

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1863.

GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

Those who feared that we should fail in the endeavour to obtain anything like a competition for the remodelling of the Grand Lodge Property, will learn with pleasure that their fears were unfounded, whilst those who, like ourselves, frequently urged upon the Board of General Purposes, whilst the matter was under their consideration, that all they were called upon to do was to lay down explicitly what was required for the Craft, leaving it to professional men to determine how it was to be done, have certainly, as far as matters have proceeded, no reason to be dissatisfied.

We understand that something like eighteen or nineteen distinct plans, illustrated by about two hundred drawings, have been deposited at the Grand Secretary's Office. Of the value of any of these plans, we of course cannot give any opinion, they not having as yet been submitted to the Craft.

We are informed that the Committee are desirous of submitting them at as early a period, and for as lengthened a time, as possible—but unfortunately there is no room within our premises, excepting the hall, in which they could be possibly exhibited, and luckily for the proprietors of the Tavern, they are so busy, this being the height of their season, apart from Masonic business—that the hall can only be obtained for four days prior to the next Grand Lodge meeting, a period evidently too short for the plans to be properly examined by those members of the Craft who take an interest in the matter, and especially for those who wish to go into the details with a view of seeing how far fitting accommodation is provided by the different plans both for the Craft and the tavern, without interfering one with the other. If we have not space for their exhibition on our own property—though that is the most appropriate place for it—for a sufficient length of time, we would advise the committee to hire some central hall or apartments, where the drawings can be seen with advantage, for ten days or a fortnight, and we look upon ten days as the very shortest time they ought to be placed before the Craft.

In awarding the prizes, and in coming to a final decision as to which plan shall be adopted, Grand Lodge must be careful not to be led away by mere appearances—outside show. It is easy enough to draw a pretty picture of a noble building, but it is to the interior conveniences we must look if we want to render our property useful—and if that is not our object, any expenditure, however large or small, will be but money wasted.

Upon the Committee of course devolves the task of awarding the premiums, and in doing so, we trust they will give their reasons for arriving at their decision, so fully and explicitly, that they cannot be cavilled at by the thinking portion of the Craft—though to suppose all will be satisfied is what nobody can expect. There is one decision to which the Committee have, as we understand, arrived, which we think worthy of all praise, and which we believe will meet with the warm approbation of every brother—the name of the successful competitors for the premiums are not to be known until publicly declared in Grand Lodge. To this purpose the papers containing the names of the competitors have been all placed in one packet, under the seal of the Chairman of the Committee, and though the Committee will in their report, of course, designate the plans to which they have awarded the premiums, that packet and its enclosures will be opened only in Grand Lodge.

In conclusion, we can only express a hope that the best plans in providing for the convenience of the Craft, and our tenants, may be selected, and that the name of the successful candidates, when announced, may show that we have within the Craft brethren who, with the fullest competition, can produce designs worthy of the profession and honourable to our Institution.

GRAND CHAPTER.

This miserable farce was re-enacted on Wednesday, with all the principal actors absent; and many of the new recruits who, as Grand Officers, are to do honour to the assembly absent also. The G.Z. and G.H. are never expected to attend, and we admire their good taste in keeping away from such an assembly of inanity; but the Grand J., who generally presides upon these occasions, and always with discretion, was also absent. So also was the G.N., the G.P. Soj. (has he attended at all during his year of office?) and one of the Assist. Sojs., the other, the Rev. J. Huyshe, filling the chair of Z. We likewise missed the Grand Sword Bearer, the Grand Standard Bearer, and the G. Treas., but his presence is not required. Lord Sherborne, the Prov. G.M. for Gloucestershire, was appointed as Z., and, being an Installed Principal, inducted into the chair, and we hope in future to have his lordship presiding in the absence of the two first Principals. The three new Sojs., Lord Skelmersdale, Comp. Legh, M.P., and Comp. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, were all absent, and such of them as live in the country may rest assured that it will never repay them to visit London to attend Grand Chapter.

The only business of the slightest interest, beyond granting two or three charters, which might be equally well done by the Grand Principals—or the Grand Z. alone—would be more analogous to the practice of Craft Masonry, was the reading of communications from the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and the companions who have formed themselves into a new Grand Chapter relative, to their recent schism. These communications being read they were speedily disposed of, by being referred back to the General Committee to consider the relations which exist between the Grand Chapters of England and Scotland, of which the majority of the companions appeared to be in blissful ignorance.

We would suggest that the power of granting charters for new Chapters should be transferred to the Grand Principals, or each in turn, if they would prefer such an arrangement; and that Grand Chapter should meet once a year for the investment of Grand Officers, and when it would be perfectly unnecessary for any one to attend excepting those going out of office and those coming in; or a more simple plan would be to advertise the names of the companions appointed to office, and thus save the expense of lighting the room.

In fact, Grand Chapter ought to be abolished, and the business, such as it is, transacted by a Committee of Grand Lodge, being Arch Masons.

INDELIBILITY OF FREEMASONRY.

Amongst churchmen it is a well-known and constant axiom "Once a priest a priest for ever," so with Freemasons, the fact of a man's having been once initiated, or made, makes him a Freemason to the end of his days. No repudiation, no neglect, no amount of non-subscription can, under any circumstances, free a Mason from his Masonic vows, or ever again let him rank himself as one of the profane. Such a one has been admitted to see the light and taken upon himself, by a purely voluntary act of his own, certain indelible duties and vows which nothing but death can erase. He is, to all intents and purposes, a Freemason for life, and no known process of action can reinstate him as one of the outer world, nor denude him of that brotherhood he has embraced.

It is impossible to form any approximate estimate of the number of the brethren who have retired from the active life of the Craft; but the average continuance of Freemasons, as subscribing members, is, by a high authority, placed at a duration of seven years, and it is with reference to this very large body of inactive brethren that we are considering the indelibility of their Masonic character.

By retiring from Freemasonry, as we have before stated, they do not sever themselves from the Craft,

but only discontinue any benefit that might accrue to them, by adopting that course, whilst their relation to the order, and every brother Mason remains unchanged, and it is a question how far it is politic, in our rulers, not to allow retiring members, from their lodge, to keep their names on the books of the Grand Lodge by paying their quarterly contributions to the general funds of the Craft through the nearest lodge to their habitations.

Of course we regret that there are non-subscribing brethren, but we cannot quietly ignore the fact that there are many thousands such—some, necessarily, from the demands of business, some from ill-health, some from a change in their worldly prospects, and others from sheer indifference, yet, from whatever cause this defection arises, they are one and all Freemasons bound by the same universal laws, and possessed of the same rights as brethren, in all parts of the globe, as those who are the constant attendants on their lodge duties.

Though non-subscribing members to lodges, they have yet the paramount duties of brotherly-love, relief, and truth, to carry out in their fullest extent, and it is to be deplored that there is no proper organisation, so that they could be easily reached, and enable many who would, doubtless, only be too willing and happy to subscribe to our excellent charities but which they cannot do, with facility, owing to the appeals of those Institutions never coming under their notice.

As Freemasonry is as amenable to the changes of the times, as any other human institution, an exemplar of which we have in the present movement to lessen the influence of Tavern associations, so we may be led to hope that one of the questions really needing consideration and a wise provision, will be that of the relative position of retired Freemasons to their brethren at large.

In one, or more, of the higher grades of Freemasonry special provision is made for retaining all their disciples, for when installed the presiding officer tells every neophyte that he creates him "now and for ever" a member of those degrees, thus impressing on the mind of the recipient the indebilty of that portion of the Freemasonry of the world. Indeed, so strong do these words appear to us that it is really a grave doubt, on our minds, if any subsequent censurable act, performed by one of those brethren, could be visited with any heavier punishment than exclusion from the meetings of that degree.

The doctrine of the Indelibility of Freemasonry is one which is more easily recognised abroad than it is with us because we are, as it were, isolated from all the other Masonic jurisdictions in the world by our book of constitutions, and are prevented visiting a lodge more than a specified number of times while

being non-subscribing Masons, such a law being totally unknown elsewhere than in England and Wales, all other countries and nationalities, excepting perhaps the one or two insignificant German eclectic lodges, freely admitting the leading principle that we contend for when advocating the indelibility of Freemasonry.

We hold that this important object should never be lost sight of, and that every endeavour should be made to induce those who have retired from the active duties of Freemasonry to return to them, for which which purpose we would even go so far as to recommend the holding of special lodges either half-yearly or quarterly, to which retired Masons should be specially invited, by advertisement, and so congregate together, in love and harmony, hundreds of those who, unknown to many of us, have received the indelible character of Free and Accepted Masons.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

BRO. LINECAR.

Your correspondent "Triangle" wishes to know something of Bro. Richard Linecar, of Wakefield, whose portrait he possesses. I cannot give him much information on the subject, nor say why his portrait was engraved. The only point on which I can enlighten "Triangle" is that Bro. Linecar, in 1789, published a volume entitled *The Miscellaneous Works of Richard Linecar, of Wakefield*. The contents are three plays, viz., "The Lucky Escape," a comedy; "The Generous Moor," a tragedy; "The Plotting Wives," a comedy; some songs, chiefly on Masonry, and "strictures on Freemasonry." The comedy of the "Plotting Wives" is in two acts, and is stated, in the introduction, to have been performed at the York Theatre, for the benefit of Mr. Oram. The prologue was spoken by the famous Tate Wilkinson. The writer says, "it was not damn'd; but the author was in purgatory all the time of the performance." And, surely, well he might, for it is but a poor and meagre production. Indeed the entire volume, regarded in a literary sense, is anything but tolerable; and is only valuable as a local production. The worthy brother must, however, have been pretty well known, and his talents in some way appreciated; as may be judged when it is stated that at the conclusion of the work there are thirty-two pages filled with the names of subscribers, in number nearly eleven-hundred.—GEORGE BROOKE, P.M.

THE SPHINX.

A Count Cabillia, who was exploring the antiquities of Egypt, shortly before our Bro. Belzoni engaged himself in that research, is said to have succeeded, after much labour and difficulty, in uncovering the head of the Sphinx, and found a small temple between its fore-paws, and a large tablet on its breast, inscribed with figures and hieroglyphics. Does a copy of this inscription remain, and are any portion of the figures or hieroglyphics, emblems, marks, or forms made use of by Freemasons?—Ex. Ex.

THE SIX MECHANICAL POWERS.

Are the six mechanical powers, viz., the lever, the pulley, the wheel and axis, the inclined plane, the wedge, and the screw, adopted in any degree of Freemasonry?—LYSICRATES.

THE FIRST ENGLISH MEDAL.

Medallists generally consider the first English medal to be in the collection of the Duke of Devonshire. It is

of a large size, and executed after the plan of the early Italian medals. It has on the reverse the arms of Kendal, with the inscription, "Tempore Obsidionis Turcorum, MCCCLXXX." On the obverse is a portrait, surrounded by the words, "X. Kendal Rhodi Turcopolerius." Has this anything to do with the Turcopolier of the Order of the Temple.—Ex. Ex.

IS MR. SEWARD A MASON?

I should be very glad if any one can inform me if Mr. Seward, the American Minister, is a Mason.—T. P.

In an old number of *The Mirror and Keystone*, is the following:—

"The funeral of the late Hon. Thomas Y. How, formerly a member of Congress from the Cayuga district, in New York, was attended by a large concourse of the fraternity at Auburn, on the 18th inst. Among the noticeable features of the occasion was that of Gov. Seward and Bro. F. M. King, the Dep. G.M. of that State, riding side by side in the same carriage, the latter wearing his masonic apron and the collar and jewel appertaining to his office. One of two things is evident, either that the New York Senator has changed the legacy which he proposed several years ago to leave to his children, of 'the name of being an anti-Mason,' or his urbanity forbade objection to this proximity on a public occasion with the Dep. G.M. It is thought, however, that his feelings of hostility to the institution have of late years become essentially modified, if not entirely removed."

MASONIC COLLEGES.

Some time since, enquiries were made in "Masonic Notes and Queries" about the American Masonic colleges. Two cuttings on this subject, from my collection, will perhaps be acceptable to the querist.—Ex. Ex.

"MASONIC COLLEGE, LANGRAGE, KY.

"The ensuing session of this Institution will open on Monday, Sept. 5th.

"The President congratulates the friends of the College on the fact of the Trustees having secured the services of Prof. H. B. Parsons for the Department of Mathematics; and Rob. Morris, Esq., for that of Ancient and Modern History.

"The charges are 175, dols. per session of ten months. Where boys go home every Friday evening and return on Monday, a proper reduction is made.

"Early application is necessary to secure admission, as borders, in the family of the President.

"For further information, apply to

"JOHN TRIMBLE, Junr., A.M.,
President."

Lagrange, Ky., July 20, 1859.

Another shows the failure of the system as follows:—

"We perceive the Missouri Masonic College has met its death blow. A committee reported that 'they can see no encouragement to proceed, but on the contrary everything appears disheartening. The college does not prosper, and the weight of debt does not diminish. All of the funds of the Grand Lodge are swallowed up, the charity fund is diverted from its legitimate objects, and we have no contingent fund to meet any contingencies except those of the college.' They offered a resolution, which was adopted by the Grand Lodge, that at the close of the present collegiate year, the college be closed *sine die*, and that no more funds of the Grand Lodge be appropriated for its sustenance, further than to meet its present liabilities."

MASONIC PUBLICATIONS.

There are some brethren who are still opposed to Masonic publications, as tending to reveal that which, they think, should be concealed. To such, it would be well to place before them the following extract from an American Grand Lodge report.—Ex. Ex.

"Under the head of Pennsylvania, in commenting on a remark of the chairman of the committee on foreign correspondence of that Grand Lodge, condemning Masonic publications, Bro. O'Sullivan says:—

"Now, with all due respect to our distinguished brother, and all others of a similar character, your committee will respectfully state he has been a constant reader for several years, of most, if not all, the Masonic publications which have been and are now issued in this country, and while there appears occasionally some things which had better be omitted, he is constrained to say, as a whole, such publications have been of vast benefit, especially to the present race of Masons.

"It is idle to tell us that we can have intelligent Masons without the aid of Masonic literature. As well say that intelligent lawyers or physicians can be produced, who have never read a line upon these sciences; the thing is impossible. However unpleasant to some the admission, it is a degradation of the science of Masonry for a moment to acknowledge it, and it is reducing our venerable Order to a level with the modern societies of the day, who have neither a *History*, a *Symbolism*, or a *Philosophy* to fall back upon.

"No doubt there are many, very many, reputed *bright* Masons, who, if they had the proper information, would do for Masonic literature that which was anciently done for the Alexandrian Library, and for the same reasons, for the spirit still lives that then existed. But, thank God, at the present day a desire for knowledge is too generally diffused to be successfully checked. Give us then *Light*, from quarterly, monthly, semi-monthly, and weekly Masonic publications. And, ye Masons, who would be more than parrots, repeating glibly that which you do not understand, come forward to the support of these Masonic editors, who are coining their brains to improve yours. Let us by all means have good Masonic publications—let us patronise them with a generous liberality, and in a few years extinguishers will be placed upon those whose only Masonic reading consists of Webb's Monitor, or Cross's Chart."

[Ex. Ex. has our thanks for his many kind communications, and although we are of opinion that Masonic information should be widely disseminated, we still adhere to the principle of giving all the proper particulars any one can ask for, but we stop short—and close the door energetically—when any one wants a revelation of our secrets under the guise of enquiry, a practice which has for some years set rival editors at work in America, and opened discussions in print, on points which ought to have been respected.]

PRECEPTORY OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, AT TORPHICHEN, SCOTLAND.

From the *Topographical and Historical Gazetteer of Scotland* (Fullarton and Co., Edinburgh, 1845), I extract the following account of the Scottish establishments of this Order, being especially desirous to test the accuracy of the list of Preceptors, some of whose names have a strangely un-Scottish look:—

"The Knights were introduced to this establishment by David I., and had many possessions conferred on them by him and his successors; afterwards, when the Knights Templar were unfrocked and put under ban, they inherited the extensive property of that great rival Order. In 1291 and 1296, *Alexander de Wells*, *Hospitallis Sancti Johannis Jerusalemiani in Scotia*, swore fealty to Edward I.; and in 1298 he was slain in the battle of Falkirk. From Precepts which Edward issued to the Sheriffs to restore the property of the Knights, the Preceptory or the Order seem, even at that early period, to have had estates in almost every shire except Argyle, Bute, and Orkney.

"*Radolph de Lindsay* was Preceptor under Robert I.

"*Sir Henry Livingstone* was Preceptor under James II., and died in 1463.

"*Sir Henry Knolls* (*sic in orig.* but *qu.?*), the next Preceptor, governed the Order in Scotland during half a century, and was commonly called *Lord St. John*. He was Treasurer to James III. from 1468 to 1470; he joined the party who hunted down that monarch to his unhappy end; he was appointed in 1489-90 to collect the Royal revenues in Linlithgowshire, and after being much employed by James IV., he fell fighting by his side on the field of Flodden.

"*Sir George Dundas*, his successor in the Preceptorship, was the schoolfellow of *Hector Boece*, and is praised for his learning.

"*Sir Walter Lindsay*, the next Preceptor, was a Knight of no small fame, and rose to be *Justice General of Scotland*.

"*Sir James Sandiland*, the last on the list, joined the Reformers in 1560; and on his paying down 10,000 crowns, and engaging to pay an annual rent of 500 marks, he received the remaining estates of the Order as a *Temporal Barony*, and was raised to the Peerage under the title of *Lord Torphichen* (or more fully, *Lord of St. John of Torphichen*); and his descendants, whose family seat is Calder House, Mid-Lothian, continue to enjoy the title."

Thus far the *Gazeteer*. I wish to learn how much its account can be relied on, and from what sources its deficiencies can be supplied. *Sir Henry Knolls* appears to me a very suspicious *Scotchman*, unless perchance "Knox" were the name intended to be indicated.

Were the *English* and *Scottish* Branches of the Sovereign Order independent of each other, or did the two united form the "English Langue?"

I should like to know whether a complete and accurate List of the Preceptors of Torphichen has been drawn up, and where it is accessible. May there not exist also Lists of the Knights admitted into the Scottish Branch, at various periods during its existence? "Black Colin of Rhodes," an ancestor of the Clan Campbell, will readily occur to memory, as showing the interest such a list might possess in family history. I hope some of your correspondents will enlighten me on these subjects; and I shall be very glad of any corrections or amplifications of the List of the Preceptors of Torphichen.—C. H. E. CARMICHAEL.—Castle-Douglas, Kirkcudbright, N.B.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

GRAND CONCLAVE OF DEVON.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your report of the proceedings of the Provincial Grand Conclave of the Knights Templar of Devon, held in the Loyal Brunswick Encampment, St. George's Hall, Plymouth, on the 15th April, I observe that the remarks of the Very Eminent Prov. Grand Commander, Sir Knt. Hayshe, relative to the growth and prosperity of this sacred and Christian order in Freemasonry, within the last six years, especially in this neighbourhood, were not noticed. He expressed the pleasure and satisfaction he had in seeing such a numerous attendance of Sir Knights, and the zeal evinced by them in promoting those great principles on which Freemasonry is based. It was some years since he had held a Provincial Grand Conclave, owing to the paucity of the members in this locality, and the officers held their appointments longer than necessary, for want of others to fill their places. This he was happy to state no longer existed, and from such a numerous gathering he could now make a selection of officers for the ensuing year.

This prosperity he believed was well known to have arisen from the zeal and great energy of a worthy and eminent Sir Knight, who was elected to the command of the Loyal Brunswick Encampment, in the latter part of 1857, and who, immediately on his election, sought after and succeeded in bringing together a few of the old Sir Knights of Plymouth, and with untiring efforts and indomitable perseverance has established such an encampment of which he might well be proud. From this good example, the Royal Veteran Encampment, which had been in abeyance for many years, was resuscitated, and in this vicinity Christian Masonry was now zealously supported.

On the appointment of Provincial Officers, the Very Eminent Grand Commander acknowledged his appreciation of the valued services (of which he had given a retrospection) of the Eminent Sir Knt. Douse, that he felt it a pleasure to nominate him the Deputy Provincial Grand Commander. The nomination was hailed by all present with a recognition of delight. Frater Douse in his usual retiring and courteous manner, thanked the Very Eminent Commander for the distinguished honour, but would prefer that the appointment should be given to another, assigning as a reason, that being a past officer of the Grand Conclave, he should be

pleased and gratified, to see that distinguished Provincial honour bestowed on one of the many Sir Knights who so laudably aspire to it, and thereby diffuse that generous emulation which would greatly benefit and extend the order in this Province.

This self-sacrifice of the worthy Sir Knight must have been felt by all present as another proof of his great patriotism and love of the fraternity, and although it might have been declined by him in his zeal to honour another, each and all would have only been too happy had he taken it himself.

Yours fraternally,

J. B.

[We gave all that we received.—Ed.]

AN IMPOSTER.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am desirous of warning the W.M.s and relieving officers of lodges against extending any relief to a brother, calling himself Dr. Charles Louis de Montaney. This individual called upon me about ten days since, and made the following representations; he stated that he was an Austrian-Pole, and had recently landed at Liverpool, after suffering the greatest hardships whilst serving in Poland under Langievicz; that in 1848 he took part in the Hungarian war, under Kossuth, for which he was exiled; that he took part in the Crimean war being attached to Lord Raglan's staff as surgeon and interpreter, and that on his return to England he was decorated with the Victoria cross; that he was subsequently stationed for some years at Aldershot, during which time he was partially instrumental in establishing the Panmure Lodge (No. 1025), and held office in it as W.M.; that when the Italian war broke out he threw up his commission and joined Garibaldi, under whom he served throughout his campaign, and was also in attendance on him with Dr. Partridge, whilst suffering from his recent severe wound, and when the recent Polish insurrection broke out, he left Italy with other patriots to take part in it. He stated, moreover, that his father was Governor of some foreign province, and that he himself, when at home, was entitled to an income of some £264 a year, and that he was entitled to a pension of £84 from the British government, but had been recently disqualified from receiving it on account of having worn the uniform of another service, and that if he could only get to London he should meet with many friends, and could do very well, his great anxiety being to go out again to Poland and die for his country. All this and much more he told us, and said he was well and intimately acquainted with many eminent persons, including General Sir Geo. Brown (whose arm he said he cut off at the battle of Inkermann), Dr. Gills, Dr. Whitehead, Mr. Ashurst, of Old Jewry, and many others. His application to me was for a loan to enable him to get to London, and although the extent and variety of his alleged adventures excited considerable doubt as to his veracity, I felt that if not an imposter he was a fit object for sympathy and relief, and being a Mason, I gave him the benefit of the doubt, and advanced him £1 10s. to enable him to get to London, he promising speedy repayment on his faith as a Mason, &c. Since his departure I have instituted inquiries, and find that he never was in the army, never was at Aldershot, except for about a week, never had any connection with the Panmure Lodge, and most certainly did not cut off Sir George Brown's arm, as that gallant general is in possession of both at the present moment. Having discovered so much of his story to be utterly false, I feel justified in stigmatising the fellow as an arrant imposter, and I sincerely trust that if he makes application elsewhere, with the same or similar false representations, he will at once be handed over to the police as a rogue and vagabond. Now there is so much real distress abroad it is highly desirable that the fraternity should not be victimised by imposture, and this must be my excuse for

troubling you with this somewhat long letter, and ask for its immediate insertion. I need hardly had that up to the present time the amount advanced by me has not been returned.

I am, dear Sir and brother, yours fraternally,
H. B. WHITE, P.M. 173.

THE GRAND ORGANIST.

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

MY DEAR SIR AND BRO.,—I have read with much interest your remarks respecting the office of G.O. being filled by one so young in Masonry. Surely we have amongst us brethren of talent with greater claims, and who would conduct the musical portion of the office with credit to themselves and honour to the Craft.

In addition to the brethren you name, I would venture to suggest a Brother P.M., Royal Arch, Mark Mason, &c., Organist of the Enoch (No. 11) the Maidenhead Lodge, a Mark Mason's lodge, and Prov. G.O. for Berks and Bucks—I mean Bro. Venables, of Taplow. Bro. Venables is a Mason of many years' standing, he has given much time and attention to the best music; there is scarcely a musical meeting of any note where he is not to be found; and the other day he was one of the favoured few who were present at the marriage of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

He is conductor of a madrigal society at Maidenhead, and has been for many years conductor of a choral society in that town. Bro. Venables had the honour of conducting, at Reading, in one of the largest musical meetings ever held in the county of Berks, the "Messiah," by Handel; he is an organist at one of the churches at Maidenhead; and he has now building a splendid organ, by Gray and Davidson, for his own house.

I have stated this much to show that the office would be well filled by such a brother, amateur though he be; the rest, be assured, would not be neglected: no musical gentleman, with the badge of a Mason, be he who he might, would gain the position which ought to be occupied by Masons only. Thus much have I ventured to suggest, hoping that honour will be given to whom honour is due, and remain, fraternally yours,

May 6th, 1863.

MUSICUS.

[We had no wish to place one brother before another, as we have a list of fifty or sixty duly qualified members, which we may perhaps publish some day.]

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I read your clever and well pointed article of Saturday, May 2nd, with much pleasure. I refer to that on the engagement of non-Masonic professionals to take part in the music at our banquets. Why is this allowed? It certainly is not, as is supposed by some to be, because we have no musical brethren belonging to the Craft; and if not so, it is against our Masonic principles to engage non-Masons. I think there are plenty of professional musical Masons in London, if not, there are plenty in the provinces. I see by an advertisement in your Magazine, that Bro. Dyson, of Windsor, undertakes the musical arrangements at Masonic banquets, consecrations, &c., and from the reports I frequently see in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, with great success. The same party has also had the great honour of singing before Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen and Court. The song singing of this party is excellent, and their glees and part songs are said to be sung to perfection.

Let me ask, in conclusion, why non-Masons should be engaged at our Masonic banquets, when the services of such a glee and quartet party as the one represented by Bro. Dyson could be had, all of whom are entitled to wear the Masonic apron.

I am, dear Sir and brother, yours fraternally,
ONE WHO WISHES TO SEE THE RIGHT MEN
IN THE RIGHT PLACES.

[We know a hundred brethren in London alone fully competent for any music.]

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

Dr. Leeson, M. P. Sov. G. Com., 33°, proposes to hold a meeting of the Supreme Grand Council and a Rose Croix Chapter at his residence, Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, on Wednesday, the 13th instant. There will be a grand military display in the morning, after which the meetings, above alluded to, and in the evening the undercliff, in the doctors gardens, will be illuminated and a superb discharge of fireworks take place at night. This demonstration was to have taken place at the time of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's wedding, but the difficulty in obtaining fireworks in so large a quantity, as contemplated, has been the cause of its being so long deferred. The preparations are most extensive and will well repay a visit from any brethren of the higher grades.

The Abbey Lodge of Mark Masters (No. 59), under the presidency of Bro. E. S. Cossens, *Kt.*, Grand Reg. of Berks and Bucks, and P.G.S., &c., will be consecrated (D.V.), and the W.M. installed by the W. Bro. Frederick Binckes, G. Sec., &c., on Friday, the 22nd inst., at Tewksbury, Gloucestershire.

METROPOLITAN.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 1173).—This select lodge held an emergency meeting on Friday, May 1st, at Bro. Stevens's, Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford. The W.M., Bro. George Wilton, assisted by his officers Stahlr, Walters, Stevens, Pembroke, Mills, Hodgson, Rosenstock, and Blomeley, opened the lodge. Mr. Meyer Brach having been unanimously elected, was introduced, and, in an able and impressive manner, initiated into the secrets and mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. This being the only business for which the lodge was summoned, it was then duly closed. Visitors—A. H. Tattershall, 13, 164; J. O. Donnithorne, 87; L. Stern, 218; H. Willson, 805.

LEIGH LODGE (No. 1259).—This new lodge, holden at the Pimlico Literary and Scientific Institution, was consecrated on Tuesday, May 5th, the consecrating Master being that excellent and first class Mason, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D. A large number of eminent Masons were in attendance, amongst whom we might mention Bros. Adams, P.G.P.; Spencer, P.G.S.; Platt, Secretary to the Twickenham Lodge, P.M.; and Dr. Nolan, D.C.L., &c. The beautiful ceremony of consecration was gone through by Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson with that faultless beauty and impressiveness for which he is so noted, and which was greatly enhanced by the performance of sacred music, which is made, and very properly so, an important part of the ceremony by this celebrated Mason, and we only repeat what he himself expressed when we say that never was the musical portion so well performed as on this occasion, and for which we must here pay a well merited compliment to Bro. Dyson, and his musical brethren, Bros. Marriott, Whitehouse, and Lambert, the latter of whom presided admirably as Organist, for the thoroughly efficient manner in which this interesting part of the ceremony was performed. The Oration, an excellent one in its way, was on the practical working part of Masonry, and was well worthy of the serious attention of all Masons. Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson then proceeded to instal Bro. C. A. Cotterbrune, P.M., to the office of W.M. of the newly constituted Leigh Lodge (No. 1259), which ceremony was faultlessly performed by him, and, in fact, to all that he did, the fullest satisfaction of the brethren present was awarded. After the W.M. had been saluted, during which the musical brethren, under the direction of Bro. Dyson, of the Castle Lodge, Windsor, sang a chant which gave great pleasure; the other officers were duly appointed and presented with their respective badges of office by the W.M. After the Masonic business had been concluded the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Grosvenor Hotel, Pimlico,

where a magnificent banquet was prepared for the brethren, to which, and the wines, which were of *premiere* quality, ample justice was done. After the banquet the grace, "For these and all Thy Mercies," was capitally sung by Bros. Marriott, Dyson, Whitehouse and Lambert. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed. The selection of music performed during the evening was of the most delightful character, reflecting great credit on the brethren engaged. After the Tyler's toast had been given the brethren separated, having spent a most harmonious and pleasant evening.

INSTRUCTION.

LODGE OF STABILITY (No. 264).

The anniversary meeting of this lodge was held at Radley's Hotel, on Friday, the 24th April, Bro. Henry Muggeridge presiding; the lecture of the first degree was also worked by the following brethren:—1st section, Bros. C. H. Fielder, 1017; 2nd, E. M. Hubbuck, P.G.S., W.M. 66; 3rd, Clarence Harcourt, W.M. 22; 4th, J. Hamilton Cox, P.M. 57; 5th, Alfred Pratt, P.M. 22; 6th, Edward Hughes, Sec. 22; 7th, David Law, G.S. 66.

The lodge room was most densely crowded, and too much praise could not be awarded for the manner in which the whole of the work was performed.

Votes of thanks having been given to the working brethren and Bro. Muggeridge for the instruction and enjoyment they had afforded the brethren, the lodge was closed with prayer.

The brethren shortly after adjourned to a very elegant supper, which was presided over by Bro. Havers, J.G.W., supported by Bros. Perkins, P.G.W.; McIntyre, G. Reg.; Woods, G. Dir. of Cers.; S. B. Wilson and Hopwood, P.G.D.'s; Empson, G.S.B.; Patten, P.G.S.B.; and about 120 other brethren.

At the conclusion of the repast,

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure that it required no preface to induce them to drink with enthusiasm "The Health of their good Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland." (Cheers.) It was hardly possible to overrate the esteem and love which he enjoyed from all who knew him, or properly to estimate the time and attention which he always gave to the business of the Craft. He believed that it would have been difficult to find so good a nobleman so long to preside over the Craft, and no one could have filled the Grand Master's chair with greater courtesy or more advantageously to the Craft. He gave them the health of their good Grand Master, long might he live to preside over them. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN said the next toast he had to propose was the health of the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon. It was a matter of great satisfaction to see men of station taking office amongst them, the more especially men who were held in such great estimation that they were selected by her Majesty to fill high positions in the Government, (Cheers.) They were all aware that their Deputy Grand Master had just been appointed Secretary of War. It was not for him to say how the noble lord had acted as a minister, but he might observe that he had won the respect not only of Masons, but of that noble body, the Volunteers, to the organisation of which he had rendered most efficient assistance. Amongst his colleagues in the ministry were many other Masons of distinction, including the Duke of Newcastle, Prov. G.M. for Nottinghamshire, the Colonial Minister; and the Earl of Hartington, Prov. G.M. for Derbyshire, Assistant-Secretary of War. Well might they be proud at seeing so many distinguished noblemen taking position among them. With the toast of the D.G. Master he would couple the names of the Grand Officers. He regretted that there were not more present, but he had received letters of apology from Bros. Evans, Jennings, Le Veau, Scott, Bridges, and Potter, some of whom were in the country, and others previously engaged. They had, however, with them, Bro. Perkins, who had filled high office most efficiently: then there was the Grand Registrar, a brother who stood high in his profession, and who, by his legal knowledge and talents, reflected great credit on the Order; and next to him was a brother whom they all delighted to honour, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, the representative of the sister lodges of instruction. He was one of the most perfect teachers of their ceremonies, to whom they all looked up with respect and admiration. Bro. Wilson was devoted to the Craft, and was now engaged in a work which would be of great importance to it, and to which he (Bro. Havers) would be happy to render any

assistance in his power. There were also present Bros. Hopwood, Woods, Eupson, and Patten, all of whom had rendered valuable services to the Craft. (Cheers.)

The toast having been drank amidst loud applause,

Bro. PERKINS, P.G.W., acknowledged the compliment on the part of the D.G. Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers. He need not, after the observations of Bro. Havers, say anything relative to the D.G. Master, but he could assure them that the Grand Officers were always anxious to serve the Craft to the utmost of their ability. He was certain, he might say for those who were present, that nothing could have given them greater pleasure than to witness the beautiful working of that Lodge, which he felt assured could not be surpassed by any lodge in the world. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN said he wished that he felt more equal to the task of proposing the next toast than he then did. The fact was, he had been labouring under illness for some time, and they must, therefore, pardon him if he did not say all that he could wish in proposing the toast of prosperity to the Stability Lodge of Instruction. (Hear, hear.) It was no easy task to propose the same toast for twelve or fourteen years in succession, and to say anything novel in connection with it. He regarded the prosperity of lodges of instruction as most important for he looked upon them as the backbone of Freemasonry. It was most essential that their beautiful rituals should be preserved in their purity, and as no man could always repeat their ceremonies from Masonry without variation it was important that these lodges should exist. As it was impossible for a youth to study the works of the ancient poets and historians without having his mind imbued with something of their spirit and wisdom, neither was it possible for a Mason to study their ceremonies and lectures without being impressed with the beautiful precepts they contained, and the lessons of morality they enforced. Let them then endeavour to emulate the efforts of his friend and brother to the left (S. B. Wilson), who was a pillar in Masonry, in acquiring a correct knowledge of the work—not entering their lodges as a mere evanescent pleasure, but with the earnest desire and determination to support the Craft in all its purity. He asked them to be careful to preserve their three degrees in all their beautiful simplicity. He did not wish to interfere with those who liked to amuse themselves with other so-called degrees in Freemasonry, but he warned the brethren against new discoveries of ancient degrees. If they were ancient they could not be newly discovered. If any such degrees were presented to them examine them well, and unless they could prove that they formed a portion of ancient Freemasonry say they would have none of them. (Cheers.) They should be content with their their degrees, as recognised by Grand Lodge, for of such degrees only did Craft Masonry consist, and he looked to the working brethren to preserve them in their integrity. (Cheers.) He now came to a most pleasing duty, that of presenting a testimonial to their esteemed Preceptor, Bro. Muggeridge—a testimonial beautifully emblazoned on vellum, and which he would read:—“Stability Lodge of Instruction, held under the sanction of the Lodge of Stability (No. 264).—This testimonial is presented by the members to Brother Henry Muggeridge, P.M. of Lodges No. 227 and 1017, as a lasting memento of their fraternal regard, and in grateful remembrance of his unremitting services in their instruction, his successful endeavours to diffuse the genuine principles of Freemasonry, and the brotherly kindness he has always displayed towards them during the twelve years he has acted as Preceptor and Treasurer. Signed on behalf of the members, JOHN HAVERS, J.G.W.”—Within the last few years he had had the honour and singular good fortune of presenting a similar testimonial to the worthy brother who presided over the great West-end Lodge of Instruction, and also to present testimonials to Bro. Muggeridge on two former occasions. He recollected Bro. Muggeridge when he first entered the Lodge of Stability as a youth studying under Bro. Thompson. He was then as distinguished for his earnestness in acquiring, as he was now in his zeal in extending a knowledge of their ceremonies and lectures. He had also to present him with a silver teapot. He liked teapots for presentations, as they spoke of home joys, and took into the domestic circle evidence of the manner in which the recipient was esteemed by his friends and brethren. This was presented to Bro. Muggeridge from his friends and pupils as a mark of their estimation of his exemplary conduct in Freemasonry. (Cheers.) He wished it had some tea in it (laughter), and he should be happy to give his quota towards it. (Cheers.)

After a few observations of a complimentary nature to Bro. Muggeridge, the R.W. brother concluded by proposing “Prosperity to the Stability Lodge of Instruction, and the health of Bro. Muggeridge.” (Cheers.)

Bro. MUGGERIDGE begged to thank their worthy president for the good wishes expressed towards the Lodge of Instruction, and the many handsome things he had said about him (Bro. Muggeridge), and he thanked the brethren for the hearty manner in which they had responded to the speech of their excellent and worthy chairman. He was proud at having his health proposed in such a company, but more proud at the manner in which it had been proposed and responded to. He could assure them that though there was some trouble in organising a meeting like this, that trouble was as nothing to the difficulty which he experienced in finding words properly to thank them for their kindness. If that was so as a rule, and he had always found it so, that difficulty was greatly increased on the present occasion, by their kind and handsome present. (Cheers.) He was delighted with the beautiful piece of plate then before him, but he liked the price of vellum better, and when he returned home after his day's labours, however tired and weary, he might feel one glance towards that testimonial would cheer and refresh him. (Cheers.) He could not sit down without thanking the brethren who enabled him to carry out satisfactorily the business of the lodge, not only upon that, but upon all other occasions. He thanked them for their present, as it would be an inducement to continue his exertions for the benefit of the Craft. He would not promise to do more, for he had for many years done his best. (Cheers.) He had never during the twenty-four years he had been connected with the lodge, wished he could do more than at that moment—but if he could not promise to do that, he would make then one promise, what he had done in the past he would endeavour to do in the future. (Cheers.)

Bro. M'INTYRE, G. Reg., had a most pleasing duty to perform, that of proposing a toast which was sure to be cordially received. They had seen how admirably the chair in the lodge had been filled by Bro. Muggeridge, and they were all able to judge of the manner in which the banquet had been presided over. (Cheers.) If it was necessary to have a good Master for their lodge, it was equally important to have an efficient president for their banquets—and certainly on this occasion the services of their president were of no ordinary character, inasmuch as, he had explained, he was labouring under indisposition. Last year something was said about some other brother presiding at their future meetings—(No, no.)—but he trusted the day was far distant when the chair at the annual festival would be filled by any other than Bro. Havers. (Cheers.) Though it was long since Bro. Havers first received a mark of their appreciation of his worth, he was sure they were as ready now as ever to acknowledge the services of their worthy brother. (Cheers.) He had more than once received the highest honour which his own lodge could bestow; and in Grand Lodge the Grand Master had, with the approbation of the Craft, recompensed his services with high and distinguished rank. (Cheers.) There was no brother who had more earnestly devoted himself to the service of the Craft, and he was sure there was none more highly esteemed. (Cheers.) He begged to give them “The Health of Bro. Havers,” wishing him long life and happiness. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN said he could hardly tell them how gratified he was at the kind reception they accorded him on all occasions, nor too warmly thank them for this renewed testimony of their favour. He could not forget that it was now twenty-five or twenty-six years since he ventured to work his first section in that lodge, and seventeen years that evening since he worked the fifth and sixth sections of the lecture they had heard that evening. (Cheers.) He should ever have the most grateful feelings towards the Lodge for the kindness he had received; but, as he had said before, he thought the time had arrived when they should endeavour to introduce new blood into the Lodge, and get some one else to preside over their annual festivals. (No, no.) If, however, they preferred the old horse, the old horse would continue to work for them. (Cheers.) If they wished to oblige him, he would ask them a favour, and that favour was to do their duty to themselves. They were aware, from the transactions of Grand Lodge, that a feeling generally prevailed that the time had arrived when the Craft ought to have a home of their own. (Cheers.) Grand Lodge had appointed a Committee, of which he had the honour to be a member, to inquire into the matter. He could assure them the Committee had bestowed great labour and pains in their inquiry—sometimes sitting from three o'clock in the afternoon

to nine in the evening, and that two or three times a week. He invited every Past Master, Master, or Warden of a lodge then present to make a point of attending Grand Lodge on the first Wednesday in June to consider the subject. He did not ask them to adopt any particular scheme, but to attend and examine for themselves the various plans which might be submitted to them, and give an honest verdict as to what they believed to be for the best interests of the Craft. (Cheers.) He asked them not to listen to out-of-door talk. In every large body of men there must be differences of opinion, and no angel from Heaven could satisfy all. He would be a bad minister, however, who refused to endeavour to do his best on that account. It had been the object of the committee to endeavour to stand between an enormous expenditure which should run them into debt for fifty or sixty years on the one hand, or of being so stingy on the other as not to do justice to the Craft. (Hear.) He thought the time had now arrived when the brethren ought to have a home open to them at all hours of the day, where they could meet without inconvenience; and through which he believed their charities would be greatly benefited. (Cheers.) By all the kindness they had ever shown to him, by all their love for Masonry he urged them to attend the next Grand Lodge to do their own business in the manner it should be done. (Cheers.) He most cordially thanked them for their kindness on this and every other occasion. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN said they were all much indebted to the brethren who had afforded them so much useful instruction that evening. He need hardly say how much their ceremonies depended upon good working, and nothing could exceed what they had seen that evening. He gave them "The Health of the Working Brethren." (Cheers.)

Bro. COX thanked the Chairman and brethren for the compliment just paid to them, and was much obliged for the attention paid to the working that evening. He could assure them that, for the quality of the work, they were mainly indebted to the attention and exertions of their talented preceptor, Bro. Muggeridge, who was the spirit and backbone of the lodge. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN had to call their attention to a very important toast—"The Prosperity of the Sister Lodges of Instruction." Generous rivalry should always be encouraged amongst Masons, and to no brother were they more indebted for good working in the Lodges of Instruction than Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson. He had been for many years at the head of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and no man knew their rituals or the principles upon which their Order was founded better; he was, in fact, the very embodiment of Masonic ritual. The brethren from the East were always proud to welcome brethren from the West, and never more so than in the person of so good a man and a Mason as Bro. Wilson. (Cheers.)

Bro. WILSON, P.G.D., thanked the worthy President for coupling his name with the toast just drunk. He had been a member of the Emulation Lodge of Instruction for thirty years, and the utmost kindness had ever existed between that and the sister Lodge of Stability. There was no difference between them, excepting in the phraseology of some of their working. He would not then enter into a history of how that difference had arisen, as he hoped it would soon cease to exist. The Chairman had alluded in the early period of the evening to a great work in which he (Bro. Wilson) was engaged. Now, he wished it to be understood that that work was not in connection with the remodelling of their property in Great Queen-street; but the allusion was to some communications which were going on between himself and the worthy Preceptor of the Stability Lodge, Bro. Muggeridge, for assimilating the work so as to have but one ritual. (Hear, hear, from Bro. Muggeridge.) And he was sure Bro. Havers would be one of the first to assist them. He hoped that, in a short time, the little differences at present existing would be set aside, and they would have, as they ought to have under the English Constitution, but one system of work. He well remembered Bro. Philip Broadfoot, and he believed that, with the exception of Bro. Patten, he was the only person in the room who did so, when he presided over that lodge; and he knew that there was some talk at the time of the death of Bro. Peter Gilkes, in 1333, of assimilating the work, but in 1835 Bro. Broadfoot, who was engaged in the work, left London, and the matter dropped. When Bro. Broadfoot was last in London he advised Bro. Muggeridge to consent to such assimilation, and he believed that, with the valuable assistance

of Bro. Havers, it would now soon be brought about. (Cheers.) He thanked them for the compliment paid to himself and the sister Lodges of Instruction. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN next gave the Masonic Charities, which he looked upon as the brightest jewels in the Masonic diadem, and he was sure he need not say one word in their recommendation. As Bro. Binckes had lately had a good innings, and he hoped he might have one equally as good next year—he would couple with the toast the name of Bro. Patten. (Cheers.)

Bro. PATTEN, P.G.S.B., thanked the president of the evening and the brethren, for the compliment just paid him and the Charities. He regretted that Bro. Farnfield was not present, as he was sure he would readily acknowledge that he had had a pretty good innings. Bro. Binckes had also had a very good innings, but he (Bro. Patten), would not have his innings until the 13th May, when he trusted they would give him their support, and make a good field under the presidency of the Duke of St. Alban's. They had lately spent £1700 in adding a new wing to the building, which would accommodate twenty more children, but to support that number would cost a further sum of £600 a year. They had recently taken in five additional children, and he hoped at the coming festival the charity would be liberally supported, for without the brethren gave them the money, it was impossible for the Committee to do all the good they wished. (Cheers.)

The proceedings were then brought to a close, the proceedings having been enlivened by the excellent singing of Bros. Tedder, Borran, and T. Young.

[It having come to the knowledge of Bro. Havers that his observations relative to new degrees as reported above, were understood by some brethren to apply to the high degrees, we are authorised to state, and we do so with much pleasure, that he had no intention to refer at all to those degrees, for which he has great respect, and more especially for that of the Knights-Templar, and we can well understand from the words used, that the only degree really referred to was the "Mark," that being the only one claiming to be connected with Craft Masonry.—ED.]

PROVINCIAL.

BERKS AND BUCKS.

ABINGDON.—*Abbey Lodge* (No. 1247).—The consecration of this new lodge took place at Abingdon, on Thursday, April 30th, when eminent brethren of the Craft graced the meeting with their presence, amongst whom were Bros. R.W. J. McIntyre, G. Reg.; Col. Bowyer, Prov. G.M. of Oxford; Alderman R. J. Spiers, F.S.A., D. Prov. G.M. Oxford, P.G.S.B.; Huyshe, G. Chap.; Thompson, P. Prov. S.G.W., the worshipful Mayor of Oxford, and other eminent brethren, members of Grand Lodge and Grand officers of the province of Berks and Bucks, and Oxfordshire. The consecration ceremony was performed in a most impressive manner by the R.W. Bro. Aeneas J. McIntyre, G. Reg., acting Prov. G.M., and the arrangement of the music, incidental to the consecrative ceremony, was under the able direction of Bro. Dyson, Prov. G.A.D.C. Berks and Bucks, who has made this portion of the ceremony his especial study. He was assisted by Bros. Marriott, Whitehouse, and Lambert, the latter presiding in an able manner as Organist, and by his good and correct taste adding greatly to the effect of the vocal music. The Oration was delivered in a very impressive manner by Bro. the Rev. — Mortimer, Chaplain, and was an able exposition of the principles of Freemasonry. Bro. Rev. Richard Whitmore Norman was installed by Bro. Spiers, who performed the ceremony in a most admirable manner, during which a very effective chant was sung by the musical brethren, in the chorus of which all the brethren joined. The officers, named in the warrant, Bros. Rev. Richard Whitmore Norman, Warden of St. Peter's College, Radley, P.M. 460, and P. Prov. S.G.W. Oxon, W.M.; Richard Badcock, Mayor of Abingdon, 425, S.W.; John Blandy Jenkins, 460, J.W., having been severally invested with their collars, and the routine business finished the lodge was closed in ancient form, and a parting hymn was beautifully sung by the musical brethren, after which the brethren adjourned to the Council Chamber, where a sumptuous banquet was prepared by the worthy host of the Crown and Thistle, Mr. Phillips, and served in his best style. After the banquet grace was sung by Bros. Marriott, Dyson, Whitehouse, and

Lambert. Bro. the Rev. R. W. Norman, W.M., then gave in eloquent terms the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," which was drunk with all the honours, and followed by the National Anthem—"God save the Queen." The next toast was that of "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the Royal Family," which was drunk with enthusiasm, followed by the song—"God Bless the Prince of Wales," which was very finely sung by Bro. Lambert, who gave a new verse of his own composition, the words of which are as follows:—

Oh! may the pride of Denmark,
Our Prince's lovely bride,
Be guarded from all danger,
O God, be thou her guide,
Heav'n strew their path with plenty,
And tend with fostering care,
To crown with ev'ry blessing
Britannia's Royal Pair.

Chorus—Among our ancient, &c.

The toast of "The R.W. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.," was received with great applause and most cordially drunk. The Rev. Bro. Norman, W.M., then rose and proposed "The Rt. Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M., and the Grand Officers, Past and Present," which toast was drunk with all honours. The W.M. again rose to propose "The R.W. Bro. Aeneas J. McIntyre, G. Reg., and Prov. G.M.," which was duly honoured. The text toast was "The R.W. Bro. Lt. Col. Atkins Bowyer, Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire," enthusiastically received and followed by the song—"Excelsior." Several other toasts followed, "The Health of the Worshipful Master," and "The Visitors," eliciting very cordial and loud recognition, and the trio—"Maiden Fair," was then sung by Bros. Marriott, Dyson and Lambert, and elicited a most enthusiastic encore. Bros. Revs. J. Huyshe, G. Chap.; W. Bowyer, G. Chap.; J. McIntyre, G. Reg., acting Prov. G.M., and R. W. Norman, W.M. of the newly constituted Abbey Lodge, all concurred in congratulating Bro. Dyson on the great success of the music. Bro. Lambert accompanied the vocal music on the pianoforte with great taste and skill. A very pleasant evening was spent, and one that will be long remembered by all those brethren who were fortunate enough to be present; and Thursday, April 30th, 1863, will henceforth be looked upon as a red letter day, masonically, by the brethren of the Abbey Lodge (No. 1247).

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.—*Lodge La Césarée* (No. 860).—The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday, April 30th, and was attended by an unusually large number, not only of the members, but of those belonging to other lodges in the province, it having been generally known that the proceedings would be of more than ordinary interest. At one period of the evening there could not have been less than a hundred present. The lodge was opened punctually at six o'clock by Bro. Durrell, W.M., assisted by his Wardens, Bros. Philip and Clement Le Sueur. The minutes of the last regular and also of an emergency lodge were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Mr. Charles McAllen, as a candidate for initiation, and for Capt. F. De Gruchy as a joining member; they were unanimous in their favour, testimony having been afforded in both cases of their eligibility and character. Many accounts were presented, and ordered to be paid. The lodge was opened in the second degree. The W.M. stated that a copy of the by-laws, as passed by the lodge, had been submitted to the Prov. Grand Master for approbation, and that he had struck out three clauses which appeared to him contrary to the constitutions and spirit of Freemasonry. Some little discussion ensued, chiefly on the part of the W.M. and Bro. Philip Baudains, P.M., which was terminated by the adoption of a resolution proposed by Bro. Hopkins, P.M. 51, and seconded by the Rev. Bro. De La Mare, "That the measures taken by the W.M., in reference to the by-laws and their confirmation by the Prov. Grand Master, be approved and adopted by the lodge." Bro. Baudains handed to the Secretary a written protest against the proceeding. Bros. De Gruchy, Le Gros, De La Haye and Valpy, having proved their proficiency in the second degree, were raised as Master Masons, the ceremony being conducted by the W.M. throughout in his usual masterly style. The lodge having been resumed in the first degree by command from the chair, Past Masters Du Jardin and Schmitt placed in front of the pedestal Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M. 51 and W.M. elect of 1260, who was addressed in the following terms by Bro. Durrell, W.M. "Bro. Hopkins, by virtue of a resolution

adopted at a regular meeting of the Lodge Césarée, I present to you this snuff-box, with the unanimous and most sincere good wishes of the brethren, as a mark of their high estimation of your zeal in Masonic pursuits for the benefit of the Craft in general, and at the same time to express our gratitude for the eminent services you have rendered to this lodge in particular. Bro. Hopkins, I am sure that I represent the collective and unanimous desire of the large body of Freemasons now present, when I say that I hope you will long live to make use of this snuff-box, in health and prosperity, and that finally, when you shall have ended your course here below, you will go to rejoin those of your brethren who have preceded you in that Grand Lodge above, where the world's great architect lives and reigns for ever." The W.M. then read the following inscription on the box and presented it. "Presented by the Lodge La Césarée (No. 860), to V.W. Bro. Dr. Henry Hopkins, P.M. 51, &c., as a grateful acknowledgment of his valuable services towards its prosperity. Jersey, 30th April, 1863." Bro. Hopkins then gave his reply in these terms. "Worshipful Master, brother Wardens, officers, and brethren; numerous as have been the acts of kindness which, during the fifteen years of my Masonic life, I have received at the hands of members of the Fraternity, there are none which have come upon me more unexpectedly, and, I may add, more undeservedly, than that which you are now pleased to bestow upon me. Your indulgence has led you to style your handsome present an acknowledgement of services. Excuse me if I say that I can hardly accept it literally as such, but I do receive it with feelings of profound gratitude, as an expression of your friendly sentiments, of your attachment to one who came among you personally a stranger, but who, by a simple endeavour honestly to discharge his duty, has won a place in your esteem. Brethren, believe me, I appreciate this honour the more highly because at the time when you received me with open arms, admitting me to Masonic privileges, in other quarters I experienced suspicion and distrust; so much so, that at one period I had strong apprehensions and fears, that Freemasonry was not carried out in Jersey in the same spirit as elsewhere. Yes, brethren, unhappily, these things occasionally are even with us, who profess such bonds of union, so high a moral tone; nor do I claim for myself, any more than for others, exemption from the common failings and infirmities of humanity. It would seem however, from subsequent occurrences, almost to have been an object with the Césarée Lodge, to remove the impression to which I have referred, by a uniform and unvarying display of kindness; and well has it succeeded. If ever in my life I have felt in a proud position, it is to-day, in receiving such a testimonial from so large and influential a portion of the Craft, especially when I consider that, owing mainly to your support in times of despondency, and even bitterness, I have been upheld by you, and thus have had a motive presented to me for continuing in what I deemed the path of duty, though occasionally it has been beset by thorns;—when farther, in a great measure by your kind encouragement, such a course has at length been appreciated by others, who long misunderstood my conduct and mistook my motives, so that those who, some time ago, when meeting me casually, could scarcely restrain an expression of displeasure, now recognise me with a friendly nod; those who formerly avoided all intercourse, now greet me with Masonic salutations. The climax has at length been reached in these changes of sentiment; for whereas I was long unable to visit several lodges with comfort, I now find a hearty welcome in them; and, by the combination of members from almost all, in a new sphere, I have been placed in the highest position it is in their power to confer, namely, the Mastership of a Lodge; and here allow me to offer my thanks for the unanimous vote of the brethren around me, in virtue of which the warrant was granted by the Grand Master of England. How has this alteration in my position been effected? By the most simple method possible; that is, by a practical effort to pursue a straightforward course, without flinching on receiving any discouragement, and by a determination to embrace any opportunities of usefulness that presented themselves, if only in compensation for inability to take part in the proceedings of the Lodge, owing to the imperfect knowledge of the language, beyond the power of comprehending and translating it. Brethren, what I have said may appear to savour too much of egotism and personal allusions; yet it is desirable to mention these circumstances, in order to show how deeply I am indebted to you. I confess that but for your kind countenance and support, I should have given up Freemasonry entirely,

excepting my connection with my distant mother lodge, to which I should have continued my subscription, had I not been elected an honorary member; for I think that every brother should hold that tie as one not to be lightly dissolved. Hence I have confidence, knowing that many who have assisted to form a new lodge in another part of the island share this feeling with me, that not one of them will depart from your ranks, or have a diminished interest in your welfare, and that the same may be affirmed of those from other lodges with respect to them. I am indeed grateful to you for that support to which I have alluded, since the result has proved so gratifying, by the removal of the obstacles that once stood in my way. Brethren, in the charge that I, in common with others, received at my initiation, with which you are familiar, I was taught to consider the Sacred Law as the unerring standard of truth and justice, and to regulate my conduct by the Divine precepts it contains. I have endeavoured, however imperfectly, to obey this injunction. Therein I read, 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.' This, though always a leading object with me, has had greater weight from the time when the necessity for my retiring from my profession gave me an option between a life of ease and uselessness, and one of labour with at least a desire to benefit others. Thus have I endeavoured, in the authoritative language of Freemasonry, 'to preserve my corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energy, thereby enabling me to exert those talents wherewith God has blessed me, as well to His glory as the welfare of my fellow-creatures,' having a full conviction that no man had a right to be idle, and to consult his own personal comfort only; but that the very least return he can make for moderate competence and relief from the necessity of toiling for a supply of daily wants, is to minister to the welfare of those about him, as the best means of securing his own happiness and a clear conscience. Again, we learn that we are to devote a portion of our leisure hours to such pursuits as may lie within the compass of our attainment. From this too, I have felt constrained to continue in a routine of active occupation, claiming no merit, however, for any of those acts which have elicited your approval, since they are such as are enjoined on you, on me, on us all. Brethren, the last presentation such as that of this evening, was made to one highly valued, who was about to leave you amid general regret, but under circumstances such as deserved and obtained your congratulations at the same time, since they restored him to his country, to his family, to his professional colleagues, to a life of eminent usefulness. It was a parting token of regard and fraternal affection, to one far my superior, and whom I am proud to follow at an humble distance. Such I trust is not your present idea, for though I go with the assistance of others, to carry the principles and the benefits of Freemasonry into a new district, it is one in close connection with yourselves, and I do so without the remotest intention of leaving you, my early Masonic friends and associates in this island; on the contrary, it will be my aim to continue my intercourse with you, and still to prove myself worthy of your regard by such poor services as I am able to render, and by obeying in my conduct the sacred dictates of truth, of honour, and of virtue. Accept my heartfelt thanks for this renewed mark of your regard and esteem, and be assured of my devotedness, not only to the Craft in general, but to this lodge in particular, as in my mind ranking next to that in which I first received the light. Your generosity will I am sure allow a corner in my heart for the proposed new branch of the fraternity, which, if it owes its parentage directly to myself, at least has you for sponsors, and therefore you will regard it as an adopted child. Before I sit down, permit me to offer personally a cordial invitation to you to be present, and to afford me, my officers, and others acting with us, your countenance at the consecration of St. Aubin's Lodge (No. 1260), on May 6th. The ceremony is an interesting one, which probably very few of you have witnessed, and another opportunity may not be presented for many years. On that occasion, too, you will have a means of testifying your regard and respect for one whom you highly value, by attending his ministrations in the church as Grand Chaplain of the Province. I desire also to place in your hands, Worshipful Master, for the benefit of the lodge, the receipt for full payment for one share in that noble building, which is being erected as the shrine and depositary of all that is good, true, and elevating, in the science, to which, with one accord, with one great object, cement still more closely the bonds of fraternal union, so that those out of our pale, witnessing our labours of love and the purity of our lives, may testify of them to others, and be forced

to confess that Freemasonry is much more than an empty name." On the proposition of Bro. Du Jardin, a vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Dr. Hopkins, for the gift of a share in the Temple. The W.M. reported that a Board of Past Masters of the lodge had been recently held, to take into consideration the appointment of a W.M. for the ensuing year, that his continuance in office had been pressed upon him, as the two Wardens had declined to accept it, and that under these circumstances he had yielded to the wish that he should be put in nomination.—Bro. Baudains, P.M., having also been proposed by some member of the Lodge, explained that he was not anxious to take office again, yet if his services were required by the Lodge, he would not hesitate to accept the honour and again to devote himself to its duties. A ballot was then taken for the two candidates, when there appeared 36 votes for the former, 22 for the latter, and several for others who were eligible. The result, therefore, was the re-appointment of Bro. John Durell, who addressed the Lodge in the following terms,—“Dear Brethren, accept my most sincere thanks for your confidence in me, as expressed by your placing in my hand for the second year the first gavel of this Lodge. I perceive, Brethren, that you have appreciated such services as I have been able to render during the year which is on the point of expiring. This mark of confidence, of which you have this evening given proof, will be my encouragement to work, and interest myself with still greater zeal during the year which is about to commence, in order, if possible, to render the Césaire Lodge still more prosperous than it has yet been. Brethren, I claim no merit beyond that which appertains to every brother here present—that of doing my duty according to my power and capacity, and of uniting with you to give effect to the great and glorious principles by which our Order is distinguished. I pray the G.A.O.T.U. that the most perfect and fraternal harmony may reign among us at all our meetings, and I hope that this harmony will never be broken. I know that I am undertaking a task of no slight difficulty in a lodge such as this, consisting of more than a hundred members, among whom there exists a great variety of opinions, but nevertheless, Brethren, I accept this task in full confidence that I shall have your support and your counsel, under all the circumstances which may claim the fulfilment of the duties that you have confided to me, and that I shall endeavour to discharge the trust with zeal and fidelity. Brethren, it will be my aim to cause the authority which you have this evening placed in my hands to be respected at all hazards, in order that our meetings may be conducted in that spirit and with that dignity which are expected from so perfect and well-disciplined a lodge. Brethren, again receive my thanks.” Past Masters Du Jardin and Hocquard proposed the re-election of Bro. Goupillot as Treasurer. Bro. Piscart proposes another brother, but on the ballot being taken, not a vote appeared for the latter. The Tyler was also re-elected. Some other business of a routine nature having been transacted, and arrangements made for the annual banquet on the installation day, Monday, May 25th; the Lodge was closed at ten o'clock. The brethren then adjourned to another room for refreshments, which were on a scale somewhat more extensive than usual; though from the lateness of the hour about forty of the brethren left, the party was unusually large, and seemed animated by one general feeling of happiness and satisfaction. Among the toasts, that of “Success to St. Aubin's Lodge (No. 1260),” was duly honoured, and it was understood that the members of La Césaire would go out in a body with banners and other paraphernalia, to witness the consecration and inauguration of its new protégée.

CHESHIRE.

KNUTSFORD.—*De Tabley Lodge* (No. 1243).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday last, at the Old Assembly Room. Bro. Richardson Andrew (Presbury Hall) P.N. and Prov. P.G.D., acted as W.M. in the unavoidable absence of Lord de Tabley; Bros. Thomas Lane, as S.W.; E. Barlow, as J.W.; Clarke, as P.M. and Secretary. Bros. Gleeson, Jackson, Siddeley, Hulme, Woodcock, Edwards, Hurst, and several other brethren were present. The ballot was taken for Bro. Andrew (Presbury), Wood and H. Lloyd joining members. The committee appointed to select lodge furniture, reported on the selection of the first instalment of necessary articles from the stock of Bro. Platt, of London; and the quality and price gave entire satisfaction. Bros. Jackson, Hurst Mullins, Gleeson, and Woodcock were passed to the degree of fellow Craft. The ceremony was impressively conducted by Bro. Andrew. The brethren were gratified to hear that the

M.W.G.M. had been pleased to select a member of the lodge (Bro. G. Cornwall Legh, *M.P.*) to fill the chair of Junior G.W. After the duties of the lodge were performed, the brethren adjourned to the banquet. The acting W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. In proposing the health of Bro. Lord de Tabley, Bro. Andrew assured the lodge that he felt great pride and pleasure in enrolling himself under the banner of so excellent a man, and he felt quite sure that every member of the De Tabley Lodge would exert himself to make the lodge worthy of its illustrious name. The usual respectful response was given by the brethren present. Bro. Clark proposed the health of the acting W.M., and congratulated his brethren on the accession of a really hardworking and unobtrusive Mason amongst them. Bro. Andrew was a P. Prov. Grand Officer, a man of charity, and a zealous worker in the Craft. His zeal was displayed by the long distance he had driven that evening, and would have again to drive that night, consequent upon his desire to promote the welfare of a young lodge; and his charity was evinced wherever opportunity occurred. The toast was well received. Bro. Andrew, in acknowledging the toast, said that he had always conceived the Mason's duty to be simple and to bring its own reward in its performance. He never felt better pleased than when permitted to assist in the ceremonies of a lodge, or in practically giving effect to those lessons which the Masonic ceremonial was calculated to teach. Bro. Clarke, on taking the chair, proposed the health of Bro. E. M. Gleeson, who was about to depart for another kingdom, whither he would carry the good wishes of the Knutsford brethren, and the recollection of more than twenty years' usefulness in the neighbourhood. Bro. Gleeson thanked the brethren for their reception of his name, and was particularly obliged to Bro. Clarke, who, as the originator of the lodge, had been the means of bringing many to the light of Freemasonry. He trusted he should be enabled at a distance to fulfil those precepts which had been inculcated in that lodge, and always to deserve the kind feelings so generously expressed towards him. The brethren soon after separated.

SURREY.

EWELL.—*Grove Lodge* (No. 593).—The annual installation meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, May 2nd, at the Spring Hotel, in the rural village of Ewell. The lodge was opened by the W. Bro. J. J. Blake, P.M., P.S.G.D., in the absence, through illness, of Bro. Lashmar, the W.M.; and Mr. Parsons, of Ashted, was initiated into Masonry. Bro. Blake then resigned the chair to Bro. J. R. Warren, P.M. No. 234, and a member of No. 593, and, presenting Bro. W. S. Masterman, the W.M. elect, that worthy brother was duly installed and proclaimed. The W.M. then appointed and invested the officers for the year ensuing:—Bros. C. E. Amos, S.W.; F. J. Blake, J.W.; J. J. Blake, Treas.; the Rev. H. C. Grant, Chap.; C. Greenwood, Prov. G. Sec.; W. L. Webb, S.D.; A. Bingham, J.D.; J. Hart, Dir. of Cers.; C. C. Dumas, I.G.; Speight, Tyler. Bro. Warren delivered the several addresses, to the great satisfaction of the brethren assembled. The lodge was then closed, and, after a brief sojourn in the pleasure garden of the hotel, some twenty-five brethren re-assembled at a very excellent banquet. The cloth removed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and greeted warmly. That to the D.G.M. of England, and rest of Grand Officers, Past and Present, including their esteemed P.M., Bro. Blake, was most enthusiastically received, as was also that of the Prov. P.M., Bro. Dobie. The health of the W.M. was, of course, warmly welcomed; the newly-initiated brother was greeted; and a kind reception to the visitors, Bros. J. Thomas, J. Howe, Bianchi, Renell, and Treen. A most agreeable and happy evening was broken up at an early hour.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The quarterly convocation of Grand Chapter was held on Wednesday last, Comp. the Rev. J. Huyshe, G. Supt. for Devonshire, acting as Z.; Comp. Evans, as H.; and Comp. McIntyre, as J.; Comp. Clarke, E.; Comp. Le Veau, as N.; Comp. Gole, as P. Soj.; Comps. Scott and Symonds, as Assist. Sojs.; Comp. Ladd, Dir. of Cers., and about thirty other Comps.

The chapter having been opened, and the usual formalities gone through, the acting Z. announced that the G.Z. had been pleased to make the following appointments:—

Lord Sherborne, Prov. G.M. Gloucestershire...	G.J.
Lord Skelmersdale (absent)	P. Soj.
Comp. G. C. Legh (absent)	Assist. Soj.
Rev. A. F. A. Woodford (absent)	Assist. Soj.
Comp. B. Head.....	G. Swd. B.
Comp. S. E. Nutt.....	G. Std. B.
Comp. C. J. Banister	G.D.C.
Comps. Clarke, E.; Jennings, N.; McIntyre, Reg.; and Tomkins, Treas., were re-appointed.	

The next business brought forward was the granting of a charter for a chapter to be attached to the Oriental Lodge, Constantinople, adjourned from a previous meeting.

Some correspondence on the subject having been read, Comp. MCINTYRE moved that the charter be granted. There were three lodges at Constantinople, and they ought to have the opportunity given them of completing their Master Masons' degree by taking the royal arch.

Comp. EVANS seconded the motion.

Comp. HARDY supported it, and said that he had some friends at Constantinople who advocated the establishment of a chapter in the strongest terms. Of the Oriental Lodge 46 brethren signed in its favour, four being absent; of the Deutscher Bund Lodge nine signed, one being absent; and of the Bulwer Lodge, out of 14 members, nine signed, two being absent and three not Master Masons.

The motion having been agreed to, a Chapter was granted to be attached to the Joppa Lodge (No. 1166), Cape of Good Hope, subject to the formal assent of the lodge being received; and also for a Chapter to be attached to the Philanthropic Lodge (No. 124), King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Comp. EVANS said that in August, 1861, Grand Chapter had erased from the Grand Chapter roll the Rock Chapter (No. 325), Trichinopoly, it not having made any returns for some years, or replied to the communications from Grand Chapter. Since then the Chapter had made a return, accompanied with the fees for newly-exalted Arch Masons. Looking at the difficulties which attended the regular practice of Freemasonry in India, and at their not being able to prove that the communications of Grand Chapter had been received, he would move that the Chapter be restored to its position in the roll of Chapters.

Comp. LE VEAU seconded the motion. He could easily understand that the communications of Grand Chapter had not been received in India, seeing that a case had occurred in England where their communications had not reached the proper hands. It appeared that in that case the Master of the lodge had directed all communications to be taken to his house, and, not being himself an Arch Mason, he had thrown these communications connected with the Chapter on one side. He thought it very doubtful whether in this case the communications had ever reached the proper parties, and therefore he was of opinion the charter ought to be restored.

The resolution was carried.

Attention was next drawn to the following paragraph in the report of the Committee, upon which Comp. Huyshe, acting Z., said they would have to take action:—

"The Committee have to report that a letter has been received from the Grand Scribe E. of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, notifying that certain companions who had been suspended by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, had formed themselves into what they termed 'A General Grand Royal Arch Chapter, for Scotland and the Colonies,' and had commenced issuing charters and working the Royal Arch degrees, and further notifying the expulsion of such companions from the order of Royal Arch Freemasons, and requesting that publicity may be given to such act of expulsion, in order that other chapters may not through ignorance admit into their meetings any of the expelled companions or others exalted in the chapters organised under their auspices; and the Committee have finally to report that a letter has been received purporting to be signed by the thirteen companions named in the said letter of the Grand Scribe, announcing that they have created themselves into a General Grand Royal Arch Chapter for Scotland and the Colonies."

The communication having been read,

Comp. HUYSHE said that they would observe that the question before them divided itself into two parts; first, how they should deal as regarded the companions expelled by the Grand Chapter of Scotland; and secondly, the notice they should take

of the communication by the companions so expelled, and the establishment of the new Grand Chapter, which it was evident they had not the power to do.

Comp. HENRY G. WARREN said before they proceeded to take any notice of the communications, he would ask whether this Grand Chapter had any official relations with the Grand Chapter of Scotland?

Comp. HUYSHIE was understood to say, "No doubt of it."

Comp. WARREN did doubt it. Some years since when Comp. Dobie occupied the chair then filled by their worthy Comp. Hyshe, a communication was received from the Grand Chapter of Scotland, requesting them to exchange representatives in the same manner as was done by the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland. That communication was referred to the Grand Z. for consideration, and he (Comp. Warren) had reason to believe that it was never replied to. At all events, the reply was never communicated to Grand Chapter, and representatives were never appointed. Now, what was the position of the Grand Chapter of Scotland itself? It was not acknowledged by the Grand Lodge. There was no connection between the Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge as in England; and, in fact, they both claimed the same right with regard to the granting of the Mark degree. The fact was, the Grand Chapter of Scotland stood in no better position with regard to its Grand Lodge than did any unacknowledged degrees which brethren might practise in England would stand in relation to the Grand Lodge of England. Then, as regarded this General Grand Chapter, he thought it was always a misfortune when differences occurred between any body of Masons, but was the Grand Chapter of England in a position to decide between them upon such information as they were in possession of; and could they ignore the existence of a body at the head of which so distinguished a Mason and member of the Grand Lodge of Scotland as Sir Archibald Allison had allowed himself to be placed. Under all the circumstances, he thought it was impossible that they could take any action in the matter, at least with such information as they at present had then before them.

Comp. GEORGE LAMBERT, as a member of No. 1, Edinburgh, wished to confirm the accuracy of all that had been stated by Comp. Warren, as to the position of the Grand Chapter of Scotland. The Grand Chapter was not only not acknowledged by the Grand Lodge, but the Grand Master was not at its head.

Comp. LADD thought that the matter had better be allowed to stand over for further information.

A question was here again put as to the existence of official relations between the Grand Chapters of England and Scotland, to which

The GRAND SCRIBE E. replied there were "no official relations."

Comp. LE VEAU asked in what position they were in with regard to Scotch Royal Arch Masons. Supposing a Scotch companion, presenting his certificate, and asking admission into a Chapter, should they refuse him?

Comp. WARREN would, if he were allowed, answer that. They should admit him as an Arch Mason, and as a matter of courtesy, in the same way as they treated French brethren. They knew from report that there were two bodies in France—the Grand Orient and the Grand Council of the Scotch Rite. They had no official relations with either, but they never thought of refusing admission to French brethren when they visited English lodges.

Comp. GOLE said that the committee had felt great difficulty as to the course to be pursued when the matter was first brought before them; and, after the information they had received that evening, and for which he thanked Comp. Warren, he would move that the question be referred back to the committee to consider the state of the relations between the Grand Chapters of England and Scotland.

Comp. LADD seconded the motion, which was put and carried unanimously.

Comps. Evans, Jennings, and Le Veau were then nominated on the part of the Grand Master as members of the Committee of General Purposes.

The following were elected by Grand Chapter to complete the committee:—Comps. Adlard, No. 259; Savage, No. 7; Head, No. 5; Gole, No. 109; Nutt, No. 32; and Warren, No. 778.

All business being ended, the chapter was closed in due form.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

WATFORD.—*Watford Chapter* (No. 580).—A convocation was held on Monday, May 4th, in the Freemasons' Hall, Watford,

Present: E. Comps. H. C. Finch, Z.; C. F. Humbert, H.; H. H. Burchall Herne, P.Z., as J.; George Francis, P.Z.; Thomas Rogers, Wilson Iles, Capt. C. W. Layton, T. A. Brett, Horton Smith, Rev. J. Branton, George Finch, and others. The companions proceeded to the election of officers for the year ensuing, with the following result:—Comps. C. F. Humbert, M.E.Z.; G. Francis, H.; C. W. Layton, J.; W. Iles, E.; F. H. Brett, N.; T. Rogers, Treas.; Horton Smith, P.S.; Thomas, Janitor. The companions at the close of the business dined together.

HAMPSHIRE.

FAREHAM.—*Chapter of Harmony* (No. 387).—The annual meeting of this chapter was held on Monday, May 4th, presided over by Comp. Rankin Stebbing, P.Z. 152, 555, and 1025, in the absence of the Z., Comp. Heather. The Rev. T. A. Mills, J. of the past year, was, by dispensation, installed as H. and then as Z. for the ensuing year; after which Comp. Compigne, of Gosport, was installed as J. and finally as H., Comp. Grace, as J.; placing three most able Principals in the Chairs to carry on the chapter with success. Comp. S. D. Forbes, P.Z. 59 and 387, very accurately installed 2nd and 3rd Principals. The chapter was honoured with a visit from Comp. Dr. Harcourt, Prov. G.D.C., and D. Prov. G.M. of Surrey, and by Comp. Blinkon, P.Z. 486, both of whom came expressly from Chertsey (near to which the Rev. 1st Principal formerly resided), to testify their respect for him, and the learned doctor had a most cordial and hearty welcome. Amongst the visiting Principals were Comps. Wolfe, P.Z. 428, Wm. Hackman, Z. 401 and H. 152, Edward Bannister, P.Z. 428 and 717, together with other Royal Arch companions, all of whom passed a most gratifying evening. This chapter was one of those very nearly struck off the Grand Chapter books, having been dormant for many years, but, by the earnest appeal of Bro. Stebbing to Grand Chapter for time, it has been saved, and that zealous brother, who is a member, has frequently attended to assist the companions, though he has not accepted any office amongst them.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTER.—*Encampment of St. Arnaud*.—This conclave was opened in the Masonic Hall, at the Bell Hotel, on the day of our patron saint, by the E.C., Sir Knt. S. Guyon Purchas; Commander Woof, Grand Chamberlain, Prov. G. 1st Capt.; Haigh, S.B.; W. H. Wood, 2nd Capt.; C. W. Griffiths, Capt. of Lines; A. Powell, Reg.; Woods, Dir. of Cers.; and several other members. On this occasion Comp. the Ven. R. L. Freer, D. Prov. G.M. Herefordshire, Palladian Chapter (No. 141), E. S. Cossens, Prov. G.S.W. Gloucestershire, Robert Burns' Chapter (No. 25, and T. H. Peake, St. Wulstan's Chapter (No. 343), were severally approved, and being present, were created Knights of the Royal, Exalted, Religious, and Military Order, and at a council of Knights Hospitallars of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, were duly created Knights Hospitallars. Sir Knt. the Rev. J. Hill Grice, M.A., of Mount Calvary Encampment, London, and Sir Knt. R. Price Hill, of the Cœur de Lion Encampment, Oxford, were duly approved as joining members. The encampment was honoured by a visit from Sir Knt. A. Hudson Royds, D. Com. for Worcestershire, who had previously presented to the encampment a fine sample of a double-handled sword, a ponderous weapon, in excellent state of preservation. The conclave being closed the Sir Knights partook of an excellent banquet, accompanied by wines of the finest vintages and character.

MARK MASONRY.

The Mark Master lodges working in England under warrants granted by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland have registered sixty-two members during the past year, as follows:—St. John's, Bolton, 3; Joppa, Birkenhead, 10; Keystone, Liverpool, 2; Canynges, Bristol, 12; Liverpool, 7; Florence Nightingale, Woolwich, 1; Southwark, London, 10; Longley, Cardiff, 3; Jerusalem, Burslem, 14. The last-named lodge, which stands No. 18 on the role of Supreme Chapter was chartered in June last, a working order having been granted to it on the 10th of the previous month, under the designation of the St. Martin's Mark Master Lodge. At the request of the petitioners, the name of the lodge was subsequently changed to the Jerusalem.

SCOTLAND.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

GLASGOW.—At a special meeting of the Supreme Grand Chapter, held at Edinburgh on the 6th ult., a petition was presented by Comp. J. G. Houstoun and other Royal Arch Masons resident in Glasgow, praying for a charter of erection in their favour, Supreme Chapter having granted the prayer thereof, appointed the new chapter to stand No. 94 on the registry, under the name and title of the Glasgow Kilwinning Chapter. It was also remitted to Grand Committee to make arrangements for the new chapter being inaugurated by a deputation from Supreme Chapter. Accordingly, on the 27th ult., Supreme Chapter made a grand visitation to Glasgow, for the purpose of opening the new chapter. The First Grand Principal, J. Whyte Melville, of Bennochly and Shathkinness, was accompanied by a large number of Grand Officers and other members of Grand Chapter; and, having opened the chapter, proceeded to the installation of its Office-bearers. Three candidates were afterwards exalted in the Glasgow Kilwinning; and, on the conclusion of the ceremony, the chapter was closed, in order to permit of an adjournment to the banquet, which had been provided by the Office-bearers of the newly-constituted chapter. The chair was occupied by the Most Excellent First Grand Principal, Comp. Barrow, Second Grand Sojourner, discharging the duties of Croupier. In giving the health of the First Principal of the Glasgow Kilwinning, the Grand Principal expressed the gratification which he felt in visiting Glasgow, and presiding at the inauguration of the Chapter No. 94. After acknowledging the toast, which was well received by the companions present, Comp. Houstoun proposed the health of the First Grand Principal, and, in doing so, took occasion to thank the deputation for their attendance that evening. Several other toasts were given—"honourable mention" being made of the Chapters No. 73, 79, and 87—all of which had remained true to their allegiance to Supreme Chapter, and to the obligations which their members had taken.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

A special meeting of the office bearers and members of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for Scotland and the colonies, at which upwards of fifty companions were present, was held in 213, Buchanan-street, on Wednesday, 22nd ult., for the purpose of erecting and consecrating a new chapter under the banner of the above body. M.E. Comps. Donald Campbell, acting First Grand Principal; H. Campbell, second Grand Principal; and Robert Clayston, third Grand Principal. The chapter having been opened in due form, and with solemn prayer, the First Grand Principal delivered the installation ceremony, with a solemnity and impressiveness we have never heard equalled on any similar occasion. The Grand Marshall having read the warrant of constitution and presented the office bearers and members of the new chapter to the First Grand Principal, office bearers, and members of the General Grand Chapter, thereafter proclaimed the new chapter, under the title of the Athole, duly constituted for the practice of the several degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, which announcement was received with acclamation. The principals and other office bearers having taken the oath, *de fidei*, were severally presented to the First Grand Principal, and to each of them he gave a beautiful and most appropriate charge; we believe specially prepared for the present occasion, and installed them into their several offices. The principals resigned their chairs to the Officers of the General Grand Chapter, and the Grand Chapter was closed in due form.

The officers bearers of the new chapter are Comps. James Harkness, Z.; John Sharpe, H.; G. Weston, J.; L. F. Moore, Scribe E.; Wm. Sibbald, Scribe N.; T. Brownley, Treas.; R. Penman, 1st Soj.; R. Graham, 2nd Soj.; Wm. McIntosh, 3rd Soj.

After closing the General Grand Chapter, the companions adjourned to refreshment, M.E. Comp. D. Campbell in the chair, who gave in succession "The Queen," "Sister Grand Chapters," in giving this toast he remarked, that the only rivalry which

ought to exist between those who professed and acted on the principles taught in Royal Arch Masonry, should be who would most promote the interests and best advance the ends of the Order, by doing their utmost to extend its influence. The next toast was the "General Grand Chapter," the Grand Z. alluded to the success that had already attended the efforts of the office bearers and companions, and he felt assured that this was only a foretaste and prelude to still greater progress, and he hoped the time would soon come when a Royal Arch Chapter would be connected with every lodge of St. John's Masonry. The future prosperity and success of the newly consecrated chapter, the Athole, and her office bearers, was next proposed; hoping she would be the means of adding many to the roll of Royal Arch Masonry; the toast was coupled with the health of Excellent Comp. James Harkness, First Principal, who replied in appropriate terms. The Glasgow Chapter, coupled with Comp. H. Campbell, was given by M.E. Comp. Dalveen. "The Cathedral and Comp. R. Clayston," by Comp. John Davidson. "The St. Andrew and Comp. J. Cousins," by M.E. Comp. James Muir, to each of which toasts these companions made suitable replies. Unrepresented chapters and absent companions was given by Comp. James Thomson, in a short but pretty speech. The health of M.E. Comp. Donald Campbell was proposed by Comp. James Harkness, and responded to with all the honours, to which Comp. Campbell made a most excellent and feeling reply. Between the toasts many excellent songs were sung by companions present. The chairman then gave the last toast, "Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again," when the companions separated, having spent a pleasant and most harmonious evening.

AIRDRIE DISTRICT CHAPTER.—A special meeting of this chapter was held on Tuesday, the 28th ult., for the purpose of receiving a visitation from the office-bearers of the General Grand Chapter, under whose banner they now work. About thirty companions were present, among whom were Dr. Torrance, Z.; P. McKinnon, H.; John Barr, J.; A. Bizzet, E., &c. The Grand visitation consisted of M.E. Comps. Donald Campbell, Depute Grand Z.; R. Wallace, G. Recorder; N. B. Dalvern, 1st G. Soj.; John Laurie, 2nd G. Soj.; D. H. Miller, G. Standard-bearer; R. Clugston, G. Steward; David Haire and J. Cowan. The reception by the Airdrie companions of the Grand Visitation was of the most flattering and gratifying description. The chapter having been opened, the following six exaltations took place for the purpose of showing the Grand Office-bearers their mode and ability of working:—George Ellis, John Lindsay, Alexander McDougall, Peter Marshall, Robert Simpson, and Robert Cooper. The whole of the degrees, Mark Master, Past Master, Excellent Master, and Royal Arch, were gone through in the most creditable manner. Their labours having been brought to a close, the M.E. Depute Grand Principal congratulated the Airdrie District Chapter on her coalition with the General Grand Chapter, and by steady perseverance it would ultimately become a powerful auxiliary to the head lodge. The activity displayed by its members was gratifying in the extreme, and the Office-bearers of the General Grand Chapter were indebted to them all both severally and collectively. The chapter having been closed, the companions adjourned from the chapter room to the large hall of the Royal Hotel, where they sat down to an excellent and abundant supper. After the cloth was withdrawn, toasts, songs, and sentiments enlivened the evening's entertainment, which was brought to a close before high twelve, in consequence of the companions from Glasgow having to return home by carriages. The leading toasts of the evening were—"The Grand Office-bearers, with their Friends," and "The Airdrie District Chapter," both of which were heartily given and responded to. To the toast of "The Town Council of Airdrie," Bro. Fleming, when replying, regretted extremely that he and several other brethren had been unavoidably absent on business of importance, and were not among those exalted, but promised that before eight or ten days passed he would trouble them again to work with six or eight other candidates. Such enthusiasm bespeaks energy and perseverance, and the General Grand Chapter ought to be proud of the adherence of so valuable an adjunct waving its bannerette under her banner. At leaving, three hearty cheers were given by both parties, each desirous of an early renewal of so friendly a visit and reception. The next visitation of the General Grand Chapter will be to Paisley, to inspect the condition of the young chapter which they inaugurated three months ago, during which period they have exalted fifteen and affiliated an equal number.

IRELAND.

THE GRAND MASONIC BALL AT DUBLIN IN
HONOUR OF THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE OF
WALES.(From *Saunders' News-Letter*.)

The Rotundo perhaps never witnessed a more brilliant scene of the kind than that which on the evening of the 28th ult., blazed within its walls. Many vivid scenes and various stirring recollections are associated with the Round Room; but in its future history a palm of excellence, so far as festive entertainments are concerned, will be, without doubt, accorded to the Masonic Ball of 1863, given to celebrate the marriage of the Heir Apparent to the Crown. That loyal purpose, as all our readers are aware, constituted the primary object of the ball. It is needless to refer to the titles to respect possessed by the Order of Freemasons. An ancient and honourable Order, it embraces all creeds within its charitable arms. Its ranks have, in past ages, been dignified by the membership of kings, princes, and potentates. Its roots strike deep into the ground, spreading far and wide among the ranks of the people. The late auspicious marriage of the Prince of Wales, whilst it evoked expressions of loyalty from all quarters, afforded to the Masonic body of Ireland an opportunity of evincing their earnest feelings which was not to be passed over. A ball was selected as the form of paying this special homage. But while loyalty to the Crown was the moving spring of the celebration, it was also intended to have other practical results. Those beneficent sentiments which form so essential a characteristic of Freemasonry, and which form a sort of golden link binding the uninitiated and the initiated in its mysteries together, came into operation as a natural consequence of the original design. The ball has had the effect of benefiting society in general by stimulating trade; and by its instrumentality a special benefit will be conferred upon the *Masonic Female Orphan School*. The residue of the proceeds of the occasion, after the payment of all expenses, will be given to the funds of that institution. These were the aims of the projectors of the ball; the result of their efforts, and indeed of the sympathy and support of a large, powerful, and influential circle, was the magnificent display of that night. From the first, indeed, it was regarded as a certain success. Participation in its honours and festivities was sought after to an extraordinary extent, and the early closure of the ticket list attested the estimation in which it was held. The names of its subscribers, and of those who attended it, contain evidence enough of the value of the patronage which it received. The noble Duke who is at once the head of the aristocracy of Ireland and the Grand Master of the Masonic Order in that country, and his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the Queen's representative—the two most distinguished personages in the realm—honoured the ball by their presence. The rank and fashion of the city and country were also most fully represented. The leading members of the Masonic Order, were of course present. The number, variety, brilliance and rarity of their decorations would alone have formed a dazzling feature within any walls. The charms of beauty, and the life and animation presented by such an assemblage—features with which no human art can compare—formed, indeed, the essentials of a resplendent picture, in which those glittering details of ornament were, after all, only the accessories. The *tout ensemble* was a feast to the eye, a charming picture of social life—and a grand testimony in honour of the Prince. The success which was anticipated beforehand fairly exceeded anticipations. The last grand Masonic Ball, it may be added, was given in 1852, and was attended by the late Earl of Eglington, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. It has been surpassed by the ball of 1863.

The appearance of the suite of rooms, apart from any other element, was quite unexampled, in the Rotundo at least. Never before was the round room arrayed in such dazzling glory—in plumage of so varied and brilliant colours. Never were ball-rooms, drawing-room, and refreshment room in that building more finely and tastefully fitted out. The rooms, spacious as they were, with difficulty contained the assemblage. The crush occasionally rendered dancing very difficult, and promenade a mere hypothesis; but the splendid dresses, the brilliant uniforms, and gorgeous Masonic decorations afforded through the organs of sight compensation for the difficulty of motion. The number of persons present was above fifteen hundred.

The decorations of the rooms was entrusted to the Messrs. Fry, of Westmorland-street, and all the resources of their

establishment were employed to render the style of ornamentation worthy of the occasion. It would be difficult to conceive anything intended merely to serve a temporary purpose, more brilliant and effective, and, at the same time, characterised by greater elegance and tastefulness than the manner in which the Round Room was fitted up. Festoons of flowers and evergreens, handsome trophies of flags, the royal arms of England and Denmark, the various orders of knighthood, Masonic devices in great variety, graceful statues filling every niche, and gleaming mirrors reflecting all the surrounding objects, combined to present a scene of dazzling brilliancy that has been rarely surpassed. At the western side of the room a dais or elevated platform was constructed, on which were placed the Grand Master's throne, and chairs for the Deputy Grand Master and his excellency the Lord Lieutenant. These were splendid chairs of carved oak, with morocco lining, that for the Grand Master being of remarkable size. The dais was covered by a tent erection of crimson and white, surmounted by a Prince's plume in crystal, which, being lighted up from behind, shone and sparkled as if it were formed of precious stones. At either side of the plume were two trophies of flags, and lower down the arms of the Duke of Leinster and of the Lord Lieutenant beautifully emblazoned. Immediately opposite to the dais a large double staircase ascended to the gallery, which was thus made easily accessible to the guests, and commanded a complete view of the living panorama below. The staircase was handsomely draped, so as to form a sort of alcove underneath, which was furnished with couches and easy chairs, and tastefully decorated. On the front of the alcove the Royal arms of England were displayed, the arms of Denmark and of the Prince of Wales being suspended higher up at either side, and above all, two trophies of flags were erected corresponding with those at the opposite side of the room. Large pier glasses were inserted at the basement of the five pillars at each side, and the capitals of the pillars, the windows, and the gallery was wreathed with festoons of evergreens, and displayed numerous flags, banners, and Masonic devices. The arches between the pillars below the gallery were each ornamented with a statue, and the gallery underneath was hung with crimson drapery with pelmets from which handsome Masonic devices were suspended. These latter formed one of the most attractive as they were the most characteristic feature of the decorations; whilst equally prominent and beautiful were the various orders of knighthood handsomely emblazoned which were placed in the windows over the gallery. These included the order of the Elephant, which is the Danish order of knighthood; the Star and Cross of Denmark, the Stars of India and of Saxony, and the British orders of the Garter, the Shamrock, and the Thistle. Seats covered with crimson cloth were ranged round the room, and the portion of the floor surrounding the circular space reserved for the dancers were carpeted. The round room was connected with the pillar room by a small antechamber, which was lined with blue and white and hung with crimson curtains. The decoration of the pillar room was the same in character as that already described, consisting chiefly of Masonic devices, banners, and evergreens. The manner in which the pillars were wreathed with garlands of evergreens was very effective, and the general appearance of the room was exceedingly beautiful and pleasing. There was a refreshment room below the stairs on a level with the round room, the principal feature of which was that the walls were hung with flags from the Ajax. The large apartment up stairs was converted into a supper room, which was hung with crimson curtains and profusely ornamented with Masonic devices and flags of various kinds. The Lord Lieutenant's table was furnished with handsome articles of plate and Bohemian glass, and the tables were covered with numberless Masonic arches and other emblems, executed with no mean artistic skill in that fragile material, crystallised sugar. It would involve a wearisome repetition of details if we attempted to describe every feature of the elaborate decoration of the suite of rooms which was so effectually accomplished by the Messrs. Fry. We have therefore merely indicated the general character of the ornamentation employed, and the arrangement of which does so much credit to the taste of the managing committee and of the eminent firm by whom these instructions were carried out.

The lighting and the illuminations—not the least important element in the success of a festivity of this description—were entrusted to Mr. William Daniel, of Mary-street, in conjunction with Mr. Mooney, of Ormond Quay. The front entrance facing Sackville-street was illuminated. In the centre was a large

Prince of Wales's plume and ribbon, with the motto, "Ich Dien," worked out in gas jets, which looked admirably between the mellow rays thrown out through the Danish crystal stars at either side. These had rich stained glass centres, one with the motto, "Peace, Love, and Harmony," and the other having the Prince of Wales's arms, encircled with the words, "May they be happy." The passage leading to the Round Room was artistically lighted, and near the entrance door stood a magnificent mirror lit up by an ormolu candelabra, with ten or twelve lights on each side. The passage was handsomely draped with scarlet and white hangings. The cornice of the Round Room was picked out in gas jets, forming a magnificent luminous circle, the size of the roof, which poured down a flood of light on the scene; and there were in addition eight crystal gaseliers of chaste design, each having thirty jets; which were carefully distributed through the room, so as to afford pleasing relief to the grand ormolu and crystal gaselier, having some hundred jets, which was suspended from the centre of the ceiling. Four beautiful gaseliers were also suspended from the ceiling, and, together with a large number of triple scroll brackets projecting from under the gallery, contributed considerably to enhance the brilliancy of the general effect. The entrance to the Pillar and refreshment rooms looked very fine, being lighted by a drum of crystal hanging in the centre. The Pillar-room had nine ring lights, each surmounted by a coronet and having some sixty mock candles. On the top of the mirrors placed round this apartment were semicircular arches of wax lights. In the drawing-room there were four half-round projections with wax lights and massive crystal gaselier with opal candles. The stairs to the supper-room were lighted by two ormolu chandeliers and scroll bracket-lights from the walls; and in the centre of the supper-room hung three crystal and gold chandeliers, having some thirty jets each, which threw a flood of softened light into the apartment.

The supper tables were ranged so as to afford the utmost convenience to the guests, and were lighted with a number of branches.

The bands which performed on the occasion were those of the 36th and the 21st Fusilier regiments, and Hanlon's stringed band, the two first being stationed in the Round Room and the last in the Pillar-room.

Shortly before nine o'clock, the Round Room began to fill. The seats below and in the gallery were already pretty fully occupied by ladies. The Grand Masonic Officers and Stewards of the ball had already assembled.

The following Grand Officers awaited with the Stewards the arrival of the Grand Master:—John Fitzhenry Townsend, *LLD.*, Deputy G.M.; Thomas Mostyn, G. Treas.; Arthur Bushe, Senior G.D.; Edmund R. Digges La Touche, Junior G.D.; Charles D. Astley, G. Supt. of Works; Joseph Manning, G. Dir. of Cers.; Theophilus E. St. George, G.S.; George Hepburn, Grand Sword Bearer; Francis Quin, G. Org.; Edward D. Thorp, G.I.G.; Charles T. Walmsley, Dep. G. Sec. and Treas.; Bro. Samuel B. Oldham, Assist. Sec.

The following stewards were appointed to attend specially on the Grand Master:—Lieut.-Col. Burdett, Col. Whitmore, Col. Hort, Lowry Balfour, Andrew Browne, and Maurice Keatinge. The following gentlemen were also stewards:—Bros. Cusack, Goddard, Bailey, Anderson, Casey, Miller, Fisher, Lane, Blackley, Buchanan, Ingram, B. Whitestone, E. J. Armstrong, S. C. Collingwood, Handcock, Sidney, Dobbin, Ferrier, Jessop, Lowry, G. Johnstone, De Robeck, Pim, Huband, Shekleton, Owens, Bloomgeld, Massy, Goddard, Allen, Ringland, Barlow, Mackey, H. Johnston, Baker, Davoren, Wilson, Brereton, Jessop, S. B. Oldham, Lindsay, Jones, Orpen, Handcock, Ingram, Stephens, Macrory, Pim. The stewards were under the direction of the Grand Steward, Theophilus E. St. George. The following brethren were the representatives of foreign lodges, viz.:—The Grand Lodge of England, R.W. Gapt. Godfrey Brereton, *R.N.*; Grand Lodge of Scotland, R.W. the Hon. Major A. G. F. Jocelyn; Grand Orient of France; Grand Lodge of Hamburg, R.W. J. Faviere Elrington, *LL.D.*; Grand Lodge of Prussia, R.Y.F., R.W. William Allen; Grand Lodge of Canada; Grand Lodge of Louisiana, R.W. Lucius H. Deering; Grand Lodge of Virginia, R.W. John Cottle; Grand Lodge of New York, R.W. John Rinuland; Prov. Grand Lodge of Lisbon, W. John H. Goddard.

The Grand Officers assembled in the refreshment-room at nine o'clock. Their dresses were more or less splendid. The Grand Deacons carried wands. The sword, a magnificent emblem, was borne by the Grand Sword Bearer. The Deputy

Grand Master carried the book of the constitutions. A procession of these officers, headed by six stewards, in the first instance, conducted the Deputy Grand Master, Dr. Townsend, to his seat.

At twenty minutes after nine o'clock the arrival of the Grand Master, his Grace the Duke of Leinster, was announced. Forthwith the Deputy Grand Master and officers proceeded to meet his Grace at the door. A great procession was then formed of the stewards and grand officers, by which the noble duke was conducted slowly round the room, until he reached his throne. During this progress, which was made at a slow and stately pace, the band of the 35th Regiment played the "Welcome" from the Masons of Ireland to the Princess of Wales, the words composed by Bro. S. N. Elrington, and the music by Mr. Clarke, the bandmaster of the regiment. As soon as the Grand Master had taken his seat, the Deputy Grand Master called upon all brethren present to salute the Grand Master according to ancient form. This completed the interesting ceremonial, which was the formal opening of the festivities of the evening.

The presentation of ladies then commenced, and occupied nearly an hour and a half.

The company in the interval arrived rapidly, and by eleven o'clock the rooms were thronged.

At a few minutes after eleven o'clock his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant was announced. The Grand Master, the Deputy, and the Officers rose and met his Excellency, and conducted him to his seat upon the dais, the band playing the "National Anthem." His Excellency was accompanied by Major and the Hon. Mrs. Bagot, Lord St. Lawrence, Captain Lascelles, Mr. Arkwright, Captain Moore, A.D.C., Captain Shuldham, Mr. Hatchell, Private Secretary, and Mr. Creyke. The Right Hon. the Lord Chancellor arrived about the same time with his Excellency. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress subsequently arrived.

His Excellency having taken his seat beside the Grand Master, dancing commenced in the Round and Pillar Rooms with great spirit.

The programme of dances was lithographed in superior style by Browne and Nowlan, of Nassau-street. The card, as usual upon all festive occasions where dancing on a grand scale is expected, was presented to each of the company, and in this instance the embellishments were more than those of an ordinary character. The portraits of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the emblems of the Prince and the Masonic symbols, were lithographed in blue and gold, and at the back of the card the British standard was depicted in brilliant colours.

At half-past twelve o'clock the Lord Lieutenant, the Grand and Deputy Grand Masters, and a numbers of the most distinguished guests, were conducted to the supper-room. His Excellency and party afterwards returned to the ball-room, and having remained some time, left at a quarter to two o'clock. The Grand Master took his departure shortly afterwards. The festivity of the evening was kept up to an advanced hour.

IRISH MASONIC FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL.—The ceremonials and festive proceedings at the ball on the 28th ult., naturally lead the mind to a consideration of that which is nearest and dearest to the heart of the Mason—their school for the education, maintenance, and protection of female orphans. Few in Dublin need to be reminded that the school is situated at Burlington-place, near Baggot-street Bridge, and a recent visit enables us to say that the institution is managed upon principles that must meet with the approval of the most fastidious and critical in scholastic discipline and government. The children occupy well ventilated apartments—they have good food, comfortable clothes, and suitable recreations. Each is taught to bear the reverses of life with fortitude, and its prosperities with moderation, for no preference is given to one class over another. The orphan girl of the gentleman of high rank undergoes the same discipline, which teaches humility, industry, and patience, quite as much as the child of humbler parents. She is qualified to do for herself in every respect, from the polishing of her shoes to the making of her bonnet—from the cooking of her dinner to the adjustment of her sleeping room—from the brushing and repairing of her clothes to the recreating herself with music of a high order, or enjoying the pleasures of converse with the best educated and most polite persons in society. In fact, the education which she receives is calculated to ensure for her a sound mind in a sound body; and that the homely, healthy, honest system of mental and moral culture adopted in the institution has that effect, is proved by the peace,

love, and harmony that prevail amongst the children. All of them seem to be contented and cheerful, and the practical and unremitting benevolence of the brethren mitigates the painful sense of orphanage and the loneliness of domestic separations. The Masonic Orphan School is a model institution. The following passages, extracted from the last report of the committee, will corroborate what we have said in reference to this interesting subject: "The total income of the school in the year 1861, including the balance from former years, was £1236 11s. 3d. Of this sum £808 8s. 5d. was applied to current expenses, £256 13s. 5d., to the painting furniture, &c., rendered necessary by the enlargement, and £170 was invested, according to the practice of former years, towards replacing a sum which had been originally laid out in the building of the present school-house, the interest of the invested fund being one of the main sources of permanent income which the establishment possesses. The total receipts of the year 1862 amount to £1452 8s. 1d. Of that sum £240 has been invested further to replace the stock sold out to meet the expenses of the additions made to the school-house in 1861, the residue, amounting to £1219 8s. 1d., was applied to the current expenses of the school during the past year, which amount to the sum of £1220 17s. 6d., including upwards of £300, the balance due for the building and furnishing of the addition to the school-house. There are thirty-five girls at present in the school, the number of pupils having been increased since the last annual meeting by one only. The internal management of the school continues to be conducted with the most scrupulous economy, under the superintendence of the Finance Committee, the efficient Assistant Secretary, Bro. Oldham, and the excellent Matron, Mrs. Noble. Any person observing the neat and healthy appearance of the girls, must be surprised at the small annual cost of their diet and dress, which does not exceed an average of about £11 for each girl. Whilst, however, the mental powers of the girls are thus developed, in order to fit them for the responsible situations of preparatory governesses, the more humble and more necessary duties of their station are not neglected, and they are trained in habits of industry, subordination, and order, to attend upon themselves, and perform as much of the domestic duties of the house as children and young girls can be expected to do. Their progress and proficiency in needlework have been satisfactory to the Ladies' Committee and Mrs. Noble, who efficiently superintend this important department of female education. The sanitary condition of the school has, by the blessing of Almighty God, been good during the past year, and the governors return their warm thanks to Dr. Speedy, for the valuable medical services he has gratuitously rendered to the school during the last fifteen years. During the year 1862, six girls were admitted to the school. Of those now in the institution, twelve are the orphans of brethren of Dublin lodges, whilst twenty-three of them are the orphans of brethren who belonged to country or military lodges; and the governors desire to impress this fact on their brethren of country lodges, as the best proof that the school has a paramount claim on their liberality and co-operation. One of the girls was permitted during the past year to return to her mother, for the purpose of accompanying her to Australia; and, through the exertions of the apprentice committee, eligible situations have been provided for four others—three as preparatory governesses, and one in a mercantile establishment. The accounts which the governors receive from their employers are creditable and satisfactory; and, indeed, the testimony of all who are now associated with the former inmates of the school, indicate that the lessons taught them in their childhood have made lasting impressions upon their minds; whilst their affection for their early home and for their mother (as they continue to call Mrs. Noble) is evinced by their frequent letters and touching expressions of gratitude. One in Australia, one at the Cape, two in England, at the head of large schools, and several in Ireland, as wives or governesses, reflect upon the institution the credit they are themselves to it."

INDIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

KURRACHEE.—*Hope Lodge* (No. 350, S.C.).—It is some time now since we have had the pleasure of recording the doings of the brethren of this lodge, but now that the present office-bearers have infused new life into the members, we hope to be able to record for the information of its sister lodges frequent reports, such as we now lay before the readers of our

periodical. The regular meeting of this lodge took place in the lodge rooms, Kurrachee, Scind, East Indies, on Monday, the 2nd March, under the presidency of P.M., Bro. John Beino, in the absence of the W.M., Bro. Martin, who was prevented from attending by an unusual press of business. The lodge having been opened in ancient form, the minutes of the last meeting confirmed, Mr. James Keogh was initiated into the Order. Bros. Herbert and Randell were passed to the second degree, and instructed as to the course of study to be pursued by them as F. C. Masons. After some other matters were disposed of, Bro. Charles King (of the firm of King, Davison, and Co.) drew the brethren's attention to the fact of P.M. Bro. Goolden being about to depart in a few days for Europe, and that he had attended that evening to take leave of them. Bro. Goolden had for a lengthened period been a zealous and hard-working brother, and he thought that he should not be allowed to quit Kurrachee without receiving some slight token of the fraternal regard and esteem of the brethren of this lodge. He further observed that he had during the day mentioned the matter to the W.M., who had agreed with him in the propriety of presenting an address to Bro. Goolden, and had directed him (the Bro. Secretary) to apologise for his unavoidable absence from the meeting. Bro. King then proposed that the following address be presented to P.M. Bro. Goolden, and that it be signed by all the members of the lodge present in Kurrachee. The proposition was seconded by Bro. Samuel Spencer Elson, Quartermaster 109th Regiment, and unanimously approved of. "Worthy and Worshipful Sir and Brother,—It is with painful regret that we, the members of Lodge Hope (No. 350), working under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, hear you are about to leave this province, and that your doing so is necessitated by your failing health. To you who have been for nearly six years a hard-working, zealous, and, as such, much-valued brother of our lodge, we trust that the assurance of our very great esteem and fraternal regard for your many and truly Masonic virtues will prove acceptable, and—

'Though the foam in' sea

'High hills and many sweepin' river'

should lay between us, your name and the many services you have rendered the Craft, and our lodge in particular, will long be remembered by the members who have had the opportunity of witnessing your untiring zeal in the three great principles of our Order—Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth—practised not only in lodge but in the paths of your every-day life. We wish you a short and pleasant voyage, a speedy return to health, and in conclusion would say—

'Adieu, our friend and brother, we wish you a long farewell.

'What blessings are reserved for you, or sorrows, who can tell?

'But should we never meet again, our final hope shall be

'That, wherever you may go, God shall not fail to prosper thee.'

It was then signed by all present, and retained by the Secretary to get the signature of the W.M. It was presented a few days afterwards, signed by the following brethren:—L. L. Martin, W.M.; J. Berrie, P.M.; J. Pudan, S.W.; S. S. Elson, J.W.; C. King, Sec. and Treas.; J. Taylor, J.D.; T. B. Walsh, I.G.; T. Wilkie, Tyler; S. Cromwell, M.M.; A. Ramsay, M.M.; C. J. Bright, M.M.; R. H. Mason, M.M.; W. R. Anderson, F.C.; W. L. Randall, F.C.; J. Herbert, F.C.; H. M. L. Innes, F.C.; R. McDonald, F.C.; S. Simms, F.C.; H. Wulff, E.A.; R. Campbell, E.A.; and J. Keagh, E.A. Bro. Goolden replied:—"Worshipful Master, Brother Wardens, and Brethren,—Before the lodge closes I would beg to be allowed to return you my warmest acknowledgments for the unexpected and undeserved compliment you have paid to me this evening. I say undeserved especially because the brethren of Lodge Hope know well that, however fond I am of Masonic labour, I have devoted most of my time and energy to the Union Lodge, working under that constitution which, as an English made Mason, I owe the first allegiance, and have done but little towards the success that has of late attended the labour of Lodge Hope. I need not say how gratified I feel at the marked symptoms of their success, viz., a true spirit of Masonic harmony and sympathy pervading all minutes of the lodge and the acts of the brethren; and I trust to find, if it pleases Providence to bring me among you again, that these will be carefully nourished and continuously bringing forth much Masonic fruit. Thanking you most sincerely for the great proof of your good wishes, I will now say adieu." The lodge was then closed, and the brethren retired to the social board, where they really looked, amidst the songs, the toasts, and the jests, as the children of one family, bound

together in such fraternal love one for the other, that could the outer world but get a glimpse of them as they there sat, high and low, rich and poor, one with the other, the greatest sceptic could not have but acknowledged that there must be something more in Masonry than meets the eye, for, to induce the man of rank to set aside his ideas of self-importance even for the time being, and to meet the poor but honest brother on terms of equality. They would, we say, acknowledge that the prospect of a good supper, or the passing of the toasts, could not be the inducement these men would be captivated by. Amongst the many brethren who enlivened the meeting with their songs was Bro. King (who boasts being a native of the Emerald Isle), and to decide an argument as to how the 17th March came to be considered as a national festival in honour of the birthday of St. Patrick, sung—"On the 8th day of March it was some people say." At the conclusion he was greeted with rounds of applause. Other appropriate songs followed this by several of the brethren, and the evening was closed with the "Entered Apprentice," sung by the same brother. Before closing our report we have only to add that Lodge Hope is now presided over by Bro. John James Martin, Paymaster of the Queen's Depôt at Kurrachee, one of the most hard-working and zealous members of the Craft in Scinde, assisted by officers and brethren who have the interest of their lodge at heart; and we have not the slightest doubt but that in a short time Lodge Hope will, owing to their efforts, take its stand as one of the leading amongst its sister lodges in Western India.

CHINA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SHANGHAI.—*Assiduity Lodge of Instruction* (No. 832).—The regular meeting of this recently constituted Lodge of Instruction, working under the sanction of the Northern Lodge of China (No. 832), was held at the Masonic Hall, on Saturday evening, the 28th February. Present—Bros. Nutt, J.W. 832, as W.M.; Hardy, S.W.; Wheelock, J.W.; Ewing, S.D.; Sidforth, J.D.; Gordon, I.G.; Gould, P.M. Nos. 177 and 1045, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Thorne, P.M. 832; Dunlop, P.M. 823; Mitchell, W.M. 1045; Cassidy, P.M. 1045; Hamilton, Bernard, Campbell, Purkis, and Thorne. A series of resolutions agreed to at a preliminary meeting, were confirmed, one being that meetings should take place fortnightly. The ceremony of passing was performed in a very creditable manner, the zeal and emulation actuating the office-bearers, being evidenced by the correctness with which their several parts were sustained; the explanation of the second tracing-board which followed, was listened to with great attention. The first three sections of the first lecture were subsequently worked as follows: 1st, by Bro. Gould, P.M.; 2nd, by Bro. Dunlop, P.M.; 3rd, by Bro. Thorne, P.M.; the delivery of this interesting elucidation of the ceremonial observances of the Craft, afforded great satisfaction, the lectures having hitherto been to the generality of the brethren present, a traditional myth, demanding more than an average credulity for a belief in their existence. Bro. Thorne, P.M., was unanimously elected preceptor of the lodge, his ability to instruct being only equalled by the willingness with which he at all times responds to the very numerous calls that are made upon him. Bro. Thorne's bygone experience of the system of working prevailing at the Emulation and Stability Metropolitan Lodges of Instruction, qualifies him admirably for the very responsible post, which he only consented to fill at the urgent solicitation of all present. The completion of the Masonic Hall seems to have lit into a blaze the heretofore latent enthusiasm of the Shanghai brethren, the following Masonic bodies having met at the new building during the current year. Craft:—Northern Lodge of China (No. 832); Meridian Lodge (No. 1045); Instruction:—Lodge of Assiduity (No. 832); Royal Arch, Zion Chapter (No. 832); Knights Templar:—the Celestial Encampment, whilst the Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 735), late of Canton, whose warrant has been transferred to Shanghai, through the praiseworthy energy of Bro. S. Rawson, P. Prov. G.M., and thereby saved from erasure, which a longer period of abeyance would have entailed, will hold its inauguration meeting at an early date.

ROYAL ARCH.

SHANGHAI.—*Zion Chapter* (No. 833).—A meeting of this chapter took place on the 28th February, at the Masonic hall. Present: Comps. Thorne, M.E.Z.; Rawson, Prov. G. Supt., as H.; Dunlop, J.; Murray, P.J.; Nutt, as Scribe E.; Warden,

Scribe N.; and other officers and companions. The preliminary business of the evening being the election of officers, which was proceeded with according to the customary method; the unanimous choice of the chapter falling upon Comps. Murray, P.E.Z.; Birdseye, H.; Gould, J.; Warden, P.S.; Nutt, Scribe, E. The following candidates, previously accepted in open chapter, being in attendance, were exalted to this supreme degree, the M.E.Z. and his coadjutors performing the duties of their station in a manner worthy of all praise, Bros. Danyell, (Lieut. 31st Regt.) 1045; Gordon, 832; Medhurst (H.M. Consul) 768; and Wheelock, 832. Several candidates were proposed for exaltation, and all business concluded, the convocation was closed with solemn prayer.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

SHANGHAI.—*Celestial Encampment*.—A meeting of this encampment was held on the 2nd March, the following Sir Knights responding to the prescribed incitation:—Murray, E.C.; Rawson, P.E.C., Prelate; Warden, 1st Capt.; Gould, P.E.C., as 2nd Capt.; Lomeiro, Reg.; Parker, Expert; Bernard, Capt. of Lines; Gammell Ewing, and Taylor. Comps. Dunlop, Nutt, and Bennett were severally introduced and installed. Five R.A. companions were proposed for installation (making a total of nine on the candidates' list), and all business being despatched the Sir Knights were permitted to disperse.

ROMAN CATHOLIC INTOLERANCE.

Dr. Cullen the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, has just issued the following circular.

"My Dear and Rev. Sir—In consequence of the attendance of some Catholics at the late Masonic balls held in the city, it becomes my duty to direct your attention to the Pontifical Constitutions and Decrees—in particular those of Clement XII., Benedict XIV., Pius VII., Leo XII., and of the reigning Pontiff, Pius IX., by which not only the institution of freemasonry, and all such secret societies, are most severely condemned, but all participation, favour and countenance, and attendance at their assemblages, as well as any aid or encouragement afforded them, are most strictly forbidden. The violation of these constitutions or precepts of the church is a grievous sin and punished by the church with the severest censure—that of excommunication, the absolution from which is reserved, except in danger of death, to the Sovereign Pontiff, or one delegated by his authority. It is also in this diocese one of the diocesan reserved cases. You will be careful not use the power which has been committed to the confessors of this diocese during the month of May, of absolving from this sin, without having previously admonished penitents of the great guilt they have incurred by disobeying the commandment of the church, and giving bad example to their brethren, especially the poor, who are easily induced to enrol themselves in secret societies, when they see such societies patronised and encouraged by their superiors in station and wealth. You must also exact a distinct promise from the penitents that they will not repeat a similar transgression in future. The members of Ribbon lodges, and dangerous and condemned brotherhoods, and those who encourage and promote them, incur a reservation in this diocese, and are to be treated in the same way as freemasons. Let us, reverend brethren, do everything in our power to prevent the evils that arise from secret and dangerous societies, and especially that indifference to all religion which is pointed out by Benedict XIV., as a necessary consequence of their meetings. The constitution of this country allows full publicity to be given to the proceedings of any man or any body of men, if there be nothing bad or illegal in them. Why, then, any society should bind its members by oath to conceal its doctrines and practices, it is difficult to conceive, unless its deeds be those of darkness. The Scripture says—"Every one that doeth evil hateth light, cometh not the light that his works may not be required; but he that doth truth, cometh to the light that his works may be made manifest, because they are done in God."—John, iii. 20. The special power of absolving from the above, and some other diocesan reserved cases, expires with the month of May. You will have the goodness to communicate these instructions to the confessors in your church or parish, or otherwise acting under your directions.—I remain, my dear and Rev. Sir, your devoted servant,

"✠ PAUL CULLEN, Archbishop, &c.

"55, Eccles-street, 1st. May, 1863."

DEATH OF A PROMINENT COLOURED MASON

An immense concourse of our most respectable and wealthy coloured people gathered yesterday afternoon to bury one of their number. The deceased was named Edward M. Thomas. Few coloured men in the country possessed a more extensive acquaintance. He was for twenty-five years a runner for the House of Representatives at Washington, and had gained the respect of every member of Congress and habitué of the House. Anecdotes concerning him have been narrated by the score. He accumulated some property in Washington, and leaves a family in very comfortable circumstances. He was a native of Philadelphia. He so loved the place of his nativity, that he declared he could not repose in his grave if his bones were laid elsewhere. His wife being on a visit to New York, he left Washington to join her, and died suddenly last week, in that city, from an attack of pneumonia. In accordance with his desire, he was interred in Olive Cemetery, in this city, yesterday afternoon. The body was laid out in the House of James Teagle, in Tenth street above Lombard. The coffin, made, in New York, was covered with black cloth, heavily mounted with silver. At the foot was the large silver cross of the Knights Templar, and masonic emblems were blazoned upon it in various places. The deceased was one of nine in this country who had received the degree of Sublime Princes of Jerusalem, a degree conferred in England only from whence coloured masons in this country derive charters. He was P.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Masons of the District of Columbia, and Past Right Worthy National Grand Chief of the Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria. He was buried with all the honors of those bodies. The officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, wearing their jewels of office, and carrying sprigs of evergreen to drop into the grave, walked beside the coffin, and long retinue of carriages extended behind the hearse. At the time of his death, deceased was the agent of the Contraband Association. He gave large sums of money to help the fugitives who came into Washington, to the freedom of Cannada.—*Philadelphia North American.*

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and younger members of the Royal family continue at Windsor. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales visited the Exhibition of the Royal Academy on Friday. The illustrious visitors were received by the president, who accompanied by several other academicians, had the honour of conducting them over the Exhibition. The Prince, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Prince Louis of Hesse, was present at the dinner of the Royal Academy on Saturday night. The Prince and Princess visited the House of Commons on Monday. The Princess, of course, witnessed the proceedings of the great popular assembly from the ladies' gallery. The *Moniteur* formally contradicts the report of an intended visit of the Prince and Princess to Fontainebleau.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the House of Lords on Thursday, the 30th ult., Lord Russell stated that he had that day received a communication from Lord Lyons to the effect that the United States government, while insisting on sending the *Peterhoff* before a prize court, had ordered the mails found on board that ship at the time she was seized to be forwarded to their destination. A similar course would be taken in all cases of a similar character until some agreement was arrived at upon the subject of mail bags carried by neutral ships. Mr. Seward proposes to make a communication to her Majesty's Government on the subject. After a protest from Lord Grey, who regarded the measure as absolutely legalising instead of presenting an obstacle to bribery, the Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill was read a second time. Lord Hardwicke "improving" the recent action at Charleston, urged that we ought to look to our fortifications, and especially to the works at Spithead. The Duke of Somerset said that if we had asked the Americans to try the experiment of ships against fortifications so as to settle all our doubts with regard to the Spithead forts, they could not have made a better selection for the work than

Charleston. At present, however, the Government could not prosecute the works at Spithead, as the House of Commons had come to a decision which left them entirely without funds for carrying out such an object. After some remarks from Lord Derby and Grey, the subject dropped and the House adjourned. —On Friday, the business was merely formal.—On Monday, Lord Normanby postponed his speech on the case of Mr. Bishop, in consequence of the absence of Lord Russell, who, we regret to observe, was prevented by indisposition from appearing in his place.—On Tuesday, Lord Chelmsford preferred a complaint, on behalf of Mr. Churchward, the mail contractor at Dover. It appears he is in danger of losing the mail services between Dover and Calais and Ostend, and Lord Chelmsford considered his case a hard one. Lord Stanley of Alderley's reply was that there was a prospect of having the work done at a cheaper rate; but it was necessary to consult Parliament with respect to any change which on public grounds might be deemed desirable.—In the House of Commons on Thursday, 30th ult., Mr. Lefroy wished to know whether any of the vacant colonial bishoprics had been offered to an Irishman.—Mr. Chichester Fortescue could not say that such an act of justice to Ireland had been done; but by way of showing the hon. member for Dublin University how hard it was to please everybody in the disposal of these little ecclesiastical pickings, he mentioned that he had received a letter from a clergyman in Lancashire, who complained that no Lancashire man had been raised to the dignity of a "Colonial," although the county palatine contained more Protestants than in all Ireland.—Mr. Villiers stated, in reply to a question from Mr. Busfield Ferrand, that a return was being prepared of the number of unemployed single women in the cotton manufacturing districts. In reply to Mr. Whitsides, the Attorney General said he could not state when the case of the *Alexandra* would be tried. The Stock Certificates to Bearer Bill passed through Committee.—On Friday the members failed to make a house.—On Monday, Mr. Maguire addressed a question to the Government respecting the hauling down of the American flag on the Island of Sombbrero—a wild rock in the Carribean Sea—by Captain Tatham of Her Majesty's ship *Thaeton*. There seems to have been an impression in some quarters that the island was discovered by a body of Americans and that the act of Captain Tatham might give rise to another territorial controversy between the governments of England and America. Mr. Layard, however, stated that Sombbrero had long formed a part of the British possessions in the West Indies. A party of Americans had recently settled there for the purpose of working a mine, and Captain Tatham hauled down the flag then displayed in order to show that he did not recognise the occupation. No correspondence had taken place on the subject between the two governments. After angry complaints from Lord Robert Montague, and other members at the failure of the Government to make a House, on Friday night, Mr. Gladstone, in committee on the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill, entered into a long explanation of his proposal to extend the income tax to the endowments and permanent property of charitable institutions, but the feeling of the House being against it, the motion was withdrawn.—On Tuesday, in reply to a question from Colonel Dunne, with reference to the case of Captain Nutville, a British subject, who had been arrested by the Peruvian authorities, on "a frivolous and unfounded charge," and subjected to gross ill-treatment, Mr. Layard stated that the law officers of the Crown had recommended that a demand should be made on the government of Peru for £4,500, by way of reparation. Captain Nutville, however, assessed his own damages at a much higher figure, and required close upon

£300,000. Her Majesty's Government had not thought it right to send in such a demand; but they were willing, as were also the Peruvian authorities, that the matter should be referred to arbitration. In answer to a question from Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Layard said the Government had received no information respecting the *Peterhoff's* mail bag, beyond the intimation from Lord Lyons, that Mr. Seward had sent instructions to New York that the letters should be forwarded to their destination unopened. The hon. gentleman added that Mr. Seward had informed Lord Lyons that a special agent would be sent to England to settle with her Majesty's Government the principle upon which mail bags should be treated for the future in similar cases of seizure. Mr. Walker raised another discussion on the revised code by moving two resolutions allowing State grants to the poorer schools, which, although not enjoying the advantages of certificated masters and pupil teachers, satisfied the conditions as to attendance and examination; but his proposition was negatived by 152 to 117. Mr. Bouverie to go into committee on a portion of the Uniformity Act, but the motion was lost by 157 to 135.—On Wednesday the House had two Church-rate Bills before it. One was introduced by Mr. Newdegate, and had for its object the commutation of church-rates by the imposition of a charge upon property. After a debate it was negatived by 91 votes to 36. The second bill was brought forward by Mr. Alcock, and proposed to enable persons to redeem church rates in the same way as the land tax is now redeemed. It also was negatived by 81 votes to 72. The House then went into committee on the Security from Violence Bill, which seeks to introduce flogging as a punishment in cases of crimes of violence. A long fight took place on the clauses, but eventually the bill passed through committee. Some other bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The Registrar General has just published his return of births and deaths throughout the kingdom, for the quarter ending in March last, and the return of marriages for the quarter ending last Christmas. The birth rate had been well sustained, and it has been high far the last two years. On the other hand, the marriage rate is unfavourable; it is slightly lower than the previous year, and about 2000 fewer than in 1860. The main decrease is of course in the unemployed districts, but there are other districts where the marrying and giving in marriage shows a falling off; but in London and other districts there is an increase. The mortality, as may have been gathered from the weekly lists, has also been high, for though the winter has been unusually mild it has also been very unhealthy.—Lord Hatherton, who had long suffered from a serious illness, died at his seat in Staffordshire, on Monday afternoon. The deceased nobleman, who was much better known as Mr. Littleton, occupied a seat in the House of Commons from 1812 down to 1835, when he was raised to the peerage. In 1833 he was the unsuccessful opponent of Mr. Manners-Sutton in the contest for the Speakership. The title descends to his eldest son, Colonel Littleton.—The *Spectator* informs us that Sir Charles Trevelyn, the finance minister of India, has a surplus of nearly two millions, and that in presenting his forthcoming budget he will propose, with certain exceptions, to replace the existing Customs duties by a uniform *ad valorem* charge of five per cent. The exceptions, according to our contemporary, are the tariffed piece goods and spirits, which will remain as they are, and the duty on beer which will be reduced to 1½d. per gallon. It is added that Sir Charles hopes next year to be able to abolish the income tax, which he leaves untouched for the present.—At the weekly meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works the Chairman contradicted a report which has been put in circulation, that the board had already exceeded its borrowing powers by a million and a quarter sterling. Of the three millions allowed them by Parliament the board had only expended £2,200,000, leaving £60,000 still

as a margin. A report from Mr. Bazalgette showed that fair progress had been made during the month on the various levels of the metropolitan drainage.—Mr. Bright, and a number of the trades' unionists who took a prominent part in the recent demonstration at St. James's Hall in favour of the Federal cause, waited upon Mr. Adams, the American Minister in London, on Saturday evening, to request him to forward to President Lincoln the address adopted at their meeting. Several members of the deputation addressed His Excellency, who, in reference to an allusion made to the possibility of a war between England and America, remarked that, although he thought "it almost impossible, under existing circumstances, to prevent some things springing up that might occasion a collision," still he trusted that by mutual forbearance friendly relations would be maintained between the two countries.—The returns from the local relief committees in the cotton manufacturing districts show that in the week ending April 25, as compared with the last week in March, there was an increase of 33,816 in the number of operatives fully employed, and of 1300 in the number working four or five days a week, while the number of persons wholly out of employment was less by 24,954. There are still 294,904 persons receiving relief from the committees; but this number, large as it is, is 61,007 below the return for March. Mr. Farnall's weekly report shows a decrease of 5373 in the number in receipt of parochial relief.—Lord Russell has informed the Council of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce—in reply to a memorial from that body urging that the Foreign Enlistment Act should be made more efficient—that the Government cannot see how any improvement can be made in the act.—During the past few days one or two officials have been actively engaged at Liverpool in completing the evidence to be adduced against the owners and builders of the alleged Confederate gunboat *Alexandra*.—The captain of the *Ward Jackson* has been fined £50 and costs, by the Gravesend magistrates, for an infringement of the Supplementary Customs Consolidation Act. The *Ward Jackson* was the vessel which recently made a luckless voyage to the Baltic, with supplies for the Poles. She took on board, at Gravesend, a cargo which was returned as "hardware," but this hardware proved to be munitions of war, and the authorities ordered her to be seized. The captain, however, at once left Gravesend, carrying off with him two Custom House officers, who were landed at Southend, a place at which the *Ward Jackson* called for the purpose of taking on board a number of Poles. The captain, as the Customs' solicitor said, had rendered himself liable under the Foreign Enlistment Act, but the only offence with which he was charged, was that of taking his departure from Gravesend.—The body of a man has been fished up out of the river opposite St. Katharine's Dock, which the police affect to believe is that of the murderer of Emma Jackson. The description given of the man who entered the house in George-street with the unfortunate woman is said to tally exactly with the appearance of the corpse found in the river. Moreover, the drowned man had his hands tied, from which it is assumed that he committed suicide. There is not at present, however, any evidence to show that the body is that of the supposed murderer, and it will hardly do for the police to relax their exertions in tracing the perpetrator of the crime on the loose theory that he has committed suicide.—A murder is reported from Manchester. A labouring man named Smith killed his wife. She had been drinking, and having quarrelled with her, beat her about the head with a poker until she died.—The body of a young woman, named Jones, was found near St. George's Hall, Liverpool, on Thursday night last. Death had been caused by a stab, which had penetrated the lung, and it was at first supposed that the wound had been self-inflicted. Subsequent investigation has, however, proved the incorrectness of this theory, and there can now be no doubt that the girl was murdered. She was seen with her sweetheart, a seaman named Pennington, on Thursday evening, and the evidence given at the inquest as to the proceedings of this person led the jury to return a verdict of wilful murder against him.—An inquest has been held relative to the death of William Cooper, who died from the effects of a wound on the head, inflicted by a blow with a hammer, by William Clayard, a cab-master, living near Fitzroy-square. A verdict of manslaughter was returned, and the prisoner was committed for trial.—The mortality of London last week exhibited a downward tendency. It amounted in all to 1374, which is the lowest point it has reached since the first week in March. It is, however, still 87 more than the ten years' average. Of these 68 cases were from small-pox, which is very prevalent. The births were 1975

the ten years' average is 1981.—Mr. Rawlinson, who was engaged by the Poor-law Board to organise a scheme of outdoor labour, at fair wages, for the unemployed workpeople in Lancashire, is already on the scene of his labours. He visited Blackburn on Monday, and is engaged in inspecting the wants, and judging of the capacities for improvement of the towns in that neighbourhood. From his explanations to the authorities there it appears that Government is willing to advance money for a term of years, and at a low rate of interest, to municipal bodies, boards of health, &c., to carry out sanitary improvements and other works for the convenience and amenity of the towns.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The *Moniteur*, after publishing the text of the three replies of Russia to France, England, and Austria, says that these documents "open a path to projects of conciliation, and contain the bases of negotiations likely to lead to a common understanding between the Courts now seeking the means of upholding the legitimate interests of Poland. The *Journal of St. Petersburg* has published despatches from the Swedish, the Spanish, and the Italian Governments, relating to the Polish question, with the Russian reply to each. The Spanish note is somewhat peculiar, inasmuch as it merely appeals for grace and indulgence, and strongly condemns the impatience of the Poles. The Swedish despatch relies upon the broad principles of justice and humanity. The Italian note is described as being drawn up in a conciliatory spirit. The replies appear to be just the usual vague sort of official response, professing all manner of good intentions, and promising nothing. Despite all the secrecy which is maintained by the Russian authorities, it transpires that considerable alarm and agitation prevail in St. Petersburg. It is even stated that revolutionary placards, headed "Down with the Romanoffs!" are found posted in the streets of that city. The Russian Government, too, seems anxious to appeal to the public opinion of Europe, and to relieve itself of some of the charges made against it. For instance, the *Northern Bee* and other Russian papers are at present eagerly maintaining that the proposal for a convention was spontaneously made by Prussia, and that that Power also strove to bring about a triple alliance between Austria, Russia, and herself. The news of the proposed increase to the Russian infantry reserve is confirmed. Advices from Cracow assert that the Prussian authorities have ordered some of the authorities in Posen to give quarters to Russian soldiers, and to regard them as Prussians, in virtue of the convention between Russia and Prussia. The same advices state that Archbishop Felinski is still a prisoner in his palace. The insurgent chief Taczanowski gained a great victory on the 30th ult. over the Russian troops, and in an engagement which took place on Monday last opposite Beuden, on the Oder, the Russians were defeated with the loss of all their artillery. A body of Russian soldiers, which had been defeated by the Polish insurgents, has been compelled to take refuge in the Prussian territories, and has been billeted on the inhabitants. It appears that the men have not been disarmed, and they will, of course, be permitted to re-enter Poland at any point most convenient to the Russian authorities.—The Italian Government has issued an order to the prefects enjoining them to dissolve the meetings which are being held ostensibly in favour of the Polish insurgents, but in fact for political purposes, endangering the safety of the state. Prince Ruggero Settimo, the President of the Senate, has just died at Malta, and the Government has sent a frigate to convey his remains to Palermo.—Matamoros the Spanish Protestant has been condemned by the Court of Grenada, to nine years' imprisonment.—The New York journals publish accounts from Mexico to the 1st inst., via San Francisco, which state that the French had bombarded Puebla for ten days, and been twice repulsed, and in an official despatch from General Ortega to Comonfort, the French are said to have been routed.

AMERICA.—The American advices brought by the *Africa*, and *Baltimore* are interesting, though they do not announce any great engagement between the belligerent armies. The report that the Federals had occupied Gordonsville was admitted to be untrue; and the Southern journals asserted that Gen. Stoneman had been foiled in an attempt to pass Rappahannock, 25 miles above Fredericksburg. Gen. Foster had left his forces in Washington, North Carolina, where they were surrounded by the Confederates, and had succeeded in passing the Confederate batteries in a steamer, which conveyed him to Newbern; but latter despatches state that the Confederates had retreated from Washington, and had abandoned the batteries which they had erected on the Pamlico river below their town.

They were likewise reported to have retired from the bank of the Nansemond river, after their attempts to establish batteries had been frustrated by the Federal gunboats, which captured six guns and 200 prisoners. The troops conducted by Gen. Foster to Port Royal were about to return to North Carolina—a movement which affords a sufficient proof that the Federals have abandoned for the present any intention to operate against Charleston or Savannah. There were reports that Gen. Van Dorn was advancing upon Nashville; and there had been severe fighting in the neighbourhood of Corinth, the Confederates having been "beaten from Bear Creek to Crane Creek." The federal Commandant at Memphis had "telegraphed that he had evacuated." Admiral Porter, with five gunboats and three transports, having on board some of Gen. Grant's troops, had run past the Confederate batteries at Vicksburg during the night of the 16th ult. without any loss, save that of one transport, which was burned; and he had subsequently bombarded Warrenton. The siege of Vicksburg is to be resumed. The Southern journals think that the Federal gunboats will this time attack the city from below and from the opposite shore; but the probability is that the gunboats will operate up the Red River, and, in conjunction with Gen. Banks, endeavoured to force the evacuation of both Vicksburg and Port Hudson by cutting off the supplies. The contending forces in Tennessee were very active, and a battle was still imminent. The abandonment of Washington, and the retreat of the Confederates, is confirmed; but we have no particulars of the circumstances that led to it. The Confederates, 20,000 strong, under Gen. Marmaduke, were invading Missouri. The Federal Gen. Blunt had issued an order that guerillas in Missouri found with arms are to be treated, not as belligerents, but as insurgents, and immediately shot. In the state of Indiana several "union meetings" have been dispersed by parties of "Knights of the Golden Circle;" and in the consequent affrays several persons had been wounded and one killed. The Federal General commanding in Indiana had deemed it necessary to declare that the "Knights of the Golden Circle" are public enemies, and shall be "dealt with as such," and to caution the people against wearing "Copperhead badges." The case of the Peterhoff came before the New York Prize Court on the 21st of ult., and the United States attorney proposed that the mail bags should be delivered unopened to the British Consul; but the captors opposed the proposal, and the judges adjourned the trial in order to consider their judgment on the point.

INDIA.—The Bombay mail brings intelligence from India to the 13th ult. In his "progress," the Viceroy made his entry into Umballah on the 27th March, and was received in great state by the Cis Sutlej chiefs. He left on the 1st and reached his residence in Simla on the 4th. The Cossyah war is at an end, and quietness is restored in the hill districts. The Shah of Persia is said to have informed the British resident at Teheran that he should proceed to the relief of Herat unless the army of the Dost was recalled by British interference.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W.M. (Lancashire).—We are aware that Bro. S. B. Wilson and ourselves are at issue on the point as to whether a Warden can perform the ceremonies in the absence of the Master. We have no doubt upon the subject that he can legally perform the ceremonies; though, as a rule, it is better for a P.M. to undertake the duty, should one be present, no matter what lodge he may belong to. A Master of a lodge being also a R.A. Mason, is eligible to be elected 3rd Principal of a Chapter, if he has previously served the office of Sojourner or Nehemiah. He cannot be elected to the 2nd or 1st Principal Chair until he has passed through the 3rd chair. He may, however, be appointed to either chair in a new chapter, but he must then be installed in all the chairs.

P.D. (Norfolk).—The S.W. having resigned, you can appoint another. It is best to advance the J.W. and other officers a step, as the appointing a S.W. over the heads of the other officers is likely to give rise to heart-burnings and discontent, which should always be avoided.

BRO. JOHN OLVER, P.M. No. 1006.—We cannot insert begging letters, excepting in our advertising columns. Perhaps some brother of 1006 will inform us privately why they refuse to recommend Bro. Olver to the Lodge of Benevolence.

THE GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.—The letter from Bro. Dankes, the G. Supt. of Works, which we published last week, was also addressed to the Editor of the *Builder*, the *Building News*, and the *Era*.