

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1862.

SHARP PRACTICE.

Every brother who has had occasion to transact business with Bro. Percy Moss, the junior clerk in the Grand Secretary's office, will acknowledge his unvarying courtesy, and will hear with regret that he has been visited by a mental affliction which, in all probability, will prevent him again taking an active part in the business of life. We believe that he was attending to his duties as late as Thursday in last week, and that it was only on the evening of that day he evidenced symptoms to alarm his family, and which have since so increased as to prevent his attendance at the office.

The clock-like regularity with which all the duties of the Grand Secretary's office are performed has long been notorious—such a thing as a complaint of want of punctuality being altogether unknown in the Craft—and therefore it is not surprising that even a defect in any one part of the machinery, however otherwise unimportant, would cause such confusion—that, in order to rectify it, the very decencies, we will not say the courtesies, of civilised life have been altogether lost sight of. As we have stated, poor Moss was stricken by the hand of the Great Architect of the Universe on the Thursday, and, ere a week has passed over his head—on the following Wednesday, an advertisement appears in the morning newspapers for a successor.

Anything more indecent than this unnecessary haste we never remember to have witnessed, and whoever may be its author deserves the severest reprobation from every right-thinking man, be he a Mason or not.

We believe the appointment of a successor to Bro. Moss is in the hands of the Board of General Purposes; and as they do not meet, according to usual custom, until the third Tuesday in next month, we think that at least the business of the Grand Secretary's Office might have been conducted by the Grand Secretary and the other clerks until after that meeting, if only as a mark of respect for the feelings of the family of an afflicted colleague.

We cannot bring ourselves to believe that any one brother has taken upon himself to put forward, under the melancholy circumstances, so indecent an advertisement, and trust that the Craft will not be kept in ignorance of the names of brethren who could authorise such a proceeding, as most decidedly they are altogether unworthy the confidence of gentlemen and Masons.

THE THREATENED SECESSION FROM THE SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.—No. V.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The embers of discord and rebellion are still being fanned by the disaffected chiefs of this ill-advised movement, who have within the last few days presented their demands to the Supreme Grand Chapter. That the worthy disciple of *Æsculapius* who presided over the meeting at which the rebel resolutions were agreed to, and his allies, may live till they get their very modest demands complied with, is the heartfelt wish of your own Correspondent. The Supreme Grand Committee, hitherto a silent observer of all that is passing in the renegade camp, have at length drawn the attention of the Supreme Chapter to the illegal proceedings of the threatened secessionists. We forward to you a copy of Grand Committee Report, which doubtless will find admission into the pages of the *MAGAZINE*. The letter addressed by the late Provincial Grand Superintendent to Lord James Murray is a curiosity in its way, and will be found embodied in the report. The fourth resolution in the appendix is but an echo of what we showed to be the real grievance rankling in the breasts of the rebels, viz., the exclusion of their pet from office in Grand Chapter, and the same resolution shows also how near the truth the members of Ayr Kilwinning Chapter were when in their complaint they stated that the concession of the extravagant powers claimed for Dr. Arnott would in all likelihood be but the prelude to a demand for the transference of Supreme Power from Grand Chapter into the hands of the few ambitious companions in Glasgow who were plotting the destruction of the liberties of the subordinate chapters. The accuracy of our report has been impugned by the rebel committee, but they have as yet failed to show wherein our statement run counter to the truth, and the following Report will not aid them in that direction:—

"Report by the Committee of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland relative to certain Proceedings adopted by Members of the Order in Glasgow."

"The Supreme Committee have had their attention called to certain proceedings which have taken place in Glasgow in connection with the recent decisions of the Supreme Chapter, given at special meeting, held upon the 23d May, 1862, and they think it right to report the matter to the

Supreme Chapter, that that body may determine what steps ought to be taken in the circumstances.

"It appears that in the month of June last a circular in the following terms was addressed to the Royal Arch Masons in the West of Scotland:—

"Glasgow, 28th June, 1862.

"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 connection with the Chapters holding under 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 Crown Hotel, George Square, on Tuesday, 8th prox., at 7 o'clock, p.m., to determine the steps necessary to be taken in the circumstances of the case.

"I am, &c.,

"ROB. WALLACE,
"Prov. Gr. Sc. E.

"In accordance with this circular, a meeting was held in the Crow Hotel, George Square, Glasgow, on the 8th July, and which resulted in a report, to which the Committee will afterwards advert. This report, the Committee understand, has been circulated among the Chapters in the Western districts of Scotland, and a document purporting to be an extract of a minute of a meeting of the Royal Arch Masons of the Western Districts (a copy of which is annexed) has been transmitted to the Grand Scribe E.

"At the outset, the Committee would lay before the Supreme Chapter a short narrative of the *true* facts of the case, not only that that body may have materials before them in a connected shape, to enable them to form a correct judgment as to the course to be followed; but also that the Chapters in Scotland generally may be put in possession of what truly occurred, in order that they may not be misled by statements made by members of the Order who are, unfortunately, not seeking to promote its welfare, but are actuated by selfish motives.

"Some months ago a petition was presented to the Supreme Chapter by a number of Royal Arch Masons, resident in the town of Ayr, and belonging to the Ayr Chapter (No. 18) and the Kilwinning Ayr Chapter (No. 80), praying the Supreme Chapter to disjoin Ayrshire from the province of the Western Districts, and to erect it into a province. The petition proceeded upon the narrative that Ayrshire was so far removed from Glasgow that companions resident there could not be expected to go such a great distance and take part in the deliberations of the Provincial Grand Chapter; it was not from the Chapters in Ayr, but from members of the Order in their private capacity.

"Before laying the petition before the Supreme Chapter, or Committee, the intention of presenting such a petition was communicated to Dr. Walker Arnott, at that time Provincial Grand

Superintendent of the Western Districts, and his reply to the Grand Scribe E is in the following terms:—

"Dowanhill, 23rd Jan., 1862.

"As to the other point in your letter, I cordially agree with you that Ayrshire ought to be separated—but I think that when we are at it we ought to extend it a little. I quite too, concur in your recommendation that Major Thornton is a proper person, but there is a difficulty in setting about it. It would be most unfair were I to memorialise the Supreme Chapter as you propose, without consulting the other Principals here—and without consulting the Provincial Grand Chapter itself; and on the other hand, it would be taken unkind were the Supreme Chapter to proceed to disjoin without laying the matter before the Provincial Grand Chapter. I personally quite approve of the thing, and would make the new Provincial Grand Chapter, or any other, heartily welcome to all that are beyond the blue-mason districts of 'Glasgow,' 'Lanarkshire,' 'Renfrew,' and 'Dumbarton,' especially the east part, as Kirkintilloch, which falls in most readily with us. Ayr and Wigton, &c., and all to the South, are more connected than with us.

"The first day I see Campbell I will speak to him, and see whether he thinks it ought to come before the Provincial Grand Chapter here, from me; or that a communication be made to it from you, by order of the Supreme Committee. But I am rarely in town, and when in town always find him out.—Yours truly,

"G. A. WALKER ARNOTT.

"P.S.—Is not Major Thornton a Z, H, or J of one of the Ayr Chapters. If so, would it not be proper for him to attend at first meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter here, and state the wishes of the Ayr province, and so get us to go along with them; also ought not the Ayr 'secessh' to petition the Provincial Grand Chapter first. I pledge myself to support them.

"On this petition coming before the Supreme Chapter, it was remitted to Dr. Walker Arnott to report. It is alleged by Dr. Walker Arnott that before reporting on the petition his first duty was to ascertain if all these (*i. e.* the petitioners) 'had a right to sign the petition.' What the meaning of this statement was did not clearly appear to the Committee; if it meant that the reporter wished to know whether the *petitioners* were regularly recorded Royal Arch Masons, he could easily have got this information from the Grand Scribe E. But he did not adopt this course. He sent down the Provincial Grand Scribe E to Ayr, with instructions to take the books of the Chapter No. 80 to Glasgow; no such instructions were given with reference to the books of Chapter No. 18, although among the petitioners there were a number of members of that Chapter.

"The Provincial Grand Scribe E accordingly proceeded to Ayr upon the 29th March last, and on his arrival ascertained that Major Thornton, the First Principal of Chapter No. 80, was out of town; he then waited on the Second Principal, Companion Good, who had the books of the Chapter in his possession, at his private residence, and demanded from him their immediate delivery. Companion Good demurred to this, in absence of the First Principal, and without the authority of the Chapter; but he was told by the Provincial Grand Scribe E that he (the Provincial Grand Scribe E) 'had nothing to do with either of

them' (two other Office-Bearers of the Chapter consulted by Companion Good) 'or Chapter No. 80, my only business being with the companion in whose possession I found the books, and as Companion Good had said they were in his custody, it was him only I would hold responsible if the instructions of the Provincial Grand Superintendent were refused, adding that of course I could not force their production, but in the event of refusal, it would be my duty to report him having done so to the Provincial Grand Superintendent; and also to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland; and that such disobedience would in all likelihood bring on him suspension from all Royal Arch Masonic privileges." (Provincial Grand Scribe's letter to Dr. Walker Arnott produced, with answers.) Terrified by the threats thus held out, Companion Good gave up the books, which were carried off by the Provincial Grand Scribe E without being sealed up. This took place upon the 29th of March; the books were not handed to Companion Walker Arnott till the 1st of April. What became of them in the interval does not appear.

"Immediately after the seizure of the books the Chapter No. 80 met, and presented a petition and complaint to the Supreme Chapter, narrating the facts now referred to, and praying "that the Supreme Chapter may order the immediate restitution of your petitioners' minute and cash books, accompanied with a suitable apology for the insult offered to the petitioners by the highly offensive and vexatious manner in which said books were demanded and taken possession of by the Provincial Grand Scribe E, and also that your Excellencies may protect the petitioners *and all others* from being subjected to similar summary, unjust, and harrasingly annoying treatment at the hands of any Provincial Grand Chapter officials.

"A meeting of the Supreme Committee was called to consider this petition, but between the issuing of the circulars and the evening of the meeting, a letter was received by the Grand Scribe E from Dr. Walker Arnott, in which the following explanation is made:—'On a former occasion, when investigating the affairs of Chapter No. 18, more than half of the trouble I was put to was caused by portions of the books being altered, and an entirely new treasurer's book substituted when it was suspected I would call for these; and as some of the parties had left No. 18, and joined No. 80 since then, I was desirous of getting the books, without previous notice, before any alteration could be made.' It may be worthy of notice that this might have afforded some ground of justification, had Dr. Walker Arnott been calling for the books of Chapter No. 18, but for some reason not known to the Committee, the books of that Chapter was not asked for, and those of No. 80 taken. At the meeting, answers were ordered, in terms of

cap. xiii., sec. 2, and were subsequently lodged by Dr. Walker Arnott. In these answers he contended that, in terms of the laws of the Supreme Chapter, he was entitled to adopt the course which he did. The law upon this point is contained in cap. x., sec. 12, and is as follows:—'A Provincial Grand Superintendent, or Provincial Grand Chapter, may hear and determine all subjects of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting Chapters or Companions in their district, and for that purpose may summon the office-bearers or companions of any of these Chapters to appear before him, or it, and to produce the charter and books of the Chapter, and may proceed to admonition,' &c.

When the committee came to decide the case, the position of matters was this:—Dr. Walker Arnott had, without asking the books of Chapter No. 80 to be sent to him, or summoning the office-bearers of the Chapter to appear before him, and without any previous notice whatever, sent his Provincial Grand Scribe E to demand the immediate delivery of the books, and this in a case where the Chapter was in no way concerned—where no complaint of any kind had been made against the Chapter—and where Dr. Walker Arnott himself alleged in his answers, 'In the case of Chapter No. 80, no irregularities appertaining to it as a body were supposed, or were found to exist.' The Committee could not help feeling it a disagreeable case to decide, but they were called upon to decide between a subordinate Chapter complaining of a wrong done, and, by his own admission, the doer of the wrong, and they pronounced the following decision upon the 28th April, 1862:—

"The Committee having resumed consideration of the petition and complaint at the instance of the Kilwinning Ayr Chapter (No. 80) against the Provincial Grand Chapter of the Western Districts, with answers thereto for Dr. Walker Arnott, Provincial Grand Superintendent of the Western Districts, minute for the petitioners, and letters from Dr. Walker Arnott, Major Thornton, and the Provincial Grand Scribe E. of the Western Districts,—Find that the seizure of the books of the Chapter No. 80, in the way admitted by the Provincial Grand Superintendent, as explained in the letter of the Provincial Grand Scribe E., was a proceeding uncalled for in the circumstances, and unauthorised by the laws of the Supreme Chapter. But inasmuch as the books were returned within a few days, find it unnecessary to proceed farther under the petition.

"This decision Dr. Walker Arnott appealed against to the Supreme Chapter, which he was perfectly entitled to do, and which was the constitutional mode of getting redress if the Committee were wrong, but unfortunately, Dr. Walker Arnott did not confine himself to this. His first proceeding was to address the following letter to the First Grand Principal, Lord James Murray:—

"2, Victoria-terrace, Dowanhill,
Glasgow, May 9, 1862.

"My Lord and Most Excellent Companion,—I trust that it will be convenient to you to be present and preside at the first meeting of the Supreme R. A. Chapter,

which may be called, as matters must then be brought forward, involving the future prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry in Scotland.

"I do not intend to enter upon the particulars, further than to say, that in consequence of my doing what I considered my duty to the Supreme Chapter, an irregular petition and complaint was presented, nominally to the Supreme Chapter, but partially sustained and decided on, by the Supreme Committee. By this decision, not only in my estimation has a great insult been offered to me, but an attempt made to deprive Provincial Grand Superintendents and Provincial Grand Chapters of the only power they have of seeing that the chapters under them obey the laws, unless at a great expense and inconvenience, which would virtually prevent such investigations at a distance.

"Whether a meeting will be called immediately, or delayed till the 18th of June, I do not know; the sooner the matter is brought to a close, one way or other, the better for my health, which has not been good for six or seven months, has suffered severely since these attacks were made upon me.

"I have no means of knowing if all the present chapters will remain as hitherto, or if some of them will be driven either to resign their charters or erect themselves into a new Supreme Chapter, if the present Supreme Chapter does not overturn the proceedings of the Supreme Committee; but for myself, I have determined to resign my office not only of Grand Superintendent of the West of Scotland, but that of Past Grand Z., and to renounce all connection with the present Supreme Chapter of Scotland, and every chapter which continues to hold under it, unless on the following conditions:—

"1. That the minutes of the Supreme Committee connected with the proceedings relative to the petition and complaint of D. Murray Lyon and George Good, both of Chapter No. 80, be expunged.

"2. That those who attended the meetings at which such proceedings took place, including Grand Scribe E., shall pay to me £15, as the loss I have sustained by their interfering in the matter, and that the said members of the Committee shall be relieved from their duties until such sum is paid.

"3. That Provincial Grand Superintendents and Provincial Grand Chapters be declared to have full powers by the present laws to send for, or call up, the books of any chapter in their district whenever they choose, and to suspend those who have the books in their possession, and refuses to obey.

"That no petition or complaint shall be hereafter received against a Provincial Grand Superintendent individually, or against a Provincial Grand Chapter as a body, unless for a manifest violation of a clearly expressed law, or for being actuated by a private *animus injuriandi*, in the decision of a case before him or them, in either case involving expulsion or suspension, and that when such a petition and complaint is presented, it shall only be taken up at a meeting of the Supreme Chapter itself, to be called within ten days, the petitioners being bound to pay all expenses connected with such special meeting, if a decision be given adverse to them.

"5. That David Murray Lyon and George Good, of Chapter No. 80, be suspended from Royal Arch privileges for twelve months, and be declared thenceforth incapable of being again elected office-bearers of any Royal Arch Chapter in Scotland, on account of insubordination and insolence towards their superior officer, as contained in a 'minute' made by them, of date 21st April, 1862, and transmitted by them to him.

"6. That the minute book of the Chapter No. 80, shall be called for and examined by one or more Royal Arch companions, unconnected with the West of Scotland, or Supreme Committee, and to be nominated by the Supreme Chapter, with instructions to expunge all minutes having reference either to the petition and complaint, or to the

'minute' of 21st April, 1862, or that a minute shall be inserted by said companion or companions, containing the first, fifth, and such portion of the sixth condition as may show that such minute was by orders of the Supreme Chapter.

"What I ask in articles 3rd and 4th is what has been always hitherto been understood to be common law, applicable alike to all inferior judicatories, Sheriffs, and Sheriff Courts, Justice of Peace Courts, Presbyteries and Synods, and Masonic Courts, unless specially and expressly forbidden by law.

"On the 19th of April, I offered to the Supreme Committee and Grand Scribe E., to let matters drop, provided they paid me £10 for my expenses and loss of time up to that date,—re-considered and rejected the petition and complaint as informal, and expunged all proceedings from these minutes. They did not do so, and the consequence is, that their conduct has instigated D. M. Lyon and Geo. Good, of the Chapter No. 80, to insult me in a way that can admit now of no compromise.

"I have studiously refrained from entering upon the case itself to you. I have restricted myself chiefly to what I demand for the future protection of all Provincial Grand Superintendents and Provincial Grand Chapters. I have now served the Supreme Chapter with fidelity for many years, and spent much time and money in its service, more perhaps than any other individual presently belonging to it, and I defy any one to *point out any law that I ever broke*, while, on the contrary, I have done my utmost to enforce the laws. If I be at last forced to withdraw my name from its roll, the cause must be made known to other Supreme Chapters.

"Yours fraternally,

"G. A. WALKER ARNOTT.

"Lord James Murray, Grand Z., Eastwood, Dunkeld.

"It must be obvious that this was a very improper letter for Dr. Walker Arnott to address to the head of the Order, and the threats and demands contained in it are unjustifiable, but matters did not rest here, for Dr. Walker Arnott, in virtue of the powers conferred upon him by cap. viii., sec. 2, of the laws, ordered a meeting of the Supreme Chapter to be called. This order is dated the 17th May, and the Grand Scribe E. being bound to call the meeting within ten days, did so upon Friday, the 23rd May. Dr. Walker Arnott's letter is in the following terms:—

"2, Victoria-terrace, Downahill,
Glasgow, May 17, 1862.

"Sir,—By virtue of the power conferred upon the First Grand Past Principal by cap. viii. sec. 2, of the laws, I hereby request you to call a Meeting of the Supreme Chapter, in terms of the same law.

"1. To consider whether, when a remit is made by the Supreme Chapter to a Companion to report on any subject, he is prevented from taking such steps as ought to be taken by the Supreme Chapter itself, to procure the information he may deem necessary.

"2. To consider the petition for disjunction of Ayrshire from the Province of the West of Scotland, and the report thereon by Companion Walker Arnott; a petition from Chapter No. 18 of Ayr against such disjunction; reports by the Grand Superintendent of the West of Scotland on the books of the Chapter No. 80 of Ayr bearing upon the petition for the disjunction; a petition and complaint by certain members of Chapter No. 30 against the Provincial Grand Chapter of the West of Scotland, and all proceedings connected therewith adopted by the Supreme Committee.

3. To determine what are the powers of a Provincial Grand Superintendent and Provincial Grand Chapter as to calling for and examining the minute and cash books

of any chapter in their district, and suspending for refusal to give them up; whether the books may be sent for at any time and examined at the usual place of meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter, in virtue of cap. x., section 9; or whether section 4 prohibits said examination, unless while visiting the chapter, and how the expense of such prolonged visitation shall be defrayed.

"4. To determine if a petition and complaint can be presented or sustained against an inferior judge or judicatory, so long as there has been no infringement of an express law, or undue partiality exhibited, both offences involving suspension.

"5. To consider a 'minute,' of date 21st April 1862, signed by Comps. David Murray Lyon and George Good, of Chapter No. 80, and whether these companions ought not to be deprived of Royal Arch privileges.

"I am, &c.,

"G. A. WALKER ARNOTT,

"Grand Scribe E., Edinburgh."

"At this meeting the decision of the Committee was affirmed, and Dr. Walker Arnott's appeal dismissed, and at the same time the impropriety of his procedure, subsequent to lodging the appeal, in writing the letter to Lord James Murray, and in calling a meeting of the Supreme Chapter, while the First Grand Principal was in Scotland, was made the subject of comment.

"These are the facts of the case, and the committee would now shortly notice the document entitled 'Report of the Committee appointed by the Royal Arch Masons of the West of Scotland, at a meeting held in the Crow Hotel, George Square, Glasgow, on Tuesday evening, 8th July, 1862.'

"This so-called report commences with a reference to a matter in no way connected with the present case, viz.:—A petition and complaint which was presented in the year 1860, by some members of the Ayr Chapter No. 18, against its then First Principal. This petition was remitted to Dr. Walker Arnott, as then Provincial Grand Superintendent of the Western District, with full powers to deal in the matter as he saw fit. Dr. Walker Arnott, in that case, went to Ayr himself, took possession of the books of the Chapter No. 18, and received the thanks of the Supreme Chapter for his conduct; and upon this statement of facts the reporters found an argument to the effect that the Supreme Chapter has acted inconsistently in their present decisions.

"But the cases are as dissimilar as could well be. In the case of No. 18 a petition and complaint was presented by the Office-bearers. In the present case of No. 80 there was no complaint of any kind, either against the Chapter or any one else. In the case of No. 18 it was a Chapter matter. In the case of No. 80 it was not. In the case of No. 18 Dr. Walker Arnott applied for, and obtained from the Supreme Committee special powers to seize the books, clearly proving that at that time, at least, he supposed he required such powers to be granted. In the case of No. 80 he applied for no powers at. In the case of No. 18 he went himself to Ayr, and his proceedings were strictly in accordance with cap. x., sec. 12. In the case of

No. 80 he sent another, which is not in accordance with any law whatever; and lastly, in the case of No. 18 the petition was remitted to Dr. Arnott, and special powers granted him (see No. 1 Annual Reporter, pp. 14, 15), *inter alia*, to seize the books of Chapter No. 18. In the present case to remit the him (*sic.*) was to report whether Ayrshire should be erected into a province, and no one asked him to interfere with the Chapter No. 80, which had nothing whatever to do with the matter.

"The report then goes on to say that the Supreme Committee reported in favour of the petition for the disjuncture of Ayrshire, without either informing the Provincial Grand Chapter of its presentation or consulting it. This is untrue, every step taken with reference to this matter was duly communicated to Dr. Walker Arnott, and on the 25th February a copy of the petition itself was sent him. Dr. Walker Arnott at the time was a member of the Supreme Committee, and he might, had he thought proper, have appeared in his place and objected. But the report goes on to say that the Provincial Grand Chapter applied to the Grand Scribe E for a copy of the petition, and that he declined giving it without permission of the Committee. This is also untrue. What was asked was the petition itself, and the following is the reply sent:—

"Edinburgh, March 20th, 1862,

"Dear Sir and Companions,—I am favoured with yours of yesterday's date, relative to the petition from Ayrshire. You must have been misinformed as to what took place in reference to this matter. Immediately upon the petition being received here, a copy was sent to Dr. Walker Arnott, Provincial Grand Superintendent of the Western Districts. This was, so far as I recollect, a week before the Committee meeting, and ten days before that of the Chapter. The Supreme Chapter remitted the matter to Dr. Walker Arnott to report, and so soon as I get the bustle attending the annual election over, I will send him extract, minute, &c. The Supreme Chapter having laid down the course of proceeding to be adopted, I am not at liberty to comply with your request—at all events, without consulting the committee; but I presume what is appointed to be done is just what you wish, except that the papers will be sent to Dr. Arnott direct.—I am, &c.,

"(Signed) L. MACKERSY, G.S.E.

"Mr. R. Wallace,

"38, South Cumberland Street, Glasgow.

"The Committee only notice these matters as shewing the animus with which the report has been prepared, and the manifest intention of the framers of that document to mislead those who are not conversant with the facts of the case.

"The report next goes on to speak of the seizure of the books of No. 80 Chapter, but before noticing that matter, there is one thing to which the Committee would advert. The extract minute, containing Dr. Walker Arnott's authority to report upon the petition for the disjunction and erection of Ayrshire, was sent him upon the 2d April, 1862. The books of the Chapter No. 80 were seized upon the 29th of March, or five days before he received the authority to report. It is

true that Dr. Arnott was informed that such a remit was made to him, but until he received the extract minute he was not in a position to act under it, and it shows clearly the indecent haste which characterised the whole proceedings, and would give rise to the surmise, that there were other reasons connected with the harsh treatment of No. 80 Chapter which do not appear on the surface. The supreme Chapter will judge whether, as alleged in the report, the books were "freely" given up by Companion Good, on looking to the account of the transaction given by the Provincial Grand Scribe E himself in his letter to Dr. Arnott, and which has already been quoted.

"The next matter referred to is the petition and complaint presented by the Chapter No. 80, and which it is made a subject of grievance, that the Committee ordered to be answered 'notwithstanding Companion Dr. Walker Arnott having, in his letter of 7th April referred to, stated his opinion that a Provincial Grand Chapter or Provincial Superintendent has power to call for the books of any Chapter under its jurisdiction, at any time and in the manner deemed most suitable.' If Dr. Walker Arnott's opinion was to be the law by which the Order was to be governed, of course there would have been an end of the matter; the Committee, however, preferred taking the Supreme Chapter Laws as their guide, and accordingly in terms of Cap. iii., sect. 2, they appointed a copy of the petition and complaint to be served, and answers lodged. These answers were lodged and then followed the minute lodged by Chapter No. 80, to which the reporters advert. The Committee by no means approved of the statements made in this document, and they were clearly of opinion that the case of the Chapter No. 80 would have been much strengthened had they refrained from expressing themselves so strongly; at the same time, the Committee could not help feeling that the Chapter had met with great provocation—1. By the seizure of their books in a way the Committee will venture to say was never before attempted by any ruling Masonic body; and, 2, by the rash and unguarded statements and insinuations made by Dr. Walker Arnott, as to the possibility of the members of the Chapter falsifying their books. On these grounds the Committee felt that they could not comment severely upon the minute without also noticing the causes which occasioned it, and they pronounce the deliverance already quoted, which they thought at the time almost too favourable to Dr. Walker Arnott.

"The Report next goes on to allude to the special meeting called by Dr. Walker Arnott, and on this point the Committee would only add to what they have already said on this point, that in their opinion it would have been more manly and more in accordance with their obligations as Royal Arch Masons had the reporters attended that meeting and stated their views, instead of allowing Dr. Arnott to attend it alone and unsupported, and

then to hold illegal meetings, and endeavour to sow dissensions among the different Chapters.

"In conclusion, the Committee would only shortly notice the six reasons of dissent with which this Report concludes:—

"1. The Committee do not dispute that Dr. Walker Arnott could have called for the books of any Chapter in his province at any time he pleased had he done so in a proper manner and in accordance with Cap. X. sect. 12. But they do dispute the proposition that either Dr. Walter Arnott, or the Supreme Chapter, could lawfully send a messenger to the private dwelling-house of an Office-bearer of a subordinate Chapter, and in the absence of the First Principal, and without consent of that Chapter, under threats of suspension, carry off the Chapter's books.

"2. As already explained, Dr. Walker Arnott made the seizure of the books five days before he was in possession of the remit here referred to, but apart from this, a remit to report upon a petition by private members of the Order resident in Ayr, for the disjunction and erection of that province, could not give Dr. Arnott right to seize the books of a Chapter, which was not petitioning, in the manner complained of.

"3. The petition and complaint against Dr. Walker Arnott cannot be held to be a part of the petition for disjunction of Ayrshire, although the reporters try to mix up the matters. Moreover, cap. xiii., sections 2 and 3, give the Committee no discretionary power in the matter.

"4. This reason is, to say the least of it, childish. The minutes, both of the Supreme Chapter and Committee are entered in one minute book, the minutes of the Committee are confirmed by the Chapter, and to become part of the actings of that body; the extract, therefore, was correctly stated to be an 'extract from the minutes of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.'

"5. The Committee never heard of the relevancy of the prayer of a petition being sustained,—if the statements are found to be relevant and can be substantiated, then the prayer will be granted, if not, it will be refused. It must stand or fall by the statement of facts. The Committee do not think the petition ought to have been at once dismissed.

"6. The Supreme Chapter decided the matter after hearing all that Dr. Walker Arnott had to say upon the subject.

"With these remarks the Committee would leave the matter in the hands of the Supreme Chapter, to be dealt with as the Chapter may see fit. The Committee have made no observations on the very extraordinary resolutions adopted at the meeting held in Glasgow on 12th Sept., inst. A simple perusal of these, as contained in the copy of the minute of meeting in the Appendix hereto, will sufficiently shew the spirit of insubordination with which the parties present at the meeting were actuated.

"Signed, in name and by authority of the Supreme Committee,

"WM. CAMPBELL, Chairman.

"L. MACKERSY, G.S.E.

"Edinburgh, 20th September, 1862.

"APPENDIX.

"Convened, a General Meeting of the Royal Arch Masons of the Western District, in St. Mark's Hall, 213, Buchanan Street, Glasgow, on Friday, the 12th day of September, 1862. Comp. E. W. Pritchard, M.D., in the Chair.

"The circular convening the meeting having been read, the Chairman called on Companion Robert Wallace to read the decisions of the several Chapters of this province having reference to the late interference of Supreme Committee and Supreme Chapter with Companion Dr. Walker Arnott, Provincial Grand Superintendent, and the Provincial Grand Chapter of the Western Districts, in his and its deliverance respecting the disjunction of the Ayrshire Chapters from the Provincial Grand Chapter of the Western Districts.

"It was moved by Companion James Bannatyne, seconded by Companion David Sutherland,

"That having heard the decisions of the Chapters who have sent in excerpts of their minutes, as they seem to be all of one opinion, We, the Royal Arch Masons of the West of Scotland, Resolve—

"1. To demand from Supreme Chapter and Committee a full retraction of their interference with the Provincial Grand Superintendent and the Provincial Chapter in the discharge of his and their duties; also that they apologise to Companion Dr. Walker Arnott for the said interference, and delete from the records of Supreme Chapter all minutes having reference thereto.

"2. That, for the insulting and unbecoming language used towards Companion Dr. Walker Arnott by Companions David Murray Lyon and George Good, these Companions be suspended for such period as may be deemed sufficient,—such suspension to continue in force until a suitable apology has been tendered, and that the Supreme Chapter shall cause the Ayr Kilwinning Chapter, No. 80, to delete from their Minute-Book the minute referring to Companion Dr. Walker Arnott.

"3. That Supreme Chapter request Companion Dr. Walker Arnott to resume all the offices formerly held by him.

"4. That, for the future better government of the body, the meetings of Supreme Chapter and Supreme Committee shall be held in Edinburgh and Glasgow alternately, and that the half of the office-bearers of Supreme Chapter and members of Supreme Committee be chosen from the West of Scotland.

"5. That Supreme Chapter be requested to take action with regard to the foregoing resolutions within *thirty days* from the date of receiving,

when the Royal Arch Masons of the Western Districts will be prepared to receive a definite answer to their demands, either in writing or orally, by a committee sent here with full powers to settle the case.

"6. That a copy of the decisions of the several chapters be sent with the foregoing resolutions to the Grand Scribe E, for presentation to Supreme Chapter.

"Extracted from minute of meeting.

"ROB. WALLACE, Int. Secy.

"Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, "50, George-street, Edinburgh, Sept. 20, 1862.

"Dear Sir and Companion,—I am favoured with yours of the 19th inst., enclosing a document to be laid before the Supreme Chapter, and to which you request an answer within thirty days.

"The date of this document is the 12th, the Supreme Chapter met, as you are aware, on the 17th, and you do not despatch the paper till the 19th, and the Supreme Chapter does not meet again for three months.

"I will lay the matter before the Committee, and I have no doubt you will get an answer very shortly. In the meantime I will be obliged by your sending me as many copies as you can spare of the Report (I mean your printed one) for the use of the Members of Committee.

"I am, &c., L. MACKERSY, G.S.E.

"Mr. R. Wallace, 45, Renfield-street, Glasgow."

A ROMAN CATHOLIC'S NOTION OF FREEMASONRY.

(Concluded from page 225.)

In our last issue we brought our remarks on Mr. Robertson's pamphlet to a close, and have now to turn our attention to the Appendix with which he ends his publication. It would be idle to reply to every one of the propositions laid down in this document, because much of it is connected with the debateable ground of theological controversy, and must be viewed according to the bias of each of the persons, for or against it. Therefore, as far as possible, we shall only confine our few observations to those portions of it which are opposed to the spirit of Freemasonry. Yet we think it necessary to quote the Appendix entire, and thus present it to our readers:—

Brief Exposition of the Principal Heads of Papal Legislation on Secret Societies.

"1. "The whole legislation of the Church on the subject of the secret societies of modern ages is, so far as known to me, contained in the following documents—the Constitutions of Clement the Twelfth, *In Imminenti*, 1738; of Benedict the Fourteenth, *Providas*, 1851; of Pius the Seventh, *Ecclesiam a Jesu Christo*, 1821; of Leo the Twelfth, *Quo graviora*, 1825. This last constitution contains *in extenso* the three preceding, and is found in the continuation of the *Bullarium Romanum*, tome xvi p. 345, etc.: or in Heilig's edition of St. A. Liguori's *Moral Theology Appendix, de R. Pontificum Decretis*. All these constitutions have been confirmed by our present Holy Father, Pius the Ninth, in the Encyclical, *Qui pluribus*, November 9, 1846, *Acta*, p. 11, 12. To these may be added the answers of the Sacred Penitentiary, November 9, 1821, to certain questions proposed by the Archbishop of Naples and other bishops of the Neapol-

itan kingdom. In reference to these documents, and the legislative enactments contained in them, the following questions may be raised:—

"2. *First*.—What are the secret societies condemned in the aforesaid constitution? Answer. 1°. The Freemasons are condemned by name in the constitutions of Clement and Benedict; the Freemasons and Carbonari in the constitution of Pius. 2°. Leo, besides renewing the constitutions of his predecessors, establishes certain specific marks, and condemn all secret societies whatsoever, bearing those marks. See below, n. 5, 3°, and n. 7.

"3. *Secondly*.—Has the Holy See designated any features in the constitution, end, or other adjuncts of these secret societies, as the grounds of condemnation; and, if so, what are they? Answer.—Several grounds are given, from which I select the following: 1°. The union of men of every or any sect or religious persuasion, and of men indifferent to all religion—heretics, deists, atheists, etc. (Mark, there is question throughout, not of public or otherwise open assemblies, as at our fairs, elections, etc., but of secret associations.) It is manifest, as the constitution of Benedict affirms, that such associations are highly dangerous to the purity of Catholic faith and morals. 2°. The dark, impenetrable veil of secrecy which, by the constitution of these societies, is thrown over all that passes at their private meetings. 3°. The oath by which the bond of secrecy among the members is sealed. The authorities both in church and state have a right, which no oath of this kind can bar, to inquire and ascertain whether the proceedings of such secret associations are injurious to the welfare of the state or of religion. 4°. These societies bear an ill repute with wise and upright men, who look on those that join them as thereby tainted in character—tainted, of course, in Catholic eyes, and from a catholic point of view. 5°. The oath taken by members of the higher orders in the societies, not to divulge their own secret transactions to members of the lower and less initiated grades.

4. As time rolled on, the true anti-christian and anti-social tendency of the secret society system developed and displayed itself more unmistakably and more fully. Hence, among the grounds of condemnation in the constitutions of 1821 and 1825, we have, 6°, their furious and Satanic hatred of the Vicar of Christ; 7°, their league of secret murder; 8°, their avowed atheism; 9°, their conspiracy against all legitimate authority, in the state as well as in the church; etc. etc. These hideous and hellish developments the Sovereign Pontiff affirms were made known to him from the most authentic sources of information.

5. *Thirdly*.—What are the ecclesiastical censures incurred by the aforesaid constitutions; and by whom are they incurred? Answer.—The greater excommunication is *ipso facto* incurred; 1°, by Freemasons; 2°, by Carbonari; 3°, by the members of any secret society, under whatsoever name it may exist, wheresoever or whensoever it may exist, which is, like that of the Carbonari, leagued against the Church and the supreme temporal authority; 4°, by all who, under any pretext or excuse whatsoever, enrol themselves in such societies, or propagate or promote them, or are present at any of their meetings, or give them any help or favour, whether openly or secretly, directly or indirectly, etc., etc.

"6. *Fourthly*.—From what has just been said, it is evident that many forms of secret societies may exist, whose members do not incur the above excommunication. In fact this censure is only incurred by Freemasons, Carbonari, members of secret societies organised against both the State and the Church, and the abettors, etc., of the same. Hence a question arises, are other secret societies, not coming under any of these denominations, though not excommunicated in their members, nevertheless condemned by the aforesaid Papal constitutions? Answer.—1°. It is plain that any secret society, in which any one of the marks enumerated above, n. 3, 4, is found, comes, at least by implication and virtually, under the

ban of the Papal condemnation. For it is manifest that these marks are not evil because reprobated, but reprobated because evil—evil, as being in themselves and intrinsically immoral; or evil, as being in themselves or in the circumstances fraught with imminent danger to faith or morals, or both. Hence all secret societies, the members of which are pledged by oath, as above, n. 4, are evil, on account of the danger (supposing no other evil element) of unsound doctrine or immoral principles creeping in and extending—the lawful authority, whether civil or ecclesiastical, being all the while kept in utter ignorance of the growing disorder, and therefore unable to apply efficient remedies to check and distinguish it. Hence, also, all secret societies combined against the legitimate supreme civil authority are evil, because this object is not merely in itself dangerous but sinful. 2°. It is equally plain that any secret society, whose end, means etc., are in opposition to any law of God or of the Church, whether coming under the description of the secret societies condemned by the Popes or not, is, by the very fact, under the ban of the Church.

"7. I subjoin a few sentences from the Papal Constitutions:—

"*Inter gravissimas præfatæ prohibitionis et damnationis causas. . . una est, quod in hujusmodi societatibus et conventiculis cujuscunque religionis ac sectæ homines invicem consociantur. . . Alterum est artum et impervium secreti foedus, quo occultantur ea quæ in hujusmodi conventiculis fiunt. . . Tertia est jusjurandum quo se hujusmodi secreto inviolabiliter servando adstringunt: quasi liceat alicui ejuslibet promissionis aut juramenti obtentu se tueri, quominus a legitima potestate interrogatus omnia fateri teneatur quæcumquæ exquiruntur ad dignoscendum an aliquid in hujusmodi conventibus fiat, quod sit contra religionis aut reipublicæ statum et leges. . . . Ultima demum, quod apud prudentes et probos viros eadem societates et aggregationes male audirent, eorumque judicio quicumque eisdem nomina darent, pravitatis et perversionis notam incurrent.*"—BENEDICT XIV.

"*Societates occultas omnes, tam quæ nunc sunt, quam quæ fortasse deinceps erumpent, et quæ ea sibi adversus ecclesiam et supremas civiles potestates proponunt quæ superius commemoravimus, quocumque tandem nomine appellentur, nos perpetuo prohibemus sub eisdem poenis, quæ continentur prædecessorum nostrorum litteris in hac nostra constitutione jam allatis, quas expresse confirmamus.*"—LEO XII.

"PATRICK MURRAY, PROF. THEOLOGY.

Coll. Maynooth, June 16, 1862.

The first point which strikes us on perusing Dr. Murray's Appendix is the modern period at which Freemasonry has been condemned by the Papal authority. The earliest date given is 1738, and it is a remarkable fact that from A.D. 78, the era of Anacletus, the first Pope, until 1738, a period of no less than *sixteen hundred and sixty years*, no word of condemnation had escaped the various bishops, sitting in St. Peter's chair, until Clement XII., in the decline of the Papacy, originated it.

For 1660 years, then, the Bishops of Rome had seen nothing to condemn in Freemasonry, and it was not until long after the Pope had become to be regarded as a cypher in European politics that he, finding himself shut out from ruling empires and kingdoms, commenced war, upon a small scale, against the Freemasons, as we suppose, for the sake of keeping his hand in, well knowing that since the Council of Constantinople, A.D. 869, no general Council has been held; and the Bulls

of the Pope not being the law of the Church unless confirmed by a General Council, their decrees, beyond the Pope's own diocese, are not to be considered as binding on Roman Catholics, or taken as the great voice of the Christian Church legislating for the whole Christian world.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts had been established in England in 1698, and, at the revival of the Grand Lodge in 1716, was actively at work on the continent of Europe. Many foreign Masons came to England about 1720 to 1750; and, as the Holy Bible was always the great light in Freemasonry, so on their return to their homes they introduced the Sacred Volume to their countrymen, and, as new lodges were founded, the Holy Volume was more prominently brought into notice abroad.

As Rome, under the Papacy, has for several centuries been the slowest to acknowledge and act upon the changes in the world, so, with its cumbrous machinery, the Court of Rome allowed the revival of Freemasonry, and its foundation upon the Holy Scriptures, to proceed unchallenged until 1738, when it awoke to the danger of a society which interfered with its pet children, the Jesuits, and stepped forward in its puerile attempt to extinguish a band of brotherhood founded centuries before Rome itself was in existence.

The Order of the Jesuits, through whom and by whom all the irreligion, treason, villany, and revolution that disgraced the European continent, towards the close of the last century was concocted, had found in Freemasonry and its higher grades, more particularly, a strong antagonism, and, with the most devilish skill and cunning, members of that rule sought for and gained admission to Freemasonry and to its higher grades. They then commenced their endeavours to ruin it in the eyes of the world by instituting sham Masonic societies, such as the Illuminati, and made the real lodges the cover for their dark iniquities. But Freemasonry stands on a firmer basis than Jesuitry. It has the highest antiquity on its side, the purest morality, and, in its superior grades, the most sublime Christianity.

Contrasted with Jesuitism, it is pure and holy, whilst the latter is foul and irreligious. It is loyal and true, in opposition to all that is scheming, disloyal, and false. It requires its disciples to seek for initiation, and, when admitted, to be true to each other; but the Romish secret society of the Order of Jesus!—a mockery of the Blessed Saviour to link His name with such an abhorred clique—proselytises everywhere, teaching all men to be spies on each other, and setting fathers and children at variance—for the good of the Order.

Such demons are the natural enemies of the high-grade Freemasons.

Dr. Murray's Appendix is but a record of what the Popes have done against Freemasonry, urged on by the subtle confraternity of the Jesuits; and

as every one of the charges have been met by our Order over and over again *ad nauseum*, we shall not enter into any refutation of them, but must say we are thankful to possess such a *catena* of falsehood compiled for us, and ready to our hands whenever required.

In conclusion, we would beg to inform Mr. Robertson and Dr. Murray that high-grade Freemasons are not "heretics, deists, atheists, disloyal subjects, unsound in religion, or immoral," as they both inform us, but, on the contrary, we belong to the great Holy Catholic Church, acknowledging the Blessed Trinity in Unity, the mediatorial sacrifice of the Son of God, a true patriotism to our Sovereign, country, and its laws, as much morality as it falls to the lot of poor human nature to evince, and to love our neighbours as ourselves, taking for our motto the sacred text inculcated in one of the higher grades, "Love the brotherhood, fear God, honour the King."

DEATH OF THE SON OF BURNS'S "SOUTER JOHNNY."

(From our own Correspondent.)

Not many weeks have elapsed since we chronicled the death of the "wee Curlie John," of the dedication addressed by Burns to his early benefactor, Bro. Gavin Hamilton, of Mauchline. We are now called upon to record the removal of another "old-time Freemason," himself a contemporary of Burns, and the son of one of the principal characters depicted in that inimitable "Tale" in which the poet has immortalised "Kirk Alloway" and other places passed by

"... honest Tam o' Shanter,
As he frae Ayr ae nicht did canter."

Bro. John Lauchlan, who died at Ayr on the evening of the 16th inst., had many titles to the respect of the community, and, as a Mason, was held in the highest esteem by his brethren. As we have set out by introducing our departed brother in his relationship to Souter Johnny, we cannot do better than to follow up the allusion to his father by giving an extract from an unpublished glossary of the songs and poems of Robert Burns, in which the identity of the immortal Souter is thus advocated:—"Souter Johnny was the late John Lauchlan, shoemaker in Ayr. He and the poet were born in the parish of Alloway, and there brought up in boyhood together. The future Souter removed with his parents from Alloway to Ayr, where he was bound as an apprentice to a shoemaker. His intercourse with the Poet was thus somewhat interrupted; but their regard for one another was not lessened, for the Poet was scarcely ever in Ayr, but the Souter (for so he was designated by the Poet before the celebrated poem had being) was sent for to Luckie Shearer's, a favourite howf in the Townhead of Ayr (now the Tam o' Shanter Inn), to have a tankard and a chat over the reminiscences of their early days. The Souter's son had quite good recollection of their meetings, and at more than one of these there can be little doubt they were joined by the redoubted Tam o' Shanter, for the howf was a famed Hostelry, at which he and many of the Carrick farmers put up,

and Tam was well known to Burns and the Souter, and on that "ae market nicht" of their festivities, when Tam parted from his jolly companions to take his solitary journey homewards past "Alloway's auld haunted Kirk" it is very possible the Poet first conceived the idea of his wonderful tale. It has been alleged that a John Davidson, a shoemaker in Kirkoswald, was the Souter Johnnie, on the ground that he and Tam were frequently boon cronies in Kirkoswald—Tam's farm of Shanter being in that neighbourhood, where both possibly may have met the poet during the sojourn there; but it may naturally be asked, what was Davidson doing in Ayr so late, and so far from home? and even if there, is it possible to believe that Tam would have left him in Ayr and journeyed home by himself. In short, it is impossible to suppose that the poet when composing the poem had any other individual in view than his own boy companion, and boon comrade in early manhood. At all events the late John Lauchlan was recognised by all and sundry in and about Ayr, as the Souter Johnnie of the poem from the day of its publication; and much to his chagrin, he retained the sobriquet to his dying day.

The Souter was a member of Ayr St. Paul's Lodge, and at his death his remains were interred with Masonic honours. His son was a Craftsman of sixty five years standing. Ayr St. James (No. 165) was his mother lodge, and in it he received also the degrees of Royal Arch and Knight Templar. He was one of the original members of Ayr St. Paul's, a lodge raised by Freemasons serving in the Ayrshire Militia in 1799; and was delegated by his brethren-in-arms to proceed to Edinburgh to receive from the Grand Lodge of Scotland the charter of the newly-formed lodge. That document Bro. Lauchlan carried in his knapsack to Stirling, where the militia then lay, and in the Court Hall of that town was the oil of consecration poured out upon the altar of Ayr and Renfrew Militia St. Paul, early in the year 1800, by the office-bearers of the lodge "Ancient Stirling." Bro. Lauchlan was called to the chair of St. Paul's in 1805, and at various other periods of its history was the same honour conferred upon him. So highly were his services appreciated by his brethren, that in 1808 he was presented with a handsome silver medal in the name of the lodge, "as a tribute of esteem and mark of respect towards him for his laudable conduct while Master, for his attention to its interests and prosperity, and for his spirited exertions in supporting its dignity and maintaining its independence." As showing the zeal with which he entered into Masonic matters, it is worthy of mention that during the first 50 years of this century only twice was he found to be absent from his place in the lodge at its annual meeting. And in later years, although bending under the infirmities of old age, whenever anything of more than usual importance appeared upon the business card of the lodge over which he had so often and so worthily presided, he was sure to be present, aiding with his counsels those who could not lay claim to the experience in lodge affairs which he possessed. The last Masonic meeting which our deceased venerable brother attended was that of the Ayr Priory, in March last, when he seconded the nomination of a successor to Sir Knight Major Thornton, who had resigned the command of that encampment in consequence of his

removal to Derby. On that occasion he was in high spirits, and entertained the Sir Knights with a graphic sketch of the state of Knight Templary in his early days, when the whole steps from E.A. to K.T. were given in every Craft lodge throughout Scotland. From our boyhood we have known Bro. Lauchlan as one of our most respected citizens, and since, being drawn closer to him in the bonds of brotherhood, we have ever found him to be a Mason of high intelligence and unsullied reputation. Although now removed from our society, he will long live in the remembrance of those who knew him best. We understand he has bequeathed his diplomas and other Masonic papers, to his Masonic son and most intimate friend Bro. Andrew Glass, a Past Master of Ayr St. Paul's. These relics of Souter Johnny's soon will form a valuable addition to those already preserved by Bro. Glass, under the roof-tree of the far-famed Tam o' Shanter Inn, of which he is the respected lessee. Though not like his father, the Souter, buried with Masonic honours, the remains of Bro. Lauchlan were followed to the grave by the Provost and magistrates of Ayr, and a large concourse of the general community, as well as by the representatives of the various Masonic bodies of the town in which he lived. Peace to his ashes!

CAMBRIAN ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association commenced on Monday, Sept. 26, at Truro, in Cornwall, and terminated on Saturday, Sept. 29. The Town Hall had been granted by the Mayor to the Association for their use, and a temporary museum was arranged in the council chamber and corridor, which was of a very interesting character.

The annual meeting was held on Monday, the Earl of Dunraven being elected to take the chair, and the business commenced by calling upon Mr. Edward Smirke, who is the President of the Royal Cornwall Institution, to address the company. During a long address, Mr. Smirke said that with regard to material works of art, in architecture and so on, they had some very curious monuments, their origin so lost in antiquity that they did not know what date to assign to them. In an adjoining room some rude rubbings were to be found that indicated what he had called the primeval period. Some of them, perhaps many of them, may be of date subsequent to the Romans, but certainly they are of pre-historic date; they have no connection with known history, and he questioned whether any history would ever be discovered that would throw light on the names that have been carved on those rude memorials. With regard to other works of art, their buildings of a sacred character were not numerous; as regards ecclesiastical architecture they stood far below other counties. In excuse for our deficiency in this respect, he might say that the material they possessed is so extremely refractory, that it will not submit to the chisel of the sculptor. But still they would find attempts, and not unsuccessful attempts, to produce a kind of ornamentation, as, for instance, at Launceston, and also, to some extent, in the church at Truro; and they had some very elegantly designed towers. But with regard to such architectural decorations as they saw in counties where they have a more serviceable material than granite and a very hard slate, they would look in vain for them; because no genius or talent could possibly insculpt those rocks with anything like the skill that is displayed in many works of ecclesiastical architecture in other counties.

After a brief speech, the noble chairman called upon the Secretary (Mr. W. L. Banks), to read the report, which was afterwards received unanimously. Dr. Barham then gave an explanation of the intended proceedings of the week, after which the Rev. H. Longueville Jones gave a sketch of Welsh antiquities, which was of a very interesting nature, and was well received.

On Tuesday, notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, the excursionists mustered upwards of one hundred at the Cornwall Railway station, and proceeded to Bodmin, Llanhydrock, and Lostwithiel. The evening meeting did not commence until nearly half-past nine, the Town Hall being crowded.

Mr. Hussey Vivian, *M.P.*, proceeded to read the President's address, which stated that, during the excursion, discussion would be invited, and if they could manage to find a good archæological fox and get on good terms with him, no doubt they would run into him, after an exciting burst, and pull him to pieces in true Cambrian Archæological Association style. (Laughter.) After speaking of the language and nomenclature of Cornwall, the President said, inscriptions on stone were wanting, or were of such a meagre character as to offer no hope of their revealing to them any important facts of the early history of Britain. This was indeed remarkable, and would tend to prove that the first colonists from the east, who eventually reached and peopled these isles, must have separated from the parent stock before the art of inscribing upon stone the deeds of their warriors, the genealogy of their kings, and the remarkable events of their reigns had become known and practised. Yet there was evidence to prove that many of the inscriptions of Egypt and Africa dated thirty long centuries back. Nor had they remains of public buildings, temples, or cities, which could be ascribed to the ancient British inhabitants; they dwelt in rude huts, of which indeed there were traces, but they brought with them none of those refined tastes and high arts, abundant evidence of the existence of which recent archæological research has brought to light, amidst the long buried wrecks of Assyrian and Egyptian cities. The arts of engraving upon stone, sculpture, and even the construction of solid dwellings appeared to have been unknown to the early Celtic inhabitants of these isles. In spite of this disadvantage, the programme which had been prepared for them by the kind assiduity of the committee of the Royal Institution, contained a copious collection of archæological objects of the highest interest. They had ancient earth-works and huts, barrows, stone circles, caves, cromlechs, and castles in rich abundance. Nor, as we wander along, Celts though we were, will it be denied to us to feast on those rich relics of early ecclesiastical architecture which the churches of Cornwall display.

Mr. T. Q. Couch then gave an account of the day's excursion. Concerning Bodmin Church, he said: This church is the largest in Cornwall, consisting of a nave and two aisles. A tower adjoins the north aisle, and the south has a large embattled porch. The general style of the building is perpendicular, defaced at the western end by much debased work. The tower formerly supported a spire, which was destroyed by lightning in 1699, after which were added the wretched pinnacles which now disfigure it. The choir is so spacious as to have led Dr. Oliver to suppose that the church was both conventual and parochial, the choir having been appropriated to the clergy, and the body of the church to the parishioners. He says, however, that the registers of Bishops Stafford and Lacy are against such a supposition, and I observe that William of Worcester gives separately the dimensions of a monastic and of a parish church. Attached to the church was the chapel of St. Mary, in which was St. Petrock's shrine, and in it the mortuary chapel of St. Andrew, St. Martin, and King Harry, built and endowed by John Wattys, about 1494. The fragments worked into the furniture of the present church, and more lying in the upper story of the porch, show very excellent work-

manship. The tomb of Prior Vivian, the last but one of the priors, stands at present in the north side of the choir and is built of grey cataclouse stone, from near Padstow. On it rest the effigies of the prior, in full pontificals, as nominal Bishop of Megara, mitred, and holding his pastoral staff, which is curiously swathed in bands crossing each other. At the corners are four (mutilated) angels, holding shields, charged with the priory and Vivian arms, which also occupy two of the panels in the sides, the other six, containing the four evangelists, the arms of Henry VIII., and a cross fleury surmounted by a crown. Round the lodge is an inscription. This tomb stood originally before the altar. A slate monumental slab of great age, and having some curious arborescent ornament, and an inscription difficult to decipher is also preserved here. The piscina, a remarkable one, is of pillared form, and octagonal in shape. The capital is ornamented with quatrefoils, and on its surface are eight radiating scooped depressions, opening by as many perforations into the central drain, which runs through the shaft. The font, large and fine, is of Norman shape, supported at the corners by four small pillars, ending in winged heads, and by a larger and shorter central one. It is square in form, and ornamented by boldly executed sculpture of wreathed foliage and twisted snakes above, below by four mailed heraldic monsters. We next went to the chapel of St. Thomas, at the eastern end of the churchyard, and which is an interesting ivy-covered ruin of the time of Henry VI: It consists of a nave and a south porch near the western end. It has graduated buttresses between which are pointed windows, the mullions of which are gone. The most interesting feature is the pretty decorated windows in its eastern end. In the western end is a triangular window enclosing a trefoil light. Little is left of interest internally, except the sedilia, and a stoup on the south side of the altar. The chapel is built over a groined crypt. A Franciscan Convent (of St. Nicholas) formerly stood on the ground now occupied by the butter market. It was begun by John Fitzralph, a London merchant, and completed in 1239 by Richard the Earl. Its remains are few and unimportant, although until very lately it served as the assize hall of the county. A pillar, one of an arcade, has been removed to the churchyard for preservation.

Llanhydrock was next visited. But I think I had better leave a description of this house to those who are better acquainted with domestic architecture than I am. I may state, however, that the house consists of three parts of a quadrangle. The fourth and south part was removed some years ago by Thomas Hunt, Esq., its owner. It has eight doors in the centre and wings, and large windows with heavy mullions and labels. The barbican or gateway, is a curious specimen of Tudor Gothic; a description of which is rendered unnecessary by Mr. May's excellent photographs.

Restormel Castle was visited, after partaking of luncheon. This castle, said Mr. Couch, in its present ruinous condition, consisted of an outer and inner circle or wall, divided into six compartments by radiating party walls, and enclosing an open area of 64 ft. diameter, a gateway on the west side, and on the eastern a chapel. The circular range of rooms were, of course, once roofed over, and it would appear from the plaster, and, in some places, paint—still remaining—that the first story contained the state apartments, the ground floor being allotted to the various necessary offices of the household. The chapel is, as Leland says, a newer work, the masonry not interlacing with that of the keep. Some recesses in the eastern end of the chapel may have been for certain arrangements connected with the altar. On the south wall of the chapel is a piscina with the conduit for the consecrated water. The outer wall is battlemented, and the whole is surrounded by a deep moat, the water for which was supplied from the hill above by leaden pipes, pieces of which have been occasionally dug up. Restormel has more the appearance of a fortified residence than

a castle proper, answering to the keep of the larger Norman fortress. The usual outer walls, enclosing the ballia, are not to be discovered, and the presence of the moat immediately surrounding the keep is sufficient to raise a doubt of there ever having been any. We must not, however, disregard the evidence of Leland and Carew on this matter. Borlase's plan of the castle is defective in many particulars, and a more correct plan, drawn to scale by Mr. Polsue, is in the possession of this institution, and an engraving of which, accompanied by a full description of the castle, may hereafter be contributed to its reports. The windows are dilapidated; the ashlar masonry, "the fayre free hewed stone wyndowes, the durnes and wrought dorepostes, the fayre and large chymnic pieces and all that would yield monie or serve for use, having been," says Norden, "converted to private men's purposes."

Lostwithiel was next visited. Concerning the Duchy-house, Mr. Couch said it was an oblong massive structure, flanked by substantial graduated buttresses, and ornamented by the ducal arms. It is generally built of the slate of the neighbourhood without ashlar. The arches are mostly semi-circular, and constructed of thin laminæ of slate. This apparently friable material has been able to resist the action of time and the elements in consequence of the admirable mortar used. I have heard it popularly ascribed to the practice of pouring the newly-slaked and fluid lime into the interstices of the masonry, when it becomes more durable even than the stone itself. This is equally observable in Restormel Castle. In the southern gable is a horse-shoe arch. This building is probably the exchequer, or shire hall, built by Edmund the Earl. Attached to this is a prison, which has been used, within memory, for the confinement of offenders against the stannary laws. The general plan of the church of Lostwithiel was a nave and clerestory, with north and south aisles separated from the nave by arcades of octagonal pillars and pointed arches, a north and south porch, and a spire at the western end. The most noticeable part of the structure is the spire, which rises from a square shaft by handsome octagonal lantern-work of early English character (the style prevailing when the town was at its highest point of prosperity), and ends in a finial cross. The shaft or body is unnecessarily plastered, which detracts from the beauty of the whole, and is quite unnecessary, as, where the plaster has fallen off, good masonry appears underneath. The windows are of different dates, but the plan is generally early English. Internally the church has little of interest architecturally. It suffered greatly at the hands of the parliamentary troops in the campaign of 1644, when the town and castle were occupied by Essex. The interesting diarist, Richard Symonds, gives an account of their blowing up the church, by gunpowder, on the eve of their flying before the victorious forces of Charles. The church contains, besides numerous monuments of local interest, an octagonal font, covered with a strange mixture of sacred and grotesque sculpture; the crucifixion, in juxtaposition with a sportsman, hawk on wrist; a mitred head next to a representation of the chase. Over the northern entrance, where it has been placed for safe keeping, is an *alto relievo* in alabaster, of the flaying of St. Bartholomew, the patron saint of the church. It has been coloured recently, but we believe only in restoration of the original. In the north aisle is a brass of the fifteenth century, representing Tristram Curyts, in coat of mail and spurred.

Professor Babington then offered a few remarks upon the excursion. He said that, in the church at Bodmin, his attention had been attracted to the monument of Prior Vyvyan, which was remarkable from the fact that the inscription was not only incised, but further, was filled up with a material, apparently originally soft, which had now become hard and stood out in relief, the relief existing, to a considerable extent, to the present time. He did not remember that he had ever before seen such

an instance. In the Town Hall there were seen several pieces of plate and municipal ornaments, maces, and so on; and among them, what attracted his attention more than anything else, the seal matrix of a Leper House, formerly existing in the neighbourhood, and impressions of which were shown to him. It was a very curious seal, and he thought might well deserve to be engraved, either by the Cambrian Association or the Royal Institution of Cornwall. The house at Llanhydrock was not very ancient—it was not mediæval, and did not possess the interest which attached to mediæval houses. It was built in the time of Charles I., at different periods; it was a good example of a house of that period on a large scale. It contained a very fine gallery, as was usually found in houses of that date, and he remarked that the windows on the side of this gallery were opposite each other. It had been stated by a great authority that usually the windows in such galleries were not placed opposite each other, but alternated, and various reasons had been assigned for such an arrangement, but none that he could think satisfactory. At all events it was worth notice, that in this instance at Llanhydrock the windows did not alternate. In the churchyard at Llanhydrock was a cross of some interest, and also a well with stone roof; probably in ancient times the well had considerable reputation: at present its sole reputation was that it possessed exceedingly good water.

Mr. G. T. Clarke, F.S.A., then read a paper upon the Castellated Architecture of Wales, which was a very valuable one, and was well received.

On Wednesday, the party proceeded to Carnbræ, and down the river Fal, inspecting the antiquities and fine views with considerable interest. A *conversazione* was held in the evening, at which Mr. E. A. Freeman read an excellent paper upon the Ecclesiastical Architecture of Wales, which was profusely illustrated by architectural drawings.

After the company had partaken of refreshments, the Rev. F. C. Hingeston read an interesting paper on the churches of Cornwall. Mr. Parker afterwards referred to the domestic architecture of Cornwall.

On Thursday, the party went to St. Michael's Mount. After inspecting the castle and mount, they proceeded towards Land's End.

On Friday, the members of the Association, accompanied by several ladies, proceeded by carriage to a village called Chysauter, which is a remarkable specimen of the stone hut dwellings of the ancient Britons. Several other places of interest were visited, and the party were entertained on reaching Chun Castle, with a short address by Professor Simpson, upon its historical features. This ancient castle is a circular fort of dry stone walls, in two almost complete circles, the diameter of the space enclosed being about 130ft. The external walls are of strong masonry, of great beauty in execution and detail; and it is considered to be a most formidable fortress. In a short congratulatory address, Mr. Hussey Vivian said he hoped the landowners on whose ground these ancient remains were situated, would do all in their power to preserve them from destruction, so that the relics of the past, for which Cornwall was so distinguished, would not be for ever lost to the world. The curious Men Scryfa, or written stone, supposed to be a sepulchral monument, erected in the fifth century of the Christian era, was next visited. Other objects of equal interest were also visited, and the party returned to Truro, and after dinner, adjourned to the council chamber, where several speeches were given, and two interesting papers read.

On Saturday, an excursion was made to St. Piran's Round and Lost Church, and a visit to the churches of St. Clement and St. Mary, and the museum of the Royal Institution of Cornwall. An evening meeting brought the proceedings of this very successful congress to a termination.

THE ANTIQUITIES OF WELLS, SOMERSET-SHIRE.

The following paper was read at the recent meeting of the Somerset Archaeological Society by Mr. J. H. Parker:—

I have been requested, said the reader, to complete the architectural history of the City of Wells, which I left in some degree incomplete last year; but there remain now little besides mere gleanings of the rich harvest. I have already told you that I consider Wells as one of the most interesting cities we have remaining anywhere, from the unusually complete series of Mediæval buildings belonging to its ancient cathedral establishment. I believe there is not such a complete collection anywhere else; and the cathedral would lose more than half its interest if deprived of these adjuncts. I would strongly urge upon the inhabitants of Wells and of the county of Somerset the importance of preserving this series of buildings as complete as possible. If they are not patriotic enough to appreciate them for their artistic and historical value, they may, perhaps, be more open to the consideration of money value; and I am much mistaken if they do not find, in a very short time, the number of visitors who are attracted by the unusual interest of their city is large enough to become a valuable consideration, especially now that it has the advantage of railway communication with the rest of the world. I have reason to believe that the interest taken in our Mediæval buildings by all classes, high and low, has increased in a very extraordinary manner, within the last two or three years especially, and I may mention one or two facts in proof of this. Only last week I was informed, on good authority, that the number of visitors to see Westminster Abbey has been not less than a thousand a day during a great part of the present season; and on one particular day upwards of three thousand persons paid their sixpences to the fabric fund for seeing the royal tombs and chapels. During the same period the number of visitors to see Windsor Castle, on the days on which the public are admitted, which are five days in the week, has been upwards of twelve hundred a day. Of the interest taken in the subject by the higher classes I can myself bear witness; for I am overwhelmed with invitations from the highest nobility and gentry in the land to explain to them the history of their castles, or houses, or abbeys, or churches. The hundreds who attend the numerous architectural meetings testify to the same fact. I am also engaged upon the architectural history of Windsor Castle for her Majesty, who expresses great personal interest in the subject.

Nor are our neighbours across the Channel one whit behind us in the interest taken in the subject. The French Government, which reflects the opinions of the majority of the French nation far more faithfully than some of our friends are willing to allow, expend large sums every year in the preservation and restoration of their historical monuments, and in the formation of museums of antiquities. I am sorry to find that the people of this county, which is one of the richest districts in Europe in historical monuments, are rather behind the world in their appreciation of them; and that during the last year one of the old Canons' houses in Wells, with a fine hall of the fifteenth century, has been wantonly destroyed under the name of improvement; and that the Organist's house, another of the series, which has first been almost by neglect and by the stupid alterations of the last century, is now threatened with entire destruction for the purpose of opening a view, one of the usual excuses of ignorance. I do not know who the parties are who are at the bottom of this spirit of destruction, and I do not wish to inquire; but I could almost be answerable that some old man or old woman of seventy is the prime mover of it. I have always found it so everywhere; and, the obstinacy of old age being added to the usual obstinacy of ignorance, it is generally quite impossible to move it or make any impression upon it; the only chance is that some younger men may overrule him; and we must endeavour to bring public opinion to bear upon all such cases. The last generation was entirely ignorant of the value of any mediæval buildings. The history of England itself was very little studied or understood in their youth, and they could not understand at all these great landmarks of history. But in the present day, when every girl in her teens, who has had a decent education, is ashamed of her ignorance if she does not understand something about them, and is generally willing enough to show her own knowledge by laughing at the ignorance of others; and when every educated man points the finger of scorn at those who would

destroy any historical monument; it is only necessary to expose such attempts, and not allow the mischief to be done in a corner.

But it is time that I came to my immediate subject—the mediæval buildings of Wells. The cathedral has been sufficiently done by others; the Bishop's Palace I described last year. I also gave a slight account of the Deanery, the Archdeaconry the Vicar's Close, and the old houses of the canons and officers of the cathedral; but these, I think, will bear a little further elucidation.

The Deanery is said to have been built by Dean Gunthorpe (1472–1498); and, though a good deal spoiled by modern sash windows and other alterations, it is still nearly a perfect specimen of a gentleman's house of the fifteenth century, and has its own gate-house and wall of enclosure. The principal apartments were all on the first floor, which was a very common arrangement in Mediæval houses, the ground rooms being commonly cellars and storehouses; for the state of the country, the want of roads, the scarcity of shops, and the bad supply of the markets, made it necessary to keep a much larger quantity of provisions in store than is called for in these days. The salting-house, the bakehouse, the brewhouse, the spicery, and many other similar apartments, were quite necessary in a large house; and the whole of the ground-floor was frequently occupied in that manner. In the Deanery, the principal apartment was in the garden front, or back of the house, on the first floor, and is a valuable example of the transition from the earlier Mediæval hall, with its lofty roof, and the more comfortable dining-room of later days. At the upper end it has the beautiful bay window for the sideboard at the end of the dais; and at the lower end the music gallery, which is of stone, carried on a wide arch, with the stone staircase to it at one end—an unusual arrangement; and under the arch is the lavatory, for the guests to wash their hands before going into the hall, as this was behind the screen which crossed the entrance. But, instead of a lofty open roof, it had a flat panelled ceiling. The approach to this hall was by an external staircase at the corner of the house, of which the newel-post remains; and the doorway to it may be seen in the wall, with the marks of the pent-house over it. The present staircase was originally for the servants only, leading straight down to the kitchen and offices, which were on the ground floor. Behind the dais at the upper end of the hall is the solar, or lord's chamber, known as Henry the Seventh's, because that monarch is said to have slept there on his visit to Wells. The house has formed three sides of a quadrangle, with a curtain wall across the fourth side or front, towards the principal court and the gate-house. It has octagonal turrets at the corners, apparently more for ornament than for defence.

The Archdeaconry appears to have been a house of at least equal importance with the Deanery; in fact, the hall of it is larger and more imposing; and, in this instance, it occupied the whole height of the building from the ground to the roof. The house was originally built in the time of Edward I., as is shown by the windows in the gable at the east end, and one of the doorways near to this end, which has a fine suite of mouldings on the exterior, and a foliated arch within. This was the back door to the servants' court; the front door towards the Close was larger and more important; but only a part of the foliated inner arch can now be traced in the wall, the front of the house having been entirely modernized. The Hall occupied about two-thirds of this part of the house, and still retains a very fine open-timber roof of the early part of the fifteenth century, probably of the time of Bishop Babwith, as it agrees with the roof of the hall and chapel of his almshouse. In the east wall of the archdeacon's hall are the three doorways of the buttery, pantry, and kitchen, as usual, showing that the offices were at the east end of the house, but have been destroyed. At the further end of the house, beyond the dais, it was divided into two stories—the cellar, or store-room, or parlor below, and the solar, or lord's chamber, or withdrawing-room, above: this solar is itself a room of considerable size. The whole of the arrangements indicate that the archdeacon was a person of considerable importance, and able to exercise hospitality on a grand scale; or the house may have been a sort of residential, where the Chapter exercised their hospitality as a body, like the guest's hall, recently destroyed at Worcester.

The house of the choir master, at the east end of the cathedral, is a small gentlemen's house of the fifteenth century, tolerably perfect, with the roof and the upper part of the windows of the hall remaining, but disguised and concealed by modern partitions. The porch, with the room over it, remains

perfect, and adds much to the picturesque beauty of the house, the rest of which is entirely modernised; and the original offices seem to have been destroyed, as is frequently the case.

The singing-school is over part of the west wall of the cloister, and joins on to the south-west corner of the cathedral. The organist's house is close to this, and is one of the smaller houses of the fifteenth century, the plan of which was that of the letter T, the hall forming the top stroke, and the rest of the house the stem; but the house has been almost entirely spoiled during the last century; vile additions having been made to it, encroaching on the small space originally left between the house and the cloister, and destroying the outline of the house, which, when it stood clear, must have been extremely picturesque. The interior is also spoiled by modern partitions, now become more old-looking and more rotten than the original roof of the half which remains.

Most of the canons' houses have been either rebuilt entirely or much spoiled by modern alterations; one of them to the north-east of the cathedral (now occupied by Canon Brodrick) has a good porch and a panelled battlement of the fifteenth century.

Another house, rather farther to the east (now the school), is partly of the fourteenth century, with a good finial on the gable, and the moulded arch of a doorway of that period, evidently the chief entrance to the hall originally, but long blocked up. This hall has a fine timber roof with angel corbels, but quite concealed by modern lath and plaster ceilings. The cellar or store-room remains, with several lockers in the wall, and is now the school-room. The solar over this is modernised, but this also contains the old roof, with its gable and coping. To this, wings have been added in the fifteenth or sixteenth century, apparently to obtain additional bed-rooms; and it is probable that at that time the original kitchen and offices at the other end of the hall were destroyed, and new ones made in the new wing. Such a change as this was very frequently made in the sixteenth century.

The very remarkable and picturesque Vicars' Close is so well known that it is not necessary to repeat any long story about it, but the outline of its history may be mentioned. The Vicars' Choral formed part of the original establishment of the cathedral, and were incorporated by Bishop Joceline in the beginning of the thirteenth century; and, as he was a great builder, it is probable that he built houses for them; but all that we have remaining of his time are some fragments of beautifully-sculptured ornament used up as old material, and built in the spandrels of the arches of the windows, and in the parapet. These correspond exactly with his work in the cathedral, and with the remains of his palace at Wookey; but they may have been brought from some part of the cathedral now destroyed, and the original vicars' houses may have been of wood only, as was very usual at that period. These were rebuilt by Bishop Ralph, of Shrewsbury, in the fourteenth century; and he expressly mentions in his will the houses that he has built for the vicars; but all that now remains of his work is the hall, with its west window and side windows; the east end over the gateway was lengthened in the time of Henry VIII. by Richard Pomeroy.

The present houses were entirely built by the executors of Bishop Beckington, late in the fifteenth century, on one uniform plan; and several of these remain perfect, though in many cases they have been altered, and two houses thrown into one. Nor can we complain much of this when we remember that the houses were originally intended for bachelors only, and each consisted of two rooms with closets at the back, but no offices. The vicars dined together in their common hall, and required no kitchen in their houses. The Close was, in fact, a college, in which each student had a separate small house, instead of his two rooms in a large one.

The very beautiful gate-house and bridge over the road from the Vicar's Hall to the cathedral is part of the numerous works of Bishop Beckington, one of the greatest benefactors of the city. The southern arch of this bridge, the one nearest to the Chapter-house, has long been concealed from view on the east side by a wall, which has lately been removed; on the west side by a stable built up against it, probably in the seventeenth century, but constructed of old materials so ingeniously put together as to deceive the eye at a very short distance, and to appear like part of the original structure. This obstruction, I am happy to say, is about to be removed and the arch left open, which will greatly improve the effect of this very remarkable bridge. I can see no reason for keeping the passage across this bridge always closed, or why the theological students should not be

allowed to go across it from their library, formerly the Vicars' Hall, to the cathedral, as the vicars did of old. This would be, in fact, restoring it to the purpose for which it was built; for the present theological students much more truly represent the class of persons for whose use the Vicars' Close itself and the bridge was built, than the present corporation of vicars does. The degradation of the class of vicars choral generally, now called singing men, is one of the curses brought upon the Church by the change in the value of money.

The only other Mediaeval house is, I believe, Bishop Bubwith's almshouse, near St. Cuthbert's Church. This is remarkably perfect and very interesting, though much spoiled about a dozen years ago by some stupid builder, who could not understand or appreciate the wise arrangements of our ancestors. The original plan was a great hall, with a chapel at the end of it, and with cells along the sides for the almsmen, which were open at the top to the lofty and fine timber roof, so that each old man had the benefit of many hundred cubic feet of air; and, in case he became ill or infirm, he could hear the service chanted daily in the chapel without leaving his bed; and if he was able only to crawl to the door of his cell, he could see the elevation of the host by looking along the central passage to the chapel, and he could always attend divine service, however old or infirm he might be. At the opposite end of the hall was a building of two stories, the lower one of which would be the common room of the almsmen; and over it the chaplain's or master's apartment. In this apartment is now preserved a very fine money-chest of the fifteenth century, with the usual three locks, and painted in the old style with a scroll pattern. This is supported on a stand made for it in the time of James I., with some curious doggerel verses upon it. It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to observe that the arrangement of the cells along the sides of a large hall is exactly the same as that of the dormitory of a monastery. This arrangement is the most economical of space consistent with an abundance of air, and has been adopted in the dormitory of Ridley school, and some other large schools, where the masters are enlightened enough to profit by the wisdom of their ancestors. The same arrangement is also adopted in some of the public baths lately erected in various places, and for the same reasons. The partitions of the cells give privacy without losing space; and, being open at the top to the roof, there is plenty of air. At Glastonbury, an almshouse of this description has had the hall roof destroyed, and each of the cells roofed over, so as to turn them into a little street of cottages. I cannot see the advantage of this change. When the old arrangement was kept up, the almsmen, or the monks, were kept warm in the winter by hangings and an awning over the cell. But the modern builder has effected the improvement of making each cell as nearly air-tight as possible with lath and plaster, and introduced a second set of cells on a floor over the original ones; thus entirely spoiling the old hall, and allowing each almsman only a very limited supply of air, hardly sufficient for health. I know nothing of the history of this alteration, but it seems natural to suppose that it has been done under the direction of some corporate body of governors, and has been considered a clever and ingenious construction, to accommodate double the number of almsmen in the same space and under the same roof; and it looks as if the trustees of the property with which the hospital was endowed by the founder, had, after long neglect, been seized with some qualms of conscience, or some wholesome fear of the Charity Commission, and had observed that their funds were more than sufficient for the then existing number of almsmen at the then rate of payment. In such cases it very commonly happens that the change in the value of money since the time of the foundation is entirely forgotten. If the endowment was in land, as it probably was, it is worth now, in nominal money value, twenty times the sum at which it was reckoned by the founder. This is no random assertion, but is well known to those who have studied the subject; and I am not now speaking of the Wells case in particular: I only guess from appearances that the case is one of those of constant occurrence everywhere.*

* In reply to these observations, the following has been written:—

"If Mr. Parker had but seen the miserable dens, 8ft. by 8ft., with the board floors resting on the soil, only serving to increase the infirmities of the almsmen who occupied them; I cannot imagine he would prefer them to the present roomy, comfortable apartments, each with sufficient ventilation to the corridors or central passages, and having two light windows, of same character as the original small single light. So that, instead of being 'hardly sufficient for health,' the contrary is the fact, the health of the inmates being greatly improved in consequence of the alterations.

"The chapel has been scrupulously restored, parts of the old stalls and wood work remaining as examples; and it can still be seen from the door of each

But to return to architecture. I have omitted to mention the Bishop's Barn, which is a very fine and perfect one of the early part of the fifteenth century, probably built by Bishop Bubwith, as the construction of the roof is the same as that of his almshouse, although plainer.

St. Cuthbert's Church does not properly belong to my subject; but, in order to complete the history of the Mediaeval buildings remaining at Wells, perhaps a short account of it may be desirable. It was originally a cruciform church of the thirteenth century with a central tower, and with aisles to the nave, but of the church all that remains in the original state is a part of the north transept; the central tower has been removed, the church entirely rebuilt in the fifteenth century, without a vestige of the old work. The pillars and arches of the nave have been rebuilt in the fifteenth century also, and the pillars lengthened considerably. The arches, with their dripstones, preserved and used again on the taller pillars, and most of the capitals have had the foliage cut off. The aisle walls, the clerestory, and roof, are all Late Perpendicular, about the time of Henry the Seventh; but the beautiful west tower is evidently earlier than the clerestory and roof, and has the mark of the old roof on the east side of it, coming below the present clerestory. This fine tower, which is certainly one of the finest of its class, and which Mr. Freeman considers, I believe, to rank only second to one other, is said to have been built in the time of Bishop Bubwith, or about 1430; and this appears to me probable. The character of the work is rather Early Perpendicular, and the groined vault under the belfry appears to be an imitation of the Decorated vault of the cathedral. The arms in the spandrels of the west door belong to benefactors whose families disappear from the City Records about 1450. If the tower prove to be of the time of Bishop Bubwith, it is a valuable date to have ascertained, as these rich Somersetshire towers are usually considered to be half a century later; and it seems more probable, as Mr. Freeman observed to us last year, that they do in reality spread over about a century, than that they were all built in twenty or thirty years at the end of it.

As I have now said all that appears to me to be necessary respecting the buildings of Wells, I may, perhaps, be allowed to add a few words as to the manner in which it is probable that funds were provided for building them. There were, no doubt, at all periods some men who were fond of building, and when these men happened to be wealthy they built a great deal, as in the case of Bishop Beckington, who must have expended a very large sum during his lifetime in building, and left the remainder of his fortune to his executors to be expended in the same manner. But there are men who are fond of building in these days also; the difference is, that building was almost the only mode of displaying wealth in those days, and every one likes to leave some memento of himself behind him if he can.

For those buildings belonging to a cathedral chapter there is, however, another mode in which funds may have been supplied, at least in part. In nearly all these foundations certain estates were set apart by the founder, or by the chapter, from its earliest days to form the fabric fund; out of this fund a gang of workmen was kept in the regular employ of the chapter, and we find from the records of several of our cathedrals that the same families continued to serve the chapter as masons or carpenters or smiths generation after generation. In this manner they acquired great skill in their art; and although the architect, or master-mason, may have travelled and got new ideas from time to time, the greater part of the workmen were stationary, and naturally formed a school of their own, which accounts for the provincial character we very often find in mediæval buildings. After the cathedral was completed these men would naturally be employed by the chapter in any other works that were required, such as houses for the canons or officers, or for building churches on the manors belonging to the chapter. When a parish was an independent rectory it commonly had a

apartment; although, happily, a better form of worship is now celebrated there than at the period referred to with such apparent regret.

Mr. Parker may have easily ascertained that the charity is vested in the Dean and Chapter of Wells, with the mayor and part of the council as trustees; E. Davies, Esq., being the governor of the almshouse. The funds of the charity having been much improved under the present management, the trustees, with a very laudable desire to extend the benefits of the charity and comfort of the inmates (and not from any 'qualms of conscience'), directed me to prepare plans and specifications, consistent with the character of the building, for their approval; and the works were afterwards substantially executed by a respectable builder. I would venture to add that those who advocate a return to the dwellings of former times, in order to be consistent, should also return to the manners and customs then prevailing; but, above all, should first practice what they preach, and have charity towards others.

EDWARD HIPPLEY, Surveyor."

fabric fund of its own; and any one who has read many of the wills of the middle ages must have met with many bequests to the fabrics, and these do not always prove that any particular work was going on, although they were, of course, more numerous at such times. When great works were going on, and funds fell short, the chapter sent round briefs or begging letters in all directions, and frequently obtained large contributions to their fabric fund. It was therefore by the joint action of the voluntary principle and the hereditary principle, or the endowments bequeathed by our ancestors, that those magnificent series of structures were erected.

Extract from the Chapter Books, A.D. 1325.

"Item—That the Bishop shall contribute to the fabric of the new work of the church of Wells one moiety of the proceeds of his visitation.

"Item—Because the stalls in the choir are ruinous and ugly, it was ordered on the same day, that all and every of the Canons who are duly constituted in the dignity and office, shall make their own stalls at their own expense, and that the dean may compel them to do so."

This shows that the buildings were not completed in 1325; it is probable that the Lady Chapel and the Chapter House were the works then carrying on. The stalls then ordered to be made were turned out as rubbish a few years ago, having previously been much spoiled. One of the ends of a stall-desk has been fortunately preserved by Mr. G. G. Scott, who obtained it by accident and knew its value. A photograph was exhibited by Mr. Parker, and was acknowledged by all to be a very fine specimen of the woodwork of the fourteenth century.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

STONE OF FOUNDATION.

At what period was the English Royal Arch Degree deprived of this legend? for which see Bro. Oliver in *Quarterly Freemasons' Magazine*, 1841.—Δ.

THE MUSES.

What have the heathen, *μῦσæ*, or the Muses to do with Freemasonry?—F. R.—[Eusebius derives the word from that given by our correspondent. He says it is to "initiate and instruct," because the Muses taught things above the vulgar comprehension. In this sense there are lodges of the Nine Muses to be found in England, Russia, and France. Of that in the latter country the celebrated Bro. Benjamin Franklin was a member.]

THE POET MILTON AND FREEMASONRY.

I was startled, some weeks since, by hearing a brother say that Milton must have been a Freemason. I am but a working brother, and my time is otherwise employed than to read poetry, for I can hardly devote sufficient to keep up my Masonic work, but I should be glad if any of your correspondents, having the leisure, would inform me on what grounds it can be shown that Milton was a Mason?—YORK.

JESUITICAL ENMITY TO THE CRAFT.

I send you an extract from the second number of *The Canadian Freemason*, published at Montreal, in June 1860, to show the enmity of the Jesuits to the Craft. They had an organ of their own called "L'Ordre" and the following was inserted in it, in French:—

"We learn that Messrs. Owler and Stevenson have commenced publishing a periodical paper, entitled *The Canadian Freemason*, which will be the organ of the lodge. Messrs. Owler and Stevenson are themselves Freemasons, and this journal, it appears, will be edited in a manner which the members of the society can alone appreciate. It is a pity that in so Catholic a country as Canada, the brethren of a secret society dare publish their shameful turpitude and act publicly as if it was to ridicule all principles."

The Editor of *The American Freemason* thus comments on the above:—

"The paragraph speaks volumes and proves clearly how soon our liberty would be taken away if that order could bear the sway. We happily live in a country where we can promulgate the exalted principles of Freemasonry in spite of Jesuitical interference."—EX. EX.

PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD STUART A KNIGHT TEMPLAR.

In last Saturday's number of our quaint little contemporary, *Notes and Queries*, appears the following:—"M. Michel, in his work *Les Ecossais en France, les Français en Ecosse*, mentions that the Scottish guard having come to an end, Prince Charles Edward Stuart being wishful to distinguish the Masons of Artois for many kindnesses he had received from them, founded in the city of Arras a 'Primatial Sovereign Chapter of Rose-Croix, under the distinctive title of Jacobite Scotland.' Did he bestow any jewel on that body of Freemasons? There is preserved by the Masonic Lodge of the city of Stockholm a jewel, which once belonged to Prince Charles Edward. The prince belonged, I believe, to the Order of Knights Templar, and a curious account of his proceedings with regard to that Order, is given in an account of 'the Prince's Court,' at Helyrood House, in 1746, in *Memoirs of Sir Robert Strange, &c.*, by James Dennistoun, of Dennistoun, vol. i., p. 81. There is a relic which the Prince wore, connected with this Order, in the Abbotsford edition of the *Waverley Novels*.—M. M." [Having consulted M. Michel personally, on the above, we doubt M. M.'s translation of the name of the Chapter to be "Jacobite Scotland." M. Michel does not recognise it, but cannot say from whence he derived his information. We suggested to him that it was most likely the Chapter of the Sacred Vault of James VI., in which he concurs. The passage in the *Memoirs* alluded to above, is as follows, under the date 1746:—"A word as to the Shadowy Court which once again brightened the long-neglected saloons of the Abbey. On the 30th September, the Duke of Perth wrote to Lord Ogilvie—'It is truly a proud thing to see our Prince in the palace of his fathers, with all the best blood of Scotland around him. He is much beloved of all sorts, and we cannot fail to make that pestilent England smoke for it. Upon Monday last, there was a great ball at the palace; and on Tuesday, by appointment, there was a solemn Chapter of the ancient chivalry of the Temple of Jerusalem, held in the audience room. . . . Our noble Prince looked most gallantly in the white robe of the Order, took his profession like a worthy knight; and after receiving congratulations of all present, did vow that he would restore the Temple higher than it was in the days of William the Lion.'" The illustration referred to in M. M.'s letter, occurs at p. 229 of the Abbotsford edition of *Waverley*. It is described in the index of illustrations, prefixed to that novel, as "The Prince's Sporrán; the belt of the time of the Knights Templar—*Cluny Castle*. Drawn by Dickes, and engraved by Keck." To us it shows no more than any other belt, nor do we remember to have seen it in the contents of *Cluny*, published by Du Sommerard, the proprietor of that storehouse of mediæval art, in his sumptuous *Les Arts au Moyen Age*. If it is a girdle or belt of the time asserted, we do not see how it is "a relic connected with the Order," as put forth by M. M. His allusion to the *Memoirs of Sir R. Strange*, which extract we have appended, is of great importance, as it gives the time and place when Prince Charles Edward Stuart was made a Knight Templar.]

KNIGHT TEMPLAR ALPHABET.

I have been informed that there is a secret alphabet in use by Knight Templars. Is it so?—*Yes*. The Chivalric Order of the Temple has one. As that Order is chiefly French, of course we do not find a letter *W* in it; but there are all the others, as well as the figures, for arithmetical purposes. The forms employed are very beautiful and simple, and the key is an eight-pointed star, or Knight of Malta jewel. We have sent a copy of of the alphabet of your town address.]

SMELL OF THE ROUGH ASHLAR.

What does the rough Ashlar smell of?—D. A.

THE ANGLES AND CARDINAL VIRTUES.

How do the angles represent the four Cardinal virtues?—D. A.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

NEW CONCORD LODGE (No. 1115).—The opening meeting of this lodge was held on Friday evening, September 19, at the Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton. Bro. Swinnock, W.M., presided. The lodge having been duly opened, a ballot was taken for Mr. William Batey, Mr. James How, and Mr. John Nind, and being unanimous in their favour, they were severally introduced and initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. A petition for a new lodge having been signed by several members, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, which was amply provided by Bro. Stannard, the worthy host. After the cloth was drawn, the routine, loyal, and masonic toasts were given and duly honoured. —The W.M. said that the next toast he had to propose was most pleasing to him as the Master of the lodge, for it was that of their three initiates who had just entered their first degree in Freemasonry, and, as a member of some years standing, he could assure them that the further they went in the science the more they would be delighted. They had joined a lodge second to none in the Craft, and he trusted they would ever be proud of the selection they had made. As they had selected that lodge, the brethren were of course most happy to receive them, and would endeavour to make them as happy as lay in their power.—Bro. How returned thanks on behalf of the initiates, for the kind way in which they had been received.—Bro. JOHN BERTRAM, P.M., said he had been for a short time entrusted with the master's gavel, and the brethren knew well what use he would make of it. It was his duty, as immediate P.M., to propose the health of the W.M., and it gave him peculiar pleasure and gratification to do so when he saw the manner in which he had initiated three gentlemen that evening, and he was very happy to find that on the next occasion they would have five initiates. Therefore, it was with great pleasure he proposed the health of the W.M. (drunk with great cordiality).—The W.M. returned thanks, and said that Bro. Bertram had expressed himself of him more kindly than he deserved, but could he only repeat that the more he saw of Freemasonry, the more he liked it. He thanked them sincerely for the kindness and respect he had received both in and out of the lodge, and he wished them all long life and prosperity.—"The Health of the Visitors" having been given, Bro. H. THOMPSON, J.W. 206, in responding, said the New Concord Lodge was not less distinguished for its hospitality than for the excellence of its working, for, he said, having had the privilege of visiting the lodge soon after its formation, he was really surprised to see the excellent working of the whole officers, for every one seemed perfect in his duties, and had he not known to the contrary, he should have thought the lodge had been in existence almost as many years as it had been but days. He believed that early impressions were the most durable, and he doubted not that those who were aspirants for office at some future time in it, then received an early impression that to arrive at that honour they must diligently apply themselves, so that the same excellence of working might be maintained which had distinguished their predecessors, and continue to make the New Concord Lodge worthy of the parent from which it sprang. Long might the New Concord Lodge flourish—long might it continue an important link in that adamant chain of universal brotherhood which bound man to man—which inculcated feelings of charity and goodwill to all mankind—which led them to nobler thoughts and holier aspirations, and which he trusted and believed would, after their earthly probation, obtain for them an admission into the Grand Lodge above, where the World's Great Architect lives and reigns for ever.—Some other visitors responded.—The W.M. next proposed "The Health of the P.M.'s of the lodge, Bros. Bertram and Emmens," and alluded in flattering terms to the value of their services.—Bro. BERTRAM, P.M., in responding to the toast, said it was a great pleasure to him at all times to come amongst his brethren of the New Concord Lodge, for with them he always felt at home. On behalf of himself and Bro. Emmens he returned their thanks for the way in which the W.M. had been pleased to speak of them, and it was their earnest desire to promote the welfare of the lodge, and to be amongst them as often as they could. He had not returned thanks in full for the toast, as he knew that another would be proposed which would include

Bro. Emmens as the founder of the lodge.—On “The health o Bro. Emmens, the founder of the lodge,” having been drunk, Bro. EMMENS, in returning thanks, said he would ever study as long as he had health and strength to promote the interests of the New Concord Lodge. He was sorry that they did not meet so strong in numbers as they had hitherto done, but they had endeavoured to carry out the true principles of Freemasonry, and in the only way which was due to their Order. While the lodge was carried on in the way it then was so long would he continue to support it, and he could only say that if any brother wanted instruction he should be most happy to give it him at any time.—The W.M. next proposed “The Officers of the Lodge.”—Bro. ESTWICK, J.W. and Treasurer, returned thanks, and said the officers felt highly gratified at the compliment which had been paid them.—Some other toasts were given, and the proceedings terminated at eleven o’clock.

PROVINCIAL.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*John of Gaunt Lodge* (No. 766).—The first regular meeting of this lodge since the installation festival took place on the 18th inst., when the following brethren were present:—Bros. W. Johnson, W.M.; Davis, S.W.; Spencer, J.W.; W. S. Bithrey, Sec.; Barwell, S.D.; Green, J.D.; Bolton, I.G.; Kelly, D. Prov. G.M.; Clephan, P.M.; Kinton, P.M.; Cram, Knight, Brewin, P.M. Visitors:—Bros. Marstead, 766; Weare, P.M., St. John’s Lodge, No. 348; Clarke, 348; Manning Lime-riek, 73, &c. The lodge was opened in the first degree, the minutes of the last lodge were read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Mr. George Henry Hodges, of Leicester, for admission into our mysteries; Bro. Charles B. Martin, of the Royal Boyn Lodge, Bandon, Ireland, was proposed as a joining member, and were both unanimously elected; Mr. Geo. H. Hodges being in readiness, was regularly initiated into Masonry by the W.M. Bro. Johnson, who performed the ceremony in a very praise-worthy manner. Bro. Bithrey, Sec., then gave the charge, and also the lecture on the tracing board, in a very efficient manner, and was listened to by the brethren with much earnestness. A gentleman was proposed as a candidate for admission into our secrets. The lodge was closed with musical response, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. During the evening the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and interspersed with songs, recitations, &c., by Bros. Bithreys, Davis, Brewin, and Weare. The Secretary and Tyler’s toast, with God Save the Queen by the brethren, closed one of the most harmonious Masonic evenings which should always characterise the true spirit of Masonry.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge* (No. 693).—On Monday evening, Sept. 15th, 1862, this lodge assembled, at the King’s Head Hotel, the W.M., Bro. Samuel Hancorn, in the chair, on the occasion of a presentation being made to the S.W. of the lodge, Bro. Henry Hellyer, who is about to remove to Swansen. The testimonial, a large and beautiful silver teapot, had been subscribed for by the brethren. The W.M. said: Brethren, I meet you on this interesting occasion with feelings of considerable pleasure. Yet that pleasure is not unmingled with pain, when I think that the object of our coming here is to present a parting gift, to a brother whom we have learned to esteem, as we have Bro. Hellyer. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Hellyer was initiated into Masonry in the Silurian Lodge, in the year 1850, so that he has now been a Mason for nearly thirteen years, and during that time, I am informed by our indefatigable Sec., Bro. Williams, he has served every office except that of W.M., which office he would, in all probability, have taken next year had he remained with us. As Junior and Senior Warden, I have known him myself; and as my Senior Warden I have now publicly to thank him for the manner in which he has performed the duties devolving upon him. (Hear, hear.) I do not recollect one single occasion upon which he has been absent from his post. His efficiency has been evident to you all, and the assistance I have received from him out of lodge, as well as in it, has always been most cheerfully rendered. (Hear, hear.) I feel great regret that I shall not have the pleasure of saluting him as W.M. next year. The Silurian Lodge has also cause to feel obliged to Bro. Hellyer. He has been the means of introducing to us many good and worthy brethren. In one night, in 1852, he proposed five

gentlemen at the same time, who were subsequently approved of, and initiated. (Applause.) In presenting this testimonial of our esteem to you, Bro. Hellyer, I do it with very grateful feelings to my brethren for having selected me, and on the part of them and myself say we much regret your leaving us. We cannot, however, but hail with sincere pleasure any change that may be for your temporal advancement. (Hear, hear.) Partings are always painful, but in this changing world of ours partings must come, sooner or later, to us all. I trust that you, Bro. Hellyer, and I, and each of us here, may so live that if it is not permitted us to meet in a lodge below, may all meet each other in the Grand lodge above, where the Great Architect of the Universe reigns for ever. I have great pleasure, Bro. Hellyer, in presenting you with this token of our esteem. May you live long to enjoy and use it. (Applause.) The presentation having taken place, Bro. Hellyer rose, under much emotion, and said—Beloved W.M. and brethren: After the eulogium just passed upon me, you must admit that it is, indeed, difficult to find language in which to express the gratitude I feel towards you, for this token of your fraternal affection and love; and the more so, because I deem myself unworthy of so kind a mark of esteem. I, however, with joy, accept this free gift, not as a mark of merit, but as an assurance of mutual regard. (Hear, hear.) In all probability, I have soon to leave you, it being a duty that my feet should wander over other portions of the Mosaic pavement of this chequered life. I cannot tell whether, if spared to live, I may hereafter stand in the bright and flowery meads of prosperity, or totter over the dark squares of adversity. But this I do know, brethren, that if I walk according to the high principles of our Masonic art, and with humility before the Great Architect, I need fear no evil. (Hear, hear.) To part is sorrowful; yet the heart of a true Mason feels there is no such thing as parting for ever; for after death we may meet in the Grand Lodge above. Briefly, dear brethren, let me ask you to receive my heart’s deepest gratitude for this handsome token of your fraternal love. (Applause.) A number of toasts followed:—“The Press,” being acknowledged by Bro. J. M. Scott; “The Health of the President, Bro. Hancorn,” and “The Vice-president, Bro. R. B. Evans,” and others having been pledged in the sparkling “stirrup cup,” the brethren separated all highly pleased at the result of the meeting. We hear that a worthy brother, living in London, of high standing in Masonry, has consented to serve the office of W.M. of the Silurian Lodge (No. 693), at Newport, during the coming year, and that he has promised to attend every lodge meeting, if business will admit. As this must necessarily involve much personal sacrifice on his part, we trust the brethren will appreciate his Masonic kindness in consenting to rule over them, and we augur great benefits to the lodge, by this appointment.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—*Loyal Brunswick Encampment*.—The regular quarterly convocation of the above encampment was held in the Freemasons’ Chapter Room, St. George’s Hall, on Thursday, the 18th Sept. Present the following Sir Knights, Evans, E.C.; Dowse, P.E.C. and P.G.H.; Rodd, Edwards, Brizzi, Thomas, Wills, Rodda, and Rowe. Visiting Fraters Sir Knight Pollard, E.C. of Veteran Encampment, Sir Knight Drake, P.E.C. of Melita Encampment, and G. Supt. of Works; and Sir Knight Carney. The encampment was opened at 4 o’clock p.m., in due form, under the command of the E.C., assisted by the P.E.C. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, the ballot was then taken for the following Royal Arch Companions, J. John Clase, of Chapter Fidelity (No. 280), and Lient. Charles Scott, of Chapter 334, Irish Register; the same proving unanimous, and they having signed the required declaration, they were introduced in ancient form, and duly installed, Sir Knights of the Royal Exalted Religious and Military Order of Masonic Knights Templar. A donation of one guinea and an annual subscription of the same amount, was unanimously voted to the Fortescue Memorial Fund of Devon. The names of four Royal Arch companions were then submitted to the consideration of the Sir Knights, as candidates for installation to the Order, at the next quarterly convocation. There being no other business before the meeting, the encampment was closed in solemn form, with prayer, at six o’clock.

WOOLWICH.

KEMYS TYNTE ENCAMPMENT.—A meeting of this encampment was held at the Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich, on Friday, the 19th instant. Present, Sir Knights Captain Boyle as E.C.; Figg, 1st Captain; Fraser, 2nd Captain; Laird, Expert; Dr. Hinckmann, Prov. G. Com. Prelate; and Sir Knights Lyons, Malings, Matthew Cooke, Hassall and Hewitt. The visitors were Sir Knights J. Ranking Stebbing; Dr. Edwards, Melita Encampment, Malta; Thompson, and Binckes. Three candidates for knighthood—viz., Comps. Thomson, R. B. Bayly, and the Rev. Dr. Richards, all being in attendance—were received and installed Knights Templar. The business being concluded, the Sir Knights adjourned to dinner at Bro. De Grey's, the Freemason's Tavern, where, after the cloth had been removed, the usual toasts were proposed, and the Sir Knights, having passed an agreeable evening, separated at their usual hour.

ROYAL ARCH.

NORFOLK.

NORWICH.—*Cabbell Chapter* (No. 1109).—The Companions of this distinguished Chapter met at the Freemasons' Hall, St. Stephens, Norwich, on Wednesday, the 17th inst., under the able presidency of Comp. A. F. Morgan, Z., supported by Comp. W. R. Redgrave; H. Harry, P.; L. Estrange, J.; Geo. E. Simpson, E.; Rev. F. S. Hodgson, N.; H. Underwood and D. Penrice, Assist. Sojs. The Chapter being opened, and the minutes of the last meeting confirmed, the first business was to ballot for three candidates for exaltation. Bros. Chandelar Tadman, of Social Lodge (No. 110), Benjamin Lamb, and James Cockburn, of Cabbell Lodge (No. 1109), being unanimously elected, they were exalted to this sublime degree. Comp. Henry Jno. Mason, in the absence of Comp. William Leedes Fox, officiated as Principal Soj., the whole of the ceremony being most efficiently performed. The Chapter being closed, the Comps. supped together and passed a pleasant evening. This flourishing Chapter was consecrated in March last, with only nine Companions—it now numbers 36 members. Upwards of twenty candidates have been exalted since that period, and three candidates are proposed for exaltation at the next meeting of the Chapter, to be held on the 16th of October next, at which time the principals and officers for the ensuing year will be elected.

TURKEY.

SMYRNA, Homer Lodge (No. 988).—On the 27th August the brethren of No. 988 gave a Masonic banquet at their lodge-room in the English Club, Frank-street, to W. Bro. Richard Bayliss, P.M., of Derby, on a visit to Smyrna as engineer to the new Gas Company. Bro. Paterson, W.M. presided, supported by V.W. Bro. Hyde Clarke, D.P.G.M. Turkey, and many brethren of Nos. 988 and 1193.

WILLIS'S ROOMS, BREWER-STREET, GOLDEN-SQUARE.—Bro. Newton gave a *conversatione* at these rooms on Tuesday evening, when a large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. The rooms have been recently decorated, and afford every accommodation for balls, lectures, and concerts.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and Family still continues in Germany. The latest accounts representing the whole of the family to be in excellent health.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality in the metropolis appears to be on the increase. The deaths of last week were 1185, which is an increase of 47 over those of the previous week, and 54 in excess of the corrected average for the last ten years—that is, if allowance be made for the mortality caused by cholera in the corresponding week of the year 1854. The

births were 1760, which is considerably below the average rate of 1832.—Although the International Exhibition will be formally closed on the 1st of November, the Commissioners have decided to allow the building to remain open for a fortnight after that date, "in order to afford exhibitors in the industrial departments an opportunity of selling their goods."—During the proposed supplementary season, the price of admission will be higher than the existing rates.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer presided, on Wednesday, at the annual dinner of the Denbigh and Flint Agricultural Society, which took place at Mold. In proposing the loyal toasts he made happy allusion to the approaching marriage of the Prince of Wales—a union which he declared was not only, like most English Royal marriages, conformable to the public interest, but founded upon the warmth and sincerity of personal attachment. In a subsequent speech he pointed out the advantages which free trade had conferred upon farmers as well as upon every other class of the community.—Lord Stanley presided at the meeting held on Monday night to inaugurate the new building of the Stockport Mechanic's Institution.—At the annual meeting of the Cotton Supply Association, on Tuesday, the principal topic of discussion was the extent to which India might be expected to meet the great wants of Lancashire. As to the natural capabilities of that country to supply England with a large quantity of good useful cotton, there was but one opinion, but loud complaints were made of the apathy and obstructiveness of the Indian government. Sir Charles Wood's reversal of Lord Canning's measure for the sale of waste lands was strongly denounced, and one speaker, Mr. Hugh Mason, declared that he saw nothing for it but that the Chamber of Commerce, and the Cotton Supply Association, and the Mayor of Manchester, with all his municipal constituents at his back, should rise and demand the impeachment of a man who had so misconducted himself, in his high office, at the present crisis of our great national industry. Mr. M. Ross touched upon the subject of "substitutes for cotton," and remarked that it might be affirmed, with safety, that not one of the staples which had been submitted to them was likely to compensate them for the loss of cotton.—Mr. Farnall, the special Poor-law Commissioner, reported at the meeting of the Manchester Relief Committee, that during the past week another serious increase had taken place in the number of persons applying for relief in the twenty-four unions affected by the cotton famine. The average per centage of pauperism in these unions is now 7·8, while this time last year it was only 22. In the unions which suffer most from the present pressure, the average per centage is estimated at the high figure of seventeen.—Mr. Laing has received an address from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, expressing their sense of the soundness, and congratulating him on the success, of his financial policy in India. The hon. gentlemen, in acknowledging this tribute to his services, briefly referred to his late dispute with Sir Charles Wood, and then passed on to the larger question, in which this country is so deeply interested. For the next year or two, he said, nothing was likely to be done which would largely increase the supply of cotton from India; and if, during the next twelve months, a million and a quarter bales should arrive from that country, he believed it was as much as could reasonably be expected. If, therefore, it should be impossible to get at the cotton stored in the Southern States, the present crisis must go on with augmenting force for the next twelve months; but he believed that many months would not elapse before the termination of the struggle in America, and the recognition by England and other great powers of Europe of the Southern

Confederacy. Looking to the future, however, a large and increasing supply of cotton might, under certain conditions, be obtained from India; indeed, "if the price suited, that cultivation admitted of almost indefinite increase." He strongly recommended the establishment of European agencies, so as to rescue the ryot from the grasp of the native usurers and middlemen. He pointed out some of the more glaring anomalies in the existing system of internal government in India, and made a powerful attack upon the constitution of the Indian Council—a body which was repeating the blunders of our old colonial policy. —We are sorry to learn from the Wiltshire papers that the disease of small-pox among sheep is not yet abated. Every precaution is taken to keep the infected sheep apart from the sound ones, but difficulty arises in knowing when the animals are infected, as there are many cases where the disease does not assume a virulent form, though it is equally contagious as in the worst cases. The veterinary surgeons employed are indefatigable in their examination of the different flocks. —A Court of Common Council has been held, when among other business the bridge at Blackfriars proposed by the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway was approved of, and a suggestion was made to appeal to the Government to induce the trustees of the British Museum to give up to the corporation that portion of the "Liber Custumorum," which was stolen from a book in the City Library a couple of centuries ago, and turned up unexpectedly the other day among the Cottonian MSS. in the British Museum. —At a public meeting, held at Rochdale—the Mayor in the chair—resolutions were passed expressing sympathy with Garibaldi, and urging her Majesty's Government to exert its influence with the French Government in favour of the liberation of Rome. Similar resolutions were adopted at a meeting held at South Shields, on Monday evening, under the presidency of Mr. Ingham, M.P. —A sentence of penal servitude for life has been passed upon William Roupell, late M.P. for Lambeth. He was brought up at the Central Criminal Court yesterday, and begged to be allowed to plead guilty to the charges of forgery preferred against him. The plea was allowed, and before judgment was passed upon him the prisoner addressed the court in a speech which must increase the regret of every one that such a man should have stooped to crime. It was the brief outline of what Roupell himself called "a mistaken life." The details were, however, wanting, and they will probably never be supplied. —A series of remarkable forgeries—resembling in some respects the frauds to which the ex-member for Lambeth has pleaded guilty—has just been brought to light. It appears that an accountant named Yeats, who was formerly a solicitor's clerk, became acquainted some years ago with the mode in which the Lambeth property of Admiral Sir John West was managed. Acting upon this knowledge, he forged deeds purporting to convey portions of the estate from Sir John West to himself, and upon these deeds he succeeded in raising money from solicitors and others, amounting, as far as has been hitherto ascertained, to upwards of £6000. Oddly enough, this daring and adroit forger was detected in his career of villainy by his having affixed to a spurious deed a date subsequent to that on which Sir John West died. —A case rather unusual in its circumstances was tried on Tuesday before the Common Serjeant. A reporter named Gray had drawn up an account of the death of Mrs. Phillips, the wife of a horse-dealer in the West-end, in such a manner as to throw on the husband the allegation of having poisoned her. It appeared that the mother of the deceased, a very excitable person, did entertain that suspicion, and openly accused her son-in-law of the crime. At an investigation subsequently held, however, the innocence of the husband and the unfounded nature of the charges against him were fully established. Subsequently, Mr. Phillips brought a charge for libel against the reporter, which was tried yesterday, and the jury found a verdict of Guilty. Mr. Gray was fined £50, and was ordered to be imprisoned until the fine was paid. —The great "Protestant demonstration" at Belfast, has given rise to an alarming state of things in that town. The town has for several days been at the mercy of lawless mobs of fanatics of both colours. A large amount of property has been destroyed, and the number of broken heads must be immense. —The anxiety caused by the late robbery of Bank of England paper will be in some measure allayed by the declaration of the Governor, at the half-yearly meeting of proprietors, that the amount of the precious material purloined has been "enormously" exaggerated. The loss incurred, he added, would be very inconsiderable. —A farmer named Humphrey, has been committed at the Boxford petty sessions, Suffolk, on the

charge of shooting at one of his neighbours with intent to murder. The evidence was circumstantial, and there was an attempt to prove an *alibi*, but it was not very satisfactory. His victim, though severely wounded, is likely to recover. —Leopold Shocke, who has been remanded two or three times on a charge of defrauding the Tees Woollen Company and others of goods, has been brought up again at Guildhall, and committed for trial. During the examination of the prisoner, much blame was thrown upon Messrs. Venables, woollen drapers, who it was said had bought goods of Shocke, and a man named Cowen, at much below their market value. At the hearing of the case, that matter was cleared up, and Messrs. Venables acquitted of all blame. —The trial of Mrs. M'Lachlan for the murder of an acquaintance of hers, a domestic servant in Glasgow, has taken place. It will be remembered that the only person in the house with the murdered woman, on the night of the crime, was an old man about 80, who said he had heard no noise on that night, and made no inquiries when the servant did not make her appearance for two or three days, in consequence of which the old man was himself apprehended, though suspicions afterwards settled upon the prisoner. Among the witnesses examined was the woman who worked for her, and who was able to tell what dresses she had and what she had not before the murder took place, and who also deposed to having taken several articles of dress and other property out of pawn for the prisoner on the days immediately following the murder. The fact of her having money at that time so surprised the witness that she jocularly asked her whom she had been robbing to procure it. The prisoner was found guilty. Not the least remarkable feature of the trial was the statement read on behalf of the prisoner, immediately before the Judge proceeded to pronounce sentence of death. The gist of this extraordinary document may be very briefly stated. M'Lachlan asserts that she went to visit the deceased Jessie M'Pherson, with whom she was acquainted, on the night of the 4th of July. The old man Fleming and M'Pherson quarrelled, and M'Lachlan was sent out to get some whisky, in order that the dispute might be settled. On her return she found the door locked, but, on her knocking, it was opened by Fleming, and she then discovered that M'Pherson had been attacked and dreadfully injured by the old man. Fleming opposed every proposal made to send for a surgeon, but at length when it became clear that M'Pherson was dying, M'Lachlan resolved to obtain medical assistance. On going to the door, however, she found it was locked, and that the key had been removed. She returned to the kitchen, and there saw Fleming butchering the dying woman with a cleaver. M'Lachlan and the old man then held a consultation, and the prisoner, alarmed for her own safety, agreed to a plan proposed by the alleged murderer, for averting suspicion from both their heads. Such is the story told by M'Lachlan—a story which the Judge, however, at once denounced as obviously false from beginning to end. It is stated that a memorial will be presented to the Home Secretary, praying that the condemned convict's life may be spared. —Crimoline sacrifices go on bravely. Two more are recorded. The landlady of a tavern in Wigmore-street, and a little girl at Hastings, have been burnt to death through their distended skirts catching fire. —An inquest has been held on the body of a boy named Henderson, who was unfortunately drowned when the scaffolding at the new Lambeth-bridge gave way, and some nine persons employed on the scaffold were precipitated into the river. They were all got out except this poor boy, and his body was only recovered the other day. The evidence showed that the death arose simply from accident, but a caution was given by the jury that scaffolds should always be tested before workmen were allowed upon them. —The body of a young woman, rather genteely dressed, was washed ashore near Barnes, on Wednesday last, and an inquest was held on Thursday evening. There were some suspicious marks on her person, as if her death had been caused by violence. Her linen was marked "E. N. Pitts," and it now appears she was a barmaid, who had been discharged for intemperance, and was also pregnant, and a letter in her pocket showed that she contemplated suicide. —A suicide has been committed in Kensington Gardens, under very distressing circumstances. Charles Pritchard, an upholsterer, who had been an intemperate man, came at last to so low a position, that he was unable to get any work. In this state he passed several days without tasting food, and at last, in a state of starvation, procured a small quantity of oxalic acid, and poisoned himself. He was found by one of the park-keepers still alive, and was removed to an hospital where he died some days afterwards. —An inquest was held on Tuesday at Christchurch on the body of

a boy named Mason, whose death it was alleged had been accelerated by the medicines of a quack. The boy had a cold, and his father went to a Mr. Johns, an herbalist, who gave him some pills and a draught, and afterwards told him that no further medical aid was necessary. The boy died, and a surgeon declared in evidence that death would not have taken place had proper medical assistance been procured. Johns described the medicine he had administered, and said it was approved by a Dr. Ross, of Manchester, whose system of medicine he followed. Mr. Ross corroborated this, and received severe censure from the coroner for identifying himself with a dealer in quack medicines. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the boy had died from want of proper medical treatment, and condemned the practice of consulting other than regular medical practitioners.——A coroner's jury has been engaged in the investigation of the circumstances under which a woman named Gardiner, residing in Northumberland-alley, Fenchurch-street, had died. She was found on the morning of the 15th of this month lying dead on the floor of her house with a knife in her hand and a wound in her throat. Medical testimony showed that she could not have inflicted the wound herself, and suspicion fell upon her husband, a chimney-sweep, and a woman who lived in the same house with him and his wife, and with whom it is alleged he had adulterous relations. Both of these parties declare that on the day of the murder they went out early, leaving the deceased quite well. The circumstantial evidence against them is, however, so strong that they have been ordered into custody.——A case of murder was tried at the Central Criminal Court. A man named Cotiere was charged with having beaten his wife to death; and witnesses were produced who heard though they did not see him strike her. On the other hand, it was proved that the woman was very drunk on the last day of her life, and that she had fallen from a cab. The jury in their verdict reduced the charge to manslaughter, of which they found the prisoner guilty, and the judge reserved his sentence.——Floretta Hemming, charged with child murder, was acquitted.——An alarming fire broke out on Wednesday night on board the *Southern Cross*, a fine vessel of 700 tons register, lying in the East India Docks, at Blackwall. The vessel had nearly all her cargo on board, and was to sail in a day or two, when a bag of lucifer matches was sent on board. The sailor stowing it in the hold let it fall out of his hands; the bag burst and the matches exploded, producing a combustion which could only be extinguished by scuttling the ship, to the serious damage, if not total destruction of the cargo.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—An Austrian journal has published a remarkable correspondence between Garibaldi and the American Consul at Vienna. In his letter, the Consul invites Garibaldi to join the Federal army, "now fighting for liberty and unity;" and in his reply, which is dated the 14th instant, Garibaldi says that he is now a prisoner and dangerously wounded, but that as soon as he shall be restored to liberty, and his wounds shall be healed, he will "take the first favourable opportunity to satisfy his desire to serve the great American republic, of which he is a citizen, and which he is now fighting for universal liberty." The latest telegrams from Turin continue to represent Garibaldi's health to be improving, though there have been exfoliations of bone from his wound. A letter from Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., assures us that all proper attentions are paid to the illustrious prisoner, who displays remarkable calmness and serenity, but adds that some months must before he can be safely removed from Fort Varignano.——It is stated that the Austro-Italian army is to be reduced,—a statement which, if correct, would seem to show that for the present at least, the government of Vienna is not apprehensive of an attack upon Venetia.——The *Diario* of Lisbon publishes an account of the military revolt at Braga, from which it appears that the insubordination was confined to the soldiers of the garrison, and that none of the officers took part in it. The revolt was soon suppressed, and its further movement prevented. The King issued a proclamation to the people, pointing out the crime of the mutineers, and warning them against being led astray by it. Two regiments had been dispatched from Lisbon to Braga, but it was believed they would not be needed.——From Turin, as well as Berlin, come reports of Ministerial modifications. The Italian Minister of Justice, Signor Conforti, disagrees, according to a Turin letter, upon a rather important point with his colleagues, and notably with Ratazzi. The dissidence had already showed itself, as it seems, during the deliberations on the question whether Garibaldi should be tried or

not—Conforti and two of his colleagues declaring against a trial. Now, a majority of the Cabinet are desirous of doing what they call purifying the magistracy, but dismissing every judge suspected of Republican or Bourbonist tendencies. To this the Minister of Justice is rigidly opposed. Magistrates, he says, are neither to be appointed nor dismissed on account of their political opinions: so he is to resign his portfolio. General Durando, it is said, will also leave the Ministry, and Ratazzi will assume the direction of Foreign Affairs.——In Berlin some Ministerial changes have been effected. Prince Hohenloe retires from the Presidency of the Cabinet, and Bismark-Schonhausen takes his place. The Finance Minister Vonder Heydt also retires. At the request of the Ministry, the meeting of the Chambers, which was to have taken place to-day, is postponed till Monday. These changes are thought to indicate no real change of policy, nor any inclination of the Court to recede from an untenable point. The organs of the Feudal military party, too, which supports the Court, are violent in their abuse of the great Liberal majority, who are really only defending a vital constitutional privilege.——The Bavarian Government has definitively declared its resolve not to adhere to the commercial treaty concluded between Prussia and France.——The Emperor of Russia, in replying to a deputation from the peasantry of Novogorod, has declared that no further concessions will be made to the emancipated serfs, and has urged a speedy and amicable settlement of the disputes between them and their landlords.——The *Moniteur* of to-day "makes known what efforts have been made by the Emperor to bring about a reconciliation between the Holy See and Italy," but as to present policy not a word is said.——The national *fête* in commemoration of the independence of Belgium commenced on Wednesday, and, according to the intimation that had been given, the King honoured them with his presence. His Majesty entered Brussels about two in the afternoon, and as he passed through the city on his way to the palace, the people, who had assembled in immense numbers, testified their joy at seeing their Sovereign in improved health among them, by an amount of enthusiasm almost indescribable. The whole of the Civic Guard was under arms, but as a testimony of his reliance on the love of his people, the King dispensed with the presence of the army. On arriving at the palace, the King received deputations from the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

AMERICA.—The only intelligence worthy of notice is a confirmation of the report that Stonewall Jackson has succeeded in entering Maryland with 50,000 Confederate troops.

CHINA.—Important and disastrous news arrives by telegraph from Suez, with news to Canton of the 14th ult. Canton and Macao have been visited by a typhoon which did immense damage, and in which it is said that 40,000 lives have been lost, but surely this must be an error; that cholera was raging at Chefoo; that a rebellion had broken out in Tonquin, under the leadership of Phoong, whoever he may be; and that the British ship *Lord of the Isles*, has been burnt at sea, the captain and crew, however, being saved.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. B.—None but actual Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters, being subscribing members of lodges, are entitled to be present at Prov. Grand Lodges. All other brethren admitted are so by courtesy only, and a brother, not being a subscriber to any lodge, can therefore be excluded. You are not obliged to furnish such a brother with a brother with a ticket for the banquet, though it would be a want of good taste, excepting for some particular reason to refuse it.

B. B.—We do not know to what you allude.

A MASTER MASON is not, as such, a member of Prov. Grand Lodge. BERS AND BUCKS.—We hear that a Prov. Grand Lodge will be forthwith held by the Grand Registrar.

P. PROV. G. STANDARD BEARER.—The Grand Standard, or Prov. G. Standard Bearers in Craft Masonry do not take the purple, the office giving no more rank, indeed, not so much as that of a Tyler. The purple you wear is therefore illegal.

P. Z.—A lodge cannot be legally opened without the warrant. As to whether a warrant is lost, if you know where it is, we shall leave you to determine yourself, as it may be in a similar position as the Irishman's kettle at the bottom of the sea.