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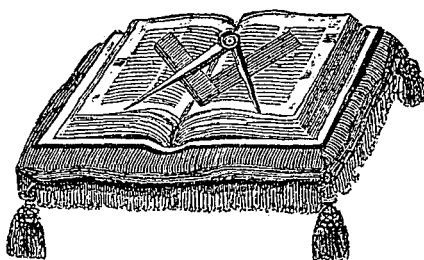
FREEMASONS MAGAZINE

AND



MASONIC MIRROR.

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ADDRESS.

IN closing the first volume of the *Freemasons' Magazine* in its present form, we cannot do otherwise than return our most grateful thanks to the brethren for the support we have received, and the favour with which the alteration has been greeted. That all should approve of the change, was not to be expected—old associations had led many to regard the octavo form as the most convenient; but those readers were probably unaware that there were mechanical difficulties connected with that form which rendered it unfitted for a weekly publication, and limited our power of bringing up the news to as late a period as we desired; whilst at the same time the book postage was so heavy as to be a great hindrance to our circulation in the colonies. These considerations determined us to make the change, and we are happy to feel that it has met with general approbation, as evidenced by our growing circulation—both at home and in the colonies.

Our career as Masonic Journalists has been from the commencement beset by difficulties—difficulties which, thanks to the kind and liberal support of our friends, are rapidly passing away; and we hope that when, at the close of 1860, we again address our readers, we shall be enabled to congratulate ourselves on the circumstance that the *Freemasons' Magazine* has become a commercial success, and confidently to look forward to receiving in the future a more solid reward of our labours than it has yet been our lot to secure.

To make the Magazine worthy of the extended support of the brethren will ever be our most earnest endeavour; and without making any promises with regard to the future, we think we may fairly refer to our present volume as a proof that we have not been wanting in our exertions to render the Magazine equal in literary excellence to its contemporaries; and whilst steadily keeping in view the main object of the Magazine—of supplying the fullest possible information on every point connected with the every day business of the Craft, we have neither lost sight of those scientific adjuncts of the Order which we are enjoined to study and disseminate; or neglected to vary our columns occasionally with articles belonging to the lighter branches of literature. This we can say without egotism—that there never was a period in the history of the Magazine when so large a staff of literary gentlemen was connected with it—each in his peculiar department aiding towards the general unity of design—the combining the Magazine and the Newspaper so as to interest the largest number of readers and render it a welcome visitor at every table.

Neither have we omitted to call into requisition the talent of the Artist; and we can fearlessly refer to the portrait of the Grand Master as a proof that we act upon the maxim—that what is worth doing at all is worthy of being done well. We hope in the future to be enabled to present to the brethren many other specimens of the Engraver's skill; whilst even the Photographer shall be called into our assistance so that we may place before our friends the very embodiment, so to speak, of some of the more distinguished members of the Craft in the very form in which they live and move and have their being.

We will not pursue the subject further, lest we should be led into suggestions which if not fulfilled might lay us open to the charge of breaking faith with our friends—but once more thank them for their kind support during the past year. We have now only to wish them most fraternally the compliments of the season, trusting that next week the first number of 1860 will be as favourably received as any of the numbers which have preceded it.

I N D E X.

	PAGE
AFRICAN LODGE, the	345
Algerian Scenery	283
AMERICA :—	
American Items	117, 158, 217
Arkansas	217, 437
California	117
Chicago—General Grand Lodge	357, 377
Connecticut	158, 159
Georgia	437
Illinois	437
Iowa	117, 217
Kentucky	437
Lake Erie—Battle Monument	357
Massachusetts	216
Missouri	217
Nebraska—Grand Lodge	298
New Hampshire	217
New Jersey—Grand Chapter	358
New York—Grand Lodge	216
—Grand Commandery	358
Ohio	159, 217, 298, 437
Oregon	437
Statistics	437
Tennessee	437
Vermont	178
Wisconsin	159, 217; Grand Lodge... 298
Washington	436
America, South—Buenos Ayres	117, 217
Ancient Symbolism Illustrated (with Engravings)	289, 330, 350, 369,
— Views of Freemasonry	88, 110
ARCHÆOLOGY :—	
Amiens, Interesting Discovery near	404
Anglo-Saxon Antiquities	365
Apethorpe Park, Interesting Discoveries in	207
Archæological and Natural Society of Somerset	183
—Exhibition at Aberdeen	225
British Archæological Society	183, 207, 224, 466
Cambrian Archæological Association	371
Curious Manuscript	346
Derbyshire, Discovery in	466
London and Middlesex Archæological Society	270, 304
Midland Counties Archæological Society	153
Rochester Castle	166
Rolfé, the late Mr.	466
Roman Villa at Carisbrooke	153, 224
Suffolk Archæological Society	304
Surrey do. do.	25
Wroxeter Excavations	207, 270
Archimedes, A Scottish	141
Architectural Chapter, Our	90, 110, 130, 481, 501
Architecture, Classical and Gothic	445
—Taste in, governed by Domestic Manners	484
—the Elaboration of Beauty from the Building Art	501
—Varying Character of English	460
Asia—Smyrna	399, 402, 448
Autobiography and Haliotics	44
Basilica Anglicana	362, 382, 403, 422, 441, 463, 482

	PAGE
Bethel Ebenezer	221
— Golgotha	282
Birth of the Steam Engine	62
Birthplace of Wellington	166
Brett, Bro., Banquet to	272
Building of the Temple	323
Cagliostro's Egyptian Masonry	41
Candour	328
City Wards	32
Christmas, Origin and Observance of	486, 502
Classical and Gothic Architecture	445
Classical Theology	61, 81, 261, 361, 421, 461
COLONIAL :—	
Antigua	177
Bahamas	36
Canada	215, 317, 416
—Grand Lodge	98, 117, 438
Cape of Good Hope	177, 215, 255
Ceylon	157
Gibraltar	215
Jamaica East—Prov. Grand Lodge	198
Mauritius	117
New Brunswick	158
New South Wales	257
New Zealand—Prov. Grand Lodge	338
St. Vincent	177
South Australia	499
Trinidad	18, 458
Victoria—Prov. Grand Lodge	36, 236, 497
CORRESPONDENCE :—	
American Brethren	51
Binckes's, Bro., Farewell	9
Blackheath Meeting of August, 1858	493
Blazon of Episcopacy, the	249
Calendar, the	151, 190, 390, 451
Craft, dissensions in the	50
Craft, the, in New Brunswick	269
English and American Masonry	771
Freemasonry and Oddfellowship	9
—in Brazil	112
—Germany	433
—Liverpool	312
—New Brunswick	269
—the Punjab	232
—not purely Secular	451
Freemasons' Halls in Ireland	312, 470
French Lodges in England	450
Funeral of late Prov. G.M. of Notts	268
German Masonic Publication	391
Governesses' Benevolent Institution	280
Grand Lodge, the, of Philadelphia	150
Grand Officers, Appointment of	176
—the	130
Inspection of Lodges	432, 450, 508
John of Gaunt Lodge and Oddfellows	10
" Justitia " and Bro. Garrod	12
Mark Master's Jewels	50, 175
Masonic Appeal	374
—Ceremonial	470
—Charity	329, 412
—Charities	31, 248, 270
—Halls	72, 312, 470, 493, 508
—Literature	31
—Missions	11, 51, 72
—Superintendence	507
Model Lodges	432, 470, 492, 508
Necessity of Visiting Lodges	308

	PAGE
CORRESPONDENCE—continued.	
Newspaper Communications	389
" Observer " Party, the	30
Oddfellowship	10
Prov. Grand Lodge of Herefordshire	329, 352
—West Yorkshire	307
—Wiltshire	175
—Lodges	32
Publication of Candidates' Names	432, 450
Purchasing a Warrant	208
Regular v. Spurious Lodges	492
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	352, 389, 451
Sherry, Bro., and the Grand Registrar	32
Spurious Masonic Lodges	391
Sunday Lodges	492
Testimonial to Bro. Charles Jones (Hobart Town)	308
Uniformity of Working	231, 507
Voting by Proxy	492
Correspondents, see " Notices."	
CRAFT MASONRY :—	
Grand Lodge	154, 176, 190, 413, 433, 441, 452
Metropolitan Lodges :—	
Beadon (No. 902)	73, 135
Belgrave (No. 1051)	376
Castle of Harmony (No. 27)	434
Confidence (No. 228)	413
Crystal Palace (No. 1044)	293
Domestic (No. 206)	214, 293, 391, 472
Eastern Star (No. 112)	309
Enoch (No. 11)	391, 494
Faith (No. 165)	353
Florence Nightingale (No. 1008)	12
Globe (No. 23)	12
Good Report (No. 158)	375, 454
Grand Stewards	391, 493
High Cross (No. 1056)	176
Industry (No. 219)	271
Joppa (No. 223)	391, 454
Jordan (No. 237)	95, 392, 434
Justice (No. 172)	509
Kent (No. 15)	494
Merchant Navy (No. 1083)	95
Moirá (No. 109)	12
Neptune (No. 22)	353
Old Concord (No. 201)	192, 293, 353, 471
Percy (No. 234)	391, 472
Phoenix (No. 202)	391, 472
Polish National (No. 778)	393, 472
Prince Frederick William (No. 1056)	12, 95, 376
Prosperity (No. 78)	52
Prudent Brethren (No. 169)	12, 292, 413
Robert Burns (No. 25)	33, 271, 375, 454
Royal Alfred (No. 1082)	74
Royal Jubilee (No. 85)	375
St. James's Union (No. 211)	53, 391
St. John's (No. 196)	38, 292
St. Luke's (No. 168)	391
St. Thomas (No. 166)	375
Strong Man (No. 53)	292, 375
Temple (No. 118)	13, 292, 353, 494
United Strength (No. 276)	376, 472
Wellington (No. 895)	214, 309, 472
Yarborough (No. 812)	33
Zetland (No. 752)	53, 393

	PAGE
<i>Metropolitan Lodges of Instruction :</i>	
Albion (No. 9)	192, 434
Confidence (No. 228)	215, 294, 434
Constitutional (No. 63)	293
Crystal Palace (No. 1044)	135, 121, 192, 271
Emulation (No. 318)	473
Enoch (No. 11)	454
Industry (No. 219)	509
Jubilee (No. 85)	354
Manchester (No. 209)	13
Merchant Navy (No. 1083)	95
Panmure (No. 1022)	33
Percy (No. 234)	413
Prince Frederick William (No. 1055)	435
Prosperity (No. 78)	473
Robert Burns (No. 25)	74, 192
Royal Alfred (No. 1082)	74, 271
Royal Jubilee (No. 85)	176
St. George's (No. 164)	454
St. James's Union (No. 211)	13
<i>Provincial Lodges :</i>	
Berks and Bucks :—	
Aylesbury (No. 861)	74, 309
Maidenhead (No. 1097)	333, 354, 475
Newbury (No. 839)	393, 475
Bristol :—	
Bristol (No. 408)	376, 435, 475
Cambridgeshire :—	
Cambridge (No. 105)	475
———— (No. 645)	475
Channel Islands :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	495
Jersey (No. 800)	13, 74, 177, 294, 334
Cheshire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	273
Birkenhead (No. 701)	309
Cumberland :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	112
Carlisle (No. 389)	14, 177
Whitehaven (No. 138)	74
Derbyshire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	275
Chesterfield, laying Foundation Stone	274
Devonshire :—	
Dartmouth (No. 1099)	336
Plymouth (No. 83)	96, 232, 336
Stonehouse (No. 224)	14, 53, 136, 309, 413
———— (No. 496)	496
Totnes (No. 1012)	53, 309, 435
Dorsetshire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	136
Lyme Regis (No. 903)	34
Durham :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	414
Gateshead (No. 56)	14, 113, 177, 276, 336
———— (No. 614)	354, 393
Hartlepool (No. 774)	509
South Shields (No. 292)	309, 414, 496
Essex :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	435, 454
Chigwell (No. 663)	137
Romford (No. 259)	354
Gloucestershire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	310
Dursley (No. 1063)	354, 444
Stroud (No. 1004)	475
Hampshire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	53, 74
Aldershot (No. 1025)	393
Basingstoke (No. 995)	276, 454
Southampton (No. 152)	77, 137, 214, 354
———— (No. 462)	436, 476
———— (No. 555)	53, 233
———— (No. 1087)	253
Winchester (No. 90)	14, 96, 192, 276, 454
Herefordshire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	310
Hertfordshire :—	
Watford (No. 580)	393
Isle of Man :—	
Peel (I.C.)	414
Kent :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	54
Ashford (No. 1011)	477, 496
Chatham (No. 20)	337

<i>Provincial Lodges—continued.</i>	PAGE
Faversham (No. 155)	337
Gravesend (No. 91)	15, 294, 436
———— (No. 709)	15, 436
Margate (No. 149)	56
Lancashire, East :—	
Ashton-under-Lyne	253
Bury (No. 50)	137, 311, 393, 477
———— (No. 226)	477
Heywood (No. 333)	477
Manchester (No. 399)	376
Radcliff Bridge (No. 430)	456
Lancashire, West :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	311
Garston (No. 267)	34, 113, 276
Liverpool (No. 245)	415
———— (No. 294)	56
———— (No. 310)	34, 56, 509
———— (No. 971)	34
———— (No. 294, Instruction)	177, 436
Roby (No. 965)	113, 214, 965
Leicestershire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	214, 233, 295
Ashby de la Zouch (No. 1081)	295, 415, 436, 477
———— (No. 215)	215
Hinckley (No. 58)	295, 394
Leicester (No. 348)	295, 394
———— (No. 760)	235, 337
———— Consecration of the New Hall	233
Lincolnshire :—	
Grimsby (No. 1094)	276
Louth (No. 1014)	496
Middlesex :—	
Uxbridge (No. 536)	394, 472
Monmouthshire :—	
Monmouth (No. 983)	456
Norfolk :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	113
Norwich (No. 110)	279
———— (No. 258)	279
Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	96
Peterborough (No. 646)	194, 295, 394, 477
Northumberland :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	394
Newcastle (No. 586)	15
———— (No. 706)	56
———— (No. 793)	337, 496
———— (Instruction)	177
North Shields (No. 624)	295
Oxfordshire :—	
Oxford (No. 425)	509
Somersetshire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	96
Crewkerne	477
Huntspill (No. 367)	57, 137, 234, 296, 436
Taunton (No. 327)	509
Yeovil (No. 412)	57, 477
Staffordshire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	137
Hamley (No. 606)	497
Stafford (No. 1028)	116, 355
Uttoxeter (No. 670)	15
Wolverhampton (No. 607)	97, 235
———— (No. 769)	34
Suffolk :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	313
Surrey :—	
Prov. Grand Lodge	34
Reigate (No. 609)	77
Sussex :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	194
Arundel (No. 64)	394
Brighton (No. 338)	15, 235
———— (No. 394)	15, 116, 296, 314, 477
———— (No. 1034)	314
Chichester (No. 45)	36, 296, 457
Wales, South :—	
Prov. Grand Lodge	139
Warwickshire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	314
Birmingham (No. 51)	497
Coventry (No. 316)	16
Warwick (No. 356)	415
Wiltshire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	154

<i>Wiltshire—continued.</i>	PAGE
Swindon (No. 453)	509
Trowbridge (No. 915)	315
Worcestershire :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	253
Dudley (No. 730)	77
———— (No. 819)	77, 156, 255, 337
———— (No. 838)	197
Kidderminster (No. 523)	16, 177, 510
Yorkshire—West Riding :—	
Provincial Grand Lodge	296
D. Prov. Grand Master on the Charities	457
Bradford (No. 379)	16
Dewsbury (No. 251)	77
Huddersfield—Laying a Foundation Stone	315
Craft, the, and the <i>Freemasons' Magazine</i>	17
———— To the	1
Craftsman's Duties, The	264
Distin, Bro.	291, 502
Εἰκὼν Βασιλική	302
———— Ελευθερία	321
———— Εκκλησιαστική	341
English Masonic Charity	133
Examination of Candidates	201
Excelsior, a Better Motto	366
Excursion very Far West	181
Extinction of a Learned Body	149
Fallacious Views of the Craft	101, 141
Family of the Guns	84
Fine Arts—Art Union of Glasgow	410
France—Grand Orient	257
———— Marseilles	257
Freemasonry, A Lady upon	447
———— and the Useful Arts	233
German Masons in the Middle Ages	384
Golden Rule, A	492
Great French Fair, A	203
Greek Art, and the Application of the Beautiful to the Useful	384
How to do good	365
Human Hand, The	26
Humour	287
Ills of Idleness	366
INDIA :—	
Bengal—Prov. Grand Lodge	37, 298
———— Prov. Grand Chapter	418
Lahore	158, 350
Instinct	69
Internal Temperature of the Earth	222
IRELAND :—	
Grand Lodge	458
Cork	18, 395
Down North	510
Dublin	255
Munster—Prov. Grand Lodge	18, 497
———— North	397
Skibbereen	317, 452
Italian Proverbs	329, 488
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR :—	
America	353
Bristol	478
Gibraltar	215
Kent—Prov. Grand Conclave	17
Lancashire—Prov. Grand Conclave	337
Liverpool	279, 510
London	17, 297
Newcastle-on-Tyne	116
———— Prov. Grand Con.	395
Plymouth	297, 510
Southampton	17, 297
Watford, Herts	57
Costume of	116
La Fontaine	365
Legality of Masonic Meetings	40
Literature, <i>see</i> Notes and Reviews.	
London Improvements	94
MARK MASONRY :—	
Lodges :—	
Birkenhead, Cheshire, Joppa (s.c.)	139, 317
Cardiff, Langley (s.c.)	477
Hartlepool, Eclectic (l.c.)	255
Hyde, Cheshire, Fidelity (l.c.)	317
Leicester, Fowke (l.c.)	279
———— Howe (l.c.)	279
London, St. Mark's (s.c.)	279
———— Thistle (l.c.)	297

MARK MASONRY—continued.	PAGE
Newcastle, Northumberland, and Berwick (L. C.)	177, 394
Stonehouse (L. C.)	297
MASONIC FESTIVITIES:—	
Bradford	478
Dudley	38
Hyde, Cheshire	339
Margate	59
Masonic Hall at Leicester (with an Engraving)	250
— at Stuttgart (with an Engraving)	90
Masonic Incident	447
— Mens	13, 33, 52, 73, 95, 112, 135, 190, 232, 252, 271, 292, 308, 353, 374, 391, 413, 433, 452, 471, 493, 509
— Missions	5, 121, 381
— Notes and Queries, see Notes.	
Masonry a fulfiller of Prophecy	446
— and its Mission	162
— as it is	325
— in Africa	101
— in France	146
— in India	124
— in Texas, Early History of	364
Meditation and Gratitude	369
Meeting on the Level	189
Memory, How to Improve	506
Model Lodge, a	404
Music and the Masonic Ritual	125
Music, New	69
New Books, see Reviews.	
NOTES AND QUERIES:—	
Aberdeen Royal Arch Chapter	490
Abridgment of the Book of Constitutions	184
American Masonic Publications	185
Ancient Landmarks	507
Ancient MS., where deposited	184
Ancient views of Freemasonry	88, 110
Antediluvian Masonic Pillars	28, 70
Antiquities of York	131, 149
Bath Masonic Hall	28
Benign Influence of Freemasonry	92
Bideford Lodge	8
Birkhead, Matthew	168
Böheim's Collection of Masonic Songs	209, 284
Book of Constitutions	506
British Lodge of Illuminati	373
Broached Thurnal	148
Calcutta, Establishment of the Prov. G. Chap.	230
Ceylon Lodges	8
Chapitre de Clermont	372
Chichester Lodges	8
Cooke, Bro. Eliza D.	92
Crimes of the Templars	507
Cunningham, John, the Poet, and Mr. Slack	426
Dale, Bro. Richard	407
Dates of Royal Arch Chapters	92, 427
Destruction of Masonic MSS.	169
Dibdin, Charles	185
Dionisian Mysteries	448
Druidical Literature	230
Druses, are they Masons?	506
Early Masonic Sermon	230
Entered Apprentice's Song	427
Etymology of the term "Cowan"	267, 347, 372
Extracts from the Freemasons' Calendar, 1775-6	91
Female Freemason	385
Field, G., Who was he?	372
Finch's Cipher	467, 490
First Lodge in North America	372
Foreign Rite	71
Freemasons' Lodge at Bath	467, 507
— Manual in French	184
— Wages in 1443	268
Freemasonry in Smyrna	70, 92
Fromantiel, Abasnerus	231
German Masonic Song	467, 507
— Operative Masonry	373
Grand Architect	28
— Secretaries	169
— Lodge, 1732	28

NOTES AND QUERIES—continued.	PAGE
Grand Master's Sword of State	169
— Portrait Painter	325
— Stewards' Lodge	71
Halywark Folk	131
Hemming, Dr.	184
— and Dr. Oliver	407
Hertford Masonic Lodge	209
High Degrees	148
Inedited Masonic Curiosity	326
Instruction Lodges, when first established	426
Introduction of Masonry into England and Ireland	149, 169
Invasion of England	70
Irish Recognition of the High Degrees	91
Jones, Bro. Stephen	130, 148, 230, 268
Kane, Dr., the American Traveller	185
Knights of Malta	427, 448
— Templars	467
— First Meeting in America	373
Kilwinning and St. John's Lodges of Glasgow	132
Lancashire Song Book	305, 371
Lady Freemason, the	185
Language of the Ritual	71
Lectures in Rhyme	347
Latomus	184
Lodge of St. Cuthberga (No. 905)	284
Lodge Wardens	185
Loyal and Select Master	184
Luck of Edenhall, the	185
Mainwaring, Col.	448
McConochie, Bro. Jas.	347
Manchester Masonic Rifle Corps	489
Masonic Anecdote	230
— Antiquities	8, 132, 209
— Arbitration	347
— Badges—the Moira Apron	386
— Biography	184
— Charts	185
— Lodges registered by Act of Parliament	347
— Lying in State	70
— Oratorio	148
— Song Wanted	230
— Toasts	168
— Topographical Nomenclature	92
Masonry and the Drama	184
— Inquisition	230
— Society of Friends	373, 448
— among the Natives of India	427
— in America	386
— in Holland	148
— in Mexico in 1828	372
— in Sunderland	247
— Lieut. Drake on	489
Masons turned Actors	347
Master of the Valley	326
Miller, Dr., of Doncaster	92
— and Dr. Herschell	111
Molart's Register	506
Monkhouse, Rev. Richard	507
Mopses	92
Most Excellent Master	305
"Mustard Seeds"	427
Napoleon, was the Emperor a Freemason?	326, 346
Netherlandish Masonic Songs	147
Numbering of Lodges	407
Old Freemasons Magazine, the	489
Old Masonic Furniture	408
Old Town Hall, Nantwich	426
Officers of the Grand Lodge of Lincoln in 1793	71
Ould, Fielding, jun.	490
Origin of Travelling Masons	148
— the Boy's School	184
— Parker, Admiral Sir Peter	305
Poet Masons	130
Poole Lodge	8
Privileges of Four Old Lodges	325
Prov. Grand Master for Cornwall in 1793	70
Prov. Grand Painter	28
Ramsay, Lord, and his Tutor	426
Rawlinson's, Dr., MS.	506

NOTES AND QUERIES—continued.	PAGE
Red Cross of Rome and Constantine	185, 373
Reference to an Early Tract wanted	149
— to a Quotation wanted	373
Remarkable Occurrences	169
Robison, John	427
Rose Croix	28
Royal Ark Degree	490
St. Alban and the First Grand Lodge	427
St. Alban's Lodge, Birmingham	148
St. Martin's in the Fields, Notables Buried in	284
St. Ledger, Story of Miss	305
Sandby, Bro. Thomas	28, 490
Sea Captain's Lodge	248
Secret Societies in China	385
Sickles, Mr.—Is he a Mason?	373
Smith, Capt. George	489
Society of John	407, 490
Song against the Chevaliers de la Pure Verité	347
Stuart, the late Lord Dudley	325
Suffolk Province	28
Swan Lodge	130
Symonds, was the late Dr., a Mason?	427
Templar Masonry	130
Three T's, or Triple Tan	373
Two Masonic Worthies	92
Uniformity of Ritual with America	506
Use of Tradition	148
Was Hiram Abiff a slave?	427, 448
Watkins, Bro. John, LL.D.	71
Wellington, was the Duke of, a Freemason?	149, 168, 184, 207, 230
Wildman, the late Bro. Col.	268
Wren, Sir Christopher	168
Wren's Candlesticks	185
York, Initiation of the late Duke of	448
Notes on Literature, Science, and Art, 132, 173, 188, 218, 237, 266, 287, 306, 326, 349, 369, 388, 409, 430, 469, 491, 153, 251	
Notices to Correspondents, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 180, 200, 220, 240, 260, 280, 300, 320, 340, 360, 380, 400, 420, 440, 460, 480, 500, 512	
OBITUARY:—	
Barnes, Bro. John	238, 257, 299
Crohn, Bro. Henry Lewis	478
Dann, Bro. Edward	377
Dixon, Bro. Edward	478
Lacon, Bro. C. J.	180
Fitzroy, Bro., the Right Hon. H.	511
Maskelyne, Bro. Capt. W. V.	257
May, Bro. William	339
Oscar, Bro., King of Sweden	100
Ramsay, Bro. Robert	20
Still, Bro. the Rev. Henry	478
Wildman, Bro. Lieut. Col.	238, 298
Object of Freemasonry	147
Old Rochester Bridge	147
Operative Masonry and Freemasonry	64
Origin and Observance of Christmas	486, 502
POETRY:—	
Ancient Song	373
Apprentice, the	411
Bachelor, the	411
Bonny May	89
Charity Begins at Home	450
Christian Philosopher	373
Christmas Musings	188
Cleveland	89
Coo-ey	328
Dreams	175
Evening Primrose	150
Evening Walk	352
Fragments of Song	111
Grace Darling	150
Hail! to the Craft	328
Hampstead Heath	69
Hope	210
Human Life	431
Inquiry, the	229
Izaak Walton	69
Lane, the	288
Lark, to a	150
Leigh Hunt	328
Masonic Song	328
Moonrise	210

POETRY—continued.	PAGE
Morning	175
Nymph's Passion, a.....	229
Old Man's Wish	283
Passing Bell, the.....	229
Persian Song	210
Praise of Ale	229
Remembrance	174
Rope Walk, the	111
Sea, from the	111
Se Monica ti Fai	175
She is not listening now.....	150
Sir Marnaduke Pole	174
Slanting Light of Fall, the.....	412
Songs	89, 270
Thibault, King of Navarre, to his Love	189
Tobacco	150
Trees are Company.....	450
Village Church near the Sea, on a ...	175
Virtue	270
Winter Scenes.....	129
Posthumous rewards of Genius	189
Practical Patriotism and American Sym-	
pathy	89
Preaching and Instruction	342
Presentation	174
Pseudo Masons	343
Public Amusements...20, 40, 60, 80, 100,	
180, 240, 360, 380, 420, 440,	511
Pulpit Quaintness	412
Quaker Mason, the.....	66
Queen of Sheba, the	344
Random Thoughts	144, 161
Reasons for Silence.....	8
REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS:—	
Alphabetical Dictionary of Coats of	
Arms	210
Blazon, the, of Episcopacy	210
Book of the Chapter	67
Books of reference in the British	
Museum	284
British Empire in India.....	67
Causes of the Irregularity of the Teeth	
and their Treatment considered.....	467
City of the Dead, and other Poems...	226
Consecration of the Freemasons' Hall,	
Leicester	388
First Impressions of the New World	170
First Steps in Photography	94
Freemasonry, past and present, in its	
relation to Society	188
History of Freemasonry	490
Idylls of the King.....	93
Jews, the, in the East	133
Life and Liberty in America.....	170
Local Etymology	29

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS—continued.	PAGE
Narrative of a Walking Tour in Brit-	
tany	107
Northumberland and the Border	227
Paintings at the Oxford Union Society	386
Persecution des Juifs en Pologne.....	429
Poemata	305
Popular Music of the Olden Time ...	68
Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of	
Iowa	348
Proverbs of all Nations	251
Robert Mornay	286
Select Glossary of English Words ...	212
Seven Years Travel in Central Ame-	
rica, &c.	366
Shelley Memorials, from Authentic	
Sources	212
Shot Gun and Sporting Rifle, &c., &c.,	
used in Shooting and Trapping ...	408
Stories of Inventors and Discoverers	428
Through Norway with a Knapsack...	225
Twenty Years in the Church	460
Universal Decorator	93
Vicissitudes of Families.....	235
War in Italy, the	109
Works on Organs	185
Young America abroad in Europe,	
Asia, and Australia.....	326
Romance of Misfortune	
ROYAL ARCH:—	
Supreme Grand Chapter	78, 97, 376
Metropolitan Chapters:—	
Joppa (No. 223)	17
Mount Lebanon (No. 630).....	395
Mount Sinai Instruction (No. 49).....	297
Mount Zion (No. 169)	317, 395
Old King's Arms (No. 30)	17
Robert Burns (No. 25)	355
St. James's Union (No. 211).....	415
United Pilgrims (No. 745).....	355
— and Domestic (No. 206) In-	
struction.....	78, 497
Provincial Chapters:—	
Baildon, Yorkshire (No. 543)	457
Chatham (No. 20)	457
Dudley (No. 730)	157
Leicester (No. 348)	337, 436
Maidstone (No. 741)	436
Newcastle (No. 24).....	
Provincial Grand Chapter.....	395
Norwich (No. 258).....	297
Plymouth (No. 83).....	337
Southampton (No. 152).....	197, 297
— (No. 555).....	215, 297
Watford, Herts (No. 580)	215

	PAGE
Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged	
Masons, &c.	27, 232, 493
Royal Freemasons' Charity for Girls 95, 154,	
292	
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys 52, 73, 308,	
374, 433, 453	
Savans, The, in Scotland	245
SCOTLAND:—	
Grand Lodge	116, 397, 510
Ayrshire	198
Clackmannan	497
Dalmally, the Macintyre Monument	197
Forfarshire—Provincial Grand Lodge	398
Glasgow—Testimonial to Bro. Donald	374
Campbell	58
Peebles	157
Stirlingshire—Provincial Grand Lodge	355
Scottish Archimedes, a	141
Scottish Ladies in the Olden Time	374
Shopping in New York	451
Solomon, the Seal of	181
Youth of.....	401
Spirit of Freemasonry	441
Stained Glass (with Engravings)	1, 21
Story of Chichester Cross, the.....	152
Suggestive thoughts to Young Masons.....	446
Symbolism of Colour.....	241, 263
of Light in Masonry	424
of the Mosaic Worship.....	205
Taste in Architecture governed by Domes-	
tic Manners	484
Theory of Light	232
Thoughts upon Iron Plates	47
Toilet at the Falls	229
Trip Five Thousand Miles off	104
True Freemasonry.....	343
Twin Beech Trees, the	128
Uniformity of Working.....	66
Varying Character of English Architecture	463
Voices from Ruins	143
Volunteer Movement.....	505
Waile o' Wigs	329
Week, the...18, 39, 59, 79, 98, 119, 139,	
159, 179, 198, 218, 258, 279, 299,	
319, 339, 358, 378, 238, 399, 418,	
438, 459, 479, 499,	511
Wellington, Duke of	166
Wilson, Bro. Wm. Mercer, G.M. of Canada	506
Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty	161
Work of Iron in Nature, Art, and Policy	86
Work	466
Wren's, Sir Christopher, Cypher	304
Youth of Solomon	401
Zetland, Earl of, M.W. Grand Master,(with	
a Portrait)	281

THE
FREEMASONS MAGAZINE
AND
MASONIC MIRROR.



LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1859.

TO THE CRAFT.

IN commencing a new and enlarged series of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, we feel that we may be expected to address a few words to the Craft as to our reasons for altering its form, and our intentions with regard to the future. Of the past we shall only say, that during the two years the *Magazine* has been under our sole control, we have endeavoured to elevate its tone and introduce to our readers writers on Freemasonry and the sciences with which it is, or ought to be, connected, whose united labours might place the *Magazine* on an equal footing with other first class metropolitan journals; whilst at the same time we have used every exertion to make the *Masonic Mirror*, or news department of the *Magazine*, as comprehensive and impartial as possible. How far we have succeeded, we shall not attempt, ourselves, to express an opinion; though we believe we might fairly point to our increased subscription list as a proof that our labours, though not so pecuniarily successful as we could have wished, have not been altogether unappreciated, and that we have succeeded in producing a more perfect *Freemasons' Magazine* than any Masonic publication which has preceded it.

As regards our reasons for altering the form, we may state that it has been frequently impressed upon us that our circulation in the colonies was impeded in consequence of the heavy rate of postage—3*d.* each number—which could only be reduced by our conforming to certain regulations of the Post Office, by which we could register the publication for transmission abroad, and secure the advantage of the newspaper postage of 1*d.*; and this our present form enables us to do, not only for the colonies but for America and other places of importance; whilst through the mechanical advantages offered by the change in form, we shall be enabled to bring up the news closer to the day of publication, which in future will be Saturday, thus laying before the brethren the proceedings at Grand Lodge and at the Masonic festivals in the same week in which they are held.

With respect to our intentions in the future, we shall endeavour to maintain, and if possible, improve, the character the *Magazine* has obtained in its literary department—adding to it the advantages of pictorial illustration.

The *Magazine* will continue to be conducted by Bro. Henry G. Warren, assisted by Bros. Hyde Clarke, Thomas Davidson, Rev. J. S. Sidebotham, J. How, Matthew Cooke, H. R. Sharman, E. J. Williams, and other well known brethren—irrespective of writers on art and science not which are immediately connected with the Craft.

Amongst the earlier illustrated works which will appear in the *Magazine*, is a series of "Lectures on Symbols," by Bro. R. Martin, late D. Prov. Grand Master for Suffolk, now in the hands of an experienced artist.

The *Magazine* will not be confined purely to Masonic subjects, but architecture, archaeology, and other sciences

will receive due attention, and the proceedings of the various scientific bodies of the kingdom will be briefly but succinctly recorded.

New books, new music, new engravings, will all, in their turn be brought under consideration, and treated with the utmost impartiality.

The charitable and provident institutions, of which England is so justly proud, will have their proceedings regularly recorded, and histories of their objects, progress, and position will, from time to time, be published.

A short digest of the news of the week, carefully prepared will, as hitherto, form a feature of the publication; and a record of public amusements will be duly attended to—in order, as far as possible, to render our *Magazine* acceptable throughout the Craft, and to readers generally.

In addition to other attractions, we purpose to present to our readers a series of highly finished engravings of distinguished Masons—commencing with the M.W. Grand Master the Earl of Zetland, full particulars of which will be duly announced.

TO OUR COLONIAL BRETHREN.

To the brethren in the colonies we especially appeal for support, and assure them we shall be at all times happy to receive from them notices of the progress of their Lodges. In order to facilitate the circulation of the *Magazine* in the colonies, we propose to forward it (postage free) at the publishing price of £1 6*s.* sterling, per annum, on the subscription being paid in advance; and Secretaries of Lodges, or others, forwarding orders for four copies or more, will be allowed the regular agent's profits, which they can deduct before forwarding the subscriptions.

OUR AMERICAN BRETHREN

subscribing for the *Magazine*, will also receive their copies for 26*s.* sterling, or about \$6½ per annum (English postage paid); and we shall be happy to enter into arrangements for agencies throughout the Union and the Colonies.

TO ADVERTISERS

the *Magazine* in its present form offers peculiar advantages; its circulation being almost exclusively amongst the opulent classes, and from its being subscribed for by the different Lodges, possessing a larger body of regular readers than the great majority of class publications.

STAINED GLASS.

[THE following paper "On some Characteristic Features in Stained Glass Figures," was read at the Birmingham Architectural Society, on Monday, March 7th, 1859, by Bro. W. WIGGINTON, F.R.I.B.A. (J.W., No. 819, and P.G.S.B. for Worcestershire), having been hastily got up, at two or three days' notice, to supply a vacancy caused by the illness of the gentleman who was on the list for that evening.]

In the days of the early Christians, when the schoolmaster was less abroad than he is now, and the masses were uneducated, it was the aim and object of the fathers to present to their flocks sacred historical subjects in such a manner as

to be readily understood. This was effected in a variety of ways through the agency of painting and sculpture—but to painting principally must we look for the more perfect carrying out of this intention. The imitative art was thus supposed to perform, in our religious edifices, the combined offices of preacher and moralist, offering sermons for morality, and examples for edification. They thought that by such material objects, the weakest intellect and the feeblest intelligence could comprehend the truth.

Although I do not agree with the theory of these fathers of the early Christian church with reference to the beneficial effects to be derived from the material embodiment of these subjects—believing that the gospel plainly preached in the vulgar tongue is quite sufficient for the most illiterate—yet there have been many able defences made for the ancient practice, which are worth attention. John Damascenus, who lived in the year 700, contends that images are not mute. “They speak,” says he, “they are not lifeless blocks, like the idols of the Pagans. Every painting that meets our gaze in a church, relates, as if in words, the humiliation of Christ for his people, the miracles of the Mother of God, and the deeds and conflicts of his saints. Images open the heart and awaken the intellect, and, in a marvellous and indescribable manner, engage us to imitate the persons they represent.”

Writers of every age bear witness that this idea, and this idea only, prompted the execution and arrangement of the statues and figures which crowd the continental churches, and which, I may be pardoned for saying, disfigured our own up to the time of puritanical Cromwell, under whose authority the sacred buildings were not only purged of these remnants of the papacy, but defiled by base and unworthy usage.

In the seventh century, Benedict Biscop, abbot of Wearmouth, brought over some valuable paintings from Italy, with which he decorated his church. They were for the purpose of stimulating the spectator to meditate upon the divine incarnation, the last judgment, and the duty of self-examination. It was even thought necessary to have allegorical paintings, by which the priests themselves should be stirred up to their duty, and be reminded of their holy calling, and of the holy men who had faithfully fulfilled their duties therein. Thus in the eleventh century, Bishop Geoffrey caused fresco portraits of holy men to be painted on the walls of his chancel, to divert the eyes of the officiating priests from profane objects, and to prevent their being overcome by weakness and fatigue.

St. Paulinus gives us another reason for the adoption of stained glass and sculptures, and more especially for those wherewith he decorated his own church, dedicated to St. Felix. He says:—“Among the crowds attracted hither by the fame of St. Felix, there are peasants recently converted who had long been the slaves of profane usages, and had obeyed their senses as gods. They arrive here from far, pass the entire night in joyous watchings, drive away slumber by gaiety, and darkness by torches. They mingle festivities with prayers, and after singing hymns to God, abandon themselves to good cheer, and joyously stain the tombs of the saints with odoriferous wine.”

Such was the conduct of those ignorant converts to Christianity—conduct certainly not savouring of that gospel to which it is said they were converted. Their conversion being made upon a wrong principle, another wrong act was required to keep them up to the mark, and prevent them, through their drunken unchristian lips, “insulting St. Felix”—not God, but St. Felix. And to effect this St. Paulinus says:—“I have therefore thought it expedient to enliven with paintings the entire habitation of the holy saint. Images thus traced and coloured will perhaps inspire those rude minds with astonishment. Inscriptions are placed above the pictures, in order that the letter may explain what the hand has depicted.” In an earlier portion of his writings he contends that paintings are necessary to teach the truth to

the illiterate, that they may contemplate in the lineaments of painting, what they could not discern in writing; but in this remark he demolishes his whole theory. “While showing them to each other,” says he, “and reading thus by turns these pictured objects, they do not think of eating till later than before; their eyes aid them to endure fasting. Painting beguiles their hunger, better habits govern these wondering men, and, studying these holy histories, charity and virtue are engendered by such examples of piety. These sober gazers are intoxicated with excitement, though they have ceased to indulge in wine. A great part of their time being spent in looking at these pictures (not by the way in hearing doctrinal points clearly put by the priest) they drink much less, for there remain but a few short minutes for their repast.”

This is the strangest apology for the presence of paintings in churches, that I have read—surely we may commend it to those of our temperance friends who wish the National Gallery opened on Sunday; they will see at all events that the idea they have of picture gazing stopping intemperance is not altogether a new one, and indeed it has been said there is nothing new under the sun, though there may be a slight difference in the intention and working of the two theories, both of which are, to my mind, fallacious.

In every cathedral we find remains of stained glass, but history in stone, by a series of figures, is not so easily to be met with. The most perfect is that in Chartres Cathedral, where the whole history of creation and of man is depicted in nearly 1,500 figures, most of which are at present in good preservation. Vincent de Beauvais describes this example with the greatest accuracy, and at considerable length, but the shortness of the time at my disposal will not allow me further to allude to it; I shall therefore pass on at once to the subject matter of this paper, and glance, though but briefly, at some of the attributes by which the three persons of the Trinity are characterised in ancient manuscripts and stained glass.

The most distinguishing feature in Christian iconography is that of the nimbus which surrounds the head of divinity, and the aureola in which occasionally we find the body contained. Both are called by some the glory, but one of the best of the French writers on Christian archæology confines the latter term to an union of the nimbus and aureola, as will hereafter be alluded to.

It is a very common error on the part of artists to misapply this glory, through want of care with some and through ignorance with others. It is customary to attach the nimbus to the head of the three persons of the Trinity only, with certain peculiarities in the field of the nimbus, and to the Virgin Mary, apostles, &c., without those peculiarities. It is sometimes given to the personification of the virtues, but very seldom indeed to other allegorical figures, whether of natural or psychological subjects.

The allegorical personages to whom our Saviour in his parables gave a sort of rational existence are adorned with the nimbus—such, for example, as the wise and foolish virgins. The theological virtues, faith, hope, and charity, as well as the four cardinal virtues, temperance, strength, prudence, and justice, are also sometimes represented with a nimbus.

Artists, however, sometimes give to one of the three persons of the Trinity a nimbus belonging to mortals; and it has often occurred that a bishop or other high ecclesiastic has been adorned with a nimbus that, were it not for a better knowledge of the facts, would rank him as a god. In illustration of this, we may mention that some fifteen years since a painting on glass was exhibited, representing Christ and some of the saints of the Romish calendar. One of the canonized figures was painted with a cruciform nimbus, while the figure of the Deity was not in that way distinguished from that of an ordinary mortal.

The nimbus, as an attribute, serves to denote a holy person, as a crown does a king, and a crozier a bishop. It is therefore of very great importance that this peculiarity should be particularly noticed, as it bears the same relation to this branch of Christian art as the fingers, bones, mammals, &c., do in zoology. The nimbus proper, as I have said before, is confined solely to the head; the aureola is the *vescia piscis*, or other form, which surrounds the body; and the glory is the combination of both in one figure.

The word nimbus is of Greek derivation, and is to water—to wet. It also signifies (with the Latin word *nubis*) a cloud, and it is in this latter sense that we use the word; although some artists lose sight of that fact, and instead of surrounding the head with a cloud, or vapour, sometimes make it opaque, or luminous, or even transparent. The nimbus may be found used in pagan mythology, but the aureola may almost be said to be a Christian attribute, and was originally restricted almost exclusively to the Divine person and Virgin Mary. They are both intended for glorification or deification.

In all cases artists have selected the head, as the proper position for the nimbus—that being the chief point of attraction. In scripture the head is the part that receives most mention and honour. Christ is the head of the church—the man is the head of the woman, &c.,—and one of the early fathers of the church has declared that “religious places are those within which the entire body of a man, or at least his head, is buried, because no man can have two sepulchres. But the body, or any member without the head, doth not make the place where it is buried religious.”* The spirit of Christianity seems therefore to give every honour to the head, making it the especial seat of the soul. To the head belong all the faculties of taste, smell, sight, &c., and, above all, “thought.” The lion owes his title of king of the forest, to his head—and man, from carrying erect his head, and directing his gaze freely and naturally towards heaven, is likewise said to derive his rank therefrom, as the chief of created beings. A fine head can ennoble an ugly form, but there can be no true beauty in a fine form, with an ugly head. Anatomically considered, in the head is concentrated the entire man—the seat of beauty and intelligence.

In ancient history we read of the rewards bestowed upon men who have benefited their country—upon heroes who have saved their country, or carried its arms successfully into that of its enemy; and the greatest of these rewards was that of the crown, be it of oak, laurel, or olive; it was by this decoration that they were made like unto their fabulous deities. These crowns may, in fact, be deemed to be the forerunners or types of the Christian nimbus. It is easy to fancy how, in the first rise of Christianity, when martyrs shed their blood in witness of the faith which they proclaimed, their fellow Christians should be anxious to render their names as illustrious as possible, and confer upon their memories the greatest honours; and being fully alive to the customs of their Pagan forefathers, the representations of their martyrs, rudely though they may have been executed, were adorned with crowns, suspended by the divine hand, or else by angels descending from heaven. And as the crown of the king is so much superior to that of his nobles, theirs decreasing in proportion and grandeur as their rank decreases, so is it with the nimbus in Christian archaeology, representing the attributes of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; then the Virgin, the angels, saints, and holy men. As the crown is the emblem of civil power, and used to distinguish the man who is placed at the head of his country—so is the nimbus of divine power and of religious and ecclesiastical authority.

During the first four centuries, however, the nimbus was but sparingly applied, and even the divinity itself was mostly represented divested of this attribute.* When however the

church at Rome had attained to greatness, she took steps to organize her personalities and powers, and when once she freely adopted the nimbus as a characteristic of holiness, it was constantly applied, and so firm a hold did it take upon the delineators of sacred subjects, that even at the present day no artist would think of putting up stained glass windows representing the divinity or holy personages, without the distinguishing attribute consecrated to their use.

At first it was represented as a disk, very fine and attenuated, and mostly transparent. In the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries it became less in size, but much more opaque, more like a plate at the back of the head than any thing else, so that nothing could be seen through the body colours, so profusely were they applied. In the following century it became materialised, yet, nevertheless the artists never seemed to wish to lose sight of the fact that a ray of light was that which was required. With the nimbus, however, frequently applied to the Virgin, all light was abolished, and instead of the field being kept luminous, it was filled in with representations of precious stones, &c.

Subsequently the true idea of the nimbus was revived, and Italian artists in the sixteenth century painted the nimbus as of old, and completely expressive of the object which it was originally intended to convey. In the present day the transparent nimbus is correctly delineated, although antique forms and ideas are adopted, but confined solely to the circular form, with or without diverging rays of light.

The nimbus proper is of many forms and shapes, having depended much upon the taste of the artist producing it; but when it is of any other form than that of circular it is usually accompanied by rays of light from the head springing forth at the back, and extending beyond the line of circumference. The circular form is, however, that generally met with (*fig. 1*). In some instances the outer circle alone appears but in others the field of the nimbus, or the disk, is filled in plain, or with foliage or radiating lines.

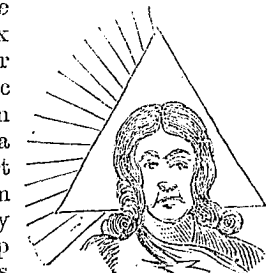
Sometimes we find them with a double circle merely (*fig. 2*). This may often be met with in France and Germany, as also *fig. 1* or the single line; the triangular shape, however (*fig. 3*), is but seldom seen there, although common enough in Italy and part of Greece. In Russia also it has been found; some of the figures in the iconoclasts, or rood screens, being so decorated. I have not heard of this form being adopted in this country; neither have I met with an example of this, or of the double triangle, which forms a star of six points (*fig. 4*), an emblem familiar to most members of the Masonic Craft. The lower point is hidden by the head. This is taken from a fresco at Mount Athos, forming part of a very interesting painting, in which the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are delineated. In Antwerp there is a nimbus of five points (*fig. 5*), the lower part of which is likewise concealed.



1. Plain circular nimbus with single ring. Circa 900.



2. Plain circular nimbus, with double ring. Circa 1000.



3. Plain triangular nimbus. Circa 1400.

* The body may be buried anywhere, but the head nowhere, save in holy and consecrated ground, in the church or cemetery.

* Before the sixth century we have no well authenticated example of the nimbus, and it is never constantly figured until after the eleventh century.



4. Plain double triangle nimbus.
Circa 1400.



5. Star nimbus of 5 points.



6. Square nimbus. Ninth
Century.

employed to designate the earth; the circle was the symbol of heaven. The circle, a square perfected; the square, a broken circle.

The square nimbus always implies the person to be living when the drawing was made. It was always kept to men celebrated for sanctity, and was of this shape in order to preserve the high position due to departed saints. The quadrature of the nimbus thus gives us a clue to the date of manuscripts and monuments of art, all which must have been executed during the lifetime of the person so represented.

The square nimbus has nevertheless been sometimes given to God, a matter very difficult to explain, for why should the Creator in any circumstance have an attribute which belongs solely to the living mortal, and this living mortal being held as inferior to a dead saint! In some of the few cases that may be met with, however, there is a slight, though a very slight distinction, inasmuch as the sides of the square are made concave, as in *fig. 7*, which is taken from an illuminated Italian manuscript of the fourteenth century, and representing the first of the three Persons of the Trinity. There is also another peculiarity which in some little measure distinguishes this from the ordinary square nimbus, and that is that it is placed at an angle instead of upon a base line, thereby somewhat



7. Square nimbus with concave sides.

resembling a nimbus formed entirely of rays of light, which will be noticed presently. In a mosaic of the thirteenth century, in the church of San Giovanni in Laterano, is a perfectly square nimbus round the head of God the Father; but this is placed angularly also. Raphael also, in the Vatican, has represented God in a square nimbus, with concave as well as straight sides. In Rome a mosaic still exists, in

The most inelegant shape met with is that of a perfect square, while the oblong, or oblong square, as some will have it, is, in my estimation, but little better. *Fig. 6* represents Gregory IV., who is offering to God the church of St. Mark, which he built A.D. 828. I have purposely omitted everything but the head, as I have no time to make drawings of the whole figures that are attached to these examples. There is also another example of an oblong nimbus, in which Pope Pascal is represented. This is of the ninth century, and is in mosaic, in the church of St. Cecilia, at Rome. Pope Libertas was also represented in the thirteenth century with a square nimbus.

The rectangular nimbus is found on various frescoes, old enamels, ancient mosaics, &c., in Italy—in fact, it is peculiar to the papal states, and has never been found in Greece, Germany, Spain, or England. It is employed in Italy in various ways, sometimes a thickness being given to it as though it were solid; at other times divided into leaves, as though it were the top of a table.

The square was held inferior to the circle by Pythagoras, and the neo-Platonists. According to them the square was a geometrical, symbolic figure, em-

which the square nimbus is enclosed in a circular one, as



8. Square nimbus with concave
side within a ring.

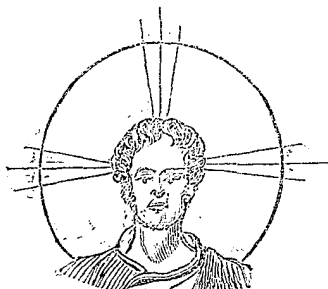
also to the Italians, and is chiefly applied to the personification of the theological and cardinal virtues. The signification of this is purely allegorical, and it is employed to convey a mystical meaning. Among the figures distinguished by this form, may be mentioned those in the vaulting over the altar of the church of Assisi, the paintings in the choir of San Francesco at Pisa, and in the gates of the Baptistery at Florence. In Italy, where Christian monuments are so abundant, there were a great variety of forms given to this feature; but in the west alone did they keep to the circular form.



9. Square nimbus in shape of
a roll of parchment.

of rays of light; but there are others which are peculiarly distinguished by these rays in fact, formed solely by them. They form in consequence a distinct species, and sometimes take the circular triangular, square, or cross shape.

In a thirteenth century miniature, we find an example of a circular nimbus, the field of which is ornamented by three rays of light, each ray consisting of three lines, and all projecting beyond the circumference of the circle, the centre line



10. Transitional nimbus.

being the most elongated. This figure (*fig. 10*) may be deemed a transitional one, being that in which the first attempt at radiation is made; and this with the evident intention of forming a cross, the emblem of the second person in the Trinity. These rays diverge from the centre, are contracted at the base, and become broad and open at the extremities.

In some examples the rays stop short of the circle, and thus lead to a different form of nimbus, which partakes more nearly the character of a Greek cross.

DAISIES.

"These flow'rs white and red,
Such that men callen Daisies in our town;
To them have I so great affection,
As I said erst, when comen is the May,
That in my bed there daweth me no day
That I n'am up and walking in the mead
To see this flow'r again't the sunne spread,
When it upriseth early by the morrow;
That blissful sight softeneth all my sorrow;
So glad am I when that I have preséence
Of it, to doen it all révérence.

CHAUCER.

MASONIC MISSIONS.

It is some encouragement to us to persevere in our task of describing the present state of Masonry, its merits and imperfections, that our pages do not go uncut, nor pass without notice; and they are not only read, but commented upon, and their errors corrected and deficiencies supplied. Our accounts are drawn up from what are considered authentic data, but such is the want of good material that it is very difficult to deal with the subjects with completeness. We are therefore much obliged to Ill. Bro. Charles John Vigne, 33°, to Bro. Thomas Cave, to a Bro. "P.M.," and to a correspondent, "J. O. E.," for various communications in extension and correction of our account of the province of Dorset, and we call the attention of our readers to these letters.

It is very difficult to begin a comprehensive survey of Masonry, but with such cooperation we shall trust to accomplish it.

We now propose to lay before our readers some particulars as to the province of Warwickshire. The county of that name includes 881 square miles, or 563,946 acres, with a population of 475,013. It is a great manufacturing district, and the midland metropolis of Birmingham embraces a large part of the population.

Its cities, towns, and boroughs, are as under, with Lodge towns marked *.

- * Birmingham, with a population of 232,841.
- * Coventry, with a population of 36,812.
- * Foleshill, with a population of 7,819.
- * Warwick, with a population of 10,973.
- * Leamington, with a population of 15,692.
- Stratford-upon-Avon, with a population of 3,372.
- Sutton Colefield, with a population of 4,574.
- * Alcester, with a population of 2,027.
- * Atherstone, with a population of 3,819.
- Coleshill, with a population of 1,980.
- Henley in Arden, with a population of 1,183.
- * Kenilworth and Stoneleigh, with a population of 1,289.
- Kington or Kineton, with a population of 1,270.
- * Nuneaton, with a population of 4,859.
- * Rugby, with a population of 6,317.
- Solihull, with a population of 3,277.
- Southam, with a population of 1,711.
- Bedworth, with a population of 3,012.
- Dunchurch, with a population of 1,135.
- Hampton-in-Arden, with a population of 3,094.

The Lodge towns and Lodges are—

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Birmingham, | No. 51. | The St. Paul's Lodge, date 1733. |
| " | No. 88. | The Athol Lodge, date 1747. |
| " | No. 689. | Lodge of Light, date 1840. |
| " | No. 696. | The Faithful Lodge, date 1840. |
| " | No. 857. | The Howe Lodge, date 1850. |
| " | No. 1041. | The Temperance Lodge, date 1858. |
| Alcester | No. 378. | The Apollo Lodge, date 1794. |
| Coventry | No. 316. | The Trinity Lodge, date 1784. |
| Warwick | No. 356. | The Shakspeare Lodge, date 1791. |
| " | No. 828. | The Lodge of Unity, date 1849. |
| Leamington | No. 556. | Grey's Lodge, date, 1829. |
| Nuneaton | No. 625. | The Abbey Lodge, date 1836. |
| Rugby | No. 739. | The Lodge of Rectitude, date 1844. |
| Kenilworth | No. 1027. | The Stoneleigh Lodge, date 1858. |

The following shows the chronology of these Lodges :—

Date.	Lodges.
1733	1
1747	1
1750 to 1784	1
1790 to 1794	2
1800 to 1810	0

Date.	Lodges.
1811 to 1820	0
1821 to 1830	1
1831 to 1840	3
1841 to 1850	3
1851 to 1859	2

There are thus two Lodges above one hundred years old, the St. Paul's Lodge being one of the oldest Lodges in the provinces, and three other Lodges about fifty years old. Thus, of the numerous Lodges existing in the last century, of ancient and modern Masons, only five Lodges survive, seated in four Lodge towns; Birmingham, Coventry, Warwick and Alcester, having preserved their temples, but Stratford and other towns having allowed the light to be lost.

Then, from 1794 to 1829, thirty-five years, we have a woful blank; indeed of the Lodges of forty years, one alone remains. Then we get evidence of a revival, and within the last thirty years Masonry has extended, but its present condition is not adequate to the population.

The Howe has a Mark Master's Lodge attached to it.

The Royal Arch Chapters in the province are the following :—

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Birmingham, | No. 51. | The Chapter of Fortitude. |
| " | No. 857. | The Howe Chapter. |
| Coventry, | No. 316. | The Cumberland Chapter. |
| Warwick, | No. 356. | The Shakspeare Chapter. |
| Alcester, | No. 378. | The Chapter of Temperance. |

The Grand Superintendent of Warwickshire is not returned in the official list.

There is a Rose Croix Chapter at Birmingham, the Vernoi Chapter.

We regret to state that, except the distinguished Lodge in Birmingham, the Howe, with some others there, the Lodges of this province meet in taverns. There is only one Masonic Hall in the province, constituting the rooms of the Howe Lodge.

There is one local Masonic charity, called the Masonic Annuity Association.

The Provincial Grand Lodge is in regular working order.

Birmingham is naturally the Masonic capital; for a population of a quarter of a million it has six Lodges, one Mark Lodge, two Royal Arch Chapters, one Rose Croix Chapter, and a Masonic Hall, a provision seemingly large, sufficing for the zealous Mason, but not equivalent to the population and wealth of the town.

The whole number of subscribing members in Birmingham is not more than about two hundred, or less than one in a thousand population, while there are towns of 20,000 people with 120 subscribing members, or one in two hundred, and there are many small towns with one Mason for one hundred population. There must be something wrong therefore in the constitution of the Lodges in Birmingham. The number of initiations we do not know, but we presume they are between thirty and forty a year. A decent town of one tenth of the population will give ten initiations a year.

Birmingham is, however, an old Masonic capital, and has the rare distinction among provincial towns of having two Lodges above a hundred years old.

St. Paul's Lodge dates, as we have seen, from 1733. It has long maintained a high reputation in Birmingham, and keeps its standing fairly. The number of its members is forty-four. Bro. Dr. Hopkins, Past Prov. Senior Grand Warden, a very distinguished Mason of the province, was a member of this Lodge. There is a Royal Arch Chapter attached to the Lodge, which we presume to be maintained, but we know nothing regarding it.

The Athol Lodge, No. 88, likewise boasts the distinction of remote antiquity, but whether its records are well preserved we do not know. The number of members is thirty-six. It is considered a flourishing Lodge for Birmingham, but there are single Lodges elsewhere which have their hundred mem-

bers. In 1854 and 1855, the Worshipful Master was Bro. J. Pursall, to whom a Past Master's jewel was presented for his services in those two years, at a meeting of the Lodge, on April 8th, 1856. In 1856, the Worshipful Master was Bro. Walker.

We should like much to know whether these Lodges have any ancient records, furniture, portraits, or objects of interest.

The Lodge of Light, No. 689, although dating only from 1840, is one of the most flourishing of the Birmingham Lodges, and counts fifty-four members. It was fortunate in initiating Bro. Lord Leigh, who has been its Master, and is now Provincial Grand Master. In 1856, Bro. Roberts was Worshipful Master; in 1857, Bro. James Tertius Collins; and, in 1858, Bro. Blake.

The Faithful Lodge, No. 696, used to meet in the Assembly Rooms, and adjourn to banquet to a respectable tavern. It dates from 1840, but is not so numerous as its contemporary, the Lodge of Light, for it has only twenty-five members. It has an Organist attached to it. In 1856, the Worshipful Master was Bro. Harry Lees; and, in 1857, Bro. T. Fisher. Bro. Thomas Perkins was the oldest Past Master.

Bro. J. A. Baker, the Secretary of No. 696, is the author of some Craft music, and on the occasion of the death of Bro. Solomon Weiss, No. 947, he composed suitable music, and performed it at the funeral service in the Lodge.

We now come to one of the youngest, but what may be justly styled one of the most distinguished Lodges in Birmingham—one known not only throughout the province, but the country—the Howe Lodge, named in honour of Bro. Earl Howe, the late Grand Master of the province, and founded only in 1850. Already, in 1856, its numbers were forty-five; in 1857, fifty-eight; and, in 1858, fifty-three. It was this Lodge which first took the useful step of providing itself with Masonic rooms, and which, by the energy and liberality of its members, now offers a safe asylum to the Lodges and Chapters of Birmingham. It was in 1856 that the Howe Lodge removed to the new premises in Newhall-street, the alterations of which were carried out by Bro. Frederick Empson, P.M., of No. 51. By the time it had been five years established, this Lodge had expended £300 in the purchase of furniture, and invested £200 more for Masonic purposes in the public funds. Bro. Bassett Smith is a Past Master, and, in 1856, delivered a funeral oration on Bro. Weiss. Bro. J. W. Lloyd, Treasurer, is a Past Master. The Secretary is Bro. Broughton. In 1856, Bro. Ross was Worshipful Master; in 1857, Bro. E. Marshall; and, in 1858, Bro. Hall.

Attached to the temple is a banquet room, capable of accommodating fifty guests, in which the banquets are served by a respectable hotelkeeper, a brother of the Lodge. The nucleus of a library has been formed by an eminent and enlightened Mason, Bro. Broughton, the Secretary of the Lodge, who presented in 1857 a complete set of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, with the *Penny Cyclopaedia* and supplement. This example has been followed by several brethren. This is, however, only one instance of the munificence of Bro. Broughton. The funds for the temple having been provided by a subscription in shares of £5, he presented no less than forty of these shares, or £200, to the Lodge, on the 9th of March, 1857. The grand principle on which this Lodge was established by its founders at the outset was, that the funds contributed for Masonic purposes should be applied to Masonic purposes alone—that Masonic rites shall not be celebrated in taverns, and that the expense of all banquets should be defrayed by those who partook of them. This has been fully carried out with the results we have related, and there can be little doubt that the Howe Lodge has had great influence in promoting the establishment of Masonic halls in the midland districts. It was to be expected that the Howe Lodge should pronounce a strong opinion on the question of purging the hall of the Craft from tavernkeeping, protesting against the continuance of

such a course, and appealing to its own history as an example.

Attached to the Howe Lodge is a Lodge of Mark Masters. In 1858 Bro. A. McCracken was Worshipful Master.

There is also a Royal Arch Chapter, which is, we believe, in good working.

No. 1,051 is the last Lodge founded in Birmingham, dating from 1858. It is called the Temperance Lodge, the object of its founders being to conduct their banquets on the temperance system; one among many instances of the catholicity of Masonry, which gives full latitude to opinion, and places no restraint on conscience. The number of members of this new Lodge was, in 1858, twenty-one. Its Worshipful Master in 1858 was the Rev. T. W. Herbert, P. Prov. Grand Chaplain of Worcester; and in 1859, Bro. Thomas Mills. Of course this Lodge was amongst those which this year expressed its conscientious objections to the Grand Lodge of England keeping a tavern.

The high degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, under the Supreme Council of England, are in Birmingham administered as far as the 18th degree, by the Vernon Chapter. In 1857, the M.W.S. was Bro. Dee, a distinguished Mason of the province, who has held the office of Prov. Senior Grand Warden. In 1858, the M.W.S. was Bro. Ward. The number of candidates admitted to the 18th degree in 1858 was about five. According to their custom of assisting in the working, the Birmingham Chapter has several times been visited by members of the Supreme Council; and Ill. Bro. Vernon is an affiliated member. Several zealous Masons of the province have been by the Supreme Council promoted to higher degrees as far as the 30°.

We shall now leave Birmingham and describe the other Lodge towns of the province, beginning with the antient city of Coventry. Here is the Trinity Lodge, No. 316, founded in 1784. This meets at a tavern in the city, though there must be many public buildings. We know very little about this Lodge, for we regret to say that it is the only Lodge in this considerable city and has only twenty-three members, being a slight increase over 1856. The proportion of Masons to the whole population is not one in 1,000, and has been nearly as low as one in 2,000. This shows something wrong, as it is even worse than Birmingham. There is a Royal Arch Chapter attached to No. 316, called the Cumberland Chapter, which meets in the same place. With from eighteen to twenty-three members in the Lodge it is not likely to be very considerable or very active. Many a smaller town has a hall and library. In 1856 Bro. Bursall was Worshipful Master, and in 1859 Bro. H. Matherson, and that is all we are able to state.

Warwick and Leamington are so close together that they may almost be considered as one town; Warwick is, however, a county and manufacturing town, and Leamington a watering place. They have between them three Lodges, and one Royal Arch Chapter. The total number of Masons who were members of Lodges in the two towns was, in 1856, one hundred and nine; in 1857, ninety-seven; and in 1858, ninety-one; so that the position of the town is retrograde, principally owing to the decline of the Leamington Lodge. The average in the two towns of Masons, to the population, has been as one to 300 and 200.

No. 356, the Shakspeare Lodge, at Warwick, meets at a tavern. It dates from 1791, and is the oldest Lodge now surviving in the towns. It has a Royal Arch Chapter. It is the most considerable Lodge in the province, having about sixty members. We have no further particulars regarding it.

No. 828, the Unity, at Warwick, is a new and small Lodge, dating from 1849, meeting in a tavern, and having about twenty members.

No. 556, Guy's Lodge, at Leamington, dates from 1829, and meets in a tavern. From some cause it appears to be rapidly

declining. The return of its members, in 1856, was thirty-two; in 1857, twenty-two; and, in 1858, seventy-seven. In 1859, Bro. H. Bown was Worshipful Master.

The small town of Alcester is the seat of a Lodge, No. 378, the Apollo, of some standing, having been founded in 1794. It meets on the Monday near full moon, but at an inn. The Chapter attached to it, called the Chapter of Temperance, meets at the same place. The number of members of the Lodge is small, being only about a dozen, and the Chapter cannot be considerable. In 1857, Bro. Overbury was Worshipful Master; in 1858, Bro. J. W. Hance; and, in 1859, Bro. George Wyman. Although the Lodge is small, it has been conducted with vigour, and its hospitality is freely extended. On 28th April, 1858, the Worshipful Master, Bro. Hance, proposed a plan of giving essays or lectures on Masonry, which he began by an essay, which will be found in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. iv., p. 851.

The Lodge at Nuneaton is No. 625, and is styled the Abbey Lodge, meeting at a tavern. It was founded in 1836. It is a Lodge with about twenty members. In 1856, Bro. E. Mason was Worshipful Master.

The Lodge at Rugby was only founded in 1844, and meets in a tavern. It is called the Lodge of Rectitude. In 1855, Bro. J. Bromwich, P. Prov. G.S.B., was Worshipful Master; and, in 1856, Bro. Raymond R. Smythies. In those years, the Lodge was actively conducted, and in 1856 six members were initiated, and the Lodge subscribed to the *Freemasons' Magazine*. The number of members is rather above twenty.

The Stoneleigh Lodge, at Kenilworth, is one of the creations of the new Provincial Grand Master, Lord Leigh. He became the first Worshipful Master for 1857-8, and was succeeded in 1858-9 by Bro. C. W. Elkington, P.G.S.B. and P. Prov. S.G.W. The Lodge was so supported that in 1858 it had already fifty-three members, being, therefore, a first class Lodge in the province. The consecration of this Lodge on the 10th of February, 1858, was naturally an event in the province, and will be found fully recorded in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. iv., p. 322.

Of late years the province has been successively governed by the R.W. Bro. Earl Ferrers; by the R.W. Bro. Hall when G. Reg.; when R.W. Bro. Earl Howe was appointed Provincial Grand Master. Under his rule were founded the Howe Lodge and Chapter, which have done so much for Masonry in the province. During this time, and for ten years (from 1848 till 1858), the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master was held by Bro. J. W. Boughton Leigh, and on his retirement, an address was presented to him by the Masons of the province in 1859. Dr. Bell Fletcher, a distinguished Mason, has likewise held this office. On his retirement to assume the Grand Mastership of Leicestershire, the R.W. Bro. Earl Howe's services were recognized by the subscription of a Howe Testimonial Fund, which was devoted to the Masonic charities.

The R.W. Bro. Earl Howe was succeeded in 1856 by the R.W. Bro. Lord Leigh, on the recommendation of the former. He had been initiated in the province in the First Lodge of Light, No. 689, and in which he served the office of Worshipful Master, in commemoration of which he received a Past Master's jewel. During his short rule he has displayed great zeal for his province. In 1858 he had the gratification of adding a new Lodge to Birmingham, and in the same year he consecrated what we may call his own Lodge, at Kenilworth, as just recited. In the present year he has added to the list of Lodges, a few weeks ago, another new one, the Bard of Avon. On the 12th of April, 1859, he laid the first stone of the Leamington Hall Schools, with Masonic ceremonial. Lord Leigh is Grand Master of the Mark Masons of England.

In 1858, the Prov. Grand Lodge was held at Alcester, it being the practice to hold it in inns in the several towns of the province. On the 23rd September, 1856, the R.W. Bro.

Lord Leigh, held the Prov. Grand Lodge at Rugby, Bro. Kettle being Prov. Grand Secretary; and Bro. C. W. Elkington, Prov. Grand Dir. of Cers. At this Grand Lodge it was resolved to form a Provincial Benevolent Fund. On the 28th October, 1857, the R.W. Bro. Lord Leigh held his Prov. Grand Lodge at Nuneaton. Of the proceedings of 1858, we have to record that the Prov. Grand Lodge was held October 13th, and for the first time was able to meet in a Masonic hall, being the noble foundation of the Howe Lodge at Birmingham. At this Grand Lodge, Bro. Chandos Wren Hoskyns, late high sheriff, was appointed Deputy Grand Master, in the place of Bro. Boughton Leigh; and a jewel presented to Bro. Dr. Henry Hopkins, of No. 51. About a hundred brethren sat down at the banquet.

Among the Prov. Senior Grand Wardens of late years have been Bros. Elkington, F. Dee, M. Newton, Kettle, Cohen, J. W. Lloyd, Bingham, Dr. Hopkins, and Blenkinsop.

We shall now give a return of the members of the

WARWICKSHIRE LODGES.

Comparative numbers of Members in the years 1856-7-8.

	No.	1856	1857	1858
St. Paul's	51.....Birmingham	44	35	44
Athol	88.....Do.	34	40	36
Trinity	316.....Coventry	20	19	23
Shakspeare	356.....Warwick	no return	57	59
Apollo	378.....Alcester.....	11	12	9
Guy's	556.....Leamington	32	22	17
Abbey	625.....Nuneaton	16	19	19
Light	689.....Birmingham	49	56	54
Faithful	696.....Do.	22	30	25
Rectitude	739.....Rugby	25	21	22
Unity	828.....Warwick	no return	18	no return
Howe	857.....Birmingham	45	58	53
Stoneleigh	1027.....Kenilworth	—	—	53
Temperance	1041.....Birmingham	—	—	21

From this document we get the following results:—

	Population.	Masons.
Birmingham	232,841	223
Coventry	36,812	23
Warwick and }	22,765	94
Leamington }		
Rugby	6,317	22
Nuneaton	4,859	19
Alcester	2,027	9

Kenilworth we exclude as exceptional.

From the above figures we arrive at these conclusions—that in a large town one in 1,000 is a low average for the number of Masons, and that in smaller towns it reaches one in 200, which ought to be the number in all towns.

On account of the large share the population of Birmingham forms of the province, we cannot institute a comparison of the present and possible condition of the province as we could desire; but we may observe that, in our opinion, there should be at least four more Lodge towns and a larger number of halls.

The following is the relative position of Warwickshire, as compared with the provinces already recorded:—

	Population.	Lodge Towns.	Lodges.	R.A.	R.C.	Halls.	Meet in Taverns
Devon.....	567,093	18	25	12	—	10	12
WARWICK	475,013	8	14	5	1	1	11
Norfolk	442,714	5	8	2	—	0	7
Suffolk	337,225	10	12	2	—	0	10
Berks and ...	170,065	5	7	1	—	1	4
Bucks	143,492						
Derby	296,048	8	9	2	—	0	9
Notts	270,637	3	5	1	—	0	3
Leicester	230,308	3	4	2	—	1	2
Dorset	184,207	9	9	4	1	3	2

After deducting the population of Birmingham, and then placing Warwickshire alongside of districts of corresponding population, we consider this province decidedly backward,

and it will require great exertions on the part of Bro. Lord Leigh to bring it to a state of efficiency.

With regard to former records of the province of Warwickshire, we may observe, that in a late number of the "Notes and Queries," it was stated that in 1794 a Prov. Grand Lodge was held, that Bro. James Timmins was D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. B. S. Heaton, S.G.W.; Bro. C. Downs, J.G.W.; Bro. Parker, G. Treasurer; and Bro. James Sketchley, G. Secretary.

In 1793, Bro. James Bisset was Prov. G. Secretary of Warwick, and Steward of St. Alban's Lodge, Birmingham. He wrote a song, "A Mason's life is the life for me."

The Apollo Lodge at Alcester was consecrated on 31st July, 1794.

In 1794, Bro. Toy was Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter of Fortitude, No. 51, at Birmingham, showing the antiquity of the Royal Arch practice there.

Of the old Lodge of St. John's, No. 492, at Henley-in-Arden, Bro. Samuel Porter was a Past Master in the last century, and author of Masonic songs. This Lodge is now extinct.

On the 4th June, 1793, the Shakspeare Lodge, No. 516, was consecrated at Stratford-on-Avon. In the same month of 1859, sixty-six years after, we chronicle the consecration of a new Lodge. Bro. Samuel Porter was first Worshipful Master, and wrote a song; Bro. James Bisset wrote another, worth very little; Bro. James Timmins, the D. Prov. G.M. of Warwickshire, delivered an address.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

CEYLON LODGES.

THE Grand Orient of the Netherlands have been more careful of the propagation of the light of Masonry abroad than the Grand Lodge of England. It will be seen how in 1771 the Grand Orient founded one Lodge in Ceylon, and in the next year another; and they had at least four Lodges in Ceylon in the last century.

Such is the Masonic zeal of our worthy Netherlands brethren and kinsmen. What has been the conduct of the Grand Lodge of England? We are ashamed to say that the Grand Lodge of England has not one Lodge in a seaport of Ceylon; and has only one Lodge in the whole of that great island (of the dimensions of Ireland) and with a large population. That Lodge was founded in 1838, years after the conquest, and is called the St. John's Lodge of Colombo, at Kandy, No. 665.

For a miracle, there is no Prov. Grand Master. We do not see why there should not be, and a Prov. Grand Lodge too, although there might be no private Lodge. [The rule of the Grand Master is, not to appoint Prov. G.Ms. without there are three Lodges to rule over, but if there were something in the nature of missionary Prov. G.Ms. like missionary bishops, as in the last century, much good would be done. We are glad we have a Colonial Board, for we can recommend the above facts to their notice.]

CHICHESTER LODGE (Vol. v., p. 1120).

In the *Magazine* of the 15th inst., under the head of "Masonic Notes and Queries," there appears a statement that the Chichester Lodge of Union, No. 45, is the oldest in the county of Sussex, dating from 1731, and that you consider it entitled to an earlier date from the fact that a Duke of Richmond was W.M. of it in 1697. That this Lodge has been in existence since 1731, I believe there cannot be a doubt, but the Grand Lodge having ignored our application to adopt a centenary jewel, on the grounds of our not being able to show a continuous working during the past one hundred years; therefore, with reference to the statement before alluded to, I shall feel much obliged if you will kindly furnish any information which may assist the Lodge in establishing its claim to that which it conceives to be a right.—*See* No. 45. [We cannot give our brother any further information than the fact recorded in the common Masonic histories, but we have no doubt that No. 45 is the Lodge dating from 1697.]

MASONIC ANTIQUITIES (Vol. v., pp. 791, 891).

Our correspondent "R. E. X." has furnished us with the page of MS. from which he was led to state that Freemasonry was proscribed in 1461, and also in 1561. This MS. is of no value

in reference to that statement, but it is one of considerable interest. It consists of pages 87 and 88 of a Lodge minute book or rough minute book of the year 1742, as the paper and writing show. There are other pages in the possession of the widow of an uninitiated lewis. There cannot be much doubt that it is one of the numerous records which have wandered from their proper custody, and Bro. "R. E. X." will do great service in reclaiming it. Were the hall plan carried out, and an effective library and museum formed, many of these documents would be recovered and their safe keeping provided for.

Our brother says, "You wished to see the MS. alluded to at p. 791, *Freemasons' Magazine*; I now send it, but hoped to have obtained a few more of the pages which are I believe in existence, in the possession of the widow of an uninitiated lewis. It appears I was incorrect in assuming that Masonic institutions were proscribed in 1425 and 1561. Bro. Hadley (p. 891) is entitled to my best thanks for his elucidation of the contents of the MSS.—R. E. X."

The minute appears to be kept by Richard Lechmere, whom we presume to have been the Secretary. It states that "At a full meeting of the Lodge held at the hostelry on the Monday, being the third day of the month of May, in the year 1742, and in the fifteenth year of the present reign" [of George 2nd], "a question was raised by Bro. Staniforth, whether Freemasonry was illegal on the ground of the alleged statute of 1425, &c. It was referred to Bro. Staniforth, Bro. Eldridge, and the Wardens to enquire into the law. Nathaniel Sparks was ordered to be paid 8s. 2d., as per bill, and 1s. 4d. for repairs to the Lodge lighting; and Richard Wood, 28s. 2d. for food for the brethren."

It is desirable to ascertain what Lodge this was, by means of the names of Lechmere, Staniforth, and Edrige. We believe these are Shropshire or Staffordshire names. Richard Wood is evidently the name of the keeper of the tavern where they met in 1742. The day of meeting was the first Monday.

The names are not southern names, but midland or northern. The funds in hand, after paying Sparks and Wood, were £35 18s. 2d., so that the Lodge must have been in good condition.

POOLE LODGE.

Lodge of Amity, No. 160, Poole. Warrant granted 1st April, 1765. Signed John Salter, D.G.M. Chapter of Amity. Warrant signed 26th June, 1784. Thomas Dunkerly, Grand Superintendent for the West of England. In a late number of the *Magazine*, you will find, among other Lodges, there has been no return from the Sherborne Lodge for several years, and the Lodge at Blandford has not met for many years.—P.M., No. 160.

BIDEFORD LODGE.

Some years since I purchased an old copy of the Constitutions, by Dr. Anderson—a quarto edition, revised by John Entick, M.A., and published 1756. On the fly leaf, written in a bold hand, are these words—"This book belongs to the Faithful Lodge, No. 499, at Bideford, Devon."—J. R. STEERING, P.M.

BIDEFORD LODGE (Vol. v., p. 922).

There is a memoir of Bro. James Watkins, LL.D., in the *Freemasons' Magazine* for 1794, p. 167. He was an author of some reputation in his day. Bro. Watkins was the founder of the Bideford Lodge, and it most likely dwindled after his death.

He was engaged in researches in Masonic history, but I am unaware whether his MSS. were completed or published.

HYDE CLARKE.

LODGE AT BIDEFORD, DEVONSHIRE.—(Vol. v. p. 922.)

A volume of miscellaneous Masonic MSS., in the writer's possession, contains a copy of the charge delivered by "John Watkins, LL.D., and R.W.M.," on the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, 1792, referred to in a former number of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, from which it appears that the old Lodge in that town was named "The Faithful Lodge," and that its number on the register was 499.

The same volume contains, among other contemporary MSS., a copy of "The Prayer of Consecration performed at constituting the Faithful Lodge, No. 499, at Bideford, Devonshire, 23rd May, A.D., 1792."—W.M. KELLY, D. Prov. G.M., Leicestershire.

REASONS FOR SILENCE.—Some one asked Fontaine, the celebrated geometrician what he did in society, since he generally remained almost perfectly silent. "I study," replied he, "the vanity of men, in order to mortify it occasionally."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

BRO. BINCKES'S FAREWELL.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—So thoroughly and determinedly disingenuous is the treatment to which all who venture to differ from you and your august patrons are subjected, that I shall decline to employ either reason or argument in contravention of the malicious insinuations and malignant criticisms which form the staple of your two last numbers. The powers of the most acute logician avail nothing with those who stubbornly disregard proof and demonstration, and certainly in my weak hands such simple weapons as truth and fact are as nought when contending against arrogance and power.

I will admit, if you like, that by taking a prominent part in recent discussions, and by trespassing upon your columns from time to time with my "worthless lucubrations," I have rendered myself amenable to, if I have not invited, criticism and remark. "Those who play at bowls, must expect rubbers," and I should not for one moment complain if I had met with anything like fair play or common candour. In place of this, however, what is the course you have for some time past systematically adopted? I repeat, in spite of your disclaimer and that of "Your Reporter," whose contemptible effusion I dismiss altogether from further notice, as ere he penned it he must have partaken largely "of the insane root that takes the reason prisoner"—that you have wilfully perverted my meaning—that you have constantly attributed to me motives and intentions which never entered my mind—that you have endeavoured now and again to make me the butt of your harmless pleasantry and innocuous ridicule—that you have, whether intentionally or not I forbear to express an opinion, given unfair and partial reports of what I have said—that many things have been attributed to me which I never did say—that you have thought proper to denounce and abuse me in the most unmeasured terms, for simply wishing to set myself right when I have been misrepresented—and, in short, that you have in every respect acted as the unscrupulous agent of a powerful and unscrupulous "party"—and all this while professing to be governed by the principles of charity and brotherly love. Unfortunately my name has appeared too often in your pages; but it has been, because, while unable to keep silence under the continued provocation offered to that "party" (if you will have it so), of which I am a member, I could not "stab men i' the dark," nor coward like shield myself under the refuge of an anonymer. I will, however, promise you one thing, and that is, that so long as matters remain as they are, my name shall be struck out of the list of your correspondents, and that if you have the honesty to insert this personal defence, and choose therefore to inflict a chastisement more severe than any preceding one, I will not retaliate. Briefly, then—thus to avoid misunderstanding, or the imputation that I have shirked any questions at issue between us—I have not a single assertion to withdraw, or one statement to qualify.

Well, indeed, may you wish to draw a veil over the latter portion of the proceedings of the Special Grand Lodge of 23rd ult. Rarely, indeed, has such an exhibition of petulance, ill-regulated temper, and offensive demeanour, been witnessed in Grand Lodge as that afforded by Bro. Havers on the occasion in question. What would have been the fate, under similar circumstances, of any member of the newly-denominated "Club party," one shudders to imagine. I suppose, however, that what in a cherished member of the executive is "but a choleric word," is in one of the obnoxious "faction," "downright blasphemy." Then, again, how pitiful were the accents in which the President of the Board of General Purposes narrated the martyrdom he had undergone, "I have been vilified, written against, spoken against," &c., &c. as if he had never himself meted out similar measure to others. Let your own pages bear witness to the systematic persecution with which Bro. Havers, in season and out of season, has visited all those who by opposing his policy have earned for themselves the title of "factious."

Without wishing exactly to apply the quotation, I could not help, while listening, being forcibly reminded of a quasi illus-

trious potentate, who is represented as taking a part in a somewhat important debate:—

"On the other side uprose
— in act graceful and humane.
— he seemed
In dignity composed and high exploit;
But all was false and hollow: tho' his tongue
Dropt manna, and could make the worse appear
The better reason, to perplex and dark
Maturest counsels;"

Suffer me to conclude with a quotation or two from a popular author, which appearing in the first number of your new, and I hope reformed, series, may afford some consolation to earnest, conscientious, and well-abused men:—

"It is a rare instance of virtue to despise censure which we do not deserve; and still more rare to despise praise, which we do."

"In the tortuous and crooked policy of public affairs, as well as in the less extensive, but perhaps more intricate labyrinth of private concerns there are two evils, which must continue to be as remediless as they are unfortunate; they have no end, and their only palliatives are diffidence and time. They are these—The most candid and enlightened must give their assent to a probable falsehood, rather than to an improbable truth; and their esteem to those who have a reputation in preference to those who only deserve it."

Recent events notwithstanding, I have to thank you for some courtesies in times past, which I now beg gratefully to acknowledge. And so I bid you heartily farewell,

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
London, July 2nd, 1859. FREDK. BINCKES.

[We do not wish to quarrel with Bro. Binckes, but we might take exception to such terms as "malicious insinuations," "malignant criticisms," "unscrupulous agent," &c., &c., being used by one who takes us to task for want of brotherly love; but as irate brothers cannot help being abusive, we let it pass. There is one remark, however, which we must make; in our Number of the 22nd June, Bro. Binckes accused us of misreporting a certain speech of his, and he now repeats the charge. We have, since he first made the charge, had the opportunity of reading a report of Bro. Binckes's speech in the publication with which it is well known that he is connected; and we find that report corresponds, word for word, with that which we published. Surely if we were in error Bro. Binckes might have corrected his speech before allowing it to be republished in a journal of which he is acknowledged to be one of the conductors. We would also remind Bro. Binckes that in speaking of his "lucubrations," we did not prefix the adjective.—ED.]

FREEMASONRY AND ODD FELLOWSHIP.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have this moment seen in your number of yesterday, the remarks in your Architectural Chapter in reply to Bro. Tweddell's letter, and further holding up to reprobation the conduct of those Leicester Freemasons who, as such, accepted an invitation to dine at the recent annual meeting of the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows. Although I perceive that you have in your hands for publication a letter from Bro. Clephan, in reply to your former strictures on this subject, I cannot allow the departure of a single post without troubling you with a few remarks, and stating that the reprobation of the fraternity, if such be deserved, must fall upon myself and the Worshipful Master and brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 348, as well as upon Bro. Clephan and the John of Gaunt Lodge; for, if guilt there be, we are all equally criminal. Indeed, Bro. Editor, I may be said to be "the very head and front of the offence," for, not only did I, like other members of the Order, accept this invitation, but it devolved on me officially to return thanks for the toast of "The Right Hon. Earl Howe, Prov. Grand Master, and the honourable Order of Freemasons."

If the censure you have passed upon us be deserved, we must bow to it and bear it with the best grace we can; but I conceive you have looked at the affair from a wrong point of view; at all events you have given a colouring to it very different to that in which it appeared to the Leicester brethren.

The facts of the case are simply these:—

A deputation of the local committee of Odd Fellows waited

upon the Worshipful Masters of St. John's and the John of Gaunt Lodges and myself, and letters were subsequently addressed by the Secretary of the district to the two Lodges, inviting the members, in most complimentary and respectful terms, to honour the annual banquet of the Moveable Committee of the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows with their presence; and setting forth the extensive operations of their society, and the large amount of good done by it among the working classes, but not in any way claiming connection or affinity with the Masonic Order.

A similar invitation was given to the mayor and corporation of the borough, by whom it was accepted; and the mayor, some of the magistrates, and the greater portion of the town council, were present at the banquet, which was attended by upwards of a thousand Odd Fellows.

Now, sir, if the Leicester Masons had been guilty (to use your own words) "of appearing in such capacity at any dinner, procession, or meeting of Odd Fellows, or in company or co-operation with them, or responding to any toast" of a Masonic character, clothed in the badges of the Order, the provincial authorities and the brethren generally would have been justly amenable to censure and punishment. But I conceive, and I think every candid and unprejudiced person will admit, that it would have been an extremely ungracious act on the part of the local Masonic Lodges, and one quite contrary to the true spirit and principles of Freemasonry, if, through a narrow spirit of exclusiveness, they had refused to accept a polite and most respectful invitation, which was extended to them as an important public body, in company, and in company solely, with the municipal authorities of the town; and simply because it was possible that some of the popular world might ignorantly suppose "that Masonry and Odd Fellowship are identical, or, at least, that the forms, ceremonies, and regalia of Odd Fellowship are of equal value with those of Freemasonry."

Surely, Masonry need not fear comparison with Odd Fellowship or any other benefit society; but if so—I can only say—so much the worse for it and the practices of its members. I, for one, however, believe that the Order can afford to stand upon its own merits.

In accepting this invitation (clothed in ordinary costume) the Freemasons, as I conceive, were no more chargeable with debasing their Order to a level with Odd Fellowship or mock Masonry than could the mayor, and town council be chargeable with putting municipal institutions on a level with the institution of the Manchester Unity. It may, however, tend to allay the fears and satisfy the scruples of the writer of your "Architectural Chapter" to be informed, that the gentleman who proposed the toast above alluded to (Mr. Hardwick, the delegate from Preston, who stated that he and many others of the delegates were Freemasons), drew the distinction between Masonry and Odd Fellowship; stating, however, that Odd Fellowship might be termed the Freemasonry of the working classes. And in the very few remarks which I addressed to the meeting in acknowledging the toast, I took especial care to prevent any misunderstanding on the subject, by observing that the only similarity between Odd Fellowship and Freemasonry was, that both were founded on a philanthropic basis; that there was no connection between them, but that they differed widely in constitution and practice.

With these remarks I will take leave of the subject, and remain,

Dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

WILLIAM KELLY,

Leicester, June 23rd, 1859.

D. Prov. G.M. for Leicestershire.

P.S.—I may add that neither I, nor as far as I am aware, any member of either of the local Lodges, with the exception of Bro. the Earl Howe, Prov. G.M., is an Odd Fellow.

THE JOHN OF GAUNT LODGE AND THE ODD FELLOWS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In the "Architectural Chapter" of your valuable *Magazine* of the 8th June, you say—

"We cannot equally approve a resolution of that Lodge (the John of Gaunt), accepting an invitation for the Master and brethren to dine with the annual congress of the United Order of Odd Fellows. This countenance of mock Masonry by the constituted authorities of Masonry, is only calculated to confirm the public in the belief that there is no difference between them."

Many of our Masonic friends at a distance from Leicester—reading the above observations—might be led to suppose that the

brethren here are not so watchful of the privileges and honour of our ancient Order as they ought to be. It is with the intention of removing any such unfavourable impression, that I venture to trouble you with some of the reasons that induced the Masonic Lodges here to accept the invitation of the members of the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows.

You are doubtless aware that the delegates of that Order hold a meeting at some important place in the country once a year; the delegates sit at this congress every day for a week, to receive reports from their various districts, and to settle their general and local business. At the same time they have their annual banquet. It is their usual custom to invite the corporation of the town where they meet, and the members of other important societies. They invited the Masonic body here, not because they considered themselves an offshoot from it, but because the objects of both societies, though differently carried out, are identical. The invitation to the John of Gaunt Lodge distinctly states this. The secretary of the order here says:—

"Relying upon your courtesy and your desire to countenance every object which has for its aim the consolidation of brotherly love and the furtherance of the interests of our fellows, it is with considerable confidence that I venture to address you as secretary of the Leicester District of the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows. I am desired respectfully to inform your honourable Lodge that the great annual meeting of the delegates of our Unity is fixed for Tuesday in Whitsun week. Our members number nearly 300,000, 2,000 of whom belong to this district; and the order is admitted by those most competent to form an opinion, to be based upon principles of stability; and the amount of charity dispensed, and suffering ameliorated, is incalculable. Lord Howe, a member of the order, has reluctantly declined presiding at the banquet in consequence of indisposition, but his Lordship has considerably written to Lord Curzon, who we have every reason to believe will take the chair."

You will see, from the above, also, that it would have been an act of discourtesy on the part of the brethren of the John of Gaunt Lodge, all other reasons apart, to have refused an invitation to dine at the banquet of an order, of which their Prov. Grand Master is a member, and where he might be expected to preside.

Apart from personal considerations, the order has a strong claim for sympathy and countenance from every well regulated society. We are told that it numbers 300,000 members, in above 3,000 Lodges; and that the amount received and disbursed for purposes of charity every year is very considerable; and that its members are amongst the best conducted and respectable of the working classes.

The public, I have reason to believe, do not identify the Odd Fellows with the Freemasons. If any comparison is made by the public between the two societies, I am afraid that it is at times somewhat to our disparagement, so far as public usefulness and active charity are concerned. It is well known, and generally understood by intelligent persons, that Masonic Lodges are composed of men of the middle and upper ranks of life, to whom benefit societies and burial clubs would be of no assistance; whose traditions and ceremonies are of remote dates; and whose principles are those of brotherly love, relief, and truth. With those ceremonies unsullied, and those principles held stedfastly, the Masonic body need fear no alarm, if the Odd Fellows or any other society occasionally display a slight imitation of the symbolism of their order. We can afford to smile at such innocent imitations and, at the same time, to sympathize with all such societies, having for their rule of conduct the moral and charitable principles that we profess.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours respectfully and fraternally,

Leicester, June 17th, 1859.

E. CLEPHAN, W.M., No. 766.

ODD FELLOWSHIP.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have read "Our Architectural Chapter" in your last number with much interest. I can assure you that I was not "angry" so much as pained, at the unqualified censure previously cast on such societies as the Odd Fellows; and I feel certain that had you seen me as I wrote the letter, you would rather have described me, as Horatio does the ghost of Hamlet's father, as having "A countenance more in sorrow than in anger." Believing, as a literary friend of mine well expresses it, that "Hate is a fearful thing—a deadly weapon to handle," I would fain "bury it with the Indian tomahawk, and smoke the

pipe of peace in the great wigwam of the world." Had our worthy brother qualified his sweeping censures on former occasions, by bearing his generous testimony to the great good done by Odd Fellows, Foresters, Druids, &c., as benefit societies, I for one might have allowed him to tilt as he thought proper at whatever he might conceive to bear the slightest appearance of mock Masonry; though I confess that I cannot see why I should be considered to approve of every society that may take part in a public procession in which I may form a unit. I believe that it would be bad in principle and bad in policy to refuse, as Freemasons, to form part of a public procession at laying the foundation stone of an infirmary, or of a town hall, simply because the Odd Fellows, the Foresters, and other well organized benevolent benefit societies are to form part of the company. These various Orders always allow the Freemasons the undisputed privilege of laying the stone, as well as the most honourable place in the procession, and if we, as Freemasons, are not content with this pre-eminence, we shall richly deserve the fate that will await us,—that of not being allowed the honour of laying the foundation stone with Masonic ceremonies. In fact, my own opinion is, Sir, that if we really wish to retain this honourable office, our Lodges must be made, as they evidently were of old, schools for the cultivation not only of brotherly love, but also of the liberal arts and sciences, and especially that of architecture. The generous tribute of esteem for the Manchester Unity of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows as a well conducted benefit society, given in your last issue, has very materially narrowed the grounds of difference between us. But if our worthy brother thinks that "it is not our business to inform Bro. Tweddell of the reason why Odd Fellowship is enrolled among the mock Masonic societies, nor is he obliged to know;" I think every intelligent reader of the *Magazine*, whether he belongs to the Craft or not, will at once acquit me of blame if I throw up my brief; as it is impossible for me properly to answer assertions which are made without proof. Before I enter on the defence, I must hear the evidence for the prosecution.

At some future time, if the G.A.O.T.U. spares me, I may accept the invitation given me, I believe in the true fraternal spirit, to "study the history" of the various societies mentioned at page 1153, and to give to the pages of the *Freemasons' Magazine* the result of my labours." It is a subject in which I have from boyhood taken an interest; but I am sorry to say that before I trouble you with formal essays thereon I must have access to better materials than I have hitherto been able to meet with. Perhaps I shall be better able to furnish you with short historical notices of such Lodges of the Craft in the northern counties as will allow me to search their records, or supply me with any information for the purpose. The information thus collected and preserved in your pages would be of immense value hereafter to the historian of the Order.

In reply to the remark that I have put myself "in the attitude of a champion of Odd Fellowship rather than of Masonry," I will only say, that I shall ever hold myself ready, on all fitting occasions, to use those "literary attainments," for which you have been kind enough to give me credit, for the defence of Freemasonry wherever, whenever, or by whomsoever it may be attacked, and I will do it "with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength." I am happy to say, that though I have conversed with thousands of Odd Fellows and Foresters in the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, and Lancashire, I never heard one of them speak disparagingly of our beloved Craft. They have unfortunately too often imitated the Freemasons in the truly unmasonic practice of holding their meetings at public houses; a practice which they have many of them got rid of by meeting in schoolrooms—a practice which we, I trust, will get rid of by having, in every town in England, our own Masonic Hall. I know not what is meant, sir, by the remark applied to me by our worthy brother—"nor will he do himself any good by his attack on our Architectural Chapter." In furthering what I regard to be the legitimate object of the *Magazine*, that of giving faithful reports of what our powerful brotherhood is now doing, and in showing them how trifling it is compared with the immense good we might accomplish—humble though I am—yea, one of the poorest "brethren of the mystic tie"—you have no more devoted a fellow labourer than myself. But, when I think of the immense amount of human suffering in the world, I am unwilling for different men labouring for one common end—the happiness of their race—to waste their time in marring each others efforts, instead of each doing his allotted task. Believe me, sir, there is work enough for us all, and it will be much better for us to prove the superiority of Freemasonry over all

other organizations by doing it faithfully, than by calling the "outer world" profane, and sneering at other orders whose good deeds are indisputable.

Had my friendly challenge been accepted, I think that I could have satisfactorily proved, that the Order of Odd Fellows who so courteously invited the Freemasons of Leicester to their banquet, have no more connection with the convivial societies of "mock Masons" of the last century, than our beloved Craft has with the Vehm or the Illuminati.

In conclusion allow me to observe, that though I would not for a moment compare Odd Fellowship and Freemasonry, there is one thing in which my brother Oddfellows put my brother Freemasons to shame; it is the manner in which they spend their Lodge funds, seven eighths of which are kept sacred for the sick and funeral gifts, and the other eighth for rent of Lodge-rooms, secretaries' salaries, and all the incidental expenses of the Order. Not one penny is spent in refreshment of any sort. I hope the day will come when our Craft will apply its funds, not as a benefit club, but one half to the charities, and the other for building Masonic Halls, forming libraries, and in various ways instructing the brotherhood, not only in our beautiful system of morality, but also in the hidden mysteries of nature and science.

Trusting that there is nothing in this epistle to cause unnecessary annoyance to any one, and freely giving credit to the writer of "Our Architectural Chapter" for those good motives which he is charitable enough to grant to me,

I remain, Dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

GEORGE MARKHAM TWEDDELL.

Industrial School, Bury, Naticity of
St. John the Baptist, 1859.

"MASONIC MISSIONS."

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I cannot allow some observations contained in your article on "Masonic Missions," in the *Magazine* of the 1st of June instant, and referring to the Howard Lodge, No. 64, at Arundel, in Sussex, to pass entirely without observation; and I will therefore shortly state the efforts which have been made by the brethren of the province to effect its resuscitation.

In the year 1857, assisted by other members of my Lodge, I made close inquiries amongst the old remaining members of the Howard Lodge, to ascertain the precise position in which that Lodge was placed with regard to Grand Lodge; and I found that although no return of the members had been made to Grand Lodge since March, 1836, the number still remained in the Calendar; and the existence of the Lodge was recognized by the quarterly communication of Grand Lodge being regularly transmitted to it. This gave me hope, and I wrote in consequence to the present Grand Secretary on the subject, and received a reply from him, dated the 28th of November, 1857, in which he says, "Should there be any of the original members still alive, who have possession of the warrant, they might possibly be permitted to revive the Lodge, by paying their quarterage to benevolence from the time of the last payment, in 1836, to the present time; but in case none of the original members are to be found, the warrant cannot be made over to any fresh body of Masons."

This again gave me encouragement; and I easily made arrangements that the arrears due to the fund of benevolence should be paid.

I again communicated with the Grand Secretary; and in a letter received from him, dated the 22nd of December, 1857, he says, "Should the brethren who still consider themselves members of the Lodge, and in whose hands, I presume, the warrant remains, think fit to draw up a memorial to the M.W. Grand Master, giving their reasons for having during twenty-one years disregarded the laws of Grand Lodge, and further, stating fully their motive for now, at an advanced age of life, seeking to revive the Lodge, I shall of course submit the same to the consideration of the Grand Master."

There probably would have been no difficulty in assigning cause satisfactory to the M.W. Grand Master for the want of energy which had been shown for so many years in keeping alive the light of Masonry in the Howard Lodge; inasmuch as the whole Masonic structure of the province had for very many years been allowed to fall to decay, in consequence of the cessation of the holding a Provincial Grand Lodge for twenty-seven years, and other obvious consequences; and Masonry had fallen to the lowest ebb.

The revival of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and the praiseworthy exertions of individual brethren, have, I am happy to say, raised Masonry to a height of prosperity in the province of Sussex which it has scarcely attained before; and the old members of the Howard Lodge, warmed by the zeal which they saw spreading around them, were roused, like the old war-horse at the sound of the trumpet, and were desirous to take a part in the good work which was progressing. This was the reason why, in their old age, they were desirous to see the Lodge (to which one of them had been attached for upwards of fifty years, and others for considerable periods), rise from its ashes; and it is a cause of the deepest regret to me, as it must be to all true Masons, that their wishes and hopes were not gratified.

The reason why all our endeavours failed was, that the warrant was not forthcoming. I at once had an interview with Bro. Wilson, P.M., a Past Grand Officer of the province, and a member of the Howard Lodge for fifty years and upwards, and he informed me that he had never within his recollection seen a warrant, and that he had always understood that as the Howard Lodge worked under a warrant granted by the Athol Grand Lodge before the amalgamation of that Grand Lodge with the present Grand Lodge, no written warrant had ever been furnished. Whether our Bro. Wilson is right in the conclusion to which he came, I cannot say; but it is notorious that the proceedings of the Athol Grand Lodge were carried on in a very loose and unbusinesslike manner, inasmuch as they were unable at the junction of the two Grand Lodges to furnish the dates of the origin of the Lodges who worked under their warrants.

On discovering that the warrant of the Lodge was not to be found, I again wrote to the Grand Secretary, and in his reply he says, "that the absence of the warrant will unquestionably be an insuperable bar to the revival of the Lodge."

My exertions were stopped by this "insuperable bar;" and with the greatest regret to myself and the brethren who were willing to assist me in my endeavours, we were compelled to give up our much cherished hopes. I could not but regret that the absence of the piece of parchment, on which the warrant (if a warrant ever existed) was written should be an "insuperable bar" to raising an old and honoured Lodge from its ashes. Its existence and number are recognized by Grand Lodge up to the present moment: no doubt exists in the mind of Grand Lodge, or of any other person, that the Howard Lodge of Brotherly Love was well and justly entitled to the number attached to it in the Calendar when it assumed that number. There are many brethren, not only of my own Lodge, but of the Mariners' Lodge at Littlehampton, and other Lodges, who are anxious to share in the glory of raising to prosperity the (except two) oldest Lodge in the province, and yet we are prevented from accomplishing our end (of which there would be no chance of failure), by the absence of what, as far as our best information goes, never existed.

If any brother who has the interest of Masonry at heart can suggest to me, either directly or through your columns, any means of obviating the difficulty, and at the same time preserving the original number of the Lodge, you will not again, in the columns of your journal, have to call the attention of the Masons of Sussex to the necessity of taking steps to revive the Howard Lodge of Brotherly Love, No. 64.

With many apologies to you, sir, for having trespassed at so great a length on your valuable columns,

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,
JAMES POWELL, Jun.,

P.M., No. 45, Prov. J.G.W. for Sussex.

West Pallant, Chichester,
June 20th, 1859.

[We should not consider the mere absence of the warrant as an "insuperable bar" to the revival of the Lodge, as a warrant of confirmation might be applied for. There, however, may be other circumstances connected with the case which may have led to the decision of the Grand Secretary, and upon which we cannot give an opinion without having the whole of the correspondence before us.—Ed.]

"JUSTITIA" AND BRO. GARROD.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I beg to disclaim any intention of wishing "Justitia" to throw off his disguise, and state his name—that being well known to me already.

I have also yet to learn, that a letter with the signature attached would cause you to lie open to such censure as you mention, or in any way render you liable to be trounced for libel.

The truth is, the facts were unpalatable (for that facts they were you have yourself acknowledged in your last number), and hence the propriety of withholding the insertion of them.

I am sorry to find that the general report of your want of impartiality has been confirmed in the short acquaintance had with your Magazine, by,

Dear Sir, yours fraternally,

London, July 4th, 1859.

H. GARROD, No. 11.

[We do not believe that Bro. Garrod knows the real name of "Justitia." The knowledge our correspondent has of the law of libel is sufficient, of itself, to stamp the value of his opinion as to our impartiality.—Ed.]

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

FREEMASONRY appears to be making rapid progress amongst our brethren in Victoria. A private letter from Melbourne, dated April 5th, says:—"Since the appointment of a Prov. Grand Master for Victoria, we have opened seventeen new Lodges, making now twenty-nine in this province, and a dispensation has been granted for another, which I expect will be opened during the present month."

THE Prov. Grand Lodge of Cumberland is appointed to be held at Maryport, on July 27th, in order to give a fillip to the Lodge of Perseverance, No. 508, which has just begun to show signs of renewed vitality, after lying almost dormant for some years.

A Prov. Grand Lodge for Somersetshire is to be held at Glastonbury on the 26th inst., when the Pilgrim Lodge, No. 1,076, for which a warrant has just been granted, will, we presume, be consecrated.

THE Prov. Grand Lodge for Hampshire will be held at Southampton on the 19th inst.

WARRANTS have been granted for the following new Lodges:—

Dunbeved (No. 1091), Launceston, Cornwall.

Teutonia (No. 1092), Buenos Ayres.

Richmond (No. 1093), Richmond, Victoria.

Pelham Pillar (No. 1094), Grimsby, Lincolnshire.

Southern Cross (No. 1095), Tarrangower, Victoria.

METROPOLITAN.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This Red Apron Lodge held an emergency meeting on Monday last, at the Freemasons' Tavern, for the purpose of initiating Mr. Mander, who is about to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope. Present—Bros. Haig, W.M.; Collins, S.W.; T. A. Adams, J.W.; and a full meeting of brethren. The ceremony having been gone through with the W.M.'s accustomed ability, the Lodge was closed at two o'clock, P.M., when the members and visitors, thirty-five in number, adjourned to the Crystal Palace to celebrate the summer dinner, which was exceedingly well supplied by Bro. Strange. The day was one of perfect enjoyment; and we must particularly notice the re-appearance of Benjamin Webster on the Masonic stage who, on responding to his health, reminded the brethren, that though absent, he had not been altogether unmindful of his Masonic duties; in fact "he had of late been very extensively engaged in operative Masonry, and he had already very good evidence that it would prove more than speculative."

LODGE OF PRUDENT BRETHREN (No. 109).—The brethren held a Lodge of emergency, on Tuesday last, July 5th, when Bro. Wm. Exall was raised to the third degree, as was also Bro. Ashton, of the Crystal Palace Lodge. Mr. John Pullen and Mr. Wm. Jeffreys Pegus were initiated into the Order.

MORRIS LODGE (No. 109).—This Lodge gave a grand entertainment to their members, visitors, and the families of their members, on Tuesday, the 20th ult., at the London Tavern, the whole of the grand apartments of which were retained for the occasion. The hall was laid out for the banquet with gold candelabra and salvers, and the rest of the service of silver, having a magnificent effect, which was the more appreciated from the taste and comfort which attended all the arrangements. There were very few dishes on the tables, which were arranged in a horse shoe form, and there was abundant room for the ladies and other guests; the carving was well managed on the side tables, and there was an ample provision of waiters. The bill of fare was carried out so as to do justice

to the orders of the Lodge and to reflect full credit on Messrs. Chater and Funge, who were, by many of the brethren present, considered to have succeeded in arranging one of the finest entertainments of the season. The musical arrangements of the banquet were conducted by Bro. Lawler. The chair was taken by Bro. S. N. Driver, W.M., Bro. A. Sargood being S.W., and Bro. G. W. K. Potter, P.S.G.D., acting as J.W. As ladies were present, the usual Masonic ceremonial was avoided, and the toasts received in the ordinary way. In proposing the D.G.M., Lord Panmure, and the Grand Officers, the Worshipful Master mentioned that the Lodge was proud of having two highly valued Grand Officers among its members, Bro. G. W. K. Potter and Bro. Slight. Bro. Crohn, Secretary for German Correspondence, returned thanks for this toast. The Worshipful Master in giving "The Past Masters," referred to the services they had received from Bro. Webster and others, but in calling on Bro. Potter to return thanks for the P.M.s., he took the opportunity of paying a tribute to the high Masonic character of that brother, his signal benevolence, the deep interest he had shown in the welfare of their Lodge, and the service he had rendered in preparing the festival, the arrangements of which had been marked by every provision for taste and comfort. To this toast Bro. Potter responded. Bro. Webster gave "The health of the Worshipful Master." Bro. Sargood said they had among their visitors some brethren most distinguished for their attainments as Masons, and named Bro. Crohn and Bro. Hyde Clarke, calling upon them to drink the health of the visitors with that of the latter brother. Bro. Clarke, in returning thanks, gave some information respecting Lodges of adoption on the continent, the celebration of the festival of St. John's day by the wives, daughters and sisters of brethren, and the practice of adopting the orphans and other children of brethren. He concluded by addressing a few remarks to a youth who was seated at the table, and who had distinguished himself at a public school, impressing upon him that as the son of a Mason he would, if he persevered in the pursuit of knowledge and of virtue, be privileged to be received in the great brotherhood of Masonry before strangers. The company adjourned from the banquet to the suite of rooms on the main floor of the London Tavern, which were arranged to form a drawing room, concert room, and refreshment room, and where a further number of members and ladies and some few non-masonic friends assembled. Here again the care of Bro. Potter was recognized. Each lady, on entering, was presented with a bouquet. The grand room was provided with tables, on which were placed stereoscopes and various objects of interest contributed by Messrs. Negretti and Zambra, and where a concert was given, in which numerous English and foreign musicians took part, and which was continued to a late hour. While the main object of the members was to give the ladies a handsome reception, the arrangements were well calculated to impress strangers present with a favourable conviction of the externals of Masonry in its intellectual and social relations.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 118).—The summer dinner took place on the 29th, at the Royal Pavilion Hotel, North Woolwich. Bro. Scott, P.M., took the chair, and Bro. Parthing, J.W., the vice; the usual Masonic toasts were duly given and responded to, including the officers of the Lodge, the latter toast being responded to by Bro. Beard, Honorary Secretary. Some excellent singing by Bros. Mackney, Grover, and Parthing, considerably enhanced the pleasures of the meeting.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE LODGE (No. 1008).—The annual meeting was held on Thursday, June 23rd, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Woolwich. Bro. Major Henry Clerk, W.M., presided; and after the confirmation of the minutes of the preceding Lodge, when the W.M. and Treasurer for the year ensuing were elected, Bro. Capt. Forbes, P.M., presented Bro. J. W. Cam, the W.M. elect, for installation, to Bro. Clerk, who discharged that duty with his accustomed ability, performing the entire ceremonial, and delivering the addresses in a manner that reflected the highest credit on his diligence. The W.M. then appointed and invested as his officers—Bros. W. H. Carter, S.W.; Major F. Du Cane, J.W.; J. M. Boddy, Secretary; J. Smyth, S.D.; H. Church, J.D.; J. R. Thomson, I.G. Bro. Peter Laird, who had been re-elected Treasurer; and Bro. Henderson, Tyler, were also invested. There being no other business, the Lodge was duly closed. After drinking the toasts of "The Queen;" and "The Grand Master," the W.M. in proposing "The health of the Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers," coupled with it the health of Bro. Hinxman, as a Past Grand Steward. Bro. Hinxman, after referring to the services of Lord Panmure and the other Grand Officers, said he now appeared as a visitor, feeling that in the present official state of the Lodge, there was no imperative want of his services. He had assisted in the formation of the Lodge, and had continued his membership as long as he considered he could be useful to them; but the claims of his profession demanded more of his time, and he could only say, should the Florence Nightingale at any future time require his services, he should most readily reunite himself with the Lodge. Bro. Clerk then proposed the health of the W.M., and expressed the pleasure he felt on resigning the gavel into the hands of a brother so capable of sustaining the prestige of the Florence Nightingale Lodge. The W.M. briefly acknowledged the compliment, and said he hoped, by diligence and attention, to merit the honours the brethren had conferred upon him in electing him to preside over them. The W.M. then proposed "The Visitors," which was responded to by Bro. Hinxman. To the health of "The Past Masters," Bro. Major Clerk replied, and referred the resolution the Lodge had come to in transacting their Masonic business at a place apart from the tavern, which plan it was hoped

would be adopted by the other Masonic bodies in Woolwich. The banquets would continue to be held at Bro. De Grey's, as now. In conclusion Bro. Clerk tendered his thanks to all the officers who had acted with him during the period he had the happiness of presiding as W.M., whose active co-operation was his success. The W.M., in proposing the health of the first Master of the Lodge, expressed the pleasure he and the brethren had in the presence of Bro. Capt. Forbes on that occasion; in reply Bro. Forbes said, his being the first Master of the Lodge would ever afford him pleasing recollections. On accepting the Mastership he entered office under the auspices of the other Lodges in Woolwich, and had the assistance of some of their members. He was happy to say, that in two years they had been able to clear the Lodge of the expenses incurred on the foundation. This last year, under the admirable Mastership of Bro. Clerk, had been particularly successful. He trusted that every member would feel it his duty to support the Florence Nightingale Lodge, no matter where he might be placed; for himself he assured the brethren he should ever consider such to be his duty; and that wherever his residence might be, he should continue to be a member. Bro. Laird made an appeal to the brethren to aid the widow of a brother, but it having been suggested that the subject would be more properly brought forward in Lodge, he reserved his observations until the next meeting. Some other toasts followed, and after remembering "All Poor and Distressed Masons," the brethren separated. There were thirty-six present; and among the visitors were Bro. Col. Gordon, R.E., of the Delhi Lodge; Bro. Bentham, Prov. G. Organist, Surrey; Bro. Muggeridge, P.M., No. 227; Bro. W. Farnfield, jun., No. 318, &c.

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM LODGE (No. 1055).—An emergency meeting was held on Wednesday, the 29th ult., at their Lodge-room, St. John's Wood. Present—Bros. John Dennis Caulcher, W.M.; J. J. Hardey, S.W.; E. J. Fraser, J.W.; H. A. Stacey, Secretary, and many other brethren. The work of the evening consisted of two initiations, two passings, and two raisings. All of these ceremonies were performed by the Worshipful Master, Bro. Caulcher, in a correct and impressive manner. After dinner the health of the Initiates was replied to by Bro. Whitaker, who, in the course of an eloquent address, said that to his dying hour he should not forget the occurrence of this eventful day; from his heart he thanked the Worshipful Master and brethren for the honour they had done him in admitting him a member of this Lodge, to participate in the rights and mysteries of so ancient and honourable a society. The Worshipful Master (his health having been proposed) was gratified to know that, during his year of office, his endeavours to perform his duties creditably had met with the approval of the Lodge. He proposed the health of Bro. Hardey, S.W., who was also Worshipful Master elect. Bro. Hardey tendered his thanks, and hoped that during the ensuing year he should be as well and faithfully supported by those who would be connected with him as the retiring Worshipful Master had been through the whole term of his office. Bro. W. Watson returned thanks for the P.M.s., and Bro. Elisha Cooke, from Kentucky, expressed his thanks for the hospitality of the brethren of the Prince William Frederick Lodge. Bros. Platt, H. A. Stacey and Caulcher sang some good songs.

INSTRUCTION.

THE MANCHESTER LODGE (No. 209).—At the Western Masonic-hall, Old Bond-street, there was a crowded assembly on the 28th ult., the attraction being Bro. Elisha Cooke, from America, who very lucidly and minutely explained the whole system of working, as practised in the United States. Thanks having been voted to Bro. Cooke, he said, "Brethren, there is a great deal more in Masonry than its mere forms—there is a wondrous beauty in the theory of Masonry. To me it is the image of a band of men united in the bonds of brotherly love, and in which all hearts are bent on the acquisition of knowledge, and only look on the mere technical lectures as a key to the great storehouse where the information is deposited that we are in search of. And I truly believe that an all-wise Providence would not have permitted a society, so great in numbers, and extending into every clime, to exist for so long a period were there not some good cause. Brethren, we have a great work to perform, let us lean towards each other till we have accomplished it, and when finished, may it meet the approbation of the great Architect of the universe."

THE ST. JAMES UNION LODGE (No. 211).—This Lodge received a visit on Monday last from Bro. Elisha Cooke, accompanied by Bro. S. B. Wilson, P.G.D. The brethren were much gratified at the urbanity and promptness of our American brother, in answering the many questions put to him. On the motion of Bro. Wakley, P.M., Bro. Cooke was unanimously elected an honorary member of this Lodge of Instruction. The Lodge was very numerous attended.

PROVINCIAL.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.—Lodge *La Césarée* (No. 360).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, June 30th, under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. Le Cras; the S.W. Bro. Bandains was present, and the

duty of J.W. being taken by Bro. Philip Binet. The minutes of May 24th, June 7th, and June 18th, were read and confirmed. The Secretary then announced the names of five gentlemen for initiation at seven days' notice—Jean de la Mare, Gustave Auguste Neel, George le Boulanger, Thomas Dorey, John George Devenille. The ballot was taken, and was followed by the ceremony of initiation, administered to all but the first, who was unable to be present. The Lodge was then opened in the second degree, for the purpose of passing Bro. Philip Edward le Sueur. At the conclusion of this ceremony, the ballot was taken for the admission, as a joining member, of Bro. Peagam, (a P.M. of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 722, from which he had retired), and this proved unanimous in his favour. Bro. Louis Poisson, of the Justice Lodge (under the Irish warrant), was proposed as a joining member, and the names of several other gentlemen were entered for future initiation, if found worthy. Brothers Ratier and Manuel, members of the Committee for the erection of the Masonic Temple, read several important communications on the subject. After a protracted sitting, the Lodge was closed with the usual ceremonies, and the Brethren, in number about sixty, repaired to the banqueting-room, not to partake of sumptuous fare—for such is not the lot of those who seek a suitable and handsome location worthy of Freemasonry—but merely for light refreshments and social intercourse. On this occasion several interesting addresses were delivered, and we regret to notice an attempt on the part of a visitor to throw in the apple of discord, which, however, was speedily suppressed.—[H. H.]

CUMBERLAND.

CARLISLE.—*Union Lodge* (No. 389).—This Lodge met on Tuesday, at the King's Head, to pass Bro. Armstrong to the second degree; in the absence of the W.M. the degree was conferred by Bro. Hawood, the S.W., in the presence of three P.Ms. of the Lodge and the other members. Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M., expressed himself well pleased with the improvement of the working of the brethren, and offered his services as preceptor, which were gratefully accepted. The brethren and visitors dined together and spent a happy evening, and there is good hope that the Carlisle Lodge will soon become what it was twenty years back.

DEVONSHIRE.

STONEHOUSE.—*Lodge of Sincerity* (No. 224).—This Lodge met at St. George's Hall, Stonehouse, on the festival of St. John's, June 24th, for the purpose of installing Bro. R. Rodd, S.W., the W.M. elect; Bro. Lord Valletort, the W.M., being detained in London by his parliamentary duties, deputed the work to P.Ms. Hunt and Hancock, who divided the labour between them. Upon being installed in the chair, the W.M. installed the following Officers for the year:—Bro. Lord Graves, S.W.; Bro. Knocking, J.W.; Bro. Ridley, S.D.; Bro. Rae, J.D.; Bro. Tripe, P.M., Treasurer; Bro. Spence Bate, Secretary; Bro. Walker, I.G.; Bros. Hughes and Howe, Stewards; Bro. Rogers, P.M., Tyler. After it had determined that a letter of sympathy and condolence should be forwarded to the widow of the late Bro. Rowe, P.M., P. Prov. G.O., P. Prov. D.C., the J.W. announced that the hour of refreshment was at hand. The Lodge accordingly adjourned to the banquet, the W.M. presiding. After the cloth was removed and the Lodge properly tyled, the usual Masonic toasts were proposed and severally responded to. The Lodge was finally closed in peace and harmony at a quarter before ten o'clock.

DURHAM.

GATESHEAD.—*Lodge of Industry* (No. 56).—At the regular monthly meeting, the brethren assembled at the Grey Horse Inn, on Monday evening, June 27th, and the Lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. C. J. Banister, and his Officers, assisted by Bro. R. J. Banning, as S.W., that Officer being unable to attend. After the minutes of last meeting were confirmed, the ballot was taken for Mr. C. Green, jun., Mr. T. C. Emmerson, Mr. Isaac Barker, and in each case declared unanimous, Mr. Wm. Green, being proposed by note, at seven days' notice, was also balloted for and unanimously elected; being all present they were each severally initiated into the Order by the W.M. with his usual earnestness. Bros. Buckham and Robinson, wishing to take the second degree, were duly passed, the W.M. expressing himself well pleased at their attention to the duty of the Order. The W.M. was assisted by P.Ms. Hotham, S. Bell, Gillies, Franklin, and Clapham. The W.M. gave notice of motion that next monthly meeting he would propose that the funds of the Lodge should be laid aside to form a building fund. The business completed, the Lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. Visitors present—Bros. J. B. Browning, Geo. Rochester, W. Scott, S. Cohen, and a full attendance of the members. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and the harmony of the evening was much increased by the excellent songs of Bros. Kimpster, Buckham, Wm. Green, &c.

HAMPSHIRE.

WINCHESTER.—*Lodge of Economy* (No. 90).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, adjoining the Black Swan Hotel, on the evening of Wednesday, the 29th ult. In the absence of the W.M. (Bro. Hasleham) and the immediate P.M.; Bro. C. Sherry, as the senior P.M. in attendance, took the chair. There were also present, Bros. J. Carter, S.W., *pro tem.*; H. Newman, J.W., *pro tem.*, and Bros. Durant, P.M.; S. Everitt, P.M.; W. Cowen, P.M., and a number of

other brethren. The first business transacted was, the balloting for a brother as a joining member of the Lodge, Bro. T. W. Fleming, Prov. G.M. of the Isle of Wight. The vote was unanimously favourable. Bro. Sherry then said he had received a letter from Bro. Stebbing, announcing that the annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire would be held at Southampton, on Tuesday, the 19th of July, and he (Bro. Sherry) hoped all would strain a point to go down and support the Prov. G.M. on the occasion. Bro. Sherry then said, "Since our last Lodge meeting, the Grand Lodge of England have assembled to elect the Board of General Purposes, the ministers of the Craft, to conduct the affairs for the ensuing year. At our last meeting, the regular business paper from Grand Lodge was presented here, accompanied by a printed form, being a copy of a letter from Bro. Roxburgh, G. Reg., to Bro. Gray Clarke, G. Sec., complaining of Bro. Whitmore's motion. This was a matter which took us rather by surprise. The cause of complaint had been the proceedings of the Grand Registrar of England, who had taken upon himself (contrary to the usual custom) to summon a party of Grand Officers and others, to his private residence or chambers, for the purpose of selecting a number of brethren for recommendation to Grand Lodge, as those to conduct affairs as ministers of Masonry for the next year. He believed the Grand Registrar had erred in judgment only, and that he was not aware at the time, that he was arrogating to himself the selection of men for such important purposes as conducting the affairs of the whole body of Masons. He had no doubt the Grand Registrar had acted with the purest motives, and that it had been a mistake, not thinking of the consequences it would entail upon him. But the Grand Registrar could not be allowed to think and act for us. If so, it would be like selecting Her Majesty's ministers for conducting the affairs of the nation entirely and exclusively from London members of parliament, without including any representatives from the provinces. Indeed, it appears that the list of names selected at the Grand Registrar's meeting was exclusively chosen from London Lodges. All members of Grand Lodge in the provinces were summoned to attend when the Board of General Purposes were to be elected, and to give their votes in accordance with their own views. But it must be recollected that some of these provincial members had three or four hundred miles to travel if they did attend, and therefore the necessary expenses were so great that they could not do so, though some from shorter distances did attend. Many lived at a much greater distance from London than himself. He had managed generally to attend of late years, and had given his votes as he conceived for the best interests of Masonry; but not one tenth of the provincial members did or could attend, in consequence of the inconvenience he had already mentioned. What was the use, then, of the provincial members being summoned to London nominally for the purpose of electing the officers of the Board of General Purposes, and other such important business; and then those few who did attend to find when they got there, that the business had been pre-arranged. All members of Grand Lodge in the provinces (and those in London too) should, in his opinion, have the privilege of voting by proxy. Then there would be a chance of some provincial brethren being taken into the Board of General Purposes. He believed there were as good men in the provinces as there were in London, and men quite as experienced in Masonry. At the same time, he wished it to be understood that he had little fault to find with the London brethren, for he believed there were very good men among them, and he was ready to admit that the officers selected were Masons fully capable of properly conducting Lodge affairs. It was not the brethren personally he objected to, but the system under which they were nominated for office. It was with these feelings he had seconded the motion of Bro. Whitmore at the late Grand Lodge meeting, which motion was, in Bro. Whitmore's absence, brought forward by Bro. Binckes. The facts were—Bro. Whitmore had given notice of a motion expressing regret that the Grand Registrar should have originated a movement contrary to the rules of Masonry. Upon that Bro. Roxburgh conceived himself unjustly attacked, and submitted to Grand Lodge that such attack became a "breach of privilege." Bro. Binckes (who himself is a most strict disciplinarian), in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Whitmore, took up the subject, and spoke at considerable length, and it was apparent the whole of Grand Lodge was with him as he proceeded. He (Bro. Sherry) took upon himself to second the motion. Since then some remarks upon the discussion had appeared in the *Magazine*, in which reference had been made to himself. He therefore wished to explain the reasons why he had supported Bro. Binckes. He considered it was quite clear that Bro. Roxburgh had no right to summon a party to his own residence to nominate officers, unless he summoned an equal if not larger number of provincial brethren also; as it was well known the provincial members were by far the most numerous. The metropolitan district took in those Lodges only within ten miles of London; and the effect was that six or seven hundred provincial Lodges were, to a certain extent, shut out from expressing their opinion on the elections. Bro. Stebbing, the only provincial Mason put in nomination, had polled only forty-two votes, from causes he had already explained; and this showed the injustice of the present mode of proceedings. There was not a better Mason in England than Bro. Stebbing, and why should such brethren be excluded? Were the system different, and had voting by proxy been introduced, he was sure Bro. Stebbing would have been elected. The view he was led to take of the matter was, that the London brethren were determined to keep the management of the affairs of Grand Lodge in their own hands, those in the provinces being excluded from all else but paying to the funds; and

he hoped that some system of voting by proxy would be introduced, so as to give the provinces a fair share in conducting Grand Lodge business. Bro. Durant, P.M., said the information conveyed to him in Bro. Sherry's speech had struck him with astonishment; he could not have supposed that the Grand Registrar had so wrongly acted. Every Mason must know that it was improper for the chief officer to summon certain members to a private meeting, and there make a selection of them and others to constitute the Board of General Purposes. Bro. Newman made a few observations, expressing his regret that such a course of proceeding should have been adopted. Bro. Sherry (in reply to Bro. Oakshot, P.M.) pointed out that by the Book of Constitutions the Grand Master was in possession of the power of electing the President of the Board, and ten others, which, added to the Grand Officers, gave the Grand Master the presumed support of seventeen votes, against the fourteen annually elected in June by Grand Lodge. Bro. Carter, P.M., regretted that anything like jealousy should have arisen between the London and provincial brethren. The provincial brethren, if they went up to London and attended the meetings, could outvote the others, though he admitted the difficulty of their attendance. He discerned a disposition on the part of the London Lodges to hold fast that power which they had so long exercised. After some little further discussion, Bro. Sherry moved the following resolution:—"That this Lodge very much regrets the late proceedings of the Grand Registrar, though it excuses him from any party motives." Bro. Durant, P.M., seconded the motion, which was put to the Lodge and carried unanimously. Bro. Carter, P.M., moved another resolution, to the effect that, "In the future selection of Officers of the Board of General Purposes, a fair share of provincial brethren should be nominated." This was seconded by Bro. Everitt, P.M., and unanimously agreed to. The Lodge was then closed, after which the brethren adjourned, as usual, to the festive board, finally separating at the hour of high twelve.

[We are sure, if country brethren can be found to act upon the Board of General Purposes, they will be gladly elected.—ED.]

KENT.

GRAVESEND.—*Lodge of Freedom* (No. 91).—The monthly meeting was held on Monday, the 19th June, at the Town Hall, Bro. E. Wates, W.M., in the chair. The brethren proceeded to the election of a Master for the ensuing year, when the choice fell on Bro. Thomas Pottinger, S.W. Bro. F. W. Dolson, P.M., was re-elected Treasurer. On a proposition of Bro. Hilder, P.M., being brought forward for providing a set of tracing boards, it was moved by Bro. Robt. Spencer, P.M., and resolved, that a sum of five guineas be given for that purpose. In consequence of the next meeting falling on the same day as the Prov. Grand Lodge, the installation will take place one week later. The W.M., Bro. Wates, has been distinguished during his year of office for the attention he has given to the working of the Lodge, and has not only maintained its efficiency, but advanced it in estimation, and with the improvement of Masonry in the province. Such exertions are needed to maintain the character of every individual Lodge.

GRAVESEND.—*Kent Lodge of Freedom* (No. 91).—This Lodge met on Thursday, June 30th, Bro. S. B. Wilson presiding as W.M., who introduced to the notice of the brethren Bro. Elisha D. Cooke, when that brother, at their request, repeated the ceremonies and lectures as practised in the United States. Bro. S. B. Wilson made a few remarks explanatory of the differences between the American and English systems. A vote of thanks was ordered to be recorded on the minutes to Bro. Elisha D. Cooke, for the very able manner in which he had explained the lectures and ceremonies, as also for his courtesy in replying to the many questions put to him. Here we will reply to a question asked of us by many Members of the Craft—"Who is Bro. Elisha D. Cooke?" He was initiated into Freemasonry in Chester Lodge (No. 18) at Chesterville, South Carolina; was exalted to the supreme degree of a R. A. Mason in Franklin Chapter (No. 14), and also the degree of Royal and Select Master, at the same place; about seven months since he was made a Knight Templar in Louisville Encampment (No. 2) at Louisville, Kentucky, and admitted to the A. and A. rite of Sublime Princes in the Supreme Consistory Court of the same place; and is the appointed Grand Lecturer to the Lodges in Kentucky.

GRAVESEND.—*Lodge of Sympathy* (No. 909).—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Town Hall, for the choice of officers, on Monday, the 19th ult., when Bro. Stratford was elected W.M. for the year ensuing.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Northern Counties Lodge* (No. 586).—The members met at the Masonic Hall, Bell's-court, on Saturday, June 25th, by emergency summonses, to initiate Mr. James Sanderson, who had been previously balloted for and accepted. There were present Bro. H. Sanitor, W.M., who gave the degree to the satisfaction of the brethren, it being his first attempt, ably assisted by Bro. H. Hotham, P.M., as S.W., and the Officers of the Lodge; Bros. J. Medcalf, D. Prov. G.M.; Wm. Punchon, P.M.; Geo. Weatherhead, P.M.; C. L. Banister, P.M.; S. Joel, J. H. Vincent, I. Ion, and the members of the Lodge. The Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren retired to the supper-room, under the able presidency of the father of Masonry in the north of England, Bro. Punchon, P.M., who gave the usual loyal and Masonic

toasts which were duly responded to, and the brethren separated at nine o'clock.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

UTTOXETER.—*Foresters' Lodge* (No. 670).—A special meeting was held at Uttoxeter, on Thursday, June 30th, for the purpose of installing as its Worshipful Master the Hon. Wm. Warren Vernon. The brethren met at two o'clock, when Bro. G. Sergeant, Prov. G. Reg., P.M. Nos. 660, and 606 (assisted by Bro. Butterworth), proceeded to perform the ceremony of installation, which duty he performed in such a manner as to elicit the commendations of the Prov. Grand Master of Staffordshire, and of the Lodge. The address to the W.M. was very impressively given by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Ward. The closing address was beautifully given by the Prov. G.M., Colonel Vernon, who afterwards congratulated the newly installed Master upon the high and honourable position he had attained, and the Lodge, upon having so good a Mason and such a noble brother to preside over them; also upon the good position the Lodge had now attained, which was mainly attributable to the exertion of Bro. Sergeant, P.M., and the brethren of the Menturia Lodge Hanley, who had worked well and constantly to revive the Lodge and bring it to its present state of perfection. This was briefly acknowledged by the W.M., who quite coincided with the remarks of the Prov. G.M., and would do his utmost to continue and keep the Lodge in the position it now occupied. After receiving the congratulations of the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Ward, and the other members of the Prov. Grand Lodge, present, the newly installed Master closed the Lodge in the usual manner amongst Masons. After the ceremony the brethren sat down to a grand banquet, at which the newly installed W.M. presided, and the following brethren were present:—Bros. Col. Vernon, Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire; Thomas Ward, of Newcastle, D. Prov. G.M.; G. Sergeant, Prov. G. Reg., P.M.; Cartwright, of Newcastle, Prov. G.D.; Fletcher, P.M.; Cooper, S.W.; Keates, J.W.; Torrens, J.D.; and Bros. Mould, Douglas, Earp, Fish, of Uttoxeter; Bros. Butterworth, W.M. No. 606, Hanley; J. C. Daniel, S.W.; W. Large, I.G., and Bros. Bradford, Swift, Hall, and Chantrey of Hanley. The cloth having been withdrawn, and grace said, the W.M. proposed a number of appropriate toasts, including "The Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire, Col. Vernon;" "Bro. the Hon. W. Warren Vernon, W.M. of Foresters' Lodge;" "The Prov. G. Reg., Bro. G. Sergeant, Installing Master;" and a number of other toasts, concluding with that of "The Poor and Distressed Masons." In reply to the toast of his health, Bro. Sergeant introduced the subject of the Masonic charities, strongly advocating them, urging upon the Lodge and the brethren the necessity of becoming subscribers at once, which, from the hearty response given by the brethren present, no doubt will be done. This was approved and followed up by the Prov. G.M., Col. Vernon, who is now a life governor to all the charities. This Lodge was formerly a very prosperous one, but owing to the death of its late W.M., and other untoward circumstances, it has been nearly dead the last few years, but has recently been resuscitated by the exertions of Bro. Sergeant, P.M., and the officers of the Menturia Lodge, Hanley, who were present on this interesting occasion and much pleased to see the success attending their labours of Masonic love. The new Master is a son of Lord Vernon, of Wolsey Hall, Derbyshire, and Bro. to the Honourable Augustus Vernon, who recently lost his election for the county of Derby by a minority of one vote. He is also a relative of our Prov. G.M., Col. Vernon. Bro. Chantrey, of Hanley, presided over the musical department with his accustomed ability, and a most pleasant fraternal evening was spent.

SUSSEX.

BRIGHTON.—*Royal York Lodge* (No. 394).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, on Tuesday the 5th inst., the W. M. Bro. Moppett presiding, supported by the whole of his officers, and honoured by the presence of Bro. G. E. Pocock, Grand Sword Bearer (who was saluted on entrance), and several brethren from Lodge, No. 390. A successful ballot having been taken for Messrs. Bull and Willard, they were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Order. A communication was read from the D. Prov. G.M. of Sussex, certifying the new by-laws.

BRIGHTON.—*Royal Clarence Lodge* (No. 338).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Friday, June 17th, Bro. John H. Scott, W.M., presided; and the visitors present were the R.W. Bro. Capt. Dalbiac, D. Prov. G.M. of Sussex; Bro. Heather, Prov. G. Treasurer of Hants; Bro. Machin, of the Shakespeare Lodge, Warwick; Bro. Rudduck, P. Prov. J.G.W. of Suffolk; Bro. Goldberg, No. 390, and Bro. Traffe, No. 394. Dr. Moon was initiated, and Bro. Stedman was passed to the second degree. About forty of the brethren adjourned to refreshment. After the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft," and "The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.," had been duly honoured, the W.M. rose, and said—"The next toast is 'Lord Pannure, the R.W.D.G.M. of England, and the Officers of Grand Lodge.'" Until lately we have for so many years been cut off from all but an official connexion with Grand Lodge, that most of us have taken little or no interest in its proceedings; we have been ignorant of its functions; and how closely identified are the interests of private Lodges, and the Craft in general, with the well being of Grand Lodge in particular. We have therefore hitherto looked upon this toast and the one preceding, more as a formal acknowledgment of the allegiance which was due to Grand Lodge, than as making any great calls upon our enthusiasm. But to-day this toast is invested with more than

usual interest, and will in future be more cordially responded to by you because there will be associated with it the name of one whom we all hold dear, and whose absence on this occasion I deeply regret, Bro. Gavin Pocock. You all know that Bro. Pocock has this year been appointed to office in Grand Lodge, and I am quite sure you all feel that this high Masonic distinction has been justly merited by him. But independently of the honour that has thus been conferred upon Bro. Pocock, and through him upon Freemasonry in the province of Sussex, this appointment must give great satisfaction to all zealous and true hearted Masons, because it is a proof to them that the M.W. Grand Master is determined that in future the honours of the Craft shall not be confined exclusively to London Masons; that there shall be other qualifications to Grand Office, besides filling the chair of two or three particular Lodges; that he knows who the men are, and where they are to be found, who, without expectation of reward, beyond the respect and affection of their brethren, are steadily and indefatigably doing the real work of Freemasonry. That this has been pre-eminently the case with Bro. Pocock, you all know, and I know that his surprise, upon receiving this appointment, was as great as the delight of his friends on hearing of it. The D. Prov. Grand Master, in reply to his health, and that of the Provincial Officers, expressed the pleasure that he had in paying a visit to the Royal Clarence Lodge, and how much satisfaction he had experienced in seeing the work so admirably performed. He had visited many Lodges in other provinces, and had never seen it excelled, and he felt proud in having so perfect a Lodge under his jurisdiction. The visitors also severally expressed a similar opinion with regard to the manner in which the working had been conducted. The D. Prov. Grand Master then proposed the health of the Worshipful Master, who thanked him and the visitors for the high compliment they had paid the Royal Clarence Lodge; he attributed the success which had attended his exertions in the chair entirely to the great advantage he had derived from the Brighton Lodge of Instruction, and strongly exhorted all those who were anxious to advance in Masonry to become members of that Lodge, as he felt very certain that future Masters of Lodges would look to the Lodge of Instruction to guide them in the selection of their Officers; at any rate it was more likely that they would appoint brethren who showed zeal in the cause, and proficiency in the work than those who were only to be found at the Lodge upon banqueting nights. In proposing the Entered Apprentices, the W.M. said—"We will now drink to the health of those brethren who have lately joined our Order." This is generally looked upon as the toast of the evening, for although it is contrary to our principles, in any way to persuade others to become Freemasons against their own inclinations, we are at all times rejoiced to welcome amongst us men of intelligence, of high character, and of social position. It shows that Freemasonry is making its influence felt in society when such men are anxious to join us. And what, brethren, is the influence which Freemasonry exercises? I believe that it binds together hearts which would otherwise remain estranged—that it unites members of the various classes of society in a bond of union, which nothing can sever but dishonour, to the Craft. And surely in an age when political strife and religious animosities, and ungenerous competitions, and selfish interests of every kind are doing their baneful work in severing heart from heart, and man from man, we must all of us feel it to be an inestimable privilege to belong to a society, where, however diverse our opinions, however antagonistic our creeds, whatever the avocations by which we gain an honest livelihood, we can meet together in social intercourse on grounds of common brotherhood; and so long as Freemasonry presents to the world a body united in itself, noble in its charities, and generous in its sympathies, so long will Masonry outlive the sneers of its detractors, and so long will there be found men of station, of influence, and of ability desirous of ranking amongst its members. We have to-night to drink to the health of two brethren who would be an honour to any society. I hope they may fully realize the advantages I have spoken of, and never have occasion to regret that they have become members of our ancient and honourable fraternity." Bros. Stedman and Moon responded, and thanked the brethren for the kindness with which they had been received, and regretted that they had not joined many years earlier, a society which was productive of so much good will and usefulness to others. The W.M. in proposing "The Past Masters" said, it has often struck me when I have heard this toast proposed by others, it is one which it is peculiarly incumbent upon us to respond to most heartily. Nothing more truly indicates a noble spirit than the recognition of past services; and yet I am afraid that there is a tendency in most of us to become so anxious for progress, or so absorbed in all that concerns the present, that we are apt to forget and to overlook the obligations which are owing to the past. This is more particularly the case when all things go well with us; we find ourselves in the midst of prosperity, and we do not trouble ourselves to inquire how that prosperity was brought about. Flushed with success, we are apt to imagine that it is our own right arms which have gotten us the victory, and we forget how far that victory was owing to the strategy and wisdom of more experienced and directing minds. Now this toast for a moment draws off our attention from that which concerns our immediate interests, and fixes it upon the claims of those whose active services are past, but who in their day did their duty well, and in such a manner as to lay the foundation of the success and prosperity which we are now enjoying; but when I speak of their active services as past, I am scarcely doing the Past Masters justice, for there is not one of them

who is not at all times ready in Lodge and out of Lodge to render any service to the Lodge which may lie in his power. For myself I owe many of them much gratitude for very valuable and kind assistance in the discharge of the duties of my office, and to all of them many thanks for very cordial and generous support. Other toasts followed—"The Visitors;" "The Officers of the Lodge," &c., &c.; and the meeting separated shortly before eleven o'clock.

WARWICKSHIRE.

COVENTRY.—*Trinity Lodge* (No. 316).—The brethren of this Lodge celebrated the festival of St. John Baptist, at the Castle Inn, on Tuesday, 28th ult., at which more than an usual number of brethren assembled. After the ordinary routine of business, the brethren dined under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. H. Matterson. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been honoured, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren dispersed at an early hour.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

KIDDERMINSTER LODGE.—*Hope and Charity* (No. 523).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Monday, June 27th, when Mr. Thos. Cope was duly initiated into Freemasonry, according to ancient custom, as a serving brother to the Lodge, by dispensation from the R.W. Prov. G.M., H. C. Vernon, Esq. The Lodge was honoured on this occasion by a visit from the following distinguished brethren:—The V.W. Bro. Wm. Masefield, P.M., No. 313 and 730, Prov. G. Treas.; the V.W. Bro. Wm. Howells, P.M., No. 730, Prov. G. Sec.; the V.W. Bro. Dennison, P.M., No. 730, P. Prov. G. Reg.; the W. Bro. Wm. Bristow, jun., P.M., No. 313, P.A.D.C., and the Rev. Bro. M.S. Walrond, No. 460.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

BRADFORD.—*Lodge of Hope* (No. 379).—The monthly meeting of this flourishing Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Duke-street, on Monday evening, the 13th of June. After the Lodge was opened in the first degree, a complimentary letter was read from the W.M. elect, of the Lodge of Harmony (an offshoot from this Lodge), inviting the officers and brethren to their installation and banquet on the 25th, which act of courtesy was much appreciated by the brethren assembled. The W.M. (Bro. C. H. Taylor), then proceeded in a masterly manner to initiate Messrs. William Woodhead, Chas. Storey Woodhead, Samuel Woodhead, and the Rev. Wm. Fearnside, curate of St. John's church (three brothers and a cousin), into the secrets and mysteries of Freemasonry. The W.M. was ably assisted by Bros. H. Smith, Rogerson, and W. Mawson, P.M.s, and the other officers of the Lodge. After the business was concluded, the brethren were called from labour to refreshment, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to in true Masonic style. The healths of the newly initiated brethren were heartily drunk, each expressing the pleasure they felt in becoming members of so ancient and honourable an institution, regretting they had not before joined the Order, and expressing an anxious desire to become good working Masons. The E. A. song was given in good style by Bro. Heseltine, J.W., Bro. Thos. Woodhead, (another brother of the newly initiated), presiding at the piano. The health of the Prov. Grand Officers was responded to by those who were present, and it was very gratifying to hear that the D. Prov. G.M. of West York (Bro. Dr. Fearnley, of Dewsbury), had expressed himself so highly as to call this the model Lodge of the province. The health of the W.M. was also received with much applause by the brethren, and in returning thanks he expressed his willingness to do all he could for Masonry in general, and this Lodge in particular. After spending a pleasant and truly Masonic evening, the brethren retired at an early hour, highly gratified. A Lodge of Emergency was also held at the same place on Friday, the 17th, to work up arrears of business, when Bro. Alexander Hunter was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, and Bro. Pratt passed to the degree of Fellow Craft.

[We are glad to receive an interesting account of the progress of Masonry in West Yorkshire. We understand that the Lodge of Hope, No. 379, West Yorkshire, is in a very flourishing condition, having a good staff of working P.M.s. (fifteen in number), a capital working Mason for Worshipful Master, and an efficient staff of officers. A Lodge of Instruction is held weekly, and is well attended by the young Masons who are anxious to improve and make themselves competent for office. We are also glad to hear that the brethren in this district take a deep interest in all the Masonic charities, and have this year elected three of their number as annuitants of the Royal Benevolent Fund for Aged Freemasons. In the Lodge of Hope every member is a subscriber, and to the kindness of Bro. Guth, P.M., who went to London to superintend the election on behalf of the West Yorkshire district, may in a great measure be attributed the successful result of the election, as two of the candidates were only first applicants. The appeal on behalf of the Boys School has also been heartily responded to by the brethren in this province, and a very handsome sum subscribed. We wish the Lodge of Hope, and all other Lodges in the district, success in their endeavours to inculcate true Masonic principles.—Ed.]

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER.

OLD KING'S ARMS CHAPTER (No. 30).—This Chapter held a convocation at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, July 4th, when Comp. G. Biggs, with his accustomed solemnity and impressiveness, exalted two brethren to the supreme degree of R.A., and afterwards installed the three Principals into their respective chairs, viz:—Comp. Paas as M.E.Z.; Comp. Maudsley, H.; Comp. England, J. The Chapter was then closed, and the Companions adjourned to the banquet. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the Companions separated, highly gratified with the proceedings of the evening.

JOPPA CHAPTER (No. 223).—A convocation was holden at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, on June the 27th. The Chapter was declared open at half-past five, P.M., the chief business of the evening being the installation of the Principals, Comps. H. A. Isaacs, T. E. Laud, and M. A. Cohen; subsequent to which four brethren were exalted, a large attendance of the Companions being present. At eight o'clock dinner was announced. In giving the health of "The Visitors," Comp. Isaacs reminded the members of this Chapter they were honoured with the presence of a distinguished Mason from America, Comp. Elisha Cooke. Comp. Cooke, in reply, said—"Should any of you ever visit 'Old Kentucky,' there is not a Mason there but will do all in his power to show what Kentucky hospitality really is. I visit this country on a purely Masonic mission, for the purpose of ascertaining the difference between European and American working. Entering upon this pleasing duty, my anticipations were of the brightest character. I felt that a welcome awaited me, and I now feel they have been more than realised. Your Chapter I visit to-night on the very kind invitation of Comp. Dr. Ladd, whose acquaintance I am proud to have made. He is in the Masonic hemisphere a star of the first magnitude." After some very appropriate remarks from the other visitors, and some good singing, the Companions separated.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

METROPOLITAN ENCAMPMENT.

KEMEYS TYNTE ENCAMPMENT.—The Eminent Commander summoned an Encampment at the Freemasons' Tavern, Woolwich, on Friday, July 1st, and at four o'clock it was opened, when there were present Sir Knt. Major Henry Clerk, E.C.; Sir Knt. J. How, as 1st Captain; Sir Knt. J. W. Figg, 2nd Capt.; Sir Knt. Major F. Ducane, Expert; Sir Knt. Taylor, Capt. of Lines; Sir Knt. John Masson, Grand Chancellor, assisting as Prelate. Comp. J. Smith, of Chapter No. 25, was introduced and duly installed. Sir Knt. Elisha D. Cooke, of the United States, was a visitor. This being an emergency meeting, and as there was no other business, the Encampment was closed at an early hour.

PROVINCIAL ENCAMPMENT.

SOUTHAMPTON.—A conclave of the Royal Gloucester Encampment was held on Thursday, June 30th, at the Freemasons' Hall; Sir Knt. Charles Bromley, E.C.; Sir Knt. J. R. Stebbing, Prelate; Sir Knt. J. T. Enright, 1st Capt.; Sir Knt. Geo. Lungley, 2nd Capt.; Sir Knt. Geo. W. Clarke, Registrar, &c., &c., being present. The ballot was taken for Comp. Frederick Perkins, of the Chapter of Concord, and W.M. of the Royal Gloucester Lodge, No. 152, and he being declared duly elected, was afterwards admitted into the privileges of the Order. The ceremony of installation was ably performed by Sir Knt. Bromley, assisted by the above named officers, particularly by Sir Knt. Stebbing, who was most impressive in the duties of Prelate. This Encampment, which had pretty nearly died out, is now so well revived, as to assume a position of importance, the number of members continually increasing, and all the elements of success being visible in its arrangements.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CONCLAVE OF KENT.

A meeting of the Knights Templar of the province of Kent, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, in Woolwich, on Friday, July 1st. At five o'clock the Prov. Grand Conclave was opened, present Sir Knt. Henry James Hinxman, M.D., V.E. Prov. Grand Com.; Sir Knt. John Masson, G. Chan.; Sir Knt. Major Henry Clerk, 1st Grand Capt.; Sir Knts. Peter Laird, J. W. Figg, F. Du Cane, John Dixon, and others.

The minutes of the previous Grand Conclave were read and confirmed, the Treasurer's account was adopted, and the annual audit committee was appointed.

The V.E. Provincial Grand Commander then proceeded to appoint and invest the officers for the year ensuing; he prefaced the choice he had made by a few remarks on his inability to fill all the offices on their previous meetings, and especially referred to that of his deputy. Last year there was no member of the province who, by rank in the Order, was eligible, he was now however relieved from the difficulty, as in Sir Knt. Clerk he had a brother well capable of supplying his place in case

of absence; he therefore requested Sir Knt. Clerk to accept the appointment of D. Prov. G.M. Sir Knt. Clerk said he felt much honoured by the kindness with which the appointment was conferred, and accepted the office with gratitude. The other Prov. Grand Officers are, Sir Knt. Shuttleworth, 1st Capt.; Sir Knt. Lt. Alderson, 2nd Capt.; Sir Knt. Peter Laird, Chan.; Sir Knt. Major F. Du Cane, Prelate; Sir Knt. J. W. Figg, Expert; Sir Knt. J. Lyons, Capt. of Lines; Sir Knt. J. Dixon, Almoner; Sir Knt. Spratt, Supt. of Works; Sir Knt. Jackson, Herald; Sir Knt. J. Smith, Sword Bearer; Sir Knt. Platt, Banner Bearer; Sir Knt. Henderson, Janitor. Sir Knt. Taylor was re-elected Grand Treas.

The Prov. Grand Encampment was then closed, and at seven o'clock the Knights re-assembled at dinner, at which thirteen were present. After paying due honour to the loyal and Masonic toasts, the Prov. G. Com. gave "The Visitors," and first referred to their honoured guest, Bro. Masson, whose ardent services in the cause of Freemasonry were almost beyond praise; his industry in his distinguished position as Grand Chancellor of the Knights Templar was well known. He also alluded to Bro. Masson having, by virtue of his office, consecrated and opened their Encampment, the first established in Kent. He next noticed Bro. Cooke, whose presence afforded him much pleasure, and who they hoped would convey to his brethren in the United States, an assurance that the interchange of visits was always agreeable. Sir Knt. Masson in acknowledgment said, that seeing its successful career he looked back with great satisfaction to the fact of his having consecrated the Kemeys Tynite Encampment. He also mentioned the great pleasure he had in the prosperity and increase of the Knights Templar. He alluded to his having been appointed to represent the Templars of America in the Grand Conclave of England, and said he anticipated good results from the interchange of these relations between England and America.

The Prov. G. Com. next proposed the Grand Officers appointed on that day, and expressed his gratification in having been enabled to fill all the offices. At the top of the list was Sir Knt. Clerk, who was fully able to assist him in carrying on the business or of conducting the Prov. Grand Conclave in his unavoidable absence; and in all the other officers he was assured of finding support. Sir Knt. Clerk in responding, said, in speaking for himself and the other officers, they pledged themselves to support the Order to the best of their ability, but especially in the province of Kent.

Sir Knt. Masson asked the knights to drink the health of their Prov. G. Com., a brother who had shown by his efficiency the excellency of the appointment. He referred to Dr. Hinxman's general enthusiasm in favour of every degree of Masonry, and under his auspices there was reason to hope ere long, one, if not two Encampments, would be opened in Kent. In concluding, Bro. Masson said, that from the opportunities he had had of witnessing Bro. Hinxman's fulfilment of his duties, he was sure a better Mason did not exist. The Prov. G. Com. in reply said, Bro. Masson had referred to his services, and he could only say he had endeavoured by diligence to deserve all the honours conferred upon him. He alluded to the increase of their Order, and noticed that the Kemeys Tynite Encampment numbered twenty-three members, which must be looked upon as most satisfactory, being but two years old. There was a prospect of an Encampment being established at Maidstone; Valmer and Canterbury were also spoken of.

The health of Sir Knt. Smith, who had that day been installed in the Kemeys Tynite Encampment, was proposed by Sir Knt. Clerk, and a most agreeable meeting was brought to a close.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER.

THE assembly of the Metropolitan Rose Croix Chapter, on Tuesday next, the 12th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, will be of a particularly interesting character. At the last meeting a select Chapter was appointed to consider the ritual and arrangements, consisting of Ill. Bros. the M.W.S., Dr. W. Jones; J. B. Cole, 33°; J. A. D. Cox, 33°; Hyde Clarke, 32°; Dr. R. H. Goolden, 32°; and Dr. Kent, 32°, Treasurer and Secretary. Under the direction of these brethren, the arrangements have been remodelled, the furniture and fittings extended and improved, suitable dresses provided, and the musical and choral portions of the service increased, and made more effective. Ill. Bro. Hyde Clarke, the junior member of the 32°, has been appointed Dir. of Cers.; Bro. W. H. Bernhard, of the Mauritius and Metropolitan Chapters, Assist. Dir. of Cers., with other assistants; and Bro. Horsley, Organist, with some distinguished brethren of the choir under his direction. The service for the next meeting is selected from Palestrini, Mozart, and Beethoven. Music is likewise provided for the banquet. The number of candidates is large. At the subsequent meetings further improvements will be effected. The meeting of the 12th will be, it is supposed, the best celebration of the rite which has been held in this country for the last sixty or seventy years, if not since Ill. Bro. W. Preston served the functions of M.W.S. of the Metropolitan Chapter.

The Supreme Council have, through Ill. Bro. Cox, given their sanction and assistance, and have largely contributed to the expenses. Like arrangements are in progress for placing the working of the 30°, 31° and 32°, on a footing commensurate with their importance.

IRELAND.

CORK.

FRIDAY, the 24th of June being the Masonic festival of St. John, the brethren of Lodges, Nos. 1, 3, and 8, met according to previous agreement, for banquet in the beautifully decorated hall of the first Lodge of Ireland, situate in Tuckey-street, city of Cork. The company, in full Masonic costume, sat down at seven o'clock to a magnificent dinner, provided by Mrs. Tanner, of the Grand Parade. The Worshipful Master's chair (at the request of the W.M.) was occupied by the D. Prov. G.M. of Munster, Bro. George Chatterton, who, with eloquence and nicety of discernment, discharged the duties thereof so as to please all present. The vice-chair was ably filled by Bro. Richard Meara, the W.M. of No. 1, and the duties of the J.W. were satisfactorily discharged by Bro. Richard R. Brash, the W.M. of No. 3. The Masonic harmonies were admirably sustained by Bros. James Roche, E. Moran and Hoffman, and several amateurs. The visiting deputations from the other Lodges were received with the usual honours, and suitable responses made to their paternal greetings. The company retired at twelve o'clock, having spent a very delightful and instructive evening. The Freemasons of Munster propose to invite their Prov. G.M., General Sir Jas. Chatterton, to a banquet in the autumn.

MUNSTER.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

In consequence of the absence of our Prov. G. Master, General Sir James Chatterton, Bart., and also of his Deputy, Bro. George Chatterton, the quarterly Provincial Grand Lodge meeting did not take place till the 20th June, when it was held in the large Masonic Lodge-room of the first Lodge of Ireland, Cork. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master presided, and having opened our Provincial Grand Lodge, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Our Deputy Provincial Grand Master then told the brethren that he had recently been in London, where he had the pleasure of meeting our Provincial Grand Master, who, he was happy to tell them enjoys good health, and expressed his warm and sincere wishes for the prosperity of the several Lodges over which he presides as their Provincial Grand Master, and he desired him to say that whenever they required his presence he will be with them after timely notice.

Our Deputy Provincial Grand Master said that at the previous Lodge meeting having promised to carry out the wishes of the Provincial Grand Lodge, he addressed a letter of condolence to the Grand Master of Ireland, his Grace the Duke of Leinster, which letter and the answer to it he then read, copies of which are as follows:—

"To His Grace the Duke of Leinster, K.G., Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ireland.

"We, the Provincial Grand Master, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Grand Wardens, and members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster, beg to approach your grace with heartfelt expressions of sincere condolence upon the afflictive dispensation with which it has pleased the Great Disposer of events recently to visit you. We deeply deplore the loss which your grace has sustained, and we earnestly pray that under the teaching of that divine book, the great light and pillar of our order, you may be supported in your present heavy trial; and that finally when called to the Grand Lodge above, by a summons which none can evade, you may be able to depart in the certain assurance of a blissful reunion with her, so loved and esteemed on earth, in the cloudless regions of life and light eternal.

[Answer].

Curton, Maynooth, 1st March, 1859.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—I have received your letter of the 26th of February, enclosing the address of condolence from the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster. I am most grateful for their kind sympathy; and as they truly say, it is to the Great Disposer of events alone I must look for consolation.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours very faithfully,
LEINSTER, G.M.

To the R.W. George Chatterton, Esq.,
D. Prov. G.M. of Munster.

COLONIAL.

TRINIDAD.

ON the 27th December, 1850, the foundation stone of a Masonic Temple, on Mount Zion, was laid by the then governor of the island, the Right Hon. Lord Harris, assisted by Bro. Daniel Hart, W.M. of Philanthropic Lodge, No. 585, and a numerous assemblage of brethren, and the gentry of the island. The building was built on shares between the members of the Philanthropic Lodge; and from the good feeling that prevailed, and the rapidity of the workmen, the brethren were enabled on the 24th June, 1851, to consecrate and dedicate the same to Masonic purposes. It is a stone building of two storeys, 50 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 25 feet high, in the clear. The upper story is used as

the Lodge room, and is of the entire length and width of the building, besides a preparation room and lobby attached; the lower story is set apart as a banqueting room, to which is also attached a pantry and spare room. There is a portico in front, 30 feet long by 12 feet wide, built in the Gothic style, with three arches above, and three below, with Corinthian pillars. The building cost the brethren £800 sterling, and is the sole property of the shareholders. By a compact entered into, the building can never be used for any other than Masonic purposes.

At Sanfundo, a town twenty-eight miles from Port of Spain, there is also a Masonic building, which was in 1856 erected there by the brethren appertaining to Trinity Lodge; it is a plain, neat, and substantial building, with a Lodge room of 30 feet long, and 18 feet broad, with a lobby, pantry, and banqueting room attached, besides a gallery. The building cost £400 sterling.

At Port of Spain, besides the Philanthropic Lodge, there is the Lodge United Brothers, No. 251, under the registry of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The building stands on Mount Morial, and takes precedence of any other Masonic Hall in the West Indies, except Antigua. It was erected in 1803. It is built of stone; having a very commodious Lodge room of 30 feet long, and 20 feet wide, which is neatly decorated. There is also a banqueting room, lobby, pantry, and preparation room attached, with a fine open gallery to the front. It is the exclusive property of the members who remain faithful to the allegiance of the charter.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty held a court at Buckingham Palace on Saturday morning, and took a carriage drive in the afternoon. In the evening Her Majesty, the Prince of Wales, the Prince Consort, the King of the Belgians, &c., honoured with their presence the Royal Italian Opera, Covent-garden. On Monday the Queen received at Buckingham Palace the address from the Convocation of the clergy of Canterbury. Her Majesty was seated on the throne, and the Archbishop of Canterbury read the address, to which her Majesty returned a gracious answer. The Duke of Oporto took leave of her Majesty on Tuesday afternoon. The Prince Consort was sworn in at the Trinity-house on his re-election as master of the Trinity corporation. The Queen and the Prince Consort, the King of the Belgians, and Princess Alice again went to the Italian Opera, Covent-garden, in the evening. It is said that her Majesty will not visit Scotland this season; it is supposed that she is going to Ireland instead. The Duchess of Kent continues to improve in health. Her Majesty held a privy council yesterday, at which several members of the new government were sworn in as privy councillors, and other business connected with the change of ministry transacted. Her Majesty had a dinner party in the evening.

FOREIGN NEWS.—The Empress Eugénie went on Sunday in state to the Cathedral of Notre Dame, to be present at a solemn *Te Deum*, as a thanksgiving for the late victory. The great officers of state and chief notabilities, civil and military, attended the service. A like service was to take place in all the churches of France. A Paris letter in a Brussels journal, says that 300,000 projectiles had been sent off to the army of Italy, and 1,000,000 more were to be manufactured for the same destination. The *Moniteur* informs us that the French have attacked the army of Annam, in Cochinchina. They have also captured a fort, the loss of the enemy being 500 killed.—From the seat of war we have some slight news. An official message from the French headquarters says, that the French army, increased by Prince Napoleon's corps, will operate against Verona, while part of the Sardinian army will begin the siege of Peschiera. Another official message from Turin informs us, that the Sardinian army has more closely invested the exterior fortifications of Peschiera, situated on the right bank of the Mincio. The army crossed the river on the 30th for the purpose of investing Peschiera, also on the left bank of the river. The Austrians have withdrawn from Bormio, abandoning their provision chests and cattle. The Piedmontese are advancing towards the Stelvio Pass. Louis Napoleon having sent back the wounded Austrian officers without exchange, and having requested an exchange of prisoners, an Austrian officer has arrived with the announcement that the Emperor of Austria will also send back, without exchange, the wounded prisoners of the allies, and that his majesty is equally disposed for an exchange of other prisoners. A telegram from the Emperor Napoleon to the Empress, says, "The whole army has passed the Mincio. The Sardinians have invested Peschiera. The reinforcements which I have received by the arrival of 35,000 men, led by Prince Napoleon, have enabled me to approach Verona without compromising myself in any way, as I have left a *corps d'armée* at Goito to watch Mantua, and am about to assemble another at Brescia to watch the passes of the Tyrol." An express has arrived in Paris from Berne, with the news that a corps of from 3,000 to 3,500 Tyrolean Chasseurs had been threatening the Valteline; but that several columns of Garibaldi's and Cialdini's corps had repulsed them from Bormio, and driven them as far as the first cantonment of the Stelvio Pass. The Austrians suffered considerable loss. General Garibaldi's loss was ten, severely wounded, and Cialdini's, three killed and four wounded. Advices have also been received from Locarno up to the 5th instant. The Sardinian steamers on the Lago Maggiore have been given up on condition

of their being employed for mercantile purposes only; and the liberated vessels quitted Mogadino directly, with freight and passengers.—The little frontier difficulty between the Spanish and Portuguese Governments is likely to be amicably settled. The vine disease was making its reappearance, and some heavy rains had done great injury to the corn. The Prince of Wales is reported to have won golden opinions from the Portuguese. The *Madrid Gazette* of the 28th ult. mentions the death, at Seville, of M. Zea de Bermudez, who held several diplomatic and government offices during his political career. It is difficult to get any reliable news from the Spanish journals, but we learn that there have been some democratic outbreaks in that country, probably of a more serious character than the Madrid journals would lead us to believe.—It is stated that the proposals made by Prussia in the extraordinary sitting of the Federal Diet on the 4th instant, were the following: 1. The junction of the 9th and 10th corps d'armée to the Prussian army. 2. The appointment to the command in chief of the four non-Prussian and non-Austrian Federal corps d'armée. 3. The placing of all reserve contingents in readiness to march.—Accounts from Vienna state that the Emperor of Austria had arrived at Laxenburgh early on the 28th. Various conjectures had been formed as to the cause of this unexpected visit. Baron Hess has taken command of the Austrian army in Italy, to which the third corps, under the Archduke Albert, was proceeding by forced marches. The recruitment was going on so fast that 150,000 men would be clothed and equipped before the end of August.—Advices have also been received from Rome to the 2nd instant. The *Giornale di Roma* protests against the reports published of the massacre at Perugia, and promises a detailed account of what has really happened there. An official contradiction has been published of the reported liberation of criminals at Rome. A circular publication on the temporal power of the Pope, and an address by his Holiness to the cardinals on the Legations, have been issued, both expressing confidence in the Emperor of the French.—Advices have been received from Naples to the 2nd instant. Prince Ollojano has been despatched to the Court of St. James. The screw liner Marlborough, four sailing ships of the line, and one aviso steamer, originally bound for Athens, on receipt of important despatches last week, took another direction. The frigate Euryalus, having on board Prince Alfred, has also been ordered to proceed on its way with all speed.—Advices have been received from Constantinople to the 29th ult. The Divan has decided that reasons of State require the presence of the Sultan in Egypt, and he will therefore leave for that country immediately after the fêtes of the Bairam. Great and magnificent preparations are being made for his journey. It is said that the Sultan will subsequently visit Candia, where the popular agitation has rendered fresh reinforcements necessary.—According to letters from Persia, 60,000 Russians have been sent against Khiva, via the Caspian Sea. Persia has given her assent to the expedition, the object of which is to reduce the Turcomans to submission.—The African has arrived at Liverpool with advices from New York to the 22nd ult. It was said that General Cass was preparing a circular on the subject of neutral rights, and that he does not acquiesce in the British views with regard to articles contraband of war.

INDIA AND COLONIES.—The overland mail has brought both the Bombay and Calcutta and China mails, by which we have dates from Calcutta to May 17th, Bombay, June 4th, and Hong-Kong, May 5th. The news from India is unimportant. The operations for the final suppression of yet existing disturbers seems confined to the usual encounters of parties of our troops with small bodies of flying rebels on the frontiers of Oude and Nepal, ending invariably in considerable slaughter among the latter. Many of these rebels continue to come in and surrender themselves to be admitted to the benefits of the amnesty. The dissatisfaction among the English soldiery of the late East India Company was subsiding.—The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company have favoured us with the following communication:—"The *Ellora*, having on board the Calcutta and China and the Bombay mails, arrived at Marseilles at noon yesterday. The *Alma* grounded on Mooshedgerah, near the Harnish Islands, in the Red Sea, at three, A.M., June 12th; heeled over immediately, and the starboard and stern ports being put under water, she filled rapidly from above. The mails, crew, and passengers, all saved; and it was confidently believed that the vessel's bottom was not injured, and that she may be got off. Twenty-six of the *Alma's* passengers came on in the *Ellora*. The remainder are on board the *Pera*, which left Malta on the 30th June, and may be expected at Southampton on the 9th inst."

HOME NEWS.—A cabinet council was held on Saturday afternoon at Lord Palmerston's official residence, all the members of the cabinet were present, including Mr. Milner Gibson. Another council was held on Wednesday at the official residence of Lord Palmerston.—A painful termination has been made to the excursion of an Historic Society to Bolton. A wheel came off a vehicle, and the result was that four gentlemen were thrown violently to the ground, and the horse then breaking off into a gallop, others were subsequently thrown. No fatality occurred, but some of the injuries are of a very serious character.—On Monday, Samuel Adams, the murderer, was hanged at Newgate.—A suicide occurred at Cork on Friday evening under more than usually horrifying circumstances. A young married woman, in a fit of grief for the loss of a child, threw herself out of a window forty feet from the ground. Her mother, who had followed, succeeded in seizing

her by the hair, when, as she was thus suspended, a man from a window below caught her by the feet. At the same moment the mother had to leave her hold; the body swung over, and also fell from the grasp of the person below, descending to a railing underneath, where the wretched woman was impaled, meeting instantaneous death.—In the Court of Exchequer, at Guildhall, the case of Swinfen v. Lord Chelmsford, has been tried. The question is whether Lord Chelmsford, then Sir F. Thesiger, had wrongly compromised an issue tried at Stafford in reference to a will in which the plaintiff was interested. Several witnesses were examined, when Sir F. Kelly asked if there was any evidence to go to the jury? The Lord Chief Baron said there was not a particle of evidence upon the second count. The learned counsel then made a most powerful address on behalf of his client. Lord Chelmsford, Mr. Justice Cresswell, and Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, were then examined, and the jury found a verdict for the defendant without a moment's hesitation.—At the Central Criminal Court, William Abraham Moore was charged with the wilful murder of his wife, Sophia. The trial occupied a very long time on account of the number of witnesses examined. The jury found the prisoner guilty of manslaughter only, and the court sentenced him to penal servitude for life.—Vice-Chancellor Wood has given judgment in the celebrated case, *Gye v. Graziari*, and after examining the evidence and going through the facts, made the following decree: Injunction to issue in the same terms as the injunction originally made; all costs to be paid by the two defendants, Signor Graziari, and Mr. E. T. Smith; inquiry in chambers as to damages.—A commission agent, named Lyon (Goldsmith, of Finsbury-pavement, who was on Thursday last made a bankrupt, and immediately thereafter given into custody, underwent examination at Guildhall, on a charge of being guilty of certain fraudulent transactions connected with his bankruptcy. After hearing some preliminary evidence an adjournment was ordered.—The contest for the representation of the borough of Marylebone terminated on Wednesday in favour of Lord Fermoy. The close of the poll showed for the successful candidate a majority of 1,930 over Major Lyon, and 3,164 over Colonel Dickson; the numbers being—Fermoy, 4,238; Lyon, 2,308; Dickson, 1,074.—As usual at this period of the year, the return of the Registrar General shows an increase in the rate of mortality in the metropolis. Last week the deaths were 1,024, having been 915 and 970 in the two previous weeks. Diarrhoea is making progress, but at present is principally confined to children. The number of births for the week was 1,790.—On the 4th of July, the members of the American Association in London celebrated the eighty-third return of the anniversary of the American declaration of independence. General R. B. Campbell, the United States consul in England, presided, and Mr. Dallas, the American minister, was present. "The health of her Majesty" was given after that of the President. "Young America and Old England" was also given with much display of fraternal union.—The navy estimates have been issued. The total estimate for 1859-60 is £12,682,055; the amount already voted on account is £6,311,723, leaving £6,370,332 to be voted.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the House of Lords on Monday the Duke of Marlborough moved the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the present operation of the law and practice respecting the assessment and levy of church rates. After some observations favourable to the appointment of a committee upon the subject from Lord Teynham, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Portman, and the Bishop of London, Earl Granville, on the part of the Government, assented to the appointment of the committee.—On Tuesday, Lord Lyndhurst (in a most powerful speech) called attention to the state of the national defences. He said that the introduction of steam rendered the country more open to invasion than formerly, and that there was an absolute necessity to maintain the navy in such a state of efficiency that it might be able to cope with the joint navies of any two powers. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe said though fearless of invasion, he was an advocate for a powerful armament on sea and land. Earl Granville deprecated such discussion, as tending to endanger the preservation of peace. So far from invasion being at the present moment probable it was not even possible, for Russia was unprepared for war, and France was engaged in a costly and bloody struggle to which all her energies were devoted. On the part of the Government, however, he repeated that they would omit no means to place the defences of the country in a state of the utmost strength and efficiency.—In the House of Commons, on Monday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said as soon as some estimates which were pressing should be disposed of, he would bring forward his financial statement. Lord C. Paget, in reply to Sir J. Pakington, said it was the intention of the Government to bring in a bill during the present session to carry out the recommendations of the Royal commissioners for manning the navy. Lord Palmerston stated that, owing to the late period of the session it was not his intention to bring in a Reform Bill. Sir S. M. Peto moved for leave to bring in a bill for the prevention of noxious effluvia from the River Thames within the metropolis. After a short discussion, the motion for leave to bring in the bill was negatived without a division.—On Tuesday, Mr. Collier moved for leave to bring in a bill limiting the power of imprisonment for small debts exercised by the county court judges. His object, he said, was that no county court judge should have power to imprison for mere non-appearance, unless there should have been fraud in the contracting of the debt, or that he was satisfied that the debtor had the means of paying, and would not. He also pro-

posed to limit the imprisonment on any one judgment to twice forty days. Mr. Malins expressed his indignation that some of these judges should have issued over 700 commitments in one year. Mr. Clive, on the part of the Government, assented to the introduction of the bill. Mr. Palk moved an address to her Majesty for providing arms and accoutrements for volunteer rifle corps, which led to much discussion, and Mr. Palk withdrew his motion on the assurance of Mr. S. Herbert that the Government was willing to encourage these volunteer corps as being very useful auxiliaries for the defence of the country.—On Wednesday Mr. Dillwyn moved the second reading of the Endowed Schools Bill, the object of which was, that no endowed school should be assumed to be established for the Church of England exclusively, unless it should appear from the instrument by which it was founded that such was the express intention of the founder. He disclaimed all intentions of making any attack on the Church of England, his only object being to give some protection to the dissenters. Sir S. Northcote said the measure was one which created much alarm, it being regarded more as an aggressive than as a protective bill. He believed the bill would give rise to a large amount of very mischievous litigation, and he therefore moved as an amendment that it be read a second time that day three months. Mr. Poller seconded the amendment, believing that it was an attack on the established church. Sir R. Bethell supported the second reading of the bill. Sir H. Cairns supported the amendment. Mr. Gladstone could not see in the bill the elements of a party difference, and all were so nearly unanimous as to finding a remedy for the grievance complained of that they should not present to the public the appearance of disagreement. He therefore advocated the suggestion of Sir G. C. Lewis. After considerable discussion, the house divided, and the second reading of the bill was carried by a majority of two hundred and ten to one hundred and ninety-two.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—At Covent Garden Theatre the magnificent "Puritani" was given for the first time this season on Saturday night, in presence of a brilliant audience, among whom were her Majesty, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the King of the Belgians, and other distinguished persons. The cast was as follows:—*Elvira*, Mme. Penco; *Arturo*, Gardoni; *Riccardo*, Signor Graziani; and *Giorgio*, Signor Ronconi. Mme. Penco was true to nature, expressive, if not passionate, thoroughly versed in the artifices of the stage, and able to make the most of every point suggested by dramatist or composer. "Son vergin vezzosa" was fluent, correct, and showy. Not only did Signor Gardoni sing his part in "Ah te, o cara" well, but all the music that belongs to *Arturo*—more especially in the third act—and Signor Ronconi's *Giorgio*, we are inclined to think, will be admitted by connoisseurs as the very best that has been witnessed since the inimitable Lablache. On Thursday Flotow's "Martha" was again performed by the same artists as on the last occasion.

DRURY LANE.—On Saturday "Don Giovanni" was again performed, on the occasion of the last night of the subscription. The principal *morceaux* were enthusiastically received by a very numerous audience, and, after the termination of the opera, the indefatigable *entrepreneur* was summoned before the curtain, and warmly welcomed by his patrons. Mr. Smith's benefit was a series of triumphs. In addition to scenes from the "Barber of Seville," the "Traviata," the "Trovatore," and other operas which have been produced with success during the present season at Drury Lane, Mademoiselle Titiens appeared in the grand *scena* from "Fidelio." Badiali, Mongini, and Fagotti, sang the trio from "William Tell;" Mademoiselle Piccolomini and Signor Ginghini gave the duet from "I Martiri," which was performed with so much success last season at her Majesty's Theatre, and, finally, Mr. E. T. Smith made a speech. In his brief but effective oration, the manager referred with natural satisfaction to his efforts on behalf of the public, and added some explanations in justification of his conduct *in re* Graziani. On Thursday "Norma" was given with the following cast:—*Pollio*, Mongini; *Oroveso*, Violetti; *Adalgisa*, Mdle. Crumbilla; and *Norma*, Mdle. Titiens (her first appearance in that character). M. Benedict led the admirable orchestra, which has now arrived at perfection.

At the HAYMARKET, PRINCESS'S, and OLYMPIC, we have nothing new to report this week.

NEW ADELPHI THEATRE.—Mr. Webster has concluded a short engagement with Mr. and Mrs. Henri Drayton, who, on Thursday, gave their excellent entertainment called "Never Judge by Appearances." They were most favourably received by a crowded and fashionable audience. Mr. A. Wigan's admirable comic acting in the "First Night," continues to attract.

STRAND THEATRE.—The comedietta produced on Wednesday for the *entrée* of Miss Swanborough, entitled "A School for Coquettes," and announced as "new and never acted," is by Mr. Palgrave Simpson. We may record its success. Miss Swanborough played in the part of the widow extremely well, and Miss M. Oliver acted charmingly, affording occasional touches of natural pathos and grace, which frequently assisted in relieving the well-known bent of the situations in which the personage she represents was involved. The audience loudly applauded the comedietta after the fall of the curtain, and recalled the ladies and gentlemen engaged in its performance. A new burlesque extravaganza by Mr. Henry J. Byron is to be produced on Monday, under the title of

"The Very Latest Edition of the Lady of Lyons." Miss Marie Wilton is to be the *Pauline* of the revival, and Miss Charlotte Saunders the *Melotte*.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—The vocal and instrumental concert on Saturday attracted a large attendance of subscribers and fashionable visitors. The vocalists were Miss Clara Novello and Mr. Sims Reeves, who sang several of their favourite *morceaux*, and elicited the most cordial tokens of approval from their hearers. The fourth of the operatic concerts took place on Wednesday afternoon, and included, as usual, two overtures, two grand concerted pieces as finales to the first and second parts of the entertainment, and a variety of solos and duets from the most popular operas of the day. All the principal vocalists of the Royal Italian Opera Company appeared. The concert was well attended, and in spite of the heat (which, however, was sufficient to prevent anything like mere lukewarmness on the part of the audience) the applause was frequent and energetic.

Obituary.

BRO. ROBERT RAMSAY.

On the 28th June, at the Asylum for Aged Masons, Croydon. Bro. Robert Ramsay who, had he lived another month, would have completed his 88th year. Bro. Ramsay was initiated in the Lodge of Fidelity (No. 3), London, in the year 1793; he afterwards joined the Lodge of Industry (No. 56), Swallow, Durham, since removed to Gateshead, and subsequently the Gehon Lodge (No. 57), London. He was elected on the Aged Masons Amnity Fund in the year 1837, and was one of the first occupants of the asylum, into which he was received on its opening in 1850, and in which he has quietly passed the close of his days, not having a relative or friend (save his Masonic brethren) left to assist him.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MASONIC MISSIONS.—A "W.M." writes: "I am obliged by your notice of Norfolk Freemasonry; it has already done some good. We want stirring up!"

"R. E. X."—The Constitutions, p. 63, edition 1855, will not justify the Worshipful Master referred to in wearing the jewel of a Mark Master, either during Lodge hours, or at the banquet. You state that at a banquet the Worshipful Master observed "several brethren bearing such jewels, in addition to P.M., R.A. and others worn by an officer of Grand Lodge, and the said officer informed the Worshipful Master he could wear his if he were a Mark Master." To which "R. E. X." adds, "My opinion is that the Worshipful Master is not justified in wearing such jewel during Lodge hours, but at a banquet, which is merely a private party of gentlemen dressed in Masonic costume, dining in a private room, he may wear it. Which is right?"—[Our reply is—neither. The Grand Officer must have been ignorant of the laws and constitutions of the Order; and the distinction drawn by "R. E. X." cannot be recognized. Either in Lodge or at banquet, whilst Masonic clothing is worn, the brethren must be held to be amenable to Masonic law, which knows nothing of the "Mark degree;" it not being acknowledged in English Freemasonry, as defined in the Book of Constitutions. If the "Mark" jewel is allowed to be worn, then may some brother claim also the right to wear the jewel of the Rose Croix, or the Star of the Knight Templar.]

"313 & 730."—On the same ground which induced us to decline publishing a letter of a P.M., 730, in our last, so must we decline publishing a letter on the subject from Bro. Clark, P.M., 313, and Prov. S.G.D., Worcestershire. At the same time we can assure Bro. Clark that he is altogether mistaken in his surmise as to our correspondent, who has no right to the prefix with which Bro. Clark has honoured him. We are glad, however, to receive the assurance, not only of Bro. Clark, but of two other highly respected brothers, that there have been no disputes between the Dudley brethren on the subject of the Hagley festival.

BRO. S. BARTON WILSON, P.G.D.—In our report of the association of the Wellington Lodge, Deal, in our number of the 29th ult., we accidentally omitted to state that Bro. Wilson was elected an honorary member in acknowledgment of his distinguished position as a Mason, and performing the ceremony of consecration, and that the address delivered by Bro. Pullen, the D. Prov. Grand Master, Isle of Wight, was written for the occasion by Bro. S. B. Wilson. In our notice of the Crystal Palace Lodge of Instruction, Bro. Wilson ought also to have been described as an honorary member.