

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1862.

BREVET RANK.

AN IRREGULARITY IN KENT.

WE must call attention to the proceedings of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent, which appears in another column, where it will be seen, that, in direct violation of the decision of the United Grand Lodge in December last, Bro. Cooley, Prov. G.D.C., has been raised to the dignity of P. Prov. G. Warden. At Grand Lodge on the 4th of December, in order to settle a difficulty which had arisen as to whether the power given in the previous June by Grand Lodge to the Grand Master, of granting brevet rank for distinguished services, extended to Provincial Grand Masters, and which, it was evident, was never intended to apply to them, it was moved by the President of the Board of General Purposes to add to the original resolution:—

"Provided that nothing herein contained shall empower Prov. Grand Masters to make similar appointments in their respective provinces."

And the M. W. Grand Master, in speaking on the subject, said—

"He was perfectly indifferent in regard to the matter, for he had no jealousy whatever of the Prov. G.M.'s, but it was only right and just that the reasons of the original resolution should be fully understood. If under the resolution the Prov. G.M.'s were to have the power of conferring these honours, *they would become invested with a right which had never been intended for them.* It was principally with the view of enabling the Grand Master to confer distinctions upon eminent Masons in the provinces, but who were unable to attend Grand Lodge, that the resolution had been originally adopted, but that object would be defeated if the disposal of these honours were to be placed in the hands of the Prov. G.M.'s, *who would then have so great a power as to render it unnecessary for the Grand Master to seek to confer honours upon the provincial brethren.*"

After some discussion, in which the limitation was even supported by country brethren, the resolution for confining the power to the M. W. Grand Master, was carried by a large majority.

This was only in December last, and confirmed in March of the present year. We are, therefore, surprised that the Provincial Grand Master should have been led by his advisers, so early as July, to take a step and make an appointment which cannot be maintained.

We do not blame Viscount Holmesdale, he is but young in Masonry, and confesses he knows but little about it; but if his Deputy could not warn him of the illegality of the act, we are astonished there was not one brother to be found in

Kent sufficiently acquainted with the masonic history of the last six months to advise him that the appointment was illegal.

The R.W. Prov. G. Master may, if he wish to do so, reward Bro. Cooley, on the first opportunity, by making him a Prov. Grand Warden; but the present appointment must be immediately quashed.

THE THREATENED SECESSION FROM THE SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE MAGAZINE of the 7th June, contained a report of the proceedings of Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, from which it appeared that, in consequence of the judgment given by that body in the case "Ayr Kilwinning Chapter (No. 80), *against* the Provincial Grand Chapter of the Western Districts," the Provincial Grand Principal Z. had verbally tendered his resignation of that office. It was also reported in the MAGAZINE that, at a subsequent meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter, Dr. Walker Arnott had communicated in writing his adherence to the said resignation, and that the same had been accepted by Grand Chapter. Having in these reports exhibited the salient points of the matter in dispute, we presume our readers will sufficiently understand the question without necessitating the recapitulation of what has already been reported in these pages.

From what fell from the lips of Comp. Arnott, in Grand Chapter, on the night of the 23rd May last, we were quite prepared for what has followed on the settlement of the business upon which the Ayr and Glasgow brethren went to Edinburgh; but that we might not be chargeable with taking advantage of the excited state into which Dr. Arnott fell during the closing remarks with which he favoured Grand Chapter, and lest, also, the Doctor, on a calm review of the whole matter, might be led to alter what appeared to us a hastily-formed resolution, and to withdraw his resignation, we refrained from publishing in our report any allusion to the threats of secession which that Companion threw in the teeth of Grand Chapter; neither, for the same reasons, did we make any reference to the most extraordinary and highly objectionable letter which he had addressed to Comp. Lord James Murray, which was read to the meeting, and in which, among other absurdities, was preferred against his Lordship a claim of several pounds sterling, in shape of damages, for the trouble the Prov. Grand Superintendent had been put to in consequence of the Grand Committee having sustained as relevant certain clauses of the complaint which the Ayr Kilwinning Chapter had lodged against him. The reading of that letter called forth the marked disapprobation of Grand Chapter, and after making an apology to Lord James Murray for having addressed to him such an injudicious epistle, Dr. Arnott begged to be allowed to withdraw it, to which request his Lordship, with the consent of Grand Chapter, acceded, and the matter was allowed to drop.

But Dr. Arnott has not only resigned the Prov.

Grand Principalship of the Western District, but appears to have withdrawn his allegiance from the Supreme Grand Chapter, and ceased to have any connection with the chapters holding under her banner. With Dr. Walker Arnott as a Royal Arch Companion, then, we have nothing further to do; we only hope that before lending his name and his influence in furtherance of the unjustifiable designs of his avowed sympathisers, he will carefully study the very stringent Royal Arch O. B., which he has himself taken, and been the means also of administering to many others.

The issuing of a printed circular by a person designating himself "Prov. G. Scribe E.," summoning a public meeting of the Royal Arch Masons of the West of Scotland, releases us from further reserve on this unpleasant subject, and we shall endeavour to show what has already followed from Dr. Arnott's secession; but before proceeding to do so, we beg leave to premise that by the acceptance by Grand Chapter of Dr. Arnott's resignation, the Prov. Grand Chapter of the Western District was broken up, and the various subordinate chapters forming that district, put under the direct control and superintendence of Supreme Grand Chapter.

The following "feeler" thrown out by the discomfited chiefs of the Provincial Grand party, has, we believe, been sown broadcast throughout Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Dumbarton, and Lanarkshire,—

"DEAR SIR AND COMPANION.—In consequence of the late extraordinary decisions of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, which have led Dr. G. A. Walker Arnott, Provincial Grand Superintendent for the Western District of Scotland, to resign, not only his office as Provincial Grand Z., but also that of Past Grand Z. of Scotland, as well as to renounce all connexion with the Chapters holding under her banner, I have to request your attendance at a special meeting of the Royal Arch Masons of the West of Scotland, to be held in the Crow Hotel, George Square, on Tuesday, 8th prox., at seven o'clock, p.m., to determine the steps necessary to be taken in the circumstances of the case.

"I am, dear Sir and Companion, yours fraternally,

"ROB. WALLACE,

"Glasgow, 28th June, 1862.

Prov. G. Scribe E."

Now, from the above most "extraordinary" circular, it will be seen that the late Prov. Grand Superintendent has not only washed his hands of all participation in the "late extraordinary decisions of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland," but suggests by his own example the secession from their Masonic head of all who reciprocate the bitter feelings, anger, and disappointment, with which he views the "decisions" referred to—decisions notoriously just and impartial, and which have indicated the rights and liberties without homologating the shortcomings of subordinate chapters, prevented the abuse of delegated power, and preserved individual members of the Order from the unmitigated persecution of a Masonic Papacy. To our mind there is nothing "extraordinary" in the deliverances which have been seized upon as a pretext for the highly reprehensible course upon which the malcontents have entered. They desired an interpretation of the laws of the Order, which could not be borne out, and being balked in that, ventured on the assumption of powers which could not on any account be conceded, and now that they find themselves thwarted on every point,

they seek to excite among subordinate chapters an open rebellion against the authority of the Grand Chapter, and to make capital out of the humiliating position as a Royal Arch Mason, in which their acknowledged champion and scapegoat has placed himself. They pretend to be moved in the matter, out of pure sympathy for the late Prov. Grand Superintendent, and in attempting to seduce others from their allegiance to the Grand Chapter, affect to be animated by a strong desire for the good of the Order. But the motives by which they are actuated are too transparent to admit of that construction being put upon them; and those conversant with the Masonic business of the West of Scotland, have not, during the last few years, failed to discover in their policy a conjuncture of circumstances indicative of a desire to domineer over, and dictate to the whole Masonic body in the West, even at the risk of a collision with the Grand bodies of "Red" and "Blue" in Edinburgh. Sympathy for any one, or a sincere regard to the peace, harmony, and prosperity of Masonry, have little to do in the movement now under consideration. Indeed it is pretty generally believed that the result of the last election for Grand Royal Arch Office-bearers, and the merited censure which the unjustifiable suspension of the Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning, brought down upon certain parties in Glasgow, have had more influence in shaping their present insane course, than any thing arising out of the late case.

But we may be attaching too much importance to the threats of the would-be Masonic martyrs, for, notwithstanding their extravagantly expressed enthusiasm for secession, the 8th of July has come and gone, and we still find them hugging the chains of their bondage. And well they may, for they have not the shadow of a case to lay before the Grand Royal Arch Chapters of England, Ireland, or America, in support of their claim to be recognised as an independent supreme body. On the contrary, their contemplated act, if consummated, would draw upon them the severest reprehension of those grand bodies, and lead to their exclusion from every recognised Royal Arch Chapter in Europe or America. Besides, as every one knows, a withdrawal from the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland would disqualify those of the secessionists who are members of the *haut grades* from membership in the Scottish Priorities of Knight Templars. See section 18 of the statutes of that order:—"No one shall be admitted a Knight Templar, or Esquire, or allowed to attend any of the meetings, either of the Grand Priory, Council, or subordinate encampments, who is not a regular Royal Arch Mason, and in possession of a diploma or certificate of registration from some recognised supreme body of that degree of Masonry." Some of those loudest in their declamation against the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland are Knights Templar, and when a full view breaks upon them of how secession from the constituted authorities in the Royal Arch degree in Scotland would affect them in regard to the Templars in this and other countries, they are very likely to hesitate before taking the final step in severing their connection with the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland. The caution and timidity which characterised the great meeting in the Crow Hotel, Glasgow, on the 8th inst., fully justify us in thus expressing ourselves. The animadversions of the speakers at that meeting on the "decisions" of Grand

Committee and Grand Chapter were pithless, and failed in convincing the unprejudiced portion of the gathering of the necessity for their withdrawal from their supreme head. A great amount of bluster made up for evaporated secession enthusiasm, and after a free rehearsal of old grievances and the manufacture of a lot of new ones, the meeting was adjourned without any definite step being taken in the direction of raising the much talked-of Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Glasgow. It is said another meeting is shortly to be held, to which we suspect only the friends of secession will be invited, seeing that the "special meeting of the Royal Arch Masons of the West of Scotland" has failed to produce the desired effect. Unanimity, talent, and pluck are, we fear, ingredients sadly wanting in the composition of the motley groups of Royal Archers seeking an asylum under the shade of the myrtle; and meantime we refrain from publishing their names, leaving it to themselves to announce their *début* as Irregulars, when the Masonic world will be enabled to form a proper estimate of the men who can so lightly lay aside the solemn obligations under which they voluntarily came to stand by and support the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, to abide by and observe its constitutions, and its laws, present and prospective, and otherwise to render allegiance to that grand body as the acknowledged head of the Royal Arch Degree in Scotland. Talk of the early grand schism? Why, properly speaking, that is no schism at all; for never having consented to come under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, Royal Arch Companions of the Early Grand Constitution cannot be said to have broken their fealty to Edinburgh, but have continued in the same state of independence and isolation as that in which the formation in 1817 of the present Supreme Grand Chapter placed them.

The Royal Arch Masons in the West are curious to know upon what grounds the promoters of the promised new Grand Royal Arch Chapter rest their claim for recognition as an independent body. These claims will be narrowly scrutinised by the Grand Chapters of England and Ireland, and unless Messrs. the Grand Chapter of Glasgow and Co. can shew good cause for the assertion of their independence, they may lay their account in being unceremoniously snubbed. That they can neither show authority, precedent, nor principle for the step they threaten to take is beyond question. And as to the much talked of "extraordinary decisions" which have been held up to the execration of the companions in the West of Scotland, they were the result of a deliberate and unanimous vote of Grand Committee, and were confirmed and given effect to by the unanimous act of Grand Chapter itself, at one of the largest meetings of that body ever held in Edinburgh. If there was anything faulty in these "decisions," it was the forbearance they displayed towards those of the late Prov. Grand Chapter of the Western District, who fomented the quarrel with the Ayr Kilwinning Chapter, and who sought to brow-beat and coerce the First Grand Principal and himself into a concession of their unrighteous demands. Having access to all the documents lodged in this famous case, we may at an early day submit them to the readers of the Magazine.

All things considered,—the alleged causes for secession, the Masonic position of the leaders, the unscrupulous means adopted to entrap and compromise the unwary, and the tardy and very insignificant amount of numerical or moral support likely to be given to the renegades—the Royal Arch Masons of the West country

have nothing to fear for the ultimate issue of this rebellious movement. Lord James Murray has for his counsellors a staff of Grand Office-bearers quite competent not only to defend Supreme Grand Chapter against the machinations of its secret or avowed enemies, but to deal also with matters of far greater magnitude or intricacy than the secession of a fraction of disappointed companions could by any possibility entail upon it. And in Glasgow, under the very nose of the promoters of the impending schism, we rejoice to be able to say that there are scores of intelligent and independent Master Masons to whom the exodus will be but a signal for their taking the Arch Degree and rallying round the banner of Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland. There are also to be found among the members of the Glasgow and other subordinate chapters many bold-hearted companions possessed of spirit enough to repudiate in a practical way the unmasonic conduct of those endeavouring to mar the unity of the order by the setting up of another Grand Chapter.

In conclusion, we may state that the Grand Chapter and the Grand Conclave of Scottish Knights Templar are both of them cognisant of what is going on: they are biding their time, and when the opportunity presents itself will strike with decision and firmness. These grand bodies have, in the preservation of the honour and dignity of the orders under their respective jurisdictions, a duty to perform, transcending in importance every consideration of private or of local interest; and we are confident that the brethren at the head of affairs in Edinburgh will not, in their treatment of the question of threatened or of actual secession, belie the character for high Masonic ability and general faithfulness, which their antecedents have established for them.

CLASSICAL THEOLOGY.—LIX.

X.—VESTA AND DECEMBER.

Some have considered the Venus of the Sidonians, whom they called Astarte, or the Goddess of Syria, to have been the presiding Seraphim or sovereign goddess of the Moon, and it is certain they worshipped her in the emblem of a bright star. To seek truth is pleasant, we are told; to see it is more pleasant; and to discover it is the most pleasant; probably because the latter is the more difficult to effect.

The old poets assure us that the giants who assaulted heaven (*oppugnatum Cælum*), were buried beneath vast mountains, and, as often as they endeavoured to rise, caused earthquakes.

Certainly Venus by all accounts has occasioned more ruin than earthquakes, and in the presence of this beautiful goddess, the more lovely Psyche, in all purity, conscious of her loneliness, and her love of Cupid, greatly trembled, and found her as exacting and intractable as Hercules did Euristheus whilst under his subjection. Psyche was, after the performance of the task already alluded to, commanded by Venus to fetch a lock of a golden fleece from the back of the monarch of a mighty flock of wild sheep, feeding on an almost inaccessible mountain.

She could not help weeping, and murmuring at her lot, as she set forward upon this mission, but the spirit of energy gave her strength, and the spirit of love was near her. She had not journeyed far, before the reeds sacred to Pan, began to send forth beautiful melody, in which she was instructed how to cross the river she was obliged to pass, and in what steps it was requisite for her to pursue in order to obtain the

golden ringlet of wool, on which she had reason to believe her life depended. By following these directions so harmoniously given, Psyche was again enabled to baffle the envy of her persecutor. But Venus, on being presented with the object she had demanded, much more offended than pleased, instantly ordered her victim, as though she were a slave to her hate and whims, to procure a goblet of a curious jet black water from a fount guarded by huge and ferocious dragons. Psyche, however, had not far to go, for scarcely had she arrived within view of the place, ere a royal eagle, resembling one of those of Jupiter, possessed himself of the calix, or goblet which was of silver, and having filled it at the fountain, restored it to her; and it is said the spirits of Psyche were exhilarated with a feeling of triumph when she placed it in the hands of Venus.

"It is all very well," said the goddess, looking exceedingly annoyed, "yet a further proof of your obedience and alacrity in our welfare is required of you. Therefore we must command that you set off at once to the dominions of Pluto, king of the Hades, and obtain at our gracious request, of her Majesty, the Queen Proserpine, called our Lady, a small vase of her famous ointment, known as *cosmica unguenta*. Go, tarry not, nor lose it, if you wish to escape our just chastisement," and so saying she gave Psyche a box on the ear. Venus trusted, through the efficacy of this sovereign unguent, or most vitally perfumed essence of essences of the world, to be able to restore the bloom to her cheeks, and the calmness to her brow, which her fits of jealousy and convulsion of malignity had very visibly destroyed. Psyche, instead of descending into the bowels of the earth, ascended to the top of a high tower hewn out of the solid rock, to attempt the transit to that lower world by a leap from its summit; or, we should say, to contemplate such an end for some other and higher purpose. In this act a voice, whose breath seemed to pass over her face, told her not to be afraid of anything; her conscience was God's witness. "Love," it said "procures virtue, vice produces hatred: if conscious of no fault, do not fear," and directed her to a secret recess appertaining to a cavern in Campania, where she would find access to the main road conducting to the abode of the unangelic souls, and the court to which she was confidentially bound.

Following these directions, Psyche became fearless and courageous. Thus self-secured in the trust of innocence, as she advanced towards the lake dedicated to Pluto, every obstacle vanished before her. In her descent beneath the Avernus, the shades of the deceased of all classes smiled upon her and gave her welcome: Cerberus growled not, nor did Charon demand his fee.

The Queen of Erebus, with remarkable condescension, presented the vessel of ointment, and even extended to Psyche her royal hand, and escorted her in person some part of the way to the upper world. Here, having safely arrived, she was induced by the spirit of Curiosity to open the case containing the precious gift, whereupon there exhaled a vapour that enveloped her in so powerful a fragrance as to deprive her of her senses. Cupid, now visible in person, hastened to revive her, and having given her a tender embrace of reconciliation, and secured the casket, informed her that he had obtained the consent of his father to the solemnisation of their marriage in pre-

sence of all the chief deities. He, however, required Psyche, who no longer had any dread of Venus, to take Proserpine's gift to his mother, he having, in the meanwhile, to attend the court of Olympus.

The ruler of the highest Heaven (*Summi Regnator Olympi*), after some prescient and warning advice to his son, convened the highest assembly of the gods and goddesses, and announced to them that "as Cupid had discovered Psyche to have been a creation of happiness, and that immortality and mortality would be alike eternal punishment without the happiness that they (Cupid and Psyche) were together able to give to existence, he had come to the conclusion that they should be now and here presently united." Olympus, in full assembly, with one accord expressed their approbation, for even Venus dared not so much as to murmur.

The great Olympus himself then, having commanded the presence of Psyche, with his own hands administered to her the immortalising ambrosia, "Know," he said, "by this reserved proof of our favour, lovely, and to be ever loved Psyche, you partake of the immortality of ourselves. Cupid and Psyche, with my benediction, I pronounce your union to be celebrated to all eternity—*Jubilatus, Jubilo, Jubilum*."

Amongst the nuptial assemblage, the Goddess of Beauty was observed to be as well pleased and as gay as any of them.

As in heaven, so in earth, there was a never-to-be-forgotten jubilee.

The happy couple, in course of time, added to the celestial deities a young daughter, who became famous for her beauty, under the name of Volupia or Volupta, one of the tutelar goddesses presiding over adult persons, and of pleasure.

In whatsoever manner Cupid and Psyche have formed the themes and paintings of poets and the groups of many sculptors, they were never more truthfully and beautifully, though emblematically, represented than at the present day. The Cupid and Psyche, found on Mount Aventino, and placed in the *Sala del Fiume* of the Capitoline Museum, is statuary now only valuable for being a piece of antiquity. But Volupia was not the only offspring of Cupid and Psyche. "Mercy and truth endureth for ever." By the mystical union of love and the soul, salvation came into the world through that God in whom all must place their trust.

IMPROMPTU.

On a young Freemason saying to R. E. X. "I wish I could work like you."

The queen of flowers once stoop'd to see
The labours of a humble Bee,
And found, from every fragrant flower
In every wood, in every bower,
In every grove, in every dell
From Tulip, Rose, and Lily's cell,
The little chemist culled his store;
His silver and his golden ore,
And stowed it in his waxen cone,
From her or any other drone.
If nature or grim want should ask
The fruits of his laborious task.
Pleased with the sight at first, said she,
"I wish I could but work like thee."
"Why Madam, so you could," cried he,
If you would taste its sweets like me,
Your simple working humble bee."

—Babbicombe Bay.

KABBALISM, OR THE RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY OF THE HEBREWS.

(Continued from Page 25.)

We have already mentioned the nine hierarchies of angels, which, with the human soul, answer to the ten Sephiroth; many very different opinions are found among the Kabbalists as to their nature and office; many seem to have thought that they had a sort of corporeity, an opinion shared by Origen and some other Christian Fathers. By some they were supposed to have been created on the second day; by others, on the fifth; by others, on each day of the creation. We again find mention of a male and female principle, or, perhaps, of male and female angels: among the latter is Lilith, so often mentioned in the Talmud. She is spoken of by some as the first wife of Adam, discarded on account of her disobedience, and, by him, the mother of the demons; by others, as the wife of Leviathan. Angels presided over the powers of nature, the sun, moon, planets, &c. These were of two classes; one engaged in the perpetual worship of God, the other in acting as His messengers and ministers. Of their fall, opinions, too, were various; the commonest seems to have been that, discontented and envious of the high position that God assigned to man, as lord of the earth, they determined to work man's ruin, so the chief of them, Samael, tempted Eve. Here, again, opinions vary as to both the cause and manner of the fall; the idea of lust being somehow the sin of our first parents, was very general, and appears in various ways; it is sometimes that Samael seduced Eve, sometimes that, under the form of a woman, he seduced Adam: in either of these cases Cain was the child of the Wicked One. This notion of demons being produced by a union between fallen angels and woman seems to have been universal: Naamah, the sister of Tubal-Cain, was the first who openly joined herself to these fallen angels; then came the "daughters of men," the mothers of the "giants," before the Flood. In this latter case there seems to have been a belief in a second fall of angels, since the term "sons of God" would not be given to angels already fallen.* The "giants" were demons, incarnations of angels, having the properties of either parentage; thus the "mixed multitude" that accompanied the Israelites out of Egypt were a mixed race, not of those whose one parent was an Israelite, the other an Egyptian, but were a mixed race of demons, half man, half devil. It was these who caused all the rebellions in the wilderness; it was one of these who, taking the form of King Solomon, sacrificed to Ashtoreth and Milcom. Sometimes they united themselves with women, as in the case of Sara, the wife of Tobias;† at others they are the beings who "possessed" people; who tempt, who plague, and torment them in various ways. As partaking of angelic nature, they know the future, they fly over the earth in an instant; as partaking of human nature, they eat and drink, marry and produce.‡ It is these beings that are controlled by magic; and one of the great secrets of the Kabbala was, how to make one of

these a servant to do the behests of the magician. According to the Talmud, Solomon controlled all the demon world, each of whom he compelled into his service.

The above is but a slight and very incomplete sketch of the principal doctrines of the Kabbalists on the great points of the being of God and of man. We have scarcely at all alluded to the works of the later Kabbalists—all our quotations being taken from the Books of Zohar and Jetzirah, the earliest Kabbalistic books—since they would have led us into disquisitions far beyond the limits of an article. What we chiefly design at present is, to trace the development of Kabbalism into regions and religions far beyond direct Jewish influence. Before doing this we must explain another part of the system, far more curious than the philosophical speculations; we mean the esoteric interpretation of Holy Scripture.

The Kabbalist, then, believed that under the letter of Scripture there lay a hidden meaning which could be discovered by the application of certain rules of interpretation; and that each history contained an allegory, which was really the most important part of Divine Revelation. To give an instance of both of these kinds of interpretation: It is said (Gen. xxxvi. 31, *et seq.*) that there reigned seven kings* in Edom, before there reigned any king over the children of Israel; and who died one after the other. These "ancient kings," as they are called, are ancient worlds, which existed and had been destroyed previous to the creation of the present; while the kings of Israel represent absolute Being in its double form of the male and female principle. These worlds were destroyed, because God did not descend upon them, nor manifest Himself in them; and because man was not yet created, for the being of man contains all things, and all things are maintained by it. Another proof is derived from the fact that the account of the Creation commences with the second letter of the alphabet and not with the first, which it might have done; it would have had equally the same meaning had it commenced with אלהים, and not been written as it is, ברא אלהים כדאשת, but from its commencing with ב it is clear that this was not the first world;—an important mode of argument, which we recommend to the attention of those who endeavour to reconcile the facts of geology with the Mosaic account of the Creation. The allegorical interpretation given by St. Paul of Hagar and Sarah (Gal. iv. 22) will, no doubt, occur to many readers as an instance of this mode of interpreting Scripture; the writings of many of the Fathers, especially Origen, will afford numberless others; some modern German writers—many of whom are converted Jews, or are pupils of such—who thus allegorise the whole of the earlier histories of the Old Testament, have merely followed the steps of the Kabbalists in this matter, for certainly the later Kabbalists seem to have given up altogether the literal meaning. Thus in the history of the Fall we are told that Eve means sensation; the serpent sensuality; Cain selfishness, produced by the union of man with with sensation,

* Comp. S. Jude 6.

† Some curious facts as to modern Jewish belief in these Shedim or demons will be found in Dr. Frankl's "Jews in the East," vol. i.

‡ These Shedim correspond closely to the "Dews" of the Zend Avesta.

* It is right to mention that this number of the kings of Edom does not agree with the Hebrew, LXX. or Vulgate, or with 1 Chron. i. 43. There were seven "Dukes of Edom," but nothing is said of their reigning before the kings of Israel, or of their death. Our account is taken from the Book of Zohar; we give it as we find it there.

after listening to the serpent, or sensuality; Abel, the spirit which despised the body entirely, and yields through its ignorance of the world; Abraham, Divine knowledge; Hagar, human knowledge; Sarah, virtue; Isaac, the regeneration of primitive perfection; Jacob, ascetic virtue; Tamar, faith, for she united herself to Judah without removing her veil.* Our readers will remember a similar interpretation of this latter in Mr. Neale's *Text Emblems*.

The Mercavah, or Chariot of Ezekiel is the grand subject of Kabbalistic inquiry; it contains the greatest mysteries, the mystery of mysteries; it was written upon, studied, and meditated on by all the great doctors. Some of the writings of the Spanish Jews have come down to us, but far the greatest amount of mystical exposition has perished, from the superstitious reverence which forbade committing such Divine knowledge to paper, lest it should fall into the hands of unfit persons. It was forbidden for any one under the age of forty to study it; if unprepared by discipline the very reading of it was dangerous; a story is told of a young student who commenced to read the prophecies of Ezekiel, with the intention of explaining the vision; he was, however, fatally interrupted by a supernatural fire which consumed him at once. A certain rabbi walking with R. Jachanan, asked permission to speak of the Mercavah; the latter immediately got off his ass and sat under a tree, not venturing to listen to such awful mysteries while seated on an ass. When the latter spoke, a divine light descended from heaven, and the trees immediately began to chant Psalm cxlviii. No less has this vision been a grand subject with Christian Kabbalists, who have found in it—on equally sound principles of interpretation—the doctrines of the Holy Trinity and the Incarnation.

It is more than probable that Kabbalism had its *arcana*, which were never committed to writing, but were taught to the initiated; what we possess is the shell or covering, under which lay the hidden mystery, orally explained by the professor to those worthy of being instructed into its secrets; perhaps this initiation into the mysteries of the Kabbala was, like all

* St. Paul's use of the allegory in Gal. iv. 22, of Hagar and Sarah, is probably an *argumentum ad hominem* of irresistible force against the Judaism of his day. It stands thus: "You contend for the obligation of the Mosaic law of circumcision, &c., yet what say your own interpreters of the law? Do they hold to the literal sense? Do they not all teach the law spiritually, that there is a hidden meaning lying under the letter, of far greater importance, and far deeper signification than the literal? I will show you, on your own principles, that such observance of the law gendereth to bondage; and, since it is all fulfilled in Christ, naturally passes away, and we are delivered from its bondage; for instance, take the case of our first father Abraham; for it is written that Abraham had two sons, &c.; these are the two covenants, &c.; thus on your own acknowledged system of interpretation, I show you the disinherison of the first to make way for the second; that the bondswoman and her son are cast out, to make way for the freewoman and her son, though the latter is younger. See, therefore, on your own principles, that the Scripture teaches that the law is to give place to the Gospel, the Jewish Temple to the Christian Church." Our Lord, also, sometimes used the same kind of *argumentum ad hominem* in confuting His opponents, by appealing to an acknowledged interpretation of some passage of Scripture: thus He confuted the Sadducees, when he instances God calling Himself the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob; for, as they acknowledged, "God is not the God of the dead but of the living." Again; at the same time He posed the Pharisees by an appeal to an acknowledged principle, that a father or an ancestor must be greater than his son or descendant, if merely human: "If David, then, call Him Lord, how is he He his son?" Again; when he quoted Psalm lxxii. 6, "I said, Ye are gods" adding, "If He called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken," &c. Such argument was unanswerable to a Jew.

other ancient, and some modern, mysteries, accompanied by an oath not to divulge its secrets. Thus, much of the language of the Kabbalists, many of their expressions, still more their explanations and interpretations of Scripture, appear to us absurd and extravagant; they were, however, but the parable, the allegorical picture, which symbolised, as well as concealed, the esoteric meaning: until we know what the meaning is, we have no right to ridicule the fantastic dress, the "rough garment," "the ashes," which concealed the prophet's face.

Another part of Kabbalistic interpretation, was that supplied by letters and numbers; later Kabbalists added another, that by the stars, which they called the "Alphabet of Heaven;" we shall touch but slightly on this. In the first place, each letter was supposed to have relations with the Sephiroth; for instance, \aleph indicated the unapproachable light where dwelt the Deity; and had reference to the first Sephiroth, the crown. In its form it is composed of a *Vav* between two *Jod*—the *Vav* is the intelligence engendered by wisdom: the upper *Jod* is knowledge ever looking upward; the under *Jod* is understanding produced by intelligence. Transposing the word aleph (which signifies an ox), we have *pala*, which means to conceal. Thus we are led to conceive of the unfathomable abyss of the wisdom of God. As \aleph is male, so \beth is female; the two arms of the latter embrace her husband. Again, Beth signifies a house, so "Wisdom hath builded her house;" wisdom being the second Sephirah. Again, Beth opens her two arms to receive the Holy Spirit. Applying the whole description of "wisdom" in Proverbs viii. to the second Sephirah (as the Fathers did to Christ), they make out that it was by the instrumentality of this Sephirah especially that God created the world. For this reason, the account of the creation commences with \beth , in the word *Beresith*. We need not follow this further. Again, each letter is a numeral; each word, by adding the numerical value of each letter, has a certain value which may be represented by the sum total of the letters, but in sum total equalling the first, these two words were in some way equivalent to each other, and might in any case be substituted for each other, and thus a wholly new meaning given to a sentence: this was especially true of proper names: by both these means, endless mysteries were found in the different names of God, especially in the Tetragrammaton.

As might be expected, the Kabbalists used amulets and talismans in various forms, and under various circumstances. The names of God, written on parchments, strung round the neck, were specifics against fevers and diseases. The word *Shivariri*, written as below, was a cure for affections in the eyes:—

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The origin of this is curious. Where it is said, Gen. xix. 11, that the angels smote the men of Sodom with blindness, the Chaldee paraphrase reads *Beshivariri*. This was thought to be the name of a demon who blinded people; so this name, used as a charm, would drive away the demon. Portions of the Psalms, written in peculiar forms, were used as talismans; so were the seventy-two names of God, and the blessing

of Melchizedek. We need hardly remind our readers that Christians soon began to use the Scriptures in the same manner. It was commonly believed that demons would fly at the name of Jesus, and on repeating the words of the Psalm, "Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered." S. Chrysostom reproves the people in his time for using the first verse of S. John's Gospel as a charm. This Kabbalistic use of Scripture may yet be found in existence in many parts of our own country, among the ignorant and superstitious.

We cannot omit mention of apparent allusions to, and agreements with, this system in the New Testament. Nor shall we be surprised at the fact, for undoubtedly Kabbalism, as based on the Old Testament, had in it a large amount of truth. Thus far the Apostles would be willing to allow it, though, of course, when it exceeded these bounds it would not be tolerated. They were ready, so far, to become all things to all men, that by all means they might gain some. They did not wish to repel, but to draw. When, however, Kabbalism assumed a new development—which we shall presently speak of—then they condemned it in no measured terms. Thus, in the opening verses of St. John's Gospel, and in the Epistles to the Hebrews, we have our Lord spoken of in terms which a Kabbalist would not hesitate to use with regard to the Sephirah wisdom. The "Word," be it remembered, was a term invented by them; this, spoken of as being "with God in the beginning: as creating all things; as being the source of "life," and that "life" being the "light of men;" as shining in darkness, and the darkness comprehending it not; also our Lord's words, "I came forth from the Father," "the Father hath sent His Son," &c., would accord with their ideas of emanation. Again, S. Paul's phrase, "the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person," "by whom also He made the worlds," where "worlds" is plural:—all this, while it is in direct agreement with what is said of Wisdom in the Book of Proverbs and in the Wisdom of Solomon, is also in equal accordance with Kabbalistic teaching. Again, S. Paul's frequent mention of the hierarchies of angels, and of the principalities and powers of devils, is at least worthy of note. More so still is that of "the beasts," "the great whore," and "the mother of fornications" in the Apocalypse; for in Zohar we read that Samael, the chief of the fallen angels, has a wife, who being the personification of evil and sensuality, is called "the whore," "the mother of fornication," or simply "the beast." This creature is probably—there is some obscurity in the matter—identical with Lilith, so often mentioned in the Talmud.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

SIR THOMAS SACKVILLE.

It is generally asserted that Sir Thomas Sackville was Grand Master of the York Masons, *temp.* Queen Elizabeth. 1. Is there any proof of this, or is it a surmise of Preston's. 2. What is known respecting him. Was he connected with the Order of St. John? These enquiries are important to the Templar Order. The Order of St. John was suppressed in 1540, revived under Mary, who reigned 1553-1558, and finally suppressed under Elizabeth, who reigned 1558-1603. "Hatton says that Isabella Sackville, the last Prioreess of Clerkenwell, died 21st October, 1570, and was buried in the old church, destroyed by fire about thirty years ago,

with her effigies in brass on a gravestone; also, beneath a curious tomb, Sir William Weston, the last lord prior of St. John of Jerusalem, who upon its dissolution, was allowed £1000 per annum for life, but died, it was supposed of grief, on May the 7th, 1540, the very day the house was dissolved."—*Hone's Ancient Mysteries*.—A.

TURKISH JANIZARIES.

Secret societies have from time immemorial existed among the Mohammedans, and an early successor of the Prophet was named possessor of the secret. Had the Janizaries a secret organisation like the Templars? In a book of costumes I have seen, those of Arabia are represented with the interlaced triangles tattooed on the forehead. Lady Montagu says of them (1717) "This may give you some idea of the unlimited power of these followers, who are all sworn brothers, and bound to revenge the injuries done to one another, whether at Cairo, Aleppo, or any other part of the world. This inviolable league makes them so powerful that the greatest men at court never speak to them but in a faltering tone; and in Asia, any man that is rich, is forced to enrol himself a janizary to secure his estate."—*Ibid.*—A.

THE VEILS.

A Jewish play, of which fragments are still preserved in Greek Iambics, is the first drama known to have been written on a scripture subject (translated into Latin by Fr. Morellus, Paris, 1580). It is taken from the Exodus, or the departure of the Israelites from Egypt under their leader and prophet Moses. The principal characters are Moses, Sapphira, and God from the bush, or God speaking from the burning bush. Moses delivers the prologue in a speech of sixty lines, and his rod is turned into a serpent on the stage. The author of the play is Ezekiel, a Jew, who is called the tragic poet of the Jews. Warton supposes that he wrote it after the destruction of Jerusalem, as a political spectacle to animate his dispersed brethren, with the hopes of a future deliverance from their captivity under the conduct of a new Moses; that it was composed in imitation of the Greek drama at the close of the second century.—*Ibid.*—A.

THE DODECAHEDRON.

What do the six small triangles which terminate in the circle of the Royal Arch jewel represent.—ASST. SR.—[The Dodecahedron; a geometrical figure, formed by the intersection of the two larger triangles, together with the central triangle, if reduced, will be found equal to seven triple-tau's, or $7 \times 8 = 56$ right angles. To them add the external angles, of the six triangles, formed by the intersection of the two large triangles, which will be equal to sixteen right angles, for, since the exterior angle of every triangle, formed by producing one of its sides, is equal to the two interior and opposite angles and, every angle of an equilateral triangle is equal to $\frac{1}{3}$ of two right angles; therefore, each of the external angles will be equal to $\frac{2}{3}$ of two right angles; and, as these are twelve in number, their amount, in right angles, will be sixteen, because $\frac{2}{3}$ of 2 = $\frac{4}{3}$ or $1\frac{1}{3}$, and $1\frac{1}{3} \times 12 = 16$. These sixteen angles added to the before mentioned fifty-six right angles, will make seventy-two. But, by a corollary of the thirty-second proposition of book I. of Euclid, the interior angles of every rectilineal figure are equal to twice as many right angles — 4, as the figure has sides, hence the interior angles of the five-sided figure, called the Pentagon, are $10 - 4 = 6$ right angles, whilst the solid figure called a Dodecahedron, being contained by twelve equal and equilateral pentagons, its amount, in right angles, will be $12 \times 6 = 72$, which is the amount, or number, of the right angles contained in the central triangle and the twelve exterior angles of intersection. Thus, the Dodecahedron, each of the angles of which is formed by the union of three plane obtuse angles, approaching nearer to the form of a sphere, than any of the other solids terminated by plane superficies, was used by the Platonists to express the sphere of the Universe.]

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

A DISTRESSING CASE.

We have been requested to call attention to the case of the widow of the late Bro. J. K. Defeher, a Hungarian by birth, but a naturalised British subject, who was initiated, passed, and raised, in the Thistle and Rose Lodge (No. 73), Glasgow, on the 2nd of May, 1856. Bro. Defeher was a twine and linen merchant of Vienna, and also resided at Devonshire-terrace, Hyde Park, but, through unforeseen circumstances, was suddenly reduced to great distress, and at the same time stricken down by illness. Being clever at his pencil, Bro. Defeher produced the curious drawing called "Blossom and Decay," printed by Day and Son, in chromo-lithograph, and published by Bro. Defeher to help to eke out an existence for his family. This picture, when closely-viewed, represents two blooming children looking out of a window, whilst, at a distance, it shows only a death's head, and has been favourably spoken of by the Earl de Grey and Ripon, the Duke of Newcastle, and the Duke of Cambridge, in acknowledging the receipt of the copies sent them.

Bro. Defeher was suddenly taken much worse, and some three weeks back he entered the German Hospital at Dalston, and died the following day of disease of the heart, leaving a widow and four young children totally unprovided for, and whose existence has only been maintained, both before and after Bro. Defeher's death, through the kindness of Masons and other neighbours, who knew the circumstances of the case.

A great injustice has been done to the widow and family, by a tradesman in the City, who, without any permission or authority, has published a photograph from the chromo, and which is, of course, sold at a reduced price.

Brethren disposed to assist the widow and fatherless can do so by donations, or purchasing copies of the chromo lithograph, price 3s. 6d., and which may be obtained from Bro. James Stevenson, at the office of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. The residence of Mrs. Defeher is 4, Singer Terrace, Sydenham; and references may be made to Mr. Kemp, the Two Ashes, Sydenham; Dr. Wilkinson, Sydenham; or Dr. Sutro, 37A, Finsbury Square, E.C.

MASONIC MEM.

The R.W. Brother Frechville Lawson Ballantyne Dykes, of Dovenly, has been appointed Prov. Grand Master of Cumberland and Westmoreland, in the place of the late Sir James Graham deceased.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The Quarterly Court of this school was held at the offices on Thursday the 10th inst., Bro. Udall, V.P., in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the Treasurer authorised to pay £782 to meet the Quarterly accounts.

On the motion of Bro. Symonds the rules were altered as to the time at which members of the House and Audit Committees are to be put in nomination.

At the election to take place in October next, nine pupils are to be admitted, there being seventeen approved candidates.

METROPOLITAN.

CAMDEN LODGE (No. 1006), held at the Lamb Hotel, N.E., in the New Cattle Market.—This was the first meeting summoned since the removal from the York and Albany Tavern, in consequence of the change of proprietorship. The business of the evening was the installation of the W.M. Elect Bro. P. M. Frost, 276, and J.W. 1167. The appointment and investiture of officers and initiation of Mr. Thomas Morris, the proprietor, and Mr. Fk. Webb. The lodge having been opened in due form, the before-named gentlemen were duly initiated into Freemasonry. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. P.M. Tyrrell presented the W.M. elect for installation. The board of installed Masters was composed of Bros. P.M.'s Dickie, A.G.P., Tyrrell, Hardy, Winsland, Best, and Beckett; W.M.s Jeffreys and Cowdrey. Bro. P.M. Best performed the ceremony of installation in a very effective manner. The W.M. on the completion of the addresses from the installing Master, was pleased to appoint and invest Bros. Naines, S.W.; Helps, J.W.; Tyrrell, Treas.; Bendy, Sec.; J. Creech, S.D.; Wiltshire, J.D.; Dickinson, I.G.; Dr. Jones, D.C.; P.M. Best, Steward. All Masonic business being ended, the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The visitors present were Bros. Dickie, 53; Hardy, 3; Winsland, 276; Jeffreys, 215; and numerous brethren from the Canonbury 955, Old Concord 201, and United Strength, 276. The banquet was all that could be desired, and appreciated by both members and visitors. The cloth having been removed, the W.M. said that the first toast he would ask them to do honour to, was the Queen, coupled with the Craft. It required no comment from him. All classes of society revered the name of the widowed Queen of this nation; but none more than did the Ancient Order of Freemasons. The next toast was the health of the W.W. G.M. the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland. On proposing the health of the D.G.M. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, with the rest of the Grand Officers, the W.M. coupled the name of Bro. Dickie, A.G.P. Bro. Dickie, in acknowledging the toast said:—I have much pleasure in having this opportunity of expressing my thanks to you for the Grand Officers, but more particularly for the manner you always receive me amongst you. I assure you, W.M. and brethren, it will always be a source of happiness to me to visit a lodge ruled by a Worshipful Master, whose past service is a guarantee of his worth. You brethren, have done well in electing your present W.M., and I feel confident, success will attend his year of office with the same prosperity that the lodge 276 experienced when under him.—The W.M. having returned thanks for his own health, proposed that of the Past Masters of 1006, and at the same time presented Bro. P.M. Best with a collar and jewel in the name of the lodge, for having a second year filled the duties of Master in the absence of the appointed W.M.—Bro. Jeffreys, W.M. 215, returned thanks for the visitors, and expressed himself much pleased with the manner the duties, both at labour and refreshment had been carried out; it certainly reflected credit on the W.M. in the one case, and on their newly-made brother in the other.—The health of the initiates was responded to by both brethren in a manner suggesting their future as one likely to reflect credit on the lodge. The brethren separated about eleven p.m., pleased with the perfect harmony of the meeting. Bros. Clements, Norris, Dickinson, and Norton, contributed by their vocal abilities, and Dr. Steward by presiding at the pianoforte, to the general enjoyment.

PROVINCIAL.

CUMBERLAND.

CARLISLE.—Union Lodge (No. 389).—Owing to pressure of business, a lodge of emergency was held on Tuesday, the 8th inst., when a good and punctual attendance of brethren took place. The lodge being opened in due form in the first degree by Bro. Wilson, W.M., and all other necessary business being completed, it was regularly opened in the second degree. Bros. Fairlie and Pickering were called to duty previous to being raised to the sublime degree of M.M. They both acquitted themselves with credit, ability, and satisfaction. The W.M. called Bro. F. W. Hayward, to the following duties. The ceremony of raising was most solemnly performed by P.M.

Bro. A. W. Hayward, assisted by Bros. Ritson, S.W.; Hodgson, J.W.; G. Hayward, S.D.; Gilkerson, J.D.; Lowthian, I.G.; Story, Tyler; Fisher, Sec. Bro. Baunister of Liverpool, was unanimously elected honorary member of this lodge, the result meeting with an expression of gratification from those who knew him, and could appreciate his ability, talent and worth. The W.M. next proposed a gentleman as a candidate for Masonry, which was put and carried. The lodge was then closed in the usual solemn manner. The brethren then retired to the festive board, where, after the customary loyal and Masonic toasts, the brethren very freely and earnestly reciprocated with Bro. Nelson Bernard Gregory, Norwich Lodge (No. 302), New York U.S. of America, who entered into the discourse with spirit, and very ably described their mode of working in that country. His health was proposed by the W.M., and met with a hearty and enthusiastic response.—Bro. Gregory thanked the W.M. for the compliment they paid him, and also the brethren for the hearty welcome they had given him; language could not express the extreme pleasure he felt in being so much at home in a strange country, and the kindness every one evinced towards his comfort; and expressed a hope that he might some day have an opportunity of returning the compliment to some of those brethren present, should they ever visit New York. The proceedings terminated with the Tylers' toast, and the brethren separated after having spent an evening replete with intelligence and useful information.

MARYPORT.—*Lodge of Perseverance* (No. 508).—At a lodge meeting held on the 7th inst., Bro. Pearson in the chair, and after the business connected with the raising of two of the brethren had been completed, the subject of the appointment of Bro. F. L. B. Dykes, of Dovenby, to the office of Prov. G.M. for the Counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland, was discussed by the brethren. It was felt to be peculiarly gratifying that a gentleman connected to some extent with the town of Maryport should have had bestowed upon him so high a Masonic honour, and the conversation resulted in a formal motion that an address be sent to Bro. Dykes offering the congratulations of the brethren. Before the lodge was closed the following address was agreed upon, and the Secretary was instructed to forward the same:—"Maryport, 8th July, 1862. To Frechville Lawson Ballantyne Dykes, Esq., of Dovenby, Provincial Grand Master for the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland. The address of the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and brethren forming the Masonic Lodge of Perseverance (No. 508), Maryport. Right Worshipful Sir,—We, the brethren of the above-named lodge, desire to express our high gratification at your appointment to the office of Provincial Grand Master of their Order. We do so, feeling that we have a peculiar claim to manifest our interest in this important event in your Masonic career. This claim we would venture to base on your close connection with the leading family in the neighbourhood of our town, and especially on the official share you have long possessed in the management of the affairs of the town and harbour of Maryport. We therefore, Right Worshipful Sir, offer you our best fraternal greetings on this occasion, with the sincere expression of our satisfaction at the knowledge of the position in which you have been placed over us. We would also, Right Worshipful Sir, present our cordial congratulations on the high Masonic honor you have obtained. We would likewise take this opportunity of expressing our conviction that the interests of our order will be secure in your keeping; and we fervently pray that you, Right Worshipful Sir, may long be spared to be the guardian of Masonry in these counties." To this address a reply has been received from Bro. Dykes, thanking the brethren for their expressions of good will and congratulation, and asserting his anxious resolve to discharge efficiently the duties of an office he feels it to be an honour to fill. It contained also the pleasing information that the Right Worshipful gentleman, who has been subjected lately to a severe illness, is now improving in health.

DURHAM.

HARTLEPOOL.—*St. Helen's Lodge* (No. 774).—A lodge of emergency was holden in the Masonic hall, on the 14th July, for the purpose of initiating Messrs. Thomas Austin, and George Yeaman, previously accepted, and to raise Bro. Edgar. There were present Bros. James Groves, W.M.; B. R. Huntley, S.W.; H. A. Hammerbom, P.M., P. Prov. G.D.C., acting as J.W.; J. Emra Holmes, Sec.; A. Nathan, S.D.; Edgar O.

Kramer, acting as J.D.; W. Donald, I.G.; J. P. Allen, &c. Visiting brother A. Macdonald, of St. Johns Lodge, Campbelltown. Lodge was opened in ancient form, and the first candidate for initiation into the mysteries of Freemasonry, Mr. Thomas Austin, having proved himself duly qualified, was regularly initiated, instructed, and approved as a E.A. Freemason. The S.W. having left the chair, by permission, Bro. J. Emra Holmes was commanded by the W.M. to act as S.W. Lodge was then opened in the 3rd degree, and Bro. Edgar was raised as a M.M. The ceremony was worthily performed by the W.M., and could not but impress the candidate with the dignity of our Order, and the sublimity of its teachings. Lodge was then closed down, and the brethren retired for refreshment, when the evening was spent in that harmony and good fellowship, which is at once the characteristic and boast of all the gatherings of the ancient Craft.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

BERKELEY.—*Royal Berkley Lodge of Faith and Friendship* (No. 337).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Berkeley Arms Hotel, the W.M., Bro. C. Partridge, in the chair. The lodge was opened in the first degree, when Mr. William Pinnell, of Rockhampton, was duly initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The lodge was then closed and the brethren retired to refreshment, and spent the evening in love and harmony.

HAMPSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A very numerous and influential gathering of the Masonic fraternity was realised at Havant on Tuesday, the 8th inst., on the occasion of the annual Grand Lodge of the Province, there assembled, by command of the Right W. Prov. G.M. Bro. Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., C.B. The early morning trains brought shoals of "gentlemen in black," and the inhabitants of the quiet little town peered from their doors and windows into the streets with a visible impression set forth on their faces, that about the numerous strangers there was certainly something solemn and mysterious.

The place of meeting was the school-room of the Church of the Holy Trinity; and there at high noon precisely the lodge was closed tiled. Nearly 100 brethren took their seats in the lodge, comfortably and conveniently ranged under their respective banners. The R.W. Prov. G.M., Admiral Sir L. Curtis, Bart., and his Deputy, Bro. C. E. Deacon, S.G.D. of England, were received with the customary honours. Amongst the other numerous brethren present we noticed the following:—Bros. the Rev. Dr. Bradshaw, Prov. G. Chap.; the Rev. Wills, Assist. G. Chap.; R. Harfield, Prov. S.G.W.; F. Perkins, Mayor of Southampton, Prov. J.G.W.; J. George, Mayor of Romsey; John Haywood, ex-Mayor of Lymington; John Nash, P.M., 90, ex-Mayor of Winchester; R. S. Hulbert, P.M., 995, ex-Mayor of Basingstoke; William Challis, 995, ex-Mayor of Basingstoke; J. R. Stebbing, Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes; M. E. Frost, 319; F. Binckes, 10 and 90, Sec. to the Boys' School; Dr. Kirkman; Passenger; W. Hickman, Prov. G. Sec.; A. Smith, W.M., 90; La Croix, P.M., 90; C. Sherry, P.M., 90; H. C. Levander, P.M., 90; H. Huggins, Sec., 90; J. Levander, 916; Emery, W.M., 428; Weeks, W.M., 1106; Milner, 401; H. M. Powell, 995; L. Howe, Sec., 995; H. M. Emanuel, 319, Capt. Saunders, 6th Regt.; J. Lamb, 995; Hennessy, 190; Aberdeen, &c.

Bro. W. HICKMAN, Prov. G. Sec., read the minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge, which were put from the chair, and confirmed.

Letters were then read from Bros. T. W. Fleming, Prov. G.M., Isle of Wight; Hyde Pullen, D. Prov. G.M., Isle of Wight; Col. Bowyer, Prov. G.M., Oxford, and Spiers, D. Prov. G.M., Oxford, &c., apologising for and regretting their absence, through inability to attend.

Bro. J. R. STEBBING (who officiated on behalf of the Treasurer, absent through indisposition) gave an abstract statement as to the position of the Provincial Lodge finances. The accounts showed that there was a balance in hand of £103, and £200 invested.

ELECTION OF TREASURER.

Bro. DEACON addressed the Grand Lodge for the purpose of proposing that the same officer should be re-appointed. It would afford him much pleasure to see Bro. Heather re-elected, he being a zealous officer, who had served the province some years with so much satisfaction to the brethren.

Bro. HOLLINGSWORTH seconded the motion, and Bro. Heather's re-appointment was carried unanimously.

BENEVOLENCE.

Bro. STEBBING, on behalf of the G. Treasurer, said he had two or three petitions to present, praying for grants of aid from the lodge funds. One application came from the widow of a deceased member of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 428, Portsea, who had died from the effects of an accident; a second was from the widow of a late brother of the New Forest Lodge, No. 401, Lymington, who was in destitute circumstances; and a third was made by a brother who had been in good circumstances, but now required occasional assistance.

These applications were discussed in a liberal spirit, and ultimately, on the motion of Bro. Stebbing, seconded by Bro. Naish, P.M. No. 90, a grant of £10 was made to the first-mentioned applicant; on the motion of Bro. Deacon, seconded by Bro. Powell, No. 995, and warmly supported by Bros. Hayward, Perkins, Emanuel, and Smith, a grant of £20 was made to the second-named applicant; and on the motion of Bro. Stebbing, seconded by Bro. Perkins, a grant of £2 was made to the third applicant.

Bro. STEBBING said the brethren generally seemed very freely inclined to vote away grants for these cases of relief, and he hoped they would be early prepared for a special application on behalf of the Benevolent Fund. (Hear.)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER.

The R.W. PROV. G. MASTER said he had one or two observations he wished to make to the assembled brethren. There were one or two lodges which allowed Royal Arch and other special degrees' clothing and jewels to be worn inside the lodges. They must pay attention to the rule laid down in accordance with the Constitutions, for all jewels, &c., belonging to degrees not there recognised, must not be allowed to be worn in Craft Lodge. There was another thing he would mention: for several years back the fees chargeable for dispensations had not been included in the usual returns to the Provincial Grand Lodge. If the sums so left due were not paid in immediately, he should be obliged to interfere and enforce it. They were always voting away money, and these unpaid sums, if sent in, would be a great assistance to the Prov. Grand Lodge funds. He should direct the Prov. G. Sec. to write to all lodges who were so indebted, and request the dues to be paid up. He felt a pleasure in congratulating the Stewards on the general increase to the funds of benevolence.

THE PROVINCE AND THE CHARITIES.

A notice had been inserted in the agenda paper for considering the propriety of allowing the twenty guineas (given by the province to the several Charities, and now entered on the subscription list of the brother or brethren serving as Steward, or Stewards for lodges in the province) to constitute the lodges, or some officers thereof, ex-officio Life Governors, instead of the Prov. Grand Lodge; and, if so resolved, to consider the propriety of voting an additional ten guineas to one or other of the Charities, as an annual payment.

Bro. STEBBING said it had been suggested whether they should not carry the present plan a little further, and create an additional inducement for brethren to serve on the Stewardships. He argued the advantages to be obtained, and then formally moved that twenty guineas be given from the province in the name of the lodges of brethren who acted as Stewards, and £10 in the name of the Prov. Grand Lodge.

The motion was seconded by Bro. FROST, and carried unanimously.

Bro. STEBBING said it was wished, on behalf of the Lymington and other lodges, that the resolution should be retrospective, but he did not think that would be found expedient.

GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

This seriously important subject was the next that came on for consideration, a notice having been entered for bringing before the meeting the proposed alterations of Grand Lodge

property, and the propriety of limiting the expenditure to £18,000, or such other sum as the Prov. G. Lodge may consider judicious.

Bro. STEBBING first addressed the meeting upon the matter. He said a proposition had been made in the Grand Lodge of England that the building property there should be much extended and improved. He saw that a large block plan of the property was suspended on the wall of the room, and certain brethren furnished with smaller copies. From these it would be seen that the property was subdivided into four divisions of equal dimensions. There was Bacon's Hotel on the East, one fourth part of the property; then came the Grand Lodge offices, the Grand Secretary's office, the Grand Master's room and clerk's offices; the third portion consisted of the tavern; and the fourth included a court with two houses in front unoccupied for any Masonic purposes. It had been proposed to alter and improve this property, and to devote Freemason's Hall exclusively to Masonry. Now he concluded that the financial position of the Order would be the key to their minds on this proposition. There were £22,000 balance of the Fund of Benevolence; and £18,000 balance of the Fund of General Purposes, which could be dealt with, without affecting the charities, in any way Grand Lodge might think proper. They possessed also an annual income of £2000 or £3000, so that their available money property consisted of £40,000 and the surplus income of £2000 or £3000 a year, together with anything Grand Lodge liked to advance. There were several propositions already before Grand Lodge, and the lowest estimated plan would render necessary an outlay of £23,000, and if this was carried out, reckoning all the adjuncts, the finally calculated outlay would probably amount to considerably more. There was another proposition requiring £33,000, and other plans for going to expenses very much in excess of that sum, even as far as £50,000 or £60,000. Many of the brethren present were men of experience, and knew that when they came to meddle with bricks and mortar they invariably went to more expense than they at first intended, and often double as much in order to carry out all the little additions and improvements that were suggested and pointed out as desirable. He wished to enforce upon the brethren the important fact that it was incumbent upon them to take care not to spend more than what they could have from the Fund of General Purposes. He did not think it was seriously contemplated to spend the Charity Funds, but it might be contemplated to occur an outlay beyond the money at present in hand, or to borrow funds. He objected to their running into debt at all, and he was opposed to any speculative undertaking in the way of building. Freemasonry, he was ready to admit, was very flourishing in the present day, but they must remember that the more it extended, and the greater the increase of their numbers were now, the greater would be the applications and the demands upon the general funds hereafter. At the present time they had not more than enough for their purposes. Thirty years, the time of another generation, quickly passed away; thirty years ago there were not half nor third of the present claims, and what would it be thirty years hence, if they went on as they were going on now? There was fluctuation in all things and at all times. Literature and religion, as history told them, had flourished at times, but all things had their ebb and flow. Masonry might double in her districts, but a future time might show only half the present number of the brethren to subscribe to the funds. He put the subject before the brethren thus: They had £18,000 available for improvement purposes. Let them resolve to do their best with that £18,000, and not borrow, nor run any risk in speculation. Let them wisely save all they could for a time of calamity, which nobody could foresee. Again, alluding to the plans and giving full explanations of the property, he argued that having an available space of ground, 200ft. by 46ft. in extent (the west-end) and £18,000 to lay out there, they had all they wanted. They would not, of course, venture on spending their money in pulling about the old buildings. He wished to suggest that Grand Lodge be sought not to sanction any great outlay for alterations, or any expenditure of funds not strictly available for the purpose, and with that view he would venture to move as a resolution, "That in the opinion of this Provincial Grand Lodge no larger portion of Grand Lodge Funds than £18,000 ought to be expended in improving or increasing Grand Lodge Property."

Bro. R. HARTFIELD, Prov. S.G.W., said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion before the meeting.

The Prov. R.W. GRAND MASTER observed that Bro. Stebbing had alluded to the lowest estimate for improvement sent in as being £23,000, with now a great number of addenda. He had heard something of an offer made to Bro. Bacon to resign his lease of the hotel; but there were six years to run, and he would not give up without an adequate remuneration, which would come to something considerable. The six years' purchase would have to be added to the £23,000, and that alone would render the outlay, without percentages, between £30,000 and £40,000.

Bro. STEBBING said the rent at present received for the Tavern and the Hall was £1000 a-year—£800 and £200. Some brethren had advanced the argument that if suggested alterations were carried out the receipts would be more; but he would say, it was better to make sure of the £1000.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. alluded to some of the plans sent into the Grand Lodge. He understood that one proposition had been made under which it was suggested that the vacant ground should be given up to anyone who liked to take it and build thereon a large tavern, and pay a ground rent. He did not think that would be a very good speculation for any party to enter into. People did sometimes undertake to pay ground rents when they built magnificent houses, or other desirable premises, but a tavern was a precarious thing, and no man without the land was his own, would venture upon such a speculation.

Bro. STEBBING said he was a member of the Board of General Purposes, but it was a board of secrecy, and he was inclined to ask the R.W. Prov. G. Master to testify that he had divulged to him no matters that had been brought before them. (Laughter.)

The R.W. GRAND MASTER would willingly affirm Bro. Stebbing's prudence and integrity; still he had heard the report he alluded to, and made a memorandum of it. (Laughter.)

Bro. A. SMITH, W.M. No. 90, begged to submit the following as an amendment to the resolution of Bro. Stebbing. He would move:—"That this Provincial Grand Lodge, recognising the desirability of great alteration and improvement in the Grand Lodge Property in Great Queen-street, London, is of opinion that it is unwise to restrict the Board of General Purposes, or any committee which may be appointed by Grand Lodge to consider the question, to any specific sum." Bro. Stebbing had urged an economical course, but was it true economy? he did not show any recklessness in the plans he condemned; simply resuscitating his argument for limiting any outlay to the sum of £18,000. He, on his part, however, had held before, and was still free to assert that it was utterly objectionable to confine Grand Lodge to any such paltry sum, for it was undoubtedly impossible, with that sum, to make the alterations called for, and really required. Bro. Stebbing had laid stress upon the undesirability of pulling about old premises, but Bro. Stebbing, in his description of those premises, was all the while condemning them. (Hear.) If the Masonic body were to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the London property, and what their real requirements were, they must at once admit that in its present state it was a positive disgrace to a body so eminent, so numerous, so rich, and so enlightened; and when it was found that a fund in hand available for the purpose, and in amount some £20,000, was insufficient to put all right, it became the duty of the Freemasons of England to put their hands into their pockets and supply the deficiency, whatever it might be. They knew what their income was, and that there was an annual excess over expenditure. He did not see why they should not do as Masons what they would do as men, namely, use available means for increasing their income. Every other public body did it, and let the Masons. Bro. Stebbing seemed somehow to be in that cloud which generally enveloped official authorities. What reason was there that they should not fairly calculate on additional income to be received? What was there to prevent the Masonic body adopting the ordinary rules of discretion of mankind? It was the natural consequence of unnecessary reservation that the minds of the brethren became contracted, and a general opinion was arrived at, that any speculative outlay was extravagant and useless, and uncalled for. He had no doubt in his own mind that after about seven years, the Masons would have a building which Bro. Stebbing would as much approve of as himself. He was Master of a well-known lodge, and he had put himself with others to some inconvenience in order to disseminate information among the brethren on this Grand Lodge property question. There had already been deposited with Grand Lodge a number of plans, emanating from eminent and reliable brethren, who devoted much more time and attention to the subject than any of that Provincial Lodge were enabled to do. Grand Lodge was pre-

pared to discuss the matter in full, and the M.W. the Grand Master of England was quite prepared to ask Grand Lodge to go into it. For anyone to come forward and attempt to restrict the expenditure for desirable improvements to £18,000, was in his idea most improper, and it was in acting upon this feeling that he had ventured to bring forward the amendment which he had read to the meeting.

Bro. the Rev. Dr. BRADSHAW said it appeared to him that the Provincial Grand Lodge was taking time by the forelock, in entering a notice of a discussion upon this subject. He could not for a moment say he approved of the apparent attempt to throw a halter round the neck of the Board of General Purposes, or the Grand Lodge itself, in respect to the proposed improvement and outlay. Some observations had been made as to the claims of Masons yet to come in the future, and the necessity of the present generation practising strict economy. Of course a certain economy was as much a duty as it was a discretion, but when the claims of the future were so strongly pressed upon the present, he was almost tempted to repeat the exclamation quoted the other day as attributed to an individual of public importance: "What has posterity done for us?" Bro. Stebbing had dealt upon forebodings, he could not see reasons for originating, and he did not exactly like the proposition put forward by that eminent brother of this province. He did not also entirely approve of the amendment. He did not know whether Bro. Stebbing would be inclined to alter the resolution, but in case no modification was made, he should rather vote for the amendment.

Bro. SHERRY, P.M., 90, in seconding the amendment, said if Bro. Stebbing's motion had limited the outlay for the proposed alterations in Great Queen-street to £36,000, he would gladly have supported it, believing that if that sum were expended, a greater portion of it would be found to realise something like seven per cent. on the outlay, and would, in his opinion, enable the executive to carry out all that was really required, as shewn by Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, whose plans and suggestions were the best out. But he could not support a motion for limiting the outlay to so low a sum as £18,000, he therefore must give his vote for the amendment before the meeting.

¶ Bro. DEACON, G.D., said he certainly was afraid that some of that film alluded to by the Worshipful Master of No. 90 had come across him since he had been an officer of the province. But he could not concur with either Bro. Stebbing or Bro. Smith. As to the probability of less prosperity in their order in the future, he could not go with Bro. Stebbing. The fact was, rather, that Freemasonry was the only thing that had not changed, and it was likely to continue to flourish till the end of time; and whilst Masoury did flourish, funds must flow in. He could admit the propriety of the argument that a proper Temple should be raised for the rites of their fraternity (hear); undoubtedly something should be done. He concurred with Bro. Stebbing so far, that the funds set apart for charitable purposes should not be touched for this suggested building improvement; and it would be a disgrace for them to go and borrow money. But how was this desirable improvement to be carried out? Must it be done by means of a special voluntary contribution? He really believed that the brethren all over the kingdom would gladly subscribe liberal sums for such a purpose. He could not, however, join with Bro. Stebbing that the Board of General Purposes should be limited to £18,000, and no more. But there would be plenty of time for inquiry, and they need not hastily resolve upon a large expenditure. The Craft had a good overlooker in the R.W.M. of that province, and Bro. Stebbing was an able champion against the evil of extravagance. They might spoil the whole scheme by limiting the expenditure to £18,000 before inquiry. He could not vote for Bro. Smith's amendment, as it could be strained to a wider extent than prudence would dictate; and to take anything from the charities, he could not approve of. He should be more content with a simple reservation, that no part of their funds collected for charitable purposes should be devoted to the discharge of expenses incurred in any building scheme.

Bro. BRACKES, P.M., Sec. to the Boys' Institution, remarked that it had been truly said that the subject under discussion was a very serious one, and he would ask for the opportunity of advancing a few facts in order to assist them in coming to a right conclusion on the matter; and for such a purpose he should be sorry not to do what in him laid. He held it to be of first importance, and to the last degree desirable, that that province at their present important meeting should give expression to their feelings upon such a subject of general in-

terest. The Grand Lodge would not, perhaps, be much restrained or restricted by any strong feeling expressed in any particular locality; but at the same time he believed it was glad at all times to have its hands strengthened in any proceedings by the approval of such gatherings as the present, especially upon a question of broad principles like that of the property in Great Queen-street. Now, as to the accommodation the Masonic body had at head-quarters in London, it had been a source of regret for a long time with him that it was possible to make such an unfavourable comparison between London and the country. He could not find in London a place duly fit for the purposes of the Masonic fraternity—such places were only to be found in the provinces. The question arising now was, how should what they had be appropriated. Were the Craft at large ready to sanction a great outlay, for which they would get no return, but additional accommodation. A largely-increased amount of accommodation was required for their ceremonies, their offices, and the due accommodation of the officials, and the various charities. There was a vast amount of property from which there might be a remunerating return, and the Craft might get a much increased rental if they were inclined to adopt certain improvements. There were various lodges in London would leave their present distant places of assembly and come to improved premises at head quarters. He thought one bugbear had been created in relation to the proposals before the Craft, the groundlessness of which ought to be exposed, the reported wish to adopt a large amount of money from the charities to building purposes. He had never heard of any proposition to spend £60,000, to be obtained by interference with the funds of benevolence. Some brother perhaps might have suggested the idea of borrowing from the benevolent fund, a transfer of money as it were, from one pocket to another, for a short time, but there was really never any contemplation of doing it. He should be exceedingly sorry to see any kind of risk run with those funds; he had heard others speak of any such idea with disfavour, and he had himself expressed his strong objection. The charity funds had been contributed for a special purpose, and he hoped they would never be appropriated to any other; and he believed that no proposition of that sort would for a moment be seriously listened to. Bro. Stebbing had inadvertently on the inefficiency of the charities, saying that of the applicants to the institutions only one out of every three were successful. The Girls' School, however, had elected all the applicants; he believed they had all been elected in the past year. For the Boys' Institute the accommodation had been raised, and he had made a special appeal, as had also Grand Lodge for more assistance. If the mover of the amendment would consent, he should like to insert an addendum to the effect, that it would be desirable that something worthy of the honour and dignity of the Craft should be erected, though they held determination against reckless and extravagant expenditure. It was his hope that a permanent committee should be appointed by Grand Lodge to take this subject into consideration, and he trusted the Craft would not fetter the hands of that committee by limiting the expenditure to any particular sum.

Bro. A. SMITH said he did not feel exactly inclined to accede to Bro. Binckes' request, because it would be simply asking Grand Lodge not to make fools of themselves. But he must support the declaration that it had never been intended to trench upon the benevolent funds. He particularly called the attention to this fact of any brother who might be present, voting for the amendment in a wish to protect the charities.

Bro. LA CROIX, P.M. No. 90, said it appeared to him that Bro. Stebbing was labouring under most gloomy forebodings of coming evil to the Craft; but such forebodings were entirely groundless, judging from facts before their eyes. He could not admit that anything was to be feared of want in the future, seeing that an increase of prosperity had continually been experienced ever since he had been connected with Masonry. Their charitable institutions seemed to be very much increasing in extent and usefulness, and this showed an increased ability on the part of the Craft generally. In respect to the particular question at present under discussion, there appeared to him to be no necessity for touching funds accumulated for any other special purpose; a general appeal to the Craft would save any expenditure of accumulated funds from any source whatever. He thought the subject had better stand over, as there was plenty of time to see what the general body of Masons thought of the propositions that might be put forward.

Bro. EMANUEL wished to know whether the Board of

General Purposes had given any orders for special plans or specifications to be laid before the general Craft? The brother was answered in the negative.

Bro. F. PERKINS said he understood the Prov. G.M. just now to express his opinion that no man would be rash enough to enter upon the speculation of building a large tavern upon the Masonic ground. Now it was in his experience one of the best speculations open, and such opportunities of building and paying a ground rent were sought for all over London, especially for building premises intended for public tavern business. He also was of opinion that the subject of the Grand Lodge Property was being brought before that meeting in a very strange way. There had been produced before the brethren block plans of the ground as it now stood, and yet no plans or specifications were brought forward as to what was proposed to be done. He could fully admit all that had been advanced as to the want of much more accommodation for the Masonic body at their premises in Great Queen-street. He certainly thought that Bro. Stebbing had got into his eyes some of that official dust alluded to by the W.M. of No. 90. It was his opinion that to confine an outlay for improvement to £18,000 would be a course likely to spoil all, whilst an outlay of about £30,000 would be sufficient to give every accommodation required, and that of a perfect character. He hoped for his own part that a Temple would be erected somewhere in London, such as would be worthy of the dignity and importance of the Craft.

Bro. STEBBING, in his reply, said he feared every brother who wished to check the expenditure stood in a disadvantageous position, opposed to the arguments advanced. He must confess that he himself should like to see a splendid masonic edifice; but they, as Masons, were bound to limit their expenditure to their means. However great the necessity for a fine building—however comfortable or pleasant such a thing was to contemplate—he must remind the brethren that they should not injure the charities; and every shilling not spent for charity was lost to charity. The plans set forth in contemplation of this expenditure showed to what an alarming extent some of the speculators were inclined to go—why some of them talked of £50,000 or £60,000 being spent in the mad project. Bro. Sherry's idea went as far as £36,000, and Bro. Binckes (fresh from London) even thought of from £50,000 to £70,000 as not too much for certain objects. It was said—only lend the money for a time! But brethren knew the result of these things. They had heard of a man borrowing a £5 note "for a day or two!" "sure to meet it in a week," &c. What did it often come to? He must recur to his argument; they should never borrow at all, and the spending of such a large sum as had been talked about should not be calculated upon. They had ground available, 200ft. by 46ft. What could they not build there that they required—what lodges, what chapters? And then there was their £18,000 ready at their hands, through the Board of General Purposes, enough for supplying all they really wanted. Their charities had not been worked sufficiently to supply the demands of the fraternity, and those who had been connected with it. For the Girl's School there had last year been eleven candidates, and only five elected. The Boys' School required enlargement, and where was the money to come from but from this very fund it was now recklessly proposed to reduce for other purposes. He urged upon all the brethren to let charity be the great object of their exertions, and not the desire of a gorgeous palace. If they wanted more in the way of building and ornament, let the proposers come forward and solicit the Craft as a body. If a general appeal was made, he for one was ready with his hundred or two; but he could not forget the vast importance of the demands of their charities. The enthusiastic brother wound up a powerful speech with an eloquent peroration, contrasting on the one hand the grandeur of palatial edifices, and on the other the full relief and succour of the aged and the orphan. He preferred to see the full comfort of the dependents of the fraternity rather than the most gorgeous of palaces to increase the outward show of Freemasonry.

The amendment and original resolution were severally put to the meeting by the R.W. Prov. G. Master, and the latter carried by a considerable majority.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS.

The R.W. PROV. GRAND MASTER then proceeded to invest his Grand Officers, to serve for the ensuing year, as follows:—

Bro. Passenger, 152	S.G. Warden
„ Dr. Kirkman, 1106	J.G. Warden
„ Rev. — Wills, 387	G. Chaplain

Bro. Josiah George	G. Registrar
" Heather, 319	G. Treasurer
" Edwin Wells, 717	S.G. Deacon
" W. A. Wolfe, 428	J.G. Deacon
" Milner, 401	G. Sup. Works
" Tushy, 428	G. Dir. of Cers.
" A. Grace, 387	Assist. ditto
" A. Miller	G.S.B.
" H. M. Powell, 995	G. Organist
" H. Huggins, 90	G. Pursuivant
" H. Grant, 90 }	G. Tylers
" Lockyer, 152 }	

Bros. J. R. Stebbing, Aslett, Brewer, T. Hill, and Merion, Grand Stewards.

The minute books of the various lodges were then submitted for approval to the Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, and received the accustomed official signatures.

NEXT PROVINCIAL MEETING.

The R.W. Prov. GRAND MASTER announced that the next annual provincial meeting would take place at Gosport, and of which due notice would be given.

The whole of the business on the agenda having been transacted, the thanks of the united brethren to the R.W. Prov. Grand Master were proposed by Bro. the Rev. Dr. Bradshaw, and carried by acclamation, and the lodge was closed in due form at three o'clock.

THE BANQUET.

At four o'clock the brethren re-assembled around the festive board, an elegant banquet having been prepared for them at the Black Dog Hotel, where the arrangements of the host and Bro. Simpson were of a most satisfactory kind, as far as he was concerned. Nearly 100 brethren sat down, Bro. Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, *Bart.*, presiding.

After the dessert had been set on, the R. W. Prov. G. Master proposed with the usual honours the healths of "The Queen," "The Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of England," his "Deputy," &c., which were enthusiastically received by the company.

Bro. JOS. GEORGE (Mayor of Romsey) expressed his wish that one more competent than himself had been selected to do justice to the next toast. He had been entrusted to propose the health of one ever held in high esteem in the province—the admirable brother who was that day presiding over their business and refreshment assemblies. The presence of their R. W. Prov. G. Master was always hailed as a harbinger of peace and pleasure, and when he proposed his health he was sure there was not a heart present but beat ardently in unison to do honour to that estimable and highly useful man. Sir Lucius, by his uniformly kind conduct, was recognised amongst them more as a father than as the Provincial Master of the Province, and long would they remember with grateful hearts his kindness, affability, and many other prominent virtues as a Mason and a man. He gave "The health of Sir Lucius Curtis, with full lodge honours."

The toast was received and drank amidst the universal acclamation of the company and the usual honours of the fraternity.

The R. W. Prov. GRAND MASTER rose amidst repeated plaudits. He said he had to return to his worshipful brother the Mayor of Romsey and the assembled brethren, his best thanks for the kind manner in which his name had been introduced and honoured, but he thought Bro. George had gone too far in alluding to the virtues which he might possess, and had said of him more than he deserved. He had been always received and honoured by the brethren with warm fraternal regard, and it was now twenty-two years since he had been honoured with the title and office of Provincial Grand Master, and for two or three years before that he had been Deputy Prov. Grand Master. It was with extreme pleasure he saw so many of the brethren around him; he knew that numbers of them had travelled many miles to assemble there that day, Lynton being the most easterly lodge that had sent representatives, whilst many were from the extreme north of the county, and many also from the west and south; so that they had come from the four cardinal points of the compass to spend that interesting day. He should be always glad to do his utmost to assist the continuance of that harmony and brotherly love and affection which ought to guide every Mason; and as long as he had the honour to fill that chair, he should do everything he could to encourage those feelings. He could not find words, in which appropriately, and with satisfaction to himself, he could reply to the handsome way in which he had been

received and complimented, but he wished them all every prosperity and happiness in this world that the great Architect of the universe could confer upon them.

The R.W. Prov. G.M., in giving the next toast said it was one always drunk with special enthusiasm in the provincial meetings, and all the private lodges. The officer he was about to mention was almost the father of the province, and he was by all received with cordiality, and looked up to with esteem. He begged to propose "The Health of the D. Prov. G. Master of the Province, and Senior Grand Deacon of England, Bro. C. E. Deacon, of Southampton." The toast was heartily received and drank with provincial honours.

Bro. DEACON, D. Prov. G.M., said he most highly appreciated the honour conferred upon him by the R.W. Prov. G.M. in proposing his health as his Deputy, a position making it his duty to do all he could to uphold the interests of the province. He thought it a very great thing to receive so distinguished a mark of honour. He was no stranger to the compliments of the brethren of the province, and he hoped it would be a long time before the link was broken, and that nothing would arise to interfere with the ties of affection and confidence existing in the province at the present time. He owed his proud position in that province to the chief who had done so much for Masonry in general, calculated to promote the comfort, happiness, and prosperity of every man connected with the Order. The honour conferred on him by the province had been added to lately by the Grand Master of England. The speaker here referred in eloquent terms to the great demands upon the brethren by their Charities. He designated charity as one of the brightest ornaments of the Craft, contrived by its wisdom, supported by its strength, and beautified by its eminent goodness. He was glad to see one of the metropolitan brethren present, one who was connected with the province, of which he might be well proud, because it was doing its utmost to extend the usefulness and goodness of the Craft, which did so much for our fellow-creatures in diminishing the evils which surrounded them. It gave him unalloyed pleasure to meet the brethren from time to time, and he hoped to carry to his grave their love and affection; he had treasured up the kindness he had received, and it had cheered him on, comforted and consoled him through life. He hoped to see the welfare and prosperity of their noble and glorious institution carried on continually.

Bro. the Rev. — WILLS said he was about to introduce a toast, the reception of which he knew they were always agreed upon. The subject of the toast was "Charity," one of the true principles of Masonry. It blessed him who gave as well as him who received. By it they were enabled to relieve the necessitous when reduced by circumstances over which they had no control. He wished to propose "The Masonic Charities." Bro. Binckes was competent to give them a deal of particulars, if such were desired, but they hardly wanted information. They knew all about the schools, and the great good done through them. He was convinced that if it was found necessary and consistent to add another wing to the Masonic property, and a general subscription was suggested, the Masons of the province of Hampshire would not be backward in contributing a stone each, or rather a brick each, in promoting the improvement. He was sure all the company would join him heartily in drinking to "The success of the Masonic Charities," and he would couple the name of Bro. Binckes with the toast. Drank with great cordiality.

Bro. BINCKES (who was very warmly cheered) said he felt especially delighted with the reception of the toast and himself. The subject of this toast was certainly one in respect to which there was no appearance of difficulty or dispute, and so far was unlike the subject upon which he had that afternoon addressed Prov. Grand Lodge. The branch of the Crafts' institutions in which he was more particularly concerned was one on which Heaven seemed to smile beneficently. His wish to be present that day had been prompted by a desire to visit a province wherein the institutions were so warmly supported, especially that with which he was more concerned. He thought he might have assisted the brethren in coming to a decision upon a matter before them that day; and he did not see that because he was particularly connected with one institution he should be debarred from giving his opinion on any question of broad principle. He had the honour of being there as a member of the province in his own right, being then under the banner of the Lodge, No. 90, which had elected him as an honorary member and also a subscribing member. With reference to the Girls' School, he would make an observation upon

a remark which had fallen from him in the afternoon in the lodge. He had said that there was no difficulty in receiving all the candidates that came before the committee. Bro. Stebbing had said that there had been a greater number of candidates last time than there had been received. He might say that it was a favourite boast of a friend of his for many years that whenever an application had been made, the party had been received. An exception to this rule was very lately, and it was because of a suddenly increased number of applications. The number of pupils had risen to 70 and 80, but additional provisions were now making, and there would soon be room sufficient to accommodate 100 children. Though it was not finished, it was in the course of being done, and all the applications would then meet with an affirmative response. He wished, however, that he could say the Boys' Institution was in an equally good position. It had been established in 1798, and up to six years ago the boys admitted were merely clothed and educated at different schools in the neighbourhood of their homes, and then they did not reap those benefits which they now received all under one roof. Some good friends had made great efforts in 1856, and the result was, that the land and premises at Wood Green was bought, consisting of several acres, and the school opened. In 1859 they had 67 boys in the Institution. They had since made further progress, but the increase in the applications was wonderful. The present demands were got up to an immense pitch, and they could scarcely tell yet how they should be able to satisfy them. The fact was that the Boys' Institution had never up to the last year been so fortunate, nor received so much attention as the other charities. When he had been elected to the Secretaryship of the Boys' Institution, about two years ago, he found himself with the opportunity of putting in force a system which he had long before been advocating. Previous to that, not one-third proportion of the assistance received by the charities was gained from the country brethren, and to a great extent this was through the Craft not being sufficiently appealed to throughout the provinces. Last year the sum of £3650 was collected at the festival, the largest sum ever received for either of the Institutions at one time, and half of it came from the provinces, and this effect was, to a very great part, the consequence of his appeals to the provinces on its special behalf. This new result showed that the brethren of the provinces had the prosperity of the institutions as much at heart as those living in London. He had found great ignorance existing in the provinces upon the subject of the institution, and he recollected an elderly brother sitting by his side at dinner, telling him that he did not know there was such a thing as the Boys' School in existence. It was very hopeful in Hampshire. Bros. Hayward and Stebbing had represented the province at the festival last year, and had taken up the cause most successfully. Bro. Sherry, than whom a better Mason did not exist, had since given in his name to stand as Steward for the present year, whilst the name of Bro. Barnes, of Portsmouth, had been given in by Bro. Stebbing as another. He had no occasion, therefore, to come there and ask for Stewards, but he would plead for warm assistance to the cause. Bro. Stebbing had spoken of a new wing being added to the institution, but he (Bro. Binckes) wanted more than that; he wished to see four wings—a complete building. The Girls' School was getting everything that was requisite, and the good results which were following came as a matter of course; plenty of money was forthcoming because of the efficiency shown. His wish was to see a fit and proper school with full accommodation for the boys. The present building was not one exactly appropriate for the requirements of the institution; when everything was supplied in the way of excellent dormitories and other good internal arrangements, he should then look for good results in every sense of the word, and with their new Master, only lately elected, he anticipated seeing the boys of this school competing successfully with those of other good schools, in the Oxford examinations opened of late years. He looked forward to the boys succeeding, and in a manner worthy of the title attached to their institution of the Royal Masonic Schools. The boys who were taken into the schools were not to be looked upon as receiving a charity; it was what they were entitled to—a right and not a dole. Without their Charities, Masonry would be as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal; and he looked with thorough confidence to their future liberal support. He once more thanked the brethren present for the handsome reception they had given him at that, his first meeting with the assembled province in Grand Lodge, and he could assure them that he felt grateful for what they

had done in the past, and also for what he anticipated he should receive from them in the future.

The R.W. PROV. GRAND MASTER next proposed "The health of the Prov. Grand Officers of the province for the present year, which was warmly received.

Bro. HICKMAN, Prov. G. Sec., said, on the behalf of the new officers invested that day, he returned sincere thanks. He was assured that they would perform their duties with zeal and fervency, and to the best of their ability, and he hoped the result would be perfect satisfaction to the province.

The R.W. PROV. GRAND MASTER then gave "The health of the Past Prov. Grand Officers," which was likewise warmly received, and Bro. Hawkins, P. Prov. J.G.W., briefly responded.

The next toast was "The Worshipful Masters of the Lodges of the Province." The R.W. PROV. GRAND MASTER congratulated the meeting upon the increase of brethren and the increase of lodges in the province. When he was first appointed to his office there were only ten lodges in the province, and not half of them were at work. Now they had increased, he believed, to sixteen, together with a military lodge. He felt rather proud of this success under his rule. He gave the toast of "Prosperity to the Provincial Lodges," and would couple with it the name of Bro. Alfred Smith, W.M. of No. 90, Winchester. The toast was very prominently honoured.

Bro. SMITH said he felt deeply grateful for himself and the brethren by whom he was more immediately surrounded, on account of the complimentary terms in which the toast had been introduced, and the handsome manner in which it had been received. He was afraid he was unworthily filling the mastership of the senior lodge of the province. In the Provincial Grand Lodge the discussion of the Grand Lodge property question had elicited varieties of opinion. It was cheerful to witness those who had enunciated contrary views in the lodge assembled around the tables in such good humor, and displaying those kind feelings one towards another so truly Masonic. Whether the amount of means wished to be devoted to the London property improvement was £18,000, or £20,000, or £36,000, the only desire of them all was to benefit and promote the position of the Craft, and extend to others those benefits they already had experienced and prized, and wished to bestow upon others. He had endeavoured to put brethren right upon certain points when in the lodge; but the sway of Bro. Stebbing's eloquence had been too strong for him, though the points of difference had not been defined very clearly. But he would not re-open this—choosing to bury the dead. The question was of great interest, and it would never be neglected. He was really delighted to experience the feelings generated at these assemblies; and he wished again to convey his most earnest and grateful acknowledgments to the brethren for their conspicuous notice of himself and colleagues of No. 90.

In giving another toast, "The Military Lodges," the R.W. PROV. GRAND MASTER mentioned the Orthes Lodge (6th Regiment), coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Captain Saunders.

Bro. CAPT. SAUNDERS responded in a brief speech. He was glad to see the resuscitation of his lodge, and he was the first who had represented it at the provincial assembly.

The next toast was "The Scottish Lodges," coupled with the name of Bro. Hennessy, of No. 190, Aberdeen, who responded, and said he never could forget the kindness he had received from his Hampshire brethren.

The health of the visiting brethren was duly honoured.

Another lengthened and eloquent speech was delivered by Bro. Stebbing, in the course of which he proposed the formal toast "All poor and distressed Masons," &c. The talented brother then proceeded to address the meeting generally on the wisdom and beauty of the Masonic Order. He alluded to the wisdom of the man who provided for the poor and unfortunate out of his prosperity; yet he thought the masonic body was not sufficiently wise in its generation, because they might do much more than they did. The tree was not yet planted and watered for its perfection, its branches did not yet sufficiently cover the earth. They all knew that men shall come and men shall go; but the poor and needy will live on for ever. He argued on the general insufficiency of the support given to the masonic institutions, and drew some beautiful metaphors of the beauty and joy of the sublime virtue—charity.

"The health of the W.M. of the Carnarvon Lodge, No. 1106,"

in which the meeting of the day had been held, was next given, and warmly received, and was duly responded to by Bro. Weeks. The Prov. G. Master said the lodge was a young one, but he had good hopes of seeing it grow a very strong one.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. here left the chair, most loudly cheered by the brethren.

In some subsequent speaking, at a later hour, present—the W.M. and several brethren of No. 1106, the W.M. and others of No. 90, Bro. Weeks entered upon the Grand Lodge Property question, and explained that very little was known of the subject in most of the lodges of the province; and but for that ignorance the amendment of Bro. Smith would have received more support. For his part, he approved of the plan of Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, whom he knew and had met many times, and whose opinion he would take as soon as any man's. He also advocated the idea originating with a P.M. of No. 90, that a general appeal to the Craft for help should be made.

The brethren did not eventually break up till an advanced hour of the evening. A special train, provided through the courtesy of the South-Western Railway, was found very convenient for the return home of the brethren coming from the north and southern lodges of the county.

The importance of the meeting demanded a full report, but the many demands on our space this week has rendered necessary the summary of many of the speeches.

BASINGSTOKE.—*Oakley Lodge* (No. 995).—The Quarterly Meeting of the above lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, on the 11th inst., when there was a very full attendance of its officers and members under our respected W.M., Bro. R. S. Hulbert. On this occasion Bro. Capt. J. Wickham, and Bro. C. W. Seymour were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons, and Bro. G. L. Hillier was passed to the degree of F.C. Mr. J. Wheeler was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Order, and Bro. G. Oakshot, P.M. 90, was proposed and seconded as a joining member. After the labours of the evening had been very efficiently performed by the W.M., the brethren partook of refreshment, and the evening was very agreeably spent, enlivened by the usual loyal, patriotic, and Masonic speeches and toasts. The vocal powers of several of the brethren were cheerfully granted and as cheerfully acknowledged. Bro. G. Figgins gave the E.A.P. song, assisted by the chorus of the company. The W.M., in proposing the health of the newly-initiated, aptly availed himself of the opportunity to remind him of his obligations and duties, as enumerated in the charge, and the manner in which the advice was received by the novitiate did him much credit, and created a favourable opinion in the brethren, that he would appreciate the value of Freemasonry and indelibly imprint on his heart the sacred dictates of truth, of honour, and of virtue. The health of the other newly-advanced members being duly drank and acknowledged, the brethren returned to their respective homes in that peace and harmony of mind which always attend such meetings.

KENT.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Wednesday, July 9th, the annual festival of the Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Kent was held at Chatham. The Provincial Grand Lodge assembled at the head-quarters of the 9th Kent Volunteers, a spacious apartment, erected near the station of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, and used for the meetings and drill of that effective company. The room was beautifully decorated with devices of various kinds, those formed of bayonets and other warlike appliances contrasting strangely with the more peaceful emblems of Masonic brotherhood.

The Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the D. Prov. G.M. Bro. F. Dobson, the P. Prov. G.M. Bro. Jos. Ashley, Bros. Eastes, S.W.; Gardner, acting as J.W.; Day, as Purst. The Rev. Bro. Roxburgh, in the absence of the Rev. Bro. Hill, acted as Grand Chaplain. There were about 300 brethren present.

The usual salutations having been made, the D.G.M. stated that a telegram had just been received from Lord Holmesdale, to the effect that he expected to arrive by the next train, but requesting that the Grand Lodge would proceed with the usual business in his absence. Bro. Saunders was then unanimously elected G. Treas. for the year ensuing.

The following officers were next appointed and invested:—

Bro. T. F. Nettleingham, W.M. 91	Prov. S.G. Warden
„ T. H. Gore, W.M. 149	„ J.G. Warden
„ Rev. W. A. Hill, M.A.	„ G. Chap.
„ Rev. A. Roxburgh, M.A., C. 1011	„ A.G. Chap.
„ William Saunders, P.M. 90	„ G. Treas.
„ B. K. Thorpe, jun., W.M. 1011	„ G. Reg.
„ Charles Isaacs, P.M. 20	„ G. Sec.
„ E. Wates, P.M. 91	„ A.G. Sec.
„ W. Page, W.M. 741	„ S.G. Deacon
„ A. Hodge, W.M. 184	„ J.G. Deacon
„ A. Gooley, P.M. 50	„ G. D. of C.
„ Edward Tomalin, W.M. 147	„ A.G.D. of C.
„ Samuel Astin, W.M. 216	„ G.S. of W.
„ Noah Martin, P.M. 376	„ G.S.B.
„ F. S. Tolputt, W.M. 816	„ G. Org.
„ John Coram, S.W. 235	„ G. Purst.
„ C. J. Briggs, 741	„ G. Tyler

Bros. F. F. Giraud, W.M. 155; White, W.M. 709; Pitarc, W.M. 898; Graydon, W.M. 1215; Norris, 91; Mudd, 20, Prov. G. Stewards.

The D.G. MASTER said that he had been desired by the G.M. to give Bro. Cooley the rank of P. Prov. G.J.W., in recognition of his services in the important office of Prov. G. D. of C., an office which it was necessary should not frequently change hands; and that in another year it was intended that he should have two assistants.

The sum of thirty guineas was then voted to the Erith Lodge, the last on the rota to give the lodge votes in perpetuity for the Boys' and Girls' Schools.

The D.G. MASTER then announced that at the preliminary meeting it had been decided to make all the lodges Perpetual Governors of the Aged Masons' Annuity Fund; and the funds would allow £20 each to be now voted to the three lodges which had the largest number of members. Next year a similar vote would be taken for four lodges according to the same rule.

The G. SECRETARY then stated that the three largest lodges in the province were the Dover Lodge, which had 81 members; the Gravesend (91), which had 79 members; and the Ramsgate, which had 72 members.

The sum of £20 each was then voted to those three lodges from the Prov. Grand Lodge charity fund. Ten guineas were also voted from the Prov. Grand Lodge fund to the Boys' School.

The other routine business having been gone through, the brethren then formed a procession, headed by the 4th Kent Artillery Volunteer band, to St. Mary's Church, each lodge under its respective banner, the route being crowded at every point with eager spectators. Those portions of the church not occupied by the brethren were also fully occupied, chiefly by ladies. The prayers were read by the Rev. S. Arnott, M.A., vicar of Chatham, and a most impressive sermon was preached by the Rev. Alfred Roxburgh, M.A., incumbent of Smallhythe, from Luke x., 37—"Go thou and do likewise." A collection was made on behalf of the parochial schools and Masonic charities.

After the service the brethren returned again in procession, headed by the band (playing an ancient tune peculiar to the order), to the Grand Lodge-room, when the Prov. G. Master, Lord Holmesdale, having arrived in the meantime, presided.

Votes of thanks were unanimously given to the Assistant Grand Chaplain for his excellent discourse; to the vicar, the Rev. S. Arnott, for the use of the church; and to Capt. Brock for the use of the hall in which they were then assembled.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Bro. Dobson, and seconded by Bro. Ashley, was also given to the Grand Master, who, in replying, took the opportunity of apologising for his absence during the earlier part of the proceedings.

Bro. BINCKES begged permission, as a visitor, to address the Grand Lodge, in order to express the two-fold gratitude due to the noble lord and the province of Kent from the noble institution (the Masonic Boys' School) with which he was more particularly connected. Great praise was due to the province of Kent for the munificent way in which it had responded to his appeal to them last year at Ashford; in consequence of which Bro. Dobson had acted as steward, and the province had contributed the liberal sum of £270 to the funds of the charity. (Cheers.) A deep debt of gratitude was due also from the stewards to the noble lord in the chair, for when Lord Leigh at the last moment was prevented by a domestic calamity from presiding, the noble lord, without hesitation, consented to take

Lord Leigh's place, and no better chairman could any festival have had. (Loud cheers.) On behalf, then, of the managers of the Boys' School, he tended to the noble Lord and the Masons of Kent their best thanks. (Cheers.) Some other routine business followed, and the Grand Lodge was then solemnly closed.

[Owing to the great pressure upon our columns, and the late hour at which a large portion of the news was received, we are compelled to postpone our report of the proceedings at the banquet until next week.]

SURREY.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Annual Prov. Grand Lodge of Surrey, was held at Chertsey, on Saturday, the 5th July, inst.

Grand Lodge was opened at three o'clock, the R.W. Prov. G. Master Bro. Alexander Dobie, P.G. Register, presiding, supported by Bros. Harcourt, P.G.D.C., Deputy Prov. G. Master; Francis, P. Deputy Prov. G. Master of Surrey, and Dep. Prov. G. Master of Hertfordshire; J. Ll. Evans, G. Deacon; James J. Blake, G. Deacon and P. Prov. G. Warden; White, P. Prov. S.G. Warden; Moates, P. Prov. S.G. Warden; Meymott, Prov. G.J. Warden; Geo. Price, Prov. G. Treas.; Morrison, Prov. G. Reg.; Charles M. Lashmar, Prov. J.G. Deacon; Carruthers, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Bailey, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Blenkin, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Wm. Smith, P. Prov. J.G. Warden; C. Greenwood, Prov. G. Sec.; and many other past Prov. G. Officers and visitors, amongst whom were Bros. Stephen B. Wilson, P.G.D.; Henry G. Warren, P.M. Grand Stewards' Lodge; Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec., and Sec. to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows; and Binckes, Sec. to the Boys' School.

The minutes of the Past Prov. Grand Lodge were read and confirmed. The report of the Audit Committee was presented, showing a balance in the Treasurer's hands to the credit of the Prov. Grand Lodge of £85 4s. 3d.

The W. Bro. George Price was unanimously re-elected Prov. Grand Treasurer.

The V.W. Bro. George Harcourt, M.D., was continued as Dep. Prov. G. Master.

The following Prov. Grand Officers were appointed for the ensuing year:—

Bro. Andrew Sisson	S. G. Warden.
„ C. Holman	J. G. Warden.
„ The Rev. Hy. Carmichael Grant	G. Chaplain.
„ G. Carter Morrison	G. Registrar.
„ Charles Greenwood	G. Secretary.
„ E. S. Willett	S. G. Deacon.
„ W. L. Bird	J. G. Deacon.
„ William Carruthers	G. Supt. of Works
„ William Bentham	G. Organist.
„ Henry T. Aveline	G. Dir. of Cers.
„ Charles E. Amos	G. Sword-bearer.
„ C. H. Woodward	G. Pursuivant.

The following brethren were appointed Prov. G. Stewards:—Harrison, Fredk. J. Blake, Wood, Webb, Clayton, Dalton, and Phillips. £5 5s. were voted to the Freemasons' Girls' School; and £5 5s. to the Royal Benevolent Institution for aged Masons and their widows. [At the last Prov. Grand Lodge £5 5s. was voted to the Boys' School]. The Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in due form. Sixty-three brethren signed the Prov. G. Tyler's book.

THE BANQUET.

The brethren then adjourned to the banquet at the Crown Hotel, The R.W. Prov. G. Master presiding. On the removal of the cloth, the Prov. G. MASTER said the first toast he had to propose required no eulogy to insure its cordial acceptance. During the last few months the country at large, by their sympathy with Her Majesty's bereavement, had evinced how sensible they were of Her Majesty's good qualities, and the claims which she had on the support of her subjects. He begged to give the Queen and the Craft.

The PROV. G. MASTER had next to propose the health of the distinguished nobleman who presided over the Craft, and who had so performed his duties as to secure the respect of the whole of its members. (Cheers.) He gave the health of the M.W. Grand Master with all the honours. (Cheers.)

Bro. FRANCIS, P.D. Prov. G.M., had a most satisfactory duty to perform—that of proposing “the D. Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the other officers of Grand Lodge.” They were always thankful when they found men of high position taking an active part in the business of the order as the Earl de Grey had done, showing how highly he appreciated their tenets. They had the pleasure of having two or three Grand Officers present that day. First there was Bro. Llewellyn Evans, the President of the Board of General Purposes, who was highly respected; next there was Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, whose services to Masonry were highly appreciated; and then there was a brother (Bro. Farnfield) whose urbanity and courtesy in the discharge of his duties in the Grand Secretary's office was appreciated by every member of the Grand Lodge of England, who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. (Cheers.) He would not expatiate at any length on the toast, but at once give them “The D. Grand Master, and Grand Officers,” coupled with the name of Bro. Evans. (Cheers.)

Bro. EVANS, G.D., had a great deal of difficulty in replying to the toast, though he could bear witness that the encomiums passed on the D.G. Master were well deserved, as no brother could be more painstaking in the discharge of his duties than the D. Grand Master, as must have been evident to all who had observed the admirable manner in which, when called upon to do so, he presided over Grand Lodge. (Cheers.) He (Bro. Evans) was happy in being present on that occasion. Indeed he had only omitted two Provincial Grand Lodges since Bro. Dobie had presided over them, and was glad to see how well he discharged his duties. He had to return thanks also for the Grand Officers, who he was sure were most zealous in the performance of their duties, and he hoped they might ever prove able to discharge them to the satisfaction of Grand Lodge. (Cheers.)

Bro. HARCOURT, D. Prov. G.M., had to propose a toast which he was sure would be most enthusiastically received: “The Health of their very excellent Prov. Grand Master.” (Cheers.) He was sure there was no brother in the province more highly respected than Bro. Dobie—(cheers)—or who was more anxious to promote the best interests of the Craft. (Cheers.) They all knew Bro. Dobie, and if he ruled over them with a rod of iron they appeared to like it. (Laughter.) He would not detain them, being assured that they would drink with the utmost satisfaction to the health of the Prov. Grand Master, who, he hoped, might long continue to preside over them. (Cheers.)

The PROV. G.M. had great pleasure in returning thanks to the D. Prov. G.M. for the kind manner in which he had proposed the toast, and to those present for the very brotherly manner in which they had received it. But this was not the first occasion in which they had so honoured him. Since he had had the honour of being Prov. Grand Master, no province, he believed, had, for its size, been more prosperous, or more unanimous. It was true their province was but small, owing to the law by which all lodges within a radius of ten miles from Freemasons' Hall, were considered to be in the Metropolitan district. He was happy to say, however, that Masonry was flourishing in the province, as, whereas, when he first became Prov. G.M., there were only three lodges, there were now seven, and all of them prosperous. They had a good balance in the hands of the Treasurer, and everything looked well for the prosperity and stability of Masonry in Surrey. He had not of late been able to visit the lodges much, but when he had done so he had been highly pleased with the working; and he was proud to say that not a single complaint had reached either him or the Deputy, showing the good feeling which existed among the members. (Cheers.)

The PROV. G.M. said that they should always endeavour to encourage those who did their duty, and he was sure all would agree that the brother whose health he was about to propose had done his duty. The D. Prov. G.M. had received his approbation, and he hoped he had also met with the approbation of the brethren. (Cheers.) At the same time he wished to couple with the toast the names of the Prov. Grand Officers, whom he always endeavoured to appoint so as to give the greatest satisfaction in the province. He did not like to appoint brethren in their absence, as he did not think it fair to those who did attend, but he endeavoured to do justice to all. The toast having been drunk with all the honours.

Bro. HARCOURT, D. Prov. G.M. returned thanks, and assured the R.W. Prov. G.M. and the brethren that it was always the earnest desire of the Prov. Grand Officers to perform their duties, to the utmost of their ability. He had visited several

of the lodges, and always with pleasure, in consequence of the excellence of the working, and the unanimity which prevailed amongst the brethren. He then bore testimony to the services of the Prov. G. Treas. and Sec., and on his part he could only say that, so long as he was honoured with the confidence of the Prov. G.M. he should endeavour so to discharge his duties, as to merit the good will of the brethren. (Cheers.)

The PROV. G. MASTER said that having called attention to the officers of the day, they must not forget those who had passed into the rank of P. Prov. G. Officers. They had one there—a very old Past G. Officer who, though he had now left the province, and held high rank in another—they were always happy to see amongst them, for a kindlier or more esteemed brother could not be found in the Craft. Bro. Francis was an old and tried brother. He was D.G.M. of the province for many years, and he (the Prov. G.M.) was happy to see him looking as well now as he did twenty years since. He gave them "Bro. Francis, and the rest of the P. Prov. G. Officers." (Cheers.)

Bro. FRANCIS, D. Prov. G.M. for Herts, felt very grateful to the Prov. G.M. and the brethren for the kindness with which they had received him. Though now living in another province, he had always great pleasure in visiting Surrey, where he ever felt himself at home. He had always endeavoured to perform his duty; and during the seventeen years he held office, he believed he had met with their approbation. He had always received the greatest kindness and consideration from Bro. Dobie, who he was proud to see still presiding as Prov. G.M.; and though he could not agree with that brother that he was as well as he was twenty years since, he hoped the G.A.O.T.U. might spare him a few years longer to meet them at their annual meetings. (Cheers.)

Bro. MORRIS, of Reigate, proposed "The Visitors," coupled with the name of Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, whose services to Masonry it was impossible to overrate. He could assure the visitors that the brethren of Surrey were always anxious to give them a hearty welcome; and they were proud to see Bro. Wilson and others present amongst them that day.

Bro. S. B. WILSON, P.G.D., had great pleasure in returning thanks on behalf of the visitors; though he had thought when Bro. Evans returned thanks for the officers of the Grand Lodge of England, he should have escaped that duty. He was sure that the thanks of the visitors were due to the brethren for the hospitality with which they had received them, and any services he might at any time have rendered were more than repaid by their kindness towards him. He had devoted some little time to endeavour to benefit the Craft; but he felt that his exertions would have been but of little use without the kind assistance of the brethren, which had always been most freely given to him. He again thanked them on behalf of himself and the visitors. (Cheers.)

Bro. Dr. HOLMAN, of Reigate, proposed "The Health of the Prov. Grand Treasurer." They knew the value of his services by their results; he had been elected six or seven times, and the province was never more prosperous than at present. (Cheers.)

Bro. PRICE, Prov. G. Treas., returned thanks for the very gratifying mark of their favour just accorded him. He had been Prov. Grand Treasurer for seven years, and was proud of the office. He was an old P. Prov. Grand Officer, and nothing did he more highly prize than to receive the confidence of the brethren, and, so long as he enjoyed it, he would do everything in his power for the benefit of the province.

Bro. FRANCIS proposed "The Health of the Prov. G. Sec.," than whom a more efficient officer it would be impossible to have.

Bro. GREENWOOD having briefly acknowledged the compliment,

The PROV. G.M. proposed the "Master and Officers of the St. George's Lodge, Chertsey," with thanks to them for having so well provided for the accommodation and comfort of the Prov. Grand Lodge.

Bro. BIRD, the W.M., having returned thanks, a large majority of the brethren retired, those from London having to meet the train at a quarter to nine, when, such are the excellence of the arrangements of the South-Western Railway that they arrived in London at twenty minutes to eleven, having done twenty-two miles in a little under two hours—a wonderful feat for this line.

In the course of the evening Bro. Dobie, Prov. G.M., consented to stand as Steward at the next Festival of the Boys' School.

YORKSHIRE (WEST.)

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was holden in the Town Hall, Holmfirth, on Wednesday, the 2nd July. Amongst the brethren present were, R.W. George Fearnley, M.D., D. Prov. G.M. Dewsbury; V.W. Rev. Joseph Senior, L.L.D., P.G. Chap., Prov. S.G.W., Wakefield; Thomas Robinson, Prov. J.G.W., Huddersfield; Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P. Prov. S.G.W., Prov. G. Chap., Leeds; W. Dixon, Prov. G. Treas., Morley; Charles Oldroyd, Prov. G. Reg., Dewsbury; R. R. Nelson, Prov. G. Sec., Dewsbury; John Beckett, P. Prov. G. Sec., Wakefield; T. S. Bradley, P. Prov. G. Reg., Huddersfield; C. H. Taylor, Prov. S.G.D., Bradford; Joseph Mellor, P. Prov. G.D., Holmfirth; John Booth, P. Prov. G.D., Heckmondwike; J. S. Haigh, P. Prov. G.D., Meltham; William White, jun., Prov. G.D.C., Sheffield; W. G. Dyson, Prov. G.A.D.C., Huddersfield; James Riley, P. Prov. G.S.B., Heckmondwike; James Peace, P. Prov. J.G.W., Huddersfield, acting as Prov. G. Org.; Henry Inchbold, Prov. G. Purst, Leeds; G. W. Rhodes, Prov. A. G. Purst, Huddersfield; James Clay, Dewsbury, and Thomas Hill, Bradford, Prov. G. Stewards, &c., and W. Masters, Past Masters, Acting Wardens, and brethren from lodges Nos. 162, 373, Sheffield; 174, Meltham; 179, Wakefield; 251, Dewsbury; 322, Heckmondwike; 342, 365, 763, Huddersfield; 364, 382, Leeds; 379, 874, Bradford; 422, Saddleworth; 529, Morley; 937, Holmfirth; 1129, Batley Carr; and 1206, Rotherham.

The minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge holden at Huddersfield, on Wednesday, the 23rd April, were read and confirmed.

The Chairman of the Charity Committee of the Province, the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P. Prov. S.G.W., read the report of that committee, and announced to the brethren that the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, would preside at the Festival of the Boys' School for 1863, and that several brethren from the province had already given in their names as Stewards, and urged on the brethren generally the necessity of supporting this charity, as well as the other charities of the Craft.

Bro. Thomas Robinson, Prov. J.G.W., gave notice that at the next Prov. Grand Lodge he should move that the sum of one hundred guineas be given from the funds of the Prov. Grand Lodge to the Boys' School.

It was unanimously resolved that the next Prov. Grand Lodge, on Wednesday, the 1st October, should be holden at Doncaster.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was then closed in form, and with solemn prayer, until further summoned, and the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet provided by Bro. Chas. Taylor, Victoria Hotel, which reflected the highest credit on the worthy host. Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P. Prov. S.G.W., presided (owing to the D. Prov. G.M. having been called away on important business), and was supported by the Prov. Grand Officers and upwards of fifty brethren.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL.

The Supreme Grand Council of the 33rd degree, for England and Wales and the dependencies of the British Crown, held their usual quarterly meeting at their Grand East, London, on the 9th of July, presided over by the M. P. Sov. G. Com., Dr. H. B. Leeson, when the Ill. Bro. Col. Cholmely Deering, and Dr. B. A. Kent, 32°, were elected to fill two vacant seats in the council. A consistory of S. P. R. S., 32°, was afterwards held, when the Ill. Bros. John Barker, and William Macefield, 31° were admitted. A Sovereign Grand Tribunal of the 31° was also held, and Capt. Boyle, and William Courtenay Cruttenden, 30°, were admitted to the rank of Grand Inquisitor Commanders. An emergency council of the 30° was also held, for the purpose of granting the degree of Pr. Elect K.H. to Bro. Dr. Hamilton, the Prov. G.M. of Jamaica. The members of the Supreme Council now are Dr. Leeson, M.P. Sov. G. Com.; Col. H. A. Bowyer, Lt. G. Com.; C. H. Vernon, G. Treas.; Sir John De la Pole, *Barf.*; H. Shuttleworth; Col. H. Clarke; Col. Deering; and Dr. B. A. Kent. The other vacancy will be filled up in October.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER OF SOVEREIGN PRINCES ROSE CROIX OF HEREDOM.—This chapter held its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 8th, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. The Ill. Bro. Dr. George Harcourt, M.W. Sov., presided, assisted by the Ill. Bros. Hyde Pullen, 32° G. Sec. Gen., Dr. William Jones, 32°, 1st and 2nd Generals; Dr. R. H. Goulden, 32° as Prelate; Major H. G. Burney, 30°, G. Marshal; W. Blenkins, 30°, Raphael; Col. J. Goddard, 30°, Capt. of Guard; J. How, 30°, Dir. of Cers. There were also present the Ill. Bros. Dr. H. B. Leeson, Sov. G. Com, 33°; Sir John De la Pole, *Bart.*, 33°, and Col. H. A. Bowyer 33°; Geo. Barlow, 31°; R. Spencer, and S. R. P. Shilton, 30°; also H. J. Sparkes, J. R. Lyon, W. Bollaert, J. Weickbrodt, R. Hamilton W. E. Gumbleton, S. D. Washburn, Brackstone Baker, and George Lambert, 18°. Bros. Lt. Henry Hamer Stansfield, James Gibbs, and William E. Michell, were admitted to the degree. This being the usual period for election of M.W. Sov. and Treasurer, Bro. Hyde Pullen, was elected to the first, and Dr. Goulden was re-elected to the latter office. The installation ceremony was most efficiently gone through by the several officers, assisted by an excellent selection of music by Bros. Fielding, Winn, and Shoubridge. All business ended the chapter was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which in viands and wines sustained the good taste of the establishment of Messrs. Shrewsbury and Elkington. The cloth removed "The Health of our Beloved Queen," was duly honoured, and "The M.W.S.," then with a few remarks on the benefits derived from a well formed ruling body, and a recognised head, observed that although the Masonic government was somewhat divided in this country at present, in the Rite under which they were then assembled, fealty to the Supreme Council was acknowledged, especially to the M.P. Sov. G. Com., Dr. Leeson, by whose patient industry and extensive Masonic learning the working of the Rite had been brought to perfection. Dr. Leeson, in acknowledgment, referred to the encouragement with which his labours had been received by the chapter, and more especially by the zealous efforts of the several Sovereigns. He congratulated the chapter on its having elected to the chair so able a brother as Hyde Pullen, and suggested that means should be adopted for meetings for instruction, so that each officer might be perfect when called upon. Before he resumed his seat, Bro. Leeson proposed the "Health of the present M.W. Sov.," a brother who, in private life as well as in Masonry, carried out all the great principles of the Institution.—Dr. Harcourt, in reply, after referring to his hesitation in accepting the high office of presiding over the Metropolitan chapter, could not but acknowledge that his labours had been amply rewarded, and he felt the greatest amount of satisfaction in having for his successor one who had so ably aided him in working the ceremonies.—"The Supreme Council" was acknowledged by the Ill. Bro. Col. Bowyer, and the "Councils of other States," by the Ill. Bro. A. Perrier, 33°, of France.—The M.W. Sov., then, in complimentary terms, proposed the "M.W. Sov. Elect," to which Bro. Pullen, in response, said he could have wished, seeing he had already presided over a chapter, that the chapter had selected any other than himself, one whose location afforded better means to serve them. He referred to the meetings being so few and far between, and taking the hint of their M.P. chief, he trusted that ere long a chapter of instruction might be organised. The "Healths of the P.M.W. Sov., Dr. Jones, and the Treasurer," were also received with applause, and Bros. Jones and Goulden, having made their acknowledgments, the brethren separated at an early hour.

VESTIGES OF FREEMASONRY IN THE AUSTRALIAN PROVINCES.

By BRO. JOHN LOTSKY.

When I arrived, in the year 1832, at Sydney, I found that several of the notable personages of New South Wales belonged to the Masonic Fraternity. Such were Sir John Jamieson, one of the wealthiest settlers of the place, Mr. — Stephen, brother of the under secretary Stephen, the brothers Nicholls, Dr. Bland, and others; but hitherto no endeavour had been made to combine the members of our Royal Craft into any regular body or lodge. An occasion for so doing presented itself by the demise of one of the brothers in Sydney; and we arranged

to celebrate the funeral rites by a procession, where the fraternity should assemble with all their emblems and paraphernalia. This was the first public exhibition of Freemasonry in Australia; it was favoured by a splendid sun, and made many of the natives stare, who had never known that there existed an organization aloof from worldly affairs, and which might be turned to useful and important purposes in various ways. This procession produced at once, a good result, because although the funeral took place in a place of worship belonging to the Church of England—the clergyman, wishing probably to make a good impression on us, preached a sermon of what may be called *advanced christianity*.

After this first attempt, we now seriously thought of assembling the first lodge meeting in these lands, and we did so accordingly. The first lodge thus held assembled, in the winter of 1834, in one of the saloons of the Great Hotel, George's-street, Sydney, and presented a respectable appearance, about forty members being present. We called it after our new fatherland, "Australia." As many of the brethren had nearly forgotten the ritual, on account of their long absence from England, we were obliged to hold lodges of instruction, where also lectures were delivered. Many of the native Australians sought admission at our doors, which was cheerfully granted to them, and it is hoped that the virtue, honour, and love of liberty which form the essential points of the Freemason's creed, will thus germinate and fructify in their hearts. When I, a few years afterwards, left Sydney to return to Europe, the Sydney Lodge made preparations for obtaining its incorporation with, and its charter from, the Grand Lodge of England.

43, Frederick-street, Hampstead-road, July 10, 1862.

Poetry.

OLD-TIME TYPOGRAPHICAL ODE.—1761.

ON THE ART AND MYSTERY OF PRINTING.

Printing! thou fair diffusive ray;
Thou! next to the meridian day,
Come spread thy influence;
Let all the world, convince'd, declare,
That Thou, alone, art only fair,
The head of arts and science.

Hail! queen of manners, light of truth;
Hail! charm of age, and guide of youth!
Sweet refuge of distress:
In business, thou! exact, polite;
Thou giv'st retirement its delight,
Prosperity its grace.

Of wealth, power, wisdom, thou the cause;
Fountain of order, cities laws,
Of arts, inventress thou!
Without thee, what were human kind!
How vast their wants! their thoughts how blind,
Their joys how mean! how few;

Sun of the soul! thy beams unveil!
Let liberty direct the sail,
In all her colours drest;
To guide thee on from land to land;
And girded with her armour stand,
To truth's severest test.

And when corruption's flood pours down,
Fix sure thy standard in the ground,
And drive her to her sea:
Shew 'tis thy province to detect
Those Sycophants, that would reject
Great Britain's Liberty.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The *Gazette* of Friday announced that her Majesty had conferred the Order of the Garter on her son-in-law, Prince Louis of Hesse.—Prince Louis of Hesse and the Princess Alice made their entry into Darmstadt on the 12th. The streets and the houses were all decked out with the English and Hessian flags. The Royal couple were received at the railway station by the chief magistrate, and proceeded through a double line formed of the different corporations and the pupils of the schools, to the Palace of Prince Charles, where the Grand Ducal family had assembled.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the House of Lords, on Thursday, 10th inst., several bills were advanced a stage, including Lord Berners' measure for the more effectual suppression of night poaching, which was read a third time and passed.—Friday's proceedings were unimportant.—On Monday a conversation took place on the subject of the Jamaica debt—a question of long standing, which the Government hope to settle by a bill which has been read a second time in the House of Commons. A considerable number of bills were advanced a stage.—The proceedings of Tuesday were unimportant.—In the House of Commons, on Thursday, the 10th inst., Mr. C. Bentinck asked the Premier "whether the recognition of the kingdom of Italy by the government of Russia is not conditional upon satisfactory assurances being given by the government of Italy that the intentions of Italy towards the neighbouring states are pacific, and that Austria shall not be an object of aggression on the part of Italy."—In the House of Lords, on Monday night, Earl Russell spoke of "certain assurances" being demanded by Russia; but Lord Palmerston stated, last night, that, so far as her Majesty's Government were aware, the recognition of the new kingdom by the Czar was "entirely unconditional." The House having gone into Committee on the Fortifications Bill, Mr. B. Osborne moved as an amendment on the first clause that the vote be reduced from £1,200,000 to £800,000. After some discussion, Mr. Osborne's amendment was rejected by a majority of forty-eight.—On Friday the House met at noon, and proceeded to consider the clauses of the *Parochial Assessments Bill*. At the evening sitting Mr. Layard in reply to a question, stated that negotiations were now in progress for a commercial treaty with Belgium. Lord Palmerston stated that there was no intention of withdrawing the British troops from Canada, and the Colonial Under Secretary informed the House that the Canadian Legislature was now considering a bill, the object of which was to raise the militia of the colony from 5000 to 10,000 men. In reply to a question from Mr. Caird, Sir George Grey said the Government were taking active measures to obtain a proper collection of agricultural statistics.—On Monday Mr. Villiers, the President of the Poor-law Board, stated that Mr. Farnall's letters were becoming less hopeful, and that his own opinion was that it would be found necessary to have recourse to rates in aid. He thought the whole question would have to be discussed before the prorogation, and that Parliament would have to legislate on the subject. The House then went into committee on the Fortifications Bill, when the amendments proposed by the Government were adopted.—On Tuesday the House held a morning sitting, which was devoted to the consideration of the clauses of the *Parochial Assessments Bill* and the *Lunatics Law Amendment Bill*. Lord Robert Montagu moved an address, praying that Her Majesty will be pleased to give directions for supplying deficiencies in former instructions," which resulted in the signing of the Puebla convention, which has since been repudiated by the Government. Mr. Layard

defended, at some length, the policy of the Government on the Mexican question, and was followed by Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald and Mr. Kinglake—the latter of whom, however, was interrupted by a count out.—On Wednesday the House was engaged during the greater part of its sitting in a discussion of Lord Berners' new Game Law Bill, the second reading of which was moved by Sir Baldwyn Leighton. After some further discussion, in which several members declared that the bill could not pass in its present form, the second reading was carried by 149 votes to 94.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The health return of the metropolis for the last week was exceedingly favourable; the number of deaths being 90 fewer than has taken place on the calculated average of the corresponding week for the last ten years. The number last week was 1065. The number of births during the week was 1707, which was 40 below the calculated average of births.—The state ceremonial of the declaration of the awards of the Exhibition Juries took place on Friday, the 11th inst. The Duke of Cambridge represented her Majesty on the occasion, and the scene at South Kensington is described as having been most imposing.—The presentation of the prizes to the winners in the recent rifle competition at Wimbledon-common took place with considerable ceremony, on Monday, at the Crystal Palace. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge having congratulated the winners, handed to each of them his prize. The proceedings took place on the Handel orchestra, which was suitably decorated for the occasion, and the scene was an exceedingly gay one.—The Lord Mayor has received from Bombay the munificent sum of £5000, which has been subscribed under the auspices of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, for the relief of the operatives who are suffering from the consequences of the "cotton famine." Many of our native fellow-subjects, who have no doubt a lively recollection of the eagerness with which the people of this country came forward two years ago to assist in mitigating the horrors of the Indian famine, have assisted in this work of charity; and it is stated that another remittance may be expected by the next mail. The directors of the London and Westminster Bank, at their half-yearly meeting, contributed £1,000 for the relief of the distress in Lancashire, in consideration of the fact that the cotton trade; in the time of its prosperity, contributed in no small income to the success of that bank.—Mr. Isaac Taylor, Mr. Charles Mackay, Mr. Cross (the widow of the painter), and Mr. Leitch Ritchie, are among the persons who have been granted pensions from the Civil List during the last twelve months. The amount in each of the cases we have mentioned is £100; and we observe that the pension of Mr. Richard Cort—the son of the unfortunate revolutioniser of the system of smelting iron—has been raised from £50 to £100.—The freedom of the city of London has been presented to Mr. George Peabody, the eminent American banker, who recently made the munificent gift of £150,000, to be devoted to the amelioration of the condition of the poor of the metropolis.—On Wednesday a violent thunderstorm burst over London, flooding the streets in many places. One consequence was that the water again broke from the Fleet sewer into the Underground Railway works, and inundated the line for a considerable distance.—A tailor, who pleaded guilty, at the Oxford assizes, on Monday, to two indictments, charging him with bigamy, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. The scoundrel had married no fewer than six women; and it seems that he has only just caught in time to prevent an addition to the number of his victims.—A remarkable murder was committed at Glasgow last week. It appears that a gentleman, named Fleming, went out of town

with his family on Friday, leaving his aged father and a servant named Jessie McPherson, to take care of his house. Early on the following morning, Mr. Fleming, sen., according to his own statement, heard screams proceeding from the direction of the servant's room, but he took no notice of the matter, and raised no alarm when he found that McPherson did not make her appearance as usual on Saturday. Indeed, he mentioned the circumstance of her singular absence to no one until Monday, when his son returned to town. It was then discovered that the poor woman had been barbarously butchered in her room, and that several articles of plate and wearing apparel had been stolen. It has now transpired that the stolen plate was pledged at the shop of a Glasgow pawnbroker, on Saturday, by a young woman. Meanwhile, the police took Mr. Fleming, sen., into custody. The woman who pledged the plate has been found, and turns out to have been a former servant in the family. She says that the plate was given her by the old man Fleming, which may be true; but it is obvious that the fact of her not coming forward voluntarily to tell what she knew of the matter, throws considerable suspicion upon her veracity.—A very destructive fire took place on Sunday morning in the Westminster-road. Before the engines could be procured the flames spread out on every side, burning down about forty factories, shops, and dwelling houses, and laying nearly three acres of ground, which had been thickly studded with buildings, in a mass of ruins. Among the houses destroyed or injured, besides Messrs. Buckley's floor-cloth establishment, were Mr. Harvey's extensive silk mercery establishment, known as Lambeth House; Mr. Lyons's, a clothier; Mr. Ward's, a hosier; and others. Much valuable property was destroyed in all these premises; but a still more pitiable disaster fell upon the families of the working men thickly inhabiting the back streets, few of whom had time to remove their furniture.—His Highness the Pacha of Egypt gave a grand *déjeuner* on Wednesday, on board his yacht, at Woolwich, in return for the hospitality that has been shown him in this country. The company consisted of the *élite* of society, and included their Royal Highnesses the Duchess, the Duke, and the Princess Mary of Cambridge, the foreign Royal and Grand Ducal personages now in England, the leading Cabinet Ministers, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lord Mayor, and several members of the higher aristocracy.—The ceremony of opening the new building erected at Ham Common for the National Orphan Home, took place on Wednesday in the presence of a large and fashionable gathering. It was expected that Earl Russell would have presided on the occasion; but his duties elsewhere preventing his attendance, his eldest son, Lord Amberley, supplied his place. This was the first appearance in public of this young nobleman, and he acquitted himself very creditably.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The great topic of discussion in Paris at present is the rumoured meeting of the three Sovereigns of France, Russia, and Prussia, which popular reports fix for the early part of September. The most various speculations are afloat as to the object of the meeting, but the general concurrence of public opinion seems to affirm that the Emperor of the French has taken the initiative in convening it.—The violent language of Garibaldi against the Emperor of the French, at Palermo, is likely to cause great embarrassment to the Italian Government. The subject was brought before the Chamber of Deputies, on Monday, when Signor Ratazzi described the words of Garibaldi as inconsiderate, and expressed his regret that inoffensive language had been used towards the Emperor. It is stated that the Prefect of Palermo has been dismissed for sanctioning the speech of Garibaldi by his presence, and that the newspapers which published it have been seized. The French Consul at Palermo has also considered it his duty to protest against the speech.—Despatches from

Mexico, published in the *Moniteur* of yesterday, brings news from Vera Cruz to the 15th, and from Orizaba to the 11th ult. The French troops were occupying the same positions which they held at the date of the last despatches, and the condition of their health was reported to be very satisfactory. On the 15th General Marquez was preparing to depart, with 1500 men from Vera Cruz, to join the French commander, General Lorencez. In connection with the subject of Mexico we may mention that a Madrid paper, the *Epoca*, of the 12th, states that the French Government has accepted the offer made by Spain, to make use of whatever resources the Havana may be able to furnish for the supply of the French army at Orizaba, and that orders to that effect have been sent to the Captain-General of the island of Cuba. The *Epoca* adds that it has reason to believe that orders to that effect had been sent off even before the acceptance to the offer by the French Government was known.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The overland mail brings papers from Calcutta to June 9; Hong-Kong, May 26. There is no intelligence from India in addition to that received by the last Bombay mail. The news from China relates to the proceedings of the rebels and the recapture from them of Ningpo, by a combined British and French naval force. The rebels were in force round Shanghai that it was considered the allied force would have to retire within their lines and await reinforcements from India, from whence some eight or ten thousand native troops were expected. The *Gazette* of Tuesday contains a dispatch from Admiral Hope, on the China station, enclosing one from Captain Roderick Dew, of the *Encounter*, detailing the defeat of the rebels and the capture of Nagpo. The affair seems to have been a very dashing one, and our seamen performed their share of the capture with their accustomed gallantry. They were assisted by two French gun boats, of whose conduct Captain Dew speaks in terms of high praise. The loss to both forces was slight, though we have to deplore the death of Lieutenant Cornewall. He fell while leading on his troops in a hand-to-hand encounter with the Taepings. This is the first official intimation of the new war we have entered upon in China. By telegram from Suez we learn that Major Green had telegraphed to Bombay from Cabool that a battle had been fought between the troops of the Ruler of Herat and those of Dost Mahomed in which the latter lost many chiefs of note. The same telegram conveys commercial intelligence from Bombay to the 27th ult.

AMERICA.—Intelligence by the *China* confirms the information that General McClellan had been driven from his position before Richmond, and that the Confederates had gained a great victory. It was supposed that another battle had been fought, but the Secretary of war has strictly forbidden the publication of any news from the seat of war. This fact, added to a levy of 300,000 men having been called out, leaves no doubt of the critical position of the Northern army. The New York journals, however, deny that McClellan was defeated—in fact they assert that the plan of his retreat was matured long before, and that the way in which it was effected was equal to a victory. The defeat of the Federals at Charleston was so complete that General Hunter had given orders for the evacuation of James Island, and the suspension of the campaign. The Federal General Curtis, had been obliged to retire from Arkansas into Missouri. The bombardment of Vicksburg, which long ago was reported to have fallen, had commenced by 20 Federal vessels. There was something like a panic at New York, and a peace meeting had been held. The news by the *Jura* is perhaps of still greater importance. Among the most prominent items are the confirmation of McClellan's defeat "with heavy loss after four days' fighting," the Federal army retreating 17 miles; the abandonment of the Federal army by the Comte de Paris and the Duc de Chartres; very contradictory reports as to the Confederate capture of prisoners and supplies, the Confederates claiming 12,000 prisoners and three months' provisions; and the illumination of Richmond.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

An Engineer is informed that the bye-law of the lodge referred to, that warrant officers and sergeants are not eligible to fill the chair of this lodge, is illegal. No difference can be made between the members of a lodge.

P. Soj.—You must pass regularly through each of the chairs.