

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1863.

TWO PAINTINGS FROM THE CATACOMBS.

We have much pleasure in announcing as an archaeological event, the publication of two paintings from the catacombs at Rome, accompanied by a learned dissertation from the Abbate Arcangelo Scognamiglio. The first of these was discovered by him two years ago; the second had not before been published in a form which was sufficiently faithful. We (*Builder*), translate from the *Monde* some observations on the work. The dissertation proves, first, in a satisfactory manner, that these paintings are found in the cemetery or catacomb of Priscilla the elder. It was excavated in the estate of that Roman lady who lived in the time of the Apostles, and who, according to Tillemont, was baptised by St. Peter. It is interesting to observe that, among the authorities referred to, the author quotes that of two pilgrims from Salisbury, who came to Rome in the seventh century, and who have both left, in Latin, an account of their journey. The first is entitled, "An Account of the Churches of Rome;" and the second, "The Holy Places of the Martyrs in the Neighbourhood of Rome." He also quotes William of Malmesbury, who wrote in the eleventh century the "Topography of the Sacred Places of Rome," contained in his "History of the Kings of England."

The way into the cemetery of St. Priscilla is now through a staircase to be found in a kind of yard at the back of a farm-house. This staircase is not very ancient; but it is the only one accessible at present. Formerly, there were as many as six which gave access to the cemetery, which may give an idea of its extent. As soon as you enter into it, you are struck at once by a special character of its primitive period, namely, the large size of its vaults. The architect who directed its excavation did so in accordance with a method differing from that followed in the other catacombs of Rome; where corridors and narrow passages between two walls are ordinarily found. Here the architect has endeavoured to contrive a succession of chambers or grottos communicating together, and destined to the burial of the dead as well as to the meeting of the faithful. Having afterwards observed that this first system could not be followed without exposing the cemetery to total ruin, he abandoned it, and adopted the more ordinary one as affording more security.

The Christians of the fourth century, to prevent the inevitable destruction of this part, erected throughout its extent numerous pillars intended to keep up the whole. As far as the author has been able to ascertain by active researches, there must be four stories of excavations; one only of which is now accessible, without extreme fatigue. According to appearances, it may be stated that these excavations proceed to vast extent, the precise dimensions of which cannot be determined, on account of the obstacles created by heaps of earth, either left at the time of excavation or brought thither by subsequent accidents. In the part which we shall visit, the chambers or crypts which have served as chapels are numerous, and adorned with paintings; the chief ones, even, have their arcades decorated with Greek ornaments of a perfectly pure character, consisting of the roiled acanthus-leaf. The apsis preserves traces

of mosaics, remains of sarcophagi, with figures in a good style; fragments of inscriptions, generally in fine letters, in which may be read names belonging to ancient Roman families, are also met with. The Church must have met in Rome, at an early period, with distinguished minds and influential personages, to whom she even then gave to understand that the ornaments of art could not be more nobly employed than in surrounding the remains of her faithful and martyrs, or in serving as a decoration for her sanctuaries.

The *loculi* (cavities intended for the reception of corpses in the thickness of the rock) are now for the most part without the slabs which closed them, and the corpses which they contained. Enough, however, is still found there to ascertain the mode of burial used in this cemetery. The bodies were wrapped up in a layer of lime contained between two winding-sheets, the one to preserve them from the contact of the lime, the other to keep it close to the body.

After having gone through these imposing excavations, you arrive at a crypt which is so fine and rich in ornaments of the best taste, that the name of the Greek Chapel has been given to it. It is hollowed out from the live rock in the shape of a Latin cross. On the wall to the right is to be found a cornice with stucco consols of the greatest elegance. In the upper part, in the middle of the vault, was bored a light-hole, now obstructed. The ground of this vault is painted red; from the four corners elegant garlands set out, in the midst of which may be seen a figure draped in a white pallium. The finish of all these details displays a specially skilful execution. On one side, the transverse nave, or transept, ends in a square plan; the present entrance is at that point. At the other end, which is in an apsidal form, may be read two inscriptions, in Greek characters, painted in red on the wall. The part of the crypt facing the ancient doorway is also curved in the form of an apse. Below it, on the two side walls, two large frescoes have been painted. On the right is a Roman lady, with her arms extended in the attitude of prayer; by her side two personages are extending their hands towards her. A young man in a pallium seems to be speaking to her; behind may be seen a pavilion. Opposite, the same lady re-appears with two young men, who are placing a crown on her head; then comes a woman with her head uncovered, and a youth holding, like her, his arms extended. On considering alternatively those paintings, they would almost be believed to be by the same artist as the *Nozze Aldobrandini*, from their being so much alike in the colouring, the draperies, and the freedom and correctness of the drawing. The author of this analysis had the good fortune, last year, of meeting the Abbate Scognamiglio, while he was doing the honours of his dear catacomb to the most worthy of appreciators, to Mgr. Gerbet, the illustrious Bishop of Perpignan, who has so well made known to us Christian Rome. It is to be remarked that these paintings have so much expression and life that the hand of a Raffaele might be thought to be found again in them at an interval of fourteen centuries.

The same crypt contains also other frescoes, more or less damaged, the subjects of which are "The Adoration of the Magi," "Moses striking the Rock," and the cured "Paralytic carrying his bed away." But the two paintings now published have a special

importance. On the right of the first may be seen the Blessed Virgin seated, wearing a tunic without sleeves, and a veil on her head which does not go beyond the shoulders. She is suckling the Divine Child, who has his eyes turned towards the spectators. On the left is a personage standing, about thirty-five years of age, bearded and clothed with a pallium, which leaves the right shoulder uncovered. He seems to be familiarly talking with the Blessed Virgin. This personage can be no other than St. Joseph.

In the judgment of experienced artists and antiquaries, among whom may be mentioned Count Auguste de Bastard, this monument must date from the first part of the first century, about the reign of Domitian. Great skill is not needed to recognise this. It requires only to have a certain knowledge of ancient paintings. From the regularity of the drawing; the freedom and success of the pencil-stroke; from the grace and energy of the expression, a work of the good period may be recognised. The very nature of the plaster, which is only found in Rome in the monuments of the first century, is a convincing proof of it. Connoisseurs observe the nobility of attitude, the chasteness of the draperies, the firmness of look, the life which animates those figures.

The second painting, which is reduced to a scale of one-third of the size of the original painting, shows us, in the middle of it, a person whose stature surpasses that of the others; her features are those of youth. She stands with extended arms, and her head is covered with a veil, which is brought forward over the left temple and falls down to the shoulders. She wears buskins, and a tunic with broad sleeves. On her right is an old man, seated on an episcopal chair (*cathedra*); he wears a tunic, and, over it, the garment called the *penula*, with its hood. He seems to have a tonsure; his hand points to person placed opposite to him. By his side stands a young girl, with her head uncovered, and holding a veil; a little further back is another personage. On the left of the middle figure may be seen the Blessed Virgin seated on a throne (*cathedra*); she is holding the Divine Child, and seems to give it suck. Her head is uncovered; her hair, turned behind her ears, returns slightly under them to form two curls; the young girl standing on the opposite side has her hair arranged in the same manner.

The comparison of this painting with others of a well-known date, makes it to be ascribed to the second century of the Church, according to the judgment of connoisseurs.

The two paintings are reproduced in chromolithography.

ARCHITECTURAL MUSEUM OF THE ROMAN TABULARIUM.

(From the Builder.)

Poggio, commencing his antiquarian studies on the Capitoline Hill, laments:—"Oh, how greatly is this capital different from that of which our Maro sang—

'Aurea nunc, olim silvestribus horrida dumis,'

so much so that his lines might be suitably converted into

"Auren quondam, nunc squalida spinetis vepribusque referto."

(*De Variet. Fortunæ*, l. 1.) Looking around him on

this spot, the learned Florentine first notices what remained of the Tabularium (record-office, or public archives), which he describes as "arcades of two stories inserted in modern buildings, now a public receptacle for salt;" uses to which this imposing ruin of the ante-imperial period was appropriated for nearly two centuries after Poggio's time, being first cleared out by order of Paul V. Its substructures date from the year of Rome 578: the upper stories, built by Scipio Nasica, from the year 594; and the last repair or restoration, was by the Consul Q. Lutatius Catulus, B.C. 78, recorded in an epigraph given by the Florentine and by Nardini, who found it extant in the seventeenth century. Notwithstanding all the vicissitudes and even conflagrations from which it has suffered, this edifice exists at the present day in its lower stories, with a portico of eleven archways (all but one blocked up), and the traces, rather than ruins, of a Doric colonnade, still in majestic reality, though indeed much marred by the heavy, common-place buildings of the municipal palace above. When the mediæval seat of the Roman senate was restored on this site, a work begun in 1405, and completed by Nicholas V. about 1450, these arches were built up, as we now see, in the masonry called by Italian writers *saracenesca*, thrown down, to open a single one of their orifices, about twenty-six years ago. Discovered fragments, and one remnant in its place, show that the colonnade of half-pillars was in peperino, like the rest of this building, with capitals and cornice in travertine, the shafts cut in facets to one-third their height, the upper part fluted. Above was another portico, probably Ionic, of which remain no ruins. The peperino here used, in enormous squared blocks, is of the species from Gabii, called *lapis Gabinus*; and this antique front, bounding the Forum northward with fine effect, as it rises behind temple-columns and triumphal arch, measures 240 feet in length, and 37 feet in height. Several oblong apertures in the lower part of its structure were made in the middle ages, to give light to the ground-floor corridor, then probably inhabited; and the walls thrown up in the archways have been pierced by similar windows.

The entire elevation remained long hidden by mean houses, which were not removed till 1839, on occasion of some works for enlarging or improving the prisons located in the Tabularium, which continued to serve as a debtors' goal till the beginning of the present pontificate. Pius IX. ordered its appropriation for worthier uses,—to become a museum of antique architecture, enriched by all the more valuable remains of the Forum temples. Before this period its interior had been but partially explored or accessible, and various interesting discoveries have subsequently been made in its dim recesses, facilitating a general apprehension of its plans, and justifying the inference that the ancient corresponded in limitations with the modern edifice, which in fact stands on the same foundations. Along its ground-plan extends a corridor in which are concealed the immense buttresses that support the whole weight; and the stairs descending to that interior have been discovered, tolerably preserved, though now no longer accessible. At the same time was found another staircase leading from the upper story to the Forum, and having egress at a portal behind the Temple of Vespasian (or, as some consider it, that of Saturn), probably shut by that emperor's desire on account of its having been

the approach through which the Vitelian faction entered the capitol in the assault against Vespasian's party. That portal indeed may still be distinguished in its outline, with an arched head, filled up by masonry, behind the temple's ruins. In that civil conflict, A.D. 69, the Tabularium was fired, its archives burnt, and the principle edifices in the capitol, including the great Temple of Jupiter, consumed. Vespasian placed in this building, that seems to have been mainly preserved from the flames (owing to its powerful construction no doubt), copies of the 3000 bronze tablets, *senatus consults*, and *plebiscita* instead of those lost, dating from the city's earliest historic origin; and then ensued the dedication of the new temple to Jupiter, attended with the utmost pomp, and all the ceremonial of ancient worship, as fully described by Tacitus (l. iv. c. 53). A second time destroyed by fire, soon after Vespasian's death, it was again restored, with greater magnificence, by Domitian, the gilden alone at a cost of 12,000 talents, above 2½ millions sterling. We enter the Tabularium from the western side of the palace under the fortifications of Nicholas V., passing through an antiquingress with horizontal lintel, in the same massive stonework as the front towards the Forum; here indeed partly repaired, though in much the greater part retaining its huge quadrate blocks firm and uninjured by the lapse of nineteen centuries. The long dim-lit corridor we are now admitted into shows the singular effects of the action of salt in corroding its masonry, so that the wall-surfaces resemble strata of rocks, rough and rugged, rather than a structure of stonework. A certain sense of awe is created by the massive architecture, so hoarily antique, the long-drawn perspective, and solemnized tone of the interior. We learn that the corridor where we now stand, on the upper story above the Forum, served for communication between the two *clivi* of the Capitoline Hill, and was therefore paved with polygonal lava blocks, of which Nibby discovered, in 1830, some remnants (see his *Roma Antica*); that the *æararium* (or treasury), a public library, and halls for declamation, were connected with this edifice, besides the national archivum for which it specially served.

Before examining the architectural antiques now deposited here, one can scarce conceive of the exquisite delicacy, the elaborate fantasies, and variety of invention bestowed by the Romans on the adornment of their public buildings. Most beautiful among these fragments are the great frontispieces from the temples of Vespasian and of Concord, restored, under the direction of Canina, and with admirable skill, by four marble-cutters, who spent eight years on this task. In the cornice and frieze of the Vespasian Temple the egg moulding is mostly new; the *mensolæ* (very graceful) are almost entirely antique; the rosettes entirely so, and remarkable in being all different in design as well as unequal in scale. On this frieze are an interesting illustration of the sacrificial worship, reliefs of the several implements and sacred vessels, *patina*, *aspergillum*, *Flamen's galera*, &c. The frontispiece of the Concord Temple required a fuller restoration than the other; but is so ably accomplished that, as it stands before us, its effect is of surpassing grace and richness; its frieze having an ornamentation chiselled in parallel leaf-like forms, concave, surmounted by a cornice of acanthus foliage (antique, except one only of the sculptured plants); each pair,

in the graceful series, divided by a long upright lancolate leaf, rather like the aloe. From the Julian Basilica we see a massive plain cornice bearing the words, in large letters, *LIVIA UXOR—AUG. MATER*—evidently to honour the wife of Augustus, during the reign of Tiberius, her son; likewise from the same ruins, the fragment of a coffered ceiling with rosettes, and lion's head projecting outwards; a Corinthian capital, restored most carefully from numerous pieces, the upper part only antique, and curious in the detail of a ram (the custode calls it a *goat*), couchant at each angle, to support the abacus. Permission may be obtained from the municipality for copying any of these antiques; and the students of the French Academy have made drawings, we understand, from most of them. The selection and restoring of all this museum's contents were confided to Canina. From this lower corridor we ascend to a higher one, of similar extent, and parallel with this, reached by a staircase whose lowest and seven uppermost steps are ancient, of travertine, the walls and vaulting above being tute, in small blocks, laid with a good deal of cement, the surfaces left quite rough, as if for incrustation, in hewn stonework. At the summit of the stairs is a finely-built brick archway, the work of Michelangelo. In that higher corridor the masonry is like that of the passage through which we ascend, but adorned by columns now built into brick pilasters, for security; so that we see nothing of the marble incrustation the custode reports about. Hence, through archways fenced by railing, we look into an outer range, a third corridor, also parallel, corresponding to the front of the municipal palace immediately above, and said to be the site where the historic *Fasti* were deposited. Near the western extremity of the central corridor are the entrances to two chambers and a staircase, discovered in 1850, by Canina. The custode (an intelligent specimen of his class) having been an eye-witness, describes interestingly the scene when the great archæologist, relying on sure authorities, measured by paces the length of the corridor up to this point, where he desired the workmen to begin; and the task of breaking through the ancient walls proved so difficult that fourteen days passed before they could penetrate into the chamber above the stairs. Through the narrow gap then made we enter this quadrate chamber, in profound darkness, and see by torchlight a gaping abyss, where the staircase descends under horizontal vaulting of most massive construction in travertine, similar to that of the walls around us, formed in enormous squared blocks, without cement. This vault is a striking example of the Etruscan style followed by the Romans in their architecture till a comparatively late period; and, when the custode lowers his torch, the effect of the lurid light on that stupendous masonry, the sense of mystery, and the historic associations, so impress, that, on a first visit, it seemed to us as if no other scene in Rome brought before the mind with more vivid reality to tragic catastrophes described by Tacitus, in whose pages is the graphic narrative of the fierce struggle, the principal scene of which is before us—the assault and taking of the Capitol by Vitellius's soldiers, and the conflagration that ensued. We cannot now descend this staircase; but its foot was reached, and the depth explored, when first opened, on which occasion were found a number of ivory styli, different in shape

and size, now in the Capitoline Museum; also several skulls, which were allowed a last resting-place in sacred ground, at the S. Lorenzo cemetery. Another chamber, contiguous and larger, is entered by a breach in these enduring walls, and communicates with the upper flight of the same staircase, of which remains but a trace in a groove that crosses the masonry slanting on one side, and terminates at a doorway, now only traceable in the outlines filled up with stonework. The construction of this larger chamber is an immense quadrate mass of reddish lithoid tufo, without cement, divided at intervals by half-columns in the same stone, now covered with brick for better support; and above these runs a plain cornice of similarly massive character. The vault here is so little elevated above the slope of the stairs, as evidently to have been made after the latter had been cut off, or at least become unserviceable. Platner and Urlichs ("Beschreibung Roms") describe as seen about twenty years ago, the ruins of small, low chambers, almost filled by fallen material, above the first story of corridors: the origin of these, whether antique or Mediæval, these writers consider doubtful; and the actual site where the Fasti and public treasure were deposited in the Tabularium, they believe cannot be decided. Within late years has been found the epigraph of the consul Catulus, lost since the seventeenth century.

One more attraction of the Tabularium is the view from the archway spread above the Forum, in which all the ruin-groups of that region and the Palatine, with a noble background of mountains, are presented so strikingly that, familiar as one may be with these antiquities severally, their aggregate here impresses as quite new, and formed into a picture of surpassing beauty. This is, rather than any other, the point for a photographic view of the celebrated centre.

Another Architectural Museum of recent origin in Rome, is far more richly supplied than that on the Capitol, though not alike interesting for the site it occupies, the one filling a considerable compartment of the Sculpture Gallery in the Lateran Palace, founded by Gregory XVI. The specimens of decorative detail, *ornato*, in that collection, from various classic ruins, are of singular beauty, some most delicately elaborated, others remarkable for boldness not less than grace of design. Neither of these museums is yet provided with a catalogue.

The superb temple of Jupiter Capitolinus has left not one fragment of ruin on the high terrace where the Araceli church has taken its place; but a curtain of brickwork, clothing the steep sides of the Capitol beneath, is a visible remnant of its substructures; and recently some chambers, here opening within the mount from that surface of ancient wall, have been brought more agreeably within reach of inspection, the slope between the northern approach to the Capitol, and the great staircase leading to that church's front (hitherto in the same vile condition to which such waste ground is commonly abandoned in Rome), being now transformed into a pleasant garden, where cactuses and aloes grow, and a fountain gushes in the midst. Four small vaulted chambers of brick masonry, well preserved, are thus more easily visited, opening from this new garden, and only fenced by iron railings; another similar, converted into a work-

men's lumber-room, being reached from the Capitoline piazza, and sometimes accessible when a door chances to be left open.

THE TEMPORARY DECORATION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Much money is often lavished upon the festal decorations of public buildings with so little success, that a few words on the most evident causes of failure, according to the views of the writer, may not be out of place. Elaborate attempts at external decorations for daylight effect, combining the profuse employment of evergreens, mottoes, and allegorical paintings in imitation of sculpture, though seeming to promise good results in the hands of a master of the art of holiday ornament, have been made before now to produce almost positive ugliness. They have certainly not been the means of imparting additional beauty to the buildings they were intended to adorn. The same may be said of our attempts at architectural illumination. The night effects have been almost as unsuccessful as the day ones; the attempts to light up the exterior of our public buildings in accordance with their architectural forms having often proved failures in very opposite fashions; in some instances being tawdry, and in others altogether ineffective, and certainly wanting in that brilliancy which should always be the aim in public illuminations.

But it is not intended in the present remarks to discuss in detail the causes of failure in external decorations, either by daylight or night effect: it is to internal decorations that these observations are addressed. It would seem to be only by accident that such efforts at temporary decoration are occasionally successful, as the occasions of even partial success very rarely occur. One of the most common mistakes is the overloading the architectural features of a suite of apartments with unmeaning draperies. This is the almost only method adopted in Catholic countries on the great festivals of the Romish Church, and the result is all the more fatal to the internal architecture of the churches, from an awkward attempt to make these dressings accord with the architectural structure of the building. What, for instance, can be more wretched than the effect of the interior of St. Peter's at Rome, when arrayed in all the faded trumpery of scarlet and gold hangings during the performance of some of its more important services? It is easy to imagine what the noble pilasters of that wonderful building, with their brilliant inlays of the richest marbles, must lose by being covered up with long strips of scarlet cloth, rendered tawdry by imitation pannellings of tarnished gold lace. Such dressings as these, fitted to each architectural feature, so as to be tied on for festive occasions, and folded up and put away for another time when each festival is over, make up a sort of costume in which it is thought to render the magnificent edifice more beautiful on the different great *festas* of the church of Rome. All attempts to produce elaborate decorative effects by such means, especially when in a set form, to be repeated, time after time, are even more objectionable than the pink and white calico festoonings of our own attempts at giving additional effect to our great halls, or other public buildings, on high days and holidays. It is, however, with a more solid and ambitious class of temporary ornament that I would deal with. In the first place, a strong veto ought to be put upon the use of rough and careless gilding. When surfaces have not been properly prepared, the effect produced by gilding is precisely of the gingerbread character, the gold leaf adhering imperfectly, and consequently having that rough but vulgarly gaudy effect which characterises the gilding of pastry or sweatmeats.

Nothing is so effective as gold when soberly employed, and when its artistic application has been carefully and

tastefully considered, and its mechanical application rendered perfect by fitting preparation; but nothing is more offensive and coarse than such plasterings of gold or Dutch metal as one meets with in the decorative attempts at country fairs, or that of theatrical scenery when seen too closely, and by daylight. The candle-light effect of such rough goldwork is bad enough; but its daylight effect is worse. The haste with which temporary decorations are often carried through may be urged in extenuation of their coarse character; but then, in reply, it may be stated that something of a different class should be attempted.

Nobody understands better than Mr. Crace, for example, the application of colour and gilding to the interiors of buildings of a Mediæval character, especially in the form of those charming Gothic diapers by which vast spaces of plain wall may be rendered attractive, and the various details of column and cornice be made to receive additional piquancy and beauty. We have seen how his decorations of this kind redeemed the interior of the Exhibition Building of 1862. But the question is, how far such decorations ought to be seriously, and with seeming permanence, applied to such a building as the ancient civic hall of our metropolis, which is an important and venerable monument, and ought not to have its face too recklessly stuck about with gold leaf by way of placing it in holiday trim. Such decorations, even when good,—and some of the painted ornaments employed there are very well conceived, and very well executed,—are not fitted for, and do not produce the effect of, temporary festal ornament. They raise the question in the mind of the critical spectator, "Can they be washed off to-morrow? and will they come off when washed? and how is the bad gilding to be scraped off?" Decorations devised to do honour to a special occasion ought not to suggest questions of this kind. They ought to exhibit at once unmistakable evidence of being freshly prepared for the occasion, and the occasion only. If, therefore, effects of painted diaperings be considered absolutely necessary, they should be executed on canvassed frames, and columns and capitals might be cased in a similar manner. But such a decoration, fully carried out, would be too scenic and theatrical; and a far better effect, and one much more consistent with a temporary decoration, would be produced by panellings of rich diapered silks, fitted to such portions of the walls as were entirely without ornament, while columns should be festooned with rich and massive silks of similar character, and happily contrasting colours, just beneath the mouldings of the capitals; and from the loopings up of the drapery, the heavy silk cords by which the looping up was effected should descend the whole length of the column, forming a reedwork of silk, the massive tassels resting on the mouldings of the base; and being kept in place by a circling of the same silken cord, surrounding the column at its base, upon its upper moulding, on which it should rest. Half way down the column, shields or ornamented tablets might be suspended, bearing armorial devices, or complimentary and allegorical subjects; and in the frames and dressings of such shields or tablets gilding (well done) might be used with good effect. Or, these suspended ornaments might be oval or octagonal mirrors, framed in gold, and wreathed with real or artificial flowers. Here is a kind of decoration for columns, either single or clustered, which would be splendid, and yet evidently temporary, and which would enrich the architectural forms without concealing them. Beneath the straight lines of cornices, similar festoonings of red silk damask might be used; or, where economy was an object, simply coloured muslin or calico, further enriched by massive fringe; and from the loopings up, to break the monotony of extended surfaces of plain wall, large shields or tablets might be suspended, about which wreaths of flowers might play, and gracefully stray from one tablet to another in elegant and symmetrical lines. When masses of colour are required, a large plain surface should be

selected, and drapery of some unichrome tone be suspended from some striking apparent support at the top, from which plain and regular folds at equal distances should extend to the bottom, which should be enriched with a very deep and rich border. Upon the plain surface of this drapery badges, shields, mirrors, enlaced ciphers, or paintings, designed for the special occasion, and fitted to oval or octagon frames, might be suspended. To these features may be added mottoes gracefully embroidered on silk, to be girt round columns with rich cording and tasselling, or wound spirally down them. In short, there is no end to the legitimate features of temporary decoration; the main characteristic of which ought to exhibit unmistakable evidence of its temporary character. It should produce the effect of an artistic flash, adding beauty to some already beautiful spot, for a brief space of time—as a gleam of sunshine in a shady nook—a glistening ripple on a lake—a rainbow on the soft grey of an expanse of cloud.—H. NOEL HUMPHREYS, in the *Builder*.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE KNIGHTS HOSPITALERS, ETC.

(3rd S. iii. 450).

In my last communication I proposed to submit to my readers a parallel showing the respective claims to legitimacy put forth by the Roman Council and the English Langue. I now beg to redeem my pledge to that effect, and shall commence my present observations with a reference to the leading event in the modern history of the Order—an event in which *both parties may date the origin of their separation*—namely, the dispersion of the knights from the seat of their sovereignty at Malta, in 1798; for down to the period of that date, the statutory model of the institution had been formally preserved, and the English Langue (arbitrarily deprived of its possessions by Henry VIII.), and the three French Langues (which had with equal injustice been despoiled of their estates by the Directory), were still accounted by the Order itself integral portions of the general fraternity. The capture of Malta by the French, which gave a death-blow to the Order as a sovereign state, severed into fragments the hitherto associated Langues, and the dispersed knights were reduced to the miserable expediency of seeking a home wherever humanity might offer a refuge. To suppose that, from this period to the date of the downfall of Napoleon, any assemblage existed which could constitute a legitimate representation of the body of the Order, would be but an idle perversion of the true facts of the case; and that such a misstatement should ever have appealed to our belief is only to be grounded on the interlostered efforts made by the Italian members to resolve themselves, practically, into a sort of chapteral association, that might claim for itself an independent and supreme authority, supported by the countenance of the Pope, and the protection of certain of the Catholic princes. The principle advocated in support of this expedient was couched in the assertion that property was the only basis of the existence of a Langue: and that, inasmuch as the English Langue had been stripped of its revenues at the period to which I have alluded, and the three French Langues had been equally denuded of their respective domains during the great Revolution, while those of Spain and Portugal had withdrawn from the government of the Order when the Order could no longer govern itself, it followed that the German and Italian Langues which alone retained some infinitesimal portion of their former estates, should constitute the only surviving remnant of the institution, and of course exercise a plenary jurisdiction over its scattered members. But that such a theory was ever accepted by the main body of the Order, which though existing in dispersed fragments, and deprived of any collective power by the adverse course of events, still claimed an indefeasible right

to exercise all the acts of sovereignty whenever an opportunity of re-union presented itself, is, on the very face of the question, a most palpable and absurd imposture. The acts of the few fugitive knights who sought an asylum at St. Petersburg, and who, in concert with the members of the Russian Grand Priory, elected the half-mad and wholly barbarous Paul I. their Grand Master, and this too—so reckless were they as to what they did to relieve themselves from the pressure of destitution—before even the existing Grand Master, Baron de Hompesch, had abdicated his office, could never, as a matter of principle only, have been sanctioned and confirmed by men of established honour and chivalric sentiments. The impression of just ridicule which hailed the event throughout Europe is still well remembered; and the proclamation of Paul, with his address to the nobility of Christendom, urging them to become knights of the “regenerated,” order, met with no echo but the scarcely suppressed taunts of general derision. The farce was played out; everything in the so-called Order was ludicrously Russianized: and the prostitution of the cross for money, and for mere purposes of political intrigue, quickly followed. The assassination of Paul soon afterwards set adrift the crowd of hapless hangers-on, who had vainly hoped to find a permanent harbour from distress in the Russian dominions. It were bootless to particularise the efforts that were then made to rally the dispersed exiles of St. Petersburg. At length, an Italian Knight, Giovanni Tomasi, obtained the authority of the Pope to succeed the unfortunate Czar as Grand Master, but he soon sickened with disappointment, and followed Paul—leaving the “regenerated” order in the hands of a party so small and unimportant that the Pope could no longer conscientiously assist in the appointment of another Grand Master, and, from that day to this, an officer called the “Lieutenant of the Mastership,” has been successively substituted for the former dignitary. I write with a desire to state nothing that is not founded in perfect truth and candour; and, in describing the state of the Order as thus represented by a minute fraction of its members, under the protection of the Pope, and as thus taking upon themselves the reputed supremacy of the institution, I shall prefer to use the graphic words of a most memorable Bailiff of the Order, the Count de Litta, the very Knight who, as ambassador from the Grand Master de Hompesch, invested Paul with the office of Protector in 1797. In speaking of the *débris* of the Order assembled at Rome in 1838, he says, in a letter to the Council of the English Langue, still preserved in its archives:—

“Après la mort de Tomasi, le Sainte Siège a nommé plusieurs Lieutenants du Magistère, qui ont régi provisoirement les affaires courantes et les derniers débris de l’Ordre, et les Chevaliers en très petit nombre, et devenus maintenant décrépits, assistent maintenant à Rome à un soi-disant Chapitre aux derniers moments d’une agonie prolongée du dit Ordre.”

And what says the Secretary of the Order at Vienna to the Commissioner of the English Langue in 1840?

“Yes,” he exclaimed, “I am Secretary, or anything you please! Chancellor, if you will! The fact is, I do the work of the Order and it is too poor to have its grand offices filled up, so that you may look upon me as representing any or all of them. We have crosses and uniforms, but very small funds. The order has an existence, and an ostensible chief in its Lieutenants, but Metternich really governs it.”

One more glimpse of still later date, that will satisfy the most exigent reader of the miserable state of degradation into which the Romish party has at length floundered, after all its intrigues and manoeuvres to gain and exercise a sovereignty over the whole of the disintegrated branches,—one more glimpse, I say, of this wretched fall of the once potent Order “from its high estate” into hopeless and almost irremediable abasement, and I will drop a friendly curtain over the too distressing picture. We read under the date of 1858, that—

“A scheme has been laid at the feet of the Holy Father, as Head of the Church and of all religious Orders, and that his

Holiness received the proposals very favourably, and submitted them to a committee of seven Cardinals, to which was added the Head of the Order, His Excellency the Count Colloredo.”—Sir G. Bowyer’s *Ritual of Profession*, &c.

My paper having far exceeded its anticipated limits, I shall pause here, requesting my reader’s attention to its continuation in a following number, when I will give a concise account of the circumstances which led to the re-incorporation of the English Langue—the only Protestant and independent section of the Order.—ANTIQUARIUS.

WHY SO MANY BRETHREN NEARER PASS BEYOND THE A B C OF MASONRY.

Notwithstanding that Masonry has spread with almost unexampled rapidity, during the last thirty years, and although we find the thousands of lodges scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land, ever and unceasingly at work ‘making masons,’ yet the actual number of brethren ‘attending in their places’ at the regular communication, cannot fail to strike the visitor as being far, very far below what it ought to be. Moreover, even among those who do attend, there is a most lamentable want of knowledge of the true nature and object, of the history and principles of the institution. In short but very few Masons ever pass beyond the A B C of Freemasonry. A large majority of candidates after having been initiated, and then hurriedly advanced through the succeeding degrees, visit their lodge a few times and then drop off and are seen no more, unless it be at “election time,” when they make their appearance and having paid their dues and voted for officers, of whose qualifications they not only know absolutely nothing, but are even not able to judge correctly, again retire, in the full consciousness that they have fulfilled their whole duty to the institution. What renders this state of affairs even more to be regretted, is the fact that the most intelligent, educated, and capable men, the very men who, could they but feel a true interest in Masonry, would shed a lustre upon the institution and best promote its interests, are to be found among those absentees. This is not only not to be wondered at, but shows that there is something wrong in our system of Masonry, and that a reform is needed. Ask these brethren why they thus hold themselves aloof from the lodges—why they take no active part in the proceedings, and they say that they have found nothing in the institution to interest them—nothing but the everlasting and eternal work—a constant repetition of the same long tedious forms, which to a sensible and thinking man, are too often purile and even sometimes overstrained. Everything else which would tend to instruct, to excite the curiosity and interest, to elevate the character of the institution is slurred over as of no consequence, and the result is that the very men most needed become weary and disgusted, and retire from their lodges—drones in the masonic hive, worse than useless to Masonry. It is indeed true that Masonry even as it is, performs many good deeds—that its ears are ever open to the cries of the needy, and that its charities are dispensed with a liberal hand. It is also true that Masonry creates among its members a sincere affection, and that it promotes many acts of mutual and disinterested friendship between the brethren, but this is not the whole duty of Masonry—the noblest and chief work of Masonry. It was never intended that Masonry should confine its workings to the circle of its own members, that it should sink to the level of a mere mutual protection society. Masonry was intended to be the point within the circle of the universe, from whence should flow out, upon the outer world, pervading its inmost recesses, that mighty influence of pure, unselfish brotherly love, which can unite all men to one bond of sincere affection, and which can establish “Peace on earth, good will to men.” Let Masons remember that there are on this globe at the present day, more than seven thousand lodges, embracing men of every country, sect, and opinion, and they will readily perceive what an immense and powerful influence the institution is capable of exerting,

if its efforts were but conducted with unanimity. To be able to exert this influence, and thus to aid in carrying out the true mission of *Masonry*, the members of the fraternity must first be thoroughly imbued with a true knowledge and appreciation of the history and nature of the institution, for without such knowledge, they will be labouring in the dark. To impart this knowledge is the true duty of the Master of a lodge, and he who is incompetent or unwilling to do so is unworthy of that honourable position.

THE NAME OF HIRAM ABIFF.

The first mention of Hiram, the Architect, occurs in 1 Kings vii. 13, 14. He is next mentioned in the 40th verse, and again once in the 45th verse of the same chapter. Thus we find Hiram's name four times in the Book of Kings, without any mention of the term "Abiff." In Chronicles we find the name is written *Hiram*, and the Architect is spoken of, but not by name, in 2 Chronicles ii. 13. "And now I have sent a cunning man (endued with understanding) of *Hiram my father's*." In the Hebrew text, the word rendered "*my father's*" is in English letters, "Abi." (The Hebrew word "Ab" signifies "father," "Abi" "*my father*," and "Abiv," "*his father*.") In 2 Chronicles iv. 11. he is spoken of by name twice, and in the 16th verse we read, "All their instruments did *Hiram my father* make to King Solomon," &c. Here the word rendered "his father" by our transmitters, is in English characters "Abiff." We have, therefore, in the books of Kings and Chronicles six instances of the use of the Architect's name, without the term "Abi" or "Abif," and once with each of those terms, which however are not considered as surnames of Hiram, in the English translations. The phrase "*Hiram, my father's*" has been interpreted as signifying "belonging to my father," thus giving a stronger meaning to the prefix in the original, attached to the name Hiram. The term "Abiff," rendered "his father," often occurs in the Hebrew writings to denote a chief, leader, principal, or counsellor. Hence priests and prophets, as teachers sent with Divine authority, are saluted with the title of father, out of respect and honour even by kings. It has been urged in favour of this translation, that there is no instance of a surname in the Old Testament. In the Latin Vulgate and in the Greek Septuagint, the term "*Hiram Abi*" is rendered "*Hiram my father*." It is a singular fact, however, that while the Masonic tradition leaves the word "Abiff" untranslated, and gives it as a surname of Hiram, Luther in his German translation of the Bible does the same, in both places where it occurs, viz.: "So sende Ich nun einen Weisender Verstand trat, *Hurum Abiff*," (2 Chron. ii. 13), and "*machete Hurum Abif den Konige Salomo*," (2 Chron. iv. 16.) The Polish version of 1810 is like Luther's, with the exception of "Abi" for "Abif." The question now arises, why should not the words Abif ish-tzori be translated, "And Abif was a man of Tyre," &c., and not "his father was a man of Tyre." The concluding portion of both the verses in which the above sentence occurs certainly alludes to the qualifications of Hiram the architect, and not to those of his father. Why should his father be mentioned at all, as a man of Tyre, when we are told that he (Hiram) was a widow's son. This is all that the Scriptures know of him, and he certainly was not known by any distinction which his father ever achieved. If we retain the English version "and his father" (1 Kings vii. 14.) then we must refer the subsequent words, "And he was filled with wisdom and understanding and cunning to work all works in brass," to Hiram's father and not to himself. In 2 Chron. ii. 13-14, it becomes still more evident that Hiram's surname was Abif. The version of King James in its translation, here introduces to the reader still another father, of whom even less is known than of the one in Kings vii. 14, viz.: a father of King Hiram. "And now have I sent a cunning man, of *Hiram my fathers*." In support of this latter rendering, it is con-

tended that the Hebrew proposition L, prefixed to the word Hiram, shows it to be in the dative or genitive case (to or of my father) and not in the accusative. But we find this prefix used in some instances by Hebrew writers in the accusative, after the Chaldic manner, which uses it in the same manner after active verbs; so also does the Syriac and Ethiopic. It must be evident, beyond the shadow of a doubt, to any one at all familiar with the Hebrew, from the intimate connexion of the words in 2 Chron. ii. 13-14, that these verses should be translated, "And now I have sent a cunning man (endued with understanding,) Hiram Abi, the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan. And Abif was a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, brass," &c. The common version is in these verses most transparently wrong. Luther's version being then the only correct one, a curious question arises. Did those who introduced the legend of Hiram Abif into Masonry receive the tradition originally from Germany? The question is worthy of investigation. It is very generally believed among Masons, that the tradition concerning Hiram is contained in the Talmud: such, however, is not the case, for the whole of that voluminous work contains no further information in regard to the Master Builder than what is contained in the Old Testament. Neither is it to be found in any of the old Hebrew books, and it remains to this day, simply what it is, a mere tradition without a shadow of authenticity.

MASONIC STATISTICS.

1. Great Britain.

	Founded.	Prov. G. Lodges.	Lodges.
G. Lodge of England,	1717	63	1000
G. Lodge of Scotland,	1736	88	300
G. Lodge of Ireland,	1730	10	300

2. France.

Grand Orient,	1772	—	172
Supreme Council of France	1804	—	50

3. Germany.

G. N. Mother L. 3 Globes,			
Berlin,	1744	—	97
G. Landesloge of Germany	1770	5	67
G. L. Royal York of			
Friendship, Berlin,	1778	1	—
G. L. Royal York of			
Friendship, Berlin,	1798	—	27
G. L. of Hamburg,	1811	1	24
G. L. of Hanover,	1823	—	21
G. L. of Saxony,	1811	—	15
G. L. of the Sun, Bayreuth,	1811	—	10
G. Mother Lodge of Eclectic			
Union, Frankfort, A.M.	1823	—	10
G. L. "zur Eintracht,"			
Darmstadt.	1846	—	7
Sup. Masonic Council of			
Luxemburg,	—	—	2
Isolated Lodges (5) and			
under foreign Grand			
Lodges (2),	—	—	7

4. Switzerland.

Grand Lodge, Alpina,	1844	—	27
----------------------	------	---	----

5. Portugal.

G. L. of Portugal (?)	—	—	—
Prov. G. Lodge of Ireland	—	—	—
at Lisbon,	—	—	4

6. Belgium.

Grand Orient of Belgium,	—	—	—
(not acknowledged.)	—	—	—
Supreme Council of Bel-	—	—	—
gium, at Brussels,	—	—	13

7. Netherlands.

"Groot Osten" of the			
Netherlands, at the			
Hague,	1756	—	67

8. Denmark.

Grand Landesloge of Den-			
mark, Copenhagen,	1792	—	5

9. Sweden and Norway.

G. Landesloge of Sweden,	1780	3	12
--------------------------	------	---	----

10. *Turkey*,
Prov. G. L. of England at Constantinople (?)
11. *North America*.

	Founded.	Lodges.
G. Lodge of Alabama,	1821	235
" Arkansas,	1838	128
" California,	1850	134
" Canada,	1855	118
" Connecticut,	1789	57
" Delaware,	1806	12
" Dist. of Columbia,	1811	11
" Florida,	1830	40
" Georgia,	1786	226
" Illinois,	1823	290
" Indiana,	1818	250
" Iowa,	1844	138
" Kansas,	1856	23
" Kentucky,	1800	311
" Louisiana,	1812	112
" Maine,	1829	93
" Maryland,	1783	37
" Massachusetts,	1717	99
" Michigan,	1826	104
" Minnesota,	1853	35
" Mississippi,	1818	239
" Missouri,	1821	180
" Nebraska,	1857	6
" New Brunswick,	1856	22
" New Hampshire,	1783	39
" New Jersey,	1786	52
" New York,	1787	413
" North Carolina,	1787	127
" Ohio,	1809	298
" Oregon,	1851	26
" Pennsylvania,	1786	150
" Rhode Island,	1791	16
" South Carolina,	1787	70
" Tennessee,	1813	213
" Texas,	1838	210
" Vermont,	1784	44
" Virginia,	1878	162
" Wisconsin,	1843	106
" Washington Territory,	1858	7
12. <i>South America</i> .		
G. Lodge of Brazil,	—	65
" Venezuela,	—	25
" Uruguay,	—	17
" Peru, (?)	—	—
" Argentine Republic (?)	—	—
" Hayti (?)	—	—
" Cuba, (Island of	—	—
" Cuba,) (?)	—	—

Total, 67 Grand Lodges and 7172 subordinate lodges.

The above table does not include any of the bodies of the higher degrees, but merely symbolic lodges. Thus the Gr. Nat. M. Lodge at Berlin has, in addition to the above, under its jurisdiction, 50 Scottish Lodges.

The Gr. Landesloge of Germany, 22 St. Andrew's Lodges.

The Gr. L. Royal York, of Friendship, 7 Inner Orientals.

The Gr. Lodge of Sweden, 2 Stuart Lodges and 7 St. Andrew's Lodges.

The Gr. Lodge of Denmark, 2 St. Andrew's Lodges.

Grand Orient of France, 82 Chapters, Councils and Consistories.

Sup. Council of France, 15 Chapters, Councils and Consistories

—*New York Sunday Despatch*.

A MASONIC DECALOGUE.

Décatalogue Maçonnique.—Such is the title to the following precepts written upon a paper presented to me by a French cavalry officer, with whose family marriage connects me. He states that it was found in the pocket of a dragoon under his command, a native of Corsica, killed at the battle of Solferino. The paper being much stained and worn, many words are entirely obliterated. These I have supplied by conjecture:—I. Adore le Grand Architecte de l'univers, qui est Dieu. Le vrai culte du Grand Architecte consiste dans les bonnes mœurs. II. Tiens toujours ton âme dans un état pur, pour paraître dignement devant le Grand Architecte de l'univers. III.

Ecoute toujours la voix de la conscience. Ne fais point de mal. Fais du bien. Fais du bien pour l'amour du bien lui-même. IV. Aime ton prochain. Sois le père des pauvres. V. Estime les bons. Plains les faibles. Fuis les méchants. Ne nais personne. VI. Respect. les femmes, N'abuse jamais de leur faiblesse. Meur plutôt qui de la déshonneur. VII. Evite les querelles. Préviens les insultes. Mets toujours la raison de ton côté. Parle sobrement avec les grands, prudemment avec tes égaux, sincèrement avec les petits, tendrement avec les malheureux. VIII. Sois content de tout, partout, et avec tout. Songe qui ce n'est pas ton état qui l'honore le bien. Réfléchis et travaille. Rapporte tout à l'utilité de tes Frères; c'est travailler pour toi même. X. Ne juge pas légèrement les actions des hommes. Ne blâme pas témérairement; c'est au Grand Architecte de l'univers, qui sonde les cœurs, d'apprécier son ouvrage. The decalogue is followed, in another handwriting, by a literal translation into French prose of some stanzas of Pope's Universal Prayer.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

Poetry.

THE TWO VILLAGES.

BY ROSE TERRY.

Over the river, on the hill,
Lieth a village white and still;
All around it the forest trees
Whisper and shiver in the breeze;
Over it sailing shadows go
Of soaring hawk and screaming crow;
And mountain grasses, low and sweet,
Grow in the middle of every street.

Over the river, under the hill,
Another village lieth still;
There I see, in the cloudy night,
Twinkling stars of household light;
Fires that gleam from the smithy's door,
Mists that curl on the river shore;
And in the roads no grasses grow,
For the wheels that hasten to and fro.

In that village on the hill
Never is sound of smithy or mill;
The houses are thatched with grass and flowers;
Never a clock to toll the hours;
The marble doors are always shut;
You cannot enter in hall or hut;
All the villagers lie asleep,
Never again to sow or reap,
Never in dreams to moan or sign—
Silent and idle and low they lie.

In that village under the hill,
When the night is starry and still,
Many a weary soul in prayer
Looks to the other village there,
And, weeping and sighing, longs to go
Up to that home from this below—
Longs to sleep in the forest wild,
Whither have vanished wife and child,
And heareth, praying, this answer fall—
"Patience! that village shall hold you all."

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new Masonic Hall, at Manchester, will be performed (in the unavoidable absence of the Earl of Zetland), by the R.W. Stephen Blair, Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire. A large number of distinguished noble and gentlemen, connected with the Craft, are expected to be present. The arrangements include the opening of the Provincial Grand Lodge at 1 o'clock, p.m., at the Town Hall (which has been kindly offered by the Mayor of the city); a procession to the site; the full Masonic ceremony; and a grand banquet at the Corn Exchange.

The Consecration of the Adair Lodge (No. 1238). Aldeburgh, Suffolk, will take place on Monday next, the 13th of July. The R.W. Colonel Robert Alexander Shafto Adair, Prov. G.M., and the Provincial Grand Officers will be present.

The fifteen sections will be worked at the Confidence Lodge of Instruction, held at Bro. Swainston's, the "Three Bucks," Gresham-street, on Tuesday, 14th inst., Bro. J. Thomas in the chair.

The fifteen sections will be worked at the Whittington Lodge of Instruction, held at the Old Kent Tavern, Brownlow street, Holborn, on Thursday next, 16th inst., Bro. Brett in the chair.

The prospectus has been issued of the Masonic Union Company (limited), with a capital of £5000, in shares of £5 each, the object being to find a home for those degrees which are not acknowledged by Grand Lodge, and in whose way obstacles are thrown by Grand Lodge officials, so that they cannot be properly accommodated at Freemasons Tavern. Premises have been secured at No. 14, Bedford Row, where it is intended to erect a hall (50 feet long, 34 feet wide, and 25 feet high), with Ante-Rooms, the whole appropriately fitted up for the purpose of the proper performance of the ceremonies of the Mark Degree, Rose Croix, and various High Grades of Masonry, and the Royal Religious and Military Order of Knights Templar. It is proposed also to erect a banqueting room, thirty feet by twenty, and other conveniences; which, with the existing rooms, will give the requisite accommodation for Masonic banquets. It is also contemplated forming a Masonic club, upon a comfortable, but at first a limited scale, and not of necessity confined to Shareholders in the Company.

PROVINCIAL.

CHANNEL ISLES.

JERSEY.—*St. Aubin's Lodge* (No. 1270).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic rooms, St. Aubin's, on Thursday, July the 2nd. At half-past six the lodge was opened in the first degree by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, W.M., assisted by his Wardens, Bros. De Carteret and Orange. A letter was received explaining the absence of the Chaplain from indisposition. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was deferred, owing to the unforeseen and unavoidable absence of the Secretary. Bros. Stevens, Watson, and Sarguy, were then passed by the W.M. to the degree of Fellow Craft. The lodge was resumed in the first degree. Mr. William Holt was presented, and received the benefit of initiation into the Order, followed by the customary charge to an Entered Apprentice. He then retired, and on his return was placed before the pedestal, together with the three Fellow Crafts, to all of whom the W.M. gave the explanation of the first Tracing Board, and presented to Bro. Holt a copy of his "Lectures on Freemasonry." The ballot was taken for Bro. Horman as a joining member, which was unanimous in his favour. The W.M. delivered the following, being in part a report of the Committee

appointed to fit up the new rooms, and the remainder an address from himself to the members of the lodge:—"Brethren,—In accordance with the resolution passed at our last meeting, the Committee appointed for the purpose has lost no time in entering upon and completing the proposed arrangements for obtaining a permanent local habitation, as well as a name. These having been effected, we have further taken the requisite steps, under the authority then placed in our hands, for making such alterations and fittings as the circumstances required, always, however, having regard to simplicity and strict economy; for though it is desirable that all the appointments of a lodge should not only be in conformity with usage, custom, and Masonic law, but such as to impress ourselves and those who are to be initiated into the Craft with its dignity and importance, as well as to invest our ceremonials with due solemnity, we have felt that a duty devolved upon us also to act in accordance with the Masonic principles of prudence and of honour, by not encroaching too much on the kindness of the Brethren in putting them to unnecessary expense, particularly as most of us are also attached to other lodges, whose interests are dear to us, as being those in which we first saw the light on receiving the benefit of initiation therein; likewise by keeping our expenditure within such limits as to run no risk of incurring pecuniary obligations which might endanger our character and credit by delay in meeting them. Our agreement with the landlord is to have these rooms probably for four-and-a-half years, not necessarily to terminate at that time, but to provide for the possibility of their being sold. . . .

We must not conceal from you that we have necessarily incurred some debts, for the liquidation of which it behoves us at once this evening to make provision. Two means have been suggested to this end—either by a limited contribution from each of us for the purpose, or by borrowing a sum of money, which we believe one or more of our members are willing to lend, paying them interest thereon, and refunding the principal so soon as our pecuniary circumstances will admit of such a course. Without venturing an opinion as to which of the two is the more expedient, we leave the matter for your consideration, with, however, an earnest hope that, under such an accession to our numbers as may fairly be calculated upon, the close of our first year of existence as a lodge will find us clear from all liabilities, and in possession of a fair stock of furniture. . . . Having thus laid before you the operations of the Committee, allow me now, in the position I hold, to congratulate you on being free from a charge but too commonly made against the Craft, that it is connected with houses of public entertainment, to which there are several serious objections; first, that the requisite privacy is endangered; secondly, that the associations are not such as to maintain the character of the Order; and thirdly, that there are certain temptations incident to such places of meeting, and that, whether we yield to them or not, the external world does not give us credit for perfect consistency on this point, and will not believe our real objects to be such as we represent, so long as we are subject to what are deemed questionable influences. We cannot hope in this locality to rival our brethren of St. Helier by the erection of a temple worthy of the Craft, but we can and do show that we appreciate their exertions, by following their example at a very humble distance, and obtaining a building solely devoted to our purposes. I ask you, for our satisfaction, as well as for other reasons, to pass a declaratory resolution in approbation of the proceedings of your committee, and as a sanction to me in having convened you for the first time in your own rooms, as well as for doing so in future. Brethren, I have one or two announcements to make. At our last meeting you heard from the lips of the Prov. G.M. the intention of his daughter, Miss Hammond, to add to our obligation previously incurred, by the presentation of a cushion, on which to place her gift of the volume of the Sacred Law. This promise has been kept. I trust that she had not felt that we had treated her with disrespect in omitting to make such a provision, for we had not forgotten, but only delayed it till our finances should admit of that as well as other purchases. As it is, we cannot but express our gratitude, not merely for the present itself, but for the kind and thoughtful consideration which has dictated it. Rarely does it occur that ladies take an interest in Masonic proceedings, beyond witnessing public processions, and sometimes joining in a ball or a concert given by the members. I could wish that opportunities of creating in their minds a sympathy and interest in our work were more frequent, not only because Freemasons profess to "the ladies adore," but

because we induce mistaken notions to arise, in consequence of their necessarily strict exclusion of them from our rites and ceremonies, though, as it appears to me, we might, by more open conduct, obtain their assistance and co-operation in works of love and charity, and also in the decoration of our lodges. The present case being an exception to the general rule, we are bound to honour it, and to express our grateful acknowledgment of so useful a present, a duty which I doubt not you will commission the Secretary to perform. I have also to announce that our excellent Chaplain, the Rev. F. de la Mare, has kindly presented to the lodge a paraffine lamp, and Bro. de la Taste a moderator lamp. Bro. Mannan gives you a substantial box, in which the jewels and valuable property of the lodge may be locked up. I have to request your acceptance of three lamps, a moderator, a paraffine, and a common oil lamp, and also of an inkstand for the Secretary's table, from myself. I farther offer you portraits of the M.W. the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master, and of Lord Dalhousie, Past Deputy Grand Master, and a complete set of eight drawings of the St. Helier Masonic Temple, executed by myself, all which I have had neatly framed and glazed, to place on your walls. Moreover, I have to present a volume, which I have had suitably bound for the purpose, containing my published reports of the laying of the first stone of the Temple, and of the consecration of St. Aubin's Lodge, the history of its origin, extracted from your minute book, my lectures on Freemasonry, and my biography of the late Bro. Asplet. This, then, will be the commencement of your library, which I shall be glad to see extended, either by the contributions of the brethren, or by the purchase of works on the Craft, or on general subjects of science and literature, so soon as our funds will admit of such an expenditure. I have also drawn up and mounted several tabular lodge records, which I thought would be useful in an accessible form on our walls. It was proposed by the S.W., seconded by the S.D., and passed unanimously, that the report be received, and, with the address entered on the minutes; also that the acts of the committee be approved and confirmed, and that the summons of the W.M. to meet in the Masonic Rooms on this and future occasions be sanctioned. On the proposition of the W.M., seconded by the Dir. of Cers., it was resolved that the offer of three of the brethren to lend £5 each to the lodge, to meet the necessary expenditure in furnishing, be thankfully accepted. The S.W. proposed, and the J.W. seconded, a vote of thanks to Miss Hammond, daughter of the R.W. Prov. G.M., for her kind present of a cushion and marker to the lodge. On the proposition of the S.W., seconded by Bro. Captain Smith, a similar vote was passed to Bros. the Chap., the I.G., and the W.M., for their handsome presents, and the Secretary was directed to communicate them in writing to the donors. The letter of the Prov. G.M. which accompanied the cushion was ordered to be entered on the minutes. A communication was read from the Rev. G. Le Maistre, acknowledging the receipt of £3 10s. to the National Schools of St. Aubin. A proposition was made by the W.M. to change the day of holding the lodge, to be considered at the next meeting. Bro. Philip Le Gallais was proposed as a joining member on the nomination of the W.M., seconded by the S.W. Several accounts were presented and ordered to be paid. No other business being brought forward, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony and with solemn prayer, at half-past nine. The brethren then adjourned to the refreshment room, and spent an hour in social intercourse, several visitors being present, one of whom, Bro. Salt, expressed his satisfaction at the manner in which the proceedings had been conducted, fully carrying out the hopes he had entertained in witnessing the consecration ceremony, several copies of the account of which he had transmitted to his Masonic friends in Australia, whom he expected shortly to rejoin, when he would be able personally to ratify and confirm the published records of the Lodge of St. Aubin.

SOUTH WALES (EASTERN DIVISION).

CARDIFF—CONSECRATION OF THE BUTE LODGE, No. 1262.

According to the intimation previously given in our columns, Tuesday, the 30th ult., was the day appointed for the constitution and consecration of the above lodge. For the information of those of our readers who are unacquainted with the locality, we may premise that the Bute Docks, or, as we would rather say, Bute Town, is situated at the distance of nearly two miles from the centre of the town of Cardiff, in which the present Freemasons' Hall is built. The inconvenience of this distance has long been felt by many of the members of that ancient, flourishing, and well-conducted lodge, the Glamorgan (No. 43), as

well as a large majority of the brethren residing in that district, who, in a great measure, owing to the circumstance alluded to, were not subscribing members to any lodge. In the month of March in the present year a petition was drawn up, under the auspices of Bro. J. C. Thorp, No. 43, P.M. 435, P. Prov. S.G.D., Oxon, and signed by eighteen Master Masons, praying Grand Lodge for a warrant to hold a lodge at the Consulate Chambers, formerly the Taff Railway Offices, and now designated the Masonic Hall, Bute Town.

In compliance with this petition, recommended by the Glamorgan Lodge (No. 43), and the Silurian Lodge, (No. 693), the requisite warrant was almost immediately received, and shortly afterwards a dispensation enabling the W.M. designate to initiate twelve candidates upon the day of consecration.

In the mean time, the magnificent room known as the Board Room, in the suite of offices referred to, was fitted up in an elaborate, but at the same time strictly Masonic manner. Indeed, the internal arrangements of the lodge were the theme of admiration with the numerous distinguished visitors who attended the proceedings now about to be described. The flooring of the lodge consists of a Brussels carpet, of the best quality, specially manufactured and most accurately representing the "chequered pavement," together with the true "tesselated border." In the middle of this border is a handsome five pointed star of the same material, immediately over which hangs a truly artistic chandelier with a beautifully arranged "G" in the centre. The column of the W.M. and Wardens are of a chaste description, the lesser lights being illuminated with gas. Two splendid pillars, which should adorn the entrance to the temple, were placed (we trust temporarily) upon either corner of the dais. Altogether, we must congratulate our brethren of the Bute Lodge upon the possession of one of the most elegant, as well as one of the most convenient lodge rooms, in which it has been our lot to assemble.

All necessary arrangements having been made, Tuesday, 30th ult., was fixed upon as the day for consecration, and the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Colonel Tynte, of course, applied to for his valuable services, which, however, to the regret of the brethren, absence from home prevented his affording. The important duties of his office were, therefore, delegated to the venerable, and much esteemed D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Dr. Bird, by whom they would no doubt have been most satisfactorily performed; but, unfortunately, a few hours before the appointed time of meeting, a telegram was received announcing the fact that he would be unable to attend, and the brethren of the new lodge would have been in somewhat of a "fix" had they not taken the precaution to procure, in case of accident, the services of a highly efficient and respected officer, whose Masonic fame is more than local. Dr. Bird having deputed the W.M. designate to be thus provided, a telegram was despatched at an unreasonably late hour to Bro. Dr. Bryant, P.M. 120, P. Prov. G.S.W., Bristol, Prov. G. Com. K.T., Gloucester and Bristol, &c., who, in that noble and truly Masonic spirit for which he is eminently characterised, unhesitatingly promised compliance with the request of a lodge, every member of which was a personal stranger to him. And now to the proceedings of the day.

At 10:30 a.m., the brethren began to gather, and before 11 o'clock nearly one hundred visiting brethren were assembled in the new lodge room. The Silurian Lodge (No. 693), attended as a lodge, as did, also, the Glamorgan Lodge (No. 43), which we were glad to see represented by a very large number of the officers and brethren, indeed, by a judicious arrangement of the Director of Ceremonies, every chair of the lodge, prior to the appointment of the new officers, was filled by a Past Master of the parent lodge.

With that punctuality which marked all the proceedings of the day, precisely at the last mentioned hour a procession entered in the following order:—Dir. of Cers. (for the day), Tyler, with drawn Sword, members of the new lodge, two and two, Inner Guard, Dir. of Cers., Secretary and Treasurer, Junior Warden, Senior Warden with Junior Deacon on right, Past Master, W.M. designate with Senior Deacon on right, acting Prov. G.J.W. with ewer of oil, acting Prov. G.S.W. with ewer of wine, acting D. Prov. G.M. with cornucopia, acting Prov. G.M. with Steward on either side.

The procession was received with due honours, and having proceeded three times round the lodge to solemn music, the presiding officer took his seat and the Dir. of Cers. conducted to their respective chairs the following officers, *pro tem.*, Bros. R. J. Langley, D. Prov. G.M., P.M. 43, P.G.S.W., S.W.; T. J.

South, P.M. 43, Prov. G.J.W., J.W.; J. Grierson, W.M. 43, S.D.; W. J. Gaskell, P.M. 43, J.D.; N. B. Calder, P.M. 43, I.G.; E. J. Thomas, P.M. 43, O.G.; Bro. Owen. 43.

The harmonium, kindly lent for the occasion by the Glamorgan Lodge, was presided over by Bro. Fisher, Organist 43, and organist of St. Mary's Church; who also ably conducted all the musical arrangements of the day, assisted by Bros. J. Gawn, P.M. 979, Prov. G. Org. South Wales; H. J. Grooves, P.M. 983, Prov. G. Org. Monmouth, and Bro. H. De Burgh Thomas, P.M. 460, Prov. G. Org. Oxon.

The services of the Prov. G. Chaplain could not be obtained, and the duties of his office had to be performed by the presiding officer.

ORDER OF PROCEEDING.

The lodge was opened in the three degrees, music being introduced after each opening.

The presiding officer addressed the brethren on the nature of the meeting.

The W.M. designate replied to the presiding officer.

The presiding officer rejoined and gave directions.

The Secretary read the petition and warrant.

The presiding officer then enquired of the brethren if they approved of the officers named in the petition and warrant.

The brethren signified their approval in due form.

The presiding officer explained that at this period an Oration, appropriate to the occasion was usually delivered, but as no Orator had been appointed, no Chaplain was present and the brevity of their summons to him, had prevented his making any preparation, that usually interesting portion of the ceremony must be dispensed with, and proceeded immediately to the introductory prayer.

Anthem (133 Ps.), tune, St. Stephens.

Behold how pleasant and how good
For brethren such as we,
Of the "Accepted" Brotherhood,
To dwell in unity!

'Tis like the oil in Aaron's head,
Which to his feet distils;
Like Hermon's dew so richly shed
On Zion's sacred hills.

For there the Lord of Light and Love,
A blessing sent with power;
Oh! may we all that blessing prove,
E'en life for evermore,

On Friendship's altar rising here,
Our hands now plighted be,
To live in love, with hearts sincere,
In peace and unity.

Consecration prayer (first portion.)

Sanctus, "Glory be to Thee, O Lord."

Omnes—chant—"So mote it be."

All the brethren turned towards the East when the presiding officer gave the Invocation.

Omnes—chant—"So mote it be."

A procession was then formed, in the same order as upon entering the lodge, and having marched once round to solemn music, the presiding officer halted in the East, and the cornucopia being presented to him by his Deputy, he read Psalm 72, 16, and the lodge being now uncovered sprinkled it with corn, saying, "in the name of the Great Jehovah, to whom be all glory, I do solemnly dedicate this lodge to Masonry."

Response—"Glory be to God on high." The procession having again proceeded round the lodge, the chalice was presented by the S.G.W. to the presiding officer, who, reading Numbers xv, 8, sprinkled the lodge with wine, saying, "In the name of the Great Jehovah, and of the Holy Saint Johns, I do solemnly dedicate this lodge to 'Virtue.'"

Response—"Peace on earth."

A third circuit having been made, the J.G.W. presented the ewer. The presiding officer read Exodus xxx. 35, 36, sprinkled the lodge with oil, and said, "In the name of the Great Jehovah, of the Holy St. Johns, and of the whole fraternity, I do solemnly dedicate this lodge to 'Universal Benevolence.'"

Response—"Good will towards men."

The presiding officer took the censor three times round the lodge, (solemn music being performed during the progress,) perturbed the lodge, and halting in the east, read Exodus xxx. 7, 8.

18. The Consecration Prayer (second portion.)

Omnes. Chant—"So mote it be."

Anthem. Music composed by Bro. Fisher.

"Glory to God on high,
Let heaven and earth reply,
Praise ye His name;
Masons His love adore,
Tiled in their mystic lore,
Praise Him for evermore,
Glory to God."

The lodge was again covered, and the presiding officer, advancing to the pedestal, constituted the new lodge as follows: "In the elevated character of Acting Grand Master, to which the suffrages of my brethren have raised me, I invoke the Name of the Most High, to whom be all glory and honour! May He be with you at your beginning, strengthen you in the principles of your royal art, prosper you with all success, and direct your zealous efforts to the good of the craft! By the divine aid I constitute and form you, my good brethren, masters, and fellows, into a regular lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, and henceforth empower you to act in conformity to the rites of our venerable order, and the charges of our ancient fraternity. May God be with you!"

Omnes. Chant—"So mote it be."

The Consecration ceremony concluded with

Anthem.—HAIL Masonry Divine!

The lodge having resumed to the second degree, the ceremony of Installation was proceeded with. The W.M., advanced between his Wardens, was presented by the Director of Ceremonies and received from the Acting Prov. G.M. the benefits of Installation, those portions of the ceremony being omitted which were unessential from the fact of the W.M. having already passed the chair of the Alfred Lodge, Oxford. Being duly installed in the chair of King Solomon, the W.M. was proclaimed and saluted in the three degrees, and after returning thanks to the brethren of the new lodge for the honour conferred upon him, proceeded to the appointment and investiture of his officers, as follows, (the Treasurer and Tyler first being duly elected):—Acting P.M., Bro. R. P. Hunt, P.M. 523, Past Prov. J.G.D., Worcester; S.W., Bro. Alexander Dalziel, Past Prov. D.C., Northumberland; J.W., Bro. W. H. Martin; Treas., Bro. P. Bird; Sec., Bro. Samuel James; S.D., Bro. E. Quelch; J.D., Bro. M. Davies; D.C., Bro. J. Graves; I.G., Bro. James Williams; Tyler, Bro. W. Davies; Stewards, Bros. Collins and Parsons.

The usual charges were admirably given by the deputy, Bro. Langley.

These interesting ceremonies being concluded, the more private business of the lodge was proceeded with. The discussion upon the bye-laws was postponed until the next regular stated lodge, and the W.M. also announced that although he had a dispensation to initiate as many as twelve of their candidates upon that day, it was thought undesirable, so far to protract the proceedings as to enter upon that ceremony, and that consequently the ballot for 32 candidates for initiation and 26 brethren as joining members (in addition to the 19 upon their petition) would be taken, and initiations upon requisition, proceeded with at several Lodges of Emergency duly convened for that purpose.

The W.M. then proposed that a cordial vote of thanks be recorded upon the minutes of the lodge to Bro. Dr. Bryant, P.M. 81 and 120, P. Prov. G.S.W., Bristol, for his disinterested and truly Masonic conduct in coming amongst them that day at a considerable sacrifice of comfort and the abstraction of no less than three days, from his important professional engagements. The proposition was seconded by the S.W., and carried amidst the hearty acclamations of the brethren.

Bro. Bryant eloquently replied with much feeling, disclaiming any merit for having performed what he looked upon as a simple act of Masonic duty, and assuring the brethren that his services ever had been, and he trusted ever would be, very readily rendered whenever they could be of any benefit to the fraternity of which the proceedings of that day would make him still prouder of being a member.

A similar vote of thanks was proposed to the Acting Deputy Prov. G.M., Bro. R. F. Langley, P.M. 43, Prov. G.S.W., South Wales, to whose unwearied exertions for a very lengthened period the cause of masonry in this town may almost be said to have owed its existence, which having been put and carried in due form, was suitably acknowledged.

The W.M. next proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. F. Ware, No. 43, 81, and 408, who at the special request of the lodge, had consented to perform the duties of Director of Ceremonies for the day. This was also carried and duly acknowledged.

The W.M. then made the pleasing announcement that the Sacred Law which lay before him (a very handsome and truly magnificent present) was the gift to the Bute Lodge of his wife, and bore a suitable superscription to that effect. Whereupon the S.W. proposed, and the Secretary seconded that a vote of thanks be presented to Mrs. Thorp for her very valuable donation, which was duly carried, amid much cheering, and acknowledged by the W.M.

Votes of thanks were then accorded to the W.M., officers, and brethren of the Glamorgan Lodge No. 43, and the Silurian Lodge No. 693, for their kindness in recommending the petition to Grand Lodge, and also for their attendance as distinct lodges upon that day. These were suitably responded to by Bro. J. Grierson, W.M. 43 and Bro. Hancorn, P.M. and Acting W.M. 693.

This being the whole of the business, the lodge was closed at 1.30 p.m., and the brethren adjourned for one hour's refreshment, highly delighted with all that had taken place.

Precisely at 2.30 p.m. a procession, consisting of upwards of one hundred brethren of English, Scotch, Irish, and American lodges, left the Masonic Hall for St. Mary's church. The Prov. Grand Lodge not having been summoned, the post of honour belonged to the new lodge, to whom all the other brethren were visitors; but this position was most gracefully conceded to the Parent Lodge No. 43, who are justly proud of their antiquity, the new lodge immediately preceding the Glamorgan. The procession entered the church (having opened out and reversed at the porch) punctually at three o'clock, and divine service immediately commenced. At the conclusion of the prayers an anthem, taken from the 133rd Psalm ("Behold how good and joyful") was announced and beautifully performed by the ordinary members of the choir, assisted by the musical brethren before named, Bro. Fisher presiding at the organ, the solo (bass) being admirably rendered by Bro. H. J. Groves, Prov. G.Org., Monmouth. We regret to state that the services of a masonic chaplain could not be obtained upon so interesting and unusual an occasion, although the pulpit, had most charitably been offered to any qualified brother whom the lodge might invite, and many were invited without success.

The worthy vicar, Rev. Canon Morgan, M.A., however, in the most handsome manner volunteered to preach, and delivered an excellent discourse from Matthew 7th and 12th verse, "Whosoever therefore ye would that men should do unto you do ye also unto them." At the close of the service a collection was made on behalf of the funds of the Cardiff Infirmary, which amounted to £10.

The procession then returned in the previous order, passed the Masonic Hall, and arrived at the Mount Stuart Hotel exactly at 4.30, the hour fixed for the banquet, and now the first delay of the day occurred—dinner not being served up until six o'clock, a circumstance which much interfered with the comfort of the many visitors from Newport, who had to leave very early in the proceedings.

And here we must, in all kindness, suggest to the brethren of the Bute Lodge, that they do not again invite distinguished visitors to a table which, so far from partaking of the appearance of the Masonic banquets to which we have been accustomed, and which are usually provided in this town, bore more the resemblance of an ill-cooked "Farmers' Ordinary."

Dinner over, the room was close tyled, and the W.M. gave in succession, the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft;" "The Prince and Princess of Wales;" "The Grand Master of England;" "The Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Lodge of England;" "Colonel Tynte, Prov. G.M.;" "Dr. Bird, D. Prov. G.M. and Prov. G. Lodge," responded to by Bro. South, P.M. 43, Prov. G.S.W.; "Bro. Dr. Bryant, the Presiding Officers of the day," who upon rising to respond, was greeted by repeated rounds of applause, and after the delivery of a telling speech (which we regret the length of our report prevents our giving in full), proposed the health of the W.M., of whom he spoke in the highest terms of commendation. The toast was responded to with much enthusiasm, and suitably acknowledged by Bro. Thorp, who then proposed the W.M. and brethren of the Glamorgan Lodge (No. 43), to which the W.M., Bro. Grierson, responded on behalf of himself and nearly thirty of his brethren who rose with him.

Time being upon the wing, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Monmouth, and the W.M. and brethren of the Silurian Lodge (No. 693), Newport, was coupled and responded to by Bro. C. Lyne, D. Prov. G.M., Monmouth, and by Bro. Hancorn, P.M. and acting W.M. 693, after which the Newport brethren were obliged to leave, in order to catch the last train. The following

toasts were then given and responded to in succession. "The Prov. Grand Lodge of Oxford," responded to by Bro. H. De Burgh Thomas, Prov. G.O.; "The St. John's Chapter," responded to by Bros. Hodge, P.Z., South, P.Z., and Gaskill, M.E.Z.; "The S.W. and Officers," responded to by Bro. Dalziel; "The Director of Ceremonies for the day," responded to by Bro. Ware; "The Secretary," responded to by James; "Prosperity to the Bute Lodge," proposed by Bro. Dr. Bryant, and acknowledged by the W.M.; "The Visitors," responded to by one of the American brethren, and after the Tyler's toast, the brethren separated at an early hour, to look back with feelings of lively satisfaction upon all the proceedings of the day.

We must not omit to observe that the musical arrangements at dinner were conducted by the same efficient brethren to whom we have before alluded; who gave a variety of glees and songs which much gratified all present.

The following are amongst the brethren present throughout the day, and not heretofore specially mentioned, Bros. Waldron, S.W. 43; Cross, S.D. 43; Marks, J.D. 43; Roberts, Sec. and Treas. 43; Armstrong, I.G. 43; Wells, P.M. 693, P. Prov. G.J.W. and Prov. G. Treas.; Pickford, P.M. 693, Prov. G. Steward; Williams, Sec. 693, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Evans, S.W. 696; Oliver, S.D. 693, and Middleton, P.M. 983, &c.

A lodge of emergency, duly convened and at which all the officers were present, was held on Thursday, 2nd instant. Thirty-two candidates for initiation were ballotted for, and five initiated into the privileges of the Order. The ballot for twenty-six joining members and further initiations to take place at the first regular lodge on Tuesday, 7th inst.

CANADA.

CHATHAM.

NEW MASONIC HALL.

A few weeks ago we stated that the members of Miramichi Masonic Lodge, located in Chatham, purposed erecting a building in the town, to afford them more convenience than they at present possess, to hold their meetings, and also with the laudable intention of furnishing the public with a hall, in a convenient location, in which to assemble on public occasions, and for other purposes.

We are pleased to be able to state that, since that announcement, a contract has been entered into with Mr. Alexander Coruack, builder, who furnished the plan of the edifice; and the work has so far progressed, that the Masonic body decided to lay the corner-stone on Wednesday, June 3rd, and made their arrangements accordingly. Early in the morning, which was as bright, sunny, and auspicious as the brethren and friends of the Order could desire, the site was tastefully decorated with flags, representing the United States, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, &c., and that of our own beloved country, under which these colonies have grown and prospered, and enjoyed a larger share of genuine liberty—social, civil, and religious—possessed by no people under any other flag; and we heartily trust it will long continue to wave over us, and that our children and their children's children will be privileged to enjoy the inestimable blessing of living under its ample folds, and have the same cause as their fathers before them, to reverence and honour it.

In concluding the ceremony, they were assisted by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, the Rev. C. P. Bliss, Rector of Sussex, R. T. Clinch, Esq., of St. John, Deputy Prov. G.M., a gentleman well known and much respected in this community; and a number of the members of Northumberland lodge, located in Newcastle, several captains in port, and other strangers.

As this was a ceremony never before witnessed in Miramichi, the inhabitants, young and old, male and female—turned out in great force to witness it; and it affords us great satisfaction to be enabled to state that nothing occurred to mar the proceedings of the day, or to cause the slightest regret. The crowd was orderly, well-behaved, and all appeared to take a deep interest in the ceremony, and to manifest an unusual desire to hear what was said, and to witness the proceedings.

Not being one of the "initiate," we learnt from one of the coffee-bearers, that the members of "Miramichi" and "Northumberland" Lodges, together with a number of visiting brethren, assembled at the lodge room. The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at twelve o'clock with the usual forms, by R.W. R. T. Clinch, Dep. Prov. G.M., assisted by Bros. G. H.

Russell and John Haws, as Prov. G.W.'s. A procession was then formed, under the direction of Bro. Arthur Wright, G.M., and headed by the Chatham Amateur Band, proceeded down the front street. When opposite Dr. Paulen's corner, it was joined by a number of the public authorities and other gentlemen residing in the town, and then proceeded to the site on which the building is to be erected. While marching onwards the band played a number of quick-steps, which tended very materially to enliven the scene, and give the proceedings of the day a zest which otherwise it could not possess. The fact, so palpably brought under the observation of the inhabitants of Chatham, we trust will have the effect of inducing them to take a deeper interest than they have for some years past in sustaining that body.

The members of the lodges, and other persons who formed the procession, having arrived at the site of the building, they took up their position on a platform prepared for the purpose. The inhabitants of the place then gathered around, the ceremony was opened by a brief and appropriate prayer by the Rev. Chaplain, at the conclusion of which the following Opening Ode was sung by the members of the lodges assisted by several of the spectators:—

Great Architect of earth and heaven,
By time nor space confined,
Enlarge our love to comprehend,
Our brethren, all mankind.
Where'er we are, whate'er we do,
Thy presence let us own;
Thine Eye, all-seeing, marks our deeds,
To Thee all thoughts are known.
While nature's works and science's laws
We labour to reveal,
O! be our duty done to Thee,
With fervency and zeal.
With Faith our guide, and humble Hope,
Warm Charity and Love,
May all at last be raised to share
Thy perfect Light above.

The stone having been prepared, the acting Grand Secretary, Bro. Alexander Loudoun, then read an inscription, containing the date of the laying of the corner stone, the names of Bro. J. C. E. Carmichael, W.M., the officers of Miramichi Lodge, &c., which was placed in a casket, together with a copy of the *Gleaner*, and several coins, and deposited in the cavity, prepared for its reception by the Acting G. Treas., Thomas F. Gillespie. The D.G.M. then performed the usual ceremonies. The cement was spread and the stone lowered to its place, and after being adjusted by the plumb, square, and level, the corn, wine, and oil were then poured upon it with suitable remarks. Three raps were then given upon the stone with the gavel, and the D.G.M. then declared it laid in due and ancient form. The following concluding ode was then sung by the members and other persons:—

Placed in form, the corner stone,
True and trusty brothers, own;
Come and bring, in thought sincere,
Hands to help and hearts to cheer.
Marked with love, the Master's will
Kindly proved the work of skill.
Beauteous forms in grace shall rise
'Neath the arch of favouring skies.
Join we now our offering true,
While our homage we renew;
Bear to him whose praise we sing,
Thanks that from each bosom spring.
When on earth our work is o'er,
Be a dearer life in store,
Each in form, in heart upright,
Taught by Truth's unerring light.

The Rev. Chaplain then delivered an admirable address, which we listened to with much pleasure; and judging from the stillness that prevailed, and the attention paid to the remarks of the speaker, we conclude that the large concourse of persons assembled around the platform and within hearing, were as well pleased as we were. He gave a succinct account of the aim and object of Masonry, its early history and progress against prejudice and ignorance; dwelt at length on the duties which devolved on them as members of the Masonic body, one towards

another—as men, as citizens, and accountable beings. He alluded to the Masonic ladder, and expressed a hope that they had their minds always fixed on the three principal rounds—faith, hope, and charity; and in a most feeling manner urged on their consideration the four cardinal virtues—temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice. On the first-named he spoke at some length.

The ceremonies being ended, three hearty cheers were given for the Queen, at the conclusion of which the amateur band struck up the National Anthem, and during its performance the audience remained uncovered. The procession then re-formed, and the members of the lodges proceeded to their room. A short time after they re-assembled, together with a few guests, at Bowser's Hotel, when they partook of a dinner, provided in Bowser's usual first-rate style. After the cloth was removed, several loyal, Masonic, and personal toasts were drank, among them the Queen; the Provincial Grand Master; the Provincial Deputy Grand Master—to the last two Bro. Clinch responded; the Provincial Chaplain, to which Bro. Bliss replied; the guests and gentlemen who kindly assisted the brethren in their demonstration, which was responded to by Bro. Pierce; and the Lodges represented by the strangers present, which was responded to by a Norwegian Brother, Captain Schou, of the bark *Westphalia*, one of the vessels in port. After remaining together about two hours the company separated, much pleased with the day's proceedings. We were gratified on hearing Mr. Thomson, the Worshipful Master of Northumberland Lodge, in responding to the toast, wishing success to that lodge, that the Brothers there contemplate at as early a day as practicable to build a lodge, or purchase a building in Newcastle, for the accommodation of the members of that body in the town.

We give below the dimensions of the contemplated building in Chatham. It will be 75 feet long, 36 feet wide, and 26 feet post. The lower flat will be in one large room, except the hall and staircases—it will be 62 feet by 35 feet, and 15 feet high. On the upstairs there will be a ball-room, 38 feet by 22 feet, and 10 feet high; a room for Masonic purposes, 35 feet by 25 feet; and four rooms about 18 feet by 12 feet. On the upper flat will be a large room the length of the building. The whole of the rooms will be well lighted and ventilated, and will have 14 windows on each side.—*Miramichi Gleaner*.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—*Oriental Lodge* (No. 988).—It having been duly arranged that the festival of St. John the Baptist should be celebrated by the lodge in such a manner that the friends of the members might participate, a grand pic-nic was arranged for the 24th of June, to take place at the Sultan's Valley, on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus. On that day the brethren with their families, mustered strong at ten o'clock in the morning on board the commodious steamer *Sampson*, which had been placed at their disposal by Bro. Capt. Robinson, and, after a delightful trip, calling at the various villages up the Bosphorus, the freighted and gaily decked steamer, landed her happy cargo at the place felicitously chosen by the committee for the day's festivities. There, surrounded by the giants of the forests, whose branches were honoured on that day with flags of all nations, devices, &c., the company sat down at two o'clock to the sumptuous banquet supplied under the superintendence of Bro. Petala, 988. The tables were presided over by our esteemed Bro. A. W. Mountain, W.M. 988, supported by Bro. J. Smorfit, S.W. 988 and Bro. W. W. Evans, Prov. G.S. and Past S.W. 988 as Vice. After the good things of the table had been discussed, the brethren cordially responded to the W.M.'s calls of honour. For the "Queen and Craft," followed by "The Sultan," by Bro. W. W. Evans, Prov. S.W. "Our beloved R.W. Prov. G.M.," "His Exc. Sir H. L. Bulwer, G.C.B.," by Bro. Smorfit, S.W. 988 (with cheers that shook the glades), and "The Ladies," by Bro. P. W. Pulman, 988, and replied to by Comp. Harvey, in a capital and humorous speech. The company then dispersed, some to explore the surrounding and delightful scenery, some to the many games of old England, which the forethought of the committee had provided, while the majority were enticed by fair friends and the strains of an excellent band, to tread the light fantastic toe on the velvet sward, so that to one and all, when tea was over, and one dance more taken, the order to depart was received with regret; and after a pleasant moonlight trip down the Bosphorus, enlivened by the band

and the songs, glees, &c., of the brethren, the happy excursionists landed in the Golden Horn, the band playing "Rule Britannia," "God save the Queen," and the cheers of the visitors "For the masons" which were taken up and echoed by the vessels at anchor in the harbour. Too much credit cannot be given to the committee, Bros. A. W. Mountain, W.M., 988; J. Smorlit, S.W. 988; and W. W. Evans, Prov. S.W. 988, for the arrangements with which they anticipated the success of the day, and the arduous zeal with which they laboured for the comfort of every one, while, owing to their exertions, which were well supported by the brethren of 988, was a happy day brought to a conclusion without a mar or accident, a red letter day to the Oriental Lodge, and a day long to be remembered by all those who had the pleasure of participation.

A most interesting assembly took place at Constantinople, on Monday, the 15th of June. Bro. Sir H. L. Bulwer, Prov.G.M., Turkey, having attended the Bulwer Lodge in the previous week, invited the W.M. Bro. the Hon. J. P. Brown, Prov.J.G.W., Secretary of the United States Legation, to read a lecture in the palace of the British Embassy, for which purpose the grand ball room was fitted up in a magnificent style, as a lodge, on the above mentioned evening. R.W. Bro. Bulwer presided, supported by V.W. Bro. Hyde Clarke, D.Prov.G.M.; Bro. Lawrie, P.Prov.S.G.W.; W. Bros. Azanavour Pulman, P.Prov.J.G.W.; P.M. Silby; Veneriam, W.M. of the Italian lodge, and the members of his lodge; Frene, W.M. Germania (German Lodge); Mountain, W.M. Oriental, 988; Thompson, W.M. elect, Bulwer 1193; Arif Effendi, a Dervish; W. W. Evans, Prov.G.S., &c. The subject of Bro. Brown's lecture was on the reputed connexion of the Dervish and Masonic orders, in which that eminent Oriental scholar brought to bear a large amount of erudition and research. The conclusions at which he arrived was that there is no direct connexion between the two orders, and that Masonry, as such, does not exist in Turkey and Persia, except in the persons of those initiated in European lodges; that although each order has Pythagorean and Platonic practices derived from a common source of the ancient Greek philosophy and mystic rites, yet these all did not generally assimilate, though in the case of signs, obligations, and initiations there is occasionally sufficient conformity to attest the origin. After some remarks by the Prov.G.M. and D.Prov.G.M. on masonry in Persia, the R.W.Prov.G.M., moved a vote of thanks to Bro. Brown, and the D.Prov.G.M. moved a vote of thanks to Bro. Bulwer for having brought them together on such an occasion, and for all that he did for maintaining masonic institutions in the east. After the business had closed, refreshments were distributed by desire of the Hon. Lady Bulwer, who is ever ready to assist her distinguished husband in promoting union among all classes of English residents, and in carrying out undertakings of a philanthropic and meritorious character.

INDIA.

(From the Indian Freemasons' Friend.)

INDIAN MASONIC MEMS.

The warrant of the lodge at Kussowlie, Triune Brotherhood, has been transferred to Bro. Quinell and others of the 42nd Regiment at Dugshaie.

It has been brought to our notice that the word "Punjab" was omitted (of course inadvertently) from the inscription on the Hoff Testimonial; so that it would appear as if the brethren in that province had not shared with those in Calcutta, the N.W. Provinces, and Burmah in presenting the gift. Lodge Hope and Perseverance, at Lahore, forwarded not less than 300 rupees to Bro. Howe, and a brother at Jullunder contributed 50 rupees from his private purse for the same purpose.

CALCUTTA.

LODGE INDUSTRY AND PERSEVERANCE.—A regular meeting was holden on Friday, the 17th April. Present—Bros. Dr. John Smith, W.M.; John Wm. Brown, P.M.; Dr. Frank Powell, W.M. of Lodge Saint John and a member of No. 126, S.W.; Stephen Nation, J.W.; Baxter, Sec.; Chandler, Treas. Bros. S. Fenn, a member of Lodge Excelsior, and A. D'Cruz, junior, were elected to membership. It was proposed that an application should be submitted to the proper authority for per-

mission to the brethren to wear a centenary medal, in commemoration of the lodge having continuously worked in Calcutta since February, 1761. Bro. Doctor Peers has very kindly offered to furnish a sketch of the intended medal for the consideration of the W.M. and brethren of the lodge. The size of the medal is not to be larger than a rupee, and the device of the lodge, a beehive, is to be engraved thereon. Another meeting was held on Friday, the 1st of May. Present—Bros. Doctor John Smith, W.M.; John William Brown, P.M.; Doctor Frank Powell, W.M. of Lodge Saint John (No. 715), and member of No. 126; Dickson, S.W.; Stephen Nation, J.W.; Baxter, Sec.; Chandler, Treas. Bro. Mackertich was raised.

LODGE TRUE FRIENDSHIP.—A regular meeting was held on Tuesday, the 14th April. Present:—Bros. Roberts, W.M., presiding; Benwell, P.M.; Kelvey, S.W.; Dove, J.W.; Dale, Sec.; Wilson, Treas.; Gilbert, S.D.; Peach, J.D.; Redman, I.G.; Daniel, Tyler; besides members and visiting brethren. Among the latter were observed the following present and past officers of District Grand Lodge—Bros. Howe, P. Dist. G.M.; Jennings, Dist. G.M.; J. W. Brown, S.G.W.; Bowerman, P.M. of No. 279, and Rambart, W.M. of No. 401 of Scotland. Messrs. G. Simmons and John A. J. Shaw, having been duly elected, were initiated into Freemasonry, Bro. Peach, who had been initiated in this lodge in 1860, was re-elected to membership by acclamation.

LODGE HUMILITY WITH FORTITUDE.—A meeting was held on the 6th April. Bros. J. B. Knight, in the chair; J. G. R. Magregor, S.W.; J. Bruce Gillon, J.W.; J. Walter Beatson, Sec.; and other members and visitors were present. It being a quarterly meeting, no work was done beyond proposing a joining member and a candidate for initiation. The candidate proposed at the previous meeting was unable to be present. The lodge is still, notwithstanding the numbers that have left Calcutta, in a very flourishing condition, and we hope it may long continue to be so. Another meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 4th May, when two brethren were raised to the third degree, by Bro. Jennings, and others were proposed for joining. At the supper table, Bros. Wyman, Westfield, and others favoured the company with songs.

LODGE SAINT JOHN (No. 715).—A regular meeting was held on Friday, the 10th April. Present—Bros. Dr. Frank Powell, W.M.; John W. Brown, P.M.; Edward W. Pittar, S.W.; Rambart, W.M. of Lodge No. 401, of Scotland, J.W.; W. G. Raxter, P.M. of the same lodge, Sec. and Treas.; Morgan, S.D.; Lattey, J.D.; Sidney Strong, I.G.; Daniel, Tyler. Bro. Charles Piffard, M.A., a member of Lodge No. 80, was elected a joining member. Mr. Edgar Hyde, M.A., having been accepted by ballot, was initiated into Freemasonry.

DUM DUM.

LODGE SAINT LUKE (No. 1150).—This lodge held a regular meeting on Wednesday, the 6th of May. Present—Bros. John William Brown, Honorary Past Master, presiding W.M.; Dr. Frank Powell, W.M. of Lodge Saint John (No. 715), and hon. member of No. 1150, as P.M.; Bick, S.W.; Pritchard, J.W.; the Rev. Dr. Lindstedt, Sec.; Barron, S.D.; and others. Bro. Powell initiated Mr. R. Warren, H.M.'s 13th Light Infantry. Bro. Brown raised to the degree of M.M. Bros. Dr. Stuart and Lieutenant Smith. The W.M. of the lodge, Bro. Fenwick, has proceed up country to join his regiment. His absence is much regretted by the brethren of the lodge. Previous to his departure, he had the assurance of Bros. Brown and Powell that they would be mindful of the interests of the lodge.

LODGE EXCELSIOR (No. 1127).—A meeting of this lodge was holden on Tuesday, the 5th of May. Present—Bros. Abbott, W.M.; John William Brown, as P.M.; Capt. Perkins, Bengal Engineers, S.W.; Peach, J.W.; Pendleton, S.D.; Farr, Sec., and others. Mr. Richard Frederick Dallas was initiated by the W.M. Bro. John Dyer was raised to the M.M. degree by Bro. John William Brown, P.M. of Lodge Saint John (No. 715). Among the several visiting brethren we noticed Bros. Bennett, W.M. of Lodge Anchor and Hope (No. 284), holding at Howrah, and Doctor Frank Powell, W.M. of Lodge St. John (No. 715).

BOMBAY.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE.—A half-yearly communication was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Bombay, on the 16th of March. Bro. Geo. Taylor, Prov. G.M., presided, and seventeen brethren were present, including the representatives of Lodges No. 807, St. George (No. 1059), Concord, and Truth (No. 1246). The

D. Prov. G.M., Bro. J. Gibbs, having proceeded to England, without any prospect of returning quickly, the Prov. G.M. appointed Bro. G. S. Judge to be D. Prov. G.M. The other appointments for the year were also made. The formation of a new lodge, named Truth, was announced.

BOMBAY.

LODGE TRUTH (No. 1246).—Masonry is progressing in Bombay. Four years ago, the Bombayites could boast of but three lodges; one, St. George, working under the Grand Lodge of England, and two, Perseverance and Rising Star, the latter consisting of natives, under that of Scotland. In 1859, however, Lodge Concord (No. 1059), was established, and has since become a very numerous and prosperous Lodge. Last year saw the establishment of a District Grand Lodge in Bombay, a step evidently calculated to promote the spread of Masonry in a very material manner. For various reasons, many of the brethren have long felt the want of yet another lodge, and a large number having signed the necessary petition, Bro. G. Taylor, the Prov. G. M., immediately granted a dispensation for the lodge to commence working. The dispensation was granted on Christmas-day, 1862, and the petition, with the recommendation of the Prov. G. M., sent home; and on the 5th of January, 1863, the first meeting of Lodge Truth was held. Since that time, it has been regularly working under its excellent Master, Bro. G. S. Judge, who is now Deputy Prov. G. M. for Bombay, and is undoubtedly the best working Mason in the Province. The fourth regular meeting of the lodge was held on the 6th of April, when the solemn ceremony of consecration took place. The brethren met at 6 p.m., the following brethren being present:—Bros. G. S. Judge, P.M., 265, and D. Prov. G.M. of Bombay, W.M.; Alfred Edginton, S.W.; J. P. Cornforth, Prov. G. Treas., J.W.; the Rev. J. J. Farnham, P.M., 1059, Prov. G. Chaplain, Treas. and Sec.; J. H. Reading, S.D.; J. C. V. Johnson, Assist. Prov. G. Dir. Cers., J.D.; W. H. Walker, Assist. Prov. G. Sec.; J. Wynn Steward, Acting I.G.; J. Raddle, Tyler; H. Wickham, P.M., 740 and 897, Past Prov. J.G.W. of Bengal and Bombay; A. M. Moore, P.M. 329, Prov. S.G.W.; W. T. Roper, W.M. 807, Prov. J.G.W.; Alfred Ling, W.M. 1059, Prov. G. Sec.; Manockjee Carsetjee, P.M. 342 (Scotland); with a large number of other brethren of the lodge and distinguished visitors, among whom were Bros. McKinlay, P.M. 350 (Scotland), R. J. Morris, W.M., 1175, and N. W. Oliver and Frederick L. Brown, the former the senior, and the latter the junior Magistrate of Bombay. The lodge having been opened, and the minutes read, four brethren, among whom was Bro James Gibbs, first D. Prov. G.M. of Bombay, were balloted for and elected as joining members. The W.M. then, in his usual solemn manner, raised Bro. C. E. Mitchell to the sublime degree of M.M. The Chair was then taken by Bro. H. Wickham, and the W.M. retired, and on re-entering the lodge as Paov. G.M., attended by the Prov. G. Wardens, was received with the grand honours. The Chair was then again taken by Bro. G. S. Judge, as Prov. G.M., with Bro. H. Wickham as his deputy, the Wardens' chairs being occupied by the Prov. G. Wardens, Bros. Moore and Roper. The Secretary then read the warrant of the lodge, and the D. Prov. G.M. delivered the following oration in honour of Masonry:—"Brethren,—It is customary at the consecration of a new lodge for some brother to deliver an oration in honour of Masonry. On this occasion that duty has devolved upon me, and, were I gifted with eloquence, I would speak the praise of Masonry in glowing terms, but as I am not, I shall, if brevity be the soul of wit, content myself with being extremely witty, for I shall be very brief. Our society is styled the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, and I shall endeavour to prove the truth of that nomenclature. The antiquity of our Order is demonstrated by the religion it has, ever since its origin, required of all candidates for its mysteries, namely, 'The worship of the one only true God, and obedience to His divine commands'; for that was the religion of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden before the Fall, and in practising that religion, they practised Masonry; therefore Masonry is coeval with the creation of man. The secrecy of Masonry, however, commences from a later date. If the Fall had never happened, our institution would never have become a secret society, but would, doubtless, have been practised openly throughout the world up to the present time; but, in consequence of that lamentable event, wickedness entered into the world, and it became necessary for the good to separate them-

selves from the evil. This they effected by forming themselves into lodges, into which none but good men and true were admitted; and in order that they might, that is to say, the members of the Craft, might be able to distinguish each other from the evil—that is to say, the cowans—a peculiar method was adopted, whereby we are enabled to recognise one another by night as well as by day, in the dark as well as in the light. It may be as well to remark, however, that, although the fair sex were excluded from our lodges, they were never included in the category of cowans or evil ones; on the contrary, they have always been looked upon by us as guardian angels sent from heaven to keep man in the right path; and the only reason for their non-admission into the Craft that I have ever been able to discover, is, that, being already perfect, they need not the adventitious aid of Masonry to make them so. But to resume the subject. At first great circumspection was used in admitting candidates into our Order, and well would it have been for Masonry if the same circumspection had always been practised, for then no bad men would have been admitted into the Craft, and no good men would have held aloof from it. I therefore strongly exhort the members of this new lodge to be extremely cautious as to whom they accept, always remembering that the prosperity of a lodge depends not so much upon the wealth and number of its members, as upon their good qualities and amiable dispositions. That our society is most honourable is proved by the principles upon which it is founded—'Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth,' and I hope that these will not be mere watchwords in your mouths, but will be instilled into your hearts and influence all your actions. To show the usefulness of our Institution, I might point to our Charities, such as our Girls' School, our Boys' School, our Widows' Fund, our Asylum for Aged and Decayed Masons, our General Fund of Benevolence, and the Private Fund of Benevolence of every Lodge; but I prefer pointing to our Masonic Charity. That virtue which Masonry teaches us includes all others, and this is the top round of that ladder which reaches unto Heaven; for the poor alone are benefitted by the former, while the latter showers blessings on rich and poor alike. Who, indeed, is there, however wealthy, and however exalted in rank he be, so free from human failings and human sorrows as never to require forbearance for the one, or sympathy for the other. But Masonic charity teaches us not only to love our friends, but also to forgive our enemies, and those who injure or annoy us. If, then, I am so unfortunate as to have an enemy amongst you (which God forbid), I as freely forgive him his enmity, as I hope he will forgive me my offences, even to this last, the having inflicted upon him so prosy an oration." The D. Prov. G.M. then proceeded to consecrate the lodge, which ceremony, seldom as it falls to the lot of any brother in these parts to perform it, he went through with as much ease as if he had been initiating a candidate. Few of the brethren present had ever before witnessed the ceremony, but all were delighted by the deep significance of the symbols, the solemnity of the ritual, and particularly the impressive manner in which the whole rite was conducted. The anthems and other musical parts of the ceremony were beautifully rendered by Bros. Roberts, Cornforth, Mitchell, Reading, Farnham, and last but not least, by Bros. Cardoza (better known on the stage as Dave Carson), Palin, Martinant, Browsers, and Pierce, who attended as visitors, and who have, during the last few weeks, most agreeably broken the monotony of Bombay life, by a series of entertainments they have been giving, under the name of the San Francisco Minstrels. Joy and good humour, unshadowed by the slightest cloud, prevailed until a late hour, when the brethren dispersed to look back, we trust for many a long year, with feelings of lively pleasure, on the consecration of Lodge Truth. Long may it prosper.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—*Loyal Brunswick Encampment.*—The regular quarterly convocation of the above encampment was held in the Freemasons' Chapter-room, St. George's Hall, on Friday, the 19th June, 1863, the following Sir Knights being present:—Rodd, E.C.; Dowse, P.E.C.; Harfoot, Scott, Merrifield, Thomas, Blight, Dupré, Wills, Carlyon, Rodda, Mathews, Bewes, Arnold, and Bartlett. The encampment was opened in due form, under the command of the E.C. Sir Knt. Rodd, at four o'clock p.m. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The election of the Provincial Grand Commander, the Rev. Eminent Sir Knt. Huyshe, was in form proceeded with; the same proving unanimous, he was declared, with joyous acclamation, duly elected a joining member of the encampment. The ballot was then taken for the following Royal Arch Companions, candidates for admission to the Order, viz.:—E. J. Worth, of Chapter No. 280; D. G. C. Cozens and E. D. Anderton, of Chapter No. 415; and John Heath, of Chapter No. 123. The same proving unanimous, and they having signed the required declaration, they were introduced in ancient form, and duly installed by the E.C., assisted by the P.E.C., Sir Knights of the Royal, Exalted, Religious, and Military Order of Masonic Knights Templar, &c. Six Royal Arch Companions were duly proposed and seconded as candidates for installation to the Order at the next regular meeting. There being no other business before the meeting, the encampment was closed in solemn form, with prayer, at seven o'clock.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

GLASGOW.

The Freemasons of Glasgow having resolved on an excursion, a committee was appointed to select a destination and otherwise mature arrangements. The nine brethren appointed set to work with energy and perseverance, and were unremitting in their endeavours to merit the approbation of those who had entrusted the trip to their care, and otherwise render the day as pleasing as would cause the brethren to look forward to a renewal of one of a similar description. Invernan, near the head of Loch Lomond, was fixed upon as the seat of enjoyment, and the 30th of June the happy day. Early in the morning the brethren, with a considerable sprinkling of the fair sex, were astir, and it was a morning to render every one happy and gay. The sun shone out with unblemished lustre, and no speck on heaven's vaulted canopy stained the bright ethereal blue. Through the attention of Bro. Robb, station master of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, all the brethren, numbering between 400 and 500, by half-past eight a.m., were comfortably and snugly started in a special train, which had been secured by the committee, and under the command of two brethren of the Athol Lodge, the order was given, the whistle blew its shrill blast, and off went the iron horse snorting and sneezing up the Cowans Tunnel. There were no stoppages on the road, and in rapid succession the train glided by Maryhill, Dalmair, Kilpatrick, where the railway cuts through part of the old Roman wall, then Bowling and Douglass Castle, near which is seen the graceful obelisk erected to perpetuate the memory of Henry Bell, the inventor of steam navigation. Well might the excursionist desire to stay awhile to ponder and contemplate the mighty changes and incalculable improvements which were heralded into the world by the little "Comet," and the impetus that it has given, and is still destined to give to our commerce and intercourse with foreign countries. The train next skirted the base of Dumbarton Castle, at one time an impregnable fortress of Scotland, and onward sped its way by Dumbarton, Dulrooch, and Renton stations, at the last of which a passing glimpse is obtained of the monument to Tobias Smollet, the author of *Roderick Random*, &c., erected on the banks of the Leven, near to the place of his birth and the scenes of his boyhood. Onward the train still pursues its course, and passing Alessandria and Balloch the excursionists are safely landed at the pier, where an excellent and a special steamer is in waiting to wend her living freight amid the intricacies and mazes of the Islands of Loch Lomond, the Queen of Lakes—the Arcadia of Scotland.

The attentive Captain Reid, ever on the alert to ensure his passengers' comfort, sees every one securely and safely depo-

sited, and the word of command being given, the engineer supplies his engine with its natural food—a kindly turn of the wrist takes place, and we are off! What a day! Not a breath of wind to ripple the waters of the Loch, the sky clear as far as the eye can reach, while the heavens are still untouched by one spot of cloud. The bell is rung, and a movement is made for the breakfast table, where the good things of this life are laid before those whose appetites are thoroughly sharpened and whetted by the morning ride. This meal would have been more enjoyed, and perhaps better digested, had the stewardess and her stewards been of the same happy description as that of the captain and his crew. Once more on deck, and we are passing Inch Murrain, the property of the Duke of Montrose, and which forms his deer park, and on which is situated his shooting lodge. About the middle of Inch Murrain is seen Dun Cruin, or the Hill of Witches, the contour of which is conical, and which forms a striking object in the landscape. The sun shone brilliantly on Buchanan Castle, the newly-erected seat of his Grace the Duke of Montrose. The Pass of Balmacher is at hand, referred to in the *Lady of the Lake*.

"So fierce, so tameless, and so fleet,
Sore did he cumber our retreat,
And kept our stoutest kernes in awe,
Even at the pass of the Balmaha."

And the spot where Rob Roy saw Bailie Nicol Jarvie depart on his return to his native Sautmarket, accompanied with the treasures pilloined by Rasleigh. The steamer still pursues her course, and amid the thickly studded Island of Inch Caillach, or the Islands of Old Women, Inch Fadd, or Long Island, on which there is a retreat for ladies, whose peculiar relish for mountain dew precludes them from the unrestrained freedom of the more populous districts. Inch Cruin, or Round Island, Inch Moan, or Peat Island, Inch Conachan, Colquhoun's Island, Inch Tavannagh, or Monks Island,

"Where tapers burned and mass was sung."

This is the highest island in the lake, and the favourite resort of pic-nic parties. Luss is passed, and recrossing the lake, the steamer approaches Rowardenan, the landing place for those who may wish to ascend the lofty Ben, where

"Bustomond is seen in his monarch-like glory,
His foot's in the sea, his head's in the sky,
His broad lofty brow is majestic and hoary,
And round him and round him the elements fly;
The winds are his music, the clouds are his clothing,
The sun is his shield as he wheels blazing by,
When once on his summit you'd think you were soaring
'Mong the bright beaming stars, they are rolling so nigh."

—A. PARK.

A few miles further on and Quinbut is reached, and although unintended, through the kindness of the committee, the steamer calls to land a couple of the excursionists who wish to spend the day with their relatives.

The ascent of the Ben may be also made from the opposite side of the lake. Full instructions in quaint and original language, were written on the window of the hotel, in the year 1771, by a Thomas Russell. Pursuing her course the steamer again recrosses the lake, and nears Inversnaid, one of the routes to the Frossachs. Here a magnificent waterfall, immortalised by Wordsworth in his song of the Highland Girl—

"Sweet Highland girl, a very shower
Of beauty is thy earthly dower.
* * * * *

As I do view the cabin small—
The lake—the bay—the waterfall—
And thee—the spirit of them all."

About a mile further on we passed Rob Roy's cave, and if the excursionists should wish to examine it he will find that, as in the days of Rogers,

"While as the boat went merrily,
Much of Rob Roy the boatmen told,
His arm that fell below his knee,
His cattle tord, and mountain hold."

The prow of our steamer still ploughs the pure and limpid waters of the lake, and after passing the pulpit rock and the Islet of "I vow," which stands as a sentinel guarding the head of the lake, the steamer is shortly thereafter moored alongside the wharf, where disembarkation was rapid and speedy. During

the sail up the lake the band of the fifth battalion discoursed excellent and sweet music, whilst the pipers played those inspiring tunes which have so often led the Highland soldiers to victory or to death. When every other instrument has been hushed by the confusion and carnage of the scene, the bagpipe has been borne into the thick of battle, and far in the advance its bleeding but devoted bearer has sounded at once encouragement to his countrymen and his own coronach. All being marshalled, the band and bagpipe cheered the brethren on their two mile walk to the excellent inn of Mr. McNab, of Invernan. Here all was happiness, mirth, and enjoyment—races, putting the stone, throwing the hammer, bowl playing, hill climbing, rod fishing, &c., soon wiled away the seven hours allowed for enjoyment. At four o'clock, as many brethren as the large hall of the hotel could accommodate sat down to an excellent dinner, Bro. Donald Campbell in the chair, while Bro. Ex-Councillor Taylor, T. McCampbell, and Hugh Rankine acted as croupiers. The cloth having been withdrawn, the usual loyal toasts were given, prefaced in few words, appropriately garnished with Highland sentiments, peculiar to the country where they were given. The toast of the day, "Success to the trip," was drunk with enthusiasm, and with full Highland honours, all the brethren rising with their left leg on the table and their right on the chair. After a few other toasts the meeting separated, and the word having been given "fall into place," the band struck up, and all left that kind and hospitable landlord.

The scene home was of the happiest description. Dancing to their hearts' content keeping all on board the steamer in the best of trim. By ten o'clock all were safely landed at Glasgow, each and all thoroughly satisfied with the day's amusement.

The kindly feeling displayed by Captain Reid towards his passengers has prompted the excursionists to perpetuate the reminiscences of the trip by presenting him with an address highly emblazoned on parchment.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and younger branches of the Royal Family are at Osborne. Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales is in temporary seclusion, in consequence of the death of her uncle, but she takes daily out-door exercise. The Prince of Wales visited the Crystal Palace on Friday week, to witness some of the trials of the steam fire-engines. These trials were resumed in his presence, and continued throughout the day after his Royal Highness had left the Palace. On Monday he was present at the opening of the National Rifle Association meeting at Wimbledon. The 5th of next month has been fixed for the opening of the new Town Hall at Halifax, by the Prince and Princess of Wales.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Thursday, July 2nd, the Duke of Newcastle, in moving to the second reading of the bill fixing the boundaries of British Columbia, gave an encouraging account of the progress of that colony. The population was still, however, very fluctuating, and on that account it was deemed advisable to postpone the important step of granting the colony representative institutions. At the same time, British Columbia would possess the advantages of a legislative council, similar to that existing in Ceylon. The noble Duke made the important announcement that measures were being taken for constructing a road—along which telegraphic wires would be carried—through British America to British Columbia. He referred to the transfer of the property and interests of the Hudson's Bay Company to another association, and gave a favourable opinion of the new undertaking. The Volunteer Bill was read a third time and passed. Several other measures were advanced a stage, and their lordships adjourned.—On Friday Lord Brougham, in presenting a petition on the subject, expressed a strong opinion in favour of allowing a prisoner, who on his trial voluntarily tendered his evidence, to be examined and cross-examined.—Lord Granville, noticing some remarks

made by Lord Lyttleton, who presented a petition in favour of favour of dividing the diocese of Winchester, said no fund existed which could be employed in founding new bishoprics.—Lord Russell presented a petition from 106 Heads of Colleges, Professors, Fellows, and Tutors, of the University of Oxford, praying for the removal of the present subscription required of persons admitted to academical degrees. The noble Earl expressed his strong sympathy with the views of the petitioners, and hoped that next session a bill would be introduced on the subject. Lord Derby said the petition had been got up surreptitiously, and did not fairly represent the views of the University. He should very much regret to see the subscription abolished, as, in his opinion, it would be but the first step towards an interference with the declaration of faith which the clergy are required to make. Lord Granville denied that the petition was a hole-and-corner affair, while Lord Harrowby stoutly opposed any relaxation of the existing yoke. The Bishop of London, true to his Liberal principles pronounced distinctly in favour of relaxation, and expressed his regret that any shred or tatter of the old exclusive system at the Universities should still be retained. The Bishop of Oxford thought, of course, that no grievance existed, and the legislation on the subject was uncalled for.—Several bills were advanced a stage.—On Monday, Lord Granville agreed to a motion for the printing of the Oxford petition recently presented by Lord Russell praying for the abolition of the subscription at present required of persons who take academical degrees. We shall thus have an opportunity of testing the real weight and value of a protest of which Lord Derby and other upholders of the existing system have spoken in most disparaging terms.—In reply to some remarks from Lord Portman, Lord De Grey stated that land had been purchased for the erection of forts intended to command the Bristol Channel.—Several measures were advanced a stage, including the Passengers Act Amendment Bill, which was read a second time.—On Tuesday, the Lord Chancellor's bill for clearing the statute book of the embarrassing number of obsolete enactments found in its pages, was read a second time. This measure enjoys the rare fortune of having received the warm support of Lords Brougham, Cranworth, Chelmsford, and St. Leonards—that is, of all the ex-Chancellors with the exception of Lord Lyndhurst, who does not appear to have been in his place either that night or on the night when the bill was introduced.—The Public Works bill, which received the support of Lord Derby, was also read a second time.—Several other measures were advanced a stage.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Thursday, July 2, Mr. Layard stated, in reply to a question from Mr. Horsman, that no reply had yet been received to the notes addressed to Russia on the Polish question by England, France, and Austria. Mr. Hennessy postponed his motion on this subject; while Mr. Horsman intimated that, unless he was forestalled by the member for King's county, he should move a resolution to the effect that as the arrangements made with regard to Poland under the treaty of Vienna had failed to secure good government in that country, any further attempt to place Poland under that treaty would be calamitous to the Polish people and embarrassing to Europe.—In answer to a question from Mr. Bagwell, Sir Robert Peel said that his information relative to the distress in Ireland was not such as to lead him to believe that there was anything like a general famine in the country.—Mr. Layard repeated, with rather more distinctness, the denial given by the Home Secretary on Tuesday night to the statements made by the member for Sheffield—on the authority, as the hon. gentleman alleged, of the Emperor Napoleon—that Baron Gros had been instructed once more to propose a joint mediation in America,

and that our Government had committed a breach of faith by communicating to Mr. Seward the despatch in which the French government last autumn asked the government of England to join in an effort to terminate the hostilities in America.—Mr. Gladstone moved a vote for the purchase of the Exhibition building, but, after a stormy debate, the proposal of the Government was rejected by a large majority.—On Friday, the House held a morning sitting, which was entirely occupied with the Irish Fisheries Bill.—At the evening sitting the Solicitor-General, in reply to a question from Mr. Carnegie, said that in the present state of things in America, it was not contrary to international law to consign arms, ammunition, or medicines to the ports of Quebec, Nassau, Matamoros, and Havana—only cargoes consisting of such articles must be bona fide intended for the neutral ports, to which they are represented to be consigned.—In reply to a question from Col. Annesley, Lord Hartington said the Commissioners appointed to examine the frontier defences of Canada had sent in their report, but the Home Government must await the decision of the colonial authorities on the recommendations embodied in the document.—Mr. Villiers stated that he would postpone the next stage of the bill for the continuance of the Relief Aid Act until after his interview, which was fixed for Wednesday next, with a deputation from the magistrates of the counties affected by the measure.—Mr. Caird then brought forward his motion on the subject of the cultivation of cotton in India. The hon. gentleman contended that much more might be done than had hitherto been accomplished, and in this view he was supported by Mr. Bazley.—Mr. Cobden ridiculed the efforts which had been made by the Indian government to promote the cultivation of cotton, while Sir C. Wood, on the other hand, defended the government. The motion was negatived.—On Monday, Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald put a question to the Government respecting the case of the ship *Margaret and Jessie*, which was recently fired into by a Federal cruiser close to one of the Bahama Islands—only a few hundred yards from the shore, it is alleged. Mr. Layard stated, in reply, that Mr. Seward had informed Lord Lyons, that the Federal commander denied that he had fired at the vessel while she was in British waters, but the whole matter would be investigated, and, if wrong had been done, the “most ample reparation” would be made.—In answer to a question from Mr. Warner, Lord Palmerston said there was no truth in the statement which had appeared in a French journal, that England was so far committed upon the Polish question that, if France and Russia went to war, that country could not remain neutral. We were bound, said the noble lord, neither one way nor the other, but were free to adopt any line of policy which the course of events might impose upon us.—The noble lord, in reply to an appeal from Mr. Roebuck, agreed, upon certain conditions, to give Monday next for the adjourned debate on the motion in favour of the recognition of the Southern States.—Mr. Ayrton moved a resolution in favour of extinguishing the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851, and of vesting the property now held by them in the Commissioners of Works. The hon. gentleman strongly denounced the manner in which the Commissioners had performed the duties assigned to them; but Mr. Lowe, while defending the Commissioners, pointed out to Mr. Ayrton that a Royal Commission could not be determined by parliamentary vote. After some further discussion, the House divided, when the resolution was rejected by a majority of 123.—Another discussion on the policy of the Government in China was started by Lord Naas, but the noble lord, although strongly condemning the course which the Government was pursuing, did not submit a

resolution to the House on the subject. Mr. Layard defended the course pursued by the Government, and after some discussion the matter dropped.—On Tuesday, Mr. Baillie Cochrane, renewed his attack upon the Board of Works by moving a resolution in favour of the re-constitution of the department on a different basis. The motion was opposed by Government, and on a division was rejected by a large majority.—After a protest from Mr. Newdegate, Lord Alfred Churchill obtained leave to bring in a bill which, as we understand the telegraphic report, purposes virtually to render it impossible to recover church rates by process of law.—A discussion on the claims of Azrem Jah to the dignity of nawab of the Carnatic was stopped in the bud by a “count-out.”—On Wednesday Mr. Paull’s bill, prohibiting the use of poisoned grain for the destruction of birds, was read a second time, after a good deal of discussion.—Mr. Laird’s bill, providing for the official testing of the anchors and cable chains used by merchant vessels was characterised by Mr. Milner Gibson and Mr. Lindsay as impracticable, but the measure received the support of Sir John Pakington, Sir J. Elphinstone, and other members. Mr. Lindsay moved the usual “this day three months” amendment, but on a division the second reading was carried by 119 against 44 votes. Mr. Gladstone obtained leave to bring in a bill declaring the gold coins issued from the Sydney Mint a legal tender. The remaining business was unimportant.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality in London during the past week again rose above the average. The deaths were 1187, which was 45 above the ten years’ average of 1142. Small-pox has not increased in virulence, but neither has it diminished. It is not, however, so fatal as scarlatina. The births for the week were 1997 children: the average for the last ten years was not higher than 1723. The quarter of the year that has just elapsed has been peculiarly unhealthy; the deaths have been above the average every week in the quarter but one, and that one the last; and last week, the first week of the new quarter, the average is again exceeded.—Earl St. Maur, the Duke of Somerset’s eldest son, has been summoned to the House of Peers by the old family title of Baron Seymour.—There is no truth in the statement that Lord Clarence Paget, the Secretary to the Admiralty, is about to assume the command of the North American squadron.—At the meeting of the Central Executive Relief Committee, the Honorary Secretary presented his monthly report, in which we find the statement that “it is now certain that of those persons usually employed in the mills in the cotton districts, about 234,642 are in full work, 125,097 short time, and 189,729 out of work, against 192,527 full time, 129,741 short time, and 215,519 out of work in the last week of April.” The report, however, goes on to deal with the prospects of the winter, and we are warned to expect, when the season arrives during which outdoor labour will be considerably reduced, an addition of 100,000 to the 256,230 persons who are now receiving relief. The Committee have a balance at the bank of about £340,000; but there is no doubt, says the report, that the whole will be absorbed before the close of next winter.—A meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works has been held, at which Mr. Bazalgette reported favourable and rapid progress on the different sections of the main drainage scheme. An application from the trustees of the Peabody fund had been received by the board, soliciting that the provision of the Act of Parliament which requires that houses where a number of families are intended to reside shall be built in such a manner as to render them fireproof, should be relaxed in the case of some houses they intended to build at Shadwell. The board decided that they had no power to relax the provisions of the Act, and refused the application.—The great annual rifle

meeting at Wimbledon was opened on Monday, but the day was devoted entirely to the arrangement of preliminaries. The prize shooting commenced on Tuesday, and is not yet concluded. The Prince of Wales visited the ground on Wednesday, and had several shots at the wonderful "running deer," which has been prepared from a design by Sir E. Landseer. It is stated that his Royal Highness was more successful in his hits than Mr. Edward Ross was at last year's meeting. The money value of the prizes offered this year by the National Association is double the amount contended for in 1862. — An important target trial has taken place at Shoeburyness. Hitherto the targets have been constructed on the principle that the backing must be elastic, but this trial was to determine the value of the opposition or rigid theory. Up to the test furnished by the old-fashioned and still favourite 68-pounder, the rigid theory was sustained; but a 150lb. steel shot passed through the target and its supports, and a 300lb. shell penetrated the target and set the filling of the cells on fire. One of the Armstrong guns used at the trial burst—that is to say, the outer ring of the gun gave way. There was no one injured. — Some fifteen months ago a young girl, named Elizabeth Hunter, whose parents live in Hoxton, mysteriously disappeared. The Government issued a notice offering a reward for her discovery, but no trace of the girl could be found. At last, however, her fate seems to be cleared up. A lad was digging in the garden of a florist at Islington, on Monday evening, when he came upon a decapitated body, which, there is every reason to believe, is that of the missing girl. A youth, named Clarke, who was formerly employed in the garden, has been apprehended on suspicion of having murdered the girl. — An inquest has been held on the mutilated remains of a child which were found in the Thames at Adelaide Wharf a week ago. The medical evidence showed that the child had been murdered and then cut up. As, however, there was no evidence to throw any light upon the authors of the crime, an open verdict was returned. — It will be remembered that some time ago Mr. Collingwood obtained damages against Mr. Berkeley, M.P. for Bristol, and the other directors of the British Overland Transit Company for not fulfilling their contract of carrying him and other passengers by the overland route to British Columbia. The directors appealed to the Court for a new trial, but the Barons of the Exchequer decided that the verdict of the jury ought not to be disturbed, and the judgment was made absolute against the directors. — In an action for false imprisonment before the Court of Exchequer, a police serjeant, who was called as a witness, stated that he claimed and exercised authority to inspect the books of plaintiff. Baron Martin, who presided, rebuked him severely, and said not even the judge had power to inspect people's books without warrant. — An action against a clergyman has occupied the Court of Common Pleas for two days. There were two separate libels addressed to two different persons, reflecting on the conduct of the plaintiff while he resided in the defendant's parish. The defendant pleaded that the charges were true, and that the letters in which they were written were privileged communications. The jury with some difficulty found for the plaintiff 40s. for each of the libels. — The inquest on the bodies of the miners who were suffocated by the explosion of fire-damp in a colliery near Neath, a few days ago, was resumed on Monday, and again adjourned for a week. It appeared, on the showing of the managers employed about the pit, that there was a great deal of carelessness with respect to the use of the safety-lamp, though it was known that the workings were dangerous from gas. — The case of Mr. Windham against his wife and Signor Giuglini has been discharged from the Divorce Court. Mr.

Windham not only withdraws his charges, but pays the respondent and co-respondent's costs. — A disastrous fire broke out early on Wednesday morning in the offices of Messrs. Chapple, Dutton, and Co., shipbrokers, Water-street, Liverpool. Messrs. Chapple occupied the second floor of a large warehouse, and soon after the fire was discovered the flames were seen spreading through the whole building, part of which was occupied as a store for cotton, grain, and other merchandise. The total damage done is estimated at about £160,000. The value of the cotton destroyed is put down at £110,000. — A serious collision occurred on the London and North-Western Railway, at Wolverhampton, on Tuesday. An engine ran into a train that was standing at the ticket station, and did considerable damage to one or two third-class carriages—some 30 of the occupants of which were more or less seriously injured.

COMMERCIAL.—At a meeting of the Union Bank of London an increased dividend of 18s. per share was declared, clear of income tax for the six months ending 30th June. — At a meeting of the Colonial Bank a dividend of 6 per cent. was declared for the six months ending 31st December last. — Mr. Dion Boucicault is before the Bankruptcy Court. His debts are stated to be £30,000, but his assets are estimated at £20,000, besides a sum—on which the creditors will hardly place much reliance—of £38,000 which he expects when his project of a new theatre company is carried out. — An application for the release of the notorious Colonel W. Petrie Waugh was made on Thursday, but Mr. Commissioner Fane refused to entertain it until the affairs in connection with the bankruptcy had been more fully gone into. — The annual report of the Accidental Death Insurance Company shows very satisfactory progress in its business. The premiums received from all sources during the year amount to upwards of £65,776, against £47,878 in 1861. The claims during the year were £34,579 4s. 7d., giving a total since the commencement of the society of no less a sum than £215,579. The office of managing director has ceased, the duties now being performed by nine members of the board in rotation, in conjunction with their secretary, Mr. Oram. The entire business of the company is now carried on at the offices in the Old Jewry. The year having terminated by a large reduction in the expenses of the company, and a large increase of premiums from all sources, it is not unnatural to suppose that the company will prosper, and maintain itself in the front rank of kindred institutions, of which it is the parent.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor of the French has left Fontainebleau for Vichy. In his absence M. Billault will preside at the Council of Ministers. Prince Napoleon has arrived in Paris. — Mr. Roebuck's remarkable statement in the House as Commons respecting his interview with the Emperor Napoleon, and the controversy which they have provoked, have elicited some official "explanations" in yesterday's *Moniteur*. Mr. Roebuck and Mr. W. S. Lindsay visited Fontainebleau for the purpose of engaging the Emperor of the French to "take official steps at London for the recognition of the Southern Confederacy." The Emperor saw no reason to refuse them an interview, but he did not attempt to influence the British Parliament through them. "The Emperor," says the *Moniteur*, "expressed his desire to see peace re-established in America, but observed that, England having declined his proposal of recognition in the previous October, he did not think he could submit a new proposition without the certainty of its acceptance. His Majesty further stated that his Ambassador should nevertheless, receive instructions to sound the English cabinet upon the subject, giving it to understand that if England hought the recognition of the South likely to put an end to

the war, the Emperor was disposed to follow her in that course."—General Forey has been created by Imperial decree, a Marshall of France. *La France* denies that the prosecution of the French bishops who issued the circular to their parishioners during the late elections has been abandoned.—The 48,000 roubles carried off by the Post-office functionaries in Warsaw have been transferred by them to the exchequer of the National Government, by which the money will no doubt be expended to the great embarrassment of the *de jure* Government. It is stated in Cracow telegrams that trains have actually ceased to run upon the St. Petersburg, and Warsaw Railway, in consequence of the decree issued by the National Government. If this be true, it will afford the most conclusive proof of the real power exercised by that unseen body.—The Polish National Government has, it is said, issued a proclamation declaring "that it has never overrated the value of foreign diplomacy," and that it has not entered into any negotiations for an armistice. The "national government," it is announced, "can only place itself under obligations to foreign powers when it negotiates with them on a footing of equality as the representative of a free nation. In the meantime the insurrection is gaining strength. The answer of Russia to the three powers is said to be of a peaceful character.—The *Independence Belge* publishes an important letter from St. Petersburg, stating that "gigantic" preparations for war are being made, and that the regiments are being increased to six battalions each.—The Council of the Russian Empire will be reinforced by the addition of the marshals of the nobility and the burgomasters of St. Petersburg and Moscow.—There have been some slight disturbances in one of the streets of Berlin, during the last two or three days, leading even to attacks upon police. But although these excited alarm at first they appear merely to have originated in a quarrel about the ejection of a tenant, and to have had no political meaning. Many arrests have, however, been made.—The Danish government, apparently apprehensive of the resolutions that may be adopted by the German Diet, has ordered an extraordinary levy of reserve soldiers, who are to join their regiments on the 1st of next month.—A serious military insurrection, or mutiny, has occurred among the garrison at Athens; but the Greek Government seems to have ultimately succeeded in restoring order. The Bank of Athens was attacked by the mutineers, and was afterwards protected by a detachment of marines landed from the foreign ships of war.—Under date of Athens, July 6, it appears that the National Assembly had obtained the simultaneous removal of the troops of the two parties from Athens. The city was again restored to tranquillity.—The Vienna papers publish accounts from Constantinople confirming the news of the outbreak of a revolution in Georgia. Prince Cholukoff, with 200 soldiers, was murdered near the citadel of Zakatali. The Tartars had joined the insurgents.—Letters received in Constantinople from the Caucasus state that no less than eleven sanguinary combats have taken place between the Russians and the mountaineers. Sir H. Bulwer has addressed a demand to the Porte, in the name of his colleagues, on the subject of the indemnity promised to the families of the victims in Syria. The Italian Minister intends protesting against the decision of the ambassadors, which excluded him from participating in the conference pending the examination of the question.—The *Moniteur* publishes reports from the French Consul at Madagascar, giving a full account of the events preceding and immediately subsequent to the assassination of the late king. The French Consul received an assurance from the Queen that good relations with foreign nations should be preserved, and that the whites should be protected. There has been drawn up a new constitution, to which

the new Sovereign has sworn obedience. The first article is something new in the history of constitutions. It is simply, "The Queen shall drink no strong liquors." The French Consul paints in the highest colours the character of the late King.—The American advices brought by the *Africa* and the *City of New York* are to the 27th ult. It was confidently asserted that General Lee himself, with a large portion of his army, had crossed the Potomac and Maryland, and that he intended to operate with the mass of the force on the north side of the Potomac. The Confederate corps which had entered Pennsylvania had been largely augmented, General Ewell's division having occupied Chambersburg on 24th ult. while General Early entered Gettysburg on the 29th. General Jones had occupied Macconnellsburg, after a sharp skirmish with a Federal detachment under General Milroy; and the Federals had evacuated Carlisle—close to which town the Confederates had advanced—and had retreated to Harrisburg. The Governor of Pennsylvania had called out 50,000 militia; but the people of the state were said to show a strange apathy respecting the invasion. Nothing was publicly known as to the positions of General Hooker's army, which was, however, reported to have been "moving" on the 25th ult. and to have had a corps "in the vicinity of Hagerstown." Vicksburg advices of the 23rd ult. asserted that General Grant was making preparations for another assault on the Confederate defences. A body of 1,000 Texans was said to have been repulsed at Lake Providence by some negro troops; but, according to Southern accounts, the Confederate General Kirby Smith had obtained possession of Milliken Bend, on the western bank of the Mississippi, above Vicksburg. An assault made on the 14th ult. by the troops of General Banks on the Confederate works at Port Hudson had been disastrously repulsed at all points; and the Federals admitted that they had sustained a loss of 700 to 1000 men. It was "supposed" that another assault would be attempted on the 19th ult., but at the same time it was reported that the Confederates were "concentrating in General Banks's rear to prevent his retreat to Baton Rouge." Not only did the Tacony continue her depredations on Federal merchant vessels off the northern coast, but two other Confederate cruisers, a steamer and a schooner, were said to be plundering and destroying American shipping at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, and it was reported that forty vessels had been destroyed within a week off Cape Sable. A Federal revenue cutter, well armed and stored, had sailed from Portland in the night, without orders or officers, and it was supposed that the crew had run away with her for the purpose of committing piratical depredations under Confederate colours.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

HIRAM.—A member of the lodge, never having before served as Warden, is invested as S.W. on the 24th of June, 1863, and duly elected and confirmed as W.M. elect for 1863. Can a dispensation be obtained from the R.W. Prov. G.M. through his Deputy the V.W.D. Prov. G.M., to instal the Bro. S.W. as W.M. on the 23rd of June, 1863, there being no necessity for abbreviating the probation service of Wardenship by one day (the Book of Constitutions, page 59, article 2, states "served as Warden of a warranted lodge for one year"), the By-laws of the lodge also fix "24th June," as Installation day? Is the dispensation legal? Is the W.M. so installed a legally constituted Master? In what position do his officers stand? If the act is illegal, what is the remedy for the P.M.'s and W.M.'s of the Province to take? [The dispensation would no doubt be held to be legal; but cannot believe it would have been granted without good cause shown.]

□.—The Master properly should never leave the chair, whoever performs the duty, but it has grown into a custom for him to exchange chairs with a Past-Master, whilst the latter performs a ceremony.