

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1863.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The following is the award in the late competition for designs for the building:—1st premium, £70, Mr. Edwin Pearce, Clapham; motto, "Knowledge is Power." 2nd premium, £50, "L'Union fait la Force," Messrs. Simmonds and Bell, Hammersmith. 3rd premium, £30, "Integritas," Mr. Frederick Boreham, Penge. Mr. Pearce's design is to be carried out, perhaps with modifications. The estimated expense is £8600. Whoever made the estimate should be asked to obtain a contract to carry it fully and properly out for £10,000. It is not very creditable to the architects in the Order, that not one prize has gone to them, whilst in the case of the Hall and Tavern all the prizes went to Masons.

FREEMASONRY AND UNIFORMITY, OR A COUNCIL OF RITES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Holy Scriptures, in more than one place, lay down that, "if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand."

In all the relations of life, whether personal, commercial, religious, or political, the holy text holds good, and each of these conditions of men afford numberless instances, which will readily occur to every reader, how applicable the quotation is to us and our times, and how it is daily exemplified in the cases of households, partnerships, churches, and kingdoms.

Division is a source of weakness and ultimate decay, whilst uniformity of thought and action is the precursor of strength and vigour.

Let us see if Freemasonry is as consolidated as it ought to be, and what is wanting to render it so.

By Freemasonry, we mean the whole superstructure of rites, orders, and degrees which, though differing in government, go to make up the great whole known to the world as Freemasonry, and, discarding the pettiness of opposition which says "this, or that, is not Freemasonry," embrace the full system as part and parcel of one great, gigantic brotherhood bound together by indissoluble ties, varying only in ceremonies and doctrines according to the capabilities and comprehension of the recipients.

When regarded in that light, Freemasonry may be truly said to be universal, but such cannot be maintained if the so-called universality is limited to one branch exclusively.

Is Freemasonry then, as practised in England, as consolidated and uniform as it should be? No! and why?

Because there are several independent jurisdictions who hold no common converse with each other, and have no general and well-defined reciprocity of action one with the other.

The Craft, or blue Masonry, is the threshold of Freemasonry, and many hold it as the only portion that should be recognised, but they are amiable enthusiasts who have no idea of the connection between all the relative parts of Freemasonry.

We next come to Royal Arch, and, curiously enough, our *Book of Constitutions* define ancient Masonry "to consist of but three degrees, including," what? "the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch," that is one Order within another, or a wheel within a wheel, unparalleled in any other community.

Now, how do the Craft and Arch manage their government? By a Grand Lodge and a Grand Chapter, each respectively ordering its own dependents under separate laws, and yet, where the latter are deficient in certain cases, they are to be construed by the former. They have also funds under distinct control, but, strange to say, we find in the Grand Lodge balance sheets various amounts, from time to time, credited to Grand Chapter, as if Grand Lodge had some control over the Grand Chapter funds.*

It is self-evident that there is a want of uniformity in "pure ancient Masonry."

We now come to the Mark degree, which is in the most unsatisfactory state. There are two bodies of Mark Masons, one holding under old warrants, several of which exist, and another from the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and the anomaly, in the latter case, is that they, the Mark Masons, owe allegiance, out of England, to a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry, of which they are not registered Royal Arch members. There is also a third society, calling itself the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England, but that is, according to one of its shining lights, "on the glorious sea without any charter but its own." These sections of a degree are hopelessly antagonistic. They make their neophytes swear not to visit, or receive visits from, brethren who do not hail from the same authority with themselves; and although their rituals differ but slightly, they are as opposed to each other as it is possible to be. There is no true uniformity between the independent old English Mark Masons, the Scotch Mark Masons, and the English Grand Lodge of Mark Masters.

The Knights Templar, Hospitallers, St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, are independent of everything and everybody but the Order of the Holy Royal Arch. They are repudiated and

* This arises from parties abroad often sending up drafts and bills to Grand Lodge, without expressing at the time what the amount is for, but afterwards giving instructions for a portion to be paid over to Grand Lodge.—ED.

spurned by the executive of Grand Lodge, though it is well known that no one can be admitted a Knight Templar until he has been exalted in a Royal Arch Chapter, and a distinguished Provincial Grand Master is at their head. Truly, uniformity is lacking here.

The Ancient and Accepted Rite in its turn repudiates the Templars, and, although the high grades confer a Templar degree, yet they profess to have no dealings with that body, while, to make the matter more confused, almost every-high grade Mason is a Masonic Knight Templar, and nearly every Masonic Knight Templar is a high grade Mason. Here again there is want of uniformity.

Within these few days we have seen a very pretty degree, which would, doubtless, be taken as authentic and ancient by scores of Freemasons, but its concoctors told us, honestly, that it, and two more, were their own invention from Scripture history. What uniformity is there to prevent such degrees being manufactured wholesale, and new governing powers arising which would repudiate all other portions of Freemasonry.

It is clear, then, from what has been said, that English Freemasonry is greatly in want of a controlling power to produce uniformity of action, an exchange of sentiment, and a truly fraternal bond of union between all classes and denominations of Freemasons, so that the boasted universality of the Order should include all rites, orders, and degrees; for although every brother, to the top of the tree, is a blue Mason, and cannot cut the spokes of the ladder, by which he mounted, from under him, yet many virtually do so by never setting foot in a Craft Lodge, after having professed in the higher degree.

What then is wanted to harmonize the whole and how are we to obtain it?

We want a Council of Rites, similar to that of Ireland, where Freemasons of high degrees are admitted in conjunction with Knights Templar, but we would extend ours further. It should consist of six representatives from from every existing jurisdiction, who should meet twice a year and, without seeking to know each other's forms, ceremonies, or secrets, this Council should make representations of all that tended towards uniformity of Government, relief of the distressed, and for the general good of Freemasonry, to each other, and the Councillors should each report the same to their separate constituents so that no innovations could creep in and all orders, classes, rites, and degrees of Freemasonry should exchange information and confer mutual assistance to each other through the Council of Rites, who would have for their especial care to see that there was some kind of uniformity of design that should actuate every grade in Freemasonry.

[We publish the above as coming from an intelligent correspondent, but without binding ourselves to his views, in which, it is but fair to say, we do not altogether agree.—Ed. F. M. and M. M.]

REVIEWS.

Manual of Ophthalmoscopic Surgery, by Jabez Hogg. London: John Churchill and Sons, New Burlington-street.

This is truly what Bro. Hogg describes it, a practical treatise on the use of the Ophthalmoscope in diseases of the eye; and the value attached to it by the profession is shown by the fact that the work, which originally appeared in 1857, has now reached its third edition. The work, however, is not merely a reprint, but the whole of the text has been re-written, so that it comes before us in an enlarged form with the views expressed by the author strengthened by the experience he has since attained as Senior Assistant-Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. The work is illustrated by coloured illustrations of eye diseases, and, altogether, is a valuable contribution to medical literature.

Predictions realised in Modern Times. Collected by HORACE WELBY. London: Kent and Company, Paternoster-row.

This is a curious collection of predictions on all varieties of subjects which have, in some way or other, been fulfilled; thus we have prophecies on the Massacre of St. Bartholomew; the Assassination of Henry IV. of France; Sir Thomas Brown's opinions on predictions; Lilly's London Predictions; "Prophet Needs" who foretold, and truly, the death of Mr. Carman, Dr. Mew, and himself in twelve months; Burkes' Political Predictions; Smollett's Predictions on the Future of France; Lord Brougham's Sepoy Prophecy, foretelling in 1848 the mutiny of the Sepoy Army, and very many other all curious and some, certainly, very startling. As a specimen of the curious we give the following:—

"There is current in Sussex the following local proverb:

"If Chichester Church steeple fall,
In England there's no king at all.

"Now this has been curiously fulfilled under a Queen regnant, when the spire of Chichester Cathedral recently fell."

The book does great credit to Mr. Welby's industry as a collector, and will certainly be read with interest by those who believe as well as those who disbelieve in modern prophecy; though it cannot be denied that many of the coincidences of thought of some of our most distinguished men with after events have been most remarkable, though even they themselves would disclaim any power of prophecy.

The Crystal Palace Penny Guide, published by authority of the Directors: Sydenham, ROBERT BURT, Crystal Palace.

This is an admirable pennyworth, and should be in the hands of every visitor to the Crystal Palace. It is truly a guide, both to the Palace and the gardens, sufficiently succinct to be easily referred to, and yet telling everything that the visitor can desire. The work is profusely illustrated with woodcuts, admirably executed.

Minerva Lodge Directory, 1863. Hull; Bro. M. C. PECK.

This little work gives a list of the members of the Minerva Lodge, Hull; the Benevolent Fund Committee; the Building ditto; W.M.'s from the formation of the lodge in 1782; Members of the Minerva Chapter; Members of the Minerva Lodge of Mark Masters: Knights' Templar; 18th degree; Copy of the Lodge Warrant and Lodge Annals from 1782 to 1802, the latter to be continued in future additions. From this work we can form some idea of the strength of the various orders of Masonry in Hull, there being in the Minerva Lodge 123

members; in the Chapter 53; Mark Lodge 45; Knights' Templar 6, and 18th degree 7, the latter appearing to have been introduced into Hull within the last two years. Bro. John Thompson appears at the head of each list excepting the last, having been a member of the lodge from the year 1818. A few more such records from the various lodges would be useful and interesting to the Craft. We find by the Annals that a Lodge Library was established as early as 1786. We should like to know something of what that library now contains. Will any of the Hull brethren enlighten us? The following is a somewhat curious resolution:—"1791. March 11.—Resolved 'That the interest of this lodge be given to Bro. Western, Tyler, on his behalf for the office of Town's Beadle,'"

In 1802 we find "The following Orders of Masonry are held in the Minerva Lodge:—The three degrees of Craft Masonry, Royal Arch, Knights Templar, Old English Herodim or Orange Masonry, and Ark, Mark, and Link."

Mr. Beeton's Publications: London, S. O. Beeton, Strand.

Mr. Beeton's publications are now too well known to require much in the way of commendation from us. *Beeton's Illuminated Family Bible* approaches completion; there being only one more number to appear, and the same excellence which marked its commencement alike in the paper, the typography, the illustrations, and the selection of the notes is as apparent at the close. To those brethren about to purchase a Family Bible, or present a volume of the Sacred Law to a lodge we can conscientiously recommend Mr. Beeton's edition.

The *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*, for July is as replete as usual with articles of interest and amusement, whilst we are informed, on reliable authority, that the fashions and the patterns of needlework are of unusual excellence.

Beeton's Dictionary of Universal Information in Science, Art and Literature is rapidly proceeding—the number before us commencing with *Lama*, and ending with *Logarithms*. The treatise it contains on the Law of Nations is sensibly written, and especially interesting at the present time.

Beeton's Home Games has reached the 17th number, requiring only one more to complete the work, and treats of many popular games of cards, some of which are all but obsolete, but in the whole of which Capt. Crawley appears quite au fait.

In the *Boys' Own Library* the Curiosities of Savage life are continued, and in no way abate in interest or excitement.

The *Boys' Own Magazine* improves as it proceeds, more especially in the illustrations—the portrait of William Lillywhite, the cricketer, being excellent, as is also the Rev. John Pycroft's article "A match I was in, and what Broadly taught me." A coasting voyage from the Thames to the Tyne tells much that it is desirable to learn regarding our "tight little island," whilst "The Adventures of Reuben Davidger," "Birds and birdnesting," "Cressy and Poicters, or the Black Prince's Page," "The young Norseman," and the varied other contents go to make up a most unexceptional number.

The *Boy's Penny Magazine* is also equally worthy of commendation—the Perilous Adventures of Stephen Halston (to say nothing of the other varied contents), being sufficient to ensure its popularity.

As it is customary, at public dinners, to reserve for the last toast, "the ladies," so will our last notice be dedicated to the work of a lady—that of Mrs. Isabella Beeton—Mrs. Beeton's *Book of Household Management*. We have received but one number of this work, but from a careful perusal of the various recipes it contains, and the description of the natural history of the animals and vegetables used as food, we, confidently, pronounce Mrs. Beeton to be perfectly qualified for the task she has undertaken. We agree with Mrs. Beeton that there are

few greater causes of discomfort than a badly cooked dinner, and would recommend every father to present his daughters with this work, so that they may be the better enabled, hereafter, to enter on the task of household management; whilst, we believe, that there are few housewives who may not find something to their advantage in the work.

AS TO A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE.

The following report has been submitted (by desire) from the Council of the Architectural Museum to the department of Science and Art, on the Formation of a National Museum of Architecture:—

The Council of the Architectural Museum begs, in compliance with the intimation conveyed by the Committee of Council on Education, of the date of December 11, 1862, to submit the following considerations on the formation of a National Museum of Architecture in London. In doing so the Council feels itself absolved from the necessity of proving the desirability of such a museum. The only questions about which there can be any difference are those which concern the details of a measure which in itself meets with universal approbation.

I. The first point which must be settled is the nature of the museum. All museums may be divided into two classes, which, for want of better terms, may be called exhibitional and scholastic. An exhibitional museum is one which the primary use is the display of a collection or collections in given branches of art and science, brought together with the view to the completeness of the the collections in themselves, and not for the purposes of direct instruction. Valuable, or rather indispensable as such museums are for the purposes of study, yet their scholastic use is a secondary and not a direct one. They exist indeed for the student to profit by, on his own responsibility; but they were brought together for the sake, so to speak, of their contents, rather than for that of the visitor. The British Museum and the National Gallery are instances of exhibitional museums.

A scholastic museum, on the other hand, is one which has been constituted for the scholar; and the selections of specimens is made with the view to his direct instruction rather than to the completeness of the objective display. The staple of an exhibitional museum must always consist of original objects; a scholastic museum admits of, or rather invites, models, diagrams, and facsimiles.

The Council of the Architectural Museum is convinced that the National Museum of Architecture must be mainly scholastic. Within what limits it would be desirable to make it also exhibitional will be noticed further on in the report. It must at the same time be noted that, while the Museum will profitably stand open to the studies of the architect who is engaged in the elaboration of his details, it will be still more useful to, and more frequently used by, the architectural artist, whether he is composing for himself, or merely carrying out the working drawings which have been placed in his hands. It will, as far as its more conspicuous contents are concerned, rather be a museum of architectural art, than absolutely one of architecture.

II. The next consideration is that of the limit of the collection, both as regards the sweep of subjects to be included under the definition "Architecture," and as regards the various styles of constructive art which it is desirable to illustrate.

While it is very easy to define what is painting, and not perhaps very difficult to attain a proximate definition of sculpture, the limits of that wide field which architecture may be said to fill to the exclusion of cognate arts, are almost undecipherable. The difficulty of attaining a right understanding on this head in regard to a National Museum of Architecture is increased by the consideration which the council ventures to assume as axiomatic,

that the collection must rather be one of the details than of large portions of buildings, and that those details must be selected for the beauty of the architectural art which they display. In other words, a National Museum of Architecture must, to a great extent, be a sculpture gallery. It is useless to attempt to evade the truth. If it is admitted, the question passes from abstract to practical considerations, and it becomes one of expediency. It is accordingly submitted, that the Museum of Architecture properly speaking, should, on grounds of expediency, stop short of objects of which, from their moderate size and portability, fine original specimens can and may be displayed elsewhere in London in exhibitional museums, or which from their peculiar contexture ill admit of being copied. The first head excludes portable furniture, triptych pictures, small articles of metal work, ivories, textile fabrics, and partially ceramics.

III. It follows from the premises already recited that the contents of the museum should rather be whole-size casts of peculiarly meritorious specimens of architectural ornamentation, than reduced models of entire buildings, or of large portions of buildings. The council does not, of course, mean to say that models should be excluded. They have their own great and distinctive value in connection with the casts as keys to the relevancy and position of the details exhibited at large, as well as for the amount of direct teaching which they may convey as to the general character and proportions of the buildings which they portray. Still the position of models (unless they are made on a large scale, and with the most extreme accuracy) in the cycle of systematic and direct architectural teaching, must always be subordinate: their distinctive and especial value as guides to the architect and the employer during the actual process of construction. It is needless to observe that such models as the one which Wren prepared of his first sketch for St. Paul's, now at South Kensington, have an historical value in themselves which removes them from the merely practical considerations which have just been urged.

Happily, modern science has intervened to provide, completely and inexpensively, the needful complement to the collected whole-sized casts, by the discovery of photography. It is impossible for an Architectural Museum to have too many photographs. Cheap and compressible as they are, they are always worth the collecting; and any fastidiousness as to their acquisition would be misplaced. Plans and measured drawings are also of great value, and no Museum of Architecture would be complete without its ample store of them.

As to the objects which may appear in the form of plaster casts, all ornamentation in stone, whether sculptural or not, is admissible, including such statues as are introduced as parts of architectural composition. So are the casts of such specimen woodwork as, in modern parlance, would be termed fixtures, such panelling, church stalls, &c., and to a certain extent those which reproduce the details of important articles of portable furniture. Similar discriminative principles will describe what objects of metal-work do, and what do not, admit of being cast for the purpose of the museum.

The above suggestions lead up to the direct question of what should be the styles of architecture admissible to the museum. The answer appears to be that all nations and ages should be represented which possessed an architecture based on scientific or artistic principles, but that the largest portion of the museum should consist of the examples of the styles which have generally speaking been reproduced in modern architecture. These styles briefly recapitulated are the Greek, the Roman, the Romanesque, the Pointed, and the various forms of Renaissance. An architectural museum confined to any one of these styles would be, as far as it went, valuable: a national collection must represent all if it is intended to be complete, while the limitations which have been

offered as to the selection of examples are equally applicable to all the styles, should the Museum, or should it not comprise specimens of contemporaneous architectural ornamentation. The truth appears to be that, speaking abstractedly, contemporaneous architecture must be admitted if the collection is to be accepted by future generations as an adequate exponent of architectural history. But the difficulty of selection is the obstacle, for a crowd of mediocrities admitted through favour or fashion would be a misfortune to art. On the whole it is best to say generally that contemporaneous architecture is admissible, and at the same time to throw the responsibility of selection upon the managers of the Museum. As to the admission, however, of photographs of contemporaneous buildings, there need be no limit, for it will be always possible to store them, and the larger the collection is the more valuable will it be for purposes of reference. There is hardly a new building now undertaken which is not photographed at the instance of the architect or of the employer; and an understanding might easily be established that it was expected that a photograph of every new construction, possessed of any architectural character, should be deposited in the national collection.

The National Museum of Architecture has hitherto been treated exclusively in its scholastic aspect, but it will possess an exhibitional character as the central place of deposit for the many valuable fragments which are let loose by excavation, demolition, restoration, sale, or gift. It would, however, be a great mistake to make the admission to such antiquities too easy, as such a course might lead to the wholesale mutilation or destruction of monuments which would otherwise have been preserved intact or placed in durable repair. Worst of all, the opening of such asylum might tend to the encouragement of that destructive system of restoration which has become so fashionable in France, and which consists in refabricating every portion of every ancient building which has been in the least degree disintegrated by time and weather. If there were a national museum open to receive the original pieces, a strong temptation would be thrown into the way of our own restorers to commit similar enormities. Still, after all these abatements, there are many things which would be either lost or useless unless they were deposited in some central receptacle, and for them a sufficient space ought to be provided in the national collection. As instances of what is meant may be quoted the Chertsey tiles and Sir Bartle Frere's most interesting series of Hindoo sculptures, both at present in the Architectural Museum.

The management of the future museum is a detail which hardly comes within the scope of this report. It may, however, be assumed that no Board will be either efficient in itself or generally acceptable which does not include a large proportion of professional and amateur capacity named on some principle which shall give due representation to educated public opinion. Any importation of bureaucracy would be fatal to the popularity and usefulness of the institution.

As to the locale of the National Museum of Architecture, it cannot be too strongly urged that its position in London ought to be central rather than suburban. Utility and popularity alike combine in favour of this recommendation; moreover, it is highly to be desired that the character of the building should be such as to correspond with and to enhance the teachings of beauty, which the collection is intended to enforce. The consignment of England's collected masterpieces of architectural art to any structure which ill concealed poverty of design and ignorance of proportion, by a superfluity of misapplied ornament, would involve a practical contradiction, alike discredit to our national character and detrimental to our architectural progress.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

MASONIC RITES IN 1530 AND 1630.

What was the Rite of the followers of the Philosophy of Aristotle, in opposition to that of Christianity or the Rosy Cross, in 1630? Hospitalry and other Papal systems, *v.* Templary disguised. Fludd, speaking of his repudiation of an oath to the first, thus writes:—"Notwithstanding any allegiance, which I have by a

ceremonial Rite vowed unto Aristotle in my youth.' *Mosaical Philosophy*, pp. 31, 1659. Secondly, what were the Papal privileges alluded to as follows: "100 years previously by the Monarch of Philosophers, Prince of Spagyrist, Chief of Astronomers, Paradoxical Physician, and Grand Master of Mechanical Secrets, 'in the meantime that sophistic art hath need of Papal and Imperial privileges to strengthen and uphold its imperfections.'"—△

THE MASONIC LECTURES.

Ap[ro]pos of your late excellent leader, would you permit me a word here on several points of interest respecting our ceremonies.

1. Was it the Master or the secrets, or both, which were lost in the old York rite?

2. I should no more look for genuine Masonry under the 1717 Grand Lodge than I should under the London Lodges of Instruction; but it would appear that with their lodges the Master's word was said to be both lost and found.

3. Are not all the opening ceremonies except the first modern inventions?

4. The old York rite contained apparently no Master's word to lose, which we have not now, and the rediscovery of Enoch's hidden secrets took place in the fifth order, and our present secrets are no "substitutes" at all.

5. "Our Master is lost, and cannot be found, and cannot be found, and cannot be found" [repeated.]

6. It appears to me that we must now look for the method of discovery "with the centre" in the old Rosy Cross books, and our present system of Astronomy.

7. What was the fourth Order? Nominal Past Master, —but what was this?

8. I can find no proof of a secret ceremony of installation of W.M. until recent times.

9. Is it certain that the first or dramatic part of the Arch degree applied to Enoch and Solomon, the rediscovery at the second temple forming the second part, and constituting a separate degree in the Continental Rites? This is the form in an old ritual I have seen.

10. As before stated the York degree of Master was dramatic, and the present ceremony has been strung together from what then took place. This prevents a casual observer from noticing the original design of the ceremony.

11. It does not appear to me that there was so great a separation in the old York rite between the first (Master) and second (Rose Croix) series of degrees as there is and was in the continental rites. To what are we to attribute this,—to the foreign origin of the builders, who, Ashmole thinks, possessed our mysteries?

12. Could there be any Mason, who, as a distinct body of men, practised building before A.D. 1200? if not (and I can't see how there could be), how could Solomon's temple be built by them, except symbolically, as by the Cabalists, and both Arch and Rose Croix emblems are found on buildings supposed as old as A.D. 1100 or 1200 in India.

13. We have the best Masonic authority for saying that 18° and 30° warrants were granted in 1721, and we know that even so early as this, theories founded thereon were broached, thus proving their antiquity at that period.

I feel certain there are documents in the hands of brethren which would effectually settle all these points.

△

VINDICATION OF FREEMASONRY.

An old author says—Freemasonry is an Order which requires no vindication. And yet how frequently are we called on by the uninitiated to give an account of the hope that is in us. If it be a praiseworthy institution, say they, in an affectation of triumph, as if the argument was unanswerable, if it be universally beneficial, why not throw it open to the public? Why it is thrown open to the public. It is open to the inspection and participation of

every worthy and honest man. Its secrets are hidden from none but the reckless and profane. True, it is not a proselyting system, but it never refuses to display its stores to the serious enquirer after knowledge. And where is the society to be found that does more. What good would result to any institution by the indiscriminate amalgamation of the evil and the good? The latter may have all the information they want, if they apply in a legitimate manner; and we avoid all connection with the former, because an inspired apostle assures us that "evil communications corrupt good manners." * * * * Enquiries into the history of the Order, and the true meaning of its hieroglyphics and ceremonies by learned brethren cannot be considered treason, for the Order itself recommends the study of its history, and that every brother should instruct his fellows as much as possible.—Ex. Ex.

WASHINGTON'S MASONIC JEWEL.

A correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, writing from Fredericksburg, Virginia, gives the following account of an act of vandalism, which we can hardly imagine any northern soldier to be guilty of:—"I wish it had fallen to some other person than myself to report a gross outrage which was recently perpetrated in Fredericksburg, for I blush to think that possibly American soldiers in wantonness or for lust of gain should have committed such an act. Everyone knows that Washington was a Freemason, a consistent friend of the Order, a lifelong champion and exponent of its principles. Rising from the humble condition of entered apprentice, he became Deacon, Warden, and finally Master of a Lodge; and his attention to the duties of these several offices was as strict as that which he gave to all other trusts which he assumed. He was made a Mason in the old lodge in Fredericksburg, among the archives of which are preserved the papers which testify to his membership. The lodge is a very ancient one, its charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland dating back to the middle of the last century. Its silver jewels and emblems were made in Scotland, and sent to the lodge at the same time as its charter, and they were used at the initiation of Washington, and afterwards worn by himself. They are therefore as sacred as the insignia of his Masonic rank, as carefully preserved as the property of the nation, or any other personal mementoes of that great and good man. For a hundred years they and the other property of the Fredericksburg Lodge have been untouched; successive generations of Freemasons have regarded the jewels as sacred heir-looms; and strangers from all parts of the country have visited the place to examine them. But a few weeks ago burglars broke open the lodge room door, opened the Secretary's safe, stole some of the papers, scattered the others about the floor, and cut every jewel from its collar, and carried them away. The act of vandalism was committed only a day or so before the 11th Connecticut was sent to garrison the city, and must have been done during the Provost-Marshalship of Gen. Patrick. The robbery was not discovered until a few days afterwards, when Mr. Secretary Hart took me to the lodge to see the precious relics, and to his dismay found the outer door burst open. It is to be hoped that Gen. Patrick, who is, I believe, himself a Mason, will use every means to discover and punish the thieves and return the property. Intrinsically the emblems may, perhaps, be worth 400 or 500 dollars, but their historical associations give them a far greater value. Some search should be made throughout the Division, Masonic jewels are not so small as to be hidden in a vest pocket, nor, considering that they all have engraved upon them the name and number of Fredericksburg Lodge, is it difficult to identify them."

A VETERAN MASON.

Bro. Turnell, P. Prov. G.M. for North Munster, writes, an old friend and brother has just paid me a visit, and to revive old associations and give a zest to our reminis-

cences has handed me his M.M. Certificate of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, dated 18th April, 1795, of his being registered for No. 338. When I tell you that my Bro. Major Oliver Fry, in his 92nd year, is in good health,

TAKE A LEAF OUT OF THAT BOOK.

[Several of our brethren have privately complained to us of personal feuds; for their special behoof we insert the following excellent recipe, from a Masonic journal now defunct].—

The Brotherly Part well Acted.

There are few things so much overlooked in the masonic relation as arbitrating difficulties, and harmonizing discordant feelings between brothers. And yet "Blessed are the peace makers!" their work is not in vain! They shall reap in due time if they faint not. Below we give a copy of a letter prepared by a brother and delivered to parties in dispute. What were the results we have not learned, but so sure as God judgeth the intention of the writer he will have his reward, and his work will not fall to the ground fruitless. We commend its style and spirit to all who, seeing a discord in the Masonic temple, are hesitating what their part is in relation thereto:—

"Dear Friends and Brothers—Permit me to say a few words in regard to the unhappy relations existing between you. My object is to present the differences, for your consideration, in a light and with suggestions that perhaps might have escaped your notice before. I will endeavour to be strictly impartial and address you both the same.

"You have both related to me the causes that led to this unfortunate result, and I must say I have heard nothing to justify such a final separation and continual disagreement. Every man is not only liable to err, but sure to do so sometimes. The very best are frequently carried astray when temptation presents itself in the guise of their reigning passions. We can always see the faults of our neighbour better than he can, and better than our own, and we are apt to magnify and even imagine such on his part when they appear to oppose our own interest. If this be generally true, and I think exceptions are at least rare, what right have we to require perfection from our best friend? We ought certainly not to be blind to his faults, for, when we see anything wrong in him, we ought, in a kind and conciliatory spirit, free from bitterness, to state our complaints to him in the first place, and endeavour by arguments and persuasions to convince him of his error. But we ought not to allow any distastefulness to be secretly harbored in our minds until an opportunity offers to give it vent in a cross word or contrary action, when, in all probability, we give him just cause, in his estimation, to return the same, which will finally prove a source of ten-fold aggravation. Neither ought we to allow third parties to carry their reports with additions and comments. Pardon me for saying this course is not manly. It is certainly nursing a viper in our own bosoms. He his truly brave who can conquer his own passions and dare to tell his friend as well as his adversary the whole truth; and he is truly generous who can make due allowance for misconceptions or undue influences under which his fellow man may be labouring. On these points I contend that you have both erred, and it is your imperative duty to make acknowledgements to that effect and forgive each other. Remember that we are only authorised to ask forgiveness for our trespasses against the GREAT I AM 'as we forgive our debtors,' and it is not sufficient that you think you will forgive each other; and in offering devotions to Deity remember your brother, for it is said, 'If thou remember thy brother hath ought against thee, go first and reconcile him, then come and offer thy sacrifice.' I presume if he is not willing, the responsibility will fall on him when we have done all in our power.

"The greatest difficulty is in making the first step,

as there is apprehension that the opposite party may think you have, at least, become sensible of your error and be confirmed in his selfish opinion that he had only acted as he should have done and come out triumphant, and you are unwilling to bear the whole blame, although in reality it would prove you the best man. It is on this point I would beg leave to offer an humble attempt to meditate between you. I therefore ask of you a careful consideration of this, and should you be convinced that you have acted wrong in any respect and be desirous of a reconciliation, separately make as much known to me, which I promise not to divulge until I shall find it perfectly agreeable to each of you.

"I owe you both an apology for this unsolicited attempt to meddle with your private affairs. I am sensible of my inferiority. I claim not to be your judge and beg you to believe me prompted only by sincere and unaffected friendship and what I think a duty as a brother."

THE CHEVALIER RAMSAY'S PROPOSAL.

In numbers of Histories of Freemasonry it is asserted and repeated over and over again, that the Chevalier Ramsay in 1728, proposed a Masonic reform to the Grand Lodge of England, in which he wished to substitute for the first three degrees, those of Scotch Mason, Novice, and Knight of the Temple. The fact is, no doubt, as stated, but where can an account of the proposal itself be read? The statement gives the pith of the matter, but would be desirable to have the proposal set forth in full. —B. J. A.

MALVERN OLD CHURCH.

In the left hand division of the last windows, at the east-end of the south aisle (the subject alluding to Paradise), in the top section is a figure before a dial column (the dial gone), holding in his right hand a square and a huge pair of compasses. In the next section of the same window westward, is a figure kneeling—having a globe on stand, standing on a pedestal behind him, with the moon, the sun, and seven stars before him; a root of corn is at the foot near a stream of water, with a branch of acacia on raised ground. And in the third section is a figure prostrate, with a piece of square pavement—the latter, however, is only a compilation of odd pieces of ancient coloured glass. What can all this mean?—R. E. X.

cheerful, affable; and with enjoyment viewed our lodge rooms, gardens and pleasure ground, recounting scenes of his past life, from a school-boy to that of a distinguished artillery officer, and a zealous Mason. I fancy that few such instances of longevity are on record, and quite outshadows the feeble threescore and ten summers numbered by your faithful brother, T. Funnell. Bro. Fry's Grand Lodge certificate is signed, H. H. Loftus G. Sec., Thomas Carter, Dep. G. Sec. 18th April, 1795

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

PROVINCE OF KENT.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—“Frater Duroverniensis” makes inquiry concerning a letter supposed by me never to have reached its destination. Contrary to my usage a rough pencil draught was made of it, which, consigned long ago to the waste paper depository and somewhat mutilated, has, by a lucky chance, escaped entire destruction. Our brother thinks that the Masons of my late province will be glad to learn the purport of the

letter, and, at his suggestion, I send you a copy of the rough draught in its present state, soliciting for it, should you see no objection, a place in your valuable columns.

I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
CHARLES PURTON COOPER.
Chateau Frampas, 24th July, 1863.

***** 1861.

"In the summer of last year, although suffering from the illness which had separated me in body, but not in mind, from my Kentish brethren, I forwarded to that very meritorious and useful publication, the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE, two letters respecting the Provincial Charity Fund. The second letter was merely explanatory of some ambiguity, which, after the first was in the postman's hand, occurred to me as existing in it. The Editor, at my request, was so obliging as to amalgamate the two letters, and thus amalgamated they were inserted in an August number. In the succeeding autumn, before this number had reached me, I forwarded to the MAGAZINE a third letter on the same important subject. This letter is inserted in an October number. Now these numbers of the MAGAZINE are no longer in my possession; they have been borrowed by a Polish nobleman, recently initiated in Masonry (his ancestors were active member of a lodge, now extinct, that flourished at Warsaw before the first partition of his unhappy country; he hopes the lodge will some day be revived—may he not be disappointed!) And my design in troubling you is to request that you will communicate to Grand Lodge on * * * the wish expressed in the before mentioned letters. There cannot be a more fitting occasion than when it is engaged in the revision of the bye-laws. Many brothers in town, I am persuaded, possess the numbers of the MAGAZINE for August and October, 1860. Part of my wish will be found expressed in the words of the present arrangement, as lately sent me by a Dartford brother. "The lodge having the greatest number of members, according to the returns, shall receive the amount of subscriptions, or such portion of it as shall be voted in Provincial Grand Lodge, to be applied by way of contribution to such one or more of the Masonic Charities, as the Provincial Grand Lodge may direct; so as to give the lodge so contributing the advantages, during its existence, of a Life Governor; and in the following year each lodge in succession having the next greatest number of members shall receive the like advantages." The other part of my wish is that this arrangement should remain unaltered, until you shall have given to every lodge in the province during its existence a Life Governor's advantages of each of our four thriving charities, the Girls' School, the Boys' School, and the Benevolent Institutions, the one for Aged Freemasons, the one for their Widow. * * * Their old P. Prov. G.M. prays the G.A.O.T.U. to bless all his Kentish brethren. His heart beat quicker when he read that £3000 had been raised for one of the charities at the dinner in March, Lord Holmesdale being chairman; and quicker still when he afterwards read that of this sum the Kentish brethren had contributed more than one tenth. Where is the province which, regard being had to numerical proportions, has done so much? No where, as he believes."

To * * *

GEOMETRICAL SYMBOLS.

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

Sir,—In the letters on Geometrical and other Symbols, which you have done me the honour to reprint from the *Builder*, your engraver has inadvertently reversed the arrow indicating the Radiative principle, in Fig. 3, page 38 (18th July). As this renders the context unintelligible, perhaps you will please to advert to it as an erratum, and at the same time to note the following errors in the same number:—Page 35, 11th line from bottom of second column, for "mystical" read "physical," and on page 37, 28th line from top of first column, for "conclusion" read "coincidence."

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,
29th July, 1863. JOHN E. DOVE.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent is to be held at the White Hart Hotel, Hythe, on Wednesday, the 5th August.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Prov. G.M. of Notts has consented to preside at the Anniversary Festival of the Boys' School in March next.

At the next election of the Girls' School on October 8, there will be 10 pupils to elect from a list of 26 approved candidates.

The Fifteen Sections will be worked at the United Pilgrim Lodge of Instruction, held at Bro. Wormald's, the Windmill Tavern, Kennington, on Friday, 14th August next, Bro. John Thomas in the chair. Time, 7 o'clock.

METROPOLITAN.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, July 22nd, at Bro. Stevens's, Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford, Kent. Bro. George Wilton, W.M., assisted by his officers. Bros. Stahr, Collington, Walters, Pembroke, Hodgson, and Blomeley, opened the lodge in the three degrees. Apologies were sent from all the candidates for their unavoidable absence. Some new bye-laws were made. The lodge was closed in the various degrees. The brethren then partook of an excellent cold collation. Visitors:—A. H. Tattershall, 13, 140; G. Chapman, J.D., 147; J. T. Tibbals, P.M., H.S., 169; J. Howes, P.M., 765.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—Lodge *St. Aubyn* (No. 954, late No. 1256).—The regular meeting of this lodge was convened on Tuesday, the 14th inst., at the Brunswick Masonic Hall, Plymouth. On account of the large amount of work, the W.M. ordered the lodge to be closed at half-past two. The first business, after confirming the minutes of the last lodge, was to ballot for ten gentlemen, duly proposed at the last regular lodge, all of whom were unanimously elected. The W.M. had alluded in the circulars that by a clause in the *Book of Constitutions*, no more than five could be initiated in one day, consequently the first five on the list were duly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry, all of whom expressed their desire to become members of the lodge. Three brethren were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., and two were passed to the degree of F.C. A communication was read from Grand Lodge, intimating that in future the lodge would be numbered on their books as 954, instead of 1256. The lodge, by vote, resolved that they would be represented at the Provincial Grand Lodge, to be held at Honiton, on the 28th ult., by the W.M. and his Wardens. The W.M. announced, amidst the liveliest satisfaction, that their own lodge at Morice Town was in such a forward state, that in all probability their next regular lodge in August would be held there. After receiving three propositions for new members and one as a joining member, the brethren adjourned to the adjoining hotel, where suitable refreshments was provided. The usual Masonic toasts were given and responded to. "The Newly Initiated" by Bro. Row.—The W.M., in responding to the toast of his health, proposed by the S.W., said that it could not be denied that to initiate five, pass two, and raise three in the same day, in addition to the usual business that must necessarily come under the notice of the W.M., was very arduous; but, thanks to the assistance of his Wardens and the other officers, he had got on very well. In conclusion he proposed the health of the Senior and Junior Wardens, and other officers of Lodge *St. Aubyn* (No. 954), which was duly responded to by Bro. Kent, S.W. The Visitors' toast was responded to by Bro. May, J.W. of Lodge *Charity*. Very many visitors were present, among whom were the W.M. of Lodge *Meridian*; Bro. Hunt, P.M. of Lodge *Sincerity*; French, S.W. of Lodge 202; Holmes, P.M. 70; Lacy, &c. The lodge will meet for the initiation of the remaining candidates on the Tuesday following the above.

Another highly interesting meeting of the lodge was held at the Brunswick Masonic Hall, Plymouth, on Tuesday, the 21st inst., for the purpose of initiating five gentlemen. The large quantity of work already before the lodge, on their regular night rendering it positively necessary to hold occasional emergency meetings. The opening was conducted by Bro. T. Chaple, P.M., Prov. Assist. G. Dir. of Cers., Devon, and W.M. of 954. After the usual preliminaries, two of the candidates were severally introduced, and received the benefits of initiation at the hands of the W.M. The W.M. then resigned his jewel to Bro. Harfoot, P.M., Prov. G. Sec., &c. The third candidate was introduced, and duly initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. Two of the five candidates were absent—one from severe indisposition, the other having been called to a distant part on private business. The W.M. having resumed his position, the newly-initiated were presented to the J.W., who explained the symbolic meaning of the tools peculiar to the E.A. degree. The S.W. gave the charge in his usual careful manner. A brother gave notice that under the emergency clause of the constitution he desired to name a naval gentleman as a candidate for Masonry at the next regular lodge, the usual intimation by letter would be sent to the master. The brethren, with their guests, then adjourned to the adjoining hotel. After partaking of a slight repast, the W.M. gave the usual toasts—that of the visitors was ably responded to by Bro. Harfoot, who said he heartily congratulated Bro. Chapple on the manner of conducting the affairs of the lodge. The promoters of the lodge were for the most part known to him, and from the evidence he had had that night, he augured well for the future, and hoped the blessing of the G.A.O.T.U. would attend them. He begged leave to propose the toast, "Success and prosperity to Lodge St. Aubyn," which was duly honoured and responded to. The remainder of the toasts were heartily responded to, and the brethren dispensed after spending a most pleasant evening. Through the medium of *THE MAGAZINE*, we beg to acknowledge the kindness of the W.M. of lodge St. Aubyn 1260 (late 958), Jersey, for his kindness and liberality in sending a copy of Three Lectures to the Treasurer, Bro. Bird, for the use of the members of 954.

LANCASHIRE (WEST.)

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 148 late No. 173).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, at the Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street. Present—Bros. H. B. White, W.M.; Charles Pettit, S.W.; John Bowes, J.W.; Dr. Spinks, S.D.; J. Maxfield, P.M. as J.D.; W. Woods, I.G.; R. G. Stringer, P.M., and a number of other brethren. Visitors: Bros. Warburton, of No. 106, Dunkinfield, Cheshire, and Robert Brooke, of No. 267, Garston. The lodge being opened in due form, and the minutes having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bro. Matthew L. Trumble, of Tudor Lodge, No. 688, Oldham, as a joining member, which was declared by the W.M. to be unanimously in that brother's favour. Bro. Stevenson was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. by the W.M. in his usual excellent, impressive, and precise manner. The charge was delivered by Bro. Bowes. The lodge was closed down to the first degree when the receipt of several communications from Grand Lodge was announced by the W.M., and amongst them was one relating to the change of number. Bro. Sec. was commanded to record on the minutes the fact that several of the members attended the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the Manchester Masonic Hall, on Saturday last. Mr. John Tunstall was duly proposed and seconded as a fit and proper person for initiation into the privileges and mysteries of Freemasonry. The lodge was finally closed, and the brethren separated in harmony.

LANCASHIRE (EAST.)

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE MANCHESTER FREEMASONS HALL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The corner stone of a large Masonic Hall was laid in this city on Saturday, 18th inst. by Bro. Stephen Blair, of Bolton, the Prov. G.M. for the Province of East Lancashire. Members of the fraternity attended from all parts of this and the adjoining counties, and the proceedings were such as to render the occasion a red letter day in the history of Masonry. The new hall will be the property of "The Manchester Masonic Hall Company," formed on limited liability principles. For many years the want of a large central hall has been greatly felt in Manchester, and as the brethren have been rapidly increasing in numbers and

influence in Manchester and Salford, and the whole province, the project became a necessity. The great object of the building is to provide suitable accommodation for the meetings of lodges, chapters, and of the other bodies connected with the Order. It is also designed to secure for the members of the Manchester Masonic Club—an institution now numbering about 200 members of the Craft—those conveniences and luxuries which, in a great central place of resort like Manchester, have been found to be an advantage to the citizens as well as brethren from the vicinity. During the past four years six city lodges and several chapters and encampments have met in rooms in Cross-street, in which premises the Masonic Club have had apartments. The plan of association in a place exclusively reserved for the use of the Craft has worked most satisfactorily, and the success of the experiment has been an additional incentive to the promoters of the undertaking. The new hall will doubtless be of great service to the fraternity of East Lancashire and the provinces, who upon their visits to Manchester will, with the usual conveniences of a club, combine the advantages of association with members of the same Craft. A capital of £10,000 in 2000 shares of £5 each, was proposed, with power to increase. It will thus be seen that the hall is a commercial speculation; but, at the same time, its objects being designed mainly for members of the body, it somewhat differs from general undertakings of a similar character.

The hall, judging from the drawings exhibited on Saturday, will be a handsome building, and will well bear comparison with the fine edifices scattered over the city. The building will be at once proceeded with, and by the end of the year it will probably be roofed in. The directors are fortunate in having procured the central and commodious site in Cooper-street. The shops for sixty feet from the corner of Bond-street (excepting that of Messrs. Palmer and Howe), have been pulled down, and the ground cleared to Back Mosley-street. From designs furnished by four architects, all brethren of the Order, those of Bro. William Mangnall have been selected. According to these plans, the principal elevation in Cooper-street will be fifty-nine feet in length, and five storeys in height. The main entrance will be deeply recessed and flanked by a pair of Doric columns; the first floor will have columns of the Ionic order, and the upper portion, which is more especially to be consecrated to Masonic purposes, will be ornamented with handsome columns of the Corinthian order. There will be an attic surmounted by a pediment, in the tympanum of which will be placed the arms of the Grand Lodge of England, with their supporters. Four inches in the principal front will be occupied by appropriate statues of the four cardinal virtues: "Justice, Fortitude, Temperance, and Prudence." Over the main entrance will be the motto, "Sit Lux et Lux fuit." The cornices above each story are to be of different designs, projected boldly and decidedly, the most ornate being on the second floor. The front to be faced with Bath stone, with the exception of that portion which, representing the pillars of wisdom, strength, and beauty, under the names of those principal orders of architecture to which our science now refers the novice, is to be executed in highly polished granite. There are to be three entrances, the centre and principal one being for the exclusive use of the Masonic body meeting for Craft purposes. It will lead into the handsome vestibule and hall, from which a staircase will conduct to the banquetting-room and offices, and, by a further ascent, to the spacious lodge-room. The banquetting-room will measure 50 feet by 28 feet, and the lodge-room will be the same size. The latter will be 26 feet in height, with a semicircular ceiling appropriately decorated. The entrance on the right of the centre will lead to the restaurant, 52 feet by 28 feet, with coffee-rooms attached. These rooms will be appropriated to the use of the public generally. The entrance on the left will give access to a part of the building which will be let off as warehouses and two suites of offices. Bro. John Brammall, contractor, has undertaken the work.

The proceedings on Saturday commenced with the opening of the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire, in the Mayor's parlour at the Town Hall, at one o'clock. The Masonic brethren and the municipal authorities of the city of Manchester, and the neighboring borough of Salford, who were to take part in the proceedings being assembled and duly arranged, the procession started about two o'clock from the grand staircase of the Town Hall in the following order.

Entered Apprentices; Fellow Crafts; Master Masons; Inner Guards; Junior Deacons, Senior Deacons; Secretaries; Treasurers; Chaplains; Junior Wardens, Senior Wardens; Past

Masters; Worshipful Masters; two Stewards (Bros. Titmas and Lord), with wands; Bro. John Tinker (Entered Apprentice), carrying the Lewis.

Bros. Drinkwater, Mountain, Vickers, and Bramall, four Fellow Crafts, who raised and lowered the corner stone.

The Provincial Grand Lodge Banner borne by Bro. Bailey.

Provincial Grand Tyler with sword. Then followed the Manuscripts, plans of the buildings, and an engraved plate, to be placed over the MSS., borne by three boys, sons of Freemasons. Bros. J. Sudlow, Prov. G. Treas.; Stephen Smith, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; John Tunnah, Prov. G. Sec.; W. Mangnall, the Architect; Bramall, the Builder; Bradley and S. Percy, two Secretaries; Eltoft, the Solicitor.

Silver vessels of Corn, Wine, and Oil, borne by Worshipful Masters Clayton, Powell, and Warren.

The Directors of the Company two and two—Bros. Dr. J. C. Peatson, H. Boddington, Peter Bleakley, T. R. Williams, J. L. Hine, and J. W. Petty.

The trowel, Bro. C. Affleck, Prov. J.G.D.; The mallet, Bro. J. H. P. Leresche.

The Provincial Grand Officers of East Lancashire, past and present, two and two, according to rank. The Volume of the Sacred Law, and the square and compasses, on a crimson velvet cushion, borne by Freemasons sons, followed by Prov. G. Chap., Rev. John Leighton Figgins, B.A.

The municipal authorities and visitors of distinction not being Masons.

Visiting brethren of distinction.

Corinthian Light, borne by Bro. Hart, W.M.; Column of P.J.G.W., borne by Bro. J. Booth; Prov. J.G.W., with plumb rule; Doric Light, borne by Bro. Bold, P.M.; Column of Prov. S.G.W., borne by Bro. Behrend, W.M.; Prov. S.G.W., with level; Ionic Light, borne by Bro. Nathan, W.M.; the D. Prov. G.M., with Square; two Prov. G. Stewards, with wands; Prov. G. Master's Standard, borne by the Prov. G. Standard Bearer; Prov. G. Sword Bearer, with Sword of State; Prov. G. Stewards, Smith and Bidder, with wands, on either side of the R.W. Prov. G.M., Stephen Blair, followed by Prov. G. Stewards, Emmott and Shellard, with wands; the whole being concluded by police.

The young gentlemen, sons of Mason, who took part, formed a very interesting feature in the procession. Master Eltoft carried the engraved plate to be placed above the manuscripts to be deposited under the stone; Master Boddington carried the manuscripts; and Master Mangnall the plans of the building. The trowel was borne by Master Petty, and the mallet by Master Percy. The volume of the Sacred law and the square and compasses on a crimson velvet cushion were carried by Masters Crowther, Heywood, Currie, Thorpe, Gaudin, Shaw, and Jones.

The boys were uniformly dressed in black, with white vests and gloves, and wore beautiful bouquets of exotic flowers, presented on the occasion by their companion, Master John Shaw.

The weather during the morning had been very forbidding, and nearly up to the time of starting a steady rain fell. This no doubt thinned the attendance considerably. But, as it was, the procession mustered about 1200 brethren, all wearing the costume of the Order. From the starting of the procession, the weather was fine. There were a great many spectators in the streets, and the windows of most of the houses were crowded with ladies. The procession was very imposing. The route was along King-street, York-street, Mosley-street, and St. Peter's Square to Cooper-square, the march occupying about an hour. The site was plentifully hung with flags, banners, and other decorations, and the ground was comfortably boarded, and so arranged that everything passed off without the slightest confusion. An orchestra was erected for the band of the 1st Manchester Volunteers, who headed the procession; a platform, covered with red cloth, was put up round the corner stone; and a special space was railed off for the ladies, who mustered very strongly. The adjoining streets, warehouses, roofs of houses, and every other spot that afforded a view of the ceremony were occupied by miscellaneous spectators. The procession (the members walking two and two), entered the ground beneath the crossed swords of the two officials who stood at either doorpost.

Upon entering the enclosure the brethren divided right and left, forming an avenue through which the directors, the Provincial Grand Master, the Sword Bearer, the Ionic light, and various officers, passed on to the platform in the north-east corner while the band played the overture to "Zampa."

The officers having taken their places, the Rev. J. L. Figgins, Prov. G. Chaplain, offered up prayer, after which the plans were handed by the Grand Superintendent of Works to the R.W. Prov. G.M., who, testifying his approval, handed them to the architect. The "lewis" was then fixed by Bro. John Tinker; the top stone was slowly raised, the band playing "The heavens are telling."

The Prov. G. Treas. deposited in the cavity of the lower stone, a phial containing copies of the Manchester papers, and a manuscript with an inscription, of which the following is a copy:—

"In the twenty-seventh year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, in the year of our Lord 1863, and of Masonry 5863, the foundation-stone of this building, the Freemasons' Hall, was laid by Stephen Blair, of Mill Hill House, Bolton, Esquire, R. W. Provincial Grand Master for the Province of East Lancashire, of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of England; assisted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire, and a numerous assemblage of noblemen and brethren of this and neighbouring provinces. The promoters of this edifice have desired not only to raise a structure perfect in its parts, and honourable to the builders, and to the Craft whereto they belong, but also to provide for themselves and their brethren, so long as its walls may remain, a fitting temple, protected from all profane intrusion, for the rites, and consecrated solely to the solemn mysteries, of that ancient and honourable order. Here, too, they have designed to prepare a place where the sacred offices of Masonic hospitality may be fitly celebrated, and under whose roof the three grand principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth may ever find a sheltering home. Incorporated with these intentions, they have also sought to make that which enshrines the inner glories of the system irradiate, in some degree, the precincts of the outer world. In this vast city—which has in the lapse of centuries progressed from the walled village of a few painted Britons, to the metropolis of northern England, and the workshop of the world—the fraternity of Freemasons therein residing must be represented as becomes the magnitude of the locality, the wealth of its residents, and the increasing elegance of its public and private structures. In this edifice, situated almost at the central point of the entire city, Masonry may securely and proudly place her seat level with the halls of the municipality, the shrines of learning and art, the palaces of justice, and the emporia of commerce."

The scroll also contained the names of the directors, shareholders, and officers of the company, together with a list of the lodges, chapters, and encampments meeting in Manchester and Salford, their present number in the register of the Grand Lodge of England, the names of the present officers, and the number of subscribing members. With the MSS., &c., were also deposited photographs of the Prov. G.M., the chairman, directors, and officers of the company.

The Provincial Grand Secretary read the inscription on the brass plate, which was placed over the cavity. We give the inscription:—

"In the name of the great Architect of the Universe,
This, the CORNER STONE of the
MANCHESTER FREEMASONS' HALL,
Erected by a Public Company on the principle of Limited Liability,
at an Estimated Cost of Twelve Thousand Pounds,
was laid with full Masonic Honours by

STEPHEN BLAIR,

of Mill Hill House, Bolton, Esq., Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire, assisted by the Provincial Grand Officers and Members of the Craft, On Saturday, the 25th July, A.L. 5863, A.D. 1863, in the 27th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

DIRECTORS:

W. Callender, jun., P.G.S.W.	J. H. P. Leresche, P.G.R.
Chas. Affleck, P.G.J.D.	Isaac Wovenden Petty, P.M. 246
Peter Bleakley, P.M. 189	Joseph Lancaster Hine, P.M. 399
Henry Boddington, S.W. 117	T. R. Williams, P.M. 177.
J. Peatson, M.D. W.M. 1117	

John Bradley, W.M. 177 } Secretaries.

Saml. Percy, P.M. 399 }

Joseph Eltoft, S.W. 1117, Solicitor. Bro. W. Mangnall, Architect.
Bro. John Bramall, Builder.

Thos. Gilks Gibbons, Prov. G. Director of Ceremonies."

Bro. W. R. CALLENDER, jun., the Chairman of the Directors, presented the Grand Master with a silver trowel suitably inscribed. In doing so, Bro. Callendar expressed his belief that

the new erection would vie with any existing in Manchester, and said that he hoped that a building devoted exclusively to Masonic purposes, and fitted up with every convenience for the due performance of its rites and ceremonies, would stimulate the progress of the Craft. It would form a place of meeting for brethren visiting Manchester from the surrounding towns, and feelings of noble emulation and sincere friendship would be generated. While he regretted the circumstances which prevented the presence of the Grand Master of all England, he rejoiced that the chief part of that day's ceremony had been performed by one so high in Masonic esteem as Bro. Blair, who had travelled several hundred miles to take part in the work. (Cheers.) The Provincial Grand Master thanked the Directors for their presence, and expressed his hope that the building about to be erected would be perfect in all its parts, and honourable alike to the city and to the Craft.

The stone was then lowered to its position, the band playing the Masonic hymn, "When the temple's first stone was slowly descending."

The mallet was then presented by Bro. Leresche, Prov. G. Reg., in a few appropriate words, and the Prov. G.M. (after returning thanks for the expressions used in regard to himself and the prospects of the building) proceeded, after the position of the stone had been duly proved, to declare the stone properly laid, striking the stone at each side briskly with the mallet. The band meanwhile played the "Hallelujah Chorus."

The three W.M.'s who carried the silver vessels then approached, and delivered the corn, wine, and oil to the Prov. G.M., who poured them on the stone with the allegorical illustrations peculiar to the observance. The R.W. Prov. G.M., before finally returning the vessel of wine, pledged the entire assemblage and drank their healths amidst great applause and laughter, that particular "point" not appearing in the programme.

At this period the ceremony appeared to be terminating, and many of the brethren, both on the platform and in the area of the site, were preparing for resuming their places in the return procession. But the Sub-Committee of the Board of Directors, to whom had been entrusted the arrangements of the day, had prepared for all a surprise as interesting and touching in itself as it was novel in conception, and perfect in performance. An avenue was suddenly opened from that part of the platform which had been erected over Back Mosley-street, and from one of the windows, to which a flight of temporary steps gave access, came a most charming little procession. Fourteen little girls, all daughters of Freemasons, prettily arrayed in white dresses with blue sashes, &c., and wearing elegant straw hats trimmed with forget-me-nots, and each carrying a basket of flowers, descended the steps, and amid the subdued expressions of astonishment, interest, and delight of the entire assemblage, as attention was hastily called to the incident, advanced with measured steps across the platform, wound up the opposite ascent, and made a circuit round the stone. In their progress they took from their baskets the floral garbure each contained, and gracefully strewed the buds and leaflets upon and around the corner stone. At first all was breathless surprise and admiration, but as the incident developed in its meaning and purpose, the interest found expression, and loud applause greeted the fair damsels in their work. The band struck up the "Maids of Merry England," and there were many eyes that were moist with fresh and kindly emotion.

As a curious contrast to this scene of youthful beauty and health, we could not but notice another figure upon the platform, close behind the children stood Bro. John Forsyth, an old Freemason and a Peninsular veteran, who, although 103 years old, had walked down to be present at the ceremony. He stood very upright, and enjoyed the incident also as much as anyone. It is almost needless to add that he was an object of great interest. The Divine blessing having been implored by the Grand Chaplain, the procession reformed, and proceeded along Princes-street, Cross-street, and Corporation-street, to the new Exchange.

During the ceremony, as well as in the advancing and returning processions, the band of the 1st Manchester Rifle Volunteers, conducted by Bro. Hingham, discoursed most excellent music.

At two periods of the ceremony, viz. the presentation of the Trowel and the appearance of the young ladies Bro. Silas Eastham took occasion to obtain photographic pictures of the respective scenes. They each form a beautiful and interesting pictorial record of the great event of the day.

THE BANQUET.

A grand banquet, provided by Bro. Edward Halsey, of the Waterloo Hotel, was held in the Corn Exchange, at half-past

four o'clock. Bro. W. R. Callender, jun., Prov. G.S.W., presided, and amongst the principal guests numbering about 570, were Bros. Lord de Tabley, P. S. G. W. of England; Hon. Wilbraham Egerton, M.P.; R. T. Parker, the Guild Mayor of Preston, P.M.; George Cornwell Legh, M.P., J. G. Warden of England; Mr. James A. Turner, M.P.; the Mayor of Manchester, and Alderman Goadsby, the ex-mayor (non-masons); N. H. Beazley, of Preston, Dr. Fearnley, the mayor of Dewsbury, and D.Prov.G.M. of West Yorkshire; Captain Cope, Prov.J.W. of Cheshire; W. C. Cruttenden, Prov.G.C. of Cheshire; J. H. P. Leresche, Prov.G.Reg.; Dr. J. Chadwick Peatson, Prov.G.S.; Bleackly, P.M.; Affleck, Prov.J.G.D.; T. G. Gibbons, Prov. G.D. of ceremonies; Torr; Wolfenden (ex-mayor of Bolton); Hine, Secretary of the Manchester Masonic Relief Committee, P.M. 317; J. W. Petty, P.M. 204; L. Nowall, P.Prov. S.G.W. East Lancashire; J. Gamble, Prov.S.G.W. Derbyshire; Billinge, P.Prov.J.G.W. West Lancashire; Thos. Wylie, Prov. G. Sec.; W. Laner; F. Binckes, Sec. to the Freemasons Boys School, London; H. T. Baldwin, P.M. 204; H. Boddington; William Martin, City Treasurer; Malcolm Ross; T. D. Nelson, Prov.G. Sec. West Yorkshire; Tunnah, Prov.G. Sec. East Lancashire; Wright, Prov. G. J. W. East Lancashire; T. R. Williams, P.M.; Councillor Marsden, Councillor Hampson; Councillor Pellet Brett, Town Clerk of Salford; John Bradley, P.M.; S. Percy, P.M., &c. The majority of these gentlemen were present at the ceremony. During the dinner the band of the 1st Manchester Volunteers, under the leadership of Bro. Highland, the band master, again played choice operatic selections in a manner that caused the guests two or three times to lay down their knives and forks to applaud. After dinner the orchestra was occupied by glee singers, including Bro. Wrigley, under the superintendence of Bro. Richard Seed; and several Masonic and other musical pieces were very charmingly rendered. "Non Nobis" having been sung.

Bro. S. PERCY (Sec.) read letters of apology for non-attendance and sympathy with the undertaking, from the Earl of Zetland, G.M.; Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M.; the Duke of Newcastle, the Duke of Devonshire, the Marquis of Hartington, Earl Derby, Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, Earl of Carnarvon, Earl Wilton, Earl Sefton, Viscount Combermere, Lord Egerton of Tatton, Lord Leigh, Lord Stanley, Lord Grey de Wilton, Sir Philip Grey Egerton, Bart., Sir Thomas George Hesketh, Bart., Hon. Algernon Egerton, M.P., Hon. W. Cotton, Lieut.-Colonel Edwards (M.P. for Beverley), Mr. Thomas Bazley, M.P., and others.

The toasts of "The Queen," "Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," and "The Earl of Zetland," were given from the chair.

Bro. Hon. WILBRAHAM EGERTON proposed "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the Grand Officers."

Bro. G. CORNWALL LEGH, M.P., J.G.W., in responding, said that, although it was true that this new hall was intended more especially for the brethren of Lancashire, in promoting Masonry in this county they were promoting Masonry throughout the whole country. Connected as he was by property and relationship with Lancashire, he felt himself thoroughly a Lancashire Mason. (Cheers.) Although, therefore, he belonged to a lodge in Cheshire, he was interested in whatever promoted good Masonry in Manchester. (Cheers.) Having no geographical distinctions, they could not do too much to promote the union of the Craft in every place, and the more this was done the better it would be for the country, and the better citizens and men we should have. (Cheers.)

Bro. R. TOWNLEY PARKER, in proposing the health of the Prov. G.M., said he had been greatly pleased with the ceremony of that morning, more particularly with the sight of the fourteen young ladies who scattered flowers upon the stone, and with the presence at the celebration of a veteran who had fought the battles of England, and who now came among them a Mason aged 103 years. With respect to the Grand Master, whom they all so highly esteemed, there was no man living more illustrious for honour and virtue. The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

Bro. STEPHEN BLAIR, Prov. G.M., acknowledged the compliment paid by the Guild Mayor of Preston, and remarked that he could not but gratefully thank the 200 members in the Eastern Division of Lancashire for the unvarying support they had given to him during his term of office. When appointed, he received his position with much diffidence, following, as he did, the late Earl of Ellesmere, whose value as Prov. G.M.

could not be too highly estimated. He felt honoured by seeing present so many brethren from a distance, and he thought that nowhere, not even in London, could a more influential meeting of Masons have been assembled. He hoped it would not be long before he had again to meet so numerous a gathering upon the occasion of consecrating the noble building, whose foundation stone they had that day laid, and that the work they had just begun in hope would be brought to a consummation, that would be a joy and a pride to every Lancaster Mason for generations to come. (Prolonged applause.)

Bro. Lord DE TABLEY, P.G.W., proposed "The Health of Bro. A. H. Royds, R.W. D. Prov. G.M., and the rest of the Provincial Officers." Although he (Lord de Tabley) had come to Manchester at considerable inconvenience, he had been amply repaid by witnessing the ceremony. He was convinced that edifices similar to the proposed hall were of most essential service to Masoury. (Hear, hear.) Being no Puritan, he was not insensible to the use of convivial meetings. (Cheers.) And he was certain that buildings set apart entirely for Masonic purposes were of signal advantage to their ancient ritual. He trusted similar edifices would be speedily spread through Lancashire and Cheshire. (Cheers.)

Bro. WRIGHT, Prov. G.J.W., of Bolton, responded.

Bro. STEPHEN BLAIR, Prov. G.M., proposed, "Success to the Manchester Freemasons' Hall." He hoped, with Lord de Tabley that this was the first of many Masonic halls to be built in the district. There were 53 lodges in the eastern division of Lancashire, and if the brethren would but come forward to institute such halls as the one about to be built, he would be always ready and willing to put his name down first. (Cheers.) They had, in connection with other lodges, charities which did an immense deal of good in the eastern division. In proposing the toast he professed his willingness to take ten additional shares in the company. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. CALLENDER, Prov. G.W., in responding, said he would briefly mention the circumstances under which they were assembled, the object of the Masonic Hall, and the wants which it was intended to supply. Most of those present knew that Freemasonry involved many privileges and responsibilities—privileges which they could not value too highly, and responsibilities which they could not feel too deeply. To those who were not Masons, and whom they welcomed among them, he would say that their quaint and mystic ceremonies contained a large body of moral truth, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols. They recognised the supreme authority of the Great Architect of the Universe, took the Volume of the Sacred Law as their guide, directed their actions by the square and level, and guided their conduct by the dictates of prudence, wisdom, temperance, and fortitude, discharging all those barriers which bigotry or intolerance had set up. (Applause.) Freemasons knew no distinctions of colour, creed, or clime; but in their dealings with their fellowmen they recognised the bond of universal brotherhood. (Hear, hear.) Liberal, in so far as it knew no party; conservative, since it acted according to ancient customs and old-established landmarks; cosmopolitan, being known and recognised over the whole inhabited globe; social, in appealing to the highest and holiest feelings of human nature,—their Craft might claim the support of every man who sought to act upon the dictates of the twofold charity—love to God and love to man—which was ordained by their Divine Maker. (Applause.) With such a system it might fairly be asked why their principles were so little known, and why their numbers were counted almost by hundreds, in a population so large as that of this district. He believed that the simple explanation was because Masons had no permanent abode, no known temple where the members might meet together, and where their rites might be properly performed. For reasons obvious to all, Masonic lodges were usually held in houses of public entertainment scattered over the town. Their meetings were usually confined to members of the same lodge, and about eight or ten meetings were held in the course of twelve months. Their younger members were, therefore, without many opportunities of witnessing the workings of the system; the older members were deprived of much of that counsel and advice which all Masons could give and receive with advantage; and that social element which was the great characteristic of success in the present day had been most grievously curtailed. Beyond this the working of their degrees had been to some extent impaired, and the operation of their charities had been but little known, and consequently, they had been inadequately supported. They could hardly be astonished if their principles were little known, when they had no

centre of union. What success would be expected for any Institution, or for any religious body, that had no building large enough to accommodate its members. No doubt, the mere fact of assembling in houses of public entertainment had caused the most unjust and unfounded prejudices, and had produced the remark that many of the fraternity preferred the refreshment which was the mere accident, to the "labour," which was the actual purpose of the meeting. (Cheers.) The views he (the Chairman) had expressed had long been held by many brethren, and various attempts had been made to induce the several lodges to meet in one central place, whereby, in addition to the advantages already named, a large saving of expense might be effected. The first attempts were unsuccessful. In March, 1857, five of the Manchester lodges met in the Cross-street Rooms, and the progress of the order since that time had been very marked. The aggregate number of members in the five lodges at that time, namely, the "Friendship," "Virtue," "Integrity," "Caledonian," and "Affability,"—met in the Cross-street Rooms, with an aggregate of 165 members. The number had, in March last, increased to 310. (Hear, hear.) A striking instance of what might be done was afforded by the progress of the Cheetham and Comprell Lodge, which in March, 1862, when it for the first time met at the Rooms, numbered eight members, and now included upwards of 40. (Hear, hear.) Their improvement had not been confined to this; they had three Royal Arch chapters, whose numbers had increased from 25 to 80, a lodge of Mark Masters, two encampments of Knights Templar, and one of Rose Croix, all meeting in the Cross-street Rooms. They had also a Masonic Club of 130 members, wherein much masonic feeling had been evoked. Lastly they had a Charity Committee who met every week and investigated applications for relief, and the Secretary, Bro. J. L. Hine—(loud cheers)—attended daily to assist the deserving. He (the chairman) had attended several meetings of that Committee, and was much gratified at the manner in which their business was conducted. He hoped that what had been done in East Lancashire in support of their noble charities, was only an earnest of what they meant to do. Whatever share in such improvement Manchester might claim on behalf of her lodges or individual members, might be traced to the counsels which had their origin in Cross-street Masonic Rooms. (Hear.) The taking of those rooms had proved a success, although there were several disadvantages connected with them. One great point of the original scheme was, however, to have a building entirely devoted to Masonic purposes. In October, 1861, a preliminary meeting was held, in the following December the Hall Company was registered under the Limited Liability Act, and they had now assembled to celebrate the laying of the foundation stone of the Hall. He might speak of the difficulties which the directors had met, some which were incident to all such undertakings, and others which had been aggravated by the terrible calamity overhanging the trade of the district. But notwithstanding all their difficulties, he was able to announce that the land had been paid for, and that they had a considerable sum in hand towards the construction of the building. (Hear, hear.) It now remained with the Masons of Lancashire to say whether when they met again at the dedication of the hall, it should be free from all debt or mortgage. He trusted that brotherly love, relief, and truth,—those great principles on which their Order was founded, might ever find a dwelling place within the walls of their new building. (Applause.) A large proportion of the shares had been taken up, and there was no reason to doubt that in a short time they should call upon the Prov. G.M. to consecrate the new temple. (Cheers.) He (Bro. Callender) would gladly follow the example of the Prov. Grand Master in putting down his name for ten additional shares. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. L. W. PETTY, P.M., gave "The Mayor and Corporation of Manchester," to whom, he said, they owed many thanks for the opportunity of meeting that morning in the Town Hall, and for the services of the police during their procession. Many members of the Corporations of Manchester and Salford, he was proud to claim as brethren, and to acknowledge the valuable assistance they had frequently rendered to the Craft in the neighbourhood. He (Bro. Petty) felt that the presence of the chief magistrate of so important a city as this peculiarly gratifying upon the special occasion they were then celebrating. The Chairman, in his very able address—(Cheers.)—had alluded to the unfounded prejudices entertained by some of the outer world, but he (Bro. Petty) considered the best means to answer such calumny was the proof that our Craft was held in esteem by men who themselves were held in the highest esteem by their

fellow-citizens, and occupied the foremost place in their municipal affairs. (Cheers.)

The MAYOR OF MANCHESTER (A. M. Heywood, Esq.), responded to the toast.

Bro. W. C. CRUTTENDEN, in an appropriate speech, proposed, "The members for Manchester."

Mr. J. A. TURNER, M.P., in reply, said he had just heard sentiments that did him more good than he would have received by remaining in the House of Commons and listening to what was said there. (Laughter.) Far be it from him to pass any remarks upon the eloquence of distinguished members of that House; but at the end of the session the speeches became tedious and the audience thin. (Cheers and laughter.) But it was far different in that room, and if he were blamed by his constituents for leaving his place in the House two days before the time, he did not think he should be dealt with very harshly. (Cheers.) It was a serious and arduous task to represent such city as Manchester. Ever since he had been their representative he had known no distinctions of colour; he had acted "on the square"—(Loud cheers and laughter.); and if a brother, whether Conservative, Liberal, or Radical sought his assistance, he appealed to them whether it had not always been freely given. (Cheers.) He had acted upon the broad principle of being subservient to nobody; to think for himself; to view with impartiality the various measures brought before Parliament. He had expressed his disapprobation of what he considered to be wrong; and had voted for any measure he thought good. (Cheers.) He had been too much of an architect himself not to sympathies with the undertaking. (Laughter.) He came into the city to build up an edifice, and had succeeded; but the crowning stone had been the honour of representing Manchester. (Cheers.) If he was not a Mason himself he was the father of four Masons, and there was no telling to what honours he might some day arrive. (Loud cheers.) While thanking the meeting on his own account for the manner in which the toast had been received, he wished his colleague had been present to respond for himself. (Cheers.)

Bro. LERESCHE, Prov. G. Reg., proposed the "Visiting Brethren." He remarked that it was a great pleasure to the Masons of East Lancashire to receive at their board so distinguished a specimen of the fine old English gentleman as Bro. Townley Parker, whose hospitalities on the celebration of the great guild at Preston, during his guild mayoralty, so many of the brethren here remembered with kindly feeling. He hoped that Bro. Parker might be spared to grace the ceremony of consecrating their hall, when completed. He also referred to the great Masonic work which their noble guest, Lord de Tabley, had inaugurated in his lordship's immediate neighbourhood, which had worked a marked resuscitation of Freemasonry in that part of Cheshire. Bro. Leresche also spoke in high terms of the proud position which the province Bro. Dr. Fearnley represented had attained in relation to the charities of our Order. West Yorkshire was regarded all over the north of England as having been ever prominent in the cause, and her course had served as a stimulus to East Lancashire to emulation in that first duty and obligation of the Craft.

Bro. R. R. NELSON, Prov. G. Sec. of West Yorkshire, responded in a hearty speech, which was warmly applauded.

Bro. Charles Affleck, Prov. J. G. D. East Lancashire, acknowledged the toast of the "Directors of the Manchester Masonic Hall Company Limited," which was proposed by the ex-Mayor of Manchester (Alderman Goadsby.) He expressed the gratification which had been afforded to him and his coadjutors by the whole of the day's proceedings. The distinguished body of the leaders of the Craft who had accepted the invitations the Company had given, as well as the very numerous gathering of members of the order from all parts of the country, showed that the design the directors had undertaken was one of interest and importance to Freemasonry, not only in Manchester, but throughout the breadth of the land. The general satisfaction which had been uttered in regard to the arrangements which had been made by the Company fully repaid him and his colleagues for all the labour and anxiety attending on so great an undertaking, and the difficulties and responsibilities involved in so great a ceremonial as they had that day brought to a happy conclusion. He thought that that day would be regarded as a "red letter day" in the existence of every Lancashire Mason, and that one and all would remember to their latest hour the events of that auspicious day and the part which each had been enabled to sustain in connection with it (loud cheers).

Bro. J. L. HINE, P.M., then proposed the "Officers of the Company." He referred to the great service Bro. Bradley, their Secretary, had rendered the company, and expressed sympathy with him under the severe illness by which he had lately been afflicted. The inconveniences which might have arisen in the conduct of the company's business, though that circumstance had been greatly mitigated by the assistance the Directors had received from Bro. Percy. The company had also been well served by the solicitor, who had been unremitting in his attention to his duties, and in whom the company felt the fullest confidence.

The toast was duly acknowledged.

Bro. J. CHADWICK PEATSON, M.D., W.M. 1117, then proposed, in a graceful and humorous speech, the "Lancashire Witches." He alluded to the services of the little "Maid of Merrie England" during the ceremony, who would doubtless hereafter look back with very great pleasure to the part they had so gracefully sustained on that memorable day.

Before the close of the meeting it was announced by Bro. Bradley that the whole of the shares were taken up.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

ABERGAVENNY.—*Philanthropic Lodge* (No. S18, late 1120.)—On Friday, the 10th ult., a Lodge of Emergency was held to instal the newly-elected Master, Bro. James Peirce, Past S.W., and also Prov. Grand Steward for Monmouthshire. Bro. Peirce has evinced a great interest in the Craft, and was one of the petitioners for the warrant of constitution of this lodge, which has from a very small beginning become of some importance and name in the province in three short years. More than forty brethren have been initiated in it, and, although the greatest circumspection is used by the brethren in the selection of the candidates, yet still, even in this small district, they have constant applications from gentlemen and respectable tradesmen of the neighbourhood to become participants in the Masonic rite. The greatest unanimity and brotherly feeling has existed in every meeting since it was opened. Bro. Maund, Prov. G. Reg. of Monmouthshire, on this occasion, performed most efficiently the office of Installing Master, and placed Bro. Pierce in the chair of K.S., for the ensuing twelve months. The lodge had been renovated and decorated for the occasion, and besides a number of the brethren, there were present also Bro. Charles Lyne, the newly appointed and justly popular deputy P.M. Grand Master. After the ceremony had been concluded, the brethren adjourned to the Angel Hotel, where a banquet had been placed on the table, which did the greatest credit to Bro. Mason's catering and liberality. The W.M. was supported on the right by the Deputy Prov. G. Master, and by his immediate P.M., Bro. Browning, on the left by Bros. Higgins and Maund. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the brethren separated at their usual early hour, well pleased with an evening spent in social intercourse.

SURREY.

REIGATE.—*Surrey Lodge* (No. 416, late 603).—This lodge held its installation meeting in their lodge room, at the Public Hall, on the 18th instant. There were present—Bros. Lees, W.M.; Carruthers, S.W.; C. J. Smith, J.W.; Lainson, S.D.; Harris, J.D.; Hart, Sec.; Sargant, I.G.; John Ll. Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes, P.M.; Sisson, P.M.; Notman, P.M., and other members. Visitors—Bros. Simpson, S.G.D., W.M. 324; Woods, G.D.C.; Masterman, No. 11; Drewitt, 777. The business of the lodge commenced by a confirmation of the minutes of last lodge, and a ballot was taken for Mr. Arthur Kelsey and Mr. W. H. Last, who were unanimously elected, and were duly initiated into Masonry in an excellent manner by Bro. Lees, W.M. The lodge was then opened in the second, and subsequently in the third degree, when Bro. Edward Thurnam was, in a very impressive manner, raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The W.M. delivering the lecture on the third tracing board, the lodge was then resumed in the second degree, when Bro. Carruthers, having been duly elected W.M., was in due form presented, and solemnly obligated, invested, and inducted into the Master's chair by a board of Installed Masters, and then duly proclaimed; the retiring W.M. of the lodge, Bro. Lees, acting as I.M.; and we would observe that, in acting up to the duties of a W.M., the retiring Master ought to instal his successor to office; but how very seldom is this done, scarcely ever in country lodges; generally some P.M. is brought

down "special" to perform the duties properly resting on the ex-W.M. All honour to the Surrey Lodge in setting so masonic an example. All honour to Bro. Lees, a young Mason, in carrying out his duties to the last moment of his reign of office, and in such a manner as to merit the immediate commendation of the Past Masters then present. The W.M. elect was then pleased to appoint and invest the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. C. J. Smith, S.W.; Lains, J.W.; Harris, S.D.; Sargent, J.D.; Hart, Sec.; Morrison, Treas.; and J. A. Foot, I.G. It was then proposed that the cordial thanks of the lodge be presented to Bro. Peter Martin for his long continued and faithful services as Treasurer of the lodge, in which capacity he had merited and obtained the good esteem of the brethren. Bro. Lees announced that the Grand Lodge had changed the number of the Surrey Lodge to 416 instead of 603. Several of the brethren regretted to lose their old number, it being one distinguished in the province, and had gained encomiums for zeal and assiduity in the Craft. Bro. Evans proposed that the thanks of the lodge be presented to Bro. Thurman for officiating as organist during the ceremonies in lodge, and that he be requested to fill that office in future. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren proceeded to the banquet, which was excellently served by Bro. Goldsmith, when the usual masonic toasts were given, and a most agreeable and harmonious evening passed.

CANADA.

GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada was convened on July 9, at the Bonaventure Hall, Montreal, Bro. T. D. Harrington in the chair. After the usual preliminary business the meeting adjourned until the evening. On re-assembling the Most Worshipful Grand Master delivered his annual address:—*To the M.W. the Grand Lodge of Canada, assembled in annual communication at Montreal, 9th July, 1863.*

Brethren,—“Happy to meet, sorry to part—happy to meet again.”

This was our parting salutation a year ago, and I, for one, think there cannot be a more appropriate introduction to our present meeting, bringing us together, as it does, from all parts of our common country to exchange warm and friendly greetings, to compare notes as to what has transpired during the year passed for ever, to talk pleasantly of mutual friends still spared, and affectionately of those who have gone to their rest, to consult together whether Freemasonry has derived benefit from our bygone efforts—whether we have carried out her attributes of kindness and benevolence, and preserved unsullied her good name by our own conduct, and by making her, as she is intended to be, a source of consolation and relief to our suffering brethren and fellow creatures—to devised additional means and regulations for advancing the interests of our order; and, by an unwavering allegiance to the three grand principles of “Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth,” upon which it is founded, to give the best refutation to men who, knowing nothing of the real living beauties of Freemasonry, endeavour, by sowing slander broadcast against her, or taking the more direct course of “Anathema! Maranatha!” think to crush her energies, and prevent her members from dispensing help to distress throughout this world of probation and trials. Let us unite, brethren, in thanking with our hearts the G. A. O. T. U. for his many blessings, and sparing us to assemble again together—and, having a fervent and faithful trust in Him, fearlessly and zealously let us endeavour to fulfil our respective duties as men and Masons, in whatever condition He may be pleased to place us.

I have a more cheerful announcement to make to you on the commencement of this, our new Masonic year. When we last met, our Queen and the British Empire were bowed beneath the weight of a heavy woe, and mourning was in the palace, the mansion, and the cottage. Now, though memory is still clinging to the late illustrious Prince Consort, whose innate worth and untimely loss have been daily brought more and more home to the nation, as his great virtues and manly affections, and his anxious plans for the great and good of his country and countrymen, have become more and more known to us—our good Queen’s heavy sorrow is being lightened by a Divine hand, and let us believe by the entire undiminished sympathy of her loving subjects, and she has been cheering their eyes and hearts and, as usual, her kindly and womanly presence has again been felt where pains, wounds, and death were paramount—comfort-

ing herself by extending consolation to others, and well may her subjects exult in acknowledging fealty to and love for a Sovereign so noble, so good, and so purely womanly. But I must put a curb on my own proud English feelings.

Brethren, the heart of the Queen Mother has been gladdened by the happy marriage of her eldest son, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Heir to her Crown and the pride of the British Empire, and how vividly is his fresh manly face brought back to us here in Canada. Even now the rejoicings commenced on the auspicious occasion of his marriage are vibrating throughout the land, in these British homes described by our sweet Poetess, Mrs. Hemans, as—“the stately, the merry—the cottage—and the free fair homes of Britain,—and whose prayer for them is—

“—Long, long in hut and hall,
May hearts of native proof be heard,
To guard each hallowed wall!
And green for ever be the groves,
And bright the flowry sod,
Where first the childhood’s spirit loves
Its country and its God!”

And how fair is the flower who now clings to our Prince. A distinguished novelist (Bulwer) tells us that our Saxon King Harold promised to a Danish invader six feet of English ground or as he was a tall man seven feet. Now all Briton may be said to be at the disposal of the heretofore Flower of Denmark, Alexandra of England, Princess of Wales.

I am sure I am your true mouthpiece, when I say, and the words comprise every good wish—God bless the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Last year, Brethren, you passed a loyal, respectful address of sympathy and condolence to our widowed Queen. Now you can approach her and her princely children with congratulations, and your fervent desire for thier continued happiness, and that the latter may long remain a comfort to our Most Gracious Sovereign.

The address you instructed me to forward was laid before the Queen, and the gratifying acknowledgment is as follows:—

Downing Street, 4th Nov., 1862.

MY LORD,—An address of condolence to the Queen, on the death of the late H. R. H. the Prince Consort, has been forwarded to me by Mr. T. Douglas Harrington, from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada. I have the honour to request that you will acquaint the members of the Grand Lodge that her Majesty has received, with much gratification, the expressions of sympathy and attachment conveyed in their Address.

I have, &c.,

To Viscount Monck, &c., &c., &c. (Signed,) NEWCASTLE.

And now, brethren, I will refer to matters more immediately connected with the Craft of Canada. Your generous resolution and address in favour of Mrs. F. G. Ridout have been made known to that lady,—and inasmuch as R. W. Baothers Harman and Spence prepared an address and otherwise took a warm interest in her welfare, I consider it but just, and would be gratifying to them to carry out the wishes of Grand Lodge, and I leave to them to make known to you the result of your generosity.

I have to report, and you will, I know, read the official announcement with sorrow, that since our last meeting, we have lost, with other brethren, one whose name was largely and for a length of time connected with the Craft. The M. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier MacNab, Bart., P.G.M., departed this life on the 8th August, 1862, and my memorandum of his decease bears the two simple words, “much regretted.” I believe short as the epitaph is, it carries truth with it. Our late brother was intimately connected with the affairs of Canada, and there is hardly a man to whom he was not known in some way, and all must remember his kindness, his easy affability, and the pleasure his presence seemed to diffuse. Circumstances attended his departure from us which, as they were notorious, I cannot help making slight mention of. That they did occur is a lamentable and mortifying fact, for a man, so distinguished as our late brother, should have been deposited in his last resting-place peacefully and regretfully with the many friends during his eventful life around. That he was a true and faithful member of our Order to within a very brief period before his death I personally vouch for, and I have no doubt he died one.

The general condition of the Craft continues prosperous and satisfactory, and shows a steady increase in lodges and members.

I have granted dispensations during the year to hold two new lodges, viz.:

Peterborough Lodge, Peterborough C. W., and York Lodge, Eglington, C. W., and which I recommend Grand Lodges to confirm by warrant. I declined to grant a dispensation for a Lodge to be opened at Wroxeter, C. W., because I did not think it would conduce to the honour and benefit of Freemasonry.

Two Lodges—Tuscan, No. 999, Newmarket; and Blenheim Lodge, No. 108 Drummond—lost their warrants by fire. Satisfactory proof was offered in each instance, and I directed the Grand Secretary to prepare and issue duplicate warrants to make good the loss. King Hiram Lodge, No. 78, Tilsonburg, C.W., reported the mysterious disappearance of its warrant, and appeared for a duplicate, which I declined to grant on such insufficient grounds; though, to save the lodge from inactivity, I granted my dispensation to have effect until the present meeting of Grand Lodge only.

I have granted several dispensations for Masters to serve for a third year. Where it is the desire of lodges, I always accede to their wish, although a clause of the Constitution prohibits a longer service than two years, unless with the sanction of the G.M. I am not sure but it would be more for the benefit of the lodges to remove the restriction altogether, for the brethren are surely the best judges as to whom they prefer to rule them. At all events, I think two years a brief term, for the first may be said to pass by the Master elect in becoming familiar with his responsible duties; and it is during the second that his real value shows itself, and then the law enacts a change, and the experiment, which the election of every untried man really is, commences *de novo*.

I have also been called upon to exercise the Grand Master's prerogative in various other ways, and have answered many constitutional questions and decided matters of difference, which, however, do not especially require to be reported to Grand Lodge.

Model bye-laws for subordinate lodges have been prepared by me, with the assistance of that able officer, the Grand Secretary, and circulated as desired by Grand Lodge at its annual communication in 1861. The correct work, as determined by Grand Lodge, has been made known and promulgated. This has been done carefully and confidentially, as so essential and delicate a matter imperatively demanded. The management having been left entirely to the discretion of the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer defrayed the necessary expense, through the Grand Secretary, by special order.

I received a formal report from R. W. Bro. Greff, Grand Treasurer, of a burglary perpetrated of the office of the Gore Bank, at Simcoe, where he deposited Grand Lodge Funds, vouchers, &c., and I am happy to state that Grand Lodge sustained no loss by the occurrence. I have not relieved Bro. Greff of his treasurership during the year, because the security required from that officer has never been perfected by the Grand Treasurer elected in July, 1862, who has not communicated with us in relation thereto, nor has the President of the Board of General Purposes, to whom I wrote respecting the bond, &c.

I sincerely regret to state that I have been compelled to approve of the suspension from their Masonic privileges of two Past Masters—one a member of the Lodge of Antiquity, Montreal, the other of Tudor Lodge (No. 141), Mitchell, C.W., for exceedingly improper and unmasonic conduct. These two cases the Board of General Purposes will inquire into and report to Grand Lodge, with a view to the restoration of the parties, or the infliction of additional and more severe punishment if called for. The evidence connected with them will be produced by the respective district Deputy Grand Masters. I have also been compelled to suspend a Past Master belonging to True Blue Lodge (No. 98), Albion, C.W., for disobedience, or, I should say, for refusing obedience, such suspension to remain in force until he acknowledges his error. This is the present conclusion of the dispute between Western Light and True Blue Lodges so often brought before Grand Lodge, and to inquire into which I appointed R.W. Bro. de Grassi, in accordance with a resolution of Grand Lodge passed last year, leaving the matter in the Grand Master's hands for final action in the premises.

The Board of General Purposes has met regularly and transacted much necessary business under the able and diligent superintendence of the President, the R.W. Bro. Simpson, D.G.M., and the result of its various labours will be reported to Grand Lodge—particularly the proposed alterations in the book of constitutions which have been duly circulated amongst the

subordinate lodges. The reports of the District Grand Masters will come before Grand Lodge in due course.

The Asylum Committee will, I apprehend, be ready with a circumstantial statement of what has been accomplished in aid of that important masonic work, the good consummation of which is devoutly to be wished for.

In the continued absence of a Committee of Benevolence, I have pursued the same course as heretofore, and which Grand Lodge approved. I have distributed help from Grand Lodge funds to several deserving distressed applicants during the most inclement season of the year, and in one or two cases of especial hardship brought to my notice by the Grand Secretary. And finding that this indefatigable and hard worked officer could not possibly get through the labours devolving upon him, without the active help of the Assistant Grand Secretary, I gave him authority to pay for service rendered during the year a sum not exceeding 100 dollars, being the same amount as formerly sanctioned by Grand Lodge.

In pursuance of a resolution of Grand Lodge passed last year, I appointed a committee, consisting of Bros. De Grassi, Moore, and Fowler, for collecting Masonic documents, with a view of compiling a History of Masonry in Canada, who will report any progress made in their researches.

And I hope the committee appointed to procure the Testimonial to be presented to Bro. Wilson, P.G.M., may at length be able to report satisfactorily. The subscriptions received from Subordinate Lodges towards this well-merited Testimonial have not amounted to such a sum as the D.G.M., who is also chairman of the committee, considered worthy either of the Craft or Bro. Wilson; and, bearing in mind that, by the original resolution 'the Grand Lodge was to provide the Testimonial, he was good enough to consult with me, and we determined to devote 200 dollars of Grand Lodge Funds towards carrying out the well-known desire of the brotherhood, in addition to the amount of subscriptions already received by the committee. I cannot refrain from recurring to this fact, that there stands recorded on the minutes of the Grand Lodge, but never, that I can discover, acted upon, the following resolution unanimously adopted as far back as 1856, viz.—

"That the Grand Lodge, appreciating the kind and valuable counsel and services at all times of Bro. Stephens, do present him with a Masonic Honorary Jewel, or other suitable mark of esteem."

I need hardly add, that such testimonials are always highly prized, and exhibited with a very commendable pride; but any delay in their presentation has to be borne in silence, and disappointment by the parties interested, for obvious delicate reasons.

ENGLAND—I am happy to report that our difficulty with the Grand Lodge of England may be said to be at an end, for although there are still a few minor points to be cleared up, the very best feelings of cordiality exist. The Grand Master of England nominated a nobleman of high character attached to the Queen's household, and a Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of England, Lord de Tabley, as a brother in every way qualified to succeed Earl de Grey and Ripon, as our representative at that Grand Lodge, and whose appointment would be agreeable to Lord Zetland himself. As I have already informed Grand Lodge at its last Communication, that the Grand Master of England had been invited to transmit the name of a brother as our representative, it was with pleasure I forwarded Lord De Tabley's credentials, and received his acceptance of the office. I requested the concurrence of the Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge having been pleased to place in my hands the final settlement of the standing of St. Lawrence Lodge (No. 923), Registry of England, holden at Montreal, believed to be working irregularly, but declared to be legally in existence, by its Parent Body, I gave the matter my most serious consideration, deeming it one of very great importance, and pregnant with real good or much evil, and therefore came to the conclusion that the Grand Lodge of England and her sub-ordination had right and justice on their side, and therefore, hesitated not an instant to issue a circular pronouncing the said St. Lawrence Lodge to be a lodge in good standing, and as such entitled to all the rights and privileges of a lawfully constituted lodge.

Previous, however, to entering upon the consideration of the matter, I deemed it due to the Grand Lodge of Canada to have answers to certain questions, and therefore desired the Grand Secretary to write to the representative of the Grand Lodge of England, and ask—

1st. Why my letter to Bro. Lord de Grey and Ripon, dated May 16, 1861, had received no attention from the Grand Master of England, and why our representation had not been rendered mutual.

2nd. Why no answer had been made to a resolution of Grand Lodge, passed in 1861, respecting the existence of Foreign warrants, and for return of the same, &c.

3rd. By what authority Bro. Badgley assumed still to be the Provincial Grand Master of Montreal, when the Grand Master specially declared that his authority had ceased, and that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal was extinct, and at the same time informed the Grand Master of Canada, that the only Provincial Grand Master in this country was Bro. Dean, of Quebec, &c. This last question being put with reference to the report of the District Deputy Grand Master of Montreal, and the attempted revival there of another English warrant, the replies are contained in a letter from Bro. Stephens, which with my communication to him, and his acknowledgment of the same, will afford you full information on all points at present requiring adjustment. By that correspondence it will be seen that the Grand Lodge of England has erased many lodges in Canada from her list, but still claims, among others, control over seven, which she must retain at present, owing to some formalities, required by her Constitution, not having been complied with, inasmuch as they are absolutely on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Canada, as I have fully pointed out. The satisfactory settlement of these lodges must be a simple matter. There is, likewise, No. 643, Montreal, the legal existence and continuance of which has been strongly denounced by the Grand Lodge, and which, it will be seen, I strenuously protested against, and I think for valid and just reasons.

I may mention that the *Masonic Calendar* for the current year, published by and with the sanction of the Grand Lodge of England, contains only the name of the Provincial Grand Master for Quebec, and, consequently, there is no longer such an officer or a Provincial Grand Lodge for Montreal.

IRELAND.—With our first friend, the Grand Lodge of Ireland, no clouds now intervene to mar our harmony. On what I believe equitable grounds, I decided in favour of the good standing of Lodge No. 209 on her Registry, the final settlement of that unpleasant matter having been likewise left in my hands. I attach also as a record, a copy of my official decision, and a resolution passed by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, setting forth the good feeling and satisfaction entertained towards Canada. (See Appendix Nos. 6 and 7.)

SCOTLAND.—Your representative of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, R. W. Bro. Mackersey, presented his credentials, and I have the satisfaction of stating that he was received with every honour, and the liveliest expressions of approval and pleasure on the appointment and ratification of mutual representatives. Following the precedent established in regard to the Grand Lodge of England and Ireland, I authorised the providing and payment of the necessary Regalia to be worn by our representative, and in addition the Banner of the Grand Lodge of Canada to be suspended over his seat, upon receiving information, that such was the practice and custom adopted by the Representatives of all other Grand Bodies in the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

UNITED STATES.—Our relation with such of our Sister Grand Lodges on this Continent as we can communicate with, are of the most friendly and satisfactory nature; but, of course, the continuance of the unhappy and unnatural strife, waging between the Northern and Southern portions of the United States deprives us of much pleasurable intercourse with the great bulk of our Masonic neighbours. What proceedings have been received from them Grand Lodge will learn from the Board of General Purposes and the Grand Secretary.

I received an invitation through Bro. Pearl, Representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine, asking me to attend, with my Grand Officers, a National Masonic Convention, to assemble at New York in September last, for the humane and praiseworthy object of endeavouring to devise measures whereby to mitigate the sufferings caused by civil war, and, if possible, of lessening the existing state of rancour and hostility by the aid of Freemasonry—at least among the brethren themselves. I thought it right to decline being present—first, because my attendance might have been looked upon as an unauthorised interference in a domestic quarrel, with which Canada had nothing to do; and secondly, because no Southern brethren could have an opportunity of giving expression to their feelings. But although, as your G.M., I considered it proper to observe a masonic neu-

trality, I conveyed the assurance that Grand Lodge would be exceedingly glad to witness a happy conclusion to this terrible estrangement between men and brethren, belonging to the same nation, a restoration of ancient good feeling and common brotherhood, and a stop put to the deadly animosity, that the force of daily events demonstrate does really exist, and that she would gladly co-operate towards such a result, if she could do so with propriety and certainty. I have since perused with sincere pleasure articles in the newspapers relating to this subject, and conversed with brethren from the United States, and my impression is, that an approach to a better state of things has commenced to show itself, and that, to use the language of a New York paper, "Northern Masons are placed once more on a social footing with their Southern brethren, thereby illustrating the principles of friendship and brotherly love, the watchwords of Masons all over the world."

I think, brethren, I have forgotten nothing of importance. I must apologise for taking up so much of your valuable time; but we meet in full communion so seldom, that I feel naturally anxious to inform the Grand Lodge of every transaction that has transpired to which I myself attach an interest. I would gladly visit you all, but my impression is, that a Grand Master should not run the risk, by his presence of perhaps embarrassing or interfering with either a District Grand Master, in the local government of his district, or the Master of a lodge in its affairs, unless a case of absolute necessity should arise. These are of course special ceremonies and festivals when the Grand Master, by invitation, can with propriety appear, and have the satisfaction of meeting and mixing freely with his brethren and fellows; but where the Grand Lodge meets only in annual communication, and the Grand Master is for the rest of the year the Grand Lodge, judicial and executive, and appeals and many points of difference are being constantly forwarded for his decision, he cannot, in my opinion, keep himself too ignorant beforehand of lodge and individual transactions, so as to deliver an impartial and strictly faithful judgment. It is under this impression that I have always hitherto acted.

I cannot conclude more suitably than by praying that you will join with me, in supplicating the G. A. O. T. U. to approve our labours, and cause them not only to be beneficial and honourable to the Craft at large and ourselves individually, but to the cause of humanity, charity, and peace. Many, probably most of you, have recently passed through a political ordeal especially trying to the temper, and one that is generally found to generate an ebullition of feeling, quite opposed to neighbourly and brotherly communion. Let us trust that Freemasonry will not in vain exert her benign influence in calming down and eradicating all baneful effects. Let no party feeling take root debasing and antagonistic to our order, and especially adverse to the second of our ancient charges, which lays down for a Mason's guidance that he is to be a peaceful subject of the civil powers wherever he resides or works, and is cheerfully to conform to every lawful authority, and is bound by peculiar ties to promote peace, cultivate harmony, and live in concord and brotherly love.

May this, our common country, be spared from the curse of war, and all its concomitant evils! But should it be our lot to be tried by such a scourge, may we and all belonging to us, or in whom we take an interest, be spared to meet again, after doing our duty zealously and fearlessly, as faithful subjects of a Sovereign on whose dominions the sun never sets, and loyal citizens of an empire where, under the fostering shelter of the Rose, the Shamrock, the Thistle, and our own Maple, freedom and protection reign triumphant!

May our present labours, thus begun in order, be conducted in harmony and closed in peace. So mote it be.

T. DOUGLAS HARRINGTON, Grand Master.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS.

The following are the Grand Lodge Officers elected for the current year:—

M. W. Bro.	T. D. Harrington, re-elected G.M.
R.	W. B. Simpson, re-elected D.G.M.
" "	Henry Macpherson, S.G.W.
" "	B. C. Davy, J.G.W.
" "	Henry Groff, G. Trea.
" "	John H. Graham, G. Reg.
" "	Thos. B. Harris, re-elected G. Sec.
" "	William Hannah, G. Tyler

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

R. W. Br.	George Masson,	London District.
" "	David Curtis,	Wilson "
" "	John Dutton,	Huron "
" "	Wm. Bellhouse,	Hamilton "
" "	A. D. Grassi,	Toronto "
" "	Isaac Brock,	Ontario "
" "	L. H. Henderson,	Prince Edward "
" "	A. G. Macdonell,	Central "
" "	A. A. Stevenson,	Montreal "
" "	David Browne,	Eastern Township "
" "	Richard Pope,	Quebec "

On Saturday, the 17th, before closing the business on Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, on behalf of the Grand Lodge, and a large number of contributing lodges and brethren, presented to P.G. Master Wilson, a valuable testimonial as a mark of esteem for the many services rendered by him to the Canadian Craft during the five years he occupied the distinguished position of Grand Master.

It was decided that the Grand Lodge should assemble for the next Annual Communication at the city of Hamilton, in July, 1864.

The Grand Lodge closed its Session on Saturday.

Obituary.

BRO. CAPT. WILLIAM EDMUND ADAMS.

This brother, who but a brief period since, was apparently in the full enjoyment of health and vigour, succumbed to an attack of typhoid fever of the most virulent type, on the 3rd May, at Shanghai, and was conveyed to his long home amid the pomp and panoplies of war, with the bands of the different corps in garrison wailing forth the solemn strains of the "Dead March in Saul" on the following day.

Bro. Adams had just entered upon his 36th year, when his career was terminated so distressingly, and the circumstance of his regiment (the 31st), being in daily expectation of embarking for England, must tinge with peculiar bitterness the regrets of those from whom he had been so long parted.

Bro. Adams was appointed paymaster of the 31st Regiment, on the 10th March, 1857, and was gazetted honorary captain on the 10th March, 1862. He served with the 31st in the campaign of 1860, in the North of China, under Sir Hope Grant, for which he received a medal, and was present also at most of the operations against the Taepings, under Brigadier General Staveley, in 1862; including the bombardment and capture by escalade of the walled cities of Kan-ding, Tsingpoo and Cno-lin, the fortified village of Nan-jao (scene of Rear Admiral Prolet's death), and affair of Nan-zeang. A protracted service in India and China had severely taxed his strength, and when struck by the fell disease, which eventually carried him off, he was unable to rally. The policy, indeed, of retaining so large a proportion of European troops at Shanghai, when the natives of India are so much better fitted to withstand the climate influences, may be fairly questioned, the graves of nearly one hundred and fifty non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the 31st Regiment alone, so far back as the termination of the last hot season, bearing mute, but terrible witness, to the fearful insalubrity of the climate as regards its effects upon the European constitution; the regiment having then been but five months at the station whilst the men from a two years previous service in China might have been considered acclimatized. Bro. Adams received the Craft degrees in a metropolitan lodge, we believe, the Lodge of Harmony (No. 317), Richmond, about 1851, and served the office of Master in the Meridian Lodge (No. 1045), held in the 31st Regiment, on two distinct occasions, 1860-61 and 1862-63, having only vacated the chair in January last. He was received into Capitular Masonry, at Poona, early in 1860, in Chapter St. Andrew's in the East (No. 68, S.C.), being also, shortly afterwards, installed a Knight Templar in the Ascalon Encampment, meeting at the same station. In the autumn of the past year he was one of the petitioners for a new encampment to be held at Shanghai, named the Celestial, at whose inaugural meeting he was subsequently present. Bro. Adams fully came up to the Craft standard of a just and upright man and a Mason, and by his lamented decease the service has lost a valuable officer, and the 31st Regiment amuch loved comrade.

ROYAL ARCH.

GRAND CHAPTER.

The following is the Report of the Committee of General Purposes to be presented to Grand Chapter on Wednesday next. *To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.*

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 15th April to the 14th July, 1863, which they find to be as follows:—

Balance, 15th April, 1863	-	-	-	£297	6	6
Subsequent Receipts	-	-	-	297	5	8
				£594	12	2
Disbursements	-	-	-	98	7	0
Leaving a balance of	-	-	-	£496	5	2

which balance is in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival and Co., Bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The committee beg also to report that, in pursuance of a resolution passed at the last Convocation of the Grand Chapter, they have made inquiries as to the existence of any official relations with the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and finding that no such relations do exist between the Supreme Grand Chapter of England and the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, seeing that the Grand Lodge of Scotland does not acknowledge the Grand Chapter of that country, and does not appear to have taken any steps with regard to the position, as Craft Freemasons, of the companions said to have been excluded from their privileges as Royal Arch Masons,—but who claim to have themselves seceded from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland,—this committee, while deeply regretting that any differences should arise between members of any constituted body of Freemasons, are of opinion that the Grand Chapter of England are not in a position to take any steps with regard to the dispute.

The committee have received a petition from Companions Frederick Charles Standish as Z, Horatio St. John Clarke as H, Thomas Henry Lemprière as J, and eleven others, for a chapter to be attached to the South Yarra Lodge (No. 930), South Yarra, near Melbourne, Victoria, to be called "the South Yarra Chapter," to meet at the New Bridge Inn, South Yarra, on the fourth Thursday in the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December in each year.

This petition is regular in form, in so far at least as the requirements set forth in the regulations are complied with, and the committee therefore recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted; but they notice that it is not accompanied with any formal resolution of the lodge to which it is proposed to be attached.

The committee have also received a memorial from the Chapter of Beauty (No. 344), Radcliffe Bridge, praying the Grand Chapter will reconsider an opinion expressed by this committee to the effect that meetings of chapters on Sundays are illegal. The memorialists pray that, for the convenience of their members, they may be allowed to hold their meetings on the Sabbath having recently altered the day of meeting to a Wednesday, but without advantage.

The committee cannot support the prayer of the memorial being of opinion that it is not desirable that the meetings should be held on Sundays.

The committee beg also to report that they have received a return, accompanied with the fees due to the Grand Chapter, from the late St. John's Chapter (No. 628), Secunderabad, which chapter was erased by order of Grand Chapter, on the 7th August, 1861, for having neglected for several years to make any returns.

In a letter accompanying the return it is stated that an application was made to the Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Secretary for information as to the steps that should be taken for re-opening the Chapter, which had been closed for several years in consequence of the removal of most of the then members from the station, and that they were informed that they could re-open without a dispensation.

There being no evidence to show that the letters calling for returns had ever been received by the officers of the Chapter, the committee recommend that the same leniency be shown as was done in the case of the Chapter of the Rock at Trichinopoly, and that the St. John's Chapter be re-instated and restored to its former position.

The committee have finally to report that they have received a memorial from the Sun, Square, and Compasses Chapter (No. 119), Whitehaven, stating that they are unable to open the Chapter owing to the absence of Comp. W. R. G. Key, the Companion named in the Charter as First Principal, who resides in London, and whose expenses of travelling from thence to Whitehaven and back they are not in a position to bear, and praying that the name of Comp. Thomas Routledge, P.Z. of the St. John's Chapter, No. 327, may be substituted for that of Comp. Key. The committee beg to support the prayer of the Memorialists and recommend that Comp. Routledge be named in place of Comp. Key, who has consented to have his name withdrawn.

THE FREEMASONS' TAVERN ANNUAL EXCURSION

This pleasant affair came off on Tuesday, the 30th ult. The party, to the number of 120, assembled at the Tavern at half-past seven a.m., where a substantial breakfast awaited them, laid out in Freemasons' Hall. After doing ample justice to the excellent viands provided, the bugle trilled forth the signal for departure, which was gaily effected in five of Wilson's "four-in-hands," "all greys," to the tune of "The girl I've left behind me," followed by the consoling tune of "In the days when we went gipsying," by the brass band engaged for the occasion. After a beautiful drive through scenery of the most varied and delightful description, charmingly refreshing to the eye of the Londoners, their destination, the Essex Arms Hotel, Watford, was reached without any accident to mar the day's enjoyment. The weather being extremely fine, the company was soon dispersed in various directions to enjoy the salubrity of the Hertfordshire air, Cassiobury Park attracting, as may be expected, the greatest number of visitors. About three o'clock the party returned to their head-quarters, and sat down to a sumptuous dinner, provided by Mr. Morgan, in Freemasons' Hall, the use of which was generously granted by the Right Hon. William Stuart (who kindly called to congratulate the company previous to the dinner), Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire, and Bro. Stewart Majoribanks. The chair was taken by Bro. Benjamin Banks, the veteran of the Freemasons' Tavern, who was supported by Bros. Shrewsbury, G. Elkington, Peter Matthews, George Bain, John Udall, Hoppe, Hyde Pullen, T. Jerwood, Churchill, F. Binckes, W. Paas, Barringer, George Hall, of the Robin Hood Rifles, Winsdale, R. Banks, jun., Robinson, Rochford, all the tradesmen of the Tavern, &c.

The cloth having been removed, and grace sung by Bros. Lawler, Carter, and Naylor (who kindly gave their services on this occasion),

The CHAIRMAN ably, and in most appropriate language, gave the usual loyal toasts, which were sincerely and enthusiastically done full justice to.

Bro. PETER MATTHEWS rose to propose the "Health of the Chairman," Bro. Banks, and to present to him the presents confided to his care, namely a gold watch and chain, a purse of ten guineas, and a silver inkstand. He wished with all his heart that the gifts were greater, for he knew no one who was more deserving than Bro. Banks, whose life, he prayed most fervently might be prolonged to enjoy those permanent and substantial records of his worth. He (Bro. Matthews) had spent a very nice and happy day; but his pleasure was more than tenfold enhanced by Bro. Banks (whom he had so long and favourably known) being the recipient, through him, of such testimonials of friendship, attachment, and regard. He had known him as a partner, and wished with all his heart he were so again. Bro. Matthews then presented the testimonials.

The cheering having subsided, Bro. Banks rose and with visible emotion said,—Gentlemen, I feel that I can never thank you sufficiently for these generous proofs of your esteem and regard. I consider this to be a most remarkable epoch of my existence, and it appears to me as extraordinary as it is unexpected. To receive these handsome and more than intrinsically valuable testimonials is a great and lucky stroke of good fortune, for I have performed no particular act or meritorious deed in the whole course of my life that can in any way have shadowed

forth the slightest claim to the honour and distinction you have so kindly bestowed upon me. I have endeavoured, perhaps, to "pursue the even tenour of my way," and do my duty faithfully as a very humble member of society, in which I may have been somewhat successful; but I cannot "lay the flattering unction to my soul" that any exertions of actions of mine have earned such acceptable and to me precious gifts. I must therefore place it to the account of the very great kindness and friendship you all entertain towards me, and for which I feel most truly thankful and grateful. And I ought to be, for next in value to a good conscience is the good opinion of our fellow-men. After naming and thanking those who had promoted the Testimonial, Bro. Banks concluded by saying—I again thank you, collectively, from the bottom of my heart, and will conclude by declaring to you that I feel this to be the proudest moment of my life.

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Bro. Winsdale to propose the next toast, and that gentleman, in an eloquent speech, gave the "Healths of Bros. Shrewsbury and Elkington, and Prosperity to the Freemasons Tavern," which was received with great cheering, and those gentlemen severally returned thanks, both expressing their gratification at the pleasure they experienced in joining their friends, and particularly those they employed—Papworth, Harman, Faulder, Rice, and others—to whom they were very much indebted, and in whose welfare, and comfort they felt a great interest—on such an agreeable and entertaining occasion.

Several toasts followed, amongst which was that of "The Health of Bro. Peter Matthews and the Visitors," and for which that gentleman returned thanks in a genial and happy vein; of "Bro. Coppock, the Hon. Sec.," in a most feeling and friendly manner by Bro. Shrewsbury, which Bro. Coppock acknowledged in a brief and neat speech; of "Miss Barr and the Ladies," by Bro. Lee, who paid a handsome tribute to the many amiable qualities possessed by that excellent lady, Bro. Winsdale kindly responding to it. After which the dinner party dispersed for out-of-door recreation, some patronizing the noble game of cricket, others the ungallant, if not "ignoble," game of "poor Aunt Sally;" quoits, &c. At eight o'clock the bugle sounded the return, and the excursionists travelled cheerfully homewards, having thoroughly enjoyed the day's amusements, the pleasures of which were enhanced by, and mainly due to, the kindness of Bro. Coppock, under whose auspices, and through whose energy and clever management, all the arrangements were brought to so satisfactory and admirable a termination.

The instrumental music was under the able direction of Mr. Field, bandmaster of the Royal Caledonian Asylum, and the 29th Middlesex Volunteers, which gave great satisfaction.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty, surrounded by the majority of the Royal family, are at the Isle of Wight. The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the young Princes and Princesses, have made many excursions to enjoy the scenery by which they are surrounded both on land and water. Prince Alfred is making a tour through Wales.—The Queen has caused a letter to be written to the Mayor of Birmingham in reference to the recent tight-rope accident at Aston Park. Her Majesty expresses her horror that one of her subjects, a female, should have been sacrificed to the gratification of a demoralising taste, and further trusts that the Mayor will use his influence to prevent the park from being degraded by similar exhibitions in future.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the House of Lords on Thursday July 23, a smart debate arose on the motion for the third reading of the Irish Salmon Fisheries Bill. Lord Cranworth moved its rejection on the ground that it took away the rights of property of several persons. After a discussion the bill was read a third time by 40 votes to 55. Lord Cranworth then proposed a proviso, saving the rights of present proprietors. This was negatived by 34 votes to 23. After some further discussion the bill passed.—On Friday, Lord Russell defended himself

from the imputation cast upon him in the House of Commons during a recent debate, that he was indifferent to the fate of the Poles. So far from this being the case, he should rejoice to see Poland accomplish her independence, if there was any guarantee that such an event would not prove a source of danger to Europe. With regard to Russia's reply to the six points, the noble Earl said that the Austrian Government, on receiving Prince Gortchakoff's despatch, at once telegraphed to St. Petersburg, rejecting the proposal of a conference merely of the three Powers which divided the spoil on the partition of Poland. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe strongly opposed any policy which would have the effect of leading to a war with Russia on the Polish question. Lord Ellenborough thought the reply of Prince Gortchakoff put an end to all hope of settling this question by diplomacy. He strongly denounced the atrocities committed by the Russians in Poland, and described the Emperor Alexander as the "first revolutionist in Europe." After some remarks from Lord Malmesbury and Lord Granville, the subject dropped.—Lord Shaftesbury made an earnest appeal in behalf of the children who do not enjoy the protection of the Factory Act, and expressed a hope that next session a measure would be introduced with the view of extending to other kinds of labour the restrictions now enforced in factories.—Their lordships met for a short time on Saturday, and proceeded to dispose of a few bills remaining before them.—On Monday Lord Stratford de Redcliffe expressed a strong opinion against the policy of ceding the Ionian Islands to Greece, and more especially against the guarantees proposed by her Majesty's Government. Lord Russell defended the transfer of the Septinsular Republic, and stated that that transfer was opposed neither by Austria nor by Turkey. Lord Derby concurred generally in the views expressed by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, and condoled with the young King of Greece on the arduous task which lay before him.—The Appropriation Bill was read a third time and passed; and, after conversations on the metropolitan railways, and the recent minute relative to the parliamentary grants to endowed schools, their Lordships adjourned.—On Monday Parliament was prorogued by commission. The royal speech may very briefly be summarised. Her Majesty has seen with "deep regret" the present condition of Poland, and she has been engaged, in concert with the Sovereigns of France and Austria in endeavouring to obtain the fulfilment of the stipulations of the treaty of Vienna in behalf of the Poles. "Her Majesty trusts that these stipulations will be carried into execution, and that thus a conflict, distressing to humanity and dangerous to the tranquillity of Europe, may be brought to a close."—With reference to the war in America, the policy of strict neutrality hitherto adopted will be adhered to. The election of Prince William of Denmark to the throne of Greece, the troubles in Japan, and the rupture with Brazil are next referred to. With respect to the Brazilian dispute, "Her Majesty has no wish that this estrangement should continue, and would be glad to see her relations with Brazil re-established."—The Commons are thanked for their liberal supplies. The distress in Lancashire and in Ireland, the renewal of the disturbances in New Zealand, the generally prosperous condition of the country in the face of the most adverse circumstances, and the hopeful prospects of India, are touched upon. And a brief record is given of the "measures of public usefulness" which have been passed during the session.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, July 23, at the morning sitting, two important matters were discussed. On the motion for the third reading of the Appropriation Bill, Mr. S. Fitzgerald asked for some explanation from the Government of its policy in regard to the Germanic Confederation and Denmark.

He condemned the despatch written on the subject by Earl Russell some time ago, and said it had emboldened the Confederation to make demands which could not be acceded to without injury to the interests of this country. The Confederation had threatened the occupation of Holstein in six weeks if those demands upon the King of Denmark were not complied with. Lord Palmerston agreed that it was of importance that the integrity of Denmark should be preserved. He thought the Confederation would take more time to consider before they occupied Holstein. If they took such a step they must make up their minds that they would have other Powers besides Denmark to contend with. He had no doubt, however, that the representations which would be made would be effectual in preventing a rupture.—Mr. Cobden called attention to a memorial from several Liverpool shipowners in reference to the fitting out of Confederate privateers in British ports. He contended that no technical difficulties ought to stand in the way of putting a stop to such proceedings, and demanded that we should preserve a perfect neutrality in the American war. Lord Palmerston said this country had recognised the fact that there were two belligerents on the other side of the Atlantic, and not merely a legitimate Government and a rebellion against that Government. Under those circumstances her Majesty's Government had taken every step possible to enforce the law in relation to the fitting out of ships.—The Appropriation Bill was then read a third time.—At the evening sitting, after the questions had been disposed of, Mr. Grant Duff called attention to the necessity of removing the seat of the Indian Government from Calcutta. He contended that that place was by no means the best which could be chosen for the abode of the Government. Mr. Gregson expressed a different opinion; and Sir C. Wood thought it would, under present circumstances, be very unwise to disturb the existing arrangements.—After some conversation as to the right of the Governor General of India to send troops to the assistance of Japan or New Zealand, Sir C. Wood made his financial statement in respect to India. The accounts of the year 1861-62 showed a steady increase. When the estimates for that year were brought in it was calculated that there would be a deficiency of £600,000. Notwithstanding, however, that the expenditure had been largely increased, the actual deficiency was only £51,000. The income was £43,829,000, and the expenditure £13,880,000. After showing the different items of increase and decrease, he proceeded to say that the prospects for the year 1862-3 were very good. The income was higher than had been estimated, and the expenditure less. He concluded by moving a series of resolutions affirming the income and expenditure of the different presidencies. A discussion followed, in which Col. Sykes, Mr. Vansittart, Mr. Gregson, Mr. Kinnaird, and Mr. Ayrton took part. The resolutions were then agreed to.—On Friday several measures were advanced a stage, including the Augmentation of Benefices Bill, and the Statute Law Revision Bill, which were read a third time and passed. Mr. Dodson "called attention" to the recent petition from Oxford in favour of relaxing the declaration required of persons taking degrees at that University. The hon. gentleman supported the prayer of the petitioners, and thus a discussion was raised, in which Mr. Henley, Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Gladstone, and other members took part, but led to nothing. On Saturday a few unimportant bills were advanced a stage. On Monday Mr. C. Fortescue stated, in reply to a question from Lord Ernest Bruce that the Order of St. Michael and St. George would not be transferred to Greece with the Ionian Islands. It would still be retained by her Majesty, although its rules would require revision. In answer to a question from Mr. H. Seymour, Mr. demand has been made for their extradition. Thus all parties

Layard said the report of the capture of Herat had not been confirmed, while the accounts as to the death of Dost Mahomed were conflicting. Mr. Ayrton endeavoured to secure the rejection of the Bill which makes it a misdemeanor to falsely assume an Exhibition medal or an Exhibition certificate of "honourable mention." The hon. gentleman was supported in this effort by Lord Robert Cecil; but on a division, the Bill was read a third time by a large majority. On Tuesday in reply to a question from Sir G. Bowyer, Mr. Layard stated that Captain Melville White's claim against Peru still remains unsettled.—Lord Palmerston, in answer to a question from Mr. Darby Griffith, said there were agencies at work to prevent Prince William of Denmark's actual assumption of the crown of Greece, but it would be desirable to remove every difficulty and embarrassment which stood in the way of the realisation of the wishes of the Greek nation.—In reply to another question from the member for Devizes, the noble lord said the order abolishing forced labour in Egypt would, as a matter of course, put an end to the present system of employing forced labour in the loading and unloading of the cargoes of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers at Suez.—A new writ was moved for Pomfret in the room of Mr. Monckton Milnes, who is to be made a peer, as Lord Houghton.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—*The Select Committee of the House of Lords on Prison Discipline* have sent in their report. They are of opinion that the penal element of gaol discipline ought not to be weakened; that legislative measures should be taken as speedily as possible to render the adoption of the "separate system" obligatory in all prisons and houses of correction; that the time allowed for sleep should be limited to eight hours; that all prisoners sentenced to hard labour should, unless exempted on medical grounds, be subjected to a regular amount of crank and treadwheel work; that corporal punishment is of great value as one form of disciplinary correction; that school should under no circumstances become a substitute for labour; and that during short sentences, or the earlier stages of a long confinement, the prisoners should be made to sleep upon planks. With regard to the subject of diet, the committee suggest the appointment of a commission to examine the medical and scientific questions as to the effect produced by confinement upon prisoners, and as to the necessity of certain ingredients in the food, which require further investigation.—The Duke of Cambridge has presented his report upon the review and sham fight at Wimbledon. He praises the manner in which the volunteers acquitted themselves, but urges greater punctuality in future on the part of the several corps in reaching the drill-ground.—The report of Mr. Farnall to the Central Executive Relief Committee shows a further decrease in the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the cotton manufacturing districts. During the week ending the 18th ult. the numbers were 144,636, being 3237 less than during the previous week, and a decrease of 127,347 on the return for the week ending the 6th December. Mr. Farnall also reports that he has, with Mr. Rawlinson, had personal conferences with the local authorities of 149 places where the Public Works Act may be made available. The great majority expressed their satisfaction with the measure, and their readiness to adopt its provisions.—A murderous affray took place on Saturday afternoon in Whitehall. The lodge-keeper at Richmond-terrace is an old man named Davies, whose daughter lived with him. On Saturday afternoon they quarrelled, and appear to have used knives to each other. Before the police found out what was going on, they were both most seriously wounded. They were removed to the hospital, where they are now lying.—The Marquis of Normanby—a nobleman who held several posts of the highest

importance under more than one Liberal Government—died on Tuesday. He is succeeded by his eldest son, Lord Mulgrave, who at present fills the post of Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia.—The Roupell forgeries have been the subject of an eight days' trial in an attempt of Richard Roupell, as heir-at-law, to recover one of the mortgaged estates; but though William Roupell swore that he forged the deed of gift to himself, the evidence was very conflicting as to old Roupell's signature, and the jury could not arrive at a verdict.—A curious trial, not unlike in some of its features to the Roupell case, took place at Maidstone on Saturday. It was an action, brought by a man named Richardson, to recover possession of four acres of land near Canterbury. The land had belonged to the plaintiff's father, and had been left by him to his wife, to be divided on her death between the plaintiff and a brother. Richardson sold his share in 1844 to a Mr. Cross, a solicitor, for £130. Now he came forward and swore that he had never sold it, and that the conveyance produced by Mr. Cross was a forgery. The jury found for the defendants, and the plaintiff was ordered into custody on a charge of perjury.—Alfred Holden, a private in the Royal Artillery, was sentenced to death on Wednesday, at the Maidstone Assizes, for the murder of child. He persisted in pleading guilty. It may be remembered that when he committed the murder he gave himself up to the police at once, saying that he wished to die. Some one asked why in that case he had not killed himself. His reply was, that if he had done so, he should have left his wife with a child to maintain, and he therefore killed the child first.—Another fatal accident has happened through crinoline. A woman returning from the Crystal Palace attempted to leave the train before it had stopped. Her distended dress caught the steps of the carriage, she was flung down, and death ensued—death which the jury can but return as "accidental."—The inquest on the body of the poor woman who was killed at Birmingham last week by the breaking of a rope on which she was performing has resulted in a verdict of "accidental death," to which is added a strong expression of opinion that "all dangerous or degrading performances by either sex should be discouraged."—The inquiry into the abduction and murder of the little girl at Islington has been resumed. The young man Clarke, who is accused of the murder, was present and cross-examined some of the witnesses with a fierce and defiant air. A man who was near the spot at the time of the murder deposed that he saw a young man, whom he thought he should know, take a little girl up in his arms and run across the street with her; but he was unable to identify the prisoner when shown to him along with several other men. The prisoner was remanded.—The case of Colonel Waugh was before the Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday. An application was made for his release from custody. He was examined at considerable length, and made some curious statements. Mr. Commissioner Holroyd, however, declined to order his release unless he gave heavy bail.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor of Austria is about to make a journey to Ratisbon in order to escort the Empress home.—The King of Sweden has left Copenhagen. The King of Denmark accompanied his Royal visitor to Ellismere, where the latter embarked.—The *Opinione* of Turin has a letter from Caprera, stating that Garibaldi's wound is healed; that he is beginning to ride on horseback, and will soon, it is hoped, be able to walk with a stick only.—The Italian Foreign Minister has communicated to the Chamber of Deputies the nature of the arrangement made with the French Government regarding the brigands arrested at Genoa. The Italian Government will hand over the brigands to the French authorities, and the latter will obligingly hand back the prisoners when a formal

are pleased—except the brigands. An inquiry will also be instituted as to the manner in which the malefactors obtained a passage in a French steamer.—Political speculation is of course energetically busy about the probable consequences of Russia's reply to the three great Powers. It is now made certain by the Viennese official *Gazette* that the Austrian Government has actually addressed notes to England and France, assuring those Powers that it will repudiate any separate negotiations with Russia, and that it will remain firm to the common policy traced out by the three.—The Paris Journal *La France* states that the Prussian Government has proposed the discussion of the six points by the five great Powers, and a Vienna despatch asserts that Russia, becoming sensible of the dangers of the present crisis, is disposed to yield to the representations which have been made by the three Powers on the Polish question.—An important document has been issued from the Polish National Government announcing that the Poles would, under certain specific conditions and guarantees, consent to accept the armistice proposed by the three Powers, and that the National Government would pledge itself for faithful execution on its side. This document bears date early in June, and it was, no doubt, submitted to the three Powers before the despatch of their recent notes.—A Breslau despatch affirms that in a decree published on the 21st the revolutionary government of Warsaw pronounced sentence of death on Colonel Leichte, the celebrated inquisitor of the citadel under the reign of Nicholas, who had recently resumed his functions in the commission of inquiry. The very night after the publication of the decree Colonel Leichte was poignarded by some person unknown. The National Government has also published a decree respecting the estates confiscated by the Emperors Nicholas and Alexander II. in the Polish provinces, and given to Russian generals and functionaries. These estates are declared national property; the peasants who cultivate them are exonerated from the payment of all dues, and the farmers and manufacturers who occupy any of these estates are charged to pay the rents into the national treasury of Poland.—The Cracow telegrams report a great revival of insurrectionary strength in the palatinate of Lublin. The Polish bands there are scouring the province in all directions. They have seized several Russian couriers who were bearing official despatches; among the rest, a reply to an application for reinforcements, which the Commander-in-Chief declared himself unable to grant. Some rather serious conflicts with the Russian troops are also announced, the Poles having had the advantage in every instance. In Lemberg, despite the professed sympathy of the Austrian Government, there are fresh domiciliary visitations and arrests constantly taking place. On the 27th inst. Count Stephen Zamoyiski was arrested. The committee of the Austrian Reichsrath have reported in favour of granting Langiewicz's petition to be allowed to remove into Switzerland, and the Chamber agreed to the recommendation by a large majority.—A telegram from Posen states as a positive fact that orders have been forwarded from Vienna to Lemberg to place an Austrian corps of 18,000 men upon a war footing on the Russian frontier of Gallacia. Count Rechberg himself is stated to have communicated to several Austrian deputies during the last sitting of the Reichsrath this important piece of news.—The Paris papers publish a Constantinople telegram of the 24th instant, which asserts that the Circasians have captured, by boarding, a Russian man of war, bound for Soukoun Kaleh, and have carried her into Schovhschik.—The gifted French actress, Mlle. Emma Livry, who was burnt so terribly on the stage several months ago, has, after long suffering, succumbed at last. She died on Sunday night at Neuilly.—Advices from Mexico, re-

ceived at New York, by way of Havanah, assert that "the Mexican people were to be called to decide their form of government on the 29th June." Meanwhile General Forey has appointed "a triumvirate and council of state" to aid him in the administration of Mexico. If we may believe the Paris *France*—no very trustworthy authority—President Jaurez has been deserted by his troops, has relinquished his intention of occupying San Luis de Potosi, and is making his way to some port on the Pacific coast where he will embark for New York.

AMERICA.—The intelligence brought by the China from New York, is full of important events. General Lee had judged it prudent to put the Potomac between himself and the enemy, and had succeeded in safely conveying his army into Virginia. The fall of Port Hudson has followed that of Vicksburg. The fortress surrendered unconditionally on the 9th instant. Immediately after the surrender of Vicksburg General Sherman marched against General Johnston, and is said to have defeated him after a very sanguinary engagement. General Rosencranz was still pressing onwards, and General Bragg's army is said to have retreated from Chattanooga to Atlanta. The Confederate General Morgan was continuing his raid in Indiana and Ohio. The Federals had commenced their attack on Charleston. After some loss they obtained possession of the whole of Morris Island, except Fort Wagner, the siege of which they were pushing with the aid of five Monitors. Against the advantages over their foes the Federals have to place a serious domestic calamity. The drafting commenced in New York on Saturday, the 11th, when the names of some 2000 men were drawn. On its being resumed on the Monday following a large mob assembled in front of the Provost Marshal's office, into which they forced their way, seized the papers, dispersed the enrolling officers, and fired the building. A large force was called out to quell the riot, but it was assailed and overpowered by the rioters, who then proceeded to further acts of outrage. Many houses were burnt down, every negro met with was attacked, 50 are said to have been killed, and one burnt, and during three days (the 13th, 14th, and 15th), the city was the scene of tumult and bloodshed. Governor Seymour had declared the city and county to be in a state of insurrection. He had sent to Washington asking the draft to be postponed and it was stated that the President had agreed to the request. We have two later arrivals from America, the *Hibernia* and, the *City of Washington*. The latter vessel brings news to the morning of the 18th. At that time the riots in New York were suppressed. On the previous day, however, there had been a great deal of wanton mischief done. Archbishop Hughes had addressed about 5000 of the people in reference to the riots. The draft is to be enforced. The latest accounts represent a large Federal fleet as advancing to bombard Fort Sumter, in which it would be aided by batteries on Morris Island. General Lee, when last heard of, was at Front Royal, making the best of his way to Richmond. The Confederate cruiser *Florida* has made a rather valuable prize. On the 16th of June she captured and destroyed an American ship called the *B. F. Hoxie*, which had on board aboard about £20,000 worth of silver bars. The silver was, of course, duly transferred to the *Florida*. It is stated that this capture will cost our marine insurance companies something over £150,000.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. R.—The oldest son of a Mason (like other men), cannot be initiated under 21 years of age unless a dispensation is obtained from the Grand Master.