

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1893.

CLASSICAL THEOLOGY.—LXXI.

JUNO AND JANUARY.

We are told by Themistius that, till the time of Dædalus, all the Grecian images were without form, and that, amongst his skilful devices, this ingenious artificer was the first who gave them two separate feet; whence, says Palæphatus, it became reported Dædalus made statues to move and walk. Hitherto they were only called *χόανα* (Xoana), shaven, which word distinguishes an idol; that is, as Heyschius says, *ἐξεδμενον* (Exedmenon), shaved out of wood or stone. In after eras, when gravings and carving became known, they changed the shapeless idol, or lumps they worshipped, into forms representing living creatures, generally of the human figure, in which respect an image was then called *βρετας* (Bretas), that is, because it resembled a man; yet, nevertheless, in still more refined ages, the unformed idols, were for their antiquity and ancient regard, reverentially preserved, and, indeed, preferred to the rarest and most skilful works of art.

The temples among the most ancient Egyptians, if trust is to be placed in Lucian, "*Libro de Dea Syria*," were without statues. The Greeks, also, up to the time of Cecrops, who lived, according to Eusebius, in the age of Moses, worshipped their gods unrevealed by any visible representation. Commonly, at first, the idol was a mere stock, whence they were denominated by St. Clemens (Protrept. pp. 29, 30, and Strom. pp. 348, 349), *ζαυίς* (Sanis), but wherefore we are not informed. *ζαυίς* (Sanis), it is said, was a piece of wood to which a malefactor or captive was fixed, to undergo torture, or was bound, as a victim, to be sacrificed. The *Statuæ Dærum* were often of stone, so like the Druids, it would seem, Pausanias tells us, the Peloponnesians used stones to represent their deities. He says, in Achaia there were, very religiously kept, thirty square stones, on which were engraven the names, severally to that number, of their gods. No sort of idol was more general than that of oblong stones set up erect, and therefore termed *κίονες* (kiones), pillars. Thus, in some parts of Egypt, they were placed on each side of the highways or most direct roads. In Syria, in the Heliogabalus, or Temple of the Sun, there was one, asserted to have fallen from heaven. Of this shape was the stone symbolically swallowed by Saturn, supposing it to be the infant Jupiter; though others rather think it was appointed by and in commemoration of the father of Saturn, as the first god. But more probably it derived its origin from the Holy Pillars Abram and Jacob erected in Bethel; namely, as it is written:—

"And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el . . . unto the place of the altar he had made there at first: and there Abram called on the name of the Lord."

"And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone he had put for (or in lieu of) his pillow, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will

give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then shall the Lord be my God: and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."

Black is said to have been the prevailing colour of these stones, because, as some suppose—for it is but a mere supposition—it induced more solemnity in religious uses; and so also, in being called *βαϊτυλία* (Baitulia), *βαϊτυλοί* (Baituloi), which, if derived from the Phœnician word Bethel, their name would, too, signify "the House of God."

The place of the imagery was usually in the middle of the temple; the idols stood on raised pedestals, enclosed with rails, above the height of the altar. Amongst the Greeks this place had the name of *σηκος* (Sekos). Phavorinus gives us an erudite description of the temples *Ναὸς* and *Ιερόν* (Naos and Ieron); or the entire edifice, he says, contained the altar of oblations, called *Βομόν* (Bomon), and *Πρόναον* (Pronaon), the porch, within which there was usually an altar or image, and the place *Τεμενος* (Temenos), upon which was erected the *Εἰδωλόν* (Eidolon), or image of the chief god or goddess. Thus we read in Virgil of Juno being represented in the temple; that is to say, at the *Fores divæ*, or the entrance of the *Sekos*, her image stood.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE PRESTONIAN LECTURES.

I have heard a good deal of the Prestonian Lectures, but in the town where my lodge meets no one seems to be able to give any account of them, in which dilemma, as I am an inquiring Mason, I naturally turn to "Notes and Queries" for instruction, and hope I shall not be disappointed in my inquiry.—A YOUNG PROVINCIAL BROTHER.—[The Prestonian Lectures were arranged by Bro. William Preston, of the Lodge of Antiquity, towards the end of the last century. Before this, a system of lectures by the Rev. William Hutchinson had been very popular in the north of England, and it is said, on tolerably good grounds, that Hutchinson and Preston were united in forming the series called the Prestonian Lectures; and this is borne out by the fact that the Hutchinsonian lectures are now not known to be in existence. In fact, they became merged in the Prestonian. The labours of Bro. Preston continued to be used as the authoritative system until the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, when the Rev. Dr. Hemming, Senior Grand Warden, hewed and hacked their beauties into the *dissecta membra* which we now adopt. A system so inferior in diction, research, pathos, sublimity, and every essential of scholarly reading that they are, to Preston's classical knowledge, as the untutored outpourings of an uneducated boor. Though not generally accessible to the Craft at large, Preston's Lectures are yet preserved in their original integrity, and a brother is or ought to be annually appointed, by the Grand Master, to deliver one of them; but the Craft, as a body, appear to care little about them, and only a small number assemble, out of curiosity, rather than from a desire of knowledge, to hear them. One of the reasons that rendered the Prestonian system so valuable was, that it presented a really philosophical system of Freemasonry for lodge instruction, such as no other had so copiously offered, or which the present contemptible hotch-potch can ever attain to. The commencement of the public delivery of the Preston lectures must, in effect, have been like the bursting forth

of the sun from the midst of midnight darkness. There was no twilight to warn the sluggish fraternity of the light that was about to shine; but at once, without preparation, without any graduated progress from semi-barbarity to classical eloquence, the Prestonian lectures were given to the Craft in all their fulness of illustration and richness of symbolism, as a substitute for the meagre and unmeaning system that had previously existed. Lord Byron is said to have remarked that he awoke one morning and found himself famous; and Freemasonry, too, might equally have said that on the day when Preston propounded his system, she had awakened from the sleep of centuries to find herself a science. Not that Freemasonry had not always been a science—that it had not been recognised in the so-called, but very erroneously so-called, dark ages, “the gay science,” of which poets, priests, troubadours, and minstrels sung and guarded with a care which, to us, is wonderful,—but that for centuries it had been dormant and in abeyance. From 1717 the Craft had been engaged in something less profitable, but more congenial, than the pursuit of Masonic knowledge. The pleasant suppers, the bowls of punch, the trollying ditties, the miserable puns, which would have provoked the ire of Johnson beyond anything that Boswell has recorded, left no time for inquiring into the mere philosophy of Freemasonry. *The Revelations of a Square*, by Bro. the Rev. Dr. Oliver, tells a tale which, while reflecting credit on the hearts, does anything but credit to the heads of the Freemasons of that time. The sociability and congeniality, the eating and drinking, were quite respectable, but the puns were execrable. The same work also furnishes abundant evidence of the low state of Masonic literature in those days; and, if negative proof is needed on this point, it will be found in the entire absence of any scientific book on Freemasonry until the appearance of Hutchinson’s and Preston’s works. The lectures of the latter were, therefore, undoubtedly, the inauguration of a new era in the esoteric system of Freemasonry. Preston’s lectures continued for nearly half a century to be the authoritative text of the Order, but in 1813 the first act of the United Grand Lodge was to “revise” the system of lectures, and from this source has sprung the twaddle of that bugbear, *par excellence*, the Emulation Lodge of Instruction, founded upon the rare accomplishments and extensive learning of Peter Gilkes, whose innovations were as numerous as his diction was faulty; and the other species of tweedle-dee, the Stability, where they perpetuate the no less learned and involved metaphors of another Peter—Peter Thompson. We are told, and have been reminded of it for years, that the two learned preceptors of these bodies are to have power given them to assimilate their working, so that it may become the text for the Order; but it is to be hoped that, if the Grand Master and Grand Lodge ever sanction such an absurdity, they will certainly have the proposed alterations submitted to a few men of education, who can write and speak their mother tongue with propriety, if not grammatically. “A Young Provincial Brother” may rest assured that Preston’s lectures contain more truth in one section, more real knowledge, more reverence, more philosophy, more unmingled good of all kinds and less evil, than the whole of the Emulation or Stability systems put together. It is to Preston, and to him only, that we owe the debt of having any lectures at the present time, mangled, distorted, and vulgarised though they have been by those without a scintilla of his genius.]

ROB. MORRIS ON THE ANCIENT CHARGES.

The exhibit of Masonic doctrines, styled “The Masonic Charges,” and first published in 1723, under the auspices of Payne, Desaguliers, and Anderson, constituted the only code of Masonic law deserving the name universal. They cannot be too carefully studied, or too implicitly obeyed. By how much the various lodges, grand and subordinate around the globe, have been guided by their

dictates, by so much they have performed work which will stand the ravages of time. For comprehensiveness of detail, purity of language, and earnestness of purpose, these Charges are a model worthy the attention of the most learned. The Ancient Charges are divided methodically into six general heads or chapters. The first, which treats of “God and Religion,” establishes the Masonic duty of morality, and shows why an atheist or irreligious libertine cannot be a Mason. The religion of the institution is defined as “goodness and truth,” a code in which it is said “all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves.” This religion is declared to be the centre of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. The second chapter comprises the subject of “the Civil Magistrate, Supreme and Subordinate,” and as the first treated of the religion, so this describes the politics of Masonry. In it the Mason is enjoined to be a peaceable subject to the civil powers wherever he resides or works, to avoid plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, and to be subservient to inferior magistrates. It declares that Masonry has always been injured by war, bloodshed, and confusion, and that its nature is so essentially peaceable that ancient kings and princes were known to encourage the Craftsmen, and promote the honour of the fraternity. Such freedom of political opinion is accorded, that brethren engaged in rebellion must not be expelled from the lodge on that account. The third chapter defines the subject “Of Lodges.” Here we learn that the term lodge refers both to the place and the assembly, that every brother ought to belong to one, and submit to its by-laws, as well as the regulations of Grand Lodge; and that a correct knowledge of a lodge is best acquired through attendance. Reference is made to an ancient rule which inflicted a severe censure upon any member who absented himself from its meetings without good cause. The members of a lodge are described as “good and true men, free born, of mature and discreet age, no bondmen, no women, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good report.” The fourth chapter establishes the relationship between the various grades of Masonry, official and affiliated, from the Grand Master to the Apprentice. All official preferment, it is enjoined, must be based upon real worth and personal merit only. Apprentices should only be received in a lodge where there is sufficient employment for them, and they must be men without maim or physical defect, and born of honest parentage, so that in their turns they may pass through the various degrees and official grades, even to that of Grand Master. Only Fellow Crafts, it is ordered, can be Wardens, only Wardens can be elected Masters, and only Masters be made Grand Masters, who, in addition to the qualification of grade, must be noblemen, or gentlemen of high degree, or eminent scholars, architects, or artists of singular great merit in the estimation of the lodges. A Deputy is allowed the Grand Master, to be the subject of his own choice, who like himself, must be a Past Master, and who may act as Grand Master in his absence. Obedience to these officers, each in his own degree, is strictly enjoined, and this to be manifested “with all humility, reverence, love, and alacrity.”—Ex. Ex.

THE DUTY OF FREEMASONS IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

One of the American journals, lately received, whilst speaking on electioneering matters, says a writer on the duty of Masons in political affairs thus offers his advice to the Craft. As, with us, we never interfere in such matters, it may be worth inserting to show one of the features of Masonic teaching in the States.—Ex. Ex.—“This is a year of unusual political excitement. Our whole country seems to be convulsed from the centre to the circumference. Questions of policy are agitated that seem to tend directly, and speedily, to a dissolution of the fairest fabric ever erected to civil and religious liberty;

the Constitution and laws are frequently set at defiance, and trampled under foot; parties are being formed of every political cast, and our country filled with secret political and benevolent societies. Demagogues, through religious fanaticism, are endeavouring to elevate themselves to honour and distinction, by the agitation of questions that should rarely ever be discussed; expecting to ride upon the whirlwind, and guide the storm that will place them in a position they are frequently poorly qualified to fill. The great trouble will be, that the storm may not only carry them, but also the innocent, into civil war, bloodshed, anarchy, and confusion. It will be well, for a few moments, to look at the great mission of Masonry, and learn our duty. Masonry requires of its devotees, "that they be peaceable and quiet subjects of the country in which they reside, never to be concerned in plots or conspiracies against the government, but to conform cheerfully to its laws." They are, also, "bound by their tenure to obey the moral law." Where, then, is the Mason that will disregard those wholesome tenets of our institution? Where is the Mason that will suffer himself to be drawn into those angry discussions, that may cause his blood to mingle with that of his brother? Where is the Mason who will so far disregard the great moral taught him, from the use of one of the greater lights of Masonry, first presented to his vision in a Masonic lodge, as to let his passions or prejudices betray him beyond due bounds? If we have any such within our jurisdiction, let me say to my brother, reflect, come back, and place your feet firmly upon a basis that "makes all men honourable who conform to its precepts." The great mania for secret societies, if indulged in by Masons, must work an injury to its fraternity. "History attests how often Masonry was caused to bleed from its supposed connection with secret political, as also from secret benevolent, or ecclesiastical organisations. Itself being a secret society, having obligations immutable, would it not be wise for its members to reflect, seriously, before affiliating with any other secret institution, whether his duties might not conflict? As Masonry is unlike every other organisation upon earth, its philanthropy and benevolence extend to all free intelligent beings around the globe, its members bound together by an 'indissoluble claim of sincere affection,' while all other secret societies, aiming at other objects, are necessarily local, of small bounds, and short duration. Have we a member, whose heart is so expanded, even by benevolence, that Masonry is too narrow a channel to be the dispenser of his blessings? Look at our widows and orphans, yet unprovided for, and the answer is at hand. If our glorious confederacy, under which we have flourished, be threatened with dissolution, war, anarchy, and confusion, let Masons but do their duty, and all the powers of earth, together with all the machinations of evil and wicked men, cannot cause this noble edifice to shake. Look what a bond of union, extending from Maine to Florida, from Massachusetts to Oregon, all bound by their tenure to obey the moral law, and to be obedient subjects to the constitution and laws of the land. Where is the Mason who does not regard the perpetuity of our union as a paramount question; who does not regard the constitution and laws the highest authority; and who would not shed his blood, if necessary, to sustain and uphold them? These things being true, who doubts the perpetuity of our government? Is there a Mason bailing from the land of the Puritans, who so far forgets his duty as to set law at defiance, and attempt to propagate his political opinion contrary to law, although advised to that course by the degenerate son, desecrating the sacred duty of those Puritan fathers? Is there a Mason, hailing from the sunny South, proverbial for honour, generosity, and benevolence, who is willing to sacrifice this temple of freedom upon the altar of ambition? No! Rather let all Masons, who enter upon the political arena, carry emblazoned upon their banner the wreath of lily work, speaking peace; and the

emblem of right hands joined, denoting fidelity to our common country. Let us not, my brethren, indulge in harsh epithets towards each other; although we may be found connected with all political parties, let our truly Masonic virtues never be lost sight of; 'let no motive cause us to swerve from our duty, violate our vows, or betray our trust.'"

A HINT TO A LODGE NEAR GREAT QUEEN STREET.

The Grand Master of Rhode Island, M.W. Jervis J. Smith, in his address to the Grand Lodge in May last, speaking of his official position, says: "It has given me a deep insight into the true condition of our Order. Outwardly, it presents a flattering picture; but, on close inspection, many painful truths are to be found. The extreme anxiety to hold official stations in our lodges, the spirit of progress, as it is called, and the extreme anxiety to have a large membership, regardless of the material, create more dissensions, strife and bitterness in our lodge-rooms than all else."—ONE NOT YET EXCLUDED.

ALLUSIONS TO THE FIVE POINTS.

There are five points in Freemasonry, well known to every Master Mason. Besides what we learn from the lectures on these subjects, can any one give me a few standard allusions which might be used at a Masonic Debating Society?—VICE-CHAIRMAN.—[Being happy to find that there is a Masonic Debating Society, we gladly furnish, as our quota, some hints towards the allusions inquired for. Take, for example, the lesson of the king on his throne, and the humble artisan at his toil, and realise the fellowship that existed between the Monarch of Israel and the builder of the Temple. So also the passage from Isaiah,—“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth glad tidings, that publisheth peace.” Job’s exclamation, “Oh that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour.” Lord Bacon wisely and quaintly, says:—“You may take sarza to open the liver; prepared steel to open the spleen; flowers of sulphur for the lungs; castor for the brain; but there is no opening medicines found for the obstructions of the heart, besides a faithful friend to whom you may impart griefs, joys, fears, hopes, suspicions, cares, counsels, and, in short, whatever lies upon the heart, as it were, of a civil confession.” Horace also tells us:—

“* * * Absentem qui redit amicum

Qui non defendit alio culpante—

— hic niger est; hunc tu Romane caveto.”

And, for the last, let us offer the words of Theognis the Grecian, in an English dress:—

“I care not for a friend that at my board
Talks pleasantly; the friend that will afford
Faithful assistance with his purse and sword
In need or danger; let that friend be mine
Fit for a bold and resolute design.”

All these are concisely summed up in a comprehensive whole by one of the grand patrons of Freemasonry, St. John the Evangelist, who thus addressed his disciples,—“Little children, love one another.”]

A NOVELTY.—One of the most recent novelties is the introduction of machinery to brush peoples’ hair. An apparatus of this description is recently fixed at the establishment of Honey and Skelton’s, Fleet-street, known as the Cardinal’s Palace. The machinery is exceedingly simple, but most effective: a spindle shaft stretches right across the saloon, near to the ceiling; wheels are fixed at convenient distances, from which descend india rubber bands; into these small hand spindles are inserted, which immediately revolve with the part containing a circular brush, whilst the two handles are held, one in each hand, by the operator, who, by means of the loose band and loose handles, is able to guide the brush in any direction, not making it so imperative that those operated upon should remain so entirely still as was necessary under the old system; in fact, one may read with convenience whilst the operation is going on. The sensation is extremely pleasant, and the work most effectually accomplished.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MASONIC POLEMICS IN INDIA.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—It is with great reluctance I have to apprise the Masons of England, through your valuable MAGAZINE, of the recent Masonic doings of our Provincial Grand Lodge of Bengal.

As you will doubtless have seen the proceedings of the Provincial Grand Lodge, as reported in the *Indian Freemasons' Friend*, concocted by Bro. Hoff, Prov. G. Sec., you will easily gather the cause of our unhappy dispute, which has already caused a division in our ancient Order in Bengal. No further, I am glad to say; for the Provincial Grand Masters of Madras and Bombay have never questioned the correctness or otherwise of our landmarks; but, in Calcutta, our well-to-do brethren have decided that "no Asiatic or Mahomedan can be admitted into the Craft without the permission of the Provincial Grand Master." This, too, in the face of our late Royal Master's decision, as published in 1843. (See *Freemasons' Quarterly Review* for that year.) The *Indian Freemasons' Friend*, for September and October last, clearly admits the fact of the Duke of Sussex's decision, and other high Masons, in favour of the Asiatics; but all to no purpose here in Bengal. W. Bro. Sandemann and others, on social grounds, would keep out the very men from whom we borrow our science, &c. This, too, after hundreds of Mahomedans, Persians, and others have been initiated, passed, and raised, some of them by the hand of our Provincial Grand Master. He would rob our lodges of their inherent rights of admitting candidates. He would deprive us of our antient usages. He deliberately breaks the laws, and, worse still, encourages others to do the same. Instead of guiding, he wishes to misguide, and punishes those who endeavour to go right, by suspension, &c.

The late fracas at Cawnpore is the topic of the day—discussed in all the papers, ridiculed by non-Masons as well as Masons. Vide accompanying extracts from *Bengal Hurkaru* and *Delhi Gazette*.

The Worshipful Master of Lodge Harmony (No. 438), it will be observed, applied for dispensation to initiate Prince Said-oo-Dowlah, the son of a Royal Arch Mason, and member of Lodge Harmony, Prince Moomtaz-oo-Dowlah (son of the late King of Oude), who was highly recommended by several old Past Masters, balloted, and approved of by Harmony. The Provincial Grand Master, who through some whim or other, would not give, nor would he refuse his consent, informed the Worshipful Master of Lodge Harmony that he was satisfied with his recommendation, but would consider on the candidate's eligibility, &c. The Worshipful Master, by the advice of several old Past Masters, initiated the Prince, placed his lodge in abeyance, and referred the whole proceedings to the Grand Lodge of England. Our Provincial Grand Master having been informed of the circumstances, hastened up to Cawnpore, demanded the warrant and books of Harmony, and in a common Mahomedan hotel, with open doors (brandy bottles and glasses on table), lectured the Worshipful Master on his want of Masonic knowledge; and although he acknowledged W. Bro. Jordan's Lodge (Harmony) to be in abeyance, pending decision of Grand Lodge (consequently the Worshipful Master was not subject to his authority), pronounced the Worshipful Master's suspension. Suspension for acting up to the landmarks, the Constitutions of the Order! This, too, after W. Bro. Jordan's pointing out paragraph 11, "Antient Charges," and paragraph 2, page 77, "Constitutions."

Here is a beautiful illustration of Indian Masonry—Freemasonry! But mark, brethren, our Provincial Grand Master, not satisfied with his rude and arbitrary

proceeding at Noor Mahomee's hotel, with open doors, &c., but away he dashed to the lodge, found the doors fastened, and, without asking for the keys, smashed the locks and enters the lodge; but the warrant which he was evidently in search of was not to be seen. The editors of native newspapers, no doubt, edify their Hindoo and Mahomedan countrymen with accounts of our grand *universality*, kind fraternal feelings, &c. The Masonic world will feel highly grateful to Bro. Sandemann for this un-Masonic display of power and conduct. The Grand Lodge will, however, bring our Provincial Grand Master to a sense of his duty (although our Provincial Grand Master says his lodge is equal, in every respect, to the Grand Lodge of England, *ergo* he is equal to our Grand Master); however, on *this* subject, more hereafter.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

VERITAS.

Cawnpore, 7th November, 1863.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DELHI GAZETTE.

"SIR,—Your Lucknow correspondent in the last issue of the *Delhi Gazette* has made a little too free in his uncalled-for remarks regarding the Freemason lodge of this station. That a good Freemason—one whose position and experience in the Craft entitles him to a little consideration—has been suspended from his Masonic privileges is, I regret to say, too true; but that any serious consequence can possibly follow to him or the Lodge of Cawnpore is very unlikely. The Master, Officers, and members of Lodge Harmony, Cawnpore, are I trust, too well acquainted with Masonic jurisprudence to leave themselves open to censure, &c., at the hand of the Provincial Grand Master of this province. On the contrary, the latter has made a mistake or two in his recent acts which will have to be explained to his and our superior the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of English Masons. The mistakes to which I allude have already been brought to notice by the Master of Lodge Harmony, and I may further add the latter has closed his lodge pending the decision of the Grand Master of England.

"I would further observe, for the information of your Lucknow correspondent and others, that the chief cause of complaint against the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bengal, is a new law made without the knowledge or consent of the Mofussil Lodge—in direct violation of the "Constitutions" and the ancient "landmarks" of the Order, and which no honourable body of men will submit to without proper inquiries on the subject, or at least until the law is passed by the Grand Lodge of England, by whom alone such a law can be made.

"The obnoxious law complained is fifty-five of the new by-laws of Provincial Grand Lodge—passed by that body in June, promulgated in July (with the sanction of the Grand Lodge), wherein it is stated that no "Mahomedan or other Asiatic shall be initiated in any lodge, without the previous sanction of the Provincial Grand Master," &c. Who ever heard of such an absurd law? Here we have been making Asiatics for centuries, many of them actually have become Masters, and ruled large bodies of Masons with great credit, as, for example, "Rising Star," Bombay, with a Parsee Master (Judge Monokjee Cursetjee), another first-class lodge in China, splendidly worked by a Parsee Master. All over the world Eurasians and other coloured Masons have enjoyed Masonic privileges, but never simply for their creed or colour. The Asiatic is insulted—their friends and relatives, equally hurt, have to beg for admission into an Order professing *universality*. Hitherto men of every colour and creed, so long as they have a good name for morality, &c., were eligible for admission. Not so in Bengal, our worthy ruler would keep out the poor Asiatic—no matter what his character may be—no matter what

service he has done the state, he may be talented, good, or what is more, the son of a Mason (as was the case in the Cawnpore Lodge last month), he must be degraded, he must creep into the Craft by the permission of the Provincial Grand Master.

"Old Brethren, Masters of Lodges, will see the insult offered them by this beautiful bye-law. The Asiatic may be the son of a Mason (thereby entitled to be made a Mason before any other, be he prince or peasant); he may possess all the requisite qualifications for a Mason; he may be accepted by his father's lodge; be recommended by several old Past Masters; honoured by the great, respected by the Masons and non-Masons of his country—bah! it avails him nothing; without the sanction of one man he must go away; no admission for the Asiatic.

"The new law would throw aside the recommendation of all; the 'ballot-box,' the great test, which stands between the Mason's lodge and the uninitiated world, is disregarded; only let the Provincial Grand Master say 'Yes' (even though he is a thousand miles away, and consequently knows nothing of the candidate, or those recommending him), and all is correct.

"The picture just drawn is not a bit exaggerated, 'tis too true, as a similar case has only been experienced at this station last month; and my only feat now is that some such attempt will be made by and bye to keep out the poor man. Who can tell. I can only say, Masons, beware—GUARD YOUR LANDMARKS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BENGAL HURKARU.

"SIR,—Your observations on the doings, &c., of Freemasons in this province is, I regret to say, too true. The *Indian Freemasons' Friend* for October contains many unpleasant truths on our present working.

"Our principles do not appear to be understood, or at least but poorly practised, by brethren from whom we look for better. Hard, indeed, is the remark of the editor of the *Indian Freemasons' Friend*, in his report of last Provincial Grand Lodge's proceedings, wherein he states (like a good faithful Secretary in support of his Master), applause was given by the brethren present. When the Provincial Grand Master threatened to suspend the Cawnpore brethren if they continued or persisted in contumacy—can it be possible that the old Past Masters and other first-class legislators of the Craft applauded the Provincial Grand Master's threat? No; I confidently deny that these honourable brethren applauded on such an unfortunate occasion. A few young Masons may have forgotten themselves, and in their zeal to support (right or wrong) a favourite chief evinced their ill-timed pleasure at the expense of their distant brethren. Applause? Pity, sorrow for their offending brethren would, I think, be more opportune. Where, I ask, were their Masonic sympathies, their promised forbearance towards an erring brother?—forgotten, I blush to say, when they should have remembered the poor erring brethren most. In what part of the Masonic Hall, may I ask, was that gem of our Masonic profession—charity? Echo answers, Where? I, your humble servant, know not.

"Allowing the Cawnpore brethren were acting wrong—that they were guilty of contumacy—would it not be more charitable, i.e., Masonic in the Provincial Grand Master, to have waited for the final report from the Cawnpore Lodge, before he threatened suspension. Surely Bro. Hoff might allow his Master's threat to pass without uniting applause to support that threat.

"Being acquainted with the particulars of the act of insubordination complained of by the Provincial Grand Master, permit me to observe that the Cawnpore brethren appear to have acted throughout in accordance with the acknowledged practices of the Craft; and unless the

Constitutions have been lately altered, I think their view of the landmarks are correct, and will be borne out by the opinion of greater and older heads than Right Worshipful Bro. Sandemann's. The case is that of a Mason's son, a Mahomedan Prince, Saedoodowlah, having been initiated without dispensation! But the best of it is, dispensation was requested—proofs of candidate's character, &c., given. The candidate was balloted and approved of by the Cawnpore Lodge, with the full recommendation of candidate's father (Prince Moomtazoodowlah) and several old Past Masters, who knew the candidate thoroughly. Would you believe it, in face of these many strong recommendations, the Provincial Grand Master would not give his consent to the initiation, nor would he refuse it; kept the Cawnpore brethren and the candidate on and off, for more than a month. Finally, Master, Bro. Jordan, at the earnest request of several Past Masters and others—to save the candidate the disgrace of returning to Lucknow without the degree, himself, and father, and several brethren came 50 miles to witness—initiated the son of a Mason; and to prevent such unpleasantness again occurring, has referred the matter to the Grand Lodge of England.

"Here is Masonry boasting of its 'universality,' &c., and yet after hundreds of natives have been initiated into the Craft, a new law (55) is quietly added to the Provincial Grand Lodge by-laws, barring the door to all 'Asiatics and Mahomedans.' Beautiful, isn't it. After the opinion of the late Duke of Sussex and other great Masons of experience in favour of Asiatics—here we have a new bye-law keeping out a man because of his colour and creed. Nice universality this! I am no great advocate for the admission of common Hindoos, no more than I am for the admission of any other common people; but I certainly think we cannot legally keep out good Mahomedan gentlemen (particularly after they have been accepted by a lodge) without infringing the 'Constitutions' of the Order. However, this point will soon be settled by the Grand Lodge of England, to whom the question has been submitted by the Master of the Cawnpore Lodge, who, I may observe, has closed his lodge pending the decision of the Earl of Zetland—of which more by-and-bye.

"FIDELITAS."

MASONIC CHARITIES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Referring to a former letter I had the honour of addressing to you on this subject, after noticing the remarks of W.M., I took the liberty of calling attention to the great benefit that would accrue to the Charities by levying from every member the small sum of half-a-crown yearly for each Charity—say ten shillings in all. I noticed lately that you calculate the number of members at 16,000 to 20,000—even taking the lower number, this would realise £8,000 per annum, which I venture to say would be given generally with great good will, and would not interfere with the liberal voluntary offerings which have for some time been increasing in such a satisfactory manner. I throw out the suggestion to any brother who has the ear of Grand Lodge to bring the subject before it, trusting to the support of the brethren to carry it to a successful issue.

I am, very fraternally,

Dec. 16, 1863.

P.M.

Singing oils the wheels of care and supplies the place of sunshine. A man who sings has a good heart under his shirt-front. Such a man not only works more willingly, but he works more constantly. A singing cobbler will earn as much money again as a cordwainer who gives way to low spirits and indigestion. Avaricious men never sing. The man who attacks singing throws a stone at the head of hilarity, and would, if he could, rob June of its roses and August of its meadow-lark.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—This well known and flourishing lodge held the usual monthly meeting at Bro. C. A. Cathie's, Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark, on Tuesday, December 15th. The lodge was duly opened by Bro. F. Walters, W.M., assisted by Bros. Dr. Dixon, P.M.; D. Davies, P.M. and Treas.; D. Hughes, P.M.; C. Dean, P.M.; E. N. Levy, S.W.; H. Moore, J.W.; N. Lake, J.D.; J. C. Gooddy, I.G.; G. Morris, T. Moore, Feun, Powell, Croxford, Dunyer, Hurrell, Jarvis, Loc, Cathie, and many others, opened the lodge and performed the ceremonies of the evening. Amongst a large number of visitors, no doubt done to pay a compliment to Bro. F. Walters, W.M., as they were nearly all his friends who were there, and several of them members of other lodges and chapters which he belonged to, and this being the last night before the installation, it was selected as the night to pay their respects. We noticed—Bros. W. R. Orchard, W.M. 79; H. A. Collington, P.M. 140, J.W. 871; C. H. Murr, P.M. 507; Gider, P.M. 507; J. Deal, P.M. 147, P.Z. 206; G. Wilton, W.M. 871; W. Y. Lang, S.W. 45, and many others, too numerous to mention. There was a heavy list of work on the summons, viz.—five initiations, five passings, and five raisings. The first ceremony was passing Bros. Delany and Meagher to the degree of Fellow Craft Freemasons. Ballots were taken and declared to be unanimous in favour of Messrs. Martin, Goulty, Lipscombe, Hart, and two others. Messrs. Martin, Goulty, Lipscombe, and two others were regularly initiated into Freemasonry. Bros. Turney, Moore, Chipperfield, Cooper, and Denton were raised to the sublime degree of M.M.'s. Bro. Marshall was afterwards passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. The whole of the ceremonies were rendered in the usual agreeable style for which Bro. F. Walters, W.M., is now so well known; he never having left the chair during the five hours which the lodge was open. This being election night Bro. E. N. Levy, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. Bro. D. Davies, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treas. for the ninth time. Bro. W. Aldhouse was re-elected Tyler. Bro. F. Walters, W.M., in a fluent speech, proposed that the sum of ten guineas be given to the Girls' School, and at the same time solicited some brother to come forward to represent the lodge as a Steward at the forthcoming festival in May, informing them that he had the names of no less than three brethren who had agreed to stand if no brother at that meeting volunteered. The proposition that ten guineas be given to support the Girls' School was carried unanimously. Bro. George Morris then, in a feeling speech, announced his intention of taking up the Stewardship, if agreeable to the brethren, he having only been made a Mason a few months since. He was accepted unanimously to fill the office. Bro. F. Walters, W.M., returned his sincere thanks to the brethren for the very handsome manner they had voted unanimously, on five different occasions, either ten pounds or guineas, to the Masonic Charities, during his year of office; also, in being able to say, that for the forthcoming year of 1864 he had been fortunate enough to secure three Stewards to represent the lodge at the festivals, viz., Bro. H. Levy, for the Benevolent Institution; Bro. J. C. Gooddy, for the Boys' School, and Bro. G. Morris, for the Girls' School. He thanked those three brethren for their kindness and liberality, and wished them every success. After business the brethren sat down to a superior cold collation, as the W.M. had purposely reduced the banquets during his year of office, only giving three in thirteen meeting nights, in order to be enabled to render every support and assistance to the Charities.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 147).—This old established lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford, on Wednesday, December 9th. Bro. J. A. Green, W.M., assisted by his officers, G. Bolton, P.M., Treas.; C. Davis, P.M., Sec.; J. Cavell, P.M.; J. Bavin, J.W.; J. Lightfoot, S.D.; G. Chapman, J.D.; and J. Patte, I.G. The only ceremony was one passing, which was done in an able manner. This being election night ballots were taken for W.M. and Treas. Bro. J. Hollius, P.M., S.W., was unanimously elected W.M.; Bro. G. Bolton, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treas.; Bro. S. Garrett, P.M., re-elected Tyler. Bro. W. R.

Orchard, W.M. 79, obtained leave to add the name of that lodge, in conjunction with the several lodges held in Greenwich, as one of the patrons for a concert to be held at the Greenwich Lecture-hall, in January, in aid of the funds of the Royal Kent Dispensary. Visitors:—F. Walters, W.M. 73; Sec. 871; W. R. Orchard, W.M. 79; R. Boncey, 79; Vinten, S.D. 79; G. Brown, S.W. 169, and many others.

PHENIX LODGE (No. 173).—The second meeting of this excellent lodge for the season was held on Saturday last, Bro. G. S. States, W.M., presiding, when Bro. Moore was ably raised to the third degree, and Bro. Lieut. Gough was elected a joining member. At the conclusion of business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant dinner, to which upwards of 40 sat down, including several visitors, amongst whom we observed, Bros. Matthews, P.M. 116; Winsland, P.M. 182; Blackburn, P.M. 145; H. Thompson, P.M., &c. The usual toasts were drunk and responded to in brief and appropriate speeches, whilst there was an admirable musical entertainment, supported by Bros. J. Coward, T. Distin, B. Ford, and Weeks, Miss Leffler and Miss Rose Hersee. The whole of the proceedings gave the utmost satisfaction.

PROVINCIAL.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

PRESTON.—*Royal Preston Lodge (No. 333).*—The members of this lodge met at their room, Prince Albert Hotel, Fulwood, on Friday, the 11th inst., for the purpose of installing the new Master for the ensuing twelve months. Bro. J. M'Gleuchy, P.M., P.G.S., and W.M. *pro tem.*, opened the lodge in the first degree. Entered Apprentices having retired, the lodge was opened in the second degree, when the chair was taken by Bro. J. Hamer, P.M., Prov. G.T. The W.M. elect was then presented by Bro. J. M'Gleuchy, P.M., P.G.S., and Bro. N. A. Beazley, P.M., Prov. G.S.; when the Secretary, Bro. W. Thompson, was called upon to read the charges and regulations to the W.M. elect, prior to installation, which he did, the W.M. elect acknowledging assent to each charge. A Board of Installed Masters was formed, consisting of the Installing Master, Bro. J. Hamer, P.M., Prov. G.T.; N. H. Beazley, P.M., Prov. G.S.; H. Armstrong, P.M., Prov. G. Supt. of Works; C. Carnegie, P.M.; J. M'Gleuchy, P.M., Prov. G.T., &c. The presiding officer, Bro. J. Hamer, P.M., Prov. G.T., proceeded to install Bro. Captain Fred. F. T. Hobbs, the late J.W., in the chair of K.S. Upon the re-admission of the great body of the members, Bro. J. Hamer, P.M., Prov. G.T., continued, according to ancient custom, to deliver the proper addresses, which, it is needless to say, were given in that correct, quiet, unobtrusive, and gentlemanlike way, which always characterises the performance of every Masonic duty that he undertakes. The appointment and investiture of officers followed, Bro. Capt. Fred. F. T. Hobbs, W.M., having been pleased to appoint Bros. C. Carnegie as P.M.; Capt. Percy Beale, S.W.; W. Thompson, J.W.; John M'Gleuchy (re-invested), as Treas.; Richard Connihan, Sec.; W. Lawrence, S.D.; Capt. E. L. B. Lowry, J.D.; W. Anderson, I.G.; T. Robinson, Tyler, after which the lodge was closed. The attendance of visitors on this occasion was very good, amongst whom we recognised Bros. H. Armstrong, P.M., Prov. G.S. Works, of Lodge 113; N. H. Beazley, P.M., Prov. G.S. of Lodge 343; G. T. Tully, S.W., of Lodge 314; Thomas Robinson, of Lodge 343; J. Norwood, Lodge 343; R. Robinson, Lodge 343; R. Kirby, Lodge 343; and J. Rauscher, Lodge 343. The members and visitors then proceeded to the banquet, which was served in the large room adjoining the lodge-room, by Bro. W. Sumner, in a sumptuous and elegant manner, which elicited the admiration of all visitors and members present. The cloth having been cleared, the usual Masonic and other toasts having been given and received with great applause, the health of Bro. Captain Fred. F. T. Hobbs, as W.M., was drunk with great enthusiasm, and responded to with feeling eloquence by the worthy brother. The health of Bro. J. Hamer, P.M., Prov. G.T., the installing Master, was next given by Bro. Beazley, P.M., and responded to by that brother in a very feeling manner. The next toast, by Bro. J. M'Gleuchy, P.M., was "The health and prosperity of Bro. Capt. Ball," the immediate P.M. of the lodge. Although that worthy brother was some thousands of miles away from them, still he could assure them that at their meetings his name was always appreciated—

kindness and good will towards him being always displayed. The "health of the Visitors" was then given by Bro. Capt. Beale, the S.W., who said that at all Masonic meetings nothing tended more to the prosperity of the Craft in general than to see visiting members amongst them, either at their festive boards or at work in the lodge-room; and he trusted that he might see those brethren many times, and as many brethren as could make it convenient to attend. The S.W. concluded this most pleasing subject by wishing the worthy visitors of the lodge years of happiness, and he hoped they might all meet again to enjoy each other's society in that lodge where harmony and friendship had long found an abode, and where dissension dare not raise its head; and begged to couple with that toast the name of Bro. G. Tully, S.W. 314. The toast was received with every demonstration of regard; and after the applause, consequent thereon, had subsided, Bro. Tully returned thanks in a short but pleasing address, assuring the brethren present that he should ever esteem it a proud privilege to promote at all times the interest of Freemasonry; and whilst he retained the affections of his brethren he should ever experience the greatest happiness in promoting that love and harmony which are so essential to the welfare of the great and glorious institution of which he had the honour of being a member, and concluded by wishing every prosperity to the Royal Preston Lodge (No. 333). "The health of Bro. C. Carnegie, P.M.," was then proposed by the W.M., and received by the brethren with great enthusiasm. Bro. Carnegie, P.M., assured the brethren he was taken by surprise at being called upon to address them, though he had pleasure in thanking them from the bottom of his heart, for the manner in which they had drunk his health, and the W.M. for the kindness with which he had proposed it. He would ever do his best to support the Order to which he was proud to belong, and in the prosperity of which he took the deepest interest. Bro. C. Carnegie, P.M., then proposed "The health of the newly appointed Officers," remarking upon the choice made that day by the W.M. He said he felt quite certain those brothers would assist the W.M. in the discharge of the very important office they had that day been appointed to. The toast was received with great cheers by the members present, and responded to by Bro. Capt. Beale, S.W., who said he hoped that, at the end of their time of office, the members of the lodge would have no cause to be displeased with any officer of the lodge. Bro. N. H. Beazley, P.M., P.G.S., said that much credit was due to Bro. J. M'Gleuchy, M.P., P.G.S., for the able manner in which he had conducted the business of the lodge during the absence of Bro. Captain Ball, W.M., and also for his willingness to impart instruction to every brother who felt his need of it. In fact the present prosperous condition of the lodge was mainly due to his unflagging exertions. He then proposed "The health of Bro. M'Gleuchy," which was enthusiastically received. Bro. J. M'Gleuchy, P.M., P.G.S., in returning thanks, said that his talents had been rated higher than they deserved, but that they were at the service of the lodge, and he was always proud when it was in his power to promote the welfare of the lodge, and of the noble Order to which they had the honour to belong. Bro. Lieut. J. W. Westby, proposed "The health of Bro. Capt. E. L. B. Lowry," who had that evening been appointed by the W.M. as S.D. in the lodge, which was likewise enthusiastically received. Bro. Capt. E. L. B. Lowry, S.D., in responding, thanked Bro. Lieut. J. Westby for the unexpected compliment he had just paid him, and likewise the brethren present for the handsome manner in which they had received it, and stated that he was deeply impressed with the beauties of Masonry, and trusted, during the year of his appointment, that nothing should be wanting on his part to promote the interest of Lodge No. 333, and the welfare of the Craft in general. Bro. J. M'Gleuchy, P.M., P.G.S., then gave "The Health of the Host and Hostess," which was responded to by Bro. William Summer. The health of "Our visiting Brother, Jasper Norwood," was then proposed by the W.M., who dwelt at great length on the qualities of Freemasonry possessed by that brother, and in conclusion thanked the worthy brother for the very able and efficient manner in which he had that evening contributed by presiding at the harmonium. The toast was received with great demonstration of regard, when Bro. Norwood returned thanks to the W.M. and brethren present with much feeling. After the enjoyment of many able songs (to which Bro. Capt. E. L. B. Lowry, S.D., very materially contributed), the lodge closed at the hour of high twelve. The last toast of the evening was given by Bro. Capt. Beale, S.W.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

LINCOLN.—*Willam Lodge* (No. 297).—The regular monthly meeting of the members of this lodge took place on the evening of the 10th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Grantham-street; present, Bros. G. Brown, W.M.; W. Dawber, S.W.; W. R. Barker, J.W.; W. T. Frost, J.D.; H. Gadsby, I.G., &c. The minutes of the previous lodge having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for W.M. for the ensuing year. Several brethren had been nominated, but most of them withdrew their names, and Bro. John Norton was unanimously elected, and returned thanks. The election of the following officers was then made:—Bros. R. M. Pratt, re-appointed Treas.; G. Brown, Treas. of the Honorary Fee Fund; W. Mountain, Sec.; C. Mann, Tyler; H. Cotton, Steward, and Messrs. W. T. Frost, and T. Heffernan, Auditors. The desirability of altering the night of meeting was then considered, and ultimately it was resolved to change it from the second Thursday in the month, to the second Monday. A committee was also formed for the purpose of making the requisite arrangements for a Masonic ball, to come off early in the ensuing year. The lodge was then closed, after which the brethren passed a couple of hours in social enjoyment.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NORTH SHIELDS.—*St. George's Lodge* (No. 431, late 624).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, on Monday, the 7th inst., Bro. H. C. Hansen, the W.M., Prov. J.G.D. for Northumberland, presiding, supported by his officers, and about sixty members and visitors. The business consisted of an initiation, a passing, and the election of W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler for the ensuing year. The passing of the candidate was ably performed by the W.M., who has initiated, passed, and raised a considerable number of brethren during the past year; and the candidate for initiation was regularly initiated into Freemasonry, in a very impressive manner by the S.W., at the request of the W.M. Bro. J. P. Simpson, S.W., was unanimously elected to the chair of W.M., Bro. W. Fenwick, re-elected as Treasurer, and Bro. J. Evans was re-elected Tyler for the ensuing year, after which the lodge was closed in due form. Amongst the members and visitors present were—Bros. John G. Tulloch, P.M., Prov. J.G.W.; W. Twizell, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.W.; R. B. Ridley (Mayor of South Shields), P.M., 240, and P. Prov. J.G.W. Durham; G. Thompson, P.M. 481; T. Miller, jun., W.M. Borough Lodge (No. 424); P. S. Gilles, P.M. 424; T. Smith, S.W. 424; James Roddam, P.M. 140; W. Wright, S.W. (W.M. elect), of St. Hilda's Lodge (No. 240), South Shields, together with a goodly number of his brethren.

WILLINGTON QUAY.—*Tyne Lodge* (No. 991).—A warrant of constitution for a new lodge in this thriving locality having been granted by the Grand Master, a dispensation has been granted by the Provincial Grand Master to enable the brethren to meet and transact business, pending the consecration, which will take place in January next. In accordance with such dispensation, a meeting was held at the Star Inn, Willington Quay, on Thursday, the 10th inst., which was presided over by the W.M. designate, Bro. W. Twizell, P.M. 431, and P. Prov. J.G.W., assisted by the S.W., and Robt. Craggs, as J.W., the other offices being filled by the other petitioners and intending members. Two gentlemen were regularly initiated into Freemasonry by the W.M., and a considerable number were proposed for joining and initiation at the next meeting, after which the lodge was duly closed. Amongst the visitors were—Bros. G. Tulloch, P.M. 431, Prov. J.G.W.; H. C. Hansen, W.M. 431, Prov. J.G.D., and several brethren from North Shields.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

BRADFORD.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 600).—On Friday, the 11th inst., the brethren of this lodge celebrated their 8th annual soiree and ball in the rooms of the Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford, under the presidency of their W.M., Bro. Burnley. The lodge rooms were tastefully and elegantly decorated for the occasion, and dancing commenced at eight o'clock to the strains of a quadrille band. The brethren appeared in Craft clothing, having obtained a dispensation for the purpose from the D. Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire, and before nine the room was filled with a goodly number of the brethren and their fair sisters, intent on the pleasures of the dance. Tea and coffee were served in the refreshment room, and at eleven

the whole of the company sat down to a cold collation, including the rarities and dainties of the season. The health of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen was proposed and duly honoured, and also that of the ladies. Dancing was resumed and kept up with great spirit until two in the morning, when the company separated, highly delighted with their evening's enjoyment. The brethren were honoured on the occasion with the presence of Bro. M. Rhodes, W.M., and Bro. H. O. Mawson, P.M., of the Lodge of Hope.—On Monday evening last, before the decorations were removed, the W.M. allowed the use of the rooms for a juvenile party, consisting of the children of the married brethren, who were invited by the W.M.'s lady. The young folks, after partaking of tea, enjoyed themselves thoroughly for several hours with dancing and various juvenile games, under the superintendence of several of the brethren and their ladies.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

GRAND CONCLAVE.

On Friday, the 11th of the present month, the Grand Conclave of the Royal, Exalted, Religious, and Military Order of Masonic Knights Templar, Knights Hospitallers of S. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, held its bi-annual meeting at the New Hall of "The Masonic Union Company" (Limited), No. 14, Bedford-row.

Before entering upon the business of the day, some few succinct remarks on the building and the objects of the promoters of the company, may not be deemed out of place here.

The house, situated on the East side of Bedford-row, is that which, for many years, was the residence of the late John Abernethy, and Thomas Hood described it as "You will be sure to know it, by the two blue pill—ars at the door." It is a fine old roomy mansion, and has been leased to "The Masonic Union Company," in accordance with the invariable custom observed on the Doughty estate, for twenty-one years. The company is a "limited" one, under the provisions of what is known as the Companies' Act, and has been duly registered, and every stipulation required by the act having been strictly complied with. The capital is fixed at £5000, in 1000 shares of £5 each, more than one-half of which have already been applied for; and it is not contemplated to call up the whole of the capital. Part of the plan is to organise a club, in connection with the company, to be confined to Freemasons only, the subscription proposed being two guineas for London brethren, and one guinea per annum for country brethren. It is confidently expected by the promoters that the whole, or major part of the Chapters, Encampments, and Lodges, attached to the various Orders and degrees meeting in the metropolis, separate from the Grand Lodge, will avail themselves of the accommodation so long demanded, and now, at length, supplied by "The Masonic Union Company," although a threat has been held forth "that all those who take any part whatever in the scheme, are to be excommunicated from Craft Freemasonry," a proceeding adding insult to injury, when it will be in the remembrance of every one that those who ignominiously drove the brethren forth to seek a home on the wide wide world, now that it has been effected, threaten them with the pains and penalties of being treated as schismatics, because they have been able to help themselves to the accommodation denied them on their own property. The patrons of the undertaking are Sir Knt. W. Stuart, M.E. and S.G.M., K.T.; Colonel Vernon, V.H. and E.D.G.M., K.T.; Lieut.-Colonel Henry Clerk, S.G.I.G. xxxiii°; Viscount Holmesdale, M.P.; and Lord Lonsborough. The Provisional Directors, Sir Knts. J. H. Law, D. H. Stone, Capt. Boyle, 30°; W. J. Meymott, John Smith, E. S. Stillwell, and Philip Hathaway, Esq. The Architect, Sir Knt. W. H. Spratt;

Honorary Solicitor, Sir Knt. W. J. Meymott; and Secretary, Sir Knt. Frederick Binckes, 18°.

The lower portion of the house, or that part of it occupied by "The Masonic Union Company," comprises kitchens and cellarage of ample accommodation, with all the requisite appliances for a perfect cuisine; and the management of this department has been entrusted to an experienced caterer, so that the festive board is not likely to be inferior to any establishment, however celebrated for its perfection.

The club-room, on the ground floor, looks out into Bedford-row: it is an elegantly furnished and handsomely decorated room with a bronze chandelier, which originally cost one hundred pounds. From this there is a door leading to the board room, furnished *en suite*; and from this latter there is a small room, which can be used as a private one for the Grand Master or head of the rite meeting there, and opening into the larger ante-room. But, coming out of the club-room, and passing the door of the board-room, in the passage from the entrance hall there is a waiting room for persons who may have business there without being Freemasons. The Grand Vice-Chancellor and the Secretary have an office at the end of the waiting room. Passing by this latter room is the vestibule, with three steps; and over the arch are two stained glass windows with figures, inscribed, *Sanctus Lodovicus* and *Sanctus Georgius*. On the right of the landing are lavatories and other conveniences. Descending four steps more there is an ante-chamber to the hall, which can be divided, if too large, into two rooms, one small, the other large, with separate entrances to the hall in the north-west and south-west. These ante-rooms are commodious, well lighted, and ventilated, and will make a very convenient lodge and dining-room when the hall is not required. The hall itself, which, with the ante-rooms, have been built by the company, is situated due east and west. Its dimensions are 50 feet in length, 34 in breadth, and 25 in height. It is lit from the roof, which has an elliptic ceiling divided into 25 panels, or compartments, and three brass stars for gas depend from it, on either side. There is a raised dais, of one step, on the east, north, and south sides, and in the east is the throne, on three steps, with a circular sweep in front, the throne being a Masonic carved solid oak set of three stalls—the centre of which was occupied by the Grand Master, having, in that on his right, the D.G.M., and on the left, the G. Prelate, as his supporters, on the opening day. Up to the angle of the wall are five stalls (the canopies of all but one, which was to show the effect are ready, but were not fixed), and down either side to the west end are twenty-one more. In the west is a musicians' gallery, very handsomely fronted with oak. The decorations, at present finished, are an allegorical painting, in one of the centre compartments of the ceiling. In the panel over the throne are the arms of the M.E. and S.G.M.; on the right, lower down, those of the Duke of Sussex; and on the left those of Colonel Tynte (both G.M.'s of the Order); while at the west end are those of Colonel Vernon, D.G.M., these four forming the extreme ends of the limbs of a passion cross. There are five stained glass windows: the one over the throne has the Knights Templar arms, with the triple cross of Salem, and at the foot the two Templars on one horse and the star of the Order of Malta. That on the left of the throne, looking from the west, is the double-headed eagle of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, with its mottoes. The other on the right is the Mark jewel, with its legend. Over the throne, and under the canopy, there is a transparency of the triple cross of Salem. At the west end, over the north door, the two Knights Templar on one horse is repeated, and above the south door is a Templar's shield and banners. Round

the string course from which the roof springs there are six sets of illuminated mottoes on each side, and commencing from the west they read thus:—

NORTH.
Audi, vide, tace.
Be just, and fear not.
The earth is the Lord's, and
the fulness thereof.
All glory be to God alone.
Finem Respice.

SOUTH.
Via Crucis via Lucis.
God is our hope and strength.
In Thee, O Lord, do we put
our trust.
Brotherly love, relief, and
truth.
Faith, hope, and charity.

The hall was profusely decorated with flags and banners of the Order, those of various encampments, individual Sir Knts., &c., besides figures, shields, and armour of various kinds, the whole producing an *ensemble* but rarely witnessed; and when it is remembered that the first meeting to consider the propriety of founding such a home was only summoned after the meeting of Grand Conclave in May last, and after all hope of being accommodated in the new Freemasons' Hall was definitely and most reluctantly abandoned—every one must admit that the greatest credit is due to Sir Knt. Spratt, the architect, the committee, and all engaged in the work, for the energy and ability they have displayed in bringing the project so speedily and satisfactorily to a successful issue.

Three o'clock was the hour at which Grand Conclave was to have been opened, according to the summons, but this was changed to half-past three; and despite all the struggles of Sir Knt. Meymott, the G. Dir. of Cers., who worked as few work even when they are to be highly remunerated, the besetting vice of Freemasons, a want of punctuality, was displayed again. But as even goodnatured Sir Knts. can wax impatient, the G. Dir. of Cers. did, by coaxing, threatening, running after, and entreating, get them into order by a quarter-past four, and the procession was marshalled, and received the M.E. and S.G.M. and his Grand Officers in Templar form, and with loud applause.

The following Sir Knts., Grand Officers, were present;—M.E. and S.G.M., William Stuart; the V. H. and E. D.G.M., Colonel George A. Vernon; the V. E. Prov. G. Coms., the Rev. John Huyshe, for Devon and Cornwall; Colonel H. A. Bowyer, for Oxfordshire; George Francis, for Hertfordshire; G. Prior, George Harcourt, *M.D.*; G. Prelate, the Rev. E. Moore; 1st G. Capt., Dr. Tulloch; 2nd G. Capt., T. Harfoot; G. Chancellor, John Halsey Law; G. Vice-Chancellor and Almoner, M. H. Shuttleworth; G. Registrar, D. H. Stone; G. Treasurer, J. Newton Tomkins; G. Chamberlain, J. Rankin Stebbing; G. Constable or Mareschal, M. Denison; 1st G. Expert, W. A. Powell; as 2nd G. Expert, F. Binckes; 1st Grand Standard Bearer, R. R. Rodd; G. Dir. of Cers., C. Swan; G. Sword-Bearer, Louis Lemanski; as 1st G. Herald, J. H. Thompson, jun.; as 2nd Grand Herald, W. Lean; G. Supt. of Works, Henry W. Spratt; G. Organist, Matthew Cooke; and G. Banner-Bearer, J. Mott Thearle. The Sir Knts. of the following Encampments were present:—*Almeric de St. Maur*, Bolton—Fred. C. Sneathurst. *Baldwyn*, Bristol—C. Haseler, E.C.; E. L. Bagshaw, P.E.C.; Rev. J. Thomas, Prov. G. Prelate; T. Ball, J. R. Bramble, G. Chick, W. B. Herapath, Charles H. Low, and J. H. Scott. *Bladud*, Bath—J. King and R. M. Lawson. *Cœur de Lion*, Oxford—Rich. Jas. Spiers, D. Prov. G. Com. and P.G. Capt.; and *Hon. W. H. North*, P.G. Prior. *Cornubian*, Redruth—Thomas Mills. *Faith and Fidelity*, London—John Udall, P.E.C.; Charles Beaumont, P.E.C. and P.G. Herald; Alexander Ridgway, P.E.C.; and J. Tepper, P. 2nd G. Capt. of Lines. *Frederick of Unity*, London—J. How, P.E.C.; Brackstone Baker, P.G. Banner-Bearer; W. Locock Webb; and F. Wright. *Kemeys Tynte*, Woolwich—Colonel

Henry Clerk, P.E.C., P.G. Sub-Prior and P.G. Registrar; John W. Figg, P.E.C. and P. 1st G. Standard-Bearer; Capt. R. Boyle, E.C. and P.G. Sub-Prior; William Platt; and E. J. Fraser. *Loyal Brunswick*, Plymouth—Richard Rodda, Prov. G. Chancellor, Devon; and Scipio Brizzi. *Melita*, Malta—Sidney Millett; and George E. Preece. *Mount Calvary*, London—John Boyd, P.E.C.; H. J. Thompson, P.G. Aide-de-Camp; J. P. S. C. Nicholson, P.G. Herald; Rev. Joseph Hill Grice; W. E. Gumbleton; Chandos Wren Hoskyns, *M.P.*; W. Pass; J. Stohwasser; G. Tedder; E. J. Stillwell; and Benjamin Strahan. *Mount Zion*, Bombay—J. Gibbs, D. Prov. G. Com. Bombay. *Royal Kent*, Newcastle—John Barker, P.E.C., P. 1st G. Capt.; and R. M. Gidley. *Rougemont*, Exeter—Capt. James Davy. *Royal Naval*, Portsmouth—Capt. Charles H. Cox. *St. Amand's*, Worcester. Chas. Aden; E. S. Cossens; and Charles G. Griffiths. *St. George*, London—Lieut.-Col. T. Gollard, E.C.; W. Blenkin, P. G. Chamberlain; Richard Spencer, P. G. Banner-Bearer; and W. Smith. *Stuart*, Watford—Capt. J. M. Layton, E.C.; H. H. Barchell-Herne, P. 1st G. Capt.; T. Barringer; A. T. Brett; Edward Burrell; James Burton; Henry C. Finch; C. D. Humbert; George Lambert; and William S. Tootell. *Temple Crossing*, Colchester—R. Farrar; and F. J. Lilley. Many others were present but did not sign the book—several signed without full particulars, amongst whom were, Dr. John Smith, D. Prov. G. Com. for Bangal; Thomas Woolf, P. 2nd G. Capt. of Lines; and A. H. Pearson, of the Glasgow Priory, while others appeared, from the hieroglyphics set down, to have no acquaintance with the elements of caligraphy, and accordingly their names, if they were intended for such, cannot be re-produced here.

After Grand Conclave had been opened by the Grand Master in ample form,

Sir Knt. Colonel GEORGE VERNON, V.H. and E. Deputy Grand Master, thus addressed the M.E. and S.G.M.:—Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master—It is with feelings of great pleasure that I find we are meeting in this handsome hall. I cannot, however, avoid one little word of regret, before I proceed in my remarks, that we, as Knight Templars, have been compelled to leave our long established head quarters in Great Queen-street. The accommodation we have hitherto found there, for a great number of years, was accorded without a word of comment or any attempt to infringe upon the ancient custom of our meeting in the best appointed Masonic room in that building, seemed, from circumstances over which we had no control, to have been, from time to time, more and more curtailed, until, at length, our high and important ceremonies had, on the last occasion, to be performed in the glee room of the Tavern. In this hall we find everything we can desire. Ornamentation without extravagance, an appropriate throne for you, Sir, the Supreme Head of our Order, and handsome stalls for those knights who have the privilege of attending at these Grand Conclaves. The rest of the furniture, the property of Grand Conclave, is at last in a condition that reflects credit on those of the executive, whose duty it was to provide them. Our Order is, I am both glad and proud to say, an increasing one, and we seem to have found this very appropriate home at the very moment when such a one was most desirable. It is an earnest and sincere wish that I express, when I say, may our Order still flourish and increase; may this home be one means of fostering a desire amongst us for a more perfect and uniform system in the performance of our beautiful and interesting ceremonies in our respective encampments, and may these ceremonies long be worked in this building in fraternal regard, harmony, and good will, so that we may unite in brotherly love, and, above all, avoid even the semblance of anything bordering

on so un-Masonic a feeling as that of rivalry, except it be in the act of doing good. (Cheers.)

Sir Knt. JOHN H. LAW, Grand Chancellor, spoke thus:—Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master,—You have just heard from the Very High and Eminent Deputy Grand Master the expression of his pleasure that, at last, our ancient and noble Order has found a hall, where we have entered to-day for the first time, which, in its arrangements, is so appropriate to our wants. As your Grand Chancellor, I take the liberty of adding the expression of my approbation to everything I see around us. Rather than comment further upon the subject, at this moment, I beg leave to read and present to you a petition signed by the Very High and Eminent Deputy Grand Master, and by many other Grand Officers, Eminent Commanders, and Knights Companions, praying that you, Most Eminent Sir, will now perform the ceremony of consecrating this hall, for the purposes of Knight Templary, according to ancient custom, feeling that such an act will be the most appropriate commencement of the business proceedings of this day. (Hear, hear.)

The petition, which was then presented by Sir Knt. Law, G. Chancellor, was as follows:—

"To the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, William Stuart, Esq., of Aldenham Abbey, in the county of Herts, &c.

"The humble petition of Colonel George Vernon, the Very High and Eminent Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Officers of Grand Conclave, the Very Eminent Provincial Grand Commanders, the Eminent Commanders of Encampments and other Knights Companions of the Orders of Masonic Knights Templar and Knights Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta:—

"Sheweth,

"That for many years past the meetings of Grand Conclave have been held at the Freemasons' Tavern, in Great Queen-street, by the permission of those holding authority under the Grand Lodge of Freemasons in England; that the accommodation which has been there provided, as well for the meetings of the Grand Conclave as for the convenience of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, and the Grand Officers has, upon the last two or three occasions, been so much lessened, that at last it was not sufficient for the proper performance of the ancient ceremonies of our High and Exalted Order.

"That, the subject of the future home and accommodation to be provided having been left to the Committee for General Purposes, appointed at the last Grand Conclave, they took the same into their serious consideration, and the premises in Bedford-row having been taken by the Masonic Union Company, and that company having erected the hall, and other adjoining rooms, and made other suitable accommodation, the committee have, in the pursuance of the power vested in them, purchased handsome and appropriate furniture and other necessary additions, and have made certain arrangements with the company for the future accommodation of the Grand Conclave.

"Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that you will be pleased to consecrate the new hall according to ancient custom, with such ceremony as you may think fit.

"And your petitioners will ever pray."

George Vernon, D.G.M.

George Francis, Prov. G. Com. for Hertfordshire.

H. H. Burchell-Herne, P.E.C. Stuart Encampment, P. 1st G. Captain.

W. A. F. Powell, D.P.G.M., Bristol.

Thos. Hoskins Low, Baldwyn, Bristol, 2nd Capt.

John Huyshe, Prov. G. Com. for Devon and Cornwall.

Frederick Charles Smethurst, E.C. United Encampments, Lancashire.

Charles D. Humbert, Stuart Encampment, Watford.

C. Miller Layton, E.C. Stuart Encampment, Watford.

George Chick, 1st Capt. Baldwyn, Bristol.

W. Bird Herapath, P. 1st G. Capt. Baldwyn, Bristol.

Scipio Brizzi.

Jas. Davy, P.E.C. and G. Prior for Devon.

Thomas Harfoot, E.C., 2nd Grand Captain.

Chas. Swan, A.G.D. of Cers., E.C., Mount Calvary.

Frederick Binckes, E.C., elect, Mount Calvary.

Richard Rodda, Loyal Brunswick Encampment, G. Chancellor for Devon.

Thomas Mills, Loyal Brunswick, G.V.C., Devon.

Alexander Ridgway.

J. Gibbs, P. Prov. D.G. Com. Bombay; P.E.C., Mount Zion; St. George.

R. Robinson Rodd, 1st G. Standard-Bearer, E.C., Loyal Brunswick.

Henry William Spratt, P. 1st G. Capt. and P.E.C., Observance.

Matthew Cooke, Grand Organist, Kemeys Tynte.

William J. Meymott, G.D. of Cers.; P.E.C. Faith and Fidelity.

Sir Knt. W. STUART, Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, said, in reply,—Sir Knights, having listened with great gratification to the remarks of my Very High and Eminent Deputy, and also to what has been said by my Excellent Grand Chancellor, as well as having seen and considered the import of the petition just presented to me, I willingly consent to act as requested. But I should be doing injustice to my own feelings if I did not take this opportunity, before I proceed to consecrate this hall for the purposes of Masonic Knight Templary, to say how gratified I am to find our High and Exalted Order meeting in a place more worthy of its antiquity, renown, and importance than the place in which we last assembled. (Hear, hear.) Without venturing to allude to any reasons that may have brought to pass the circumstances that compelled our removal from Great Queen-street—if, indeed, any good reasons do exist—and without alluding to anything I may have done, on my own part, to further the object, suffice it to say we are here. (Loud applause.) With unalloyed feelings of pleasure I congratulate you and myself, as your elected head, that at last we have, as has been said, a place of meeting worthy of the exalted Order to which we have associated ourselves. I regret much that any cause of difference should have arisen between another branch of Freemasonry and ourselves. I deplore the cause for any secession, as it may seem, by one body of Freemasons from another, but we could scarcely, with any regard to ourselves, continue in our late position without expecting to receive even additional affronts offered to us beyond what we have already submitted to. (Hear.) That this elegant and appropriate hall and adjoining rooms have been erected—that we now have furniture and other necessities of our own—of a class and description with which I am perfectly satisfied, is a source of great pleasure and satisfaction to me. The fact that we, as Knights of Templar, have taken the lead, as it were, in carrying out the plan is merely a matter of accident, and is not to be considered in any way as an attempt to assume the proprietorship of the building. I cordially endorse the observations of my very high and eminent Deputy upon the subject of a uniform system of working our beautiful and interesting ceremonies, and trust that now we have this hall, with the other adjoining and convenient rooms, the various encampments meeting in London will soon make arrangements to assemble here, and so be induced to conform to one uniform system of work, based upon the "Constitution and Regulations" by which

our Order is governed. I shall now proceed to consecrate this hall for the purposes of Masonic Knight Templary according to ancient custom. (Loud applause.)

The ceremony of consecration was most ably performed by the M.E. and S.G.M., assisted by the G. Prelate, who did the duty appertaining to his office with his accustomed reverence and ability. Some very intricate, but very beautiful, evolutions of the Sir Knts., designed by the G. D. of Cers., were excellently performed, and caused congratulations to flow from all sides to Sir Knt. Meymott; and the Grand Organist, assisted by Sir Knts. Thomas Young and Donald W. King, sang several pieces of music, one of which was composed by S. Bernard, who gave the first Knights Templar their rule, and were pronounced to be most effective. At the close of the solemn ceremony,

Sir Knt. the Rev. JOHN HUSK, the Prov. G. Com. for Devon and Cornwall, made the following address:—Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master,—The important ceremony we have just witnessed has not been without great interest to us who are present, and, doubtless, its consequences will produce an equally beneficial result to those Knights Companions of our Order, who, from various circumstances, have been unavoidably absent. I trust that the brilliant commencement of what I may almost term a new era in our existence, may be followed by an hereafter of prosperity hitherto unknown in the annals of this exalted, religious, and military fraternity. (Hear.) As the Senior Provincial Grand Commander in England, I can assure you that we especially, who carry on our duties in the provinces, and have only occasional opportunities of visiting our Knights Companions in this metropolis, are much gratified at finding our head quarters assembled in a place so convenient in itself and so entirely under the control of our Supreme Chief. I feel, most Eminent Sir, on my own part (and I believe I may say on behalf of all the Provincial Grand Commanders, that they also concur with me in the feeling), that the holy and sublime mysteries, associated with this Most Christian Order, cannot be duly and efficiently performed unless in a hall suitable for, and peculiarly dedicated to such a purpose; and I am persuaded that the simple fact of our meeting this day in this beautiful building is one great step taken in the right direction. In the name, therefore, of all my companions in arms residing in the provinces, I congratulate you, most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, on the proceedings which have now taken place, and I tender to you our cordial thanks for the munificent support and zealous co-operation by which you have promoted so desirable an object, and now brought it to so auspicious a termination. In conclusion, Sir, I would willingly express my belief that the commencement made this day by the Grand Conclave itself, will prove an incentive to the various encampments under our jurisdiction to imitate the example thus set before them, and procure for themselves places of meeting suitable for the solemn services to be performed therein; convinced, as I am, that services so performed are more likely to impress the hearts of those who witness them, with the solemnity of that engagement into which they enter when enlisting themselves under the banner of their Redeemer. (Hear, hear.) May this noble hall, Most Eminent Sir, tend to foster such impressions. My fervent prayer is that every Knight Companion, who shall assemble within these walls, may cleave the more closely to his profession without wavering, never forgetting the holy emblems of his most sacred faith,—even the blood-stained Cross which he bears on his shoulder, and the brilliant star which decorates his breast. May each one of us grow in grace as he grows in years, and continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant to his life's end. (The Reverend Sir Knt. was loudly applauded on resuming his stall.)

The minutes of the Grand Conclave of May the 8th were read and confirmed, and Sir Knt. Law, G. Chancellor, read the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

Your committee beg to congratulate the Order on the completion of the new hall and rooms in which the Grand Conclave has this day assembled, and trust the exertions of Sir Knt. Spratt, our Grand Superintendent of Works, by whom the necessary alterations have been effected, and the labours of the sub-committee, in providing the requisite furniture and decorations, will meet with the approbation of Grand Conclave.

The Masonic Union Company, limited, in whom the property of the hall is vested, has been duly constituted, and will proceed, in manner prescribed by law for regulating companies so formed, to elect its directors and complete the arrangements requisite for its perfect organisation at a general meeting on the 1st of February, 1864, the day appointed by the Act of Parliament for such meeting to be holden; and in the meantime the Provisional Directors will proceed to the allotment of shares after the 1st of January next, and the committee urge on the members of Grand Conclave the propriety of supporting the undertaking by taking shares.

In consequence of the indisposition of the V.E. Sir Knt. Hinxman, Prov. G. Com. for the province of Kent, the committee have not had the alterations proposed by him laid before them for their consideration, and they have deemed it, therefore, expedient to defer for the present making any report.

Since the May meeting the "Cornubian" Encampment, of Falmouth, which had for some time lain dormant, has, under the sanction of the Grand Master, been removed to Redruth, in Cornwall, and promises to meet with great support in its new locality.

The ancient "Conclave of Redemption," of time immemorial, originally worked at York, but since removed to Hull, has come under the banner of the Grand Master.

And, lastly, a new encampment, to be called the "Harcourt," and meet at Chertsey, in the county of Surrey, has received a warrant from the Grand Master.

(Signed) J. HALSEY LAW, Grand Chancellor.

December 10th, 1863.

The offertory was then commenced, and the alms collected amounted to £3 18s.; after which the Grand Conclave was closed, and the G.M. retired with Templar honours. The whole ceremony was as near perfection as it could be, and all Sir Knts. present, from the junior to the M.E. and S.G.M., warmly expressed their admiration of all that had been done both by Sir Knt. Meymott for the ceremonies of the day, and of Sir Knt. Spratt for his untiring energy in producing so handsome, commodious, and useful a hall. The Sir Knts. having retired, the hall was cleared and the banquet tables prepared.

THE BANQUET,

which was universally pronounced one of the very best ever placed before the members of the Order, having been done full justice to, the cloth cleared, and the dessert put on the table, the M.E. and S.G.M. rose and said, that with Knights Templar, Freemasons of every grade, and the whole of the subjects of her Majesty in this country, there was ever one toast which always came first—that of the Queen; and as he felt it would be useless to endeavour to say one word in her praise that they did not know and feel already, he should request them to receive it without any further observations from himself.

The D.G.M., COLONEL VERNON, said it was scarcely necessary to call for bumpers in honour of the next name he should propose as a toast. The proceedings of the day had been so

protracted that their M.E. and S.G.M. was about to quit them—he was obliged to start by the inexorable train; still, they could not let him depart without showing him, in some way, their meed of esteem and the personal love they entertained for him, which he so well deserved. (Hear, hear.) His kind efforts for the good of the Order and his uniform kindheartedness were worthy of that applause. He, the D.G.M., would not detain them by any long preface, for all who knew their Grand Master loved and valued him—(hear, hear)—therefore it was but an easy, though a pleasant, duty to call upon them to drink to “The health and long life of their Excellent M.E. and S.G.M.” (Loud cheers).

The G. MASTER really had to thank them, not only for the way in which his health had been received, but for the very flattering manner in which the D.G.M. had proposed it. He took no credit for what he had done for the Order, but what he did he endeavoured should always be for the best. (Hear, hear.) He would not say anything about the way in which they found themselves there that day, but there they were, and what was more, they all felt they were at home. (Prolonged cheering.) They had had no fall out with others, but no one could say how much they owed to those others, for they could boast, now, of a home of their own. (Hear, hear.) He was deeply thankful for the honour they did him in drinking his health. Unfortunately, the trains waited for no one, and he was reluctantly obliged to leave, but wished them all health and happiness, and hoped to see them all again at their next merry meeting. (Hear, hear.) The G.M. then left the chair, and was escorted to the door in Templar style, loudly cheered as he passed along.

The D.G.M., Col. VERNON, then took the chair, and said, although obliged to defer the next toast on account of the Grand Master's departure, he gave them “The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.”

The V.E. the Rev. JOHN HUYSE, Prov. G. Com. for Devon, was about to propose a toast to one in every way great and good, a stannish Knight Templar, who derived his lineage from those who had been Templars 700 years ago, and, as their D.G.M., well deserved all honour at their hands.

Col. VERNON, D.G.M., felt exceedingly flattered and gratified to have his name proposed and so warmly received. He believed to some extent he deserved well of them (hear, hear); but the Rev. Sir Knt. Hyshe had so embellished his speech, as no one was more able to do, that for his own part he felt he had gone a little too far; and as he, the D.G.M., was past the age when such things seized more strongly upon the imagination, he would only take as much of Sir Knt. Hyshe's compliments to himself as he felt he could do, conscientiously. While they gave him credit for much interest in Freemasonry, he could honestly say that he laboured earnestly in the various degrees, and should ever endeavour to do his duty for the good of them all. (Loud cheers.)

The D.G. MASTER, having discharged all his duties to the State, then came to the Church. Although the old cry was Church and State, yet there, on that night, they must make it State and Church, and in the Church they would remember that in the person of their Grand Prelate they had a very worthy representative. The services of the Grand Prelate would never be forgotten by him, the D.G.M., when Sir Knt. Moore was Grand Chaplain of England. Many had worn the purple and the lawn together, but none had ever done better suit and service to Freemasonry, although there was one present that had done as well. Their G. Prelate was ever anxious to advance

Freemasonry in all its branches. He was a hearty good man and a gentleman, as well as a happy companion.

Sir Knt. the Rev. E. MOORE, G. Prelate, deplored his want of words to express his feelings. He had been entrusted with high office by their M.E. and S.G.M., and he also recollected that some years since he had held high office elsewhere, and it fell to his lot to consecrate the Girls' School. He had that day assisted in consecrating the hall, but he had no desire to pit the one against the other, as he would much rather smooth down any asperity of feeling than foster it; still, it could not be denied that they had been compelled to do what they had done, to seek a temple where they could properly and adequately carry out their high and holy solemnities, and he was happy to say they had that day found a home where their troubled feet might rest, a home whose motto he hoped would be *Esto perpetua*. (Loud and continued cheers.)

The D.G. MASTER, like those who made speeches in general, had forgotten when speaking of the Church to include the Rev. Sir Knt. Hyshe but would try to make amends under another form. Sir Knt. Hyshe was the Senior Prov. G. Commander of the Order, and ruled over two provinces. He was a Freemason of rare talents, and had regularly worked up, step by step, in every degree. The dignity of Provincial Grand Commander was one felt much in the provinces, where each of them was left pretty much to do as he liked; and it was, therefore, of great importance that they should have tried and trusty officers in that high position. (Hear, hear.) The office of a Prov. G. Com. was one of great importance, and the interest the provincial Knights took in the Grand Conclave was evidenced by their attendance that day. Some were there from Devonshire, Cornwall, Newcastle, Bristol, Staffordshire, Essex, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, and other places; and he was glad to find the movement not confined to the metropolis only, but from distant places. The pains taken by the Prov. G. Commanders and their officers that Grand Conclave should be supported by the provinces were most valuable, and tended, in every way, to enhance its efficiency. (Hear, hear.) To none were they more indebted than to their esteemed and beloved Senior Prov. G. Com., the Rev. Knt. Hyshe, not only for his interest in Masonic Templary, but for the eloquence with which he spoke to every heart—(hear, hear)—and the Grand Conclave ought to be proud of having such a Prov. G. Commander, and thank him for his efforts. The D.G.M. concluded by proposing the toast of “The Prov. G. Coms., and Sir Knt. Hyshe as the Senior.”

Sir Knt. the Rev. J. HUYSE said that the Prov. G. Coms. held a very high position in the Order, and had very important duties to fulfil, and on their behalf he offered hearty thanks for the toast. He congratulated the Grand Conclave on its appearance in that hall, and to the Sir Knts. in the provinces it was an important change, as they could now say they had a home to resort to when visiting the metropolis. The consecrating the hall that day for their solemn and sacred mysteries was a step that would be gladly hailed throughout the provinces, and would result in good to the Order; and by summoning the Prov. Knts. to assist at the consecration, they might be sure they would take a warm interest in the new state of things inaugurated that day. Though it might be a somewhat forbidden topic to discuss as to why they had taken that step, he felt there was no need of asking their opinion on its advisability (hear, hear); and he contended that in Freemasonry, as in every thing else, every one was at liberty to give his own sentiments. He was about to give his opinion—but, that there might be no mistake, he would divest all the Prov. G. Coms. of any participation in what he was about to say—it was his own

opinion alone that he should offer. He believed that they had taken a great vantage ground that day. They had been very ill-treated, it was no use to blink the question (loud cheers); they had been expelled from the Temple in Freemasons' Hall, and if they had not taken that as a notice to quit, they would have been undeserving the name of Knights Templar. (Hear, hear.) They had provided a home, and he implored them not to lose the *status* they had gained by so doing. The Grand Lodge of England, through its executive officer, had ill-treated them; but he called upon every Sir Knt. not to retaliate, but to say that house was a home for all who were expelled. (Hear, hear.) He did not think the M.W.G.M. would have been guilty of such injustice, but the executive had. (A Voice—"He said he was the Grand Master.") Still there was no reason to retaliate by following in the wake of that example. They had found a home, and they must stick close to it for many years to come. (Loud cheering.)

The D. G. MASTER said there could but be one opinion that their G. Supt. of Works, Sir Knt. Spratt, had done his work well. (Hear, hear.) For his own part, he did not expect to have seen nearly so much done considering the difficulties Sir Knight Spratt had had to contend against; and he felt sure that they would all join cordially in drinking "The Health of their G. Supt. of Works."

Sir Knt. H. W. SPRATT said, in reply, he begged to tender his sincere thanks for the honour they had done him in drinking his health. It was with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret that he responded to it, because he felt how imperfect the whole affair was at present—(No, no),—but he begged to ask them to suspend their judgment before coming to a conclusion. He knew that the hall should have been complete, but circumstances had compelled them to open it in, what he called, a temporary stage, and he had asked for an extra fortnight, but it was found impracticable to alter the day of meeting. When the hall was finished, and he felt he could say it is *un fait accompli*, he should feel delighted at having performed the work; and would make it one of the most handsome rooms extant before he had done his part. When it was but six months since they were thrust into the glee-room of the Tavern, he did feel it was no small gratification to be able to say, here we are. (Loud cheers.) Their M.E. and S.G.M. had called it by one of the most endearing words in the language, "home;" and as the song said "there was no place like home," so he hoped they would think there was no home for Freemasons like their hall. (Immense cheering.) No one could imagine that it was an opposition to the Grand Lodge Property; and, although there was a good deal of unpleasant feeling about and all sorts of rumours, they must not overlook the fact that the executive had forced them to act for themselves. When they found they must do so their M.E. and S.G.M. said he would give £1000 towards it, and in the course of the next day added another £500 to it. (Loud cheers.) For the dinner that day he owed them some apology. (No, no). But he said, yes, for at eleven o'clock that morning their caterer was assisted by having his kitchen full of plasterers and bricklayers; he felt sure the most fastidious individual would say that, under the circumstances, the dinner reflected great credit on the brother who provided for them, and, as a sample of what could be done in that direction, with such disadvantages, they would look hopefully forward towards the time when they would be in full working order. Sir Knt. Spratt resumed his seat amidst general cheers. The D.G.M. then vacated the chair, and was succeeded by Bro. J. Newton Tomkins, G. Treasurer, who, in a warm and elegant manner, proposed "The health of Sir Knt. Law, the G. Chancellor."

Sir Knt. LAW said he could claim no honour in connection with the hall. It was the property of a Joint-Stock Company, and had nothing to do with Grand Conclave, but as their landlord. It was true their M.E. and S.G.M. was the principal shareholder, and many of the members of Grand Conclave were associated with him; but they had to act as a legally constituted company, set forth for certain definite purposes. For the company, it had his best wishes; and for the proposal and reception of his health he tendered them his best thanks. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Knt. FRANCIS, Prov. G. Com., Herts, had a toast to propose, that of their esteemed Sir Knt. J. Newton Tomkins, G. Treas., one of the very best officers of Grand Conclave, a worthy Knight, and a respected Freemason. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Knt. TOMKINS said he owed the position he held in the esteem of the Sir Knights to the good feeling and good fellowship which always existed amongst Knights Templar, and he hoped that for many years it might be "*Eslo perpetuus*" (loud cheers)—that he might long be ranked as a worthy Sir Knight, and ever progress in good fellowship, knowledge, and Knight Templary. Sir Knt. Tomkins then said he firmly believed that Templary was entering on a new era, and he could not refrain from paying the full meed of credit to Bro. Fennell, the caterer, who had entered on his duties amidst very great difficulties, but had carried out his instructions in the most clever way, and produced a banquet to which not one exception could be made. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. FENNEL was ashamed not to have changed his dress, but the difficulties he had had to contend with must be his excuse. Their kind acknowledgment would make him endeavour to please, and although it was possible to make a bad dinner pass off well if the wine was good, yet it was his intention to serve both good dinners and the best of wine in that hall.

Sir Knt. RIDGWAY wished to propose a toast, and after making some very uncalled for and unpopular statements about Templary, and being repeatedly called to order by the Chairman, Sir Knt. TOMKINS said they were there as Knights Templar, and must be careful not to import other matters into the meeting. They were willing to drink Sir Knt. Binckes's health as a Sir Knt. and an old and valued friend. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Knt. BINCKES, in reply, said, whatever he was disposed to say he should, because of the difficulties started, confine himself to the toast as given by the chairman, who everybody respected and no one valued more than himself. He (Sir Knt. Binckes) had but one simple object at heart in any portion of Freemasonry. The higher degrees had not received proper recognition in this country, but the result of that night's meeting was the best answer to their opponents, and brought to the test the sincerity of their own profession. They were ignored by those who had refused them the accommodation they required, and he had cast his lot in with them from a love of their principles, for he never had found any rest until he enjoyed the fellowship of the Christian degrees. It was not to be supposed that he could address them as the Provisional Secretary of the Masonic Union Company, but as a Knight Templar he did ask them to render every support to the undertaking, feeling that there had been that day a stone laid perfect in all its parts, and honourable to the builder. (Hear, hear.) Passing over Sir Knt. Ridgway's many interruptions, Sir Knt. Binckes returned his thanks to those sincere friends who had done him the honour to drink his health.

The Sir Knts. shortly after separated, well pleased with the ceremonies of the day, so well planned and carried out by Sir Knt. Meymott; the elegance of the hall, which reflects such credit on Sir Knt. Spratt; the good fare, so excellently pro-

vided by Bro. Fennell; the effective music, performed (both in the ceremony and at the banquet) by the Grand Organist, and his assistant Sir Knts. Thomas Young and Donald King; and, lastly, with themselves and each other, for being present and assisting at such an important event in the annals of Masonic Templary.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Monday being the second anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort, her Majesty and family attended divine service in the morning, and spent the remainder of the day in seclusion. On Tuesday, the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia returned to Berlin. On Thursday, the Queen went to Osborne for the holidays. The Prince and Princess of Wales, who have been receiving friends at Frogmore, will proceed to Osborne on Monday.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—Mr. Farnall's returns this week show an unfavourable change in the pauperism of the cotton districts. Last week, a decrease of upwards of 700 in the number of persons receiving relief was reported; this week there is an increase of 228. At the meeting of the Central Relief Committee, Lord Derby read a letter which he had received from Sir George Grey, relative to the law charges upon mortgages under the Public Works Act. The Loan Commissioners, it seems, committed a mistake in requiring a separate security for each advance, and they will now repay to the borrowers all charges which have been made under an erroneous construction of the act of Parliament and the orders of the Poor-law Board. The committee passed a resolution thanking the Home Secretary for what had been already done in this matter, but expressing a hope that "the Government will re-consider the subject of law charges for first mortgages, which, from returns made to the committee, appear to be large on the amount of small loans." Mr. Rawlinson made a statement with regard to the progress of public work in the distressed districts, and said, "provided the weather was fine and open, it would not be difficult to employ 20,000 or 30,000 operatives upon useful public works by the commencement of the new year." A good deal of interest was excited by the announcement that Mr. Stansfield had made up his mind to signalise the opening of his official career by a thorough investigation of the abuses of our dockyard system. Inquiries of this kind had been undertaken before, but with such slender results that while everyone admired the courage of the new junior lord, few dared believe that he would succeed much better than the reformers who had preceded him. The hon. gentleman has been hard at work for months, but it is of course impossible at present, to say how far his industry has been rewarded. We, however, hopefully accept the assurance of the *Observer* that his efforts "will be attended with marked success as regards reduction in our Admiralty expenditure," and that, as one result, Mr. Gladstone will be enabled to do something towards "relieving our purses of useless and unnecessary taxation."—Like his former colleagues, Mr. Justice Talford and Mr. Baron Watson, Mr. Justice Witeman has died suddenly on circuit. The learned judge presided in the court at York on Wednesday week, but on Thursday morning he became alarmingly ill, and died in the course of the day. Mr. Justice Wightman was called to the bar in 1821, and exactly 20 years afterwards he was raised to the Bench. Mr. Serjeant Shee will succeed Mr. Justice Wightman. The learned Serjeant is, by universal assent, one of the ablest men at the common law bar, and it is generally understood that the circumstance that he is a Roman Catholic has hitherto been the

sole obstacle in the way of his promotion.—The Lord Chancellor—who ought to understand the new Bankruptcy Act better than any other man in England—has decided that a composition deed which does not give equal rights to all the creditors of the insolvent cannot be upheld, and is not binding on those creditors who have not been parties to it. In the case before his lordship, a composition deed had been executed, and had received the assent of the statutory majority of the creditors. By this deed the assenting creditors were to receive 3d. in the pound, the insolvents covenanting to pay the same composition "on demand" to the remaining creditors. It was urged, however, on behalf of a non-assenting creditor, that while the statute contemplated that every claimant on the estate should be placed on a footing of perfect equality, the minority in the present instance might be in complete ignorance of the existence of the deed; as the debtors, having obtained the assent of the requisite number of creditors, would trouble themselves no further about the others. It was further urged that the non-assenting minority could not sue on the covenant, as no money had been set apart to pay the dividends on the amounts due to them. The Lord Chancellor held that this involved an inequality disadvantageous to the minority, upon whom the deed was therefore not binding.—The Lord Chancellor has also refused to allow Colonel Waugh to go at large. On the appeal coming before him he rescinded the order for the colonel's discharge made by Mr. Commissioner Goulburn, his lordship saying that he could not give judicial credit to the conclusion which the bankrupt wished to impress upon him, that if he were now discharged he would remain in this country to assist his creditors in the preparation of his accounts, and that any convenience which might result from his release would not be so great as to induce him the (Lord Chancellor) to set aside the rights of the detaining creditor, or to exercise the discretion vested in the court by the act of 1861.—The *Gazette* publishes an order in Council, altering the present arrangement of the assize circuits. The county of York is to be taken from the northern, and annexed to the midland, circuit; while Leicester, Rutland, and Northampton are to form part of the Norfolk circuit.—We have now seven armour-clad iron ships afloat. The *Minotaur*—"a frigate" of 6,814 tons, and intended to carry 50 guns of the heaviest calibre—was launched at Blackwall on Saturday.—On Friday the Armstrong 600-pounder gun was tried, at a range of 1000 yards, against a floating target representing a section of the *Warrior's* side, and made short work of the mass of iron and teak opposed to it.—The launch of the *John David*, the first of six large steamers for the Black Sea and the Sea of Azof, took place on Monday, from the building-yard of Messrs. Rennie, Greenwich. Considerable interest was taken in the launch, and a distinguished party were afterwards entertained at luncheon at Quartermaine's.—The Law Officers of the Crown in Scotland have seized the supposed Confederate steamer *Pampere* which was recently launched on the Clyde. This is the fourth seizure that has been made by the Government—the three other ships being the *Alexandra* and two "Birkenhead rams."—The "pardon" of Paymaster Smales—out of whose trial at Mhow the Crawley court-martial has arisen—has been followed by that officer's being placed upon half pay from the date at which he was struck off the strength of the Inniskillings.—A shocking murder has been committed in the Waterloo-road, London. A bricklayer, named Wright, had lived for some time with a woman, named Green, who latterly appears to have become jealous of her paramour. This led to quarrelling, but all appeared quiet on Saturday night when they returned home together. During the night, however, noises were heard in

their room, and it was subsequently discovered that Wright had murdered the woman. The murderer quietly gave himself up to the police, and has already been tried and sentenced to death.—The trial of George Victor Townley, for the murder of Miss Goodwin, of Wigwell Hall, was brought to a close, at Derby, on Saturday. The Jury, after a few minutes' deliberation, found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to death.—Mr. Baron Martin stating that he "entirely concurred" in the verdict.—At the Central Criminal Court F. G. Hartley, soldier, has been found guilty of forging and uttering a bill of exchange for £1000 on the Marquis of Anglesea. Sentence was deferred. Richard Barlow, convicted of having a die for coining in his possession, was sentenced to eight years' penal servitude, and George Fass and William Grant, found guilty of burglary, were sentenced to six years' penal servitude.—At Leeds, on the 22nd of August last, a labourer named Hirley, rushed, without any provocation, upon a man named 'Anthony Golding, and stabbed him in the thigh, inflicting a wound which soon afterwards proved fatal. Hirley has been tried on a charge of murder at York, and the judge, in summing up, told the jury that "if the prisoner intended to inflict grievous bodily harm, that would be murder and not manslaughter." The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder, but they stated that they had arrived at this decision solely in consequence of his lordship's interpretation of the law. They further urged that this was not a case which called for the extreme penalty of the law, and expressed a desire that the learned judge would make a representation to that effect to Sir George Grey. Mr. Justice Mellor reminded the jury that they had nothing to do with the punishment, and that their sole duty was to act upon the law of the land. The learned judge then sentenced the prisoner to death, warning him not to buoy himself up with the hope that the recommendation of the jury would have any effect.—A shocking discovery has been made at Flushing. For upwards of twenty years, it seems, a poor idiot has been confined in a loathsome cell at the house of his brother. Heart-rending cries and howls have been repeatedly heard by the neighbours, especially on cold winter nights; but, although the sympathy of many was aroused, no one deemed it his duty to inquire into the circumstances of the case, not dreaming, probably, of the horrors that were to be revealed. Fortunately a stranger sojourning at the place recently heard of the wretched man's fate, and communicated with Sir George Grey on the subject. Two commissioners were at once sent down from London, and the idiot's prison-house was entered on Thursday week. The sight which met their gaze was too revolting to be described; and the commissioners are said to have declared that "in an experience of forty years they never met with a case so painful."—The inquest on the bodies of the unfortunate men who were killed by the fall of the public-house at Islington, has been brought to a conclusion, when the jury, after considerable deliberation, returned a verdict of "Accidental death," to which was appended a severe censure on the architect, whose defective plans, it was said, were the cause of the accident. The verdict, it ought to be added, was not unanimous, and the foreman of the jury was in the minority.—Another of the dangerous nuisances to which the London population is subjected, has been brought to the notice of Mr. Dayman, before whom a young gentleman, aged eighteen, was taken for discharging shot from a catapult to the danger of the public. Several windows had been broken by the practice, and more than one case of personal injury had occurred. The magistrate inflicted a fine of 40s.—Lord Leitrim has been cast in damages to the amount of £100 by a Dublin jury, for a libel on Mr. Studdert, a sub-inspector

of constabulary. It seems that the noble defendant, who appears to have been a good deal troubled with threatening notices, received one of these missives some time ago, and at once assumed that it was written by Studdert. He sent a series of letters to Dublin Castle on the subject, but the authorities there, finding that there was no evidence to substantiate so grave an accusation, declined to comply with his demand that Studdert should be "brought to justice." These letters contained the libel which formed the subject of the trial.—The metropolis is unusually healthy at this time of the year. The deaths in the last week amounted to 1357, which was 77 below the average of the corresponding week during the last ten years, the average mortality being 1434. The births exceeded the deaths by 743, and were higher by 172 than the average of births for the last ten years.—An extraordinary accident occurred on the North-Eastern Railway near Copmanthorpe on Tuesday morning. A number of carriages, forming part of the early Government train from York to Hull and Leeds, broke loose, and rolled down an embankment. The carriages contained some fifty passengers, but not a life was lost; nor, indeed, does it appear that anyone was dangerously injured.—A most distressing accident has occurred on the river Ribble. On Tuesday, three daughters and two sons of a Mr. Sugars, of Manchester, accompanied by a brother and sister of the name of Wilson, left Lytham in a boat for a short excursion on the river. The boat was allowed to drift up with the tide as far as Preston, whence a telegram was sent to Lytham stating that the party intended to set out at once on their return. They never, however, returned. The boat was found the next morning on a sand-bank about two miles from Lytham, and near it was discovered the lifeless body of one of the Misses Sugars. There can be little doubt that the remaining six have also perished.—Police-Sergeant Caffrey, of Leigh, was tried at the Liverpool assizes on Wednesday, on a charge of having caused the death of a man, named Stone. It may be remembered that Stone, who was drunk at the time, was creating a disturbance in the street, and that after some struggling he was dragged by Caffrey to the police station, where he soon afterwards died. The allegation was that death was produced by the violence used by Caffrey; but the jury acquitted the prisoner.—An inquest has been opened on the body of a woman named Marras, who died a few days ago in strong convulsive fits, which it was supposed might have arisen from the administration of aconite. Suspicion has fallen upon a man named Beecher, with whom she cohabited; but it is fair to say that beyond the fact of his having been with her before she became ill, there is nothing to implicate him, nor was there any trace of poison discovered in the body on a *post mortem* examination. The inquiry was adjourned.—Stackyard burning has become alarmingly frequent on the Yorkshire Wolds. Hardly a night occurs in which one or more incendiary fires are not discovered—seldom in time to save the property. If we are to trust the confessions of some miscreants who were caught in one case, the criminals appear to be boys who set fire to the stacks in the mere wantonness of malice.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—It is officially stated that the result of the voting in the Paris election was for M. Pelletan, Opposition candidate, 15,115; and for M. Picard, the Government candidate, 9778.—The *Moniteur* has published the replies of Prussia, the Pope, Hanover, and Bavaria to the Emperor's invitation to a Congress. The King of Prussia declares himself ready to participate in a Congress in order to effect any necessary modification in the treaties of 1815, which, however, he considers still to be the foundation of the political edifice on

which Europe rests. His Majesty submits that the propositions to be submitted to the Congress should be previously prepared. The Pope also concurs in the project of a Congress, in order that justice should be re-established and violated rights vindicated. He should also demand that the pre-eminence of the Catholic faith should be recognised in all Catholic countries. The reply of Bavaria is altogether favourable to the proposal.—According to a ministerial journal of Vienna, the Austrian Cabinet has despatched a second note, positively refusing to send a representative to the European Congress proposed by the Emperor Napoleon. For this refusal Count Rechberg assigns the grounds that M. Drouyn de Lhuys has not supplied a clear and satisfactory programme of the subjects to be submitted for consideration, and that a Congress in which England is not represented cannot be attended with any durable results.—The four German powers entrusted by the federal Diet with the task of carrying out “federal execution” in Holstein sent last Saturday, as it is stated, a summons calling on the Danish Government to evacuate the Duchy within seven days. If we may believe rumours current in Altona, and a positive assertion of the *France*, the cabinet of Copenhagen has resolved not to offer any armed opposition to the entrance of the Federal “army of execution” into Holstein, but to withdraw the Danish troops into Schleswig as the Germans advance. It is even reported at Altona that a “friendly understanding” will probably be effected between Denmark and the great German powers; and it is noteworthy that a ministerial journal of Berlin pretty plainly declares that the Prince of Augustenburg will not be permitted to raise the army which he has announced his intention to form. General Fleury has been sent by the Emperor Napoleon on a confidential mission to Copenhagen; and it is said that he will give counsels similar to those which Lord Wodehouse has been deputed to tender on behalf of the British Government.—Lord Wodehouse reached Berlin on Saturday, and had an interview with Herr Von Bismarck. He is to have an audience of the King before proceeding to Copenhagen, where he arrived on Monday.—The Frankfort Diet has voted seventeen million thalers for the expenses of Federal execution in Holstein, and issued instructions to the civil commissioners who are appointed to assume the provisional government of the Duchy. In Berlin the Liberals in the Chamber of Deputies have resolved to address the King, stating their reasons for dissenting to the proposed loan of twelve million thalers, and to indicate the course they think should be followed in the Schleswig-Holstein question.—The Wurttemberg Chamber of Deputies is to be added to the list of the German legislative assemblies which have passed resolutions in favour of the pretender to Schleswig-Holstein. It has, moreover, solemnly protested against the London treaty, to which the Government of Wurttemberg, by its subsequent accession, became a party.—Advices from Copenhagen inform us that Sweden has withdrawn from the alliance with Denmark, the *Dagbladet* asserting that Sweden cannot separate from the other powers who signed the London treaty of 1852.—A strange rumour comes from Hamburg to-day, to the effect that it is believed that the state of siege in Poland will shortly be abolished.—From Stockholm we have the semi-official announcement that Sweden will not abandon Denmark in the hour of danger.

INDIA AND JAPAN.—Advices brought by the Bombay mail convey to us the melancholy but expected announcement of the Earl of Elgin's death, which occurred at Dhurmsalla on the 20th ult. Sir William Denison, the Governor of Madras, who will assume the general administration of the general government of India until Sir John Lawrence's arrival, had gone to Calcutta. There had been “more hard fighting” on the Punjab frontier; and “all the hill tribes” had, it is said, risen against the British. On the 29th ult. the mountaineers again attacked Brigadier Chamberlain's position, and at first took an outpost, which was afterwards recovered from them. They were ultimately driven back, after a sharp engagement, in which Brigadier Chamberlain himself was wounded and six other officers and 128 men were killed or wounded. The tribes had not renewed their attack, and Brigadier Chamberlain was confident of success.

—Accounts from Japan state that there had been no further hostilities, and that Admiral Kuper was believed to be awaiting the arrival of troops before undertaking any further operations against the Prince of Satsuma or other Princes who have offered violence to foreigners. It was asserted that some of the principal Daimios had leagued together against the Tycoon, whose authority was said to be greatly diminished. A telegram has been received, to the effect that at a meeting of Daimios it had been decided that “there was no ground for declaring war against foreigners.”

NEW ZEALAND.—The detailed advices from New Zealand, by the latest mail, do not confirm the report that General Cameron had successfully assailed the entrenched position of the Maoris at Meremere, although an attack on it seemed imminent, unless the natives should, as it was apprehended they might, disperse themselves in small parties. There had been two or three sharp skirmishes, which had not cost many lives, but had demonstrated afresh the aptitude for bush-fighting possessed by the enemy to whom the British troops are opposed.

AMERICA.—The *Persia*, from New York, brings the announcement that there had not been any battle in Virginia, and that the Federal army was falling back to Fredericksburg. General Grant's campaign was supposed to have “ended for the season,” in consequence of the state of the roads; and General Hooker had evacuated Ringgold after destroying the bridges and public buildings. General Bragg's defeated army was believed to be concentrated in the neighbourhood of Dalton, Georgia. General Burnside was reported to have repelled an assault made on the 29th ult. by General Longstreet on his defences at Knoxville, and to have captured 500 prisoners. Reinforcements had been despatched by General Grant to the succour of General Burnside. Some more shells had been thrown into the city of Charleston; but the buildings had not been much damaged. The steamer *America* has brought news from New York to Dec. 5. The campaign in Virginia had been ended for the winter. General Meade had found the position of General Lee in Mine-run Valley too strong to be assaulted, and had again crossed to the north of the Rapidan, and it is supposed would go into winter quarters near Washington. General Meade's ill-success had created much dissatisfaction at New York. The accounts from Chattanooga show the Confederate army to be entirely reorganised, and that General Hardee, who had been appointed in the place of Bragg, superseded, was preparing to assume the offensive against Grant. General Hooker, previously to evacuating Ringgold, fought a battle with the Confederates, in which the Federals were severely handled, and two Ohio regiments nearly destroyed. The accounts from Knoxville are still confused and unreliable. Up to the 1st instant there was no change in the situation at Charleston. Gilmore was throwing shells into the city, but had discontinued the bombardment of Fort Sumter. President Lincoln was seriously ill, suffering from small-pox.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. J. B.—A Prov. G. Lodge is supposed to be opened in the first degree only—and, though properly none but Masters and Wardens should be present, it is usual by courtesy to allow other brethren to sit in the lodge, even down to E. A's. It is highly improper for a W.M. to call upon a visitor to perform a ceremony whilst there is a P.M., a member of the lodge, present, who is capable of undertaking it, and the Prov. G.M., who sanctioned and supported the W.M. in the course, evidently does not understand the law; and his ordering a brother to quit the lodge for protesting against his decision was altogether improper. A Provincial Grand Master cannot take office in a private lodge of which he is not a member; irrespective of which it is highly derogatory for him to accept any office but that of Master in a private lodge. The interference of the Provincial Grand Master in the election of the W.M., and thereby cause a duly qualified brother to be set aside for another, is an abuse of power which the brethren should have resented by unanimously refusing to vote in favour of the Prov. G.M.'s *protegé*. We have already expressed our opinion that Wardens can legally initiate, pass, and raise candidates, if competent, to the performances of the duty; and we advise you to let Bro. Blackburn carry out his threat of citing you before the Board of General Purposes.