

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1860.

THE BYZANTINE GREEK ELEMENT IN ECCLESIASTICAL EDIFICES.

BY JOHN WILSON ROSS.

THE architecture which has left its impression with more or less distinctness upon all succeeding styles, especially in ecclesiastical edifices, is that which prevailed among the primitive Christians in Constantinople before the restoration of the western empire in Europe by Charlemagne, and when the Greek and Latin churches were united. That architecture attained its greatest splendour in the reign of Justinian, consequently towards the middle of the sixth century. This emperor, who had such a passion for building, in addition to benefiting every province of his empire by works of public utility, such as bridges, aqueducts, high roads and hospitals, raised numerous buildings dedicated to religion, of which the celebrated church of Santa Sophia, now subsisting as the principal mosque of the Turkish empire, remains as his solid masterpiece, and an enduring monument of his fame. It is the general opinion of architects that in modern times there is no building in the same style—that is, surmounted by a dome—which at all approaches it either for appropriateness or beauty; and that the best mediæval architects of Europe never produced anything comparable to it as a model for imitation, if it be regarded only with a view to the purposes of Protestant worship. Though there is an utter absence in its exterior of all forms of classical architecture, it is said that hints for its construction were borrowed from the temples of Cybele and of Pallas, of Isis and Osiris, and from the temples of the sun at Heliopolis, and of the moon at Ephesus. Inside it is beautiful from every point of view; and its general grandeur is enhanced by the resplendent gildings, mosaics, and many coloured columns of porphyry, marble and jasper, which line its walls and pavement with a gorgeous incrustation. In the building of it a happy combination was accomplished of the two conflicting principles of the circle and the rectangle; while the style of Byzantine architecture reached its climax internally, though externally it has since undergone further development.

Here it may be observed that the first Christian churches were modelled upon the pagan basilica, of which examples are existing to this day in the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, and in that of St. John at Constantinople; the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem was the first to set the example of the ecclesiastical edifice being formed circularly. At a time when either the basilica or the circle formed the basis of the plan of such structures, octagonal churches, according to Eusebius, were built in those great central seats of Christianity in the east—Antioch and Alexandria. But examples of the Byzantine round church bear no proportion to those of that peculiar arrangement which was the acknowledged invention of that nation—the polygonal.

The circle or polygon, on being introduced into Italy by the Greeks themselves, was united to the square or rectangle under circumstances which enabled the cross to be developed. In Italy the circle was never perpetuated except in the form of the detached baptistery, such as are to be seen at Nocera, Ravenna, Pisa, Rome, and other places. It was only a portion of a plan united to a nave, and surmounted by a dome. That important characteristic of church architecture was first introduced into Florence by Arnolfo da Lapa, and into Rome by Bramante, afterwards carried to such extreme beauty by Brunelleschi in the former city, and in the latter city by Michael Angelo.

In the churches and the monasteries which lie scattered over the countries of the ancient Greek empire, the prevailing form of plan is the Byzantine in its various modifications. Imperfect in the reign of Justinian, it was better adapted to the wants of Christian worship in the time of his successors. That was effected by the suppression of the *exedra* adorned

with columns, which broke the internal regularity, and by placing the sacristies either in the axis of the naves or near the sanctuary. The plans, though differing in variation, were all conceived alike, and from their beautiful and elegant outlines, their pleasing and picturesque proportions, and the breadth and simplicity of their treatment, showed not only how fertile was eastern conception, but what it might have achieved if it had been properly fostered by a continuous period of peace and prosperity. The architects of the middle ages, at the date of the revival, availed themselves largely of Byzantine examples; in them there were no mean reproductions of constructive features, no useless arcades, no blank panellings, no bold or meagre effects—(why, merely plain brickwork was made to counteract that)—scope was given for refined workmanship, a good internal area was secured, soundness and durability were in the construction, and imperishable, intractable materials were used in every part of the building.

In the first ages of Christianity the Byzantine style was the chief element of all national architecture among the whole Slavonic race as well as among the Greeks and Arabians. From its outline, its sombreness, and its harmony with isolation, it was deemed peculiarly adapted to ecclesiastical edifices. The pointed arch, supposed by many to have originated in the Gothic style, was used by the Christians in the East almost as early as the time of the Emperor Constantine, and was relinquished by them for the round arch only at the period when the Mahomedans were carrying its application to the greatest degree of perfection. This style influenced that of the Armenians, Saracens, Persians, and even—on the establishment of the Mogul dynasty among the Tartars—the far distant Hindoos. Whilst extending in one direction to the utmost extremities of India, it was spreading in another to the outskirts of Spain. In every tract into which it was imported, it was equally different from the architectural style of the aboriginal inhabitants, or previous possessors of the country. In making its way through Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Persia, India, Africa, Sicily, and Spain, it embraced in its wide march, Italy, whence it subsequently spread northward into Germany, France, England, and even Russia, where hybrid architecture indicates the mixture of the Byzantine and Mahomedan styles, and tells of the presence of the Greek, the Arab, and the Persian, in the equal limbed cross, the bulbous cupola, and the minaret-like steeple.

The cause of the introduction into Europe of the Byzantine style of architecture seems to have been induced by the irruption into Italy, under the auspices of Justinian, of the Lombards, who, having no architecture of their own, adopted the Romanesque, the different varieties of which bear an impress from Byzantium, in a greater or less degree. By harmonizing its parts, the Lombards originated a new style wherever the Latin church spread its influence; based on the beauties of the Basilican and Byzantine styles, it gave birth to the churches of Germany. By the settlement of a Venetian colony first at Perigueux and afterwards at Limoges, the Byzantine church was introduced into France. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries the Normans, masters of Apulia and Sicily, introduced the Byzantine architecture into the south of Italy, and transmitted the Saracenic pointed arch, which they adopted into France and England. But their Romanesque churches, both in the north and west of France and in England bore an original impress which secured for them the just and comprehensive title of "Norman," howbeit that the same style in both countries grew up in a different development.

The churches at Athens, Sparta, Pergamus, Ancyra, and other places in Western Asia Minor, though presenting novelties in plan and exterior, were closely allied to the Byzantine church, being of the ordinary domical type, though some in the seventh and eighth centuries, going beyond the usual surmounting of the dome and the equally long members of

the Greek cross, consisted of a nave finished by a semicircle; of side aisles terminated by little chapels and octagon towers standing on either side of the church towards the apsis end.

Thus it is seen that the numerous churches scattered over the countries of the East that were influenced by Greek Christianity were built upon the same principles, though presenting endless modifications of the peculiar features of the Byzantine element, and that that influence at a later time was exercised over the ecclesiastical architecture of modern Europe—including, independently of Spain and Sicily, Italy, Germany, France, England, and Russia.

From the sixth to the eleventh centuries the Byzantine style exhibited its finest features, a fresh inspiration having been given to its design by the building, as already mentioned, of Santa Sophia. One of the first results was the multiplication of domes, and the second an attempt to conciliate the Greek church with the Latin, by giving to the former the external expression of the latter system of roof.

SKETCHES FROM A TRAVELLER'S JOURNAL.

AVALANCHES AND MOUNTAIN SLIPS.

DURING a summer ramble in Switzerland, who has not been charmed with the wild beauty of the mountain land. Its lofty peaks, glacier-laden, flashing in the sunshine, and gleaming and glowing like jewels against the clear blue sky, while countless streams come leaping in silver cascades down their steep sides, clothing them with verdure, and adding to the volume of the deep blue lakes, which sleep so tranquilly at the mountain bases, and faithfully mirror the might and beauty of the peaks to which they owe so much?

And who has not gazed in admiration on the white chalets, or dairy farms, perched high on the green swells, or the picturesque villages that nestle lower down in the most sheltered nooks along the mountain sides? And who, if the world pressed upon him, has not half envied the peace and tranquillity, which, like the mountain air and the sunshine, seem to rest on those secluded hamlets, and to be the birthright of their simple inhabitants, whose care free song echoes so gaily among the mountain glens, and whose flowery fêtes and rustic dances have inspired the pencils of so many artists?

But we think not of the reverse of the picture; how, the brief summer over, the wild storms of those elevated regions shriek among the mountains, and come sweeping down upon them, laden with the heavy snow drift, which buries everything beneath its icy mantle. For days together these storms continue with a violence that we in our more level country can scarcely comprehend. And all this time the Switzer dares not venture out, but sits beside his fire, busily engaged by its light in making his simple articles of husbandry, or in the rude wood carvings and the straw-plaiting, whose sale during the following summer will aid in purchasing the warm clothing he stands so much in need of.

The storm once over, the Switzer ventures abroad again, but he must first dig away the snow from his own door; and when he gets out on the mountain side he finds the snow so thick, and drifted so unequally, that the whole face of the country is changed, and he no longer knows where lie the chasms, or can discern the brinks of the snow-clad precipices. And though his steps are supported and guarded by the long *alpenstock*, or mountain staff, many is the peasant who goes from his hut to return no more, save perhaps on the shoulders of his fellow villagers, who at the risk of their own lives have rescued him. But most generally when an accident befalls him, the snow forms both shroud and grave, and he is not discovered until it has melted away.

Again and again are these storms repeated, until the snow lies piled to an immense depth among the higher spurs and peaks; and then commence the greatest dangers of an Alpine winter. None can know how wildly the storms rage at that season among the mountain peaks. We can only

judge them by their consequences; the most disastrous of which is when loosening those masses of dense snow, generally very many tons in weight, they send them speeding down the mountain side, gathering force, size, and hardness with every fathom, until at length they reach some village that lies in their path, and crushing it by their weight, are frequently themselves broken by the resistance, and spread over the ruins with a depth of snow which completes the devastation they had wrought.

In cases where but part of a hamlet has been overwhelmed by an avalanche, the sufferers are frequently dug out alive; but where a whole village has been buried, it is rarely that any lives are saved. And those who have seen it describe it as a most painful sight, on the melting of the snows, the gradual uncovering of the ruined habitations and the drawing to light of the yet fresh bodies of those who perished months before.

The descent of an avalanche is a truly splendid, though an appalling sight, even when we know no human life is endangered by it. None who has once seen can ever forget the first appearance of that huge spotless mass, as, like some mighty engine of war, it is sent forth by the mountain fortress of glaciers, and comes speeding on its errand of destruction, snapping asunder dark mountain pines, leaping precipices, and bounding down steep declivities, until with a crash, that awakens a thousand echoes, it falls into some deep chasm, there gradually to melt in the heats of summer, and send another stream to join the nearest lake.

But there is another, and yet more dreaded visitation to which the mountain land is liable, and one at whose very name the hardy Swiss turns pale; that is, the *ovaille*, or mountain slip; when loosened by the intensity of the winter frosts, or disturbed by some volcanic influence, whole tracts of land slide from their places, or are cast down, sometimes changing the aspect of an entire district, and entombing its inhabitants in their buried homes.

Small slips frequently take place among the mountains, of which the world never hears, save when some calamity accompanies them. Yet each is terrible to the Switzer, for he feels that his own cabin might have stood on the doomed spot; and as they sit beside the winter fire, tales of the terrible *ovailles* alternate with those of avalanches, until they listen to the howling storm in fear and trembling of what it may bring forth.

Though more than two hundred years have since passed, there is scarce a peasant in the canton of Valais who cannot tell the tale of the destruction of the village of Corberil, when the *ovaille* in its ruthlessness left but one house standing, a witness of the most fearful event which ever darkened the history of the canton.

But there is not a child in Vaud who does not hold up his hand to the rugged chain of the Diablerets, which form the mountain barrier between Vaud and the neighbouring canton of Valais, and pointing to its three bristling teeth, as the Alpine peaks are appropriately called, tell how in the beginning of the last century they numbered five, and how one fell ere the age was far advanced, and the other about its centre, and how great was the havoc those enormous masses of earth committed.

In connection with the second of these events was an extraordinary incident, which it has not been left to tradition to perpetuate, but has been recorded in detail in the chronicles both of Vaud and Valais. Never did truth verify the adage that fact is stranger than fiction, more than does this narrative, every tittle of which, if we are to believe the grave Swiss chroniclers, is as real and trustworthy as the mountain bases beneath their feet.

"The village of Aven, in the Canton of Vaud, is small," writes one of these historians, "yet in it there abode not only love (which is nothing worse than folly), but jealousy and hatred, two ill guests for even populous cities." Ill guests, indeed, and much evil did they bring, especially to

"one Claude Gaultier, a native of Aven," whom they incited to doubt his betrothed Marie Dubois, and to burn with hatred against his supposed rival. There is no age when men cease to torment themselves, or Claude might have known better, since he must have been past early manhood, being a widower and the parent of two children, whom, doubtless, the mountain maiden had promised to love as her own.

Probably the rival was a younger man, and a bachelor, and therefore a better match, all circumstances apt to fire a man's jealousy; and with the want of judgment that passion induces, he renounced all claim on his betrothed's hand, and leaving his children to the care of his aged mother, betook himself up the mountain—a piece of folly for which doubtless his rival thanked him, though we are told the forsaken betrothed "wept full sore."

Claude Gaultier sealed his resolution by undertaking the care of a *châlet* built high up the mountain. It is a beautiful, yet lonely and monotonous life, that of the herdsman of the Alps; dwelling on the glorious mountains at that season, so green and flowery, where the glow of evening lingers in the west until the morning comes to flush the eastern sky, so that there is no night, but a soft twilight lit by the brilliant stars glittering through the transparent atmosphere.

It is a wild life also; for as the summer heats melt the snows, the herdsman follows them, for the sake of obtaining the richest pasture for the cows, whose advantage and comfort are the ruling objects of the *châlet*. When the summer is at the hottest, the herds graze on the summits of lofty hills and among giddy precipices, where a single false step would be destruction; and as the animal's own care does not increase with the danger, they keep their guardians constantly employed running after them, and with their long ring tipped staves, turning into safe paths their erring steps. And many are the dangers these men each day encounter; the runs along narrow ledges, the leaps over yawning fissures, and creeps round jutting crags, in order to force their charges back from unheeded perils.

When night comes, they return to their *châlet*, to share its shelter with their cows; but in the midsummer months the heat of its huge fires, and the smell of its new made cheeses render it oppressive, and both herds and herdsmen rest upon the flowery grass, the latter keeping watch by turns.

In those lonely watches, while his companions slept, we may guess how full were the thoughts of the self banished man of those he left behind, and of wondering whether he had done wisely and well in yielding up the hopes that were not then quite lost. And as time passed on, and he watched the shortening days and the fading leaves, he knew then the indications of the coming winter, which would drive him back to Aven to look on the happiness of Marie and his rival.

The soft summer nights were long passed by, and September was rapidly passing also, when one night Claude was awakened by a strange, dull, rolling sound, either real or imaginary. The impression continued some moments after he awoke, and a sensation of tremor was upon him, yet he heard nought that could account for it. He listened, but no sound came to his ear save the regular breathing of his comrades telling how soundly and calmly they slept. But the fearful feeling was so strong upon him, that he arose and left the *châlet*.

When he looked round him all was still and bright. No thunder cloud shadowed the sky, no wind stirred the leaves, or moaned through the wild defiles, and in cold calm majesty the five glacier-loaded peaks of the Diableret chain stood beneath the tranquil stars, firm and proud, as they had stood for countless ages, as it seemed they yet would stand while the world endured.

In the morning Claude told his companions the strange fears that had awakened him, and the painful impressions

they had left. All crossed themselves—for the people of Aven are catholics—and bade Claude regard it as a warning, but of what they could not tell—doubtless the poor fellow's own thoughts told him it was of the bridal of Marie—then they drove out their cattle to the pasture. The day passed on as usual. The herdsmen lay extended on the grass watching their charge, or busied themselves in knitting, or in wood carving, until past noon, when, while on the highest spot of verdure they heard a loud rumbling sound which seemed to issue from the ground beneath their feet.

A mortal fear seized the herdsmen, and falling on their knees, they crossed themselves and prayed fervently to their patron saints. The cows stood still and trembled, during the few seconds that the appalling sounds lasted, then seized with panic fled wildly in every direction—the herdsmen flying after them, calling to them in tones of entreaty and of warning. Their zeal was successful, and all were at length collected; but while driving in the last, Claude Gaultier fell and hurt his leg severely.

"It must be the evil spirits," his comrades whispered to each other fearfully. "What else should it be? This mountain is steady as Mont Blanc, and there is neither tempest nor thunder. They have doubtless a spite against Claude, and wish to injure him; they have tried it twice, and he must beware the third time. However, we will each of us say five *paters* and five *aves* extra before we sleep, and Claude must say ten, and surely that will drive them away."

And satisfied with this explanation and plan—which in that day would have satisfied many of far higher pretensions—they helped Claude home; but in spite of what had happened, all slept so heavily that they knew not what sounds might have been round them in the night.

The next morning—well remembered in the canton as that of the 23rd September, 1714—found Claude too lame to go out with the herd; and, after exerting all their skill in applications to his injured leg, the others went off with the cows, leaving him to perform the duties of *châlet*-keeper, and to attend to the fires and cheeses. The sun rose above the tall hills, and looked in through the narrow windows of the *châlet* on the lonely man; and who knows what thoughts and what regrets were filling his heart? when suddenly a sound as of thunder burst from under his feet, and the *châlet* rocked and trembled like a wave struck ship.

Claude Gaultier guessed the meaning of that sound now, but it was too late to attempt escape. A second fiercer shock dashed him to the ground, as the *oaville* fell with a terrific noise into the valley below, burying the *châlet* beneath a hillock of stones, trees, and earth, casting large masses of stone three leagues distance, and covering a square league of country with splintered rocks; for one of the mighty teeth of the Diablerets was in fragments, and only four peaks now rose towards the cloudless sky.

Terror fell on every heart for many miles around, and deep and distressing was the anxiety of all to learn what friends had perished. But the warning, which during the past night had been more explicit, had been truly read by others, and many herdsmen with their charges had fled from danger; while Claude's companions, having led their cattle that day in another direction, had also escaped to bear to the village the tidings of Claude Gaultier's fearful fate.

We need not speak of his mother's grief—none will doubt its depth—even though he had not been the stay of her old age, and that this event had not brought sorrow and poverty together on the infirm woman and her helpless grandchildren. The Swiss is naturally warm hearted and kind, but in those primitive Alpine hamlets none possess wealth, or even competence, and it is only by the utmost exertion that each is able to provide for his own family. Thus it was likely to go hard with the bereaved. Marie Dubois also was overwhelmed with grief for the horrible death of him who had so cruelly left her—perhaps, too, with remorse for every idle word that might have widened the breach between them.

But grief and remorse were alike vain, and with that undying, self-sacrificing affection, which, next to religion, forms the most prominent and beautiful trait of the female character, Marie formed the resolution of devoting herself to the aged mother and helpless children of her once betrothed. And it was by no light labour this could be achieved. In Switzerland women labour with the men in the fields, and it was by such toil that Marie undertook to support the mother and children of Claude Gaultier.

Time passed, and the winter snows again lay thick on mountain and on valley, and on the solitary hill tomb of Claude. Time, the soother, was probably here doing his irresistible work, for we read that one day Marie was without the door with Gaultier's children playing around her. Suddenly one of the little ones uttered a wild scream, and ran terrified to the door of the cottage, and the young girl turned to behold a man standing near them, pale, emaciated, and careworn, covered with rags, and having the appearance of one in great suffering. Yet in those wasted features there was something familiar, something that brought to mind a departed dear one, and a buried châlet; but they could scarce credit their own happiness that it was indeed the feeble and exhausted, but living Claude Gaultier, who was restored to them.

It was a strange tale the preserved man told that day to the mayor and elders of his village, and, no wonder the story of his return from that oville grave was carefully recorded by his canton. It appeared that after a time the consciousness that had at first deserted him, returned, when to his surprise he found himself in total darkness. Then there came back to him the remembrance of the oville which had overwhelmed him, and he felt yet more surprised that he was uninjured, and as he discovered by groping about that the châlet was still standing. As it proved, a mass of rock falling first, had rested against the one at whose foot the châlet was built, and, by forming with it an angle, had protected it amid all the fury of the oville, which, passing over it, had buried it fathoms deep without destroying it.

Yet this was but to recognize himself buried alive within his grave, left apparently to await by slow and terrible degrees—death, inevitable and horrible, yet the only conclusion to his misery. Hours came and passed, yet the death for which he waited came not, for through the looseness with which the earth had fallen, and the intermingled trees and supporting rocks, sufficient air came for him to breathe. It was this discovery first inspired the poor prisoner with the thought of attempting to work out his deliverance. Feeling his way to a corner of the châlet where a pickaxe was kept, he began to work from one of the windows.

He toiled on zealously, as they do whose wage is life, until at length hunger and thirst overtook him, and then a fresh horror burst upon him, as he remembered that though there was some cheese in the châlet, there was no water, and he felt he must die of thirst before he could release himself.

It was a fearful moment, one that might turn a man's brain, or blanch his hair, and that neither befell Claude Gaultier, proved that he was not wanting in that nerve for which his race is celebrated. But despairing though he was, thirst pressed upon him, and he groped about to find a little milk to quench it, and in the search he found water—his comrades had, unknown to him, filled the pails in pity to his injury. None, the rescued man said, could comprehend the depths of his gratitude for this merciful Providence. And perhaps none really could, save the traveller in the desert, or the shipwrecked mariner on the plank. True, there was so little of it to what he might want, that he must use it sparingly, and for the same reason he dared only consume sufficient cheese to support life.

How strongly is the principle of self preservation implanted in the heart, and how wonderful the powers of endurance of the human frame under peculiar circumstances. What else could have urged the poor buried alive to such an unheard of

labour, or supported his feeble arm in its execution. Well might he say that it seemed as if years were passing over his head as he toiled unceasingly, though well nigh despairingly, excavating in inky darkness the minelike passage, which was his only hope of life. Penitent thoughts, too, were doubtless his companions, that he had allowed jealousy and anger so far to master him, that he had left his aged mother and his children to the poverty and the want that his death would bring upon them.

At length, to the unspeakable joy of the imprisoned man, the last fragments of earth fell away, and the cold snow crust alone was above him. That knowledge renewed both strength and energy, and in a few days more, the last barrier was removed, and he who for three months had endured the darkness of the tomb, stood again in the blessed sunshine, which almost blinded his weak eyes, and was free to return to his native village, though his limbs were scarce able to bear him thither.

Thirty-five years afterwards another of those huge mountain teeth fell in fragments into the valleys; but we read of no fatality it occasioned, the most singular circumstance regarding it appearing to be, that he who had been the victim of the former oville was a safe spectator of this.

For the last hundred years only three peaks of the proud Diableret chain have raised their lofty heads to heaven; but the traces of the ovides are still visible to corroborate the testimony of the chronicles of the cantons as to Claude Gaultier's fearful imprisonment and wonderful escape.

A. M.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

CAN any brother inform me what are the probable sources from which "The Constitutions of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, containing their History, Charges, and Regulations, &c., by James Anderson, D.D., and carefully revised, continued, and enlarged by John Entick, M.A.," were derived? The copy at present before me was printed for Bro. William Johnston, in Ludgate-street, London, 1767. The first part contains "The History of Masonry from the Creation throughout the known World; till true old Architecture, demolished by the Goths, was revived in Italy." The next part contains "The History of Masonry in Britain, from Julius Caesar till the Accession of King James the First to the Crown of England." It then continues the history "from the union of the Two Crowns to the year 1766."

Bro. Preston states that, in 1712, many tender conscientious brethren destroyed many valuable and curious old MSS. in their possession. Were those Constitutions, published in 1769, the Duke of Beaufort, M.W.G.M., derived from them? What means are there by which any light can be thrown on the subject?—R. B. W.

TURKISH DERVISHES AND FREEMASONRY.

It is the general opinion in the East, that the initiatory practices of the several orders of Dervishes are of the same character as those of Freemasonry. At this moment the subject attracts considerable attention. An American gentleman, who had been initiated among the Dervishes, obtained initiation as a Mason, to study the point, and he states to the brethren that the connexion is close. He has prepared for the press a history of the Dervishes. W. Bro. Aznavour, of Constantinople, states, that he has ascertained the sign of one of the Dervish orders. There are supposed to be just now various Lodges of Turkish conspirators in Constantinople adopting the forms of secret societies.—HYDE CLARKE, Smyrna.

MASONIC LODGE, BATH.

From a printed copy of the plate inserted in the foundation stone of the Masonic Hall, Bath, now used as a chapel only, I am able to inform your correspondent "A.," that the Lodge for which he inquires was the Royal York Lodge of Perfect Friendship, No. 245, and that in 1817 (when the foundation stone was laid) the W.M. was Thomas Whitney, the S.W. James Ashby, and J.W. William Redman.—E. T.

JOHN NOORTHUCK.

There are no records showing that this brother occupied any office in Grand Lodge up to the time of the revision of the Constitutions in 1784; but that he was held in high estimation both

by Grand Lodge and the Craft generally, cannot be questioned. He was a native of Oundle, in Northamptonshire, and I should presume he was an attorney or barrister by profession. Although the Lodge of Merit (No. 687) is comparatively a young Lodge, some of its members by inquiry may glean important particulars relative to John Noorthouck.—HENRY HADLEY, No. 55, Nottingham.

QUAKER FREEMASONS.

In reference to the inquiry, made some weeks since, whether Quakers ever joined the Craft, I beg to state that I initiated one about thirteen years ago. To avoid any misunderstanding during the ceremony, I first saw the candidate, and asked if he objected to take a solemn obligation; he replied, that he could not use the words "swear," or "oath," or "So help me, God;" but that he was willing to make an affirmation which would be binding on his conscience. After consulting with the Past Masters, I administered the obligation, with such verbal alterations as met his scruples.—P.M., No. 233.

THE LION BANNER IN R. A. MASONRY.

Can any one tell why the Lion banner, used in the Royal Arch, is not painted according to heraldic display, viz., that the lion should be duly crowned, and hold the sceptre in his paw?—J. G. ——— N.—[There are reasons to the contrary, which our correspondent should know if he is a R. A. Companion; and if he wants to see the emblems properly depicted on the staves of a R. A. Chapter, we would advise him to pay a visit to the New St. James's Union Chapter, No. 211, where he will see them both correctly and artistically painted; the latter being of some value in Freemasonry, in which we are used to any dæb that conveys an impression of the shape of the object represented. If a visit to the Chapter in question be inconvenient, we have no doubt Comp. Platt, who so elegantly fitted it up, will oblige our correspondent with a sight of the drawings.]

GRAND STEWARDS' LODGE.

Where can I find the earliest notice of the above Lodge, and their public nights?—X. Y. Z.—[There were two Grand Stewards' Lodges meeting, the one belonging to the Modern Masons, being No. 70, in 1762, and was held at the sign of the Horn, in Fleet-street: its public nights were, as at present, the third Wednesdays in March and December. The Ancient Masons had their 'Grand Stewards' Lodge, or Committee of Charity, held at the Crown, in Fleet-street, on the third Wednesday in every month, for considering petitions and relieving distressed brethren. For memoranda as to the early proceedings of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, see Anderson's "Constitutions," and Preston's "Illustrations."]

Literature.

REVIEWS.

To Cuba and Back; a Vacation Voyage. By R. H. DANA; Author of "Two Years before the Mast." London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

CUBA, a land ardently desired by our transatlantic cousins, and at present a possession of Spain, has always had many attractions for the rambler. In the palmy days of the slave trade it was one of the chief marts for that iniquitous plunder, and many thousands of the African race have had to perish in order to feed the demand for labour. But we must leave moralizing, and step on board with our author at New York, which he left for a short winter trip, the sea voyage there and back constituting by far the greater period of the vacation Mr. Dana had allowed himself. Our traveller soon got into the warmer latitudes, and as he tells his story both accurately and graphically, we will give an extract, showing how vividly he can present a scene which the imagination can realize. He tells us:—

"There, indeed, is the Morro, a stately hill of tawny rock, rising perpendicularly from the sea, and pitting into it, with walls and parapets and towers on its top, and flags and signals flying, and the tall light-house just in front of its outer wall. It is not very high, yet commands the sea about it. And there is in the city on the seacoast, indeed—the houses running down to the coral edge of the ocean. Where is the harbour, and where the shipping? Ah, there they are! We open an entrance, narrow and deep, between the beetling Morro and the Punta; and through the entrance we see the spreading harbour and the innumerable masts. But the darkness is gathering, the sunset gun has been fired, we can just catch the dying notes of trumpets from the fortifications, and the Morro lighthouse throws its gleam over the still sea. The little lights emerge and twinkle from the city. We are too late to enter

the port, and slowly and reluctantly the ship turns her head off to seaward. The engine breathes heavily, and throws its one arm leisurely up and down; we rise and fall on the moonlit sea; the stars are near to us, for we are raised nearer to them; the Southern Cross is just above the horizon; and all night two long streams of light lie upon the water, one of gold from the Morro, and one of silver from the moon. It is enchantment. Who can regret our delay, or wish to exchange this scene for the common, close anchorage of a harbour?

"Friday, February 18.—We are to go in at sunrise, and few, if any, are the passengers that are not on deck at the first glow of dawn. Before us lie the novel and exciting objects of the night before. The steep Morro, with its tall sentinel lighthouse, and its towers and signal-staves and teeth of guns, is coming out into clear daylight; the red and yellow striped flag of Spain—blood and gold—floats over it. Point after point in the city becomes visible; the blue and white and yellow houses, with their roofs of dull red tiles, the quaint old cathedral towers, and the almost endless lines of fortifications. The masts of the immense shipping rise over the headland, the signal for leave to enter is run up, and we steer in under full head, the morning gun thundering from the Morro, the trumpets braying, and drums beating from all the fortifications, the Morro, the Punta, the long Cabana, the Casa Blanca, and the city walls, while the broad sun is fast rising over this magnificent spectacle.

"What a world of shipping! The masts make a belt of dense forest along the edge of the city, all the ships lying head in to the street, like horses at their mangers; while the vessels at anchor nearly choke up the passageways to the deeper bays beyond. There are the red and yellow stripes of decayed Spain; the blue, white, and red—blood to the fingers' end—of La Grande Nation; the union crosses of the Royal Commonwealth; the stars and stripes of the Great Republic; and a few flags of Holland and Portugal, of the States of Northern Italy, of Brazil, and of the republics of the Spanish Main. We thread our slow and careful way among these, pass under the broadside of a ship of the line, and under the stern of a screw frigate, both bearing the Spanish flag, and cast our anchor in the Regla Bay, by the side of the steamer *Karnac*, which sailed from New York a few days before us.

"Instantly we are besieged by boats, some loaded with oranges and bananas, and others coming for passengers and their luggage, all with awnings spread over their sterns, rowed by swarthy, attenuated men, in blue and white checks and straw hats, with here and there the familiar lips and teeth, and vacant, easily pleased face, of the negro. Among these boats comes one from the stern of which floats the red and yellow flag with the crown in its field, and under whose awning reclines a man in a full suit of white linen, with straw hat and red cockade and a cigar. This is the Health Officer. Until he is satisfied, no one can come on board, or leave the vessel. Captain Bullock salutes, steps down the ladder to the boat, hands his papers, reports all well—and we are pronounced safe. Then comes another boat of similar style, another man reclining under the awning, with a cigar, who comes on board, is closeted with the purser, compares the passenger list with the passports, and we are declared fully passed, and general leave is given to land with our luggage at the Custom-house wharf."

In perusing this work on Cuba, we are constantly reminded of old Spain, with the features of which we are pretty well acquainted through the medium of tours, voyages, diaries, &c., innumerable; so Cuba reminds us of Spain, with the addition of a tropical climate, slavery, and sugar plantations, which during the last quarter of a century have seriously affected the social and economic condition of Cuba. The first plantations were of coffee, and Mr. Dana says:—

"Coffee must grow under shade. Consequently the coffee estate was, in the first place, a plantation of trees, and by the hundred acres. Economy and taste led the planters, who were chiefly the French refugees from St. Domingo, to select fruit trees, and trees valuable for their wood, as well as pleasing for their beauty and shade. Under these plantations of trees grew the coffee plant, an evergreen, and almost an ever-flowering plant, with berries of changing hues, which, twice a year, brought its fruit to maturity. That the coffee might be tended and gathered, avenues wide enough for waggons must be carried through the plantations at frequent intervals. The plantation was, therefore, laid out like a garden, with avenues and footpaths, all under the shade of the finest trees, and the spaces between the avenues were groves of fruit trees and shade trees, under which grew, trimmed down to the height of five or six feet, the coffee plant. The labour of the plantation was in tending, picking, drying, and shelling the coffee, and gathering the fresh fruits of trees for use and for the market, and for preserves and sweetmeats, and in raising vegetables and poultry, and rearing sheep and horned cattle and horses. It was a beautiful and simple horticulture on a very large scale. Time was required to perfect this garden—the Cubans call it paradise—of a cafetal; but when matured it was a cherished home. It required and admitted of no extraordinary mechanical power, or of the application of steam or of science, beyond the knowledge of soils, of simple culture, and of plants and trees."

Our author had considerable facilities for becoming acquainted with the working of the system, and gives us the result of his experience in a very fair and honest way, so he says that it became evident that Cuba was not so good a place for the cultivation of coffee as of sugar, and the planters found their produce

always was the first to fall and the last to rise in the foreign markets. Then there were hurricanes of fearful ferocity, that almost periodically damaged the plantations; and the soil and climate, which was found inefficient in producing coffee, was exactly suited for the cultivation of the sugar cane, and the graceful culture of the cafetal had to give place to the smoky chimney of the steam engine and sugar mill. Then the plantations were no longer a home such as they had been, and but few families reside on their property, leaving that to the mercy of an overseer, while they indulge in the attractions of Havana or Matanzas. Mr. Dana shows the difference, when he writes:—

"Gradually, first in the western and northern parts, and daily extending easterly and southerly over the entire island, the exquisite cafetals have been prostrated and dismantled, the groves of shade and fruit trees cut down, the avenues and footpaths ploughed up, and the denuded land laid down to wastes of sugar cane.

"The sugar cane allows of no shade. Therefore the groves and avenues must fall. To make its culture profitable, it must be raised in the largest possible quantities that the extent of land will permit. To attempt the raising of fruit, or of the ornamental woods, is bad economy for the sugar planter. Most of the fruits, especially the orange, which is the chief export, ripen in the midst of the sugar season, and no hands can be spared to attend to them. The sugar planter often buys the fruits he needs for daily use and for making preserves from the neighbouring cafetals. The cane ripens but once a year. Between the time when enough of it is ripe to justify beginning to work the mill and the time when the heat and rains spoil its qualities, all the sugar-making of the year must be done. In Louisiana this period does not exceed eight weeks; in Cuba it is full four months. This gives Cuba a great advantage. Yet these four months are short enough; and during that time the steam engine plies and the furnace fires burn night and day. Sugar making brings with it steam, fire, smoke, and a drive of labour, and admits of and requires the application of science.

"The sugar plantation is no grove, or garden, or orchard. It is not the home of the pride and affections of the planter's family. It is not a coveted—indeed, hardly a desirable—residence. Such families as would like to remain on these plantations are driven off for want of neighbouring society. Thus, the estates, largely abandoned by the families of the planters, suffer the evils of absenteeism, while the owners live in the suburbs of Havana and Matanzas, and in the Fifth Avenue of New York. The slave system loses its patriarchal character. The master is not the head of a great family, its judge, its governor, its physician, its priest, and its father—as the fond dream of the advocates of slavery, and sometimes, doubtless, the reality, made him.

"Middlemen, in the shape of administradores, stand between the owner and the slaves. The slave is little else than an item of labour raised or bought. The sympathies of common home, common childhood, long and intimate relations, and many kind offices, common attachments to house, to land, to dogs, to cattle, to trees, to birds—the knowledge of births, sicknesses, and deaths, and the duties and sympathies of a common religion—all those things that may ameliorate the common relations of the master and slave, and often give to the face of servitude itself precarious but interesting features of beauty and strength—these they must not look to have."

The manufacture of an article from the raw material is always an instructive subject, when the *rationale* of its production is well told; and as Mr. Dana seems to have an especial gift in that way, we cannot do better than let him tell us what he saw in the process of cutting and crushing the sugar cane, so—

"To begin at the beginning. The cane is cut from the fields, by companies of men and women, working together, who use an instrument called a machete, which is something between a sword and a cleaver. Two blows with this slash off the long leaves, and a third blow cuts off the stalk, near to the ground. At this work the labourers move like reapers, in even lines, at stated distances. Before them is a field of dense high waving cane; and behind them, strewn wrecks of stalks and leaves. Near, and in charge of the party, stands a driver, or, more grandiloquently, a contramayord, with the short, limber plantation whip, the badge of his office, under his arm.

"Ox carts pass over the field, and are loaded with the cane, which they carry to the mill. The oxen are worked in the Spanish fashion, the yoke being strapped upon the head close to the horns, instead of being hung round the neck, as with us; and are guided by goads, and by a rope attached to a ring through the nostrils. At the mill the cane is tipped from the carts into large piles, by the side of the platform. From these large piles it is placed carefully, by hand, lengthwise, in a long trough. This trough is made of slats, and moved by the power of the endless chain connected with the engine. In this trough it is carried between heavy, horizontal, cylindrical rollers, where it is crushed, its juice falling into receivers below, and the crushed cane passing off and falling into a pile on the other side. This crushed cane (bagago), falling from between the rollers, is gathered into baskets, by men and women, who carry it on their heads into fields, and spread it for drying. There it is watched and tended as carefully as new mown grass in haymaking, and raked into cocks or winnows on an alarm of rain. When dry, it is placed under sheds for protection against wet. From the sheds and from the fields it is loaded into carts and drawn to the immense furnace

doors, into which it is thrown by negroes, who crowd it in by the armful, and rake it about with long poles. Here it feeds the perpetual fires by which the steam is made, the machinery moved, and the cane juice boiled. The care of the bagago is an important part of the system; for if that becomes wet and fails, the fires must stop, or resort be had to wood, which is scarce and expensive.

"Thus, on one side of the rollers is the ceaseless current of fresh, full, juicy cane stalks, just cut from the open field; and on the other side is the crushed, mangled, juiceless mass, drifting out at the draught, and fit only to be cast into the oven and burned. This is the way of the world, as it is the course of art. The cane is made to destroy itself. The ruin and corrupted furnish the fuel and fan the flame that lures on and draws in and crushes the fresh and wholesome; and the operation seems about as mechanical and unceasing in the one case as in the other."

The machinery is American, and the engines are worked, and taken charge of, by Yankees, who engage themselves to the master of a plantation, for the season, and then return home. Mr. Dana reports that—

"The smell of sugar juice and vapour, in all its stages, is intense. The negroes fatten on it. The clank of the engine, the steady grind of the machines, and the high wild cry of the negroes at the caldrons to the stokers at the furnace doors, as they chant out their directions or wants—now for more fire, and now to scatter the fire—which must be heard above the din, 'A-a-b'la! A-a-b'la!'; 'E-e-cha caudela!'; 'Pu-er-ta!'; and the barbaric African chant and chorons of the gang at work filling the cane-troughs; all these make the first visit at the sugar house a strange experience. But after one or two visits the monotony is as tiresome as the first view is exciting. There is, literally, no change in the work. There are the same noises of the machines, the same cries from negroes at the same spots, the same intensely sweet smell, the same state of the work in all its stages, at whatever hour you visit it, whether in the morning, at evening, midnight, or at the dawn of the day. If you wake up at night you hear the 'A-a-b'la! A-a-b'la!'; 'E-e-cha! E-e-cha!'; of the caldron-men crying to the stokers, and the high monotonous chant of the gangs filling the waggons or the trough, a short, improvised stave, and then the chorons—not a tune, like the song of sailors at the tackles and falls, but a barbaric tuneless intonation.

"When I went into the sugar house, I saw a man with an unmistakably New England face in charge of the engine, with that look of intelligence and independence so different from the independence and intelligence of all other persons.

"Is not that a New England man?"

"Yes," said Mr. C—, "he is from Lowell; and the engine was built in Lowell."

"When I found him at leisure, I made myself known to him, and he sat down on the brickwork of the furnace, and had a good unburdening of talk, for he had not seen any one from the United States for three months. He talked like a true Yankee, of law and politics—the Lowell bar and Mr. Butler, Mr. Abbott, and Mr. Wentworth; of the Boston bar and Mr. Chate; of Massachusetts politics and Governor Banks; and of national politics and the Thirty Millions Bill, and whether it would pass, and what if it did."

There are many drawbacks and risks to be encountered by the planters. Fires are not by any means of uncommon occurrence, and when they break out in the cane fields are very difficult to subdue. The cholera also is much dreaded, for in a few hours after an attack has broken out among the slaves, its ravages are frequently so extensive as to stop the entire labour of the plantation, and swallow up a fortune in restocking the property. But, above all, the master is the greatest slave; all depends on him alone; he, singly, is the moving power that sets in motion and regulates the whole; for Mr. Dana says:—

"With all the corps of hired white labour, the master must still be the real power, and on his character the comfort and success of the plantation depend. If he has skill as a chemist, a geologist, or a machinist, it is not lost; but, except as to the engineer, who may usually be relied upon, the master must be capable of overseeing the whole economy of the plantation, or all will go wrong. His chief duty is to oversee the overseers; to watch his officers, the mayordoms, the boyeros, and the sugar masters. These are mere hirelings, and of a low sort, such as a slave system reduces them to; and if they are lazy, the work slackens; and if they are illnatured, somebody suffers. The mere personal presence of the master operates as a stimulus to the work. This afternoon young Mr. C— and I took horses and rode out to the cane field, where the people were cutting. They had been at work a half hour. He stopped his horse where they were when he came to them, and the next half hour, without a word from him, they had made double the distance of the first. It seems to me that the work of a plantation is what a clock would be that always required a man's hand pressing on the mainspring."

And in this busy life he is constantly in considerable peril, which nothing but extreme watchfulness and care can contend against; for—

"If the master of a plantation is faithful and thorough, will tolerate no misconduct or imposition, and yet is humane and watchful over the

interests and rights, as well as over the duties of the negroes, he has a hard and anxious life. Sickness to be ministered to, the feigning of sickness to be counteracted, rights of the slaves to be secured against other negroes, as well as against whites, with a poor chance of getting at the truth from either; the obligations of the negro *quasi* marriage to be enforced against all the sensual and childish tendencies of the race; theft and violence, and wanderings from home, to be detected and prevented; the work to be done, and yet no one to be overworked; and all this often with no effectual aid, often with only obstructions, from the intermediate whites. Nor is it his own people only that are to be looked to. The thieving and violence of negroes from other plantations, their visits by night against law, and the encroachments of the neighbouring free blacks and low whites, are all to be watched and prevented or punished. The master is a policeman, as well as an economist and a judge. His revolver and rifle are always loaded. He has his dogs, his trackers and seizers, that lie at his gate, trained to give the alarm when a strange step comes near the house or the quarters, and ready to pursue. His hedges may be broken down, his cane trampled or cut, or, still worse, set fire to; goats let into his pastures; his poultry stolen; and sometimes his dogs poisoned. It is a country of little law and order; and what with slavery and free negroes and low whites, violence and fraud are imminent and always formidable. No man rides far unarmed. The negroes are held under the subjection of force. A quarter-deck organization is established. The master owns vessel and cargo, and is captain of the ship; he and his family live in the cabin and on the quarter-deck. There are no other commissioned officers on board and no guard of marines. There are a few petty officers, and under all a great crew of negroes, for every kind of work, held by compulsion—the results of a pressgang. All are at sea together. There are some laws, and civil authorities for the protection of each, but not very near, nor always accessible.”

Mr. Dana bears testimony to the kind treatment the slaves experienced on the estate he visited, and the little children, in their innocent trust, coming to him, proves that in this instance he was right. We are told that—

“At six o'clock the large bell tolls the knell of parting day and the call to the Oracion, which any who are religious enough can say, wherever they may be, at work or at rest. In the times of more religious strictness, the bell for the Oracion, just at dusk, was the signal for prayer in every house and field, and even in the street, and for the benediction from parent to child, and master to servant. Now, in the cities, it tolls unnoticed, and on the plantations it is treated only as the signal for leaving off work. . . . I went into the quarters before they were closed. A high wall surrounds an open square, in which are the houses of the negroes. This has one gate, which is locked at dark; and to leave the quarters after that time is a serious offence. The huts were plain, but reasonably neat, and comfortable in their construction and arrangement. In some were fires, round which, even in this hot weather, the negroes like to gather. A group of little negroes came round the strange gentleman, and the smallest knelt down with uncovered heads, in a reverent manner, saying, ‘Buenos dias, Senor.’ I did not understand the purpose of this action, and as there was no one to explain the usage to me, I did them the injustice to suppose that they expected money, and distributed some small coins among them. But I learnt afterwards that they were expecting the benediction, the hand on the head, and the ‘Dios te haga, bueno.’ It was touching to see their simple, trusting faces turned up to the stranger—countenances not yet wrought by misfortune, or injury, or crime, into the strong expressions of mature life.”

Leaving them to rest, we will journey with our author to one of the few remaining cafetals, showing what a contrast there is in the cool, delightful coffee plantation, when compared with the hot, boiling, toiling, sugar estate:—

“The afternoon is serene. Near, the birds are flying, or chattering with extreme sociability in close trees, and the thickets are fragrant with flowers; while far off, the high hills loom in the horizon; and all about us is this tropical growth, with which I cannot yet become familiar, of palms, and cocoas, and bananas. We amble over the red earth of the winding lanes, and turn into the broad avenue of Santa Catalina, with its double row of royal palms. We are in—not a forest, for the trees are not thick and wild and large enough for that—but in a huge, dense, tropical orchard. The avenue is as clear and straight and wide as a city mall; while all the ground on either side, for hundreds of acres, is a plantation of oranges and limes, bananas and plantains, cocoas and pine apples, of cedar and mango, and mignonette and allspice, under whose shade is growing the green leaved, the evergreen leaved coffee plant, with its little dark red berry, the tonic of half the world. Here we have a glimpse of the lost charm of Cuba. No wonder that the aged proprietor cannot find the heart to lay it waste for the monotonous cane-field, and make the quiet, peaceful horticulture, the natural growth of fruit and berry, and the simple processes of gathering, drying, and storing, give place to the steam and smoke, and drive and life-consuming toil of the ingenio!

“At a turn in the avenue we come upon the proprietor, who is taking his evening walk, still in the exact dress and with the exact manners of urban life. With truly French politeness, he is distressed, and all but offended, that we cannot go to his house.”

Mr. Dana, in his general summary of the hideous crime of slaveholding in Cuba, is very guarded and apparently just in his estimate of the condition of the slaves, and he gives us a pretty broad hint that should the “Lone Star,” so much desired by our American relatives, be added to the other stars that appear aloft in her national banner, some further admixture of the stripes would be necessary, and that the slaves of Cuba would gain nothing by the change of masters; for, as at present, the law in some instances favours the slave, whereas, in the contingency referred to, it would be the contrary:—

“One general remark (says Mr. Dana) should be made which I deem to be of considerable importance. The laws relating to slavery do not emanate from the slaveholding mind; nor are they interpreted or executed by the slaveholding class. The slave benefits by the division of power and property between the two rival and ever hostile races of whites, the Creoles and the Spaniards. Spain is not slaveholding at home, and so long as the laws are made in Spain, and the civil offices held by Spaniards only, the slave has at least the advantage of a conflict of interests and principles, between the two classes concerned in his bondage.”

We cannot follow our author through all the various phases of his experience, much as his work deserves it, for it is of the utmost importance to the whole human family that slavery should be abolished; still we are glad to find that, in Cuba, emancipation is encouraged, and the laws show considerable favour towards the blacks who have been freed. The statistics tell us that twenty-five per cent. of the negroes are free; that they are trusted with arms; formed into regiments; their evidence receivable in all courts of law; their right to go before a magistrate and be valued for the purpose of procuring their emancipation; and can even force their master to sell them, if they can provide another person to buy them. Their social condition is bad. They are baptised Christians, but until the day of their deaths that is the only time they benefit by the services of religion; although the law enjoins that they should receive religious instruction, yet, from their own indolence and the apathy of their masters, this is tacitly allowed to be a dead letter. Marriage, being a sacrament of the Romish church, entails considerable difficulty in the sale and transfer of a family, and, in consequence, the negroes themselves feel it a restraint: both slave and slaveholder shirk that contract, and the negro population, as well as many of the whites, live in a state of concubinage, marriage being esteemed pretty generally as a superfluous bond.

In taking leave of Mr. Dana's work, we shall offer his sensible and just remarks on the whole question, merely adding our own opinion on the state of all slaveholding communities, viz.—that with the utmost that can be done to better the condition of the slave, slavery must be slavery still, and no men have a right to trade in the common image of their own and the slave's Creator. With these remarks, we beg our readers once more to turn their attention to our author's conclusion, who says:—

“As to the practical advantage the slaves can get from these provisions in remote places; and as to the amount of protection they get anywhere from the special provisions respecting punishment, food, clothing, and treatment generally, almost everything lies in the region of opinion. There is no end to statement and anecdote on each side. If one cannot get a full and lengthened personal experience, not only as the guest of the slave holder, but as the companion of the local magistrates, of the lower officers on the plantation, of slave dealers and slave hunters, and of the emancipated slaves, I advise him to shut his ears to mere anecdotes and general statements, and to trust to reasonable deductions from established facts. The established facts are—that one race, having all power in its hands, holds an inferior race in slavery; that this bondage exists in cities, in populous neighbourhoods, and in remote districts; that the owners are human beings of tropical races, and the slaves are human beings just emerging from barbarism; and that no small part of this power is exercised by a lowlived and lowminded class of intermediate agents. What is likely to be the effect on all the parties to this system, judging from all we know of human nature?

“If persons coming from the north are credulous enough to suppose that they will see chains and stripes and tracks of blood; and if, taking letters to the best class of slave holders, seeing their way of life, and hearing their dinner table anecdotes, and the breakfast table talk of the ladies, they find no outward signs of violence or corruption, they will probably, also, be credulous enough to suppose they have seen the whole of slavery. They do not know that that large plantation, with its smoking chimneys, about which they hear nothing, and which their host does not visit, has passed to the creditors of the late owner, who is a bankrupt, and is in charge of a manager, who is to get all he can from it in the shortest time, and to sell off the slaves as he can, having no interest, moral or pecuniary, in their future. They do not know that that other plantation, belonging to the young man who spends half his time in Havana, is an abode of licentiousness and cruelty. Neither do they know that the tall hounds chained at the kennel of the house they are visiting are Cuban bloodhounds, trained to track and to seize. They

do not know that the barking last night was a pursuit and capture, in which all the white men on the place took part; and that, for the week past, the men of the plantation have been a committee of detective and protective police. They do not know that the ill looking man who was there yesterday, and whom the ladies did not like, and all treated with ill disguised aversion, is a professed hunter of slaves. They have never seen or heard of the Sierra del Cristal, the mountain range at the eastern end of Cuba, inhabited by runaways, where white men hardly dare to go. Nor do they know that those young ladies, when little children, were taken to the city in the time of the insurrection in the Vuelta de Arriba. They have not heard the story of the downcast looking girl, the now incorrigibly malignant negro, and the lying mayoral. In the cities they are amused by the flashy dresses, indolence, and good humour of the slaves, and pleased with the respectfulness of their manners, and hear anecdotes of their attachment to their masters, and how they so dote upon slavery that nothing but bad advice can entice them into freedom; and are told, too, of the worse condition of the free blacks. They have not visited the slave galls, or the whipping posts in the house outside the walls, where low whites do the flogging of the city house servants, men and women, at so many reals a head.

"But the reflecting mind soon tires of the anecdotes of injustice, cruelty, and licentiousness on the one hand, and of justice, kindness, and mutual attachment on the other. You know that all co-exist; but in what proportion you can only conjecture. You know what slavery must be in its effect on both the parties to it."

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

MR. DICKENS'S "Tale of Two Cities" was published complete in the United States in no less than twenty-nine different editions, one month before its completion in England. Dr. Cumming's "Great Tribulation" has not, however, been nearly as successful in the States as in England. According to the latest accounts, its total sale had not exceeded a thousand.

The following are a few of the more important works likely to come before the reading world this spring, which have been announced. Lord Macaulay's fifth volume will most probably come out. A *Life of Robert Stephenson* is in hand by Mr. W. B. Adams, a gentleman well endowed for his task. The first part of a "History of England" may be expected from the pen of Mr. J. A. St. John. Mr. Ruskin will complete his great labours on the "Modern Painters," and Mr. T. Duffus Hardy his "Materials of English History." Mr. Murray has in preparation Leslie's "Life of Sir Joshua Reynolds," Mr. "Eothen" Kinglake's "Two Years in the Crimea," Mr. John Forster's "Arrest of the Five Members by Charles the First," and Sir Robert Wilson's "Journal at the Head Quarters of the Russian Army." Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co. are preparing a work on China, by Sir John Bowring; "The Life and Anecdotes of Edmund Malone, the Commentator on Shakspeare," by Sir James Prior; "The Letters of the late Rev. F. Robertson, of Brighton," and a new romance, by Nathaniel Hawthorne. For Mr. Bentley, Dr. Hook, Dean of Chichester, is preparing "The Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury." Mr. Newton (recently appointed British Consul at Rome), whose discoveries of works of art have recently been placed in the British Museum, is preparing a narrative of his "Researches and Discoveries in the Levant and in the Islands of Mytelene and Rhodes, and on the Coast of Asia Minor, &c., made during a Residence of Seven Years." Messrs. Hurst and Blackett will produce, during the season, "Travels in Eastern Africa, with a Narrative of a Residence in Mozambique," by Lyons M'Leod, late British consul at Mozambique, "The Upper and Lower Amoor," by Thomas William Atkinson; "The Life and Times of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham," by Mrs. Thomson; and a "Journey on a Plank from Kiev to Eaux Bonnes," by Lady Charlotte Pepys.

"Mr. J. Payne Collier," says the Town and Table Talker of the *Illustrated London News*, "is about to give us a new edition, with elaborate but not overlaiden notes, of that book for men and boys, for women and for girls—Spenser's 'Faerie Queene.' We have seen four of the five volumes, and matchless they look in type, paper, pressing, and better still—editing. What does not English literature owe to Edmund Spenser? Mr. Collier is to give us a life, sure to be curious."

A serial in monthly parts is being published in Calcutta, respecting which the *Englishman* says: "A trial is being made of the literary appetite of Calcutta readers by the publication of a tale in numbers, after the fashion set in England by Dickens, Thackeray, and others. It is called Bogglesbury Hall: a Tale of the Nineteenth Century." The first number was published by Messrs. Thacker, Spink, and Co., on the first of the present month. The author, Mr. Hamilton Hume, asks from his readers only a generous consideration of his endeavours to amuse them. It is impossible to judge from the few pages before us what is

to be expected from the tale; but we fear that, however well written and amusing it may be, the author will not meet with that encouragement from the Calcutta public which is the best incentive to such labour."

The Hon. Edward Everett, of Boston, is to contribute the biography of Washington to the new edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," published by Messrs. A. & C. Black.

Washington Irving has left a large fortune to be divided among his nephews and nieces. For the last eight or ten years he has probably received from his books alone an average annual income of 20,000 dollars. An elaborate biography of Mr. Irving is understood to be in preparation by his nephew, Mr. Pierre Irving, of New York, who has been collecting the materials for it for several years. It will doubtless be brought out by Mr. C. P. Putnam, the publisher of Mr. Irving's works. At a recent special meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a series of resolutions in honour of the memory of Washington Irving were "presented" by Professor Longfellow, the poet, and supported by the Honourable Edward Everett. On the history of Irving's "Life of Washington" Mr. Everett made the following interesting remarks:—"At this period (after his return to the States in 1832) of his life he began seriously to contemplate the preparation of his last great production—the 'Life of Washington.' This subject had been pressed upon him while yet in Europe, by Mr. Archibald Constable, the celebrated publisher at Edinburgh; and Mr. Irving determined to undertake it as soon as his return to America should bring him within reach of the necessary documents. Various circumstances concurred to prevent the execution of the project at this time, especially his appointment as Minister to Spain, and his residence in that country from 1842 to 1846. On his return to America at the close of his mission, he appears to have applied himself diligently to the long-meditated undertaking, though he proceeded but slowly at first in its execution. The first volume appeared in 1855, and the four following in rapid succession. The work was finally completed in the present year—fit close of the life of its illustrious author, and of a literary career of such rare brilliancy and success." Professor Longfellow's first personal acquaintance with Mr. Irving began at Madrid. "I found the author," said the poet of "Evangeline," "whom I had loved, repeated in the man. The same playful humour; the same touches of sentiment; the same poetic atmosphere; and what I admired still more, the entire absence of all literary jealousy—of all that mean avarice of fame, which counts what is given to another as so much taken from one's self;—

"And rustling hears in every breeze
The laurels of Miltiades."

At this time Mr. Irving was at Madrid, engaged upon his "Life of Columbus;" and if the work itself did not bear ample testimony to his zealous and conscientious labour, I could do so from personal observation. He seemed to be always at work. 'Sit down,' he would say; 'I will talk with you in a moment, but I must first finish this sentence.' One summer morning, passing his house at the early hour of six, I saw his study window already wide open. On my mentioning it to him afterwards, he said, 'Yes, I am always at my work as early as six.' Since then I have often remembered that sunny morning and that open window, so suggestive of his sunny temperament and his open heart, and equally so of his patient and persistent toil. Among the other speakers on this interesting occasion was Oliver Wendell Holmes, the well-known poet and humourist.

The Council of the Royal Institution have prepared their course of Friday lectures for the session before Easter. They stand as follows:—January 20th (subject unnamed), by Professor Tyndall; January 27th, "On the Cerebral Classification of the Class Mammalia," by Professor Owen; February 3rd, "On the Mineral Treasures of the Andes," by F. Field, Esq.; February 10th, "On Species and Races, and their Origin," by Professor T. H. Huxley; February 17th, "On the Influence of Science on the Art of Calico Printing," by Professor F. Grace Calvert; February 24th, "On the Relation between the Vital and the Physical Forces," by Dr. W. B. Carpenter; March 2nd, "On the Measurement of the Chemical Action of the Solar Rays," by Professor H. E. Roscoe; March 9th, (subject unnamed), by Professor Faraday; March 16th, "On the Relation between the Abnormal and the Normal Formations in Plants," by M. T. Masters, Esq.; March 23rd, "On Diamonds," by N. S. Maskelyne, Esq.; and March 30th, "On Acids and Salts," by W. Odling, Esq.

The lecture arrangements for the new year, at the South Kensington Museum, presents an instructive and useful variety. Lectures on the Art Collection will be given by Mr. R. H. Smith, Mr. Robinson, and

Professor Kinkel, on Friday evenings up to the 24th of January. A course of lectures on subjects connected with the Architectural Museum will be given on alternate Wednesday evenings up to the 4th of April. These lectures will be delivered by Sir Walter James, Mr. G. Godwin, Mr. W. White, Mr. E. B. Denison, Mr. John Bell, and Mr. R. H. S. Smith. Dr. Lankester will also continue his lectures "On Food." A course of lectures is also in preparation on the Science Examinations. These will be delivered by the examiners appointed by the Committee of Council on Education.

The *Athenaeum* mentions that a transfer of two large and important private collections of pictures of the English school—the property of gentlemen of the legal profession, well known in artistic studios—has taken place within the last few days, without the usual intervention of the auctioneer. The particulars are surprising, even in these days of augmenting prices. These collections comprised pictures by Messrs. Leslie, E. M. Ward, Frith, Elmore, Webster, Egg, and others. (No less than about twelve specimens of each of the masters named—think of that, Master Brook!) The two lots were in a few days disposed of, dispersed, and rehung, although the aggregate value exceeded twenty thousand pounds. On the average, the original purchasers of these pictures are known to have realized on their recent sale more than a hundred per cent. on their first outlay.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MASONIC MISSIONS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your review of Masonry in the province of Norfolk, you say (vol. vi, p. 775), "there ought further to be Lodges at Thetford, Swaffham," &c. I have recently obtained possession of the minute book of "Swaffham Great Lodge, at the Crown, constituted December 17th, 1764, Captain Richard Gardiner, Master." It then stood No. 329 on the registry. On 1st January, 1769, it numbered twenty-three members on the books, amongst whom appear some of the first men of the county, such as the Earl of Orford, Sir Clement Trafford, Sir Edward Astley, Hon. George Hobart, member for Beeralston, &c.

The last entry I find is of a meeting—"General Lodge, Feb. 5th, 1770. Present: Capt. Gardiner, in the chair; 2. Mr. Warren; 3. Mr. Money." The Lodge seems to have worked well and zealously, as, in February, 1769, the Grand Secretary, Bro. French, wrote to the W.M. by command of the M.W. Grand Master, "who highly applauds the zeal so conspicuous in all your proceedings for the honour of the society, being worthy the imitation as well as approbation of the whole Craft." In the present state of the province, as shown in your account of it, is it not a great pity that some attempt is not made to resuscitate the old Lodge? And it is in the hope that some energetic brother may be induced to make a move in the right direction, that I have written this account of Swaffham Great Lodge, No. 329.

Believe me, fraternally yours,
R. B. W.

29th Dec., 1859.

UNIFORMITY OF WORKING AND MODEL LODGES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I was somewhat surprised to see in a letter, signed "R. E. X.," certain statements assumed as contained in my communication respecting the Grand Stewards' Lodge, at page 507, of the last volume of the *Freemasons' Magazine*. "R. E. X." makes me say, "sending forth missionaries to promulgate the working adopted in that Lodge"; a phrase in no manner mine, for I never contemplated making a Lodge of gentlemen itinerating Masonic nostrum vendors. Again, "R. E. X." says—"Such Lodge has no such privilege." If he would once more read my letter, I do not think he will say that I suggested, much more stated, that they had. What I intended I wrote when I said "it cannot be doubted (the Grand Master) would recognize the claim of the Grand Stewards' Lodge to carry out and promulgate the system of a uniformity of working," and that their Lodge "has been for more than a century the depository of the working of the Craft."

I, on the other side, as boldly assert as "R. E. X." denies, that in the Grand Stewards' Lodge, and in that Lodge alone, residet

the right of being the model which the Craft ought to follow, and to them only can the brethren "look up as of superlative authority."

"R. E. X.," as a member of the Emulation Lodge of Instruction, is no doubt one of the devotees to Bro. S. B. Wilson, to which I alluded in my letter, and however highly he may think of that brother as "ready to afford to the Lodge of delegates any information they might require," I gravely doubt his power of communicating anything beyond the ceremonies and stereotyped lectures; and I say this, not out of any disrespect to the brother in question, but because I have heard him decline answering simple questions in a manner that has convinced me he has no right to be looked to as an authority upon the esoteric part of our mysteries.

One more word to "R. E. X.," and I have done. Can "R. E. X." be serious in wishing the Emulation Lodge of Instruction to be placed in the van before any warranted Lodge? If so, that is a total subversion of all order in the Craft; and we may as well indulge the junior apprentices of a Lodge in being the ruling power, to the exclusion of the W.M. and the P.Ms., as to defer to a Lodge of Instruction, which is, at best, but the recognized deputy of the parent Lodge, without whose sanction it is *nil*.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,
A GRATIFIED VISITOR TO THE GRAND STEWARDS' LODGE.

MODEL LODGES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Permit me to make a few remarks in justification of the argument I advanced in your columns of December 31st, 1859, in reference to the object of marking and numbering the materials used in the construction of King Solomon's temple, at so great a distance from the site of the building. Your correspondent, "R. E. X.," informs me that the object was "to save the cost of freightage and inconvenience in conveying unnecessary materials to Joppa, where the landing was at all times difficult from the precipitous nature of the shore." I do not attempt to deny that the difficulties alluded to by "R. E. X." did not then present themselves, but from a careful perusal of the sacred writings, I believe that the primary object was that which I have previously stated. Upon this subject we have definite Masonic testimony in the second section of our first lecture.

Thus far I have rendered my authority, and I trust, in so doing, have not erred; if I have, the fault lies not at my door, inasmuch as I have only reiterated what my instructor taught me, who acquired his knowledge from one of the then best working Masons of the day. It is to be hoped that before long some legal authority will be set up on orthodox principles, irrespective of east end or west end systems, available at all times to all aspiring Masons requiring its salutary aid. Until then we must abide by the existing formula.

In conclusion, I must mention that no argument advocating the principle of holding Lodges, at taverns has been adduced, having the effect of relaxing or altering the opinions which I have at all times conscientiously avowed.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
Kent, January 10th, 1860. FIDELITAS.

A SHEPHERD'S REBUKE.—A friend has informed me that the late Lord Rutherford often told with much interest of a rebuke which he received from a shepherd, near Bonally, amongst the Pentlands. He had entered into conversation with him, and was complaining bitterly of the weather, which prevented him enjoying his visit to the country, and said hastily and unguardedly, "What a d—d mist!" The shepherd, a tall, grim figure, turned sharp round upon him. "What ails you at the mist, sir; it wats the grass, and slockens the ewes"—adding, with much solemnity, "It's God's wull;" and turned away with lofty indignation. Lord Rutherford used to repeat this with candour, as a fine specimen of rebuke from a sincere and simple mind. Something like this is reported of an eminent professor of geology, who, visiting in the Highlands, met an old man on the hills on Sunday morning. The professor, partly from the effect of habit, and not adverting to the very strict notions of Sabbath desecration entertained in Ross-shire, had his pocket hammer in hand, and was thoughtlessly breaking the specimens of minerals he picked up by the way. The old man for some time eyed the geologist, and going up to him, quietly said, "Sir, ye're breaking something there forbye the stanes."—Dean Ramsay.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

THE number of certificates for new Masons issued during the past year was no less than 4,282; considerably in excess of the previous year, notwithstanding the secession of the Canadian Lodges. That number however does not represent all the Masons made under the English Constitution, as in Australia, Nova Scotia, India, and other colonies where there are Prov. G.M.s, the certificates are now issued to the Prov. G. Lodges in blank (a course not hitherto pursued), and through them to the initiates, whose names are afterwards returned for registration on the books of the Grand Lodge of England. The number of Royal Arch certificates issued was 332, being also a considerable increase on former years.

THE GIRLS SCHOOL.

THE quarterly court of the governors of this school was held at the office on Thursday last, Bro. Udall in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, including the motion for increasing the number of children in the school from seventy to eighty, and of the various committee meetings, having been read, the following children were approved as candidates:—Emily Mary Campbell, Jemima Thomason Laws, Mary Ann Emma Williams, Edith Chivers, Arabella Bullen Commins, Susannah Maria Lacon, Alice Ann Dutton, Sarah Rachel Palot, Rebecca Long, Mary Amelia Margaret Lansdowne, Jane Trawley, and Margaret Wilde.

There are therefore twelve approved candidates and thirteen vacancies.

A resolution was carried that 10s. be presented to each child on leaving the school, and £1 at the end of twelve months; upon which Bro. Warren gave notice that at the next meeting he should move to nonconfirm the minute, in order to substitute one to the effect that 10s. be presented to each child on leaving the school; 2s. 6d. at the end of the first year; 5s. the second; 7s. 6d. the third; 10s. the fourth; 12s. 6d. the fifth; 15s. the sixth; and £1 the seventh, with the view of the committee being enabled to keep a proper superintendence over them after leaving the school.

The Treasurer's account having been received, the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

METROPOLITAN.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday evening, January 5th, at the Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane; Bro. Lundy, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Dickie, S.W.; Ditchman, J.W.; Hales, S.D.; Dyer, J.D.; and Phelps, I.G. The first business of the evening was the initiation of Mr. John Pulling into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. Afterwards Bros. Hamilton and Hind were respectively passed to the second degree. The W.M. then in a most impressive manner raised Bros. Booser, Punt, and Stephens to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The Lodge having been closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, which was served up in Bro. Ireland's excellent style, and the proceedings of the evening were concluded in a most harmonious manner.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The installation meeting of this flourishing Lodge was held on Thursday evening, January 5th, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Bros. C. Maney, W.M.; Swainston, S.W., and W.M. elect; Rev. J. Laughlin, J.W.; Waters, S.D.; Hogg, J.D. The Lodge was very numerous attended, and amongst the visitors present were Bros. Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; States, P.M. No. 166; Watson, P.M. No. 23; W. F. Blackburn, P.M. No. 169; H. Potter, P.M. No. 30; W. Blackburn, P.M. No. 12, and Sec. No. 1,044; Andrew, P.M. No. 752; Arliss, P.M. No. 237; Collard, P.M. Nos. 168 and 209; Moore, S.W. No. 206; Handford, S.W. No. 1,044; H. T. Thompson, S.D. No. 1,044; Oliver, J.D. No. 1,044; Amos, Org. No. 1,044; Donald King, P.M. No. 12; and a large number of other visiting brethren. The Lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the last Lodge read, the W.M., Bro. Maney, passed Bros. Avery and Masterman to the second degree. He afterwards severally initiated the following gentlemen into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry:—Messrs. Adolphus Sallust, Arthur Osmond, Alfred Frisby, Henry Roberts, and William Milnes. The ceremony of this degree was performed by the Worshipful Master in a most able and impressive manner. At the conclusion of this part of the business, Bro. Maney resigned the chair to Bro. Emmens, P.M. and Sec., who proceeded in due form to install Bro. Swainston, the W.M. elect, into that honourable position, in a manner which elicited the highest encomiums from some of the most able members of the Craft present both as members and visitors. The customary salutes having been given, the Worshipful Master invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Rev. J. Laughlin, S.W. and Chaplain; Waters, J.W.; Kennedy, P.M.;

Emmens, P.M. and Sec.; Hogg, S.D.; Davis, J.D.; Corben, I.G.; Nicholson, P.M., Dir. of Cers.; and Bros. Green and Dixon, Stewards. The first business of the new Worshipful Master in the chair, was, to bring before the Lodge an application, made by a worthy P.M. of the Lodge, for their recommendation of a petition to be presented to the Board of Benevolence on his behalf. The application was warmly supported by Bro. Booth, P.M., and the petition was signed by a large proportion of the members present. The Worshipful Master said he had now a most pleasing duty to perform, which was to present their Bro. Maney with a P.M.'s jewel, as a token of their approbation of his conduct during the time he had occupied the chair in that Lodge. The Worshipful Master then affixed the jewel to his breast, which bore the following inscription: "Presented to Bro. C. Maney, P.M., by the Old Concord Lodge, as a mark of their esteem for his able services while presiding as Master, 2nd January, 1860." Bro. MANEY said he thanked the brethren most sincerely for that distinguished mark of their favour, which he should wear through life with the greatest pleasure, in having presided as Worshipful Master of that numerous and highly influential Lodge. The duties of his position had certainly been onerous, but he had endeavoured to go through them to the best of his ability, and if in doing so he had given satisfaction, he was more than amply repaid. In conclusion, he thanked the Past Masters and brethren for the great kindness they had always shown towards him. The Lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to the large hall for refreshment, and about one hundred and twenty brethren sat down to a most excellent dinner. Afterwards the Worshipful Master gave "The Queen," and "The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.," which were duly honoured. The Worshipful Master then gave "The health of Lord Panmure, M.W.D.G.M.," coupling with it the name of Bro. Farnfield. Bro. FARNFIELD, Asst. G. Sec., acknowledged the compliment, assuring them that no one was more desirous to see carried out properly the business of Freemasonry than Lord Panmure, for he took the greatest interest in the good working of the Craft. It was not always convenient for his lordship to attend the Grand Lodge, but an arrangement existed between the Grand Master and Lord Panmure that one or other should always be present. The health of their newly initiated brethren having been given and acknowledged, the Worshipful Master gave "The Visitors," for which Bro. WATSON, P.M. No. 23, returned thanks, and bore testimony not only to the excellent working of the Lodge, but to the hospitality shown towards them. Bro. MANEY, P.M., said he was sure every member of the Old Concord Lodge must be pleased with the manner in which their W.M. had performed the duties of the Lodge, and therefore it gave him great satisfaction to propose his health as Master of the Lodge, which he hoped they would drink with all the enthusiasm he knew they could give it, and in a manner which it really deserved. The W.M. said he could not adequately express his feelings for the kind way in which their Bro. Maney had been pleased to speak of him, but it was indeed a high honour to be W.M. of the Old Concord Lodge, which was a position he had always desired to attain. As a young member of the Lodge, it was his wish at all times to exercise a sound discretion, and if he did not do so he should be anxious to obtain the tuition and instruction of their able P.M. He was determined to make the Book of Constitutions and the by-laws his study, hoping that at the end of his year of office that he should not only do credit to the Lodge, but to those who had proposed him in Freemasonry. The Worshipful Master next gave "The health of Bro. Laughlin, S.W. and Chaplain." Bro. the Rev. J. LAUGHLIN, in responding, said, that it was to him indeed a very grand evening, not for the higher stage which he had that night obtained in Freemasonry, for he should always be identified with the Old Concord Lodge, but because they were now assembled in the Freemasons' Hall, and were met in a larger room than they had ever met in before. The Worshipful Master had always treated him well, and on such an occasion were he to do so, it would be but as a "twice told tale" to say how grateful he was for the mention of his name in connection with that Lodge, a connection which he trusted would never be severed, for he hoped to belong to that Lodge as long as the G.A.O.T.U. should be pleased to spare him. He must say a few words to those brethren who had that night joined them; and he congratulated them upon having witnessed the ceremony of the installation of their Worshipful Master. A similar ceremony was gone through in their institutions, even to the raising to the chair of the Grand Master, showing them that a man might be raised from one chair to another, but to do that he must be a true man, and of course a true Mason. He felt great delight at the manner in which their W.M. had been installed into the chair. It had been to him a great delight to be present to listen to it, and hear their Bro. Emmens, who so well performed his duties to the Lodge, with the many other onerous duties he had to perform elsewhere, had been able to go through the installation in the impressive manner in which they had seen it that evening, was to him (Bro. Laughlin) as great a mystery as some of the mysteries of Freemasonry. He trusted the great precepts which they had heard inculcated therein would be impressed upon the minds of their newly initiated brethren, and on which their hopes and their destiny, whether in time or eternity, must be fixed—those excellent precepts which they had heard would make them good men, good Masons, and worthy to be received by the Great Architect of the Universe in the Grand Lodge above, which was that of their own and the living God. Their God was the same—there was no distinction—and although there was no sectarianism amongst them, they welcomed but those who treated religion with reverence, and acknowledged

the same God; but their institution was open to all worthy men, and worthy men alone. To his newly initiated brethren he would say, that they had taken a good step in joining their ancient and honourable Order; and he believed that they would prove the truth of the old saying, that to be good Masons they must be good men. It was with great diffidence that he had taken upon himself the office which he had the honour to hold that evening; and although he had many onerous duties, having sometimes to speak for forty minutes together, yet no one should ever be enabled to say that he was raised to the chair unless he was able to perform its duties; and, with the assistance of the Past Masters, he hoped to be able to do so. He should consider himself as a recreant to his Masonic vows if in aspiring to the chair at the end of the year he did not do his best to fit himself for the duties of the chair. He was most delighted to see Bro. Swainston in that chair, and he begged to return him thanks for the kind manner in which he had received him. It would ill become him as a minister of religion to say that which he did not believe, but he could truly say that the more he saw of Freemasonry, the more true and deep rooted did he believe it to be; and like the opinions expressed by the *Times* of the "Essays of Lord Macaulay"—the more they read them the more they admired them. To his newly initiated brethren, who had that night taken their first step, he would say that the more they went on, the more they would be delighted in asking the G.A.O.T.U. to carry out his precepts, and thus put their seal to the bond which they had entered into that night—to conform to them, and thus glorify their God and Saviour. The W.M. next gave, "The P.M.s. of the Lodge," and with it the names of Bros. Booth, Emmens, Nicholson, Jackson, and Maney; for which Bro. Maney returned thanks. Bro. Kennedy, Treas., in acknowledging the toast of his health, congratulated the brethren on the highly flourishing condition of the Lodge, and also as to the state of the benevolent fund, which he hoped before long to see amount to at least £1,000, and when it did it would be an assurance that no member of the Lodge who required it would ever want assistance. He hoped that at the end of the year the Lodge would be as prosperous as the past one, and as its Treasurer, he should give them the same satisfaction. Bro. Emmens, P.M., in returning thanks, said he had been associated with the Lodge for nearly a quarter of a century, and that night had been marked by a peculiar circumstance, for the very brother who installed him into the chair was then present, Bro. Farnfield, who, twenty-two years ago installed him into the chair, had seen him (Bro. Emmens) install their present Worshipful Master. As long as he lived he hoped to be attached to the Old Concord Lodge, for as a child was fondly attached to his mother, so was he to his mother Lodge. As long, too, as he had health and strength to perform the duties, he hoped to be Secretary of the Old Concord Lodge, and would endeavour to perform those duties to the best of his ability. He thanked the Worshipful Master for the kind manner in which he had proposed his health, and the brethren for the way in which they had responded to it, trusting they might have a prosperous and happy year, and that they might all enjoy health, strength, and happiness, was the sincere wish of his heart. The Worshipful Master afterwards gave "The Officers of the Lodge," for which they severally returned thanks. Bro. FARNFIELD returned thanks for having his name associated with their Masonic charities, urging upon the brethren the necessity of supporting Bro. Maney, who had consented to act as Steward for that Lodge at the approaching festival for Aged Freemasons and their Widows. This brought the proceedings of the evening to a close, which had been most agreeably diversified by the vocal and instrumental abilities of Bros. Donald King, Edney, Woollams, and Anos.

An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday evening, when Bro. Swainston, W.M., presided, supported by the whole of his officers, and Bros. Emmens and Maney. The Lodge having been duly opened, the W.M. proceeded in a very impressive manner to raise Bros. A. Bryant, A. D. Maddick, Levisohn, Chaplin, W. Filmer, and W. Taylor, to the sublime degree of M.M. This was the first regular business performed by the W.M., which was gone through in a way which gave the highest degree of satisfaction to the brethren assembled. The W.M. then passed Bros. Leighton, W. Filmer, and Bro. Smales, of the Crystal Palace Lodge, to the second degree, in an equally efficient manner. There being no further business, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned at an early hour.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday evening, Jan. 9th, at Bro. Ireland's, Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane. Bro. Haydon, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Moore, S.W.; Russen, J.W.; Wilson, S.D.; Forge, J.D.; and H. Thompson, I.G. The Lodge having been opened in due form, a ballot was taken for Bro. H. Potter, P.M., No. 9, who was unanimously admitted as a joining member of this Lodge. The W.M. then proceeded to pass Bro. Harding to the second degree, and afterwards, in a most careful and impressive manner, raised Bro. Taylor to the sublime degree of M.M. Some other business having been disposed of, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment. The W.M. presided, supported by Bros. Baker, Brett, Smith, Garrod, and Carpenter, and the following visitors:—Bros. Thomas, P.M., No. 745; Stuart, W.M., No. 165; Mason, P.M., No. 168; Griffin, No. 523; and Boyd, No. 169. The repast having been disposed of, the W.M. gave the usual toasts, Bro. Thomas, P.M., No. 745, returning thanks on behalf of the visitors. Bro. BAKER, P.M., said he had a most interesting toast to propose, which was the health of their W.M. They must all have been delighted at the manner in which he discharged the duties of the Lodge, and also at the ability with which

he presided at their festive board. Bro. Haydon returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him. The W.M. next gave "The P.M.s. of the Lodge," for which Bro. Carpenter returned thanks in his usual characteristic manner. "The Officers of the Lodge" was afterwards responded to by Bro. Moore, S.W. "The health of their worthy host, Bro. Ireland," was next given, for which Bro. Ireland responded, and said it was most gratifying to him to receive that renewed mark of their favour, and he trusted to give them the same amount of satisfaction he had hitherto done as caterer for the Domestic Lodge. Bro. Smith, P.M., gave "The health of Bro. Mason, P.M., and member of the Colonial Board." Bro. Mason acknowledged the compliment, and said he believed that the Colonial Board had proved most useful in carrying out the principles of Freemasonry. Every one who had been acquainted with the working of the Secretary's office some time ago, knew the defects which then existed, for letters which were received from their colonies remained for months and months unanswered. It was essential that all communications in the interests of Freemasonry should be properly attended to, and when those communications came from brethren at the antipodes to the Grand Lodge requiring an answer, they ought to be at once promptly attended to. Since the establishment of the Colonial Board, all letters had been acknowledged within a month. Their Brother Smith had given fearless expression to his opinion in Grand Lodge, and was not like some, ready to come forward and put an extinguisher on any proposition, on the ground that the proposer was a party man. Now he believed in these days it would be quite impossible for any one to be altogether excluded from some party; but he contended that in Grand Lodge there ought to be no party in the general sense of the term. They ought to have but one object in view, and that was the good of society in general, and of Freemasonry in particular. The W.M. next gave "The Masonic Charities," and Bro. Baker, P.M., who will act as steward at the festival for Aged Masons, urged the brethren to give him all the support in their power, and thanked them for that which he had already so liberally received. Some excellent songs were sung by Bros. Weston, Workman, Silvester, and Henry Potter, and the brethren separated at ten o'clock.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 223).—The interest taken in this old established Lodge was evinced by the large assemblage that met at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Monday, January 2nd. The W.M. commenced the proceedings by raising, in a most impressive manner, Bros. Phillips and Freeman to the sublime degree of M.M., when Messrs. Barnard, Woolf, and Harris, were severally introduced and initiated into the mysteries of the Craft; the W.M. then vacated the chair, and Bro. Selig having been requested to take it for the purpose of installing the newly elected W.M., Bro. D. Marks, he did so in a most feeling and imposing manner, his address making a deep impression on the brethren present. After this interesting part of the proceedings, the new officers were appointed, Bro. B. Druker being made S.W.; Bro. E. P. Albert, J.W.; S. V. Abraham, S.D.; P. Solomon, J.D.; B. Alexander, I.G.; and S. Marks, Steward. The [veteran Bros. De Solla, D. Moses, and Selig, again accepted, to the satisfaction of all, the appointments they have held for so many years, of Chaplain, Treasurer and Secretary. A most handsome jewel was presented to the retiring W.M., Bro. Harris, and after a most suitable reply had been given by him, the company adjourned to the dinner, supplied in the usual excellent manner of the Messrs. Staples. The ordinary toasts were given and responded to enthusiastically, and the hilarity was kept up by the excellent musical arrangements of Bro. P. E. Van Noorden, who, beside conducting, sang one of John Parry's favourite songs, "Matrimony," in a most masterly style. We have had occasion to speak before of his talented sisters, and can only endorse the good opinions we then expressed. Miss Van Noorden sang, with much feeling and expression, two German pieces, which showed her capabilities as an artist to be far above the ordinary music we have been used to on such occasions. She was encored in both pieces, as was her sister, Miss Louisa Van Noorden, who sang the rondo finale to the "Bohemian Girl," and by express desire, "Ah, che Assorte." The power and execution of this lady is such, that she can give the most difficult passages with the greatest ease, and her voice is of such flexibility, that her rendering of them gives general satisfaction. Herr Greber showed his power over the violin, and the Messrs. Davis gave their assistance in several vocal pieces; the applause with which they met proved how much their efforts were appreciated. The brethren dispersed at a late hour, after having passed a most delightful evening, and being honoured with the largest number of visitors that were ever present at the Lodge at one time.

IRON AND LAMB LODGE (No. 227).—A meeting of this excellent Lodge was held at the Bridge House Hotel, on Thursday, the 5th instant, when the W.M., Bro. Goodchild, raised Bro. Secker and passed Bros. Harwood, Wright, Tringham, and Grant to their respective degrees. Bro. Breittling, P.M., and P.G. Purst., then proceeded to install Bro. Balfour as W.M. for the ensuing year in a most able and impressive manner. The new W.M. was pleased to appoint Bros. Starborough, S.W.; Henry Thomson, J.W.; Alex. Thomson, Sec.; Robinson, S.D.; Holland, J.W.; and Perry, I.G. Bro. Sotheron was invested as Treasurer. The new W.M. then very admirably initiated a German gentleman into the Order. Bro. Muggeridge moved, and Bro. Swan seconded, that the initiation fee be raised from five to six guineas, and the joining fee from one to three guineas, which, after some conversation, in which Bros. Breittling, P.G. Purst., Bule, P.G. Purst., and others took part, was carried unanimously.

The business of the Lodge having been closed, the brethren, to the number of thirty-nine, adjourned to dinner, there being several visitors present, including Bro. Riley, of Bedford, who has attended the annual meetings of this Lodge for several years past, Bro. Finlayson, P.M. 787, Bro. Dewar, 1017, and others. In the course of the evening various toasts were given, and appropriately responded to—that of “Lord Pamure and the rest of the Grand Officers,” by Bro. Breiting; “The Visitors,” by Bro. Riley; “The P.M.s,” by Bro. Goodchild; “The Masonic Press,” by Bro. Warren, &c. Some excellent singing enlivened the meeting, and the Lodge broke up in the utmost harmony at an early hour.

YARBOROUGH LODGE (No. 812).—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, January 5th, at Bro. Williams's, the George Hotel, Commercial Road East; Bro. R. B. Hampton, W.M., presided, and raised to the third degree Bros. Butcher and Place. A ballot was taken for the admission of Mr. Silvanus Gillard, which being unanimous in his favour, he was introduced and initiated into the Order. Bro. Hampton then resigned the chair to Bro. Wynne, P.M., and Bro. S. Vasey, the W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. Kindred, P.M., and, according to ancient custom, installed into the chair, saluted and proclaimed. The W.M. then appointed and invested as the officers for the year ensuing:—Bro. Hampton, P.M.; Rev. Bro. D. Shaboe, S.W.; Bro. Wm. Waight, J.W.; Bro. A. R. James, Sec.; Bro. T. J. Middleton, S.D.; Bro. J. R. Carr, J.D.; Bro. S. Grays, D.C.; Bro. Hamilton, I.G.; Bros. Goodman and Reed, Stewards; Bro. Wynne, the Treasurer, and Bro. Speight, the Tyler, were also invested. All business ended, the Lodge was closed, and some thirty-six brethren adjourned to the banquet. Among the visitors present were—Bro. Tillett, P. Prov. G. Org., Essex; Bro. E. J. Orford, P. Prov. G.D., Kent; Bro. How, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., Herts; Bro. R. Case, No. 78; Bro. A. W. Davis, No. 206; and Bro. Dornay, No. 1056. “The health of the W.M.” was proposed by Bro. Hampton, and in reply, Bro. Vasey said he entered on his office with considerable anxiety, but in ruling the Lodge he would endeavour so to discharge the duties as to give the brethren no cause to regret their choice. He hoped the officers would be regular in their attendance, and by their efficient aid carry out his wish—that visitors on their return home might say, “They do the business well at the Yarrowburgh.” Bro. Tillett, in returning thanks for the visitors, referred to the fact of his being specially invited to receive the acknowledgments of the Lodge in recognition of his services to the family of a brother initiated in No. 812, a medical man who had been plunged into pecuniary difficulties, had sought his fortune in New Zealand, leaving a wife and nine children to follow him when means could be obtained. The case came to his knowledge, and when he learned that the father was a Mason, he applied to the Lodge, and by the benevolence of the Craft he had been enabled to send the family out. He had thus a reward for many anxious days and nights, and he was assured the brethren would feel they had received a like recompense.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE LODGE (No. 1008).—On Thursday, the 5th inst., the members of this Lodge assembled at the Masonic Hall, Williamstreet, Woolwich, for the regular despatch of business. Owing to the decease of the W.M., Bro. Cann, the brethren appeared in mourning, with black crape rosettes on their aprons, and the pedestals were covered with black. The officers for the occasion were Bros. Major H. Clerk, W.M. *pro tem.*; W. H. Carter, S.W.; J. D. Kincaid, J.W.; H. H. Church, J.D.; J. Thompson, I.G.; — Henderson, Tyler; the other brethren present were Bros. Little, Thompson, Lyons, Harris, Forbes, C. J. Bourne, Wm. Farnfield, and Wm. Stroter; the visitors were Bros. J. Stroter, P. Prov. J.W., Oxon., Dr. Hinxman, Col. Tulloch, and Matthew Cooke. The business of the evening consisted in raising Bro. C. J. Browne, initiating Bro. J. Stroter, and electing Bro. Wm. Farnfield a joining member; and all who have had the pleasure to see Bro. Major Clerk perform the office of W.M., must be well aware of the beautiful and solemn way in which he delivers our impressive ceremonies, which upon this occasion lost none of their force from the other officers so well seconding the W.M. by a careful and perfect performance of their several duties. The W.M. also, in terms of deep feeling, moved that an address of condolence be sent to the relatives of our late Brother Cann, assuring them of the high estimation in which he was held while amongst us, and sympathizing with his removal, yet believing that he had only departed to enter the Grand Lodge above—his days here being fulfilled, and his mission finished. All business being ended, the brethren adjourned to Bro. De Grey's, the Freemasons' Tavern, where dinner awaited their presence; the brethren separating at an early hour.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKSHIRE.

NEWBURY.—*Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope* (No. 839).—This Lodge assembled on Friday, the 6th inst., in deep mourning, on account of the decease of Bro. T. W. Abbott, the officers and brethren wearing craped collars and craped rosettes, with black gloves, &c., the pedestals, &c., being covered with black cloth; when, after the usual official business, the Lodge unanimously requested the Sec., (Bro. E. S. Cossens) to convey through the W.M. (Bro. W. H. Cave) an address of condolence to the friends of the deceased brother. A Lodge of emergency was held on Tuesday, the 10th inst., when Bro. Capt. Leicester Vernon, M.P., after passing a satisfactory examination, was advanced to the degree of Fellow Craft.

The Secretary has forwarded the following letter to the W.M.:—

“*Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope* (No. 839),
“Newbury, 7th January, 1860.

“Dear Sir and Worshipful Master,—In consequence of the decease of our very much respected Brother Thomas William Abbott, the Lodge assembled last evening in deep mourning, the officers and brethren wearing craped rosettes and covers on the collars and aprons, with black gloves, the pedestals, being covered with black cloth, there to remain the accustomed period. And it was unanimously requested that the Secretary should on their behalf take the earliest opportunity of soliciting you to express to the members of his bereaved family, and to the lady whose marriage would have brought him into closer ties of relationship, their heartfelt and sincere regret, sympathy, and condolence, upon the loss of one whose life was ‘peace on earth, goodwill towards men.’

“Although he has been removed by the will of the Most High from this sublunary scene, they entertain a most fervent hope and consolation that he has gone to the Grand Lodge above, that immortal mansion, that house not made by hands, the one eternal in the heavens, where the Great Architect of the universe lives and reigns for evermore.

“In fulfilling the sorrowful duty, I have the honour to be,

“Dear Sir and Worshipful Master, yours fraternally and faithfully,
“E. S. COSENS, Secretary.”

“Wm. H. Cave, Esq., W.M., No. 839, Newbury.”

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

MARRIAGE PRESENTATION TO THE DAUGHTER OF THE PROV. GRAND MASTER.

It having come to the ears of some of the Freemasons in Jersey that a daughter of J. J. Hammond, Esq., Prov. Grand Master of the Channel Isles, was about to be married, it was suggested that the occasion was a suitable one for paying a tribute of respect to a brother so high in authority as a ruler of the Craft. The wedding took place on Tuesday, January 3rd, 1860, at St. Saviour's Church, the ceremony being performed by the Dean of Jersey. The two Prov. Grand Wardens, Bros. Jas. Johnson and Grimmond, and Bro. Dr. H. Hopkins, Past Prov. Senior Grand Warden of Warwickshire, proceeded with the memorial to the residence of the bride. This consisted of a handsome vase, of Sevres china, containing a bouquet of beautiful quality, and arranged with exquisite taste. A card with Masonic designs and moral mottoes enclosed in an embossed envelope accompanied the vase and nosegay.

After the celebration of the marriage, the deputation were conducted to the room where the wedding party was assembled. The two following addresses were then delivered by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, with much impressiveness.

“To J. J. Hammond, Esq., Prov. Grand Master of Freemasons in the Channel Islands.

“Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,—To you, a ruler in the ancient and honourable Craft of Freemasonry, in humble imitation of a great event recorded in our annals of olden times, we, three Masons, having heard that you were this day about to accomplish a work of much moment and importance to yourself and to your family circle, present ourselves, in the name of many of our brethren, to proffer a request, that we may be permitted to bear a small share in the celebration. We have been informed, sir, that to-day you are about to part with one of your daughters, having bestowed her on him whom she has chosen as the object of her solicitude and affection, the sharer of her joys and sorrows. May the union now consummated prove a blessing to those who are chiefly concerned, as well as to you and the partner of your life. You well know, sir, that from time immemorial it has been the established custom and duty of Masons to practise acts of charity, to pour the healing balm of consolation into the bosom of the distressed. It is also their privilege, whilst endeavouring to be happy themselves, to assist in the grand design of communicating happiness to others, and by the union of these, to prove to the world the beneficial effects of our honoured institution. Our request therefore is, that we may be permitted to present to your daughter a trifling token of respect on this occasion, and thus to show that the brotherhood can sympathize with you and her in the happy proceedings of this day. In conclusion, Right Worshipful Sir, we beg to express our earnest hope, that having thus far been faithful to the trust committed to you by the Great Architect of the universe, in bringing up to womanhood the youngest of your daughters, you may now have to rejoice in adding the columns of Wisdom and Strength to that of Beauty, which this day shines so conspicuously amongst you.”

“To Mrs. Henry St. John Georges.

“Madam,—With the permission of your honoured father, the respected Grand Master of Freemasons in the province of Jersey, we, three of the brethren, present ourselves to offer our hearty congratulations on this day, which marks a most important era in your life. We beg to express our sincere wish that the union now consummated may, under divine Providence, be a source of unalloyed happiness, so far as is consistent with human affairs, to you and your husband. From the opportunities with which you have been favoured, of knowing at least something of the principles of our Order, we cannot doubt that you have received most favourable impressions in respect to them. In the

name of many of the brethren we desire now to confirm those impressions, by requesting your acceptance of a trifling token of respect and sympathy with you in the event of this day. Be pleased to receive this vase of flowers, and its Masonic accompaniments, with an assurance of the best wishes of the Craft for your future prosperity and happiness. May the blessing of the Great Architect of the universe rest upon you and him who will henceforth be your earthly stay and solace, and may you both be enabled to lay up for yourselves a crown of joy and rejoicing when time with you shall be no more."

At the proper moment the Senior Warden offered the vase of flowers, and the Junior Warden the Masonic design and emblems.

At the conclusion of these addresses, the Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, stepping forward, made a brief but feeling reply in acknowledgment of the compliment, expressive of kindly sentiments, and of a thorough appreciation of it by himself and his family. He observed that he was too overpowered by the touching remarks which had been addressed to himself and daughter, to allow him at that time to enter further upon the subject, but promised an appropriate response at a subsequent opportunity. The bridegroom, Captain Henry St. John Georges, offered a similar reason for brevity, having, in his ignorance of Freemasonry, been taken completely by surprise at the proceedings.

The whole party then adjourned to an elegant dejeuner. It need hardly be added, that the Masonic tribute formed an elegant addition to the breakfast table.

On Thursday, January 5th, the Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master gave a dinner at his residence to a select party of the brethren, whom he had invited to meet the deputation. The Prov. Grand Master in responding to Bro. Dr. Hopkins, who proposed his health, said, that so deeply was Captain Georges impressed by the tokens of regard for his wife and her father on the wedding day, that he intended to avail himself of the earliest opportunity after his return home to Guernsey, to become a member of the Order. The reply of the Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, which had been previously forwarded to the members of the deputation, was also read. It ran as follows:

"Brethren,—Words are wanting to enable me adequately to express my feelings for the very kind and truly fraternal address presented to me on behalf of the Freemasons of the province of Jersey, on the event of the marriage of my daughter. Parting with a dear and beloved child cannot but leave a blank in the heart of a father, but if the balm of solace is to be found, believe me it is in the beautiful and touching address of my brother Freemasons of Jersey."—H.H.

[Our Jersey correspondent forwards us an interesting account of a jubilee festival given by an aged Mason, Bro. de Gruchy, of King-street, St. Helier, to the persons in his employment to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of his firm. Monday evening, Jan. 2nd, was the time fixed upon: and a delightful evening was spent, the worthy head of the house being determined to make everybody enjoy themselves.]

DEVONSHIRE.

PRESENTATION OF A PORTRAIT TO BRO. GOVER, P.M.

PLYMOUTH.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 83).—The festival of St. John the Evangelist was commemorated at the Masonic Hall, Union-road, on Tuesday, the 27th of December last, when there were present the following officers and brethren, viz.:—Bros. Henry Maynard, P.M., P. Prov. G. Treas.; Jenkin Thomas, P.M., P. Prov. Supt. of Works; John Ash, P.M., Assist. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; John Batten Gover, P.M.; John Dupré, W.M.; Francis Peter Holmes, S.W.; Thomas Harfoot, J.W.; J. R. Brewer, P.M., Sec.; Phillips, S.D.; Dyer, J.D.; Finemore, I.G.; Tarratt and Fone, Stewards; James Ferris, P.M.; Avery, Leslie, Rowe, Clarke, Warre, Stephens, Ryder, Hawke, and E. Norrish, P.M. (late of this Lodge), visiting. [The following account of the day's proceedings has been sent to us by a member of this Lodge.]

There was a feature, if not eccentric, yet peculiar, running through the whole of the inaugural meeting of the Lodge, for the brethren were assembled by a summons* tolerated more from fraternity of sentiment than consistency of composition or exactitude of rule, the whole being allowed to pass, in the eagerness which the head entertained and the warmth in which the heart pushed forward the festive appeal; but when it is remarked that the W.M. thought proper to select from the summons a portion of it to form the grace before the banquet, there was no absence, even in the Secretary's rhymes, of the ennobling principles which distinguish the Masonic Order. He was singular in all he did, and there was sentiment in all that was done by him.

When had passed the more imposing and important toasts, to which the members present, being Prov. G. Officers, made suitable replies, "The health of Bro. John Dupré," the W.M., was proposed by Bro. HOLMES, the S.W., who remarked—"That it had fallen to his lot, and it was a great pleasure to him that it had so fallen, to give a toast. It was one to which the brethren had never before the gratification of responding;

* The summons was in quaint rhyme—the following, which was given as grace, being a specimen:—

"May He—who braces the nerves of the great:
Who tempers the storm to the shorn lamb and weak:
Who sends the warm sunshine: who drops the mild shower:
Who marshals the skilful to make known his power:
Who shows His large mercies: O, brother, the least
Exceeds thy best merits—give joy to the feast."

and yet it was only introducing to their notice an old, well-tryed, and much esteemed friend, under, he might strictly say, a new aspect. Bro. Dupré's star had, happily, set in the west, to rise with increased splendour in the east; and there he was assured it would continue to shine, enlightening and enlivening all those who sought the benefit of its effulgence. This brother had well and faithfully performed the duties of the Lodge in the lower offices, and was now rewarded by being unanimously elected to the high and honourable position of its Master, a position which he would fill with credit to himself and advantage to his brethren. Br. Dupré was well known as an upright and honourable man, and was deservedly respected by all who knew him. In his family he was beloved as a kind husband, an affectionate parent, and endeared relative; and by the poor he was esteemed for his amiable condescension and his charity; but it was not alone as Mr. Dupré that they had the pleasure of knowing him: they were proud to call him brother—for as a Mason, they had found him all they could desire. He therefore trusted that with the help of the G.A.O.T.U., he would endeavour to do his duty to his Maker, as he believed him to have faithfully done it to his neighbour and himself; and in this trust he would cheerfully close his remarks.

Bro. DUPRE, the W.M., replied—That he could scarcely feel deserving of the eulogy which had passed the lips of his Senior Warden. He yet felt confident that, in a review of his past services in the Lodge, he had endeavoured to discharge his Masonic duties as far as his responsible and active business had admitted, and he was glad that they were so generously acknowledged. In the office to which he had been now raised by the unanimous voice of the Lodge, he knew that he should find an increase of duty; while in that of his business he did not anticipate any relaxation, but blending happily the one with the other he would bring into action a firm and faithful Masonic spirit, and he had no doubt but that this would tend to support him as it had before done in every virtuous enterprise, and successfully carry him onward. Much would necessarily be expected from him, and much also he might be allowed to expect from his officers whom he had selected, not only with a confidence in their Masonic skill as necessary to give the utmost satisfaction to the Craftsmen whom it would be his pleasure occasionally to summon around him, but with an assurance of conduct without the pale of their Masonic labour that would reflect the highest credit on themselves as men and members of society. He need scarcely remark that, although the Lodge was the centre of a brother's labour, without this centre was the sphere of a brother's action; and he was one of those who considered that the spot within could not be satisfactorily retained if the space without was at any time disregarded. Home had its work as well as the Lodge. The world had its interest as well as the universal Craft; a neglect, therefore, without, could never give a guarantee of diligence within, for his experience, short as it had been, was yet of sufficient duration to assure him that, to be a good and trusty brother, it was also necessary to be found a feeling and a faithful man. With such opinions he had passed lesser offices in the Lodge, and accepted the present more responsible one; and his fraternal hope was, that he might live sensible of the strength given him for his work by the bountiful Disposer of all good gifts, and that those from whom he should look for assistance would repose the same trust in the same great cause, that brotherly love, relief and truth might abide with him and them for ever.

The moment of more than ordinary interest having now arrived for the presentation of the oil portrait of Bro. J. E. Gover, the Secretary suddenly withdrew the white cloth which covered it, and gave instant view of the same to the expectant brethren, all of whom expressed unlimited gratification in the work towards which they and the Lodge had so liberally subscribed.

Bro. the V.W. HENRY MAYNARD, P. Prov. G. Treas., then rose and said it was his privilege that day, as the chairman of the committee appointed on the 18th of October last, to claim a few moments of their kind attention to the testimonial which the Lodge had been pleased to make to its late Master, the W. John Batten Gover. Looking at the portrait before them, there could be but one opinion as to its faithfulness. It was simple yet accurate, being unadorned with that investment, which, had the picture been designed for this hall, instead of a private room, it would have received at the artist's hands. It was still a present that was lasting, and one that would improve by age, being painted, he was told, with pure pigments. It was a present also that the worthiest of the Order might receive with the highest fraternal gratification and becoming pride. How well the late Master deserved so strong a notice would take him a longer time to narrate than the evening would admit, even were he to abbreviate much and omit much more. The best record of the Lodge's work during his two years of office was in the minutes, and these would testify long to his credit, and might at all times be consulted; and here he would successfully leave him. How skilfully he had personally worked and how usefully he had instructed, there was evidence in the worthy officers who now surrounded him; but if more be required, let the honest and manly memorial, which he would now call upon the Secretary to read, declare. It tells what the Lodge thinks of him as a Mason. It tells also what the brethren think of him as a man; while his own pleasure, in whatever he had individually done, and the highest gratification of all present would be, that the G.A.O.T.U., whom they had supplicated that evening for his bounties and thanked for the same, would bless him and his family, and render all mindful of what Freemasonry and the world expect in the elevated position the W. Bro. Gover had now attained.

The memorial was written, partially illuminated and pictorially decorated by the Secretary. It was also framed and glazed and presented by him as an accompaniment to the portrait, whose tale it in a manner told, since there is no Masonic emblem upon the frame, nor on the canvas, save that displayed in the minute studs in the bosom of the shirt, representing the working tools of the three degrees.

"TESTIMONIAL.

"This testimonial was proclaimed in the east, where peace reigns and light reposes:

The report reached the west, and spread through every part of the building:

Therein the Craftsmen assembled and formed a special Lodge:

And gave the control of it to the Very Worshipful Bro. Maynard:

If asked:—What was the cause of the fraternal gathering:—be it answered:

To perpetuate the worth of the Worshipful John Batten Gover:

The Master of St. John's Lodge, numbered lxxxiii., during two years, in sequence, of trial and of trust:

In the presentation of a faithful portrait, by an accurate artist:

As a memorial, first, to the Masonic world—to whom it heralds

His fidelity to solemn pledges:

His assiduity in skilful labour:

His punctuality to fraternal summons:

His impartiality in voluntary instruction:

His zeal for the principles of the Order: and

His exercise of the charities which these principles inculcate.

As a memorial, secondly, to the profane world—to whom it publishes

His filial duty as a son:

His faithful duty as a husband:

His affectionate duty as a parent:

His honourable duty as a man and as a citizen.

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, his fellows—

Implore the Almighty Architect of heaven and of earth:

The bountiful Giver of all good: and

The abiding help and the enduring hope of the faithful:

To continue the mercies shown unto him and unto us:

That he may live long mindful of the virtues

Which have raised him to fraternal notice:

And that we may also live alike mindful:

And exulting witnesses of the same.

Sealed with our Lodge seal, St. John's festival, December xxvii., in the year of Masonry mdcclxxix., and in the year of redemption mdccclxxix. Plymouth, Devonshire. John Dupré, W.M., John R. Brewer, Sec."

The W. Bro. GOVER, who, upon the advancement of Bro. Dupré to the chair, ranked as the immediate P.M., rose and said, that it was impossible for him at the moment to say all he could wish in return for the very handsome family, as well as fraternal, present, which had that evening been presented in the name as well of the brethren as the Lodge. His tongue and his heart were both truthful, but they appeared in a manner emulously antagonistic—or rather, jealous for the mastery. Although deficient in acknowledgment, he fancied by slightly referring to the past he should embody such a portion of his thanks that would prove acceptable. To embrace all which the Lodge was entitled would be impossible, so great was its consideration for him, and, in return, so trifling his services, that if taken at the full they had not exceeded his duty in the conspicuous position in which he had been placed. It was now generally known that when he first accepted office, almost all was darkness. It was true a faint light remained, but it was but a scintillation in the east—so doubtful however for guidance, that his own courage must have forsaken him if he had not been accompanied by Bros. Maynard, Dupré, Holmes, Harfoot, and the Secretary. To their readiness in early assistance and later cooperation he owed the success of every endeavour, and the Lodge its happy position; and on his retirement from influential office he now left for the flickering light, to which he had alluded, a star of the first magnitude (pointing to Bro. Dupré). The Lodge at the present moment was not only acting on the letter, but the spirit of the Order, and directing its best attention to what it stood pledged, namely—*charity*. In regard to its rising prosperity he could with comfort say, that during the past year it had witnessed nineteen meetings. It had entertained thirteen initiations, ten passings, and seven raisings, while it had in store cherished hopes for the future. To accomplish so much, with intervening duties, was evidence enough that the work assigned him in the temple was ample; but then his labour was lightened by the skill of the craftsmen, whom he had the power and the pleasure to call to his assistance. In repeating his thanks to the brethren for their fraternal consideration of him as an individual, he would wish their attention to be directed to one to whom the Lodge stood indebted for much that was beautiful, as well as original, in the appropriate installation which had so recently taken place; nor less for the extensive correspondence and full and interesting entries which had marked his two years of continuous office. These had shown up the Lodge in its proper light—a light which had given satisfaction to those to whom satisfaction was thought due, especially for the Lodge's character; and to maintain this he was certain such zeal would continue to be apparent among his brethren as had marked and smoothed his own way, and enabled him to stand so acceptably before them.

Upon the health being given of Bro. F. P. HOLMES, the S.W., he replied—That he felt particularly thankful for the flattering manner in

which they had received his name. He also felt that the proud position which he now occupied was more due to their indulgence than to his own merit; and he must still rely on that same indulgence being continued, by which, he had no doubt, he should be enabled to fulfil the duties of his office, almost, if not quite, to their satisfaction. If the Lodge, in its activity, continued as it had lately, doing its utmost for charity, he thought every true Mason would timely be in receipt of his just dues, and none could leave that portion of the fabric assigned to him dissatisfied. In the accomplishment of so much, he considered their S.W. would be acknowledged as worthy of his place in the Lodge, and to support it he would endeavour and endure all that was fraternally required.

Bro. FISEMORE, I.G., remarked that since the programme of the toasts had been printed and become in consequence formal, it was necessary that it should be strictly followed. He noticed so much, fearing a departure, upon which disappointment might arise, and this, in so much as had happily transpired during the evening, might prove a subject of fraternal regret. Receiving the thanks of the W.M. for his timely hint, "The health of Thomas Harfoot, the S.W.," was proposed, when this brother replied:—That he heartily thanked the brethren for the handsome way in which they had received his name and drunk to his health. It could not but be pleasing to him, so young a man, and so recently a member among them, to stand thus highly honoured before brethren both aged and skilful in the Order. Such purity of principle, which commands forgetfulness of self and awakens anxiety to extol any latent virtue in another, is rarely to be found, except in living Masonry—that Masonry based upon the unerring records, which hold up man as the proper study of his species, and teach him how to live and how to die—thus elevating him from this Lodge of clay to the Lodge above—the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens—the home of the good, and the rest of the weary but virtuous brother. The badge of his office being emblematical of uprightness of action and justness of life, he hoped, by the help of the Great Architect, fully to carry out all he had professed; and by following in the steps of the worthy elders of the Lodge, he trusted that he should be enabled to find that his paths were those of pleasantness, and all his steps were peace.

The Worshipful Master remarked—in a glow of cheerfulness which indicated clearly that he felt the full importance of the task which he had undertaken—his next duty was to propose "The health of the Ladies." The brethren all knew, lords of the creation as they were, that to them they owed all their comforts, and much of their prosperity. They must know that even in business matters their judgment was often clearer and their advice better than that of the stronger sex; this was a fact, and however sturdy the fact, it was one which must be admitted.

"O woman, in our hours of ease,
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please;
And variable as the shade
By the light quivering aspen made;
When pain and anguish wring the brow,
A ministering angel thou!"

He only regretted that at the time Masonry was founded the ladies did not appear among the aiding Craft, otherwise, he had no doubt, ladies would be entitled to admission into our Lodges. At any rate, Masons were not long in discovering the beauties and excellences of the sex; for how ran one of their old songs? Even thus:—

"No mortal can more
The ladies adore
Than a Free and an Accepted Mason."

The sympathetic toast was next given, when the Lodge was closed, and the brethren shortly afterwards separated, highly gratified with the evening's duties and pleasures.

BRIXHAM.—*Lodge of True Love and Unity* (No. 309).—This Lodge met on the 28th of December to celebrate the festival of St. John, when there was a goodly attendance of brethren and visitors. The catering, which rests with the worthy Treasurer, Bro. George Buckingham, gave general satisfaction, as usual. The Lodge being closely tyled, Bro. John Heath, proprietor of the Stars Hotel, Totnes, was unanimously elected to be Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. On the evening of the 4th of January he was regularly installed according to ancient custom, when he appointed Bros. Howard as S.W.; Thomas Lidstone, to be J.W.; Geo. Buckingham, Tyler; S. Clarke, Sec., &c. The ceremony of installation was performed by the immediate P.M., Bro. Jos. Johnson, with due effect, and he received the congratulations of the brethren for his efficient working during his year of office. The brethren retired for refreshment, and discussed the propriety of supporting all the Masonic charities and the *Freemasons Magazine* during this year.

STONEHOUSE.—*Lodge of Sincerity* (No. 224).—At a regular meeting held at St. George's Hall, on the 9th of January, pursuant to notice, Bro. R. R. Rodd, W.M. in the chair, Bros. Dowse, P.M.; Knowling, S.W., *pro tem.*; Narracott, P.M.; J.W., *pro tem.*; Jackman, S.D., *pro tem.*; Rae, J.D.; Walker, I.G.; Risk, Chaplain; Rains; and visiting brethren, Dupré, W.M., No. 83; Wheeler, No. 122; the minutes of the last regular and emergent meetings having been confirmed, the Lodge was raised to the degree of F.C., when Bro. Rains was examined as to the progress he had made in the science, after which the Lodge was opened in the third degree, when Bro. Rains was readmitted and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The working tools having been explained by Bro. Knowling, the Lodge was worked down to the first

degree, when Bro. Noble, No. 287, of H.M.S. *Impregnable*, was balloted for and elected a joining member. It was then resolved that the Secretary of this Lodge shall put himself in communication with the Portsmouth Lodge, and cooperate in order to obtain the right for Masons being members of Grand Lodge to vote by proxy or voting papers on all questions affecting the interests of the Craft generally. It was resolved that the proposition of the W.M. of No. 238, for the erection of a Masonic building for the accommodation of the several Lodges of this neighbourhood was very desirable, but that a long unexpired term in their lease precluded this Lodge from taking an active part. By the W.M.'s commands the Secretary read the ancient charge relating to behaviour in presence of strangers not Masons. Bro. Spence Bate, seconded by Bro. Rae, proposed Bro. Whitmarsh, Chaplain of H.M.S. *Impregnable*, as a joining member. The report of the Committee of General Purposes was then read and ordered to be passed. The Secretary also read the following resume of the work done during the past year, which, together with the Treasurer's report was ordered to be appended to the minutes, as also to be printed and circulated amongst the members of the Lodge. During the last year there have been held twelve regular Lodges. At the whole of them the attendance has been good, whilst at many it has been crowded. They have also been attended by forty-five brethren of other Lodges in the capacity of visitors. The work, which has been ably performed by Bros. Lord Valletort, W.M.; Hunt, P.M.; and Rodd, W.M.; has been so much as to have required one special and one adjourned Lodge.* An emergency Lodge has also been held to raise Bro. Captain Lambert, R.N., hailing from No. 717, Portsmouth Lodge. During the year seven persons have been initiated into the mysteries and secrets of Freemasonry; eight brothers have been passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, whilst six have been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, and six others have been added to the Lodge as joining members, making the total number of members, up to the end of last year, to be fifty-nine, eight of whom are rated as absent. But the feeling of congratulation upon the increase of the numbers of the Lodge, is softened by the remembrance that three brothers have during the year been removed by fiat of the Grand Master of the universe. To the late Bro. Oliver the library of the Lodge has recently been indebted for a valuable set of books on Masonry. Besides the usual banquets on the festival of St. John the Baptist and at Christmas, a third has been held, at which Bro. Kadri Bey was an invited guest, as a mark of fraternal regard previously to his quitting England for his own country. It is not possible to conclude this resume of what has been done for the past year, without drawing attention to the general improvement that the Lodge room has undergone. For suggestions, as well as for the superintendence in carrying out the changes, the Lodge is chiefly indebted to Bro. Douse, P.M. Most of the alterations must be palpable to the observation of each member, but the following may be mentioned as intended to come into operation with the first Lodge of the new year, or as soon after as arrangements can be made. A book is to be kept in the tyle room, in which every member, as well as visitor, is to write his name previous to being admitted into the Lodge. The by-laws have been revised and modified, and it is intended that their requirements be rigorously adhered to. Books are to be procured for the Secretary to preserve all correspondence and accounts, so as to be available to the investigation of the brethren at all times in open Lodge, and a balance sheet at the end of the year is to be printed and circulated amongst the members of the Lodge. Furthermore, it is intended to increase the solemnity of the ceremonies by the introduction of music." The Lodge was closed in peace and harmony at ten o'clock.

TOTNES.—*Pleiades Lodge* (No. 1,612).—This Lodge met in the Masonic Rooms, on Thursday, January 5th. The W.M., Bro. T. H. Edmonds, presiding. The several officers duly attended at their posts. The minutes of the last Lodge being confirmed, and other business on the summons disposed of, two Fellow Craft Masons having proved themselves worthy, were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. These ceremonies were performed by the Worshipful Master, for the first time, with the greatest efficiency.

DORSETSHIRE.

WAREHAM.—*Lodge of Unity* (No. 542).—This Lodge celebrated the festival of St. John on the 27th of December last. The reelection of Bro. W. Phippard, Prov. J.G.W. for Dorset, as W.M., was unanimously confirmed, when he appointed the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year, and they were severally invested by Bro. Groves, P.M., viz.:—Bros. Barfoot, S.W.; Drew, J.W.; Groves, Org.; Pantom, Dir. of Cers.; C. Filler, Sec.; Tapp, S.D.; Charrington, J.D.; Jones, I.G., and Poynter and Rutter, Stewards. Bro. Crust was reelected Treasurer, and Bro. Frampton, Tyler. The brethren afterwards banqueted together at Bro. Yearsley's, Red Lion Hotel, Bro. C. O. Bartlett, P.M., ably presiding, at the request and in the unavoidable absence of the Worshipful Master.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

BERKHAMSTEAD.—*Berkhamstead Lodge* (No. 742).—There was a strong gathering of brethren in this Lodge on Wednesday, January 4th, at the King's Arms Hotel, to greet the accession of Bro. T. S. Barringer to the chair. The Lodge was opened at three, P.M., by Bro. Shugar, W.M. and Prov. S.G.W., and after the confirmation of the minutes of the

* This was illegal.

receding meeting, he installed his successor—Bro. How, Prov. Dir. of Cers., delivering the addresses and leading the salutes and proclamations. Bro. Barringer, who is a P.M. of No. 229, then appointed as the officers for the ensuing year Bros. Shugar, P.M.; Henry Lane, S.W.; James Burton, J.W.; C. H. Law, Sec.; Norman, S.D.; Sherman, J.D.; Hart, I.G.; Bro. John Lane, who had been reelected Treas., and Bro. Thomas, the Tyler, were also invested. The Treasurer's report exhibited a most flourishing state of the financial affairs. Bros. Hill, Newall, and Norris were admitted as joining members. The Worshipful Master then initiated Mr. William Lumley; all business being ended, the Lodge was closed in love and harmony, and the brethren gathered around the Worshipful Master at the banquet. Amongst those present were Bros. Johnson, Rev. T. B. Harvey, and Webber, P.M.s; also Bros. Lumley, No. 1; Bros. Hill, P.M., No. 27; Watson, W.M., No. 229; George Lambert, Thorn and Burrell, P.M.s, No. 234. The evening's entertainment was enlivened by the vocal powers of the W.M., Bros. Webber, Lambert, and Newall.

KENT.

RAMSGATE.—*Royal Navy Lodge* (No. 216).—This Lodge held its usual meeting for the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. H. Cowley, at the Royal Hotel, on Wednesday, the 4th instant. The installation took place under the very able and efficient installing Master, Bro. O. G. Phipps; the W.M. elect being introduced by the present Past Master Bro. G. Stevens. The brethren were much pleased in the manner the installation was conducted by Bro. O. G. Phipps. The W.M. Bro. Cowley then invested his officers for the year, and his remarks relative to the attention that would be required of them in fulfilling the duties of their respective offices, were very much to the purpose. He expected, for the reputation of the Lodge, to be fully carried out by the example he intended to show them. Bros. L. French was invested as S.W.; T. H. G. Snowden, P.G.S., J.W.; Samuel Beuhing, P.M., Treas.; B. T. Hiscocks, P.M., Sec.; T. Hickling, S.D.; R. T. Rolfe, J.D.; J. Lepuking, S.S.; J. S. D. Rost, J.S.; J. Fenwick, I.G.; G. Meagen, Tyler. The brethren met at five P.M., having a great deal of business to transact, which terminated at half-past seven P.M., when the brethren retired to their annual dinner, at Hiscocks's Royal Hotel, which gave the greatest satisfaction, it being admirably served. The R.W. the D. Prov. G.M. for Kent having honoured the brethren with his presence at the banquet, was pleased to comment, in a very flattering manner, upon the working of the Lodge, stating it was second to none, and urging strongly a continuance of that attention, praise for which the officers of the past year so justly merited under the late W.M. Bro. Stevens, whose conduct in the chair reflected great credit upon him. Some of the brethren of the Union Lodge, Margate, joined in the festivities of the evening, much to the satisfaction of the brethren of the Royal Navy Lodge. The speeches, toasts, &c., were much to the purpose, and the brethren spent a most comfortable evening, only too sorry that their Masonic discretion would not allow them to infringe too much upon the lateness of the hour.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Isca Lodge* (No. 983).—The members of this Lodge assembled at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 5th instant, for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. R. Laybourne. The ceremony of installation was undertaken by Bro. Henry Bridges, P.M. (who attended for the purpose). The admirable manner in which he performed it gave the greatest satisfaction to all present. On the conclusion of the ceremony the W.M. entered on his duties, and appointed his officers for the year ensuing, as follows:—Bros. R. J. Cathcart, S.W.; H. J. Groves, J.W.; R. Cave, Treas.; J. Middleton, Sec.; J. Laybourne, S.D.; W. Eckersley, J.D.; C. Simpson, I.G.; J. McFee, Tyler. In the evening the commemorative festival was held at the banqueting room, Masonic Hall. The chair was taken by the Worshipful Master, and under his excellent presidency the proceedings were admirably conducted. The first toast, loyally honoured in the accustomed manner of Freemasons, was "The Queen and the Craft," followed by "The G.M. of England;" "The D.G.M. and The Officers of the Grand Lodge;" "The R.W. the Prov. G.M. for Monmouth;" "The D. Prov. G.M. for Monmouth, and the Officers of the Pr.G. Lodge," were pledged in succession. Bro. J. Middleton, P.M., proposed, in eulogistic terms, the health of the W.M. Bro. R. Laybourne, which was drunk with full Lodge honours and much enthusiasm. In acknowledging the toast, the W.M. assured the brothers of his desire and determination to perform the responsible duties imposed upon him. "The immediate P.M., Bro. Middleton," was heartily pledged, the W.M. complimenting that worthy brother on the excellent manner in which he had performed the duties of his year of office. Bro. Middleton acknowledged the compliment paid him, assuring the brothers that his aim while in office was to perform his duty to the best of his ability. The W.M., Bro. R. Laybourne proposed the health of Bro. Henry Bridges, of Bridgewater, an energetic and truehearted philanthropist, which was heartily pledged. In returning thanks Bro. Bridges alluded to the pleasure he had experienced in performing the distinguished duties allotted to him in the installation that day of the Worshipful Master of the Isca Lodge, and complimented the Lodge on its officers and progress. He then adverted to the Royal Benevolent Institution—the success of which he had deeply at heart, and in the cause of which he had long laboured with zeal, and he hoped to the attainment of much success for that admirable institution. The names of volunteer subscribers to this charity were then taken. The toast

"To all Poor and Distressed Brethren" having been drunk, the proceedings terminated.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NORTH SHIELDS.—*St. George's Lodge* (No. 624).—A Lodge of emergency was held on the 20th of December last, for the installation of W.M. and officers for the ensuing year. Bro. Thomas Fenwick, P.M., (P. Prov. G. Reg.) the W.M. elect, was duly presented to Bro. John Walker Mayson, P.M., (P. Prov. S.G.W.) the installing Master, for installation, and after being duly installed in the chair of K.S., the W.M. appointed and invested the following brethren as officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. Thomas Crawford, Prov. J.G.D., as P.M.; Edward Shelton, S.W.; Samuel Brittain, J.W.; Rev. Dr. Jarbo, Chaplain; William Blackwood, P.M., Treas.; John Graham Tulloch, P.M., Sec.; John Dixon, S.D.; Whyrill Park, J.D.; William Twizell, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.D., Dir. of Cers.; Thomas Haswell, Prov. G. Org.; James Patterson Simpson, Assistant Org.; Hans Christian Hansen, I.G.; Auguste Thilo, S.S.; W. G. Rowntree, J.S.; John Evans, Tyler. The ceremony of installation and investiture was performed by Bro. Mayson in his usual impressive style, which elicited the admiration and applause of the brethren. The Lodge was then closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to the Albion Hotel, to celebrate the annual festival, when forty-eight brethren sat down to a dinner, prepared by Bro. Manning, and the day was spent with that love and harmony which usually characterizes the meetings of the Craft.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

YEovil.—*Lodge of Brotherly Love* (No. 412).—The members of this Lodge celebrated the festival of St. John, on Wednesday, the 3rd inst., and it would be quite useless to wish for a more pleasant or harmonious meeting. After the confirmation of the minutes, Bro. Brutton, the W.M. elect, was effectively installed by the P.Ms. of the Lodge, and he then invested his officers to their and the Lodge's satisfaction. When called from labour to refreshment, the members, numbering twenty-three, evidently determined to enjoy the good things which the care of the worthy hostess had provided. The usual and a great many unusual toasts and sentiments were very favourably received and merrily responded to. It was quite an unexpected pleasure to meet an old and valued P.M. of the Lodge (in almost its youthful days) again present, Bro. Slade, and more so on his name proposed as a rejoining member. The evening was a very enjoyable one throughout, and truly was the title of the Lodge borne in all its proceedings during the day; and on the members dispersing, at an early hour, all had a greater zeal for the welfare of No. 412, Brotherly Love, through its influence.

SOUTH WALES.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—*Royal Welsh Lodge* (No. 525).—On St. John's day the brethren of this Lodge, as has been their custom without a single exception for the last five and thirty years, commemorated this important anniversary by dining together in their capacious Lodge room at the Victoria Hotel, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire, and a delightful meeting it resulted. This magnificent apartment is a portion of a large addition recently made to the hotel (used also as the ball room of the town), and being elegantly fitted up and brilliantly lighted with gas, the chandeliers and sconces being of cut glass, with the brethren all in full dress, and wearing their Masonic clothing, jewels, &c., produced a *coup d'œil* not often witnessed. Those of the non-Masonic world who could catch a glimpse of the scene on looking in through the occasionally-opened door (which many did), must have distinguished the striking difference that meeting assumed, to that of any other gathering that had ever taken place within that splendid dining hall. The dinner gave universal satisfaction. Bro. Dr. Thomas, Prov. G.D.C., regulated the proceedings so that the greatest order and regularity characterised the entertainment. The W.M. Bro. Warlow presided, supported by his two Wardens, Bros. Issitt and Hunt. On his right and left were ranged Bro. the Rev. G. F. Kelly, A.M., Chap. of the Lodge; Bros. P.M. Thomas, Prov. G.D.C.; P.M. Parry, P. Prov. G.S.W.; P.M. Maclean, P. Prov. J.D.; P.M. Jenkins and Long, Prov. G. Stewards; P.M. Hulne, P. Prov. G.J.D.; Harris, P.M.; Hutchings, P.M.; Dawkins, P.M.; Husband, P.M.; Cook, P.M.; Chappel, P.M.; and around the table Bros. Allen, Warlow, Issitt, Sutton, Richardson, &c. The speeches, especially those of Bros. Kelly, Thomas, Maclean, Parry, Jenkins, &c., were very excellent and much to the purpose. The W.Ms., both past and present, also expressed themselves in very appropriate terms, as did many others. Several capital songs were also given—those of Bros. Barrett, Issitt, Connor, Warlow, &c., being choice in the extreme, not omitting that called "Bold Alexander," without which those festive meetings never seem complete. Prior to the foregoing entertainment, the outgoing Master, in an appropriate address, handed to Bro. Hutchings a handsome Past Masters' jewel, with which the Lodge had presented him, as a mark of the high esteem in which the members held his abilities in Masonry—a gratifying emblem of his long and faithful services. The new Master was also installed, and appointed his officers. This Lodge is one of the best working Lodges in the kingdom. The meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the full moon, and are continued winter and summer, without interruption.

WARWICKSHIRE.

COVENTRY.—*Trinity Lodge* (No. 316).—The brethren of this Lodge celebrated their annual festival of St. John the Evangelist, at the Castle

Inn, in this city. The Lodge having been opened at three o'clock, Bro. H. Matterson, W.M., proceeded to pass a brother of the Stoneleigh Lodge, to the degree of Fellow Craft. The other business of the Lodge being concluded, the ceremony of installing Bro. John Astley as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year was ably and impressively conducted by Bro. C. Read, P.M., Prov. J.G.D. for Warwickshire, according to ancient custom. The Worshipful Master having been duly saluted, the following officers were next invested:—Bros. Tomkinson, S.W.; Haxley, J.W.; C. Read, P.M., Treas.; Webster, P.M., Sec.; W. S. Davis, S.D.; W. Read, J.D.; Marriott, I.G.; Pollard, Tyler. Upon the Right Worshipful and Right Honourable Lord Leigh, Prov. G.M. of Warwickshire, having expressed his intention to visit this Lodge, the brethren of the Trinity and Stoneleigh Lodges, desirous to present to his lordship a mark of their esteem of his uniform kindness and attention to the interests of the Lodge and the Craft generally, took this the opportunity to present his lordship with an elegantly chased gold snuff box. The brethren having been called off from labour, sat down to the banquet (provided by Bro. John Hall). About fifty of the Craft were present, including many of the provincial officers and visitors from Nuneaton, Birmingham, London, Stratford on Avon, &c. In the course of the evening Bro. Chandos Wren Hoskyns, D. Prov. G.M., in an excellent address, presented to the Rt. Worshipful and Rt. Hon. Lord Leigh the gold snuff box, in the name of the Trinity and Stoneleigh Lodges. His lordship suitably acknowledged the compliment, and the brethren parted at an early hour, pleased and gratified with this interesting event. The snuff box had been made expressly by a brother for this occasion, and bore on one side an inscription as being "presented by the brethren of the Trinity and Stoneleigh Lodges as an acknowledgment of his lordship's uniform kindness and attention to the interests of the Lodge and Craft generally," and upon the other side the armorial bearings of the noble owner of Stoneleigh Abbey, were correctly engraved.

WARWICK.—*Shakespeare Lodge* (No. 356).—The members of this Lodge assembled at the Warwick Arms Hotel, on the 29th of December last, for the despatch of business and for the purpose of celebrating the festival of St. John the Evangelist. There were present the W. Master, Bro. John Machen; the Right Worshipful and Right Hon. the Lord Leigh, Lord Lieutenant of the county, Prov. Grand Master, and member of the Lodge; Bros. Henry Blenkinsop, P.M., P.Z., Prov. S.G.W.; the Rev. Thomas Levison Lane, P. Prov. G. Chaplain; the Rev. John Lucy, rector of Hampton Lucy, and Chaplain, No. 356; the Rev. T. B. Dickins, Assist. Prov. G. Chaplain; Payton, P.M.; Cooke, P.M.; Tibbitts, S.W.; R. J. Hues, P.S.W.; Charles Redfern, P.J.W.; Richard Child Heath, Sec.; and George Colborne Hyde, Heathcote, Robinson, Hadow, Banister, Leaver, Blake, Bolton, Lowe, Linley, Bowen, Elvins, Green, P.M., Tyler, and J. Pinner, serving brother. The Lodge was honoured by the attendance of visiting brothers—Richard Havers, W.M., No. 873, Prov. S.G.W., Oxon.; Hobbs, No. 378, W.M., No. 1080, the newly constituted "Bard of Avon" Lodge; Mahoney, No. 1080; Branson, Nos. 1057 and 1080; Henry Mulliner, S.W., No. 556; Moss, No. 1080. The Lodge was opened in ancient form, by the W.M., John Machen. The first ancient charge was then read. The minutes of the last regular Lodge having been confirmed, the Lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. G. C. Hyde was carefully examined as to his proficiency as a Fellow Craft. This examination proving satisfactory, the Lodge was opened in the third degree, when Bro. Hyde was duly raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason—the ceremony being performed in a most impressive manner by the Worshipful Master. Bro. Machen, W.M., then vacated the chair, and having been unanimously reelected at a previous meeting of the Lodge, and a board of installed Masters having been duly formed under the presidency of Bro. S. W. Cooke, P.M., Bro. Machen was for the second time installed as W.M. of the Shakespeare Lodge for the ensuing twelve months. On the conclusion of the ceremony the W.M. appointed his officers, viz., Bros. Tibbitts, S.W.; the Rev. T. B. Dickins, J.W.; Robinson, S.D.; Hadow, J.D.; Banister (Quartermaster, 1st Warwickshire Militia), I.G.; R. Child Heath, Sec. By command of the W.M., the brethren were then called from labour to refreshment, in order to celebrate the festival of St. John the Evangelist. The W.M. presided, supported by the Right Worshipful and Right Hon. brother the Lord Leigh; Bros. Blenkinsop, Prov. S.G.W.; the Rev. T. Levison Lane; the Rev. John Lucy, Chaplain; R. Havers, W.M. of the Cherwell Lodge; &c., &c. The W.M. conducted the business of the evening with great skill and judgment, pre-facing the various toasts with very appropriate remarks. He also took the opportunity to call the attention of the brethren to the approaching festival for the benefit of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, earnestly entreating all present to give their best support to so excellent an establishment, if possible by personal attendance, and by liberal subscriptions from those brothers whose engagements would not allow them to be present. The Right Worshipful and Right Hon. the Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Lord Leigh, said he should be proud to have a "Warwickshire table" provided at the forthcoming meeting in London, and hoped to see it well and worthily filled by Warwickshire Masons. Toasts pleasantly interspersed with excellent songs, &c., kept up the conviviality of this very satisfactory meeting. A subscription was commenced in aid of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, many brethren pledging themselves to be present at the meeting in London on the 25th of January, 1860. After a very happy evening the Lodge was called from refreshment to labour, and was closed in perfect harmony.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

BRIDLINGTON.—*Londesborough Lodge* (No. 1036).—A very large number of the brethren met on St. John's day to celebrate the festival. The Lodge was opened at 4 p.m. by Bro. Fox, P.M., Prov. S.G.D., for the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire. A very kind letter was read from the W.M. the Right Hon. Lord Londesborough, expressing deep regret that illness prevented his attendance, and assuring the brethren of his deep interest in the welfare of the Lodge, and the honour conferred on him by reelecting him Worshipful Master. Bro. Fox invested the following officers:—Bros. Wraughtam, S.W.; Cooper, J.W.; Hind, S.D.; Haworth, J.D.; Woodcock, I.G.; Crowe, Treas.; Brown, Sec.; Farby, Dir. of Cers.; Rycroft and Stephenson, Stewards; Kemp, Tyler. The whole of the ceremonial was performed in a most impressive manner, and the emblems were described in beautiful Masonic style. After Lodge was closed, the brethren adjourned to dinner at the Britannia Hotel. The following toasts were given:—"The Queen and the Craft," "The M.W. Grand Master," "The Deputy Grand Master and Grand Officers," "The D. Prov. Grand Master." Bro. Capt. RICHARDSON, P.M., proposed the health of Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Londesborough, W.M., No. 1036, and said he regretted his lordship's absence, especially as it was illness that caused it; but he had no doubt that his lordship would then be thinking of the meeting, and was in spirit and desire present with the brethren. No one could forget the kindness manifested by his lordship, when with Bro. the Hon. F. Denison, M.P., he presided at that very table a few months ago, and left such mementoes of his munificence, as well as expressions of goodwill, as they would never forget. He (Bro. R.) was sure all would join in a bumper for his lordship's speedy recovery and good health. The toast was responded to most enthusiastically by all present, with all Masonic honours. Bro. Capt. HAWORTH responded on behalf of his lordship, and said—He was sure his lordship would learn with pleasure the manner in which the toast had been so heartily and sympathetically responded to by all present; and he was equally certain it was one that it would ever be a pride and pleasure for the brethren of the Londesborough Lodge to acknowledge. Bro. FURBY said—It afforded him the greatest pleasure to propose the next toast, though he could have wished it to have fallen into abler hands. It was difficult to do justice to it without the appearance of flattery; but there was an incumbent duty to discharge, and without any empty eulogies, they must give honour to those to whom honour was due. They had amongst them a brother whose name and fame had gone far and wide in Masonry—whose zeal for its institutions was almost boundless—whose eloquent voice had been heard with admiration in some of the first Lodges in the province, not only in Masonic ritual, but as a lecturer—and whose qualifications had raised him to the purple as Prov. G.S.D. for the province—a brother who, in the absence of their noble patron and W.M., shrunk from no duty however irksome—and never failed to discharge the duties of his onerous office with credit to the Craft and satisfaction to the brethren. That brother was Bro. Fox, P.M. (applause), the mention of whose name would suffice to meet with a responsive demonstration of hearty good feelings (applause). Bro. Fox, P.M., in reply, said—Worshipful Master, in rising to acknowledge the compliment you have just paid me, my feelings are such as almost to prevent my responding to your call. I can assure you it affords me the highest amount of pleasure to meet you once more at this festive board, and to celebrate the anniversary of St. John's Day—to find that since the sun of last year has traversed his appointed course our numbers have considerably increased, and amongst them some of the most excellent of Masons. Although I may have around me to-night brethren who are, as it were, but on the threshold of Masonry, yet I trust the day is not far distant when I shall gaze on them as stars in the hemisphere of Masonry, and perfect the work I have humbly taken in hand. Believe me, brethren, when I tell you as your P.M. and principal founder of this Lodge, my sole object in doing so was for the dissemination of those noble and generous tenets which Freemasonry teaches, viz., brotherly love, relief, and truth, and thus to show to the outward world the happy and beneficial effects of our ancient and honourable institution—an institution, my brethren, wherein poets the most inspired, philosophers the most profound, divines the most devout, and statesmen the most patriotic, have been proud to lay their garlands on its altar. Let me, therefore, brethren, earnestly invite you to acquaint yourselves with more than the ceremonials of our mystic art, as they are but stepping stones to assist you in the noble work. In Freemasonry there is no royal road; merit, and merit alone, being the title to our privileges. It affords me pleasure, brethren, to inform you that since the institution of this Lodge we have been more than successful in the carrying out of our object. From the noble lord who presides over us as Master, to the humblest officer in our Lodge, we have a class of brethren in Masonic worth surpassed by none in the province. May the Londesborough Lodge always shine and flourish; may no hydra raise its monster head amongst us to rob us of our glory or destroy our fair fame. The light of Freemasonry has done much in this country towards the advancement and improvement in society; it remains, brethren, for you and I to extend that light still further; and that while we are so earnestly engaged in the formation of rifle and artillery corps against the approach of a foreign foe, let us not be insensible to a domestic and powerful enemy we have still to exterminate—the enemy ignorance. I have the pleasure of having before me a brother, whom I have initiated, about to travel in a foreign land; whether it may be his lot to be cast in the regions of dreary north, or the wilds

of Australia, may he extend the principles of this universal bond of brotherhood, so that whether the cry of anguish or distress shall proceed from the starving bands of Judea or the sufferers of India's torrid clime, the blessings may be alike dispensed to all; so that when a man is said to be a Mason, the outer world may know that he is one to whom the burthened heart may pour forth its sorrows, and the distressed prefer their suit; one whose heart is guided by justice, and whose hand is expanded by benevolence. Wishing you each and all a happy new year, and coupled with it length of days, I again thank you for the flattering compliment paid to me." Bro. Fox proposed "The Treasurer of No. 1,036." Bro. CROWE thanked the brethren for the kind manner in which his health had been drunk, assuring them he would endeavour to do his duty in the situation to which he had been elected, though that situation was not so onerous as some, yet there was a duty to discharge, and it would be his endeavour to do well what little he had to do. The Officers of No. 1,036 were proposed, Bro. Capt. HAWORTH responding on behalf of himself and brother officers. He said that he was fully aware that the efficient working of a Lodge depended on every officer being thoroughly up in the discharge of his duty, and that he should endeavour, and no doubt the rest would feel a pride in being able at all times efficiently to discharge their duties. From what he had seen, he thought the past officers had worked well; and he trusted the present ones would follow in their footsteps and maintain that proud position No. 1,036 enjoyed. The next toast was "To our worthy Host." Bro. Rycroft responded—It afforded him great pleasure to have his name mentioned in such flattering terms along with Mrs. Rycroft, and assured them it would always be their endeavour to cater for them as well as on the present occasion, so long as they "ruled Britannia," and in return for the kindness shown, drank the health of all. "The Ladies" was responded to in a very spirited and humorous speech by Bro. T. Hornby. After the ancient toast, to "All poor and distressed Masons," Bro. Crowe rose to propose the health of Bro. E. H. Reynard, of Sunderlandwick, who had recently become a subscribing member to the Lodge, and was then present on his first visit. Bro. Reynard, in reply, expressed himself highly gratified with all the proceedings of the evening, which he should long remember, and assured the brethren of his hearty good will for Masonry, and the welfare of the Londesborough Lodge in particular, which he should feel great pleasure in again visiting. He was glad to find such a class of men as composed it, especially so many of the farmers, whom he was sure were a body of men, when they took anything in hand, would never let it fail for want of attention and perseverance. Between the toasts appropriate songs were sung by Bros. Brown, Burngh, Fox, T. Cooper, Labourn, Lovell, Preston, and others, the comicallities of the latter eliciting roars of laughter. The brethren departed at an early hour, after spending a most delightful evening in peace and harmony.

MIDDLESBOROUGH.—*North York Lodge* (876).—The following is a list of the officers appointed by the W.M. on the 3rd inst.:—Bros. J. S. Peacock, P.M.; W. Doughty, S.W.; Rev. R. Bradley, J.W.; H. Thompson, P.M., Treas.; C. E. Armstrong, Sec.; Isaac Booth, S.D.; John Slaney, J.D.; John Richardson, P.M., Dir. of Cers.; Joseph Gibson and William Rayner, Stewards; William Garbutt, I.G.; Peter Unthank, Tyler.

YORKSHIRE WEST.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT DONCASTER.

On Wednesday, the 4th inst., the quarterly meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire, was held at the Town-hall, Doncaster, when a great number of brethren were present from different parts of the riding. The Lodge was opened by the W.M. and officers of St. George's Lodge, No. 298, Doncaster; soon after which the brethren composing the Prov. Grand Lodge, and who had assembled in a room below, formed in procession, and opened their Lodge. The business of the day was then proceeded with, and occupied some hours. The principal feature of the present meeting was the visit of two brethren from London, Bros. Patten and Crew, the former belonging to the Grand Lodge of England, and the latter Secretary to the Freemasons' Girls School, at Battersea, their object being to direct the attention of the brethren to the claims of that noble institution. Amongst the provincial brethren present were the following:—The R.W. George Fearnley, M.D., D. Prov. G.M. for West Yorkshire; Bros. W. H. Bailes, Prov. S.G.W.; W. Gath, J.G.W.; Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Rev. Joseph Senior, J.L.D., P. Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. H. de Willis, D.D., Prov. G. Chaplain; James Peace, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Joseph Batley, Prov. G. Reg.; John Batley, P. Prov. G. Reg.; R. R. Nelson, Prov. G. Sec.; Henry Smith, Prov. S.G.D.; R. H. Goldthorp, P. Prov. S.G.D.; John Booth, P. Prov. S.G.D.; A. Engelman, P. Prov. J.G.D.; W. Cocking, Prov. Sup. of Works; J. O. Gill, P. Prov. S.G.W.; J. Thomas, P. Prov. J.G.D.; Joseph Seed, Prov. G.S.B.; J. Atkinson, P. Prov. G.S.B.; Thos. Wood, P. Prov. G. Purst.; Kelly, Robertson, Mellor, Hanson, Oates, Taylor, Prov. G. Stewards; W. Blakemore, P. Prov. G.S.B., East Lancashire; Thos. Packer, P. Prov. G.D., East Lancashire; George Brooke, P. Prov. G. Sec., &c. Amongst the brethren of the St. George's Lodge were the following, viz.:—Richard Morris, W.M.; J. Rigby, S.W.; J. Lister, J.W.; T. Webb, P.M. Treas.; Geo. Brooke, P.M., Hon. Sec.; W. Acaster, S.D.; J. Wright, J.D.; T. B. Mason, P.M.; J. Sherwin, P.M.; Theophilus Smith, Rev. J. Shervington, Russell, Collinson, Blake, W. E. Smith, Skelsey, and Bentley. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Siddie, P.M.; Mattherson, Huddersfield; and the

following brethren from Sheffield, viz.: Bros. Sanby, White, Myers, Stuart, and Broomhead.

The D. Prov. GRAND MASTER read letters of apology for non-attendance from the Earl of Mexborough, Prov. G.M., who pleaded age and infirmity for his not being present; also from Bro. Dexell, G. Treas.; and from Bro. Bentley Shaw. The latter brother warmly recommended the brethren to carry the resolution intended to be moved on the subject of the Girls School.

The D. Prov. GRAND MASTER informed the brethren of the presence in Prov. Grand Lodge of two brethren from London, viz.:—Bros. Patten, P.G.S.B., of the Grand Lodge of England, and Bro. Crew, the Secretary of the Girls School. He called upon the brethren present to salute those two brethren with the usual Masonic honours.

Some discussion took place on the subject of abolishing the fees of honour to be paid by the Chaplain, the Treasurer, and Secretary, but no alteration was decided upon.

The next notice of motion was, "That the sum of one hundred guineas be voted from the funds of Prov. Grand Lodge to the Royal Freemasons' Charity for Female Children."

Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. WOODFORD suggested that the Secretary of the Girls School should make a statement as to the position and prospects of the establishment.

Bro. PATTEN, having previously expressed the thanks of himself and brother for the kind reception they had met with,

Bro. CREW addressed the brethren at considerable length. He entered into a history of the institution from its formation, seventy-two years ago, by the Chevalier Ruspini, to the present time. And he dwelt upon the fact that two of the grandchildren of the founder had become inmates of the school. He next proceeded to state what were the objects of the school: the sort of persons admitted, and the manner in which they were educated and sent forth to the world. As regarded funds, he wished not to obtain them to the injury of any other charity; but he knew that Masons had hearts large enough to support them all; and it might be said of them that they liked the boys, but they loved the girls. He would recommend any one present to visit the school in London, and judge for themselves as to its excellence. They would be kindly and even hospitably entertained, and would receive the same fare as the children themselves. The girls were taught music and French, by competent masters; but they were treated on an equality, and were all required to work even in the most humble occupations, such as cleaning the floors, washing, &c. They were thus rendered fit for the kitchen, the house, or even the parlour or drawing room of any lady. He next went on to show the great amount of funds raised in London over that from the provinces, while, at the same time, the latter sent the greater number of children. And he concluded by an earnest appeal to the brethren to support the motion which was to be submitted by Bro. GATH.

Bro. PATTEN next addressed the brethren, and enforced the arguments of Bro. Crew, by some additional observations in favour of the Girls School.

The D. Prov. G.M. also made a few remarks, and spoke of the excellence of the institution. He then called upon Bro. GATH to proceed with his motion.

Bro. GATH, Prov. J.G.W., after a few suitable remarks, proposed that the sum of one hundred guineas be voted from the funds of the Province of West Yorkshire, for the Royal Freemasons' Charity for Female Children.

The motion was seconded by Bro. H. Smith, Prov. S.G.D.

Bro. BATLEY proposed as an amendment that the matter be referred to the charity committee for further inquiry and consideration; and was seconded by Bro. Boscovitch.

The Rev. A. F. WOODFORD supported the resolution, which was still further supported in a most energetic manner by Bro. Dr. de Willis, Prov. G. Chaplain.

After a long discussion the votes were taken, and the motion was carried by a large majority, amidst loud cheering.

Some petitions for relief were presented and agreed to, and the business of Prov. Grand Lodge terminated.

The brethren then adjourned to the Reindeer, where a banquet had been prepared for them.

The chair was taken by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, at whose right hand was the W.M. of St. George's Lodge, Doncaster, and several whose names are given above. The vice chair was occupied by Bro. Rigby, S.W. After dinner the usual loyal and other toasts were proposed from the chair. After these the health of "The Earl of Zetland and the Grand Lodge of England" was given, and responded to by Bro. Patten, G.S.B. Bro. Morris, W.M., proposed the health of "The Earl of Mexborough, Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire." This was responded to by Dr. Fearnley, D. Prov. G.M. The health of the "Grand Chaplains" was proposed by Bro. W. E. Smith, and acknowledged by Bros. de Willis and Senior. Bro. Mason proposed the health of "Dr. Fearnley, D. Prov. G.M. and the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire," which was responded to by Bro. Bailes, who had taken the chair on the retirement of Dr. Fearnley, who, with several brethren, had left the room to go to their respective homes. Several other toasts were proposed, and the brethren spent a pleasant evening; those from a distance appearing to be well satisfied with the reception they had met with from their Doncaster brethren.

INDIA.

CRAFT MASONRY.

[From our Special Correspondents.]

POONAIR.—*Lodge St. Andrew's in the East* (No. 343, S.C.)—The usual fortnightly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on Monday, November 28th, present:—Bros. Hunt, W.M.; Shenen, D.M.; Dracup, S.M.; The Hon. E. R. Bourke, S.W.; Collins, J.W.; Summers, Sec. and Treas.; Clabby, S.D.; Malone, J.D.; Munday, I.G.; Randall, Tyler; Gould, Mountain, Brett, Donohoe, Stewart, Raiker, King, Cunningham, Monnet, O'Brien, Willis, and Bannister. The usual preliminary business being satisfactorily disposed of, a ballot was taken for Bro. Bannister, of Lodge Victoria, Belgam, No. 363, on the registry of Scotland, as a joining member; and for Paymaster Snales, 6th Inniskilling Dragoons; and Lieut. Swiny, Bombay Engineers, as candidates for initiation, which, proving unanimous in its acceptance, the ceremony of initiation was performed by the Worshipful Master. The Lodge was afterwards opened in the third degree, when Bros. Monnet and O'Brien, having previously passed creditable examinations in matters connected with their former grades, were raised by the Substitute Master, Bro. Dracup, to the sublime degree of M.M. On the Lodge being lowered to the first degree for the despatch of general business, a proposition made at its last meeting was taken into consideration, being to the effect, that upon the 27th day of the ensuing month, a banquet should be given, to celebrate, with all possible honour, the feast of St. John the Evangelist; the banquet to be a general one, and open to all Masons at the station. The question hinged upon the superior attractions of a hall or banquet; and though at a place where the thermometer stands fabulously high, there were not wanting brethren to expatiate eloquently upon the advisability of devoting the evening of the 27th to salutary pursuits; whilst others, including some Past Masters, whose fondness for pirouetting upon the light fantastic toe had long since departed, deprecated such an arrangement, advocating strongly a meeting, where "the feast of reason and the flow of soul" should be exclusively enjoyed by members of the Order, as tending in a more Masonic manner to the spread of sociability and increase of kindly feeling. After much discussion, it was agreed that a banquet should take place, and the following brethren, representatives of various Lodges at the station, were requested to act as the committee of management:—Bros. J. Hunt, W.M., St. Andrew's in the East (No. 343, S.C.); R. F. Gould, W.M., Meridian Lodge (No. 1,045, E.C.); and the Hon. E. R. Bourke, S.W., Lodge Orion in the West (No. 598, E.C.) Two candidates were proposed for initiation, and no other business offering, the Lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts met with due honour. The health of the initiates was acknowledged by Bro. Swiny, who expressed high gratification at his reception into Masonry; and that of the newly raised by Bro. Monnet, who at some length described the different degrees of admiration with which his various grades had inspired him, admitting that the climax of his satisfaction was now fairly attained. The proceedings were much enlivened by some excellent songs, of which Bros. Bourke, Malone, Cunningham, and Bannister were chief contributors—the latter of whom gave the "Entered Apprentice" with great musical correctness. The toast of "All poor and distressed Masons," &c., was the signal for dispersion, and the brethren separated after a pleasing reunion, throughout which the utmost harmony and good fellowship prevailed.

ROYAL ARCH.

BOMBAY.—*Chapter Perseverance* (No. 71, of Scotland).—The annual meeting of this Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Bombay, on the 23rd of September, 1859. M.E. Companions W. H. S. Crawford, Z.; J. Jamieson, H.; and C. Denton, J.; E. Companions J. G. Lawrence, Scribe E.; J. Hodgart, Scribe N.; A. Jordan, Treas.; J. H. Irvine, First Soj.; T. Carpenter, Second Soj.; W. J. Kenderline, Third Soj.; and H. Hazells, Janitor, and other Companions being present, the business of the evening was most ably conducted by the M.E.Z., a most highly accomplished Mason. After the ordinary work had been performed, M.E. Comp. G. S. Judge, the Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry in Western India, and the Prov. Grand Principal Z., who had previously been received by the Chapter with all the honours, was presented by the M.E.Z., after an eloquent speech, with a very handsome and valuable jewel, which had been previously unanimously voted to him by the Chapter as an acknowledgment on their part of his zeal for Masonry, and the able manner in which he had ruled over this province, and especially over this Chapter during the two years he had presided over it. The Grand Superintendent then rose to return thanks, and said—"M.E. Principals and Companions, I feel so deeply the very flattering and generous manner in which you have acknowledged the little I have been able to do for this Chapter and the Craft in this province, that I fear my flattering speech will render me unable to express my gratitude in words suitable to the occasion. This glittering emblem of our Order, a reward so far beyond my deserts, which you, out of the fulness of your generous hearts have been pleased to bestow on me, I shall always proudly wear at every Masonic meeting; and whenever I put it on I shall be reminded of the kind support and brotherly affection I have ever experienced at your hands, and shall think not of my worth, but of yours. Companions, I came amongst

you a stranger (for I was exalted in an English Chapter far from hence), and I was well received. I had not long been a member of your Chapter before you unanimously elected me your Principal Z., but not contented with that mark of your confidence and esteem, you joined with the other Chapters of the province, in the year 1855, in petitioning the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland to appoint me Grand Superintendent of this province, and they complied with your request. Untiring in your generosity to me, you have this evening added to your former favours by conferring upon me this most handsome testimonial of your esteem and regard. How, then, shall I find words to express my gratitude? Words cannot express it. Imagine, then, I pray you, what you would feel if honoured and rewarded as I have been, and you will then be able to form some idea of my present feelings; and if you will indulge me still further by imagining those feelings expressed by an eloquent speaker in suitable and appropriate words, you will understand how I would thank you if I could. Companions—I do thank you with all my heart, and I sincerely hope you may ever be happy and prosperous. May the Great I. A. bless you.” The Chapter was then closed in due form, and the Companions adjourned to a sumptuous banquet provided by the Chapter in honour of the occasion, and after “The Queen and the Craft,” and the other toasts of obligation had been drunk, the health of the Grand Superintendent of the province, M.E. Comp. G. S. Judge, was proposed and drunk with enthusiastic cheers, and suitably acknowledged by him. After a very happy evening, enlivened by the spirit of song for which this Chapter is so famous, the Companions separated at midnight, in peace and harmony.

POONAH.—*Chapter of St. Andrew's in the East* (No. 68, Scotland).—An emergent meeting of this Chapter was held in the Masonic Hall, on Saturday, the 3rd December, when Bros. Bannister and King, who had previously received the degrees of Mark, Past and Excellent Master, were exalted in due form. Present:—Comps. Dracup, Z.; J. Hunt, H.; Shenen, J.; Collins, Scribe E.; E. N. Bourke, P.S.; Clabby, A.S.; J. O. Randall, Janitor; Mountain, Gould, and Gordon. Upon the conclusion of business the Companions adjourned to refreshment, and the evening was spent in a most agreeable manner.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

POONAH.—*Ascalon Encampment*.—The opening meeting of this Encampment (working under dispensation from the V.E. Provincial Grand Commander of Bombay, Sir Knt. G. S. Judge) took place at the Masonic Hall, on Monday, the 5th December. The summons convening the meeting, and the dispensation authorizing it, were read and recorded. It was proposed by Fr. R. F. Gould, E.C., as a preliminary measure, and seconded by Fr. Hunt, 2nd Capt., that the regulations of the Melita Encampment (Valetta, Malta), with the exception of the installation rite, should be adopted for the government of the Encampment, until another code, in course of compilation, should be ready for submission. Fr. Willis, a candidate for joining, was unanimously elected a member. The following Companions (members of Chapter St. Andrews in the East, and No. 68 in the roll of Scotland), having previously intimated their desire to receive the Templar degree, and being in attendance, were duly installed in accordance with ancient usage and a resolution of the Encampment—viz., Comps. J. Dracup, Z.; F. C. Shenen, H.; the Hon. E. R. Bourke, Lieut. Eniskilling Dragoons, P.S.; S. Gordon, A.S.; J. H. Clabby, P. Donohoe, S. H. Clarke, W. E. Wait, J. Bannister, and J. King, all of the Chapter of St. Andrew, (No. 68, S.C.). It was proposed by the E.C., seconded by Fr. Summers, that Sir Knt. Hunt, 2nd Captain, should be elected Chancellor, and carried unanimously. The E.C. then notified the following appointments:—Frs. J. K. Mountain, 1st Captain; J. Hunt, 2nd Captain; E. R. Bourke, Prelate; G. A. Summers, Registrar; W. Willis, Hospitaller; F. C. Shenen, Warder or Captain of Lines; J. Dracup, Expert; J. W. Clabby, Banner Bearer 1st; J. Bannister, Banner Bearer 2nd; S. Gordon, Almoner; J. King, Sword Bearer; P. Donohoe, 1st Herald; W. E. Wait, 2nd Herald; J. O. Randall, Equerry. It was unanimously agreed that the V.E. Prov. E.C., and Fr. Boddan, be elected honorary members. Votes of thanks were awarded to the V.E. Sir Knt. G. S. Judge, for his cordial cooperation with the members of the Encampment throughout the difficulties of establishment; and to Fr. Hunt, for his unremitting zeal and diligence in having provided at so short a notice such supplies of furniture and regalia, the brilliant clothing of the members, and the magnificent adornment of the Encampment, affording incontestible proofs of his industry. There being no further business before the Encampment, it was closed with prayer, and the members adjourned to refreshment, when the prescribed and time hallowed libations of the Order met with due compliance. The health of the E.C. was next given, and feelingly responded to. Sir Knt. Willis then rose and said, that having obtained the permission of the presiding officer, he would propose as the next toast, “The newly Installed Knights.” As a Mason of thirty-five years standing, and he firmly believed the oldest representative of Masonry in Western India, so numerous an attendance at a meeting of Knights Templar, and such undisguised anxiety to receive the degree having been displayed by the newly admitted members, afforded him considerable satisfaction; and he expressed a conviction that the amount of work announced and carried into effect by the Ascalon Encampment at its opening meeting, was unprecedented in the annals of the Order, and he sincerely hoped that the knowledge of so gratifying an occurrence would not be confined to the Knights present; the installation of

ten Companions in a station in a single evening, when in the entire presidency two months ago, but five Knights Templar were supposed to exist, was a subject for great exultation. Fr. Willis addressed the Sir Knights at considerable length, and interspersed his harangue with divers anecdotes of a Masonic and humorous nature, occasioning great merriment by a quaint disparagement of a former friend's prowess, which appeared in unfavourable contrast to his own. Fr. Dracup briefly returned thanks on behalf of the newly installed. The E.C. then proposed the health of Fr. Hunt, 2nd Captain, expressing with evident sincerity his high gratification at being supported in the duties of his office by so enthusiastic and experienced a member of the Masonic Order. He was of opinion that the entire credit of the evening lay with Fr. Hunt, he having personally superintended the preparation of the furniture and regalia peculiar to the Encampment. It was true that Sir Knt. Mountain and himself had been associated with Fr. Hunt throughout the period of applying for and obtaining a dispensation to commence work, their having restricted themselves to an acquaintance with their own duties, could only be considered in the light of sleeping partners. After passing a glowing eulogium on his zeal and abilities, the E.C. proposed health and long life to the 2nd Captain. The toast was drunk with Masonic and musical honours. Fr. Hunt said that his exertions had been considerably overrated; he was always desirous of working hard in the cause of Masonry, and if (possibly) he had taken more than ordinary pains to advocate the interests of the Templar degree, the vote of thanks awarded to him so unanimously, and the kind expressions of esteem which had fallen from the E.C. and members of the Encampment, as well as the heartiness with which the toast of his health was greeted, would have amply repaid a much more deserving person, and merited his warmest acknowledgments, which he begged leave to tender. Various other toasts were given in the course of the evening; those most worthy of note being “The Prelate,” “1st Captain,” and “Prosperity to the Ascalon Encampment.” In proposing the last mentioned, after expatiating upon the advantages accruing to Poonah Masons from the establishment of an Encampment, thereby being enabled to progress uninterruptedly to so high and valued a degree, the E.C. expressed a hope that so gratifying an occurrence might ever be kept in remembrance, by an annual festival to be held on each succeeding anniversary of the opening meeting. The toast of “All poor and distressed Knights Templar,” broke up the assembly, and the Sir Knights dispersed, highly satisfied with the result of their labours.

POONAH.—*Mount Zion Encampment*.—The members of this Encampment met on Saturday evening, October 29th, at the Masonic Hall. The charter was signed by the M.E. Grand Master early in the year, but owing to the scarcity of Knights Templar in the immediate vicinity of Bombay (for which town it was granted), the V.E. Com. Sir Knight G. S. Judge, who also holds the office of Provincial Grand Commander of Bombay, was unable to open the new Encampment. It was at length happily resolved to hold the first meeting at Poonah, the attendance being thus ensured of several stray Knights Companions therein located. The praiseworthy and untiring efforts of the Provincial Grand Commander were at last crowned with success. Punctually at the hour specified in the summons, the muster roll was called, and the Knights Companions answered to their names, constitutionally attired in the garb of their military and monastic order, and assisted at the opening of the first Encampment established in Western India. The Warrant of Constitution having been read, the by-laws approved of, and other preliminary business satisfactorily disposed of, four Companions presented themselves for installation; and the necessary formularies being complied with, the Em. Com., especially fitted for the duties of his office on account of an extremely retentive memory and great practice in the conferral of high grades in Masonry, communicated the mysteries of this exalted degree in a manner both impressive and instructive, ably supported by the attendant Knights Companions. The ceremony of installation being over, Sir Knights Gould and Mountain respectively, first and second Captains of the Encampment, proposed and seconded a vote of thanks to the Em. Commander for his great exertions in the cause of Templar Masonry, exemplified that evening by his presence at an assembly of Knights Companions distant upwards of one hundred miles from the town of his residence. The proposition was put, and unanimously carried by acclamation. The Em. Commander, in acknowledgment, expressed his high gratification at being the humble means of introducing, or rather of spreading, the Templar degree in Western India. For nearly six years he had been devising how to establish an Encampment, but until December, 1858, could not take any decisive steps in the matter from the want of a competent number of applicants for a charter. However, he could at length rejoice that facilities were afforded his Bombay brethren of taking the degree which had been rightly termed the summit of Christian Masonry. Before concluding, however, upon the principle of giving honour to whom honour was due, he begged to call the attention of the Knights Companions to the kindness and promptitude with which the Grand Chancellor, the Em. Sir Knight J. Masson, had responded to every call for advice and assistance, without which it would have been impossible for him (the Em. Com.) to have conducted the ceremonies in a manner satisfactory to himself, or to the Knights Companions. The following Knights Companions were present:—V.E. Knight Com. G. S. Judge, E.C.; Knights Comps.—R. F. Gould, 1st Capt. Com. Colum; J. K. Mountain, 2nd Capt. Com. Colum; J. Hunt, Registrar and Treasurer; C. T. Boddan, Expert; G. A. Summers, Capt. of Lines; and J. O. Randall, Equerry. The ha-

business of the evening being concluded, the Encampment was closed in due and ancient form, and the Knights Companions adjourned to refreshment, when the toasts of "The Queen," "The Grand Master," "The Deputy Grand Master," "The Provincial Grand Master," and "The Grand Officers" were given in rapid succession. The health of "Sir Knight R. F. Gould, the Deputy Provincial Grand Commander," was next proposed by the Em. Com., and drunk with the enthusiasm his accurate and excellent mode of working, and his many good qualities having gained the admiration and esteem of the Knights Companions. The health of the "newly installed Knights Companions" was acknowledged in a very feeling manner, and in terms highly eulogistic of the Order into which they had been recently received. The Knights passed a very agreeable evening, and separated at an early hour, greatly pleased with the working and arrangements of the "Mount Zion" Encampment, the first Encampment of Masonic Knights Templar ever opened in Western India. An application for a new Encampment, to be called "The Ascalon" Encampment, and to be held at Poonah, was lodged with the Provincial Grand Com. for transmission to the Grand Master. The Knights of the Bombay Presidency have lost no time in increasing the number of their Encampments, a warrant for a second having been applied for, before that of the first has been twice worked under. The Provincial Grand Commander V.E. Sir Knight G.S. Judge also, at the request of the Sir Knights, immediately granted a dispensation to Sir Knight R. F. Gould, as the first Em. Com.; Sir Knight J. K. Mountain, as the first 1st Cap.; Sir Knight J. Hunt, as the first 2nd Cap.; and the other Sir Knights present to hold "The Ascalon" Encampment, and to install candidates, pending an answer to the petition to the Most Eminent Grand Master of England and Wales, for a patent or charter to hold their Encampment in Poonah.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Lord Cowley has taken leave of the Queen, and returned to Paris on Monday; it is said that his mission to establish an arrangement between the French and English cabinets, as to a settlement of Italian affairs, has been successful. Her Majesty and her children are all in good health, and ride and walk daily in the delightful neighbourhood of Windsor castle. The Prince Consort and his sons shoot and hunt daily. The Queen has entertained a great deal of company this week—among the visitors have been the royal Duchesses of Kent and Cambridge, the Prussian Prince Hohenzollern, Lord and Lady Wodehouse, the Marquis of Westminster, Earl Stanhope, Viscount Palmerston, Lord Waterpark, Gen. Peel, and their wives. On Wednesday, the third dramatic performance took place at Windsor Castle before her Majesty, the Prince Consort, and the several members of the royal family there assembled. A select company was also present, who had the honour of being invited. The play selected for the occasion was Sheridan Knowles's *Hunchback*.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—On Friday, a cabinet council was held at the official residence of Lord Palmerston, in Downing-street, which was attended by all the ministers.—There was a decrease in the number of deaths in the metropolis last week, which the Registrar General attributes to the warmer state of the air. In the last week of 1859 the deaths amounted to 1677, and in the first week of the new year were only 1281, being 91 below the estimated average. The number of births was 2008.—The last obsequies have been performed over the body of Thomas Babington Macaulay. On Monday, according to pre-arrangement, the funeral took place, the procession, consisting of many carriages, starting from Holly Lodge at the appointed hour of eleven, and reaching Westminster Abbey about one. The burial service was performed with an impressiveness worthy of the man and the place, in the presence of a large concourse of illustrious spectators.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, Commander in Chief, has consented to accept the colonelcy of the London Rifle Brigade.—The *Gazette* contains the rules and regulations concerning the terms of service of the Army Reserve Corps; also rules, regarding their pay and allowances, their arms, clothing, and equipment.—The funds, yesterday, showed increased heaviness, but although Consols were at one period of the day negotiated at 95½, they were last operated in at 95½ to ¼ for money, and 95¼ to 95½ for the account.

FOREIGN NEWS.—A Paris telegram of Saturday informs us that Count Lallemand, the first secretary to the French embassy at Constantinople, has been appointed chargé d'affaires there, and that M. Thouvène would embark for France on his (Count Lallemand's) arrival in the Turkish capital. Another *avertissement* has been given to the press in France. It is the third since the 1st inst. It was given to the *Eco de la Frontière* of Valenciennes. The offence of the journal was publishing an article against the famous pamphlet. Experiments were being made at Vincennes to test the value of a newly-invented percussion rocket of most destructive power and immense range, with which, however, there is great difficulty in obtaining a correct aim. From the amnesty granted to the French press on the 16th of August to the 1st of January, no less than 14 *avertissements* have been given to the papers. It having been stated that the Emperor Napoleon was about to raise the salaries of the members of the Council of State, the *Siccle* takes the opportunity of pointing out the illegality of doing so without first laying the

decree before the legislative body, and remarks, that as the constitution and its annexes are the work of the Government itself, it cannot show too much respect for what it has done. Trade in France is at a standstill. Three per Cents. are going down. There is a general aversion to invest money for a long period.—The Government of Austria is put to such straits for money that it has been endeavouring to induce the Roman Catholic clergy to present it with a "voluntary donation of £1000,000 or thereabouts; but the clergy refuse to comply with the request, from motives of patriotism. The people of Szekely, in Transylvania, had refused to pay taxes, and that troops had been sent there from Hungary, and bad consequences were feared. The Protestants of Debreczen are to hold an assembly to deliberate on the Imperial patent, and it was thought that they will imitate their brethren of Pesth and other places, by protesting energetically against that odious document.—By telegrams received from Madrid of the 3rd and 4th, we are told that the Spanish troops continued their advance on Tetuan without being attacked by the Moors. A telegram of the 5th, however, states that the Spaniards had been attacked on the 4th by 2,000 Moorish cavalry, and 2,000 infantry, but that they were dispersed by the Spanish artillery; the Spanish loss was said to be 5 killed, and 19 wounded. An English brig had been wrecked near Cadiz.—The steam ship *America* has brought dates from Boston to the 28th, and from Halifax to the 30th ult. Although the House of Representatives had not elected a speaker, the President delivered his message on the 27th. By arrivals at Liverpool we have New York news to the 30th ult., and from Montreal to the 31st. There has been a negro insurrection at Bollvar, in Missouri, the negroes threatening to burn the town. It was, however, speedily suppressed. A great fire, which destroyed property to the amount of a million dollars, had broken out in New York.

INDIA AND CHINA.—By the telegrams in advance of the India mail we learn first that Jung Bahadoor was operating against the rebels in the Terai; and a few days later, by Reuter's Telegram, in anticipation of the next Bombay mail, we have the gratifying intelligence that all the rebels in Nepal have surrendered, except the Begum.—The submarine cable between Singapore and Batavia has been successfully laid. Order has been re-established at Sarawak.—The treaty between China and the United States has been put in force. Part of the English troops have already left for the north.

COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC COMPANIES.—The accounts from the several seats of industry, though not as yet exhibiting any great activity, are of a generally satisfactory nature, and the expectations which have been held out of late that trade would receive a considerable impetus after the expiration of the holidays, are in progress of realization, orders for spring fabrics having already been received in some districts, and manufacturers, with scarcely any exception, continue sanguine in their views of future prospects.—At a meeting of the Union Bank of London, Sir Peter Laurie, the governor, presiding, the dividend declared was at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, on the increased capital, and the reports and accounts were unanimously adopted.—The discussion at the meeting of the shareholders of the Great Ship Company was of the most extraordinary character. The report and accounts were presented, and a debate ensued, which was interrupted throughout by the various parties allied with the several interests into which the proprietary may be considered to be divided. The appointment of a committee of investigation was brought under consideration, but any suggestion offered it could not be supposed would obtain immediate sanction, and therefore, the poll, which is to take place, will settle the affair in proper course.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SECRETARIES OF LODGES throughout the country are requested to forward, as early as possible, the place, day, and hour on which the Lodge will be held in 1860.

"E. C."—Eminent Commander.

"ALPHA."—Apply to Bro. Farnfield, at the Secretary's office.

"P.P."—We agree with you that the fees for exalting are too high. We shall have a few words to say on the subject ere long.

"S.S."—Having taken the P.M.'s degree in Scotland does not entitle you to rank as a P.M. in England. If it did there would be no honour attached to holding the rank.

LANCASHIRE MASONIC MEETINGS.—Bro. Polleth, Manchester, will please to receive our thanks.

"HAGGAR."—Stewards of private Lodges are not allowed to wear aprons bordered and lined with red.

STATUTE LAWS WITH REGARD TO FREEMASONRY.—We have already cited the Acts of Parliament bearing upon this subject. If our correspondent "H.H." will refer to our number for July 23rd, 1859, at p. 49, he will find the information he requires.