears of pay, and—he was obliged to pay them! There has been vast jobbery at work with the proceeds of the late loan; the government, nevertheless, perseveres in its intention of buying up a large quantity of the paper money, although it is perplexed by the great number of forged notes in circulation.—The Arabia has arrived at Liverpool, from Halifax. A great number of petitions had been presented to congress in favour of a protective tariff. The house had refused to entertain a resolution directing the committee on foreign affairs to report a bill authorising the President to take possession of Cuba, but had referred to the same committee a bill to enable the President to enter into negotiations with Spain for the cession of that island. A strong filibustering force was being concentrated on the Colorado, to act either in Central America or Mexico. There was not much change in the position of affairs in the latter country. Zuloaga was reported to be preparing for flight, and General Marquez had been defeated by General Degollado. The differences between Spain and Mexico were said to have been arranged. There was not much change in the New York money and stock markets.—News from India is satisfactory. Lord Clyde, has rapidly executed one part of his plan, which was to clear the country between the Goomtees and the Ganges. In accomplishing this, he has beaten Bainie Madhoo, and captured Ametie and Shunkerpoor. General Grant and Brigadier Smith have both gained victories over the flying rebels, the latter leader inflicting great slaughter upon them in Bundelcund. Tantia Topce continues his wonderful flight. Beaten whenever our officers have a chance of coming up with him, he is still unsubdued, still has a force to fight and fly with. Of the death of that extraordinary and admirable man General John Jacob; it is not too much to say that his loss is a national calamity.—Letters and papers of the 16th November from Melbourne, and of the 11th from Sydney, represent a generally prosperous condition of trade and finance.—The discovery of the Indigo diggings has acted as a set-off to the collapse of Port Curtis expectations. It is prophesied of Indigo that the place will soon rival Ballarat. Ararat, Pleasant Creek, and other diggings are doing well. The electric telegraph from Sydney to Melbourne and Adelaide has been opened. The Chinese Bill has been shelved for the present. The Electoral Reform Bill was sent back to the Assembly, and has since passed through the ordeal of a consideration in committee by the latter House.—An alarming accident has occurred on the North London Railway. A passenger train came into collision with a heifer which had strayed on to the line. The train was hurled down the embankment, but fortunately no injuries more serious than contusions and bruises were sustained by any of the passengers.—A terrible accident has to be reported at the Agecroft Colliery, Pendlebury. On this occasion it was not an explosion of fire-damp, but some negligence with the machinery. The result is the violent death of seven persons—three men and four boys.—On Monday last there were no cases on the charge sheet at Guildhall; the presiding magistrate, Alderman Humphery, claimed the customary pair of white gloves.—On Saturday, John Taylor Whitworth, convicted of the murder of his sweetheart, Sally Hare, was executed at York. The criminal made a full confession of his guilt, and died apparently penitent for his atrocious wickedness.—George Gibson was again brought before Alderman Humphery, at the Guildhall, charged with being concerned with three other men in the notorious burglary at Stamford-hill, in the summer of 1856. The prisoner, it appears, was liberated on a ticket of leave the same month of the robbery (April), and it still remains

to ascertain the day of discharge, that the possibility of his being an accomplice may be established. In order to this another adjournment has taken place for a week.—A wretched woman, whose looks endorsed the plea of starvation she urged in defence, was charged before Mr. Yardley, at the Thames police-court, with stealing a table from a furniture broker's, in Whitechapel-road. The salesman had placed the article in her way, and then set himself in ambush to watch the result, which came up to his expectations. The magistrate severely rebuked this person for his conduct in so tempting the prisoner, and merely sentenced her to two days' imprisonment.—Thomas Birchmore, late the relieving officer for St. Pancras, has surrendered for further examination on the charge of embezzlement. All that was done was to take, as a preliminary step, the depositions of a few persons who had paid small sums of money on behalf of friends living in the workhouse, and which had not been accounted for.—The young woman, Annie Collyer, in custody on the charge of setting fire to the house of her master, at Wandsworth, has been re-examined. It will be remembered that previous to the total destruction of the dwelling five distinct fires were said to have broken out. Her master, an aged gentleman, attended, and said he believed her innocent; she was remanded.—Cases of forgery appear to be remarkably prevalent at the present time. No fewer than five persons were tried for this offence at the Central Criminal Court last Tuesday. In one of these cases, William Henry Cory, a clerk, pleaded guilty to two charges. He is a young man respectably connected, who had distinguished himself during the Crimean war, but has been carrying on a regular system of forgery since his return to this country. He was sentenced to six years' penal servitude.—Lieutenant Higginson was tried for his assault upon Alderman Salomons. He kept the court the whole of the day in cross-examining witnesses, and reading his own defence, but nobody but himself could see the relevancy of anything he said. Nobody, and least of all Alderman Salomons, wished to be severe with him, and so he was liberated on entering into his own recognisances, and promising to appear for judgment whenever called upon. He promised never again to interfere with Alderman Salomons.—Kochanowski, the *soi-disant* Russian noble, and his two confederates, were tried on Thursday on the charge of manufacturing forged plates of Russian promissory notes. They were convicted; Kochanowski was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude, and the others to five.—George Lelievre was tried for the manslaughter of Charles John Williams by knocking him down, whereby his leg was broken, from the effects of which he died. The prisoner assaulted the deceased, who was passing through the street, because he refused to assist in picking up prisoner's friend, who, as well as himself, was intoxicated. The jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, without hard labour.—Roper, the Greenwich corn dealer, has also been tried on a charge of arson and fraud, the theory of the prosecution being that he had set fire to his own house, thereby causing the death of two of his children, and that he had inserted in his claim on the insurance company property which he had removed before the fire. The case occupied the whole of the day. The cross-examination of several of the witnesses for the prosecution gave a turn to the evidence favourable to the prisoner. Mr. Serjeant Ballantine delivered a very forcible address on behalf of the prisoner, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.—Gloucester Gale pleaded guilty to marrying six wives, and was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.—Saturday the appeal of Mr. Curtis against the decree of the Judge Ordinary of the Court of Divorce was heard before a full court, consisting of Lord Campbell, Mr. Baron Martin, and the learned Judge Ordinary, Sir C. Cresswell. Mr. Curtis supported his own appeal; but the court, without calling on the counsel for Mrs. Curtis, dismissed the appeal, and confirmed the decree of Sir C. Cresswell of judicial separation, on the ground of cruelty by Mr. Curtis towards his wife. The court passed judgment in the case of divorce between Mr. and Mrs. Evans, on the ground of adultery, and condemned the defendant, Mr. Robinson, in costs.—Five more arrests have been made during the week in Kilkenny and Belfast. The real nature of the Phoenix Society, with its numerous branches, is coming out. Some of the objects of the confraternity are to collect money for the

defence of prisoners, and to intimidate witnesses or jurors. The evidence of two of the approvers appears to warrant the decided measures taken by the Irish executive. No doubt is left as to the existence of the Phoenix club, with its machinery of illegal oaths, drilling, and the collection and manufacture of arms.—The disputes between the London General and Saloon Omnibus companies are likely soon to reach a termination. A more amicable spirit has arisen between the representatives of each company, and it has been agreed that the question should be referred to Mr. Barstow, of the common law bar, his decision and award to be final.—The political news of the week is scanty. One of the most noticeable facts in connexion with the progress of the reform question is, that Mr. Bright is, in self-defence, obliged to decline attending any more public meetings, with the exception of one at Bradford on the 17th instant, before Parliament assembles. Ministers are all out of town, but a cabinet council was assembled on Monday last, to fix the date of the meeting of Parliament. Report speaks of Lord Derby's desire for an early opening.—The graphic description given a few days since in the columns of the *Times*, of the Field-lane Refuge for the Destitute—of the awful sufferings of the houseless poor—has deservedly created a very considerable amount of excitement among the public, and elicited a corresponding amount of material sympathy in the shape of money contributions towards the funds of the Refuge itself.—Mr. Ernest Jones has brought an action for libel against Mr. G. W. M. Reynolds. Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., has been retained on behalf of Mr. Jones; and the case is expected to come on in Hilary term.—It is said that the Government purpose to transfer the library and museum at the East India House to the British Museum.—According to the return of the registrar-general, there was not much change in the condition of the health of the metropolis in the past week. The deaths were 149½, being 48 above the average rate. The mortality from scarlatina continues at a high rate, being again fatal in 135 cases. There were 1994 births during the week.—The general business of the port of London continues inactive. The number of ships reported inward during the past week was 171, and those cleared outward amounted to 109, including 23 in ballast. Of those on the berth loading outwards, 55 are for the Australian colonies, 9 for China, 2 for San Francisco, and 2 for Vancouver's Island.—The half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of the Colonial Bank was held on Wednesday. The business of the half year has been very successful, the net profits amounting to 36,320/, which allows a dividend of four per cent. to be paid for the six months, and leaves 16,320/ to be carried to the reserve fund. This fund is consequently increased to 37,035/. The directors' report was agreed to.—The proposed dividend of the Union Bank of Australia for the past half year is at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum.—At an extraordinary meeting of the European and American Steam Shipping Company, held on Thursday, a new board was elected, consisting of the following gentlemen, namely:—Colonel Holloway, Captain Shuttleworth, and Messrs. Lambert, Saward, Donaldson, Dawson, Stebbing and Austen. It is understood that arbitration between Messrs. Croskey and Co., and the company will be recommended by the new board, as well as the cancellation of the existing agreement.

#### PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THERE is little novelty to record in the theatrical world this week. At Covent Garden and Drury Lane, the management rely upon the attractions of their Christmas entertainments, without any variation.—At the Haymarket Theatre, Miss Amy Sedgwick re-appeared on Monday in the "Love Chase."—Bro. Webster, at the Adelphi, has produced for Mr. Toole the farce of "The Birth-place of Podgers," which was originally played at the Lyceum.—"The Winter's Tale" has been again revived at Sadler's Wells, with the same classic taste as before.—At the Lyceum, "Marion de l'Orme" appears to flag a little, and a new drama is announced as in preparation.

## NOTICES.

All communications for the Editor, to ensure insertion in the next week's number, should be forwarded to the office, 2, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E. C., not later than Saturday.

Illustrated covers for the last volume of the Magazine for 1858 are now ready, price 1s.; or the volumes (containing twenty-six numbers) may be had bound price 14s. 6d., or with gilt edges 15s. 6d. Brethren can have their volumes bound at the office if they desire it, for 1s. 6d., or with gilt edges 2s. 6d.

Advertisers will oblige by forwarding their favours at the latest by 12 o'clock on Monday morning.

We shall be happy to receive essays or lectures on Masonic subjects, returning them (should they not be accepted) if desired.

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 TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"P. M." and "M. M." shall be attended to. Bro. Heynemann, of Philadelphia, United States, is about to publish as full a Masonic Directory as possible.

"A CONSTANT READER."—The border of a Masonic oilcloth should, in our opinion, be of the same colour as the centre, only indented or tessellated. The tassels to represent gold. In Scotland they make no reference to the tessellated border, but to the tasselled corners of the Lodge.

A CORRESPONDENT wishes to know who are the manufacturers of Masonic carpets.

"H. A. H."—We can see no objection to the introduction of a dirge into the ceremony in question. Indeed we should consider it rather an improvement than otherwise, if efficiently executed.