

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1864.

THE GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

Wednesday last may be marked as a red letter day in the annals of Freemasonry, for on that day the first stone of a new building to be dedicated solely to the use of Masons, and for the due performance of their ceremonies, was laid with all becoming pomp by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, assisted by his Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Master of Ireland, and a large number of the brethren. The weather was all that could be desired, and the arrangements excellent—precautions even having been taken against accident, so that the whole company might have been let out within a minute, exits having been provided both back and front by doors of twenty feet wide, which only required the withdrawal of a bolt to fly open as if by magic, and render any crowding altogether unnecessary, but happily, as events proved, these precautions were not required and all went merrily as a marriage bell.

We must congratulate the Committee on the success which has thus far attended their labours, and in doing so we think we are justified in taking some credit to ourselves, as it was the *MAGAZINE* that first broached the idea of having a building apart from the tavern, dedicated to the sole use of Freemasons; and it was the *MAGAZINE* which by ridicule when argument had failed, led to the taking the power of dealing with the Grand Lodge property out of the hands of the Board of General Purposes, and entrusting its future arrangement to a small Committee, whose business it is to devote themselves to that subject alone.

In another page will be found a full account of the august ceremony of Wednesday, with the general particulars of which the majority of our readers are no doubt already acquainted, through the columns of the morning papers, the representatives of which were invited to attend by the Committee, and here the only mistake was made. The Committee forwarded a ticket for the ceremony to the editor of each paper, with a letter stating that if the reporter was a Mason he would be provided with a ticket for the banquet; but this was not adhered to. Several of the editors did not send Masons, and yet, against all Masonic rule, the reporters were admitted to the Grand Festival, whilst those brethren who did represent newspapers and came properly clothed as Masons, found that no provision had been made for their

accommodation, as it should have been, and one at least went away in disgust. Had the Committee done us the honour to place that part of the arrangements in our hands we would have secured from our personal knowledge of the various staffs that every paper, wishing to have a reporter present, should be properly represented, and that every reporter should have been a Mason.

However, on the whole, every thing passed off very successfully, and we would be the last to cast blame for some little oversight, on a body of brethren who have worked so zealously and so well to carry out the duties entrusted to them, and on the successful completion of which so much of the future prosperity of Freemasonry depends; and we are sure that we are not stepping beyond our jurisdiction in stating that we know that the arrangements of Wednesday devolved almost wholly on one brother—the Chairman of the Committee, who has worked early and late to ensure success.

ARCHITECTURE IN FRANCE.

MEDIÆVAL TO RENAISSANCE.

(Concluded from page 325.)

I must say a few words now as to the French glass. Many of the cathedrals are filled with it to an extent which we really cannot understand, when we think of the many vicissitudes that France has undergone, and one sees, especially, the actual treatment of whole ranges of great, untraceried windows of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, as decorated with glass of the finest character.

Usually it is divided off, as in our own early glass, into geometrical medallion patterns, with deep rich borders—the medallions filled with figure subjects, and the spandrels, &c., with a peculiar sort of plain diaper, almost invariably of blue and red.

Whenever the medallions and diapers are of much the same tone of colour, the general effect is that of a somewhat confused mass, owing to the smallness of the details. In such a case, the large single-figure lights of the later glass contrast favourably with the earlier. But when (as is usually the case) the latter have the medallions brought distinctly out by their contrast with the deeply-coloured diaper ground, the window so marked out produces all the picturesque effect of a traceried window, with the power of colour superadded. The borders are very beautiful in design, but the diaper

which I have already alluded to takes very badly the place of our scroll-work. Sometimes, as at Strasburg, the glass is so thick with age, that the obscurity is too great. But, in general, the effect of the cathedrals lighted by ranges of such glorious windows as one often sees in France is a thing never to be forgotten, and affords means of comparing the general effect of glass of various dates which one can scarcely find elsewhere. Of one thing I must warn the young student, in prosecuting his studies in France. He will find that many churches, ancient or restored, have the vaults and masonry strongly lined with deep white or red lines. In very many cases this is really old, in the vaults especially; for there, the spaces between the ribs, being filled with chalk or light stone in irregular lumps, were plastered over with a thin plaster and lined. I think that this was done as a means of decoration, and a legitimate one. It certainly has a very good effect in general.

But the French architects of the present day often make a point of plastering over the masonry, wherever irregular, of the walls, with similar plastering, so closely resembling stone as to be very deceptive, and then lining it over in irregular courses, quite irrespective of the actual joints of the masonry. I saw a ludicrous example of this at Saumur, for the piers had been jointed at different heights at the sides, and were often at a wide distance apart at the angles. Used properly, the showing the actual lines of the stones has an excellent effect, better, in fact, than one could expect. There is a striking proof of it in part of the early arcade at Le Mans, where three of the arches only have been thus lined, the rest retaining their old coat of whitewash. The difference is wonderful.

I now come to the fine series of capitals lent to me by Mr. Scott. In his lecture at the Royal Academy, he brought forward very prominently their general characteristics, as being chiefly derived from Byzantium. You are quite aware that the French foliated capitals are very different from ours. We seldom see in France such beautiful and elegant work as we do here; but then the French is, as a rule, bolder; and I know of nothing in other countries quite like them in general design. They are, as Mr. Scott describes them, Corinthianesque, but not mere bad imitations of Corinthian. One seldom sees, for instance, the caulicoli at all. There is one instance from my sketch at Le Mans; and one finds them in early examples, as at Caen, for instance; but very rarely indeed in thirteenth century work; and, although the general outline often suggests its Corinthian origin, yet these capitals as a class, may fairly be ranked as genuine French work in design. Yet I quite agree with Mr. Scott's idea

as to their Byzantine origin, and (after comparing notes with him) find that I do so from a different point of view altogether. Mr. Scott was struck with the general resemblance of the French capitals to the Byzantine rendering of Roman work, whereas I had invariably classed them as Byzantine owing to their peculiarity of sculpture.

There is a mannered style of manipulation found in nearly all the Byzantine work that I have seen which is rather difficult to describe, but is very evident in most examples. The lines are cut in very sharply and squarely; the eyes of the leaves and other points wanting emphasis are drilled in deeply, and the whole effect is that of a wish to give as much sharpness as possible, so as to bring out the work when seen at a distance. This gives a certain kind of stiffness to the work, but it is most so in the subordinate parts, the general curves and outlines being often as graceful as they are bold. Of course, these details of execution are not to be found throughout. The French school was evidently soon an independent one, preserving only in parts the traditionary style of work. But it is so clear that I feel no doubt whatever, looking at the matter from quite a different point of view to Mr. Scott, that Byzantine influenced French art, as I believe it did all other art, down to the thirteenth century at least. The French school soon then formed quite an independent style of its own, as you may see by the drawings of the Sainte Chapelle. I must, however, in fairness say, that there is a good deal of French work of by no means the high character that one usually sees, simply because one does not care to draw from bad examples. Much of the work, even at Chartres, for instance, is very coarse and poor.

I have alluded in this rapid sketch to ecclesiastical architecture only; for, to notice architecture in its domestic or military phases would have been too great a task for this short space. But I must remark that the same feeling for bold, horizontal, crowning lines, is shown, even more in secular than in other works. You find the great crowning cornices used with a wonderfully good effect. Take, for instance, the Hotel de Ville, at Bourges. It tells most capitally as a finish to the florid enrichments of the front, which would, in fact, be strangely overcharged without it. So, also, the door and window openings are often spanned by a bold, straight lintel, carried, perhaps, through the whole front, with no attempt whatever to disguise it in any way by an arch. It is simply a plain, straight piece of stone, clearly strong enough to do its work, and contrasting well with the arches of the other openings. This horizontality is a strong feature throughout French Gothic, and seems to pervade it even to the design of their most upright features—the pinnacles and spires.

To sum up. Whilst English Gothic has its own great beauties—such as its delicate and graceful foliage, its splendid suits of mouldings, and its

beautiful decorated work, with all the elegance of the Flamboyant without its extravagance; and, whilst I hold that the beauty of such works of ours as Westminster and Lincoln, Salisbury and Wells, cannot be exceeded, it must be granted that the French has likewise beauties in its early art that ours wants. The great rose windows, the bold capitals, the grandly-sculptured portals of the north, and the Romanesque work of the south, may all be claimed by France as her own. This is as it should be. Art varies with the climate and the race; and far be it from us to wish that it should be otherwise, or that such differences should not produce peculiar beauties in each land.

One word I must say as to the men to whom we owe them—the architects. These men of old are honoured still in France. The relic in all Rheims most noteworthy, perhaps, is the incised tomb of Libergius, the architect of its great church. That survives the stormy times that saw the monuments of St. Denis broken to powder, and as you walk up the wide new street which will soon afford a fitting entry to the cathedral, you will see that it is named after its architect. Can any one—can we above all—looking at such works as his, believe for one moment—the lowering theory constantly put by the clever author of the “Handbook of Architecture” (and my very good friend),—that they were not the products of genius and study, such as were sculpture and the painting, but merely advanced products of the technic art?—putting, in fact, the men who adorned the portals with their figures of stone, and decorated the shrines with colour, above him who designed the whole. To me it is a marvel that the gifted author I have mentioned could think, for a moment, seriously, that the designers of these glorious works which fill their beholders with wonder and admiration, and awe, could be other than amongst the highest, in the fullness of their intellectual power.

And now, in bringing to a close this sketch, which must, from its nature, be somewhat bare, I cannot avoid saying a few words as to the country of which I have been speaking. I have travelled as much as most men in most European countries, but in none have I found, as an utter stranger, a more kindly welcome than in France. A mischance may sometime happens (and where in life may it not?), and sometimes one may meet with a surly neighbour, or ill-tempered host; and sometimes, possibly (though it has not fallen to my lot) one may meet with a lingering trace of the feeling that France and England are not quite friends.

But set out on your travels with a full intention of pleasing and being pleased—adapt yourselves to the customs of the land, and respect them when they differ from ours, and I know of no place, save our own land, where you will meet with more kindness, more thorough friendliness, than you will in gay, sunny France.

ST. JOHN AND FREEMASONRY.

The following address was delivered at Milton, Pennsylvania, at the dedication of the Hall of Milton Lodge of Freemasons, June 24, 1863, A.L. 5863; being the festival of Saint John the Baptist. By Benj. Parke, L.L.D., Past Grand High Priest of the Grand H. Royal Arch Chapter, and Past R.E. Grand Commander Knights Templar, of Pennsylvania. We need not remind the brethren that the St. John's have long ceased to be recognised in English Freemasonry:—

Right Worshipful D. Deputy Grand Master and Grand Chaplain; Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Brethren.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Both Masonic and Christian Antiquity, agreed upon the 24th day of June, as the birthday of Saint John the Baptist; and from time immemorial, have Freemasons and Christians, in all civilised or Christian lands, upon this day, commemorated his wonderful and mysterious nativity; and called to mind his many transcendent virtues. The one, from tradition, claiming him as their pupil in his youth, and their patron in his manhood; and the other, from revelation, claiming him as the Heaven-predicted child of a barren woman; the prophet of the Highest; the Elias which was to come; the harbinger of the Messiah; the first preacher of the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins: a man great in the sight of the Lord; filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb.

The written history of St. John the Baptist, like that of most of the other Scripture worthies, and like that of the Order of which he was a member, is meagre, in regard to the incidents of his life. For although the angel Gabriel was sent from Heaven to predict his birth, and to declare his greatness in God's estimation, all that inspiration has seen fit to record of his character and doings, hardly covers a page in the Holy Bible. We are there informed of the godly character of his parents, and that the fame and expectations of him as a child, connected with the circumstances of his circumcision and naming, was spread abroad throughout the country, and produced a fear on all that dwelt around about them. Tradition and contemporary history inform us that all this coming to the ears of Herod, the jealous and cruel Tetrarch of Galilee, he endeavoured to have John destroyed at the time of the slaughter of the children of Bethlehem; and had his father Zacharias slain at the temple, because he refused to inform where the child could be found.

His mother, probably warned of God, as were the parents of Jesus, fled with her infant son into the wilderness of Judea, where she soon afterwards died, leaving her orphan boy in the care of the Essenes; one of the three sects into which the Jews were divided; where inspiration informs us “the child grew and waxed strong in spirit; and was in the deserts until his showing unto Israel.”

The Essenes—well described by Josephus—himself a Pharisee—and by other historians, were the least numerous, though most worthy of the sects of the Jews. They were a well organised society, under a rigid and in some respects severe discipline, remarkable for their piety and eminent for their fidelity; trained to the exercise of charity, benevolence, and hospitality; especially to those of their own sect, whether neighbours or strangers. They cheerfully adopted the children of others, while young, pliable, and fit for training; whom they thereafter regarded as their own kindred, and trained, and educated, and moulded them according to their own manners and customs. “They lived,” says Josephus, “the same kind of life as do those whom the Greeks call Pythagorians.” “Many of them dwell in cities, and if any of them come from other places, all they have lies open for them, just as if it were their own; and they go among such as they never saw before, as if they had been ever so long acquainted with them. For this reason, they carry nothing at all with them when they travel into remote

parts, except their weapons for fears of thieves. There is in every city where they live, one appointed to take care of strangers, and provide for them such necessaries and garments as they need. Many of this sect lived in the desert, some alone in tents or caves, subsisting upon the fruits and such other things as were at hand; devoting themselves to study, contemplation, acts of piety, and training the young."

Standing aloof, as well from the society, as the pride, ostentation, and hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Saducees; declining attendance at the feasts and gatherings at Jerusalem, despising many of the unmeaning traditional ceremonies of the Elders, which made void the moral precepts of the law, and were only for outward show; and quietly attending to their own concerns, this sect escaped the pointed denunciations of the Saviour, against Scribes, Pharisees, Hypocrites, &c. There is no evidence that John was ever at Jerusalem; nor are the Essenes, a sect, mentioned in any of the gospels. Several of the apostles were of this sect. Some were disciples of John before being called by the Saviour, and unmistakable marks of their tenets and customs, may be seen, not only among the apostles, while their master was upon earth, but also in the early church, which they founded.

The Essenes were a secret society—the *Free Masons* of that nation, as were the Pythagorians in Greece and other nations were they existed. These different names of branches of our Order, were probably assumed or given in like manner as Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, &c., have been adopted or given to different branches of the Christian church. Says Josephus—"The Essenes hold their meetings in secret, in an apartment of their own, into which it is not permitted to any one of another sect to enter." Before any one is admitted into their society, "he is obliged to take tremendous oaths, that in the first place he will exercise piety towards God, and observe justice towards men; do no harm to any one, either of his own accord, or by the command of others; that he will always hate the wicked, and be an assistant to the righteous; that he will ever show fidelity to all men, and especially to those in authority; because no one obtains the government without God's assistance; that if he be in authority he will at no time whatever abuse his authority, nor endeavour to outshine his subjects, either in his garments or any other finery; that he will be perpetually a lover of Truth, and reprove those that tell lies; that he will keep his hand from theft, and his soul from unlawful gains; that he will neither conceal anything from those of his own sect, nor discover any of their doctrines to others. No! not though any one should compel him so to do at the hazard of his life. Moreover, he swears to communicate their doctrines to no one, any otherwise than as he received them himself; that he will abstain from robbery, and will equally preserve the books belonging to their sect, and the names of their angels or messengers." "These," continues Josephus, "are the oaths by which they secure their proselytes to themselves." They were abstemious in their diet, quietly partaking at their meals of "one loaf and a single plate of one sort of food." When meeting in lodge or at their meals, which they regarded as a holy service, to be both begun and ended by praising God; considering it unlawful to *taste* of the food before grace was said by their Master or Priest; they wore a white garment, and at all times a girdle or white leather apron. Thus John the Baptist, who had not only been trained and educated by this sect, but as our traditions inform us, was a Master or Priest in high authority among them, adhered through life to his plain and substantial garb and diet. "He had his raiment of camel's hair and a leathern girdle about his loins, and his meat was locusts and wild honey."

All historians agree that the Essenes were an ancient secret fraternity. Pliny, refers them to an antiquity as remote as the building of the temple. Basnage, says they existed in all parts of the world, and admitted to

their secrets men of every religion and rank in life. Philo says, they adopted many of the mysteries of the Egyptian priests; the magi of Persia, and the gymnosophists of India; and although respected by all good men, for the earnestness of their conduct, and the innocence of their order, they suffered severe persecutions from the Romans, and that the order was abolished about the middle of the fifth century.

On the great day of atonement, the 10th of the Jewish month of Tisri, or about the 30th of September, St. John being about thirty years of age, commenced his public ministry in the wilderness of Judea, in the neighbourhood of the river Jordan, at or near the place where the Israelites crossed that stream, in their first entrance into the Promised Land; and where Joshua set up twelve stones of remembrance, that the locality might not be forgotten. Here, he was indeed a burning and shining light. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." And although his ministry was short—not over fifteen months—his burning eloquence roused the whole Jewish nation. "There went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptised of him in Jordan, confessing their sins." No man—not even the Saviour—in so short a time, ever made so great and perceptible an impression upon the public, by his preaching, as is recorded of John the Baptist.

The highest order of pulpit eloquence, was never acquired in the cloister or college hall. Neither can it be learned from books alone. Living in towns and cities, enclosed withing walls of brick or stone, chained to the wheel of a college routine of study, in man-made books, to be studied according to man-invented rules, the *soul* of man becomes contracted, dwarfed, and withered; though the *mind* may be expanded and informed. Continually surrounded by the works and monuments of human skill, reading and contemplating the efforts of human investigation and human learning only, everything is as little as the human mind, as narrow as human purpose, as imperfect as human work. Neither can that divine knowledge which a religious teacher should possess, be learned or imbibed in the busy and bustling scenes of life; amidst the noise of folly, the clamours of parties, the confusion of opinions, the struggle for success or prominence, and the allurements of vice. In the charge at opening a lodge, we are, as Masons, reminded, "that wisdom seeks the secret shade, and the lowly cell, designed for contemplation. There enthroned she sits, delivering her sacred oracles; and there we are to seek her." He who would obtain or increase the wisdom which cometh from above, must at least occasionally retire from the world, "commune with his own heart, and be still."

The devout man, whose mind and soul are imbued with the truth and spirit of God's revelation, who not only believes in, but feels and realises all around him an ever present Deity, in whom he lives and moves and has his being, will delight to hold converse with nature in her solitudes—alone with God. There untrammelled by college rules or seminary customs, to study the Grand Architect of the Universe, and learn His character in His works. To behold Him by day in the sun, as from His mid-day throne, with lavish munificence, he pours his golden rays of light and heat upon a thousand dependent worlds; or, to view him by night, as from those thousand worlds He scatters their borrowed and softened light in silvery streams, to gladden and cheer the millions of his creation. To gaze upon the mountain that lifts its stately form, meeting the clouds that repose upon its summit, as of erst—the chariot of Jehovah—they hung upon Sinai's awful brow; or, to look upon the soft and lovely valleys, that—rejoicing in Him who hath clothed them with verdure—lie in peaceful rest at its base. To contrast the loft pine that has stood for centuries, and defied a thousand storms, with the modest

flower of yesterday that bends to every breeze. To hear the voice of God as distinctly in the murmur of the brook, the sighing of the breeze, or in the patter of the rain, as in the whirlwind, the cataract, or the thunder, that, rolling through the dome of Heaven, seems to shake the earth. And amid all, to feel and realize that this Being, whose power, majesty, and goodness shine forth in all these works and doings, is not only the Great Master Builder, the upholder and Governor of all things, but that in His character of God—merciful, He has provided a way in which we, unworthy as we may feel ourselves, can approach and commune with Him, as "Our Father in Heaven." That he not only guides and controls the orbs that wheel and career in space; does His will and pleasure in the armies of Heaven; and among the nations and inhabitants of the earth; but equally watches over and cares for, the sparrow that flits from tree to tree, and the angel that flies from world to world; the meanest insect and the mightiest cherubim. That at peace with Him we are safe! Enclosed in everlasting arms, and covered with the broad shield of Omnipotence; we can defy even the last enemy; knowing that he has been conquered, and made the servant of our Great Grand Master.

The bold and lofty eloquence of St. John was the natural outflowing of a mind and soul thus trained and warned by communion with the Grand Architect of the Universe, in His own school; amid the grandeur of His own works and doings. There, in converse with the angels of the covenant, away from the turmoil and influence of the world, he had learned the will and purpose of His Maker, "who revealeth His secrets unto His servants, the Prophets." There he waxed strong in spirit, prepared to carry out the purpose of His ministry—to declare and show to Israel the truth.

Nothing truly great or noble ever was or will be accomplished by human effort, unless commenced and prosecuted in honest sincerity; with a faith that the object aimed at is right, and a truthful, steadfast purpose to carry it out. Such faith and purpose, is the grand talisman of success, as well in temporal as in eternal concerns. It is the characteristic of the Hero, wherever he has been, or may be found. With it, man is a giant; without it a pigmy.

Behold then this youthful, and in the refinements of the polite world, unlearned and unstrained preacher, under the guiding, inspiring and life-giving energy of this principle; clad in the coarse habiliments of his order, occupying his pulpit on the banks of Jordan. His church, the great temple of nature; its pillars of wisdom, strength, and beauty, standing on the world's circumference; its covering, the cloudy canopy or star decked heaven, frescoed by the hand of the Almighty, and illumined with His glory. See him drawing to his ministry, from out of the rich and luxurious cities of Judea, the proud, cold and formal Pharisee; the infidel, philosophic and sneering Sadducee, with vast multitudes of the common people "from Jerusalem and all the region round about Jordan." Listen to him, as, with the one great truth before his prophetic vision—his mission to prepare the way for Him, who was indeed "the light of the world," preaching "repentance for remission of sins with such eloquence and convincing power," that "all were baptised of him in Jordan confessing their sins." "Hear him rebuke the multitude, as a generation of vipers; admonishing them to bring forth fruits meet for repentance, and no longer to boast of having Abraham for their father; for that the time had come when appropriate fruit was expected from all who hoped to escape the fire of God's wrath. Especially my brethren let us give heed to his enforcement of the virtues of his order; exhorting the publicans or tax-gatherers to exact no more from the people than had been assessed; instructing the soldiers not to take advantage of their position and power to oppress, or to extort more than was due them; and impressing upon

all men the duties of benevolence and charity. And steadily holding to his principles of truth and integrity, forgetting everything but God and duty, see him repudiating the spiritual honours, which a wonder-stricken and almost worshipping multitude would have conferred upon him; pointing away from himself and bidding them behold Him "whose shoes he was not worthy to stoop down and unloose." "The Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world."

The circumstances attending the close of his short but brilliant life, also exhibit the same unswerving adherence to truth and principle. His fame attracted the notice of Herod, who hearing him, was moved to do many commendable things. But when the prophet—true to his obligations to rebuke evil—told him that it was not lawful for him to live with Herodias, his brother's wife, his ire was roused, and he had him cast into prison, in the tower and castle of Macherus. It is probable that Herod did not intend to take the life of John, as he remained in prison some eighteen months; but at a birthday entertainment, while under the influence of wine, he was entrapped by Herodias and her accomplished daughter, to have him beheaded. Revelation informs us that his disciples took his body and buried it, and went and told Jesus. Tradition says he was buried between Elisha and Obadiah the Prophets. Josephus relates at large, the wickedness, both of the marriage of Herod and murder of John; and also the dreadful judgments which soon after fell upon all the parties concerned.

Thus ended the earthly career of our brother and patron Saint John the Baptist; whose birthday has always been observed, as well by Freemasonry as the Church. Like a burning meteor he came from the desert, and for a brief period illumined the wilderness of Judea by his shining. Having finished his mission, he returned to Him who sent him, laying aside his raiment of camel's hair and girdle—the regalia of his earthly lodge—for the robe of purer white, and the palm of victory, in the Grand Lodge above—in the presence of his Master, whose advent upon earth he was sent to proclaim.

The simple virtues he taught, and the plain though comprehensive duties he enjoined upon those who enquired of him, "what shall we do?" have been the recognised teachings of Masonry in every age and clime. "Honesty and integrity in all the vocations of life—benevolence and charity by those who have, to all who have need of this world's goods. These teachings—always right and appropriate—seem to have a peculiar binding force at the present time, when everything connected with mankind appears to be in a state of trouble and perplexity. The rills of wickedness, hitherto flowing almost unnoticed, gathered into a dark stream, are now overflowing their banks and spreading out in wild disorder. Kingdoms, nations, states and families, at war with each other; sending wailing, misery and death into almost every neighbourhood and family, causing "hearts to fail for fear and for looking for those things that are coming on the earth." At such time it is not only right and proper in all, but especially incumbent upon us, from whom much is expected, that the bonds of affection and brotherhood be drawn closer together, and the fruit of our teachings be manifest in our work. Not to be seen of men or praised by the outside world, but in the fulfilment of our vows; in obedience to the commands of our Master on High. "Wherefore," said a brother of the past century, "do you carry corn, wine, and oil in your processions, but to remind you, that in the pilgrimage of human life, you are to impart a portion of your bread to feed the hungry; to send a cup of your wine to cheer the sorrowful; and to pour the healing oil of your consolation, into the wounds which sickness has made in the bodies, or affliction rent in the hearts of your fellow-travellers."

Let us then hasten to perform these affectionate services, and to fulfil our law of love; assured that the

blessing of those who are ready to perish will come upon us, and the heart of the widow and orphan swell with gratitude, and be made glad with joy. And in that day when all secrets shall be made known, our enemies shall learn that the *greatest depth of Masonic secrecy are its unpublished acts of beneficence and mercy*. If these things be done with proper motives, being the fruits of a true *Faith*, we may rejoice in *Hope*, and living in perfect *Charity* with all men, finally receive a *Password* into the Grand Lodge above, where Peace, Order, and Harmony shall eternally reign, and where the richest spiritual refreshments have been provided by "Our Father in Heaven."

And now, brethren, having briefly considered the life and character of a holy man and eminent patron of our Order, may we not, with profit to ourselves, and perhaps gratification to those present, who have never visited the inner sanctuary of our mysteries, turn our attention to the Institution itself, and, for a few moments, glance at its history, character, and present standing. In all these respects, I venture here to assert, if well considered, it stands *peerless*—the greatest moral wonder of the world! It is the oldest and yet most vigorous system or institution in existence. Commencing prior to all written history or tradition, outside of itself; passing—like the light its expressive symbol—noiselessly along the track of ages; leaving in unmistakeable language legible traces of its existence and character, inscribed and engraven upon nearly every ancient pillar, monument, or temple, erected upon the world's surface; with clear reference to its existence and influence, in most of the ancient volumes which have come down to us, and a large part of its ritual and teaching the language of inspiration. Mingling with, and largely permeating, and either controlling or taking the hue of, the ceremonies and character of religion, whether Patriarchal, Pagan, or Jewish; in many countries holding the key of knowledge, and controlling the development of science, art, and morality, during four thousand years of the world's existence; extending itself as if by a law of necessity controlling the heart of humanity, into every society or organisation, whether of tribe, colony, or nation; maintaining to a great extent a symbolic language, indicating a common lineage; inculcating everywhere and at all times the principle of common brotherhood, and the highest grade of morality, known and recognised among the people; it stands now, though grey with age, more fresh and vigorous than ever; neither courting favour or shunning examination; for its antiquity proves its purity, its usefulness, and its permanence. No combination of wicked men, or for a wicked purpose, ever lasted long. The want of virtue, or a virtuous purpose, on which alone mutual trust and confidence can be founded, soon festers, corrupts, divides, and destroys any institution. Had Freemasonry been erected upon any other foundation than the glory of God, and the welfare of mankind, it would have been but as the fitting sunbeam, which passes away and leaves no traces behind. It would long since have been crushed and destroyed by the enmity and persecution it has endured, or like the thousand other institutions and societies it has survived, died from disease, infirmity, or age. The splendid cities, magnificent temples, and lofty obelisks of the old world, erected by Masonry, have fallen into ruins or mouldered into dust. Empires, kingdoms, and states have passed away, and been buried beneath the rubbish of centuries; while Freemasonry, that humbles man and exalts Deity, that disregards worldly wealth and honour, and looks to the moral worth of man—the qualities of his heart,—still survives; and while man shall continue to be a social being, with a yearning for intimate communion with his fellow-man; while man shall have wants to be supplied, and the widow and the orphan shall claim his protection, our Order will be a *necessity*; and until the curse shall be lifted off, and rescinded, and man restored to the state in which God created him, Masons will meet and kindle

in each other the social affections, which find no communion in the crowd of life, and little sympathy in a cold and selfish world.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

DOCUMENTS OF THE UNION LODGE, YORK.

Whilst thanking the Rev. Bro. Woodford for the glimpse he has afforded us of these documents, allow me to point out one or two errors affecting the old Templar *ne plus ultra*. The Order of Aaron is evidently another version of the "Lodge of Knights of the Holy Tabernacle of Jerusalem," and cannot, therefore, have been first imported from Ireland in 1809, though the particular ritual mentioned may have been so. Bro. Shaw's first communication mentioned a cash-book of this degree dated 1780, and now we have a warrant copy; it apparently represents the preceptorial class of the Ancient Templars, and in a certificate of the "Early Grand Encampment of Lancashire," which met under Craft warrant, it dates its "era from the year of revival, or 1686." I do not see why we should distrust this era for the present form of the degree, that is as suitable to the reformed Church. Bro. Woodford will not wonder why he finds no Ancient Templar documents when he is informed that the Old York Templars committed nothing to writing they could avoid, carried the minutes about with them in their pocket, and carefully guarded them from non-members.—△.

THE ESSENES.

G. C. S. is referred to the following little work:—"The Essenes," by Christian D. Guisburg, LL.D.: Longman, Roberts, and Green, London.—△.

FRENCH MILITIE OF THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.

Can any brother lend me a copy of the ritual of the French Militie of the Order of the Temple?—△.

GEOMETRICAL FIGURES IN LODGE CEREMONIAL.

Is there any truth in an assertion I heard lately, that Freemasons practice geometry, very often without knowing it, every time a lodge meets? Please explain this to—AN UNBELIEVER.—[It is strictly true. It is also impossible to explain it in print.]

THE NINE HARRODS.

When and where did the Nine Harrods first originate?—HERODEM.—[In the brain of William Preston, author of the *Illustrations*. They were born about 1770, and died, as a governing body, in the place of their birth, the back parlour of the Hercules pillars, Great Queen-street, opposite the Freemasons' Tavern.]

BIRTH.—At the Chateau of Coulommies, near Rheims, France, the wife of Arthur Viscount De la Guérivière, was happily delivered of a son and heir on Wednesday, the 20th instant. The viscount is the only child of our Bro. Purton Cooper's eldest daughter Madame De Beaufort, by her first husband, the late Viscount Edmund De la Guérivière. The Past Provincial Grand Master for Kent has thus become a great grandfather.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The Directors of the Birmingham Masonic Hall Company, have extended the time for which application for shares will be received to the 14th of May. The whole of the shares have been applied for, but we understand that the directors have postponed the allotment in order that other applications may be made, so that the largest number of shareholders possible may be obtained. They deem it better for the interests of the company and for Masonry in general, that as many of the brethren as they can include should become interested in its success.

The anniversary festival of the Stability Lodge of Instruction is to be held at Radley's Hotel on Friday, May 6th. Bro Havers, P.G.W., will preside at the banquet.

At the Lodge of Benevolence on Wednesday, April 20th, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D., in the chair, thirteen petitioners were relieved with £150, and one recommended to Grand Lodge for a grant of £50.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE NEW BUILDING.

(From our own Reporters.)

The annual meeting of Grand Lodge was held in the Temple adjoining Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday last, the 27th inst. Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, G.M.; Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M.; R. W. Fred. Dundas, M.P., as S.G.W.; R.W. G. Cornwall Legh, M.P., J.G.W.; The Duke of Leinster, G.M. Grand Lodge of Ireland; Bro. Francis Elie Dubois, G.M. of Hayti; R.W. Bros. John Fawcett, Prov. G.M. Durham; Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. Hants; Alex. Dobie, Prov. G.M. Surrey; Thos. H. Hall, Prov. G.M. Cambridge; Lord Sherborne, Prov. G.M. Gloucestershire; Augustus Smith, P.M., Prov. G.M. Cornwall; Sir W. W. Wynn, Prov. G.M. North Wales and Shropshire; Col. Bowyer, Prov. G.M. Oxford. R.W. Bros. Col. Brownrigg, A. Perkins, F. Alston, H. W. Eaton, J. Havers, J. Pattison, and Lord de Tabley, P. G. Wardens; V.W. Bros. the Rev. J. Hyshe, M.A., and A. F. A. Woodford, M.A., G. Chaps.; V.W. Bros. Rev. E. Moore, E. Cox, A. Ward, Sir J. Warren Hayes, P.G. Chaplains. V.W. Bro. F. Roxburgh, P.G. Registrar; V.W. Bro. John Ll. Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes. W. Bros. G. W. K. Potter, E. Phillips, J. Udall, J. S. S. Hopwood, J. Head, L. Crombie, W. P. Scott, J. Savage, J. Hervey, C. H. Gregory, J. N. Tomkins, J. Nelson, S. B. Wilson, C. L. Webb, P.G.D.'s; Samuel W. Dankes, P.G. Supt. Works; R. W. Jennings, P.G. Dir. of Cers.; Bros. S. E. Nutt, N. Bradford, J. Symonds, P. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Bros. E. H. Patten, C. W. Elkington, H. Bridges, H. Empson, R. Spiers, G. E. Pocock, C. J. Banister, P.G.S.B.; Bro. T. Dickie, G. Purst.; Bros. Joseph Smith, D. R. Farmer, P.G. Pursts.; the W.M., P.M.'s, and Wardens of Grand Stewards Lodge; and W.M.'s, P.M.'s, and Wardens of various other lodges.

The Grand Master took his seat on the throne at three o'clock.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form and with solemn prayer,

The minutes of the last quarterly communication, so far as they referred to the election of Grand Master, were read and confirmed.

The GRAND MASTER then declared that the further proceed-

ings of Grand Lodge would be suspended, and that the ceremony of laying the first stone of the new building would at once take place, upon which a procession was formed in the following order:—

Tylers.
Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of Private Lodges.
The Grand Stewards' Lodge.
Past Grand Officers, and Present Grand Officers whose duties do not require them to assist in the ceremony.
Members of the Board of General Purposes, and of the Colonial Board.
Members of the Building Committee.
Three W. Masters of Lodges. Grand
Grand Steward. bearing the Cornucopia and the Steward.
Vessels containing oil and wine.
The Grand Secretary bearing the "Book of Constitutions."
The Builder bearing the Trowel.
The Architect and Surveyor bearing the Plans.
The Chairman of the Building Committee bearing the Inscription, &c.
The Grand Treasurer bearing the Phial containing the Coins.
Provincial and Past Provincial Grand Masters.
The Corinthian Light borne by the W. Master of a Lodge.
The Column of the Junior Grand Warden borne by the Master of a Lodge.
The Junior Grand Warden with the Plumb-rule.
Grand Steward. The Banner of Grand Lodge borne by Grand Steward. the G. Tyler. Steward.
The Doric Light borne by the W. Master of a Lodge.
The Column of the Senior G. Warden borne by the W. Master of a Lodge.
The Senior Grand Warden with the Level.
The Junior Grand Deacon.
Grand Steward. The Grand Chaplains bearing the Grand Steward. Sacred Volume. Steward.
The Deputy Grand Master with the Square.
The Ionic Light borne by the W. Master of a Lodge.
A Provincial Grand Master bearing the Mallet.
The Grand Sword Bearer.
The Most Worshipful Grand Master.
The Senior Grand Deacon.
Two Grand Stewards.
Tyler.

The Grand Master having taken his seat near the north-east, where the stone was intended to be laid, with the Deputy Grand Master on his right and the Grand Master of Ireland on his left, and silence having been proclaimed,

Bro. the Rev. J. HYSHE, G. Chap., offered up the following prayer:—"Almighty Father and Supreme Ruler of the Universe, Thou that hast set Thy glory above the heavens, we invoke Thy benediction on the purpose for which we are this day assembled. We desire, with all humility, to acknowledge that 'Except the Lord build the house their labour is but vain that build it.' Grant, therefore, we beseech Thee, that the foundation-stone of this building may be laid in Thy name, and the superstructure raised thereon prove a goodly temple to Thy praise. May the assemblies of Freemasons convened within its walls be conducted in a spirit of brotherly love, and tend to promote the welfare of our fraternity; and, finally, Oh Great Architect of the Universe, vouchsafe to us, at all times and in all places, such a measure of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be builded up a spiritual house, to Thy service, so that after our sojourn in this world we may ultimately ascend to the Grand Lodge above, and inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world."

Response, So mote it be.

Bro. John HAVERS, P.J.G.W. and Chairman of the Building Committee, then presented the inscriptions and copies of reports to the Grand Master.

Bro. W. GRAY CLARKE then read the inscription, both in English and Latin, which together with the reports and coins of the present reign were deposited by Bro. Tomkins, the

Grand Treasurer, in the cavity of the lower stone. The following are the inscriptions:—

United Grand Lodge
Of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.
At a Grand Lodge holden at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday,
27th April, 1864, in the 27th year of the reign of Her Gracious
Majesty Queen Victoria.

This the Foundation-stone
of the
New Buildings intended to complete
FREEMASONS' HALL,
and to be for ever devoted to the purposes of Masonry,
was laid

in Solemn Form and according to Ancient Usage,
by the Right Hon. Thomas Dundas, Earl of Zetland, Baron
Dundas, of Aske, in the county of York, Lord-Lieutenant and
Custos Rotulorum of the North Riding of Yorkshire, *K.T.*, &c.,
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER;

assisted by
The Right Hon. George Frederick Samuel Earl de Grey and
Earl of Ripon, Viscount Goderich of Nocton, Baron Grantham
of Grantham, in the county of Lincoln,
Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for War,

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER;
The Lord Skelmersdale, Senior Grand Warden;
Geo. Cornwall Legh, Esq., *M.P.*, Junior Grand Warden;
the Rev. John Huyshe, *M.A.*, and the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford,
Grand Chaplains;
and in the presence of a numerous body of Grand Officers and
Brethren.

Bro. Frederick P. Cockerell, Architect, Grand Supt. of Works.
Bro. Thomas Rider, Builder.

Building Committee:
John Havers, P.J.G.W., Chairman.
J. Llewellyn Evans, Pres. of Board of General Purposes.
John Hervey, P.S.G.D.
John Savage, P.S.G.D.
Joseph Rankin Stebbing, Vice-Pres. Board of General Purposes.
George Plucknett, P.M., No. 59, late 70.
Henry Grissell, W.M., No. 2.
William Gray Clarke, Grand Secretary.

Concilio Solenni
Sodalitatis Antiquæ Latomorum Angliæ
In curia habito
V Kal Maii Regnante jam annum xxvii. Regina Victoria,
Anno Salutis MDCCCLXIV.,
Fundamenta hoc lapide posito auspicata
Novissimæ structuræ
Ad complementum harum ædium destinatæ,
Et studio occultæ artis Architectonicæ
Fratrumque congregationibus in perpetuum dicatæ
More Majorum et ritibus prescriptis jecit
Honoratissimus Thomas Comes Zetlandiæ,
Summus Magister.
assistentibus
Honoratissimo Thoma Frederico Samuele
Comite de Grey et de Ripon,
Pro-Magistro.
Honoratissimo Edwardo Bootle, Barone de Skelmersdale
et
Georgio Cornwall Legh,
Curatoribus.
Reverendo Johanne Huyshe, et Reverendo Adolpho Frederico
Alexandro Woodford,
Pontificibus.
Neon plurimo Fratrum concursu,
Frederico Peyps Cockerell, Architecto.
Thoma Rider, Officinatore.
Gul. Gray Clarke, Sodalitati ab Epistolis.
VII. viri (Edeificatione præfuerunt.
Fr. Johannes Havers, Curator Emeritus, VI. virorum præses.
Fr. Johannes Llewellyn Evans, Syndicatus de ritus communibus
gerendis prefectus.
Fr. Johannes Hervey, Diaconus Emeritus.
Fr. Johannes Savage, Diaconus Emeritus.
Fr. Josephus Rankin Stebbing, Syndicatus supradicti pro-
fectus.
Fr. Georgius Plucknett, Cætus Numerati LIX olim LXX
Magister Emeritus.
Fr. Henricus Grissell, Cætus Numerati II. Magister.

The builder then delivered to the Grand Master a most beautiful trowel, with which the cement was spread and the stone was gradually lowered to its final resting place.

The GRAND MASTER having proved the stone by the plumb rule, level, and square, which were successively handed to him by the Junior Grand Warden, the Senior Grand Warden, and the Deputy Grand Master,

[Bro. COCKERELL, the architect, delivered to the Grand Master the mallet, which was the one used by Sir Christopher Wren in laying the foundation-stone of St. Paul's Cathedral, and which has since then been preserved by the Lodge of Antiquity, who struck the stone with it three times, and then said—"I pronounce this stone well and truly laid (which was followed by a loud burst of cheering), may the Great Architect of the Universe prosper this and all our virtuous undertakings, and may he bestow on us the blessings of peace, harmony, and plenty," at the same time strewing corn, and pouring wine and oil over the stone.

The following ode was then sung by the choir:—

Bounteous Creator, from on high direct us,
Seeking to raise a temple to thy praise;
May thy good Spirit govern and protect us,
While to thy glory a structure we raise,
Thus then combining, hand and heart joining,
Sing we in harmony our Maker's praise.

Here each fraternal sentiment exciting,
Order promotes our unity and joy:
All social bliss receiving and requiting,
Peace and affection our hours employ,
Thus then combining, hand and heart joining,
Long may continue our unity and joy.

Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. WOODFORD, Grand Chaplain, there amidst the most profound silence delivered the following:—

ORATION.

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Grand Wardens, in accordance with the wonted order of our ceremonies, proper on such occasions as the present, it becomes my high privilege to address you to-day. We are met, as has been most wisely arranged, on our annual festival to lay the foundation-stone of that new building for Masonic purposes, which the great increase of our Order has rendered necessary, and the exigencies of our lodge assemblies have for some time imperatively demanded. Eighty-nine years have passed away, since our Masonic forefathers were gathered together, as we are this day, to lay the foundation-stone of that older Masonic Hall, with which is bound up so much of the past history of Freemasonry in this country, and which must be associated in all our minds with so many pleasant and happy memories. And, when to-day, we are assembled in such unusual numbers, to begin this new and most important undertaking, it is impossible but that our thoughts must gratefully revert, Most Worshipful Grand Master, to that wondrous prosperity, which, by God's blessing, the Craft has enjoyed during the last twenty years under your wise and able rule. The voice of controversy has long since been hushed, opposing interests have been happily reconciled, and our Order, united in the bonds of fraternal union and concord, hails with simultaneous gladness, this seasonable opportunity of avowing its unchanged and unchanging fealty to its Grand Master, who, representing the vast body of Freemasons under the English Constitution, lays this foundation-stone, with fitting ceremony, to the honour of God Almighty and the welfare of our ancient Craft. It might, perhaps, be expected that on an occasion like the present, so interesting in itself, and so important as regards the future welfare and interest of our brethren, that I should briefly remind you, both of the dignity we claim for our Order, and of the principles we profess as Freemasons. It would, indeed, be impossible for me to enter to-day into a detailed history of Freemasonry, to unfold the long roll of Masonic antiquity, or to open out the arcana of our time-honoured traditions. Even if time allowed me, which it does not, the task would be rendered more difficult, from the well-known fact that while of late years our attention has been wisely directed to the long-neglected study of Masonic history, and archaeology, three opposing systems are to be found amongst Masonic writers, or rather three explanations have been

offered, widely different from each other, in respect of the origin, the progress, and the past annals of our Craft. There are some, for instance, who see in Freemasonry, a secret order deriving its teaching from the Egyptian mysteries, preserved through the lapse of ages, until resuscitated by the Knightly Orders, and more fully developed in what are technically often termed the High Grades. There are those, again, who look upon Freemasonry as a secret Order, preserving an occult science, but formed into an exclusive system, which was to pass through the world unconnected with the religion and politics of all times, inculcating moral duty and extending brotherly love. While there are others— who, on the great principle of cause and effect, would discern in our speculative brotherhood to-day, the lineal and lawful descendants of those guilds and sodalities, which, flourishing in the middle and early ages, are linked through the Roman colleges with Tyrian and Jewish Masons. Those who adopt this view, claim, as a matter of course, on the ground both of direct and inferential evidence, those operative Freemasons who directed science, who encouraged art, who adorned this and other lands with so many glorious temples of the Most High, as the precursors of that adopted brotherhood to which we to-day belong. Now, whichever theory be true, whichever explanations be correct, certain it is, that the early institution of Freemasonry and its existence through so many generations, is a very striking fact in the history of mankind. Both from our own records and from non-Masonic writers, we learn the indubitable truth that a secret and mysterious order, calling itself the Order of Freemasons, has outlived the departure of centuries, and has withstood the encroaching hand of time. Amidst many revolutions and many changes in the world, the passing away of mighty empires and the overthrow of human institutions, Masonry has still survived—has even apparently gained fresh vigour and new life with the very progress of each succeeding age, though on every side of it lie the wrecks of the past, and the sure if silent tokens of weakness and decay. This has been ascribed by an able Masonic writer to the fact, that Freemasonry is built upon the immovable basis of the best affections of the human heart, and that, therefore, its pillars have remained unshaken amidst the rage of every passing storm, and to this very hour have suffered no material decay. We may well then, for a short time, recall to our memories, on the present occasion, those solemn truths and leading principles of our great and useful Order, which, perhaps, long usage and constant familiarity have rendered us less mindful of than we should properly be, or apt, may be, to undervalue, in some degree, their lasting claim on our sympathies and allegiance. Freemasonry, my brethren, is universal, let us never forget; in its design and scope, and alike expansive and tolerant, rejects all partizan theories and condemns all sectarian animosities. A deep reverence and grateful acknowledgment of the Most High, is interwoven with every precept of its traditional teaching, and with every emblem and every symbol of its beautiful ceremonies. Freemasonry would link together all Masons, nay all men, in the fraternal chain of union, concord, and peace—would form a nucleus of intimate brotherhood amongst all the nations of the world. It would seek to still the angry strife of human passion, and cement enduring friendship; it would sweeten the bitterness of earthly trial and care with the timely offering of assistance and sympathy; it would bind up the broken heart, feed the orphan, relieve distress aid struggling industry, and cause the widow's heart to sing for joy. Not only this, great and beneficent as it is, but Freemasonry would unceasingly inculcate alike social duty and moral responsibility. As Freemasons, we are bound to be loyal subjects and good citizens, friends of peace and order, and opponents of commotion and revolution; discharging every obligation, and following every calling with freedom, fervency, and zeal. Yet, strange to say, this useful, this benevolent, this loyal Order, notwithstanding its peaceful progress and its unobtrusive charity, has found both detractors and calumniators! In all cases, such assaults on our system have proceeded either from heated and unreasoning opponents, or from those who, by their own confession, were altogether ignorant both of our practice and our principles. Masonry has nevertheless flourished, and will continue to flourish, so long as our lodges contribute to the true interest and happiness of our brethren—so long as they help forward the welfare of all men in their collective and individual capacity. Yes, Most Worshipful Grand Master, I make bold to say, that Order over which you so worthily preside, and long may you continue

to do so, will indeed flourish, despite any opposition, be it what it may, so long as the brethren seek to realise and adorn those principles which Masonry unfolds, and those great truths which Masonry proclaims. Without this practical development of our esoteric system the real design of our Institution will be forgotten, our teaching and our ceremonies will degenerate into an unmeaning formalism, and the true spirit of Masonry will be lost. But, with a consistent unfolding of our true teaching, with an enduring avowal of our actual design, we can see no limit, humanly speaking, to the progress and perpetuation of our Craft, save only that end, which time must one day fix, for all things earthly and human. May, then, the stone we have laid to-day according to Masonic ceremonial, be the foundation of a structure destined to be perfect in all its parts and honourable to the builder. May it eventually reflect lasting credit on the energy and ability of the Building Committee, which have surmounted so far successfully every obstacle, and have been so freely offered, both for the comfort and for the happiness of the brethren, as well as for the honour and dignity of the Craft at large. May no danger befall the workmen while engaged in this undertaking—may we ourselves be permitted to witness its steady progress, and to rejoice in its happy completion—may this new building fitly represent, as I believe it will, in this great metropolis, the permanent utility and dignity of our venerable Order. And though, my brethren, its walls must one day succumb to time, though the material building must crumble into decay, may it have ever ministered, while it shall endure, to the glory of God and the happiness of man. Above all, may it prove but the portal—for all our accepted brotherhood who shall enter within its sacred enclosure—of that immaterial and beatific temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

So mote it be.

The reading of this oration was frequently loudly applauded, and at its close the reverend brother received the hearty congratulations of many present at the splendid composition with which he had edified and instructed them.

With this closed the ceremonial of laying the first stone, but we omitted to state while it was going on, a photographic sketch was taken of the vast assembly by an artist who had fitted up a place for that purpose.

The procession then returned to the Temple in reversed order.

GRAND LODGE.

The Grand Master having taken his seat, was proclaimed in due form as Grand Master for the year ensuing, and afterwards received the customary salutes from the brethren.

The G. MASTER said—Brethren, I beg sincerely to thank you for the honour conferred upon me, for the twentieth time, and I assure you I highly prize and appreciate the compliment you have paid me. I trust that I may continue to perform my duties to your satisfaction, as it is my most anxious desire to devote the best energies of my life to your service. (Loud cheers.) I shall now appoint my noble friend and brother, Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master for the ensuing year. (Cheers.)

The Deputy Grand Master having been proclaimed and saluted,

The D.G. MASTER said,—Most Worshipful Grand Master, I return you my warm and heartfelt thanks, for having again conferred upon me the honour of appointing me as your Deputy Grand Master. I receive the appointment on this occasion with peculiar pleasure, and will to the best of my ability endeavour to discharge my duties, in conjunction with the avocations of the other important offices which I have the honour to fill.

The G. Master then appointed the rest of the officers as follows:—

Bro. Col. Arthur L. Cole, C.B....	S.G. Warden.
„ Sir John Ratcliffe.....	J.G. Warden.
„ Rev. A. F. A. Woodford....	G. Chaplains.
„ Rev. Sir F. G. Ouseley, Bart.	
„ S. Tomkins	G. Treasurer.
„ Æ. J. M'Intyre	G. Registrar.
„ W. Gray Clarke.....	G. Secretary.
„ R. Brandt	G. Sec. for German Correspondence.
„ J. Rankin Stebbing	S.G. Deacons.
„ George Plucknett.....	
„ H. Maudslay	J.G. Deacons.
„ John Deighton	
„ F. P. Cockerell	G. Supt. of Works.

„ A. W. Woods.....	G. Dir. of Cers.
„ Thomas Fenn	Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.
„ W. Young	G. Sword Bearer.
„ W. Farnfield	Assist. G. Secretary.
„ W. Stimpson	G. Organist.
„ T. G. Dickie	G. Pursuivant.
„ J. Emmens.....	Assist. G. Pursuivant.
„ C. B. Payne	G. Tyler.

Several of the brethren on receiving office were loudly cheered, the more especially Bro. Stebbing.

The G. MASTER said,—I have given to Bro. Farmer, P.G. Purst., to wear the clothing until it is confirmed by Grand Lodge, which I have no doubt it will be. He then said, under the powers conferred upon me, I have given past rank to Bro. Colonel Greenlaw, who was a distinguished Mason in India for twenty years, and who has filled the office of Prov. G.M. for Madras. He has formed and resuscitated several lodges in that presidency, and has shown his zeal as a member of our fraternity in Madras. He is about to go back to India, where his services will be again devoted to the benefit of the Craft, and, therefore, I have thought it right to give him greater scope, that he should occupy a higher position, the better to enable him to promote the interests of Freemasonry, by conferring upon him the rank of Past Senior Grand Warden. (Loud cheers.) I have also pleasure in announcing another name distinguished in this country for the energy and zeal he has displayed at all times, and for the work he has done for so many years for the benefit of the Craft. I mean Bro. Jennings, whom you all know as well as I do to be an old Mason for the last twenty-five years; and at the same time let me mention that, in the lifetime of the late Duke of Sussex, Bro. Jennings was his right-hand man. When Bro. White was incapacitated by illness from performing his duties as Grand Secretary, Bro. Jennings did his work gratuitously and to the satisfaction of the late Grand Master, and worked indefatigably for the benefit of the Craft; and I have myself to thank Bro. Jennings for the manner in which he has assisted me on many occasions, and was always ready to undertake any duty. I have, therefore, great pleasure in conferring upon him the rank of Past Grand Warden. (Cheers.)

The Grand Stewards for the year were then nominated as follows:—

	Lodge No.
Bro. Francis W. Truscott	1
„ Charles Veunell	2
„ Francis T. Barry	4
„ John F. Jackson.....	5
„ Colonel H. Daniell.....	6
„ A. A. Richards	8
„ Walter Richardson.....	14
„ Stephen P. Norris	21
„ William Kirby	23
„ William Smith	26
„ Thomas Y. C. Bambridge	29
„ Frederick Heritage	46
„ Edmond Frenniby	58
„ George W. Rope.....	60
„ David Shrewsbury	91
„ Frederick Wells.....	99
„ Alexander G. Linn.....	197
„ Edward Routh	259

Bro. HAYERS, P.J.G.W., said it was customary in Grand Lodge to give notice of any motion that was to be brought forward, so that no member should be taken by surprise; but he had given no notice of the resolution he was about to propose. It was customary, both in and out of Masonry, and therefore he proposed that the trowel with which the first stone had been laid, which was a most beautiful work, and highly creditable to the taste of Bro. Cockerell, should be presented to the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Bro. STEBBING said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion, trusting that the trowel would descend as a heirloom to the noble lord's family, and that they had great pleasure in presenting it to him.

The D.G. MASTER put the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bro. HAYERS said,—In the name of the brethren of Grand Lodge who are assembled, and of the thousands of Masons who are spread over the world, I beg to present you with this trowel, and the brethren who regard you with loyalty and affection, hoping that you may be spared to complete the work you have

this day begun, by consecrating the temple that shall be worthy of the brethren and the Order to which we belong.

The G. MASTER,—I beg to thank you sincerely for your handsome present of this trowel, which is really beautiful as a work of art, and I shall always regard it with feelings of attachment whenever I shall see it. I take this opportunity of expressing the great satisfaction I have experienced at the way in which the ceremony of to-day has been conducted; everything has been most orderly, and the occasion has been most interesting. I feel, also, that the building committee deserve our warmest thanks for the pains they have taken, and under whose directions these good arrangements have been made. If it should please the Great Architect of the Universe to spare me so long, as I have seen the beginning of this work, and I should like to see it completed, I shall have more than usual pride to assist at its consecration. I trust that the great work will go on and prosper, to the glory of God and the welfare of the Craft. (Loud cheers.)

The Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form and with solemn prayer.

THE BANQUET.

The banquet took place in the hall, the M.W.G.M. presiding. About 400 sat down, and the repast was provided in Bros. Elkington and Shrewsbury's best style, consisting of every delicacy the season could afford, and gave general satisfaction.

The cloth having been drawn, grace was sung by the professional singers.

The G. MASTER said,—The toast I am about to propose requires no preface, as it is one that in all societies is drunk with affection and loyalty, and there is no society in which it is drunk with more affection than by Freemasons. We are all anxious for the health of the Queen—we all lament that she is still in that state of mental affliction which renders her unable to appear in public; but at the same time we are all ready to make allowance for her sufferings, and sympathise with her afflictions. I am sure that there is no human creature but loves the Sovereign and prays for her restoration amongst them. He gave “The Health of the Queen,” which was heartily received.

The National Anthem followed, the solo parts being taken by Madame Parepa.

The next toast was “The Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family,” which was drunk with great cordiality.

Mr. Montem Smith sung “God bless the Prince of Wales,” with an additional verse devoted to the Princess, which was highly applauded.

The D.G. MASTER said,—The toast which I have now to offer to you, is one that is always received with enthusiasm in every Masonic assembly; but on the present occasion, I trust that toast will be received with more than ordinary enthusiasm. You have to-day seen the installation on the throne of our Masonic Order our Most Worshipful Grand Master for the one-and-twentieth time. (Loud cheers.) We are apt to celebrate the twenty-first birthday of those who are near and dear to us, with heartiness and cordiality; but in that case we do not consider so much what they have done, or their conduct for the past, but look to the promise and hopes for the future. To-night, when we celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of the installation of my worshipful and noble friend, we can look back to twenty-one years of long service rendered to the Craft, we can count up that which he has done, and when we consider the results which have been obtained, I am confident when we can look back through a long roll of years, and see how the Craft has increased in numbers and grown in public estimation, you will feel how great a debt of gratitude we owe to our Most Worshipful Grand Master. (Loud cheers.) If that be so, I rejoice to think that we have celebrated this anniversary in so fitting a manner. How could there be a more fitting epoch, when on an occasion like the present, when we were collected to lay the first stone of the new building which should mark the progress of Freemasonry, and to erect a suitable hall to receive the Craft, which is now wide spread throughout the land. (Cheers.) That first stone of the new building has been laid at a period when the Craft is not disturbed by any dissension throughout the length and breadth of England, and Masonic brethren were only to be marked by that true and brotherly feeling which should ever distinguish our lodges as Masons. He heard to-day, praise to that able, eloquent appeal of our reverend brother, the Grand Chaplain—(loud cheers)—in which he touchingly reminded us of the true

principles upon which Freemasonry is founded, and he told us—he told us truly—that upon the maintenance of those principles Masonry must continue to depend. These new buildings will not be erected for festive entertainments, which many persons consider to be the chief, if not the only, object of Freemasonry, but they would be erected for the purposes of the Craft, and I trust they will afford a home for Masons from every part of the country, where their zeal may be stimulated and that they may be kept true to their principles for every fraction of their lives. (Cheers.) Our Worshipful Grand Master has done so much for Masonry, and under whom the Craft have risen to such prosperity, that you will agree with me when I say that he was the right person to lay the first stone. (Renewed cheers.) I trust it will be preserved for him to open the new halls for the Craft, and that in a few years they will be handed over, beautified and complete. I rejoice to think that future generations of Masons, when they gaze on these buildings, will be reminded of my noble friend, our Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, and that the enduring recollections of them in ages hence will recall the many and noble virtues which endeared him to us. I give you "The Health of the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England."

The toast was drunk in the most enthusiastic manner.

The M.W.G. MASTER said,—Brethren, I thank you most sincerely for the kind manner in which you have drunk my health. I thank the Deputy Grand Master for the kind and far too flattering manner in which he has spoken of me. (Loud cries of "No, no.") I can assure you that I am unworthy of the compliments he has paid me (no, no), but, nevertheless, I thank him and you, brethren, for the cordiality and kindness with which you have received the toast. I can say that it has always been my most anxious wish to do my duty towards the Craft to the best of my ability, and I trust that I have succeeded in doing some good to the Craft during the long period that I have served the office of Grand Master. I admit that it is rather melancholy to look back to the long period for which I have been honoured by being elected to the throne of Masonry, as it must remind me that I cannot expect much longer to carry out those principles which I have always followed, for time must tell upon me before long; but I do look forward with a sanguine hope to see the new building completed, and that I shall have health and strength sufficient to consecrate the work which we have begun to-day. (Cheers.) My noble friend and brother has alluded to the principles I have done my best to promote, and I thank you all that there is now no party feeling in Masonry, but that all are actuated by brotherly love, cordiality, and unanimity. I can say for myself that it has been my anxious wish during the whole time I have been a Mason, and more particularly since I have had the honour to be Grand Master, to inculcate the principles of brotherly love, unanimity, and friendly feeling, and that everything should give way to the good of the Craft. That it should be successful is the earnest wish of my heart, and I trust that it is accomplished. I feel that all party feeling in Masonry is contrary to the principles of the Craft and hostile to it. (Hear, hear.) I trust that a better feeling prevails than existed in former times, that we shall go on in the true principles, and that they shall prevail will be the object of all classes in the Craft. I cannot sit down without expressing my satisfaction and gratification at the ceremony which has been performed to-day, at the admirable arrangements, and the quiet and orderly demeanour of every brother who attended. I shall always feel and gratefully thank you for the manner in which you have drunk my health, and I drink yours, wishing you all health and prosperity.

The G. MASTER, after alluding to the presence that day of the Duke of Leinster, who had been Grand Master of Ireland for fifty years, and but for a previous engagement, would have been present with them that evening, gave "The Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland," which was drunk with loud cheers.

The G. MASTER said,—I have now to propose a toast which I am sure you will have as much pleasure in drinking as I have in proposing it. It is the health of my right worshipful and noble friend the Deputy Grand Master (loud cheers), and I am sure it requires no words of mine to recommend that toast to your notice. You are aware as well as I am of the great advantage the Deputy Grand Master has conferred upon the Craft by accepting that office, notwithstanding his arduous duties as Secretary of State for War and as Privy Councillor

to her Majesty. I see my noble friend present upon all occasions of necessity, or where it is to the advantage of our Order, and he is always ready to devote what few spare hours he has to the service of Masonry. I myself, from my long acquaintance with my noble friend, know how anxious he is to do his duty in every station in life, and there is no man in England who grudges his time less than he does, for he is willing to work night and day for the country or for the benefit of Freemasonry. I am sure we cannot too highly applaud my noble friend the Deputy Grand Master, for his affability and courtesy is known on all occasions when he comes amongst us. I give you "The Health of the Right Honourable the Earl de Grey and Ripon, the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master of England."

The toast was drunk with loud cheers.

The D.G. MASTER said,—I am deeply grateful for the manner in which you have been pleased to drink my health, and it is always a satisfaction to me to be able to attend to the Masonic office which has been entrusted to me by the Right Worshipful Grand Master. Of the many kind things he said of me there is one that I will not deny, and that is that when I can I am most anxious to do my duty. When I took the office of Deputy Grand Master, I told the Most Worshipful Grand Master that I then filled a very labourious office under the Government, and that my first duty was to discharge the duties of that office; but since then I have been placed in a more responsible office, and although the duties of it I have to discharge are greater, I have been still most anxious, and have endeavoured to do my duty as a good Mason. It is a peculiar pleasure to me to know that my proper place is on the right hand of my right worshipful friend; and if I am able to alleviate any of the duties that fall upon him, it is to me a source of great gratification. I was delighted to be present on this occasion, which is full of the deepest interest to every Mason. I was especially glad to be present to-day, calling forth feelings of praise on those who had the management of it, for it was one of the most successful events which have taken place on any public occasion, without a hitch or sound, and has passed off smoothly, as all Masonic gatherings ought to do. I congratulate you that it was so, and I beg to add my meed of thanks to those who had the arrangement of it. Brethren, I thank you sincerely.

The G. MASTER,—We are honoured to-night by the presence of a distinguished Mason, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Hayti, and we welcome him with all the cordiality which he deserves. You all know the republic of Hayti is a young republic, and there is a Grand Lodge in that country with which we exchange representatives, and this night we are honoured by the presence of the Grand Master of that lodge. I ask you to join with me in doing honour to the ambassador to her Majesty and Grand Master of Hayti.

The G. MASTER OF HAYTI said,—Brethren, I rise to thank you for your kindness in drinking my health. I wish to tell you much, but my heart is full. It is so difficult to speak your language. I wish to take home with me the kind and good feelings of the Grand Lodge of England. I will say two words from my heart. I wish God to bless you and your families—God bless this Grand Lodge—God bless this kingdom, and may it have all happiness and prosperity. (Enthusiastic cheering.)

The G. MASTER gave "The Right Worshipful the Grand Wardens and other Grand Officers of the year," for which Bro. Colonel Cole returned thanks.

The next toast was that of "The Provincial Grand Masters," for which Bro. Sir Luicis Curtis returned thanks.

The G. MASTER next gave "Prosperity to the New Building, coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Havers, the Chairman of the Committee."

Bro. HAVERS, P.J.G.W., in reply, said the Committee felt deeply thankful and grateful for the success which had attended the ceremony that day. He need hardly tell them that the Committee felt great anxiety that the day that had been selected should be so successful, and as it had been so they were highly gratified. Their great aim was to carry out the directions of the brethren, and to provide a fitting temple in which their ceremonies could be performed for the future. They had amongst them all the elements of success. They had an admirable Grand Master, a competent architect in Bro. Cockerell, Mr. Ryder, a capital builder, Mr. Dudley, a good man for clerk of the works, a zealous committee; but above all they had a good cause, for Ancient Freemasonry was wrapped up with their charities. At present the committee were hardly

deserving of their thanks, but if they successfully carried that matter to an issue, and delivered to the brethren a temple worthy of their Order, and they should then think them worthy of their thanks, they would then feel deeply grateful. (Cheers.)

The G. MASTER said,—I now propose success to "The Masonic Charities." In proposing that toast, I may say that it is one which must engage the sympathy, good feelings, and hearty wishes, for success of every good Mason. I am happy to know that for some years your Masonic Charities have increased in prosperity. There was a large sum subscribed for new schools for the boys; the Girls' School was enlarged to accommodate more girls, and the funds for the Aged and Decayed Freemasons are also rapidly increasing, so as to carry out more fully the objects than was anticipated. When we look at the large sums collected for the advancement of our three great Charities, we ought to be proud of the Order to which we all belong. I beg to remind you of the festival for the Girls' School on the 11th of May, and I trust it will be well supported.

Bro. TOMKINS, Grand Treasurer, responded to the toast.

The toast of the Grand Stewards for the year was acknowledged by Bro. Leigh.

The G. MASTER gave "The Ladies who have honoured us with their presence," which was drank with loud cheering, and this toast terminated the proceedings.

The vocalists were Madame Parepa, Miss Jane Wells, Miss Eyles, Bros. Montem Smith, Walker, Stimpson, Theodore Distin, and Winn, the music being under the direction of Bro. Jas. Stimpson. Mr. J. Ward performed on the cornet.

Bro. Spencer was a most efficient toast-master, and the whole arrangements gave entire satisfaction.

METROPOLITAN.

EASTERN STAR LODGE (No. 95).—The last meeting of the season was held on Tuesday, April 19th, at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street; present, the W.M., Bro. F. L. Goode; Bro. J. How, P.M., as S.W.; Bro. Wilkinson, J.W.; Bros. E. W. Davis, P.M. and Treas., W. W. Daws, H. Gray, J. Marriott, P. Edinge, P.M.'s, and several other brethren. Bro. Woodbridge was raised to the third degree; Bros. Ayres and Nerway were passed to the second degree; Mr. Thomas Graves and Mr. Gerard Hessing were initiated. The business of the lodge having been disposed of, the W.M. rose and said he had the pleasing duty of presenting to Bro. E. W. Davis the testimonial subscribed for by the members of the Eastern Star Lodge as a memorial of gratitude for the great services he had rendered to the lodge. The present, an elegant silver salver, bearing a suitable inscription, was then handed to Bro. Davis, who, in acknowledgment, said, although he had received on a former occasion the customary jewel presented to the Past Masters, the testimonial of that evening coming from the individual members of the lodge, would ever be preserved by his family. All business being ended, the lodge was closed till October, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet. The following brethren visitors were present:—Bros. D. Law, P.G.S. and P.M. No. 58; C. S. Osborn, P.M. No. 22; T. Beard, P.M. No. 172; J. Emmens, P.M.; Alfred How, F. Hooper, W. G. Drew, A. E. Harris, J. G. Denyer, &c.

PRUDENT BRETHREN LODGE (No. 145).—The last meeting of the season of this flourishing lodge, was held on Tuesday, Bro. Carter, W.M., presiding, supported by Bros. Boyd, Graygoose, Exall, Hart, Blackburn, and H. G. Warren, P.M.'s, and a large number of brethren, including several visitors. Two gentlemen were initiated into the Order, the W.M. performing the ceremony in a most admirable manner. Two brethren were also raised to the third degree. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to an elegant banquet, and passed a most agreeable evening, enlivened by the vocal exertions of Bros. Exall, Graygoose, Taylor, and others.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 201).—This lodge held its last meeting for the season at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 15th instant. There was a numerous attendance of the members, and the lodge was favoured with the company of the following visitors:—Bros. Levien, No. 4, Scotland; Burton, P.M.; Albert and Nell, of No. 9; Blake, 191; Owen, 875; and Colclough and Penson, of 1059 (Bombay). The ceremonies, which consisted of passing and raising, were performed with the usual accuracy; the raisings by Bro. Goldsbro', P.M. Among the toasts given at

the banquet, that of the Visitors occupied a conspicuous place. In proposing this toast, the W.M., Bro. Wm. Hammond, expressed the great gratification he felt at having among them Bros. Colclough and Penson, who had only arrived a day or two before from India, and who could give them some information respecting their old and highly esteemed friend and brother the Rev. J. J. Farnham; he trusted that those brethren on their return to Bombay would assure Bro. Farnham that the Jordan Lodge continued to feel a lively interest in his welfare, and earnestly desired that the blessings of the G.A.O.T.U. would accompany him in his important undertakings. Their lodge, ever ready and glad to receive the visits of brethren from other lodges, extended more than an ordinary welcome to Bros. Penson and Colclough, heartily congratulated them on their safe voyage to England, and thanked them for paying the Jordan Lodge so early a visit. It was also somewhat singular that the lodge should be favoured that evening with the company of Bro. Nell, who, after a residence of some years in this country for the purpose of studying the noble art of healing, was now on the eve of returning to Bengal, to consecrate his great talents and extensive attainments to the benefit of his fellow-countrymen. In the name of the lodge he bade Bro. Nell God Speed. The W.M. having spoken of the other visitors in appropriate terms, called upon the members of the Jordan Lodge to do honour to the toast.—Bro. Colclough returned thanks on behalf of Bro. Penson and himself. He was very grateful for the kind and hospitable reception he had met with from the Jordan Lodge, and glad of the opportunity of witnessing the beautiful working of that evening. He was not much surprised, after what he had just seen, that Bro. Farnham should be so strongly attached to his mother lodge, and on the other hand he considered that the Jordan Lodge had just reason to be proud of having amongst its members such a talented and genuine Mason. He had met Bro. Farnham on his landing in Bombay five years ago, and had ever since been on the most intimate terms with him, and regarded him as one of the ablest and most enthusiastic Masons in the colony. On their return to Bombay, in the fall of the year, they should make such a report of what they had seen and heard that evening, as would be highly gratifying to Bro. Farnham and to the Concord Lodge.—Bro. Nell, and the other visitors, also returned thanks. Later in the evening, in speaking to a toast, Bro. Robinson, P.M., said he could not allow the opportunity to pass without expressing the great pleasure he felt at seeing among them two brethren who had so recently left their esteemed friend Bro. Farnham in Bombay. He felt a special interest in Bro. Farnham. He was W.M. when their esteemed brother took his departure for India, and had therefore summoned a lodge of emergency to bid him God speed. He had very quickly perceived that Bro. Farnham possessed in an eminent degree the essential qualifications of a good Mason, and had watched his career in India with much interest, and with great gratification to himself. He thanked the W.M. for the opportunity of testifying his high esteem for Bro. Farnham, to whom he, in common with the whole lodge, heartily wished success in all his undertakings, and a safe return to his native country. The proceedings were enlivened by some excellent singing, the most interesting being a Singalese song by Bro. Nell, with a running commentary and translation.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—Lodge *St. Aubyn* (No. 954).—An emergent meeting of this lodge was held on the evening of Monday last, to ballot for an officer of the navy, now serving on board of a ship in port likely to go away. The ballot proving unanimous he was duly entered into Freemasonry. The ceremonial was performed in that efficient way peculiar to the W.M., assisted by his Wardens. The brethren adjourned, when a very interesting conversation took place, and several excellent speeches were made. Bro. Rae, a member of the lodge, and S.W. of Lodge Sincerity, saying that the successor of the W.M. would have a difficult task, following as he would upon the footsteps of one of the most accomplished Masters in the Province. Bro. Kent, S.W., in proposing the health of the W.M. followed up the remarks of Bro. Rae. In replying to the toast Bro. Chapple said he was very pleased to hear such kindly expressions from the brethren, especially as he would so soon vacate that chair,

which he had endeavoured to fill in the spirit of the Constitutions, and the obligations he had entered into. He was fearful he had given offence to some of the members by refusing admission to some of their friends on account of such friends not having brought their certificates. This he could not help, he was determined as long as he was their W.M. to admit no stranger unless he brought a Grand Lodge Certificate. The visitors' toast was responded to by several; after some other toasts the brethren withdrew at an early hour.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 148).—The regular stated meeting of this old-established lodge was held on the last Monday in April, at 6.30 p.m. Bros. John Bowes, W.M.; H. B. White, P.M. and Treas.; Shaw Thewlis, Prov. S.G.D., as S.W.; Charles Pettitt, J.W. and Sec.; Rev. J. N. Porter as I.G.; James Heplerd (ex-mayor), and others attended. The minutes of the preceding lodge were confirmed. The Rev. J. J. Dreaper gave proof of his proficiency as an Entered Apprentice, and being duly rewarded, then retired. The lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Dreaper, being admitted in due form, was ably passed as Fellow Craft by the W.M., Bro. C. Pettitt, J.W. and Sec., officiating as S.D. The lodge resolved to subscribe £1 per annum to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution—all votes of this year being given in favour of Bro. Sankey. Bro. H. B. White gave notice of a motion, and after routine business the lodge was closed in peace and harmony at nine p.m.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

MANCHESTER.—*Tercentenary of Shakespeare*.—At one o'clock on Saturday, the 23rd inst., a meeting was held in the Town Hall, when the Robert Burns' Lodge (No. 999), and the Shakespeare Lodge (No. 1,009), were consecrated by Bro. Stephen Blair, Prov. G.M. of East Lancashire, assisted by his Prov. G. Officers. About 180 brethren were present, amongst whom were—Bros. Stephen Blair, Esq., Prov. G.M.; R. Callender, jun., Prov. S.G.W.; W. H. Wright, Prov. J.G.W.; Lawrence Newall, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Rev. J. L. Figgins, Prov. G. Chap.; J. H. Leresche, Prov. G. Reg.; J. Tunnah, Prov. G. Sec.; Chas. Affleck, Prov. J.G.D.; Stephen Smith, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; T. G. Gibbons, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Richard Veevers, Prov. G. Purst.; S. P. Bidder, J. McDowell Smith, Austin Shellard, and Joseph Chadwick Peatson, Prov. G. Stewards; J. W. Petty, P.M.; T. R. Williams, P.M.; Henry Thos. Baldwin, P.M.; John Chadwick, P.M.; J. Eltoft, W.M.; T. Stafford, P.M.; M. Berend, W.M.; James Payne, W.M.; J. L. Hine, P.M.; T. L. Williams, J. R. Hampson, T. H. G. Berrey, W. Martin, J. Mountain, T. Brett, T. Oakden, V. Kilborn, W. S. Brown, J. M. Haslegrove, and J. H. Stephenson. The following brethren were installed the first officers of the two new lodges:—The Robert Burns' Lodge (No. 999), Charles Affleck, W.M.; J. R. Hampson, S.W.; J. G. Holden, J.W.; Rev. Dr. Cranswick, Chap.; W. Tomkies, Treas.; George Brett, Sec.; R. Greenhalgh, S.D.; J. H. Stephenson, J.D.; and William Gibson, I.G. The Shakespeare (No. 1,009)—Isaac W. Petty, W.M.; Thos. Oakden, S.W.; V. Kilborn, J.W.; Rev. W. Milner, Chap.; A. Nicholls, Treas.; Thos. Alderson, Sec.; E. J. Heaps, E. Randles, J.D.; and T. Richards, I.G. At four o'clock the brethren celebrated the inauguration of the Shakespeare Lodge by a dinner at the Clarence Hotel, Spring Gardens. There was a numerous attendance, and the chair was occupied by Bro. Isaac W. Petty, W.M. The following toasts were proposed by the chairman—"The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the Royal Family," "The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of England, and the Grand Officers," and "Stephen Blair, Esq., R.W. Prov. G.M. East Lancashire," by Bro. Oakden; "A. H. Royds, Esq., V.W.D. Prov. G.M. East Lancashire, and the P.G. Officers," by Bro. J. H. P. Leresche; "The Immortal Memory of William Shakespeare," by Bro. Stephen Blair, R.W. Prov. G.M.; "Prosperity to the Shakespeare Lodge," by the Chairman; "Prosperity to the Robert Burns Lodge," by Bro. H. C. Drinkwater; "The Caledonian Lodge and the Kindred Lodges of Manchester," by the Chairman; "The Newly-Initiated Brethren," by Bro. J. L. Hine; "The Masonic Charities," by the Chairman; "The Visiting Brethren," by Bro. J. E. Heaps; "The Ladies." The musical arrangements, both at the Town Hall and Clarence Hotel, were conducted by Mr. Thomas Rawson, and gave the greatest satisfaction.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The following is the Report of the Committee of General Purposes to be presented to the Supreme Grand Chapter on Wednesday next:—

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 20th January to the 19th April, 1864, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:—

To Balance 20th January	£257	15	4
To Subsequent Receipts.....	263	4	0
	£520	19	4
By Disbursements during the Quarter...	135	7	0
By Balance	385	12	4
	£520	19	4

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

The Committee have also to report that, in pursuance of the Resolution of the Supreme Grand Chapter, they have embodied in the Regulations all the alterations in, and additions to, the same which have been made from time to time by the Grand Chapter subsequent to the issue of the last edition. They have also in several places transposed paragraphs, and have introduced some few mere verbal alterations in order to render the sense more clear.

The Committee have also to report that they have received the following petitions for new chapters, viz:—

1. From Comps. Charles James Banister, as Z., Frederick Williams Hayward, as H., Thomas Blacklock, as J., and twelve others, for a chapter to be attached to the Union Lodge (No. 310), Carlisle, to be called the "Union Chapter," to meet at the Masonic-rooms, Barwise Court, Carlisle, on the last Monday in the months of March, June, September, and December in each year.

2. From Comps. Charles Reynolds Rowe as Z., William Low as H., Benjamin John Kerridge as J., and six others, for a chapter to be attached to the Lodge of St. Cuthberga (No. 622), Wimborne, Dorsetshire, to be called the "Saint Cuthberga Chapter," to meet at the Crown Hotel, Wimborne, on the second Monday in the months of January, April, July, and October in each year.

3. From Comps. Thomas James as Z., Horton Yates as H., Michael Arthur Bass as J., and six others, for a chapter to be attached to the Abbey Lodge (No. 624), Burton-on-Trent, in the county of Stafford, to be called the "Abbey Chapter," to meet at the board-room of the Burton Brewery Company, at Burton-on-Trent, on the Tuesday on or before the new moon in the months of April, September, and January in each year.

These Petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

They have also received a petition from Companions Henry Wardle as Z., Henry Naylor Bates as H., James Daniel Oates as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the St. James's Lodge (No. 448) Halifax, Yorkshire, to be called the "Chapter of Regularity," to meet at the Talbot Hotel, Halifax, on the Monday on or after the new moon.

This Petition is properly signed and recommended by the Grand Superintendent of Yorkshire, but being unaccompanied with the formal sanction of the St. James' Lodge, your Committee recommend that the prayer of the Petitioners be granted, subject to the consent of the Lodge being obtained.

The Committee have further to report that much inconvenience being experienced in having the services of one Clerk only available for entering returns, making out Royal Arch

Certificates, and assisting generally in the business of the Grand Chapter, they beg to recommend that a sum not exceeding £20 be allowed for the year to Companion Little, who is now employed as one of the Clerks in the Grand Secretary's Office.

(Signed)

R. W. JENNINGS, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London,

21st April, 1864.

DEVONSHIRE.

TOWNES.—*Consecration of the Pleiades Chapter.*—This ceremony took place on Thursday, the 21st inst. The companions assembled in the anteroom, and the chapter having been opened by the three Past First Principals, the companions entered in procession in the following order:—

Members	} of the Pleiades Chapter.
Officers	
Principals	
Grand Officers.	

and having taken their seats as appointed by the Director of Ceremonies and saluted the Acting Principals, the following ode was sung accompanied on the harmonium by the P.G. Org. and Comps. Linde, Gadrige, and others acting as Choir Masters:—

Let there be light! Th' Almighty spoke
 Refulgent streams from chaos broke
 To greet the rising earth.
 Well pleased the great Jehovah stood,
 The Pow'r Supreme pronounced it good,
 And gave the planets birth.
 In choral strains let all combine,
 To bless and praise the light divine.

Pavent of light! Accept our praise,
 Who shed'st on us Thy brightest rays,
 Thy light that fills Thy mind.
 By choice selected, lo! we stand,
 By friendship joined a social band,
 In love to all mankind.
 In choral strains let all combine,
 To bless and praise the light divine.

The P.G. Scribe E. then addressed the Acting Z., who desired the petition for the charter, the warrant of constitution, and the minutes of all the meetings whilst under dispensation, to be read.

This was done by the P.G. Scribe E.

The Minutes were then put for approval and approved, the Acting Z. declared them *regular* and *valid*, and signed them.

The Acting Z. then asked whether the members approved of the officers named in the charter, and accordingly declared them approved.

The Principal II. then delivered an oration.

The Director of Ceremonies delivered the jewels and collars of the chapter to acting Z.

P.G. Scribe E. presented the three Principals of the new chapter, and the Z. of the new chapter presented the officers and members.

The Acting Z. then declared the chapter duly constituted.

The consecration then commenced with an ode, the members of the new chapter standing in two columns one on each side of the pedestal.

TUNE—God save the Queen.
 All hail! Immortal Lord!
 By heav'n and earth adored
 All hail! great God.
 Before Thy name we bend,
 To us Thy grace extend,
 And to our prayers attend,
 All hail! great God.

Here followed a prayer by J.

The ceremonial of consecration with corn, wine, and oil, accompanied with solemn music.

Acting Z. offered the consecrating prayer, after which the companions chanted, "Glory be to Thee, Most High God," "The Father Everlasting," "As it was in the beginning," &c.

Acting Z. then offered the dedication prayer, and the companions again sung the same chant.

The Acting Z. then declared the chapter duly constituted, consecrated, and dedicated, after which the companions chanted the

PSALM CXXII.

1. I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.
2. Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.
3. Jerusalem is built as a city: that is at unity in itself.
4. For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord; to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.
5. For there is the seat of judgment: even the seat of the house of David.
6. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
7. Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.
8. For my brethren and companions sakes; I will wish the prosperity.
9. Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God: I will seek to do thee good.

And concluded with the *Doxology*.

The Acting Z. enquired of the Director of Ceremonies as to the skill and knowledge possessed by the Principals, and a satisfactory reply was made.

The Director of Ceremonies presented them to the acting Z., who declared them to be the appointed Principals of the Pleiades Chapter, and they then pledged themselves to submit to the laws of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England.

The above ceremonial having terminated, the business of the province commenced. The Treasurer made a very satisfactory statement of accounts, and a vote of £20 to the Fortescue Annuity Fund was made, and £5 to the daughter of a deceased companion.

The Grand Superintendent, the Rev. John Hayshe, then appointed the E.C., Bro. W. D. Moore, as 2nd Grand Principal, and Captain Ridway, as 3rd Grand Principal. The other officers having been named and installed, the companions adjourned for an hour, when they again assembled to the banquet, served by Comp. Heath, in a most creditable style, to the evident satisfaction of all present.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

LONDON.

SUPREME COUNCIL.

The Supreme Council of S.G.I.G. 33°, held a meeting at the London Coffee House, Ludgate-hill, on Tuesday, the 13th of April, when the following members were present:—M.P. Sov. G. Com., Dr. Leeson, 33°; Colonel Bowyer, 33°; Henry Charles Vernon, 33°; Dr. Kent, 33°; Colonel Deering, 33°; C. J. Vigne, 33°; Baron Bulow, 33° of the Sup. G. Council of France; and Hyde Pullen, 33°, Sec. Gen. H.E. At this meeting Captain Nathaniel George Phillips was duly installed a S.G.I.G. 33° and member of the Supreme Council. Various matters of business connected with the Rite were discussed and arranged.

MEETING OF THE GRAND CONSISTORY OF THE 32°.

The Supreme Grand Council held a Grand Consistory of the 32°, on Wednesday, April 14th, at the London Coffee House, and the Ill. Bro. Gibbs, 31°, was advanced to the 32°.

SOVEREIGN TRIBUNAL OF THE 31°.

Afterwards a Sovereign Tribunal of the 31° was held, when the following Ill. Knts. K. H. 33° were advanced to the rank of G.I.G., Thomas Willis Fleming; W. Howells; and the Rev. C. M. Style.

GRAND ELECTED KNTS. K.H. 30°.

In addition to those enumerated above, there were assembled, for the 30°, the Ill. Bros. Dr. R. H. Goolden, Charles Goolden, and John Butler, 32°; W. Bollaert, 31°; and E. S. Shilton, C. J. Banister, M. H. Shuttleworth, Captain Cox, L. Lemanski, F. Walker, Matthew Cooke, Org. to Sup. G. Council, Charles Beaumont, J. How, A. H. Pearson, George Lambert, Captain W. P. Dadson, Richard Spencer, Major Finney; visitor, W. Littaur, 30°, of France, and others, all of the 30°. The ceremony was most perfectly and beautifully performed by Colonel

Clerk, 33°, who received the following Ex. and Perf. Princes, 18°, into the 30°:—C. W. Oliver and C. R. Davy, of St. Peter and St. Paul R. Chapter; H. S. Alpas, of the Palatine Chapter; H. Hollingsworth, Colonel A. G. Meehan, Colonel Greenlan, and R. S. Hulbert, of the Royal Naval Chapter; the Rev. James Hill Grice, of the Mount Calvary Chapter; Charles Hewitt and Captain J. G. Sandeman, of the Invicta Chapter; and John Newton, of the St. Dunstan's Chapter. After the reception of the foregoing, the M.P. Sov. G. Com., Dr. Leeson, gave a most elaborate and learned address on secret cyphers, and their uses in the former ages of Freemasonry. The learned doctor also took occasion to condemn the erroneous statements often set forth with regard to the high degrees, and said that he could not be expected to correct them, as it would occupy the whole of his time to do so.

The meeting then was closed, and many of those present went to dinner, under the presidency of Colonel Clerk, with whose merits, as a chairman, all who have the pleasure of knowing him are fully acquainted.

After the cloth had been removed, Colonel Clerk gave "The Queen—God bless her." This was followed by "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family."

Colonel CLERK said it was not their usual custom to give many toasts, but they must not omit the healths of the various Supreme Councils. They were that night honoured by the presence of Baron Bulow, 33°, of France, and there was one circumstance which rendered him specially interesting to Englishmen, viz., that he was a grandson of Field-Marshal Blücher, who was our great Duke's companion in the last great war; and the Baron himself had seen no little service, as he bore the scars of fifteen honourable wounds. Colonel Clerk then proposed "The Supreme Councils of the World, and coupled it with the name of Baron Bulow, who was one of those under the M.P. Sov. G. Com. of France, Bro. Viennet." (Hear, hear.)

Baron BULOW, 33°, made a most eloquent speech, in French, and complimented our Council very warmly, entering into certain particulars which we are not at liberty to print, and concluding with very many thanks for his reception. He was followed by W. Littaur, 30°, who was as warm in his profession of thanks, and specially alluded to Dr. Leeson and Colonel Clerk, who he said had fed his mind whilst his body had not been neglected in the hospitality of which he had partaken.

Dr. LEESON, M.P. Sov. G. Com. 33°, said, in rising to return thanks for the very kind manner in which his own and the healths of the Sup. G. Council had been proposed by the Baron de Bulow, he could not forget how he himself had been welcomed by the Sup. G. Council of France when he had occasion to visit them some time back. He was glad that their Council had been able to receive their honourable friend Baron Bulow, as he was sure that the M.P. Sov. G. Com. of France, Bro. Viennet, had the warmest and best feelings towards them, and although the nations occasionally differed in their politics, yet it was ever the aim of both the Sup. G. Councils to do their utmost to prevent unpleasantness, and to diffuse the blessings of freedom, virtue, and religion, amongst all those who were members of the high degrees in every land. On behalf of the Sup. G. Council of England he thanked the Baron for the kind manner and tone of the toast. He then turned from the collective body to one of its members, and need only mention the name of their illustrious president that day, Colonel Clerk. Though their president held a high position in her Majesty's service, he came amongst them very able and willingly to promote their best interests. He had always at hand Bro. Pullen, 32°, whose tact and manner was a great assistance to him in any little difficulty he experienced, and he looked forward with two such brethren to an honourable retirement at his age. (No, no.) In Colonel Clerk, he felt that the high degrees would not suffer, and he also recognised that their president would be surrounded by a faithful band, who, though not the most distinguished of the aristocracy by birth, yet by their principles and line of action, were entitled to every mark of respect and esteem. They did not seek for nobility of blood alone, but to the firm adherence of those principles of virtue and talents which in this age of progress might set themselves forth as true lights to the world. He was happy to say that they shared the most friendly sentiments with most of the Sup. G. Councils in the world, and he hoped that when their sister council in America could again hold up her head, freed from the demon of international strife, it would persevere in the

first great principle of their Order—abnegation of self—and return to its duties as a brotherhood, breathing peace, goodwill, and harmony, amongst the nations of the world. Had Garibaldi had the leisure he would have been with them, for they had invited him (hear, hear) to meet them, but he was quite unable. Whatever might be thought of him individually, and however he might have been mistaken, yet he was one of those who desired the benefit of the human race. However, far he, Dr. Leeson, had wandered away from the subject, he now returned to it again, and gave them the toast of "The Ill. Bro. Colonel Clerk."

Colonel CLERK, 33°, said that at all times it afforded him great pleasure to be able to do his duty wherever and whenever it was in his power. He had long acknowledged the old saying, "that there is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous," and unless their ceremonies were well done the candidates went away more impressed with the latter than the former. Feeling this deeply, he had endeavoured to work their ceremony correctly—(hear, hear)—but had it not been for the assistance of Bro. Pullen he had his doubts whether he should have got through. They certainly required a little better accommodation than they had then, and he hoped they might yet meet where their ceremonial might be done better and with more sublimity. Thanking them for the very kind way in which the toast had been received, he resumed his seat.

Colonel CLERK, in proposing the health of those members of the 32° who were present, Dr. R. H. Goolden, Charles Goolden, J. Gibbs, and their Secretary General Hyde Pullen, could not but acknowledge how deeply they were all indebted to the latter for his aid in every shape. He coupled the toast of the 32° with the name of Bro. Pullen.

Bro. HYDE PULLEN, 32°, was very much pleased that his own individual exertions were reckoned serviceable, and it was a great reward to have that public intimation tendered to him. He believed that to work well was to do well for the high degrees, and felt sure that the other three brethren whose names were coupled with his felt equally the same, therefore, in their and his own name he returned thanks.

Colonel CLERK next proposed the health of those of the 31°, to which Bro. Bollaert, the only one remaining present, replied.

Colonel CLERK, 33°, said they had arrived at the last toast of the evening, "The Members of the 30°." He felt sure they would not regret having increased their numbers by those admitted that day. On the list was one whose name was known wherever Freemasonry was spread. They had advanced a son of Dr. Oliver—(hear, hear)—whose works were read both far and wide. Dr. Oliver, himself, a retired 33°, and it had given him, Colonel Clerk, very great pleasure in admitting his son to the 30°. With the toast he begged to couple the name of the Ill. Bro. Oliver.

Bro. OLIVER, 30°, was deeply grateful for the very kind allusion which their excellent chairman had made to his father. His great age prevented his being present, or, no doubt, he would have done himself the honour to be there. If he, Bro. Oliver, could only tread in his father's footsteps, he should be very happy, but he knew what a difficult task he had to support the *prestige* of that honoured name. Still he hoped, without being so eminent in Masonry as his father had been, to be useful in his own sphere, and thanked them for his reception that day.

The meeting then broke up, and the brethren gradually retired, after indulging in friendly intercourse, and recounting many of the experiences of Freemasonry in times and places long gone by and seldom visited.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

MANCHESTER.—*Jerusalem Encampment*.—A convocation of this conclave or chapter of encampment of our illustrious and most ancient Order was held on Wednesday, the 20th of April, The fraters having partaken of refreshments, and of that cup which "cheers but inebriates not," proceeded at 6.30 p.m. to assemble under the command of Sir Knt. B. St. John B. Joule, 30°, J.P., their E.C. Sir Knts. Rev. J. N. Porter, Prelate; Capt. Ellis, as 1st Capt.; John Bolderson, 2nd Capt.; S. P. Leather; John Yarker, jun., I.P.E.C. &c., as Registrar; J. L. Hine, Treas.; Stephen Smith, as Capt. of Lines; W. H. Wright,

Prov. G. Chancellor; J. L. Bold, and others, being present. Communications from Sir Knts. J. Bell, J. L. Threlfall, Thomas Higginson, C. J. Banister, Dr. Rowan, and C. Affleck were read, and Sir Knt. Bennett was reported to be absent in London. A ballot was severally taken for Comps. Charles Pettitt, of the Howe Chapter, Birmingham, and John Chadwick, Z. of the Virtue Chapter, Manchester, which was unanimously in their favour, and, having duly appeared before the outworks, evinced that zeal and satisfactorily passed those probations required, they were installed Knight Companions of the Religious and Military Order of the Holy Temple and Sepulchre. The first part of the ceremonies were performed by the I.P.E.C. Sir Knt. John Yarker, jun., and the second part by the Prov. G. Chancellor Sir Knt. W. H. Wright, in the unavoidable retirement of the E.C. A committee was appointed to enquire respecting the missing minutes and documents of the encampment (1812—1847), and also the seal—which are supposed to have got into the wrong box at the rooms, or to be mis-placed in the archives of some of the lodges or chapters. Great regret was expressed at the loss of these documents, as they refer to an interesting period of the encampment's history—most of the Craft Prov. Grand Officers being members of this encampment during this period, and the two Prov. G.M.'s of East and West Lancashire. La Gendre Nicholas Starkie and John Crossley, being installed in the encampment in 1826, and in consequence of a petition from this encampment, the latter was appointed Prov. G. Commander of Lancashire, by the Duke of Sussex, in 1827, in room of Sir F. D. Astley, deceased. A vote of £2 2s. having been given to Sir Knt. Hine to procure votes for the annuity fund, in aid of an aged Sir Knight, and the business having been terminated, the Sir Knights adjourned for refreshments, the evening being pleasantly spent in improving Masonic conversations until 8-50 p.m., when all separated in peace and harmony.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 3).—A lodge was held on Tuesday April 26th, at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street; Bro. Dr. T. S. Barringer presided as W.M.; Bro. J. How as S.W., Bro. E. J. Stillwell as J.W., Bro. J. Banister acted as Deacon. Bro. D. Berhamji, of the Neptune Lodge, was advanced; Bro. Jerwood, S.W., was elected W.M., and Bro. Barringer Treas. Two brethren were proposed for advancement at the next meeting in June. All business ended, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the usual pleasant banquet, at which Bro. Rev. J. G. Wood presided. In course of the evening, Bro. Berhamji, in acknowledging the congratulations of the members on his admission to Mark Masonry, with considerable eloquence referred to the universal benefits bestowed on mankind by the institution of Masonry, and in his own case admitting him, one of another clime and another creed, into perfect union and equality. (The worthy brother is a Parsee.)

SCOTLAND.

AYRSHIRE.

AYR.—Several serjeants of the 41st (Welsh) Regiment were, on occasion of their leaving this station to join head-quarters previous to the regiment's departure for Ireland, entertained at dinner by the Lodge Ayr Kilwinning, No. 24, in the Star Hotel, on the evening of Friday week. Upwards of thirty brethren were present. The R.W.M., Bro. Robert Ferguson, presided; and Bros. Oliver and Spence officiated as croupiers. Supporting the chair were the guests of the evening, Sergeants Walsh Instructor of Musketry; Davies, Lunam, Hary, and Stubbs; Bros. John Park, Sergts. Murray, of the Royal Artillery, and Wallace of the Royal Ayr and Wigton Rifles, &c. In reply to the toast "Our Gallant Guests," appropriately given from the chair, Bro. Walsh, adverted to the pleasing intercourse he and the other Masons of the 41st had had with, and to the kind attention that had ever been paid to them by the brethren of his mother lodge, Ayr Kilwinning, a lodge to whose influence could be traced the great impulse given to the profession and practice of Freemasonry among the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Welsh Regiment—and concluded by bidding a feelingly

expressed adieu to their Masonic friends in "auld Ayr." Many other toasts were given: the response to that of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was made by one of the Grand Stewards, Bro. D. Murray Lyon; and the visiting brethren were replied for by Bro. Bigham, D.M., of the Royal Arch. The meeting, a really pleasant one, was prolonged till a late hour; and before breaking up, mine host of the Star (Bro. Robert Little) had the pleasure of learning from the chair how highly the brethren were satisfied with the truly rich and substantial repast he had in such abundance placed before them.

DUMBARTONSHIRE.

CADDER.—Argyll Lodge (No. 147).—A most pleasing and interesting ceremonial in connection with this lodge took place on Saturday, the 2nd April, at Chryston. Bro. Mitchell, who is not only a Freemason but an operative and practical mason or builder, has been the efficient working Master of the above lodge for nearly a quarter of a century. The brethren, along with those of the sister lodge, resolved to pay him a compliment on the occasion of his erecting a mansion for himself and family. Accordingly a large muster of the Craft assembled, numbering about 200, to lay the foundation of the above. There were deputations from the following lodges:—St. John's (No. 34); St. Mark (No. 102); Old Monkland St. James' (No. 177); St. Georges (No. 333). The lodge having been opened the R.W. Master and office-bearers requested Bro. Donald Campbell, and those whom he might appoint, to act for them on this occasion. Whereupon the following discharged the duty at the interesting ceremonial, who moved off in the following rotation:—Acting Bros. Donald Campbell, R.W.M.; Robert Craig, D.M.; D. H. Miller, S.W.; Robert Clugston, J.W.; J. Cruchton, S.D.; Captain David Miller, J.D.; A. Mitchell, Architect; Wm. Mather, Sec.; R. Baxter, Treas.; George McIsaac, Chap.; James Shaw, Marshal. The following carried the implements necessary to the ceremony:—Bros. William McDonald, Masters Rod; L. C. Jernacque, Mallet; John Burnett, Square; Andrew Burnett, Level; William Rennie, Plumb; John Grenlie, Corn; Walter Macleod, Wine; John Shaw, Oil. The lodge having been adjourned, the procession was formed, and, after a march of a couple of miles, arrived at the scene where the stone was to be laid. Having ascended the platform, the interesting ceremonial was efficiently performed; after which the acting Master congratulated the members of the Craft on the auspicious occasion. Referred to the well-merited compliment paid to their Master, who had so long, so faithfully, and so diligently served the Craft in the position he had held for twenty-three years. It was, he said, a most beautiful instance of the effects of a hard working and energetic brother, preparing for himself and family, a strong, a sure, and a solid protection from the inclemencies and changes of this variable climate in his late years, after having buffeted many a storm. Bro. Andrew Mitchell replied in suitable and feeling terms, deeply affected with the warmth shown him on the occasion, not alone by the members of the Craft but the greater part of the surrounding neighbourhood. Three cheers were then given for the "Lord of the Manor," Bro. Mark Sprot, who was present, and acknowledged the compliment paid him. After which Bro. McIsaac, Chaplain, asked permission to address the assembly, which, having been accorded, spoke as follows:—"R.W.M., Senior and Junior Wardens, and Brethren all, being called upon to address you on this occasion, I must throw myself upon your kind indulgence, inasmuch as I am placed in a position which, to me, is somewhat novel. We have met in this place to-day, we have been actors in and speculators of the most solemn service of laying the foundation-stone of this, our R.W. Master's house, in true Masonic style. By our presence here, as Masons and as men, we have done honour to the noble principles of our most ancient and most honourable Craft, and at the same time have evinced our sympathy and good wishes for our worshipful brother, the proprietor and builder of this house, and, addressing myself to you dear brother, I would say accept of our tribute of good wishes, which, though indeed they cost us nothing, are nevertheless the choicest fruit of benevolence. Nothing, brother, can be more desirable than a comfortable house and home—no earthly object more commendable after which to pursue. The man who would house himself and family in a miserable hovel or squalid garret while he has the ability to acquire a most comfortable abode, does a mighty injury to himself and family. For it is a fact that outward circumstances and external things make an impression

on our moral nature, the atmosphere of society in which we move, and the house we live in contributes somewhat to the formation of our character and habits. A noble example then has been set by you, brother, in thus providing for yourself and family a comfortable house and home, and it is the sincere wish of the brethren that this home be a home of peace, plenty, and prosperity, a home of harmony and love. May it descend down to future generations of thy posterity, may it withstand the fury of many a wintry blast, and from within its walls may there go forth men and women, good and true, who shall be a credit to you, their progenitor and the builder of this their home. Men, who shall be an honour to their country, being ready, if need be, ably to defend their hearths and homes. Men and women who shall be ornaments to the church. "And, as all earthly things must pass away, the time will come when this house will crumble to the dust, in all probability long after all of us have passed away. May it be our present endeavour, then, brethren all, to obtain an inheritance in Heaven, a place in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." The procession having been re-formed, marched to the present residence of the R.W.M., where wine and cake were served. After three cheers for "his fireside," the brethren proceeded to their hall where the lodge was closed. The brethren thereafter sat down to an excellent dinner, when with toasts, songs, and sentiment they enjoyed themselves until the train left for Glasgow.

ROYAL ARCH.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER FOR SCOTLAND AND THE COLONIES.—*Consecration of the Chapter Pardeck of Pardeck near Glasgow.*—On Thursday, the 14th inst., the office-bearers and members of the above Grand Body met to consecrate the new chapter to be holden at Pardeck. The ceremonial was conducted by M.E. Comp. Donald Campbell, Depute G. Z., assisted by M.E. Comps. Thomas McKell Campbell, James Bannatyne, Robert Clugston, Henry Marshall, J. K. Donald, &c. After the ceremonial of consecration, the chapter was adjourned for the purpose of installing the newly-appointed Principals, which having been completed the chapter was resumed, when congratulatory addresses were passed on both sides. Nine candidates were exalted members of the Pardeck new chapter. The chapter having been closed, the companions adjourned to the Crow Hotel, where a happy evening was spent until the warning hour of Forbes Mackenzie enjoined all to wend their way to their respective abodes, and in the words of Burns,

"And each took off his several way,
Resolved to meet some other day."

Above forty companions were present.

TURKEY.

(From the *Levant Herald*.)

SMYRNA.—On Wednesday, March 30, the members of the various Masonic lodges at Smyrna assembled at the English Club-rooms, in Frank-street, in order to present Bro. Charles Green, who had been appointed Marshal of the American Consulate at Constantinople, with a suitable testimonial as a mark of esteem and as a slight recompense for his many past services during his residence at Smyrna. An elegant banquet was given on the occasion, Bro. Hyde Clarke, D. Prov. G.M. for Turkey, occupying the chair, supported by Bro. Carrer, of Smyrna, and Bro. Harvey of the Bulwer Lodge, Constantinople. The testimonial, a silver goblet with an appropriate inscription, was presented to Bro. Green by Bro. Hyde Clarke, who passed a high eulogium on the services which Bro. Green had rendered to the Craft, and in conclusion wished him all prosperity in his future avocation, in which all the brethren heartily joined.

It cannot be too deeply impressed on the mind, that application is the price to be paid for mental acquisitions, and that it is as absurd to expect them without it, as to hope for a harvest where we had not sown a seed.

PEACE is the evening star of the soul, and virtue is its sun; the two are never far apart.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen, Prince Alfred, and the younger members of the Royal Family, are at Osborne. The Queen has happily recovered from his recent indisposition. The Prince and Princess of Wales continue at Sandringham. An impending visit of the Prince of Wales to the Tuileries is among the rumours mooted in the capital of France.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Thursday, the 21st inst., Lord Chelmsford declared that the Lord Chancellor's Transfer of Land Act was a total failure, while the Lord Chancellor submitted that it was, so far, a success.—In reply to a question, Lord Russell explained that the Conference on the affairs of the Danish Duchies had been delayed in consequence of the Austrian and Prussian Plenipotentiaries having received instructions not to take their places at the green table until Baron Blust, the representative of the Germanic Confederation, had arrived. Lord Malmesbury said he hoped the Government would be on its guard against a repetition of this postponement.—The Union Relief Aid Acts Continuance Bill was read a third time and passed, and several other measures were advanced a stage.—On Friday, Lord Ellenborough brought in a Bill providing that the revision of sentences of capital punishment should be entrusted to the whole Cabinet, and not to the Home Secretary alone.—On the motion of Lord Derby, it was agreed that it should be an instruction to all committees on metropolitan railway schemes to insert provisions securing a cheap train morning and evening for the labouring classes.—After a short discussion on the position of certain captains of the royal navy who are affected by an order in Council promulgated in August, 1860, their Lordships adjourned.—On Monday the business was of a formal character.—

On Tuesday, Lord Chelmsford protested against the orders which had been issued to our Colonial Governors on the subject of the admission of American cruisers into British ports. The noble and learned lord referred more particularly to the case of the Confederate ship *Tuscaloosa*, the detention of which at the Cape he strongly condemned. Lord Russell reminded Lord Chelmsford that, according to the law of nations, captured vessels should be taken into the ports of the captor, so that each case might be adjudicated upon in a regular form by the Prize Courts. Owing to the Federal blockade, however, the Confederates were unable to do this, and an anomalous state of things having thus arisen, it was necessary for neutral Powers to insist upon exceptional regulations. With regard to the *Tuscaloosa*, the Government were bound to consider her an uncondemned prize; but as the circumstances of the case were new, the law officers of the Crown were of opinion that instead of detaining her, it would be sufficient to "warn her off." The noble earl, referring to some pointed remarks from Lord Chelmsford, denied that the Government had truckled to the United States, which, on their part, had promptly and fairly attended to whatever demands it had been the duty of Her Majesty's Government to make upon them. Lord Kingsdown controverted the doctrine that a captor was bound to take a prize before a prize court, while the Lord Chancellor supported the arguments of his colleague. After a few observations from Lord Hardwicke, the subject dropped.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, the 21st, the duty on fire insurance formed the subject of a long discussion.—On the motion for going into Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. Sheridan moved a resolution recalling the fact that the House had expressed its opinion in favour of a uniform reduction of 1s. per cent. On a division this resolution was rejected; and the House also negatived a proposition of Sir H. Willoughby, that

buildings, and not stock in trade, should be relieved to the extent proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—Mr. Gladstone's resolution, fixing the duty on insurances of stock in trade at 1s. 6d. per cent., was then agreed to.—On Friday, in reply to a question from Lord Robert Cecil relative to the shooting of James O'Neil, a British subject, by the commander of the Federal gunboat *Victoria*, Mr. Layard said representations had been made to the United States Government on the subject, and redress demanded.—Sir Charles Wood, in answer to a question from Lord Stanley, said he had no reason to believe that the Bengal Government had prohibited the burning of human bodies on the banks of the Hoogly.—In reply to Mr. Newdegate, Lord Palmerston stated that surveys were being made with the view of ascertaining whether it was necessary to construct forts for the defence of the Bristol Channel.—Mr. Milner Gibson, in answer to a question from Mr. Black, said the Italian Government had not abolished their export duty on rags.—The House was counted out shortly before eight o'clock, during a discussion on Mr. Liddel's motion censuring the policy of the Government in aiding the Imperialists to suppress the Taeping rebellion.—On Monday Mr. Baxter announced his intention of bringing on another discussion upon the affairs of China, a subject which was got rid of on Friday night by a count-out. Sir George Grey, in answer to a question from Mr. Harvey Lewis, explained that the "Garibaldi meeting" on Primrose Hill, on Saturday evening, was dispersed by the Police Inspector without any special instructions from the Home Office or Scotland-yard. The officer acted upon a general order, which was issued after the Garibaldi disturbances in Hyde Park, and the object of which was to prevent the parks under the control of the Board of Works from being converted into arenas for the discussion of exciting political subjects.—After a good deal of discussion, Mr. Scholefield's bill for extending the principle of limited liability to private partnerships was read a second time.—On Tuesday Mr. Layard stated, in answer to a question, that it was impossible to say whether, if the London Conference agreed to an armistice, the Danish blockade would be raised.—Mr. Arthur Mills, in moving an address for papers relating to New Zealand, strongly denounced the recent legislation of the Colonial Parliament, which aimed, he said, at the whole confiscation of native property, and the extermination of the natives themselves. Mr. Cardwell said that in accordance with the expressed desire of the imperial Parliament, the colonists had had the government of the native population thrust upon them, and it would, therefore, create fresh and serious difficulties if the Crown were to step in now and disallow the Confiscation Act, to which Mr. Mills had referred. At the same time Sir George Grey had been instructed to limit the operation of the Act as far as possible, and no native would be deprived of his land without the personal knowledge and sanction of the Governor. The right hon. gentlemen trusted that the next mail would bring the welcome intelligence that the war was at an end, and in that case a complete amnesty would be granted to the natives. After some discussion, in the course of which Sir J. Pakington expressed his entire approval of the views stated by Mr. Cardwell, the motion for an address was agreed to.—On Wednesday, on the motion for the second reading of the Church Rates Commutation Bill, Mr. Hadfield raised an objection on a point of order. The bill referred to money matters, and should, he argued, have been originated in a committee of the whole House. The Speaker overruled the objection. Mr. Newdegate then moved the second reading of the Bill. His object was to have the matter referred to a select committee. He proposed that the charge should be acknowledged, and on

its estimated average—twopence in the pound—should be declared a charge binding on property, and which an occupier might deduct from the rent. Sir C. Douglas moved that the Bill be read a second time that day six months. The bill would satisfy nobody. After some discussion, the second reading of the Bill was negatived by 160 votes to 60.—Sir J. Hay moved the second reading of the Bank Notes (Scotland) Bill, the object of which was to extend to any person or persons carrying on the business of banking in Scotland the power to issue notes against the gold which they held in their coffers. Mr. Black moved the rejection of the Bill, on the ground that it would enable a set of men in Scotland to work together and manufacture and issue bank notes. A long discussion followed, in the course of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer opposed the Bill. Eventually the motion for the second reading was withdrawn. The House having gone into committee on the Trespass (Ireland) Bill, Captain Archdall justified a statement which he had made on a previous occasion—that the sub-inspectors of police in Ireland were little better than poachers. Sir R. Peel defended the police force, and said that in a wild part of the country everybody ventured to sport perhaps a little unlawfully. When a boy at school he had himself poached. A distinguished statesman was caught by George III. poaching, and were they not at this time celebrating the tercentenary of Shakspeare, who was a poacher. He (Sir R. Peel) promised his assistance in passing the Bill. On clause 1 a discussion took place which lasted till a quarter to six, when the House resumed. The select committee appointed to inquire whether the Marquis of Hartington had vacated his seat by accepting the office of Under-Secretary of State reported that he had not.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality in the metropolis is we are happy to say, on the decline, though it has not yet reached that normal condition of health which characterizes the inhabitants of London in the present season. The deaths were 1,381 last week, which is more than a hundred below the deaths of the two weeks previous; but it is still higher than the ten years' average by 73 deaths. The births do not come up the standard—2,000 children were born in the course of the week, which is 32 below the average.—We may fairly assume that on Saturday every town in the kingdom had its "Shakspeare celebration" of some kind or other. In London there was a poor demonstration on Primrose Hill, where Mr. Phelps planted a memorial oak, and Mr. Henry Marston read a "Tercenary Ode" from the pen of Miss Eliza Cook. At Stratford-upon-Avon, however, there was a really imposing display in the shape of a banquet, which was attended by Lord Carlisle (who presided), the Archbishop of Dublin, Bishop Wordsworth, of St. Andrews, Lord Leigh, and other persons of social and literary distinction. The Stratford festival has extended over the whole of the present week.—Lord Palmerston has promised to lay the foundation-stone of the new Bradford Exchange as soon after the close of the present session as his engagements will permit.—The Upper House of Convocation has, by the casting vote of the Archbishop of Canterbury, decided to appoint a committee for the purpose of considering the desirableness of formally condemning "Essays and Reviews." The Prelates who voted against the proposition were the Bishops of London, St. Davids, Lichfield, Lincoln, and Ely.—Garibaldi went through a busy and exciting day on Thursday the 21st. In the morning he breakfasted at the Reform Club, after which he proceeded to Pembroke Lodge in Richmond-park, and had luncheon with Earl Russell. He returned to town in the course of the afternoon and visited the two Houses of Parliament, staying a few minutes in each, and wound up the pro-

ceedings of the day by a dinner to which he was invited by the Fishmongers' Company, and which was given in their hall. At all these places, and all along the various routes by which he passed, he was welcomed by the same cheering, shouting crowds that have followed all his appearances amongst us. On Friday he left London. In an address he has issued to the people of England he apologises to his friends in the country towns for putting them to trouble and inconvenience by not fulfilling his promise to visit them. He states, however, that he cannot fulfil his promise now: but he hopes to return at no distant period and see something of the domestic life of England. His last day in London was spent in visits to various distinguished parties. He breakfasted with the American Consul, where several ladies and gentlemen were presented to him; afterwards he drove to the residence of the Earl of Shaftesbury, and then he went to Stafford House, where his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who had come up from Sandringham that morning, had an interview with him, and remained with him for some time. In the afternoon the general drove to Cliefden, the residence of the Duchess Dowager of Sutherland, where he remained until Monday, when he proceeded by the Great Western Railway to Penquite, the seat of Col. Peard. He stopped on his journey at Weymouth, and visited the Channel fleet at Portland. He left our shores on Wednesday morning. After passing the night at Penquite he embarked at Fowey and sailed for Caprera. He was, however, driven back to St. Mawes Bay by stress of weather. Lord Shaftesbury confirms in every particular, the statement of Mr. Gladstone as to the circumstances under which Garibaldi came to the resolution to bring his visit to a premature close. He declares his firm belief that all those who acted with him in tendering advice to Garibaldi on this subject were "animated by the same ardent desire (without reference to anything or anybody but the General himself) to urge that, and that only, which was indispensable for his personal welfare." All, this, however, has failed to calm the suspicions of the members of the London Reception Committees, who continue to assert that the General has been hurried away by some sinister influence. A large crowd assembled on Saturday to "protest," against this alleged affront to the great Italian, but the police authorities adopted the foolish and mischievous course of dispersing the meeting. A deputation, headed by Mr. Edmond Beales, waited upon Sir George Grey at the Home Office on Wednesday, in reference to the interference by the police with the Garibaldi meeting on Primrose Hill on Saturday last. Mr. Beales asked for information as to the rules under which public meetings could be held in the open air. Sir George Grey expressed his regret that the meeting should have been broken up, but said that such meetings could only be held in the parks with the consent of Mr. Cowper. He added that if the police had been guilty of violence towards any person a summons should be taken out against the offender. Mr. Shaen expressed his intention of taking this course. — Mr. Purdy's returns this week show that 3,140 paupers have gone off the rates in the manufacturing districts. Compared with the previous statement it will be seen that the Preston union has decreased 610, Manchester township 580, and Chorlton union 340. The total decline from the maximum week is now 153,440. The number of adult able-bodied paupers continues very large; during the three weeks of the present month the numbers have been 36,663, 35,861, and 34,482 respectively. — The forgermen employed at the ironworks in the Leeds district and at Bowling and Low Moor, have been locked out in consequence of their refusal to sign a declaration upon which the masters insist as a protection against the action of the trade societies. The number of men thus thrown out of employment

must be very large, and the lock out of the forgermen cannot last any length of time without leading to a suspension or, at all events, a curtailment of work in other branches of the trade. — The dispute between Mr. Smee and the Fathers of the Oratory, respecting the property of the late Mr. Hutchinson, which has already engaged the attention of the House of Commons, is now before the Court of Probate. Mr. Hutchinson, who was Mr. Smee's brother-in-law, became a Roman Catholic some years ago, joined the Fathers of the Oratory, and passing over his family, bequeathed his property to the Rev Mr. Knox, as trustee for the Oratory. The will is disputed, as having been obtained by undue influence, and is likely to occupy the Court for some days. — The Court of Queen's Bench has granted a rule *nisi* for a *habeas corpus* to bring up the three men who are at present lying at Kirkdale gaol on a charge of piracy—I having seized the American vessel *J. L. Gerity*, while on the voyage from Matamoras to New York. The plea of the prisoners, who were passengers on board the vessel, is that they acted under the authority of the Confederate Government, and the question which it is now sought to decide is, whether this is a case which can be dealt with under the Extradition Treaty between this country and the United States. — The Court of Queen's Bench has granted a rule *nisi* to bring up Mr. James Brown, a Manx newspaper proprietor, who was some time ago sent to prison for six months by order of the House of Keys—the local Legislature. It seems that Mr. Brown had the hardihood to publish in his paper an article commenting somewhat strongly upon that august body. He was at once ordered to appear before "the House," with another offending journalist, and a submissive apology was demanded. Mr. Brown declined to do penance in the form prescribed, and he was forthwith ordered to be imprisoned for "contempt;" but his companion in trouble was less obstinate, and escaped with a reprimand. — Mr. Justice Crompton, in charging the Grand Jury, on Monday, in the case of Mr. Rumble, who is accused of having been concerned in fitting out the Confederate steamer *Rappahannock*, argued against the interpretation put by Sir F. Pollock upon the section of the Foreign Enlistment Act which deals with the equipment of vessels for the service of a belligerent. Mr. Rumble's trial will probably come on in about a week or ten days. — A verdict of manslaughter against a Mr. Stephens, one of Dr. Coffin's agents, has been returned in reference to the death of a boy at Limehouse. — The Barony of Buckhurst, one of the subsidiary honours of the extinct dukedom of Dorset, has been revived in the person of Lady De la Warr—a daughter of the third Duke—with remainder to her son, the Hon. and Rev. Reginald Sackville West, one of the Queen's chaplains. — It is a subject of congratulation to the numerous friends of the late Mr. J. C. Tilbury, who was unfortunately killed by his horse falling with him last week, that he had been prudent enough to effect an insurance against all accidents with the Railway Passengers Assurance Company. By a payment almost trifling he thus secured a sum of £1,000 for that deservedly popular favourite, his widow, better known as Miss Lydia Thompson, and infant child.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—Earl Russell has been chosen President of the Conference on the affairs of Denmark and Germany which is now holding its sittings in London. The Conference is much discussed in the French metropolis, and numerous rumours are current. A prevailing belief is that France will try to turn the Conference into a general Congress; some think that the Berlin Cabinet, intoxicated with the military success of Prussia, will propose an ultimatum, and leave the other Powers to discuss it; but in no quarter is any substantial good anticipated as arising from the meeting of the plenipotentiaries.

A prevailing rumour in Paris, says our correspondent, is that Prince De la Tour D'Auvergne has been instructed to propose a plan for a general disarmament—a rumour that, for the moment, appears to gain credence despite its improbability. Another rumour is to the effect that Prussia and Denmark will severally oppose the project of an armistice.—The *Mémorial Diplomatique* affirms that the English and French Cabinets have agreed to enforce an immediate armistice between the Danes and their assailants, upon the basis that each belligerent army shall retain its present positions, or that Alsen shall be evacuated by the Danes and Jutland by the Prussians and Austrians.—The King of Prussia has returned to Berlin, after visiting his army on the field of its triumph. The Prussians are at work on the batteries which are, if possible, to repeat on the Island of Alsen the feats achieved on the main land. The King of Denmark has issued a proclamation declaring that the sufferings of the army will not be without fruit in the struggle for national existence.—The total loss of the Danes in killed, wounded, and prisoners, during the assault on the Duppel lines is estimated by the Prussians at 5,500 men, of whom 3,790 are wounded or unwounded prisoners now in the Prussians' hands.—A strong body of Prussian troops, drawn from the army at Duppel immediately after the successful assault on that position, has entered Jutland, and has already occupied Horsens. There have been encounters between its advance and the Danish outposts; but none of them seem to have been important.—The Italian Government have sent three frigates more to Tunis. It is believed that the English and French Admirals are instructed to act in concert there. The insurrection is now stated to have assumed very serious proportions. Considerable alarm on the subject is felt by the French Government lest the movement should spread among the Algerian tribes, some of whom are already in an insurrectionary state. It is therefore believed that if these latter continue to menace, the Duke of Malakoff will himself proceed at once to the disturbed districts to take measures for the restoration of tranquillity. Despatches received in Corfu state that the Canaris Ministry in Athens has resigned.—The Bucharest Chamber has passed a vote of censure on the Government for introducing a bill rendering all the peasants landed proprietors.—The English and French banquets in Paris having been prohibited, the *Temps* has ventured to comment on the puerility of such prohibitions; and the journal accordingly received a second warning. At the eleventh hour the prohibition of the English banquet was withdrawn, but it was too late, the Committee having stopped all the arrangements. To add to the anomalies connected with the desire for celebrating the memory of Shakespeare in Paris, we now learn that, while the French and English banquets were prohibited (though the prohibition of the latter was withdrawn), the Germans have been allowed to have their celebration of the bard's birthday. Perhaps the Minister of the Interior thought there could be no treason if Dick Swiveller's advice were followed—"putting it delicately in German."—A telegram from Vienna states on the authority of the *Austrian Gazette*, that Austria and Prussia have refused the proposal of an armistice.—From Lemberg we hear that two engagements have taken place between the Russians and Poles, and that fresh bands of insurgents have taken place.

AMERICA.—The military news brought by the *Africa* is not of very great importance. No operation had been undertaken by the Federal army in Virginia, a great storm having put the roads in such a horrible condition that no advance was possible for the present. The Confederates were said to be actively preparing for a great campaign in the south-west, and to have

strengthened General Johnston's army by draughts from the corps of General Polk and General Beauregard. General Forrest, who was believed to have been reinforced, was apparently endeavouring to establish himself at some point where, at least for a time, he could impede the progress of the Mississippi. On the 13th inst., he demanded the surrender of Fort Halleck, at Columbus, Kentucky, and also of Fort Pillow, above Memphis. The demand was rejected by the Federal commanders; and we are told by the latest telegrams that reinforcements have reached Columbus, where fighting continues. After the main body of the Federal expedition up the Red river had quitted Alexandria, the Confederates attacked the intrenchments at that place, but were opposed by four Federal regiments, and the loss was heavy on both sides. The Federals had occupied Corpus Christi, on the coast of Texas, and had there taken 800 prisoners. A body of Federal cavalry had occupied Eagle Pass, on the Rio Grande, 400 miles below Brownsville, and had thus stopped a considerable export of cotton from Texas into Mexico. The Confederates had made a daring attempt to blow up with a torpedo the frigate *Minnesota*, Admiral Lee's flagship, at the mouth of the James river; but they had only succeeded in doing her some damage. The report of the foundering of the Confederate iron-clad steamer *Tennessee*, near Mobile, was declared to be untrue. The Federal Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs, at the instance of the Cabinet, had indefinitely postponed taking into consideration the resolution passed by the House of Representatives respecting the establishment of a monarchy in Mexico. There had been a warm debate in the House of Representatives on a proposal to expel two members—one for declaring his belief that the Southern Confederacy could not be subjugated and should be recognised, and the other for expressing a hope that the Federal armies would fail to conquer the South. The *Hibernian* has brought us a day's later news from New York. On the 12th inst. the Confederates, under General Forrest, attacked Fort Pillow, a few miles higher up the Mississippi than Memphis; and after some fighting, they compelled the garrison of 600 men to surrender. It is alleged that immediately after the surrender they began an "indiscriminate butchery," and that of 350 negro soldiers only 50 were spared. The Confederate General Marmaduke, with 3,000 men, had made an unsuccessful attack on the Federal General Steele's division, near the Little Missouri river. The premium on gold at New York had fallen about 3 per cent. on the 15th inst.

INDIA, CHINA, AND JAPAN.—There is nothing of striking interest in the news from Calcutta by the overland mail. In China, Major Gordon had taken the field and captured a place called Yehsing. He had also effected a junction with the Futai's troops, and the combined forces were acting together against the rebels. The Taping cause, for the moment, looked better, the siege of Nanking rather languished, and at Chang-Chow the rebels are said to have beaten off the Imperialists. In the end, however, little doubt is entertained but that the combined Imperial and British and French contingents would be more than a match for them. There is very little news from Japan. It is generally considered the Government is only temporising with foreigners, as they have lately received a supply of great guns from Macao, and the Ambassadors to Europe have taken with them large sums to purchase munitions of war.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BRO. H. H. will please receive our thanks for the seal.

SEVEN STARS.—An English Mason, who has been installed Knight of the P. and E. and Sov. Rose Croix in a French Chapter will have no difficulty in being affiliated in an English Chapter, on his return to his native country—notwithstanding the differences in working. We thank you for your good opinion of our efforts, and shall be always happy to hear from you.

J. B.—We cannot interfere.

R. S.—Consult the Book of Constitutions.