

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1862.

THE GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

The Special Grand Lodge proposed to be held on the 16th of July, is postponed *sine die*, and the consideration of the whole subject regarding the Grand Lodge Property, is, we are officially informed, to be deferred until the Quarterly Communication in September, when everybody, out of the circle immediately surrounding the Grand Master, is fully aware that justice cannot, by possibility, be done to it; the only effect being to waste an evening, and throw all other business in arrear. As the circular making the announcement does not reach all the brethren interested, we reprint it.

United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.—The Right Hon. The Earl of Zetland, &c., M.W.G.M.

W. SIR AND BROTHER.—I am commanded by the M.W. Grand Master, to inform you, that in consequence of its having come to his Lordship's knowledge, that a difficulty has occurred in reference to the preparation of the plans exhibiting the scheme proposed by the Board of General Purposes, and it having been ascertained that other brethren, who have plans to propose, will not be ready to deposit them at the Grand Secretary's Office, in time for the proposed meeting of the Special Grand Lodge on the 16th of July next, his Lordship has determined that it will not be advisable to hold such Special Grand Lodge.

I am also to inform you that the whole subject of the appropriation of the buildings will be taken into consideration at the Quarterly Communication in September, and that all plans, which it is intended to bring before Grand Lodge, must be deposited in the Grand Secretary's Office, on or before the 20th day of August next.

By Command of the M.W. Grand Master,
WM. GRAY CLARKE, G.S.

In the meantime we have received an amended scheme from Bro. S. B. Wilson, which, he informs us, he has prepared, "partly to meet the objections raised by some well-informed brethren and partly with a view to economy." Though as he gives us no estimates as to the cost of his scheme, either in its original or in its modified form, we are unable to judge how far the one is superior to the other, in regard to cost; and whether the saving is of sufficient importance for consideration.

In the first place he reduces the number of proposed lodge-rooms from six to four. This we consider no improvement, believing six to be quite as few as will be required, when proper accommodation is given to the brethren in other departments, apart from the tavern. He next reduces the number of dining-rooms from six to four; and if he did away with them altogether we should make no objection, not seeing that they are specially wanted within the Masonic building, if the tavern, is to be—as agreed by all—immediately contiguous to it, and the tenants of it have the supplying the refreshments. Indeed it will, in our opinion, conduce to the comfort of the brethren if the dining-rooms are, as the kitchens will neces-

sarily be, all situated in the tavern, to which the brethren can have easy access from their own buildings. With the exception of providing for a G. Tyler's room, and suggesting that the whole may be completed in four years, and the cost defrayed "within five years from the commencement, and leave a balance by the appropriation of the present fund of the Board of General Purposes, together with the sums which would accumulate during that period, without the necessity of borrowing money from any source whatever," thus giving us an inkling that the cost will not exceed £30,000, we see no alteration from the scheme as first suggested worth alluding to.

But there is one paragraph in these new suggestions which appeared almost literally in an article in the *Era* newspaper of last Sunday, so extraordinary and so laughably absurd, that we cannot avoid laying it before our readers:—

"It appears to me that those who advocate the exclusive use of the property to Masonic purposes only (strictly speaking, a Masonic club) are entirely ignorant of Masonic law, for by Article 19, folio 107, in the *Book of Constitutions* (to which I beg to direct the attention of the brethren) it is enacted that the duty of the Board of General Purposes, "is to cause the necessary preparations to be made for the meetings of the General Lodge, as well as for the days of festival, public ceremonies, &c., and to take care that arrangements be made with the master of the tavern for the proper accommodation of the boards or committees appointed by the Grand Lodge, and of the private lodges meeting at Freemasons' Tavern." The institution of a tavern is hereby distinctly and legally recognised, and I cannot for a moment suppose that Freemasonry can be damaged by contact with other festivals and celebrations, which are generally attended by the great and noble of the land, and which cannot or ought not to take place in our precinct, but under the sanction and control of the Board of General Purposes."

Now we fancy we can see the merry twinkle which lit up Bro. Wilson's eyes, and the smile which played upon his countenance when he penned these lines. We know that Bro. Wilson is careful of preserving landmarks, but we never could imagine that he would defend Tavern-holding on the ground of its being a landmark, and provided for in the *Book of Constitutions*, he as well knowing as we do that Grand Lodge has the power of altering the law whenever it sees fit, and it being clear that this law was only framed because of the existence of the Tavern, and that the Tavern was not built because of the law. Besides, it is notorious as the sun at noonday that the Board of General Purposes does not make "arrangements with the master of the tavern for the proper accommodation of the boards or committees appointed by the Grand Lodge, and of the private lodges meeting at Freemasons' Tavern." The boards and committees appointed by Grand Lodge, though they did so formerly, not even meeting in the tavern, but in our own offices, whilst the arrangements with regard to private lodges, rest solely between themselves and the "master of the tavern," as the tenant is somewhat pedantically termed.

If those who think—as we do—that a tavern in some form must of necessity be connected with the buildings devoted to the Craft—though perfectly distinct from those buildings—had no better argument to rely on than the flimsy one contained in the above paragraph, we should indeed think that the whole matter was settled against them. But they have far better arguments: first, we could not form a club—we use the term because it is in the paragraph—excepting at an expense which the majority of the Craft *could not*, and the minority *would not* pay, the majority of the latter class already belonging to clubs of their own, which they would not be likely to leave for one exclusively devoted to Freemasonry, and more inconveniently situated. Secondly, by the aid of a tavern adjoining our buildings, which can add a general to the Masonic business, we can obtain all the accommodation of refreshments required at less cost than we could by way of a club. Thirdly, we cannot occupy the whole of the property we have purchased, and must make it remunerative, and we cannot expect so good a revenue from any other source as from a properly managed and well-appointed tavern. Of the latter part of the paragraph, “I cannot for a moment suppose that Freemasonry can be damaged by contact with other festivals and celebrations which are generally attended by the rich and noble of the land, *and which cannot, or ought not to* take place in our precincts, but under the sanction and control of the Board of General Purposes,” we shall refrain from speaking of as it deserves. No one ever said or dreamed, so far as we are aware, that Freemasonry was damaged by coming in contact with other festivals and celebrations attended by the “great and noble of the land;” but we and others have contended, and will continue to contend that the Craft has a right to a home of its own, from which all but Freemasons should be rigorously excluded, whilst we continue to hold our festivals, whether of a public or private nature—for all our dinners are to a certain extent Masonic festivals—in the tavern.

Then, as regards the general business of the tavern being under the direction and control of the Board of General Purposes. The idea is too ridiculous to treat with anything like seriousness; and Bro. Wilson, who is an old member of the Board, knows that it has not and cannot have any control over that business. Indeed if it had, no respectable tenant—we beg pardon, Master—would be found for the tavern, as every man of business would be well aware that if he were to allow his regulations and arrangements to be controlled by a body of men changing every year, and having no interest in the tavern, he would only be choosing the shortest way to an introduction to some gentleman, learned in the law, who hold high court and revel in Basinghall-street. It is true, however, that the hall, which is held under a different tenure to that of the Tavern, cannot be let for any given purpose without the consent of the Grand Secretary, in order to prevent it being used for improper purposes, which we are sure it never would be under the present highly respectable tenants.

CLASSICAL THEOLOGY.—LVII.

X.—VESTA AND DECEMBER.

The politically-experienced, world-criticising, heart-wounded Byron sadly and beautifully thus apostrophises love.

Oh, Love! what is it in this world of ours,
That makes it fatal to be loved? Ah, why!
With cypress branches hath thou wreathed thy bower,
And made the best interpreter a sigh?
As those who doat on odours, pluck the flowers,
And place them in their breasts, but place to die!
Thus the frail beings we would fondly cherish,
Are laid within our bosoms but to perish.”

Be this so, as perhaps it often is, yet still as sung or indited by Solomon, called “the wise king,” in his song entitled “The Song of Songs,” doubtless there are verses in strong contrast with the above, and, although we only select a few, it will be seen they enter remarkably into the dissertation we hold in hand.

“I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

“As a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

“As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my love among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

“He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

“I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roses, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he pleases.

“The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.

“My beloved spake, and said unto me, rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

“The flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

“O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice, for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.

“By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth, I sought him, but I found him not.

“I sleep, but my heart waketh; it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh.

“I arose—I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone; my soul failed when he spake; I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.

“I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.

“Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest of women? whether is thy beloved turned aside, that we may seek him with thee.

“My beloved is gone down to his garden, to his bed of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.

“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine, he feedeth among the lilies.

“My dove, my undefiled, is but one; she is the only one of her mother; she is the choice one of her that bare her.

“Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?

“Who is that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree, there thy mother brought thee forth that bare thee.

“Set me as a seal upon thy heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.”

Psyche awoke from her swoon as from a long sleep. All around her appeared to have undergone a shock—a change had come over the scene—all seemed altered and strange to her. The fountains had become turbid and uninviting, the songs of the birds were unmelodious, the trees had grown webby and blighted, the flowers had lost their freshness and sweetness, the pomegranates looked wild, and the lilies had perished. Flies and other insects seemed also to have multiplied, and a part of the isle was so changed, that it became an isle no longer, for as the tide ebbed, rock joined rock to rock, and hence with another portion of the Dry land. Over this barren tract, in her wanderings in search of her lover, the forlorn unhappy Psyche, as one driven by the spirit of despair, distractedly hastened onward.

The account given by the double Spirit of Curiosity and Disobedience, concerning the cause of Cupid's absence, and the injury he had met with, roused the anger, jealousy, and mortification of Venus. She determined to persecute and punish poor Psyche with a rigour void of all compassion and mercy. She therefore despatched the Erinnys, or Spirits of Fear, Despair, and Madness, in pursuit of her. Meanwhile, with all a mother's tender anxiety and selfish fondness, she attended on her son, and made his accident her pretext for detaining him in his chamber, for since his wound, the God of Love had found it somewhat difficult to take his invisible form, that spell or gift having been broken as it were, by the infliction of the wound.

The incidents of the whole story of Cupid and Psyche, in the adornment of the walls of the charming Belle Palace of Parnesia, on the banks of the Tiber, have been so beautifully painted *à la fresque*, by Raphael, we wish we could conveniently illustrate our pages with photographs of them: but time, space, and progress, forewarn us to draw our papers to a close.

Psyche, hoping to escape the vengeance of Venus, in her solitary search for her betrothed, ascended to the summit of a lofty mountain, whereon was a temple dedicated to the Goddess Ceres, the mother of Proserpine, to supplicate the mediation of that benign and majestic Lady, "beautiful with yellow hair," as says Ovid. "I have," humbly said Psyche, "no sacrifice meet to offer thee; oh thou most beneficent Lady; but accept the cries of a breaking heart. Vouchsafe to defend me from the rage of Venus, who, for my love of her son, by whom I am forsaken, would kill me, I fear, if she should find me." "Psyche, my daughter," replied Ceres, "you know not what you ask. There are forms and laws, courtesies and etiquettes, that cannot be broken without general confusion, yea, absolute anarchy. Venus is my cousin, and however willingly I might extend unto you my protection, I cannot do so but by grievously offending her. I well remember myself how I ran up and down the streets, and the high and wild ways of Enna and Aetna to Syracuse, after Proserpina my own strayed and stolen one. Go my sweet child, believing I can do what I may do, and to do more I cannot."

It will be seen in our metaphysical treatment of the history of Psyche, we do not object at times to mix up, as it were, the new with the old version of her recorded adventures. That is to say, we can go back to times far before the flood of Noah to our

mythological lore at pleasure, and still be quite consistent in our allegorical application with all that concerns Cupid and Psyche. Thus, then, instead of Syracuse, it might have been to Salem, or even the city of Enoch itself, to which the great Alma of the fruits of the earth and foundress of husbandry, and of laws so sympathetically referred. At all events upon the beautiful living soul, the lovely virgin Psyche being left unassisted and almost repulsed by the Terra Mater, in her agony of utter desertion, be thought her of imploring the protection of the Queen of Heaven, classically called Juno. The answer to this prayer, though tempered with commiseration, was not more assuring or proffered support than the former. "I know," enunciated Juno, "by sad experience, more than you can ever know, love besought and beloved Psyche, as you are, that Venus is exceedingly vindictive. She has been the cause of all the vain and arrogant contentions and embroilments of my family. Yet still, unfortunately, she being my daughter-in-law, it would be extremely inconvenient, if not censurable and according to our laws, I fear, incompatible, in me to prejudge your cause, or offer to promote it, whilst Venus is so implacably incensed against you. But come of it what will, I promise the interposition of Jupiter in your behalf, should she strive to take your life, or attempt to be the death of you. I mean if it be true that you are abandoned by Cupid, who is esteemed by us to be the strongest amongst the gods."

AN ORATION,

DELIVERED IN THE GRAND LODGE, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE 23RD OF SEPTEMBER, 1801, 5801 H.L., BY BRO. FREDERICK DALCHO, M.D., COMMUNICATED BY BRO. I. T. ARCHER, P.G., S.P.Z. No. 25 ENGLAND, AND H.P. No. 3, CHAPTER IRELAND.

BRETHREN,—The duty of this evening, to which I am called by the honour of your appointment, is a task infinitely more important and arduous than my feeble abilities are equal to, and nothing but the high respect I have for the society which have honoured me with the appointment could have induced me to have accepted of it.

The subject on which I am to address you is more capacious than the utmost powers of the human mind can embrace. Every sphere in the immense regions of space feels the benign influence of the Institution; I must, therefore, call on your fraternal indulgence to pass over in silence the many great imperfections which you will discover in this performance, and accept my zeal for better abilities. The time which I could appropriate to it, from the more imperious demands of my profession has been short and interrupted, and which I ardently hope will also plead with you, as an apology for my deficiencies.

When beginning this oration it was my intention to have given an historical dissertation on the origin and progress of Masonry until the present period, and to have pointed out the effects produced on society by the extensive promulgation of the principles of the Order; but I have since determined to reserve it for a future occasion; I shall therefore briefly mention some leading points of its history, and dwell more fully on the moral principles of the Institution as the effect the general condition of mankind.

Masonry is the most perfect and sublime institution ever formed for promoting the happiness of individuals, or for increasing the general good of the community.

Its fundamental principles are those grand bulwarks of society, universal benevolence and brotherly love. It holds out, in its precepts, those captivating pictures of virtue which stimulate the brethren to deeds of greatness, and offers to its professors, dignity and respect; it expands the ideas, enlarges the benevolent feelings of the heart, and renders man the friend of his species, it teaches us those great and awful truths on which futurity is founded, and points to those happy means by which we may obtain the rewards of virtue. "It also instructs us in the duty we owe to our neighbour, and teaches us not to injure him in any of his connections, and, in all our dealings with him, to act with justice and impartiality: it discourages defamation, it bids us not to circulate any whisper of infamy, improve any hint of suspicion, or publish any failure of conduct. It orders us to be faithful to our trusts—not to deceive him who relies upon us, to be above the meanness of dissimulation, to let the words of our mouths express the thoughts of our hearts, and whatsoever we promise, religiously to perform."

When the rude blast of war assails an unhappy country with its ravages, and embattled legions of kindred men are opposed dire conflict, when all around perish by the victors sword, and humanity stands appalled at the sight—the Masons extended arms preserves him from the destruction, he meets with friendships and protection from his enemy, and, instead of receiving the fatal weapon in his bosom, his heart is gladdened by hearing the endearing appellation of brother. When the Corsairs of Algiers, with unprincipled fury, attacked the defenceless vessels of unoffending nations, and loaded their unhappy crews with the bonds of servitude, to drag a miserable existence under the lash of tyranny—the Masons, well known sign preserved him from chains, and the kindly offices of a brother were extended to him.

Such being the principles and the advantages of Masonry, it ceases to be a matter of surprise that in every country, the act has been professed, and encouraged, by the most enlightened and virtuous of their inhabitants. The rulers of mighty Empires, and the chieftains of great nations have, oftentimes, joined our Fraternal Society, and immortalized their names by practising the virtuous principles of the order.

The manner, in which the mysteries of the Craft are revealed to us, none but Masons can ever know. The ceremonies used, on those occasions are calculated to impress, upon the mind of the candidate, religious awe, and a high veneration for the cause of virtue. Notwithstanding the depravity of mankind, and the many vicious characters who have unfortunately, been received into the Society, yet the mysteries of the order have never been disclosed to the world.

The virgin of Masonry may be dated from the creation of the world. The symmetry and harmony displayed by the Divine Architect in the form of the planetary system, gave rise to many of our mysteries.

"—'Let there be light,' proclaimed the Almighty Lord;
Astonished chaos heard the potent word,
Through all his realms the kindling ether runs,
And the moss starts into a million suns;
Earth's round each sun, with quick explosions burst,
And second planets issue from the first,
Bend as the journey with projectile force,
In brighter ellipses their reluctant course;
Orbs wheel in orbs, round centres, centres roll,
And from self balanced one revolving whole;
Onward they move amid their bright abode,
Space without bounds the bosom of their God."

In the earliest age of man, when the human mind was untainted by the vices and prejudices of later times, unshackled by the terrors and anathemas of contending sectaries and the machinations of bigoted priests, the god of nature received the homage of the world, and the worship of his adorable name constituted the prin-

cipal employment of him, to whom the mysteries of nature were first revealed. After the deluge, the worship of the Most High was obscured by clouds of imagery and defiled by idolatry.

Mankind were conscious of some great and incomprehensible cause of the uniformity and wonderful progression of the works of nature, and, bewildered in conjecture, they represented the great unknown cause by such objects as appeared to produce the most powerful effects on the face of the world, from whence the sun and moon became the symbols of the Deity. As the manners of the people became more depraved, their knowledge of truth was lost in their apostacy, and their ignorance and superstition increased with their debasement, they, at length, forgot the emblematical allusion, and adored the symbols instead of the Divinity.

I am afraid that the same charge may be made against the Masons of the present day, and that many are satisfied with the outward trappings of the Order, and neglect to study those grand principles of which the decorations are but emblematical significations. The splendid parade on a Masonic festival, the gorgeous apparel to attract attention, and make the vulgar stare, are, I am afraid, objects of more real concern to many, than the exercise of those acts of benevolence which are strongly inculcated by the Order.

(To be continued.)

REVIEWS.

Beeton's Illuminated Family Bible: Beeton's Dictionary of Universal Information in Science, Art, and Literature: Beeton's Home Pets; Boys' own Library; Englishwomen's Domestic Magazine; Beeton's Penny Dictionary. All published by S. O. Beeton, Strand. *The National Magazine.* Tweedie, Strand.

Part 10 of *Beeton's Illuminated Family Bible*, is before us. The same beauty of typography, happy selection of designs illustrating the sacred text, and valuable series of notes, like its predecessors, continue in this part. Certainly one of its best features is the elucidation of particular portions of scripture culled from the works of all writers who have made the Bible their study.

Dictionaries and Guides to separate branches of information are common enough, but a good comprehensive work, which will show an enquirer what he wants, whether the subject be Bread, the Calends, Cambridge University, or the Ca ira, is a great desideratum. We have such in *Beeton's Dictionary of Universal Information*, part 43 of which we have just received.

We have all had home pets at some time or other of our lives, but how few of us know their qualities, uses, kinds, or natures? Parts 18 and 19 of *Beeton's Home Pets* are devoted to dogs, and capitally are they described and portrayed. If we wished to inculcate a love of natural history amongst our acquaintance, either young or old, we could not do better than give them these books.

In the *Boys' Own Library*, Mr. William Dalton has furnished a story entitled "Phaulcon, or the Ship-boy who became a Prime Minister." All who know this gentleman's excellent writings for the youth of both sexes, need not be told that "Phaulcon" is just the sort of book to put into a boy's hand.

In the *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*, an old favourite with the ladies, the mysteries of the fashions and ladies' needlework are, as neatly as ever, presented in plates to its fair subscribers, on which subjects, interesting and useful as they are, we must decline to pronounce what really would be our very imperfect decision. The tales, essays, and notes of the month are, as usual, agreeable and diversified.

The *Dictionary of Universal Information*, noticed above, is also being issued under the title of *Beeton's Penny*

Dictionary of Universal Information. The character and utility of the same has been widely acknowledged, and the *Times*, some short time since, stamped its approval of the work by giving a notice of it extending over more than half a column, in which it was warmly praised and recommended.

Topography, history, essays, fiction, poetry travel, the Exhibition, and a monthly summary, comprises the contents of the *National Magazine*. Its opening article is one on Balmoral Castle, the royal residence of her Majesty in the Highlands, of which a very neat photograph is given. The tone of the articles are sound, and the reading, generally, pleasant. The *National Magazine* is an old favourite in many families, and is capital home reading.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

KNIGHTHOOD.

From whence do the various orders of Knighthood take their rise?—K. J.—[From the laws drawn up by the Archbishop of Bourges, about 1025, and ratified by the Council of Clarendon, for an account of which latter see Wilkins's *Concilia*.]

GRAND BANNER-BEARER

What are the duties of the Grand Banner-bearer and from what are they derived?—[In modern templary to bear the Beausant. In ancient chivalry he was an esquire, termed esquire of the body, or the esquire of honour, and his duties were to carry his patron knight's banner in battle, and raise his cry of arms, as well as to harness him at all times.]

KNIGHTS OF RHODES.

Who were the knights of Rhodes?—K. J.—[The Order of St. John of Jerusalem, who assumed the latter title in consequence of taking the Island of Rhodes, about 1310, and again changing their name to Knights of Malta, on taking that place about 1522. So that the Masonic order calling itself Knights of Palestine, Rhodes and Malta is one and the same with that of the Hospitallers, or Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.]

QUALIFICATIONS OF A W.M.

Besides the usual qualifications of a brother to take the office of W.M. of a lodge, as set forth in the *Book of Constitutions*, are there any others enforced abroad?—C. C.—[We shall be obliged if any of our readers can help the querist to an answer. For ourselves we transcribe those of "a Model Master, recommended by the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1858. I. He should be a just man. II. He should be a pattern of good morals. III. He should be a benevolent and prudent man. IV. He should be a firm and decided man. V. He should have the ability, and will, to enforce obedience. VI. He should have the courage to enforce obedience. VII. He should be well versed in laws and usages. VIII. He should know the ritual. IX. He should be apt, and willing, to teach. X. He should have the character and ability to command respect in the chair. XI. It may be said, few are so qualified. That is true. Then let him be Master who comes nearest to it."]

PAST GRAND MASTERS.

What British Lodges have Past Grand Masters?—A. F. [We presume you mean, have either the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, or Scotland, any Past Grand Masters? If so, Scotland had, in 1860, no less than seven noblemen who had held that distinguished office.]

FIRST PROV. G. MASTER OF LEICESTERSHIRE.

At what date was the first Prov. G. Master of Leicestershire appointed?—ASHBY.—[1775.]

AGAINST THE EARLY FREEMASONS.

As we should hear both sides, whether for or against our convictions, or prejudices, I send the following note. In a review of *A History of Architecture in England*, by

the Rev. George Aycliffe Poole, M.A., Vicar of Welford, which appears in vol. V. of the *Archæological Journal*, for 1848, at page 344, the reviewer writes:—"It is to be regretted that Mr. Poole should apparently admit as genuine authorities, the questionable evidence known by the name of Ingulphus, and the theories of Mr. Hope, respecting the Freemasons. Since the publication of so many builders' contracts of the middle ages, and the accounts of the expenses of the Eleanor Crosses, of St. Stephen's Chapel, and of York Minster, the romantic fiction of whole troops of Freemasons assembling to build a cathedral, 'building temporary huts for their habitation around the spot where the work was to be carried on,' and so forth, ought to be altogether exploded and refused admission into any work professing the character of authentic history. The fact is clear that with rare exceptions, the artisans employed were natives of the spot, or the immediate neighbourhood, that very small numbers were employed at any one time, and that they succeeded from father to son, generation after generation, in carrying on the great work. The accounts of York Minster, published by Mr. Brown, are conclusive on this point; the number of workmen employed on that magnificent structure varied from 20 to 50, according to the state of the funds of the chapter, a corps of masons and their labourers being a regular part of the establishment, and the same families being employed for centuries. Of these masons, a few of the head men were Freemasons, or free carpenters, the rest were serfs. Occasionally, but very rarely, the Master Mason was a foreigner, and quite as often an Englishman in France, as a Frenchman in England."—D. C. L.

Poetry.

COME THIS WAY, MY FATHER?

BY A. W. WILDES.

I remember a voice
Which once guided my way,
When lost on the sea
Fog-enshrouded I lay:
'Twas the voice of a child,
As he stood on the shore—
It sounded out clear
O'er the dark billow's roar—
"Come this way my father!
Steer straight for me,
Here safe on the shore
I am waiting for thee."

I remember that voice,
As it led our lone way,
'Midst rocks and through breakers
And high dashing spray;
How sweet to my heart
Did it sound from the shore,
As it echoed out clear
O'er the dark billow's roar,
"Come this way, my father!
Steer straight for me,
Here safe on the shore
I am waiting for thee."

I remember my joy
When I held to my breast
The form of that dear one,
And soothed it to rest:
For the tones of my child
Whispered soft to my ear,
"I called you, dear father,
I knew you would hear
The voice of your darling
Far o'er the dark sea,
While safe on the shore
I was waiting for thee."

That voice now is hushed
Which then guided my way
The form I then pressed
Is now mingling with clay;
But the tones of my child
Still sound in my ear
"I am calling, you, father!
O, can you not hear
The voice of your darling,
As you toss on life's sea?
For on a bright shore
I am waiting for thee!"

I remember that voice,
In many a lone hour,
It speaks to my heart
With fresh beauty and power,
And still echoes far out
Over life's troubled wave,
And sounds from the loved lips
That lie in the grave—
"Come this way, my father!
O, steer straight for me!
Here safely in Heaven
I am waiting for thee!"

The author thus explains the origin of the song:—

"The little song 'Come this way, my Father,' was written by me during a season of great affliction—occasioned by the loss of my darling little Frank (the hero of the story). The scene of the occurrence was Boothbay, a little harbour about fifteen miles east of Bath.

"During a short visit to the sea-shore of our State, some two years since, with a party of friends, it was proposed one bright afternoon, that we should make up a party and go down the harbour on a fishing excursion.

"We accordingly started, and after sailing about three miles, a young lady of the company declined going further, and requested us to land her on one of the small islands in the harbour, where she proposed to stay until our return. My little boy, then about four years old, preferred remaining with her. Accordingly we left them and proceeded some six miles further. We remained out much longer than we intended, and as night approached a thick fog set in from the sea, entirely enshrouding us. Without compass, and not knowing the right direction to steer, we groped our way along for some hours, until we discovered the breaking of the surf on the rocks of one of the islands, but were at a loss to know which one of them. I stood up in the stern of the boat, where I had been steering, and shouted with all my strength. I listened a moment, and heard through the thick fog and above the breaking of the surf, the sweet voice of my boy calling, "Come this way, Father!—steer straight for me—I'm here, waiting for you!" We steered by that sound, and soon my little boy leaped to my arms with joy, saying, "I knew you would hear me, father!"—and nestled to sleep on my bosom. The child and the maiden are both sleeping now. They died in two short weeks after the period I refer to, with hardly an interval of time between their deaths. Now, when tossed upon the rough sea of life, without compass or guide, enveloped in fog and surrounded with rocks, I seem to hear the sound of that cherub voice calling from the bright shore, 'Come this way, Father!—steer straight for me!' When oppressed with sadness, I take my way to our quiet cemetery, still, as I stand by on little mound, the same musical voice echoes from thence, 'Come this way, Father!—I'm waiting for thee!'"

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents.

THE "MORAL ASPECT" AND "EMPTY PROFESSIONS" OF MASONRY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—"Catholicus" and "The good Bishops'" objections to Masonry, seem to be founded either upon a profound ignorance or gross misconception of the principles of the system they assail. It may be that the "right reverend" gentleman and his admiring "Catholicus," judge of Freemasonry by the actions of those of the Craft with whom they have had the misfortune to come into contact. There are usually unworthy mem-

bers in every associated body of men; and the church furnishes no exception to this rule. Were christianity judged of by the same standard, by the lives of many of its professors, and publicity given to the conclusions arrived at by scoffers of the faith, the "good bishop" would seldom be at the arena of contention, as we are in all charity, and knowing nothing to the contrary, bound to take it for granted that he is one whose christian ardour and courage would be sure, under these circumstances, to inspire him to arise and do battle for the Lord. The bishop's arguments are secondhand, and have, through the Freemasons' Magazine and other Masonic publications, been long ago disposed of, and my only object in addressing you at present, is to put on record another of the many illustrations of our "Society" being something more than a "convivial club."

Some months ago a footsore wayfarer entered the town of Ayr, penniless and without a friend to whom he could make his necessities known; and having in his endeavours to obtain a pittance wherewith to relieve his wants, met with the scowl of those of his fellow-creatures whom he addressed; as a last resource, and most reluctantly, for the subject of this notice was no mendicant, was the resolution taken to make himself known as a high grade Mason. So entering a tradesman's place of business, the poor man threw a sign known only to Knight Templars. Most opportunely the act met with an instant recognition, and further inquiry led to his discovering himself by documentary and other evidence to be a Royal Arch Companion and a Knight Templar, made under the English Constitution. Help was at hand; the man had his wants administered to, and retired to rest his wearied limbs upon the couch prepared for him by the hospitality of strangers. Next morning, the desire to preserve his personal cleanliness, led him to put on a shirt which being hurriedly washed, and only partially dried, brought on rheumatic fever, and for three weeks was this "weary pilgrim" prostrated on a bed of sickness. But during all that period was he kindly succoured by and waited upon at the expense of the Sir Knights, to whom in his extremity he had appealed for aid, and on his recovery was presented with a sum of money sufficient to carry him a considerable way on his journey into England. There surely was something more than "empty professions" on the part of those Masons; and it will tend to give further beauty to their gracefully christian act, when it is mentioned that as Sir Knights they hail from what we in Scotland call an Early Grand Encampment, and which is not recognised by the Grand Conclave. They may not, in our eyes, have the outward adornment of Knights Templars, but assuredly the incident just related rounds to their praise and marks them out as brethren possessed of true knightly bearing and active christian charity, and well entitled to the right hand of fellowship of every brother, be he Craftsman, Royal Arch Companion, or Knight Templar. And should this meet the eye of any of the brethren to whom the poor wanderer was so much indebted, they may derive some pleasure from knowing that their conduct in the case referred to has gone far in disabusing the prejudiced minds of "Conclave" men as to their disqualification for receiving the honours of Masonic Knighthood, and in removing the hindrances to that union and co-operation which ought to characterise Masons of every degree, more especially of Knights Templars. As the poor traveller referred to above bowed his head to receive the attentions bestowed upon him in his hour of distress, he did not, although a Conclave man, want to inquire as to what constitutions or to what body of Templars his benefactors belonged; neither did it tend to the withholding of the needed aid that they knew the object of their charity to be a member of another than the body to which they themselves belonged. I am, yours fraternally,

D. MURRAY LYON,

Ayr June 24, 1862.

Prior of Ayr Priory.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The new Board of General Purposes held its first meeting on the 17th inst., when every member attended but three; we therefore anticipate an attentive body on the new Board. Bro. J. Rankin Stebbing was unanimously re-elected Vice-President.

The Prov. Grand Lodge of Hampshire is to be held at Havant on the 8th July, when the respected Prov. Grand Master, Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, will preside.

The summer festival of the Robert Burns Lodge (No. 25) takes place on the 16th July.

PROVINCIAL.

LANCASHIRE WEST.

LIVERPOOL.—*Ancient Union Lodge* (No. 245).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, on Thursday, 19th of June, 1862. Present—Bros. M. Crawford, W.M.; Young, P.M.; Rowson, S.W.; Friesland, J.W.; C. Bromley, P.M., Treas.; Thomas Marsh, Sec.; C. J. Banister, P.M., P.G.D.C., the rest of the officers, and a good attendance of members and visitors. The minutes of the last regular lodge were read and confirmed. Messrs. Brown and Smith having been duly ballotted for and elected, were initiated into the mysteries of the Order in due form. Bros. Porter, Gillham, and Dalton having given proof of their proficiency, were passed to the second degree, both ceremonies were performed by the W.M. in a very impressive manner; also explaining the working tools in each degree. Business of the lodge being over, it was closed in due form, and with solemn prayer. This successful lodge has set an example which all wealthy lodges should emulate, being in perpetuity governors of all the Masonic charities, having last year given one hundred guineas to them, and three years before given the like sum to the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, an incontestable proof what may be done by lodges meeting at private rooms instead of at hotels and taverns.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.—*Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge* (No. 1081).—This lodge held its anniversary meeting in the Lodge Room at the Town Hall, in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Monday, the 16th of June. The lodge having been opened by Bro. T. H. Robert, P.M., Bro. W. Kelly, D. Prov. G.M. of Leicestershire, occupied the chair in the earlier part of the proceedings. Mr. E. F. Mammatt (son of the late E. Mammatt, Esq., Master of the above lodge, and P. Prov. J.G.W.) was initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry, after which the D. Prov. G.M. and a board of Past Masters proceeded to install, according to ancient custom, the Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. Bro. the Rev. J. Denton, Prov. G. Chap. of Leicestershire, and S.W. of the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge, who was, with the usual ceremonies, placed in the chair, after which he proceeded to nominate and invest his officers as follows:—Bros. Dr. Dicken, S.W.; S. Ison, J.W.; H. Etherington Smith, S.D.; W. M. Bobart, J.D.; F. Hamp, Treas.; J. Redfern, Sec.; J. Goodman, I.G.; W. Cammer, Tyler. Bro. Adlington officiated at the harmonium. At six o'clock the brethren sat down to a most sumptuous banquet at the large room of the Queen's Head Hotel. The chair was occupied by the new Worshipful Master, Rev. J. Denton, who was supported by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly, and by Bros. Goodyer, Morris, H. Etherington Smith, &c. Dr. Dicken occupied the vice-chair. Among other brethren who were present, there were Bros. F. Hamp, G. F. Brown, H. Caldicott, G. Ontraum, W. Woodward, J. Redfern, J. Arnold, H. Harper, F. Bowley, T. K. Smith, R. Morris, E. F. Mammatt, H. Adlington, &c. A most kind letter was received from Bro. the Earl Howe, Prov. G.M., who would have been present, but was obliged to be in London. Grace was said before and after dinner by the chairman, the Rev. J. Denton, after which, in appropriate speeches, he proposed the "Queen and the Craft," "The Prince

of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family, and the Prince of Prussia," "The Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of England," "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master," "The Earl Howe, Grand Master of Leicestershire," "The D. Grand Master of Leicestershire." In proposing the last toast, among other remarks, Bro. Denton said, that though Leicestershire did not boast of so many lodges as, perhaps, from the size of the county it ought to possess, yet that it could boast of having a Prov. Grand Master and D. Prov. Grand Master of whom the Leicestershire Masons had every reason to be proud; and they felt that in the admirable way those offices were filled, they were second to no other province in the kingdom.—Bro. DICKEN then proposed the health of the "Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Leicestershire," to which Bro. Goodyer replied.—Bro. KELLY then rose, and in most flattering terms proposed the "Health of the newly-elected Master of the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge."—Bro. DENTON, in replying, spoke of his predecessors in that office, the late Earl Ferrers and the late Bro. Mammatt, and hoped that he might be enabled to rule the lodge as firmly and as courteously as the last-mentioned brother had done. He urged on the brethren the duty of attending the regular meetings of the lodge, and in every way upholding the great and high principles of Freemasonry. He thanked them extremely for the very flattering manner in which they had elected him to the chair, and concluded by proposing the "Health of his Wardens and Officers."—Bro. DICKEN replied, and proposed "Prosperity to the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge."—The W.M. then proposed "The Visiting Brethren," which was responded to by Bros. Morris (Leicester) and Caldicott (Nuneaton).—The W.M. then proposed "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," which was responded to.—The other toasts proposed from the chair were the "Officers of the Lodge for last year," responded to by Bro. Love; "The newly-initiated Candidate," responded to by Bro. E. F. Mammatt, and "Our Poor and Distressed Brothers throughout the World."—The chair was vacated soon after nine o'clock, and the brethren separated shortly afterwards.

NOTTS AND HUNTS.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the lodges of this province was held on Friday, the 20th inst., at the Lodge Rooms, Wentworth Hotel, Peterborough, under the auspices of the St. Peter's Lodge, No. 646.

The R.W. Prov. G.M., the Marquis of Huntley, presided, and was well supported by the grand officers and brethren of the province, though we have witnessed more numerous gatherings, the falling off being attributable, it is believed, to the circumstance of the meeting having been held at Peterborough for the last three or four years in succession, a proceeding not altogether agreeable or convenient to members of the Craft in other parts of the province.

The business before the Grand Lodge was generally of a routine character. The appointment of grand officers having been made, and the minute books of the various lodges inspected and signed, the treasurer's report was read and adopted. The funds of the province being in a healthy condition, the question of its disposal was agitated. Bro. Frederick Binckes, Secretary of the Boys' School, attended from London, and advantage was taken of his presence to make some inquiries as to the charities of the order, and especially to elicit some explanations with regard to the Boys' School. Bro. Binckes made a lengthened statement, which was accepted as entirely satisfactory by the Noble Marquis in the chair, and by the members of the Grand Lodge generally. Bro. Parker, of Thapston, always zealous in the work of charity, Bro. Ingram, W.M. of the Socrates' Lodge (No. 211), and others took part in the discussion, at the close of which the following handsome donations were granted, with a liberality and thoughtfulness for the wants of these institutions, which greatly redounds to the credit of the province:—Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, £10 10s.; Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children, £10 10s.; Royal Benevolent Institution, £10; in addition to which, from the Provincial Benevolent Fund, £10 was voted to the widow of a deceased brother.

The Most Noble the G.M. was reluctantly compelled to leave after the closing of the Grand Lodge, and the banquet was presided over by Bro. Thomas Ewart, D. Prov. G.M., about thirty brethren partaking thereof, all of whom did justice to the good cheer set before them by the worthy host, Bro. Ellis, whose attention and that of his family and others was deservedly appreciated.

The usual loyal and masonic toasts were heartily received, especially that of "The Charities," with which was coupled the name of Bro. Binckes, who, in reply, addressed an earnest appeal to the assembled brethren to aid him in the task he had assigned himself—that of providing means for the erection within three years, of thoroughly, suitable, and commodious building, comprising every modern improvement, but carefully eschewing all superfluous ornamentation, wherein 100 boys might be accommodated, without encroaching upon the funded property of the institution.

Bro. Dr. Porter, of St. Peter's Lodge (No. 616), kindly consented to represent the province as Steward at the anniversary festival of the Boys' School in March, 1883, amidst the applause and promises of support of the brethren present.

A very agreeable day was successfully brought to a close at a reasonable hour.

ROYAL ARCH.

SCOTLAND.

The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland met in Quarterly Convocation, in the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on the 18th inst. Several proxy Companions were sustained and petitions for a Charter for a new Chapter in Hawick, and also one for a Mark Masters' Lodge in Burslem, Staffordshire, disposed of. Presents from Grand Chapter of Canada were received, and reply to address of condolence to Her Majesty read. A communication was also read from Dr. Arnott, adhering to his resignation of the office of Prov. Grand Superintendent of the Western District, tendered personally by him at the special meeting of the Grand Chapter, held on the 23rd of May last, the proceedings of which were duly reported in this MAGAZINE. The Doctor's resignation was accepted, and as this has the effect of disjoining the province, all proceedings thereon were allowed to drop. Thus, has been wrenched from the grasp of a few Companions in Glasgow, the supervision of a province over which, had they been moderate in their pretensions, they might have held sway long enough. But that this unlooked for rupture will lead to the extension of Royal Arch Masonry in the disjoined provinces, there can be but one opinion. In a geographical point of view the Western District embraced a too extensive and widely scattered territory, to admit of its thorough and effective supervision by Prov. Grand Officers, resident in the city of Glasgow; and in all probability the present state of matters will result in the erection of three or more separate and independent Royal Arch provinces, of which Ayrshire and Galloway may form one, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, and Dumbartonshire the others. As it is highly desirable that every Blue Lodge in the country should have a Royal Arch Chapter attached to it, so ought the arrangement of the country, into Royal Arch provinces, be as nearly as possible similar to that adopted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

WOOLWICH.—*Invicta Chapter of Sovereign Princes Rose Croix*.—This highly important chapter held its usual meeting at the Masonic Hall, Woolwich, on Friday, the 20th inst., under the presidency of the Ill. Bro. Figg, 30°, M.W.S. The officers were W. Smith, C.E., 30°, First Gen.; Capt. King, 31°, Second Gen.; Rev. Dr. Richards, 18°, Prelate; W. Carter, P.M.W.S., 18°; G. Marsh, P. Laird, 18°, Raphael; Matthew Cooke, 30°, Org. The members present were the S.G.L.G. Colonel Clerk, 33°; Hyde Pullen, 32°; Capt. Boyle, 30°; H. Thompson, Lyons, Malings, Dr. Hughes, Bailey, H. T. Wade, and Fraser, 18°. The visitors—the Ex. Bros. Brackstone, Baker and Gumbleton, 18°. The business consisted in admitting to this superb degree Bros. Dr. Hamilton, Prov. G.M., Jamaica; E. Dorling, Prov. G. Sec., Suffolk; William Platt, P.M., 168, and McConnell, P.M. The ceremony being most efficiently performed, after the chapter had been closed the whole of those present adjourned to their annual fish dinner at Bro. Gordon's, the Crown and Sceptre, Greenwich, where Bro. Dr. Hinxman, 31°, met them, he having been appointed Director of Ceremonies, and proceeded to Greenwich to ensure the comfort of the chapter, a task he performed most admirably last year, and with no less success on the pre-

sent occasion, the dinner and wines being all that the most fastidious could desire, reflecting great credit on Bro. Gordon for his attention, and Dr. Hinxman for his good taste. After the cloth had been cleared, and grace said, the M.W.S., the Ill. Bro. Figg, rose and reminded them that on such occasions they usually dropped their masonic titles, and made but short speeches, therefore he proposed "The health of her Majesty" without any other introduction, well knowing how that toast would be received.—The M.W.S. said he should next propose "The health of the Most Puissant Sovereign of the Order, the Ill. Dr. Leeson," who, as their head, had brought it to its present prosperity, and with the toast he would couple "The health of the members of the Supreme Grand Council and Colonel Clerk."—Colonel CLERK, 33°, in the name of the Supreme Grand Council, returned thanks. If Dr. Leeson could have been present he must have been highly gratified by that day's performance of the ceremony. No Rose Croix Chapter could have gone through the work better than the *Invicta*, and, on behalf of himself, he was thankful to have his name mentioned with the toast in that, the most prosperous and best conducted chapter of the order.—Colonel CLERK took that opportunity to propose "The health of their M.W.S., the Ill. Bro. Figg," and to congratulate the chapter on having as its chief officer one so careful, efficient, and perfect in all he undertook.—The M.W.S. was very proud of such commendation, but he thought it was more owing to their habitual kindness to him on that and every other occasion more than to any deserts of his own. For the honour they had done him he returned his best thanks.—The M.W.S. then called upon the Ill. Bro. Dr. Hinxman, 31°, to propose the next toast.—Dr. HINXMAN was quite surprised that he should have been selected for that duty, but it was one which afforded him the greatest pleasure, particularly as they had such visitors present that evening. The chapter, he said, always tried to do its best in the presence of its visitors. They were happy to endeavour to make their work second to none, to introduce their guests into their elegant hall, and offer them such hospitality as they themselves partook of. They were honoured by having amongst them the Ill. Bro. Hyde Pullen, 32°, and the Ex. Bros. Brackstone, Baker, Thompson, and Gumbleton, 18°, and he proposed their healths, which toast was warmly received.—The Ill. Bro. HYDE PULLEN, 32°, said it was with extreme satisfaction that he acknowledged the toast. The ceremony that day had been performed most excellently; indeed, he had never known it done better. They had a hall nicely adapted to it, and the care with which the whole of the fittings and adjuncts were provided were beyond mere praise. From what he had seen that day he was more disposed than ever to adhere to the opinion he had formed, and pronounce that in the provinces the ceremonies were more carefully performed than in the metropolis, and that the metropolitan chapters might well become a learner from them. He and his brother visitors tendered their thanks for their hospitable reception; and for himself he was much pleased with the *Invicta* Chapter, and could not forget that in Kent he was initiated, and was a P. Prov. G. Officer. Kent was his home, and he felt that in their reception that day he was at home. He should, therefore, always take a great interest in that chapter, and he hoped it might long go on in the same way it was doing, it being one of the most prosperous and worthy chapters in the Kingdom.—Colonel CLERK, 33°, proposed "The health of the four brethren who had that day taken the most beautiful degree in Freemasonry;" and he went on, with great facility of expression and clearness, to point out its symbolism, mysteries, and privileges, which it is not proper to print here.—The Ex. Bro. McConnell returned thanks; and Dr. Hamilton stated it to be his intention to see if he could not introduce it into his dependency. Some other toasts followed, and the meeting terminated.

MARK MASONRY.

GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The half-yearly communication was held at Freemasons' Tavern, London, on Wednesday, 18th inst., the M.W. Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, presiding. There were also present, R.W. Bro. W. W. Reul, M.P., as P. Grand Master; R.W. Bros. Ralph A. Renson, G.S.W.; V.W. Dr. Jones, G. Treas., as G.J.W.; V.W. Rev. G. R. Portal, as Grand Chap.; V.W. Frederick Binckes, Grand Sec.; W. Geo. Haward, Grand Senior Overseer; several Past Grand Officers,

with the W. Masters, Wardens, and members of many private lodges in London and the country.

Grand Lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed,

The Rt. Hon. Henry Howard Molyneux Herbert, Earl of Carnarvon, of Highclere Castle, in the county of Hants, and and Piston, in the county of Somerset, was proclaimed M.W. Grand Master of Mark Masters of England and Wales, &c., for the year ensuing, and was saluted in ancient form.

The G.M. thanked the brethren for the renewal of their confidence, which it was at all times his desire to merit, and then proceeded to appoint and invest the Grand Officers, viz. :—

R.W. Bro.	Viscount Holmesdale	D. G. Master.
" "	Sir E. Lechmere, <i>Bart.</i>	G.S.W.
" "	J. Rankin Stebbing	G.J.W.
" "	Rev. W. H. Davies	G. Chaplains.
V.W. "	Rev. David Shaboe	
" "	Rev. Geo. R. Portal	G. Registrar.
" "	Frederick Binckes	G. Secretary.
W. "	F. G. Irwin	G.M. Overseer.
" "	Henry Webster	G.S. Overseer.
" "	John Bradley	G.J. Overseer.
" "	H. A. Hammerbom	G.S. Deacon.
" "	H. S. Wallace	G.J. Deacon.
" "	Edmund Nolan, <i>L.L.D.</i>	G.Supt. of Works.
" "	Samuel Chapple	G. Dir. of Cers.
" "	Thomas Pickering	G.A. Dir. of Cers.
" "	C. A. Cottebrune	G.S.B.
" "	Charles Venables	G. Organist.
" "	H. J. Thompson	G. I. Guard.
Bro.	Smith	Grand Tyler.

The Grand Stewards for the year and the members of the General Board were afterwards nominated. The report of the General Board, in which the members of Grand Lodge were informed that during the past six months, warrants of confirmation had been granted to two lodges working from time immemorial, warrants of constitution to two new lodges—one at Aldershot Camp and one at Oxford—and that two lodges in London which had for some time been in abeyance, had recently resumed operations with prospects of great success, was read, adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

A resolution embodying an alteration in the laws defining the duties of the Grand Registrar, and having for its object the facilitating the issue of certificates, was unanimously agreed to.

The routine and other business before Grand Lodge having been disposed of, the GRAND MASTER rose and said that he had a communication to make which could properly only come from himself, inasmuch as it so nearly concerned the members of Grand Lodge and himself in their personal relations to each other. It was a communication which he assured them he should make with considerable regret, but which was the result of long and dispassionate consideration. In announcing his resolution to retire from the Grand Mastership at the close of the ensuing year, it was but right that he should acquaint them with the grounds on which he had based his decision. They were twofold: first, the inroad upon his time, occasioned by the increase of his public duties, deprived him of that leisure which he would gladly have devoted to their service, and prevented his holding that frequent intercourse with the different members of the executive of the Order which a proper discharge of the duties of his high office imperatively required. Secondly, irrespective of this consideration, his sentiments and opinions with regard to a lengthened tenure of high office were well known to many of those whom he now addressed. He would not subject himself to a charge of inconstancy by violating in his own person a rule of conduct of the good effects of which he had so often endeavoured to convince others, and therefore he must beg to resign into their hands at the expiration of the current year, the trust they had reposed in him. That trust he highly valued; their confidence he warmly appreciated, and he assured them that the course he intended to adopt, did not necessitate, nor would it cause any diminution of that interest he had always felt, and should still continue to feel, in the prosperity of their Ancient Order. He used these words advisedly, for though their present organization was of recent formation, the Mark degree could pride itself on as great antiquity as any other branch of Freemasonry. Were it not so, were it but a thing of yesterday, newly introduced, he could not feel in its success the interest he did. Thanking them for the welcome they had always accorded him, when his numerous duties permitted him the pleasure of meeting them, for the kind support

he had received at all times from those to whom he had looked for counsel and advice; and promising them that his services in any capacity in which they thought he could be most useful, should be at their disposal in the future; he would formally announce his intention to resign the office of Grand Master, which he made to this meeting, in order that the brethren may have ample time to consider their choice of a successor.

Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form, with solemn prayer, and adjourned.

THE GRAND FESTIVAL

Was held at Freemasons' Tavern, at six o'clock. The Right Hon. Earl of Carnarvon, M.W.G.M., in the chair; supported by R.W. Bros. Viscount Holmesdale, D. Grand Master; W. W. Beach, *M.P.*, Prov. G.M., Hants. and Berks.; Sir Edmund Lechmere, *Bart.*, G.S.W.; J. R. Stebbing, G.J.W.; Ralph A. Benson, P.G.W.; Wm. Louis Collins, P.G.W.; Rev. D. Shaboe, Grand Chaplain; Dr. Jones, G. Treas.; Rev. J. R. Portal, G. Reg.; Fredk. Binckes, G. Sec.; Fras. G. Irwin, G.M. Overseer; Geo. Haward, P.G. Overseer; Ed. Nolan, *L.L.D.*, G. Supt. of Works; C. A. Cottebrune, G. Sword Bearer; Joseph Levander, Past Grand Deacon; Thos. Pickering, Grand Assist. Dir. of Cers.; H. J. Thompson, Grand Inner Guard; Capt. Barlow, J. Cole, Grand Stewards; Richard Spencer, Past G. Steward, Bon Accord Lodge; Middleton and Walker, Old Kent Lodge; Harris, W.M., Turner, Sec., Mallet and Chisel Lodge (No. 5) H. Carpenter, J.W., Rev. Geo. Richards, Chaplain, and J. Abrahams, Thistle Lodge (No. 8); W. Reynolds, J. O., Minerva Lodge (No. 12); W. Thompson, J.W., University Lodge (No. 55); W. E. Gumbleton, &c.

The banquet, dinner and wines, provided by Messrs. Elkington and Co., were in every respect satisfactory to the tastes of the most fastidious, and calculated, if possible, to enhance the well-earned reputation of those liberal judicious caterers. The musical exertions of Bros. Edney and Tedder, contributed to the enjoyment of the brethren, who experienced a really intellectual treat in listening as they did with marked attention to the finished oratory of the noble Grand Master, and to the many excellent speeches delivered in connection with the various toasts. The proceedings, from first to last, were of such a character as could not but be productive of the highest gratification to every friend and well-wisher of Mark Masonry.

INDIA.

KAPUNDA.—A complimentary dinner was given to Dr. M. H. S. Blood, at the Sir John Franklin Hotel, on Wednesday, the 5th March, previous to his departure for New South Wales. About fifty persons assembled to do honour to their worthy guest, and the dinner, as usual, was got up in Host Jones's best style. Mr. Bagot, *M.P.*, occupied the chair, and was supported by the guest of the evening and Mr. Townsend, *M.P.*; Mr. Buchanan and Mr. W. Lewis, Mr. James White, Mr. C. S. Hare, and several other leading and influential gentlemen. The vice-chair was ably filled by Mr. D. Shannon. The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the toast of the evening—the health of their worthy guest—said that he felt as if he could only say a few words, but in doing so they would be from his heart. They would, he was sure, drink the toast with grief at the prospect of the long time it might be before they would again have amongst them their respected friend and guest, Dr. Blood. He had known the Doctor intimately for more than twelve years, and while he was not in the habit of employing the language of eulogy, he would remark, with great respect, that Dr. Blood's hand was amongst the first held to welcome him to these shores. (Loud applause.) It was a public loss to see a gentleman of Dr. Blood's class leave the colony. (Hear.) It was indeed a great public loss for a man like their guest to wander far away into other lands, and to part with so many warm friends as had here assembled, and not only would his loss be felt, but that of his estimable and worthy partner from the social circle of this neighbourhood. (Loud Cheers.) There could be no doubt that where the Doctor was going to reside he would rise into a becoming position, and make himself active and useful in public affairs—when he could look back and say a good word for South Australia and of the friends he left behind. The chairman here presented the snuff-box, with a few appropriate remarks. The following inscription was on the box:—"Presented to M. H. S. Blood, Esq., *M.D.*, by his Kapunda friends, as a token of esteem, on his departure from South Australia, 6th March, 1862." He, in his capacity as

Prov. G. Master, also presented him with the following address from the Masonic Lodge of Light:—

"To Bro. Matthew Henry Smith Blood, M.D., Past Master of Masonic Lodge No. 410, I.C.

"WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER,—We, the undersigned Worshipful Master, Officers, and brethren of the Lodge of Light (No. 410) on the registry of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and meeting at Kapunda, in the Province of South Australia, desire to express to you our high appreciation of and sincere thanks for the efficient manner in which you have discharged the duties of this lodge from its formation to the present time, and regret that your contemplated departure from Kapunda deprived us of the privilege of again inviting you to preside over us, and re-electing you Worshipful Master for the current year. From the zeal and ability you have ever evinced in promoting the true interests of Freemasonry, we are assured that your presence and support, wherever your lot may be cast, cannot fail to prove a great benefit to the Craft, and beg you to accept this expression of our sincere and fraternal regards and best wishes that happiness and prosperity may ever attend you.

"Given at Kapunda, in the province of South Australia, this 17th day of January, A.D. 1862; A.L. 5862.

"JAMES HUGGINGS, Worshipful Master,

"And signed by every other officer and member of the Lodge."

The toast was received with tremendous cheers.—Dr. BLOOD rose amidst deafening cheers. He said that he felt unable to return suitable thanks for the honour they had done him, and the praises of the chairman were far beyond what he deserved. The manner in which his health had been drunk made it difficult for him to do any more than thank them from the bottom of his heart. He had known Kapunda in better times, and he still hoped to hear of its advancement, and a long life could only recall the happy years he had spent in its neighbourhood. He had met with kind friends, and though he was leaving Kapunda from causes best known to himself, he still left it with the deepest of gratitude for the kind manner in which he had at all times been treated; and if there were any person who might have said anything to his disadvantage, he forgave him or them from the bottom of his heart, and it should never be stirred up in his breast. The presents which had been given were beyond his expectations—the address from the lodge was flattering indeed. (The Doctor then gave a brief account of Masonry, pointing out the benefits derived by brothers in distress, with other advantages). He proceeded to say that he thanked them most cordially for their kindness towards him that evening, and wherever his lot might be cast, South Australia and Kapunda ever be in his memory. He would never wish to spend a pleasanter time than he had done in Kapunda, and he would leave it with pain and suffering, for he thought that his bones would be laid down there; but he was going to commence life again, and would remind them that he was then some years younger than Capt. Bagot was when he first came to the colony.—Mr. TOWNSEND, M.L., rose and alluded to Dr. Blood again starting in life in the autumn of his days, and warmly eulogised him and his family. He then briefly recapitulated the benefits derived by the district from its mineral, pastoral, and agricultural wealth, and predicted a bright future. He then proposed "The District of Light."—Mr. D. SHANNON, in a speech interspersed with wit and humour, responded. The healths of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Host and Hostess, next followed in succession, and were duly honoured and responded to. The company then drew closer together, and sat down to a convivial party as we ever remember seeing in Kapunda, keeping it up with songs, &c., until "early dawn."

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition was opened Saturday last at half-a-crown. Up to this time the last day of the week has always been charged five shillings, but as few attended but season-ticket-holders, the policy of the change was obvious. The attendance on Saturday was not so large as on the previous day, which was also half-a-crown; but this is not difficult to be accounted for, as there was some misunderstanding in the public mind about the intentions of the authorities, and the attractions of the rehearsal for the Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace proved a powerful rival. The Commissioners have issued a statement of their intentions respecting the public announcement of the awards of

the juries. The awards are to be published at a ceremonial to take place on Friday, July 11, in the Exhibition and the Horticultural Gardens—which are for that day to be thrown open, and are to be, to all intents and purposes, one and the same property. From the 8th July the commissioners will establish two new classes of season tickets, one of which at thirty shillings, will admit to the ceremonial of the awards as well as on all days after the issue; and the other at ten shillings, will admit on all shilling days to the close of the second world's fair.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

The Handel Festival has proved a great success, and everything gone off in the most satisfactory manner. On Monday, "The Messiah" was given, the principal parts in which were sung by Madlle. Titiens, Madlle. Parepa, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. W. Weiss, Signor Belletti, and Mr. Sims Reeves, with Mr. Costa as conductor. The attendance was extremely good. The whole of the music was beautifully performed, but the greatest of all the achievements of the choir was the indescribably grand execution of the "Hallelujah" chorus. This was the very grandest thing in the entire performance—the sublimity of the sublime that musical sound could attain to. We shall never forget it. At the termination of the oratorio, Mr. Costa received a well-merited ovation.

On Wednesday the performance included a selection from the secular as well as the sacred works of Handel, including Dettingen Te Deum, Samson, Judas Maccabæus, Saul, Dryden's Ode on St. Cecilia's Day, Hercules, Alexander's Feast, Solomon, Acis and Galatea, L'Allegro, Deborah, Joshua, the whole of which were beautifully performed. The festival closed yesterday (Friday) with Handel's great master-piece, "Israel in Egypt."

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and Royal Family are at Osborne. The Prince of Wales and several of the junior members of the family have paid repeated visits to the International Exhibition, generally on the shilling days.—On Wednesday their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Prince Arthur crossed in the *Fairy*, royal steam yacht, from Trinity Pier, Cowes, to Southampton, and travelled to London by the South-Western Railway, whence they proceeded from the Vauxhall-station to inspect the show of the Royal Agricultural Society in Battersea Park, where they were joined by their Grand Ducal Highnesses Prince Louis and Prince Henry of Hesse. Their Grand Ducal Highnesses Prince Louis and Prince Henry of Hesse afterwards visited the International Exhibition.—*Spencer's Gazette*, of Berlin, states that the Princess Royal is in an interesting condition. The King has, in consequence, ordered special prayers to be offered up in all the churches in Prussia.—The last bulletin of the health of the King of the Belgians, posted up at the Palace, but not published by the *Belgian Moniteur*, announces that his Majesty continues to improve slowly. The improvement only applies to the pulmonary affection, as the medical men agree in declaring that the extraction of all the calculi can alone put an end to his Majesty's sufferings. A fresh operation is to take place in a few days.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the House of Lords on Thursday, the 19th, Earl Russell called attention to a grave misapprehension which prevails in France with reference to the conduct of the English Government in withdrawing from the Mexican expedition. It was said that Her Majesty's troops had been withdrawn from Mexico, together with the Spanish troops, and that the French troops had been left alone to contend with the difficulty. The noble Earl pointed out that, according to the original convention, this country was simply to furnish a naval force, including 700 marines. That force had, for reasons to which he did not further allude, been withdrawn, but there had been no breach of engagement on the part of England. The resolution of the French Government to send large reinforcements to Mexico was not in any way founded upon the course taken by the British Government. He added, in reply to a question from Lord Malmesbury, that he had received no official information which justified the assertion that Sir C. Wyke had taken an active part with the Mexican government against the French. In reply to a question from Lord Brougham, the noble Earl said the Law officers of the Crown

were of opinion that the Government had no power to surrender the *Emilie St. Pierre* to the government of the United States and he quoted an American precedent in support of this view. The Highways Bill was read a second time; and, several other measures were advanced a stage. Friday, being the anniversary of the Queen's accession, the House did not meet. The proceedings of Monday were unimportant. On Tuesday Lord Shelburne introduced a bill for the better regulation of Friendly Societies which had been prepared by Mr. Tidd Pratt. The measure will not be proceeded with further this session, but the noble Earl trusted that its provisions would be carefully considered during the recess. Several bills having been advanced a stage, Lord Berners asked whether the Government intended to bring in a bill to suppress night poaching, which was attended with so many murderous outrages. Lord Granville replied in the negative. Lord Derby regretted the answer of the noble Earl, and suggested that the country police should have the power to assist the owners of property in dealing with this evil. After some further discussion Lord Berners brought in a bill on the subject, which was read a first time. Their Lordships adjourned shortly before eight o'clock.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, the 19th, Mr. Layard stated, in reply to questions from Lord R. Montagu and Mr. Bright, that the agents of the Chinese government in this country had applied for the services of an English naval officer, but that the application was still under consideration. No gunboats, he added, had been lent to the Chinese government. After a long discussion, the report of the Committee on the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment Bill was agreed to, and the bill was ordered for a third reading. Mr. J. B. Smith, Mr. J. A. Turner, and Sir C. Wood, took part in an interesting discussion which followed, on the capability of India to furnish this country with a supply of good cotton.—On Friday the House held a morning sitting, which was entirely taken up with discussions on the new Irish Poor-law Bill. At the evening sitting Mr. Layard stated, in reply to a question from Mr. Darby Griffith, that official information had been received of the bombardment of Belgrade by the Turkish forces stationed there, and that the Sultan's government had appointed a commission to make inquiry into the matter. The hon. gentleman added that he was not aware that Baron Hubner had offered a body of Austrian troops to co-operate with the Turks in Bosnia, Servia, or anywhere else. A rather disagreeable "scene" took place between Mr. Maguire and Mr. Layard. The member for Dungarvan, in moving for correspondence relating to the order recently issued, prohibiting the distribution of the *British Star*—a Greek paper published in London—by the English Post-office at Constantinople, denounced the conduct of the Government in the matter, and attributed the prohibition to a desire to rig the market in favour of the Ottoman Loan. Mr. Layard explained that the English Post-office at Constantinople existed by the grace of the Turkish government, and when that government complained that the *British Star* contained inflammatory articles inciting the Sultan's subjects to revolt, it became the duty of the Foreign Office to see that the postal facilities offered to British subjects by the Porte were not converted into a vehicle for circulating sedition. As to the charge of rigging the market, he would not condescend to reply to such an allegation from "such a man." Mr. Vincent Scully immediately moved that these words should be taken down, but explanations were mutually made by Mr. Maguire and Mr. Layard, and the matter was allowed to drop.—On Monday Sir G. C. Lewis moved his resolution asking for a sum of £1,200,000 towards "defraying the expenses of the construction of works for the defence of the royal dockyards and arsenals, and of the ports of Dover and Portland, and for the creation of a central arsenal." The right hon. Baronet contended that the measures which during the last few years had been taken for improving the defence of the country could not with justice be called excessive. He also defended the Government against the charge of extravagance, reminding the House that when it proceeded to compare the estimates of the last few years with those of the preceding years, it should consider the exceptional character of a period which has been marked by a complete revolution in the appliances of war. He explained that the grant he now asked the House to sanction was intended to carry out the works actually in progress, and stated that it was not proposed to proceed with the Spithead forts until next spring, although he could not help thinking that subsequent events must have modified the anti-fortification opinions based upon the result of the fight between the *Monitor* and the *Mer-*

rimac. Mr. Bernal Osborne condemned the policy of the Government at great length, and moved, as an amendment:—"That, considering the changes in progress affecting the science of attack and defence, it is expedient to proceed with the construction of proposed forts at Spithead, or additional defences at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Dover; and that the navy should be regarded as the arm on which the country must mainly depend." A long and interesting debate followed, terminating by the carrying of the original resolution.—On Tuesday, the House of Commons held another morning sitting, which was entirely occupied with the consideration of the clauses of a Scotch bill. At the evening sitting Mr. Sotherton Estcourt moved his resolution on the church rates question, which was followed by two amendments and a long discussion. Ultimately the resolution and amendment were withdrawn, Mr. Sotherton Estcourt expressing his regret that the Government still declined to take the question out of the hands of private members. The only member of the Government who took part in the discussion was Sir George Grey, who intimated that he and his colleagues were prepared to support that portion of the member for North Wiltshire's scheme which provided for the repeal of existing legal process for the recovery of the rate, and gave facilities for the collection of a voluntary rate.—The sitting of Wednesday was taken up with the discussion of the Inns of Court Government Bill, the second reading of which was moved by Sir G. Bowyer. He objected to the irresponsible power of the benchers to deal with the cases of barristers against whom charges were made, and complained generally of the manner in which the funds of the Inns of Court were administered. Mr. Collier and several other members of the legal profession, opposed the bill, and defended the privileges of the Inns of Court. Mr. Digby Seymour, whose case was alluded to by Sir G. Bowyer as one of the arguments for passing the bill, entered into a statement of the manner in which he had been dealt with by the benchers, and justified his conduct in regard to several of the charges which had been made against him. Mr. Bovill replied to him, and stated what were the charges made against the hon. gentleman. He upheld the course which the benchers had taken in the case, and plainly said that Mr. Seymour had only been created Queen's counsel in a political crisis, having been refused before the office of serjeant-at-law. Sir G. Grey thought it necessary to deny that the dignity of Queen's counsel had been conferred on Mr. Seymour in a political crisis, and after some further discussion the bill was negatived without a division.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—Another distinguished stranger, Prince Napoleon, has arrived in London. On Monday, His Imperial Highness visited the Exhibition, and the Agricultural Show, at Battersea; and at ten o'clock in the evening he made his appearance in the Ambassadors' gallery in the House of Commons. He remained in the House about three hours, and, no doubt, listened with satisfaction to the complimentary language used towards his Sovereign and country by Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli, in the course of the debate on the national defences.—The remains of Lord Canning were deposited, on Saturday, in the grave of his illustrious father, in Westminster Abbey. Lord Palmerston and numerous other friends of the deceased statesman were present at the interment.—The annual dinner of the Royal Literary Fund took place on Tuesday evening, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Earl Granville presiding. The subscriptions during the evening amounted to over £700.—The cattle show of the Royal Agricultural Society is held this year in Battersea Park. On Monday the implement yard was opened to the members of the society, and to the general public on payment of half-a-crown; and on these terms a considerable number assembled. The cattle show was opened on Wednesday, and promises to be successful.—It will be remembered that a case of bigamy, charged against the wife of a gentleman of fortune, has made its appearance from time to time our police and criminal courts. It has been finally disposed of at the Central Criminal Court. The lady, formerly an actress in a country theatre, had married an officer of militia named Wilson, and his friends disapproving of the match, endeavoured to annul it by this criminal charge. The lady did not deny that she had previously married a man in a humble position in life, but her defence was that it was he who was the bigamist, and that her first marriage was therefore no marriage at all. At the trial a witness who came all the way from Canada proved that her first husband had, at all events, lived there with a woman as his wife some years before the date of his marriage with Mrs. Wilson, and on this evidence the jury at once acquitted the prisoner, while the judge, feeling

that the prosecution was not instituted to further the ends of justice, refused to allow the costs of the trial.—A grave charge has for some time been hanging over Mr. Phillips, an extensive horse-dealer in the West-end, that he had poisoned his wife. The charge was preferred by the mother and sister of the deceased; and on their complaint the body was exhumed, and an inquest held. The medical evidence showed that there was not the slightest pretence for the charge, but that, in their opinion, the death was caused by the excitement in which the relations of the lady kept her during her confinement. The jury accordingly returned a verdict entirely freeing the husband from all blame in the matter.—A woman named Wilson, who was last week acquitted, at the Central Criminal Court, on the charge of attempting to poison a Mrs. Cornell, was at once re-apprehended, and now stands accused of having caused the death of a Mrs. Atkinson, by the administration of arsenic. According to the statement of the prosecuting solicitor in this second case, Mrs. Atkinson was the wife a draper at Kirby Lonsdale, in Westmoreland, and was in the habit of visiting London periodically, for the purpose of making purchases of goods. She had known Wilson for some years, and on going to town in October, 1860, she went to lodge at the prisoner's house. She was there seized with violent illness, and in the course of a few days died. When Wilson was apprehended on the charge of attempting to poison Mrs. Cornell, Mr. Atkinson's suspicions were aroused, and the body of his wife was exhumed. Portions of the viscera were submitted to a well-known analyst, who found distinct traces of arsenic. It is stated that there are other charges of an equally serious nature to be preferred against the prisoner.—The first trial before the Special Commission at Clonmel has resulted in the acquittal of the prisoner Bolan, who was charged with firing a pistol at Colonel Knox, in the county of Tipperary. The colonel was examined, and distinctly swore to the prisoner as having held his horse while another man fired at him, and further referred to certain marks, which tended more clearly to identify him. On the other hand, a host of witnesses of his own class swore that the prisoner was in another place altogether at the time of the outrage. The Solicitor General in his reply, denounced this attempt at an *alibi* as a conspiracy to defeat the ends of justice; but it made its impression on the jury, who returned a verdict of not guilty.—A curious case has been before the Court of Exchequer, when the now celebrated Madame Rachel sued the Hon. Captain Carnegie, for the remuneration due to her for ennobling his wife's person. The gallant sailor denied that he had given any sanction for the exercise of the plaintiff's art upon his wife, or any one else, or that he knew anything of the matter till he was horrified by having a bill presented to him for close upon a thousand pounds. He had never refused his wife proper medical attendance, but he did not consider that this came within the range of a medical charge. The jury took the same view of the question, and without a moment's hesitation returned a verdict in favour of the defendant. A dreadful explosion occurred on Saturday, at the percussion cap manufactory of Messrs. Walker of Birmingham. The whole of the premises were demolished, and some of the adjoining buildings were seriously damaged. Nine bodies were taken from the ruins, and upwards of thirty of the workpeople, chiefly boys and girls, were also more or less seriously injured, and the report of their condition is on the whole favourable. The belief in the town is that the explosion was caused by the two brothers, partners in the firm, being engaged in the cellar mixing the powder—a process so dangerous that its performance in a town is illegal.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—It is now asserted that the object of the King of Portugal's choice is the Princess of Hanover, and that His Majesty has received the Hanoverian plenipotentiaries on the subject. The Portuguese Chambers are to close on the 30th inst.—The Elector of Hesse's ultimate appointment of a Ministry pledged to re-establish the constitution of 1831, and the electoral law of 1849 was due to a Prussian threat, that his dominions should be occupied by Prussian troops. He yielded to the menace of a military intervention, but protested; and now the semi-official Berlin journal states that the concentration of Prussian troops has been suspended, but that "further action is reserved, should the new Ministry not realise their promises."—In correspondence from Rome it is stated that the Marquis de Lavalette had a long audience with the Pope, and reports were current that the French occupation would be restricted to the province of Rome. On the other hand, it is stated that the reactionary leaders in Rome are reviving their operations, and in Naples some fresh outbreaks of

brigandage are talked of.—A despatch from Turin confirms the report that Garibaldi has returned to the hermitage at Caprera: and we may, therefore, presume that the Italian "party of action" has abandoned any immediate intention of endeavouring to excite a war with Austria.—The crime of incendiarism has assumed such alarming proportions in Russia, that an Imperial decree has been issued, authorising the Governors of provinces to put any place where incendiarism shall take place under martial law, and the crime, as well as murder, rapine, and the destruction of crops, is to be punishable with death.—The city of Belgrade is reported to continue in a very disturbed state, and many shocking incidents to be daily occurring. The peasants who were summoned in defence of the city against the Turks, have plundered indiscriminately the native and foreign merchants. The result has been that martial law has been proclaimed, and is being vigorously carried out. According to the French *Moniteur*, the Turkish Government had recalled the commandant of the garrison, and sent Ahmet Effendi to make a searching inquiry into the circumstances which led to the conflict.—M. Catargi, the President of the Council of Ministers for Wallachia, was assassinated on Friday as he was leaving the Chamber of Deputies at Bucharest. The cause was not known, nor the assassin discovered.—According to Mexican intelligence transmitted by way of New York, the French troops had fallen back to Orizaba from the neighbourhood of Puebla, and were awaiting instructions and reinforcements from Europe. The *Moniteur* says that intelligence from Washington justifies us in considering the rumour of the retreat of the French to Vera Cruz as unfounded.

AMERICA.—The advices brought by the *Europa* are to the 12th inst. There had been some skirmishing, but no important engagement, in front of Richmond since the battle of Fair Oaks, as the action on the 31st of May and 1st of June appears to be now termed in the North. General McClellan had officially reported that the Federal loss in that battle amounted to 5,700 men, including 1200 missing. The *Richmond Despatch* estimated the loss of the Confederates at 8000 men, and that of the Federals at 12,000 to 20,000 men. General McClellan had received a reinforcement of 20,000 men, and it was reported that 60,000 more troops would be sent to him. The action between the Federal and Confederate flotillas, which preceded the surrender of Memphis, had been attended with considerable loss on both sides, and had resulted in the capture or destruction of every Confederate gunboat except one, which escaped by her great speed. General Halleck, reported that the Confederates had fallen back to Tussilla, and that General Beauregard himself had retreated to Okolona. The *Bohemian* has brought us advices two days later. James Island, near Charleston, had been occupied by the Federals. The Confederates had been reinforced in East Tennessee. There had been a further rise in the price of gold at New York; and one or two of the New York journals were venturing to oppose the passing of Secretary Chase's bill, authorising the issue of additional demand notes to the amount of 150,000,000 dollars.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE GRAND SECRETARY.—Just as we were going to press, we received a letter from Bro. Gray Clarke, which shall appear if he wishes it, but as he informs us that his former letter was not written for publication, and accuses us of using it to serve our "own ends," we withhold it until we hear from him again. Had Bro. Clarke wished his former letter "private," or directed it to Bro. Warren individually, it would never have appeared; but by directing it merely to the Editor, we were led to believe he meant it for the Craft. We repeat that we never give up the names of Correspondents without their consent, and we are prepared to assume the responsibility of refusing. In this case the name would have been given up if asked for in a proper manner.

[Owing to this being our index number, several communications arrived too late for insertion.]

Bro. W. B. SMITH shall be written to next week.

A. A.—The black silk gown by all means.

C. H. W.—A brother cannot be Master of two lodges at one time, even in different provinces, without a dispensation from the Grand Master, which he is very jealous of giving.

E. Z.—We are not in the secret.

