

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1863.

GRAND CHAPTER.

The Quarterly Convocation of that sham of shams, Grand Chapter, which ought long since to have been numbered with the institutions of the past, was held on Wednesday, and like the celebrated army of a King of France, which marched up the hill and down again—did nothing. It is true Grand Chapter was opened—one or two questions talked over—and Grand Chapter was closed; being entirely barren of results. When will the Companions determine to sweep away the nuisance entirely? If Freemasonry, as the *Book of Constitutions* declares, consists of three degrees (including the Royal Arch), be one institution—a fact, by the way, which Companion Savage declares to be only theoretical; then the management should vest only in Grand Lodge, and Masonry be one and indivisible.

ANTIQUITY OF MASONIC DEGREES.

(From a Correspondent.)

In the hope that this interesting subject may yet attract the attention and the study of many, who are well qualified to throw light upon it, I venture once more to trespass upon your space. The seasonable publication in your last number of the *MAGAZINE*, of the communication of Bro. Matthew Cooke's able correspondent, together with the appearance of "Delta's" reply, may be fairly taken as proof that the matter has some little interest for the Craft at large.

It was with that view that the remarks were put together, which you were good enough to insert in the *MAGAZINE* of the week before last.

They were, in fact, the result of "Delta's" note amongst Masonic Notes and Queries, in the preceding number, and were confined to his statements which seemed to ask for some notice, on the part of those who hold a diametrically opposite theory.

"Delta," in his reply, in your last number, appears to me somewhat to forget and to wander from the real point in controversy between us.

It is, shortly stated, what is the actual antiquity of our present Craft degrees? Are they anterior to 1717? or are they a compilation made just at that time?

Is Masonry itself, in fact, the precursor of Templary, or was Templary the origin of Masonry?

If words have meaning "Delta" laid down, in his original communication, that our present Speculative Masonry was the product of the Grand Lodge of 1717; that that Grand Lodge,—rather a startling assertion,—“was founded by a few rusty Speculative Masons who had passed the degree of a Craft.” I

suppose he means FellowCraft, but where, he does not say. In fact, this Grand Lodge, he proceeds to state, was the formation of “Masons ignorant and careless against the degree of a Master.”

Having thus satisfactorily disposed of the antiquity of Craft Masonry, he goes on to examine the superior antiquity of Templar Masonry. The Templar Knights having, as he says, re-established their lodges in 1314, that they were at York in 1561, and from 1700 to 1787; and having alluded to other high degrees and ancient Masonry, and Dermott's attack on the Order, he leaves it to be inferred that from these same high and knightly degrees Masonry derived its origin.

If this be so—*cædit questio*—all our belief in the antiquity of Craft Masonry, its ritual, its traditions, its marks, its unity, is swept away for ever.

To meet this untenable theory, I ventured to submit that explanation, which I firmly believe is the true one, and which subsequent research will uncontestedly establish, viz., that our present Grand Lodge of Speculative and Accepted Masonry is but the legitimate and lineal successor of the Grand Assembly of Operative Masonry, revived after the civil wars, and with the absorption of the operative by the speculative element, through the progress of time, and the conditions of the general body.

I do not see, I confess, when I even “partially admit,” in saying this, what “Delta” is contending for. On the contrary, if I understand him, and he understands me, we differ *toto cælo*, and are, in truth, as far as the poles asunder. For observe the difference between us. “Delta” looks for the origin of Masonry in some secret speculative body, whether of knightly or of high degree; I trace the history of speculative Masonry to-day—through the operative guilds before 1700—through the operative feudalities of the middle and earlier ages—to the Roman colleges, and thence to the Tyrian and Hebrew Masons.

I might enlarge a great deal on this subject, but I spare your readers' time and patience. As regards the connection between the operative and speculative Masons in this country previous to 1700, which I asserted existed, and of which I gave a few proofs, I observe that Delta takes no notice of Dr. Plot's evidence, which, *pro tanto*, is most important as showing the antiquity before 1687, of conjoint lodges of operative and speculative Masons. Neither does “Delta” allude to the very striking evidence of that Masonic poem, written by Mr. Marsh in the latter part of the fourteenth century, and which led Mr. Halliwell, a non-Mason, to admit, that “the identity of the legend in the ancient poem with that in the modern constitutions is a decisive argument in favour of the connection between the old societies of Masons and the benefit clubs of the seventeenth century.”

Mr. Halliwell, who as a Cowan, speaks thus ignorantly of Masonry itself, in calling it a benefit club, unhesitatingly connects the revival in the 17th

century with the old operative body of 1380. Let me then commend to "Delta" a perusal of the "tercius punctus," and the "quartus punctus," and "punctus duodecimen," indeed the whole of that unique little poem, since he says "he has with great disappointment gone carefully over the constitutions without being able to find the resemblance to Masonry of the York rite, which the imagination of 'Ebor' has led him to observe." By the way, 'Ebor' said nothing of the "York rite," what Ebor did say, was, that he had found a striking resemblance in the constitutions, and which he reaffirms, between operative and speculative Masonry; and as there is nothing like proof of an assertion, I offered "Delta" one of about 1380, in the MS. poem. I proffered him one of about 1480, in the earliest prose constitution edited by Bro. Matthew Cooke, and now I give him another before 1700, when he admits "a partial resemblance became strengthened."

In a MS. constitution in the British Museum, the earliest, next to the recently printed one, and transcribed about 1680, containing the history and charges of operative Masons, to be read to all newly-admitted Masons, there is a distinct recognition of the "signs and words of a Freemason, to be kept secret, and not to be 'revealed' to any in the hearing of any but to the Master and Fellows of the said society of Freemasons." Curiously enough, the same MS. contains the amount paid by many non-operative, and others, clearly operative, to be made masons:—"e.g., 10 gave £1, 2 gave 15s., 10 gave 10s., 2 gave 8s., and 2 gave 5s. to be a Freemason."

I can only then repeat here, that the more these ancient constitutions are studied, the more these operative charges are mastered, the more will points of similarity be made manifest, as between operative and speculative Masonry.

To such an extent does it really go, that many of the very expressions of those ancient charges are repeated, "*totidem verbis*," in our ceremonies to-day.

"Delta" repeats his statement about "signs," and refers me to vol. iv. of the Magazine, p. 348. Not having that by me, I can only re-assert that no historical account of Masonry, no ancient constitution, no operative charge or regulation, profess to give, and I have seen a good many, what, as Masons, we call signs.

The very extract I gave above is conclusive on this point. As "Delta" first put it, "the constitutions and signs of the operative lodges" were preserved, and he challenged "Bro. Findel to find any close resemblance between them and present Masonry."

No doubt the constitutions are preserved, and they show a very close resemblance between operative and speculative Masonry, but as for the signs I can say nothing. I know not what "Delta" really means or where they are to be found. There is, indeed, among the Sloane MS., what professes to be a "narrative of the Freemasons' word and signs," but it would puzzle "Delta" or anyone else to make it available for his argument.

In respect of Templar traditions, I can only repeat, that Templar Masonry itself contains no such ancient dates or startling traditions as "Delta" mentions.

I do not assert this at haphazard, or presumptuously. I have studied the question carefully, under a variety of forms, and in different languages, and in more than one ritual, and I have been for some time

collecting data and evidence, and am pretty certain in what I advance. I hope the true connection of knightly orders with Masonry may yet be satisfactorily elucidated; and it deserves, as it will repay, a patient and discriminating student.

Let me conclude this very long paper by thanking you for your kind indulgence, and by answering another query of "Delta" in your last number.

The "unlawful ceremony" he mentions, as the records of the trial of the Templar Knights clearly show, are a novel form of initiation used in some preceptories, and which consisted in a professed denial of the Saviour, and even of a spitting on the cross, &c. These were clearly meant as proofs or texts; first of all, however wrongly, of courage and faith, but degenerated into wicked mockeries, that paved the way for cruel and unjust slanders of a famous Order.

Ebor.

THE HIDDEN MYSTERIES OF NATURE AND SCIENCE.—PART II.

(Continued from page 63.)

The love of nature is instinctive in all cultivated minds. It begins in youth and continues to old age; it seems to be a principle implanted in the human breast for the wisest purposes, and though it may be checked, is seldom, if ever, wholly extinguished. How often has the sight of some flower well known in innocent and youthful days, awakened better thoughts and desires of repentance and amendment in those who had grown old in ill-doing. Go into the heart of some great city and mention but "the country," and then hear the hard-working artisan or over-tasked sempstress speak of the green fields and flowers. Look at the dust-begrimed windows in narrow streets, the dwellings of the poor, and in most you see some struggling plant, which proves the love of nature which still burns in their breasts, and long may it endure and increase, since when that love is extinguished they will soon sink below the level of the brute creation, that love being a reflection, faint though it may be, of the universal love or charity implanted in the breasts of our first parents in Eden, for thus

"Reads he nature whom the lamp of truth illuminates."
(Task, book V.)

Well has the poet (Allan Cunningham) sung:—

"There is a lesson in each flower,
A story in each stream and bower;
On every herb o'er which we tread
Are written words which rightly read,
Will lead us from earth's fragrant sod,
To hope and holiness to God."

Pride, says Patterson, delights to contemplate man as lord of the earth, vested with dominion over all its animated tribes, and gifted with form and faculties so express and admirable. But when science marshals before us the tribes of earth and air; when she unveils the animated millions which lurk unseen around us, or those which abide in the ocean depths, we speedily find out that the least of these displays the perfection of creative skill, and shows the ever superintending goodness of the Great Architect of the Universe, not in a less degree than man himself.

Here then a lesson of humility is taught us, and we learn that man is not the sole recipient of his bounty, the sole object of his care, or the only living evidence of his consummate handiwork. Nor is this lesson to be deduced only from the tribes of animated beings in the present day; the relics of ages long since past declare to us in their altered but imperishable bodies, the same great truth. In whatever way, indeed, the varied objects of this beautiful world are viewed, they can be readily understood by the contemplative mind, for they are found alike to be the visible words of God." David, says Kingsley (*Vill. Sevim.*) looked on the earth as God's earth; we look upon it as man's earth or nobody's earth. We know that we are here, with trees, and grass, and beasts, and birds around us, and we know that we did not put them here; and that after we are dead and gone, they will go on just as they went on before we were born, each tree and flower and animal after its kind, but we know nothing more. The earth is here, and we are on it; but who put it there and why we are on it few ever think. But to David the earth looked very different; it had quite another meaning; it spoke to him of God, who made it. By seeing what this earth is like, he saw what God who made it is like, and we see no such thing. But David knew something more, something which made him feel that he belonged to this world, and must not forget it or neglect it, that this earth was his lesson book—this earth was his work field; and yet those same thoughts, which showed him how he was made for the land around him, and the land around him was made for him, showed him also that he belonged to another world—a spirit world; showed him that when this world passed away he should live for ever; showed him that, while he had a mortal body, he had an immortal soul too; showed him that though his home and business were here on earth, yet that, for that very reason, his home and business were in heaven with God, who made the earth; with that blessed One of whom he said, 'Thou Lord in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou shalt endure; they all shall fade as a garment, and like a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail. The children of Thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall stand fast in Thy sight. As a garment shalt thou change them.' Ay, there was David's secret. He saw that the earth and skies are God's garment—the garment by which we see God; and that is what our forefathers saw too, and just what we have forgotten; but David had not forgotten it. Loving and merciful the God of nature is the God of grace. The same love which chose us and our forefathers, while we were yet dead in trespasses and sins; that same love, that same power, that same word of God, who made heaven and earth, looks after the poor gnats in the winter time, that they may have a chance of coming out of the ground when the day stirs the little life in them, and dance in the sunbeam for a short hour of gay life, before they return to the dust from whence they were made, to feed creatures nobler and more precious than themselves. They wait on Him, says David. The beasts, and birds, and insects, and strange fish, and shells, and the nameless corals, too, in the deep, deep, sea. It is when he opens his hand they are filled with good. It is when he takes away their breath they die and turn again to their

dust, and out of that dust grow plants and herbs afresh for man and beast, and he renews the face of the earth. "For," says the wise man, "all things are God's garments"—outward and visible signs of his unseen and unapproachable glory, and when they are worn out he changes them as a garment, and they shall be changed.

"The old order changes giving place to the new,
And God fulfils himself in many ways."

But he is the same. He is there in all time. All things are his work. In all things we may see him, if our souls have eyes. All things, be they what they may, which live and grow on this earth, or happen on land, or in the sky, will tell us a tale of God, either his foresight or his wisdom, or his order, or his power, or his love, or his condescension, or his long suffering, or his slow sure vengeance on those who break his laws. It is all written in the great green book which God has given to man. The man who is no scholar in letters may read of God as he follows the plough, for the earth he ploughs is his Father's; there is God's mark and seal on it—his name, which, though it is written in the dust, yet neither man nor fiend can wipe out, for the universe is the temple of the Deity, whom we serve. "Great is our Lord and great is His power: yea, and His wisdom is infinite. Who covereth the Heaven with clouds, and prepareth rain for the earth, and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains, and herb for the use of men." (Ps. cxlvii. 5-8.) All things were created for the honour and glory of God. Nothing is too great, nothing too small, for the power and mercy of God. By him the stars were created, and he keeps them in their place, "Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Rev. iv. 11); that is for God's pleasure and man's use and instruction they now exist, and for his pleasure they first were made. But here methinks I hear a voice exclaim, "We will grant all that you, O scriptor—all that Mr. Kingsley, from whom you have so copiously quoted, allege; we will grant that every true student of Nature learns 'to look from Nature up to Nature's God;' we will grant that there is an intimate connection between natural and revealed religion; that the Almighty has given to us the volume of the Sacred Law and the Book of Nature, whereby we may rule and direct our lives. But what has all this to do with science? what is the connection between Nature and science?"

First, then, what is the meaning of art or science? "Art," derived from the Greek word, *ἀρτη*, means anything acquired by learning, science, skill, dexterity. "Science," from the Latin *scio*, to know, means knowledge not attained by precepts. The seven liberal arts are grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, music, geometry, and astronomy.

When Adam, by transgression, fell, and was expelled from Paradise, one of the first things was to provide a shelter for himself and Eve from the inclemency of the seasons. Here they took a lesson from the birds and beasts, which made themselves nests and lairs in the woods, and caves in the rocks. The first habitations, then, of men were such as Nature afforded, with but little labour on the part of the occupant, yet sufficient to supply his simple requirements.

R. B. W.

(To be continued.)

THE POEMS AND SONGS OF THE LATE BRO.
FRANCIS LOVE, OF LODGE No. 169. (S.C.)

(From our Scottish Correspondent.)

We have within the last few days received a written circular announcing that the publication of Bro. Love's poetical effusions will be forthwith proceeded with, provided as many copies be subscribed for as will, besides liquidating the expenses connected with the issuing of the volume, contribute something towards the support of his aged widow, who is at present in rather depressed circumstances. This announcement, then, while answering all the purposes of a prospectus, strikes a deep-toned chord in the breast of every Master Mason. It is, as it were, the G.H.S.O.D., coming from the grave of one whose heart, while journeying here below, ever beat responsive to the call of Masonic benevolence, and whose long and consistent career on the Mosaic pavement of the Lodge Stevenston Thistle and Rose has been marked by the erection of such a tangible memorial of the gratitude of his brethren in the bonds of the Craft, as may well make the son proud of his descent from such a sire. But what the brethren have already done out of respect to the memory of Bro. F. Love, instead of justifying their neglect of his widow, ought rather to stimulate their zeal in the illustration of that grand principle of the Order which, when in active operation, sends the smoke of its incense to heaven, and assimilates Freemasonry with pure and undefiled religion. Relief, as one of the three principal tenets of Masonry, is inculcated in our lectures, and impressed by our ceremonial; and the measure in which it ought to be bestowed should, we are taught, bear some proportion to the necessity of the applicant and the ability of the giver. Let, then, those to whom the appeal on behalf of old Mrs. Love is made give such heed to her "depressed circumstances," as that the neutral world, seeing our good works, may be led to consider Freemasonry to be what it professes—one of the most benevolent institutions on earth. In the words of an eminent teacher of the Craft, "While Truth may be said to be the column of wisdom, and enlighten the inmost recesses of the lodge, brotherly love; the column of strength, which binds us as one family in the indissoluble bond of fraternal affection; relief is the column of beauty, whose ornaments, more precious than the lilies and the pomegranates that adorned the pillars of the porch, are the widow's tear of joy and the orphan's prayer of gratitude." We have had considerable pleasure in noticing from time to time, through these pages, the various festive gatherings of the Craft in the western provinces of Scotland, and now hope to be afforded the opportunity of adding, in the case of Mrs. Love's appeal, another to the already numerous instances crowding the annals of Masonry, in which Masonic relief was afforded, where the sole claim to sympathy or assistance was the possession of the name of a worthy brother.

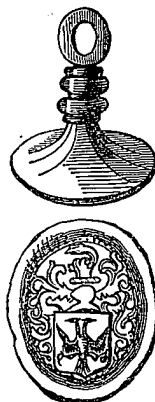
"The widow's tear, the orphan's cry,
All wants our ready hands supply,
As far as power is given :
The naked clothe, the captive free,
These are thy works, sweet CHARITY."

The volume of her late husband's poems and songs, in which Mrs. Love is to have a pecuniary interest, is proposed to be published at the very moderate price of one shilling per copy. We shall be happy to receive the names of subscribers, and meantime beg to suggest to those who are taking an active part in the production of the volume the propriety of making arrangements for such a revision of the MS. before being put into the hands of the printer, as will secure the correct rendering of the technicalities of the Craft, with which the Masonic pieces of our deceased brother may be supposed to abound.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

MILTON'S SEAL.

The question has been put, but still remains unanswered, "was Milton a Freemason?" Pending some decision on this point let me call attention to a very curious seal which once belonged to him, and of which the following account is given.



It is a matter of surprise to find on it so prominently depicted a double-headed eagle, but the inference that he belonged to the high grades, on account of using such a device, cannot be sustained, as the "Ne Plus Ultra" degree was not taken under Frederick the Great till a century or more after the poet's death. Still it opens up another question:—Is this bird the exclusive bearing of Prussia, or did the early members of the ancient Scottish rite use it, before Frederick re-arranged the series? Bro. Hyde Clarke, who, I believe, claims Milton as one of his ancestors, by the maternal side, will perhaps kindly give us

his opinion on this matter, and if any high grade Mason would tell us when the old "Ne Plus Ultra," or 30°, first adopted the "split crow," as it is irreverently termed, it would oblige—Ex. Ex.

"It is surprising how very few relics of our great men have survived the destroying and obliterating influence of time. As regards Shakspeare, with the exception of the house in which he was born and two or three signatures in his handwriting, we have nothing left which is personally associated with our great poet, except his works, which are indeed destined to exist for all time while, as to Milton, most of the tangible memorials of his life have long since passed away. Of the various London houses in which he resided only one is now in existence—namely, the ancient tenement in Petty France, Westminster, where he lived when he filled the post of Foreign Secretary to Oliver Cromwell. In common, too, with Shakspeare and most of our other great men; Milton was the last of his family in the male line, his only surviving descendants, through his youngest daughter, Deborah, being a family of the name of Clarke, living, in humble circumstances, somewhere at the east end of London.

"Most relics have only a doubtful pedigree to fall back upon; but that the signet-ring which we have engraved, really belonged to the poet Milton, we have something like conclusive evidence. It is at present the property of Mr. Disney, who, it seems, inherited it from his father. The late Mr. Disney obtained it, in 1804, from the collection of Mr. Thomas Brand Hollis, who also inherited it from his father, Mr. Thomas Hollis, in 1774. This latter gentleman purchased the ring in question, in the year 1761, from Mr. John Payne, who obtained possession of it on the death of Thomas Forster, who, it will be remembered, married Elizabeth Clarke, Milton's granddaughter, and daughter of his youngest daughter, Deborah, whose husband was one Abraham Clarke, a weaver of Spitalfields.

"The impress on the seal is a coat-of-arms, a double-headed eagle displayed, the shield surmounted by a helm and crest, which appears to be a lion's gaub grasping the neck and head of an eagle, the neck erased. In connection with this relic, and in proof of its authenticity, it may be observed that the armorial bearing is certainly the same as that adopted by Milton, whose father, as everybody knows, was a scrivener in Bread-street, in the parish of Allhallows, at the sign of the Spread Eagle. It was in this house that the poet was born, on the 9th of December, 1608; and the registry of his baptism is still preserved in the adjoining church of Allhallows. Bread-street, one of the most ancient of city streets, was so called, according to Stowe, from bakers selling bread there; for, in the old times, bread was not allowed to be sold in the shops, but only in the public market. The whole of Bread-street was destroyed by the great fire of London; but it is more probable that the house in which Milton was born was destroyed by a terrible fire which broke out in this street some time previous to that event. The

first turning down Bread-Street from Cheapside used to be called Black Spread Eagle-court, in all probability from the Milton ensign.

"Mr. Hunter has pointed out that the charge in question is borne, with certain differences, by families of the name of Milton settled in Shropshire, Staffordshire, &c. Burke, too, in his "General Armoury," gives this coat and crest as belonging to the Oxfordshire family of Milton or Mylton, as the name is indifferently spelt; and it is reported that a grant by Segar is in existence, giving to the poet and his family an assignment of these arms."—*Illustrated Times*, Jan. 31st, 1863.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

ANTIQUITY OF MASONIC DEGREES.

"Great is truth, and mighty above all things."

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In my rough letters and memoranda I have endeavoured to show what must, indeed, be evident to any impartial reader, that Speculative Masonic ceremonies, though equivalent to, were yet distinct, separate and entirely different from those of the Operative Freemasons; and that the Mark Masters are the legitimate representatives of the latter.

As bearing very considerably on this discussion, could you find space for the following extract, which I find I had copied into an old pocket book, from the *Daily News*, of August, 1856.

"The Mahomedan sect of Beklashi Dervishes, recognise each other by exactly the same signs and practice the rites of the European Freemasons. They are the most enlightened and civilised of all the Mahomedan sects, some of the most influential men in Turkey belong to it; it is not, however, recognised by the Turkish Government, and its property has been confiscated. There are about nine lodges, and the present Grand Master of the Order is named Tzani Ismael Yochoch Mohomad Salde, he resides at Belgrade, and has just set out to the Sultan, to obtain the recognition of the sect, under the recent charter, which sanctions all religious sects, and, if successful, he will apply for the restitution of the confiscated property. It may be stated, that they eschew polygamy, and only recognise one wife, whom they permit to appear at the lodge banquets unveiled. At these banquets wine is drunk, toasts are proposed, and the Masons are acquainted with the 'Kentish fire,' though under another and more barbarous appellation. In addition to a brown shawl, or handkerchief, worked with certain Masonic Symbols, and worn round the neck, the Turkish Freemasons wear, in open lodge, also round their neck, as insignia of the order, a flat white marble polished slab of twelve sides, and two inches in diameter; on these are a number of reddish brown spots, to represent blood, and indicate that the founder of the order in Turkey, Ali Effendi, suffered martyrdom, rather than reveal the secrets of the fraternity. The Convent of Serkedgi Tecker is the largest establishment belonging to the Order in Constantinople. In Persia, also, Freemasonry is widely distributed the brethren being estimated at 50,000. In Arabia there are about 20,000 Freemasons."

I had added to the foregoing at the time by way of note, "This sect appears to be a mendicant order, and was founded A.D. 1357, year of Hegira 759, by Haji Bektash Khorasani, who died at Kir-sheba."

As another remarkable fact, in connection with the foregoing account, it may be stated that the military order of Janizaries, were founded by the Grand Master of this fraternity; and a few short remarks respecting their resemblance to the Templars will be found at page 47 of your last volume, the writer having forgot this account at the time they were made. Mahomedan writers say that Bektash, when dying, cut off one of the

sleeves of his gown, and put it upon the head of a brother, so that one of the ends hung down upon his shoulder. While performing this act he said, "Ye shall be henceforth Janizaries, or a new soldiery."

There can be very little doubt that the Ishmaelites, Assassins, Druses, Ainsareeh, Bektashites, &c., are derived from the house of wisdom, alluded to in my previous letters, and which we are specially informed by Arabian historians, was founded by a magician, or Masonic Jew, who, there is no doubt, derived his knowledge from the Essenian association of his own country, and hence the resemblance to our own mysteries.

As tending to shew the antiquity of some customs of our Templar reception, as distinct from strictly Masonic degrees; which, with the ancient York Masons, extended to H.R.D.M. (now so much altered in our own conclaves that none but a Rose ✕ can understand our symbols,) and were given to every brother previous to his reception as a knight of the Temple,* as proved by general testimony, the working of our old northern encampments, and the ladder of seven steps of the rite, as formerly used on our tracing boards were:—

O	S	S.E.	M	E	H	S.A.	G.B.T.
Age 3	5	7	9	27	54	81	

Permit me to cite a portion of a long account in *Hone's Ancient Mysteries*, 1828, of "The brethren of the Holy Trinity without Aldersgate."

The charge of worshipping the head of Janus, here mentioned, was brought against the Templars.

"This fraternity of the Holy Trinity was founded in the 48th year of Edward III, 1373, in honour of the body of Christ, and to maintain thirteen wax lights, burning about the sepulchre in time of Easter in the said church, and to find a Chaplain. Their chief day of solemnity was on Trinity-day, to hear mass in honour of the body of Christ, and to make their offerings.

"So far this is Stow's account, to which may be added that in Catholic worship thirteen candles are an allegory of Christ and the twelve apostles; and that in one of its ceremonies the twelve candles denoting the twelve apostles are extinguished at intervals, during successive parts of the service, until one only is left, which represents Christ deserted by the disciples, and in the end that one is put out to signify his death."

Here follows a copy of the statutes, &c., of the guild, concluding with the following, and a triangular cut of "a Trinity argent on a field azure," as figured in Mr. Taylor's *Index Monasticus*, 1821.

"No portion of Scripture was ever possessed by this fraternity. To be sure there was their 'rolle of velom with the pageante of the Holy Trinity paynted and lemenyed with gold,' and the annual charge for making the branch and lighting it up; but whatever 'Holy Trinity' was lemenyed on this pageant, it is impossible to suppose that such a display should suggest an idea of him who is a spirit. There is however a figure, which may have been that upon their pageant. It frequently occurs. 'They in their churches and masse book doe paint the Trinitie with three faces: for our mother the holie church did learn that at Rome, where they were wont to paint or carve Janus with two faces. And then further there is written in John that there are three in heaven which beare witnesse, the Father, the Worde, and the Holie Ghost, and these three are one, &c.; then of necessitie they must be painted with three heads, or three faces upon one necke,'—*Beehive of the Romish Church*, London, 1579; 8vo. p. 191.

I remain, fraternally yours,—△

* I cannot resist this opportunity of expressing my dissatisfaction that such an arrangement was ever disturbed, and hope soon again to see it restored as M.M., R.A. (E. and W.) R.C., and K.T. The 30° under S.C. I consider to be the ancient Templar council, and might be considered as G.C. and a step to the 33° or General Council of Rites. Our prelates should be installed with the ceremony of P.O.M. which has been much altered as 3rd Arch degree.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

We understand that arrangements are making at Swansen, for celebrating the marriage of the Prince of Wales, by laying the foundation-stone of the new public hall, it being intended to place the ceremony in the hands of the Freemasons of the Borough. The ceremony of laying the stone would naturally devolve upon the Provincial Grand Master, Col. Kemys Tynte, who is to be invited to undertake the duty. A dinner and ball are to follow.

METROPOLITAN.

UNITED MARINERS' LODGE (No. 33).—This flourishing lodge held its monthly meeting on the 21st ult., at Bro. Harris's, the Three Tuns Tavern, Southwark, Bro. W. J. Harris, W.M. in the chair, assisted by his Wardens, Bros. T. Pickering and G. Dyer. The lodge being opened in due form, the minutes of the former lodge were read and confirmed. The lodges in the second and third degrees being opened, a board of Installed Masters was formed, consisting of the following brethren, viz., Bros. Richard Barnes, P.M. 15, H. E. Barnes, P.M. 15, Alex. Ridgway, P.M. 33, Thos. Johns, P.M. 33, R. Taylor, P.M. 33, R. L. Harris, P.M. 33, A. Day, P.M. 78, H. J. Thompson, P.M. 78, Charles Swan, P.M. 237, W. S. Wallan, W.M. 97. The said board then installed Bro. Thos. Pickering as W.M. of the United Mariners' Lodge (No. 33), for the present year. The W.M. appointed and invested the following brethren to the offices annexed to their names, viz., Bros. G. Dyer, S.W.; H. M. Rowe, J.W.; A. F. Ablitt, S.D.; Mark Marsden, J.D.; D. Wiseman, I.G.; W. Barrett, Dir. of Cers.; H. T. Lowe, Steward; Jesse Turner, P.M., Treas.; R. E. Barnes, Hon. Sec.; Longstaff, Tyler. The lodge was then resumed in the first degree. Bro. Pickering, W.M., then informed the brethren that subsequent to their last meeting he had received the following name for initiation in this lodge, due notice of which had been given in the summonses conveying the meeting, viz., Mr. Frederick Hamilton Simpson. The ballot was taken and declared unanimous in favour of his admission; when being in attendance, he was regularly introduced and initiated into the Order. It was unanimously resolved "That the thanks of the lodge be given to the respected Bro. W. J. Harris, P.M., to mark their appreciation of his Masonic character, his impartiality of conduct during the time he presided over them, the excellent manner in which he performed the office of Master, and the zeal evinced for the welfare of the lodge; that the same be recorded on the minutes, and a copy thereof presented to him at the ensuing lodge meeting. All business being concluded, the lodge was closed in ancient form, and the brethren, about forty in number, adjourned to the banquet. Prior to the removal of the cloth, the W.M. called on the brethren to unite with him in the true spirit of brotherly love, by drinking to the health of their highly-esteemed and greatly-respected Bro. Richard Barnes, P.M., and late Treasurer, whose presence among them was hailed with delight. The brethren simultaneously saluted Bro. Barnes in a bumper of champagne, with a hearty and truly fraternal welcome. The usual loyal toasts being given and responded to, Bro. W. J. Harris, P.M., proposed the health of their newly-installed Master, Bro. Thos. Pickering. He was happy to congratulate the lodge in the selection they had made in having so able a Master to preside over them. Ample proof had been given of his efficiency in his Masonic duties by the masterly manner in which the ceremony of initiation had been performed by him on that occasion. It was evident their brother would prove a star in the order of no ordinary magnitude. —Bro. PICKERING assured the brethren that he was at a loss to find words to express his gratitude for the high and exalted position he occupied as Master of the lodge. It was, indeed, a responsible task in the faithful discharge of its duties, and his utmost energies would be used in furtherance of the interest of the Craft, but more especially of No. 33. He sincerely trusted the lodge would prosper under his auspices. He doubted not, from his appointment of officers, that the working of the lodge

would be of such a character as fully to maintain the proud position for which the United Mariners have been so long characterised. He reminded them that the Boys' Institution dated its origin from this lodge; and as they purposed sending a Steward to the forthcoming Festival in aid of the funds of that most excellent charity, he trusted the brethren would unite in giving their hearty co-operation in so laudable an object. The W.M. then proposed the P.M.'s of the lodge.—Bro. ALEXANDER RIDGWAY, P.M., in reply, thanked the brethren sincerely for the compliment they had passed on himself and brother P.M.'s. The hearty and truly fraternal reception given him on the present occasion afforded him the highest gratification. He was happy to see so many P.M.'s present, being an evidence, as the pillars of the lodge, they were at all times ready and attentive to their duties to render the Master any assistance he might require at their hands. He trusted, in conjunction with his brother P.M.'s and the brethren generally, they would exert themselves in behalf of that institution, viz., the Boys' School, to which the Master had so nobly alluded.—The W.M. then proposed the visiting brethren, viz., Bros. Mills, No. 78; C. Abbisson, Cosmopolitan; D. Smith, Temple Lodge; G. A. Cooper, No. 1164; A. Weissensberge, No. 165; C. Swan, P.M. 237, 830, 1171, 1025; R. Whitaker, No. 252; F. Binckes, No. 10; W. S. Wallace, W.M. 97; A. Day, P.M. 78, 118, and 1163; H. J. Thompson, No. 78, thanking them for the honour of their visit.—Bro. F. BINCKES, on behalf of his brother visitors, begged to assure the brethren of their grateful acknowledgements for the truly Masonic welcome with which they had been greeted, and was delighted to witness the progress the lodge was making in number and respectability; as an advocate of the Boys' School he sincerely hoped the brethren would rally round their W.M., and give him such support as would do honour to the Craft, but more especially to this lodge. Bro. Binckes then gave a detailed account of the rise and progress of the Masonic Charities, and concluded by wishing prosperity to the United Mariners' Lodge.—The next toast was "The Newly Initiate, Bro. Simpson." The Master observed, as a personal friend, he was happy to greet him as a Mason. He trusted the ceremony through which he had passed this evening was but a foretaste of the beauties of the Order.—Bro. SIMPSON expressed his delight at being admitted a member of this ancient and honourable society. He greatly admired the ceremony he had witnessed and hoped he should prove himself a good and useful brother among them, but especially in the cause of Charity.—The W.M. then proposed the newly-installed Treasurer, Bro. Jesse Turner, and Bro. Barnes, Hon. Sec.—Bro. TURNER thanked the lodge for the honour conferred on him in the appointment of Treasurer. He felt at all times proud to rank among the P.M.s. of No. 33, but never more so than on the present occasion. He would use his utmost endeavours to enhance the funds, and trusted by a faithful discharge of the duties to merit the good esteem of the brethren, as his predecessor, Bro. Richard Barnes, had done, and in conjunction with the Hon. Secretary, Bro. R. E. Barnes, tended their united feelings of gratitude for the sincere wishes evinced to them. The officers of the lodge was the next toast proposed, which was duly received and responded to. The harmony of the evening was greatly enhanced by the excellent vocal powers of Bros. Cooper, and Scurd, and the brethren parted early, having spent the evening in the true spirit of Masonry.

PHOENIX LODGE (No. 202).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday last, under the presidency of Bro. Watson, P.M., in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., when Bros. Lowe and Dennison were passed to the second degree, and Bros. Coppock, Paterson, Stanton, Kenyon, and Gardner were raised to the third degree. The whole of the junior officers and a large number of the brethren being present. The lodge was closed at an early hour.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 1173).—This select lodge held its usual meeting on Wednesday, January 28th, at the Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford (Bro. Steven's). The lodge was opened by Bro. Dr. Scott, assisted by Bros. Wilton, Stahr, Stevens, Walters, Weir, Pembroke, and Mills. Bros. J. S. Blomeley and A. R. Parkinson, were introduced separately and raised to the sublime degree of M.M.s. Bros. Wright and Hicks, of Neptune Lodge (No. 22), E.A., and Firmin, were also introduced separately and passed to the degree of F.C. Bro. F. Walters, Sec. and W.M. of Mount Lebanon Lodge (No. 87), then took the chair for a short time and initiated Mr. William Jeffery, into the mysteries and secrets of ancient Freemasonry, in a manner which augurs well for the prosperity of his mother

lodge. Bro. Dr. Scott resumed the chair and initiated Mr. Charles Albert Besley into ancient Freemasonry. This being the election night for officers, Bro. George Wilton, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M., by ballot, for the ensuing year. Bro. J. Stevens, sen., was unanimously re-elected Treas. Bro. S. Garrett, P.M. 173, was unanimously elected Tyler. The W.M., Dr. Scott, went through every ceremony in his now well-known first-rate style. The brethren then sat down to an excellent supper, and spent a few hours in enjoyment. Visitors, Farran, P.M. 22, Wright, 22, Hicks, 22, Cavell, P.M. 172, Robinson, P.M. and Sec. 164.

INSTRUCTION.

PERCY LODGE (No. 234).—The members of this flourishing lodge of Instruction held their usual weekly meeting at Bro. Ireland's, Masonic Hall, Fetter Lane, on Saturday, January 31st, at 7 o'clock, when in accordance with the bye-laws the ceremonies of consecration and installation were gone through. The brethren ren had previously appointed Bro. S. B. Wilson, P.J.G.D. to perform these very interesting and beautiful ceremonies, which he did in his most impressive manner, Bro. Bradley assisting as Chaplain. There was a very numerous attendance of the brethren to support Bro. Wilson, from the north, east, south, and west, amongst whom were several brethren from the new lodge established at Bow, (the Doric), who assisted very materially in the musical arrangements. After the completion of the consecration, Bro. Bradley was duly installed in the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom, and appointed and invested his officers with appropriate address, the Tyler, much to the pleasure and satisfaction of the brethren, going through the sword exercise in good style. The officers appointed being, Bros. H. Wilson (W.M. 206), S.W.; J. Foulger, J.W.; Smith, S.D.; Simpson, J.D.; Thomas, I.G.; J. Bradley, Tyler. The lodge was closed down, when it was moved, seconded, and carried by acclamation that a vote of thanks should be placed on the minutes in commemoration of the able and eloquent manner in which Bro. S. B. Wilson had gone through the duties of the evening. Bro. Wilson briefly returned thanks, stating he had been a member of the lodge about 30 years, and always had its interests at heart, and was only too happy in having been of assistance on the present occasion, expressing a hope that the brethren would continue to rally round the lodge and restore it in all its pristine splendour, observing that he felt much indebted to their indefatigable Secretary, Bro. Bradley, for the manner in which he had performed the Chaplain's duties, being called on, as he was, without notice or preparation. Bro. H. Wilson was elected as W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. The brethren then separated, much delighted at their evening's attendance, expressing a determination to support the lodge, and hoped to spend more evenings with the same satisfaction.

PROVINCIAL.

CHANNEL ISLES.

JERSEY.—*Lodge La Césarée* (No. 860).—On Thursday, 29th January, the ordinary monthly meeting was held, which, as the members had been summoned on other occasions for initiations and conferring degrees, it had been previously determined should be devoted chiefly to the completion of the bye-laws. The members, as usual, assembled in great force. The lodge was opened in the first degree at six o'clock, by the W.M., Bro. John Durrell, assisted by his two Wardens, Bros. Philip Le Sueur and Clement Le Sueur. The minutes of the last regular meeting, and of one of emergency, were read and confirmed. The report of a Committee on the Memorial Monument in the Cemetery were read, which resulted in a determination to pay the balance of the account to the contractor. The Committee was charged to make arrangements for railings to enclose the monument and the ground belonging to the lodge, which comprises four graves. The W.M. explained that, owing to some informality in the terms of notice to the brethren, which were not in conformity with the book of Constitutions, the consideration of the admission of a joining member, and the initiation of a candidate, previously proposed and balloted for, must be deferred. The names of four gentlemen were given in as candidates for initiation, and of two brethren as joining members, all of which were duly proposed and seconded. The W.M. called the attention of the lodge to

the new banner, which had been prepared under his direction; he trusted that the manner in which it had been executed would receive general approbation; he presented the accounts for the same, which were ordered to be paid. The W.M. also reported that the set of eight drawings of the Masonic Temple, presented by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, had been framed, and were in the room for the inspection of the brethren; he reminded them that this was only one of many important services rendered by the donor, which had contributed much to enhance the character and position of the *Césarée* Lodge; he especially adverted to the articles and reports of proceedings sent to *THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE*, by which the lodge had become favourably known throughout England; he mentioned that in the last number woodcuts from the drawings had been inserted, and urged the brethren to provide themselves with copies; he concluded by making a proposition to mark the sense entertained by the lodge of the services of the Brother alluded to, which having been duly seconded, Bro. Dr. Hopkins rose, and while most cordially thanking the W.M. for the honour and kindness intended, explained the reasons why it would be impossible for him to accept it. These had the effect of causing the proposition to be withdrawn. Bro. J. T. Du Jardin moved that a Committee, consisting of the W.M. and the Past Masters, be appointed to determine on the best means of showing the appreciation by the lodge of the exertions of Bro. Dr. Hopkins, and the esteem in which he is held. This was duly seconded and carried. The consideration of the bye-laws was now continued, in the course of which several animated discussions took place; at ten o'clock the matter being still incomplete, it was thought advisable to defer the remainder till a subsequent occasion. A subject of interest only to the members of the lodge was afterwards introduced, which occupied half-an-hour. The lodge was closed in perfect harmony at half-past ten, but owing to the lateness of the hour, only a few of the brethren remained to partake of refreshment.

Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 722).—The members of the Royal Sussex Lodge held their anniversary dinner on Wednesday Jan. 28th, at Mrs. Chase's, Royal Yacht Club Hotel. A sumptuous repast was provided by the worthy hostess, on whose *cuisine* the viands and wines reflected credit. The arrangements of the Stewards, Bros. Peagam, Jewell, and Adams, were admirable. Bro. McGallichan, W.M., presided. The first toast drunk was "The Queen and the Craft"—the first verse of the National Anthem being sung by Bro. Johnston, the second by Bro. Peagam, and the third by Bro. Adams. The following toasts then followed consecutively:—"The Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland, and the Grand Lodges of England;" "The Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland;" "The Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Jersey, Guernsey, and Dependencies;" "Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Crosse, and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Jersey;" "The Worshipful Master of the Royal Sussex Lodge;" "The Past Masters of the Royal Sussex Lodge;" "Senior Warden, Bro. Capt. Lamb, and the Officers of the Royal Sussex Lodge;" "The Worshipful Masters of the other Lodges of the Province;" "Success to the Jersey Masonic Temple;" "The Press;" "The Visitors;" "The health of Bro. Sir Percy Douglas, Bart.," by Brother Sterling, who mentioned the great interest which his Excellency took in Freemasonry, and his noble exposition of the views of the Order on the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone of the Jersey Masonic Temple, (the toast being drunk with acclamation), and "The Army and Navy," which was responded to by Bros. Captain Lamb and Captain Grigg. The above toasts were interspersed with songs, and a most pleasant evening was spent, the Brethren separating about 10 o'clock. Bro. C. Johnson presided at the pianoforte.

CUMBERLAND.

CARLISLE.—*Union Lodge* (No. 389).—On December 30th the brethren assembled, as summoned, at high twelve for business. P.M. Bro. Hayward having taken the chair, the lodge was opened in the usual manner. The minutes of the three meetings during the past month were read by the Secretary and unanimously approved. Mr. Joseph Gordon being announced in attendance, was balloted for, approved of, and initiated into the mysteries of an Entered Apprentice Freemason. Bro. Mulcastro expressing a desire to be raised to the degree of M.M., was examined as a F.C., and, being found proficient, was afterwards raised to the sublime degree of M.M. Bros. Binning and G. H. Saul were then announced and passed to the second degree. The brethren then retired, when a Board of

Installed Masters was formed under the direction of Bro. Banister, of Liverpool, when the W.M. elect was placed in the chair of K.S., and saluted as such in the various degrees, according to the usual custom. The following were appointed officers and invested, Bro. Banister delivering to each the accustomed exhortation respecting the duties:—Bros. Howe, S.W.; Murray, J.W.; Milbourne, S.D.; Hodgson, J.D.; Lowthian, I.G.; Hayward, Treas.; Fisher, Sec.; Harris, Assist. Sec. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, supplied by Bro. McGowan, Coffee House Hotel, which was of the most excellent description, and called forth the warmest encomiums of the brethren, about 40 of whom were present. On the removal of the cloth, the chair was taken by the newly-appointed W.M., Bro. Blacklock, Alderman of this city, supported by Bros. Dr. Greaves, D. Prov. G.M.; Iredale, P.D. Prov. G.M.; C. J. Banister P.M., Prov. G. Purst. of Northumberland, &c.; F. W. Hayward, P.M., P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Hallifax, Prov. G. Standard Bearer; Captain R. S. Dixon, Knells; Captain Farrer, No. 21, Madras Infantry; Captain James, R.E.; Lieut. Saul, No. 87, Royal Irish Fusiliers; Lieut. Fawcett, 1st Royals; J. B. Farrer; J. Hove, J.P., S.W.; N. B. Gregory, No. 405 Norwich, N.Y. After the usual Masonic and loyal toasts had been duly honoured, Bro. BANISTER rose, and, in proposing the health of the W.M., expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing such a large and influential meeting of the Craft assembled to do honour to the worthy chairman, and he had no doubt but under his guidance No. 389 would continue to prosper, and be very shortly enabled to erect a Masonic Temple, suitable to the necessities of the lodge and brethren of this ancient city. As he was now a member of the lodge, he took a deep interest in all its proceedings. The toast was drunk with all the honours.—The W.M. thanked the brethren for the high honour they had conferred upon him. He should have shrank from the responsibilities and duties of the office had he not been assured by their excellent P.M. Hayward that he would give him all needful assistance. Trusting in so sure a guide, and relying on the G.A.O.T.U., he hoped his year of office would be as prosperous as his predecessor's. The W.M. proposed "The Health of the immediate P.M., Bro. Wilson," who he regretted was unable to attend on account of indisposition. He would couple the toast with the name of P.M. Hayward, by whose indefatigable energy and zeal the lodge had been brought from a state of inaction to the present prosperous and flourishing condition. Drank with all honours.—Bro. F. W. HAYWARD replied, saying the W.M. had placed him in an awkward position, that of replying for Bro. Wilson, who, had he been present, would have addressed them in more adequate terms than he could command. For himself, he had so repeatedly returned thanks of late that he could only once more assure them that he would be ever ready to give his services to No. 389 in whatever capacity the brethren might deem him most useful. It had been said that he found the lodge four years ago at a very low ebb, with only about four subscribing members, but to them their thanks were due for having preserved the charter; and, by steadily seeking after knowledge, by getting instruction wherever it could be obtained, he was now proud to say they numbered nearly 70 upon their books, and he hoped they would soon become second to none in the province.—Bro. Captain DIXON then rose and proposed "The Health of Bro. Banister." For himself, he was always delighted to see him, and all the brethren of No. 389 were the same. The impressive manner in which he had conducted the ceremonial of that day must have given the greatest satisfaction to all present, and the thanks of this lodge were due to him for his great kindness in attending the meetings and imparting valuable instruction, frequently travelling great distances and at great personal inconvenience to himself. Drank enthusiastically.—Bro. BANISTER, in returning thanks, made a powerful appeal on behalf of the Masonic Charities, calling upon all present to become subscribers, if not already so, at once and immediately.—The W.M. proposed "The Health of Dr. Greaves, D. Prov. G.M.," which was duly honoured.—Dr. GREAVES briefly replied. It gave him great pleasure that No. 389 was in such a flourishing condition, after being considered almost dormant.—Bro. BANISTER proposed "The Visiting Brethren," which was responded to by Bros. Hallifax, Smale, Arnison, Captain James, Lieut. Fawcett, and Gregory.—The Tyler's toast was shortly afterwards given, and the brethren separated in love and harmony, after spending a delightful evening.—Jan. 7th.—The business of last lodge having been adjourned for want of time, this evening was taken for receiving the fees, &c., left over. It was also a meeting summoned as an emergency

to pass Bros. Bennett, James, and Saul. The W.M. was in the chair, and opened the lodge in the usual manner. The three gentlemen being present, were examined as Entered Apprentices, and afterwards passed to the degree of Fellow Craft by P.M. Hayward.—January 13th.—After the lodge had been opened by the W.M., the charge of an Entered Apprentice was delivered to Bro. Gordon, that part of the ceremony having been omitted for want of time at his initiation, the rest of the evening being spent in instructing the newly-installed officers in the routine of their respective posts. Mr. John Slack, jun., of Bank-street, was proposed as a candidate for initiation into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. Jan. 27.—In absence of the W.M., Bro. Hayward, P.M., took the chair, and opened the lodge in the first degree. The minutes of three former meetings having been read by the Secretary were unanimously approved and signed. Two brethren of due date were examined as F.C., and being found satisfactory, were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge being duly closed to the first degree, S. D. Wheatley, Esq., M.D., being announced as a candidate for the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry, was balloted for, and found to be unanimously chosen. He was therefore prepared, and duly initiated into the mysteries of an E.A. Freemason. Bro. J. A. Wheatley was handed his certificate from Grand Lodge, and signed the same as M.M. After the brethren had paid their monthly subscriptions, the Secretary read the following from Bro. Captain Farrer:—"George Hotel, Liverpool.—My dear Bro. Fisher,—To our Worshipful Master, Blacklock, to and for our P.M. Hayward, to yourself, and all our brethren of No. 389: please accept and present my very kind regards and remembrance, sent hereby, on the very eve of my departure for Australia. Bro. Captain Dixon came up to Liverpool to see me off; and very sad it was to part with so good and old a friend whom I have known for 20 years. He could not remain, as the *Great Britain* has been wind and tide bound. I believe she really sails to-morrow morning, and that I shall have to be on board this evening. I shall try, if possible, to call upon and see our good Bro. Banister to day. Mention me particularly to Bro. Hayward, he took great pains with me and I feel truly obliged to him. To one and all of 389, farewell. Very sincerely yours, Rowland Farrer." A letter was also read from Bro. Banister stating, that on account of his other Masonic engagements, in another part of the country, he could not be present. Letters were also read from Bros. J. B. Farrer and Lieut. Saul, with best wishes to their mother lodge. A vote of thanks was unanimously recorded to Bro. Carrick, of Brampton, for his kindness in allowing this lodge the use (on loan) of the *Jewels of St. Michaels Lodge*, now defunct. Bro. James Holloway, tragedian of London, and Bro. Parkyn, R.E., were proposed as joining members of this lodge. Instructions were then given to the Secretary to make due inquiry of their former lodges. No other business coming before the lodge it was duly closed, and the brethren adjourned to the refreshment room, when "The Health of the Initiate, Bro. Wheatley," was proposed, who, in replying, stated he was so favourably impressed with what he had heard and seen that evening, his only regret was that he had not joined the fraternity long ago.

DURHAM.

SUNDERLAND.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 95).—On Wednesday, January 7th, 1863, the brethren of this lodge met at the Queen's Hotel, Fawcett-street, to celebrate their annual festival. Upwards of sixty sat down to a most excellent repast, served up in a style that reflected great credit on the worthy host, Bro. George Shiel, who superintended in person the whole of the arrangements. Bro. John Graham, W.M., occupied the chair, supported, right and left, by an array of P.M.'s.—Bros. M. Douglass, P.M.; A. Hislop, P.M.; T. Elwen, P.M.; and D. Clark, P.M. There was cause to regret that Bro. W. H. Cooke, P.M., was not present, as his uniform hearty deportment and lively eloquence have so frequently given a relish to our proceedings on such occasions. There were present from the Phoenix Lodge (No. 111), Bros. J. Potts, P.M., and Watson; and from the Palatine Lodge (No. 114); E. Brooks, P.M.; E. Evans, P.M.; J. Crosby, P.M. St. John's Lodge, and the W.M. of the Fawcett Lodge, Seaham Harbour, with several other visiting brethren. To report in detail the gratifying and diversified proceedings of the evening would be almost superfluous; suffice it to say, that reverential respect was paid to the Craft, and the visiting brethren were duly honoured, while the Masonic Charities were

ably and impressively propounded. The utmost harmony, cordiality, and good feeling prevailed. Songs, toasts, and sentiments flowed as in a delightful stream, whose amorous wavelets ripple on the shore, as melody's enchantments steal o'er the captive senses, in the course of which an original song was given by the Secretary, entitled

THE MARCH OF MASONRY.

God speed the march of Masonry,
And spread it o'er the world,
Till on every shore in every clime
Its banner floats unfurled.
As none can join its noble ranks,
Except that they are free,
Its heel, at length, will surely crush
The monster—Slavery.

Then march along, ye craftsmen all,
To the East we'll onward move
Where beams that broad, bright, morning star,
Whose light brings peace and love.

Oh! see its hero's rank and file,
So beautiful to view;
They tread that straight, unerring line
With level steps, and true.
Grim Evil flies at their approach,
With all her horrid train;
But goodness, with her handmaids fair,
Runs romping o'er the plain.

Then march along, &c.

Although a numerous army, they
March on with feelings chaste;
They leave behind no sanguine field,
Or cities laid to waste;
For the *chisel* and the *setting maul*,
The *plumb rule* and the *square*,
The *pencil* and the *skirvet*, too,
Are among the *arms* they bear.

Then march along, &c.

Oh! see, along their glorious path
Fair institutions rise,
That wipe away the widow's tears,
And stay the orphan's cries
And brothers, when infirm and old,
From *fear of want* are free—
Aye, thousands have had cause to bless
The March of Masonry.

Then march along, &c.

And when they halt upon their way,
Refreshment to afford,
What mortals are so blythe as they
When round the festive board.
When prince and peasant thus unite,
Dull care's turned out of door,
And friendships then are often formed
Which last for evermore.

Then march along, &c.

In due time the proceedings were brought to a close, and the brethren retired, apparently well satisfied with their evening's enjoyment.

HAMPSHIRE.

WINCHESTER.—*Lodge of Economy* (No. 90).—An influential and numerous gathering of the brethren took place on Thursday, the 29th ult., to celebrate the 102nd anniversary of the lodge, and to install the W.M., Bro. Alfred Smith, *B.A.*, who had been re-elected to that office. The lodge was opened at 3.30 p.m. The ceremony of installation was most ably worked by Bro. W. W. Beach, *M.P.* for North Hants, who also invested the following officers:—Bros. Higgs, S.W.; Sheppard, J.W.; C. Sherry, Treas.; Huggins, Sec.; Adamson, S.D.; Best, J.D.; Grant, I.G. The investiture of our venerable Bro. Grant, was witnessed with much interest, he having discharged during the space of 42 years, the duties of Tyler with great credit to himself and benefit to the lodge. The business being ended and the lodge closed in

due form, the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, at the Black Swan Hotel, being presided over by Bro. Smith, the W.M. The following brethren were present:—Bros. W. W. Beach, *M.P.*, P. Prov. G.W. Hants and Oxon; Rev. T. A. Wills, *M.A.*, Prov. G. Chap. and W.M. 387; W. Hickman, W.M. 555, Prov. G. Sec., Hants; Forbes, P.M., P. Prov. G.W. Essex; R. S. Hulbert, W.M. 995; J. R. Weston, W.M. 462, Prov. G.D. Hants; J. Marsh, P.M. 90, P. Prov. G.W. Hants; Biggs, W.M. 961, P. Prov. G. W. Wilts; S. Adamson, W.M. 426; Captain Watson, Rifle Depot Battalion, Winchester; Sherry, P.M. 90; G. P. Jacob, P.M. 90; La Croix, P.M. 90; Oakshot, P.M. 90; Patten, P.M. 90; Huggins, 90, Prov. G. Purst.; Rev. E. Firmstone, *M.A.*; Higgs, S.W. 90; Sheppard, J.W. 90; J. Lamb, S.W. 995; E. Emery, P.M. 428, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; A. H. Weston, 462; C. Wadham Windham, 856; R. De M. Lawson, 915; P. P. Pain, P.M., P. Prov. G. Reg.; Wilkins, Cooper, Collis, Shute, &c.

A handsome dessert having been set upon the tables, the W.M. at once commenced with the list of toasts. "The Queen and the Craft" was the first given, being responded to with full loyalty; and then followed "The M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland; the R.W. Dep. G.M., Earl De Grey and Ripon; and Grand Lodge," received with proper honours.

The W.M. next gave "The R.W. Prov. G.M., Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, *Bart.*, C.B. (who had expressed his deep regret at his unavoidable absence) the Dep. Prov. G.M. and the Officers of the Province." From the many representatives present, the W.M. said he feared no lack of ability in responding to the toast, which was then most warmly received.

Bro. the Rev. T. A. WILLS, Prov. G. Chaplain, returned thanks on the part of himself and his colleagues in provincial office. He expressed his concern that so few clerical brethren were present, and gave it as his opinion that Masonry should have a greater amount of support from the clergy generally than it did; for as they were the ministers of virtue and piety, and the approvers of all good actions, they could scarcely help feeling it their duty specially to recommend Freemasonry as the handmaid of religion, on account of its great principles, "brotherly love, relief and truth."

The W.M. proposed "The Health of the Installing Master, Bro. W. W. Beach, *M.P.*" He said that he felt great difficulty in discharging his duty without incurring the charge of flattery, on the one hand, or being guilty of a direktion of duty on the other. Much as the worshipful brother on his right was esteemed and honoured throughout the counties of Hants, Berks, and Oxford, he was nowhere more loved and respected than in Winchester. (Hear.) And this was not only because Bro. Beach gave to Masonry the protection of his name and prestige, but, because, in a province peculiarly fertile in able and energetic Masons, he stood forth as one of the most energetic and one of the most able. Notwithstanding the many claims on his time, whenever his help was needed—whether to join an assembly of Masons, install a W.M., consecrate a new lodge, or carry out that most difficult of all undertakings, compared with which, to build the Pyramids was a joke, he meant "a successful Masonic ball."—Bro. Beach was always ready to give his valuable assistance. They were accustomed to see Bro. Beach very frequently at Winchester at their Masonic meetings, and so constant had been his presence there that some of the members of old No. 90 had really began to think they had the honour of claiming the worthy brother one of her initiates, but it was to the Apollo Lodge that honour belonged, though they in Winchester and Hampshire shared the honour of his co-membership, together with those of Berks and Oxford. (Loud Cheers.)

Bro. W. W. BEACH, *M.P.*, said he thanked them all most sincerely for the very kind manner in which they had received his name. It had given him very great pleasure to attend on such an interesting occasion as the present. He certainly was there frequently, and he had been at several of their installations, and though some of their meetings had not always proved so numerous as he wished, still there was that thorough harmony always prevailing, and so much enthusiasm in Freemasonry, that he always rejoiced to see them. (Hear.) The interest in Masonry had materially progressed of late years, not only in their district, but throughout the whole of the province; and one whose heart was set upon its welfare could not help being highly delighted with the result. Freemasonry was a subject he had much at heart, for he was convinced of the great good that might be and was accomplished by its instrumentality. He agreed with the statement that to do justice to the claims of Masonry the clergy should more frequently attend these meet-

ings—more should have been there that day. Of course, like everything else, the Order met with calumniators, who endeavoured to say there was something in Masonry, but they knew not what. Masonry, however, he could tell them, breathed in its spirit something wholly in harmony with the Gospel, instead of, as some people fancied, being opposed to it. As a member became initiated in the Order, he could find that if he truly acted up to its principles, he would, at the same time, be acting up to the real spirit of the Gospel. (Hear.) Masonry was not merely an idle routine of mystic ceremony, but it comprised that something which was most important, and which it behoved the initiate well to understand. If he devoted himself to become well acquainted with its principles and its requirements, he might become, in the course of the future, aware that in Freemasonry there was something of deep importance, the impression of which he would bear in his future life. (Hear.) When they saw new lodges springing up on every side of them, they might hope that the spirit he had alluded to was producing its effect, and that the principles professed were being really felt and practised. There was no lack in that province of plenty of those who were able to take the lead in Masonic affairs; he hoped, therefore, that the Order would, in that province, become of still more importance than in any former age. He had heard of lodges springing up in other parts of the county, and he could only say that he was so well and so deeply impressed with a love of the Order, that wherever he could give any aid in raising up a temple of Freemasonry, he should be heartily glad to do so. (Hear.) He hoped that would not be the last time by many that he should attend there, but that he should have the opportunity of seeing all his brethren in that lodge many times yet to come. (Cheers.)

Bro. BEACH, again rising, said the W.M. had entrusted him with the gavel, and as time was now getting short, he must make a speedy use of it. But before he departed, he could not forbear discharging what to him was a most pleasing duty. He had already had the honour and the pleasure that day of installing their worthy W.M. in his chair of office, and now he experienced very great happiness in proposing the toast of his health. (Cheers.) He was sure that the W.M. was a most able man and Mason, for having been there last year, he had seen him in the performance of his duty acting with great zeal and ability. (Hear.) The duties of Master of a lodge were by no means of a light and unimportant character, and they were not so easy as they appeared at first sight; he had not merely to conduct a few simple ceremonies, but he had very important duties to fulfil. The Master had to rule men with ability and with courtesy under all circumstances, and it often required much tact and real talent to do so. Bro. Smith had not only discharged his onerous duties hitherto with great ability, but undoubtedly great success had attended his efforts, and the Lodge of Economy having elected him to serve for another year in the office of Master, was a fact alone sufficient to indicate such was the case. (Hear, hear.) He, therefore, had great pleasure in asking them all to rise with enthusiastic hearts to drink to the health of their W.M., most heartily and cordially wishing him every success during the ensuing year. The toast was drunk with full honours.

The W.M. said he rose to acknowledge the distinguished compliment conveyed in too flattering terms by Bro. Beach, in proposing his health, and he thanked the numerous brethren around him for the cordial way in which they had received and honoured the toast. He supposed that according to immemorial custom, or as their legal brethren would say, "whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary," he was bound to express that the present was the proudest moment of his life. (Laughter.) But without availing himself of that much used and much abused phrase, he would beg to express his deep gratitude to the brethren of the Lodge of Economy, for placing him in his present proud and prominent position, and to thank the numerous and distinguished company for their kind countenance and support that day. He knew well the cares and responsibility of his office, and had he consulted his own ease he should have declined to fill the chair again, but when he found his exertions so kindly and generously acknowledged by those for whom he had exerted himself, and his further assistance solicited, he was both pleased and proud to repeat them. (Hear.) He could honestly say that it was with no feelings of complacent emulation or gratified conceit that he resumed that chair. He was, comparatively speaking, a young Mason, but he had endeavoured by a somewhat diligent perusal of Masonic text-books, and frequent conversation with living Masonic authorities—in whom this province was so rich—to arrive at a more just appreciation of the object and scope

of Masonry than that which generally prevailed. His opinions were not popular with many Masons, and he begged to thank those brethren who, differing from him, had yet exhibited towards him great kindness and consideration. On one point he felt strongly, for to it he attributed the comparative want of success on the part of the Masonic system. When they considered the antiquity of their venerable Order, its imposing ceremonies, its exalted principles, its universal brotherhood, its beneficent charity, they must all feel that in spite of its thousand lodges and 40,000 members, its numbers bore no proportion to its utility or its pretensions. If they took that district in which Masonry was most successful, they would find hundreds in all ranks of life eminently fitted to be true and worthy brothers, who had never entered their portals. It behoved all who were interested in the prosperity of Masonry, and more especially those entrusted with office, to examine carefully and without prejudice into the causes of this regrettable result. It was generally attributed to the ignorance and mockery of the outer world. It might be true that those who were not acquainted with their mysteries, and had never witnessed their ceremonies, stigmatized the former as a juggle and the latter as a burlesque. But their principles were set forth for the information of all in their ancient charge and their numerous Masonic publications, whilst their practice was manifested to the whole world by those three noble institutions, reared by the piety and munificence of Masons, to cheer the declining years of their aged and decayed brethren, to soothe the sorrows of their mourning widows, and to train up their sons and daughters to honesty, patriotism, industry, and virtue. (Loud cheers.) He was convinced that the fault lay with themselves and not with the outer world. If Masons were true to themselves, if they strove to become properly acquainted with the principles of the Craft, if they studied its object and acted according to its dictates, they would command the respect if they did not secure the adherence of the uninitiated. (Hear.) If they would bear with him, he would allude to what he believed,—and he knew that many of the principal Masons in the province agreed with him,—to be a fertile source of injury to the Craft. He meant thoughtless and indiscriminate admission into the Order (Hear, hear), an error ever to be judged leniently, for it generally sprang from an excess of good nature, and was always based upon a laudable desire to increase their numbers. The newly-initiated delighted with the tone and ancient fraternity and equality which existed within all Masonic lodges, impressed by their solemn ritual, gratified by their opportunities of social intercourse, were apt to be too anxious to see others partake of the same privileges. Nor were reasons ever wanting to induce the outer world, without any great persuasion, to join their Order. Some were led by that curiosity which was a weakness by no means confined to the daughters of Eve. (Hear and laughter.) Others were excited by exaggerated statements of the antiquity and solemnity of their ceremonies; many, he feared, were persuaded by erroneous ideas as to the substantial and pecuniary benefits accruing from membership, and joined them as they would join the Oddfellows and other purely provident societies. (Hear.) Whilst some were led to think that their ceremonies were merely preliminary to the banquet, a kind of grace before meat, to be hurried over that the more self-indulgent proceedings might commence. They could not wonder that any coming under the categories he had described, speedily discovering their mistake, retired in disgust, and either openly proclaimed Masonry an imposture, or privately sneered and jested at its solemnities. It was their duty to see that every candidate for initiation was duly impressed with the true object and real scope of Masonry, and then they should ask themselves this important question:—Is he a man qualified, by his intellectual and moral character, to comprehend and carry out the great principles of the Order? If he were not, then, whatever his position in society or his worldly means, even were he of royalty itself, it was their duty to reject him; but if they could answer that question satisfactorily, they should receive him with gladness, welcome him as a brother, and diligently instil into him those principles they had sworn to observe and professed to admire. (Hear.) He was convinced that it would be only when brethren acted thus that Masonry would take its proper position. He had indulged in a day dream, and the pleasing illusion was not yet dispelled. He had pictured to himself Freemasonry, pure in theory, perfect in practice, a system from which was eliminated all differences of rank, colour, nationality, and religion, which bound together by the tie of their common nature, prince and peasant, negro and white man,

Jew, Mohammedan and Christian, leaving their dissensions to the arbitrament of the G.A.O.T.U., the common Father of them all, feeling a brotherly love which extends to the remotest tribes of man, practising a charity which stooped to the lowest depths of human woe, and exhibiting a truth as clear and as pure as the light of heaven. (Hear.) Such a system they had inherited, and it was their duty to hand it down to their successors, as they had received it, pure and unalloyed. The W.M., after thanking the brethren for the attention with which they had listened to him, sat down loudly applauded.

Bro. E. SHEPPARD, J.W., said he had been entrusted with a toast, but he proceeded to give it with much diffidence. He was a still younger man than the W.M., and less experienced in the Craft, and he approached his task with diffidence because he could not do justice to it. He wished, with their Rev. Bro. Wills and Bro. Beach, that there were more clergymen in the Order, and he should have been glad to have seen more of them present at that meeting. None had more influence on the minds of the people in advocating a good cause than the clergy, and he only wished that more of them had the sense, he was going to say, to join the Freemasons. (Hear and laughter.) It was said by some that their Order originated in the days of King Solomon; others argued that it was from Adam, while yet others would have it to be pre-Adamite, but he was content to accept it in its present shape as from the period of Solomon, the wisest of kings. He pointed out the peculiarity attached to Freemasonry, that from the reign of King Solomon down to the present day there had always been a connection between it and the priesthood. (Hear and cheers.) The influence of the clergy, as Bro. Wills had said, was very great; and in regard to their assistance to Masonry, they possessed the power of influencing the entrance of members of the right sort. (Hear.) He would now venture to propose "The Health of the Clergy of the Masonic body, and to connect with the toast more especially the name of the Rev. Bro. Firmstone, at the same time not forgetting their other Rev. Brother and Chaplain, but who had already been brought to notice by his speech before the company."

The toast was handsomely received.

The Rev. Bro. FIRMSTONE, in responding, said he must begin by saying that he took shame to himself as being one of those who had neglected his duty to Freemasonry. He could state, however, that his time had been very fully occupied with his professional duties, and he had been almost a stranger to the people of Winchester up to the present, although long resident in the city. He trusted he should prove better for the future, though perhaps his time would not be less but rather more occupied than it had been. As to the expediency of the clergy being members of the Masonic Craft, there could but be one opinion, though it was to be regretted that there were so many who knew not what it was. (Hear.) The rev. gentleman acknowledged the just, able, and deserving panegyric of the W.M. on the Order. Alluding to the secrecy attached to the ceremonies of the Craft, the rev. brother remarked on the impossibility of speaking them openly to the public. The ritual could not be in the hands of the people, and though certain books were to be procured touching upon Masonic principles, such were not generally possessed by the public. He believed that their assemblies were very generally, though ignorantly, looked upon as meetings of conviviality alone. The mass were not aware of the ties of universal brotherhood which existed, and which had been proved to be of such vast use all over the world. (Hear.) As he had already said, he took shame to himself for not having more constantly followed up the precepts and the practice of the Order. Yet, he had always been proud to have belonged to it, and he hoped to be able to be more with it than of late, and to see more of his brethren. The rev. brother expressed himself much pleased with the attention shown to him, and sincerely thanked the company for their courtesy and kindness.

Masonic song, by Bro. C. W. Wyndham. Loudly cheered, it being excellently sang.

The W.M. next proposed "The Health of the Military Brethren in attendance." He recognised two or three present, though unfortunately they did not often find them amongst them. But Her Majesty's officers of the army were moved about the country a good deal, and did not often remain long in one place, and besides they always had important duties to claim their time and attention. (Hear.) Bro. Capt. Watson, of the Rifles, who had done the members the honour of dining with them that day, had been the means of introducing many

Masons to the Lodge of Economy, and the members were deeply thankful to him. There was also Bro. Easty, a gentleman not long a resident in the city, but whom he (the W.M.) hoped to see join the lodge very shortly. These were the kind of men Masonry wanted, and by the joining of such to a local lodge, there was a strong inducement for many others of the right sort to follow. Drunk with all honour and respect.

Bro. Capt. WATSON thanked the W.M. sincerely for what he had advanced about the military men. He had enjoyed his visits to the Masonic meetings, and he was glad to assist them, and if he had done anything of use, he should be happy in doing more. (Cheers.) He might be ordered away from the place with very short notice, and therefore they could not depend on his doing much as an active member, but he should always wish for their continued prosperity. (Cheers.)

Bro. H. S. EASTY also acknowledged the compliment conveyed with the toast. Although he had been many years ago connected with the army, he was not so now. He begged to return them all his most grateful thanks. (Hear.)

The W.M. remarked that the neighbouring town of Southampton contained within it the great Masonic workers of the province; in fact, it was a hotbed of Masonry. There were located the respected D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Deacon; the Prov. G. Sec., Bro. Hickman; the veteran and energetic Bro. Stebbing; and many others high in the Order; and they had an indefinite number of lodges. He wished to associate the names of some of them now present with a toast. There was Bro. J. R. Weston, the highly esteemed W.M. of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony (No. 452), and who he hoped would reply to the toast. There was also their respected friend and Bro. Biggs, who had well and often served the Winchester Lodge, and that when it was in extremity. Bro. Biggs showed the same kindness to lodges in other places, and was much beloved. He had gone from Winchester to Devizes, and had been made W.M. of the lodge there, in compliment to his great Masonic experience, and in return for kindnesses received. The W.M. then proposed the health of the two Masters he had named, and the toast was drunk with bumpers. After a short pause, being reminded that there were two other W.M.s near his right hand, the W.M. asked the company to supplement the toast by drinking to their healths also, the brethren being Messrs. Hickman and Payne. This was done accordingly amidst much applause.

Bro. J. R. WESTON said it was extremely convenient for him that the toast had been amended, inasmuch as it gave an opportunity for four responses instead of two, and therefore each of them must necessarily be abridged, and it especially suited his convenience. (Laughter.) He had no idea that his health would be drank with so much cordiality, for he had done no more than his duty in attending the meeting; and, indeed, he ought to have been more frequently present at a lodge of so much importance and antiquity as that of Economy (No. 90). He had been very much gratified with the W.M.'s observations on Freemasonry as to Southampton, and could follow up those remarks by observing that no other town had made such marked progress within the last few years. He had the honour of holding the chair of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony for the second time, and, owing to the activity and true Masonic spirit of a few P.M.'s, the lodge had been rescued from the unenviable position of being the smallest, and become the largest in the largest in the province. They now had upwards of 100 members, and there was a great difficulty in stopping those who wished to come in. It was never desirable that a lodge should be too large in numbers; it was always found to be inconvenient. He was bound to admit the policy of the remarks made about the necessity of being careful in selecting new members, for often two out of three proposed came under the category alluded to from the chair that evening. Many who came forward did not wish to be Masons from the feelings which ought to pervade their minds. Bro. Weston concluded by inviting the members of No. 90 to visit the lodge under his presidency, where he said they would be gladly received.

Bro. BIGGS said he was pleased with the observations of Bro. Weston. Respectability and fitness were to be looked to rather than mere numbers in managing a lodge, if it were desired that Masonry should occupy the position it deserved. The W.M. had spoken of him in terms he did not, but could wish to merit. He felt no such pleasure as when he dropped in to their lodges of instruction. He had only left No. 90 because he found, as it was sometimes said of a man, that he had "too many irons in the fire." He had joined it at a time when he thought he might prove useful to them. Lately he had re-

ceived honours at Devizes (where he was born); and these things were felt, perhaps, more in a man's native town than anywhere else. He admired these occasional gatherings, as they brought together old faces, and revived past associations of a happy kind. Alluding to the important nature of the ceremony of installation, especially in such an ancient lodge as No. 90, the speaker congratulated Bro. Smith on his second election to the chair, and expressed his conviction that he was thoroughly deserving of the honour, and that the lodge could not fail to prosper under him. (Hear.)

Bro. HICKMAN thanked the company for the reception of his name, observing that his endeavour was to do his duty zealously. He expressed the pleasure with which he had heard Bro. Beach's praise of Bro. Smith, W.M., and said that brother's second year of office would surely be prosperous.

Bro. PAYNE said, after the addresses of the three worthy brethren who had last spoken, there was not much left for him to say. He was very happy to be there. He had heard Bro. Stebbing, the late Bro. Firmin, and other brethren of Southampton often speak of the Lodge of Economy (Old No. 90) in terms of respect and veneration, and he could assure his friends that the spirit which had reigned in the lodge and at the table that evening had had the effect of more deeply impressing his mind with the beauties of the Craft. Bro. Payne then proceeded to speak, in eulogistic terms, of the installing Master, Bro. Beach, whom he described as not only a Mason in word and deed, but everything a brother could desire to see; he recognised in him a sincere and hearty good wisher of his fellow men, and no matter what the position and condition of a brother, if he was a true and honest man, Bro. Beach would never turn from him. He (Bro. Payne) owed everything he possessed to the benefits derived from and through Masonry. He had been articled to and served his time with a Mason, and the kindness he had experienced and the warm support he had always received, evidently proceeding from the influence of good feeling, made him long to become a Mason himself, and he was happy to say he had now been connected with the Order for twelve years. For any young man of honest and industrious inclination, there was no institution, a connection with which could benefit him so much, as becoming a member of the Masonic body. (Hear.) He was influenced to this extent, there was no man he would so soon trust, or so readily believe in, as a brother Mason. But, of course, all large bodies were liable to have some black sheep among them, but that was not the fault of the institution, but that of the unfaithful individual. As the Prov. G. Chaplain had said, the Order was, or ought to be, the handmaid of religion, and, therefore, all its members could endorse the opinion that every clergyman and every teacher of morality should join the Masonic body. (Hear.) He had been witness, in many cases, of the great good done by the instrumentality of the institution, and had experienced, in the history of a family relative, the immense advantages sometimes derived from the united action of the fraternity. At some length the speaker detailed the adventures of a relative who had been in India, and who had undergone curious vicissitudes of life, and who, ultimately dying prematurely, had left a widow, who, in her turn, had reaped solid advantages at the hands of the Masonic brethren of her deplored husband. Alluding to the Boys' Institution, he said there was not a more excellent and deserving charity connected with Masonry. The seventy-two children brought up there were not only educated well, but, whatever their capabilities, they were suited accordingly; if they had ability capable of warranting their being trained to the law, or medical men, or in any other profession or trade, whatever their talents indicated, so they were placed to their future calling. And there was one excellent feature in connection with the institution; there was no distinction made in the treatment of the boys, whatever class they might have originally belonged to; and another thing, especially worthy of mention, was this, not one boy who had gone away from the school at the end of his term had even brought disgrace upon it. (Hear.) And it was the same with the Girls Institution. Besides these two, there were the asylums for the Aged and Decayed Masons and the poor Widows of deceased brethren. The outer world did not know all the Masons were doing. He had seen at one meeting the sum of £2500 subscribed there and then, the noblemen putting down their £100 and those not so well off their £5 and £10. (Cheers.) He should, in future, be visiting Winchester every Saturday, but he must say that the manliness of feeling and the kindly spirit of brotherhood he had experienced there that day would never be effaced from his memory. (Hear.)

Bro. BIGGS took the opportunity of tendering his thanks to Bro. Naish for his great kindness in attending his installation at Devizes. He had another brother present who had been doing a great deal for Masonry, a member of the Portsea Lodge, Bro. Emery, P.M. No. 428. He might say that he had never seen the ceremonies more ably conducted than by him. With reference to the charities, he considered these the mainspring of Masonry and he knew that Bro. Emery had been carrying out their spirit to perfection. It had been only on the previous day in London, at the Festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution for the Aged and Decayed that he took £92, the sum he had raised by subscriptions as Steward, and they were all indebted to him for his exertions and the interest he had always evinced in the success of the Charities. He begged to propose Bro. E. Emery's health. Drunk with honours.

The W.M. said the same toast was on the list, and had been intended to come from the chair.

Bro. EMERY said he thanked the company very heartily and sincerely for the handsome way in which they had drank his health, and was especially obliged to Bro. Biggs, whom he looked upon as an example to all Masons. He referred to the handsome testimonial presented to Bro. Biggs by his lodge. He said he entertained very strong opinions on their Charities, and his influence had been drawn to it by Bro. Sherry. If Masonry meant anything, it was charity. He had already served a Stewardship for the Boys, and for the Aged and Decayed, and he should not stop till he had served also for the Girls' School, and made the round complete. He had to thank the province of Hants for their handsome contributions and their presence at the Festival. It was not the contributions of a few individuals only that were required, but they were bound to make a general application and obtain assistance from all the brethren, who only wanted to be applied to. Bro. Binckes had, lately said very truly, that the provinces had been left entirely unattended to. Two years ago only £1000 had been the sum raised; last year, however, it had reached £4000, and this showed that the fraternity only need be applied to in order to gain their assistance to the utmost of their ability. He found it only necessary to ask, and the liberality of his surrounding brethren had been excited, and he was proud of the result. He again thanked the company, and if any of them ever came to Portsmouth he could assure to them the same good reception they had given him and the other visiting brethren from Southampton and other places. He wished to see a good deal more of the brethren of the north of the province. He knew that much was to be learnt by visiting other lodges, and all Masters, Wardens, and other officers should make it a duty to pay mutual visits. (Hear.)

The W.M. proposed the toast of "The Visiting Brethren," and in the course of his speech alluded to Bro. Forbes, of Portsmouth, one high in the degrees of the Order, and thoroughly interested in its success, and who had consented to be most useful in a case of necessity connected with the Winchester Chapter. The other brethren named in the toast were Bro. Wyndham, from Salisbury, who came backed by the strongest recommendations; Bro. Lawson, from Trowbridge; Bro. Collis, Bro. Cooper, Bro. A. H. Weston, &c.

Drank with loud cheers.

Bro. FORBES expressed his deep and sincere thanks for the compliment, and went on to say that in anything he could do for a lodge, chapter, or other department of Masonry, his services were at the call of every brother or body of the Order. He held it to be one of their grand principles that if any brother knew what another did not, it was his early duty to convey it to him. He had not visited No. 90 for twenty years, but now, as then, it deserved compliment for the purity of its working. He acknowledged what he owed to his former connection with the lodge, and said he should always respect and esteem its members.

Bro. A. H. WESTON also responded, and observed that he owed his Masonic membership to Winchester, where he had seen so much of good fellowship, and of what he considered came up to the standard of true manliness.

Bro. COOPER, in making his acknowledgments, said he was there as a representative of a most distant province, namely, the Islands of Guernsey and Jersey. He could not have let the opportunity pass without expressing his warm thanks for the compliment paid to his name, and he should return to his own district with a very satisfactory and lively feeling of the harmony which had prevailed at the meeting that evening. He had belonged some years ago to No. 387, Fareham. He had been very pleased to be present, and to see the true Masonic sentiments which existed among them. (Hear.)

Bro. LA CROIX, P.M. No. 90, said he had been deputed to introduce a toast, but it was one he had hoped would have come from the chair. The uncertainty of human prosperity had been alluded to, and in respect to the importance of keeping up their Charities in a sound state much could be said, for no one could tell the changes of circumstances that might occur in the course of a man's life. (Hear.) Like things happened to good and bad, as conveyed in the words of Solomon:—"The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill, but time and chance happeneth to all." He believed that if they looked into the antecedents of those parties who at the present time were the recipients of the Masonic Charities, it would be found that many of them had once been in circumstances as good as those of them now in prosperity, but by reason of unforeseen circumstances had suffered deprivation and fallen into the depths of poverty and adversity, experiencing all those evils which tend to make life a burden rather than a blessing. (Hear, hear.) He considered that the true teachings of Masonic sympathy would direct them, not only to rejoice with those who do rejoice, but to weep with those that weep. Ever holding out the sympathetic hand to those in suffering and in distress. (Hear.) The virtue of charity had already been touched upon by many, yet he felt inclined to offer a few more remarks. He should like, as it were, more to materialise their charity, so as to make it much more than a mere name, and more a permanent and established thing than as yet known. Bro. Payne, in the course of his speech, had alluded to the Boys' Institution as containing only 72 inmates. That was a very small number for the Fraternity to educate, considering the eminent position it held. Freemasonry had been compared to Odd Fellowship, placing the latter in a somewhat derogatory position, but the Odd Fellows were doing more good, comparatively speaking, in the way of assisting the sick and bereaved, than any other charitable institution in existence. The mere sustenance and education of 72 boys was a very meagre instance of what formed one of the great Masonic institutions, and it was not sufficient to gain them much esteem in the outer world. The members of the Masonic Craft were certainly from the higher class, sociably speaking, but the Odd Fellows were the more benevolent, comparing their means, and they had and professed to have the same fraternal feelings towards each other as the Masons. Odd Fellowship might to a certain extent be said to be an offspring of Freemasonry, but in generosity it had exceeded its parent. He should like to see a *bona fide* annual subscription, and devote the proceeds to making their Charities what they ought to be—above and supreme to all others. The annual subscription should be in addition to the contents of the miserable boxes they saw sent round at their meetings and banquets. The benefits available at hand in case of necessity should be much more extensive than they were, for God alone knew how many among them might some day require worldly help. (Hear.) At any rate their Charities must be distributed with a careful hand, because the number of applicants was large, and the recipients of bounty very few. It was painful to see the amount of money spent in banquets and personal enjoyment, and then consider the little in comparison that they contributed to the Charities. It was true that a majority of their subscriptions were for refreshments, instead of being devoted to the assistance of those who required help. It had been said by some that the Freemasons should look to elevating their Order; he should rather argue that they must first elevate themselves as men, and decrease their extravagant expenses within some of their lodges. The great wish should be to increase their Charities, and thereby make Masonry one of the glories of the land. (Hear.) He would conclude by proposing "The Health of their energetic friend Bro. Sherry," whose efforts in behalf of the Masonic Charities were to his eternal honour. (Cheers.) Referring to the Boys' School, he called attention to the case of a candidate named Moss, the son of a man than whom there could not have been a better Mason. He had heard his praises resounded on all hands, and understood that the son's case would be supported by those of high position and large sympathies. He hoped the province of Hants would give what assistance they could in order to benefit the son of such a good Mason. (Hear.) The health of Bro. Sherry was enthusiastically received and duly honoured.

Bro. HICKMAN took exception to some of Bro. La Croix's observations, in comparing Freemasonry with Odd Fellowship, and which he thought he could explain away. Bro. La Croix has got somewhat into error. With the general tenour of his remarks, he was bound to say he entirely agreed, but as to

the Odd Fellows, there was this important fact to be advanced. That society had been formed and was conducted throughout for the very purpose of conferring pecuniary benefits upon its members, whilst Freemasonry was entirely the contrary. All persons initiated into Freemasonry were from the very first led to believe that he would get nothing from it of a pecuniary kind. Odd Fellowship, on the other hand, was this—for certain sums, periodically paid in, a man reaped proportionate benefits—there were death payments, and weekly relief in sickness. The Masons did not initiate brethren into the Order if they were not in circumstances that were such as to make it apparently unlikely he would ever require charity; but supposing that unforeseen misfortune should come upon a brother, then it was right for their charities to be brought into action for his assistance. (Hear.) In respect to the exertions made by the brethren generally in the cause of the Masonic charities, he did not mean to say, for a moment, that they did what they ought to do, and admitting all that Bro. La Croix had advanced upon that point, he had only risen to show that the comparison drawn between Masonry and a more modern institution had not been rightly put forward. (Cheers.)

Bro. the Rev. T. A. WILLS, in further calling to notice the case of the son of the late Bro. Moss, of Fareham, said it was one deserving the exertions of all the members of the province. Bro. Moss had possessed christian-like qualities, and had been in his lifetime a most useful and ready brother, and if they could now do any good for his son they were bound to do it. Every vote would be useful, and perhaps they might succeed in getting their candidate on the institution on his first application. There were many who had promised to support the case from South Wilts, and he should only be too happy to obtain the interest of the North Hants members. The widow Moss had but £40 per annum to support her, and there were eight children, seven of whom were dependent upon her. If it was not a special case for the sympathy of the brethren, he did not know of one. (Hear.)

Bro. BIGGS said they must all support the case as one most deserving; he expected it would receive help from Wiltshire lodges, and from Bath, and he would do all he could.

Bro. PAYNE said the case would receive support from the brethren of Southampton; and

Bro. EMERY said the same in reference to those of the Portsmouth districts.

Bro. C. SHERRY, P.M., No. 90, (since whose health had been drank, several members had interposed remarks) said he now rose to respond, but he was sure every brother present must see the pretty mess he had got into. (Hear and laughter.) Everything he wanted to say had been said, or at least touched upon, by some other brother. (Laughter.) He had wished to advocate the Charities especially, but it was now quite unnecessary for him to enter upon that fond subject of his so fully as he had intended. But still, perhaps he could enlighten some of the members present as to particulars of the position of the Charities. (Hear.) Some few years ago the Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows had only a triennial Festival, and the pecuniary result was the receipt to its funds of £1400 or £1500 once in three years. He was one of the first of its friends to move in the matter, with a view of getting an annual Festival, and he was happy to say that they carried the proposition after some delay. £6000 was now produced to the Institution in three years, and he was proud of having been one of the first to press for the alteration. The Royal Benevolent Institution had now funded property. (Hear.) The Boys' School had got to a low ebb, very far below what it should be. At present it needed support more than any. The Girls' School was very well off, though he still could wish to see it better. But he wished to impress this upon the brethren, that at present they could not do better than give their support to the Boys' School. He had lent the Royal Benevolent Institution his aid in 1859—a year when it required help, like the Boys' School did now—and took up to the Festival a tolerable sum of money. He believed in that year he took up £45, and the Mayor of Southampton, his co-Steward, £50, making the handsome sum of £95 between them. On the part of the Boys' School he wished to advance its special claims, and for his doing so there was this justification—that in every particular it was worse off than either of the other institutions. For example, it was the worst housed. The building was an adapted private mansion, added to from time to time. The total value (including original purchase, additions, and recent acquisitions of land, the whole comprising, say, 12 acres) being about £6500. The Girls' School

had cost nearly, if not quite, with recent additions, £15,000, a balance of £8500 to its advantage, compared to the Boys'. The Royal Benevolent Institution had very nice accommodation for thirty-four inmates. The Boys' School, also, had the smallest amount of funded stock, as the following figures would show:—Boys' School, £13,300; Girls' School, £15,700; and Royal Benevolent Institution, £21,000—the Boys' being £2400 less than the Girls', and £8700 less than the Benevolent. In the Boys' School also was administered the smallest amount of benefit. The inmates of the Boys' School were 72 in number; those of the Girls' 80, and in the latter had been completed alterations so as to accommodate 100, and at the next election it would take in five more, making the number 85. The Royal Benevolent Institution relieved aged of both sexes to the number of 135. These figures showed that the Boys' School was the weakest, and therefore needed more support to bring it up to the level of the others. The demands upon the Boys' School were comparatively greater and more increasing; for instance, in April there were three vacancies and 24 candidates, whilst in the Girls' School there were 10 vacancies and the same number (24) candidates. The Royal Benevolent list had not yet closed. There was another fund, known as "The Benevolent," and he could not see why Grand Lodge should not contribute to the other Charities from that large invested capital. Bro. Sherry concluded by saying he thought he had conveyed quite argument enough to secure what he wished to obtain for the Boys' School. (Hear and cheers.)

Bro. HIGGS, S.W. of No. 90, and one of the vice-chairmen at the banquet, proposed "The Health of the P.M.'s of the Lodge," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Naish. (Hear.) They were all very much indebted to the P.M.'s, without whose assistance and instruction they would not go on so comfortably, and they had been universally kind and attentive to the less experienced brethren.

The toast having been lovingly drank,

Bro. J. NAISH, P.M., said his constant object was to assist in every way he possibly could when applied to, and the brethren would bear him out that if he could do any good in the Lodge of Economy, or any other lodge, he was very glad to come forward, either with his mite or by his personal attendance. Bro. Naish then proceeded to touch upon some observations that had fallen during the evening upon the interior expenses of the lodges of Masonry. He could not agree with the remarks advanced by a brother about the cost of refreshment. It must be recollected that they must eat to live (cheers); but while feasting in a moderate degree, they need not forget those in want; and while he lived, he hoped to do his share in relieving the poor and distressed. (Hear.) No proper object of commiseration had ever appealed or been made known to him in vain, and he believed the same might be said of every other P.M. of No. 90. He had to thank Bro. Higgs and the company for the way in which the P.M.'s had been spoken of and their names received, and he was much obliged to all, and his colleagues also, for the kind compliment so handsomely conveyed.

Bro. BIGGS advanced some further valuable observations bearing upon the virtue of supporting the Charities, and gave some interesting details of the private charitable regulations appertaining to the lodge of which he had lately been made the head.

The length to which our report has run is a sufficient reason for adding no further detail of the proceedings of this exceedingly happy and enthusiastic meeting; suffice it to say that many more toasts were proposed, and many further excellent speeches delivered during the evening, and there were frequent interventions of sweet harmony, for which the company were mainly indebted to Bros. C. Wadham Wyndham, and Biggs.

It was a very advanced hour before the happy party entirely separated, and few if any will fail to look back with fond memory to the heightened pleasures which they experienced this evening with the members and friends of old No. 90. It is scarcely necessary to observe that to the liberal arrangements of their worthy host, Bro. Sherry, very much of the success of this gathering is to be attributed. As to the banquet it was truly exquisite; and nothing could be more satisfactory to the members and the guests than the completeness of the whole affair.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE.—*Northumberland Lodge* (No. 985).—At seven o'clock on the 3rd inst. this lodge was opened, at the Assembly Rooms, Westgate-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, by Bro. Popplewell, W.M., assisted by Bros. J. D. Scott, P.M.; H. G. Ludwig as S.W.,

A. Gillispie, Sec.; Bros. Challoner, Johnstone, C. D. Davies, Saneter, Crawford, P.M.'s; L. M. Cockcroft, J.W.; C. J. Banister, Brinton, 56, R. Watkin, 24, and a full attendance of members. The minutes of the last meeting and the lodges of emergencies were severally read and confirmed. Mr. Josh. A. Grainger was initiated into the mysteries of the order by Bro. Crawford, P.M. Bro. Dodd was also passed to the F.C. degree by Bro. Crawford, Bro. E. D. Davies, P.M., acting as Deacon in both degrees. Bros. J. R. Thompson, C. T. N. Mather, Edw. Mather, R. Plummer, and W. Paggett were examined, and each proved themselves proficient in the former degrees. They were each severally raised to the sublime degree of M.M., by Bro. E. D. Davies, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.W. Northumberland and Durham, in his usual correct and impressive manner. Bro. C. J. Banister, P. Prov. G.P. Northumberland, P. Prov. G.S.D. Durham, acted as Deacon to each candidate. The lodge was closed down in each degree, and several propositions for the benefit of this lodge were made, and the lodge closed in due form and with solemn prayer.

Northern Counties Lodge (No. 586).—Monday, the 2nd inst., being the regular monthly meeting night, the lodge was opened by Bro. Saneter, P.M. as W.M., assisted by Bro. C. J. Banister as P.M., and the officers of the lodge. The minutes of last lodge were read and confirmed. Messrs. Reed and Everett being unanimously elected, were properly prepared and presented to the W.M., who severally initiated both into the mysteries of the Order in his usual impressive manner. Visitors: Rev. Geo. Thompson, P.G. Chap. of Scotland; Bros. Tillman, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, 111; C. J. Banister, P. Prov. G.S.D. Durham; Cockcroft, 385; E. Mather, 915; Halfreight, Hopper, 24; W. Morron, P.M. 56; A. M. Loade, P.M. 24; Thompson, W.M. 706; Bell, 793; Miller, 14; Probert, 111; Liddell, 111; Nicholson, 56, &c. Business over, the lodge was closed. At refreshment the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, also the W.M., P.M.'s, Newly Initiated, and Visitors. This toast was responded to by Bro. the Rev. G. Thompson in a truly Masonic spirit, and, gave the brethren excellent advice. The newly initiated proving themselves to be excellent singers; recitations were given, and a truly happy evening spent in this Masonic Hall.

SUSSEX.

LEWES.—*South Saxon Lodge* (No. 390).—On Wednesday, the 21st January, this lodge met in their Masonic Hall, High-street, when the W.M., Bro. Hearn, proceeded to open the lodge and raise three brethren to the degree of M.M., and one to the F.C., and the respected Chief Constable (Col. Mackay), of East Sussex Constabulary, was duly initiated; also there was seven propositions for next lodge. Bro. Little, Chap. and Sec., then stepped to the pedestal, and placed a P.M.'s jewel on the breast of the W.M., he having accepted the office for the second year, and said he knew of no brother more zealous in his Masonic duties than the W.M., for the answers he had seen from those members who had subscribed for the jewel, was very flattering to him, as well as the W.M. The lodge now consists of forty members, and being closed, retired to Bro. Wingham's for refreshment, at which Bro. Wingham was most attentive to the wants of the brethren. The cloth being removed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were freely given and responded to by the brethren, and a very pleasant evening was spent, truly Masonic.

YORKSHIRE (WEST.)

ROTHERHAM.—*Phoenix Lodge* (No. 1206).—The annual meeting of this lodge, for the installation of W.M., took place on Tuesday last. The suffrages of the brethren, at the previous meeting, having resulted in the election of Bro. John Oxley, the Junior Warden, he was ably installed by the retiring Master, Bro. Webster. Bro. Oxley then appointed and invested the following as his officers:—Bros. Philips, P.M. 127, S.W.; Farrer, J.W.; J. Shaw, Sec.; Goatley and S. Smith, Deacons; W. Smith, I.G.; and invested Bro. Waring, who had been re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. T. Chester, Tyler. A cordial vote of thanks was proposed by Bro. Masterton, and seconded by Bro. W. White, P.M., to Bro. Webster for his able working and conduct of the lodge, and his courtesy to the brethren during his year of office, which, as will be remembered by our readers, is the first of this lodge's existence. Thanks were also tendered to the Past Master's, who had attended the meeting from Sheffield and Doncaster. We are glad to find that the hopes

for the success of this lodge, expressed at its opening, have been so far realized, and doubt not that the worthy brother, who is now numbered amongst the rulers of the Craft, will so manage the lodge as to continue and increase its prosperity.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

MIDDLESBOROUGH-ON-TEES.—*North York Lodge* (No. 876).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on Friday evening, the 30th ult. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. Collingwood, the lodge was opened in the second degree, by Bro. Doughty, P.M., assisted by Bros. Richard Cootes, as S.W., and John Storey, J.W. Bro. Robinson was then passed to the degree of F.C., by Bro. Henry Thompson, J.P., P.M., and P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works, who performed the ceremony in an impressive manner. The visiting brethren present were Bros. James Groves, W.M. of the St. Helen's Lodge (No. 774), Hartlepool; George Markham Tweddell, of the Cleveland Lodge (No. 795), Stokesley; and William Rufus Richardson, of the St. John's Lodge (No. 252 S.C.), Thornhill, Dumfrireshire.

SCOTLAND.

AYRSHIRE.

CUMNOCK.—*Lodge St. Barnabas* (No. 230).—This lodge, after remaining in a state of dormancy for many years, is now making an effort to re-organize. At a meeting of the brethren, held on Thursday, the 29th ult., the R.W. Prov. G.M. of Ayrshire, Bro. Sir James Fergusson, Bart., who is at present residing at Dumfries House, one of the seats of the Marquis of Bute, honoured the lodge with his presence, and on his health being proposed as the R.W.M. of Mother Kilwinning, in a speech of great eloquence, expressed the pleasure he felt at meeting with the Cumnock brethren, and hoped soon to hear of the Lodge St. Barnabas being second to none of the Ayrshire lodges in point of numbers and general prosperity.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN.

IRELAND.—The Masonic body had a splendid demonstration in the Round-room of the Dublin Rotunda on Tuesday the 26th ult. The occasion was nothing more than the anniversary of the Masonic Female Orphan School, yet the building was completely filled with an assemblage comprising the *élite* of the rank and respectability of Dublin, including a large number of ladies and of gentlemen not belonging to the Masonic order, all in full dress. The large platform was filled with the members of the body, wearing the insignia of their order, which produced a brilliant effect, which was heightened by the decorations of evergreens, banners, and devices which surrounded the room. There were 2,000 persons present, and there were more than 500 applications for tickets beyond what the place could hold. The platform presented a pleasing picture of union. The Church and Presbytery were united in the two grand chaplains, the Rev. Messrs. M'Sorley and Morrison. Two ex-chief secretaries of opposite parties, Lord Naas and Sir William Somerville, spoke with the utmost harmony. Sir Edward Grogan, M.P., Sir Wm. Hort, Judge Longfield, and Colonel Dunne, M.P., all pleaded the cause of charity and fraternity as if they had never engaged in political strife on that same platform. [We have not yet received our usual report, Ed. F.M.M.]

COLONIAL.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On St. John's Day, December 27th, 1862, pursuant to proclamation, the Provincial Grand Lodge met at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Saint John. Present:—Bro. R. W. Alexander Balloch, Prov. G.M., in the chair; Officers and Past Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and the Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and members of the respective lodges in the

province on the registry of the Grand Lodge of England, as well as a number of transient brethren. The Grand Lodges was opened in due form and with solemn prayer, and the minutes of the last communication of the Grand Lodge were read and confirmed.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. addressed the brethren, as follows:—

R. W. Wardens and Brethren,—Permit the pleasure of tendering to you my best wishes and the "compliments of the season." We have assembled this morning for the installation of officers for the ensuing year, and I am about to make the *biennial* changes, in accordance with the rule I decided on when first appointed to take charge of the Craft in this province, on the registry of the Grand Lodge of England,—feeling sensible that a distribution of the honours in my prerogative to confer on deserving brethren, adds, not only to their zeal for the Craft but creates in others an emulation which is natural in man, and will exist in all well regulated institutions. It would afford me much pleasure if a greater number of private lodges were within reasonable travel of this city, among the members of which I could distribute these honours, but the locations are at such distances, that it would be unreasonable to expect their attendance, if appointed; such a scheme is impracticable, and the attendance of officials cannot well be dispensed with at the quarterly communications. Notwithstanding the depressed state of business in general in this province, I am happy to state that the lodges under my jurisdiction continue prosperous. After the annual returns have been made by the several private lodges, a detailed report will be prepared, and laid before this lodge at the communication in March next. To the brethren who will this day become *ex officio* Past Grand Lodge Officers, I have to return my thanks for their past services, and solicit of them a continuance of their zeal for the interest of this Grand Lodge and its dependencies.

The Audit Committee then submitted a report, which was deemed satisfactory.

It was moved by Bro. B. Lester Peters, P.M. No. 570, seconded by the Junior Grand Warden, and agreed to, that the report be adopted, and the accounts published for the information of the respective lodges.

The receipts for the year were \$573 68, making with balance from the previous account, \$656 48. The expenditure \$655 17, of which \$277 88 was to the Grand Lodge of England for dues, leaving a balance of only \$1 31 to be carried to the next account.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. appointed the following brethren to be Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year, (the D. Prov. G.M. excepted; he having been previously installed), who were thereupon invested and proclaimed according to ancient custom:—

Bro. Robert T. Clinch	D. Prov. G. Master.
" B. Lester Peters	Senior G. Warden.
" Edwin J. Wetmore	Junior G. Warden.
" Rev. Charles P. Bliss	G. Chap.
" Douglas B. Stevens	G. Treasurer.
" W. F. Bunting	G. Secretary.
" John V. Ellis	Senior G. Deacon.
" George E. Hooke	Junior G. Deacon.
" Edwin J. Everett	G. Dir. of Cers.
" John R. Smith	G. Sword Bearer.
" John McAlister	G. Pursuivant.
" John Boyer	G. Tyler.
" James T. Steves	G. Stewards.
" W. Ansley	
" Joseph S. Clark	
" Henry Littlehale	
" James Nevins	
" Charles U. Hanford	

The Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form, with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned to dinner at Stubb's Hotel.

MARK MASONRY.

SOUTHWARK LODGE (No. 11 S.C.)—At a regular meeting of this lodge, held on Monday, February 2nd, at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, Bro. A. D. Lowenstark, D.R.W.M., assisted by Walters, Laird, Durrant, &c., opened the lodge. Letters were read from candidates apologising for non-attendance. After a few business matters were decided, the lodge was closed until Monday, 6th April.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

GRAND MASONIC BALL AT SHEFFIELD.

This annual gathering took place on Tuesday, the 3rd inst., in the Cutlers' Hall, and was undoubtedly the most gay and fashionable gathering of the season. The brethren mustered in large force, and with their friends, numbering about 200, participated heartily in the dances of the evening to the exhilarating strains of Mr. Freemantle's effective quadrille band. The brethren were clothed in the regalia characteristic of the various degrees through which they had passed, and their attire mingling with the variously coloured uniforms of the military gentlemen and the gay dresses of the ladies, produced a dazzling effect. The following were amongst the brethren present:—Right Hon. Lord Wharnccliffe, John Brown, Mayor of Sheffield; Major Lee, Capt. H. Webster, P.M.; Capt. J. B. White, Chesterfield; Lieut. Waterhouse, Lieut. Turton, Lieut. Mosely, Drs. Williams and Bennett, Worksoy; S. Arden, W.M. 162; E. Drury, W.M. 373; W. R. Parker, W.M. 1241, Worksoy; G. Wilkinson, Hull; J. Shaw and H. Goatley, Rotherham; Sergt.-Major Thomas, J. W. Dixon, P.Z., P.M.; T. Danby, P.Z., P.M.; Wm. White, jun., P.M., Prov. G.D.C.; G. Stuart, P. Prov. G. Org.; Geo. Eadon, P.M.; Alex. Hay, P.M.; J. Haywood, Walter Jackson, E. A. Heeley, J. S. Pratt, R. Arnison, E. P. Hornby, F. Marriott, Fredk. Primrose, W. Howson, H. Machen, W. Tomlinson, T. Richardson, H. J. Garnett, W. Marples, J. Redfern, J. Haxworth, T. Hydes, W. McMaster, &c. Amongst the non-masons were Colonel Jeffcock, Capt. T. E. and F. Vickers, Lieut. Boyd, Capt. Prest, Lieut. Broomhead, Ensign Bright, Lieut. Newman (16th Lancers), Ensign Natorp, and the *élite* of the town and neighbourhood.

Bro. Prideaux, of the King's Head, was entrusted with the duty of providing the refreshments necessary to counteract the fatigue and heat of the ball-room, and at midnight the company entered the reception room, where a profuse and elegant supper was spread out; one side of the room being occupied by a long table and the other side by numerous lesser tables placed diagonally, so as to economise space. The bill of fare included boar's head, boiled turkeys, boiled fowls, tongues, roast fowls, hams, roast beef, pressed beef, pigeon pies, veal and ham pies, epaul d'agneau, salads, gelatines, jellies, blancmange, creams, maids of honour, general pastry, sandwich pastry, &c.; and the wines were all of excellent quality.

The Stewards for the evening were:—for the ball—Bros. Major Lea, Henry Harrison, Septimus Arden, Wm. White, jun., Joseph Haywood, Thomas Turton, E. Arthur Heeley, Ensor Drury, W. R. Parker, Walter Jackson, J. Stevens Pratt, and John Oxley, jun. For music and dancing—Bros. Alexander Hay, Graham Stuart, and John Kent Turner. For supper and wine: Bros. E. P. Hornby, H. J. Garnett, and Robert Arnison.

Dancing was kept up with unflagging vigour until a very late hour in the morning, when all separated after spending a very agreeable evening.

ROYAL ARCH.

GRAND CHAPTER.

QUARTERLY CONVOCATION.

The Quarterly Convocation was held in the Temple on Wednesday last, there being present Comps. Thomas Henry Hall, as Z.; John Havers, as H.; George W. K. Potter, as I.; Wm. Gray Clarke, E.; Richard W. Jennings, N.; John Huyshe, as Pr. Soj.; W. K. Ryland Bedford, 1st Assist. Soj.; Thomas Gole, as 2nd Assist. Soj.; Eneas J. McIntyre, Reg.; John Creaton, Sword Bearer; Theodore E. Ladd, Dir. of Cers.; S. B. Wilson, P. Standard Bearer; Nicholas Bradford, P. Dir. of Cers.; Rd. J. Spiers, P. Standard Bearer; John Savage, P. Sword Bearer; Wm. Pulteney Scott, P. Assist. Soj.; John Symonds, P. Standard Bearer; Joseph Smith, P. Dir. of Cers.; Abraham A. Le Veau, F. Dir. of Cers.

The usual formalities having been gone through, and the report of the General Committee received, a petition was read for a warrant for a Royal Arch Chapter to be attached to lodge 983, Constantinople, but it appearing that the petition was only signed by four Royal Arch Masons, resident at Constantinople, and there had been some dissension in the lodge (which, by the bye, ought to be settled by the Provincial Grand Lodge), it was resolved to adjourn the consideration of the petition until the next quarterly convocation of Grand Chapter.

Comp. H. G. WARREN then brought forward two resolutions, one for reducing the fee for a Royal Arch Charter from five guineas to three, and the other for reducing the exaltation fee from three guineas to one. Comp. Warren argued his two resolutions together on the ground that the present fees were prohibitive and against the spirit of the *Book of Constitutions*, declared Royal Arch Masonry to consist of three degrees, including the Royal Arch, which, therefore, became the unalienable right of every brother, and ought to be placed within his reach on the most moderate terms. He also argued that their revenues were likely to be increased rather than diminished by the proposed reductions.

Comp. G. Statis seconded the first, and Comp. Hintman the second resolution.

Comp. Savage, P.G.S.B. opposed on the ground that the connection between Craft and Royal Arch Masonry was only theoretical and, in fact, they were two distinct associations. He looked upon the first motion as altogether unnecessary, as it was only a first expense never to be repeated, and did not think any alteration was requisite, either to increase or decrease the revenue. As regarded the second motion, he looked upon it as an attack upon the resources of the private Chapters, which pay 15s. to Grand Chapter for exaltation, and did not think it desirable to endeavour by lower rates to increase the number of members in the Order.

Comp. SPIERS expressed his regret that he could not agree to the reduction for exaltation to one guinea, but thought it ought not to exceed two, and that the period at which the degree might be conferred should be shortened.

Both the motions having been negatived, not more than eight or ten companions voting in the whole, Comp. Warren declined to proceed with his third motion for annual returns from the Chapters.

The Convocation was then closed and adjourned.

METROPOLITAN.

CONSECRATION OF THE TEMPERANCE CHAPTER, (No. 288) 169

This new chapter was formally consecrated at the Plough Tavern, Plough-bridge, Rotherhithe, on Tuesday, the 3rd inst. The ceremony was performed by Comp. W. Watson, in his usual perfect manner. He was assisted by Comp. Matthew Cooke, who performed the music. After the ceremony the Principals were installed and the officers invested as follows:—Comps. G. Bolton, M.E.Z.; D. R. Farmer, H.; John Hollins, J.; John Thomas, E.; Searle, N.; Simmons, P. Soj.; who appointed Comps. Cartwright and Arnold his two assistants. The following brethren, of the mother lodge, were then exalted to the sublime degree of Royal Arch Masons, viz., Bros. Tibbals, Truslow, Brown, Wingfield, Stahr, and Mills. The visitors present were Comps. W. Platt, H. 90; J. Downs, Crystal Palace; Penny, P.Z.; Walters, Hasler, Peckham, and Collington, of the Hope Chapter (No. 248). After the chapter was closed, the companions adjourned to banquet, and spent a very pleasant and agreeable evening.

Poetry.

SHAKESPEARE AND STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

What nurtured Shakespeare 'mid these village shades,
Making a poor deer-stalking lad a king;
In the broad realms of mind?

I questioned much
Whatever met my view, the holly-hedge,
The cottage-rose, the roof where he was born,
And the pleached avenue of lines, that led
To the old church. And pausing there, I marked
The mossy efflorescence on the stones,
Which, kindling in the sun-beam, taught me how
Its little seeds were fed by mouldering life,
And how another race of tiny roots,
The fathers of the future, should compel
From hardest-hearted rocks a nutriment,
Until the fern-plant and the ivy sere
Made ancient buttress and grim battlement
Their nursing mothers.

But again I asked,
"What nurtured Shakespeare?" The rejoicing birds
Wove a wild song, whose burden seemed to be,
He was their pupil when he chose, and knew
Their secret maze of melody to wind,
Snatching its sweetness for his winged strain
With careless hand.

The timid flowrets said,
"He came among us like a sleepless bee,
And all those pure and rarest essences,
Concocted by our union with the skies,
Which in our cups or zones we fain would hide,
He rifled for himself and bore away."
—The winds careering in their might replied,
"Upon our wings he rode, and visited
The utmost stars. We could not shake him off.
Even on the fleecy clouds he laid his hand,
As on a courser's mane, and made them work
With all their countless lues his wondrous will."
—And then meek Avon raised a murmuring voice,
What time the Sabbath-chimes came pealing sweet
Though the umbrageous trees, and told how oft
Along those banks he wandered, pacing slow,
As if to read the depths.

Ere I had closed
My questioning, the ready rain came down,
And every-pearl drop, as it kissed the turf,
Said, "We have been his teachers. When we fell
Pattering among the vine leaves, he would list
Our lessons as a student, nor despise
Our simplest lore."

And then the bow burst forth
That love-token of the Deity
Unto a drowning world. Each prismèd ray
Had held bright dalliance with the bard, and helped
To tint the woof in which his thought was wrapped
For its first cradle-sleep.

Then twilight came
In her grey robe, and told a tender tale
Of his low musings, while she noiseless drew
Her quiet curtain. And the queenly moon,

Riding in state upon her silver car,
Confessed she saw him oft, through chequering shades,
Hour after hour, with fancy by his side,
Linking their young imaginings, like chains
Of pearl and diamond.

Last, the lowly grave—
Shakespeare's own grave—sent forth a hollow tone.
—"The heart within my casket *read itself*,
And from that inward study learned to scan
The hearts of other men. It pondered long
In those lone cells, where nameless thought is born,
Explored the roots of passion, and the founts
Of sympathy, and at each sealed recess
Knocked, until mystery fled. Hence her love bard
Nature doth crown with flowers of every hue,
And every season; and the human soul,
Owning his power, shall at his magic touch
Shudder, or thrill, while age on age expires."

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen has commanded that a levée shall be held at St. James's Palace, on Wednesday, the 25th February, by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on behalf of Her Majesty. The Queen has commanded that a drawing-room also shall be held on Saturday, February 28th, at St. James's Palace, by Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Prussia, Princess Royal of Great Britain and Ireland, on behalf of Her Majesty. All presentations will be considered as being made to Her Majesty. The Queen having taken into consideration the interests of ~~trades~~, does not require any ladies to appear in mourning at the drawing-room announced on the 28th inst., excepting the ladies of the corps diplomatique, the wives of the Cabinet Ministers, and the ladies of Her Majesty's household.—The marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, will take place upon Tuesday, March 10th. The ceremony will be performed in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, in which chapel the Prince of Wales was christened, and by which arrangement the Queen will be enabled to be present in private, which could not under existing circumstances have been the case at the Chapel in London. Upon the 7th March the Princess Alexandra will arrive in England, and upon her arrival at the Bricklayer's Arms Station will drive, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the members of her family, who come to England with her, and attended by her suite, through the City and West-end of London to the Paddington terminus, on her way to Windsor.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—The session was opened on Thursday by the Queen's speech, delivered by commission. Her Majesty announces the approaching marriage of the Prince of Wales with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, and doubts not that Parliament will enable her to make provision for an establishment suitable to the rank and dignity of the Heir apparent to the Crown. A revolution having taken place in Greece, by which the throne of that kingdom has become vacant, the Greek nation have expressed the strongest desire that her Majesty's son, Prince Alfred, should accept the Greek Crown; but the diplomatic engagements of her Majesty's Crown, together with other weighty considerations, have prevented her Majesty from yielding to this general wish of the Greek nation. Her Majesty trusts, however, that the Greek nation may be guided to the selection of a sovereign under whose sway the kingdom of

Greece may enjoy the blessings of prosperity; and if in such a state of things the Republic of the seven islands should declare a deliberate wish to be united to the kingdom of Greece, her Majesty would be prepared to take such steps as may be necessary for a revision of the Treaty of November, 1815, by which that Republic was re-constituted and placed under the protection of the British Crown. Her Majesty's relations with foreign Powers continue to be friendly and satisfactory. Her Majesty has abstained from taking any step with a view to induce a cessation of the conflict between the contending parties in the North American States, because it has not seemed that any such overtures could be attended with a probability of success. After thanking the country, including the colonies, for the manner in which the distress in the North has been met, her Majesty has concluded with the King of the Belgians a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, and a convention respecting joint stock companies. That treaty and convention, together with papers relating to Italy, Greece, Denmark, and Japan, will be laid before Parliament. Her Majesty informs the House of Commons that the estimates have been prepared with the utmost economy consistent with the proper efficiency of the public service, and concludes by congratulating "my lords and gentlemen" on the general prosperity of the commerce of the country, notwithstanding the civil war in North America.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The health of London stands at present very high. The deaths last week were fewer than at any period since the first week of November. Then they were 1307; last week they were 1354. The average number for the last ten years would be 1466, so that the mortality of last week was 112 below the average. The births in London during the week were 2111, which was very close upon the ten years' average of 2008. —The venerable Marquis of Lansdowne died at his seat at Bowood on the evening of Saturday, the 1st inst. On Wednesday fortnight he fell as he was walking on the terrace at his country seat, and cut his head rather severely. It was at first supposed that he would recover, but on the following Tuesday he began to sink, and from that time he never rallied, but gradually grew weaker till Saturday, when he gently passed away.—The *Gazette* contains the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into and report upon the present position of the Royal Academy, and its right to hold its annual exhibition of pictures in the National Gallery in Trafalgar-square. Among the members of this commission are Earl Stanhope, Lord Hardinge, Lord Elcho, and other gentlemen known in connection with the fine arts.—Sir Roderick Murchison, the distinguished geologist and geographer, who received the honour of knighthood 17 years ago, has just been created a Knight Commander of the Bath. Sir Roderick had previously been decorated by the Sovereigns of Russia, Denmark, and Sweden. —At the last meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works some conversation took place on the different railway bridges and railway works that now burrow in the earth or soar in the air in the metropolis. The Chairman, rather late in the day, thought something ought to be done to prevent these railways from cutting and hacking London to pieces, as they seemed disposed to do, and it was agreed that a representation should be made by the Board to Parliament on the subject.—Mr. Farnall has reported to the Central Relief Committee a further decrease in the number of persons in receipt of parochial relief in the cotton manufacturing districts; but a conversation, opened at the suggestion of Colonel Wilson Patten, as to the prospects of the great staple trade of Lancashire must convince the general public that the time has not yet arrived when the active efforts which for so

many months have been made throughout the country for the relief of the unemployed operatives can with safety be relaxed. The general opinion was that no immediate revival of trade could be expected; that matters were likely to become even worse than they are; and that the boards of guardians and relief committees might in all probability have to assist work-people employed in various trades who had hitherto been tolerably well off. Mr. Farnall noticed in his report the statement that extensive imposition was being carried on; and stated that, so far from this being the fact, "cases of imposition have been in an extraordinary degree rare." —The distress in Spitalfields has become so great as to attract attention. The relieving officers have been nearly overwhelmed with applications for parochial relief; and a visitation of the applicants at their own residences has disclosed a large amount of privation. Committees of gentlemen have been formed to examine into and relieve the distress.—During the past month, 488 emigrants left Liverpool for various parts of the globe—being 2715 in excess of the exodus in the corresponding period of last year.—At the annual meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the cotton supply question was discussed at considerable length. Every speaker, who referred to this subject, dwelt upon the undeveloped resources of India, and on the shortcomings of the Indian Government. Mr. Hugh Mason appeared to be of opinion that the great object to be aimed at was the abolition of the Council in Westminster; and he suggested that an India Reform Bill, backed by the public opinion of this district, should be brought forward by some able member of Parliament. Mr. Bright was, in his opinion, the man best qualified to undertake such a duty—an opinion, however, which did not appear to receive the unanimous assent of the Chamber.—Mr. F. Peel, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, addressed a meeting of his constituents at Bury on Tuesday. The most interesting portions of the right hon. gentleman's speech were those in which he dealt with the American war, and the financial position of the country. On the former question he said he thought Her Majesty's Government had consulted the dignity of the country and the chances of future usefulness by abstaining from what, in all probability, would have proved fruitless efforts at mediation; but at the same time he submitted that next to the duty of preserving for ourselves the blessings of peace ranked the duty of endeavouring to prevent, or put an end to, the horrors of war in other communities. With regard to the overtures recently made to the Federal government by the French Ministry, he held that the latter were "entitled to commendation for the solicitude they had shown in this matter, and for the attempt which they were making to bring about an adjustment of the matters in dispute." He did not think that President Lincoln's famous proclamation was a measure on which the friends of emancipation could congratulate themselves; the object aimed at seemed to be "less the welfare of the slave than the ruin of the master." —Mr. Bright addressed a meeting held at Rochdale, on Tuesday, for the purpose of formally thanking the people of America who have contributed towards the relief of the distress in Lancashire. The hon. gentleman's speech was entirely devoted to the subject of the American war, and the duty of England with reference to that struggle, viz., to support the Federals against the Confederates, for the purpose of putting an end to slavery. —The dispute between the Wigan colliers and their employers is likely to result in serious consequences. A second notice, issued by the miners in order to avoid any complaint of irregularity, has been sent to the masters, but is said, like the first notice, to have brought out no reply. The men

urge this as an excuse sufficient to justify them in turning out on strike, and many have already refused to work.—The Theatre Royal Glasgow has been totally destroyed by fire.—An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon at the Middlesex Hospital on the body of the young girl Smith, who was burned to death in the attempt to extinguish the flames in the dress of her companion, which it will be remembered caught fire in the ballet at the Princess Theatre. The jury decided that the death was caused by accident. But at the same time they expressed an opinion that sufficient precautions were not taken at the theatre to extinguish such fires; and they also urged that means should be employed to render the theatrical dresses unflammable.—At the Central Criminal Court, George Grimmer, a clerk, who was found guilty of forging two acceptances, was sentenced to four years penal servitude.—A deliberate wife murder was committed in Manchester on Saturday. The victim, a young woman, named Taylor, had been married but seven weeks, and her murderer is only about eighteen years of age. It is believed that jealousy was the cause of the tragedy. Taylor has been committed for wilful murder.—An inquest has been held on the body of a female unknown, who was found in a destitute condition at Mile End. She died, it is now proved, from cold and starvation, and she was moreover cruelly neglected by the police on duty.—Another tale of seduction, desertion, and suicide is recorded; an inquest having been held on the body of Anne Birch, a deceived and ruined girl, driven to distraction and self-murder by "respectable young man, an optician," whose name is not given—the more the pity. The vagabond should be held up to general reprobation.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The debate on the address in the French Senate has elicited from the Emperor Napoleon's ministers some declarations containing the customary ambiguities and contradictions. M. Thouvenel could not admit the right of the Italians to demand Rome, but could not contest the right of the Romans to be governed according to their wishes. M. Bilault said:—"The Emperor has always desired the independence of Italy and the independence of the Holy See. Various means to this end have been proposed, but have not yet had any result. But the Emperor intends to pursue his object. In order to characterise the present state of things, I must say that the *non possumus* which we met with at Rome we now encounter at Turin." The reinforcements about to leave France and Algeria for Mexico, amount to some 5000 men; and it is noteworthy that about half of them is composed of drafts of recruits, to fill up the ranks of the regiments under General Forey's command, although disease alone can have caused vacancies, as there has not hitherto been any serious engagement with the Mexicans.—The Papal Government is endeavouring to contract a fresh loan to the amount of £300,000; but it remains to be seen whether it will find lenders of such a sum.—The King of Prussia has shown his dissatisfaction with the address of the Chamber of Deputies by refusing to receive a deputation for its presentation. The Chamber have, therefore, resolved to send it direct to his Majesty as a letter.—Advices from Athens informs us that the English Envoy has announced to the provisional government that the Duke of Saxe-Coburg has consented to become a candidate for the Greek crown, and will adopt as his heir his nephew, the Prince of Coburg Kohary, who will embrace the Greek religion. This announcement, it is added, "has produced a favourable impression." It appears known that some difficulties have arisen in Gotha, but negotiations are still being carried on to induce the Duke to accept the throne. The Greek Assembly has passed resolutions formally declaring that King Otho and his dynasty have forfeited the Greek Crown, and that Prin

Alfred had been elected King of the Greeks by 230,000 votes.—In the Spanish Cortes the Ministers for Foreign Affairs has declared that he could do nothing at present respecting the recognition of Italy, because the question was inseparable from that of Rome. He observed that nearly all the powers which have yet recognised Italy are Protestant. He did not consider the accomplishment of Italian unity was an easy matter, and he doubted whether the Catholic mind of the Spanish people would approve the recognition of Italy. He recalled the fact that Charles Albert, King of Sardinia, delayed for eight years to recognise Queen Isabella, and said it was possible that Spain might follow the same line of conduct towards his descendant. In conclusion, he denied that Spain followed the inspirations of France on the subject of Italy. The proposition on the subject was then withdrawn.—A semi-official journal of Vienna states that a minister will speedily be despatched to Venetia, for the purpose of announcing to the inhabitants "extensive reforms" which the Emperor Francis Joseph intends to grant. Whatever may be the extent and nature of these "reforms," it is certain that they will nowise diminish the aversion of the Venetians for their Austrian rulers.—From the account which the *St. Petersburg Journal* gives of the insurrection in Poland it appears that large numbers of the clergy are implicated in it, and were probably the chief instigators. The insurgents are spread over the whole country, and convicts with the military are continuous. The *Official Journal* of Warsaw says the attacks of the revolutionary bands have been everywhere repulsed, and that there can be no doubt as to their ultimate discomfiture, opposed as they are to 100,000 well armed troops. A telegram from St. Petersburg states that, in consequence of the insurrectionary movement, it has been resolved to increase the force of cavalry stationed in Poland. Two new regiments of Cossacks have already set out for Poland, and are to be followed at once by two Uhlan regiments and a battery of artillery. Reports arrive of several new encounters between the troops and the insurgents.—The River Plate mail brings accounts of a rather serious misunderstanding with the Brazilian Government. The British Government, it appears, demanded indemnity for the unlawful appropriation of the cargoes of certain English vessels wrecked on the coast of Rio Grande, as well as satisfaction for the imprisonment of three naval officers. The Brazilian Government refused the demand, whereupon the English seized five merchant vessels. This prompt proceeding soon brought about an arrangement, and it is hoped nothing more serious will arise out of it.

INDIA AND CHINA.—We have telegraphic news in brief from India, China, and also by the overland mail papers from Bombay to the 13th of January. The Indian news is not important. The Jynteah rebels on the north-east frontier of Bengal were said to be increasing in strength, and assuming offensive warfare. A correspondence from Cabul, received at Delhi, states that Dost Mahomed had a fair chance of taking Herat. The import and produce markets were quiet at Bombay and Calcutta.

AMERICA.—The military news brought by the Africa from New York, coming down to Jan. 22, is very brief and contradictory. On the 20th it was denied that General Burnside's army had crossed the Rappahannock, but on the 22nd the *Washington Star* stated that the entire army had crossed the river, and was stationed above and below Fredericksburg. The *New York Times* added that General Sumner's division had succeeded in flanking the Confederate position and advancing two miles, not, we suppose, without fighting, for General Hooker is said to be mortally wounded. The withdrawal of Longstreet's division into Tennessee is contradicted, and General Lee's army remains intact to meet General Burnside. Great doubt of the

accuracy of the above prevailed at New York, as the Government had furnished nothing officially. There is no news from the armies in the west and south-west. The Federals were again advancing on Kingston, in North Carolina. Orders had severally been issued by Federals and Confederates as to the non-release of captured officers. President Lincoln had signed the bill for a further issue of Treasury notes to the amount of 100 millions of dollars, for the payment of the army; and a bill had been reported to the Senate to authorise the issue of letters of marque. The most important piece of news is in reference to the operations of France in America. Resolutions had been introduced into the Senate to the effect that the attempt by France to subjugate Mexico is hostile to the United States; that it is a violation of international law; and that it is the duty of the Federal Government to require the withdrawal of the French forces, and to assist Mexico in resisting European intervention. The premium on gold was 44. Later items of news show that General Burnside "took nothing by his motion" across the Rappahannock. The condition of the roads, it is said, delayed the transportation of the pontoons and heavy artillery; no troops therefore crossed, and the whole army returned to its former position.—The *City of Baltimore* and *Jura* have brought us New York advices two days later in date. It was stated that another Federal expedition had left Memphis for the purpose of attacking Vicksburg. The Federal gunboats which had ascended the White River, in Arkansas, had taken several Confederate posts, and were more than 300 miles above the mouth of the river. About 4800 Confederate prisoners, captured at Arkansas Post, had arrived at Cairo. Several of the New York journals urged a reconstruction of President Lincoln's Cabinet; and the *New York Tribune*, while urging the most vigorous prosecution of the war, was beginning to speak of the possibility that "if some malignant fate has decreed that the blood and treasure of the nation shall always be squandered in fruitless efforts," a time may come when the North must "bow to her destiny, and make the best attainable peace."

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—A most interesting ceremony took place in this establishment on Thursday the 29th ult., in the presence of a large and influential assembly. The occasion was the opening of two New Wards which have been prepared for the reception of Jewish patients. At three o'clock the Rev. the Chief Rabbi, attended by several of his reverend colleagues, proceeded to inspect the several apartments, including the wards (male and female), the kitchen and receptacle for the dead, with all of which all present expressed their entire satisfaction and approval. Some appropriate Psalms were then intoned by the Rev. A. Barnett, of the Great Synagogue, and the responses by the choir of the same place, after which the Rev. the Chief Rabbi offered up a most beautiful and impressive prayer for the prosperity of the Institution, and for the blessing of God upon all connected with it; and after partaking of some slight refreshment in the board-room, the company separated.

GEOMETRY.—The science of geometry was first cultivated in Egypt, according to the testimony of Herodotus, which historian dates its origin from the following circumstance:—Sesostris, the King of Egypt, shared the lands at Thebes and Memphis between his subjects, and each portion was marked out by different landmarks; but, owing to the inundations of the Nile, these boundaries were frequently destroyed, and it became necessary, as often as this was done, to restore them by measurement; hence a system was invented which was termed geometry. *Beeton's Dictionary of Useful Information*, Article, "Geometry."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. L.—Honorary members are not acknowledged by the *Book of Constitutions*. We will answer the other points fully by letter.

T. D.—We do not know the address of the writer of the Masonic "Auld Lang Syne" which appeared in THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE of October 4, 1862. Perhaps he will be good enough to forward it to us.

B. B. B.—The following by-law would be illegal, and any brother excluded under it would have his remedy on appeal to the Prov. G.M.; and should he decide in favour of the by-law, to Grand Lodge: "Any member of this lodge joining any other lodge in the town shall cease to be a member of this lodge." You cannot, however, compel an old lodge to recommend the establishment of a new lodge. The desirability of so doing may naturally be a matter of opinion.

H. E.—The report of the last meeting of the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 170, did not come to hand, though a letter relative to a correction in it was received.

W. W. NEWPORT.—The brother alluded to takes no part in the management of the magazine.

G. R. C.—Get the *Freemason's Treasury*, by Bro. Dr. Oliver lately published by Bro. R. Spencer.

S. B.—We will direct our attention to the subject at an early date.

ROBERT BURNS' LODGE (No. 25).—Our report of the anniversary meeting of this lodge is postponed, owing to the non-receipt of a list of the officers and other promised information.

The report of Lodge of Independence (No. 1023) Chester, and other lodges, are unavoidably held over through press of matter.

GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

We have been requested to again publish the following:—

The committee on Grand Lodge Property, with the desire to give every Brother an opportunity of expressing his views on the important subject entrusted to them, will be perfectly ready to consider suggestions from any Brethren, whether in London or the Provinces, who may have interested themselves in the subject of the appropriation of Grand Lodge Property and are desirous of expressing their opinion thereon. It will, of course, be understood that the Committee do not, by this, invite suggestions as to details of plans or designs, because these will hereafter come legitimately within the province of architects, but suggestions as to the general principles to be borne in mind in considering the whole subject; and especially—

First. The nature and form of the buildings which shall include the accommodation requisite.

a. For the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, and the Executive generally.

b. For Private Lodges and Chapters.

c. For individual Members of the Craft; e.g. Library, Reading Rooms, Coffee Room, &c.

d. For the Tavern purposes.

Second. The maximum amount of cost which it would be prudent and justifiable to incur.

To these may, with advantage, be added any suggestions as to the best means of making the Masonic and the Tavern portions as separate and distinct as possible, and as to the returns for outlay which may reasonably be expected for the increased accommodation provided under the heads b, c, and d.

All communications should be made in writing and addressed to the Grand Secretary, and as the work of the Committee is now actively progressing, it is most desirable that they should be sent in on or before the 7th February.