

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1862.

THE GRAND SECRETARY.

It is always with extreme regret, when sometimes by inadvertence it may, anything appears in our columns reflecting upon any brother or brothers, which we are not in a position altogether to justify from our own knowledge of the facts, and in that position we, in some measure, stand upon the present occasion, in consequence of a letter which we published last week, signed "One of the Grand Secretary's Victims."

To this letter we have received a reply from the Grand Secretary, which we print with deeper regret than even that to which it purports to be an answer, in consequence of the intemperate tone in which it is worded. Indeed, had it been addressed to any individual connected with the MAGAZINE, we should have endeavoured to point out to the Grand Secretary, the propriety of modifying some of its expressions before making it public—but as it is addressed to the Editor, and contains certain reflections upon ourselves, we presume that Bro. Clarke intended it for publication, and we do so, admitting the full force of the axiom, that those who play at bowls must sometimes expect to receive rubbers in reward of their labours.

Here is the Grand Secretary's letter :—

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

SIR,—My attention has been called to an anonymous letter that appears in your impression of Saturday, the 14th inst., containing some offensive and impertinent observations on myself, which it may answer your purpose to circulate, but which cannot tend to elevate the character of your paper. I shall, however, take no further notice of this unwarranted attack on me, than to say, that the man who penned the remarks has proved himself utterly regardless of a solemn obligation he has taken, and consequently unfit ever to have been admitted into Freemasonry.

But in addition to the attack on myself personally your correspondent brings a specific charge of neglect, in respect to the duties of the office I hold. As this charge affects others, as well as myself, I am bound to investigate it, and the accuser is equally bound to substantiate what he has asserted. I have, therefore, to beg the favour of your giving me the name of the writer of the letter signed "One of the G. Secretary's Victims," as well as the name and number of the lodge to which he belongs.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. GRAY CLARKE, G.S.

As respects the first part of the letter we can assure the Grand Secretary that it does not "answer our purpose" to circulate "offensive and impertinent observations" against any brother, well knowing that vituperation is not argument, and being aware that the dignity of our position can never be maintained, except by the exercise of the utmost temper, however strongly we may feel on any subject; and that we shall best promote the objects we have in view, by expressing our opinions in moderate

and gentlemanly language, though we shall ever continue strenuously to denounce abuses and irregularities, in the conduct of the business of the order, whenever we observe them, whilst, at the same time, we shall endeavour to do so in such a manner as to merit the respect of every brother.

As the second part of the letter complained of does, as Bro. Clarke states, contain "a specific charge of neglect in respect to the duties of his office," and as we hold with him that every brother who makes such a charge is bound to substantiate it, we should, under ordinary circumstances, have asked, and recommended, the writer of the letter to allow us to give his name to the Grand Secretary; but in the present instance we cannot do so, the Grand Secretary having put himself entirely "out of Court" by the declaration "that the man who penned the remarks, has proved himself utterly regardless of a solemn obligation he has taken, and consequently unfit ever to have been admitted into Freemasonry," thereby proving to us that should we hand the name of the brother implicated to the Grand Secretary, we should not be doing so in order to allow a fair investigation of the charge of neglect, but that he might be subjected to every petty persecution which might suggest itself to the vengeance of the Grand Secretary; and here let us observe that the passages of the letter relative to which these strong expressions of the Grand Secretary are used, appeared to us in no other light than a little harmless badinage, for we do not go so far as to suppose that it is in the power of the Grand Secretary, any more than of "any other man," to know the exact spelling of every individual brother's name; and that the Grand Secretary could have had no partizan view in not objecting to Bro. Caulcher's name, for a mere typographical error, is shown by the fact that that brother's name was on both lists proposed as a candidate for the Board of General Purposes, and the high position he held upon the poll showed that he was generally acceptable to Grand Lodge.

Though we think that under the circumstances we have named, we should not be justified in giving up the name of the writer complained of, we have thought it desirable to submit the letter of the Grand Secretary to our correspondent, asking also for an explanation of the circumstances of which he complains (for our private information only), and have received the following reply for publication :—

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Having read the Grand Secretary's letter, enclosed with your note, I object to my name and the number of my lodge being handed to him. Such a demand is unconstitutional, and he has no right to make it under any semblance of Masonic law. The Grand Secretary being an official, his acts are fair subjects for comment, remark, or enquiry, either in print, or otherwise, by every brother in the Craft. If,

however, the Grand Secretary should think my letter to be a libel, and will proceed to treat it as such at common law, then, on demand being made, by his solicitor, you will furnish him with my name and address, as I shall, in that case, plead justification, and prove every allegation in my communication.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother, fraternally yours,
ONE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY'S VICTIMS.

Though, as we have stated, under the circumstances, we should have declined (even if we had had the writer's permission) to give up his name to the Grand Secretary, we cannot but deprecate the challenge thrown out by the writer of the letter to test the question in a court of law, for he ought as well know, as we do, that no question of purely Masonic dispute should be allowed to be so dealt with; and that the Grand Secretary must of necessity be the last man who could apply to any other than a Masonic tribunal on a subject connected with the Order, unless indeed it involved an attack upon his private character, which we are sure no brother would think for a moment of reflecting upon.

At the same time the writer of the letter has furnished us with particulars showing that he called for certain certificates some three or four times, and the reply was that they were not signed by the Grand Secretary; but that that necessarily involved a neglect of duty we do not agree, for it would be impossible for every lodge to receive their certificates the very moment they made their returns, for we hold in Masonry, as in every other relation of life, save in purely exceptional cases, the motto of "first come first served" must be allowed to have its due force, and we are bound to admit that, as a rule, we have found at the Grand Secretary's office every disposition to oblige, and to render to brethren requiring them, the certificates for which they have paid with every fair and possible dispatch.

At the same time there need be no reason why the officers should ever have it in their power to plead that the Grand Secretary "has not signed" the certificates—for it is surely not necessary for him to wait until they are filled up before placing his signature to the form; the more especially as we have an Assistant Grand Secretary enjoying the full confidence of the Craft, with whom they might be entrusted in the same way as they are to the Provincial or District Grand Secretaries, in the colonies.

But we believe the gist of the offence contained in the letter, is to be found in the following words, which might perhaps have been more mildly expressed.

"Really the Grand Secretary receives quite salary enough to ensure his attendance with some degree of regularity at his office, and brethren who reside at various places, in a radius of ten miles from Great Queen-street, ought not to be dragged there on several occasions, when the signature of a few forms could always be kept ready in the office, merely to gratify the whim of a Craft servant who is kicking his heels elsewhere whilst he should be

attending to his duties in our office. If Bro. Gray Clarke was noted for his ability, courtesy, or industry, then the matter might be somewhat palliated, but when, as all know who have come in contact with him, he is just the reverse, it is quite time that he should be called upon to render an account of what he does for his salary, and how many hours per week he is away from his desk upon his own private affairs."

Now, the writer of these paragraphs has evidently been led into the error of supposing that the Grand Secretary may be found at any given time by the notice on the door, "Office hours from 10 till 5, on Saturday from 10 till 2;" supposing that that officer like "any other man," is bound to be at the office during the hours, or at least some of the fixed hours of business, an error of which we were long since disabused by the Grand Secretary himself, who assured us that he was not bound under his engagement to any hours—all that he had to do was attend once a day, and that he would not have taken the appointment under any other terms.

As the appointment is in the hands of the Grand Master, we can have no means of knowing the real nature of Bro. Clarke's engagement, and that he acts upon the principle of not keeping to any particular hours, all who have had much business in the Grand Secretary's office are sufficiently acquainted; but we hold that Grand Lodge ought to have been informed of the arrangement, the more especially as the Board of General Purposes reported to that body on the 1st June, 1858—

"They are of opinion that the salary of the Grand Secretary is inadequate, and is not a sufficient remuneration for a gentleman who, owing to an increase of work, is compelled to devote the whole of his time to the duties of his office, and they recommend that the salary of the Grand Secretary be raised to £400 per annum."

And at the special Grand Lodge held on the 23rd of the same month, Bro. Joseph Smith, G. Purst., the originator of the proposition, said that Bro. Clarke ought to have the same salary as the previous Grand Secretary (£300, and a gratuity of £100 per annum) because—

"He does not hold any other appointment; everyone knows where to find him, for he is always at his post. As Masonry is fast increasing, so his labours have vastly extended, so that he has often to take some of his work home and go on with it till ten or eleven o'clock. Every brother who has had occasion to call upon him must admit how ready he always is to give his assistance, and his time is greatly taken up by the calls which are made."

And Bro. Symonds, in supporting the motion, said—

"The business of the office has very much increased; for, whereas in 1842, there were issued 1403 certificates, in 1856 the number was 3721. In 1842 the amount of money received was £2774, and in 1856 it was £5809. Now we must be well aware that there could not be that additional number of certificates and that additional amount of money without involving a large increase of labour in the Secretary's office; and it is on these grounds that the Grand Secretary has been required to

give up *his whole time* to the duties of his office, and that he should not be allowed to undertake any other appointment."

Again let us hear Bro. Gregory, now a P.G.D. :—

"I do not wish for a moment to depreciate the services of the Past Grand Secretary, but I can say, from my own knowledge, that when the poorer brethren come for charity, or any of the brethren for business, Bro. Clarke is *always to be found at his post*; and we know how much more satisfactory it is to see the head of an office than to transact business with any of the subordinates."

And the then President of the Board of General Purposes, Bro. Havers, wound up the debate by a speech in which he used these words :—

"It was true there had been an addition to the staff, but that did not diminish the labours of the Grand Secretary in connection with his letters, which are ever on the increase: and *through his courtesy and kindness* you have matters put to rights every week, which might have been fanned into a flame to the detriment of the Craft. I believe that the value of such services is incalculable to Masonry."

The greater part of the discussion turned upon the close attention Bro. Clarke had to give to the duties of his office, and the anomaly which existed of the Assist. Grand Secretary's salary being equally as large as that of the Grand Secretary, whilst the one could hold other offices in the Craft, and the principal officer could not; but not one word was said, that whilst the one was bound to give thirty-nine hours' attendance per week (irrespective of meetings of the Craft, which the Grand Secretary has also to attend), the Grand Secretary himself was not bound to as many hours per month, a fact which, we repeat, should have been made known to Grand Lodge.

We do not mean to deny that all that was said by the speakers on the occasion to which we have alluded was true, or that they believed it to be so, at the time; but we challenge Bro. Clarke to the proof that he is *now* at all times accessible to the Craft, or that any brother knows *when and where to find him*, and the more especially that he does or ever did see every poor brother seeking charity, as indeed there is no reason why he should, so long as we have an Assistant Grand Secretary and efficient clerks in the outer office; but such were the statements on which the advance of salary was obtained, and allowed to pass, at the time, uncontradicted by the principal party interested, and therefore he has now no right to complain if a brother who, making inquiry for the Grand Secretary on three or four different occasions, at proper and convenient hours, finds him on each and all absent from his office, accuses him of not doing that which his friends so strenuously urged he did. "Every one knows *where to find him*," says Bro. Smith. Echo answers "*find him*."

We do not say that the principal of any establishment should be always bound to his desk; we do not say that the Grand Secretary may not occasionally be

away from his office even on the business of the Craft, but we do say that it would tend to the convenience of very many of the brethren, from the Grand Master downwards, if the Grand Secretary would let it be known—if only as a matter of pure courtesy—at what hours he is *most likely* to be found in his office, and if, when he goes out he would, as a rule (of course there may be exceptions to the rule) leave word with one of the clerks when he is *most likely* to be in the way, as it would save much valuable time to the brethren, to say nothing of temper, and many un-Masonic blessings occasionally uttered with regard to the Grand Secretary.

Now how did we express ourselves regarding the increase in Bro. Clarke's salary? Certainly not in unfriendly terms :—

"We certainly approve of the decision, on more grounds than one; first, that which we alluded to last year (the anomaly of the junior officer in rank—if even the senior in service being paid more than the principal); secondly, because we believe that it is better to pay even five or six hundred pounds a year for the undivided and efficient services of a gentleman, than half the amount for those of one, who, however efficient, cannot give his whole attention to our business; thirdly, because we believe that an ill-paid will be sure to become a discontented and careless officer; and, fourthly, because we are convinced that Bro. Clarke has, by the great attention he has paid to the duties of his office, deserved the consideration of the brethren; and we express this opinion with the less reluctance, because we were amongst those who, at the time of his appointment, looked upon it with suspicion, if not with misgivings, as to his qualifications for it."

To that opinion we still adhere in the main, but we were, at the time we wrote these words, under the impression that the whole time of Bro. Clarke was given to the duties of his office, which we do not now believe—though we have no reason to suppose that he employs it in any other profession, or with the view to gain.

There is but one other point to which we need advert, and then we shall conclude, viz: the courtesy of Bro. Clarke. We do not believe that Bro. Clarke intends to be discourteous—nay, we will go farther, and say that we know he does not; but it unfortunately happens that his manner is such as to lead nine-tenths of those he comes in contact with to feel that he is so; whilst his communications, or perhaps we should say, want of communication with brethren abroad, lead them to the same conclusion, as is shown by the following extract from a speech delivered by the Prov. Grand Master of Southern India, at the Prov. Grand Lodge, on the 30th April last, a copy of the proceedings of which we received through the courtesy of Bro. Clarke, by the very same post which brought us the letter published at the head of this article :—

The Prov. G. MASTER "expressed his regret at the long time which had elapsed since the last Prov. G. Lodge

was held, which was owing principally to his having waited the settlement by the Grand Lodge of England, of the question of his jurisdiction over Lodge Victoria, Rangoon. He had only recently learnt privately from the W. Master of that lodge, that the warrant of constitution had been received, with the necessary authority to work under this Prov. G. Lodge. *The R.W. Prov. G. Master could not but express his great dissatisfaction that no communication of this authority had been made to him by the Grand Secretary, and, also that the warrant of constitution of Lodge Emulation, Negapatam, which had been applied for more than a year ago, had not yet been received.* He stated that these matters would form the subject of a communication from himself to the M.W. Grand Master."

FREEMASONRY AND ITS OPPONENTS.

It appears that the recent ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Devonport and Cornwall Hospital, at Devonport, by the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, and the Freemasons of the district, has given rise to some feelings of jealousy amongst other branches of the community, which is venting itself through the columns of the local press, and accordingly, in the *Western Morning News*, published at Plymouth on the 10th inst., we find the following lucubration in a letter to the editor—to which our attention has been called by some brethren of the province:—

THE MORAL ASPECT OF MODERN MASONRY AND ITS EMPTY PROFESSION OF UNIVERSAL BENEVOLENCE.

Sir,—You have lately admitted several letters into your columns on the subject of Freemasonry, which for the next fortnight is likely to attract some notice amongst your readers, from the prominence into which the members of the craft have managed to force themselves in connection with laying the corner stone of our new Hospital.

I should be glad if you could find room for a few extracts from an article by the late Bishop Armstrong (formerly connected with this diocese), and which well illustrate the "history and modern state of Freemasonry."

My first and introductory extract shall be one which gives a view of the external state of the society at the present day: and concludes with a statement (which all but free and accepted Masons will hold as being perfectly true), respecting its moral aspect.

The extracts which I propose to send you will not be unsuited to your columns, as even if they should provoke a little controversy (to which by the way I have yet to learn that newspaper editors are averse), they exhibit a peculiar power of elucidating a grave subject, with playful and graphic humour.

"Among the multitude of convivial advertisements which reveal the associative tendencies of an appetite, some will be found to proceed from a body which garnishes itself with the title of 'the free and accepted Masons.' By these epithets they distinguish themselves from the common herd of masons, those plain, drudging, hard-working men, who do not play at their trade with silver knovels and kid gloves. Of masons, this building age knows and sees enough; of Freemasons it knows and sees but little. It is neither the wiser nor the better for their existence, they are not to be seen performing any useful work, neither are they like moles, which, though they themselves are out of sight, throw up from their hidden chambers visible tokens of their toils.

"The strongest microscope would fail to discover the

minutest grain or particle of good which the Freemasons confer upon mankind. The body, with all its invisible action, is as utterly useless to the world at large as a clock would be to its owner which went wheeling and ticking on, with all its busy machinery, after the amputation of its hands.

"Were the fraternity to dissolve itself to-morrow, and, to appease the common sense of this practical age, to make a hecatomb of their aprons, the world would be unconscious of the dissolution, except for the unsavory smoke of the leathern sacrifice!

"The energies of our countrymen are too often devoted to dinners to make any succession of feasts, however excellent, shed fame on the festive brotherhood. It is possible that many associations need to have their axletrees oiled with an annual feast, to carry them through the wear and tear of a year's life. A dinner in this country appears to exercise a galvanic influence on the the constitution of societies; but with whatever warmth of expectation it may be looked to through the vista of working months, it is, after all, the reward, the refreshment, and not the work of societies.

"Every society, except the Freemasons', has something to do; but this, entertaining the notion of freedom which has been so thoroughly impressed on the popular mind in all ages, and which makes it consist in having nothing to do, shews that its members are 'free' in this sense of the word, whether they are 'accepted' or not."

The good bishop then goes on to give his view of the moral aspect of the society, which he does in the following words:—

"And yet the Freemasons profess to have an object. It is certainly vague, so vague as to involve no trouble, so ingeniously vague that even an increase of dinners might be regarded as one means of attaining it.

"Universal benevolence is their aim; they would have lodges from pole to pole: The true Mason (says one of their greatest writers), is a citizen of the world; his philanthropy extends to all the human race. * * * The distant Chinese, the wild Arab, the American savage, will embrace a brother Briton. Over and over again we hear of universal benevolence; it meets us at every turn. Now we know nothing easier than the profession of benevolence, especially of universal benevolence: the wider it is the easier it is; for as one does not meet wild Arabs every day on Hampstead Heath, nor Chinese in Piccadilly, those who dwell in such regions may easily offer to embrace them without much risk; and after all, if such benevolence leads to nothing more tangible and definite than embracing, there would be no great difficulty, though, perhaps, a little unpleasantness in clasping an American savage in our arms.

"Universal benevolence must end in profession; it cannot be carried out; we cannot ask all the world to dinner; where our sympathy extends to all the human race, we know not, as a matter of practice, where to begin. The moment we fix our minds upon some particular people, or upon some particular course of action, the universal has sunk in the particular. So wide a circle as the world, so vast a waist is difficult practically, though very easily theoretically, to span; our feelings may circumnavigate the world; but when we come to practical charity, we find ourselves tethered to some particular post, and moving in a narrow round.

"The sympathy of your universal philanthropists is gloriously obscure, indefinite, impracticable, and cheap; it may be indulged after dinner in an easy chair, on a winter's night, by a blazing fire, the curtains drawn,—consisting of a few rather comfortable sighs for the poor folks out of doors; they cannot house all the world, nor mount all the Arabs, nor give oil to all the Esquimaux, nor feather all the Indians. Such gigantic feelings end commonly in Lilliputian actions.

"It is so with the Freemasons. A dinner or two ends the matter, where all the visitors of the world may come—if they can!

"Thus, after we have tried to grasp this idea of universal benevolence, to place before our minds all the world in aprons, or to conceive some countless deputations from all nations marching to some monster hall on some monster festival, in coats, or skins, hats or turbans. Hottentots and Turks, arm in arm, the natives of Pad-digton and Japan, of Pimlico and Peru. When we come down after these conceptions, to a few matters-of-fact details as to the means of carrying out so magnificent a design, we find very little machinery provided for the purpose, beyond flags and orations, compasses and waiters, dish-covers and white wands. It all ends in being social as it is called. This universal benevolence is no more than one of the bubbles of sentiment, a mere hollow phrase, an unmeaning motto, painted on banners, and mouthed by after-dinner orators.

"It is true that Freemasons plume themselves on their charities, but their charity is of that peculiar kind which begins at home, and there ends. The body helps itself; the members pay, and the members receive. And when we consider the habits which such a body is almost sure to form among the middling classes, of whom it is chiefly composed, the support of a school and an almshouse is but a small atonement for the mischief which it most probably works. We are convinced much private ruin and derangement of affairs will always be found to follow the course of a society which, whatever its high sounding professions may be, is neither more nor less than a convivial club. Such bodies are especial snares to the tradesmen of large towns.

"My next extract (if you permit) shall expose the dangerous and false system of religions (if such it may be called) which Freemasonry embodies and encourages among its members.—I am, Sir, yours sincerely,

"CATHOLICUS."

To the first part of the observations of the Bishop, who, by-the-by, only wrote the article to depreciate the services of a fellow-clergyman with whom he did not altogether agree on points of doctrine, and whom, in the fullness of his charity, he attacked for being a Freemason, we have but little to answer (his objections having been frequently refuted in these and other pages), as it merely consists of a series of generalities which would be equally applicable to every society, or combination of men in the kingdom, whatever their designation, be it learned or otherwise, for there are no societies in which there are not drones as well as working bees, and who do not think as much of the annual feasts as even Freemasons. Do the bishops object to good dinners? We fear not, if we may judge by the number of fashionable parties—Lord Mayor's entertainments, &c., at which they appear. Are they ashamed to be seen at annual festivals in the cause of charity? Certainly not. And there are none of these festivals which are so widely advertised, so perseveringly brought before the public, or more successful than those of the Sons of the Clergy—the Friends of the Clergy Association—the Clergy Orphan Fund, &c., and we hold it to be to the credit of the bishops and the higher dignitaries in the Church, that they do take an active interest in institutions intended to support the decayed members and the orphan children of the less fortunate of their profession, for in the Church (as in all other professions) there are many blanks to but comparatively few prizes.

And if it be right that the members of the Church should sometimes dine together and subscribe their monies for the benefit of the poorer brethren of their Craft—can it be wrong for Freemasons to do the same? And be it remembered we do not go hat in hand to all the world to support our Charities, being perfectly content to rest upon our means and our own exertions. "Universal benevolence," we are informed by the worthy Bishop "must end in profession," because "we cannot ask all the world to dinner."—but did not the Bishop know that the ordination service enjoins "the practice of hospitality and other good works," and yet no one would ever suppose that that was meant to imply that every member of the flock or indeed every clergyman was to be continually asked to dinner at the Bishop's table; and whether we are clothed in "Aprons Masonic," or "Aprons episcopal," we apprehend it would make little difference as to all the world coming to any given dinner "if they can."

Then we are told that the Freemasons' charity "begins at home and there ends—the body helps itself; the members pay and the members receive." Is it not so with clerical charities, the "members pay and the members receive," but they have the advantage of large and munificent support from others who are not of the cloth. In making these observations, however, we by no means wish to infer that the clergy, either in the higher or lower grades, confine their charity within themselves, knowing full well how anxious and painstaking are the large majority of that body to minister to the wants and alleviate the miseries of the poorer of their parishioners; and that, alas, in too many instances, when they are themselves but barely removed above the bitter pangs of poverty.

Neither does the true Freemason confine his charity within the circle of his own craft; for there is not a charity on the land whose list of subscribers does not contain the names of many, very many Freemasons in their private character of citizens, which they never sink in that of Masonry. But even supposing that Freemasons were no better than a self-supporting "club," who can say in this utilitarian age that it is not beneficial—that it does not implant in its members habits of forethought and of providence; and if, in after life—when misfortune has overtaken perhaps one in three hundred of those who have subscribed towards a fund—the Freemason becomes a recipient of aid from his brethren, he can do so with the greater satisfaction, knowing that he contributed towards the creation of that fund, in the days of his prosperity; and the brethren have the gratification of feeling that in contributing towards the happiness of a brother, in his declining years, they not only do so without sacrificing his independence and self-esteem, but at the same time they relieve the other members of the community from a duty which

would otherwise fall on them, and preserve a worthy man from a pauper's lot.

But irrespective of the brethren in their individual capacities, have, the Freemasons, even in their corporate capacity, confined their charity to themselves? Let £1000 to the Crimean Fund from Grand Lodge, and a like sum to the Indian Mutiny Fund, to say nothing of the very numerous donations in smaller sums from various lodges and chapters throughout the kingdom, answer the question.

Then, again, would not the following paragraph equally apply to the large majority of members of the various Missionary and Evangelization Societies as to Freemasonry, and yet no man of common sense will deny that those societies have done good in their day and generation, in extending the benefits of civilisation in remote quarters of the globe, though we fear not always to the increased happiness of the aboriginal inhabitants.

"The sympathy of your universal philanthropists is gloriously obscure, indefinite, impracticable, and cheap; it may be indulged after dinner in an easy chair, on a winter's night, by a blazing fire, the curtains drawn,—consisting of a few rather comfortable sighs for 'the poor folks out of doors;' they cannot house all the world, nor mount all the Arabs, nor give oil to all the Esquimaux, nor feather all the Indians. Such gigantic feelings end commonly in Lilliputian actions."

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

"AN INSTITUTE OF RED MASONRY."

Who has a copy of a very scarce tract, entitled *an Institute of Red Masonry*?—TRUE BLUE.

THE GRAND MASTER'S VISITATIONS.

If, as Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson asserts, all old laws are landmarks, is not that one removed which provided "the Grand Master with his deputy, Grand Wardens, and Secretary, shall, at least once, go round and visit all the lodges about town, during his mastership."?—EX. EX.

REV. BRO. LEVERT.

In one of Dr. Oliver's works, the name of "our Rev. Bro. Levert" occurs. Who was he, and of what place?—WILFORD.

THE LEGEND OF HIRAM ABIFF.

Where is the legendary life of Hiram Abiff to be found? The few notices of him in the Scriptures do not make up such a legend as we are taught.—ESTE.—[In the *Talmud*. The Amsterdam edition, in 14 volumes, is the best.]

VERIFICATION WANTED.

Where does the following quotation come from?—"Virtue is true nobility; wisdom is the channel by which virtue is directed; wisdom and virtue can alone distinguish us as Freemasons."—E.—[The sentence is a part of the lectures before the last hash—called by some a revision, but which is about the most silly adaptation of beautiful thoughts, language, and imagery, into inflated bombast, that is possible. The new lectures by Dr.

Hemming, are very poor in comparison, and not at all worthy of being classed with the old.]

THE THREE WHITE EAGLES.

Where is a lodge to be found, named The Three White Eagles? In an old memorandum book is an entry,—“see the history of the lodge of the “Three White Eagles.” I should like to know something about it.—P. C.

BRO. DUNCKERLEY'S APPOINTMENTS.

What appointments did the celebrated Bro. Dunckerley hold in Craft Masonry?—EAST ANGLIAN.—[Prov. G. M. for the counties of Essex, Wilts, and Dorset.]

LE PETITE ARCHITECTE.

A French brother tells me there is a supplementary Fellow-craft's degree, sometimes used in France, called *Le Petite Architecte*. Is it the mark-degree under another name?—E. F. R.—[No: they have nothing in common.]

CEREMONIAL COINCIDENCES

Coincidences like the following are worthy of note:—

In the Canonisation of Saints, the Pope thrice solicits the prayers of the church, and struck with a divine ray, announces the same. In a particular part of the ceremony of the sublime degree, according to the Ancient Rite, the Master similarly prayed for Divine light, and suddenly possessed of the same, announced that other means having failed, the “Grip of the Lion of the tribe of Judah” would raise the candidate.—A

THE OLD LECTURES AND SS. JOHN.

I offer the following as a note. In the Old Lectures the two SS. John are thus alluded to. Q. “What is the chief reason why our lodges are dedicated to SS. John?—A. In the time of the Palestine wars, the Masonic Knights, having united with those of S. John of Jerusalem, to fight against the infidels, they placed themselves under the protection of that Saint, and proving victorious in battle, they agreed, after returning thanks to God, that the lodges of Masons should for ever be dedicated to God and holy S. John.—KNIGHT TEMPLAR.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT.

Are there any lodges in possession of the ancient “Lodge,” mentioned in Oliver and Preston's works, viz.: *A representation of the Ark of the Jewish Covenant*?—P.S.—[We should think so—though we do not recollect ever to have seen it. Other brethren may have been more fortunate.]

BRO. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

A brother at whose *Schloss* in the environs of Dresden I spent a couple of days in the autumn of 1822, and with whom I have ever since been in correspondence (not on Masonry, but on a much less satisfactory subject, German Protestantism) has sent me a passage respecting Benjamin Franklin, part of a long “*Extrait d'une Planche d'Architecture du Frère Choslin, Orateur de la Lodge de la Constance Couronné, an 5806.*” It seems not unfit for insertion in the *Freemason's Magazine*, as an addition to the information to be found in that useful periodical, the Vol. January—June, 1880. The passage is as follows:—“Le fondateur de la liberté Americaine, le divin Franklin, était un Franc-Maçon. Les principes de la Maçonnerie ont été les principes de la Législation qu'il a établi dans sa patrie. Dans cette sublime création, on a vu conserver jusqu'aux noms dont nous faisons usage. La ville principale de cette République s'appelle Philadelphie, qui veut dire ville des Frères; et pour signaler encore plus quelle avait été l'influence de notre sage institution, Franklin a donné pour pavillon aux Etats-Unis, des étoiles sur un fond azuré telles qu'on les voit sur les voûtes de nos temples; et les emblèmes de la Franc-Maçonnerie flottent sur toutes les mers, pavillon révéré des plus puissantes nations de l'Univers.”—CHARLES PURTON COOPER, Chateau Frampas, 4th June 1862.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey is to be held at the Crown Hotel, Chertsey, on Saturday, July 5, under the presidency of Bro. Dobie, P.G. Reg., Prov. G.M. The Provincial Grand Lodge will be received by the St. George's Lodge (No. 486).

At the Meeting of the Board of Benevolence on Wednesday, the 18th inst., the W. Bro. Captain Creaton, J.G.D., presiding, twelve petitioners were relieved with £145.

METROPOLITAN.

CRYSTAL PALACE LODGE (No. 1044).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place on Thursday, 12th June, in the new rooms in the south wing. The lodge being opened in due form, the W.M., Bro. Palmer, raised Bros. J. A. Gordon, B. Wood, and C. W. Gordon to the sublime degree of Master Masons. The W.M. elect, Bro. Thompson, was then presented and installed by Bro. William Watson, P.M. During the evening a very handsome P.M. jewel, value ten guineas, was presented on behalf of the lodge to Bro. Palmer. Bro. Purbrook, P.M., also, on the part of a few brethren of the lodge, handed him a beautiful silver goblet, with the following inscription:—"Presented by a few brethren of the Crystal Palace Lodge (No. 1044), June 12th, 1862, to Bro. George Palmer, for the masterly manner in which he conducted the lodge during his year of office." A very suitable speech was made on the occasion by Bro. Watson, and replied to by Br. Palmer, sincerely thanking them for their appreciation of his services. The officers appointed by the W.M. were Oliver, S.W.; J. Smith, J.W.; J. Bertram, S.D.; Davidson, J.D.; Acton, I.G.; Statham, M.C.; Finch, Wine Steward, P.M.; Handford, Treasurer; and Bro. J. F. Smith, of Bromley, Organist. Among the visitors were Bros. Bate (No. 15), Bennett (19), Lightfoot (172), Emmens (201), Poped (165), Platt (168), Howard (288), Howden (208, Scotland). The arrangement at banquet was of a very satisfactory character, and although the weather was so very unfavourable, above fifty sat down. The musical arrangement throughout the evening, was under the direction of Bro. J. F. Smith, who, in his usual style, highly delighted the brethren with his harmony.

ROYAL ALBERT LODGE (No. 1209).—This lodge held its bi-monthly meeting at the Westminster General Dispensary, Gerard street, Soho, on Monday the 16th, instant. Present, Bros. Joseph Smith, P.G. Purst, W.M., Jeffries, S.W., Downs, J.W., J. A. Farnfield, S.D., Peters, J.D., Matthew Cooke, Secretary, Rev. P. M. Holden, Chaplain, W. Watson, P.M., and other brethren. The visitors on that occasion were the Rev. Bro. Doughty, P. Prov. G. Chap. E. Lancashire; Bro. Weetman, and Bro. Robinson. The work consisted in raising two brethren and other routine business. After the lodge was closed the brethren adjourned to Banquet, at the Freemason's Tavern, where the brethren spent one of the most pleasant and agreeable evenings. The banquet was excellent, the meeting harmonious, and the brethren separated at an early hour, every one of them gratified at the fraternal feeling and good fellowship which prevailed.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONPORT, STONEHOUSE, AND CORNWALL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The ceremony of placing the memorial stone of the Devonport, Stonehouse, and Cornwall General Hospital, which has been anticipated with so much interest throughout the counties of Devon and Cornwall for some time past, was performed on Tuesday with Masonic honours by the Right Hon. the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe. Favoured in the earlier part with fine weather, and witnessed by a great concourse of people, the ceremonial was a most successful one, and the event will long be

remembered with feelings of pleasure by a very large number of persons. From an early hour Devonport was astir; the houses in many of the streets were decorated with flags; banners waved over the principal thoroughfares, and in very many instances floral adornments were tastefully added.

The site of the institution is a piece of Government land on the east of Marlborough-street and New Passage-hill, Devonport, and has been placed at the disposal of the committee of the hospital by the ordnance department. The building will be constructed upon plans drawn by Mr. Norman, of Devonport, and under that gentleman's supervision. It will contain an accident ward, with eight beds, two general wards with sixteen beds each, a ward with six beds for eye cases, a ward with thirteen beds for persons able to contribute partially towards the cost of treatment; and, in addition to these necessary features of an ordinary hospital, it will contain a Female Lock Ward, with at least twenty-five beds. This last ward is included by the express stipulation of the Government, who contributed £3500 towards the cost of the building, and will pay £750 per annum for the maintenance of this Ward. The total cost of erection is estimated at something exceeding £7,000; and the plans have been examined and approved of by Miss Nightingale, Sir John Liddel (Director General of the Medical Department of the Navy), Dr. Suberland and Captain Galton, R.E. (Commissioners for enquiring into Military Hospitals.)

The works were commenced on the 3rd of March last, the tender of Mr. Jenkins of Devonport, having been accepted on the 27th of February. The amount of the building contract is £6,900. The time at which the building is to be concluded is May, 1863.

Between nine and ten o'clock some hundreds of persons gathered from all parts of the town, and took up positions in Ker-street, for it was known that here the procession was to be marshalled. As ten o'clock approached, the crowd greatly increased, windows, balconies, house-tops, and every place from which a view of the procession was obtainable, being filled with eager spectators. Excursion trains had brought large numbers from the South of Devon and Cornwall, and these, with the representatives of the Masonic lodges and other bodies who were to take part in the procession, arrived in quick succession, and the scene in usually quiet Ker-street was a most animated one. In order to facilitate the formation of the procession, it had been arranged that the various public bodies and the benevolent orders should assemble in the Devonport Guildhall, which had been prepared for the purpose. A host of seats and boxes had been cleared away, and the south side of the hall was marked off in twelve divisions. In which the respective departments took up their indicated positions. The Freemasons entered by the south door in Ker-street, and the Council Chamber and its ante-rooms were placed at their disposal. The Municipal and other public bodies entered by the east door. His Worship the Mayor of Devonport was early on the spot, attended by the magistrates of that borough, and the members of the Devonport Corporation. His Worship the Mayor of Plymouth, accompanied by several of the borough magistrates and members of the Town Council, and attended by his sergeants-at-mace, arrived at the Guildhall shortly after ten o'clock, and was introduced by Mr. Woolcombe. His Worship and the members of the corporate body by whom he was accompanied, at once joined the Mayor and Corporation of Devonport, in the division set apart for them at the south-western end of the hall. The naval department was represented by Vice-Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, K.C.B. In the division allotted to the clergy of the Church of England, there were the Rev. J. Adams, Rev. W. H. Nantes, and others. In the adjoining division were the representatives of other other religious denominations. Adjoining were the representatives of the Lords of the Manors of Devonport and East Stonehouse, and following up the divisions of the south-east were a large number of the Devonport Board of Commissioners. Next in order came the Stonehouse Board of Guardians, and many other local bodies, the whole of which took up their positions in the most perfect order, and the success in this department of the day's proceedings was mainly attributable to the complete arrangements of the Hospital Committee, admirably carried out by their energetic chairman, Mr. Woolcombe.

The Freemasons, meantime, had mustered in great force in the Council-room and the rooms adjoining. The Council-room had been temporarily fitted up as a lodge-room, and here the senior lodge of the Three Towns, St. John's Lodge (No. 83), having been opened, the lodge received with proper marks of

respect the R.W. D. Prov. G.M., the Rev. John Huyshe, the V.W. Bro. Lord Mount Edgcumbe, P. Prov. S.G.W., and other brethren of the province. The W.M. of 83 gave up the chair to the D. Prov. G.M., the Rev. John Huyshe, and he having called upon Lord Mount Edgcumbe to take the S.W., and Bro. W. Denis Moore, Prov. G.S., the J.W. chair, opened the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon, and having stated the object of the meeting, the brethren at once, it being then about half-past ten, according to the numerical order of their respective lodges, took up their position on the north side of the hall. During this time the procession without had been marshalled in Ker-street, the band of the Devonport Volunteers at its head. These were under the command of Capt. Beer, the captain commandant, and Captain Cutcliffe, Lieutenant Clarke, and Ensigns Ramsey and Harris. Of the corps present there were five sergeants, two buglers, and forty-five rank and file. Following these were many representatives of the Manchester Unity of Independent Order of Odd-fellows, with banners and insignia. Group No. 1, within the Guildhall, having formed four abreast, wheeled by fours, passed through the eastern door. The remaining groups followed in like order, and the Mayors of Devonport and Plymouth, who wore their scarlet robes and insignia of office, having passed out of the hall, the bands of the Royal Marines fell in, and these were followed by the members of the various Freemasons' lodges in numerical order. Not only were the local lodges represented, but also the lodges throughout the counties of Devon and Cornwall. Many members of the Dunheved (Launceston) Lodge were present, and the other Cornish lodges were, Love and Honour (No. 82), Falmouth; Fortitude (No. 153), Truro; Phoenix (No. 415), Truro; Druids (No. 853), Redruth; Boscawen (No. 1000), Chacewater; St. Matthew's (No. 1057), Lostwithiel. The procession, at a quarter to eleven, started from the Guildhall.

Throughout the entire route the streets were lined by thousands of persons of all ages and of both sexes, but the procession, by the assistance of the Devonport borough police, were enabled to pass through the densely-lined thoroughfares with very little difficulty. On arriving at the dockyard gates, the procession halted and divided right and left, allowing the R.W. and Rev. Deputy Grand Master, the Rev. J. Huyshe, M.A., and the Right Hon. and V.W. Bro. the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, to pass up the centre, preceded by their Banner and Sword Bearers. They were followed by the Provincial Grand Officers, and the several lodges in rotation from the bottom of the procession, which was thus inverted. The band of the 73rd Regiment was stationed within the dockyard gates, and played "The Wedding March." The Masons entered the chapel at the east end by the north door, and occupied the north side; the Civil authorities entered by the south door, and occupied the south side.

The Rev. John Briggs, the Dockyard Chaplain, read the usual morning prayers; Rev. James Powning, Totnes, the Provincial Grand Chaplain of Freemasons, the first Lesson; and Rev. G. Knowing, of Stonehouse, also a P. Prov. G. Chaplain of Devon, the second. After the third Collectan Anthem, from the 133rd Psalm—"Behold how good and joyful a thing it is, brethren, to dwell together in unity"—was beautifully sung by the choir, accompanied upon the organ by Mr. Hannaford, Organist of the Chapel Royal, H.M. Dockyard. The Rev. G. Knowing then said prayers, after which a Masonic hymn was sung to music specially composed by Mr. Hannaford. At its conclusion,

The Rev. Bro. John Huyshe, M.A., D. Prov. G.M., Rector of Clysthydon, Grand Chaplain of England, having ascended the pulpit, preached a sermon from the following text:—Job xxix., 11th, 12th, and 15th verses—"When the ear heard me it blesseth me, and when the eye saw me it gave witness to me; because I delivered the poor that cried and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame."

LAYING THE STONE.

On leaving the church the procession re-formed, and proceeded through Fore-street, amidst a dense mass of spectators, into Granby-square, and thence to the site of the hospital.

What would otherwise have been, in all probability, an imposing and satisfactory demonstration was greatly neutralised by a shower of rain that commenced gently a little while before the procession left the Dockyard, increased gradually during the march, and became most troublesome just at the most interesting part of the proceedings: when the stone was being laid. A large crowd had assembled near the intended hospital, and awaited the arrival of those who had been to the Chapel

Royal. The walls of that portion of the structure upon which the memorial stone will be visible when the building is completed are raised to a height of eighteen or twenty feet above the ground. Upon the solid platform thus formed, preparations had been made for the ceremonial. An arch of evergreens and flowers, with wings or off-shoots of the same materials, overshadowed the place allotted for the stone itself, and stands were placed in the rear for the choir and bands. There was also an extensive gallery, erected specially for the occasion, directly opposite to this point; and this was closely packed with a concourse of ladies and gentlemen, who had purchased tickets investing them with the privilege of viewing the proceedings from this favoured spot. The procession, upon its arrival, was inverted as before; and the members entered the enclosure in the same order in which they had previously entered the chapel.

The D. Prov. Grand Master (the Rev. John Huyshe), and the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, who ascended the platform together, were there received by the architect (Mr. Norman), the committee and officers of the Hospital, the Mayors of Devonport and Plymouth, the magistrates, and other persons. The Masons, who were expected to take part in the ceremonial, were placed in front of the platform; and, the rain continuing to fall heavily, the proceedings were accelerated as much as possible. The ceremonial opened with the Masonic Hymn:—"Almighty God! our Heavenly King!"

The D. PROV. GRAND MASTER here advanced and said: Know, all you who hear me, we proclaim ourselves free and accepted Masons. We profess to love God and fear his name. We are obedient to the laws and regulations issued by our Sovereign. We have secrets, inviolably preserved, known only to ourselves as Freemasons. But those secrets are just and honourable. If they had not been such—had our Craft not been honest and our calling good, those secrets would not have existed for so many generations; nor should we have enrolled in our fraternity so many illustrious and royal personages. We are assembled here this day under the open canopy of heaven, because we believe we shall promote the sacred cause of charity by assisting in laying the memorial stone of the Devonport, Stonehouse, and East Cornwall Hospital. May the Great Architect of the Universe prosper our undertaking as it may seem fit to him! may this hospital to be erected here, be a great and permanent blessing to the poorer inhabitants of the neighbourhood! and may it tend to realize the aspirations of that seraphic hymn:—"Glory to God in the highest: peace on earth; good will towards men." My brother—Lord Mount Edgcumbe—I request you, in the name of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire, to assist at the laying of this memorial stone, with Masonic honours. (Loud cheers.)

Lord MOUNT EDGCUMBE replied: Right Worshipful Sir, I accept your command with pleasure.

Prayer was offered by the Prov. G. Chap. The stone was then raised by pulleys and ropes from the ground to its place, the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe performing the usual formalities; and then followed the chorus from *Judas Maccabæus*, "O Father, whose Almighty power!" Underneath the stone was deposited a bottle containing a manuscript and some coins, and on its face was inscribed the words

"Memorial Stone,
Placed by the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe,
June, 1862.

A. Norman, Architect."

The Earl of Mount Edgcumbe next proved the stone to be properly adjusted by the use of the plumb rule, the level, and the square, which were delivered to his lordship by the several officers who had them in keeping. The mallet was presented, and his lordship formally struck the stone three times, after which he handed the tools to the architect, and, after examining the plans, passed them also to that gentlemen. The officers attended with the cornucopia, the ewers of wine and oil, and the chalice of salt, and those symbolic elements were poured and strewed upon the stone successively by the noble Earl, with due Masonic formality.

His LORDSHIP said: Right Worshipful Sir,—I do this with pleasure, by your command; and I do it with every sincere wish on my own part and on the part of all my brother Freemasons present this day, that the superstructure to be raised from this site may be successfully carried out in every particular; and that it may be a permanent relief to distress and misery in this neighbourhood. I declare this stone to be rightly laid in all due form of Masonry.

This announcement was received with loud and prolonged cheering, from a crowd of several thousand persons.

The Hallelujah chorus having been performed, Bro. W. DENNIS MOORE, P. Prov. G. Sec., said: Right Worshipful Sir, brethren, and the immense multitude which I see before me, this day, as we unite in one of these solemn acts of charity which all men desire to join in, and which all men will find their rewards for having joined in,—I cannot but remember that some 19 years ago a similar one to this took place in this immediate neighbourhood. The object of that meeting was to make provision for the orphans of our seamen, to build the home of orphanage, where the children of our defenders might be protected and educated in the fear of God, and in love towards their Sovereign, their country, and their fellow-creatures. When I throw back my recollection to that day, I remember that there stood before the stone then laid, one who is now gone from amongst us, covered with honours, loved by all, lamented by every brother in our hearts, whose name will live as long as the memory of man can last—(applause)—and, to quote the words, the sacred words, already used to-day with such deep and thrilling effect, “When the ear heard him, then it blessed him, and when the eye saw him, it gave witness of him. He delivered the poor that cried, the fatherless, and him that had nothing to help him.” Kindness, meekness, and comfort, were upon his tongue. If there was any virtue, if there was any praise, he thought of those things; and as long as virtue shall deserve praise, as long as honour shall apply to those who have done good to their fellow-creatures, so long shall the name of Fortescue be remembered—(loud applause)—with the deepest feelings of gratitude, and the deepest sentiments of respect. (Continued applause.) Brethren, it was my intention to-day to have made some observations upon that which we must all regret, that anything like a slur should have been attempted in the public press by an anonymous writer—(hear)—to be thrown upon the honour and character of Freemasonry, on the eve of a festival such as that which has taken place to-day. (Cheers.) But the observations which I should have made have been so completely forestalled—the opprobrium has been so completely removed—the arguments, if arguments they deserve to be called, of our anonymous foe, have been so completely answered in the admirable sermon which we heard in the church to-day, that anything more from me would be perfectly superfluous. Brethren may rest assured that as long as they continue to stand by the landmarks of our Order, we may set at defiance all the cavils of the ignorant, and the opprobrium of the malignant. Having said this, I shall simply once more advert to the circumstance of this day, and may the Almighty, who is looking down upon us, prosper this day’s work, prosper our handiwork. (Great applause.)

“Our Order was designed
To expand the human soul and elevate mankind.
Wisdom herself contrived the mystic frame;
Strength to support, to adorn it, beauty came.
It bids us ever gratefully to adore
The God of all—the universal power.”

It cannot militate against the order that all its members have not profited by its teaching. While human nature remains as it is, so long will there be imperfections and shortcomings in every human institution. What persecutions and tortures have not been inflicted in the sacred name of religion? How many have had reason to exclaim, “Oh, liberty; what crimes are done in thy name!” Yet none, on this account, would dare to slander religion, or doubt the purity of real patriotism. And why shall Freemasonry be judged by a severer standard? That many have entered our Order lightly cannot be denied; some from a desire to obtain our secrets or to wear our mysterious paraphernalia, and some from the culpable belief that their private interests would be served. That the latter will be grievously disappointed I am sure, as we are under no obligation to assist those who are unworthy of relief. I much regret that any should take on themselves lightly obligations serious as ours. But I have one consolation: Masonry can never make a good man bad, while the exhortation of better brethren has made many a bad man good. This is well put in an ancient manuscript in the Bodleian Library, in the writing of Henry VI., himself a zealous Mason and G.M. of the Order. “Some Magones,” it says, “are not so virtuous as some other menne; but for the most parte they be more gude than they would be if they were not Magones.” And how shall we maintain and transmit its dignity unsullied to our successors? By

remembering that to each a great talent is committed, which it is a sin to bury in a napkin; that each is a stone in the building, and that each can add lustre and grace to the Masonic temple, by lives modelled on Masonic principles, or dim its lustre and sap its foundations by forgetfulness of our solemn obligations. Let each be the generous friend of every useful and ornamental science, and cultivate the social moral virtues, especially those fundamental principles of our Order—brotherly love, relief, and truth. Let us imitate him so lately taken from us, whose just, genial, and brotherly sway were at once our pleasure and our pride, and whose Masonic virtues reflected so much credit both on his rank and the Order. As he did, whatever good thing we find to do, let us do it at once, and with all our might, “for the night cometh when no man can work.” Truly “the actions of the just smell sweet and blossom in the dust.” Our Grand Master though dead yet speaks to us on this very spot. His was the first arm stretched out to aid in this mission of mercy; be ours stretched out, in memory of him, to support it to the last. Our own cups are full to overflowing with the corn, wine, oil, and salt; let us show our gratitude to Him who is the dispenser of all good things, by giving of our abundance to every laudable undertaking like the present; let us extend the readiest and amplest relief to our distressed brethren, and to every being that bears his image, who depends upon his providence, who is who is fed by His bounty, and who trusts in His all-comprehending mercy. Masons,—let us look beyond the narrow limits of particular institutions, and behold in every child of Adam a brother of the dust. Let us strive to bind the whole human family in the strong chain of brotherly love, with charity in thought, charity in word, and charity in deed, engraved on each golden link. Then shall the whole race of man of every sphere, nation, colour, and creed, fused into one universal brotherhood, send up to the Great I AM one song of praise with one voice, swelling up and bursting forth, as from one soul—

“Father of all! in every age,
In every clime adored;
By saint, by savage, and by sage.
Jehovah! Ruler! Lord!
To Thee, whose temple is all space,
Whose altar—earth, air, skies,
One chorus let all beings raise,
All Nature’s incense rise!”

Then will we lay aside our working tools, for our labours will be ended; then will our secrets be opened to the day, and our lodges closed, for the mission of Freemasonry will be accomplished. Let all the brethren join in saying “So mote it be!”

At the termination of this address, the D. Prov. Grand Master called for three cheers for the Queen, which were heartily given.

The brethren of the Order then re-formed in procession, and, escorted by the Rifle Corps, marched back to the Town Hall, where the lodge, which had been opened in the morning, was closed with the usual formalities.

The rain continued during the whole of the out-of-door ceremonial, which was thus deprived of much of its attraction. The procession—a very long one—was one of the most complete and elegant of its kind. The arrangements were of a character befitting the occasion, and the sad state of the weather was the only cause of regret. Bro. Clase, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., acted as Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., the present holder of the office being prevented from attending, and was highly complimented by the D. Prov. G.M., the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe, and the brethren generally, on the excellence of the arrangements. Mr. Woolcombe, the Chairman of the Hospital, also thanking him for his valuable assistance.

THE DEJEUNER.

The *dejeuner* took place at Moorhead’s Royal Hotel, Devonport, Thomas Woolcombe, Esq., Chairman of the Hospital Committee, presiding; J. Henry Wilson, Esq., Chairman of the Devonport of Commissioners, occupied the vice-chair, and the attendance of gentlemen was most numerous. In the immediate vicinity of the Chairman were his Worship the Mayor of Devonport (John W. W. Ryder, Esq.), his Worship the Mayor of Plymouth (W. Derry, Esq.), the Right Hon. the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe, Major Denis Moore, Rev. J. Huyshe, Col. Milman, Rev. J. Carwithen, L. P. Tripe, Esq., Rev. J. Powning, R. E. Knowling, Esq., R. M. Watson, Esq., J. Glencross, Esq., Rev. G. Knowling, W. Luscombe, Esq., J. Shardon, Esq., T. Restarick, Esq., R. Robinson Rood, Esq., John Weary, Esq., C. Bulteel,

Esq., Richard Rood, Esq. Near the Vice-Chairman sat P. W. Swain, Esq., James Joll, Esq., H. T. Smith, Esq., A. Norman, Esq., R. B. Oram, Esq., G. Dansey, Esq., W. Reed, Esq., I. Latimer, Esq., W. P. Swain, Esq., T. Hingston Harvey, Esq. The assembly included also—Mr. Joseph Arnold, Mr. Edwin Arnold, Mr. Frederick Arnold, Mr. James Mackay, Mr. John Mackay, Mr. Dupree, Mr. Pinsent, Mr. Bateman, Mr. Watson (Totnes), Mr. Heath (Totnes), Mr. Finemore, Mr. Clase, Mr. Annis, Mr. J. P. Chubb, Mr. Greenwood, &c. The brethren dined in costume, and more than one half of those present were Freemasons.

The CHAIRMAN, in giving the toast of "the Queen," said he was certain it required no eloquence to induce any body of Englishmen to drink that toast with every mark of cordiality. Of all the gems in the British Crown, none shone with a brighter lustre than charity, for the hand of her Majesty was always open to relieve the wants of the distressed. He felt assured it would meet with a ready response, and would ask them to drink it with all the honours. (Loud cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the "Prince of Wales and the Royal Family," expressed his deep regret, which he believed was shared by every member of that assembly, that death had deprived them of the privilege of coupling the name of the late Prince Consort with that toast. He paid a warm and generous tribute to the memory of that illustrious man, feeling that there was no one now, whatever differences of opinion might have existed during the Prince's lifetime, who did not appreciate his value, and recognise the vacuum which his removal had occasioned. He hoped the Prince of Wales, when he should be called upon to ascend the throne (an event which he trusted was far distant), would reap the fruits of those wise principles on which his education had been founded, and that he would do honour to his progenitors in every respect. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN next proposed "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers."

Col. MILMAN responded for the army, in the absence of Major-General Hutchinson, who, had he not been called upon to attend a volunteer review at Bristol, would have been present.

Com. BIDDLECOMBE, in returning thanks for the navy, reviewed the rapid progress of improvement in our vessels of war; but doubted not that, when necessary, officers and men would be as ready to do their duty as in days of yore. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Major DENNIS MOORE (1st Exeter and South Devon Rifle Corps) as the senior officer in age, although not in rank, present, responded on behalf of the volunteers.

V.W. Bro. L. P. TRIPE, P.M., P. Prov. G. S. D., next came forward, and, amidst frequent applause, spoke as follows:—In obedience to ancient custom, on occasions like the present, the duty devolves on me of delivering an address on the merits of our Order. Were I as able as I am willing to perform the task, but short time would be necessary to excite in the minds of all present the deep conviction which animates my own, that Freemasonry not only tends to the advantage of those who are within its pale, but that it is calculated to confer the greatest benefits on humanity at large. The origin of Masonry is lost in the mist of distant ages, but that it existed as far back as history or tradition extend, not as the practice of one country, one hemisphere, or one sect, but pervading every nation, language and creed, is undoubted. That it has flourished, defying calumny, ridicule and even persecution, outliving every other system of philosophy, and all other human institutions coeval with itself, is a proof that its vitality is peculiar and deeply rooted. It was practised by the astronomers and soothsayers of Chaldea, by the priests and kings of mystic Egypt, by the Brahmans of India, and by the philosophers of Greece, and it had reached its meridian glory when Solomon, with the aid of his brethren of the craft, laid the foundation stone of the temple which he was about to erect to the honour of God. We have the authority of the credible Roman historians for saying that when Julian the Apostate cleared away the ruins of this same temple 1800 years after, the vaulted chamber was discovered in which our ancient brethren had met, with its most sacred and most secret symbols perfect and undisturbed. These symbols are to be traced on the implements of ancient nations widely distant from each other; on the pyramids of Egypt, the caves of Elephanta, the ruined temples of classic Greece, the mysterious round towers of Ireland, the courts of the Alhambra, and on the walls of our own sublime cathedrals. Whence, then, this universal presence and permanence? Because its foundations rest not on the mutual and perishable circumstances of external nature, but on circumstances

which spring from and appeal to the best affections of human nature, and on the purest principles of piety and virtue. In our lodges the volume of the Sacred Law is never closed; from its pages we are taught our duty to God, our neighbour, and ourselves. We are taught to look up to God as the one great cause of all, to implore his aid on all our lawful undertakings, and to bend with resignation to his divine will. We are taught to regard the whole human race as children of one common parent, whom we are to treat with justice, relieve in distress, and comfort in sorrow. For ourselves, we are taught prudence, temperance, and justice. As citizens of the world, we are commanded to be loyal and peaceful, our motto being, "Fear God, honour the Queen!" Under every emblem used in our lodges lie solemn and important truths, tending to mend the morals, improve the understanding, raise the mind to God, and bind the human race more closely together. The implements of labour so skilfully used by our noble brother—the square, the level, and the plumb-rule—convey to us lessons of almost sacred teaching as to the use we are to make upon earth of the talents committed to our keeping by the Grand Architect of the Universe, and of the account we must render of their use when summoned to his presence in the Grand Lodge above. In the first degree, the newly initiated brother is reminded, in language beautiful and affecting, that as he entered the world naked and helpless, dependent on the love of others for nourishment and warmth, and even for life itself, so should he extend the hand of charity to every one of his fellow-creatures in the hour of their need. In the second, he is exhorted to contemplate nature and science, to cultivate and use his intellectual powers to the glory of God and the welfare of his fellow-creatures. In the third, in language solemn and sublime, he is told that death is the end of all, but that after death there is another and an undying life, and that he will be best prepared to exchange the one for the other who has squared his life by the principles of moral truth and justice; and that he who has well performed his allotted task while it is yet day, may trample the King of Terrors under his feet, and calmly raise his eyes to that bright morning star whose rising shall bring peace and salvation to the faithful and obedient of the human race. In accordance with these principles, the brotherhood are here to-day to perform a time-honoured duty, not simply to court the gaze of the sight-seer as part of a pageant. Our coming is significant of our desire and obligation as Masons to aid in every good work tending to relieve the distress and affliction of the human race. May a blessing from the Grand Geometrician of the universe rest this day on the labours of those whose charity has conceived this work of benevolence, of those whose intellect has devised, and on the skilled labour which shall execute the plan! May the corn, the oil, the wine, and salt, be typical of the ever increasing success of this noble hospital; and when we who are here to-day have long been removed from the scene of our earthly labours, may charity still give abundantly for its support! May she, the greatest of the cardinal virtues, within these walls long continue to pour oil and wine into the wounds of the afflicted! and may the salt be a prophetic emblem of its stability and of wisdom to guide its counsels! To Freemasons are due the preservation of many of the arts and sciences, especially the noble science of architecture: for in those dark ages when might made right, when the lamp of science burned dim, and was in hourly danger of being extinguished for ever, by lawless violence, Freemasons watched over the feeble ray, and, sustained by that felicitous combination of love of art and the most sublime truths of religion and morality which Freemasonry taught them—its existence known only to a few, and its secrets handed down by oral tradition through successive generations of trusty masters—watched over and fanned the feeble ray until it expanded into a flame, and shewed its fruits by the creation of those miracles of art which still astonish, instruct and delight the world. That Freemasonry has bound men together more closely than any other human institution is patent to the world. In those dark ages of which I have just spoken, Freemasonry not only protected those who were within its pale, but threw its shield, like its offshoot chivalry in after ages, over the suffering and oppressed. And in our own fortunate generation it has cemented friendships, restored the credit of the bankrupt merchant, succoured the shipwrecked and the exile, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, cared for the widow and orphan, set the prisoner free, and even arrested the uplifted steel thirsting for the foeman's blood. It has an universal language, understood by the fraternity in every part of the world, and an universal fund, to which the distressed and deserving

Mason will never appeal in vain, whatever his country, religion, or colour; and this fund has never been found wanting when general charity has needed, witness the munificent donations to the Patriotic and Indian Funds, and our liberal subscriptions to local charities. It has also the merit of bringing all classes of men together in perfect equality. There are those among us and around us, whose acres are many, whose birth is gentle or even noble, whose influence is great, whose taste is refined; while by their side are those who possess none of these things, who in the world's eye are poor and insignificant, and yet to them the rich, the noble, and the cultivated, yield precedence and obedience in the lodge, and in the public streets and open market place call them brothers. In this perfect equality in our lodges poor and sick are brought together, so that each can read and can learn to value the mind of the other; the rich man sees that the poor man possesses a mind naturally intelligent and honourable as his own, while the poor man learns that the rich do not live in cold, isolated selfishness, but that they really consider themselves as members of the same body, and sympathise heartily with the pains and wants of a common nature. The scrupulous exclusion of all topics of religious and political discussion—those fruitful sources of bitter dissension—maintains this good feeling, and gives permanence to our institution. That Masonry threatens neither the State nor true religion, but rather tends to ensure the stability of both, is shewn by the number of Royal personages and dignitaries of the Church who have, since its introduction into England, 1600 years ago, presided over its councils:—Alfred the Great, Edward the Confessor, Henry I., Henry VI., James I., Charles I., and William III.; St. Austin, Walter Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter, William of Wykeham, Cardinal Wolsey, and the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and a host of others equally distinguished. The names of Newton and of Locke, both ardent Masons, will show that our ceremonies are not trivial; while the names of Sir Christopher Wren and Inigo Jones, who both filled the office of Grand Master, show that that the practical may be combined with the moral theory deduced from it. Wellington was a Mason, and the only distinction carried by the great, pure, and patriotic Washington into his retirement was that of Grand Master of Freemasons in America. Such names silence calumny and ridicule, and show that our science has deep and abiding interest for the statesman, the minister of religion, the patriot, and the man of science. They prove that.

The CHAIRMAN asked the company to fill a bumper to the toast he was about to propose. No one could doubt that the success which had attended the proceedings of the day had been mainly dependent on the presence and kind assistance of one gentleman, on his (the Chairman's) left, that of the Rev. J. HUYSHÉ, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Masons, and also to the large body of Masons generally who had met for the occasion in such large numbers, which in the case of many had only been by considerable personal inconvenience—(applause). He thought it only right to pay honour where honour was so justly due, and though he had not the honour of being a Mason himself, he was sure from what he had heard and known of the creeds and principles of that body, and what had been shown of their practices that day—he was certain, he said, that they must have gained the cordial respect of every well-wisher of mankind and lover of deeds of charity—(applause). Wherever the Masonic body existed, its members were always found to give to large hearted objects, and to help forward every deed of benevolence, not only with their money, but with their assistance. To them, for their presence, he returned thanks. The Chairman concluded by recommending the publication of the morning's sermon, and proposing the health of the Deputy Grand Master, with that of the Masonic body—(applause).

The toast was received with vehement cheering.

The Rev. J. HUYSHÉ briefly replied. They need not stay there to argue that the principles of Freemasonry benefitted every country in which they were exhibited. The Mason was never so happy as when he had an opportunity of benefitting any such good work—(applause). On behalf of his brother masons and himself he begged to return for the kindness in which the toast had been proposed and received, befitting thanks—(applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then said it was his duty to call them to the business of the evening. It was not his intention to trouble them with a long address on the necessity of the charity or the benefits which it might be expected to produce, and in the few remarks he had to offer he would be as brief as he possibly

could. He then reviewed the circumstances which unitedly had led to the present position of the work, a work which he had felt to be necessary for ten or twelve years past.

The MAYOR OF DEVONPORT, in eulogistic terms, proposed "The Health of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe." (Cheers.)

The Earl of MOUNT EDGCUMBE thanked the company for the way in which his health had been drunk. He had great pleasure in responding to the invitation to be present that day, for though he and his family had for many years been immediately connected with the Plymouth Hospital, he felt as the Chairman had justly said, that there was ample room for two such institutions in this neighbourhood. He came there not only to help forward a valuable society, but also as a brother Mason, and it had, therefore, been very pleasing to him to witness the very satisfactory manner in which the affair passed off.

The CHAIRMAN, in fitting terms, proposed the "Health of the Mayor of Plymouth." (Cheers.)

The MAYOR OF PLYMOUTH (W. Derry, Esq.) congratulated the committee and all concerned on the success of the meeting, and spoke of the cordiality which now existed between the Devonport and Plymouth. He, in conclusion, added his name to the subscription list for £25, and proposed "The Health of the Mayor of Devonport, with whom he had lately spent a pleasant day at the Exhibition, and dined at the table of the Lord Mayor of London." (Applause.)

The MAYOR OF DEVONPORT, in replying, said it gave him great pleasure to find, from the speeches which had been made as well as from the presence of so large a number of the gentlemen of Plymouth, that the unfriendly rivalry which had once existed between the two towns was now fast dying away. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. the Rev. J. HUYSHÉ, in a highly eulogistic and humorous speech, proposed "The Health of the Chairman," who had been the means of the foundation of this institution, and whose strenuous exertions had brought it to its present point of success.

The CHAIRMAN, in a graceful address, thanked the company for the honour they had done him by the reception of the toast. What he had done on behalf of the institution now started he had felt to be not less a duty than a labour of love. With regard to Masonry, he had been, within the last few days, very urgently advised to join the Order, and had seen illustrations of its principles; but in an important matter such as that, it was not wise to come to hasty or rash conclusions, and all he could say was, that the subject should have his most serious consideration. (Laughter and cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The health of the Vice-Chairman, the Architect, and the Committee."

J. H. WILSON, Esq., the Vice-Chairman, spoke of the gratification which had been felt by all concerned in the work of the institution, in being present at an auspicious occasion which, if it might not be deemed the birth, was at least the cutting of the first tooth of the Hospital. He urged the great advantages of the Hospital to the town and district. As a matter of economy merely it was well worthy of support, for disease treated in a crowded house far oftener than need be resulted in death, and then the head of the family gone, the wife and children became pauperized and a burthen to the parish.

Mr. NORMAN, the architect, also briefly responded.

J. H. WILSON, Esq. then proposed what he contended was the toast of the day, "The Ladies," seeing that so much was due to the exertions of Miss Nightingale, and so large a proportion of the advantages of hospitals were attributable to skilled female nurses.

The toast was drunk with applause, the glee, "Here's a health to all Good Lasses," given, and the proceedings of this memorable and pleasurable ceremony came to an end.

PLYMOUTH.—Lodge Brunswick (No. 185).—The usual monthly assembly met at their Masonic Hall, Union Road, on the 4th inst. The business transacted, after the usual confirmation of minutes was the raising of Bro. Clemens, and initiating of Messrs. Gudridge and Pearse. All those ceremonies were conducted in a style which could not be excelled. On the conclusion of this business, arrangements were entered into for the procession on the 17th, which is fully reported in another column. At the refreshment board, many excellent speeches were made more particularly complimenting the Tyler, Bro. Wherry, P. M., on his success in obtaining his election as an annuitant. The proceedings were brought to a close by "The E. A. Song."

HAMPSHIRE.

WINCHESTER.—*Lodge of Economy* (No. 90).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge took place at the rooms adjoining the Black Swan Hotel, on the evening of Wednesday, the 11th inst. There was a very numerous lodge on this occasion, the general attendance having been greatly increased by visiting members, officers, and other brethren of the Hampshire Yeomanry Cavalry, who were on permanent duty in the city. Among the brethren present were the following:—The W.M., Bro. Alfred Smith; Bros. Jacob, S.W.; Sheppard, J.W.; Levander, S.D.; Waterman, J.D.; Fisher, I.G.; Huggins, Sec.; W. W. Beach, M.P. for N. Hants; Capt. Wyndham Portal, P. G.W.; Cornet Drummond; Cornet Lamb; J. R. Stebbing, V.P. Board of General Purposes; Binckes, Sec. of the Boys' School; Naish, P.M. 90; Sherry, P.M. 90; Everett, P.M. 90; Carter, P.M. 90; La Croix, P.M. 90; Hasleham, P.M. 90; Newman, P.M. 90; Oakshott, P.M. 90; Hulbert, W.M. 995; Figgins, and about forty other brethren. The lodges represented at the meeting were Nos. 90, 152, 387, 428, 462, 717, 915, 995, 1087, and 1106. The lodge was duly opened with prayer, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The W.M., in some brief observations, bade the numerous visiting brethren a hearty welcome, and said the peculiar circumstances of the evening would make it convenient to adopt a special arrangement, therefore he begged to suggest that having transacted some necessary business, they should early adjourn for refreshment, and come again to lodge and hear the discussion which was to take place. The W.M. said there was one task to perform of a sorrowful character. A brother who had been the senior Past Master and Treasurer of the lodge had just been removed by death. They could not allow such an occasion of sorrow to pass over without tendering to the sorrowing widow and family the expression of their sincere condolence with them on the melancholy event; and he read a letter which he suggested the Secretary should be directed to send.—Bro. NAISH, P.M. proposed, and Bro. HASLEHAM seconded, that the letter just read by the W.M., should be sent to the widow of the late Bro. Durant. This was put from the chair, and carried unanimously.—Bro. BINCKES begged that the W.M. would allow him to delay for a short time the proceedings of the evening, whilst he expressed to the brethren his gratitude for the high honour they had conferred upon him some time before, by electing him an honorary member of the Lodge of Economy. From the peculiar circumstances of the time at which the honour was conferred, he felt he was laid under a very great obligation, and he always looked upon it as a bond of union between him and this Lodge in their exertions in behalf of Masonry.—The W.M. said that the Lodge were convinced, that in electing Bro. Binckes an honorary member, they were doing honour to themselves rather than to him; and they hoped often to have the pleasure of meeting him in the Lodge of Economy. The brethren here adjourned for refreshment. On their return to the lodge room, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given.—The W.M. called upon Bro. Stebbing to address the lodge, (as that brother was obliged to leave early).—Bro. STEBBING was glad to embrace this opportunity for thanking the brethren of No. 90 for electing him an honorary member, and assured them he felt highly gratified by the compliment. He would now touch upon another subject alluded to by the W.M. It was proposed to alter and increase the accommodation of the Masonic body in London. He had the fortune, or misfortune, to belong to the Board of General Purposes; and therefore was tolerably well acquainted with the schemes brought forward. He must say he was totally averse to any profuse expenditure of money, and when he found it was proposed to expend £32,000, which in the end would probably amount to £40,000, he must tell the brethren that all the money they had to spend was £18,000. The Masonic funds belonged to charity, and he should most strenuously resist any attempt to divert those sacred funds to the erection of a great Masonic Hall, or to any speculative construction whatever. He proposed that they should be restricted to the £18,000, and not go one shilling beyond it. It was urged they should attain an additional income of £2,000 or £3,000 a year; but even if that were to be the case they would want it for extra expenditure. The Grand Lodge possessed under the control of the Board of Benevolence, some £20,000; but if that

money were spent what would become of the charities hereafter. If in order to get a palace they spent the money which belonged to the aged and decayed, it would be the act of a spendthrift, without the care of a man and a Mason. Bro. Stebbing entered into lengthened details as to the present condition of the property, and discussed the applicability of several schemes that had been brought before the Board of General Purposes. He concluded by saying that he would rather see the charities of the order kept in a flourishing state, and the old people and the children happy, than have a Solomon's Temple. The dictate of Masonry was charity first, and splendour afterwards.—The W.M. then called upon Bro. Binckes to oppose the opinions of Bro. Stebbing.—Bro. BINCKES said he never had been, and hoped he never should be opposed to Bro. Stebbing. The difference between them was merely a matter of detail. He was anxious to offend none by his remarks, as he wanted the support of all when he should come to impress upon them the claims of that Masonic institution with which he was peculiarly connected. He wished other lodges would follow the example of No. 90 in discussing matters respecting the general interests of the Craft. He quite agreed with Bro. Stebbing that the Craft should not go to an extravagant expenditure; but he was clearly of opinion that something must be done with the property in Great Queen-street. At present it was a positive disgrace to the Craft. Many country lodges had much superior accommodation to that provided for the Grand Lodge of England. He considered that tavern accommodation was a necessary adjunct. There was scarcely a lodge-room, properly so called, in London, being generally rooms in taverns or hotels, without any peculiarity to show that they were adopted for any particular purpose. Masonry must either be a great farce or a great reality; he thought it surpassed by nothing but religion, and that it should be carried on in homes of its own, proper rooms being provided for the exclusive performance of the ritual. Whilst opposed to any extravagant expenditure on the property in Great Queen-street, he hoped the brethren would take a liberal view of the matter, and make some sacrifice for the sake of the dignity of the Order, to which they were attached. He believed that their income would not suffer, but that the outlay would be almost, if not quite, covered by the additional receipts produced by the superior accommodation that would be afforded. He agreed with the limit proposed by Bro. Stebbing, since he thought that for the sum he mentioned, they could have everything they at present required. What he wanted was not splendour, but dignity. Their charities were daily increasing, and must soon come before Grand Lodge for further support; the allowance to the schools had not been increased, though that to the Aged and Decayed Masons' Fund had been. It was a most difficult and complicated question, and it could only be satisfactorily settled by mutual concessions for the sake of the general good.—Bro. Capt. WYNDHAM PORTAL, P.G.W. of England, in rising to reply on behalf of the Grand Master and Grand Officers, said he regretted that his state of health compelled him to be very brief in his observations. He hoped the time would never come when the toast would be received with less cordiality than it had been that evening. He congratulated the brethren on being presided over by a Grand Master, in whom Masonic zeal, honour and integrity, were combined in the highest degree. He never felt so happy as when assisting in promoting Masonry, and esteemed himself peculiarly happy in being present, feeble as he was, on that interesting occasion. He congratulated the W.M. on the honourable position he then held in the lodge, and he hoped the brethren would never have a W.M. less deserving of respect than the one he had the honour of seeing on his right hand.—The W.M. proposed "The Health of the venerable Provincial Grand Master," to whom every Mason in Hampshire looked up as a child to his parent. They were all proud of him in the province, and he was a credit to the county, and on more occasions than one was a boon to Grand Lodge. He called upon Bro. Beach, M.P., to reply to the toast. The toast was received with great enthusiasm.—Bro. BEACH had the honour to return thanks for Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., and himself. It had been his good fortune to have served with Sir Lucius in the same province, and he could bear testimony that there could not be a more able and energetic Mason. He could fully bear out all that had been said of Sir Lucius by the W.M., and so long as that illustrious brother presided over the province, Masonry in Hampshire would never fail in its dignity. He had listened with great interest to the observations of the brethren who had spoken on the important subject about to be brought before Grand Lodge. It was a matter which required the greatest

deliberation, whatever the extent and character of the alterations it was necessary they should have in Great Queen-street—Masonic apartments in which the brethren could assemble without being ashamed—in which the dignity of the Craft could be properly upheld, and in which accommodation could be provided for all lodges which might think proper to meet there. He had seen in America Masonic Halls constructed on a scale of great magnificence, in which were provided not only rooms for the more immediate purposes of Masonry, but also apartments for the Grand Officers and others. Their American brethren were noted for their energy in this respect. Above all, in Great Queen-street we should have rooms appropriated exclusively to Masonry. In the lodge of the University of Oxford, with which he had the honour of being connected, they had a spacious room confined to the practices of Masonry, and beautifully and emblematically ornamented. With Bros. Stebbing and Binckes he deprecated any extravagant expenditure, and he most seriously protested against any interference with the funds devoted to charity,—that brightest jewel in the Masonic crown. He hoped that all brethren would exhibit mutual consideration and forbearance in respect to this great topic, and joining heart and hand would unite in carrying out a scheme prudent and effective. (Hear.) He thanked the brethren for the kindness with which they had received him, and was very happy to have met with them on that very interesting occasion.—Bro. LE CROIX, P.M., said it appeared to him that two schemes had been brought before the brethren that evening—the one attractive from its magnificence and splendour, the other commended by its prudential considerations. He thought it must be sufficiently evident to all that an outlay much greater than that which had been recommended by some of the brethren, if made wisely and prudently would, commercially and Masonically speaking, produce a profitable return. They who lived in Cathedral towns were taught to appreciate large and splendid buildings, and knew that the reverential awe which they produced tended to the increase of religion, charity, and benevolence. This was confirmed by the instinct of the human heart, and the experience of history. Many of their most splendid buildings in modern times took their rise from public charity, which was nothing more than practical Freemasonry. So far from restricting the improvements to the bare provision of the necessary Masonic apartments, he would rather see the great body of the Craft appealed to, and a great Masonic cathedral erected, to which all the Masons of the universe would look up. (Hear.)—Bro. BINCKES rose to propose the health of the W. Master. He was very much indebted to him for the extreme kindness he had shown. He could recollect no visit to a Masonic lodge which had given him so much pleasure as that, and he hoped he should be enabled often to repeat it. He strongly approved of such meetings as the present, they encouraged a free interchange of opinion, and gave an opportunity of calmly discussing the great questions which came before the Craft. The conduct of the W.M. in the chair that evening showed to him that the destinies of the lodge could not be in better hands. He would not delay them by further enlarging on the toast, but would give them with heartfelt sincerity, the "Health of their W.M.," to whom and the other members of lodge No. 90 he felt himself much indebted.—Bro. JACOB, P.M., here raised the question of the legality of the W.M. parting with his gavel to any brother proposing a toast, and expressed a wish that some of the eminent brethren present might give an authoritative opinion on this much agitated point.—Bro. BINCKES said it was quite in accordance with Masonic usage.—Bro. BEACH said that when the W.M. parted with his gavel, it was customary for the two Wardens to rise at its sound.—The toast of the W.M.'s health was drunk with great cordiality.—The W.M. thanked Bro. Binckes for the eloquent terms in which he had proposed his health, and assured the brethren that he felt it a high honour to sit in the chair of a lodge of such ancient date and great repute. He should always consider it his duty to do all in his power for the interest of the Lodge of Economy and the Craft in general. He was very much obliged to the brethren by whom he was then surrounded, for their suggestions and ideas on the important question which had been under discussion. He was sorry to differ in opinion from Bros. Binckes, Beach, and Stebbing, and feared he thereby came under Sydney Smith's definition of a madman—being in a minority of one, with everybody for the majority against him. (Laughter.) The Masonic Craft had at last awoke to a sense of its duty. As Freemasonry exalted architecture and the art of building, it was their duty

as Masons to present to the outer world some practical exemplification of their theoretical principles. He quite agreed with Bro. La Croix's remarks on the elevating effects of magnificent edifices, and had witnessed an apposite illustration in the observations made by Bro. Binckes, when viewing their ancient Cathedral that afternoon. Whether it were degeneracy or whether it were economy, the present age produced no such edifices as those erected by their ancient brethren. He stigmatised the present building in Great Queen-street as a disgrace to the Craft, bearing as it did, a greater resemblance to a farmer's barn than a Masonic Temple. He thought it ridiculous to restrict expenditure on Grand Lodge to the paltry sum of £18,000, when they considered the sums laid out by many private lodges, he more particularly referred to those in the North of England. Whatever the decision of Grand Lodge might be, he felt sure that if the interest of the general body of Masons were thoroughly roused, a structure would be raised worthy the antiquity of their art and the dignity of the craft. He was glad to meet so many visiting brethren that evening, and hoped on their return to their homes, they would press on their own lodges the importance of this great subject. In the absence of that general association of Masons which all would wish to see, and which many brethren of No. 90, had attempted to establish, he would urge all the brethren present to seek for general Masonic information where it could alone be found, in the columns of their able and valuable Magazine. He knew there were many who looked on it askance, even if they did not think it unmasonic. The FREEMASON'S MAGAZINE was to Masonry, what the general press was to society at large, and a Mason, whose Masonic information was restricted to his own experience and the verbal reports of his brethren, was as ignorant of the progress of the Craft, and the true bearing of the great questions which came before it as the majority of Englishmen two centuries ago were of the circumstances of their own time. He trusted Masonry would never be the only association which deprived itself of an organ of its own. In conclusion he thanked the brethren for the compliment they had paid him, and begged to propose the health of the Past Masters of No. 90, coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Sherry, the Senior Past Master of the lodge. This toast was very heartily drunk.—Bro. SHERRY returned thanks for the honour done him. At that late hour of the evening he would not detain the brethren by entering into the merits of the question which had been discussed, more especially as it was intended at the next meeting of the lodge (which he hoped would be numerously attended), to examine into the matter more thoroughly. He could not sit down, however, without expressing his thorough approval of all which had fallen from the W.M. in respect to the MAGAZINE. He did this the more readily because he was afraid there was a disposition in some quarters to suppress that valuable medium of Masonic information. He hoped every lodge and every brother in the Province, would do all in their power to support the MAGAZINE. In conclusion he said he had felt great pleasure in listening to the discussion, and assured the brethren that the matter had been debated by them in a calmer and more dispassionate manner than in their great Masonic Parliament.—Bro. HASLEHAM then proposed the health of the visiting brethren, which was warmly received.—Bro. HULBERT, W.M. 995, Basingstoke, responded to the toast. He observed that his every day's experience convinced him, that the practices of Freemasonry, made them all better Christians and better men. The premises in Great Queen-street, he must confess, were not such as an influential body like the Masonic Craft of England ought to possess. If every Provincial Master were to take his officers to Grand Lodge, where could they be put? All were bound to be properly represented, but this could not be with the present limited accommodation. The lodge closed at the hour of high twelve.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—*St. Peter's Lodge* (No 607).—The monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Thursday, the 5th inst., the W.M., Bro. Cooper, presiding. The lodge was opened according to ancient form, and Bro. Whitehouse having answered the necessary questions, was passed to the degree of F.C., after which Bro. Haselar, P.M., delivered the charge, also a lecture on the Second Tracing Board very impressively. The W.M. had given notice of a proposition making "all P.M.'s of the Lodge Life Members upon the single payment of five guineas," but wishing to give the subject more mature consideration, desired to postpone it for another month.

INDIA.

BENGAL.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE.

A quarterly communication of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal was held on Friday, the 21st March, 1862, Bro. J. J. L. Hoff, D. Prov. G.M., presiding as Prov. G.M. On opening the lodge, he said:—"Brethren—On the appointment of a new Prov. G.M., I neither expected nor desired to be re-appointed to office. At the special request, however, of the Prov. G.M., who was my predecessor both as Prov. G. Sec. and as D. Prov. G.M. and whom I have for many years held in high esteem, I have consented to continue in the latter office. My patent of appointment ought to have been read at our last meeting, but it was not ready then. I have lately received it from the Prov. G.M., who has prepared it with his own hand."

The Prov. G. Sec. read the patent:—

The brethren then saluted the D. Prov. G.M. in the usual manner.

The D. Prov. G.M. then said "Brethren, I thank you heartily for this formal and gratifying manifestation of your respect for the authority vested in me. I have hitherto endeavoured to act up to my sense of duty, and I hope to continue in the same course. As we shall have to enter this evening upon business which may probably lead to a protracted discussion, I beg that, to save time, the brethren wishing to speak will limit their remarks on each subject to one speech, except the mover of a resolution, who will have the privilege of a reply. And in the event of a difference of opinion, I trust that the arguments on either side will be expressed temperately. Before proceeding to business, I wish to notice the erroneous light in which, I have reason to believe, some lodges, or brethren, have viewed the circular recently issued by the Prov. G. Sec., pointing out the law in the *Book of Constitutions*, under the head of visitors, regarding resident brethren who are not subscribing members of any lodge. I was not aware of the existence in Calcutta of the practice against which that law provides, until it was brought to my notice in the District Grand Lodge by the Master of a Lodge, when I could do no less than remind the Masters of Lodges of the prohibition in the *Book of Constitutions*. The circular, however, contained no order of my own."

Bro. ROBERTS, P. Prov. S.G.W.—"The nature of the prohibition seems to have been misunderstood in some quarters. It does not refer to the admission of unattached brethren to the banquet table, but into lodges. A lodge is at liberty to invite any brother Mason,—mind, any brother Mason,—as often as it chooses, to partake of its hospitality; but it is not at liberty to receive such brethren more than once into the lodge-room. The D. Prov. G.M. did not exercise any interference with the right of lodges, but merely called attention to a constitutional rule."

Bro. JENNINGS, Prov. S.G.W.—"It appears to me that the rule alluded to is not applicable to the colonies, and that, in such matters, every lodge should be left to carry out its own arrangements. I am sure I express the sentiments of every lodge when I say, that our hospitality should have only the same limits as our charity."

The D. Prov. G.M.—"It must be borne in mind, however, that there was no interference with the lodges, when a breach of the Constitutions having been brought to my notice, I issued a general circular, reminding the Masters of the rule. If I were at liberty, perhaps I might alter the laws; but I am not competent to officially condemn or ignore them, and we are under an obligation to observe them."

Bro. SANDEMAN, Prov. J.G.W.—"R.W. Sir, I have fully understood your object, which is, not to interfere with lodges if they chose to invite unattached Masons to their banquet tables, but to point out to them that they have not the power to invite such brethren to the lodge-room; for the Constitutions direct that 'a brother who is not a subscribing member to a lodge, shall not be permitted to visit any lodge in the town or place where he resides more than once during his secession from the Craft.' The object of this rule is obvious; it will be explained by the third of the Antient Charges, where it is said that 'every brother ought to belong to some lodge.' It is expected that those who derive any benefit from Masonry should contribute towards the maintenance of the Institution."

Bro. EVANS, W. M. Lodge 282;—"As the member who introduced the subject into the District Grand Lodge, I beg to be allowed to make a few remarks in explanation of the reasons why I did so. It was because I observed that there were certain

Brethren who, while shirking their duties as Masons, made it a practice of visiting my Lodge and other Lodges, such as Courage and Industry, and that they were the first to sit down to table. It then occurred to me that, as there was a law against sponging, it should be enforced, as it was not seemly that men who did nothing to advance the interests of Masonry, should be trading upon it. They are also the first to put their hands into our pockets, and to claim relief."

Bro. DAVIS, W. M., Lodge 126, with reference to Bro. Evans's allusion to Lodge Industry, stated that any interference with the hospitality of his Lodge was not desired, and that the circular of the Pro. G. Secretary was understood to refer to the banquets, because the word "hospitality" was used in it.

The D. Prov. G. M. observed that in Calcutta it was always understood that a visit to the Lodge room ensured a seat at the table, and that exclusion from the former, under the law quoted saved the Masters, who disapproved of the practice condemned by the previous speakers, from the necessity of taking any further steps for excluding from the latter also. The D. Prov. G. M. then spoke as follows:—

"The first question to be brought forward for the decision of the District Grand Lodge is as to whether the mode of making up the rent of the Freemasons' Hall should be changed. This question was postponed at the last Quarterly Communication. I myself do not see any absolute necessity for any alteration of the 15th Bye-Law; nor do I see any objection to the proposal, provided the rate of assessment (8 annas per member per mensem) will suffice. On this point I have a doubt. However, the motion is before you, and you will dispose of it as you may think proper."

The Prov. Grand Secretary read extracts from the proceedings of the two last meetings of the District Grand Lodge, relating to the above subject. The motion was "that the Lodges should be charged for rent at the rate of 8 annas per mensem for each subscribing member, the Prov. G. Treasurer being guided by the quarterly returns furnished to the Prov. G. Secretary, and the bills being made out quarterly; but that the minimum payment by any Lodge should be 10 rupees per mensem;" moved by Bro. Jennings, seconded by Bro. J. Martin.

R. W. Bro. ROBERTS proposed that the existing law should be maintained until better grounds were shown for altering it. An assessment of one rupee per head would be too much; while an assessment of 8 annas was insufficient.

Bro. LLEWELYN seconded the amendment.

The amendment was supported by fourteen votes, and the original motion by 20. The latter was therefore declared to be carried.

The D. Prov. G.M. said an address of condolence to the Queen, on her recent heavy affliction, has been forwarded to England, with the signatures of the Prov. G.M. and a few of the senior officers of the District Grand Lodge, to which will be added those of the Past Prov. G. Masters, Bros. Ramsay and Burlington. I am now awaiting the instructions of the Prov. G.M. as to whether a copy of the address should be sent to each lodge for the signatures of the members. I will have it read for record.

The Prov. G. Sec. accordingly read the address of condolence.

The D. Prov. G.M.—"A reference has been made to me by Lodge Arrakan (No. 929), at Akyab, regarding one of its members, who has been excluded, and is further recommended for expulsion. It would occupy much time to read the papers; but they shall be read if any brother should consider it necessary to hear them. The pith of the matter is that a brother named Morris threatened in lodge to assault another, but afterwards tendered an apology, which was accepted by the offended party. He also tendered his resignation of the lodge. I referred the matter to a Committee; and I am glad to find, from their report, that their opinion is perfectly concurrent with mine. The report will be read, and you will have to base your decision upon it."

The Prov. G. Sec. read the Committee's report, which was to the effect that the offence did not call for the extreme penalty of expulsion, and that as Bro. Morris had acknowledged his error, his suspension from Masonic privileges from the time that he committed the offence, until the receipt of the decision of the District Grand Lodge, would fully met the requirements of the case.

On a motion made by Bro. Howe, seconded by Bro. Roberts, the committee's recommendation was adopted.

The D. Prov. G.M.—"The next case is that of Mr. John Urquhart Sandys, formerly of Lodge True Friendship. In 1840

Mr. Sandys was excluded from that lodge for non-payment of dues; and when a report of the exclusion was made to the District Grand Lodge, he was suspended for one year, or until the dues were paid. After the lapse of two years, Mr. Sandys having made no payment, his continued contumacy was reported by the lodge, and, after being duly warned, he was expelled. Lately, on applying to the Scotch Royal Arch Chapter for exaltation, objections were raised on the score of his expulsion. He then called upon me, and stated that the impression on his mind was that he had merely been excluded from Lodge True Friendship for non-payment of dues, and that he had recently offered to pay the amount. I promised him that I would bring the subject before the District Grand Lodge; and accordingly, on his addressing the Prov. G. Sec. officially, I called for the opinion of the same committee which had disposed of the Akyab case. I suggested that it would be proper to enter first upon the general questions as to whether it was right or expedient for the District Grand Lodge to reverse its own sentence of expulsion when there were no new or additional facts before it. The committee's report will be read for your information."

The Prov. G. Sec. read the report, in which the committee expressed their opinion that the District Grand Lodge should not reverse its own sentence, but that aggrieved brethren should follow the course prescribed in the Constitutions, page 55, Section, I., and appeal to the Grand Lodge of England. The committee therefore did not consider it necessary to enquire into Mr. Sandys' case.

After a long discussion, in which opinions were expressed by those who supposed that inuendoes had been thrown out against Mr. Sandys, that he should be allowed an opportunity of speaking in his own defence, the adoption of the committee's report was moved by Bro. H. Fraser, seconded by Bro. A. J. Whitten, and carried by a large majority.

The exclusion of Bro. S. B. Mower from Lodge Excelsior, for non-payment of dues, was announced. The Lodge had been unable to give him an opportunity of appealing, as he had left Calcutta. The Dist. Prov. G. M. had heard that Bro. Mower had joined a Lodge out of Calcutta, which has since fallen into abeyance. If the report were correct, that Lodge could not have required Bro. Mower to produce a certificate from his former Lodge; an omission which would have been noticed if the Lodge had not fallen into abeyance.

The Dist. Prov. G. M. announced that Lodge Harmony, at Cawnpore, had been revived, but that Lodge True Brothers, at Dinapore, had fallen into abeyance, in consequence of the departure of its Master, Bro. E. K. O. Gilbert. The Dinapore Lodge had 15 Members, but none of them were qualified to work it.

The Report of the Finance Committee on the audit of the P. G. Treasurer's accounts for the first quarter of 1862 was read. The District Grand Lodge Fund had a balance of Rs. 3,489; and the Fund of Benevolence a balance of Rs. 3481.

The Finance Committee's Report was received and adopted, on a motion made by Bro. W. Clarke, *C. E.*, seconded by Bro. the Rev. F. W. Lindstedt, *D. D.*, Senior Warden of Lodge St. Luke.

The D. Prov. G. M. acknowledged the services of Bro. W. Clarke, P. Prov. S. G. W., as Prov. Grand Treasurer; on which a vote of thanks to Bro. Clarke was moved by Bro. Jennings, seconded by Bro. Abbott, and carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Bro. W. J. Judge, seconded by Bro. W. Peter Anderson, Bro. Clarke was further re-elected by acclamation to the office of Prov. G. Treasurer.

D. Prov. G. M.—"The time has arrived for the appointment of Grand Officers for the ensuing year. It is a pleasing, but at the same time a rather perplexing duty, to recognize merit when a number of the deserving is greater than the rewards at the Prov. G. M's disposal. The Prov. G. Secretary will read out the Prov. G. M's letter regarding the new appointments; but before he does so, I wish to express my thanks to all the Past Grand Officers for their support, and for their attendance, whenever required, at Committee Meetings. There is one Brother whom I wish to thank specially for the active and cheerful aid which he has always rendered me, although his official duties are onerous: I mean Bro. Roberts."

Guided by the Prov. G. M's letter, which was read by the P. G. Secretary, the D. Prov. G. M. appointed the following Officers, and invested them with their badges of office at the Eastern Pedestal, with suitable addresses:—

H. D. Sandeman, S. G. W.; P. Anderson, J. G. W.; James W. Brown, G. Reg.; Wm. H. Hoff, Grand Sec.; W. Clarke,

C. E., S. G. D.; H. Fraser, J. G. D.; W. Bourne, *C. E.*, G. Sup. of W.; L. A. Emanuel, G. D. C.; W. H. Abbott, Asst. G. D. C.; Jeremiah King, G. S. B.; C. Kelvey, G. O.; W. M. Benwell, G. P.; I. L. Taylor, J. H. Linton, G. S. B.; J. B. Knight, C. J. Evans, J. Bennett, W. Wilson Clark, A. J. Whitten, F. Powell, G. Stewards.

Bro. D. J. Daniel was re-elected Grand Tyler.

The D. Prov. G. M. appointed the following Brethren to be the Finance Committee for the ensuing year:—

J. B. Roberts, P. Prov. S. G. W., President; H. D. Sandeman, Prov. S. G. W.; Peter Anderson, Prov. J. G. W.; F. Jennings, P. Prov. S. G. W., P. M. Lodge 279; John W. Brown, P. Prov. J. G. W., P. M. Lodge 715; James W. Browne, Prov. G. Reg., P. M. Lodge 265; W. Clark, Prov. G. Treas.; Wm. H. Hoff, Prov. G. Sec.

There being nothing else before the District Grand Lodge, it was closed in form, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet.

CALCUTTA.

LODGE STAR IN THE EAST (No. 80), met on the 26th March, for the initiation of Mr. Thomas Penchey and Mr. F. Burr; and again on the 9th April for the initiation of Mr. Hermann Rhodius, merchant, the passing of Bros. Denham, Vans Best, Maclure, and Ashton, and the raising of Bros. Brett and Wilson.

LODGE INDUSTRY AND PERSEVERANCE (No. 126), met on the 4th April, when Bro. F. Sherrington, of Lodge 265, and Bro. R. Z. Shircore, late of Lodge 715, joined the lodge by election. The lodge had the pleasure of welcoming a large number of visitors from the Calcutta lodges, and from foreign parts.

LODGE OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP (No. 265), met on the 8th April, when Bro. Teil was raised by Bro. Llewelyn, the Senior Past Master, and Bro. Redman was passed by Bro. Benwell, the Master.

LODGE HUMILITY WITH FORTITUDE (No. 279), met on the 17th March. A donation was granted to the widow of a Scotch Mason. Bro. Dr. Smith, Master of the Scotch Lodge, who was present, stated that her husband had gone to Singapore under medical advice, and that while there he had been alarmed one night by the entrance of a Chinese robber. Snatching up an instrument which happened to be at hand, he had proceeded to the adjoining room, and there he had found his wife lying on the floor. In endeavouring to lift her up, he, being already in delicate health, had burst a blood vessel, which weakened him so much that he did not survive long. Efforts were now being made to set her in a position to earn her own livelihood.

LODGE COURAGE WITH HUMANITY (No. 551), met on the 10th March, for the election to membership of Bro. Joseph Jeffries, of Lodge Royal Victoria, St. Vincent, and of Bro. A. F. Ezekiel, of Lodge Perseverance, Bombay. The lodge met again on the 27th March, when Bro. Linton, the Master, initiated Lieut. H. Jackson, of the Indian Navy, and passed two brethren. Bro. John William Brown, at the same time, having been specially invited for the purpose, raised Bros. Peters and Little to the third degree, with the aid of Bro. Evans.

LODGE ST. JOHN (No. 715) met on the 26th of March, when the Master, Bro. G. C. Paul, presided. Bro. W. G. Baxter was elected an Honorary Member, for valuable services rendered to the Lodge. He had lately presented the Lodge with a full and complete Registry of Members, prepared by himself with great labour. Bro. Baxter has been a very careful, methodical, and pains-taking Secretary, an office generally entrusted in England to Past Masters, or other Brethren of experience. A donation was granted to the widow of a zealous Scotch Mason, Bro. Dr. John Smith, Master of the Scotch Lodge, Bro. Linton, Master of Lodge No. 551, Bro. Davis, Master of Lodge 126, and some Brethren of the Dum-Dum Lodge, were present at the meeting. The Lodge met again on the 11th April, to pass Bro. W. R. Burkitt, of the Civil Service.

LODGE EXCELSIOR (No. 1127) met on the 15th April, for the initiation of Mr. Edward Gore Buskin, the passing of Bros. Barron, Buck, Granville, and Flinders, and the raising of Bro. Ralli.

LODGE ST. LUKE (No. 1150), Dum-Dum, met on the 10th March. It was a very oppressive evening for a long ride from town; but about 8 P. M. there was a most welcome shower, which made the return trip agreeable. Bro. W. G. Baxter, Secretary of Lodges 715 and 126, Bro. R. T. Martin, Barrister at Law, and Bro. T. A. Rambert, of Lodge 80, were elected to membership. Bro. J. E. Watson was advanced to the second degree by Bro. Jno. Wm. Brown, Honorary P. M.,

who presided, owing to the unavoidable absence of the Master. The Lodge room had been tastefully and appropriately painted. The Lodge met again on the 24th March, when Bro. Jno. Wm. Brown conferred the third degree on Bro. Watson, under a dispensation. The Master of the Lodge was detained in camp by military duty. Mr. Y., of the Bengal Army, son of a well-known official in Calcutta, was proposed for initiation, provided a dispensation could be obtained for him, he being under age.

SOUTHERN INDIA.

A Communication of the Prov. G. Lodge was holden at Lodge Perfect Unanimity, No. 175, Vepery, Madras, on Wednesday, 30th April, 1862. Present: R. W. Bro. W. Pitt Macdonald Prov. G.M., V. W. Bro. A. Macdonald Ritchie, D. Prov. G.M.; Bros. J. T. Gueatorex, as Prov. S.G.W.; W. Sharlieb, Prov. J.G.W.; T. Adamson, Assist. Prov. G.D. of Cer.; C. Scott, Prov. G. Purs.; H. Tolputt, Prov. G. Sec. Master, Past Masters, Wardens and Stewards of Lodges Perfect Unanimity, (No. 175,) and Universal Charity (No. 340,) Madras. Bro. R. C. Frazer as representative of Lodge "Emulation," Negapatam.

The Prov. G. Lodge was opened in due and ancient form, and with solemn invocation of God's blessing. The proceedings of the last communication were read and confirmed.

The Prov. G. Master expressed his regret at the long time which had elapsed since the last Prov. G. Lodge was held which was owing principally to his having waited the settlement by the Grand Lodge of England, of the question of his jurisdiction over Lodge "Victoria" Rangoon. He had only recently learnt privately from the W. Master of that Lodge, that the warrant of constitution had been received, with the necessary authority to work under this Prov. G. Lodge. The R.W. Prov. G. Master could not but express his great dissatisfaction that no communication of this authority had been made to him by the Grand Secretary, and, also, that the warrant of constitution of Lodge Emulation Negapatam, which had been applied for more than a year ago, had not yet been received. He stated that these matters would form the subject of a communication from himself to the M.W. Grand Master.

The R.W. Prov. G. Master had much pleasure in informing the P.G. Lodge that Masonry was flourishing in a very satisfactory manner in his Province, and he hoped to see still further improvement. There were now 6 Lodges, working under this P.G. Lodge, viz.:—Perfect Unanimity, Madras; Universal Charity, Madras; St. John, Secunderabad; St. Andrew, Kampsee; Emulation, Negapatam; Victoria in the East, Rangoon; and he hoped at the next meeting to be able to announce that Lodge Rock Trichinopoly, had been revived under the auspices of that worthy Mason, W. Bro. Russell. He was gratified to find a marked improvement in the receipt of returns and quarterages from the different lodges, and he trusted W. Masters up-country would always pay particular attention to this important duty.

The R.W. Prov. G. Master expressed his great regret that he had to announce the death of no less than four Provincial Grand Officers since the last meeting; viz.: Bros. Nicholls, Searle, Fletcher, and Grant. He proposed to fill the vacancies thus created by appointing Bros. Greenlaw, Prov. S.G.W.; J. Miller, Prov. G.R.; T. Adamson, Prov. G. Dir. of Cer.; G. W. Flynn, Asst. Prov. G.D.C.; J. T. Blissett, Prov. G. Supt. of Works.; L. Miller, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; C. H. Redgrave, Prov. G. Org.

He had further great pleasure in appointing a very old and worthy Mason, Rev. Bro. Hickey, to the honourable office of Prov. Grand Chap. The Prov. G. Master had himself been initiated by Bro. Hickey, many years ago, and though, owing to circumstances to which it was unnecessary to allude further Bro. Hickey had been induced to withdraw for some years from any active part in Masonry, he had always been a true and worthy Mason, and his present appointment would be hailed with satisfaction by the Prov. G. Lodge.

The R. W. Prov. G. MASTER announced that the Prov. G. Lodge had received a handsome present from Bro. Barber, of the 15th Regt. N. I. This was the Volume of the Sacred Law which had been presented by the John of Gaunt Lodge, Leicester, to a lodge which was intended to be formed in the 15th Regiment, entitled "John of Gaunt in the East," but this lodge having never been constituted, Mr. Barber had presented the book to the Prov. G. Lodge, accompanied with the condition that should a lodge ever be formed in the 15th Regiment it was to be returned. In the name of the Prov. G. Lodge, the R. W.

Master thanked Bro. Barber for this very handsome and useful present.

A ballot was then taken for the office of Prov. G. Treasurer vacant by the retirement of Bro. R. Hunter, and Bro. J. G. Coleman was duly elected.

Bro. Skipp, a serving brother of Lodge Perfect Unanimity was then unanimously elected as Prov. G. Tyler, and a fee of Rs. 10 ordered to be paid to him for his attendance at each Prov. G. Lodge.

The Prov. G. Secretary presented the accounts of the Prov. G. Lodge, showing balance in hand to date of Rs. 640-12-10.

He also presented the accounts of the Masonic Charity Fund and stated that, owing to the liberal assistance he had received from different lodges, aided by private subscriptions including a very handsome donation of Rs. 100 from Bro. J. Vans Agnew, he had been enabled to pay off all arrears of Pensions, and there was now a balance at credit of the Fund of Rs. 830-15-1.

The accounts were approved and confirmed.

After the transaction of business of pure local interest the D. Prov. G. Master stated that circulars had been received from the Grand Lodge of England addressed to different lodges in this Province, informing them that unless returns were furnished by them before a certain date, they would be struck off the Register of the Grand Lodge. He proposed, that, to prevent the possibility of any lodge now dormant, but which might hereafter be relieved, having its warrant withdrawn, the Grand Secretary be requested to communicate with the Prov. G. Lodge before proceeding to any such extremity.

Seconded by Bro. Sharlieb and carried nem. con.

There being no further business to transact, and no brother having anything to propose for the good of Masonry in general or of this Prov. G. Lodge in particular, the lodge was closed in due and ancient form and with solemn invocation of God's blessing.

COLONIAL.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE — FAREWELL LEVEE AND DRAWING ROOM — DEPARTURE OF THE GOVERNOR BRO. SIR RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL, K.C.B.

On Monday afternoon, March 3rd, His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief and Lady MacDonnell, held a farewell undress levee and drawing-room at Government House, Adelaide, prior to leaving the colony.

Bro. J. T. BAGOT, *M.P.*, Provincial Grand Master of Freemasons, I.C., attended by the officers of his Grand Lodge in regalia, presented the following address:—

"To His Excellency Brother Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, Knight, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Province of South Australia, Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

"We the undersigned, officers and members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Australia, on behalf of the members of the Irish Constitution, take this opportunity of approaching your Excellency on the occasion of your near departure, to express the warm feelings of the Craft towards a Governor who, during his lengthened stay, has shown so much interest in the welfare and prosperity of the colony. But great as have been your services to the province at large, it will ever remain to us a matter of pride and gratulation that you have in an equal degree remembered that you were a brother of the Craft, and have on many occasions of public interest assisted us in supporting our ancient rites and ceremonies, and have, with Lady MacDonnell, joined in our festivities.

"Wherever the future lot of your Excellency and Lady may be cast, it is our most fervent prayer that the Great Architect of the Universe may be continually with you, and that you hereafter may ascend to those mansions above, where peace, love, and order eternally reign.

"Given at Adelaide, in Provincial Grand Lodge, this 26th day of February, A.L. 5862."

The address was signed by the R.W. Prov. G.M. Bro. J. T. Bagot, *M.P.*, R.W. D. Prov. G.M. Bro. W. Fivesash, W.P.G. Sec. Bro. J. P. Boucaut, *M.P.*, and every officer and member of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Irish Constitution.

His EXCELLENCY replied:—"Worthy Grand Master and Brethren—I can assure you that, upon the eve of my departure, nothing can be more gratifying to me than to find so many

willing to testify their appreciation of the poor services which it has been in my power to render to this colony. When I arrived here I can well remember that I received many kind addresses, such as that you have now presented to me, and that I then said I only hoped that when the time for my departure from among you approached, the kind feelings with which you then greeted me should remain unaltered. I am now happy to find that it is so, and I am proud to say that I belong to your Craft, which has, as is known to those who understand them, such noble and elevated objects. It adds to the pleasure with which I receive this kind memento to see around me, Sir, so many of my personal friends, and I hope when far away to merit the name of a good Mason better than I have from my position here been able to do. I trust you will understand that I am not ashamed of the Craft; but as Governor of the Province, I felt that my office did not allow me to mingle so frequently among you as I desired, nor to take that active part in the vocation of a Mason which otherwise I should have been most happy to do. In bidding you farewell, I most sincerely wish you, worthy Sir and brothers, all possible prosperity and happiness."

Bro. ARTHUR HARDY, G.M. of the Free and Accepted Masons, E.C., with several members of the Grand Lodge, were then introduced. Bro. Hardy read the following address:—

"To His Excellency Brother Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, K.C.B., Governor-in-Chief of the province of South Australia, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c.

"Address of the Freemasons of South Australia.

"We the undersigned, Provincial Grand Master, Officers, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and brethren of the lodges of South Australia, of the Constitution of England, desire to express to your Excellency the regret we feel at your retirement from the Government of this colony, your mode of administering the affairs of the province, together with the earnest advocacy of its claims at all times, having won the respect and esteem of, we believe, every class of the community.

"As Masons, we desire to acknowledge the warm interest taken by your Excellency in all matters relating to the craft, and your readiness, whenever desired, to forward its interests and promote its welfare.

"We request that your Excellency will express to Lady MacDonnell our high appreciation of her uniform kindness; and trusting that health and happiness may attend you both wherever Providence may lead you.

"We subscribe ourselves your Excellency's brethren and companions of the Order of Free and Accepted Masons of South Australia."

Various other addresses were presented by the corporation and other bodies. Sir R. MacDonnell is succeeded by Sir Dominic Daly.

His EXCELLENCY replied:—"Worthy Grand Master and brethren—I have had to-day two Masonic addresses, and I should be sorry to think that any division existed among Masons, who should be united as brothers. I am aware that the circumstance of divided addresses is in this case purely accidental, and I cannot regret it, for it enables me to repeat what I shall ever take pleasure in expressing, viz., the interest I feel in all that concerns the prosperity and honour of the Craft. It is a body which has done a vast amount of good in disseminating brotherly love throughout the world, and in rendering assistance in hours of distress and danger, by an instrumentality which no other fraternity or society can command. I am glad that, at the moment of my departure from this colony, I bear with me the good will of a body so powerful as that of the Freemasons. If you will allow me to make a parting request, I will say that if there have been any slight misunderstandings among you, any interruption (no matter how trivial) of the harmony that ought to exist among you, and which is the object of Masonry, to foster and disseminate, I would beg of you as my last request to be reconciled and restore that harmony. Let each brother consider only in what way he can best forget disagreements, how he can best discharge his duty as a Mason, and how he can contribute as an individual to the general welfare of the order. I will not add to these observations, because I feel that the kindness which prompted your address will prevail, and I would fain hope that my words, when I have gone away, will not have been addressed to you in vain. Reciprocating fully the kind feelings expressed towards myself and Lady MacDonnell, I now say farewell."

DEPARTURE OF SIR RICHARD MACDONNELL.

For some time before the hour, 4.45 p.m., on Wednesday, March 5th, fixed for Sir Richard and Lady MacDonnell's de-

parture, King William-street and North-terrace, near the entrance to the Government Domain, became literally crowded by persons anxious to see them off and bid them a hearty farewell.

The volunteers reassembled as arranged, and were formed in single line on both sides of the carriageway. Lady MacDonnell, seated in a carriage with Mrs. Colonel Blyth and Mr. E. J. Spence, and Sir Richard on horse-back, escorted by the Reedbeds Cavalry and several mounted troopers, commenced their journey to Glenelg about half-past five.

Long before their arrival at Glenelg the beach, pier, and jetty were thickly studded with ladies and gentlemen anxious to catch a last glimpse of Sir Richard and his lady.

About 6 o'clock Sir Richard made his appearance, escorted on horseback by Colonel Blyth, Major Douglas, Captain Brinkley, and the Reedbeds Cavalry. He was met by the Chief Secretary and Bro. W. A. Hughes, of the MacDonnell Lodge of Free-Freemasons. Shortly afterwards a carriage-and-four drove up containing Lady MacDonnell, Mrs. Colonel Blyth, the Hon. G. C. Hawker, and Mr. E. J. Spence. They were greeted by great cheering. Lady MacDonnell having alighted from the carriage, she was escorted along the jetty by the Hon. the Chief Secretary, His excellency accompanying Mrs. Colonel Blyth. These were followed by Sir Richard's most intimate friends. About twenty of the members of the MacDonnell Lodge of Freemasons, E.C., assembled in a line on the jetty to take a farewell leave of Sir Richard, honouring him on the way with the Masonic salute. W.M. Hughes took leave of him on behalf of the lodge, and in reply Sir Richard expressed great pleasure in its progressive state, and hoped to receive information as to its continued advancement, in which he would ever take a lively interest.

Previous to embarking, Mr. I. J. Barclay, Mayor of Glenelg, presented Sir Richard with the address.

The party immediately after took their seats in a boat and proceeded on board the *Yatala*, which lay at anchor some little distance from the head of the jetty.

Universal expressions of sorrow were audible at the departure of the two honoured personages, and the fact was generally lamented that no power was given to increase the term of a Governor's tenure of office.

ROYAL ARCH.

SCOTLAND.

AYR KILWINNING CHAPTER (No. 80).—This chapter entertained their Principal J. at supper, at the Tam o' Shanter Tavern, on Friday June 13, in appreciation of the onerous and honourable part that Companion had taken in the successful resistance the chapter had offered to the assumption by Provincial Grand Chapter, of powers quite incompatible with the guaranteed liberty of subordinate chapters. The chair was filled by the oldest Past P.Z. present, Comp. Andrew Glass, and the second Principal of No. 80, Comp. George Good discharged the duties of Croupier. Clustered round the president, besides the guest of the evening, we observed Comps. Deacon, John Boyd, and William Livingston, of No. 18; Armoury Sergeant Wilkie, of Waterford Chapter; and John Park of No. 80. The vice had as his supporters Comps. Robert Lawrie, James Jones, Donald McDonald, of No. 11, John Mc C. Williamson, and others of No. 80. Ample justice having been done to the substantial and well served repast, and the cloth being removed; "The Queen," was appropriately introduced by the chairman, as were also, "The Army and Navy," and "Supreme Grand Chapters of England and Ireland." The CROUPIER having obtained leave to propose a toast, previous to that of the evening being given, called on the companions to dedicate a bumper to "The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland." In Lord James Murray, the Scottish Royal Arch Masons had really and truly a most excellent First Grand Principal, one who could well sustain the dignity of the Order and preserve it in the unsullied purity in which it had been confided to his care. His Lordship could point to a noble line of Masonic ancestors, some of whom had attained the highest honours in the gift of the grand bodies of England and Scotland. The consideration of this fact no doubt favourably impressed the Craft as to the Masonic antecedents of the Athole family; but a far higher recommendation to the regard of Craftsmen was to be found in Lord James Murray's courteous demeanour and

high toned principle as a man and a Mason. So much then for the head of the Supreme Chapter; the acts of its members spoke most eloquently of their ability in matters relating to Masonic jurisprudence, and dignified impartiality in the administration of its laws. Supported as Lord James Murray was by such an efficient staff of officials as composed the grand committee, men above the petty jealousies which had recently characterised local and provincial bodies, there was nothing to fear for the prosperity of the Order. With men of education, high social position, and sound hearts, at the helm of affairs, the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland was destined to maintain an impregnable position in both hemispheres, and to merit the fealty of its numerous and rapidly increasing subordinate chapters. (Applause.)—The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the next toast, said:—It is with no ordinary feelings I rise to introduce the toast of the evening, and my only regret is that one better qualified to do it justice should not have occupied the chair on the present interesting occasion; besides, I feel as it were a sharer in the honour which the members of Chapter No. 80 are this night bestowing on our guest, and therefore would gladly have been contented with a less prominent position than that which your kindness has assigned to me. But as you have placed me here I shall employ my best exertions in endeavouring to discharge my duties, and of being the exponent of the feelings you entertain towards the companion on my right. If ever I have had reason to be proud of my Masonic connection with our guest it is now; for I consider that the services for which he is being entertained this evening by the Ayr Kilwinning Chapter are the most important among the many that he has ever rendered to Royal Arch Masonry, and will go far in placing Ayrshire in the position which her importance as a Royal Arch province entitles her to occupy. I shall not rehearse the circumstances which have led to the victory over Masonic tyranny which your chapter has within the past few days been privileged to win, but will only say that had Ayr Kilwinning Chapter not made the stand she did, her doom as a chapter was sealed. It was evidently the intention of the concocters of the attack upon No. 80, through its downfall to satiate their vindictiveness against our guest and others in office in that young chapter. Ayr Kilwinning seemed to be the perpetual Mordecai—no happiness so long as its altar smoked,—hence the attempts of its jealous and little-minded rivals to effect its disgrace; but like Haman, these envious, puffed-up pigmies in Masonry have been hanged on the gallows erected by themselves. That the companions of No. 80 attribute the achievement of this victory in no small measure to the judicious advice and personal exertions of Comp. D. Murray Lyon, is clearly indicated by the present meeting; and it reflects honour on that chapter that they should have among them one, from his knowledge of Masonic law, general intelligence, and indomitable courage and perseverance, so well qualified to bear his colleagues so triumphantly over the tide of rotten-hearted persecution. . . . It is not over ten years since I initiated Comp. Lyon into the mysteries of the Craft, and among the many hundreds of brethren whom I have made, none have attained to such a high and honourable Masonic position as that reached by my son now seated at my right hand. I am indeed proud of him for his faithfulness as a friend, and his sterling worth and ability as a Mason. In Bro. Lyon's presence I shall not do more than enumerate one or two of the most prominent of the services he has done to the Craft. We all recollect the admirable manner in which he discharged the duties of Director of Ceremonies and Provincial Grand Marshall at the inauguration of the Ayrshire monument, erected to the memory of the gallant General Neill, and for which he received the thanks of Bro. Sir James Ferguson and the Prov. Grand Lodge of Ayrshire. When it was proposed to desecrate Robert Burns' Mother Lodge, by whose activity and promptitude of action was the sale of Tarbolton St. David's Charter prevented? You all know that it was Bro. Lyon who stepped in to the rescue, and wrested from the hands of the spoilers the Charter under which the Scottish bard was entered, passed, and raised to the summit of ancient Craft Masonry; and the Grand Lodge of Scotland shewed their high appreciation of Bro. Lyon's conduct by tendering to him a cordial vote of thanks, in consideration of the promptitude and energy evinced by him in the recovery of that ancient and interesting document. Again, when the privileges of Mother Kilwinning were assailed, and a decision adverse to the interest of the rank and file of the Craft, obtained in Grand Lodge Committee, who had the courage

to question the righteousness of that decision and to carry the case before the Grand Lodge, which upon a re-consideration of their committee's finding, declared in favour of the position taken up by the Prov. J.G.W. of Ayrshire? And in the recent struggle of the independent Royal Arch Masons with those high in power, who wished to ride rough shod over subordinate chapters, in the foremost rank, in the hour of danger, and face to face with the foe, stood our guest, and right manfully did he sustain the honour of the chapter he represented, and had the satisfaction of witnessing the total discomfiture of his opponents. We are all participators in that victory; but while we appreciate it, now that the conflict is over, let us bury our animosities and cease to exult over the prostrate foe. Companions, assist me in pledging "The health of Comp. D. Murray Lyon, the worthy and efficient 3rd Principal, Ayr Kilwinning Chapter, No. 80." In reply, Comp. LYON remarked, that, while placing a very high value upon the expression of the chapter's satisfaction with the way in which he had performed his part in the late contest, which their partiality had assigned to him, he could not conscientiously lay claim to one half of the credit which had been attached to his services on that important occasion. The unanimity and heartiness with which the chapter had entered upon their defence, and the sound sense and vigilance of the sub-committee, composed of Comps. Good, Park, Williamson, and Young, contributed in no small measure to having the case properly brought before Supreme Grand Chapter, and that accomplished, the enlightened discrimination, and honourable and impartial feeling of the companions composing the Grand Committee, rendered success certain. And instead of being entertained as he had that evening so hospitably been, he ought rather to have entertained the chapter for the very great compliment they had paid him by sending him as their proxy to the Supreme Grand Chapter at Edinburgh, where he could raise his voice against the injustice that had been perpetrated upon Ayr Kilwinning, and through it upon all subordinate chapters within the jurisdiction of the Scottish Supreme R. A. Chapter, by the tyrannical and unjustifiable exercise of power on the part of the Masonic Papacy in the West of Scotland, but whose reign had happily been cut short, and whose illegal acts had been utterly repudiated by the Supreme Grand Chapter. His (Bro. Lyon's) best services were still at the command of his colleagues in No. 80, but he trusted they would never again be required on an occasion similar to that which they had that night met to talk over. The Chairman had already treated them with a Scriptural illustration of what had befallen the enemies of No. 80; he begged to substitute another for it, as, to his mind, more appropriate and nearer the truth than the one referred to:—

"He made a pit and dug it deep,
Another there to take;
But he has fallen into the snare
Which his own hands did make."

So, thanking the chapter for their kindness, he begged to resume his seat, leaving the vanquished ones to get out of the pit as best they could—better men, he hoped, than when they fell into it. Many other toasts followed. We shall merely enumerate one or two. "The Masonic Press," and with that toast was coupled the names of Comps. Rob. Morris and Henry George Warren—the one of American, the other of European fame, as conductors of the Masonic press. Comp. McDONALD, who gave this toast, was glad to learn that the LONDON FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE was now being taken in by many in this province. He was sure it only required to be seen and read to obtain for it a wider circulation among the craftsmen of Britain and her numerous colonies than it had hitherto attained, great as that was. "The Independent Members of the Sister Chapter, No. 18," was proposed by Comp. JOHN PARK, who rejoiced to know that while so many of the No. 18 companions seemed to be nose-led by a few unmasonic spirits, there was yet a remnant left who dared to assert their independence, and for doing which they had been subjected to the most heartless persecution—which, contrary to the intentions of its promoters, had not only fallen scathless upon those against whom it was directed, but had had the effect of exhibiting their character in brighter colours than ever, and in recommending them to the kind consideration of the great and good of the Masonic body. Comp. JAMES JONES, whose name was coupled with this toast, made an appropriate reply, in which he took blame to himself for abstaining of late from active interference in the affairs of his mother chapter; but for the future, he and others were determined to exercise their rights and privileges as members of No. 18, and look sharply after its

management. "Major Thornton and absent Friends" was also given, and well received, and much pleasant conversation engaged in, interspersed with some excellent songs, in which department Comp. Livingstone contributed materially to enliven the brethren amid the wearisomeness of speech-making.

AMERICA.

GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT.

This Grand Masonic body held its annual session for the year 1862 in the Masonic Temple in the city of New Haven, on the 14th and 15th days of May.

The Grand Lodge was opened at 10 o'clock A.M., M. W. Howard B. Ensign, Grand Master, in the Chair.

It was largely attended by the representatives of subordinate Lodges.

The Committee appointed on that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to uniformity of work, not being able to report at this session of the Grand Lodge, by request, were permitted to continue over until next year, when, we sincerely trust, the Committee will arrange for the exemplification of the genuine "Webb Work," before the Grand Lodge, and that it will be adopted. We can see no necessity for further delay. We had hoped that the desired object would have been attained at the last session, but it was not; and perhaps it is best, we are not prepared to say. As a general thing, we are opposed to hasty legislation, because usually more evil than good comes out of it. We are aware that the delay was a disappointment to many who believe the interests of the Order are involved in the great question of uniformity of work. Be patient, brethren, it will as surely come, sooner or later, as the sun will shine after clouds have passed away.

Among other business of importance transacted, was a vote passed to increase the funds of the Grand Lodge. Instead of one dollar on each initiate being paid to the Grand Lodge, as heretofore, it lays a tax of ten per cent. on all monies received for conferring degrees in subordinate Lodges.

A large number of Lodges were reported delinquent, they not having complied with the by-law passed last year, requiring the Secretary of each Lodge to transmit their returns to the Grand Secretary at least six days previous to the session of the Grand Lodge. Numerous excuses were rendered, which resulted in the fines being remitted and the delegates allowed a voice in the Grand Lodge.—*Masonic Casket.*

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Prince of Wales has returned from his protracted tour in the East. On Wednesday evening, his Royal Highness arrived at Paris, and on the following morning, he proceeded to Fontainebleau, where he was met at the railway station by the Emperor. After a brief stay at Fontainebleau the Prince returned to Paris, and started for Boulogne on Friday morning, intending to cross at once to Folkestone. The weather, however, was stormy, and the Prince did not leave until Saturday morning. His Royal Highness reached Windsor Castle in the afternoon. His Royal Highness, since his return, has daily visited the International Exhibition, accompanied by one or more of his royal sisters. On Tuesday his Royal Highness visited the Pasha of Egypt at the Turkish Embassy. The Pasha is about to return forthwith to Egypt, being dissatisfied with his reception in England, and his yacht is ordered to be in readiness on the 25th, the establishment at Wimbledon where he had taken a house for two months being broken up. The great cause of offence is stated to be the length of time His Highness was kept waiting in an ante-room, at the Foreign Office, before he could obtain an interview with Earl Russell. The Queen and the Royal Family continue at Windsor Castle. Prince Alfred has been at Cherbourg inspecting the works and the iron clad navy of France.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—The House of Lords re-assembled after the Whitsuntide holidays on Friday, the 13th inst., when the Earl of Carnarvon called attention to General Butler's proclamation ordering the women of New Orleans who should insult the officers or soldiers of the Federal States to be treated as harlots plying their avocation. He, at the same time, asked

whether there was any truth in the rumours of a combined offer of mediation between the Federal and Confederate States on the part of Great Britain and France. Earl Russell said there could be little or no doubt of the authenticity of the proclamation referred to, but Lord Lyons had, at the date of his last despatches, addressed no remonstrance to the Federal Government on the subject. He remarked that this proclamation had been explained by a statement that it was usual in New Orleans to apprehend all harlots plying their avocation, and that General Butler's order simply amounted to this, that women insulting Federal officers and soldiers would be dealt with in a similarly summary manner. He trusted, however, that the government of Washington would disavow the act of General Butler. With regard to the rumoured mediation, he stated that no communications had passed between the English and French governments on the subject, and whatever they might deem it prudent to do in this respect, under more favourable circumstances, the present was not, in his opinion, the time when the two powers could hope to succeed in an effort to put an end to the civil war. In reply to a question from Lord Brougham, Lord Russell said Her Majesty's Government, suspecting that, in consequence of the treaty recently concluded between England and the United States, slavers might make use of the French flag, had addressed a communication to the government of France on the subject, but had as yet received no reply.—On Monday Earl Russell stated, in reply to the Marquis of Normanby, that he believed Garibaldi had been in communication with certain persons with the view of organising an expedition to Venetia, but that the Italian government had discountenanced the movement.—On Tuesday the business transacted was unimportant, but Lord Granville spoke with deep feeling of the distinguished services, and untimely death of the late Earl Canning, while Lord Chelmsford, as the representative of the Opposition in the absence of Lord Derby, paid a brief but emphatic tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased statesman.—The House of Commons re-assembled on Thursday, the 12th inst. In reply to Mr. Clay, Mr. Layard said the case of the Circassian, seized by American cruisers, was now under the consideration of the law officers of the Crown. The subject of dockyard accommodation for the large ships of the Royal Navy was brought under consideration by Mr. Corry, who expressed his desire that further provision should be made. Sir G. C. Lewis announced that on the 23rd he should move a resolution on which to found a bill for the extension of the powers of the Fortification Act. The House then went into committee of supply, and was occupied for some hours in the discussion of the civil service estimates.—On Friday Mr. Hopwood asked a question respecting the rumoured mediation of England and France between the Northern and Southern States of America, and received a reply from Lord Palmerston, substantially the same as that given by Lord Russell in the Upper House. A long discussion took place on the case of Mr. Watson Taylor, the owner of the Island of Monte Christo. Several members contended that Mr. Taylor had been most harshly dealt with by the Italian government, while Mr. Layard and the Chancellor of the Exchequer submitted that we were bound to respect the decision of the Italian law courts, which had received the approval of Sir James Hudson.—On Monday a long discussion arose on the motion for going into Committee on the Transfer Land Bill; Sir Hugh Cairns moving that the measure be referred to a Select Committee. A division ultimately settled the point in favour of the supporters of the bill, and the House went into Committee.—On Tuesday the Scotch Salmon Fisheries Bill passed through Committee, and one or two other Scotch measures were advanced a stage. The evening sitting was cut short at half-past eight o'clock by a count out.—On Wednesday Mr. S. Estcourt gave notice of an alteration of the arrangement of his Church-rate resolutions. The Clergy Relief Bill also passed through committee. Some other bills were advanced a stage.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The number of persons that died in the metropolis last week was 1119. Singularly enough, the average deaths for the same week during the last ten years is exactly the same number. The death rate has been remarkably steady within the last three weeks; in the first of them it was 1119, in the second 1114, and now again 1119. The births for the week were 1783 children, the average number being 1769.—The whole country will receive with deep regret the announcement of Lord Canning's death. It seems but yesterday since he landed at Dover, and was greeted with a universal welcome from his countrymen, who hoped that after a period of repose, he would be enabled to lend to the councils of his Sovereign the high administrative ability which shone out so conspicuously in his government of India. As in the

case of his predecessor, Lord Dalhousie, however, he seems to have returned to England broken down by the combined action of an adverse climate and the labours and anxieties of administering the affairs of a vast empire. He had never been able to appear in public since his arrival in England, but it was not until Thursday morning that the public learned that his illness was likely to terminate fatally, and the same evening he had breathed his last. His wife, it will be remembered, died in India, shortly before the expiration of his period of service, and he has left no children. The title therefore becomes extinct.—The proceedings of the Social Science Congress wound up on Saturday as the manner is in England, with a dinner of the members and friends. The guests assembled at the Crystal Palace to the number of between 200 and 300, a large proportion of whom were ladies; and Lord Brougham took the chair.—A deputation from the operatives of various manufacturing towns in Lancashire waited upon Sir Charles Wood on Wednesday to present memorials praying for the abolition of duties imposed on British manufactured goods imported into India.—The *Great Eastern* has at last made a profitable voyage. The balance is not much, but it is on the right side. At a meeting of the proprietors of the ship, the chairman announced that the net profits on her recent voyage to New York and back amounted to £317 19s. 3d.—The Court of Queen's Bench has ordered Mr. G. F. Train to pay a fine of £500, which, in the event of Mr. Train's refusing to remove the tramway laid down between Westminster Bridge and Kennington Park, will go to cover the cost of the removal of the rails by the Sheriff's officers. It was intimated that if the plaintiff's expenses did not amount to £500, Mr. Train could recover the difference. Mr. Train protested that he had been condemned without a trial, and said he was unable to pay the fine.—We had lately to record the escape of a prisoner from Newgate Gaol, who has not since been heard of. It seems that the prisoners confined in Horseonger-lane Gaol must have become emulous of the ingenuity of their criminal associate across the water, for three men confined in the latter gaol made their escape in the course of Saturday morning. The manner in which this was done is said have displayed great ingenuity, though the governor declines to give much information as to the details.—A report was circulated a few days ago that Mrs. Phillips, the wife of a horse-dealer in the West-end, had died by poison, and that her husband was concerned in its administration. The deceased was buried some months ago at Kensal-green Cemetery, but in consequence of these rumours the body was exhumed for medical examination. A coroner's jury was summoned, and when the body was identified by the mother of the deceased lady, but as the chemical analysis was not completed the inquiry was adjourned.—A dreadful accident occurred at Blyth, a small port on the Northumberland coast, on Thursday. Two members of the local volunteer artillery corps were ramming a 68-pounder, when the charge exploded. The two poor fellows were standing at the time in the line of fire, and they were both blown to pieces.—The sessions of the Central Criminal Court and for the county of Surrey opened on Monday. At the former court there are 101 prisoners for trial; at the latter, 40.—The trial of Mrs. Vyse has been postponed; she not being yet sufficiently recovered to be removed from her house.—On Wednesday, William Muller, engraver, incriminated in respect to the Russian forgeries, was sentenced to six years' penal servitude.—It will be remembered that a few months ago the Rev. Mr. Fletcher, manager of the Bilston Savings Bank, was tried and convicted of embezzling the funds of that institution subject to an objection taken by his counsel, that his conduct did not amount to an indictable offence. The appeal was argued on Saturday, before the two Lords Chief Justices and seven puisne judges, in the court for hearing reserved Crown cases. After hearing the the arguments of counsel, Lord Chief Justice Cockburn pronounced the judgment of the Court, that the prisoner had been properly convicted, and the conviction was therefore affirmed.—The special commission for the trial of the perpetrators of the recent fearful agrarian crimes in the counties of Limerick and Tipperary was opened at Limerick on Monday. Beckham, the murderer of Mr. Fitzgerald, was on Friday found guilty, and sentenced to death on the following day, subsequently John Punch was arraigned for sending a threatening letter to Mr. H. W. Langley, and being found guilty was sentenced to four years' penal servitude. The Commission is adjourned to the 1st of July.—There has been an extensive collapse of the Fleet sewer in the new Victoria-street, between the Coppice-row and the Clerkenwell Sessions House. About 150 feet of the sewer has fallen in, carrying with it the wall and arches built over at the spot in connection with the Metropolitan Railway. Nearly 200 men were employed about the place at the time, but fortunately symptoms of the fall were discovered in time, and the men were called off. The stream is completely dammed up, and is overflowing the neighbourhood.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—It is with sincere pleasure we are able to announce a decided change for the better in the health of the King of the Belgians. A notable improvement in all respects has taken place in his Majesty's health, so much so that his Majesty was able to sign several decrees on Tuesday; and even, it is said, to receive a few visitors.—Great alarm is felt in Paris for the safety of the force under General Lorencez, which is marching on the city of Mexico. The French were expecting numerous reinforcements, and arrangements are being made to dispatch by instalments some 10,000 men. An additional credit of 15,000,000*fr.* for the expedition has

been added to the budget, and willingly voted by the Corps Legislatif, and the government are losing no time in sending reinforcements; 500 men have sailed from Nantes, and 1000 from Strasbourg.—The Italian Chamber of Deputies have adopted the address to the King spoken of a few days since, replying to the statements made by the bishops at Rome, and proclaiming the determination of the Italian people to obtain the metropolis of their country.—The papers have published this week the particulars of an interview which the writer of a letter to the *Steele* had with the child Mortara. The unfortunate child is confined in a convent near Rome, to which the writer managed to gain admission, and found the young Mortara, with five or six others, taking exercise after their duties as choristers at the mass. He describes the little Mortara, who is now ten years old, as timid, bashful, and almost melancholy, with the Jewish cast of features. The narrative, which is very interesting, leaves the impression that the poor child is far from happy.—The *St. Petersburg Journal* announces that the chess club is to be closed in consequence of its having been used as the centre from which false reports were disseminated. The public reading-rooms are also to be closed, on account of the proprietors having distributed revolutionary publications.

AMERICA.—The principal intelligence brought by the *Scotia*, which arrived at Liverpool on Saturday, was the announcement that a battle was fought in front of Richmond on the 31st ult. and the 1st inst., with results very similar to those of the battle at Pittsburg Landing, though the engagement seems to have been less sanguinary. General McClellan's official telegram reported that at one o'clock on the afternoon of the 31st ult., the Confederates attacked the right flank of the Federal army. General Casey's division gave way "unaccountably and dismally," and during the confusion its guns and baggage were lost. The divisions of Generals Heintzelman and Keyes then arrived, and checked the advance of the Confederates; and at the same time General McClellan brought the divisions of Generals Sedgwick and Richardson across the Chickahominy. These troops "drove back the enemy at the point of the bayonet, covering the ground with his dead." On the following morning, the Confederates attempted to renew the battle, but were everywhere repulsed. From the unofficial accounts, which are not very clear, it appears that, during the night of the 31st ult. the Confederates held a portion of the ground previously occupied by the Federals, who recovered all their former positions on the following day, but do not seem to have pushed any nearer to Richmond. General McClellan says that the Federal loss was "heavy." He gives no precise estimates; but the unofficial letters assert that the Federals had some 3000 men killed wounded, that the Confederates left 1200 dead on the ground, and that about 500 prisoners were made by the Federals. The guns lost by the Federals on the first day not appear to have been recovered. General Fremont's corps had crossed the mountains into the Shenandoah Valley, had re-occupied Fort Royal, and had subsequently pushed forwards towards Strasburg and Winchester, driving before it the Confederate Generals Ewell and Jackson, who had declined to accept battle. From the South-west there is little news, but it is now admitted that the Confederates carried away all their guns from Corinth, and that, besides women and children, the only inhabitants left in the place were men too old or infirm to bear arms. The *Hibernian* arrived on Tuesday, with accounts to the 9th. The late battle in front of Richmond—which the Confederates, of course, allege to have been a victory for them—was at length admitted to have been more severe than previous reports represented it; and the Federal loss was "estimated" at 7000 men.—The Confederate General Jackson had successfully extricated his forces from the lower part of the Shenandoah Valley, but had been closely pursued by General Fremont's corps, which had occupied Harrisonburg. At a few miles from that town General Fremont's troops fell into an "ambuscade" laid by General Jackson, and suffered "heavy loss." It was supposed that General Jackson, whose men must have been encouraged by this success, would make a stand at Port Republic, in order to preserve his railway communication with Richmond. The Confederate flotilla on the Mississippi had been completely defeated and destroyed by the Federal squadron, only one Confederate vessel escaping destruction. The engagement was fought in front of Memphis, Commodore Foote's squadron having succeeded in passing Fort Randolph; and the result was the immediate surrender of Memphis. The navigation of the Mississippi, from New Orleans to its sources was therefore completely controlled by the Federal gunboats. General Halleck had reported that General Pope had advanced 30 miles south of Corinth, was "pushing the enemy hard," and had taken many prisoners. The Senate at Washington had at length passed the Tax Bill, including a clause to impose a duty of half a cent. a pound on cotton. Mr. Sumner had proposed a resolution declaring that the appointment of military governors to the Southern States was unconstitutional and illegal; but the Senate had not come to any vote respecting this resolution.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

IGNORAMUS.—It is always held in every society that the minutes of a meeting can only be confirmed at a stated and regular meeting of such society, and where the *Book of Constitutions* does not provide to the contrary, Masonic lodges follow general usage.