

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1863.

CONSTITUTION OF ITALIAN FREEMASONRY.

The extension of Freemasonry throughout the various nations of the earth must always be gratifying to the true Craftsman; but though Italy was at one time the chosen field of those Masons whose works added so much lustre to the middle ages, it has of late years been almost trodden out through priestly influence and the absolutist governments which have prevailed. The reconstitution of the Kingdom of Italy—albeit not so complete as its ardent friends would wish—and the establishment of constitutional government, have naturally led to the revival of Freemasonry; and we have now before us the preliminary laws which have been framed for its government, pending the formation of the regular Constitutions. Many of these laws appear to be somewhat contradictory, but experience of the working will soon enable our Italian brethren to digest and modify them so as to enable them to form a good workable Code of Constitutions, in which we wish them all success, and that Freemasonry may once more take a firm and healthy footing on classic ground, hallowed by so many beautiful monuments of the Mason's art.

Believing that these Constitutions of the Italians—though they are at present regarded as only provisional—cannot be otherwise than interesting to the English brethren, we have had them expressly translated for THE MAGAZINE, and now proceed to lay them before our readers:—

CAP. I.

FORM AND OBJECT OF ITALIAN FREEMASONRY.

ART. 1.

Italian Freemasonry is a union of freemen, joined together by the bonds of universal Masonry, and these statutes.

Its object is the promotion of benevolence on the broadest possible basis.

ART. 2.

Italian Masonry recognises, as essential to benevolence, the following principles:—

Independence and unity among nations, and their fraternisation.

Toleration of all religions, and absolute equality of education.

Moral and material progress of the masses.

ART. 3.

Italian Freemasonry will strive to attain this three-fold object by all legal and peaceable means, and the influence which she possesses through the virtues of her members, their union with each other, and with the whole Masonic world.

ART. 4.

Italian Masonry, as universal Masonry, calls God the Great Architect of the World.

To the old device of Universal Masonry, "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity," Italian Masonry adds, "Independence, Union, and Fraternity among the nations."

ART. 5.

Italian Masonry has only the three grades,—Apprentice, Craftsman, and Master.

Such of her present or future members as may be in possession of higher grades may retain their titles, but such grades do not admit them to any of the privileges appertaining to the grade of Master, the highest in Italian Freemasonry.

CAP. II.

CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF ITALIAN MASONRY.

ART. 6.

Italian Masonry consists of regularly constituted local unions, called lodges.

Of a central board of control, sitting in the capital of the kingdom, called the Grand Orient of Italy.

Of regular and extraordinary general meetings.

ART. 7.

No person can become an Italian Mason unless admitted as such by a lodge dependent upon the Grand Orient, and of which lodge he remains a member.

ART. 8.

The number of the members of the Italian lodges is unlimited.

Italians and aliens are alike eligible. The Grand Orient of Italy may have lodges in any part of the world.

ART. 9.

Every lodge must consist of—

A President (*Venerabile*).

Two Vice-Presidents (*Sorveglianti*).

A Secretary, whose chief duty is to conduct the correspondence, &c.

A Speaker, who has to see to the proper observation of the Constitution, the rules and rituals, and to care for the interests of the lodge in general, and the instruction of the brethren in their duties.

A Treasurer.

An Almoner.

An Architect, to whom is confided the care of the inventory (*inventar*) of the lodge.

An Expert, who is responsible for the covering of the lodge.

The office of the Expert may be combined with that of the Almoner.

A lodge may also elect such other officials as it may find necessary.

All the officers of a lodge shall be elected from among its Masters, by the whole of the members, in the month of March in each year,—the Venerabile and the Sorveglianti by an absolute, and the remaining officials by a relative majority.

In the absence of the Venerabile he will be represented by one of the Sorveglianti; but the places of the Sorveglianti themselves will be filled, in their absence, by the other officers in rotation, in an order to be decided upon by the Venerabile.

Where other officers are wanting, their duties may be entrusted by the Venerabile to other members, being Masters; and, where there is a deficiency of Masters, to the most competent among the Craftsmen or Apprentices.

ART. 10.

All the members of a lodge must meet, where no obstacle exists, at least once in every month, under the presidency of the Venerabile or his representative, in a place adapted to the purpose, for the discussion of questions concerning the affairs of the lodge, according to the rank of the meeting.

No Masonic meeting can be held elsewhere than in the lodge, with the exception of those to define the rules, and ritual concerning the ceremonies, and funeral processions.

ART. 11.

The meetings of a lodge are of three grades :—
In that of the first degree, all the brethren meet together.

In that of the second degree, only the Master and Craftsmen of the lodge meet.

The meetings of the third grade are confined to Masters alone.

No profane—i.e., non-Mason—can enter a lodge.

Visitors, being Masters, may be admitted to the meetings of either of the three grades, according to the rank they hold.

ART. 12.

In the meetings of the third grade shall be discussed :—
The economy of a lodge, and the formalities in accordance with this statute, and with the general rules and rituals.

All measures referring to the security, order, and progress of the lodge.

The relations of the lodge with the Grand Orient and its dependent lodges.

The advancement of craftsmen to the grade of Master.

The meetings of the second grade are for the purpose of the promotion of Apprentices to the degree of Craftsmen, and giving the necessary instruction.

The meetings of the first grade undertake—

The admission of new members.

To instruct in the duties of the Freemason—that is, to his native land, and to the human race—and the various Masonic rites.

The election of a delegate to attend the general meeting of the Order.

And, finally, all questions of discipline, affecting the interests of Masonry in general, of Italian Masonry in particular, of the lodge, or of the individuals of which it is composed.

All the decisions in any meeting must be by an absolute majority, unless otherwise laid down in these statutes, and the voting must be public, except in the case of a personal question.

ART. 13.

In every meeting of either of the grades a bag will be circulated in which suggestions may be deposited, and a box for benevolent contributions.

ART. 14.

Among the lodges which depend upon the Grand Orient of Italy there is a perfect equality.

ART. 15.

No person can become a member of an Italian lodge while in his minority, or, being of age, without the consent of his father or guardian.

If his calling (*professione*) or office is such that is not compatible with all the duties of a Freemason.

If his moral character be not irreproachable.

If either his education or his reflective powers are insufficient to enable him to comprehend and appreciate the Masonic virtues.

ART. 16.

Any person wishing to be initiated in Italian Freemasonry must submit a written proposal, signed by himself and a member of the lodge of which he wishes to become a member.

Should any such person wish to become a member of a lodge other than the one in whose district he dwells, it is necessary that he should bring also the consent of the lodge in his immediate neighbourhood.

The mode of admission is defined by the rules and the rituals.

In this way are defined also the conditions and modes of promotion to the grades of Craftsmen and Masters.

ART. 17.

The General Meeting of Italian Freemasons consists of delegates from all the lodges and the actual members of the Grand Orient; the last named have, however, no vote in questions concerning the administration.

Each lodge is entitled to send a delegate, who has been elected by an absolute majority in a lodge of the Grand Orient.

The delegate of each lodge does not represent his own lodge in the meeting, but Italian Freemasonry in general.

Except in the case of an Extraordinary General Meeting, written notice will be given to the brethren fourteen days previous to proceeding to the election of delegates, of the meeting and its object.

ART. 18.

The meeting will be called together regularly on the 24th of June in each year, and the first of them in the year 1863.

Extraordinary meetings may also be held at all times when the Grand Orient may consider it necessary to do so.

The Grand Orient cannot, however, evade the calling of the annual meeting, if even such evasion is demanded by a majority of the lodges.

The meeting selects, at every one of its ordinary meetings, by an absolute majority of voices, the Italian town in which its next meeting shall take place.

Extraordinary meetings will be held wherever the Grand Orient may think best adapted for such meetings.

ART. 19.

The meeting will be held under the presidency of the Grand Master of the Order, or his representative in the Grand Orient.

ART. 20.

The meeting has to decide with a majority of voices—
The Constitutions, the Rules, and the general Rituals of the Order.

To define the general normal Forms (*Normen*) which are to be observed for the attainment of the purposes of the Order.

To audit the accounts of the Grand Orient, and decide the amount that each of the lodges shall contribute to the Grand Orient; to examine and revise the yearly accounts, and to grant its extraordinary expenses.

To name the Grand Master of the Order.

Those persons who are to form the Council of the Grand Master are elected by a simple majority from among the Masters of Italian Freemasonry.

ART. 21.

The Grand Orient of Italian Masonry, called the "Grand Orient of Italy," is formed of—

A Grand Master of the Order, who, if not resident at the town in which the Grand Orient is seated, may transfer his powers to the hands of a Grand-Regent, elected from among the members of the Grand Orient.

The Council of the Grand Master, whose members shall elect from their body the officers, by a majority of voices, to fill the following positions :—

- First and Second Assistant G. Master.
- First and Second Inspector in Chief.
- Orator in Chief.
- Chief Secretary.
- Chief Treasurer.
- Almoner in Chief.
- Architect Controller in Chief.
- Keeper of the Great Seal.
- Expert (*sic*) in Chief.
- Grand Master of the Ceremonies.
- Keeper of Records.
- Deputy Orator.
- Deputy Secretary in Chief.
- Banner Bearer.

Should a Grand Regent be named, he shall possess the power to confer the grade which he has held previously in the Council on his successor, to be named by him.

The Grand Master shall be elected for three years.

Members of the Grand Council retire yearly, in the proportion of a third of their number, who are selected during the first two years by lot; they afterwards retire in the order of their seniority.

The Grand Master and the members of the Council are at all times eligible for re-election.

ART. 22.

The Council of the Grand Master will hold one regular sitting in each week, and will, in addition, assemble together so often as the Grand Master may direct.

(To be continued.)

AUSTRALASIAN FREEMASONS AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.

The following report was adopted at a meeting of the subscribers, held at Sydney on the 31st of January last:—Your committee having finished the duties entrusted to them, we beg to give the brethren a brief account of the origin and progress of the Freemasons' Orphan Fund under the English Constitution, together with its present position.

In the year 1854 a meeting was held for the purpose of taking into consideration the best method of appropriating the sum of £90 2s. 7d., being surplus monies arising from two Masonic balls; it being suggested by your committee, with others, at that meeting, that its best use would be to lay it as the foundation stone of a Masonic Orphan Fund, resolutions to that effect were passed and a committee was appointed to draw up rules and regulations for its government.

At that time it was considered necessary to make its usefulness as comprehensive as possible by calling on all the lodges then recognised in the colonies to join in the undertaking, as well as lodges in the sister colonies, that all might be participants in the good work. Two members were chosen from each of the five lodges then assembling at the Freemasons' Hall, namely:—Lodges No. 548, 814, 843 (E.C.), 226, and 267 (I.C.), when a mutual agreement was entered into to ensure the permanency of the funds; that each lodge should pay one shilling per month per member until the Fund had increased to such an amount as would render the interest arising therefrom available for the purpose intended.

Three years elapsed, but no lodge beyond the colony or member of the Craft beyond the colony had contributed to the support of the fund, neither did our Irish brethren or lodges contribute, while the movement was steadily carried on and supported by the lodges under the English Constitution. In the mean time two new lodges established in Sydney, Nos. 941 and 942, together with Nos. 903, Illawarra, and 904, Bathurst (E.C.), joined and co-operated in the measure. The monies then collected from the English lodges and their members, by donations and contributions, amounting to five hundred pounds, had been lent on mortgage, when it was mutually agreed that the funds then in hand, as well as the mortgage money (when it became due), should be invested in the shares of the Australasian Freemasons' Hall Company, so as to carry out the original intention of the Craft, when the purchase was first made—"That the hall should become in time the property solely of the lodges and their charities," and that individual shareholders should gradually cease to exist. Accordingly the money was so invested, and the first purchase made in 1857 was forty shares at £3 5s. per share, £4 paid up, and no higher sum

has been paid in proportion for any £5 shares since that time. Under the altered aspect of the institution it was deemed advisable then to appoint your committee, three to form a quorum, to revise the laws, with instructions to fix a minimum sum that the funds should arrive at before the interest derived therefrom should be available for the object of the institution, and it was decided that £2500 should be the amount.

Your committee met at different times and drew up several laws, but from certain differences and difficulties with the then Provincial Grand Secretary, those meetings lapsed, and no meetings were convened from that time until the 11th July in the present year. Meanwhile the lodges under the English Constitution had considerably increased in number, and have assisted the fund, which has steadily progressed, and been applied as intended, until by donations, contributions of lodges, interest, and bequests, it has approached closely to the sum of £2500.

Your committee have taken especial care, by the new laws, that the funds invested in shares of the Australasian Freemasons' Hall Company shall be properly represented by two trustees and all the members of the General Committee, so as to insure a thorough representation of the interests of the Orphan Fund in the institution.

Your committee had in contemplation several laws relative to the mode of education and the sum to be expended on each recipient, but have thought it advisable to leave them in the hands of the General Committee as subjects to be embraced in their by-laws.

In concluding the duties deputed to your committee, they trust the laws, as amended, will meet the object kept in view by your committee, *i.e.*, an equitable application of the interest arising from the Orphan Fund. And your committee hope that this institution, so far successfully carried out, will be as steadily supported in the future of Masonry in this colony as it has been in the past.

Sydney, 8th January, 1863.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

STRINGENT LAWS OF HANOVER.

The Grand Lodge of Hanover has the most stringent rules in respect to the advancement of candidates extant. It provides that "No brother can be elected an officer of a lodge until he has been three years a Master Mason. A Fellow Craft must work at least a year before he can be admitted to a third degree. An Entered Apprentice must remain at least two years in that degree."—*LEX MASONICA.*

FELLOW CRAFT'S DEGREE.

Where should the volume of the Sacred Law be opened for the second degree?—M. B.—[Amos vii. is considered the most appropriate.]

IS BRO. PEPPER'S GHOST A MASON?

As Pepper's ghost is all the rage, I should be glad to know if it is a Mason? This question is not put out of mere curiosity, but is *bona fide*. In the late appeal to the Lord Chancellor for a patent, his lordship is reported to have said "he remembered seeing the same thing, when a boy, fifty-five years ago;" adding that "the then visitant was exhibited by Belzoni, the famous African traveller." Now we know, from the pages of *THE MAGAZINE*, that Belzoni was not only a brother, but a Knight Templar; and supposing Bro. Pepper to have rapped for him, and had an interview with his spirit, might not the latter kindly have communicated to Bro. Pepper the means of exhibiting the ghost of some ancient

Egyptian brother with whom Belzoni had established relations, some half century since, and produced before the Lord Chancellor in his youth?—A DISTURBED SPIRIT.—[Our correspondent should tell us what kind of "disturbed spirit" he is. We take him to be of the strongest *rum*, very slightly indeed disturbed by an admixture of water. If he really believes Bro. Pepper's ghost to be a Mason he had better go to the Polytechnic and try it, as he must know how, for himself.]

THE WORKING TOOLS.

I recommend "Plain English" to buy at once the book he mentions. Many curious Masonic books are picked up in this way, and, from the title as he gives it, it is no doubt a curious book. If he will favour me with a perusal of it, afterwards, I shall feel deeply obliged.—A. F. A. WOODFORD, G.C., Swillington, Leeds.

THE FREEMASONS OF NEWPORT, SOUTH WALES.

The following fact is so creditable to the Freemasons of Newport, that it deserves to be made a note of. It is extracted from the *Guardian* newspaper:—"A letter in the *Times* states that Mr. Samuel Baldwin Rogers, of Nant-y-glo, the inventor of iron bottoms for puddling furnaces—an invention of national importance—died in great poverty last week, at Newport, aged 90, and was only saved from a pauper's grave by the charity of the Freemasons of the town. An imbecile daughter survives, and efforts are now being made in South Wales to save her from the workhouse."—PALMAM QUI MERUIT FERAT.—[When residing at the Blaineau, some twenty-two years ago, and long before we were initiated, we were well acquainted with Bro. Rogers, who was a man far in advance of his times. A favourite scheme of his, and one not so utopian as certain interested companies pronounced it, was to collect the immense quantities of gas, driven off into the open air, from all the iron-works in Wales, to convey it to London, along the Great Western Railway, lighting the chief towns on the route, the whole of the metropolis, and the entire line from one end to the other, and finally to supply the same all over the country by the lines of railway. This plan, gigantic as it was, would have most wonderfully enriched the iron-works in Wales, abolished the monopolies of gas companies, and by utilising that which is, to this very hour, wasted in quantities that defy figures to represent it, economised the consumption of fuel—a subject now attracting considerable attention—and removed from the neighbourhood of numberless large towns, the metropolis included, the pestiferous gas works which pollute the atmosphere and damage much valuable property. When coal becomes dearer and gas more used as an article of fuel—perhaps some century hence—then will poor Bro. Roger's scheme come to be appreciated, and the country may honour his remains with a stone monument whilst his discoveries were deemed unworthy of bread. Let us hope the brethren of Newport will not relax in their kind offices towards his imbecile daughter; and to every brother, who can spare the means, we would say, contribute your mite.]—R. R.

MAD ON FREEMASONRY.

My business takes me occasionally to a printing office where a Masonic periodical was once printed, and I have to confer with a very intelligent compositor who, alas! for my comfort, knows I am a Freemason. He, it appears, set one or two volumes of that periodical, and, as he is a steady man, much respected in the office, served his apprenticeship there, and in every other way as sane as I am, is tolerated by his employers, who say, "He's a little gone on one subject, you know what; but don't allude to it." Well, I do my business with him all right enough, and turn to leave, when he catches me by the button and says,—"Mr. —, have you been able to manage that little affair for me yet? Because I know

that several Freemasons called on the governor yesterday (or the day before), and they do persecute me so I'm sure I shan't be right in my head much longer if they go on like this. Do get me made a Freemason." I have repeatedly told him the principles of the Order are to be truthful, and that no Freemason would seek to annoy him—which, for the time, pacifies him; but the same thing recurs on every visit. He is a good husband, bears an excellent character in the house alluded to, and is altogether as rational as I am on every other subject. Should I be doing wrong to propose him for initiation? It might save, or restore, a very estimable man to reason if he saw what the Craft is.—A READER.

BROTHER FRANCIS CREW.

Is Brother Francis Crew living or dead? When he was actively at work for the Girls' School he was seen everywhere; but now his name is seldom mentioned, and although I have not noticed his decease recorded in *THE MAGAZINE* it may have escaped me, so I ask the question.—A COUNTRY SUBSCRIBER.—[Brother Crew is, we are happy to say, alive and better than we expected from his affliction. About three weeks ago we called upon him, and found him actually improved in looks. True, poor fellow, he is paralysed and has lost the use of his speech, but is able to say "yes" and "no" to all that is said to him. With these exceptions every one of his faculties are in as good a state as ever. Indeed, he went so far as to sing a snatch of a song, omitting the words—and there was the remains of his once clear and musical voice. We stayed with him above an hour, and his niece, who is an admirable interpreter of his wants and ideas, told us he felt the old proverb, "Out of sight out of mind," very much, for at one time some of the brethren used to drop in and talk to him, but only a few did so now; and this she attributed to a report that had been spread abroad that he was imbecile. God have mercy, we say, on the man that invented such an untruth! Bro. Crew endorsed all she said. He showed us his arm and side (that which was unaffected), to prove how good his health was. To every question we put to him he returned a most intelligible "yes" or "no," and was pleased to intimate that he should be glad to see us again. Bro. Francis Crew is as hearty as any man can be, gifted with all his intellects in their full vigour, and, we think, deserving of a little more attention from the Craft than he receives. A few minutes' chat with him occasionally would be but a friendly act, and to such a brother little courtesies of this kind would be a bright spot in his hour of trial. We are very glad "A Country Subscriber" has put the question to us, because we can answer it in a way that will be gratifying to hundreds. In our turn we should like to ask a question,—Is Bro. Crew's portrait as forgotten and neglected as himself; and at whose door lies the blame?]

MASONIC DEGREES.

Could one really believe that "Delta's" notes and queries are meant *bonâ fide* to advance Masonic truth and extend Masonic knowledge, one should have little difficulty in giving a satisfactory response to his almost innumerable communications, "*de omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis*."

But I confess, having already had a little experience of "Delta's" controversial theories, that I cannot otherwise regard them than as "sensation" notes, raising up endless "*vexata quæstiones*," stirring up endless controversies, and treading with irreverent footstep on what, as Masons, we have been taught to consider hitherto "holy ground."

When "Delta," for instance, in the very last number of *THE MAGAZINE*, gives vent to this reckless expression of individual opinion—"I feel convinced that the F.C. degree has been recently foisted into the system," he quietly ignores those most interesting communications from our Bro. D. Murray Lyon which should have served, one is led to think, to point out even to him,

if other evidence were wanting, the absurdity and almost inconceivable rashness of such a theory. To advance Masonic truth, and to extend Masonic knowledge, this would no doubt afford a valid reason for salutary fraternal discussion; but, as the whole tendency of "Delta's" previous and recent communications is to sap the very foundation upon which Craft Masonry rests, both by implied doubt and direct assault on its system and claims, and to substitute in its stead the childish and chimerical pretensions of so-called "high degrees," such a discussion becomes, to sincere Craft Masons, both an unwelcome and unwholesome employment. Were it really worth the while of us poor Craft Masons, ignorant and credulous though we are said to be, and the laughing stock of the profane, we could, I think, prove even to the satisfaction of the most sceptical antagonist, that frequent allusions to Hiram Abiff, as he is constantly termed, may be found long previous to 1715. And so as regards many other matters. But is it really worth our while to take the trouble to give easy replies to queries which subserve no useful end—which, even if answered, add nothing to our existing stores of Masonic information, and which form the advance-guard, so to say, of a baseless and hopeless, yet cherished delusion?

I, for one, think not; and, therefore, conclude this note with a saving protest on behalf of myself, and many an earnest and not wholly unlettered Craft Mason. Because "Delta's" queries are not answered, be it remembered that they are not, therefore, unanswerable, either in respect to the facts they assume or the doubts they suggest.

Despite, moreover, so much, week by week, of unqualified statement and hazardous assumption, let it be borne in mind that materials abound, and are daily increasing, which serve to prove incontestably the wonderful antiquity, reality, and genuineness of our present Craft Masonry, as opposed to any other system, and as separate from any other organisation.—EBOR.

HIGH PRIESTHOOD.

Where can I be admitted to the unrecognised Order of High Priesthood?—B****.

NEW GRAND LODGE.

Are the Scilly Islands included in any Masonic jurisdiction; and could not a new Grand Lodge be formed there?—P.—[No; they are dependencies of the British Crown, and under the Grand Master of England.]

KNIGHTS OF DEATH.

What degree is called the Knights of Death, and where is it practised?—B****.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

What was the rise of this Order, and how did it come by the name of Knights Templar?—H. N.—[In or about 1099, a band of nine knights formed themselves into a holy brotherhood in arms, and entered into a solemn compact to aid one another in clearing the highways and protecting the pilgrims through the passes and defiles of the mountains to the Holy City. Warmed with the religious and military fervour of the age, and animated by the sacredness of the cause to which they had devoted their lives, they called themselves the *Poor Fellow-soldiers of Jesus Christ*. They renounced the world and its pleasures, and, in the holy Church of the Resurrection, in the presence of the patriarch of Jerusalem, they embraced vows of perpetual chastity, obedience, and poverty, after the manner of monks. Uniting in themselves the two most popular qualities of the age, devotion and valour, and exercising them in the most popular of all enterprises, they speedily acquired a famous reputation. At first, we are told, they had no church and no particular place of abode; but in the year 1118 (nineteen years after the conquest of Jerusalem by the Crusaders), they had rendered such good and acceptable service to the Christians, that Baldwin II., King of Jerusalem,

granted them a place of habitation within the sacred inclosure of the Temple on Mount Moriah, amid those holy and magnificent structures, partly erected by the Christian Emperor Justinian, and partly built by the Caliph Omar, which were then exhibited by the monks and priests of Jerusalem, whose restless zeal led them to practise on the credulity of the pilgrims, and to multiply relics and all objects likely to be sacred in their eyes, as the Temple of Solomon, whence the Poor Fellow-soldiers of Jesus Christ came thenceforth to be known by the name of "The Knighthood of the Temple of Solomon;" and subsequently that designation was abbreviated into Knights Templar.]

THE ANGELS OF THE SECRET SECTS.

Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, and others, call their allegorical ladies angels. Did these ladies represent the secret sects through which Freemasonry came down to us?—Z. Z.—[Partially so. The secret brotherhood—Rose Croix—called themselves and their disciples angels, spirits, and elect. All that belonged to them was described as something appertaining to heaven, and the profane, *i.e.*, the uninitiated who persecuted them, are portrayed as infernal. The Swedenborgian system is full of such imagery, but the difference between the early leaders of the Freemasons and Swedenborg is, that the former put forth their mysteries as poetical fictions, whilst the latter described his as facts happening to himself. Swedenborg has been accepted by some as a literal prophet, but others have classed him as a madman, and visionary; whilst those who are angels and read his works with angelic eyes, know that he was neither saint or madman when he wrote thus:—"The instant in which man thinks he is dying, is precisely that in which he rises; when this happens he enters into the spiritual world, and becomes an angel with human form; and there are no other angels but those who become such by leaving this world. Every new angel in this world of spirits is received by old ones, who instruct him in the spiritual sense of the writings." "Z. Z." will excuse our going into further details in print, but if he will send his address to us we shall be happy to tell him more.]

GRAND LODGE ATTENDANCE.

Is there any way of ascertaining what are the proportions of London and country members who attend Grand Lodge?—A. PROVINCIAL.—[None that we know of. In August, 1859, Bro. Sherry, of the Winchester Lodge of Economy, whilst speaking on this subject, said:—"He had lately made an application to the Grand Secretary in London, and that officer had kindly sent him down some particulars, which showed the great distinguishable difference in the attendance of the London and the provincial brethren at Grand Lodge during the last two years. The returns he had received gave him the following details in this respect:—

Quarterly Meetings.	No. of London Brethren present.	No. of Provincial Brethren present.	Total.
1857—June 3	150	11	161
September 2	191	7	198
December 2	196	39	235
1858—March 3	178	42	220
June 2	148	30	178
September 1	104	11	115
December 1	212	40	252
1859—March 1	213	46	259
June 1	130	42	172
Totals.....	1522	268	1790

And these figures showed that the attendance of the London Masons had been four-fifths more than that of the provincial brethren."]

THE MASONIC LECTURES.

Bro. G. W. Chase, P.M., editor of *The American Masonic Journal*, delivered an *Address before the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire*, U. S., in which he speaks of the Masonic Lectures. Thinking it might be an interesting subject to some of your readers, I forward it accordingly.—Ex. Ex.

"I have alluded to the lectures of Masonry as something that every candidate should be instructed in when he receives his degrees.

"From the lectures we gain a knowledge of the sublime doctrines of Freemasonry. We there learn why it is that our peculiar forms, and mystic signs and ceremonies, have been adopted. We there learn how to prove ourselves possessed of the talismanic secrets of the Order, and how to prove others. The lectures, therefore, form an important part of the information belonging to the degrees, and to which the candidate is entitled by virtue of his acceptance. The ceremony is incomplete and the instruction imperfect without them, and no candidate should ever be considered as having received his degrees until he has received the lectures in full. Having paid for the whole of the degrees, it is as wrong to cheat or defraud him out of any part of them, as for him to deprive others of what rightfully belongs to them.

"Perhaps, in this connection it may not be unprofitable briefly to notice the origin and progress of the present form of what are technically called the 'lectures' of Masonry.

"Previous to about the year 1720, when a person was initiated, passed, or raised, the secrets were communicated to him, and the explanations given him in such language as the Master could command at the time. But about this time, as an assistance to Masters of lodges, Drs. Anderson and Dessaguliers, two eminent Masons, compiled or arranged the information necessary to be given to candidates, into the form of question and answer, still preserving the name that had been previously applied to the usual instructions of the Master—that of 'lectures.'

"So favourably were these received that the Grand Lodge of England adopted the form, and ordered them to be given in the lodges.

"In the year 1732, the lectures of Anderson and Dessaguliers were revised by Martin Clare, who added a brief allusion to the human senses and the theological ladder.

"A few years later, Thomas Dunckerly, who was considered the most intelligent Mason of his day, extended and improved the lectures, and among other things, first gave to the theological ladder its three most important rounds.

"These continued to be used until 1763, when Rev. William Hutchinson gave them an improved form. Hutchinson explained the three lights by 'the three great stages of Masonry; the knowledge and worship of the God of nature in the purity of Eden; the service under the Mosaic law when divested of idolatry; and the Christian revelation. But most especially our lights are typical of the Holy Trinity.'

"Again, in 1772, these lectures were revised and improved by Preston, whose system was the standard in England until the Union of 1813, when Dr. Hemming established the system now generally practiced in the English lodges.

"The Preston lectures were early introduced into this country, and were considerably modified by T. S. Webb, whose system has been the basis of all those taught since his day in the lodges of the United States.

"We have thus seen whence the lectures originated, and are prepared, in a measure, to charge infringements upon the ancient landmarks (if there be any in them) upon their authors. And if, as many brethren believe, the doctrines of the lectures are all 'landmarks,' we are prepared to say who have added to the landmarks.

"But the lectures, as a whole, are not landmarks of the Order. They are the simple text of Masonry, 'a course of instruction in which the ceremonies, traditions and moral instructions appertaining to the degree are set forth, while the extended illustrations which are given to them by an intelligent Master or lecturer,—and which he can only derive from a careful study of scripture, of history, and of the published works of learned Masonic writers,—constitute the commentary, without which

the simple text is comparatively barren and uninteresting.' These commentaries are the philosophy of Masonry, without a knowledge of which no brother can claim our technical title of 'a bright Mason.'

"While, therefore, the intelligent Mason will give the text in the language prescribed for him by his Grand Lodge, he will not feel himself rigidly confined to this alone, in imparting instruction to his less informed brethren.

"The ritual contains but a small part of the 'body of Masonry,' and most certainly a very small quota of its history and philosophy; and the Mason whose only knowledge of the institution and its doctrines has been derived from this source, can hardly lay claim to an intelligent knowledge of Freemasonry.

"It is only when the mind has become expanded by a perusal of the 'Great Light of Masonry,' which is ever open in the lodge; when we have carefully studied the moral precepts inculcated by the degrees; when we have considered well the great doctrines taught in the third degree, that we begin to see that the mission of Freemasonry is not the mere transmission and preservation of forms and ceremonies, of signs and tokens; that our work as Free and Accepted Masons is not to be confined to conferring the degrees upon candidates. We then begin to have more exalted ideas of the institution, and of its mighty power as a means of good. Then we begin to appreciate the idea of brotherly love, of relief and truth. Then we begin to understand why temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice should be constantly kept in view by all the members of the Order. Then we realise that as a science of religious symbolism, Freemasonry has no equal: That its emblems seem invested with new properties, and that the light—the real light of truth—breaks in upon our enraptured vision. We then see, not a mere childish play, founded it may be on a myth, a fable, an improbability,—but we learn that though our path is beset with dangers, and though we must all fall by the hand of death, and be deposited in the silent tomb, yet we shall finally be raised to new life, and be allowed an entrance into that Celestial Lodge above, where our Supreme Architect presides."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

CENTENARY FESTIVAL.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I observe in your issue of the 19th inst. an account of the celebration of the Centenary Festival of the Marquis of Granby Lodge (No. 124), Durham. I think it is an omission on the part of your correspondent that he does not state that Bro. Robert Sutherland, who delivered the "Ode," is blind, and was one of the successful candidates at the election of the annuitants of the Royal Benevolent Institution in May last; and although this is known within the circle of his own lodge, it will not be so amongst your readers generally, and the fact of his blindness gives a greater interest and value to the "Ode." I think also it might have been stated that the W.M. presented Bro. Sutherland with a centenary jewel which had been purchased for him by the subscriptions of several of the brethren of the lodge. The W.M., on his own behalf, also made a similar presentation to the worthy and indefatigable Secretary of the lodge, Bro. Wm. Marshall, for his zealous exertions in promoting the interests and welfare of the lodge.

Yours fraternally,
DUNELMENSIS.

MASONIC CHARITY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Lodge No. 600 forwarded to you its balance-sheet, or rather tables, purporting to show the mode in which the funds of the lodge are disbursed. Questions arise out of this published statement which the lodge is called upon to answer; it signifies not

whether these queries are put by an *incognito* or not. They must either be explained, or they resolve themselves into charges from which conclusions may be drawn.

The Treasurer of Lodge 600 may be proud of his productions; he is evidently yearning for fame, but his achievement is now the property of others, and no subtlety can win it back. He cannot even take shelter under the subterfuge of "the exercise of your discretion." He would like a personal altercation, but the matter is now in the hands of the Masonic world, to whom his lodge must answer.

Lodge 600 is required, first, to explain as to Table 1—which divides the funds amongst a number of institutions—whether these institutions, and these divisions, have any solid foundation? It is further required to answer for the sums voted in its Table 2; also as to its apparent neglect of the *real* Masonic institutions. Further, it is asked to explain as to its members, and various circumstances connected with them. The questions in full appeared in your impression of the 19th inst. Lodge No. 600 has promulgated a *system*, and has put forth *institutions*, which it is challenged to defend. It has paraded its members, which it is asked to vouch for. Its statements, having been publicly made, cannot be privately answered. There can be little difficulty in this if the members are not, along with the institutions, *in nubibus*. Silence on the part of No. 600 must amount to a confession that its Tables are a "mockery, delusion, and snare."

I am, yours truly and fraternally,

INVESTIGATOR.

London, Sept. 29th, 1863.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—A writer, under the signature "Masonic," in your number for September 19th, inquires how he can vote for eight candidates at the next election to the Masonic Institution for Boys, he having, as I infer from his letter, paid for one vote. If he is an old subscriber he has a *right* to record one vote at every election for as many boys as are to be elected, in the present case eight, but he cannot accumulate them in favour of one or more; or he can, if he is much interested in any case, give what, in Parliamentary language, is called a plumper—that is, foregoing his right to vote for all, and giving his one vote in favour of one candidate. This is the plan I mean to adopt. If my votes are not allowed to pass, I subscribe no more to the Institution; for to deprive me of my votes would be a fraud on the part of the managers of the Institution.

Yours fraternally,

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

[We look upon it that the intention of the new law was to limit the votes absolutely to one for any subscription.]

CAN A WARDEN INITIATE, &c.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The question of a Warden's power to perform our Masonic ceremonies has been often mooted in your columns. You have never hesitated to give a positive opinion on the subject, and that opinion will be always received with the respect due to your high standing in the Craft; but, in the absence of a judicial decision, so authoritative as to be final, the only course left for those of us who are called on to pronounce on this point is to solicit, through the medium of *THE MAGAZINE*, the opinions of brethren more able and more experienced than ourselves, and by that means to endeavour to arrive at a uniformity of procedure. The pro-

vision of the "Book of Constitutions" runs as follows:—"In the Master's absence, the immediate Past Master, or, if he be absent, the senior Past Master of the lodge present, shall take the chair. And if no Past Master of the lodge be present, then the Senior Warden, or, in his absence, the Junior Warden, shall rule the lodge." Passing over certain points, to which exception may not improperly be taken, the great difficulty lies in the two expressions, "*take the chair*" and "*rule the lodge*." Are these expressions synonymous? Or, is the Warden to *rule* without *taking the chair*? And, if so, what is the precise meaning of the word *rule*?

I think that I am correct in saying that by far the greater number of our English brethren maintain that the difference of expression imports a difference of meaning. They believe that the Warden, when he *rules* the lodge, exercises a power far inferior to that of a W.M. or P.M. who *takes the chair*. This difference, according to some, consists in the ability of a Warden to perform the ceremonies; whilst others, allowing him that privilege, require him, when exercising it, to take up his position on one side or the other of the Master's chair. Both are agreed that, if a Warden place himself in the Master's chair, he violates the "Book of Constitutions," and even removes an ancient landmark. Nor are those who hold these opinions most stringently at a loss for arguments wherewith to support their views. They cite the ceremony of installation as evidence that none but those who have been thus solemnly inducted can ever occupy the chair: they assert that a lodge is not complete unless presided over by the W.M., or by one who has been an installed Master: they argue that if, in the interpretation of an ambiguous phrase, the highest prerogative of the Chair is thus conferred on the inferior officers, Masonry thereby loses one of its chief ornaments and one of its most instructive lessons: they tell us that, apart from the supposed authority of the "Book of Constitutions," a Warden has no greater antecedent right to perform these ceremonies than a Deacon, or a Master Mason who has never held office; and that it is impossible for any one below the rank of an installed Master to make the announcement which succeeds an important communication, in the ceremony of closing a Master Mason's lodge. They even fetch an illustration from the usages of a sectional Church, and profess that, as none but a Bishop can make a Priest, so none but a Master or Past Master can make a Mason; and, finally, they appeal to the all but universal practice of Masonic lodges, and protest against the innovation as ill-advised and uncalled for.

With equal positiveness and equal obstinacy, some brethren contend for what they call the "Wardens' rights." They ask what the word "*rule*" means, if it does not imply that the Warden is to take the chair. It cannot refer to his power to summon the lodge, for his authority in that respect is expressly derived under another clause of the Constitutions. It cannot refer to his right to maintain order, without occupying the chair, for to charge one brother with that duty, whilst another is presiding in lodge, is to introduce such confusion as will effectually deprive a lodge of its right to be called a "regular assembly or duly organised meeting of Masons." But if the "*rule*" of a Warden neither qualifies him to assemble the brethren, nor to exercise authority over them when assembled, it must be a model of that constitution which attracted the admiration of M. Thiers, in which "*le roi règne mais ne gouverne pas*." They also cite the authority of the ancient charges, in the fourth section of which the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Wardens, together with the Masters and Wardens of private lodges, are styled "*rulers and governors, supreme and subordinate*." They tell us that the warrant is addressed to the Master and Wardens and their successors, not to Past Masters, immediate or senior. With respect to the solemn announcement before alluded to, they declare it to be as impossible for a Past Master as

for a Warden to alter it, if the words be taken in their literal signification. And finally they maintain that neither in the ceremony of installation, nor in the ancient charges, is there any expression which limits the prerogative in question to the Master alone.

With respect to these words, "*rule the lodge*," it may not be improper to note, in passing, that at the last Quarterly Communication, our distinguished and R.W. Brother the Grand Registrar, after previously conferring on Worshipful Masters an authority, as invidious as unnecessary, equally opposed to all Masonic precedent and to all Masonic courtesy, judicially pronounced that until the W.M. elect "was installed in the chair, he had no right to rule the lodge." If our learned brother had qualified this absolute expression by adding "in the presence of the W.M.," he would have avoided the appearance of contradicting that law which it is more particularly his duty to expound and uphold.

I have by no means endeavoured to set forth all the arguments adduced by brethren, on one side or the other, on this important point. It has been my object to give a concise (although, I fear, an imperfect) account of the position in which the question now stands. On a review of the whole matter, I have no hesitation in concluding that the "Book of Constitutions," under a strict interpretation, confers on the Wardens the power of performing our ceremonies. In fact, I have no doubt that, when Grand Lodge framed the particular Constitution in question, it employed the two disputed expressions as perfectly identical. With characteristic clumsiness, it describes in one and the same section the brother who supplies the Worshipful Master's place as "acting as Master," "taking the chair," and "ruling the lodge." I am, however, fully convinced that it is inexpedient for the Wardens to exercise this power, which should be peculiarly the prerogative of the Worshipful Master; and I much wish that some brother of standing and influence would bring under the notice of Grand Lodge not only this section, but the whole "Book of Constitutions," with a view to its thorough revisal. If our much-respected brother, Stephen Barton Wilson, or the able and eloquent Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes, would undertake this laborious and thankless task, he would confer an inestimable boon on the whole Craft. In all difficulties connected with our procedure, a perplexed Mason usually turns to the "Book of Constitutions;" and frequently, after a longer or shorter interval, turns away again, a sadder and not a wiser man. Indefiniteness, incompleteness, and inaccuracy are the distinguishing characteristics of our authorised code of Masonic law. A late powerful and plausible agitator used to profess his readiness to drive a coach and six through any Act of Parliament framed by a Whig Ministry. It would not be difficult, I imagine, to turn the *Great Eastern* in the loose and clumsily-drawn clauses of many sections of our "Book of Constitutions." Uncertain law is worse than no law at all. It perplexes those who are anxious to act legally; it encourages those who like to act wilfully; and it inspires both with contempt for the legislative authority.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

ALFRED SMITH, W.M. 76 (late 90),

Prov. Grand Registrar of Hants.

Winchester, September 23rd, 1863.

AN IMPOSTOR.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am desirous of cautioning the W.M.'s and relieving officers of lodges against an individual calling himself Captain Charles Bem, a Hungarian (sometimes a Pole) in distress, who has, I have reason to believe, for some years past traded on the sym-

pathies of the brethren. He tells a sad tale of his sufferings in Siberia, and is given to exhibiting an emaciated leg as an evidence of these sufferings. I gave this man relief in April last, not then having any reason to doubt the truth of his statement; but after doing so I mentioned the fact to a P.M. of the lodge, who at once stated that he had twice relieved the same individual during his year of office. He has called on me again to-day, and, on my stating that I recollected him, and had previously assisted him, he in a most unblushing manner asserted that he had only been in England twenty-five days, and had never been in this town before in his life. Unfortunately for him, I recollected his features perfectly, as did also a clerk in my office; moreover, his tale was identical with that previously told, and I therefore sent him to the right about.

I am a bad hand at description, and can only state that the man is rather tall, with a rugged, weather-beaten face, and speaks a most execrable jargon of broken languages (English I cannot call it). He may, however, be readily known by his leg and his name, which he does not seem to consider it politic to alter, viz., Captain Charles Bem.

Yours fraternally,

H. B. WHITE, W.M. 148.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGES.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—By No. 4 of the "Ancient Charges" it is stated that "All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only;" and we are led by a portion of our ceremonies to look upon those who "prize honour and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune," and that our "privileges are conferred upon worthy men alone."

Reading the reports of Provincial Grand appointments last year, I am led to think that the above quotations are fallacies; that the words require transposing and substituting others in the stead; that the first should read, "All preferment is granted to those who possess real and personal property and private friendship; that rank and fortune are preferred before honour and virtue; that our privileges are conferred upon family connections, and that not unfrequently the highest official appointments are conferred upon brethren who have not merited them from Masonic talent or works, and in some cases upon brethren who were incapable of the common business of a lodge, and who never have conducted either of our ceremonies—creating thereby much dissatisfaction amongst the real workers in the Craft, and suppressing that spirit of emulation that we are taught to be the precursor of preferment to office.

Look out, therefore, Mr. Editor, upon the forthcoming appointments. If the brethren so preferred *have* talent or Masonic skill, or have rendered *any* good works in furtherance of the principles of the Craft, "hide it not under the bushel," but let the Masonic world be assured that it is their *qualifications*, accordant with the "Book of Constitutions," which has led to the honour of the appointments.

Yours fraternally,

T. B.

Norwich, Sept. 28th, 1863.

Obituary.

BRO. HENRY VAN BUREN.

Bro. Henry Van Buren, on the 23rd of August, died at Trinidad, aged 34 years, of apoplexy. Bro. Henry Van Buren was a member of Lodges Royal Philanthropic (No. 585) and Royal Prince of Wales (No. 1169), Trinidad; and in both lodges had served as S.W. He was also Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. Bro. Van Buren was a solicitor at law, of considerable practice. He has left a young widow and a very large circle of friends and brethren to deplore his loss.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire, has fixed the 7th October for holding a Provincial Grand Lodge, at St. George's Hall, Bradford. The W.M. and brethren of the Pentalfa Lodge (No. 974), have consequently altered the day for the consecration of their lodge from the 13th to the 6th October, in order to save inconvenience to many brethren.

The Pentalfa Lodge, No. 974, is to be consecrated at the Masonic Hall, Bradford, on the 6th of October. The Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M. and Prov. G.M., and Dr. Fearnley, G.D. and D. Prov. G.M., have been requested to attend.

The installation meeting of the Southwark Mark Lodge (No. 11, S.C.), Bro. John Thomas, R.W.M., will be held on Monday, October 5th, at the Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford, instead of the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. Time, six o'clock.

We are very glad to hear that that zealous and indefatigable Brother and Sir Knight, Samuel Rawson, now a resident of Shanghai, has been appointed Provincial Grand Commander for China.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—After three months' recess this celebrated lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 15th, at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street. The W.M., Bro. Frederick Walters, assisted by his officers, Davies, Harris, Moore, and Hurrell, in a very correct and impressive manner (taking each separately) initiated Messrs. Turney and Morris into the secrets of ancient Freemasonry, and raised Bro. Loe to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. All the ceremonies were rendered in such a superior style as to call forth the unanimous approbation of the brethren, who cordially thanked the W.M. on his acquitting himself with such *éclat*. Business being finished, the brethren, upwards of forty in number, sat down to a superior banquet, replete in all the delicacies of the season, followed by an excellent dessert. The usual toasts were given and received. Bro. Tattershall responded for the visitors. Bro. Turney, in an excellent speech, replied for the initiates. After a few hours spent in social reunion, the brethren separated, expressing themselves delighted with their evening's enjoyment. Visitors—A. H. Tattershall, 13; Spencer, W.M. 203; R. Welsford, P.M. 548, &c.

PYTHAGOREAN LODGE (No. 79).—The first meeting since the vacation of this celebrated, old, and prosperous lodge was held on Monday, September 28th, at the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich (Bro. J. Moon's). Bros. W. R. Orchard, W.M., assisted by his officers, Hasler, Ward, Potter, Newton, and Vinten, opened the lodge. Two gentlemen were balloted for and unanimously elected. Bro. J. Moore, P.M., then took the chair, and passed Bro. Trill to the degree of a Fellow Craft Freemason, and afterwards initiated Mr. R. Lander into Freemasonry. The other candidate was absent. Three gentlemen were duly proposed for initiation for the next lodge night. After lodge the brethren sat down to one of those excellent banquets which mine host is now so famous for. The usual loyal toasts were given and received. Visitors—Bros. Henderson, P.M. 13; Walters, W.M. 73, Sec. 871; C. L. Smyth, S.W. 140; Longstaff, 700.

WELLINGTON LODGE (No. 548).—This prosperous lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 8th, at the Clarendon Arms Tavern, Upper Lewisham-road, Deptford. Bro. John Stevens, W.M., in his usual superior style, passed two brethren to the degree of Fellow Craft Freemasons. He also very impressively initiated one gentleman into the mysteries and privi-

leges of ancient Freemasonry. After business the brethren partook of an excellent banquet. Visitors—F. Walters, W.M. 73; Green, W.M. 147, &c.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, September 23rd, at the Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford (Bro. J. Stevens's). Bro. G. Wilton, W.M., assisted by Bros. Weir, Walters, Stevens, Blomeley, and Mills opened the lodge. The candidates for raising and initiation having each sent apologies for their absence, it caused their progress to stand over for another lodge. Three gentlemen were duly proposed as candidates for initiation on the next lodge meeting. The lodge was closed, and after staying a few hours together, the brethren separated. Visitors, Bros. A. H. Tattershall, 13; G. Chapman, J.D. 147, &c.

CITY OF LONDON LODGE (No. 901).—A very interesting meeting of this lodge was held at their private lodge rooms, 23, Bell-alley, Moorgate-street, on Monday, September 21st, 1863, being their first meeting this season. The programme of the evening was to initiate five, pass one, and receive several propositions for balloting. The W.M. and officers were in attendance, punctual to time.—Bros. E. Sisson, W.M.; Smithers, S.W., in the absence of Bro. Collier; Osborn, J.W.; Higgs, S.D.; Lean, J.D.; Salisbury, I.G.; Couchman, Tyler; Farthing, Treas.; J. A. Gibson, Sec. The other brethren of the lodge present were—Bros. Terry, Gawler, Nutman, Wynn, Frankenstein, Medcalf, Case, Green, Walker, Scott, Bloomenthal, and Koppel. The visiting brethren were—Bros. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D.; Swaabe, P.M.; Welsford, and several other brethren. The lodge was opened in due form and solemn prayer. The minutes of last lodge (also the lodge of emergency, held on Monday, August 3rd) were read and confirmed. They then proceeded to ballot for the candidates, four only being present, viz.:—Mr. Edward Woodman, proposed by Bro. Gibson, seconded by Bro. Griffiths; Mr. John Dugald Winn, proposed by Bro. Salisbury, seconded by Bro. Medcalf; Mr. G. G. Henery, proposed by Bro. Frankenstein, seconded by the W.M.; Mr. Manley, proposed by Bro. Higgs, seconded by the W.M. The ballot was unanimous in their favour, and they were duly initiated into the secrets and mysteries of the Order by the W.M. in a solemn and impressive manner. Bro. Scott having proved himself a suitable candidate for a F.C., was duly passed. After the transaction of the above business, the lodge adjourned to the refreshment table. After the cloth was cleared, the W.M. rose and proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were responded to with great enthusiasm. Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, in a truly Masonic speech, proposed the health of the W.M., which was drunk in bumpers and full honours. The W.M. then responded in a neat speech, and proposed the health of his old and valued friend, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, wishing him health and prosperity and every blessing all this world could give, for he was ever ready to help all who wished to improve in the knowledge of their ancient and honourable institution. He concluded by calling upon the brethren to drink the health of Bro. S. B. Wilson and visitors. Bro. S. B. Wilson, in responding, gave the brethren excellent advice. He thanked the W.M. and his officers, and congratulated them that, instead of their pretty little lodge being located in a tavern, they were occupying premises exclusively their own. Too much praise could not be given to the W.M. and his officers for the energy and spirit they had displayed. He called the brethren's attention to the election of Master Frank Allen Southall, for the Boys' School, and proxies were promised by all the brethren present. Bro. S. B. Wilson then thanked the brethren for himself and brother visitors for drinking his and their health. The W.M. then proposed the health of the initiates, and congratulated them upon joining the Order of Freemasons. They had joined a good thing, and he advised them to obtain all the knowledge they could as to its principles. Although they might witness the ceremonies in the lodge-room, if they wanted the key to those ceremonies, they must go to the Lodges of Instruction, where the particular meaning of the principles would be fully explained. He considered they were very fortunate in joining so young a lodge, for they would have the opportunity of seeing how the work was divided, from the W.M. in the chair to the Tyler; and he congratulated them on joining the City of London Lodge, where they would meet with true brotherly love, and a sincere desire to make them happy. The last toast being proposed brought to a close one of the most delightful evenings ever spent. The brethren separated at eleven o'clock.

PROVINCIAL.

CHESHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Thursday, 21th ult., the brethren of the Province met at the Assembly Rooms, Knutsford, for the transaction of business. The town was gaily decorated with flags, banners, and bannerets, and at an early time of the day considerable bustle and excitement was caused by the arrival of carriages from distant parts of the county, the new line of railway also bringing its quota of brethren of the mystic tie.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at 11 a.m., in the absence of F.M. Lord Combermere, by the Hon. Col. Cotton, assisted by the following distinguished officers and the assembled brethren of the province:—Bros. Lord de Tabley; G. C. Legh, M.P., S.G.W. of England; M'Intyre, G. Reg.; his Excellency E. Dubois, the Ambassador of Hayti and G.M. of the Freemasons at Hayti; Willoughby, Cruttenden, W. Egerton, M.P.; Garnett, Bennett, B. Lowther, Smith, Griffiths, Bland, Bully, Capt. Cope, Barlow, Twiss, Rigby, and the Rev. Bros. Garnett and Terry, of Arley; Tanner, of Northwich; Garvin, of Runcorn; and Vernon, of Liverpool.

The minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge were read and confirmed, and a very interesting discussion followed on the educational scheme for the sons and daughters of Masons, lately established in the province. The appointment of the Prov. G. Officers for the year followed, and Bro. Bland, Prov. G. Treas., brought forward his annual statement, which was pronounced satisfactory and passed unanimously. The appointment of Bro. Lord de Tabley as Prov. S.G.W. and Bro. G. C. Legh as Prov. J.G.W. of the province were then made by the acting Prov. G.M., the Right Hon. Col. Wellington Cotton.

Bro. Lord DE TABLEY proposed the re-election of Bro. Bland as Prov. G. Treas., observing that they had had the advantage of his services as Treasurer for many years, to the great satisfaction of the brethren of the province; that they were much indebted to him for the attention he had devoted to his office, and hoped to have his continued exertions in his high office for many years to come.

Bro. Capt. CORN seconded the proposition, endorsing all that Bro. Lord de Tabley had said with reference to Bro. Bland as Prov. G. Treas., and considered it would be an evil day for the province should Bro. Bland cease to perform the duties of his office, as he had hitherto done, for the benefit of Masonry.

The re-appointment of their inestimable Prov. G. Sec., Bro. Griffiths, then took place.

The brethren then formed in procession to church, preceded by the 15th Cheshire Rifle Volunteers, as follows:—

Representatives of the following lodges were present, and took part in the ceremonial of the day:—

- The Endeavour Lodge, Dukinfield (No. 830).
- The Ellesmere Lodge, Runcorn (No. 758).
- The Lodge of Independence, Chester (No. 721).
- The Combermere Lodge, Seacombe (No. 695).
- The Zetland Lodge, Birkenhead (No. 537).
- The Eaton Lodge, Congleton (No. 533).
- The Mersey Lodge, Birkenhead (No. 477).
- The Lodge of Unity, Macclesfield (No. 267).
- The Lodge of Fortitude, Newton (No. 461).
- The Lodge of Fidelity, Newton (No. 430).
- The Lodge of Sincerity, Northwich (No. 428).
- The Cestrian Lodge, Chester (No. 425).
- The Samaritan Lodge, Sandbach (No. 368).
- The Lodge of Industry, Hyde (No. 361).
- The Lodge of Benevolence, Marple (No. 366).
- The Moira Lodge, Stalybridge (No. 324).
- The Lodge of Concord, Stockport (No. 323).
- The Lodge of Peace, Stockport (No. 322).
- The Lodge of Unity, Crewe (No. 321).
- The Lodge of Loyalty, Mottram (No. 320).
- The Combermere Lodge of Union, Macclesfield (No. 295).
- The King's Friends' Lodge, Nantwich (No. 293).
- The Lodge of Unanimity, Stockport (No. 287).
- The Lodge of St. John, Stockport (No. 101).
- The Lodge of Unanimity, Dukinfield (No. 89).

An eloquent sermon was delivered by the Prov. G. Chap., Bro. Garnett, from Acts xxii., v. 6 and 7. After divine service, the brethren returned from church to the Royal George Hotel. The Provincial Grand Lodge having been duly closed, they assembled at the banquet.

Bro. Lord de Tabley presided, supported on his right by his Excellency the Ambassador E. Dubois, G.M. Hayti; Bros. Rev. J. W. N. Tanner, Griffiths, Bennett, Bland, Garnett, &c.; and on the left by Bros. M'Intyre, the Grand Registrar of England; W. C. Cruttenden, W. Egerton, M.P.; Willoughby, Andrews, Bully, &c. The banquet was most profuse, and highly creditable to the *cuisine* of Bro. and Mrs. Hurst.

LORD DE TABLEY, in rising to propose the first toast, acknowledged the honour of presiding on the occasion, and regretted the absence of the venerated Lord Combermere, and that sudden indisposition had prevented the Hon. Col. Cotton taking the chair. His lordship then proposed the health of her Gracious Majesty the Queen, dear to every heart that throbs through the realm, but still dearer to a Masonic heart.

The ACTING PROV. G. MASTER, in giving the toast of the Prince of Wales and the Countess of Chester, said he need scarcely remark with what anxiety they all looked forward to the career and success in life of the Prince of Wales and his amiable Princess. He hoped ere long they should be able to give him Craft honour, as well as British honours.

The ACTING PROV. G. MASTER, in proposing the Bishop and Clergy, regretted that Bro. Garnett had been obliged to leave; but he had left behind him Bro. Tanner, a gentleman to whom they were so much indebted.

Bro. the Rev. J. W. N. TANNER responded, observing that the kind reception of the names of the Bishop and Clergy convinced him that the clergy were more respected than clergymen themselves think. They had heard a most excellent sermon, and hoped they might all profit by it, and bring its precepts home to themselves, and thereby make them happy in this world and in that which is to come. He believed the Bishop was not opposed to Masonry, and heard he was one of the Order. He trusted the Craft would meet together many years to come in the same happy state of feeling and circumstances.

The ACTING PROV. G. MASTER proposed the health of that beneficent and most excellent Mason Lord Zetland, and extolled the discretion, zeal, and ability of the Grand Master.

The ACTING PROV. G. MASTER said it rejoiced him to see how cordially the health of the Grand Master had been received. He, therefore, proposed the health of the D.G.M., Earl de Grey and Ripon, distinguished alike in Masonry and the service of the country. They had most able representatives of the Grand Lodge in Bro. M'Intyre, G. Reg., and Bro. G. C. Legh, as J.G.W. of the Grand Lodge of England, and J.W. of the Province; he therefore proposed the toast of "The Health of the D. G. Master."

Bro. M'INTYRE, G. Reg., observed it was a high privilege to respond to the toast on behalf of the Grand Lodge. The D.G.M., Earl de Grey and Ripon, not only found time to devote to Masonry, but to the interests of his country.

The ACTING PROV. G. MASTER said every good Mason would drink the last drop of wine to the health of the Prov. G.M., Viscount Combermere, who lived in the good old fighting days, and performed great, heroic deeds. For his interest in the Craft, for his calm valour on the battle field, and his beneficence as a country gentleman,—their warm and silent aspirations were for his happiness and that of Lady Combermere.

The ACTING PROV. G. MASTER then proposed the visitors; he had on his right hand his Excellency the Ambassador from Hayti, the Grand Master of the Masons at Hayti, Bro. E. Dubois—he had thought it his duty to visit the Grand Lodge, to establish relations with the Masons of Hayti, and had now come to pay a friendly visit to the Masons in this province.

Bro. E. DUBOIS, in responding to the toast, feared he should not be able to express himself in their beautiful language. He was very happy to be amongst them that day, which was owing to his friend Lord de Tabley. He thanked them for their goodness to him, and wished God's blessing on this kingdom, and a large amount of prosperity. He wished honour, joy, and fortune to each brother and his family.

The GRAND REGISTRAR proposed the health of the W.M. of the youngest lodge in the province—Lord de Tabley. As a Past Grand Officer, as Prov. S.G.W. and Acting Prov. Grand Master of the day, he deserved every honour that could be bestowed in that four-fold capacity. He put the torch to the De Tabley Lodge, and a brilliant Masonic light had resulted.

LORD DE TABLEY returned thanks for toasting his health, which had been proposed so eloquently, yet so flatteringly. He hoped he might never forfeit their good opinion in the four-fold capacity alluded to.

The health of the Senior Grand Warden of England, and

Junior Grand Warden of Cheshire, was responded to in an eloquent and stirring speech by Bro. G. C. Legh.

The ACTING PROV. G. MASTER proposed the health of Bro. Griffiths, the Secretary, and Bro. Bland, the Treasurer, two most valuable officers, and thanked them for their services to the Craft.

Bro. BLAND regretted it devolved upon him to reply in consequence of Bro. Griffiths having just left the banquet table. In his absence, he availed himself of the opportunity of stating that a more efficient and untiring Secretary there was not to be found in any province in England, and who dovetailed so much tact, ability, and perseverance with his duties. In reference to himself he should merely observe that he hoped the Key, which was the emblem of his office, would remain as bright and untarnished whenever he handed it to a successor as it was when he received it on his appointment. The Key had always been esteemed as an instrument of power and trust. The stewards of a Royal household in some countries were distinguished by a golden key. St. Peter is usually depicted with a key as a symbol that he had power to admit and exclude. He had been eleven years their Treasurer, and was happy their funds were so flourishing. He thanked his lordship for his complimentary observations, and would content himself by uttering the sentiment to his assembled brethren, "May brotherly love and truth, in conjunction with temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice, ever actuate our minds and guard our passions."

The ACTING PROV. G. MASTER proposed the health of the Prov. G. Stewards, Bros. Woodcock, Jackson, Fair, Cutter, and Siddeley.

Bro. WOODCOCK acknowledged the compliment.

The lodge was closed in ancient and solemn form, when the brethren adjourned to the *soirée*.

Full cathedral service was given at church, by an efficient choir, under the able direction of Bro. Twiss, Prov. G. Org. of Cheshire, who also presided at the piano at the banquet.

A Masonic *soirée* took place in the evening, in the Assembly Room, to which the brethren adjourned from the banquet. The assembly was graced by the presence of the Hon. Misses Warren, Mrs. Cornwall Legh, and many other ladies. Dancing was kept up with much spirit till past midnight. In the course of the evening, Bro. McIntyre, in an eloquent and complimentary speech to Lord de Tabley, presented to his lordship an address from the brethren of the De Tabley Lodge, with a splendid Past Master's jewel, of which they begged his lordship's acceptance.—Lord de Tabley very gracefully and feelingly acknowledged the honour thus conferred.

CREWE.—*Lodge of the Four Cardinal Virtues* (No. 979).—The consecration and opening meeting of this lodge took place on the 17th ult., at the Masonic rooms attached to the Mechanics' Institute, Crewe. Present: Bros. T. Mould, first W.M.; W. G. Bullock, S.W.; W. H. Scott, J.W.; and Wilson, Kenyon, Wadsworth, Bromfield, Dr. Lord, &c. The following candidates for initiation, having been previously balloted for, were duly initiated, viz., H. Price, G. Lord, and W. Eardley. Bro. Wadsworth kindly presided at the harmonium. The want of a good working lodge has long been felt in the railway created town of Crewe (in addition to the Lodge of Unity (No. 321). The opening meeting was of a very satisfactory character, and augured well for the future prosperity of the lodge. From the numerous Masons located at Crewe and the adjoining district, there ought ere long to be a very marked accession to the strength of the Lodge of the Four Cardinal Virtues.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

TEWKESBURY.—*St. George's Lodge* (No. 900, late 1202).—This lodge was opened for the session of 1862-3, on Friday, the 25th ult., in the presence of a more than usual average of brethren, Bro. E. S. Cossens, W.M., presiding. The ballot was exercised, when Bro. the Rev. Joseph Hill Grice, R.A., K.T., S.P.R.C. 18th, &c., and Bro. W. T. Dix, S.D. 307, proposed by the W.M. as joining members, were unanimously approved; also Mr. Albert H. Wansbrough, proposed by the W.M. as a candidate, was duly elected, and received at his hands the honour of initiation. Bro. Daniel Chandler having passed a very satisfactory examination as an E.A., was promoted to the degree of F.C. by the W.M. One of the officers of the lodge having transgressed the by-laws, and acted uncourtously towards the W.M., he having in vain, by correspondence, endeavoured to keep him within the compass of his duty, read the correspondence in open lodge assembled. The offending brother con-

tinuing in discourtesy, the W.M. passed on him the sentence of admonition; but, owing to the kind offices of a rev. brother present, the offending brother expressed his contrition, and the W.M. embraced the opportunity of reversing the sentence, but directed that all should be recorded as an example to others for the future. "L'Empire ce la paix" became the motto for the moment, and the brethren retired to their usual refreshment, parting in very good time.

LANCASHIRE (EAST.)

MANCHESTER.—*Cheetham and Crumpsall Lodge* (No. 615, late 928).—A lodge of emergency was held on Monday, the 28th ult. Present: Bros. W. Emmatt, W.M.; Whittaker, S.W.; and sixteen other members. Visitors: Bros. I. W. Petty, P.M. 204; James Jackson, W.M. 266, Todmorden; Joseph Bennett, 204; and Henry Thomas Baldwin, P.M. 204. The lodge was opened in form at 20 minutes to 7 o'clock. Bros. Chambers, Bailey, and Bennett were examined upon the progress they had made in Masonry since passing to the degree of F.C., and retired with tests of merit. Bro. Chambers having been admitted in due form was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by Bro. Petty. Bros. Bailey and Bennett having been admitted in due form, were raised to the sublime degree of M.M.'s by Bro. Baldwin, who delivered the traditional history. The lodge was closed in peace and harmony at 9 o'clock. The brethren retired to refreshment. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, Bro. Emmatt called attention to the funds of the Boys' School, and alluded to the success that had attended the "ladies' cards." He said that, from unavoidable circumstances, Mrs. Emmatt's had been unable to complete hers; it was suggested the card be passed round the table, and so successful was its course that the five guineas was immediately made up. The W.M. expressed himself so much encouraged by what had been done at the emergency, that, at the regular meeting on Monday, October 5th, he should endeavour to make it into ten guineas. The pleasures of the evening were much enhanced by the excellent singing of Bro. Cooper.

WHITEFIELD (Manchester).—*Lodge of Merit* (No. 934, late No. 1236).—The lodge was opened in form at a quarter-past seven o'clock. Present:—Bros. W. Barlow, W.M.; J. Briggs, S.W.; D. Willcock, J.W.; and several other members of the lodge. Visitors—Bros. Greenhalgh, Bellamy, and Baldwin. Two brethren having in a satisfactory manner passed the examination leading from the first to second degree, retired with tests of merit, and were afterwards passed in due form. The lodge closed in peace and harmony at half-past eight o'clock.

MANCHESTER.—*Lodge of Integrity* (No. 163, late No. 189).—This lodge was opened in form at seven o'clock. Present:—Bros. John Clayton, W.M.; May, S.W.; and Bro. Rangers, J.W.; with a number of other members and visitors. The W.M. passed Bro. L. Shiers to the degree of a F.C. The lodge closed in harmony at a quarter-past eight o'clock. The brethren, having enjoyed a very pleasant evening, retired about half-past ten o'clock.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 148).—The regular meeting was held on the last Monday in September, at 6.30 p.m., fourteen brethren attending. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. H. B. White, and there being no installed Master, or the S.W., present, Bro. Bowes, the J.W., ruled the lodge from the right hand of the W.M.'s pedestal. The lodge being opened in due form, the unavoidable absence of the W.M. was explained, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. Bro. Aherin was elected as a joining member, and Bro. John Tunstall, having given satisfactory evidence of his skill as an E.A., retired. A P.M., and the S.W., being announced, were admitted; when, the P.M. having taken the chair, the lodge was opened in the second degree. The presiding P.M. being unable to perform the ceremonies of passing, requested the J.W. to officiate for him, from the right hand of the pedestal. Bro. Tunstall being admitted in due form, was passed to the second degree by Bro. Bowes, the J.W. acting for the presiding P.M., while Bro. Pettitt officiated as S.D.; and, on the re-entry of the newly-passed brother, Bro. Pettitt, by request of the presiding P.M., gave the F.C. charge, and the lecture on the tracing-board of the F.C. degree; after which, the Rev. Bro. Porter gave a lecture on some points marking the progress of a F.C., and, after the routine business was duly completed, the lodge was closed in harmony.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.

GRATIFYING PRESENTATION.—*Lodge St. Mungo* (No. 27, under Grand Lodge of Scotland,) met on Friday evening, the 18th ult. Bros. Charles McCorkindale, R.W.M.; Mathew Shields, late D.M.; A. R. Wilson, Chap.; John Dove, Treas.; George Sinclair, Sec.; W. Murray, S.W.; W. King, J.W.; and other office-bearers. Visiting brethren from various lodges:—R. Kulle, P.M. Arcana Lodge, New York; T. H. McCawley, 360; George McCallum, 102; G. W. Pritchard, P.M. 102; Sergeants Dowling and Smith, 41st Regiment, now stationed at Glasgow, &c.—Bro. Dr. Pritchard was requested by the R.W.M. to present the badge of St. Mungo Lodge (No. 27) to Bro. Sergeant Dowling, as a gift from some of the brethren of the lodge. It consisted of a handsome gold medallion, with figure of St. Mungo in bishop's gown and mitre, view of Glasgow Cathedral, the tree, fish, &c., or Glasgow arms, "Let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of the word;" the reverse an inscription, "Presented by some of the brethren of St. Mungo Lodge (No. 27) to Bro. Sergeant Francis Dowling, as a token of respect and brotherly love, this 18th September, 1893."—Bro. Dr. Pritchard began by saluting the R.W.M., and extending the hand of fellowship to Bro. Sergeant Dowling. He said that it was with diffidence he performed this pleasing duty in the presence of the R.W.M. and office-bearers of St. Mungo; but he supposed they had requested him from the fact of his being at one time connected with the sister service, her Majesty's Navy. Then, indeed, he felt pride and pleasure in the novelty of his position; and it was a remarkable coincidence that two who had fought for their country should meet under such circumstances. Before he appended this gratifying token of Masonic affection to Bro. Sergeant Dowling's breast, amid the medals of service which already adorned his bosom, he would take the opportunity of explaining how wide-spread and how glorious an institution Freemasonry was. He (Sergeant Dowling) had only been six months a member of the Craft, yet his qualities as a soldier and a brother were thus prominently and thoughtfully acknowledged, which would be at least an incentive to his studying more and more to comprehend the rise, progress, and well-being of the Craft. He might read the works of Bros. Oliver, Morrison, Townsend, Longfield, Mackey, and others with advantage, which would undoubtedly establish the antiquity of the Order; but, after all, there was nothing like the practical, every-day life experience of its benefits; and he (Bro. Pritchard) who had now the honour of thus addressing Bro. Sergeant Dowling, had found it useful in almost every part of the world; had traced its character on the ruins of Egypt, the buried cities of Italy, and the far East. By it, access he had gained to conserved places, noble personages,—aye! kings, potentates, and leaders of the most renowned fame, even the great "Garibaldi," to mention whose name, especially to a soldier, was to light a flame of enthusiasm equivalent to "heavenly ecstasy." While among the deserts of Arabia, or the Sheiks of Lebanon, the M.M. sign had saved from robbery and death the journeying brother. "Yes, on the battle-field—and you know it who have served in the Crimea, for I see the medal on your breast—the deadly bayonet has been turned aside when suffering brethren made the sign. Oh! then, Bro. Sergeant Dowling, realise the honour which I now have the pleasing duty to perform, of pinning this badge to your coat; wear it amongst the neutral world's adornments; and may your career be blest with every prosperity. Should fortune frown, be it your proud boast faithfully to perform your duty to your God, your Queen, and your country; and when the last bugle note shall summon your recall, I trust the beautiful emblem of affection attached to your person this night by a brother warrior's hand, may know no stain of dishonour." The worthy Bro. Dr. Pritchard resumed his seat amid well merited applause. Bro. Sergeant Dowling, in replying for the unexpected generosity of his brethren, seemed completely overwhelmed, but begged, in very appropriate language, to assure the brethren how deeply he valued the gift, and how thoroughly he was electrified

by the eloquence of the brother who had so kindly officiated on the occasion; that he would remember that night to the latest day of his life; and, they might depend upon it, he would preserve the gem unsullied from impurity to the end of his days. The evening, altogether, passed off in a most harmonious and happy manner, every one feeling a good Masonic deed had been accomplished in old St. Mungo (No. 27).

AYRSHIRE.

TROON.—Another of the many interesting meetings of the *Lodge Navigation* (No. 86), which have lately taken place, was held in the hall of the Portland Arms on the evening of Monday, the 24th ult. The adjacent having contributed its quota to the evening's labour, which through two degrees was accomplished in presence of a numerous assemblage of the brethren, a call from the south changed the scene to one of great conviviality. At a particular stage of the proceedings, the R.W.M., Bro. Imrie, in appropriate terms presented to the P.J.W. of Mother Kilwinning a massive gold finger ring of beautiful design and workmanship, which had been voted to his wife by the *Lodge Navigation* in appreciation of her husband's numerous labours in the cause of the Craft. Bro. Lyon made a suitable acknowledgment; and having drawn attention to an article in the *LONDON FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE*, relative to the efforts at present being put forth by the fraternity in Australia to obtain the sanction of the parent bodies at home to the constitution of a Grand Lodge for Victoria, the sympathies or the meeting were warmly expressed in favour of this project; and it is fully anticipated that the representatives of *Troon Navigation* in the Grand Lodge of Scotland will be instructed to support the petition of the Australian brethren when their request for the benefit of self-legislation comes before Grand Lodge. Another noticeable feature in the business of the lodge on the present occasion was the peregrination of the "Education" box, and its return to the East heavily laden with the voluntary contributions of the brethren, who have lately inaugurated a scheme in connection with the education of the needy orphans of the Craft which, while reflecting honour upon the *Lodge Navigation*, may yet when matured be found pregnant with blessings to many a bereaved family so related to the Order as to give them a claim upon its philanthropy. Less of "refreshment," and more of the "labour of love," would tend to restore Freemasonry to its pristine beauty as an ameliorator of many of the ills which on the level of time beset the wayfaring Craftsman. An inspection by the visiting brethren of the minute-book evoked the expression of their highest satisfaction with the manner in which Bro. Black, the excellent Secretary of *Troon Navigation*, recorded the proceedings of the lodge.

ROYAL ARCH.

AYR.—The members of the two Ayr Royal Arch Chapters have appointed their office-bearers for the ensuing year, as follows:—"Ayr, No. 18"—Andrew Glass, First Principal; James Jones, H.; David Brown, J.; Donald McDonald, E.; William Livingston, N.; John Boyd, Treas.; S. Cowan, Thomas Jones, W. Dick Sojs.; J. McComb, Janitor. "Ayr Kilwinning (No. 80)"—Major Thornton, First Principal; George Good, H.; D. Murray Lyon, J.; Andrew Kerr, her Majesty's Office of Works, Edinburgh, Proxy Z.; John Robertson, E.; Wm. Young, N.; John Park, Treas.; James Heughan, Alex. Main, John Williamson Sojs.; Robert Limond, Janitor. As evidence of the cordiality existing among the companions of this Order of Freemasonry, the elections over, the members of the Ayr Chapters supped together in Mrs. Good's Hall—Comp. Glass in the chair, Comp. Good acting as croupier. In the course of the evening a special bumper was dedicated to "The Absent Members of both Chapters." The chairman congratulated the members of the now famous Chapter, No. 80, upon their election for the third time of Major Thornton as their First Principal: this act showed the high estimation in which the gallant major was held by his fellow companions of the Chapter whose head he was. The services rendered to the Order by Past Principal James Mills, now of Otago, were also adverted to by the Chairman, who was glad to state that from accounts received from Dunedin Mr. Mills was prospering in business, and continued as enthusiastic in the Masonic cause as when, several years ago, he presided over the Lodge and Chapter of Ayr Kilwinning.

IRELAND.

BALLYMENA.—A special meeting of Prince Frederick William of Prussia's Masonic Lodge (No. 431), Ballymena, was convened for Saturday evening last, for the purpose of presenting an address and gold watch to Bro. William Henry, late Secretary to the lodge, who has recently been removed to reside in Belfast. The watch, a costly one, was purchased from Messrs. W. Gilbert and Son, of Ballymena, and bears the following inscription:—"A gift from the W. Master and Members of Prince Frederick William of Prussia's Masonic Lodge (No. 431), Ballymena, to Bro. William Henry, P.M., late Secretary to the lodge, on his removal from Ballymena. 19th September, 1863."

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE ST. AUBYN (No. 958).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, September 22nd, when a numerous attendance was expected, which was, however, prevented by a storm that occurred at the time for assembling. The W.M., Bro. Dr. Hopkins, presided. The second chair was filled by Bro. E. C. M. De Carteret, S.W.; and Bro. Mannau took the third chair, acting as J.W. The lodge was opened in the first degree soon after half-past six. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for the admission of Bro. J. P. Hamou, Captain of the ship *Percy Douglas*, as a joining member, which was unanimous in his favour. Several accounts were approved and ordered to be paid. The brother who had been appointed J.D. not having acted in that capacity, and having finally declined to take office, Bro. De La Taste, P.M., was appointed to take his place, and was duly invested with the collar and jewel. Bro. Oatley was similarly invested as I.G. in place of the last named brother. A candidate for initiation having failed to present himself, thus diminishing the expected work of the evening, the W.M. took the opportunity to read the Antient Charges, as required by the "Book of Constitutions" and the by-laws once in each year. Several matters connected with the arrangements of the lodge were discussed, and it was pointed out that another step had been taken towards the completion of the rooms by papering, &c. Bro. Mannau proposed and the S.W. seconded the nomination of Bro. James Pipon, of the Apollo University Lodge, Oxford, as a joining member. The lodge was closed at half-past eight in customary form. The brethren then adjourned to the refreshment room. After the repast several addresses were delivered, especially by the Rev. Bro. the Chaplain, who promised to read a paper at the next meeting, having as its object to show that Freemasonry is founded on the volume of the Sacred Law and obtains its sanction therefrom, with the view of guarding the members against notions of an opposite tendency, which some persons are attempting to promulgate. Among other matters the W.M. reminded the brethren that some time ago friendly communication had been opened with a lodge bearing the same name at Devonport, the consecration of which he informed them was fixed for the next day, September 23rd, at which he had hoped to be present, but was prevented by the lateness of the notice. He called upon those present to express their fraternal feeling and sympathy by honouring a toast to the success and prosperity of No. 954, to which a hearty response was given by a true St. Aubyn's fire. The brethren separated at about half-past nine.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge, held on Thursday, September 24th, was, as usual, characterised by a numerous attendance. The proceedings were opened at 6 o'clock by the W.M., Bro. John Durell, assisted by his Wardens. The minutes of the August meeting and of a recent emergency meeting were read and confirmed, the only business done at the latter having been a vote of £10 towards the fund proposed to be raised for a portrait in oil of his Excellency Bro. Sir R. P. Douglas. On this subject Bro. Manuel entered into the following details. After reminding the brethren that his Excellency is about to leave Jersey for another post under her Majesty's Government, he said that, considering the benefits received by his advocacy of the Order on the laying of the first stone of the Temple, it had been thought desirable that a sense of the value of his services

should be marked, and that despatch must be used, as there was but little opportunity for doing so before his departure on October 1st. Accordingly a meeting of Masters, Past Masters, and others had been held, at which, after considering several plans, it had been determined that a subscription should be raised for the execution of a portrait, to be placed in the Temple, and to remain the property of the Masonic body. Subsequently the different lodges were summoned to consider what part each would take in the matter, which met with a negative decision on the part of all excepting La Césaire, which had voted ten pounds for the purpose. Meantime, negotiations had been entered into with several artists, which had resulted in the selection of Bro. Beaumont. Another meeting similar to the former was held, at which the requisite sum was guaranteed by those present, and it was determined to solicit subscriptions from individual Masons, so as to give all an opportunity of showing respect for, and appreciation of, his Excellency. A deputation had been appointed to wait upon the Governor, for the purpose of expressing the sentiments of a large number of the brethren, and of soliciting his consent to the arrangement. The interview had taken place that morning; Bro. Sir R. P. Douglas had received the members of it most courteously. After hearing an explanation of the object in view, he made some remarks, of which the following is a condensed abstract:—His Excellency met them on three grounds, as governor, as a Mason, and as a civilian. In the first capacity it had been his lot occasionally to differ in opinion from many of the leading gentlemen of the island, and to act in such a manner officially as to lay himself open to obloquy. Still, on mature reflection, he had done what he deemed best for the interests of the inhabitants, and so to discharge his duty conscientiously towards his Sovereign, whose representative he was. As a Mason, he felt pride in belonging to the Order. Circumstances had prevented his taking any high position in it; nevertheless, fully appreciating its value, he had with pleasure answered any calls upon him as a member of it, especially on the commencement of the Masonic Temple. His Excellency further made some excellent remarks on the tendency of the institution, and the responsibilities and privileges of those who belong to it. As a civilian, he acknowledged the kind feeling of the inhabitants towards him, the delights of social intercourse with many of them, the benefits which he and his family had derived in point of health and other blessings which had been showered upon them during their residence in Jersey, the result of which was that he should ever regard the short time spent there as the brightest and most enjoyable period of his life. With regard to the honour proposed to be conferred upon him, considering the small part he had taken in Masonry, he was fully sensible of his shortcomings, and felt his unworthiness of so prominent and permanent a place in the Temple; nevertheless, as the brethren thought it desirable to commemorate, in a desirable form, his association with its origin, he would not refuse it, provided it would not cause too great a demand on his time, now very limited, and necessarily very fully occupied both by public and domestic affairs, as the deputation might suppose when he informed them that Lady Douglas would leave Jersey on the next morning. During the delivery of the address, thus briefly reported, his Excellency was much affected, and spoke with deep emotion. A time was fixed for the first sitting to the artist, and before the deputation withdrew, Sir R. P. Douglas cordially shook hands with each of the gentlemen composing it. Bro. Manuel concluded his narration of the proceedings by calling on the brethren to place their names on the subscription list, to which the W.M. afterwards added his own earnest recommendation. This gratifying affair being concluded, another of a distressing nature followed. By desire of the W.M., the Secretary read a communication from the Prov. G.M. announcing that, in consequence of certain circumstances that had occurred in connection with Freemasonry in Jersey, he had been under the painful necessity of suspending Bros. Baudains, Rondeaux, and Alavoine from all the privileges of the Craft. The W.M. announced that he had received from Bro. Dr. Piscart his resignation as a member of the lodge, but before putting it to the members for acceptance, he handed to the Secretary an unopened communication from the Prov. G.M., with a request that it should be read. This proved to be a recommendation, consequent upon the proceeding previously mentioned, that for the present no tender of resignation should be admitted for consideration by the lodge. Attention to the request of Bro. Dr. Piscart was therefore postponed. A ballot was taken for the reception of Bros. Le Geyt and Dr. Small

as joining members, which, in each case, was unanimous in favour of the candidate. The W.M.'s chair was now taken by Bro. Schmitt, P.M., who opened the lodge in the second degree. Bro. Heymann was raised to the third degree. On the re-introduction of the candidate he was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, the Rev. Bro. Hanan acting as interpreter of the ceremony into the German language, as he had done in the former degrees. Bro. Durell, W.M., again took the chair, and Bro. Nicolle was duly raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The lodge was then resumed in the first degree, afterwards re-opened in the second degree, when Bros. Jones and M'Allan were passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was finally resumed in the first degree. Owing to press of business and the lateness of the hour, consideration of two distinct propositions, of which proper notice had been given by Bros. the Rev. Chaplain and the S.W., was deferred. On the proposition of Bro. Binet P.M., seconded by Bro. C. le Sueur, S.W., a unanimous resolution was passed for the sale of the pedestals and chairs, with all their belongings, to the St. Aubyn's Lodge (No. 958), for the sum of six guineas. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation by the Rev. Chap. and the I.G. The lodge was closed in perfect harmony and with solemn prayer, at a quarter to ten, and after a long and unremitting evening's work, the brethren were glad to be permitted for refreshment.

[We have received a full report of the circumstances leading to the suspensions alluded to above, but having been officially requested not to publish it, as it is hoped all may be satisfactorily arranged, we refrain from doing so. Of course, if the matter is not so arranged, it will be our duty to call attention to it.—ED.]

AUSTRALIA.

VICTORIA.

PROPOSED GRAND LODGE OF VICTORIA.

We hoped that the July mail to England would convey a petition from the Masons of Victoria to the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, praying that a Grand Lodge might be established in Victoria. Twenty lodges have expressed themselves in favour of the establishment of the proposed Grand Lodge; only three are opposed to it, while ten remain neutral, or have not as yet decided. But as all have not expressed their opinion on the movement, the petition cannot be forwarded until the August mail. It must, however, be apparent that the great majority of the Masons of Victoria are in favour of self-Masonic legislation. Even assuming that the ten lodges remaining neutral, or undecided, all professed themselves opposed to the movement, still the majority of lodges would be in favour of a Grand Lodge, and in their name and on their behalf we will place the wishes of the majority of the Masons of Victoria, regarding this important proposed change, before our British brethren, in order to pave the way for the reception of the memorial which will be forwarded per the August mail.

We do not seek, in establishing a Grand Lodge of Victoria, to withdraw our Masonic allegiance from our parent Constitutions; on the contrary, we express our sincere desire to be permitted by our parent Constitutions to begin the world for ourselves. We believe we can now walk alone; that we have arrived at the years of maturity, and, if started in Masonic life by those from whom we have existence, that we are not only capable of acting wisely for ourselves, but also of assisting in carrying out the wishes of our parent lodges, and become their helpmate; and we, therefore, solicit for self-Masonic legislation for several reasons.

Because it is the inherent right of every freeman (and none else can be made Masons) to have the election of his ruling power. We do not enjoy that right; the head of each of the Constitutions is elected without our consent. We have no voice in the election of a Grand Master, neither have we any voice or vote in the appointment of our local Masonic chief, because it is the privilege of the Grand Master (in whose election we have had no voice) to appoint the Prov. G.M., under whose ruling we are placed; and this Prov. G.M. is not answerable to any congregation or assembly of the Masonic body over whom he is placed, but only accountable for his acts to the Grand Master who appointed him. Thus we not only have no voice in the

election of our ruler at home, but in reality we have no control over his representative placed over us here.

There is not a more anomalous position than that of a Prov. G.M., simply because his powers exceed those of the authority which created his office. He can do acts which the Grand Master cannot do. The Grand Master is accountable to the Grand Lodge for all his Masonic acts; the Prov. G.M. is not accountable to his Provincial Grand Lodge. If a Mason is aggrieved by any decision of a Grand Master he can at once make appeal to the Grand Lodge; but there is no appeal from the decision of the Prov. G.M. to the Provincial Grand Lodge. The office of Prov. G.M. may be a most useful appointment in Britain, where the telegraph has annihilated space, and any act of injustice can be reported instantaneously to the Chief Ruler, and as instantaneously rectified; but our British brethren must see that such an office is totally incompatible with the interests of Masonry in a distant colony like Victoria.

This leads us to the consideration of another great reason for the establishment of a Victorian Grand Lodge. We are too distant from the fount of Masonic power. An example well known to Victorian Masons will exemplify the great evil of distant legislation. In the month of February last one of the oldest and most respected Masons in Melbourne, on vacating the chair of a lodge over which he had ruled for twelve months, deemed it his right to instal his successor. Now, Past Masters of England, you are the conservators of the landmarks of our Order, pay attention. It will be for you to decide at the next quarterly communication whether he thought right or not; but, believing himself right, that brother refused to give up the chair of his lodge to the D. Prov. G.M., for the purpose of that officer performing the ceremony of installation; he refused, believing that he, as Master of the lodge, was bound to transmit the warrant of the lodge and authority of Master to his successor, duly elected by the lodge. The D. Prov. G.M. thought otherwise, and we agree with him, that he is entitled to take the chair of any lodge in which he may choose to preside; but the brother leaving the chair thought otherwise. Complaint was made to the Prov. G.M., a copy of which was transmitted to the offending brother, who, not continuing obstinate in his opinion, replied that if the Prov. G.M. in his wisdom deemed that he had violated any Masonic rule, that he was prepared to make a Masonic atonement by apologising to the offended brother. It would be foreign to our advocacy of a Victorian Grand Lodge to advert to the reply to this truly Masonic letter, but we will simply state that the brother was ordered in a most unmasonic manner to attend the next quarterly communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and there, in the presence of that lodge, to apologise to the D. Prov. G.M. The letter containing this order did not reach the brother until the morning of the day on which the Provincial Grand Lodge was held, and therefore at the Provincial Grand Lodge the offending brother requested a short time for consideration. None was granted, and a Mason who had grown old in the service of Masonry, who had held the highest positions in the Craft, was suspended from his rights as a Mason, for acting, as he believed, correctly. Now, if we had a Grand Lodge in Victoria, the brother could have laid his case before the Lodge, and if adjudged wrong, could have submitted, if he chose, to the humiliation forced upon him; but our ruling power exists 16,000 miles away,—to that power he appealed, and by the March mail he sent his appeal to the Grand Lodge. That appeal reached England in May, the Grand Lodge meeting in June. A letter, acknowledging the receipt of that appeal, has been received on the 15th of this month (July), and giving the valuable information that the appeal, not having been lodged twenty-one days before the meeting of the Grand Lodge, that in could not be brought before the June Convocation, and should lie over until the September meeting. If no delay arises in sending back the judgment, in will be perhaps December before the brother can have the decision of the ruling powers. Brethren Past Masters of England, say is this rule or misrule! is such a state of Masonic misrule to continue? We solicit our British brethren to grant us self local Masonic legislation, in order if, unfortunately, any brother should be guilty of any breach of Masonic discipline, that we should have the power to adjudicate on his case, and not keep, perhaps, an innocent man on the hook of suspense for a period of over twelve months.

No remarks we have made must be taken as written against the respected gentlemen who hold the high position of Provincial Grand Masters. We respect them although we deem their office. Next mail we will put forward a few more reasons to

our British brethren why we should have a Grand Lodge. We shall never tire of this subject until we enlist the sympathy of our British brethren in favour of a sister *Grand Lodge of Victoria*.

WILLIAMSTOWN.

A meeting of Masons of the various Constitutions was held on Tuesday, June 30th, at the Builders' Arms Hotel, to take into consideration the proposed formation of a Grand Lodge of Victoria. Bro. La Roche explained that his reason for calling the meeting was in consequence of receiving circulars from Bro. McClure, dated April 23rd, and from Bro. Ellis, of the date June 4th, and to give the brethren an opportunity of expressing their opinions upon the subject. Bro. J. V. Green, P.M., was then voted to the chair. The circulars were read, and several brethren having expressed their opinions, it was moved by Bro. Moxham, P.M., and seconded by Bro. La Roche, P.M., "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the establishment of a Grand Lodge at the present time would be premature." The motion was carried unanimously, the meeting generally agreeing with the remarks of Bro. La Roche, that before we soar to the height of a Grand Lodge of Victoria we should show ourselves worthy of one by the building of a Masonic Hall and Temple, and the establishment of Masonic Charities, such as have made the Order of Freemasonry famous in the old country.

LODGE MEETINGS.

(Under the English Constitution.)

MELBOURNE.—*Lodge of Australia Felix* (No. 697).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at their lodge rooms, on Monday evening, 13th July. Bro. Galvin was raised to the high and sublime degree of M.M. The W.M., Bro. Noone, performed the ceremony. Bro. F. Webb, P.M. No. 963, was elected a joining member. Bro. Captain Standish, Prov. G.M. (English Constitution), visited the lodge, accompanied by Bros. St. John Clarke, D. Prov. G.M.; Thomas Loader, Prov. J.G.W.; Henry Harris, Prov. S.G.W. After the lodge was closed the brethren retired to Morton's Hotel for refreshment, at which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to. Bros. Standish and Loader remained until the brethren separated, at an early hour.

Meridian Lodge (No. 1031).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic lodge room, St. Patrick's Hall, on Tuesday, 7th July. The lodge was opened at eight o'clock,—Bros. Thomas Hamlet Taylor, W.M.; R. T. Tracey, P.M.; F. M. White, S.W.; A. Purchas, J.W. The minutes of the last monthly meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. W. A. D. Anderson having been duly proposed, balloted for, and elected, was initiated into Freemasonry by the W.M., who performed the ceremony in a careful and efficient manner. The Masonic charge to the candidate was given by Bro. Tracey, P.M., in a clear and earnest manner, commanding the attention of both the newly-elected brother and the lodge. The Rev. Bro. Kane, Prov. G. Chap., Launceston, visited the lodge, and offered up prayer at the opening and termination of the lodge. He expressed himself pleased with the working of the lodge, and suggested the establishment of a Masonic Library.

HAWTHORN.—*Boroondara Lodge* (No. 1020).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Sir Robert Nickle Hotel, Hawthorn, on Tuesday, the 30th of June. The lodge was opened shortly after the usual hour by Bro. J. R. Withers, W.M. Two gentlemen were duly proposed and seconded as candidates for initiation. The W.M. invested Bro. Stephen Lewis with the Junior Deacon's collar for the remainder of the year. There being nothing more proposed for the good of Masonry, the lodge was closed.

SANDHURST.—*Golden Lodge of Bendigo* (No. 924).—The members of this lodge held their monthly meeting on the 30th of June, in the Masonic Hall, Myers-street. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Six gentlemen were proposed as candidates for Freemasonry. After some routine business was transacted, the lodge was duly closed.

SANDRIDGE.—*Sandridge Marine Lodge* (No. 1070).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, June 24th, St. John's evening, Bro. Beresford, W.M., in the chair. The lodge was opened in the first degree, and Mr. W. Donaldson and Mr. Norman McLeod were initiated into the ancient mysteries of Freemasonry. Bro. D. H. Beresford was duly in-

stalled as W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was performed by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Clarke, in presence of several Past Masters. The ceremony having been performed, the usual salutation was given to the W.M. The following officers were then invested with the collars of their offices:—Bros. Sharpels, S.W.; Adam, J.W.; Garton, Treas.; Schnyler, Sec.; Johnson, S.D.; McKelvie, J.D.; Bannier, I.G.; Leggie, Tyler. The lodge was then closed in due form. The annual banquet was held at Bro. Garton's, and about fifty of the brethren partook of refreshment and spent a most delightful evening. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. It speaks well for our Bro. Beresford that he has been elected a second time by the members of the lodge to fill the high and important office of W.M.

RICHMOND.—*Richmond Lodge* (No. 1093).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Lodge Room, Admiral Napier Hotel, on Tuesday evening, the 7th July, Bro. Raven, W.M., presiding. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. Lavater as a candidate for initiation, and for Bros. McCrae and Beaney as joining members, all of whom were duly elected. Mr. Lavater being in attendance was then initiated by the W.M., in his usual effective manner. Bro. Wishart was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. The lodge was closed in peace and harmony, after which the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

COLLINGWOOD.—*Kent Lodge* (No. 1147).—The usual meeting of this lodge was held at the Grace Darling Hotel, on Tuesday, 7th July,—Bros. Mueller, W.M., Holmes, S.W., and Patrick, J.W. Mr. Southey was initiated into the ancient mysteries of Freemasonry. Bro. Blackburne was raised to the high and sublime degree of M.M., and the lodge closed with solemn prayer.

MELBOURNE.—*Yarra Yarra Lodge* (No. 1016).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, 3rd July, at their lodge room in the Golden Gate Hotel, Emerald Hill. Bros. Alfred Hughes, Charles Fausset, and Rewe were elected as joining members. Mr. Joseph Garson was duly initiated into Masonry by the W.M., Bro. Krone. The S.W., Bro. E. Exon, having been elected W.M. of the lodge for the ensuing twelve months, was then installed by Bro. Levick, P.M., assisted by five Past Masters, and received the congratulations of his brethren. The W.M., Bro. Exon, then invested Bro. Mann with the S.W.'s collar, and Bro. Skeats with the collar of the Secretary, with the usual admonitions. The W.M. postponed appointing the other requisite officers until the next regular meeting of the lodge. The business of the meeting having been transacted, the lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to the Myrtle Hotel, when an excellent repast was served. A very pleasant evening was spent by the brethren of the lodge and their visitors.

COLLINGWOOD, EAST.—*Combermere* (No. 1054).—The regular meeting of the above lodge was held on Monday, 13th of July, Bro. R. T. W. Cartwright, W.M., in the chair. Several visitors were present. The lodge was opened at half-past seven p.m., when the minutes of the former meeting were read, and a gentleman balloted for and initiated. A communication from the Prov. G. Sec. was read, and ordered to be entered in the minute book, and other business transacted. Notice of proposing a gentleman was also given. The lodge was closed in peace, harmony, and brotherly love at a quarter-past nine. In the course of the evening a very high eulogium was passed on the W.M. for the efficient manner in which he performed the ceremony.

MELBOURNE.—*South Yarra Lodge* (No. 1232).—The regular meeting of the above lodge was held on Thursday, the 9th July. Bro. Lempriere, the W.M., gave the second and third degrees in an exceedingly able manner. A communication relating to the proposed United Grand Lodge of Victoria was read, and the following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—"That it is the opinion of the brethren of this lodge that the proper time has not arrived for the formation of a Grand Lodge of Victoria, neither do they entertain any desire to sever their connection with the Grand Lodge of England."

(Under the Scottish Constitution.)

MELBOURNE.—*St. Clair Lodge of Victoria*.—An emergency meeting of the above lodge was held on Monday evening, 20th June, at the Masonic lodge-rooms, Bourke-street West, immediately after the closing of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Victoria of Masons of Scotland. The emergency arose from the

unavoidable absence of a member of the St. Clair on every regular monthly meeting, and was called for the purpose of conferring the third degree. Two other members of the St. Clair Lodge, though entitled to this degree on the former regular monthly meeting, from the pressure of Masonic business, their being raised was unavoidably postponed, also presented themselves. Lodge was opened, and the three candidates having shown the required proficiency, they were raised to the high and sublime degree of Master Masons. The St. Clair was honoured by the presence of the Prov. G. Substitute Master and several of the Prov. G. Officers.

Australasian Kilwinning Lodge (No. 337).—This lodge held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, 14th July, Bro. F. Barnes, W.M., in the chair. Lodge was opened at a quarter to eight o'clock. Mr. Lynch, who was regularly balloted for and admitted on the last monthly meeting, was duly initiated into our ancient mysteries. The lodge was then passed to the second degree, and Bro. Kratzer having proved himself fitted to receive further progress, was passed to the Fellow Craft's degree. Two candidates for initiation were proposed, and one brother was nominated as a fit and proper person to be admitted a member of the lodge.

Lodge of Judah (No. 388).—The regular meeting of the Lodge of Judah was held in St. Patrick's Hall, on 7th July, the W.M. in the chair. Bro. Hall received the degree of Fellow Craft. The lodge having been then opened in the third degree, Bro. Colin Murray (and by special dispensation Bro. Hall), were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. Lodge closed at an early hour in peace and harmony.

(Under the Irish Constitution.)

MELBOURNE.—*Australia-Felix Lodge of Hiram* (No. 349).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Lodge Rooms, St. Patrick's Hall, on Tuesday, 21st July. Bro. Caro, W.M., in the chair; Bro. Solomon Lazarus, S.W. The election of J.W. was postponed until the next regular meeting. Mr. Bernard Solomon was balloted for, and being in attendance was initiated into the ancient mysteries by the W.M. Bro. C. Lange having been appointed to the office of S.D., and Bro. Wallach having been appointed I.G., were, at the request of the W.M., invested with the collars of their officers by Bro. Taaffe, P.M. A visiting brother from an American lodge made an application to have his certificate endorsed as having visited the lodge; but such a custom not being usual under our Constitutions it was not entertained. Bro. Daniel Tallerman and Bro. Heymanson tendered their resignation, which was accepted, as both these brethren are residing in New Zealand. The lodge was then closed in due form with prayer.

Hotham Lodge (No. 429).—This lodge met as usual at seven o'clock, p.m., on Monday, 13th July, and was duly opened with prayer, by the newly-elected W.M., Bro. Davidson. There was a full attendance of members and visitors. The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. James O'Shea was initiated into the mysteries of Ancient Freemasonry. Mr. James Foot Dow was also received into the Order, and Bro. Charles Lomas, Joseph Love, and William Smith having replied satisfactorily to the usual questions, were instructed in the mysteries appertaining to the second degree. The lodge then proceeded to take into consideration a communication received from the Hon. Secretary, Bro. A. Ellis, to the committee for the proposed formation of a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria. A motion in favour of the proposition was proposed, and upon a vote being taken, was declared to be unanimously carried; and the Secretary was instructed to communicate the result to the Hon. Secretary of the committee. The following candidates for initiation were duly proposed and seconded:—Mr. James Fife, Mr. George Wright, and Mr. Thomas Bibby Guest. This completing the business, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony at ten o'clock.

Washington Lodge (No. 368).—The lodge was held on July 6th. Mr. Henry Solomon and Mr. Francis Anderson were elected candidates. Bro. B. Watson, of the Lodge of Australasia, was elected a joining member. Bro. Saunders proposed—"That the lodge empowers the Master, Wardens, and Past Masters of the Washington Lodge to sign a memorial to the Grand Lodge of England, for the establishment of a Grand Lodge in Victoria." Carried. The lodge was then opened in the third degree, and the high and sublime degree of M.M. was conferred on Bros. Wylie and Osborne. The following candidates were then notified:—Mr. James Kean, Mr. William E.

Wood, and Mr. H. Foy. The lodge was closed at half-past ten o'clock.

CARLTON.—*Carlton Lodge* (No. 380).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the lodge-room, Old Lincoln Inn, on Monday evening, 20th July. Bro. Baker, W.M., opened the lodge. After the confirmation of the minutes of the proceedings of the former lodge, ballot was taken for two gentlemen, candidates for initiation. Both were duly elected. One of them, Mr. Moore, being in attendance, and Mr. B. Lee, who had been previously admitted, were then duly initiated into Freemasonry, and Bro. Harrison having passed the examination required amongst Masons, was admitted to the Fellow Craft degree. The W.M. then tested the proficiency of Bro. Kelly, and the lodge being satisfied that he was worthy of receiving the third degree, he received the high and sublime degree of M.M. Two propositions were placed on the list of business for the next regular meeting, and the lodge closed in peace, love, and harmony.

PRABURAX.—*United Tradesmen's Lodge* (No. 424).—This lodge met at the Duke of York Hotel, on the 7th of July, Bro. E. L. Vail, W.M., in the chair. Bro. McClure, P. Prov. D.G.M., occupied the Past Master's chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. W. H. Birchall, of Lodge 1232, E.C., was balloted for and admitted a member of the lodge. Mr. John Harwood and Mr. Theodore Battye were duly initiated into the mysteries of the E.A. degree. The ceremony of initiation was performed by the P. Prov. D.G.M., Bro. McClure, in his usually efficient and impressive manner. Mr. J. Barwick was proposed as a fit and proper person to be admitted into the ancient Order, and no further business remaining, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

TALBOT.—*Talbot Lodge*.—The ceremony of installation of officers of this lodge for the ensuing six months took place on Tuesday, June 30th, when a considerable number of the brethren of the Clunes Lodge, besides several visitors from other parts of the colony, were present. The newly-elected W.M., Bro. Biggars, was installed by P.M. Bro. Curtin, and P.M. Mercfield of Clunes, and P.M. Bro. Chapman, of Talbot, assisted by P.M. Bro. Moran, of Clunes. The following newly-appointed and elected officers were also installed:—Bros. Rowles, S.W.; Cohn, J.W.; Wrigley, Treas.; Stuart, S.D.; Dow, J.D.; Bateman, Sec.; and Arnell, Tyler. Owing to the indisposition of Bro. Kirk, whom it was intended to install as I.G., the installation of that officer did not take place. After the lodge closed, the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet, laid in the dining-hall of the Commercial Hotel.

ROYAL ARCH.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Mariner's Chapter* (No. 310).—The chapter was opened at the Masonic Temple, Liverpool, on Sept. 11th, by the M.E.Z., Peter Maddox, Z.; John Pepper, H.; J. Langley, J. There were also present—Thos. Wylie, C. J. Banister, G.D.C., James Hamer, P.Z.'s, and a full attendance of companions. Bro. Winkup, being unanimously elected, was exalted a companion of the Royal Arch, by the M.E.Z. The lectures were delivered by the three principals, P.Z. Jas. Hamer explaining the mystical portion. Comp. Dr. Taylor acted as P. Soj. The business of the chapter over, it was closed in solemn form. At refreshment, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured, and the companions separated, after having spent an hour in the interchange of social sentiment and instructive conversation, under the presidency of P.Z. James Hamer, who is one of the preceptors in this beautiful degree.

GARSTON.—*Chapter of Harmony* (No. 220).—The regular meeting of this chapter was opened at the Wellington Hotel, Garston, on Sept. 10th, by John Pepper, Z.; C. J. Banister, as H.; James Hamer, as J.; Thos. Wylie, P.Z., and a full attendance of companions. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Geo. Ashton, of Lodge 148, Warrington, and Bro. H. Seymour (No. 220) were unanimously elected for exaltation; the former, being present, was exalted to this sublime degree by Comp. John Pepper. Comps. Thos. Wylie, Hamer, and Banister each delivered a lecture. Comp. Edward Pierpoint was installed into the third Principal's chair. The business of the chapter over, it was closed.

At refreshment, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to; that of the three Grand Principals by Comp. C. J. Banister, G.D.C., who, in conclusion, proposed the health of the M.E.Z. in suitable terms, which brought forth a truly Masonic and fraternal speech from Comp. John Pepper. Comp. T. Wylie's health was proposed from the chair, as was also that of Comp. J. Hamer—each responding, and giving the companions good advice. The newly exalted companions, in their reply to the toast, proved that they appreciated the degree they had just taken. A delightful evening was spent, and the companions left at nine o'clock.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—*Loyal Brunswick Encampment*.—The regular quarterly convocation of the above encampment was held in the Freemasons' Chapter-room, St. George's Hall, on Thursday, 24th September, at which twenty-eight members and two visitors were present. The encampment was opened in form at three o'clock, p.m., under the command of the E.C. Sir Knt. Rodd, G. St. B. of England; assisted by Sir Knts. Dawse, P.E.C. and P.G.H.; Clare, Prelate; Mills, 1st Capt.; Harfoot, 2nd Capt. of Grand Conclave; Rodda, Expert; Mathews, Capt. of Lines, and the other officers of the encampment. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for the following Royal Arch Companions, viz., Harvey, Chergivin, Jenkins, and Tweedy, of Chapter 331, late 415, and J. Sadler, of Chapter 189, late 224; the same proving unanimous, they were introduced in ancient form and duly installed Sir Knights of the Royal, Exalted, Religious, and Military Order of Masonic Knights Templar of St. John of Jerusalem, Malta, Palestine and Rhodes. On the ceremony being concluded, four Royal Arch Companions were duly proposed for installation to the Order at the next regular meeting; other business having been disposed of, the encampment was closed in solemn form with prayer, at half-past six o'clock, on which the Sir Knights retired to a banquet, served up in an adjoining room of the hall, and there spent a short time in true social enjoyment. The progress which this encampment has made since its resuscitation, in 1857, cannot but be gratifying to all lovers of Christian Freemasonry.

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

A new romantic opera is being prepared in the Grand Opera at Paris, entitled, "Roland of Ronceval," text and music by Mermet.

French papers contain the following story respecting the origin of "Masaniello":—"The celebrated Bigottini, 'the Marie Tagliani of the first Empire,' made her supposed last appearance for some charitable purpose at the Grand Opera in 1826. The general enthusiasm was enormous, and, of all spectators, Scribe was the most ardent admirer. He then bethought himself whether he could not write something for her in which her wonderful mimic powers might appear in a still more brilliant light; and thus came to make the heroine of a new libretto entirely dumb, so that all her sentiments and enactions must be expressed solely by her face and movements. Auber surpassed himself in the music."

It is now positively asserted, says the *Reader*, that "Les Troyens," the long promised opera of M. Hector Berlioz, will be produced at the Théâtre Lyrique in November. The work is so enormously long that it has been found necessary to cut out the first two acts. M. Meyerbeer, it is hoped, will also speedily bring out his still more anxiously expected "Africaine," now that he has found his heroine. The *maestro* was present at the last of Mlle. Titiens' performances in Paris, and, it is said, is very much pleased with her.

The *Illustrated News* speaks of Mr. Charles Mathews as "the most accomplished and versatile of English comedians—the *Luca fa presto*, who speaks French and Italian as fluently and correctly as though he were to the manner born; who fences

like Grisier, and dances like the camargo; who can warble barcaroles in the Neapolitan patois, accompanying himself on the guitar; who is a facile draughtsman and a tasteful painter in water-colours; who has twice been across the Atlantic, twice married, and once a district surveyor (!); and who, finally, although past 60 years of age, is as agile and vivacious as a young man of 25."

The band of the Corps of Commissionaires have made arrangements for holding a series of military promenade concerts in the Agricultural Hall, which has been floored and fitted up by the directors in a most comfortable and suitable manner. This band consists of 50 men, who have all completed their service in her Majesty's regimental bands, and amongst them are many wearing three and four medals, with bars, denoting the services they have rendered to their country. During the summer months (by kind permission of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, under whose patronage the corps has been formed), they have performed daily in St. James's Park, and have attracted large and fashionable audiences. Mr. George Tedder, Mdma. Gordon, and other vocalists are engaged to add to the attractions.

We (*Athenæum*) are instructed by the secretary of the meeting of the three choirs that all rumours of influence having been employed at Worcester to bring about the performance of Herr Schachner's oratorio are erroneous, and that the choice of the work was a case of deliberate, unbiassed selection on the part of the committee.

There is to be a grand demonstration in York Minster on the 13th inst., on which occasion 1000 choristers will take part in a musical festival. Morning and evening services will be performed in the nave, where a new organ, erected by Messrs. Hill, of London, will be used for the first time. The whole of the nave will be reserved, but the transepts will be free to the public. The Bishop of Oxford is expected to preach the sermons. The *Te Deum* and *Jubilate* will be sung to Dr. Wesley's recitative service in F, and "God is gone up," by Croft, will be the morning anthem. In the evening the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* will be sung to Gibbon's arrangement in F; the anthem will be by Purcell, "O God, Thou art my God;" and the festival will conclude with Handel's "Hallelujah." Mr. R. S. Burton, organist of the Leeds parish church, will be the conductor; and Dr. Monk, of York, will preside at the organ.

The *Universal Musical Gazette* of Leipzig contains a curious anecdote, viz., that after the first performances of Beethoven's *Fidelio* at the theatre of Dresden, on the 29th of April, 1823, the director of the Royal chapel and theatre, Baron Konneritz, wrote him the following letter:—"To M. Beethoven, chapel master at Vienna,—Your opera of *Fidelio* has just been performed with complete success. I am happy to be able to inform you of it, and I enclose 40 ducats, the amount due to you for copyright, with the expression of my thanks. Be so kind as to return me the enclosed receipt with your signature for the treasury of the theatre." "Forty ducats!" exclaims the musical critic—"There was no buying a villa with the price of a copyright in those days!" Poor Beethoven! poor genius!

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

A great change has come over this theatre since it passed under the management of Bros. Frampton and Fenton. The transformation is not confined to the audience portion of the house, though as regards both appearance and comfort that has been altered greatly for the better. But still more valuable improvements have been made behind the curtain. Down to a very recent period a Victoria drama was beyond the pale of

criticism. The leading man invariably tore every passion to the most dilapidated tatters, and the clowns always spoke an infinitely deal more than was set down for them. The last named defect, however, was lessened in gravity by the fact that the text of the piece was uniformly so bad that no extemporised trash could be inferior to it. The new lessees have made many changes, and all in the right direction. They have gathered together a company of artists of all of whom it may be fairly said that while giving full effect to their delineation of the emotions which they have to portray, they never overstep the modesty of nature. They pay careful attention to the mounting of their pieces, enriching them with scenic accessories at once picturesque in conception and excellent in execution, and thus affording large and pure gratification to the eye. Last, not least, they produce pieces which possess merit as intellectual efforts, and which, while they feed the appetite for sensation, are adorned by well-written dialogue, free from turgidity in its sentiment and from vulgarity in its humour.

The latest novelty here is a new and original drama, "The Trail of Sin," written by Bro. Henry Leslie, who as the author of "Adrienne" is already favourably known to the playgoing public. Of his new piece we are happy to be able to speak with cordial commendation. It is thoroughly adapted to serve as an efficient agent in forwarding the good work which the management has taken in hand, for without aiming too high it reaches a level far above that to which the audience at this house has been accustomed. Mr. Basil Potter, an actor of tried and sterling ability, gives a well-studied, unforced, and strongly emotional portraiture of Papa Maurice; Mr. Frederick Villiers brings into rugged relief the brutal villany of Captain Blackrock, and the half-witted Gentleman Willy of Brownlow Hill is one of the best-conceived and most-happily elaborate character portraits we have seen for some time upon the stage. May Redfern might certainly have found a better representative than Miss Julia Lester, who lacks both genuine feeling and dramatic power; but the Ruth Redfern of Miss Adelaide Bowering is an excellent impersonation, full of vigour and real emotion, and Miss Maria Daly as Matilda Ann worthily wins many a hearty laugh, assisted thereto by Mr. George Yarnold, an old favourite in these regions, as Superior James. Much of the scenery, painted by Mr. Frederick Fenton, is highly picturesque, and conceived and executed with admirable artistic skill. The rift in the sea cliff in the first act and the ruined chapel by moonlight in the second both merit cordial commendation, but the Mouse-trap Rock in the third act, with the surging waves settling down gradually from tempestuous force into the swelling surge which follows a storm, is the culminating triumph. No moving sea picture of anything like equal excellence has been seen since Mr. Clarkson Stanfield's famous sea scene in "Acis and Galatea" at Drury Lane. "The Trail of Sin" is a great and legitimate success, and it was a real treat to watch the effect which it produced upon the dense throngs which filled every part of the capacious house.

EGYPTIAN HALL.

Mr. Telbin's diorama of the Holy Land, shown at the Haymarket Theatre when the Prince of Wales's Eastern tour had given a new interest to Palestine and its neighbourhood, has been enlarged by the addition of five new views, and is now exhibited in the large room formerly occupied by the late Mr. Albert Smith. The pictures are from sketches made by Mr. Telbin and his son, who travelled to the East for the express purpose, and comprise views of Cairo, Philoe, Jerusalem, the Holy Sepulchre, the river Jordan, the plain of Jericho, the Dead Sea, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Mount Hermon, Damascus, a Turkish Interior, Baalbec, Beyrout, Smyrna, and Constantinople. A descriptive lecture is read by Mr. Arthur Matthison, and some of the views are illustrated by pieces of sacred music, sung by Miss Fosbroke and vocalists. The great talent of Mr. Telbin in producing works of this kind, the truthfulness of his delineation, the richness of his colouring, his command of dioramic effects, are universally known; and of all the moving picture that have been exhibited of late years this reminiscence of the East and the views of Killarney shown at the Lyceum Theatre will hold the highest rank. That the removal of the "Holy Land" from the Haymarket to the Egyptian Hall will insure for it an increased amount of patronage there can be no doubt, for many persons who take an especial interest in Scripture geography are precisely those who abstain from theatrical amusement.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and family continue in Scotland, where they appear fully to enjoy the beautiful scenery by which they are surrounded, paying frequent visits to the points of interest in the neighbourhood. The Prince of Wales, Prince of Hesse, and Prince Alfred amuse themselves with shooting and fishing. The Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, with their children, left Potsdam on Monday evening, on a visit to this country, and it is understood will forthwith proceed to Balmoral on a visit to the Queen. It is understood that the stay in England of their Royal Highnesses will be of some duration. It is also intimated that the Prince and Princess of Wales are about to leave Abergeldie, as the Princess is anxious to see her brother before he goes to take possession of the Greek throne.

HOME NEWS.—The health of London has settled down to about the average point. The ten years' average of mortality for the last week is 1240; the actual number for the week 1233, being seven below the average. Infant mortality is, however, on the increase, the deaths from scarlatina having risen to 148 in the course of last week. The births for the week did not reach more than 1801, which is 79 below the ten years' average.—On the 19th ult. there were 139,865 persons receiving parochial relief in the cotton districts. This shows a decrease, as compared with the returns of the previous week, of 2,115, and of 19,000 as compared with those of the corresponding week in 1862.—Prince Napoleon has arrived in London. The object of his visit—whether it is of a political or a private nature—is not known.—The text of the letter in which Mr. Mason notified to Lord Russell the termination of the Confederate mission to England has been made public. Mr. Mason, of course, acted under instructions from Richmond, and we learn from the despatch directing him to withdraw from London, that the main complaint against her Majesty's Government is, that it "has determined to decline the overtures made for establishing, by treaty, friendly relations" between this country and the Southern States. In this state of things, President Davis considers that his envoy's continued residence in London would be "neither conducive to the interests nor consistent with the dignity" of the Confederate Government. The fact is, Mr. Mason has never been recognised in any way by Lord Russell, and he now retires to Paris, where his colleague, Mr. Slidell, enjoys free access to the Emperor and his Ministers. The *Index*—the Confederate organ in this country—points out that "Earl Russell has now succeeded in establishing absolute non-intercourse with the Confederate States, because we know through the press, that of the three British Consuls who remained in the Southern States, Mr. Bunch at Charleston and Mr. McGee at Mobile, were recalled by this Government; and Mr. Moore, at Richmond, was dismissed by the Confederate Government for contumacy."—The Bishop of Oxford has delivered an interesting speech on local examinations and university training. His lordship, it will be seen, attaches great importance to these examinations, in connection not only with the discipline of the pupils, but with the status of the masters and the subsequent University career.—Lord Russell, who has for some weeks past been residing at Meikleour, in Perthshire, with his family, was on Saturday entertained at a banquet by the tenantry on the estate. The dinner was given at the Town Hall of Blairgowrie, and was preceded by the presentation of two addresses—one from the people of Blairgowrie and the other from the Meikleour tenantry. At the banquet, the noble Earl, in responding to the toast of his health, reviewed at some length the foreign policy of her Majesty's Government. Referring to the Polish question he

insisted that Russia had not complied with the conditions on which Poland was secured to her by the Treaty of Vienna; but nevertheless, "neither the obligations nor the interests of England require that we should go to war for Poland," and he, therefore, thought it "unbecoming for us to rail at Russia when we were not prepared forcibly to resist aggression." With regard to Mexico, he pointed out the distinction between intervention for the redress of wrong and intervention for the purpose of forcing upon a people a particular form of government. France had adopted the latter form of interference in Mexico, and her Majesty's Government had felt it to be their duty to part company with the Emperor as soon as his real object was disclosed. The noble Earl next spoke of what is now going on in what "a few years ago were the United States of America," and at considerable length defended the policy of the Government since the outbreak of the civil war.—The Duke of Aumale, who, in his exile, seeks solace in the pursuits of a cultivated English country gentleman, presided at the dinner of the Vale of Evesham Agricultural Society, last week. In one of his speeches his Royal Highness glanced cursorily at the leading "features" of English agriculture. One of these, he said, was peculiar to this country. When farmers met together on such occasions "they managed their own business for themselves without official superintendence; they did not require any superior authority or interference, and he believed the advantages of the system were far greater than the disadvantages.—Mr. Glaisher deserves great credit for the courage with which he prosecutes his important inquiries among the clouds. Ballooning is not the most comfortable way of testing scientific calculations, but Mr. Glaisher braves all the dangers attending voyages of this kind, and by this time he must have acquired all the coolness of an experienced aeronaut. He made another ascent from Wolverhampton on Tuesday, but did not get beyond the height of three miles and a half. The balloon descended at a point about six miles from Sleaford, and we learn from a telegram that the descent was a "very rough" one. The balloon was torn.—The revenue returns for the quarter and year ended September 30 were published on Tuesday. Although there is a net decrease of £189,479 on the quarter, the returns can hardly be considered otherwise than satisfactory; for this decrease is mainly caused by the loss to the customs from the reduced tea duty, and to the property-tax, by the reduction which has been made in it. The three items of decrease are—Customs, 329,000; property-tax, £108,000; and miscellaneous, £102,479. On excise, however, there is an increase of £318,000; on stamps, of £11,000; taxes, £10,000; Post-office, £10,000; and Crown lands, £1,000. The total revenue for the quarter was £14,411,501. In the account for the year an increase of £803,812 is shown, the total revenue having been £70,494,582 against £69,635,540 last year.—Sir Wm. Atherton is stated to have resigned the Attorney-Generalship on account of ill-health. He is to be succeeded in his office by Sir Roundell Palmer, now Solicitor-General; and Mr. Collier's name is mentioned in connection with the latter office.—Trouble has once more overtaken the *Great Eastern*. The great ship is declared to be perfectly sound in her hull and machinery, but the old financial difficulty has again put a temporary stop to her career. The Director, in a report just issued, state that "the position of the Company's affairs is most critical," and a meeting of the shareholders has been summoned, to choose one of two alternatives—the raising of additional capital, or the dissolution of the Company. At a meeting of local shareholders in Manchester it was resolved to recommend that the leading shareholders form among themselves a new company for the purchase of the ship, and that all the existing

proprietors who may desire to join the new company be invited to do so.—The Channel Fleet has at last left Liverpool and Lancashire Witches, who appear to have so charmed Admiral Dacres and his officers that they were only too ready to take advantage of the prevailing low tides, and stay a while longer in the Mersey. The squadron arrived in Dublin Bay on Saturday morning, and the enthusiasm which has been displayed by all classes proves that Irishmen, like Englishmen, are proud of the Queen's navy. The various ships have been visited by thousands of persons, and the officers, as representing the service to which they belong, are being *feted* as they were at Liverpool and other ports of the United Kingdom.—The gunboats—or "hornets" as they were playfully called—which were so hurriedly put together during the Crimean war, are rapidly disappearing from the *Navy List*. Eight more of these craft—which, if not rotten, are now-a-days useless except for service as despatch boats—have just been ordered to be broken up. Three six-gun steam vessels, one of which, the *Cyclops*, was the first frigate-built steamer constructed for the navy, and was once regarded with great admiration and curiosity, have also ceased to belong to the royal navy—the Admiralty having succeeded in finding a purchaser for them.—There was a very interesting field day, sham fight, and evening bivouac at Hadley, near Barnet, on Saturday, under the command of Colonel Wilkinson. Several of the well-known metropolitan corps took part in the proceedings, which throughout were well conducted, and gave complete satisfaction to every one present, whether as volunteer or as mere spectator. The Honourable Artillery Company had a field-day at the Alexandra Park on Wednesday. Although the members of the corps did not attend very numerous, the evolutions were performed in exceedingly good style. One thing was demonstrated—that for such a review the park is admirably fitted.—A lengthened investigation took place on Saturday at the Thames Police-court into the circumstances attending the flogging of a charity boy at the Aldgate Charity School by the master. The case was clearly proved, and although the boy seems to have been incorrigible, the punishment was held by the magistrate to be excessive, and the master was fined in the full penalty of £5, or in default two months' imprisonment.—At the Thames Police-court a man who had been previously before the magistrate for the same offence, and who then escaped on a technical point, has been again brought up charged with stealing £22, the money of a friendly society. The robbery was done most audaciously, as the prisoner went the same evening to the society's meeting, and acknowledged taking the money, saying that he "meant to stick to it." This time he is not likely to escape.—The prisoner who is already committed for trial on a charge of obtaining money on false pretences of the sale of an adwoson has been again brought up at the Westminster Police-court on two allegations of fraud, on both of which he was further committed.—A case of horse-stealing "for a lark" has been before the Worship-street magistrate. The prisoner, on a Sunday night, was riding a horse barebacked, without bridle or halter, along the High-street, Lower Clapham, and when stopped by a policeman he assaulted the officer. It appears, however, that he had really mounted the horse in a tipsy frolic, and the magistrate taking a very lenient view of the circumstances, discharged the prisoner.—Two men charged with the murder of John Meers, at Teignbridge, were examined before the magistrates at Newton Abbot, on Monday. The principal witness against them is a boy named Pike, a sweep. He declares that he saw the murder committed, and that one of the men gave him a penny not to tell; but it is said he bears an indifferent character. There is,

however, some corroborative evidence.—It was announced last week that a Hull steamer, the *Zealand*, had gone down in the Baltic, and that seven of her crew had perished. We are glad, however, to state that not a life was lost, the persons supposed to have been drowned having been picked up by a passing vessel.—An inquest was held at Dudley, on Monday last, on the body of Mr. B. Gibbons, an extensive ironmaster, who met his death under the following singular circumstances. He was reading the paper to his invalid wife when he was disturbed by the buzzing of a gnat in the window. In trying to drive it away he broke a pane of glass, and slightly cut the back of his hand. The wound became inflamed, the inflammation gradually spread, and in less than a week he was dead. Trivial as was the original cause, the death was owing to the wound, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned. As Mr. Gibbons had been prudent enough to insure against all accidents, with the Railway Passenger's Assurance Company, he had thus at the small cost of £3 secured £1000 for his afflicted family.—Two Roman Catholic priests, named Kelly and Walsh, have been fined £5, at Liverpool, for interfering with a constable while in the discharge of his duty. The constable, who was in plain clothes at the time, was going towards a police station with three lads he had taken into custody. He was met by the defendants, one of whom seized him by the arm, while the other rescued one of the boys. A woman and some dock labourers carried off the two other lads. It was urged, on behalf of the two rev. gentlemen, that they were not aware that the prosecutor was a constable, and on this ground the fine was mitigated in each case to £5.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The *Moniteur*, in consequence of certain articles published by the *Presse* respecting the foreign policy of France, reminds the world that "the idea which directs public affairs emanates from the Emperor," and that "the Minister is only responsible for its execution." This official warning is probably intended to inform the Paris journalists that they must be more cautious than some of them have lately been in writing about the Polish insurrection and Prince Gortschakoff's reply to the French note.—The hydra-headed Polish insurrection continuing, the commander of the Russian troops in the palatinate of Kalisch has held a council with several superior officers of the Prussian army relative to the steps to be taken to paralyse the movements of the insurgents.—We learn from Lisbon that the youthful Queen of Portugal was safely delivered of a prince on Tuesday.—The German National Verein is at present assembled at Dresden. At its first meeting the proceedings of the late Congress at Frankfort were freely criticised, and its project of reform was denounced.—The serious illness of the Grand Duke Constantine is announced. The rumoured attempt on the life of Prince Stourdza is denied.—Denmark appears to be still preparing for the worst result of the dispute between herself and the Germanic Confederation. The Danish Minister of Marine has just applied to the Rigsraad for permission to construct an iron-clad naval battery, to call in 5,000 seamen, and to iron-plate a frigate.—The Berlin official paper publishes a circular issued by the Minister of the Interior calling upon the chiefs of the provincial governments to devote their utmost attention to the conduct of the public functionaries during the forthcoming elections. The officials of all kinds are expected to give their entire support to the State Government, and even a passive or neutral attitude will be considered a proof of want of devotion, and a breach of their oath of allegiance.—The *Moniteur* publishes despatches from Mexico, which assert that the Juarez party is fast dissolving; that Doblado is about to retire to the United States; that San Luis Potosi is about to pronounce in favour of French intervention, and that divers

other things all satisfactory to France are immediately to happen. *La France* has also news from Mexico, to the effect that the Indian population are unanimous in favour of the Archduke Maximilian. In fact, if we are to believe those journals, everything in Mexico is taking the precise turn which the French Government most ardently desires, and the Golden Age is likely to return to one country in the world at least.—The elections in the Ionian Islands in reference to the proposed annexation to Greece have terminated. As yet, however, we only know the results of the vote in Corfu and Paxos. Both islands have pronounced, through the representatives elected, in favour of the annexation. We have yet to learn the results in Cephalonia, Zante, Santa Maura, Ithaca, and Cerigo; but there does not appear to be the slightest doubt that these islands, too, will pronounce in favour of the union with the Kingdom of Greece.

AMERICA.—Intelligence of considerable interest has been brought by the *City of New York*. There was no important news from Charleston, the Federals being engaged up to the 15th inst. in shelling Fort Moultrie from Morris Island, and the Confederates maintaining a steady fire upon the Federal position. General Meade's army was advancing, but its vanguard had not yet succeeded in passing the Rapidan, although there had been much skirmishing, and although it was reported that the Confederate army was not large, and was about to retire on Richmond, or even—according to another and infinitely more improbable rumour—to "evacuate the State of Virginia." It was said that General Johnston had been summoned to command the Confederate forces in Virginia, in the room of General Lee, who had proceeded to the South "for an important purpose," and that a large portion of General Lee's troops had been moved southward to General Bragg—General Longstreet's corps having already arrived at Resaca, in Georgia. General Bragg was believed to be strongly established near Lafayette, in Georgia; and there had been minor engagements, in which the Confederates seem to have claimed the advantage, between different divisions of his army and the Federal troops. The Federal General Rosecrans was said to have assumed a "strong defensive attitude" at Chattanooga. Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas, was officially reported to have been occupied by the Federal troops—the Confederates having retreated southwards and having been pursued by the Federal cavalry. A disaster had been experienced by a portion of the Federal expedition which, under General Franklin's command, has left New Orleans for Texas. An attempt to effect a landing at Sabine Pass had been repulsed by the Confederates, who captured one Federal gunboat and destroyed another.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The India and China mail brings news from Hong-Kong to the 12th ult., from Calcutta to the 12th of August, from Calcutta to the 22nd, and from Bombay to the 31st. The China Mail gives details of the Japanese outrages on American, French, and Dutch vessels, and of the retaliation by the representatives of the insulted flags. A serious encounter has taken place in Hanchow Bay between her Majesty's gunboat *Flamer*, a Chinese steamer, and a number of piratical junks. The *Rosina*, belong to Messrs. Dent and Co., was captured by pirates during her voyage from Ningpo to Shanghai, and carried off into the recesses of the bay. From India we learn that serious state convulsions had broken out in Afghanistan; Shere Ali (Ameer the Second) had executed his brother, and another brother, having escaped the same fate, has fled, and is raising forces to rebel against the fratricidal successor of Dost Mahommed. The same journal, commenting on the trial of the supposed Nana Sahib, remarks that "there is but small ground left for believing him to be the Nana," a remark which is justified by a telegram received since, under date of Bombay, Sept. 9, to the effect that the prisoner has been positively proved *not* to be the Nana.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- R. R.—Yes. The Grand Lodge of Scotland now allow candidates to be initiated at eighteen.
 P. M.—You are altogether wrong, and cannot have read the law you allude to.
 A. B.—Certainly not. We never give up the names of our correspondents.
 J. S.—Send us the manuscript.
 W. S.—Punctuality is a virtue which ought to be practised in every lodge.