

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1863.

MOTHER KILWINNING.

By BRO. D. MURRAY LYON, K.T., PROV. J.G.W.
OF Ayrshire.

No. VIII.

The lodges borne on the Kilwinning records, as having been constituted by charter from the Mother-Lodge, are as follows:—

Daughters.	Date of erection.	Petitioners.
Canongate - Kilwinning	Dec. 1677	{ Brethren of the Canongate of Edinburgh.
Torphichen Do.	May 1729	{ Masons of the Lodge of Torphichen, East Calder.
East Kilbride Do....	Feb. 1738	{ Master and Wardens of East Kilbride Lodge.
Cumberland Do.	Jan. 1747	{ Gentlemen Masons in Port Glasgow
Loudoun Newmilns Do.	Feb. 1747	{ Working Masons in Loudoun.
Cessnock Do....	Jan. 1748	{ Operative Masons in Galston.
Paisley Do.	Aug. 1749	{ Operative Masons in Paisley.
Airdry Do.	Dec. 1749	{ Gentlemen Masons in Airdry.
Proven Do.	Dec. 1754	{ Certain Masons at Proven Miln, near Glasgow.
Beith Do.	Dec. 1754	{ Certain Masons in Beith.
Renfrew County Do.*	Feb. 1755	{ The Masons of Renfrewshire subscribing at Paisley.
Wigtown Do....	Dec. 1755	{ The Masons in Wigtown.
Fort George Do. ...	June 1756	{ Masons in Fort George.
Tapahannock Do. ...	June 1758	{ Certain Masons in Essex County, Virginia, N. America
Doric, Port Glasgow Do.	Jan. 1759	{ Operatives in Port-Glasgow.
Patrick Do.	May 1759	{ Operative Masons at Patrick.
Squaremen's Ayr Do.	Dec. 1765	{ Master Masons, Fellow Crafts, and Apprentices at Ayr.
Pythagorean Do. ...	Oct. 1767	{ Gentlemen Masons in St. John's, Antigua, W. Indies.
Largs Do.	Dec. 1767	{ Certain Masons in Largs.
Stranraer Do....	Feb. 1768	{ Certain Masons in Stranraer.
Richardton Do. ...	Nov. 1768	{ Masons in Richardton.
Mountstewart Greenock	Dec. 1768	{ Certain Masons in Greenock.
St. Bryde's Douglass Do.	1769	{ Certain Masons in Douglass.
Erskine Do.	July 1771	{ Operative Masons in Erskine.
Tarbolton Do.† ...	1771	{ Masons in Tarbolton.
Lennox Do.	June 1772	{ Operative Masons in Campsie, near Glasgow.
Falmouth Do....	Dec. 1775	{ Office-bearers and Members of Lodge of Freemasons in Falmouth, Virginia, N.A.
High Knight Templars of Ireland Do. }	Oct. 1779	{ Master and Wardens of a High Knight Templar Lodge, meeting in Dublin.
Bathgate Do....	Dec. 1781	{ Sundry Masons in Bathgate.
Paisley St. Andrew Do., No. 77... ..	Oct. 1791	{ Sundry Masons in Paisley.
Montgomerie Kilwinning, of the New Town of Eaglesham No. 78... ..	Aug. 1800	{ Number of respectable Masons in Eaglesham.
Montgomerie Cunningham East Kilbride Kilwinning, No. 79... ..	Oct. 1803	{ Number of respectable Masons in East Kilbride.

* The mother lodge of General Sir John Moore.

† Tarbolton Kilwinning St. James are emphatically *the* Burns Lodge: several of their minutes bear the holograph 'Robert

That the foregoing is a most incomplete list of the Kilwinning lodges is rendered certain by the preservation of the original charter of Kilmarnock Kilwinning St. John, and those of other unrecorded lodges emanating from that ancient seat of Masonry. "Leith Kilwinning" appears in an old list of daughter lodges, but without date of constitution attached.

From "No. 79" being appended to the designation of the East Kilbride Lodge—the last receiving their charter from Kilwinning—it may be inferred that seventy-eight lodges had previously been constituted by the Mother Lodge; but of this there is no cer-

Burnesse, Depute Master,"—their gavel, that whose ring in the hands of the Poet used to summon to order as E.A.P. Masons; their "highest badge," the identical one worn by Burns while "presiding o'er the sons of light,"—and their banner that which many a time and oft has floated over the Poet's head as in "grand procession" he accompanied the brethren in perambulating the village preparatory to their celebration of Summer St. John's. Indeed, while the Royal Arch of St. Abb, under whose warrant Scotia's Bard was *exalted*—Tarbolton St. David, within the walls of which he first beheld "the light"—Kilmarnock Kilwinning St. John, with whom he was linked by the tie of *honorary* membership, and to whom were addressed the stanzas, beginning

"Ye sons of Old Killie, assembled by Willie,"—

and the Canongate Kilwinning, whose Poet-Laureate he was, may all feel justly proud of their connection with Robert Burns; to none of these lodges was the Poet so much endeared or so closely associated, neither have any of them been so highly favoured by his muse, as the Tarbolton daughter of Mother Kilwinning; for to that lodge were inscribed his *FAREWELL*—poured forth in such richly-embellished and soul-melting language, as when read or sung with feeling by those able fully to appreciate the force and beauty of its Masonic meaning, cannot fail to have an overpowering effect upon the tenderest sympathies of the heart, and preserve in imperishable remembrance the desponding Bard's "heart-warm, fond adieu." And what brother will begrudge the insertion in these pages of that inimitable Masonic song; or, during the Masonic festivities, of which the season is so prolific, fail to dedicate a "round" to the memory of the immortal author:—

"FAREWELL TO THE BRETHREN OF ST. JAMES'S LODGE, TAROLTON."

"Adieu! a heart warm fond adieu!
Dear brothers of the mystic tie!
Ye favour'd, ye enlightened few,
Companions of my social joy,
Tho' I to foreign lands must hie,
Pursuing Fortune's slidd'ry ba',
With melting heart and brimful eye,
I'll mind you still, though far awa'."

"Oft have I met your social band,
And spent the cheerful, festive night;
Oft, honoured with supreme command,
Presided o'er the sons of light:
And by that hieroglyphic bright,
Which none but Craftsmen ever saw!
Strong mem'ry on my heart shall write
Those happy scenes, when far awa'."

"May Freedom, Harmony, and Love,
Unite you in the grand design,
Beneath th' Omniscient Eye above—
The glorious Architect divine!
That you may keep th' unerring line,
Still rising by the plummet's law,
Till order bright completely shine,
Shall be my pray'r when far awa'."

"And you, farewell! whose merits claim,
Justly, that highest badge to wear!
Heav'n bless your honoured, noble name,
To Masonry and Scotia dear!
A last request permit me here,
When yearly ye assemble a',
One round—I ask it with a tear—
To him, the Bard, that's far awa'."

tainty. The practice of numbering the Kilwinning lodges began with the charter issued to "Paisley, St. Andrew, No. 77." It is singular that the East Kilbride should have had the first charter granted by Mother Kilwinning after their adhesion to Grand Lodge, as well as the last issued by them previous to the re-union of these two grand bodies.

Of the petitions extant upon which many of the above enumerated lodges obtained their charters, there is little to remark. Nearly all of them express the desire of the subscribers to meet as "leel men and true brethren," under authority of the Ancient Lodge of Kilwinning,—that they may do so, crave to be erected into a constitutional lodge of Free and Accepted Masons,—promise "to act in all things upon the Square, as becometh Brethren," and in all time coming to pay due obedience to the acts and statutes of the Mother Lodge. The concluding sentences of the Kilbride petition (1806) verges upon a declaration of the politics of those subscribing it:—" . . . All which we Bind and Oblige Ourselves & our Successors in said Lodge, shall be done in the most regular & proper manner becoming the trust committed to us by the Mother Lodge, & as true and Loyal Subjects, whose principal aim will be the present Constitution of the Country as by Law Established, against every attempt of open or Concealed foes, persuaded, as we are, that Loyalty & Charity are two of the Brightest Ornaments in the Character of a free Mason." This petition having been "taken under the very serious consideration" of the officebearers of the Mother Lodge, it was "unanimously agreed to grant the prayer thereof."

That of the Operatives of Port-Glasgow (formed in 1759 into the "Doric" Lodge) is framed in a style somewhat different from the others. The petitioners in this case, fearful apparently lest one lodge might by the "royal society" be considered enough to answer the requirements of Port-Glasgow, enter into a full explanation of the circumstances rendering desirable the establishment of a companion to the "Cumberland;" and as the sons of the "Doric" may feel curious to know the ground upon which the fathers of that lodge rested their application for a charter from Kilwinning, we present *in extenso* the petition addressed by them to the Mother Lodge:—

"Port-Glasgow, Jany. 23d, 1759.

"To the Honourable Master and Wardens of the Ancient Lodge of Kilwinning.

"We, your humble Petitioners, havin takin it into our consideration of the many unregular Steps that has been taken in Entering of Persons as Brethren who was not worthy to receive that Secret of Masonry, —We, therefore having takin it into our Sereous Consideration, have deseign'd to inter into a body on purpose to put a Stope to these abominations, so much hated by every honest-hearted Mason,—We, therefore, the Operatives of Port-Glasgow, with some others, as projectors in this our design—suppose we are at a distance from our Regular Lodges, and is settled here as Recedentors—is at a stand still what to do, as there is a Regular Lodge lately Erected here, which Lodge there is not one Op'ative Mason in it; and as there Meeting each Month is so Expensive, along with there Quarterly Accounts is so high, that we who are for the most part Trad'smen in generall, cannot Subsist in these Meetings, as some of us is

join'd to other Charitable Corporations, and would willingly do in this affair what lys in our power, not to detriment ourselves. Therefore, we your petitioners do humbly Crave your aid and assistance by giving a right from you to us, so as we may become one of your Children. We therefore hope you will lose no time in granting this our Request, which is the earnest desire of your Petitioners, who shall allwise pray for your Ancient and Noble Lodge, that it may be kept alwise pure for a light to shine al around and to the endless ages of posterity; and your petitioners shall ever pray."

"ALEXANDER MARK

"JAS. POLLOCK

"WILLIAM ALLAN

"JAMES GILLESPIE

"ROBERT AULD."

It is notorious that a great portion of the time of the Scottish Grand Lodge "has for too long a period been devoted to healing up unseemly quarrels among those calling themselves *Brethren*." "Petition and Complaint" also, frequently darkened the Masonic horizon in the days of Mother Kilwinning's independence, and the equanimity of that Grand Body was often disturbed by the discordant notes issuing from the sanctum of one or other of their daughters. Incidental notices of such appear in the Kilwinning records, but the only formal "Petition and Complaint" that has been preserved of those presented in the last century to the Mother Lodge is that which sets forth the troubles which beset the early days of the "Doric Kilwinning:"—

"1st July, 1761.

"To the Right Worshipfull the Master, Wardens, and other Members of the Ancient Lodge of free Masons at Kilwinning.

"The Petition and Complaint of the under Subscribers, all Operative Masons in and about the Town of Port-Glasgow.

"HUMBLY SNEWETH,—

"That, Whereas it is only of late the laudable Spirit of Masonry made any appearance, or even Embraced by any of the Inhabitants in this Town, excepting those whose Employment was to carry on the practical part of it; But however small the number of these were, yet the Salutary and noble effects of Masonry at length diffused itself thro' the whole Town, and in a short time incited the Bulk of the Inhabitants to offer themselves in the usual way to be received as Members.

"The operative part of our Order, among whom were most of your Petitioners, notwithstanding we then regulated ourselves by Certain Rules of our own, yet before we Entered too great a number of Bretheren, judged it proper for the better Establishing Laws and Statutes to be observed by the Brotherhood, to apply to your Worship's Predecessor for a Charter Erecting us a Branch of your Lodge, and which was accordingly granted, containing the common and ordinary Rules of Masonry, and particularly that a Master should be chosen year and year by turns out of the practising number of Masons.

"After this Charter was obtained, the Operators made a considerable progress in admitting Bretheren, and at two full meetings it was confirmed by the unanimous voice of the whole Body,—That, notwithstanding the other Members should exceed the Opera-

tives, yet a Master and other Officers should always be chosen, turn about, out of the Operatives with the other Members; and these two Several Resolutions were regularly Entered in the Books as a Standing Law in all time coming.

"This method was practised for some years with universal approbation, till of late a very turbulent and unruly Brother was elected Master of this Lodge, in which Capacity his conduct has been a down right prostitution of Masonry, for, instead of supporting that friendship and harmony so peculiar to free Masons, he on the contrary has made it his study to foment strife and contention among us. In the first place, in conjunction with the possie of his own Creatures, they have taken it upon them to burn and destroy sundry of our By Laws, particularly the one giving us the privilege of having one of the Operatives chosen a Master with the other Members, turn about: And, in the Second place, because we would not sign certain new Rules and Regulations, the said Master and his followers violently and forcibly carried off our Charter Chest from the Lodge, with all the Cash and other appurtenants therein, and where they have Secreted them is more than we can find out.

"That these new Laws and Rules they were endeavouring to impose upon us are so repugnant to the principle of Masons, that we can never bring our selves to sign them, seeing they have such a direct tendency to overturn all the Laws made in favours of Operatives, and which we apprehend no Master will be allowed to do without the Concurrence of your Worship, from whom we derived our privileges. From the above State of our Case, it's believed you'll think we have been highly Injured, and that the Conduct of the other party has been very Criminal, and justly merits your Severest Censure.

"May it therefore please your Worships to take our Case into your Serious Consideration, and to grant us such Redress in the premises as you shall judge proper,

"And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c., &c.,

"ALEXANDER MARK, Dept. Mr.

"DAVID AULD, Junior Warden

"JOHN NILSON, Stewart
(and six others.)"

How or in what manner the Mother Lodge interposed their authority to restore tranquillity among the brethren of the younger of their Port-Glasgow daughters, there is nothing in these records to shew.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

MR. SEWARD AND FREEMASONRY.

When the debates and discussions of the United States Anti-Masonic Convention were held at Philadelphia, in September, 1830, the present American minister, Mr. Seward, took an active part in them, and William H. Seward's name occurs amongst a list of the New York delegates.

A few extracts of his remarks may, at this juncture, prove acceptable to Masons:—

"Mr. Seward, of New York, said that the abduction and murder of Morgan were not the acts of a few misguided men. It had been participated in, or approved by, at least one hundred Masons. Morgan had fallen a martyr to the liberty of the press. In relation to the obligation of Masonry, he said that one question was,

whether one hundred thousand citizens of the United States had taken an oath which would prevent them being impartial jurors. When was there such a question to call forth the energies of a free press? Where was there an editor who would dare to tell this truth? Be it true or false, it ought to be made known."

"Mr. Seward, of New York, said he was one of those who would be pleased to have anti-Masonic candidates for the presidency. He should also be pleased to have such candidates succeed, but he likewise thought that prudence was necessary. He believed that it was not expedient now to make the nomination."

On the motion of Mr. Seward, of New York, it was resolved, that a committee of one from each state and territory here represented be appointed to make a concise report on the progress of anti-Masonry throughout the United States."

"Mr. Seward moved to amend the report by striking out the words 'Satan's synagogue,' used in application to the Masonic Institution, and by inserting, in lieu thereof, the words 'unhallowed temple.'"

"Mr. Seward—Mr. President, as the convention seems not disposed, at this moment, to proceed to the question upon the address, I have thought it might not waste time unnecessarily in making a few observations.

"I was one of those who, in the convention of the State of New York, had the honour to join in recommending to the people of the United States to meet at this place, and upon this occasion, for the redress of what you and I thought to be a matter of common interest and concern to the people of these United States. By a large, respectable, and intelligent portion of our fellow-citizens that recommendation has been heard, and this convention shows that it has been answered.

"Now, Sir, the address which has been reported by this Committee, is the means of extending the principles that sent us hither into those parts of our common country which have not yet been agitated by them. This address is the measure which is to excite public attention and to direct public inquiry.

"The question is whether this address shall be adopted? Is there a man in my hearing who does not feel that it is one of the most important questions which could occupy the attention of this body? Who that is familiar with the rise and progress of Secret Societies in the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and all the other sections in which the question has been agitated, who does not know that it is, wherever agitated, a question of perilous moment—a question either fraught with evil, or productive of the most efficient good? It becomes us to deliberate upon the question whether we will extend these principles further.

"The question whether Secret Societies shall longer exist in this country under our free institutions is indeed a new question, and for that reason it encounters opposition."

In this strain Mr. Seward, the champion of liberty of the press at that date—what he is now Heaven only knows—continued to harangue the meeting against the Masonic Institution, and whilst the anti-Masonic agitation lasted was one of its most uncompromising advocates. No wonder then that, as no spark of generous sympathy inculcated by the teachings of the Craft ever entered his bosom, he can recklessly aid the President of the dis-United States in deluging the country with bloodshed, and all the attendant evils of a fratricidal civil war. Such conduct is no more than could be expected from an anti-Masonic delegate.—Ex. Ex.

ANCIENT MASONIC PROCESSION.

In the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE of Sept. 19, 1863, under the head of "Notes and Queries," an account is given of a Masonic procession (Sept. 13, 1736) from the Earl of Loudon's house to Fishmongers' Hall. Through the kindness of the clerk to the company, W. B. Towse, Esq., I have had the books searched, and for the infor-

mation of "Querist," I am sorry to say that there exists no record whatever of the circumstance.—G. DORLING, Prov. G. Sec. Suffolk.—Ipswich, Dec. 4.

WHY WOMEN ARE EXCLUDED FROM FREEMASONRY.

An old author gives the following reasons for the non-admission of women into Freemasonry:—"Our Order excludes women; not because it is unwilling we should pay a proper regard to that lovely sex (the greatest, the most valuable gift that Heaven has bestowed upon us), or because it imagines they would not implicitly obey the strictest commands of secrecy; but it knows if they were to be admitted to our assemblies, that our bosoms must often be inflamed by love; that jealousy would sometimes be the consequence; that then we should no longer be kind brethren, but detested rivals, and that our harmonious institution would by that means be annihilated. But though our Order excludes women, it does not forbid our enjoying the pleasures of love, but it bids us enjoy them in such a manner as the laws of conscience, society, and temperance permit; it commands us for momentary gratifications not to destroy the peace of families; not to take away the happiness (a happiness with which grandeur and riches are not to be compared) which those experience whose hearts are united by love, not to profane the first and most holy institution of nature. To enjoy the blessing sent by divine beneficence, it tells us, is virtue and obedience; but it bids us avoid the allurements of intemperance, whose short hours of jollity are followed by tedious days of pain and dejection; whose joys turn to madness, and lead to disease, and to death."—Ex. Ex.

THE GOTHIC CONSTITUTIONS.

Bro. Anderson, in his *Book of Constitutions*, occasionally refers to the "Gothic Constitutions;" and as he seemed to be a great admirer of the Augustan style, did he wage war against the Gothic in a similar way to our late Battle of the Styles? I cannot make head nor tail of it.—A CONSTANT READER.—[When Anderson wrote of the "Gothic Constitutions," he alluded to the Constitutions of Masons in times considerably earlier than his own, and did not intend to be understood architecturally. We know of several distinct copies of these early laws for Masons. Some are in public libraries, others in the hands of private individuals, not Freemasons, three have been printed, and we have been told of another, in MS., which we have not yet seen. These have, all but the last, been collated by us, are ready for the press, and are likely, at some early day, to be published separately. If "A Constant Reader" is interested in the subject, we shall be happy to afford him further information privately.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE GLAMORGAN LODGE AND THEIR LATE ILLEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am almost surprised you should have overstrained your well-known character for impartiality to so great an extent as to suffer the appearance, in your last number, of such an ungrammatical concoction of impudence, ignorance, and falsehood as the epistle which bore the signature of the Senior Deacon of the Glamorgan Lodge, but which, it is well known, passed through several hands before it reached yours.

I am well aware I have made use of strong language in thus stigmatising the production in question, but if I do not fully substantiate the charges I have brought against it, I know you will not suffer this to go into print.

On the charge of impudence, I need say very little,

but may well leave the writer of the precious document to writhe under the severe but well-merited castigation you have inflicted upon him in the few lines you appended to his letter, simply adding, for your own information, that Bro. "Nelson D. Marks, Senior Deacon of the Glamorgan Lodge," is *not* the old and experienced Mason his authoritative style of diction would lead you to suppose, but a very young and very inexperienced brother, never likely to rise high in the Masonic profession.

I am not quite sure that the charge of ignorance ought not to merge into that of impudence; but, for the nonce, will give the writer the credit of really believing what he states, when he coolly avers that "nothing unconstitutional was done" at the lodge, the *too faithful* report of which has given such umbrage to a few offending brethren. As we shall shortly be in possession of a judicial verdict from the constituted authorities, upon the legality of the re-initiation of a true and lawful brother Mason, I will not prejudge the case further than by expressing an opinion, shared in by every brother I have consulted, not wilfully blinded, that the blissful ignorance of our Senior Deacon will be quickly dispelled. Two or three other manifestations of ignorance, such as the duty of your correspondent to bring the matter "before the Board of General Purposes," whereas no such right exists; and a little bit of highflown sentimentality about some imaginary "obligation," existing only in the misty vision of our Senior Deacon, I pass without further comment; but into the more serious charge I have brought against "Nelson D. Marks's" communication, the proof, or otherwise, of which closely affects my personal reputation, I must enter a little more fully.

The Senior Deacon has had the audacity to affirm that the report of the proceedings of the Glamorgan Lodge, which appeared in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE of the 14th ult., was "a most untruthful and garbled record of what happened." This statement, as the brother who vouched to you for the accuracy of that report, I regret to be compelled to stigmatize as an unmitigated falsehood. And now for my proof. You are aware that I forwarded to you, for your last publication, a succinct account of the proceedings of a lodge of emergency, summoned not after the publication of your report, but immediately upon the appearance of the leading article commenting thereon, to take into consideration that report. Upon mature deliberation, and after consultation with other brethren, anxious to spare the feelings of some, for whom (although I was well aware they had committed an unpardonable Masonic offence) I entertained the greatest possible regard, I determined, as the lodge referred to was compelled tacitly to admit the authenticity of the report, to allow the matter, so far as any interference of mine went, to die a natural death; and I, therefore, wrote you at the eleventh hour, begging a suppression of the second report, however inconvenient it might be to your publisher, and which request, upon the appearance of the scurrilous effusion of our Senior Deacon, I regretted you complied with. I am sorry the whole matter must now be re-opened, and cast the blame upon the defender of "the Glamorgan Lodge, and its late illegal proceedings."

At the lodge of emergency alluded to, a very feeble attempt was made to impugn the veracity of the statement in the MAGAZINE of the 14th ult., and a proposition actually made to that effect, whereupon a Past Master insisted that the report should be read and discussed *seriatim*, which having been done, the same Past Master proposed, as an amendment, that the report was substantially and materially correct; when the original motion was immediately withdrawn, and the amendment confirming the communication was tacitly carried. The only paragraph about which any quibble was raised, was the one which contained a statement that the Provincial Grand Master was not informed of what was

going on; and if the words had been added, which were implied, viz., "in open lodge," not only would the record have been "materially and substantially," but *literally* correct. The real facts of this part of the case are forcibly represented in the characteristically temperate letter of "Bro. Thorp," who says,—"The discussion had taken place before he (the Prov. G.M.) entered the lodge, and he simply heard the statements (given in the strictest privacy) of the Past Masters of the lodge; and, relying on their opinion, he acquiesced in the decision, but refused to express his opinion in open lodge, as he had not heard the full arguments." How far the slight verbal omission referred to warrants your "impertinent" correspondent in denouncing the report as "a most untruthful and garbled record," I leave your impartial readers to determine.

But a still more personal, and still more purely false accusation of Bro. Marks, remains to be answered. In a confusion of composition, almost sufficient to disturb the repose of Lindley Murray, our Senior Deacon thus delivers himself:—"I certainly did, in announcing the candidate, act as described: so far your correspondent is correct, and which I did, not knowing the real state of the case, and having been misled by your veritable* (I regret I can in no shape or form return the compliment, correspondent himself." My answer to this is, to tell Bro. Marks that, when he makes the assertion, that he was misled by your correspondent, or any one else, he not only states that which is false, but that which he well knows to be utterly false, and without the least shadow of foundation in truth.

When your correspondent (with others protesting against what they conceived to be a caricature of Masonry) retired from the lodge, he found the so-called candidate partially prepared for admission; and knowing him to be an Entered Apprentice Freemason, pointed out to him one of the absurdities of the farce, in which he was about to play the principal character; upon which the Senior Deacon spontaneously, and without solicitation of any kind, made use of these well-selected words—"I shan't tell any lies about it; I shall say"—adding an *interpolation* to the introduction I cannot here repeat, but which simply implied that at least one officer of the lodge meant to *tell the truth*, of which determination, and the carrying out of the same, the Senior Deacon now appears to be heartily ashamed. What a type of injured innocence would our Senior Deacon have us believe him! "Misled." "Not knowing the facts"—whilst, in consequence of the protestations of the candidate at every step—that officer was actually compelled to seek admission into the lodge, and formally announce to the W.M. that the so-denominated candidate was in possession of the secrets of the degree.

But I fear I have too far trespassed upon your valuable space; and, feeling perfectly satisfied I have fully proved each of the charges I deliberately brought against the epistle to which "Senior Deacon" has affixed his signature, allow me to take leave of that worthy official by offering him one piece of salutary advice,—never to undertake the onerous duties of champion to the officers of the Glamorgan Lodge, who (*with one exception*) are an intelligent, a respectable, and well educated body of men, until he has imbibed much more deeply of that "Divine attribute which is the foundation of every Masonic virtue," as well as much more attentively studied that branch of the liberal arts and sciences which "teaches the proper arrangement of words, and which enables us to write a language with accuracy, agreeably to reason and correct usage."

Yours truly and fraternally,

CORRESPONDENT.

Cardiff, December 7th, 1863.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—We, the undersigned members of the Glamorgan Lodge, present at a meeting on November 10th, having read a report of that meeting in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE of November 14th, beg to affirm that the same is substantially and materially correct; and to express our surprise that an officer of the lodge could have so far forgotten himself as *falsely* to designate that report "a most untruthful and garbled record of what happened."

Signed by a Past Master, a Provincial Grand Officer, and seven officers and members of the Glamorgan Lodge.

EXCLUSION OF VISITORS AT MASONIC TRIALS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As you have in your MAGAZINE (very properly, I think,) taken ground against the *dictum* of the Grand Registrar, which, in a great measure, led to the decision of Grand Lodge at its last Quarterly Meeting, in favour of the appeal of the W.M. of St. John's Lodge (No. 182, E.R.) against the D. Prov. G.M. for the District of Quebec and Three Rivers, I shall endeavour to give you, as succinctly and faithfully as possible, a statement of the facts of the case, in order that should you, as you have intimated you would, return to it, you may understand the subject in all its bearings. At the election of officers for Albion Lodge (No. 17, E.R.), whereof I am now in my second year, the W.M., in 1859, as well as at that in 1860, a certain member of it (who has since, after due trial, been excluded from the lodge) failed in being elected to the chair of W.M., each time by a small majority. Upon both occasions he did his utmost to have the election set aside by the non-confirmation of the minutes, failing both times in his efforts; but upon the second occasion his motion being only negatived by the casting vote of the W.M.

At the following election, in 1861, his intimate associate and junior partner in the law business (who happens to be the appellant in the case in question) was also a rejected candidate for the office of W.M. in the Albion, the lodge preferring me to him by such a decided majority that, in this instance, there was no attempt made to set aside the election.

Previous to this, and subsequent to the double rejection of the first mentioned brother, it began to be apparent to the lodge that, piqued, no doubt, by these defeats of himself and partner, he, assisted by one or two others, had formed the determination to destroy it, by causing the rejection of almost every candidate who was proposed in it, whether for initiation or as joining members. But after the said rejection, in 1861, of his intimate associate and partner, the existence of this unbalanced conspiracy was quite patent to almost every member of the lodge. Matters were in this state, the fatal black balls constantly appearing in the ballot box, and the Albion fast becoming a by-word among the Craft, for persistent and indiscriminate rejection of candidates, when, on the 27th December last, a universally respected brother and citizen, who had several times filled the office of its W.M., but who had, for some cause, seen fit to declare off, and desired to rejoin the lodge, was balloted for, the fatal black balls again appeared in the box.

It happened, however, that upon this occasion some of the brethren saw a noted partisan of the presumed conspirators cast a black ball into the ballot box, and one of them informed the rejected brother of the circumstance. He, naturally feeling highly indignant at such conduct, called upon the brother whom he had been informed had cast the black ball against him, and asking the brother (who at once admitted the fact) whether in so black balling him he had done so in consequence of anything he knew against his public, private, or moral

* Veritable, "true"—Johnson. "Truthful"—Walker.

character, was informed, in reply (I quote the precise words, which were subsequently proved in open lodge), "I did not black ball you because I had anything against your public or private character, but I did so for private reasons of my own, which have determined me to black ball every one who may be proposed in Albion Lodge, were it even my own brother."

The rejected brother thereupon brought a charge before the lodge against him for un-Masonic conduct, in having so black balled him without cause.

For the investigation of this charge, a copy of which was immediately transmitted to the accused, I summoned a special, or emergent meeting of the lodge, and as there had been what I considered very improper interference, on the part of several members of a Scotch Lodge here (the St. Andrew's, No 356), with the concerns of the Albion—indeed, one of the brethren (who figures lower down as attempting to beard me in the chair) had even gone about the streets, whilst he was yet an E.A., canvassing for the candidate opposed to me at the election for W.M. in 1861, as if the same had been some common council affair—I determined that none should be present at this meeting who were not members of the lodge. But although of my intention in this respect the fraternity throughout the city were well advised, there were several visitors present when I opened the lodge. When, however, it was opened, I requested, in the most courteous manner, all present who were not members of the lodge, except those who had been summoned as witnesses, to withdraw. My request was at once complied with by every one, except the member of St. Andrew's to whom I have just adverted, who, I had been previously informed, intended to be present to "test the question" of my right (so I presume he meant) to exclude visitors, and who, in the most unjustifiable manner, endeavoured to address the chair. This I energetically prevented, and told him, if he would not withdraw upon my courteous request to that effect, I should have to order him to do so. As he still persisted, I was at length obliged peremptorily to order him to retire, when he left the room.

The accused brother was then put upon his trial, in which he was assisted by all the legal talent of the two afore-mentioned unsuccessful aspirants to the chair of W.M., and after a lengthened investigation was found guilty by the almost unanimous voice of the lodge, there being only two dissentients, namely, the aforesaid appellant (the W.M. of St. John's Lodge), and a P.M. of St. Andrew's Lodge, who is also a member of the Albion, and the sentence of permanent exclusion from the lodge passed upon him.

It happened at this meeting that the regular Tyler of the lodge, not being able to attend, had, with my concurrence, engaged a member of the St. Andrew's to take his place, and he tyled the lodge for him. At its next meeting, a complaint for un-Masonic conduct was brought before St. Andrew's Lodge against this brother, for not having left his post when a member of his lodge, who had urged him to do so, had been ordered to retire from Albion Lodge. This was done without any notice whatever having been given him of the complaint, or any opportunity afforded him to defend himself against it; and the same having been sustained by a majority of the lodge, upon the *ex parte* statement of the brother who had been ordered to retire from Albion Lodge, a further vote of censure was passed against him, he being absent, and altogether ignorant of the whole proceedings. At the following meeting of the lodge, when the W.M. having put the minutes for confirmation in the usual manner, a member of Albion Lodge, who is at the same time an honorary member of St. Andrew's, made a motion, which was duly seconded, that that part of the minutes relating to the censure of the brother in question be not confirmed, which the W.M. refused to put. The said brother then made another motion, founded on Sec. 8, Chap. 11, of the Scottish Constitutions. This

motion the W.M. also refused to put. The W.M. then again put the minutes for confirmation, when there appeared a majority against their being confirmed. He thereupon declared that the minutes must be confirmed, provided there was nothing in them contrary to fact; and after asking each brother separately whether the minutes were correctly recorded, and none saying nay, he declared them duly confirmed, basing his decision upon a passage in "Lauries' History of Masonry," page 292. The brother who had acted as Tyler for the Albion, as aforesaid, was thereupon called up and censured, when he declared off the lodge.

The St. Andrew's Lodge has also appealed to the Grand Lodge of Scotland against me, because I ordered one of its members to retire from the Albion upon the occasion referred to, as well as against the D. Prov. G.M. for Quebec, &c., for not having, on its complaint to him, censured me for doing so. Indeed this Scotch lodge, the only one in the city, appears to be quite an irresponsible body. It has proved itself, if I may use the expression, a very Masonic Ishmael; and in the case of the troubles in the Albion, there is no doubt that several of its leading members lent their influence to increase them, and to bring discredit and ruin upon the lodge, mainly, I have reason to believe, because it was the foremost English lodge here, and that it would not submit to the dictation of two or three of its members who were possessed of more assurance than either education, intelligence, or Masonic feeling.

Immediately after the above-mentioned trial in Albion Lodge, I wrote letters to the different lodges in the city, explanatory of my decision in excluding visitors upon that occasion, which, with the exception of the St. Andrew's, were deemed satisfactory. The Civil Service (No. 148, R.C.), the Warrington (No. 49, R.C.), and the St. John's (No. 182, E.R.), respectively passed resolutions highly commendatory of my conduct, that of the St. John's Lodge being in the following terms:—

"That, with reference to the letter of W. Bro. William Spink, W.M. of Albion Lodge, of the 23rd February, 1863, this lodge regrets that W. Bro. Spink should have thought that any of its members felt slighted, or at all annoyed, with his decision on the occasion referred to, but, on the contrary, quite concur in the opinion expressed in his said letter; and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to W. Bro. Spink."

The brother who had brought the charge against the member of Albion Lodge, which had resulted, as above shown, in the exclusion of the latter, being an honorary member of St. John's Lodge, was, in his turn, subjected to a charge for non-Masonic conduct, brought against him shortly afterwards in that lodge by the excluded brother, to the effect that he had violated the secrets of the ballot and disclosed Masonic conversations.

For the trial of this charge, the W.M. of St. John's Lodge (following my example, so far) summoned an emergency meeting, at which, after a protracted inquiry, the charge, although ably followed up by the senior partner in the legal co-partnership above referred to, who acted as the accuser's counsel, was disposed of by the two-fold declaration that the accused was not guilty, and that the charge was "malicious, frivolous, and vexatious," which decision would have been carried unanimously had not two of the members, objecting simply to the word "malicious" in the motion, voted against it.

Previous to this trial the W.M. of St. John's Lodge called upon P. Prov. G.M., George Thompson, an honorary member of that lodge, and one of the most respectable men, as well as ablest, most zealous, and brightest Masons in the city, to ask his advice how it had best be conducted. Bro. Thompson advised him to conduct it precisely as I had done in the recent trial in the Albion. The W.M. of St. John's then said he would not exclude visitors. Brother Thompson replied that if he did

not do so he would make a motion for that purpose, as, indeed, he had been requested to do by several members of the lodge. Nothing further was said on the subject, and the impression naturally remained on Bro. Thompson's mind that if the W.M., of his own accord, did not order the exclusion of visitors, he would, at least, offer no objection to the sense of the lodge (which was very well known to be against their admission) being taken on the question. Otherwise, Bro. Thompson, instead of proposing the motion which the W.M. refused to put, would have contented himself by entering a protest against what he considered to be a most unjustifiable proceeding on the part of the W.M. of St. John's Lodge.

It was, you will recollect, upon the decision of the D. Prov. G.M. for the District of Quebec, &c., in respect to Bro. Thompson's appeal to the Provincial Grand Lodge here, that the adverse judgment of Grand Lodge was given; and upon a review of the facts I have here given you, endeavouring, whilst I have done so, "nothing to extenuate or ought set down in malice," you cannot fail to gather an insight into the un-Masonic agencies of Albion Lodge, and those who had its best interests, as well as those of the other English lodges in this city, at heart, have had to contend against. The Albion now, I am happy to say, is in a most flourishing condition,— "prospering and to prosper," whilst this time last year it was upon the very verge of ruin. This is due to the lodge having excluded from it (as I have intimated at the commencement of my letter), the brother who was, no doubt, the chief conspirator against it, as well as him who was a mere tool of the former, and who, so wickedly and foolishly, expressed his black balling propensities; and also to the lodge having added an additional black ball, making it three, to the number required for the rejection of a candidate, which must serve as a great protection against the recurrence of such an unprincipled combination as the one the lodge has thus escaped from. The one drawback to the satisfaction entertained at this improved state of things, is the decision of Grand Lodge against our D. Prov. G.M. This decision was undoubtedly premature, or I should, perhaps, rather say over-hasty; and, although unquestionably right *per se*—inasmuch as there can be no appeal to his lodge against the decision of a W.M., the case was one which should have been adjudicated upon upon broader grounds. The meeting of St. John's Lodge, where the question first arose, was not an ordinary one. It was a special meeting, called for the sole purpose of the exercise by its members of extraordinary functions of a judicial character, appertaining only to colonial lodges, and the general rules of the Craft, regulating the lodges in the mother country, ought not, as they have been by Grand Lodge, applied to it. The lodge was for the time being a Board of General Purposes, and the regulations governing that body, and not those laid down for the guidance of lodges when performing their usual work, were those by which its proceedings should have been held to have been regulated and judged.

In conclusion—for I am afraid I have already over-taxed your patience—let me add, as regards Bro. Thompson being an "honorary" member of St. John's Lodge, upon which circumstance a good deal of stress has been laid, as well by the appellant, as by some members in Grand Lodge, that the by-laws of St. John's Lodge give him the same powers, rights, and privileges, as any other member of the lodge.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
W. S., W.M. Albion Lodge (No. 17), E.R.

Two things well considered, would prevent many quarrels; first, to have it well ascertained whether we are not disputing about terms rather than things; and secondly, to examine whether that, on which we differ, is worth contending about.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

PYTHAGOREAN LODGE (No. 79).—The usual monthly meeting of this old established and prosperous lodge was held on Monday, November 30th, at Bro. Moore's, Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich. Bro. W. R. Orchard, W.M., presided, and passed three brethren to the Fellow Craft's degree; Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., raised one brother to the sublime degree of a Master Mason; Bro. W. C. Penny, P.M. and Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*, initiated one gentleman into the Order. All the work was ably done, as may be imagined from the names of the brethren who presided in the different degrees. After business the brethren partook of one of those excellent banquets which Bro. J. Moore is now so well famed for. There were several visitors.

WELLINGTON LODGE (No. 548).—The usual meeting of this well established lodge took place on Tuesday, December 8th, at the Clarendon Arms Tavern, Upper Lewisham-road. Bro. John Stevens, W.M., assisted by Bros. Simmons, P.M.; R. Welsford, P.M.; Owden, P.M.; R. Bentley, P.M.; W. Hay, P.M.; Bagshaw, J.W.; Wakefield, J.W.; Raraty, Treas.; Bumstead, Sec. and J.D.; G. Wilton, S.D.; Gale, I.G.; Carver, E. Skinner, Miller, Liddiard, Savage, and many others opened the lodge. Amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. F. Walters, W.M. 73 and Sec. 871; G. Bolton, P.M. 147, 169, 1044; S. Blomeley, S.W. 871, &c. The only ceremony which was performed was raising one brother to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, which Bro. J. Stevens, W.M., performed in his usual faultless manner. This being election night for officers for the ensuing year, the by-laws were read and ballots taken for W.M., which was declared unanimous in favour of the S.W., Bro. Bagshaw; and for Treasurer, it was declared to be unanimous in favour of Bro. R. Welsford, P.M., the former Treasurer, Bro. Raraty, declining the honour of serving another year. The officers for the Benevolent Fund were all unanimously re-elected. Bros. Carver, Liddiard, and Savage were elected as Auditors. The munificent sum of £5 was unanimously voted from the benevolent fund of the lodge towards defraying the funeral expenses of a member who died in distressed circumstances. Business being completed the brethren adjourned to a superior banquet.

INSTRUCTION.

EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT (No. 256).

The anniversary of this excellent Lodge of Instruction was celebrated at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, the 27th ult. The lodge was opened at seven o'clock by Bro. S. B. Wilson, P.G.D., who presided, supported by Bros. M'Intyre, G. Reg.; J. L. Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; Head, G.D.; Udall, Potter, Hopwood, and Savage, P.G.D.'s; Wood, G. Dir. of Cers.; Nutt, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Empson, P.G.S.B.; Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Stebbing, Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes; and nearly 200 other brethren. The first lecture was ably worked as follows:—1st section, by Bro. R. Grey, J.W. 269; 2nd, Bro. W. C. Bacon, I.G. 269; 3rd, Bro. W. Hollingworth, J.W. 76; 4th, Bro. W. E. Jefferys, P.M. 215; 5th, Bro. C. A. Murton, P.M. 7 (Sec.); 6th, Bro. F. Binckes, P.M. 11; 7th, Bro. F. Mead, S.W. 275.

At the conclusion of a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Bro. Wilson for the able manner in which he had presided, and a similar well-deserved compliment accorded to the various brethren who had worked the different sections. The lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to

THE BANQUET,

which was admirably served. Bro. M'Intyre, G. Reg., presided; and, on the removal of the cloth, proposed the usual toast given on these occasions, "The pious Memory of Peter Gilkes," the founder of the lodge, which was drunk in solemn silence.

The W. MASTER then said that loyalty to the Sovereign had ever been the characteristic of Englishmen, and the health of her Majesty had ever been received with acclamation among Masons. They had been in the habit of regarding the Queen as the daughter of a Mason and the niece of Masons, and he trusted that before twelve months were over they would be able to hail

her as the mother of a Mason. (Cheers.) He gave them the Queen and the Craft. (Applause.)

The W. MASTER said that, having discharged their duty to the Sovereign of the realm, he must call upon them to testify their respect to the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., the sovereign and ruler of the Craft—(cheers)—who might be truly said to reign in the hearts of his subjects. (Cheers.) He had now ruled over the Craft for many years, and every year he more endeared himself to the brethren by the manner in which he discharged his duties, and his thorough English and Masonic qualities. (Cheers.)

The W. MASTER said he had now to propose "The Health of the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers." In the Deputy Grand Master they had a nobleman who had earned the esteem of every Englishman by the talent and prudence with which he had discharged his duties in her Majesty's Councils, and of the brethren by his courteous bearing in Grand Lodge, and his attention to the duties of his office as Deputy Grand Master. (Cheers.) Of the other Grand Officers, they were honoured with the presence of several, though not so many as he could have wished. On his right sat a brother (Bro. Evans) who had most important and onerous duties to discharge, and he could truly say that no brother could have brought to the performance of the duties of President of the Board of General Purposes, greater talent, patience, or courtesy, than Bro. Evans. He had often very unpleasant duties to perform in admonishing or awarding punishment to members of the Craft, but he always discharged them with courtesy and firmness, whilst he was careful not to overstep his duties. There were, as he stated, various other Grand Officers present, who, he was sure, were careful in the discharge of the duties to which the Grand Master had called them, and who, he believed, deservedly enjoyed the respect of the brethren. With the toast of the Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers, he would couple the name of Bro. Evans. (Cheers.)

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES felt that he need say nothing on the part of the D.G.M., whom they all knew so well and so highly respected. (Cheers.) With regard to himself and the other Grand Officers who stood around him, he could only say they were desirous and endeavoured to perform their duties to the best of their ability. (Cheers.) He endeavoured to bring to the discharge of the duties with which he had been entrusted, all the zeal, industry, and talent he possessed, and he hoped he had not been found wanting. (Cheers.) Once more he sincerely thanked them for the manner in which they had responded to the toast of the Grand Officers, whose humble representative he then was. (Cheers.)

The W. MASTER next gave, "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and its able President and Preceptor, Bro. Wilson." (Applause.) They all knew that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement was looked up to as an exemplar of working, not only in London but throughout the country. (Cheers.) He understood that the lodge had been in existence upwards of 40 years, and of that period Bro. Wilson had presided over it for nearly 30 years. The Emulation Lodge of Improvement had been established with the view of preserving and inculcating one system of working amongst the Craft, and no brother had worked more zealously to that end than its able and talented president. (Cheers.) They all knew the excellent qualities of Bro. Wilson, and he must be allowed to express a hope that he might be spared for many years to preside over the lodge and direct their studies. (Cheers.) From what they had seen, however, of Bro. Wilson's pupils they must be satisfied that when, full of years and honours, he was removed from amongst them there would not be wanting fitting successors to keep up the prestige and honour of the lodge, and preserve the landmarks and purity of their working. (Cheers.)

Bro. WILSON, who was prevented speaking for some time by the applause, returned thanks to the W.M. and the brethren for the manner in which they had been pleased to propose and respond to the toast. He could only say in reply that he felt bound by his obligations to convey, as best he could, any knowledge he possessed to brethren seeking instruction. The W.M. had been pleased to refer to the lengthened period his humble services had been given to the Craft. It was true that it was nearly thirty years since he became the president of that lodge, having succeeded that excellent Mason, Bro. Peter Gilkes, who died in 1833. He felt great gratification in being allowed to

preside over the lodge, and he was obliged to the Lodge of Unions for having given their sanction and support to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. He trusted—nay, he believed—that the way in which the Lodge of Instruction had worked, had met with the approbation of the parent Lodge, and he felt that if it had not, their sanction to its working would have been withdrawn. He was proud of the officers of the lodge and of the brethren who assisted him in the working, and he felt that the time was fast approaching when he must give up the presidency of the lodge to younger and abler hands (No, no); but whilst he was amongst them he should continue to do his best to merit their approbation. (Cheers.)

The W. MASTER having asked Bro. Fenn, the late Secretary of the lodge, to step forward, said that, in addition to their other qualities, they were not ungrateful for services rendered by the brethren. It was very seldom, however, that they had to show their gratitude to a brother who so well deserved it as Bro. Fenn, their late Secretary. (Applause.) Bro. Fenn had most ably fulfilled his duties not only as Secretary, but at all times and upon all occasions he was prepared and able efficiently to fill any position in the lodge which might be required—from the Inner Guard upwards. The W.M. then proceeded to present Bro. Fenn with a very handsome jewel, leaving an appropriate inscription, assuring him that it was the free gift of the members, to mark their esteem for him as a brother and a diligent worker, and he (the W.M.) felt assured that it could not have been placed on the breast of a more able or worthy Mason. (Cheers.)

Bro. FENN, who was loudly cheered, said he could not sufficiently thank them for the compliment they had been pleased to pay him. He could assure them that he had not resigned his office of Secretary without regret, but it had been an act of necessity rather than choice, owing to a change of residence, which rendered it inconvenient for him to attend with that regularity he had hitherto done. He felt the less regret, however, as he knew that in his successor, Bro. Murton, they would have a most able and zealous Secretary. He accepted the elegant jewel with which they had presented him with diffidence, feeling that he had discharged the duties of Secretary for too short a period to merit so handsome a reward. He was gratified, however, if by the discharge of his duties he had obtained the esteem of the brethren; and though retiring from the office of Secretary he should be always happy to render any service in his power to the lodge, in which he felt proud to feel he had made some valuable and sincere friendships, and in which he had spent many very pleasant hours amongst the brethren. (Cheers.)

Bro. EVANS said that the brethren would agree with him that they were deeply indebted to any brother who undertook to preside over their annual festivals. The Chairman of a meeting like that had no easy task to fulfil—and how ably Bro. McIntyre had discharged the duties they could all bear witness—and, indeed, all who had seen his tact and readiness in Grand Lodge, must be aware of the talents of their worthy president of that evening. He felt that to be the president of such a meeting was a proud position for any man, and he was glad to see the chair so well filled. He (Bro. Evans) was one of the oldest members of the lodge, having been a pupil of Peter Gilkes, and was glad to see its continued prosperity. He gave them "The Health of the Chairman of the evening, Bro. G. McIntyre." (Cheers.)

The W. MASTER had considerable difficulty in returning thanks for the kind manner in which the toast had been proposed and responded to. He was always most anxious efficiently to discharge his duties to the Craft at all times and in all seasons, feeling that no one had a right to undertake office without being prepared properly and conscientiously to discharge its duties. (Cheers.) In all lodges, everything should be done with exactitude and precision, and in none did they find their business better carried out than in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement (cheers); and those who were not prepared fully to discharge their duties, had better keep outside the Craft. (Cheers.) He felt it a high honour to be allowed to preside over their annual festival, and was most gratified by their kindness towards him. He trusted he might be able to meet them for many years to come, and be a witness of their increased and increasing prosperity. (Cheers.)

Bro. STREBBING had a difficult task in having to speak after their excellent Master. He had, however, a pleasing duty to perform, that of proposing prosperity to the Lodge of Unions, under the sanction of which the Emulation Lodge of Improve-

ment held their meetings. They must, in looking at the flourishing state of the offshoot, remember the parent tree, and, judged by the offshoot, a good old trunk it must be. (Cheers.) They were all deeply indebted to the Lodge of Unions for giving its sanction to the Lodge of Improvement, which so well maintained the landmarks of their working; but the Lodge of Unions was equally distinguished for its charities—and from that lodge they received the first Lady Vice-President of the Boys' School, in the wife of Capt. Lamb, who had collected the noble sum of £250 for the charity. He could assure them that the country brethren looked up to the Lodge of Emulation with pleasure as a model of working, and they felt that they could always rely on its decisions, whilst it was guided by so excellent and talented a Mason as Bro. Wilson, and so well supported by the brethren. The R.W. Brother concluded by proposing "Prosperity to the Lodge of Unions, No. 256."

Bro. WATERS, P.M. of the Lodge of Unions, returned thanks, and assured the brethren that the lodge felt proud of the Lodge of Improvement working under its sanction, and to the instruction afforded in which the brethren owed many of its most talented members. (Cheers.)

The W. MASTER said that, though they were met to celebrate the anniversary of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, they must not forget there was another Lodge of Instruction to which they were deeply indebted. (Cheers.) There was no ill feeling between them; and though the two lodges differed slightly in their teachings, in their essentials they were the same, and he hoped ere long, through the exertions of the talented brother at the head of the two lodges, a perfect uniformity of working might be obtained, and not a word of difference be between them. He (the W.M.) could, however, bear witness that there was now no essential difference between the lodges, inasmuch as he worked both systems, and had before now done so in the same evening. (Cheers.) The W.M. concluded by giving, "Prosperity to the Sister Lodge of Instruction," coupled with the name of Bro. Muggeridge, its excellent preceptor. (Cheers.)

Bro. MUGGERIDGE said he was delighted with the kind and hearty manner the last toast had been proposed and responded to. The members of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement on all occasions treated him with the greatest kindness and consideration, not only as the representative of the sister Lodge of Instruction, but as an individual brother; and he assured them that the members of the Stability Lodge of Instruction entertained the same kind feeling of respect and esteem for the excellent and worthy President of this lodge, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson. He wished the same uniformity existed in both lodges as regarded working the ceremonies of the Order. There certainly was a difference; but, after all, as the worshipful chairman had said, what did it amount to? Why, a mere difference in phraseology: they both communicated the same signs, tokens, and words, and inculcate the same principles of morality and virtue. But whatever differences existed, they were not created by him, as he was taught by his predecessor and instructor, Bro. Peter Thomson, at the Stability Lodge of Instruction, and precisely so he taught. The same way of working had been practised at that lodge of instruction since its formation by Bros. Broadfoot, Satterly, and Peter Thomson, in 1817; yet he could feel great pleasure in doing all that lay in his power to promote uniformity between the two sister lodges of instruction. Forty years ago he believed there were only those two lodges of instruction, with the exception of the Grand Stewards' Lodge in London, and that was the reason they were called "Sisters." They had always been on the most friendly terms with each other, and he hoped that the cords of brotherly love by which they were bound would very soon be drawn much tighter, so that they might be more united in respect to the working part of Freemasonry. Hoping the Emulation Lodge would continue to prosper, he thanked them most sincerely for inviting him to be their guest that evening, and for the kindness they had shown him on this and many previous occasions. (Cheers.)

"The Working Brethren," "The Charities," and one or two other toasts having been drunk, the brethren separated, the proceedings having been enlivened by some singing from Bros. Tedder and Buckland.

[The only drawback to the pleasures of these Annual Festivals is the late hour at which the lodge meets, which prevents all living beyond the sound of Bow Bells stopping to the close, the proceedings lasting until past midnight.]

PROVINCIAL.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD.—*Prince of Wales Lodge* (No. 951).—On Monday, the 23rd ult., the usual monthly lodge was held at the Unicorn Hotel, in this town, when Bros. Neale, Tipping, Gardiner, Bullock, Thornbury, and Gallop, having passed a most satisfactory examination as F.C., were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. Bro. the Rev. W. Bamford was at the same time passed from the degree of E.A. to that of F.C. The lodge was visited by Bro. E. S. Cossens, W.M. No. 900, and P. Prov. S.G.W. for the province of Gloucester, who, at the request of the W.M., conferred the above mentioned degrees in the most impressive manner, each brother being introduced separately. The W.M. appointed Bros. the Revs. Otto Ball and — Hadow, Chaplains; S. Wooles, S.D.; J. W. Neale, J.D.; J. Bullock, I.G.; W. Thornbury, Organist; T. Tipping, Dir. of Cers.; and J. S. Gallop, Tyler. The brethren, after the conclusion of the labours of the evening, adjourned to the banquet room, where a most excellent supper awaited them. The chair was filled by Sir J. Maxwell Steele Graves, Bart., and the vice-chair by Bro. Robt. J. Brookes, S.V. The usual toasts were given and duly honoured in antient form, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

BATH.—*Royal Sussex Lodge* (No. 53).—This lodge held its annual gathering at the Corridor Rooms, on Monday, the 7th inst., for the purpose of installing their new Master, Bro. W. F. Bennet, into the chair. The ceremony was most ably performed by the retiring Master, Bro. E. T. Payne, and elicited the warm approval of the numerous brethren present, and a cordial vote of thanks for the very efficient way in which the ceremony was conducted. A more numerous company it is rarely our pleasure to meet, numbering above eighty brethren from all parts of the province, including some from Wilts and Hants. The W.M. was pleased to appoint Bros. Stothert, S.W.; Davey, J.W.; Rev.—Davey, Chap.; Smith, Treas.; Hollway, Sec.; W. Gibbs, S.D.; Parkham, J.D.; Shumm, I.G.; Hayward and Strong, Stewards; Marshall, Dir. of Cers. From the very large attendance, it would be occupying too much space to give the names and titles of those present; we shall therefore observe that, at the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to Amny's Hotel, when a most splendid banquet awaited them; in fact, too much praise cannot be given to the Stewards, assisted by the worthy host, for the very excellent arrangements made for the comfort of their guests, amounting to seventy brethren who sat down. On the removal of the cloth, "The Queen and the Craft" was given, with true Masonic zeal, followed by "God save the Queen," Bro. C. Milson presiding at the piano. "The Prince of Wales and the other members of the Royal Family" followed in rapid succession. The W.M., in proposing the Army, Navy, and Volunteers, alluded to the pleasure he felt in seeing a brother amongst them who was one of the 500 who rode into that vale of destruction at Balaklava, and had been spared, through that fearful storm, to return to his native land unscathed, and was now the W.M. elect of their sister lodge—the Lodge of Honour (No. 379, late 528)—he, therefore, coupled his, Bro. Capt. Muttlebury's, name with that of the army, Bro. Capt. Palmer, of the navy, and Bro. Capt. Ford, with the volunteers, each of which responded to the toast, Bro. Capt. Muttlebury according a meed of praise to the efficiency of the volunteer force, as being England's pride and greatest security against any storm that might overtake us, and fully equal to combat with the dark clouds that at present obscure the political horizon.—Bro. C. F. MARSHALL proposed "The R.W. the Grand Master, and Grand Lodge of England." Bro. C. W. OLIVER next proposed the Acting Prov. G.M. of the province, the D. Prov. G.M., and Grand Lodge of Somerset, greatly regretting that this was the third anniversary of the lodge that had assembled without the appointment of a Provincial Grand Master. He was quite sure the interests of the Craft materially suffered in consequence, not only in numbers, but in the assistance that would be given to the different Charities. They had petitioned the Grand Master, but no response whatever was given to their prayer, and he felt that, considering the extent, the influence, and the number of Masons even as at present constituted, of the province, that they were entitled to expect that they should have a Prov. Grand Master appointed them, and not as at present be ruled by deputy. Still,

he was bound to say their deputy had gained, by his kindly disposition, the good will of the province, and had carried on its duties with great credit to himself, and he felt very great pleasure in proposing the toast.—Bro. KELWAY, Prov. J.G.W., responded, regretting the absence of his superior officers. He quite agreed with Bro. Oliver that the province should have its head, but he could not forget the great qualities of their deputy, whose exertions on behalf of Masonry were excelled by none, and it was by his energy the Masonic Charities had been supported to the extent they had.—Bro. W. SMITH proposed the Prov. G.M. and Grand Lodge of Wiltshire, coupling with it the name of Bro. S. Wittey, the Prov. S.G.W. of that province, —Bro. WITTEY expressed the pleasure he felt at being present that day, not only for the gratification of seeing an old and valued friend installed in the chair, who he was quite sure would fulfil all its duties with satisfaction to himself and credit to the lodge, but for the fraternal spirit which animated the brethren of the two provinces in assisting each other with their support at the different elections of candidates; and he felt sure the more that feeling was cultivated by those interchanges of visits the better it would be for both provinces, many members of which belonged to lodges in each, showing that they might almost be considered as one family of brotherhood.—Bro. W. SMITH proposed "The Provinces of Bristol and Hants," which was responded to by the W.M. of the former and by Bro. FORD for the latter.—Bro. Dr. FALCONER then proposed "The Health of the W.M., Bro. Bennet," expressing the great pleasure he felt at seeing him installed in that chair, one who he might say had received his education in that lodge; and it was a gratifying fact that they now required to go from their initiated brethren to find officers to fulfil its different duties. After passing a high compliment to the W.M.'s ability, he concluded by proposing his health, to which the W.M. replied in an able speech, assuring them he would use his utmost endeavours to perform its duties and maintain its well-earned reputation, and concluded by proposing "The Installing Master, Bro. E. T. Payne," and thanked him for the very efficient way in which he performed the ceremonies.—Bro. PAYNE, on rising, was received with quite an ovation of applause, and expressed the pleasure he felt at all times in being of service to the lodge, which he designated as a labour of love; in fact, he should always look back to his year of office, just expired, with the greatest pride and pleasure, it being a noticeable fact that during that time there had not been one dissentient vote given in the lodge, everything having been done with the greatest unanimity. He was greatly indebted to his officers for their assistance, and while admitting it would be invidious to individualise any particular officer, still he could not forget the services of the Secretary, Bro. Holloway, to whom he felt greatly indebted, and hoped each would accept his best thanks.—Bro. HOLLOWAY then gave the P.M.'s of No. 53, which was replied to by Bro. OLIVER.—Bro. COMMAN proposed the Masonic Charities, coupling with it the name of that worthy and indefatigable brother who had favoured them with his company, Bro. F. Binckes, the Secretary of the Boys' School. He (Bro. C.) would not be understood as advocating any one of the charities in particular, as each had an equal claim to their sympathy and support; and drew attention to the former position of the parents of the children in the schools, who had held many of them the same position in the Craft as those he saw around him.—Bro. BINCKES, with his usual ability, responded, setting forth the position of the different institutions and their requirements, which resulted in a very telling response from the Rev. Brother Davey, who had undertaken the duties of Steward for the boys' at the next festival. "Prosperity to the Province of Somerset," coupled with the name of Bro. E. T. Payne, the Grand Treasurer, then followed, who expressed his belief that the province of Somerset would never arrive at the height of its position of greatness until the province was represented by a Provincial Grand Master, however efficiently the duties were performed, and he was happy to say they were as effectually as they could be; still, the want of that high officer was a serious check to Masonry in the province. Many other toasts followed, and the brethren separated, highly pleased with the meeting, several brethren having favoured the brethren with some good songs.

SURREY.

KINGSTON.—*The Dobie Lodge* (No. 988).—This lodge held its first meeting for the current year at the Griffin Hotel, Kingston, on Thursday, the 3rd December, it being their stated period for the installation of the W.M. elect. Among those

present were Bros. Cartwright, W.M., Prov. G.J.W.; J. W. Clayton, S.W., Prov. G.S.D. and W.M. elect; Dr. Harcourt, D. Prov. G.M.; Dr. Kent, P.M.; W. Watson, P.M.; Blackburn, P.M.; Matthews, P.M.; Cathrow, Sec.; Wilkinson, Long, Constable, King, P. Jones, and Abrahams. The visitors included Bros. Warren, W.M. (Chertsey), Prov. S.G.W.; Maney, P.M. 201, and Blaker (Chertsey). The business of the lodge commenced by an able passing to the F.C. degree of Bro. Westall by the W.M.; after which Bro. Blackburn occupied the chair, to install the W.M. elect, Bro. J. W. Clayton, Prov. S.G.D., who appointed Bros. Wilkinson, S.W.; Long, J.W.; Cartwright, Treas.; Cathrow, Sec.; Constable, S.D.; Shrubsole, J.D.; P. Jones, I.G.; and Abrahams, Steward. A P.M.'s jewel was unanimously voted to Bro. Cartwright, as an acknowledgment of his services during the past year, which has been a year of peculiar interest, as the lodge was only in its second year, and being called upon to receive the Provincial Grand Lodge, was enabled to do so with much *eclat*, mainly by the exertions of Bro. Cartwright. After the banquet, the usual Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to. Bro. Dr. Harcourt, D. Prov. G.M., in acknowledging the toast appropriated to the Provincial Grand Lodge for Surrey, remarked on the flourishing state of the Craft in general. He could say with confidence that nowhere was Masonry more flourishing than in Surrey. Even to the contracted portion of the county which was allotted the Prov. G.M. he would not allow an exception, for it must be considered that only an unimportant portion, as regards population, is under the rule of Bro. Dobie. And, again, many Masons are resident in this province, who, from their town connections and the proximity, belong to London lodges. However, the working of the lodges in this province is equal to those elsewhere, of which an admirable specimen had been given that evening. But let not the Dobie lodge think that they are better than their neighbours, for the Chertsey Lodge, of which he is a member, declare that they are second to none, and whatever lodge in the province which he visited the members declare their own lodge to be an example for the rest. And he encouraged this emulation, boasting if you will, and was pleased to hear each lodge assert, "We are second to none," for if each lodge would endeavour to raise itself to the true Masonic standard, the entire working would be in harmony, and present a grand whole. On the part of Bro. Dobie (who was absent against his inclination) and the grand officers of the province, present and past, he acknowledged the kindness with which the toasts had been received. The health of Bro. Clayton, the newly installed Master, was received with enthusiasm; he replied,—I have but newly donned my armour, and can only make promises to perform, but I will zealously endeavour to redeem the promises I have made, that when the time shall come to doff it I may have the satisfaction of feeling that I have laboured to do my duty, and receive the acknowledgments of the lodge that in a great measure I have been successful. I shall then take my position at the side of my predecessors, and enjoy with them your congratulations. The health of Bro. Cartwright, the immediate P.M., was received with hilarity. He said,—It would be false delicacy in me not to confess that, during the past year, I have had many anxieties as to the success of the Dobie Lodge, but "the pleasure we delight in physics pain;" and so great has been my pleasure in seeing things go on well in the lodge, and such hearty support have I received from my Bro. Clayton and the members of the lodge in general, that all painful doubts have been well physicked and well got rid of. I owe much to Bro. Clayton; the lodge is deeply indebted to him. The beautiful tracing boards which adorn our lodge are his gift, and to him, as well as others, I owe much, when serving as a Steward to the five Charities. I am quite sure that his year will be a prosperous one, as all will be anxious to serve him who has so well served the lodge. The health of the visitors called forth Bro. Captain Warren, W.M. of the Chertsey Lodge, and Prov. S.G.W., and Bro. Maney, P.M. Old Concord Lodge. Bro. Warren rejoiced the D. Prov. G.M. had spoken, as it gave him more pleasure to echo his sentiments than to trouble the brethren with his own commonplace remarks. He had much enjoyed the working of the lodge and the pleasures of the banquet, and it should be no fault of his if these fraternal greetings in the province were not frequent. Bro. Maney said, being a town Mason, he had just come into the country to enjoy himself, and his trip had done him much good. It had gladdened him and revived the scene of days gone by. It was nearly thirty years since he first heard the installation worked by Bro. Peter Gilkes, and the

ceremony of this evening fell upon his ears with as much freshness as when he first listened to it. The light of other days had not faded, nor had its glories past. The remaining toasts wound up a very pleasant evening.

WARWICKSHIRE.

SUTTON COLDFIELD.—*Warden Lodge* (No. 794, late 1096).—The installation of the W.M., and annual festival of this lodge, took place at the Town Hall, Sutton Coldfield, on Friday, Dec. 4th. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. the Rev. E. H. Kittoe, P. Prov. G. Chap., Warwickshire, and Bro. Henry Lakin, *M.D.*, was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. Mr. John Garner, who had been previously ballotted for and elected, was then initiated into the mysteries of the Craft, the W.M. officiating in his usual able manner. Bro. W. K. R. Bedford, P.G. Chap. and P.M., then proceeded to install the W.M. elect, Bro. Thos. Halbeard: the board of Installed Masters consisting of Bros. C. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M., Warwickshire; Jas. Downes, P. Prov. G.C., Staffordshire; Dr. Lynes, Prov. G. Reg., Staffordshire; Briggs, P.M. 51; Hebbert, P.M. 1189; Bragg, W.M. 88; Bayley, W.M. St. Bartholomew's Lodge, Wednes-



bury; Newton, P.M. 648; Hudson, P.M. 88; and Kittoe, P.M. 794. A Past Master's jewel was subsequently voted to Bro. Kittoe for his services in the chair during the two years past, and a vote of thanks to the Installing Master having been recorded, the lodge was closed in ample form. The brethren already mentioned, with several other visitors and members of the lodge, then partook of an excellent banquet, at which the usual loyal, Masonic, and complimentary toasts were ably proposed and duly honoured. The woodcut which accompanies this brief notice is the seal of the lodge, designed and presented by Bro. Bedford, P.M. The Buck's Head is the principal charge in the arms of John Vesey, Bishop of Exeter, *temp.* Henry VIII., the founder of the municipal privileges of Sutton Coldfield. The rose is the corporate seal, and on the chief the Masonic emblems of the three chairs find a suitable place. Bro. Warrington, late of the Strand, is the engraver of the seal.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

The following is the ceremonial observed at the re-dedication of the Minerva Lodge (No. 250), Hull, on Wednesday, the 25th ult.:—The brethren assembled in the lodge at seven o'clock. At half-past seven a procession entered the lodge in the following order:—Two Stewards with wands; the Director of Ceremonies; six brethren forming a choir; the Inner Guard with sword; the Deacons with rods; the Wardens with lights; the Rev. H. Alexander, Chaplain 250, the Rev. H. W. Kemp, P. Prov. G. Chap., the Rev. G. O. Browne, Chap. 57, with the elements of Consecration; the Worshipful Master.

As the procession advanced the brethren chanted the following psalm, accompanied on the organ by Bro. Jackson, P. Prov. G. Org.:—"Except the Lord build the house: their labour is but lost that build it. Except the Lord keep the city: the watchman waketh but in vain. It is but lost labour that ye haste to rise up early, and so late take rest, and eat the bread of carefulness: for so He giveth His beloved sleep. To God the only wise: our Creator and Redeemer, glory be. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen."

The W.M., Bro. John Fearn Holden, and officers having taken their seats, the Chaplain of the lodge gave the following prayer:—"O thou Great Architect of the Universe, Maker of all things, and Judge of all men, regard, we humbly beseech Thee, with Thy special favour, this our undertaking, and grant that the work which we now commence in Thy name may conduce to Thy glory, and to the good, temporal and eternal, of Thy dependent creatures. Let a scrupulous regard to the obligations, which, in Thy name, and under Thine all-seeing eye, shall be herein entered into, distinguish all upon whom the privileges of initiation shall be conferred, that they, abounding in

all holy conversation and godliness, may become true and worthy members of our venerable Order, and that their practice may, in all things, correspond with their profession. So mote it be."

The following prayers were then given by the other Chaplains:—"Grand Geometrician of the Universe! Maker and ruler of all worlds! deign, from Thy celestial Temple, from realms of light and glory, to bless us in all the purposes of this our present assembly. We humbly invoke Thee to give us at this, and all times, wisdom in all our doings, strength of mind in all our difficulties, and the beauty of harmony in all our communications. Permit us, O Thou Centre of light and life, great source of love and happiness, now to solemnly re-dedicate this lodge to Thy honour and glory. So mote it be."

"Grant, O most High, that they who are invested with the government of this lodge may be endued with wisdom to instruct their brethren in all duties. May brotherly love and charity prevail amongst the members of this lodge; and may this bond of union continue to strengthen the lodges throughout the world. Bless all the brethren wheresoever dispersed, and grant speedy relief to all who are either oppressed or distressed. We humbly commend to Thee all the members of Thy whole family; May they increase in knowledge of Thee, and in love of each other. Finally, may we finish all our works here below with Thine approbation, and then have our transition from this earthly abode to Thy heavenly Temple above, there to enjoy light, glory, and bliss ineffable. So mote it be."

The following anthem was next sung:—

"To heaven's high Architect all praise;
All praise, all gratitude be given;
Who deign'd the human soul to raise
By mystic secrets sprung from Heaven.
Sound all the Great Jehovah's praise;
To Him the dome, the temple raise."

The W.M. then addressed the brethren as follows:—

"Brethren,—The ceremonies we are about to perform are not unmeaning rites, otherwise they would not have been so universally adopted by the Craft. Permit me to point out to you the solemn and instructive import they are intended to convey. This hall we first re-consecrate in the name and to the service of the great Jehovah, that all the rites herein enacted may be done as well to His glory as the welfare of our fellow-creatures. May we never forget that He is here as everywhere, and let all our deeds under this sacred roof reflect our fear and love of our Almighty Father. Let then this altar be devoted to His service, and this lofty arch resound with His praise.

"Following our antient customs, we solemnly re-dedicate our hall to Masonry. Our best attachments are due to the Craft, having regularly progressed through the various steps of the science; we rejoice in the prosperity of this most excellent society. It is an enlightened, a safe, and pleasant companion in the travel of human life.

"Brethren, it is our pride that we are enrolled in the records of Masonry; may it be our high ambition that our names may shed a lustre on its immortal pages!

"This hall is to be re-dedicated to virtue, which we trust will be duly regarded while the moral duties, so continually enforced in all branches of Masonry, find a resting-place in our hearts, and are cherished in our lives. May this hall never be polluted by words of which, as Masons and as Englishmen, we should feel ashamed.

"As Freemasonry aims at enlivening the spirit of philanthropy, and promoting the cause of charity, so we re-dedicate our hall to universal benevolence, in the assurance that every brother, whilst he displays a warm affection for the members of the Craft, will extend his benevolent regards and wishes to the whole family of mankind.

"Such, my brethren, is the significant meaning of the solemn rites we are met to perform; may we, whilst so engaged, endeavour to realise the high purposes of the Masonic Institution!

"To you, worshipful brethren of the Humber Lodge, who have honoured us with your company on this occasion, I offer in the name of this lodge, my hearty thanks, as well for your numerous attendance here to-day, as for your kindness extended to us when we were without a home; and I trust that the fraternal good-feeling now existing between us may be still further cemented beyond the possibility of a breach. We both have the welfare of the Craft at heart. Our interests are identical—may we never forget the obligations we have in common.

"To you, Past Masters and Officers of the Minerva Lodge, I

beg to express my sincere thanks for the unanimity and concord which exists among you. I fervently hope that that friendship will still continue, and that your best endeavours will still be given to establish the prosperity, and support the honour of your antient lodge.

"Brethren of the Minerva Lodge, I can scarcely express the sentiments with which I now address you. May every good wish that a Mason can desire, attend you! May your hall be the happy resort of friendship, virtue, and benevolence! May you, by a prudent course of management, be enabled to reserve your funds against a day of tribulation, that the widow's tear may be dried, and the orphan's cry softened, by the exercise of that virtue, of which the world's Artificer spoke, when He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' May this blessing, my brethren, be yours!

"How many pleasing considerations attend the present assembly. Whilst in other parts of the world political animosities, contentions, and wars interrupt the progress of humanity, it is our privilege, in this happy region of liberty and peace, to engage in the designs of individual and social happiness. Whilst in other nations our Order is viewed by politicians with suspicion, and by the ignorant with apprehension; in this country its members are too much respected, and its principles too well known to make it the object of jealousy or mistrust. Indeed, its importance, its credit, and, we trust, its usefulness, are advancing to a height unknown in any former age. The present occasion gives fresh evidence of the increasing affection of its friends, and this hall, I think I may say, does honour to the lodge for whose accommodation it is designed.

"May it be protected from accident, and long remain a monument of our attachment to Masonry. May this lodge continue to flourish, its union to strengthen, and its happiness to abound; and when we shall be laid amidst the acanian shadows of the grave, may we meet again in that Grand Lodge above, open, never more to be closed, where peace, order, and harmony eternally reign."

SOUTH.

I, as Worshipful Master, now declare this Minerva Lodge (No. 250), on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England, dedicated to Masonry in the name of the Great Jehovah, to whom be all honour and glory.

WEST.

I, as Worshipful Master, now declare this Minerva Lodge (No. 250), on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England, dedicated to Virtue in the name of the Great Jehovah, to whom be all honour and glory.

EAST.

I, as Worshipful Master, now declare this Minerva Lodge (No. 250), on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England, dedicated to Universal Benevolence in the name of the Great Jehovah, to whom be all honour and glory.

Corn, wine, and oil were then poured on the altar in the centre of the lodge by the Chaplain, as follows:—

"May the seeds of corn scattered on this altar remind us of the seed of God's Word, sown plenteously in the land, that they may bring forth a hundred-fold in our hearts, and yield a plenteous harvest in that day when the Lord shall come to gather the wheat into His garner. So mote it be."

"I pour wine upon this altar, an emblem of cheerfulness; and may the meetings that shall hereafter be held in this place be conducted with decorum and sober enjoyment. So mote it be."

"May this oil, a symbol of peace, fitly represent that harmony and fellowship which shall exist amongst the brethren of this lodge. So mote it be."

The W.M., accompanied by the Deacons, then, in the South, declared the lodge dedicated to Masonry; in the West, to Virtue; and in the East, to Universal Benevolence.

During which the choir chanted the following:—

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy: the Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble.

"The Lord preserve him, and keep him alive, that he may be blessed upon earth: and deliver not Thou him unto the will of his enemies.

"The Lord comfort him when he lieth sick upon his bed: make Thou all his bed in his sickness.

"To God the only Wise: our Creator and Redeemer, glory be,

"As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen."

The Rev. Bro. Alexander then read the following prayer:—

"Blessed be Thy name, O Great Architect of the Universe,

that it hath pleased Thee to move the hearts of Thy servants to dedicate this lodge to Thy honour and glory. Bless them, O Lord, with thine especial blessing, and grant that all who shall enjoy the benefit of this pious work may continue Thy faithful servants unto their lives' end. Let their practice shadow forth the blessed principles of faith, hope, and charity; and when Thou shalt be pleased to called them hence, and the earthly house of this tabernacle shall be dissolved, give them a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. So mote it be."

BENEDICTION.

"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord have mercy upon you, and give you peace now and evermore. So mote it be."

The National Anthem was then sung, and the ceremony of re-dedication being concluded, the lodge was opened in the first degree, and the regular business proceeded with.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

SOUTHWARK LODGE (No. 11, S.C.).—This prosperous lodge held its usual quarterly meeting at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark (Bro. C. Cathie's), on Monday, December 7th. Bro. H. A. Collington, R.W.M., assisted by Bros. F. Walters, W. Y. Laing, E. N. Levy, Past R.W.M., Howes, Spier, A. P. Leonard, Cottebrune, and J. W. Weir, opened the lodge. Bro. E. N. Levy then took the chair, and, in his usual able, efficient, and agreeable manner, advanced Bros. Loe, E. Cathie, T. Moore, Morris, Jarvis, and R. Hurrell to the degree of Mark Masters. Bro. H. A. Collington resumed the chair. The sum of ten shillings was voted to the Aged Freemasons' Benevolent Institution for Males, and ten shillings to the Widows' Fund, from the charity fund. Business being ended, the brethren adjourned to a splendid cold collation. Visitors, Bros. C. A. Cottebrune, Past R.W.M. Thistle Lodge; J. W. Weir, P.M. 25 (I.C.); J. Howes, late of 11, P.M. 1067, &c.

IRELAND.

(From the Limerick Southern Chronicle.)

On Monday, the 30th November, a deputation from the Eden Lodge (No. 73), Limerick, waited on Bro. Michael Furnell, D.L., at his residence, North Munster Villa, Dublin, to present to him an address and poem, got up in the most magnificent style of art, beautifully and elaborately illuminated with Masonic symbols, and gorgeously framed, which, being read and presented with the usual formalities by Bro. Deering, P.M.,

Bro. FURNELL replied thereto, and presented to the lodge the silver gavel, the symbol of office, by which for the past twenty years he so efficiently and popularly governed the district as Provincial Grand Master. Copies of addresses and responses, with memorandum offering aforesaid symbol, for the future use of the Masters of the Eden Lodge, follow:—

Address to the Most Illustrious Brother Michael Furnell, Capt. Gen. of the Supreme Council of Sov. Gd. Inspr. Gen. 33rd, I.L., on his official Resignation of Provincial Grand Master of North Munster.

"We, the brethren of Lodge 73, cannot allow the occasion of your retirement from office to pass without giving expression to those deep feelings of regret which we individually experience on your resignation of the distinguished position which you held for twenty years as Provincial Grand Master of North Munster.

"Most cordially and fraternally do we sympathise with you that declining years and bodily infirmity should be the sad causes which deprive us of your paternal guidance.

"Zealous and efficient in the discharge of those arduous duties that devolved upon you; and uniting therein the affability and deportment of the gentleman, with the wisdom of experience, and the fraternal affection of the Craft, you have become veteran in the hallowed associations of Masonry, and won from the lodges of North Munster a feeling of personal regard which no vicissitudes of life can sever.

"We can fondly revert to the memories of the past, when

your benign influence shed a halo of delight over our social enjoyments; and we trust that the light of the Grand Architect of the Universe, which you were wont to unfold, may be your solace down the declining vale of years.

"Accept our most cordial assurances of esteem; and although officially separated, we trust you will still cherish those sentiments of devoted attachment which you displayed when presiding over our councils; and continue to join in spirit with those lodges to which you were so long and affectionately united.

"Signed on behalf of the lodge,

"THOMAS G. GLOVER, W.M.,
"JOHN DEERING, P.M., Sec."

Reply to the Right Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Eden Lodge (No. 73.)

"Your address, evincing such kind and affectionate attachment, gives me sincere happiness; it revives the reminiscence of our long mutual esteem and confidence, and of our many very happy social associations; it assuages much trying pain and sorrow, and aids me to bow with resignation to the dispensation of the G.A.O.T.U.

"Never cease to persevere in your benign profession: let your Temple be ever famed for your enduring good will and reciprocal attachment, fidelity, and support: but never for one moment desecrated by schism or contention.

"Ever labour to prove a sure foundation stone of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and a proud reflection and honour to

"Your old Founder and ever attached Brother,

"M. FURNELL, Past Prov.
G.M. of North Munster."

Inscribed to the Most Illustrious Bro. Michael Furnell, Capt. Gen. of the Supreme Council of Sov. Gd. Insprs. Gen. 33rd H.E., on his official resignation of Provincial Grand Master of North Munster, Sept., 1863, from the Brethren of Eden Lodge (No. 73).

How shall that warm and pure fraternal love,
That lives supreme in each Masonic breast,
Flow forth in meet and sorrowing strains to prove
How deeply we deplore the sad behest,
That thus deprives us of a gifted chief;
Our guide and counsel, tried and trusted friend,
Whose veteran age demands some kind relief
From care and ardent thought, that must attend
The proud position which he loved and long sustained.

Brother and Master of the sacred tie,
To thee we pay the tribute of a tear,
And sympathise with that infirmity
That severs us from one so justly dear.
And oft fond memory shall recall the hour
Of social bliss, when on the tressel floor,
Thy voice paternal gave a tone and power
To all our plans, from wit and wisdom's store,
To guard the Grand Design, which all the Craft adore.

The hallowed principles that we profess,
Founded on virtue, honour, goodness, truth;
The kindly feelings that adorn and bless,
'Twas thine to culture from thy early youth.
And while this lodge exists, 'twill be our aim,
To foster every high and holy plan,
Which kindles up that pure Masonic flame,
Radiant with love to God, and love to man—
An all-inspiring theme that angel choirs began.
Cherished within our breasts thy name shall dwell,
Urging us onward in our art sublime
To deeds of greatness, like some potent spell,
That leaves its impress on the path of Time.
Would that we each could imitate thy zeal,
That fervent ardour of paternal love,
That binds the Mason to his brother's weal,
Connect his hopes with holier joys above,
And to his Saviour's cause desires him faithful prove.

Retiring now from scenes of active toil,
Hoary in years and honour—round thy brow
A wreath more glorious than the chieftain's spoil
Is twined—the symbol of our sacred vow.
And well and truly were its ancient rites,
By thee upheld—our guardian and our guide—
Who kept fond vigil o'er our mystic lights;
And whose approval was our noblest pride,
To all our cares alive—to all our joys allied.

Farewell—in our affections long enshrined—

The treasured memories of thy worth shall glow,
In living verdure, and more closely bind

Our bond of sacred fellowship below:

And while thy years declining may be spared,
Let Faith and Hope dispel each rising gloom;

Oh! may the tranquil joys our founders shared

Brighten thy pathway onward to the tomb.

FURNELL! with sorrow, deep as words can tell,

We mourn to bid our honoured friend FAREWELL.

W. A.

Response to the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Eden Lodge (No. 73).

Your thrilling verses give me such delight,
That age, and pain, and sickness take to flight;
May God pour choicest blessings from above,
Union, prosperity, fraternal love,
And every pleasure that exalts and cheers,
While passing onward through this vale of tears.
'Tis thus your Brother Furnell ever prays
For you, my brethren, in his latter days,
That, trusting on the Rock of Ages, we
May so prepare for endless destiny,
When the Grand Master's summons reach us all,
We, as Freemasons, may pass at that call,
And yield our union of an earthly tie
For one more lasting in a world on high.
And, now, to Eden Lodge, so kind, so true,
I must repeat once more—a fond adieu!

In truth and love, your attached Brother,

MICHAEL FURNELL.

Memorandum.—To the Members of Eden Lodge (No. 73).

I ask the Eden Lodge (No. 73) to accept the symbol of W.M., which for the past twenty years governed the district with love and regard truly reciprocal; may it, in the hands of your W. Master (by sound discretion and snaviter) ever command the peace, love, and harmony that should ever be the pride and glory of every good Freemason, prays your attached brother,

M. FURNELL, 33rd.

The beautiful maul of solid silver bears the following inscription:—

"Presented by the Right Worshipful Michael Furnell, late Prov. G.M. North Munster, to Eden Lodge (No. 73), November 30th, 1863.

"THOMAS G. GLOVER, W.M.,
"JOHN DEERING, P.M., Sec."

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—The members met in great force on Thursday, Nov. 26th, there being about seventy present. The lodge was opened at 6 p.m., by Bro. Durell, W.M., assisted by his Wardens, Bros. Clement and Philip, Edward Le Sueur, all the officers, indeed, being at their respective posts. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A vote for the payment of £15 was passed, to defray the expense of a portrait of Bro. Schmitt, P.M., which has been executed for the lodge, and is intended to be placed in the new temple. A ballot was taken for Messrs. John Blampied and Peter Guiton, as candidates for initiation, after testimony as to their fitness had been afforded, which proved favourable to both. Bros. Ahier, Poch, and Chas. Renouf were then brought up, and having passed a satisfactory examination in the first degree, retired for preparation. The lodge was opened in the second degree, and the candidates, having been re-introduced, were passed as Fellow Crafts by the W.M., from whom they also received the appropriate charge, and an explanation of the tracing board. The Secretary read the circular from the Grand Secretary, announcing the quarterly communication on Dec. 2nd, and highly explained the business to be brought forward, but more particularly such as relates to the province of Jersey, in regard to appeals against the recent suspension of a number of brethren by the Prov. G.M. The Rev. Bro. Chaplain commented on the importance of the question to all English lodges, but more particularly to Lodge La Césarée, of which most of those suspended were members; and as he had learnt that, con-

trary to expectation, the Prov. G.M. did not intend to be present in London on the occasion, he thought it advisable to send a skilled brother, acquainted with the matter in all its bearings, and competent to refute the arguments of the appellants, as a deputation at the expense of the lodge. This was opposed by Bro. Schmitt, P.M., and C. Le Sueur, S.W., on the ground that it did not concern this lodge more than any other under English warrant; that it was especially the duty of the Prov. G.M. to explain and support the course he had pursued, for which he alone was responsible; and that the lodge had had nothing to do with the matter beyond obedience to the mandates issued by the Prov. G.M. It was further stated that the Grand Register had charge of the case, having been put in possession of all the facts in connexion with it. Moreover, the protest against the W.M. of the Césaire Lodge had been withdrawn, was not on the list of agenda, and therefore would not be discussed. Had such not been the case, it would have been the duty of the lodge to render all possible support to its W.M. in the manner proposed. Bro. Dr. Hopkins advocated the proposition of the Rev. Chaplain, on the ground that in the documents connected with the appeal there appeared to be statements, to which others might be added in the course of the discussion, totally at variance with general opinion, the correctness of which was not admitted, and that none but those personally acquainted with the position of the Channel Isles in their relation to the British empire could adequately represent and meet them. He thought that even were it the duty of the Prov. G.M. personally to advocate his cause before the Grand Lodge, as he believed it was, seeing that it was stated that several of the appellants would be present on behalf of themselves and the others, still, if he neglected to adopt that course, in a matter of so much importance to the Craft generally, it was hard that the province should suffer thereby. After some further discussion, the prevailing feeling being adverse to a deputation, the proposition was withdrawn. The lodge was closed in the second degree. The candidates for initiation were introduced properly prepared, to whom the ceremony was administered by the W.M., who also gave them the usual charge. Bro. J. K. Haire was proposed as a joining member by Bros. Ch. Benest and Ph. le Cras. On the proposition of Bro. J. T. du Jardin, seconded by Bro. Manuel, it was determined to grant £2 for the next year towards a fund to enable the grandson of the Tyler to receive lessons in drawing, for which he appeared to display extraordinary aptitude. The arrangements for a farewell banquet to the Rev. Chaplain were renewed, those previously made having been frustrated by a serious accident which had delayed his departure for the Mauritius. The Rev. Bro. spoke most feelingly in reply to the invitation formerly communicated to him by the W.M., expressive of his appreciation of, and willingness to accept, this mark of regard, at the same time observing that he had been overwhelmed by the kindness and sympathy of the brethren, to an extent far beyond his previous conception, and that he was now more than ever in a position, by personal experience, to refute the charge sometimes brought against the Craft, that there was no reality in the practice of the principles professed by Freemasons. The lodge was closed at a quarter-past nine in the usual solemn form, and about fifty of the brethren afterwards partook of refreshment, enjoying social intercourse and paying the accustomed honours to those in authority, as well as to those just admitted to the ranks, who for the first time heard the Entered Apprentice's song, which was given, of course, in the French language, by Bro. J. T. du Jardin. After the report of the meeting of the Césaire Lodge was drawn up, the Prov. G.M. of Jersey determined to attend the meeting of Grand Lodge, in order to be able to watch the proceedings, to explain more fully the grounds on which he had acted, and to correct any questionable representations and impressions.

ROYAL ARCH.

ROYAL SUSSEX CHAPTER (No. 491).—A convocation was held at the Museum-street Rooms, on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd. The Chapter was opened soon after seven o'clock, by Comp. Adams, Past Z., assisted by Com. Binet, H., and Comp. Durell, J., in the presence of Past First Principals Schmitt and Dr. Hopkins. A ballot was taken for five brethren to be exalted, which was in each case unanimous; but only one, Bro. Hardie, presented himself, to whom the ceremony was duly administered by the regular officers, assistance being rendered in a portion by

Comp. Schmitt. A ballot was taken for two joining members, Comps. Dr. Small and Geo. Rogers, which was in both cases favourable. Some conversation took place on the limited attendance at all the meetings of the Chapter, there being not more than twelve present; when it was suggested, that in this respect the example set by the Grand Chapter in London is implicitly followed. The probability is that to a great extent the neglect is caused by the long intervals between the meetings, so that the Chapter is not looked to as a regular engagement. No other business being brought forward, the Chapter was closed soon after nine, and the Companions adjourned for refreshment, under the presidency of Comp. E. D. le Conteur, Z., who had been unavoidably detained during the first part of the evening.

INDIA.

(From the Indian Freemason's Friend.)

BENGAL.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE.

A quarterly communication of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 22nd September. The Prov. G.M., Bro. Hugh Sandeman, presided, and about fifty brethren were present. Among the guests were Bros. W. Ball, of Lahore, who officiated as Prov. S.G.D.; T. B. Lane, of Lodge No. 76, who officiated as a G. Steward; Parry Davis, of Lodge No. 109; Major H. R. Drew, of Lodge No. 255; Andrew D'Cruz, of Lodge 229; J. E. Vaughan, of Lodge No. 825; J. Ochterlony Nicolson, of the late Darjeeling Lodge and W. Cowan, J. A. Monnier, and G. D. Rodgers, of the Scottish Lodges in Calcutta and Howrah.

After apologies for absence, &c., had been read, the Prov. G.M. addressed the District Grand Lodge. He announced that Lodge Star of Hope, at Agra, had fallen into abeyance, but that, on the other hand, Lodge Khyber, at Peshawur, had been reopened by Bro. Trevelyan and others of the 7th Hussars. At Delhi, the brethren were supine, and it would be necessary at the close of the year to return the warrant of Lodge Star of Delhi to England.

The Prov. G.M. reported an act of insubordination which had been committed at Cawnpore. The Master of Lodge Harmony had applied for a dispensation to initiate an Asiatic, Prince Saeed-ood-Dowlah, son of Nawab Moomtaz-ood-Dowlah, of Lucknow, and had been requested in reply to comply with the provisions of the 55th by-law of the District Grand Lodge. In his next letter, the Master forwarded a paper, signed by three P.M.'s, containing an expression of their opinion that the Prov. G.M. was acting obstructively, and calling upon the Master to disregard the order he had received, and to proceed with the ceremony of initiation, assuring him that they would see him clear in the matter. On receiving this document, the Prov. G.M. demanded that the three P.M.'s would declare, on pain of suspension from their Masonic privileges, that they had been guilty of a breach of discipline, and that the initiation of an Asiatic in the province without a dispensation was illegal. No reply had been received as yet; but if the offending brethren should persist in contumacy, the Prov. G.M. would suspend them. (Applause.) The Prov. G.M. hoped that the Scottish Masters who were present would discountenance such offences as much as the District Grand Lodge did, and would not open an Alsatia to offenders.

The Prov. G.M. announced that he had received from the Master of the Scottish Lodge St. David in the East an extract from the proceedings of the lodge, suspending Bro. John Cameron from his Masonic privileges and offices.

The Prov. G.M. noticed the great irregularity committed by some of the lodges in permitting their returns and dues to fall greatly into arrears. One Calcutta lodge was four quarters in arrears, and its officers had therefore become disqualified for attending the District Grand Lodge or sitting upon any committee until its returns had been furnished. Two of the country lodges had not yet submitted their returns for 1862; while the Master of a Hill Lodge had stated, that not he, but his predecessor, was responsible for the return for 1861. The Prov. G.M. hoped that the Masters of lodges would give their earnest attention to this important subject, and thereby save the Prov. G. Sec. a great amount of unnecessary labour.

The Prov. G.M. also noticed that Masters of Lodges frequently

permitted the money due to the District Grand Lodge to be mixed up with the lodge funds in the hands of the Treasurer, and to be expended on objects for which it had not been levied. Masters of lodges thus made use of the power given to them by the District Grand Lodge to levy certain fees, and then suffered the money so raised to be used for the benefit of their own lodges. The law on the subject was very clear; namely, that the dues to the Grand Lodge should be kept separate and distinct from the lodge fund, in the custody of the Master, and not of the Treasurer. Such moneys were to be held in trust by the Master, who was personally responsible for them. A case had recently occurred, of the Master of the lodge at Simla repudiating all responsibility for the payment of the fees of 1861, when the lodge had been working under the Hiram of his predecessor; but he had been informed that, if his arrears were not submitted forthwith, the Finance Committee would be requested to consider the matter.

The Prov. G.M. tendered his acknowledgments to the Provincial Grand Stewards of the year for the pains which they had taken for the management of the banquet, and for the rules laid down by them, which assimilated the banquet arrangements to those of the Grand Lodge of England.

The Prov. G.M. having resumed his seat, the Prov. G. Sec. read the report of the Finance Committee. The balance in hand of the District Grand Lodge Fund was 1668 rupees, and of the Fund of Benevolence, 4124 rupees.

Bro. Roberts expressed his opinion that the Finance Committee should be composed partly of Masters or Past Masters who held no office in the District Grand Lodge. At present all its members were Grand Officers.

The report of the Finance Committee upon the application of the Allahabad Lodge for a remission of its dues for 1860 and 1861 was taken into consideration.

The Master, Bro. Spence, had asked whether the present members of the lodge could be fairly "called upon to liquidate claims due long before they become members, or even belonged to the Craft?" The committee were able to show reasons for answering this question in the affirmative; but they contented themselves by observing that it had been ruled by the Grand Lodge of England that no lapse of time could exonerate a lodge from its responsibility for the payment of the authorised fees and dues. This decision had been passed on a case in which the officers of a lodge had urged that the lodge was not liable for a certain payment, because it was at that time composed of members who were not its members when the money first became due to the Grand Lodge.

The Committee observed that it was a common practice for Masters of lodges to neglect the constitutional rule which provides that the money due to the Grand Lodge and to Provincial Grand Lodges shall be kept "separate and distinct" from the Lodge Fund, in the hands of the Master and not of the Treasurer. In India, it sometimes happens that a Master, after having performed his duties loosely in this respect, leaves the Station in which his lodge is working, and goes to England or elsewhere; and then his successor, who has neglected to take over the money which must be kept in his immediate custody, repudiates all responsibility for the payment of the dues for the period preceding his election to the chair.

To check such practices, the Committee had been disposed to recommend that a severe example should be made of the lodge at Allahabad; but they observed that Bro. Spence had urged a very extenuating circumstance in the following passage of his letter:—

"Although, according to established rules and regulations, it is the duty of every newly-elected Master to satisfy himself that the accounts of his predecessor in office are correct and written up to date, and that the balance of funds has a tangible existence, still, in my case, such was scarcely practicable, owing to the former Master, Bro. C. G. Sim, having left the Station unexpectedly and without any previous notice, and before his term of office had expired. His death in Calcutta shortly after rendered all reference or explanation impossible."

In consideration of the peculiar feature in the case pointed out in the above extract, and also because Bro. Spence was personally deserving of commendation and encouragement, inasmuch as his administration of the lodge had been reported as presenting a favourable contrast to that of his predecessor, and as, moreover, the offer of a portion of the amount due formed a ground for leniency which did not exist when the case was first reviewed in March last, the Committee recommended that the tender of 185-10-8 rupees, being the one-third of the amount

due for 1860 and 1861, should be accepted, and that the rest of the debt should be cancelled.

Bro. ROBERTS proposed the adoption of the recommendation.

Bro. JUDGE could see no good ground for remitting the debt, and therefore moved that the lodge should be compelled to pay the full amount of the dues for 1860 and 1861.

The original proposition was, however, carried.

The Prov. G. SECRETARY read the following notice of motion which had been given by Bro. Howe:—"To ask whether the admission of Hindoos into Freemasonry is in consonance with the principles of the Order, as inculcated by the Grand Lodge of England."

Bro. HOWE stated that, as a belief in one God was indispensable required of those who sought admission into the Order, and as Hindoos did not cherish such a belief, he did not think they should be initiated. They were, for the most part, idolaters; and although a section of them had renounced their ancient superstitions, and had turned to metaphysical abstractions, they were yet far from being worshippers of the one true and living God, who was acknowledged by the members of an institution claiming the title of the handmaid of religion. Bro. Howe contended that, when it was ruled that no man should be excluded from Freemasonry on account of his religion, the term "religion" was not meant to include systems of idolatrous worship; for at that time it was applied only to systems which had for their basis a belief in one God. Bro. Howe further expressed his opinion that there were no proper means of obligating Hindoos, and that, therefore, their initiation was inconsistent with a preservation of the secrets of the Order. Bro. Howe concluded by disclaiming all feelings of antagonism or prejudice against Hindoos, and stated that he was glad when members of their community rendered themselves worthy of holding high positions in the public service.

Bro. JUDGE observed that the opinion expressed some years ago by the Duke of Sussex, that the Order was open for the admission of Hindoos, could hardly be inconsistent with the Constitutions.

Bro. ROBERTS was of opinion that the discussion might be shortened by simply considering whether there was any proper and sufficient mode of obligating a Hindoo candidate. If there was not, there was an end of the matter.

Bro. F. POWELL stated that the discussion having evidently originated in the initiation in the lodge over which he presided of a Hindoo gentleman, he considered it necessary to offer some explanation of the grounds on which he had acted. The candidate had been introduced to the notice of the lodge by two brethren, namely, Bros. Piffard and Pittar, who were well acquainted with him, and who had recommended him as a good and worthy man. With regard to the candidate's religion, it appeared that he was not an idolater, but that he believed in the existence of one God. The following declaration had been made by him:—"I am not a Pantheist or a Polytheist. I do not identify my Creator with any one of his creatures. I believe in the existence of one Great Architect of the Universe, whose wish is the happiness of all his creatures, whose will is law, whose laws are impressed on the heart of every right-thinking individual, and whose never-failing justice shall reach the transgressor of his laws on the great day of judgment to come." With such a declaration before him, Bro. Powell had sought the advice of the officiating Provincial Grand Master, and had ascertained that a dispensation would be granted. There remained to be considered a point of some difficulty, viz., as to how the candidate was to be obligated; but this difficulty appeared to be overcome by a further declaration made by the candidate, that he believed the Bible to contain a faithful delineation of the attributes of the Deity, and that therefore an O.B. taken on the Bible would be binding on his conscience. Bro. Powell was of opinion that arguments on social grounds could not influence the District Grand Lodge, but only the lodge in which a Hindoo was proposed for initiation. If the members of a particular lodge saw no objection to social intercourse with Hindoos, they were at liberty, he thought, to act upon their views. In conclusion, Bro. Powell stated that he had considered himself bound by the Constitutions to take the course which he had taken; that is, to apply for a dispensation on the information supplied by him as to the eligibility of the candidate, and then to take the sense of the brethren of the lodge by ballot. He hoped that the result of this evening's discussion would be to provide him with some rule for his future guidance, especially as some other Hindoo gentlemen had been proposed for initiation in his lodge.

BRO. ABBOTT had strong objections to the initiation of Hindoos on social grounds, and was of opinion that arguments founded on such grounds did demand serious attention. As an English Mason, Bro. Abbott would not enter any lodge in which he would come into association with those who could not be properly obligated, and who, he could speak from long experience in India, despised Christians and Christianity. If the natives of India could get up lodges of their own, they might do so; but they were widely separated in many respects from Europeans.

BRO. C. PIFFARD—"Right Worshipful Grand Master and Worshipful Brethren, the question now brought before the District Grand Lodge is one of very considerable importance, and in discussing it, I trust that, while no one will shrink from expressing his sentiments frankly and fearlessly, no one among us will forget that in this, as in all other discussions, calmness and moderation will be our most valuable aids in attaining to a just and wise decision. Before, however, addressing myself directly to the question before us, I would take leave to reply to a remark which fell from the worshipful brother (Abbott) who has just sat down. The worshipful brother appeared to me to labour under the impression that the W.M. of Lodge St. John had said that, in the absence of any other grounds of objection, brethren should not, in the case of Hindoo or Mahomedan candidates for initiation, allow themselves to be swayed by any merely social objection. The W.M. of Lodge St. John, with whose sentiments on this subject I am perfectly familiar, did not intend to, and in fact did not, commit himself to any such proposition. Social considerations, that is, a consideration of the habits, manners, education, and tone of thought of the candidate have always influenced, and must necessarily always influence, brethren in voting for the admission of a candidate, as it involves his becoming a member of their lodge; and a neglect of such considerations can only imperil the harmony, good fellowship, and good feeling which, I trust, will long distinguish all Masonic gatherings. When our worshipful brother deprecated considering this question in a social point of view, he did not for a moment mean or intend that private lodges, when applied to by Hindoos or other natives of this country, were not to be at perfect liberty to consult the feelings and preferences, or even the prejudices, of their members, and to give weight to any objection to their admission, whether personal, social or otherwise, precisely as they would in the case of any other individual. What he intended to say, and in fact did say, was that merely social objections to a class, as to an individual, were properly to be considered by each private lodge by itself, and not by the District Grand Lodge. The vote of the District Grand Lodge, deciding that Hindoos were not, as such, disqualified from admission into Masonry, would not constrain any private lodge to admit a Hindoo against the wish of its members. The social prejudice, therefore, should not now be allowed to divert our minds from the general question; and the personal objection which any worshipful brother present may unfortunately entertain to sitting at lodge, or in banquet, or otherwise associating with natives of this country, ought not in any way to influence him in voting upon the broad question of their admissibility into the general Masonic body.

"The question now before us is whether there is anything in the Constitution of English Masonry to which the admission of Hindoos into Masonry is repugnant. The worshipful brother who spoke last, and whose remarks were based entirely on social considerations, and, I may add, national antipathies, wisely, I think, and fairly, refrained from making any distinction between Mahomedans and Hindoos, and included both classes in his objection. But as Mahomedans have been repeatedly admitted into Masonry, both in this country and in England, and as it has never been contended by any one that the Mahomedans of India are, in point of character or respectability, in any respect superior to the Hindoos, it appears to me that this objection has long since been disposed of. It appears to me, indeed, that so far as this ground is insisted upon, those who object to the initiation of natives of this country, and not those who would welcome them into Masonry, are exposing themselves to the charge of innovation. For if we, by our votes to-night, record that, in the opinion of this District Grand Lodge, no native of this country is a fit or proper person to be made a Mason, then, so far as I am aware, for the first time in the history of Masonry, the great Masonic doctrine of the universal brotherhood of man will be trampled under foot by Freemasons.

"At the time of the revival of Freemasonry in the Middle

Ages, when a Jew was, throughout Christendom, an object of hatred and scorn and distrust, our predecessors, the ancient Christian Masons, did not hesitate to hold out the hand of brotherhood even to the descendants and countrymen of the murderers of the Founder of their religion. Shall we, in the 19th century, place a brand on upwards of one hundred millions of the human race, and say that, though the sun never sets on Masonry, in India, when it shines on Masons, it shall shine only on pilgrims and exiles? Apart from the ground that they are disqualified as a race and nation, the only objections I have heard raised this evening are, 1st, that we cannot initiate Hindoos, because if they come to us professing to be pure Deists, they do not recognise any book in particular, or the volume of the Sacred Law, and a difficulty must therefore arise in administering to them the oath of obligation; and, 2nd, that although they come to us professing to believe in only one Supreme Being, yet they are in fact idolaters, as, in spite of all their professions, they, for the most part, if not all, permit pojahs and other idolatrous rites and ceremonies, to be performed in their houses. The first objection is open to the obvious answer, that while an obligation is essential, the particular mode of obligation, or the instrument used in the ceremony, is an accident dependent upon and regulated by circumstances. That the mode in which the oath of obligation is now administered can be neither invariable nor essential, is patent when we remember that the oldest book of what we call the Old Testament was probably written by Moses after or very shortly before the exodus from Egypt, and that certainly no portion of it was received as the Volume of the Sacred Law until some time afterwards; while, if we may trust in Masonic tradition, Moses and Aaron and Eleazar were Master Masons, duly initiated, passed and raised in an Egyptian Lodge of Freemasons, long previous to that period. It is clear, therefore, that when Moses and Aaron and Eleazar were made Masons, they were not obligated upon any portion of what we now receive as the Volume of the Sacred Law, and probably on no particular writing whatsoever. The essential part of an obligation is, that it is binding on the conscience of the recipient; and, in my opinion, when a candidate, after producing satisfactory testimony that he bears the reputation of an honest, honourable, and truthful man, comes to us and solemnly declares that he is free, and that he believes in one God, we ought to be satisfied with his taking any obligation which he affirms to be binding on his conscience: and I can see no distinction between greater and less obligations. The simple affirmation of an honest man is binding on him, and nothing can be more than binding.

"As to the second objection, it can only be a valid one if we are also to think that no man can be said really to grasp a great truth unless he is prepared to run amuck against all who disagree with him, and that because he is satisfied that idols are puppets, and idolatry a vain thing, he is bound thereupon to shock all true religious feelings and prejudices of his family and countrymen, and not satisfied with the liberty conceded to him to think as he pleases, he is to force every one connected and dependent upon him to think and act in the same manner that he does.

"The prophets of the Jews were not singularly remarkable for the liberality of their sentiments on religious subjects. In the matter of idolatry, I think scarcely any, even of the brethren who have spoken this evening, would profess to hold views more rigid than those entertained by the Jewish prophet Elisha. Yet after Naaman, the captain of the host of the King of Syria, had declared his belief that there was no God in all the earth but in Israel,—a dogma, the truth of which, I may observe parenthetically, no Mason believing in an omnipresent Supreme Being can unreservedly admit,—after, as I have said, Naaman had declared his adhesion to the God of Israel and of Elisha, and had prayed for two mules' burden of earth to carry with him, I presume, to Syria, and then somehow to facilitate his worship of the true God, we are told that he thus addressed the prophet—"In this thing the Lord pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon; when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon thy servant in this thing." And what did the prophet do? Did he reproach him for his half-heartedness? Did he tell him it was not sufficient to be a believer unless he was also prepared to become a martyr? No, it is written—He said unto him, 'Go in peace.' Are we, brethren, to be more exacting than Elisha? Are we to insist that every

candidate shall only profess a pure belief, but shall at once and abruptly break with all the customs and usages of his family and his class, and draw down upon himself that bitterest of all persecutions—social and domestic martyrdom?

"In a question of this kind, I think, we cannot do better than refer to precedents. In the last number of the *Indian Freemasons' Friend* I see recorded the views of two eminent Masons, the late Duke of Sussex, well known wherever Masonry flourishes, and our late Prov. G.M., Dr. John Grant. The Duke of Sussex's opinion was entirely in favour of the admission into Masonry of natives of this country. Dr. Grant, in his address to the District Grand Lodge some years ago, is reported to have said: 'You will readily understand how necessary it is to the keeping of a secret, that he to whom it is to be entrusted is a good man and true. Am I not justified, then, in particularly putting you on your guard to seek beforehand for satisfactory testimony that the native whom you are called upon to propose or to recommend for Masonry is under the tongue of good repute.' Now, brethren, it is really with some astonishment that I have heard the authority of Dr. Grant invoked as of one conscientiously opposed to the admission of natives of this country into Masonry. That he was opposed to their *indiscriminate* admission I freely concede; but who would contend for the *indiscriminate* admission of any class of individuals into Masonry. Dr. Grant addresses himself not to lodges but to the proposers and seconders of candidates; and so far from suggesting to them that they are to reject all native candidates, he wisely and properly enjoins them to seek for satisfactory testimony of their worthiness. That great caution should be exercised in the admission of candidates into the Craft no one denies, and it is equally undisputed that the caution must be still greater when the candidate belongs to a different race and creed from ourselves, and when therefore we have less perfect means of ascertaining his antecedents.

"I would go even farther: I think it would be unfair to ask the brethren to vote for the admission of a candidate on the testimony of any one not himself a member of the Craft. But I submit that no such innovation has ever been contemplated; certainly, no such innovation has ever yet been carried into effect. In the case of Bro. Khetter Mohun Gangooly, the only Hindoo who has yet been made a Mason, and whom I had the privilege to propose, no test either of his antecedents or of his religious belief was omitted. I had known him for upwards of two years; for the last year I had been in almost daily intercourse with him, meeting him both in the Court in which we both practise, and in the Bar Libraries. I had, in my humble belief, ample opportunities of forming a fair estimate of his character, and the opinion I had formed of him was that he was a thoroughly upright man, as incapable from deviating from the strict path of honour as any brother now seated before me. Such being my opinion, I had no hesitation to vouch for him as a good and worthy man at Lodge St. John, where he was seconded by the Senior Deacon, a gentleman in the same profession with myself. Before his name was submitted to the ballot, the Worshipful Master, as he has told you, put himself into communication with him and questioned him strictly as to his belief. Unless, therefore, we are to say of a whole nation that no individual comprised in it, however excellent his character, and faultless his antecedents, is ever to be trusted, who can say Bro. Khetter Mohun Gangooly was not properly admitted; and if he was properly admitted, why may not others be again so admitted under similar circumstances? Our Order is composed of worthy men of many various races; what reason has been given to call upon us to put a brand on one particular race.

"And now, brethren, I have only to thank you for the patience with which you have listened to me. If I have trespassed on your time, it is because I have felt and feel strongly on the subject, and because, while prepared to bow to your decision, whatever it may be, I felt it due to myself and to the lodge to which I belong to lay fully before you the grounds upon which we have acted. I regret that the views we entertained should for an instant have caused anything like a division in our Order; but I for one trust that the spirit in which this discussion has been conducted may long continue to shed its influence over us, and that no difference of opinion, however distinctly entertained, will ever lessen the good will and friendliness and good fellowship which, at all our assemblies, make us feel that we are indeed among brothers."

Bro. ABBOTT maintained his objections on social grounds as a member of the District Grand Lodge. He had for twenty years

been meeting Hindoos, and had found many of them to be good men. "I know one," Bro. Abbott continued, "who has been serving in my office for forty-six years, and has always borne a good character; yet he is a Hindoo while I am an Englishman, his tastes are not my tastes, his habits are not my habits, his God is not my God. Without any feeling of antagonism against the Hindoos, therefore, I feel that there are few points of sympathy between us, and many grounds for misunderstandings, and that I could not have social intercourse with them."

Bro. ROBERTS proposed that the question should be adjourned; but the Prov. G.M. was of opinion that the District Grand Lodge could come to an immediate decision. Without intending any disrespect to the Duke of Sussex, the Provincial Grand Master did not hesitate to state, that such extraordinary instances had come under his notice of the ignorance which prevailed in England on Indian subjects, that he attached very little importance to the opinion of His Royal Highness, or of any one unacquainted with the country, on questions relating to India and the people of India. The Prov. G.M. also attached little value to a declaration made by a Hindoo, that an obligation taken by him on the Bible would be binding on his conscience. The Bible to a Hindoo, who did not reverence it as the inspired Word of God and the only guide to salvation, could be nothing better than any other book containing moral precepts. The Prov. G.M. was therefore of opinion, that Hindoos were not eligible for admission into Masonry, and moreover, that it was not desirable, with reference to social considerations, that they should be admitted; and so long as he held a veto under the By-Laws, he would exercise the power rigidly and with the utmost caution.

A vote being called for, the result was unfavourable to the initiation of Hindoos.

In pursuance of a notice of motion given by him, Bro. W. BOURNE, Prov. G.S., moved—"That, with reference to the near approach of the time for repairing Freemasons' Hall and the rumoured intention of the owners to increase the rate of rent on the completion of such repairs, immediate steps be taken to obtain a lease of a suitable Hall, and that a Committee be appointed by the Prov. G.M. to make arrangements for the same." Bro. Bourne remarked that, in his opinion, preference should be given to some house at the west end of the town (that is, not inside the river, but towards the south).

The proposition was seconded and carried, and the Prov. G.M. appointed the following brethren to be the members of the committee: *viz.*, the present members of the finance committee, the masters of the lodges, the chairman of the Grand Stewards' Committee, and the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary.

The Prov G.M. observed that it was absolutely necessary that something should be speedily done, as the lodges had received a notice to quit the present building.

Bro. BOURNE also moved—"That, in the event of any procession taking place on St. John's Day approaching, some more convenient spot be selected to march from than the Freemasons' Hall."

The PROV. G. MASTER stated, that it was his own wish that the next procession should be to St. Paul's Cathedral, from some suitable house in the neighbourhood; but if that should not be practicable, and service should, as usual, be held at St. John's Church, he was desirous that the brethren should march from the Town Hall. The Lodge was then closed in due form.

Poetry.

THE BRAVE OLD CRAFT.

By Bro. T. R. HOFLAND, Preston.

Air—*The Brave Old Oak.*

A Song to the Craft—the brave old Craft,
That hath rul'd in the world so long,
Here's success to the Art—the time honoured Art,
And its pillars so fair and strong.
O'er its fame and renown, the sun ne'er goes down,
But shines ever clear and bright;
The East and the West have its glory confessed,
And the North and the South own its might.
Then sing to the Craft—the brave old Craft,
That hath rul'd in the world so long;
And still may its worth illumine the earth,
When ten thousand years are gone.

It dawned in the time, when the grand eastern clime,
Was thrilled with a voice divine;
When the heart and the soul first owned the control,
Of the arts that exalt and refine.
Then a Structure was reared—thus early revered,
Devoted to friendship and love;
Sweet Charity smiled, heaven's best beloved child,
From her mansions of beauty above.
Then pledge to the Craft—the brave old Craft,
That hath rul'd in the world so long;
And still may its worth illumine the earth,
When ten thousand years are gone.

Though states have decayed, and the laws they have made
Are lost in the shadowy past;
Unfaded by time, in its grandeur sublime,
Still our Order stands firm and fast.
And still to Man's heart it the truth doth impart,
He should be to his brother kind;
That honour and worth, brightest gems of the Earth,
In his bosom should ever be shrin'd!
Then fill to the Craft—the brave old Craft,
That hath ruled in the world so long;
And still may its worth illumine the Earth,
When ten thousand years are gone.

With feeling sincere he should wipe the sad tear,
From the sorrowing mourners' cheek;
His mission is blessed to protect the oppressed,
And to comfort the lone and the weak.
The Great Architect's eye, from his throne in the sky
Looks down and approves of our plan;
For Faith shall be pure and Religion secure,
While Masonry teacheth Man.
So fill high to the Craft—the brave old Craft
That hath ruled in the world so long;
May the Sun of its worth still illumine the Earth,
When ten thousand years are gone.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and family continue at Windsor. The Prince of Wales was introduced into the Privy Council on Tuesday.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—Lord Wodehouse, who was sent to St. Petersburg, as English Minister, at the close of the Crimean war, and who has since held the office of Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has been selected to proceed to Copenhagen, on a special mission, to congratulate King Christian on his accession to the Danish throne, and—as it is semi-officially hinted—to make His Majesty “thoroughly acquainted with the views of the British Government respecting his rights, his duties, and the spirit in which he should assert the one and perform the other.”—A storm of wind unexampled in its violence for many years past burst over the metropolis on Thursday of last week, and was felt throughout the country. The anemometer affixed to the Royal Exchange indicated a pressure of 30lb. on the square foot about eleven o'clock in the forenoon. To the unscientific reader it will afford a more lively illustration of the fury of the gale to be told that several people were literally blown away, that branches of trees were broken off, and in some cases the trees themselves uprooted, that laden barges were sunk in the river, and that several stacks of chimneys were blown down. One of these is a small street near the Elephant and Castle fell on the roof of the house, smashed in the ceiling, and killed one of four children that were in the room, the others being seriously injured. The gale has told more disastrously at sea than upon the land. On the south and west coast the reports of wrecks are numerous. In the neighbourhood of Holyhead there was melancholy loss of life, and the vicinity of

the Goodwin Sands was only saved from similar disasters by the intervention of the life boats. In the river the casualties, and even the wrecks, are numerous; and one splendid vessel, with a cargo of tea valued at £50,000, after making a prosperous voyage from China, ran imminent risk of total shipwreck at the gates of the dock she was about enter, and within sight of London-bridge. From Yarmouth we have a long list of fatal casualties at sea, and we have also tidings of the loss of a German emigrant vessel, which appears to have gone down with 250 of her passengers and crew.—A dreadful accident occurred on the Great Northern Railway, near Peterborough. Before daybreak a pilot passenger engine left one of the railway sheds, at a place called New England, for the purpose of proceeding to Peterborough. It was soon followed by a heavy goods engine, which ran into it, killing a guard, and throwing off the driver and stoker. The pilot engine, thus freed from control, dashed on at the rate of 40 miles an hour, and coming up with a goods train, nearly completely smashed the brake-van. The guard in the van sustained injuries, which, it is feared, will prove fatal. The career of the pilot engine was stopped by the second collision.—Another change in the condition of the cotton operatives is shown in the weekly report presented by Mr. Farnall at the meeting of the Central Relief Committee. In 14 unions there has been a total decrease of 1,378 in the number of persons receiving parochial relief, while in 13 unions there has been an increase of 639. There is thus, taking the whole 27 unions, included in Mr. Farnall's returns, a net increase of 739,—a change, no doubt, owing to the employment afforded to the operatives by the commencement of public works. On the other hand, we read in Mr. Maclure's report that “during the present month there is reason to expect that, owing to the effect which the condition of the money market may probably have upon the price of cotton, there will be a considerable decrease of work in the mills of the district.” An important discussion took place on the Public Works Act, and Lord Derby stated the result of his representations to Sir George Grey respecting the expense at present attending applications for loans under the act.—We have it on the high authority of the Inspector General that the volunteer force has maintained its numbers, and certainly is progressing in efficiency.—The great metropolitan agricultural gathering of the Smithfield Club Cattle Show assembled on Monday, for the second time, at its new and capacious home—the Agricultural Hall, Islington. In the morning his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the Crown Prince of Prussia visited the building, and inspected the show with much interest. At two o'clock the building was opened to the public on the payment of five shillings, a price which did not prevent many thousands from gratifying their love of viewing the finest specimens of cattle of all kinds that can be seen in the world. The rest of the week has been shilling days, and the attendance in no way short of that of last year. Sales were brisk, and every visitor appeared pleased with the accommodation, which afforded a marked contrast to that from which the public so long suffered at Baker-street. The annual meeting of the Smithfield Club was held on Tuesday, for the first time under the new constitution. Earl Spencer was elected president, to succeed Lord Walsingham.—At the meeting of the City Commission of Sewers, some interest was excited by the revival of a proposal to widen the eastern end of the Poultry by removing Lubbock's old bank, opposite the Mansion House. It is said that the projected improvement may cost £17,500, or at the rate of more than a million and a half per acre. It was resolved that the project should be carried out if the Metropolitan Board would share the expense.—It is stated that the law

officers of the Crown in Scotland have decided to take legal proceedings in the case of the *Pampero*,—a steamer recently launched on the Clyde, and said to be intended for the Confederate service. It is further reported that this is not the only case of alleged infringement of the Foreign Enlistment Act that is likely to come before the Scotch judges.—The court-martial on Colonel Crawley is drawing to a close. The case for the prosecution was completed on Wednesday, and Colonel Crawley stated that he would only have “a few” witnesses to call. These “few” witnesses having been examined, the prisoner asked for an adjournment, so that he may be enabled to prepare his defence. We take it that Sir Alfred Horsford will deem it necessary to reply to Colonel Crawley’s speech, and in that case a second adjournment will no doubt be applied for.—The unfortunate Great Ship has entered upon another phase of her strangely unhappy career. It will be remembered that the Master of the Rolls had issued an injunction to prevent the sale of the ship till the matters in dispute were settled by the courts of law. Since then the Queen’s Bench have decreed that Mr. Parry, one of the creditors, had a right to “execution of judgment,” but the Master of the Rolls, on being applied to, refused to dissolve the injunction. An appeal was thereupon made to the Lords Justices, who, after hearing parties, reversed the judgment of the Master of the Rolls, and dissolved the injunction that restrained the sale.—A sad case was tried in the Court of Queen’s Bench last week. A youth, named Frankel—the only child of his widowed mother—was travelling in the London and North-Western Railway Company’s omnibus between Buxton and Whaley Bridge. On the road, what is called a “race” was started between the omnibus and the mail coach, and by and by the driver of the omnibus found it necessary to pull his horse to one side. Whilst this was being done, the omnibus gave a lurch, and Mr. Frankel was thrown upon the ground, receiving injuries to the brain and spinal chord, which it is feared, can only end in idiocy. An action was therefore brought against the Company, and Mr. Frankel appeared in Court. His shattered and helpless appearance excited the deepest sympathy; it seems, indeed, to have completely unmanned the Lord Chief Justice, whose utterance, says one of the reports, during his summing up, “was frequently choked by sobs, which he vainly endeavoured to repress. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, with £2000 damages.—A very singular case has been heard in the Court of Probate. A numerous family of brothers and sisters were left some £11,000 by an uncle, which was to be divided among them in a rather complicated form. About twenty years ago one of the sisters died, and her will, bequeathing her share among the rest of the family, was witnessed by two of her sisters, and administered by her brother John. Another brother, James, who was abroad at the time, came home lately and employed an attorney to examine into his interest in the property, giving him a mortgage over his share of the wills as compensation. The brother who had administered and the sisters who witnessed the will now came forward to declare that the will was a forgery. After hearing the evidence, however, the jury found that the will was valid.—Three cases for compensation in the matter of the late accident at Streatham, on the Brighton Railway line, have been settled in the Sheriffs’ Court. One case only went to trial—that of a private in the Coldstream Guards, who asked for £1000 damages, and the jury awarded him £350. The same sum was taken by consent for another person who also claimed £1,000; while a third, who asked for £100, received £100.—At the Central Criminal Court, Catherine O’Brien, found guilty of unlawfully wounding a sailor, was sentenced to 18 months’ imprisonment. At the Middlesex Sessions a startling episode in

criminal life occurred. A man sentenced to six years’ penal servitude for stealing a bit of bacon (of course taking account of previous convictions), hurled a bit of iron at a policeman who had given evidence against him. Had not the iron missed the policeman the probability is that he would never have given evidence against any one else. The assizes at Hertford was opened on Monday by Mr. Justice Williams. A remarkable feature in the trials was the prevalence of incendiarism, which seems to have been committed out of mere wantonness. A remarkable case of night poaching and assault on the keepers was also tried. Three young scoundrels of a very dramatic turn of mind are in custody at Hull. Highly inflamed, it is reported, by the perusal of the narratives of notorious highwaymen’s lives, these lads, it would appear, from a confession made by one of them, decided upon a career of crime. With another boy, who has not been apprehended, they planned and executed most daring robberies, and two of them hired a cab to take them to Driffield,—it being agreed upon that on the road one of them was to get on the box, cut the cabman’s throat, take the reins, and drive on to some place where they might possibly succeed in selling the vehicle and the horse.—A shocking case of suicide took place last week, in the broad daylight, at King’s-cross, by a respectably-dressed middle aged man. He was standing on the foot pavement, when a heavily laden dray approached. On seeing it, he dropped a parcel, stepped out on the road, knelt down, and deliberately laid his head in front of the wheel, and in the next instant was a mangled corpse.—Captain Semmes’s famous vessel, the *Sumter*, which is now under the new name of the *Gibraltar*, engaged in blockade running, has arrived at Queenstown, from Wilmington. She left that port on the 14th of November, and has on board 330 bales of cotton, each bale, it is said, weighing 800lbs.—A young woman, named Hewitt, otherwise Holt, has been sentenced to death at the Chester assizes for the murder of her mother, at Stockport. Holt, it seems, contrived, by fraud, to effect an insurance on her mother’s life, and it was in order to secure the paltry sum of money represented by the policy that the murder was committed. The old woman was poisoned by repeated doses of arsenic; in fact, her body, after death, was found to be saturated with the poison.—An action tried in the Court of Queen’s Bench affords a striking illustration of the manner in which companies are too often formed under the Limited Liabilities Act. As by the act seven shareholders are necessary to form a company, it was arranged between the plaintiff and defendant that they should take five £50 shares, that a friend should take a £50 share, but not be called on to pay, and the other four should be mere dummies, taking each a share of £1—the result of the process being a limited liability company for carrying on the business of general agents and money lenders, consisting in reality of only two partners and £500 capital.—A solicitor has been committed by the Worcestershire magistrates to the next assizes for trial on a charge of misdemeanour, for unlawfully abducting a girl of fifteen from the possession of her grandfather. The girl does not appear to have rejoiced in a thoroughly unblemished character; but, doubtless, this fact will come out or be disproved at the trial.—The great fight for £2000 between John Carmel Heenan and Tom King, came off on Thursday, the 10th inst., about a mile and a half from Wadhurst, a quiet country place, fifty miles from London, and nine past Tunbridge Wells, on the South-Eastern Railway. King appeared to suffer from the repeated “hugs” of Heenan, and at one time his chance of success seemed hopeless; but the tide turned in his favour, and after fighting 24 rounds in 35 minutes, he was hailed the victor.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The draft of the address which the French Senate is about to debate was read on Tuesday, during the sitting of that august and “devoted” body. It praises everything that the Emperor Napoleon has said, done, or proposed; and perhaps the only noteworthy paragraph is one which says—“England has decided that she will abstain from taking part in the congress. Her exceptional position allows her, perhaps, to be less sensible than your Majesty of the dangers of the *statu quo*; but the other governments can only gain by establishing a state of things which will no longer be menaced nor misunderstood whatever happens.” The Emperor of Russia’s reply to the Emperor Napoleon’s invitation to a European congress had been published in Paris. The Czar professes his desire to “substitute relations of confidence and concord for the state of armed peace weighing so heavily upon the people,” and declares that his sincerity has been sufficiently attested by the reduction of his army until “eventualities of a nature to menace the security and even the integrity of his states alone caused him to abandon this path.” He will be happy if the Emperor Napoleon’s proposal should lead to a “loyal understanding between the Sovereigns;” but the consent of all the great powers is needed; and it is indispensable that the French Emperor should “define questions upon which an understanding would have to be arrived at, and the basis upon which it would be established.”—Count Rechberg has made in the Austrian Reichsrath a declaration similar to that of Count Bismarck in the Prussian Parliament. He said that Austria and Prussia were not released from the obligations of the treaty of London, but if Denmark appealed to that treaty they were entitled to require that she should first fulfil the stipulations on which the treaty was founded. They owed it to themselves to carry out the “federal execution” already ordered, “expressly reserving the right to examine the hereditary succession;” and at the first signal from Frankfort, Austria would despatch the required number of troops to the Lower Elbe. The question regarding the succession to the Danish territories was not clear, and needed a legal investigation.” But “the decision of a tribunal must not be anticipated by a one-sided proceeding against the *de facto* possessor;” and it must be remembered that, as the Prince of Augustenburg laid claim to other territories besides Schleswig and Holstein, Germany might “plunge into a European war simply that an Augustenburg Duke might reign instead of a Glucksburg.” The Austrian Cabinet attached the utmost value to Prussian co-operation, and was determined to observe treaties, and uphold “within legal limits” the interests of Germany and “German kindred in the North.” The German Diet ultimately passed, on Monday, though only by a small majority, a resolution for “federal execution” in Holstein, but “reserved to itself the settlement of the question of succession.” Orders were immediately issued for the entry of federal troops into Holstein; and it only remains to be seen whether these orders will be immediately executed, and whether the Danes will offer forcible opposition to the occupation of the duchy by German troops. The proclamation by which Christian IX. withdraws the royal patent of the 12th March was issued on Tuesday at Copenhagen; but the spirit of the Danes is sufficiently shown by the disapprobation with which this conciliatory measure seems to have been received by the Danish press.—The Swedish Diet was closed on Tuesday with a speech from the Throne. His Majesty expressed anxiety for the maintenance of European peace, and sympathy for Denmark.—A telegram from Vienna states that an extraordinary credit of 15 millions of florins is to be asked of the Reichsrath to meet the expenses of the Schleswig-Holstein expedition.—The Prussian Government

have demanded of the Chamber of Deputies a loan of twelve million thalers to meet the expense of the proposed military execution in Holstein.—The National Assembly at Athens have sent a deputation to King George to express its regret at the death of the King of Denmark.

INDIA AND AUSTRALIA.—The Bombay papers confirm the telegraphic accounts of the dangerous illness of the Earl of Elgin, and attribute it to the effect of the fatigue he suffered in passing the Routang Pass on foot. A telegram to the 17th says that Earl Elgin remained in the same state. They also contain further accounts of the attack on the hill tribes on the North-West frontier of our troops. Though the latter suffered severely, they inflicted much greater loss on the rebels. The other news is not of great importance.—A Melbourne despatch brings us from New Zealand the satisfactory news that General Cameron had successfully attacked the position occupied by the Maoris. According to accounts from Japan, by way of Shanghai “affairs were quieter.” Sir John Lawrence had an audience with the Queen on Saturday, and did the usual homage on his appointment as Viceroy of India. His Excellency will leave this country for Calcutta on the 10th inst. Sir George Clerk, who has been twice governor of Bombay, succeeds him in the India Council at home.

AMERICA.—By the arrival of the *Asia* we have some important items of news from America, and among them we learn that Knoxville was not completely invested, the Confederates having withdrawn from the south side of the river; that Burnside has declared that he will hold the town; that the sea wall of Fort Sumter had been destroyed, the Confederates constructing bombproofs on the ruins; that a reconnaissance under Granger had been made near Chattanooga, the result being that Granger occupied the elevations, upon which he directed his attack, carried the rifle pits in front, and moved through the forest before him, driving in the Confederate pickets. The news brought by the *New York* is very unfavourable to the Confederate forces in Tennessee. The success of the Federals in driving the Confederates from Missionary Ridge and Look-out Mountain into the valley, was followed by the complete rout of Bragg’s army, which in its retreat towards Dalton was hotly pressed by the Federals, who had captured a large number of guns and some thousand prisoners. The northern accounts go so far as to say Bragg’s army was destroyed. General Longstreet had not assaulted Knoxville, but his batteries commanded the city. He had no time to lose, as a Federal force was moving to relieve Burnside. General Meade having put his army in motion, crossed the Rapidan on the 26th and 27th, the Confederates offering no opposition. On the 28th heavy cannonading was heard all day near Orange Court-house. No particulars of the engagement had been received at New York, but unfavourable rumours reached the city which caused a rise in gold of four per cent. The Federals had been repulsed in a demonstration on rafts against Fort Sumter.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

INQUIRER.—The supposed number of regularly paying members of the Order is supposed to be from 16,000 to 20,000, but there is no means of accurately determining.

“A SETTLER,” relative to Lodge 600, is not written in a style suitable to our columns; and, moreover, the author has not sent us his name.