

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1864.

## GRAND CHAPTER.

The business of Grand Chapter on Wednesday last was conducted with much greater regularity than has often been the case of late, the M.E.G.Z. himself presiding, supported by Comp. the Rev. J. Huyshe as H., and Comp. Gibbs, Prov. G. Superintendent of Bombay, as J. The business was little more than formal, as usual all the recommendations of the Committee being agreed to. We were gratified to perceive the G.Z. on the throne, feeling assured that were his lordship or the Grand H. occasionally to attend we should never have to complain of the manner in which the business is conducted.

## ST. JOHN AND FREEMASONRY.

(Concluded from page 342.)

Freemasonry is considered under two denominations—Operative or Instrumental; Speculative or Moral.

Operative Freemasonry in its ancient history, not only refers to the use of Masonic tools or implements, the art of erecting or adorning in architecture, but includes all the liberal sciences, especially geometry; which was anciently considered as synonymous with Freemasonry. As such, its principles were present with the G.A.O.T.U., when by "wisdom He founded the earth, and by understanding established the heavens." When, as He declared to His servant Job, "He laid the foundations of the earth, declared the measure, and fastened the corner stone thereof. When He laid a compass upon the bosom of the deep, and stretched a line upon the face of the dry land; when He hung the clouds and the starry canopy, as the covering thereof, and made darkness its swaddling band; when He parted the light and scattered the east wind upon the earth: when He commanded the morning and caused the day spring to know his place; when He made a pathway for the overflowing of waters, and a way for the lightning and thunder; when He shut up the sea with bars and said hitherto shalt thou come and no further, and here let thy proud waves be stayed; when He established the ordinances of Heaven and set the dominion thereof in the earth; when He bound the sweet influences of the Pleiades or loosed the bands of Orion; when he brought forth Mazaroth in his season, and guided Arcturus, with his sons; when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy."

Speculative or Moral Freemasonry, the building, adorning and improving the mind and soul, is synonymous with truth, wisdom, virtue, moral light—all which are direct emanations from the Father of Light, in whom there is no variableness or shadow of turning; the great Master Builder and Creator of all things. He who, at that uncertain period, when "the earth was without form and void; and darkness rested upon the face of the deep, and the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," said "Let there be Light, and there was Light."

This was not that material light now beaming around us, emanating from the Sun, which, for nearly two thousand years, has hung in the firmament of Heaven, sending forth light and heat—the source of all physical power—to the worlds rolling around him. The sun was not then created, nor had any of the lights been made,

and set in the firmament of heaven, to give light upon the earth, and to divide the day from the night. It was, therefore, a direct effusion from the Divinity—a lucid splendour or glory—such, we may conjecture, as the celestial hierarchy, who shouted for joy when the corner stone of creation was laid, and tuned their sweetest harps around Bethlehem's manger, delight to bathe their intellectual natures, and gather divine energy for their work of love in the service of their Master. It has been suggested by some divines and theologians, that this light was that indescribable shekinah or glory of Jehovah. In Eden, a symbol of love and favour to man while loyal to his Maker—a flaming sword turning every way to keep the tree of life from man as a rebel. The *zohar* or window in the ark; a light and assurance of safety to its inmates while floating over a drowned world. The guide of Abraham, as with unswerving faith he ascended the mount of sacrifice. The glory and majesty which hung around Horeb and Sinai where God appeared to reveal His name and deliver His law. The light which hung around the Tabernacle in the wilderness and the glory which so filled the Lord's house upon Mount Moriah, that all bowed and worshipped and praised the Lord, saying, "For He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever."

If this be the true exposition, the same light and glory may soon be again seen; perhaps witnessed by some now living, as seen on Mount Tabor, when He, "the desire of all nations," shall again come, in like manner as He was seen to ascend; to reward His saints and gather His ancient people, the Jews, into their own land. And "His feet shall then stand upon the Mount of Olives, and His throne be established upon Mount Zion in Jerusalem for ever." Then "the city shall have no need of the sun, neither the moon to shine in it; for the glory of God will lighten it. For the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed when the Lord of Hosts shall reign in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem." Then shall the swelling tide of righteousness and peace overflow the earth, and "Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," be a prayer answered and fulfilled.

Glimmerings more or less clear or faint, of moral and spiritual light, was shed upon the Masonry or mysteries, connected with the religion of the old world; especially along the line of patriarchs and prophets, who adhered to the worship of the true God. Plato says of the ancient heathen mysteries, "It was their end and drift to restore the soul to that state from which it fell, to inculcate a holy and virtuous life, in order to a happy immortality."

Says the Rev. Dr. Oliver, one of the ablest and most voluminous Masonic writers of the present century—"The Order appears to have been instituted and preserved, to preserve and transmit an account of the miraculous dealings of the Most High with His people, in the infancy of the word; for at that early period, Freemasonry may be identified with religion." "The most prominent facts which our traditions and ceremonies inculcate and teach, directly or by implication, are these. That there is a God; that He created man and placed him, in a state of perfect happiness, in Paradise; that he forfeited his supreme felicity by disobedience to the Divine commands, at the suggestion of a serpent tempter; that to alleviate his repentant contrition, a Divine revelation was communicated to him, that in process of time a Saviour should appear in the world to atone for their sins, and place their posterity in a condition of restoration to His favour; that for the increasing wickedness of man, God sent a deluge to purge the earth of its corruptions; and when it was again re-peopled, He renewed His gracious covenant with several of the patriarchs: delivered His people from Egypt, led them in the wilderness, and in the Mosaic dispensation, gave more clear indications of the Messiah, by a succession of prophets, extending throughout the entire theocracy and monarchy; that He instituted a tabernacle worship, which contained

the most indisputable types of the religion which the Messiah should reveal and propagate. In a word, the whole system of ancient religion, whether genuine or spurious, was little else than primitive Masonry, under various names and modifications."

In this connection, it may be well to notice the fact that religion among the ancients was understood to be a system of practical duties to God and our fellow-men, and not, as too much the case at the present day, shorn of its glory by being dwarfed into a mere thing of sentiment and feeling—"a being instead of a doing," or as a mere system of dry and crabbed theology, or indigestible doctrine, which however true, is but too little connected with the practical duties required in the Bible. To "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God"—or, "to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and keep ourselves unspotted from the world." Even the Jews—God's chosen people—professing to be guided and directed by Him, considered religion to lie in the observance of the ceremonial, and the keeping of the moral law; though a few, of whom the world was not worthy, looked through their types and ceremonies, up to the great antitype—and worshipped in spirit and in truth.

That religion in its broadest, purest sense, defined in our old constitutions—"Piety towards God the glorious Master Builder of the universe, and love to mankind" was—among all who acknowledged the Bible—the great pedestal of Freemasonry, is abundantly evident, not only from our traditions, but also from the oldest records and manuscripts which have been preserved; for it is well known and understood that, until a comparatively modern date, no records or manuscripts were allowed to exist, or be preserved in any branch of the Order. The ancient constitutions and charges of Freemasonry, were framed about the year 926, from such manuscripts as could be gathered in Greek, Latin, French, and other languages, by the brethren who met at York, in England, for the purpose of forming a Grand Lodge in that city, pursuant to the summons of Prince Edwin. In these charges it is laid down as the rule of duty, "A Mason is to study the moral law as contained in the Sacred Code; to consider it as the unerring standard of truth and justice; and to regulate his life and actions by its divine precepts. He is strictly to observe his duty to God, by never mentioning His name, but with that awe and reverence, which is due from a creature to his Creator; to esteem Him as the chief good, and to implore His aid in all laudable undertakings."

Freemasonry in its organization as a society, dates from the building of the first temple upon Mount Moriah, in Jerusalem. Says Archdeacon Maut, a learned divine and eminent Mason, of England, "The whole system of Freemasonry underwent some revision under the command of Solomon, who being acquainted with many of the most famous systems of mysterious instruction, was enabled from that knowledge, to settle among the true believers, an improved form of Masonic discipline; and from this point accordingly our present system of Freemasonry is properly to be dated."

Every well-instructed Master Mason will endorse this position; for our ritual, signs, passwords, and ceremonies—taken mostly from the Bible—prove the fact; that they were originated or arranged at the building of the Temple on Mount Moriah, by Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hiram the widow's son. To those who have thoroughly examined the subject, the connection between our system of Ancient Craft Masonry, and that which existed previous to the erection of the temple, is also equally clear. The traditions, landmarks, ceremonies, and passwords intertwining and overlapping each other, make a connection as clear and plain as that of the church before and since the reformation; not a creating of something new, but a wiping off and laying aside that which deformed, or polluted, or was foreign to the body; with a burnishing, cleansing, and arranging

that which had the elements of purity and permanence; which had come down from the Fountain of Light; and was therefore not only pure, but unchangeable.

To those of thoughtful minds and pious hearts, who, with sincere and proper motives entered our sanctuary, and have traversed its several apartments, splendidly furnished and adorned with sublime thought and sentiment, illumined by the steady and chastening light which radiates from the Lamp of Life—the word and will of our Great Grand Master—always reposing upon our altar. I need not say anything as to its grandeur or beauty, or furnish any proof of its antiquity, its usefulness, or its permanence. In both morality and polity it is at this day, as it has always been beyond all controversy, the most perfect human organisation that ever existed. Though now planted in nearly every nation, kingdom, or country on this globe, and flourishing more or less according to the degree of civilisation and moral light—its native and congenial element—it is, as at the dedication of the temple, one brotherhood of Freemasonry! acknowledging one God, receiving the same symbolic teachings, and having the same landmarks, signs, and symbols.

As arranged by Solomon, to whom was given wisdom above any of the sons of men, and learning beyond any upon earth, true to its character as a witness for the truth, and a vehicle for keeping in mind God's dealings with His people, it of course adhered more closely to the phraseology of the Bible and the Mosaic or ceremonial law of the Jews—God's covenant people; all of which ceremonies were typical of the "Messiah which was for to come," so understood by every believer and reader of the Word of God. That temple has been destroyed, and the Mosaic dispensation has passed away, leaving no other revealed religion than that of Faith—the Gospel covenant as made with Abraham the father of the faithful, and clearly adumbrated in nearly every one of the Psalms of David, used in the temple service. The ceremonial law has been fulfilled by Him, whom Saint John came to herald—Jesus the Messiah. Since that central point or era in both sacred and profane history, among those who believe that the Messiah has indeed come, Freemasonry has been held to be Christian in its character and teachings; the New Testament explaining, illustrating, and fulfilling the old in its plainest grammatical sense, and both joined, forming one unbroken stream of Revelation—clear as the water of life, proceeding from the throne of God and the Lamb—are given in charge to the Worshipful Master of every lodge at his installation, as "The Holy Bible, that great light in Masonry, will guide you in the path of Truth, direct you to the Temple of happiness, and point out to you the whole duty of man."

From this our highly-esteemed Hebrew brethren ought not anywhere or in any manner to dissent, as by doing so they declare that Freemasonry is sectarian. They believe as we do in the fall of our first parents from innocence to guilt—a moral death—and in the promise of a restoration through the atonement of the predicted Messiah—all this the Old Testament, which we have received through them, declared, and all their ceremonies clearly typified. With them, we believe all this; but all the Bible language, we use many of the symbols we employ, and the universal consent of all the civilised nations on the globe to the use of the Christian era and the authenticity of the New Testament, testify that the Messiah for whom they still profess to look has already come in the person of Jesus Christ; that as the great anti-type, He fulfilled all the types of their ceremonial law, made an atonement for sins, and founded Christianity as the religion of the world. Freemasonry, therefore, founded upon the Bible so far as it is religious, is to all who believe in the divine mission of Christ, Christian; and the Scriptures, or "Holy Writings," containing the Old and New Testament—both teaching Christianity—lies upon our altar, and moves with our processions as our great light. That this was so understood by the

primitive Christian Masons is abundantly clear, not only from all tradition and history, but also from the following form of prayer, used in their lodges, and which now stands at the head of the prescribed ceremonial of our Grand Lodge.

"The might of the Father of Heaven, and the wisdom of His glorious Son, through the grace and goodness of the Holy Ghost, being three persons in one Godhead, be with us at our beginning, and give us grace so to govern us here in our living, that we may come to His bliss that shall never end. Amen."

That this is the doctrine of "Ancient York Masonry," and of course binding upon us, is equally clear from the history of the York convention of 926. One of the most ancient of the manuscripts there examined has the following:—"Pray, we now to God Almyght and to His Swete Moder Mary Bright." And the phrase in the first of the ancient charges then framed:—"That religion in which all men agree" was understood to mean Christianity; the only religion ever promulgated which is catholic in its character and provisions, and with which Freemasonry—a universal brotherhood—can be entirely congenial.

But let us not here be misunderstood. Whatever position our Order may have occupied in the nations of the old world, or previous to the advent of Him who brought life and immortality to light, and declared "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth"—Freemasonry has not, since that time, in any Christian land, been considered either as a religion itself, or even a substitute for it. Neither in its officers, its ritual, or its ceremonies, does it claim to usurp in any degree the office of that higher organisation. "The Church—the pillar and ground of the truth"—built by the Redeemer, and consecrated as the channel of His richest spiritual blessings, to a redeemed world. Freemasonry lays no claim to inspiration or spiritual authority in the matter of the salvation of the soul; or to be able in any way to answer that awfully momentous question, which every son and daughter of Adam should in all earnestness ask, "What must I do to be saved?"

Freemasonry stands upon its own broad and immovable basis, as a science of Light—a system of pure morality and moral Truth; founded upon the Bible, and leading those who learn and follow its teachings to the source of all wisdom and Goodness—"Our Father in Heaven." It seeks to entice no one into its membership, but cheerfully receives such as with proper motives ask admission, and who upon examination are judged to be worthy. In this sense it is, indeed, the handmaid of true religion; for all its teachings are calculated to lead every attentive brother in whose heart they find a lodgment, to the footstool of Him, who alone can "cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of His Holy Spirit, and enable us perfectly to love Him, and worthily to magnify His holy name!"

To the ladies who have to-day honoured us with their presence, I will say, you, too, have an abiding interest in the existence, the prosperity, and the purity of our institution. During the past year, our Grand Lodge alone distributed from its charity fund 1,500 dollars for the relief of females. Much more it is presumed has been done by the various lodges and members in our State, which will never be made public until announced by our Master from His throne of Glory. "I was an hungered and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; Naked and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me." For "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." But beyond all this; around the entire life-path of the female relatives of Freemasons, unknown to them, hovers the guardian spirit of our Order, throwing before and around them a shield of protection and an arm of support.

Shall I anticipate the question? "If Freemasonry be the pure and useful institution you describe, why is woman excluded from its membership and teachings?" I answer—the landmarks of our Order are unchangeable, and everywhere and always the same. It was organised among operative architects, by those who built the temple at Jerusalem, and were immediately connected with the Mosaic economy—ordained by God Himself. Under that economy the human race was represented by males only. The offices, as well as the onerous duties and works of their religion, were assigned to the men; who were required to leave their homes, and go up to Jerusalem, three times each year, to offer sacrifice. No such services were required of the women. Nor is there any duty or work in the tabernacle service assigned to them.

But I apprehend there is in the inner nature and constitution of woman, a philosophic reason; which may underlie the regulation in the Mosaic economy, as well as account for the Masonic landmark excluding women from the labours of the lodge. It is that woman does not require, to dispose her to virtue, or religion, that moral training and continued discipline, which it was and still is, the object and end of Masonic teaching, to impart and impress upon the ruder sex. Woman was not formed directly from the dust of the earth, as was man; but from his flesh and bones. She is, therefore, an improved creation, with not only more beauty of body and delicacy of frame, but also more refinement and purity of soul, and affections than man. Charity or love is the greatest of virtues, the noblest column of our Order. It is the "bond of perfectness," the "fulfilling of the whole moral law." The soul of the true woman, is by nature formed for love. She can as well live without breathing, as without loving. Her affections, like the vine, are continually stretching out for something to cling to. If they attach to a noble and worthy object they rise to the height of its nobility; if to a mean one, they still cling; and either bind up and strengthen its weakness, or cover its deformity—always beautifying and adorning; generally sheltering and protecting. That she needs not the teachings and stern discipline of Masonry, he who organised it for men alone, has borne witness, when he says—"She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness—her price is far above rubies."

#### MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

##### THE SECRET PRACTICES OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

Recently you stated that the secret practices of the Knights Templar were comparatively unknown. In the course of my inquiries on the subject, I have met with the following account, which I think is somewhat opposed to your view and yet to be correct. It is stated that:—

"The Pope sent, as his judges, to England, Dieu-donné, abbot of Laguy, and Sicard de Vaux, cannon of Narbonne; and the examinations commenced at York, London, Lincoln, and other places, on the 25th of November, 1309. The inquiry continued till the council held in London in 1311; the number of Templars examined was two hundred and twenty-eight; that of the witnesses against the Order was seventy-two, almost all Carmelites, Minorites, Dominicans, and Augustinians, the natural foes of the Order. The Templars were treated with great mildness; and in England, Ireland, and Scotland, they were unanimous and constant in their assertion of the innocence of the Order. The evidence against the Order was almost all hearsay: its nature will be shown by the following specimens.

"John de Goderal, a Minorite, had heard that Robert de Raxat, a Templar, had once gone about a meadow crying 'Wo, wo is me! that ever I was born. I have been forced to deny God, and give myself up to the devil.'

"A Templar had said to William de Berney, in the presence of several respectable people, at the funeral of the parish-priest of Duxworth, near Cambridge, that a man has no more a soul, after death, than a dog.

"John de Eure, a secular knight, said that he once invited the prior William de Fenne to dine with him. After dinner the prior took from his bosom a book, and gave it to the knight's lady to read. She found on a paper which was fastened into the book the following words, 'Christ was not the son of God, nor born of a virgin, but conceived by Mary, the wife of Joseph, in the same way as all other men. Christ was not a true but a false prophet, and was crucified for his own crimes and not for the redemption of mankind, &c.' The lady showed this paper to her husband, who spoke to the prior, who only laughed at it; but, being brought before a court of justice, he confessed the truth, excusing himself on the grounds of his being illiterate and ignorant of what the book contained.

"Robert of Oteringham, a Minorite, said, 'One evening my prior did not appear at table, as relics were come from Palestine which he wished to show the brethren. About midnight I heard a confused noise in the chapel; I got up, and, looking through the keyhole, saw that it was lighted. In the morning I asked a brother who was the saint in whose honour they had celebrated the festival during the night? He turned pale with terror, thinking I had seen something, and said, 'Ask me not; and if you value your life say nothing of it before the superiors.'"

"Another witness said that the son of a Templar had peeped through the slits of the door into the chapter-room, and seen a new member put to death for hesitating to deny Christ. Long afterwards being asked by his father to become a Templar, he refused, telling what he had seen: his father instantly slew him.

"John of Gertia, a Minorite, was told by a woman named Agnes Lovecote, who said she had it from Exvaletus, prior in London, that when in one of the chapters a brother had refused to spit on the cross, they suspended him in a well and covered it up. This witness also deposed to some other enormities which he said he had heard of from the same woman, herself speaking from hearsay.

"In June, 1310, the Pope wrote to King Edward, blaming his lenity and calling on him to employ the torture in order to elicit the truth. The council of London, after a long discussion, ordered it to be employed, but so as not to mutilate the limbs or cause an incurable wound or violent effusion of blood. The knights persisted in asserting their innocence.

"In Germany the different prelates examined the Templars in their respective dioceses. Nothing was elicited. At Mentz the Order was pronounced innocent. The Wildgraf Frederic, preceptor on the Rhine, offered to undergo the ordeal of glowing iron. He had known the Master intimately in the East, and believed him to be as good a Christian as any man.

"The Templars in the Spanish peninsula were examined, and witnesses heard for and against them in Castile, Leon, Aragon, and Portugal, and nothing was proved against them. The council of Tarragona in Aragon, after applying the torture, pronounced the Order free from the stain of heresy. At the council of Medina del Campo in Leon, one witness said that he had heard that, when some Minorites visited the preceptor at Villalpando, they found him reading a little book, which he instantly locked up in three boxes, saying, 'This book might fall into hands where it may be very dangerous to the Order.'

"The influence of the Pope may be supposed to have been stronger in Italy than in the countries above mentioned, and accordingly we find that declarations similar to those made in France were given there. Yet it was at Florence that the adoration of the idols, the cat, &c., was most fully acknowledged. In the patrimony of St. Peter some confessions to the same effect were made; but at Bologna, Cesena, and Ancona, nothing transpired. Nine Templars maintained the innocence of the Order before the council of Ravenna. It was debated whether the torture should be employed. Two Dominican inquisitors were for it, the remainder of the council declared against it. It was decreed that the innocent should be absolved, the guilty punished according to law. *Those who had revoked the confessions made under torture, or through fear of it, were to be regarded as innocent*—a very different rule from that acted on by King Philip.

"Charles II. of Anjou, the relation of King Philip, and the enemy of the Templars, who were on the side of Frederick, King of Sicily, had the Templars seized and examined in Provence and Naples. Those examined in Provence were all serving-brethren, and some of them testified to the impiety and idolatry of the Order. Two Templars were examined at Brindisi, in the kingdom of Naples, in June, 1310; one had denied the cross in Cyprus, he said, six years after he had entered the Order; the other had trampled on the cross at the time of his reception. He, as well as others, had bowed down and worshipped a grey cat in the chapters.

"In Sicily six Templars, the only ones who were arrested, deposed against the Order. One of them said he had been received in the unlawful way in Catalonia, where, as we have just seen, the innocence of the Order was full recognised. His evidence was full of absurdity. He said the cat had not appeared for a long time in the chapters, but that the ancient statutes of Damietta said that it used to appear and be worshipped.

"In Cyprus 110 witnesses were examined; 75 belonged to the Order and maintained its innocence; the testimony of the remainder was also in favour of it.

"We thus find that, in every place beyond the sphere of the influence of the King of France and his creature the Pope, the innocence of the Order was maintained and acknowledged; and undoubtedly the same would have been the case in France if the proceedings against it had been regulated by justice and the love of truth.

"The time appointed for the meeting of the general council was now arrived. On the 1st October, 1311, the Pope came to Viënnne, which is a short distance

from the city of Lyons, and found there 114 bishops, besides several other prelates, already assembled. On the 13th, the anniversary of the arrest of the Templars four years before, the council commenced its sittings in the cathedral. The Pope, in his opening speech, stated the grounds of its having been convoked, namely, the process against the Templars, the support of the Holy Land, the reformation of the Church. The bishops of Soissons, Mende, Leon, and Aquila, who had been appointed to draw up a report of the result of the different examinations respecting the order, read it before the assembled fathers, who then once more invited any Templars who wished to defend the Order to appear.

"Though the Order was now broken up and persecuted, and numbers of its ablest members dead or languishing in dungeons with their superiors, yet nine knights had the courage to come forward in defence of their Order, and present themselves before the council as the representatives of from 1,500 to 2,000 Templars, who were still dwelling, or rather lurking, in Lyons and its vicinity. The Pope was not present when they appeared, but his letter of the 11th November shows how he acted when he heard that defenders of the Order had presented themselves. Clement had these brave knights arrested and thrown into prison, and in real or affected terror at the number of Templars at large, he took additional precautions for the security of his person, and counselled the king to do the same.

"To the honour of the assembled fathers, they refused to sanction this flagrant act of injustice. The prelates of Spain, Germany, Denmark, England, Ireland, and Scotland without exception—the Italians all but one—the French, with the exception of the Archbishops of Rheims, Sens, and Rouen—declared, but in vain, for admitting the Templars and hearing their defence. Instead of complying with this demand of justice and humanity, Clement suddenly put an end to the session. The winter passed away in arguments and negotiations.

"Philip, whose practice it was always to look after his affairs himself, deeming his presence necessary at Vienne, set out for that place, where he arrived early in February, accompanied by his three sons, his brother, and several nobles and men-at-arms. The effect of his presence was soon perceptible; the Pope assembled the cardinals and several other prelates in a secret consistory, and abolished the Order, by his sole authority, on the 22nd March, 1313.

"The second session of the council was opened on the 3rd April, with great solemnity; the King of France, his sons, and his brother, gave their presence at it, and the royal guards appeared for honour, for protection, or for intimidation. The Pope read his bull of abolition. All present listened in silence. No one ventured to raise his voice in the cause of justice. The wealthy and powerful Order of the Knights of the Temple was suppressed. On the 2nd May the bull was published, and the Order as such ceased to exist.

"The Order being suppressed, persecution became needless, and it consequently ceased in a great measure. The king and the Pope converted to their own use the moveable property of the Order in France. Its other possessions were, sorely against the will of the king, assigned to the Order of the Hospitaliers,

who were, however, obliged to pay such large fines to the king and Pope as completely impoverished them. This extended to all countries, except the Spanish peninsula and Majorca. The property of the Templars in Aragon was given to the order of Our Lady of Montesa, which was founded in 1317. Its destination was to combat the Moors; its habit was similar to that of the Templars; and it might, therefore, be almost called the same Order. Diniz, the able and enlightened King of Portugal, did not suppress the Order, whose innocence his prelates had recognised. To yield a show of obedience to the papal will, he made it change its name, and the great prior of the Templars in Portugal became the master of the Order of Christ, which has continued to the present times.

"With respect to the remaining Templars, who were in prison, it was ordered in council that those who should be found guiltless should be set at liberty, and maintained out of the property of the Order; that the guilty, if they confessed and lamented their offences, should be treated with mildness; if they did not, dealt with according to the ecclesiastical law, and kept in custody in the former temple-houses and in the convents. Those who had escaped were, if they did not appear within a year before the council or their diocesan, to be excommunicated.

"Most of the knights were immediately set at liberty; but the property of the Order was all gone, and no means of support remained for them: they were, therefore, reduced to the greatest distress, and many of them obliged to submit to the most menial employment in order to gain a livelihood. A great number were received into the Order of St. John, on the same footing as they had stood on in their own Order—a strong proof that the guilt of the Order of the Templars was not, by any means, regarded as proved. Gradually, as the members died off, or merged into other orders, the name of the Templars fell into oblivion, or was only recollected with pity for their unmerited fate.

"While the noble Order over which he had presided was thus suppressed, its members scattered, its property bestowed on others, the Master, James de Molay, with his three companions, the great-prior of Normandy, Hugh de Peyraud, visitor of France, and Guy, brother to the Dauphin of Auvergne, still languished in prison. Molay had there but one attendant, his cook; the allowance made to him was barely sufficient to procure him common necessities, and life had now lost all its value in his eyes. The Pope at length determined to inform the captives of the fate destined for them.

"A Papal commission, composed of the Bishop of Alba and two other cardinals, proceeded to Paris, not to hear the prisoners, but, taking their guilt for proved, to pronounce their sentence. To give all publicity to this act, probably in accordance with the desire of the king, a stage was erected in front of the church of Notre Dame, on which the three commissioners, with the Archbishop of Sens and several other prelates, took their places on the 18th March, 1314. An immense concourse of people stood around. The four noble prisoners were conducted from their dungeons, and led up on the stage. The Cardinal of Alba read out their former confessions, and pronounced the sentence of perpetual imprisonment. He was then proceeding

to expose the guilt of the Order, when the Master interrupted him, and thus spoke, taking all the spectators to witness:—

“It is just that, in so terrible a day, and in the last moments of my life, I should discover all the iniquity of falsehood, and make the truth to triumph. I declare, then, in the face of heaven and earth, and acknowledge, though to my eternal shame, that I have committed the greatest of crimes; but it has been the acknowledging of those which have been so foully charged on the Order. I attest, and truth obliges me to attest, that it is innocent. I made the contrary declaration only to suspend the excessive pains of torture, and to mollify those who made me endure them. I know the punishments which have been inflicted on all the knights who had the courage to revoke a similar confession; but the dreadful spectacle which is presented to me is not able to make me confirm one lie by another. The life offered me on such infamous terms I abandon without regret.”

“Molay was followed by Guy in his assertion of the innocence of the Order; the other two remained silent. The commissioners were confounded, and stopped. The intelligence was conveyed to the king, who, instantly calling his council together, without any spiritual person being present, condemned the two knights to the flame.

“A pile was erected on that point of the islet in the Seine, where afterwards was erected the statue of Henry IV., and the following day Molay and his companion were brought forth and placed upon it. They still persisted in their assertion of the innocence of the Order. The flames were first applied to their feet, then to their more vital parts. The fœtid smell of their burning flesh infected the surrounding air, and added to their torments; yet still they persevered in their declarations. At length death terminated their misery. The spectators shed tears at the view of their constancy, and during the night their ashes were gathered up to be preserved as relics.

“It is mentioned as a tradition, by some historians, that Molay, ere he expired, summoned Clement to appear within forty days before the Supreme Judge, and Philip to the same tribunal within the space of a year. The pontiff actually did die of a cholera on the night of the 19th of the following month, and, the church in which his body was laid taking fire, the corpse was half consumed. The king, before the year had elapsed, died of a fall from his horse. Most probably it was these events which gave rise to the tradition, which testifies the general belief of the innocence of the Templars. It was also remarked that all the active persecutors of the Order perished by premature or violent deaths.

“It remains to discuss the two following points:—Did the religio-military Order of the Knights Templar hold a secret doctrine subversive of religion and morality? Has the Order been continued down to our own days?

“We have seen what the evidence against the Templars was, and it is very plain that such evidence would not be admitted in any modern court of justice. It was either hearsay, or given by persons utterly unworthy of credit, or wrung from the accused by agony and torture. The articles themselves are absurd and contradictory. Are we to believe that the same men had adopted the pure deism

of the Mohammedans, and were guilty of a species of idolatry\* almost too gross for the lowest superstition? But when did this corruption commence among the Templars? Were those whom St. Bernard praised as models of Christian zeal and piety, and whom the whole Christian world admired and revered, engaged in a secret conspiracy against religion and government? Yes, boldly replies Hammer, the two humble and pious knights who founded the Order were the pupils and secret allies of the Mohammedan Ismailites. This was going too far for Wilkie, and he thinks that the guilt of introducing the secret doctrine lies on the chaplains; for he could discern that the doctrines of gnosticism, which the Templars are supposed to have held, were beyond the comprehension of illiterate knights, who, though they could fight and pray, were but ill qualified to enter into the mazes of mystic metaphysics. According, therefore, to one party, the whole Order was corrupt from top to bottom, according to another, the secrets were confined to a few, and contrary to all analogy, the heads of the Order were frequently in ignorance of them. Neither offer anything like evidence in support of their assumption.

“The real guilt of the Templars was their wealth and their pride;† the last alienated the people from them, the former excited the cupidity of the King of France. Far be it from us to maintain that the morals of the Templars were purer than those of the other religious orders. With such ample means as they possessed of indulging all their appetites and passions, it would be contrary to all experience to suppose that they always restrained them, and we will even concede that some of their members were obnoxious to charges of deism, impiety, breaches of their religious vows, and gross licentiousness. We only deny that such were the rules of the Order. Had they not been so devoted as they were to the Holy See they would perhaps have come down to us as unsullied as the knights of St. John;‡ but they sided with Pope Boniface against Philip the Fair, and a subservient pontiff sacrificed to his own avarice and personal ambition the most devoted adherents of the court of Rome.§

“We make little doubt that anyone who coolly and candidly considers the preceding account of the manner in which the Order was suppressed will readily concede that the guilt of its members was anything but proved. It behoves their modern impugnors to furnish some stronger proofs than any they have as yet brought forward. The chief adversary of the Templars at the present day is a writer whose veracity and love of justice are beyond suspicion, and who has earned for himself enduring fame by his labours in the field of Oriental literature, but in

\* Almost every charge brought against the Templars had been previously made against the Albigenses, with how much truth every one is aware.

† Our readers will call to mind the well-known anecdote of King Richard I. When admonished by the zealous Fulk of Neuilly, to get rid of his three favourite daughters, pride, avarice, and voluptuousness,—“You counsel well,” said the king: “and I hereby dispose of the first to the Templars, of the second to the Benedictines, and of the third to my Prelates.”

‡ Similar charges are said to have been brought against the Hospitaliers in the year 1238, but without effect. There was no Philip the Fair at that time in France.

§ Clement, in a bull dated but four days after that of the suppression, acknowledged that the whole of the evidence against the Order amounted only to suspicion!



whose mind, as his most partial friends must allow, learning and imagination are apt to overbalance judgment and philosophy.\* He has been replied to by Raynouard, Munter, and other able advocates of the knights.

"We now come to the question of the continuance of the Order to the present day. That it has in some sort been transmitted to our times is a matter of no doubt; for, as we have just seen, the King of Portugal formed the Order of Christ out of the Templars in his dominions. But our readers are, no doubt, aware that the Freemasons assert a connection with the Templars, and that there is a society calling themselves Templars, whose chief seat is at Paris, and whose branches extend into England and other countries. The account which they give of themselves is as follows:—

"James de Molay, in the year 1314, in anticipation of his speedy martyrdom, appointed Johannes Marcus Lormenius to be his successor in his dignity. This appointment was made by a regular well-authenticated charter, bearing the signatures of the various chiefs of the Order, and it is still preserved at Paris, together with the statutes, archives, banners, &c., of the soldiery of the Temple. There has been an unbroken succession of Grand Masters down to the present times, among whom are to be found some of the most illustrious names in France. Bertrand du Guesclin was Grand Master for a number of years; the dignity was sustained by several of the Montmorencies; and during the last century the heads of the society were princes of the different branches of the house of Bourbon. Bernard Raymond Fabré Palaprat is its head at present, at least was so a few years ago.†

This is no doubt a very plausible circumstantial account; but, on applying the Ithuriel spear of criticism to it, various ugly shapes resembling falsehood start up. Thus Molay, we are told, appointed his successor in 1314. He was put to death on the 18th March of that year, and the Order had been abolished nearly a year before. Why then did he delay so long, and why was he become so apprehensive of martyrdom at that time, especially when, as is well known, there was then no intention of putting him to death? Again, where were the chiefs of the society at that time? How many of them were living? and how could they manage to assemble in the dungeon of Molay and execute a formal instrument? Moreover, was it not repugnant to the rules and customs of the Templars for a Master to appoint his successor? These are a few of the objections which we think may be justly made; and, on the whole, we feel strongly disposed to reject the whole story."

Such, then, appears to be the secret doctrines held by the Templars, and caused their suppression.—

\* We mean the illustrious Jos. von Hammer, whose essay on the subject is to be found in the sixth volume of the *Mines de l'Orient*, where it will be seen that he regards Sir W. Scott, in his *Ivanhoe*, as a competent witness against the Templars, on account of his *correct and faithful* pictures of the manners and opinions of the Middle Ages. We apprehend that people are beginning now to entertain somewhat different ideas on the subject of our great romancer's fidelity.

† See *Manuel des Templiers*. As this book is only sold to members of the society, we have been unable to obtain a copy of it. Our account has been derived from Mills's "*History of Chivalry*." That this writer should have believed it implicitly is, we apprehend, no proof of its truth.

P. E. C.—[P. E. C. has entirely misunderstood us. We alluded to the origin of the Order, as Knights of the Temple, centuries before Christianity was known. Neither can we admit that the Pope and the King of France were likely to have suppressed an Order because it worshipped either a grey or black cat, as alleged by its accusers. There was a deeper mystery than meets the eye connected with this black cat—which no one saw—and it was that secret which caused the destruction of the Knights, their wealth, possessions, and power being no small prizes for the papacy and the needy Philip the Fair. We admit the accuracy with which the general subject is treated in the extract you have sent us from *The Secret Societies of the Middle Ages*, a book we know well; but if you will read it again attentively you will, even there, find some allusions that will indicate you are not yet on the right scent. This, however, is not the place to bring forward such proofs as we have collected, but they do not impugn the received history—they add to, and explain, many portions that have seldom been understood, and still more carefully concealed.]

#### WHAT'S COCKLES?

What's cockles in Freemasonry?—Yours MUSSELS.  
—[An obsolete term in a degree very seldom worked. By your facetious signature, we presume you have heard some ancient brother discourse; but as he did not, neither shall we, "shell-out."]

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

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

#### THE LAST, AND WORST, MASONIC PARODY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In the official programme for laying the foundation-stone of the new buildings in Great Queen Street it states that an ode, "written for the occasion," was to be performed and the words set forth are these:—

"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."

So far as the second stanza is concerned there can be no doubt as to its originality,—it is unreadable nonsense without a redeeming point. Most devoutly is it to be wished that the whole of these lines could be expunged from the proceedings of the 27th ult., for they carry on their face two shameful blots—the greater as deep a piece of impiety as was ever penned by a wretched mortal and the lesser in claiming, as original, a set of words written by an author who never dreamed of their being parodied so poorly and turned to such an irreverent use.

The history of the glee may be briefly told. A

number of musical men met, some eighty or more years ago, and established a society which ultimately became known, and celebrated, as the Glee Club. At first, having no local habitation, they used to meet, alternately, at each others residence, and Bro. Samuel Webbe, senr.—a great composer of the glee school—one of the founders of the club, and a man of education, wrote the words and composed the popular glee, "Glorious Apollo," and like the authors of his day indulged in the classic vein, then so much in use, by invoking Apollo, as the mythological deity of music. The club having no home his allusion

"Wand'ring to find a temple,"

i.e., a place to meet in, will be readily understood. This glee was looked upon as the musical charter of the club and was always performed the first of the evening's selection. From the club it gained popularity everywhere, and there is scarcely a singing orgie held at any pothouse in the United Kingdom but "Glorious Apollo" is almost sure to be shouted before the small hours have set in. The association then is bacchanal and pagan totally unfitted to follow, even in the nondescript version used, any part of a prayer. To show how close and yet how absurdly it has been parodied the words of the original are subjoined so that they may be compared with the above,—"written specially for the occasion!"

"Glorious Apollo from on high beheld us,  
Wand'ring to find a temple for his praise;  
Sent Polyhymnia hither to shield us  
While we ourselves such a structure might raise.  
Thus then combining,  
Hands and hearts joining,  
Sing we in Harmony Apollo's praise.

"Here ev'ry gen'rous sentiment awaking,  
Music inspiring unity and joy;  
Each social pleasure giving and partaking,  
Glee and good humour our hours employ.  
Thus then combining,  
Hands and hearts joining,  
Long may continue our unity and joy."

These words have sense and an aim, and the music, though hacknied, is excellent; but it seems to have been reserved for some daring hand of our own day to "meddle and muddle" the name of the eternal Creator with the bacchanalian Apollo, and to make Freemasons the sponsors for his rash impiety.

To analyse the adaptation would be to indorse its profanity. To point out its defects—totally superfluous. To show how a good subject has been distorted into a nameless thing—in which neither sense, rhythm, or cæsure, have a place—would be time and space thrown away. To ask who is responsible for such drivelling irreverence will not mend the mischief. Be he who he may he has done his worst by exposing the Craft to the contempt of every earnest man, Freemason or not.

Was there not to be found any one in the whole wide world who could write two stanzas as an invocation to the Almighty to bless the work? But instead of this His Holy Name was associated in the burlesque of a drinking, pagan, ode. Can such a proceeding call down a blessing or rather will it not entail a curse? Had we no musicians who could have composed a strain that might, at least, have been devotional if not strictly ecclesiastical? Why not have applied to Bros. Ouseley, Wallace, Turle, Henry Smart, or Coward, all men of mark in

their profession? Had the Shakespeare tercentenary turned the scribbler's head that he should try to teach his brethren

"To sing psalms to hornpipes"?

Although expressed in homely rhyme yet the men of the seventeenth century could not but feel that where God was addressed it was a fearful thing and one of them wrote—

"Sternhold and Hopkins had great qualms  
When they translated David's psalms,—"

but our wretched professor of irreverence had none when he associated, in men's minds, a similitude between God and Apollo, and thrust his doggerel into the mouths of Freemasons to give forth as a hymn of praise, bringing down on the Craft the suspicion of being scoffers at all which men hold dear.

We have prejudices enough to contend with without adding such a direct act of wanton irreligion to our charge, and may the brother who hath done us this evil learn, for the future, that Freemasonry honours, reverences, and respects God our Benificent Creator, and repudiates lowering His All-Powerful Majesty to the equal of a pagan sottish deity.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,  
Yours truly and fraternally,  
No PURITAN.

## Poetry.

### ENTHUSIASM.

(EXTRACT FROM "THE STONE MAN.") BY WILLIAM BRADFELD.\*

How fair Enthusiasm seems,  
Bucy'd up to-day with golden dreams  
Of zeal, and energy, and youth!—  
The old is false, the new all truth,  
Autumnal Time can never sere,—  
And yet Enthusiasm's here;  
To-morrow comes and overwhelms to-day,  
To-day exalts, to-morrow sweeps away!

And how unlike itself it seems,  
Review'd to-morrow, not in dreams  
But what it really doth enact—  
In clear and lucid daylight fact;  
So false, and imbecile, and frail,  
That while it listens to the tale,  
To-morrow glances with a sneer of shame,  
And calls it madness with another name.

And yet I cannot but believe,  
And even here, that both deceive—  
To-morrow and the fair To-day:  
Enthusiasm leads the way  
When nothing else will move a jot,  
But rather sit and age, and rot;  
And tho' for every inch t'will take an ell,  
The ill may be o'erbalanced by the well.

A useful passion, or a grand;  
A courser to be held in hand,—  
As fire, which for a master's bad,  
Yet never man a servant had  
That stood in estimation higher:  
Enthusiasm—mental fire—  
Unchecked becomes a meteoric wonder!  
Enlightenment—if kept a little under.

\* "Pictures of the Past and other Poems." By William Bradfield. London: Longman and Co.



## THE MASONIC MIRROR.

### MASONIC MEMS.

The installation of his Grace the Duke of Manchester as Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, will take place at the annual grand meeting of the province, to be held at the Socrates Lodge (No. 373), Huntingdon, on Wednesday, the 1st June next. The ceremony will be performed by Bro. Col. R. A. Shafto Adair, Aide-de-camp to the Queen, Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk. The office was rendered vacant by the lamented death of the late Marquis of Huntly.

The brethren of St. Peter's Lodge, 446, Peterborough, have commenced the erection of a Masonic Hall, having a frontage to the North-street and Lincoln-road. The building will be of brick, with stone dressings, and over the entrance, which will be in North-street, the city arms will be emblazoned. In size the building will be about 42ft. by 22ft., and it will be so constructed as to be capable of enlargement. It is expected that the hall will be completed by the end of the present month. The architect is Bro. R. Chamberlain of Peterborough, the builder Bro. S. Peed, and the estimated cost is £350.

### METROPOLITAN.

**MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).**—The usual regular meeting of this old established lodge was held on Tuesday, April 19th, at Bro. C. A. Cathie's, Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street. Bro. E. N. Levy, W.M.; assisted by Bros. H. Moore, S.W.; J. C. Gooddy, J.W.; W. E. Jackson, P.M. and Treas.; E. Harris, P.M. and Sec.; J. Hopton, I.G.; G. Morris, W.S.; F. Walters, I.P.M.; J. Donkin, P.M.; W. D. Hughes, P.M.; E. Smith, P.M.; D. Barker, J. T. C. Powell, R. Fenn, H. McKenzie, W. Watson, T. Moore, C. A. Cathie, F. Smith, G. J. Loe, W. M. Marshall, R. G. Chipperfield, J. Delany, M. A. Lowenstark, A. R. Steadman, Ebsworth, and many others, opened the lodge. Amongst a numerous body of visitors we noticed Bros. R. Welsford, P.M. 548; C. Bass, 79, &c. The first ceremony was raising Bros. Bass and Steadman to the sublime degree of M.M.'s. Then Bro. Ebsworth was passed to the degree of a F.C. Apologies were then received from the four candidates for initiation, expressing their regret for non-attendance, which was caused through illness. Bro. E. N. Levy, W.M., rendered all the ceremonies in his usual impressive superior style. It was carried unanimously that a new chapter be petitioned for to be called Mount Lebanon Chapter, to be attached to the lodge. Bro. Robert Mills, 871, Royal Oak Lodge was unanimously admitted a joining member of the lodge. After business was over the brethren separated. In consequence of the lodge being in mourning for the late Treasurer, Bro. D. Davis, P.M., no banquet was provided.

**ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).**—In consequence of the regular lodge night falling on the grand festival, this lodge met on Friday, April 22nd, at the Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford, Bro. J. Stevens's. The lodge was opened by Bro. C. Stalir, W.M., assisted by Bros. G. Wilton, I.P.M.; J. H. Pembroke, J.W.; J. S. Blomeley, J.D.; J. Hawker, W.S.; F. Walters, P.M. and Sec.; J. Stevens, P.M.; J. W. Weir, P.M.; J. W. Hindervell, R. Phipps, W. Jeffery, A. R. Parkinson, H. J. Wells and others. The only ceremony was raising Bro. H. J. Wells to the sublime degree of a M.M., which was done in an able manner. After labour the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet served up in Bro. J. Stevens's first-rate style. The usual loyal toasts were given and received. The evening was spent with songs, recitations, &c., which brought a happy meeting to a pleasant close.

A FEMALE heart is often like marble; the cunning stonecutter strikes a thousand blows without the Parian block showing the line of a crack; but all at once it breaks asunder into the very form the cunning stonecutter has so long been hammering it.

### PROVINCIAL.

#### WARWICKSHIRE.

**BIRMINGHAM.—Faithful Lodge (No. 473).**—The annual meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, April 5th, at one o'clock, for the purpose of installing Bro. George Beech, as W.M. There was a very large and influential attendance of brethren, amongst whom were—Bros. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M.; Sir J. Ratcliff, G.M.; J. Stimpson, G. Org.; J. J. Turner, P. Prov. G.S.B.; W. Hutton, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Pursall, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Dr. Burton, D. Prov. G.M. Staffordshire; B. N. Smith; W. C. McEntee; Samuel Fenn; C. Thetson; S. A. Parker; J. Davis; D. Malin, and about seventy other brethren. The ceremony of raising to the sublime degree of M.M. was then performed by the W.M., Bro. Hutton, in a very solemn and impressive manner. The ceremony of initiation was also performed by Bro. Hutton. The W.M. elect was then presented to receive the benefit of installation, which ceremony was performed by Bro. J. J. Turner, P.M., and, after the ordinary preliminaries, a board of installed masters was formed, consisting of Bros. C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M.; Dr. Burton, Turner, Stimpson, Sproston, Hutton, Dawson, Robinson, Briggs, Lee, Collins, Weiss, Darwin, C. Ratcliff, Johnson, Pursall, Cohen, Muggidge, and Sir J. Ratcliff, and Bro. G. Beech was regularly inducted into the chair of K.S. On the re-entrance of the brethren into the lodge, the usual charges were delivered to the W.M. elect, who proceeded to appoint and invest his officers. The usual inquiries having been made, the W.M. closed the lodge in harmony and brotherly love. The brethren then retired to the Royal Hotel where a sumptuous banquet had been prepared by Bro. Nock. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been given and duly responded to, Bro. C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M., proposed, in very eloquent terms, the health of the newly-elected W.M., to which the W.M. responded. The evening was much enlivened by some very excellent vocal and instrumental music.

#### YORKSHIRE (WEST).

##### CONSECRATION OF THE HARROGATE AND CLARO LODGE (No. 1001.)

This important event was celebrated on Friday, the 15th of April, at Harrogate, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, Prov. J.G.D., and the well-known president of the Emulation Lodge of Instruction (which position he has held for upwards of thirty years), having been appointed by the W.M.G.M. the Earl of Zetland, with concurrence of the Prov. G.M. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, to perform this interesting and solemn ceremony. Bro. Wilson on this occasion was assisted by the largest number of notables and brethren, both metropolitan and provincial grand officers and brethren, it has ever fallen to our lot to meet even at Provincial Grand Lodges—indeed we do not recollect ever being present at one so numerous or so influential. Amongst those present we recognised the following Grand Officers, Provincial Grand Officers, and Past Provincial Grand Officers:—Bros. Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, G. Chap.; Rev. Joseph Senior, L.L.D., P. Prov. Chap.; Bentley Shaw, D. Prov. G.M.; R. R. Nelson, P.D. Prov. G.M.; George Marwood, D. Prov. G.M. North and East Ridings; William Rothwell, P. Prov. S.G.W.; John Lee, P. Prov. S.G.W.; H. Thompson, P. Prov. S.G.W.; F. Atkinson, P. Prov. S.G.W.; J. Bell, P. Prov. S.G.W. East Lancashire; T. Robinson, P. Prov. J.G.W.; T. A. Haigh, P. Prov. J.G.W.; L. Hicks, P. Prov. J.G.W.; J. Batley, P. Prov. J.G.W.; J. A. Manners, P. Prov. S.G.D.; S. Freeman, Prov. S.G.D.; J. Booth, P. Prov. S.G.D.; J. Allott, P. Prov. J.G.D.; J. Batley, P. Prov. G.R.; H. Inchbould, P. Prov. G.R.; C. Aldroyd, P. Prov. G.R.; J. Clay, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; John Kirk, Prov. S.G.W. 520; Thomas S. Bradley, P. Prov. G.R. 275; James Preston, Prov. J.G.W. 264 and 971; W. Morton 837, H. Ingham 971, C. Fendelow 419, J. Barnley 600, W.M.'s; Newson 304, J. W. Weddel 566, John Freeman 275, S.W.'s; Thos. Kendall 837, M. Rhodes 302, J. Dodd 600, J. W. Bishop 837, E. Eastwood 149, H. Pearson 566, E. Graham, 727, P.M.'s; and a number of other brethren from the surrounding provinces amounting in all to about 250.

The lodge was opened in ancient form, Bros. S. B. Wilson, as D.G.M. *pro tem.*, John Booth, P.M., and P. Prov. S.G.D., as S.G.W.; Thomas Allatt, P.M., and P. Prov. J.G.D., as J.G.W. The ceremony of consecration was then proceeded with, Bro. Woodford, G. Chap., delivering the oration and various responses in a manner that reflected the highest praise on that

brother,—indeed the oration was pronounced by all to be a most masterly production. To speak of the emphatic, energetic, and perfect manner that Bro. S. B. Wilson performed his arduous task would be supererogation, as that brother's qualifications are so well-known. It need only be said that on this occasion he seemed to be more than usually effective, and impressed every one who heard him with the great amount of Masonic knowledge as well as zeal possessed by that brother.

Bro. Wilson then proceeded to the installation of the Worshipful Master designate, Bro. John Denton, P.M. of 837. This ceremony was gone through in its entirety, on account of giving the board of Installed Masters, numbering 47 (the largest we ever remember), an opportunity of judging of the beauties of that ceremony as performed by Bro. Wilson, in the style approved and sanctioned by the Grand Lodge. Having installed Bro. Denton in the chair of K.S., he was duly saluted; after which the M.M.'s were introduced and saluted accordingly. The lodge was then closed in the third degree, and he was saluted by the F.C.'s and E.A.'s. Bro. Denton, the W.M., then invested Bros. John Wright, S.W. designate; W. Rycroft, J.W. designate; England, Treas., until he could be ballotted for, appointed, and invested; Thos. Ellis, Sec.; R. Dyson, I.G.; T. Holyrood, Steward; and Charles Secker, Dir. of Cers.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the brethren present, in one voice, agreed in admiration of the talent exhibited by Bro. Wilson throughout the whole of the arduous duties he had performed. The varied nature of the addresses, as well as the impressive manner, and the correctness of style throughout the whole, formed a general topic of conversation to his admiring audience, and they could not but help expressing themselves in the words of Solomon:—

"Many daughters have done virtuously, but  
Thou excellest them all."

Bro. DENTON, W.M., then addressed the brethren, and said—It is well known that this vast province, numbering forty-one lodges, and that York was at one time the seat of Grand Lodges, and had the mode of working the ceremonies peculiar to itself, it cannot be denied, therefore, that parts—nay, much of the ritual—is still used by some of the brethren in this province, as well as the manner of conducting the ceremonies; and whilst, under such circumstances, he, as the first Master of a new lodge, having the opportunity of commencing the work according to the modes practised by the Emulation Lodge of Instruction, of which Bro. Wilson had been president for upwards of thirty years, he (Bro. Denton) being a member of that lodge, thought he could not do better than consult his old and esteemed friend and preceptor in the formation of this lodge. Bro. Wilson at once entered into the same feeling on the subject, and consented to assist, as far as laid in his power, in carrying out the proposition, and well had he performed his promise, as this day's proceedings must prove to all who had witnessed his exertions in this good cause, for which he hoped every brother felt as grateful and as proud as he (Bro. Denton) did.

The W.M. had intended now to proceed to initiate, pass, and raise, but anxious to gratify the brethren to the fullest extent in his power with the transcendent talent of Bro. Wilson, requested him that he would so far indulge the brethren assembled and himself by performing those ceremonies, to which Bro. Wilson kindly consented. Bro. Denton then vacated the chair, and Bro. Wilson performed the two ceremonies in the first and second degrees in his peculiar and beautiful manner, every one admiring the clear and lucid style in which they were performed, and the explanation of the various emblems were universally admired.

Bro. BENTLEY SHAW, the D. Prov. G.M., proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Wilson in a very complimentary speech, which elicited a general response from the whole of the brethren, being very ably seconded by Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. WOODFORD, G. Chap., which, on being put for confirmation, it is needless to say was carried *nem. con.*

Bro. WILSON returned thanks in a very effective manner, in the course of which he stated that what he knew of Freemasonry he was always ready and willing, on proper and convenient occasions, to impart to all who were entitled to receive it.

The W.M. then closed the lodge.

The brethren assembled in groups, admiring the chaste and substantial manner in which the lodge was fitted up; not gorgeous, but properly decorated with flags, banners, emblematical devices, working tools, books, and every minute of furniture. The carpet attracted particular attention, it being a

square pavement, black and white, with an indented or tessellated border.

To the banquet from the lodge was but a few steps, where seventy brethren sat down to a most substantial repast and dessert provided by Bro. Rycroft, the host, which did him great credit, both as regarded the viands and the way in which they were served. It is needless to state that after four hours' hard work in consecrating, completing, and dedicating another temple, the brethren were fully prepared to do ample justice to the good things which the Great Architect of the Universe had enabled them to provide.

On the cloth being drawn, the W. MASTER introduced the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," with some appropriate remarks on our Sovereign being the daughter of a G.M. of the Craft, and a hope that her offspring would follow the example of his predecessors. It gave him, the W.M., as it must do every brother, very great pleasure to see that her Majesty was again about to come of the seclusion she had so long subjected herself to, and once more gratify her subjects by mingling with them.

The toast was received and drunk with all that loyalty and enthusiasm which always pervades in Masonic society whenever that illustrious name is mentioned.

The next name the W. MASTER would call upon the brethren to respond to was one that stood high in Masonic annals—one who as members of this province, as well as the fraternity in general, they were bound to honour—one who had borne the heat and burthen of the day. He (the W.M.) need scarcely say that the name of that brother was the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, the M.W.G.M.—a name that would live in Masonry so long as history held a place amongst mankind; and as a just reward for his great and unwearied labour and exertions had just been re-elected, for the 20th time, their Most Worshipful Grand Master, at which he, the W.M., had had great pleasure in assisting, and he for one could state that, whenever he had had anything to do with his lordship, he had always found him most courteous and business-like. May the Great Architect of the Universe give him health and strength long to preside over us, and should he be called away by the Great Architect it would be no easy task to find his equal.

The toast was enthusiastically drunk by the assembled brethren, with full Masonic honours, Bro. J. Clay being the G. Dir. of Cers.

The next toast was "The Right Honourable the Earl De Grey and Ripon, the D.G.M., and Prov. G.M. of this province, and the rest of the Grand Officers," coupling that with the name of Bro. S. B. Wilson. The W.M. said the Earl De Grey and Ripon was known to all to be a most zealous and talented Mason, and well fitted for the position in which the Most Worshipful Grand Master had placed him. As to Bro. Wilson, he should say little about him, as they had had an ample opportunity this day of judging of his merits, and the efficiency of the G.M.'s appointments. He could not, however, let the opportunity pass over without stating the very great obligation he, the W.M., and every brother present, were under to Bro. Wilson for his kind condescension in leaving home and business and come down to gratify and instruct the brethren.

The feelings of the brethren were wound up to a high pitch, and they gave vent to those feelings in a manner not easily to be forgotten.

Bro. WILSON responded. He said,—Worshipful Master and brethren, in ordinary cases I should have been relieved from the responsibility of responding to this toast, as the worthy brother who is now standing with me before you is a superior officer, and would, therefore, by courtesy, have claimed the privilege which I now enjoy. But having, with the concurrence of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, being commanded by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, to consecrate this lodge, I may, therefore, be considered as the Deputy Grand Master *pro tem.*, which has occasioned my name to be coupled with the toast. I feel quite sure that I need not say that I am extremely glad of the opportunity thus afforded me of responding to the toast, because it is a very pleasing duty, for, whenever the name of the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master is mentioned it never fails to call forth the greatest enthusiasm; and when I consider that he is also the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of this province the pleasure is greatly increased. The Worshipful Master of this lodge, in speaking to you of the distinguishing attributes of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, was pleased to say that if we should unfortunately be deprived of his services, it would be extremely dif-

difficult to supply his place. This I am bound to say is in a great measure true; but when we examine into the merits of the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, I think we may fairly admit that the difficulty would in a great measure be removed, seeing that we might reasonably expect the Craft would elect him as their chief, should such an unwished-for circumstance occur. As a Mason of some standing and experience in the metropolis, I can assure the brethren of this province that whatever good feelings they may entertain towards their Provincial Grand Master, he is equally appreciated by the metropolitan brethren, and we sincerely hope that the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master may both be spared to us for a long series of years, and enjoy the positions they now hold. I have this day had the pleasure of consecrating this lodge and installing the Worshipful Master in the chair. I know him to be a good and zealous Freemason, and feel assured that he will fulfil the duties which devolve on him with credit to himself and advantage to the lodge. The brother immediately on my right is, I believe, now in office, and I have but very recently had the pleasure of his acquaintance—I allude to the Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Bro. Bentley Shaw)—but from the short period I have enjoyed his acquaintance, and from the conversations we have had, I have no hesitation in saying that the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master has made a good selection—that he has put the right man in the right place, and that he will satisfactorily fulfil all the duties which may devolve on him. I am extremely proud to see here on this occasion your Provincial Grand Secretary (Bro. Nelson). He will, I am sure, continue to perform the duties of his office with the same degree of zeal and assiduity which he has hitherto done, and cannot fail to give universal satisfaction. I have enjoyed his acquaintance for many years, and am extremely happy to number him amongst my friends. With regard to Bro. Woodford, the Grand Chaplain, all that I can say in his praise would fall very short of his merits. I feel much obliged to him for the valuable assistance he has given to me, and take this opportunity of thanking him for the very able and impressive manner he performed the duties of Chaplain, and strongly recommend to your notice the precepts enunciated by him in his oration. And for myself, brethren, I cordially and sincerely thank you for the kind and flattering reception you have given to me, and the attention you have paid to the various ceremonies I have gone through, and hope to have the pleasure of meeting you again at no distant period.

The next toast was "Brother Bentley Shaw, our newly-appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers."

Bro. SHAW, on rising to return thanks, expressed himself highly pleased that he was enabled to be with them on this great occasion. He had learned much this day, and trusted that as he had now become acquainted with that eminent brother (Bro. Wilson), he hoped the time would shortly come when that acquaintance would ripen into sincere and lasting friendship, and he hoped the brethren of the province would take heed what they had seen, and emulate the excellent example which had that day been given them. To the W.M. (Bro. Denton) he could not too warmly express his gratitude for the exertions he had used in establishing the Lodge 1001, and for the able and skilful manner he had brought everything into such admirable working order; it only proved what a master mind could do when bent on doing good. He, therefore, could not resume his seat without calling on the brethren to devote a bumper to his health, and long life and prosperity, which toast was drunk with every demonstration of cordial applause.

The W. MASTER, on rising to reply, thanked the brethren for the very hearty manner in which they had responded to the toast of his health. He had but one object in view—to do good to others, and assist his brethren by imparting the little knowledge he had obtained from his superiors. Looking at the spread of Freemasonry in this vast province, it had made rapid strides within the last half-dozen years; the increase had been eight lodges, being at the rate of 20 to 30 per cent. Indeed, so great was it, that he sometimes felt afraid it would become too unwieldy; but so long as we have such a master mind at the head of the province as the Earl de Grey and Ripon, assisted by so excellent a brother as our present Deputy Provincial Grand Master, we have not much to fear. He would not take up their time, as there were still more toasts to be given, and as the time was drawing nigh when they must separate, "as time, tide, and train waited for no man," he

would give them "The Health of the Officers of the Lodge," and he trusted that on the foundation laid this day they might hereafter raise a superstructure perfect in its parts, and honourable to the builder.

This toast was replied to by Bro. WRIGHT, S.W., in a short but effective speech.

The W. MASTER then gave "The Visitors," coupling with it the name of Bro. R. R. Nelson, thanking them for their kindness in coming from such great distances as some of them had done, to assist in the dedication of this temple to the Great Architect of the Universe.

Bro. NELSON, P.D. Prov. G.M., responded, thanking them very cordially for coupling his name with the last toast. How proud he felt in meeting so many old acquaintances and brethren, he little thought of the hearty reception he should meet with. To the Worshipful Master of this lodge he would state that from the foundation laid this day, and from what he had seen, this lodge must one day or other become great and influential. For his part he should consider it his especial duty to aid, assist and do all in his power to make it become so. To his co-worker in the field of usefulness, and his old and esteemed friend Bro. Wilson, he could not find words to express his feelings, he trusted that the time was not far distant before they should meet again. It would be a strange piece of forgetfulness did he not mention the name of Bro. Ramsden, a member of the Manchester Lodge 179, for the great assistance he had rendered to the ceremonies of this day by his excellent performance as organist, and also for the liberal contribution of his vocal powers.

The time having been announced for the departure of the special train, the brethren separated, well pleased with their day's enjoyment, and trusting, as they had been present at the foundation, they might have many future opportunities of similar enjoyment.

## ROYAL ARCH.

### GRAND CHAPTER.

The quarterly convocation of Grand Chapter was held on Wednesday last, when there were present the M.E. Comp. the Earl of Zetland, Z.; E. Comps. Rev. John Hayshe, as H.; James Gibbs, Prov. G. Supt. Bombay, as J.; William Gray Clarke, E.; R. W. Jennings, as N.; Algernon Perkins, as P. Soj.; Revs. A. F. A. Woodford and G. W. K. Potter, Assist. Sojs.; B. Head, as S.B.; McIntyre, G. Reg.; Comps. Havers, P.N.; F. Pattison, P.N.; Bradford, P. Dir. of Cers.; Le Veau, P. Dir. of Cers.; Savage, P.S.B.; Smith, P. Dir. of Cers.; Scott, P. Assist. Soj.; Bannister, Dir. of Cers.; Gole, P. Standard Bearer; Spiers, P. Standard Bearer.

The laws of the Order having been read, and the minutes of the last convocation having been read and confirmed, the following Grand Officers were appointed for the ensuing year:—

E. Comp. Earl de Grey and Ripon	H.
" Lord Sherborne	J.
" Wm. Gray Clarke	E.
" Wm. Pulteney Scott	N.
" Rev. A. F. A. Woodford	P. Soj.
" Sir John Radcliffe	1st Assist. Soj.
" J. Rankin Stebbing	2nd Assist. Soj.
" Samuel Tomkins	Treasurer.
" Aeneas J. McIntyre	Registrar.
" Henry Maudesley	Sword Bearer.
" John Deighton	Standard Bearer.
" Wm. Young	Dir. of Cers.
" Chas. Payne	Janitor.

The following is the Committee of General Purposes for the ensuing year:—

E. Comp. Wm. Pulteney Scott, President	} Nominated by M. E. Z.
" Benjamin Head	
" A. A. Le Neau	

E. Comp. Thomas Gole, P.Z. No. 92 .....	} Elected.
" Joseph Smith, P.Z. No. 19.....	
" John Savage, P.Z. No. 7.....	
" Wm. Young, P.Z. No. 11 .....	
" Wm. Beaumont, P.Z. No. 410 .....	
" Fred. Adlard, P.Z. No. 214 .....	

The report of the General Committee read, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The various alterations and amendments in "The Book of Regulations" were next read, and approved.

Charters were granted to 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 Comps. Charles Reynolds Rowe as Z., William Lowe as H., John Kerridge as J., and six others, for a chapter to be attached to the Lodge of St. Cuthberga (No. 622), Wimbourne, Dorsetshire, to be called the Saint Cuthberga Chapter; to 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; and to Comps. 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' Lodge (No. 448), Halifax, Yorkshire, to be called the Chapter of Regularity.

A resolution was then moved to the effect 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 Comp. Little, who is now employed as one of the clerks in the Grand Secretary's office.

Comp. J. SMITH moved an amendment that it be made a salary of £20 a year. This was seconded by Comp. STEBBING, and supported by Comp. J. SAVAGE; but the original proposition was carried, it being stated by Comps. JENNINGS and MCINTYRE that the duties and salaries of the clerks in the Grand Secretary's office would shortly undergo supervision.

The chapter was then closed, and the companions separated.

## IRELAND.

### DUBLIN.

SHAKESPEARE LODGE (No. 143).—The members of this lodge having postponed their ordinary banquet from the 13th of April to the 23rd, in order to celebrate the Tercentenary of the birthday of the immortal bard, William Shakspeare, met at Salt Hill Hotel on Saturday evening, the 23rd ult. Covers were laid for fifty. The dinner was served in the superior style for which Mr. Parry's house is so justly celebrated. The several officers of the lodge and most of the members, in addition to the ordinary Masonic decorations, wore the Shakspeare Tercentenary badges, woven specially for the general jubilee by the weavers of Coventry, the device consisting of three parts—namely, the portrait of the poet, his birthplace, and the church in which he was buried. The table was ornamented in a suitable manner, including a bust of Shakspeare and illustration of his works in Parian. The chair was ably filled by Bro. John H. Richards, W.M., and after the singing of "Non Nobis" and the "National Anthem," both of which were given in splendid style, the usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured. The music of the evening included the following selections from the works of Shakspeare, the principal parts being taken by Messrs. Quinn, Dunne, Gray, Topham, O'Rorke, and W. Talbot, ably assisted in the choruses by several amateurs:—"O Happy Fair" (Shield); "What shall he have that killed the deer" (Bishop); "When shall we three meet again" (King); "Locke's Music in Macbeth"; "Sigh no more, ladies." The Chairman in an able manner proposed "The Immortal Memory of Shakspeare," after which the musical

brethren sang in first-rate style Stevens' charming quartette, "The cloud-capped towers," which was rapturously encored. The Deputy Grand Master, some others of the Grand Officers, besides several other distinguished guests were present on the occasion; and it will be long before those who were present will forget the happy and successful meeting in honour of the great poet, who existed not for an age, but for all time.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS.

### JERSEY.

ST. AUBIN'S LODGE (No. 958).—The monthly meeting was held at the Masonic Rooms on Tuesday, April 19th, Bro. Dr. Hopkins presiding as W.M., assisted by his Wardens, Bros. E. C. M. De Carteret and Orange. Bro. Durell occupied the chair of P.M., and, in the unavoidable absence of the Deacons, their duties were most carefully performed by Bro. Joseph Stevens. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. read a requisition for the initiation of Mr. Samuel Marsom Buttfield at seven days' notice. This was supported by the Treasurer, and the name having been regularly inserted in the circular of summons, a ballot was taken which proved unanimous in his favour. The W.M. announced the receipt of the report of the proceedings at the last quarterly communication of Grand Lodge, and an invitation to be present at the ceremony of laying the first stone of new Masonic Hall in London. Some accounts were presented and ordered to be paid. The lodge was opened in the second degree. Bro. Montagu, having passed a satisfactory examination, was entrusted and retired for preparation. The lodge was opened in the 3rd degree. On the re-introduction of the candidate, he was duly raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by the W.M., who also gave him the customary charge and the lecture on the third tracing board. The lodge was resumed in the 1st degree. The W.M. called the attention of the brethren to the handsome set of architectural columns for the lesser lights now brought into use for the first time, being a present from the late Chaplain, the Rev. F. De La Mare. A cordial vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to him for so generous a donation. The W.M. read a circular announcing a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge on occasion of the consecration of the new Temple at St. Helier on May 27th. The W.M. presented to the lodge a box of valuable Masonic documents, for which a vote of thanks was passed to him, and also the dies and presses for the lodge seal and envelope stamp, selected from his designs, the cost of which was defrayed by the profits arising from the sale of a pamphlet he had recently published.—Mr. Buttfield, having signed the declaration and been introduced properly prepared, was initiated into the Order by the W.M., who apologised for deferring the delivery of the charge and lecture on the tracing-board till the next meeting, on account of the unusual amount of business. The W.M. presented to him a copy of his lectures on Freemasonry on his own behalf, together with the "Book of Constitutions" and by-laws. On the proposition of the W.M., seconded by the J.W., Bro. E. C. M. de Carteret, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bros. C. Le Sueur and Bullen were respectively re-elected Treasurer and Tyler. A committee, consisting of the Wardens and Deacons, was appointed to make arrangements for the anniversary banquet on May 17th. The W.M. having inquired three several times, and no other business being brought forward, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and with solemn prayer, at half-past nine. A large number of visitors being present, the refreshments were served in the lodge-room instead of the one usually devoted to the purpose. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, especially those of the M.W. elect, the newly-initiated brother, the W.M., and the Visitors. When introducing the toast of absent members, with which the names of the late Chaplain and Captain Smith were especially associated, the W.M. stated that he had received a most interesting letter from Bro. the Rev. F. De la Mare, written after his arrival at the Mauritius, which he read to the members present, as it contained kind messages and exhortations to them. The brethren separated at half-past ten, after having spent a most delightful evening. Among the visitors were Bro. Lyon, P. Prov. S.G.W. for Surrey, Past Masters Drs. Blood, Kitchener, and several other brethren of distinction.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 580).—At the regular monthly

meeting held on Thursday, April 28th, the lodge was opened at six p.m., by Bro. J. Durell, W.M. Bro. Dr. Hopkins occupied the chair of I.P.M., Bro. Binet, P.M., that of S.W., and Bro. P. E. Le Sueur was in his place as J.W. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Bro. Captain F. G. Renouf as a joining member, which was unanimous in his favour; as was also the ballot for Mr. P. Le Vesconte, a candidate for initiation. Bros. Pixley and P. Benest were brought up for examination as to their proficiency, and having been duly entrusted, retired. The lodge was opened in the second degree, when these brethren were re-admitted and passed to the degree of F.C. by the W.M., with his usual ability, who also gave them the charge and the explanation of the second tracing board. The lodge was closed in the second degree. In the prospect of removal to the new temple, a portion of the furniture was some months ago disposed of, and, therefore, the lodge had been indebted to others for the loan of theirs temporarily to supply its place. As this was the last meeting which would be held in the present locality, on the proposition of the W.M. and acting I.P.M., votes of thanks were passed to the Royal Sussex, Mechanics, and Justice Lodges for their kindness. Mr. Le Vesconte was introduced, properly prepared, and after having been duly initiated, received the charge on the first degree from the W.M. By this time about 80 brethren were present, who were addressed by Bro. Durell, W.M., in terms expressive of his gratitude for the honour conferred upon him during the past two years, and for the kindness with which his efforts in the chair had been received by the members of the lodge, with a hope that the same favour would be extended to his successor, for whom a ballot must now be taken. Having directed voting lists, containing the names of nineteen brethren who were eligible to be placed in the hands of the members, he proposed Bro. C. Le Sueur, whose absence on this evening was caused by an unfortunate accident, to fill the chair of the lodge during the coming year, urging his claims on account of his admirable conduct in the chair of S.W., and expressing a hope that the vote would be unanimous. Bro. Schmitt, P.M. seconded the proposition, speaking in high terms of the capabilities of the S.W. The ballot was then taken, which was, without exception, in favour of Bro. C. Le Sueur. Bro. Goupillot was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. H. Du Jardin Tyler. The lodge was closed at a quarter to nine, and a large party sat down for refreshment. A most interesting letter from the late Chaplain, the Rev. Bro. F. De La Mare, to the W.M. was read, containing many kind messages to the brethren, and describing his cordial reception by the Masons at the Mauritius, which he attributed entirely to the notices of him in connection with Lodges La Césarée and St. Aubin in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, contributed by Bro. Dr. Hopkins. This called forth a toast in honour of the Masonic Press, with which was associated the name of that brother, who duly acknowledged it. Many other toasts were given and responded to, among which stood prominent the W.M., the W.M. elect, the late Chaplain, the newly-initiated Brother. Harmony and kind feeling prevailed as usual, and the party broke up in good time.

The following is the programme of the order of proceedings to be adopted at the consecration of the new temple on May 25th. On this important occasion, it is hoped that some brethren from English lodges will endeavour to be present, as there is now a mail steam-boat to Jersey daily, either from Southampton or Weymouth.

A Provincial Grand Lodge will be holden on Wednesday, 25th day of May, 1864, at 10.30 a.m., in the building known by the name of the Masonic Temple, Stopford-road, St. Helier, for the purpose of dedicating that building, in accordance with ancient custom.

The Provincial Grand Lodge will be opened in due form in the room appropriated to Royal Arch Masonry.

A procession will be formed in the following order, viz. :—

The Past Masters of Prince of Wales Lodge, two-and-two.

The Junior and Senior Wardens.

The Worshipful Master.

The St. Aubin's Lodge,

Royal Alfred Lodge,

Césarée Lodge,

Samarés Lodge,

Royal Sussex Lodge,

Mechanics Lodge,

Yarborough Lodge,

} In the same order.

Past Provincial Grand Pursuivant.  
Provincial Grand Pursuivant.  
Past Provincial Grand Organist.  
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.  
Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.  
Past Provincial Grand Deacons.  
Past Provincial Grand Secretaries.  
Provincial Grand Secretary, with Book of Constitutions.  
Past Provincial Grand Registrars.  
Provincial Grand Registrar.  
Past Provincial Grand Treasurer.  
Provincial Grand Treasurer.  
Past Provincial Grand Wardens.

A Brother, bearing a Cornucopia with Corn.

Two Brothers, with Ewers containing Wine and Oil.

A Brother, with a Censer.

The Provincial Grand Chaplains, the Grand carrying the Sacred Law on a Cushion, Square and Compasses thereon.

Provincial Junior Grand Warden, with Plumb Rule.

The Provincial Junior Grand Deacon, with Wand.

Visitors of Distinction.

Deputy Provincial Grand Master, with Square.

A Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden, carrying the Trowel used at the laying of the Foundation Stone.

A Past Senior Warden, with the Mallet used at the laying of the Foundation Stone.

The Provincial Grand Sword Bearer with Sword of State.

Provincial Director } The Right Worshipful { Assist. Director  
of Ceremonies. } the Provincial G. Master. { of Ceremonies.

Provincial Senior Grand Deacon.

The Provincial Grand Stewards, two-and-two.

Grand Tyler.

The procession will enter the dedication room, and open right and left. The Prov. G.M. will enter preceded by the Prov. G. Stewards and Prov. G. Sword Bearer. On the Prov. G. Master being announced by the Dir. of Cers., the brothers who have previously taken their places, will rise and a voluntary will be played on the organ.

When the Prov. G.M. and members of Provincial Grand Lodge shall have taken their seats, a prayer shall be offered up by the Prov. G. Chap., followed by an ode or hymn (Masonic).

The vessels containing corn, wine, and oil, are placed on the pedestal.

The Prov. G. Supt. addressing the Prov. G.M., returns thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and surrenders up the implements which have been entrusted to his care at laying of the foundation-stone.

The Prov. G.M. expresses his approbation on the architect's conduct.

The Secretary of the Masonic Temple will give an outline of the proceedings connected with the temple since the laying of the foundation-stone.

The Prov. G.M. will read the 2nd chapter of the 2nd Book of Chronicles, 1st verse to 11th.

132nd Psalm will be chanted.

A prayer will be offered up by the Prov. G. Chap.

The Prov. G.M. will proceed from the east towards west, accompanied by the D. Prov. G.M., the two Wardens, Dir. of Cers., his Assistant and Sword Bearer, preceded by the Prov. G. Stewards, the organ playing, and on the Prov. G.M. again reaching the east, the organ is silent, and he proclaims the temple dedicated to Freemasonry.

After the usual prayer by the Prov. G.M., the choir will give the usual response.

The Prov. G.M. will again proceed to the west, the organ playing. On the Prov. G.M.'s arrival in the west, the organ will cease, he will declare the temple dedicated to virtue and piety; after the usual prayer the choir will chant the usual response. The Prov. G.M. accompanied as before will proceed to the south, the organ playing; on arriving in the south the organ will cease. The Prov. G.M. will proclaim the temple dedicated to universal benevolence.

After the prayer by the Prov. G.M., the choir will chant the response.

The Prov. G.M., accompanied as before, proceeds three times from east to west, burning incense, the choir will chant a solemn hymn. The Wardens, accompanied by the Sword Bearer will conduct the Prov. G.M. to his seat, the Wardens, &c., &c., will resume their seats.

The Prov. G.M. will read the 6th chapter of the 2nd Book of Chronicles.

An Anthem will be sung.

An oration will be delivered by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, W.M. of St. Aubin's Lodge, and P. Prov. G.W. of Warwickshire.

The Prov. G.M. will proceed in procession as before, to scatter the corn, and pour wine and oil, the choir after each will sing "Glory to God on the Highest," &c.

A P. Prov. G. Treasurer's jewel, and address to be presented by the Prov. G.M. to Bro. Du Jardin, P.M. and Prov. G. Treas.

A prayer by the Prov. G. Chap.

The whole to conclude by singing "God Save the Queen."

## AUSTRALIA.

### BRISBANE.

#### CEREMONY OF LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE TOWN HALL.

Brisbane may justly feel proud of the proceedings on Thursday evening, February 11. The ceremony was effective, the interest general, and nothing which forethought could provide to ensure order and success was deficient. Between four and five thousand persons were congregated in the neighbourhood of the site; and beyond the usual banter and sallies of wit in the crowd, there was no manifestation of discomfort, or any accident to mar the pleasure of the occasion.

The proposed Town Hall will be the first public structure, worthy of the name, which has been erected in Brisbane since the advent of separate government; and the whole of the preliminaries have been gone through so successfully as to augur well for the completion. On Thursday, the open space on which the hall is to be erected was fitted up for the reception of the persons who were to witness or take part in the ceremony of laying the stone. From the rear of the present Council Chamber back to Burnett-lane ran a gallery for the accommodation of 300 ladies, gaily dressed in red and white; this, when tenanted by its fair occupants, in their many coloured garments, was the chief feature in the brilliant scene. Along the lower end of the ground was laid down a matted floor, on which were placed chairs for the principal guests and performers; and from the Queen-street front to this space was erected a barrier, dividing an avenue to be occupied by the Masonic body and guard of honour from the rest of the ground. Immediately at the north-west angle where the stone was to be laid and in front of the vice-regal seat was a table on which was deposited the silver trowel, the hod (highly polished pine), the flask containing the coins, and two copper-plates on which were engraven the scroll in English and Latin.

From four o'clock, the spectators began to assemble near the Council Chambers. At half-past five the Brisbane Volunteer Rifle and Artillery Corps, with the detachment of the 12th Regiment, garrisoned here, headed by the Volunteer Band, marched from the barrack-yard and took up a position in line in Queen-street. The band then proceeded to the Freemasons' Lodge, where the brethren of the "mystic tie" formed in procession and were played up Queen-street to the Town Hall reserve. The brethren formed into two lines, extending from the main entrance to the reserve in Queen-street down to the excavated foundation, the lane thus opened by them being lined with matting. At six o'clock his Excellency the Governor and Lady Bowen, accompanied by two of their children, arrived. The band struck up the "National Anthem," the assemblage cheered, and the mayor and aldermen received the vice-regal party upon their alighting from the carriage, and escorted them between the ranks of the Freemasons to their places on the platform. Here, at this time, we noticed the following gentlemen:—Hon. R. Pring, Attorney-General; Hon. T. De Lacy Moffatt, Colonial Treasurer; Hon. J. Bramstone, M.L.C.; Hon. George Harris, M.L.C.; Mr. Lilley, M.P.; Mr. Pugh, M.P.; Mr. Raff, M.P.; Right Rev. Bishop Quinn, Rev. J. Keating, Mr. W. Coote, Architect of the Town Hall; Mr. L. A. Bernays, Rev. George Wight, Mr. F. O. Darvall, Mr. E. W. Lamb. The principal officers of the Freemasons drew near, and amongst them were several gentlemen who, in virtue of their connection with the civil service and otherwise, had received invitations.

The Mayor, having welcomed his Excellency, introduced the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of the Freemasons, and that gentleman then did a similar courtesy to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The introductions concluded, the Mayor informed the Governor that it was the desire of him-

self and the aldermen of the city to present his Excellency with an address, should he be pleased to receive it. His Excellency having assented, the town clerk, Mr. Dowse, read the address, which was as follows:—

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—The Corporation of the city of Brisbane have great pleasure in tendering to your Excellency their congratulations, that, in laying the first stone of their town hall, your Excellency is about to initiate a public building, which will be, not merely conducive to the interests of their constituents, but will exhibit, as they believe, a worthy example of public spirit in the encouragement of public taste.

"The Corporation remember that the reign of her Most Gracious Majesty has been specially distinguished by an advance in every branch of art and science; in which, under Providence, her Majesty's late lamented Consort was the most efficient instrument yet granted to the empire of which this colony forms a part.

"In the work so auspiciously commenced this day, the Corporation (recognising the influence) trust that its completion will be worthy of the impulse which they are glad to acknowledge; and they are not the less glad to award this acknowledgment, because that, in this instance, the building which your Excellency inaugurates will be raised in the spirit of English independence. That no citizen of this city will be taxed towards its erection or support, and that on the contrary the revenue derivable from it will not merely defray the cost of the structure, but provide a fund to lighten the burden of the rate-payers in time to come.

"The corporation desire to express their pleasure that on such an occasion your Excellency is pleased to give the sanction of your presence, and gratitude for the encouragement thus afforded to similar enterprises on behalf of the citizens of Brisbane.

"Dated this 28th day of January, 1861.

"GEORGE EDMONDSTONE, Mayor."

His Excellency replied in the following terms:—

"Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—I thank you for this address, and I entirely concur with the views and sentiments which it expresses. I gladly acceded to your request that I should lay the first stone of your new town hall; and I am the more gratified by your invitation, because I attribute to the loyalty of the municipal council towards our gracious Sovereign your desire to see her Majesty's representative among you on the present occasion. The late Prince Consort, to whom you so aptly refer, spoke as follows on a very similar occasion in England:—'This work,' his Royal Highness said, 'possesses that feature so peculiar to the enterprises of Englishmen, that, strongly attached as they are to the institutions of their country, and gratefully acknowledging the protection of those laws under which their enterprises are undertaken and flourish, they love to connect them, in some manner, directly with the authority of the Crown and the person of their Sovereign; and it is the appreciation of this circumstance which has impelled me at once to respond to your call, as the readiest mode of testifying to you how strongly the Queen values and reciprocates this feeling.'

"For myself, gentlemen, I need scarcely assure you that I shall always be desirous to preserve the cordial personal relations which I have hitherto maintained with the mayor and corporation of Brisbane; and that it will always be my pleasure, as well as my duty to co-operate with you, to the utmost of my power in promoting the prosperity and advancement of this city. I have now lived among you for four years—perhaps the happiest—notwithstanding the cares and difficulties inseparable from my position, and certainly the most interesting years of my life. The eminent statesman and scholar, Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, during whose administration Queensland was erected into a separate colony, wrote to me some time ago in the following words:—'It is indeed a grand thing to be the first governor of so mighty a segment of the globe as Queensland, and is, perhaps, more sure of fame, a thousand years hence, than anything that we can do in the old world. It is carving your name on the rind of a young tree to be found with enlarged letters as the trunk expands.'

"Gentlemen,—I might almost say that I address this evening a different generation from that which I addressed only four years ago, when I first arrived among you. Then Brisbane was little more than a village of wood, with scarce 5,000—now, it is a flourishing and rapidly-growing town, with nearly 15,000 inhabitants; and if such has been our progress during the early struggles of this young colony, we may confidently expect that the new Town Hall will survive, not only the inhabitants, but



also the buildings of the existing city, and will one day be the centre of the wealthy metropolis of one of the freest and most prosperous communities in the world. Meanwhile, I trust that a want long felt here will now be speedily supplied—that, I mean, of offices sufficient for the transaction of the increasing business of the municipality, and of a spacious chamber for public meetings, public entertainments, musical concerts, and other social gatherings. In that hall the citizens of Brisbane will often exercise their undoubted rights, as British subjects, to criticise the public conduct of all public men whatsoever; while Lady Bowen and I will always feel pleasure in meeting there all political parties and all social classes, on the neutral ground of art, science, and literature.

“Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—I feel that I have already detained you too long; but a ceremony like that in which we are engaged not unnaturally suggests a glance both behind and before us. It is easy to foresee that the men who, in their different spheres, as chief officers of government, members of the legislative, or members of municipalities, have taken a prominent and successful part in the foundation of the social fabric of this city and colony; and who, under the blessing of Providence, have already raised Queensland to so high a pitch of prosperity and reputation. It is easy, I say, to foresee that these men will fill an honourable place in the annals of Australia, long after all political passions and all personal rivalries of the present day shall have been forgotten. The time will come when all who are now gathered around me will have passed away, and a new generation will have arisen—educated in the schools which the men of this generation have founded; governed by the wise and moderate laws which they have enacted; enjoying the advantages of the public works and institutions which they have established; enriched by the commerce, the trade, and the agriculture of which they have fostered the beginnings. Perhaps the leading men of that future generation, meeting in this very hall, may one day commemorate the names of some of us who are here this evening, as a free and civilised people, honour its early benefactors. Meanwhile, let us all work on in our separate fields of duty, unmoved alike by popular favour or by popular clamour; each man acting according to the dictates of his own conscience, and with a single and earnest view to the general welfare.

“G. F. BOWEN, Governor.”

His Excellency having resumed his seat, the MAYOR requested the Provincial Grand Master of the Freemasons to lay the stone according to the usage of the Order.

The Prov. G. MASTER answered that he would proceed in accordance with the pristine usage of the Order. Under the direction of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. W. Boyce, the foundation-stone was suspended above the excavated foundation wherein it was to be deposited, and there held steady. In the excavation was a rough hewn block, in the face of which were the copper plates fitted, bearing this inscription:—

*This First Stone of this building,  
Erected by the unaided efforts of the municipality of Brisbane,  
And designed not only for the transaction of Corporate affairs,  
but tending as an ornament to the City, and a  
Centre of Commerce, was laid*

*On the 28th day of January, 1864,  
In the 27th year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty,  
Queen Victoria,*

*Sir George Ferguson Bowen, K.G.M.G., being Governor,  
And during the Mayoralty of George Edmondstone.*

#### ALDERMEN.

Joshua Jeays,  
John Jones,  
T. B. Stephens,  
P. Mayne,

W. Pettigrew,  
Arthur Martin,  
A. J. Hockings,  
W. Brookes.

Thomas Dowse, Town Clerk.  
William Coote, Architect.

The GRAND CHAPLAIN read from the Bible the passages usual on such occasions, commencing, “Except the Lord build the house,” the brethren responding to it at the end of each verse, “So mote it be.” The Grand Treasurer deposited the flask, the Grand Architect read the inscription, which read thus:—

*This foundation stone of the Town Hall of Brisbane, was laid  
in due and ancient form, by  
Augustus Charles Gregory, Esq.,  
Provincial Grand Master of Queensland, E.C.,  
Assisted by  
William Martin Boyce, Esq., D. Prov. G.M.  
William James Munce, Esq., Prov. S.G.W.*

John Malbone Thompson, Esq., Prov. J.G.W.,  
And other Provincial Grand Officers, with the Worshipful  
Masters and Wardens of the following lodges:—  
North Australian Lodge (No. 976), E.C.  
Queensland Lodge (No. 921), E.C.  
Prince of Wales Lodge (No. 908), E.C.  
Brisbane, Queensland.

January 28, 1864, A.D.

5864, A.L.

(L.S.)

A. C. Gregory, Prov. G.M.  
Wm. Boyce, D. Prov. G.M.  
W. Borlase Stevens,

Prov. G. Secretary.

The mortar was spread and instruction given by the D. Prov. G.M. to use it so that it should bind, and the further order to lower the stone by three stops on to its bed. At each stop the fraternity gave a lusty cheer, and the J.G.W. reported the stone plumb, the S.G.W. that it was level, and the D. Prov. G.M. that it was square, the Prov. G.M. having received the plan of the building, which he examined, and the mallet, with which he tried the stone three times, he directed the emblematic corn, oil, and wine to be poured out upon the stone, and then declared it be well and truly laid, to which the brethren responded, “So mote it be,” the Prov. G.M. completing the ceremony by delivering the plans to the architect complimenting him on his work, and expressing a kindly wish for its completion.

The MAYOR, in the name of the corporation, requested that his Excellency the Governor would proceed to conclude the ceremony, and presented him with a silver trowel, inscribed with the usual complimentary reference to the occasion.

His Excellency then tapped the stone with the trowel, and said, “Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, I declare this foundation-stone of the Town Hall of Brisbane to be well and truly laid.”

Three hearty cheers were given for the Governor, and three more for Lady Bowen and the “olive branches.” The brethren then gave a “Masonic cheer” for Lady Bowen, to which her ladyship bowed acknowledgment.

Champagne being uncorked, his Excellency pledged, “Prosperity to the city of Brisbane, and health and long life to the Mayor and Corporation.”

At the call of Mr. Pring, three cheers were given for the Mayor and Corporation, and one more for the Mayor, at the call of the Governor.

The MAYOR responded in appropriate terms to the compliment paid to him by his Excellency, and thanked him for the part he had taken in the ceremony of that auspicious day.

The vice-regal party departed, the Mayor and Aldermen conducting them to the gate of the reserve. The volunteers presented arms, the band played the National Anthem, and the assemblage speedily dispersed, well pleased with the scene they had witnessed.—*North Australian* of Feb. 16.

## INDIA.

(From the *Indian Freemasons' Friend*.)

### MASONIC MEMS.

We have been informed of the death of Prince Mahomed Julalood-deen, of the Tippoo family, a member of one of the Calcutta lodges.

The arrival of Maharajah Duleep Sing, who was initiated in Lodge Star in the East, Calcutta, and has lately received the honorary rank of Junior Grand Warden from the Earl of Zetland, may shortly be expected in England.

### CAWNPORE.

LODGE HARMONY.—A visitor at Cawnpore writes as follows:—“On the invitation of the Master, Bro. Allen, I visited Lodge Harmony the other night, with two other brethren, and was much pleased with the appearance of the lodge rooms, although there are certain American superfluities, in the shape of symbols, &c., which might advantageously be disposed with. Bro. Allen is heartily anxious for the establishment of the lodge on a proper basis, and he expects the aid of some of the brethren of the 2nd Bays, a detachment of that regiment having lately been moved from Benares to Cawnpore.

## CHINA.

## SHANGHAI.

The Worshipful Master, Wardens, and brethren of the Northern Lodge of China (No. 570), gave, on March 3, at the lodge rooms in Canton-road, a farewell dinner to W. Bro. Cornelius Thorne, P.M., who, after some eight or nine years' absence, is about to revisit his native land. The banquet, under the able stewardship of Bros. Tilby, Johnston, and Levi, was a great success. Precisely at seven (the hour announced) after grace by the Rev. Bro. Hamilton, Chaplain of the Sussex, the guests sat down, filling every chair around the board, laid in correct Masonic mode, in the room usually employed as the reading-hall of the Shanghai Library below the lodge meeting-room. The music was performed by the Rhenish Band, in the uniform of the Shanghai Volunteers, in their usual able manner, and gave great satisfaction. Arrived at the period for dessert, the W.M., Bro. Gould, then gave, in succession, the toasts usually designated "obligation toasts;" such so-called obligations being as pleasing duties as Masonry, or any other society, could require. First in the list of these duties was the health of the Queen; followed by that of the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of English Masonry; and then the officers of the Supreme Grand and Provincial Grand Lodges, coupled with the last of these being the name of the only Provincial Grand officer present, viz., Bro. A. Campbell, P.M., who returned thanks. The toast of the Army and Navy was acknowledged by Bros. Col. Yonge and Hockley, R.N.; Visiting Brethren by Bros. Westall and Donaldson; the Sussex and sister lodges of the province, by Bros. Parker and Henry Dent; the Press by Bros. Jamieson and Tarrant (the music after this toast being "Ever of Thee I'm fondly Dreaming;") the Ladies, by Bro. Davis; Entered Apprentices, by Bro. Mercer; "To all Distressed Masons," by Bro. Phillips, Tyler; "The Worshipful Master presiding," proposed by Bro. Birdseye, P.M., and drank enthusiastically, being responded to in a most feeling manner. There were other toasts besides those mentioned—the toast of the evening being the health of the respected brother, in whose honour the feast was given. In proposing this toast, the Worshipful Chairman enumerated the various services of Bro. Thorne, in behalf of Freemasonry, and we learnt from the detail the following facts:—As in Hong Kong, some twelve years ago, so in Shanghai some six or seven years since, the spirit of Freemasonry seemed almost defunct, and it was with difficulty a sufficient number of brethren could be induced to attend and hold the necessary monthly meetings. From the first day of his arrival in Shanghai, Bro. Thorne took a most lively interest in the welfare of the Craft, so much so that a dispensation was prayed of the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Mercer, to permit his appointment to the Master's chair. But Freemasonry under the Provincial Grand Officer named is carried out most strictly—that is to say, strictly as regards the laws and ordinances enacted for its government; and the application was rejected, with an intimation that the chair could only be reached after the usual probation of a year's Wardenship. All, therefore, that his brethren could do in the matter, was to make Bro. Thorne a Warden, and a Warden he became. For reasons not explained, Bro. Thorne resigned this post, and took the subordinate office of Deacon, determined in himself, perhaps, that as he had resolved on taking highest honours, no objection should be made to him on the score of getting up without serving as an officer in the several grades, and, if brethren would keep harmony in a lodge, there is no point so necessary for observance to ensure it, as this of making degrees obtainable only after the proper period of service by each column. At last the day came for Bro. Thorne's elevation to the post he filled so well, viz., that of Master and Ruler of the Craft in Shanghai. From that day, generously assisted by Bros. Dunlop, Birdseye, Campbell, and others, Freemasonry progressed rapidly, and the year which sees Bro. Thorne's departure, will also see the Northern Lodge of China free of debt, and this notwithstanding the performance of a huge work, viz., the purchase of ground and erection of the commodious building in which Freemasonry is extended in lodge, chapter, and encampment. Returning thanks for the toast, and pointing proudly to a beautiful jewel which the Masons of Shanghai recently gave to him, Bro. Thorne disclaimed all the praise bestowed in warmest language. Without such helpmates as the distinguished brothers (whose names we have mentioned), on his left and right, Masonry in Shanghai, he said, might have remained as has been described, languishing and spiritless. Now, on the contrary, Masonry is

growing in a wonderful manner; the old Canton Lodge (Royal Sussex) having removed here last year, and now ably worked by Bro. Parker, while warrants have been prayed for the creation of a Scotch Lodge (the Cosmopolitan, to be presided over by Bro. Donaldson, who stated that the warrant, thanks to the recommendation of Bro. Underwood, P.M., was actually on its way, and might be looked for next month,) and also for an American Lodge; the degrees of Royal Arch and Knight Templar being conferred in connection with the lodge resuscitated—a resuscitation far in advance of what has been done at our Provincial Lodge Capital, Hong Kong, where there is no working above the third degree. Besides the music of the band, some excellent songs were sung by Bros. Birdseye, Gilfillan, Dent, Nutt, and others, the company eventually breaking up amid the smaller hours of this morning.

## THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and younger branches of the Royal Family are still at Osborne. Prince Arthur, who completed his fourteenth year on Sunday, has been on a visit to his mother, but has returned to Greenwich. The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the Royal Academy on Saturday, and spent some time in a close examination of the principal pictures. On Tuesday, her Royal Highness held a drawing-room on behalf of the Queen, which was very numerously attended. Prince Alfred is at present travelling on the Continent, prior to joining his ship, the *Racoon*, at Marseilles.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Thursday, the 25th ult., several measures, including the Union Relief Aid Acts Continuance Bill, received the royal assent by commission.—In reply to a question from Lord Ellenborough, Lord Wodehouse said no decision had yet been arrived at on the proposal to remove the seat of government in India from Calcutta. The noble lord also explained the steps which had been taken respecting the burning of human bodies on the banks of the Hooghly.—The Punishment of Rape Bill was read a third time and passed, with the amendment that the flogging of persons convicted of such offences should be permissive and not compulsory.—A discussion took place on the Lord Chancellor's bill providing for the decent remuneration of the Greek Professor at Oxford, by attaching a Crown Canonry to the chair. Lord Derby would not oppose the bill, although he thought it unwise to pass a measure which would limit the Greek Professorship to clergymen. Lord Ellenborough and Lord Grey objected to the bill, because it took away "one of the few rewards" to which hard-working clergymen had a right to look forward. The Lord Chancellor said that as soon as the University saw fit to endow the chair to the amount of £600 a year, the canonry which he proposed to give to Mr. Jowett and his successors should be placed at its disposal. The Bishop of London supported the bill, which was ultimately read a second time without a division.—On Friday, Lord Derby, in a two hours' speech, criticised the conduct of Lord Russell with respect to the seizure of the Birkenhead steam rams. The noble earl, who seemed to insinuate that the Tory politics of Mr. John Laird had had something to do with the keen attention paid to his sons' building yard by the Government, said he could have understood the seizure of the vessels with a view to the trial of the question as to their destination, but to throw upon the owners the onus of proving their innocence was, he contended, "monstrous and illegal." Lord Russell warmly defended the course which he and his colleagues had taken, and submitted that it was owing solely to the vigilance of the Government that the Messrs. Laird had not succeeded in plunging this country into a war with the United States. In his closing remarks, the noble earl expressed an earnest hope that the present war in America might result in the

final destruction of slavery. After some remarks from Lord Chelmsford and the Duke of Argyll, the discussion ended.—On Monday and Tuesday, no business of importance was transacted.—In the *HOUSE OF COMMONS* on Thursday, the 28th ult., Mr. Milner Gibson said the Astronomer Royal had urged the necessity of a verification of the Exchequer standards of weights and measures, and the subject was now under consideration. As at present advised, however, he did not think it was necessary to adopt a suggestion which had been made that, pending this inquiry, the law against the use of incorrect weights and measures should be relaxed.—Lord Stanley, in reply to a question, said the Patent Law Commissioners' report would be ready before Whitsuntide.—In answer to a question from Mr. Hopwood, Sir George Grey said the Government had no intention to propose a Conference on American affairs. The right hon. baronet, in reply to another question, said paper tube manufactories were not included in the Factory Act Extension Bill, as the Commissioners had not yet reported upon those works.—The temporary detention of the Confederate vessel *Tuscaloosa* at the Cape formed the subject of another long debate, which was raised by Mr. Peacocke, who moved that the instructions of the Duke of Newcastle of the 4th Nov. were contrary to the principles of international law. The Solicitor-General defended the regulations. He trusted, then, that the House would not affirm the proposition contained in the resolution. It was not necessary; it was useless; it would have no practical effect; and it might hereafter be attended with serious inconvenience and injury to the best interests of the country. After some discussion, the motion was negatived by 219 against 185 votes, leaving a majority of 34 votes in favour of the Government.—On Friday, Sir George Grey stated, in reply to questions from Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Horsman, that the Conference separated on Monday, without fixing the date for the next meeting; but he declined to explain the reason for this adjournment.—A question from Mr. Percy Wyndham elicited the fact that the Government intend to propose some amendment of the Salmon Fisheries Act of 1862.—On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. Berkeley moved that on Monday the House would resolve itself into a committee to consider an address to the Queen, praying that compensation be made to Mr. Bewicke, of Threepwood Hall, who a few years ago was sentenced to a term of penal servitude for an offence which, as has since been shown, he never committed. Sir George Grey resisted the motion, but was willing to have the subject referred to a Select Committee. After some discussion, Mr. Berkeley accepted this suggestion, but Mr. Disraeli urged that the House should divide on the question. A division accordingly took place, and the Government was beaten by a majority of two. Technically, this vote was that the House should not go into Committee of Supply, and Mr. Berkeley's motion was then put as the "original question." Sir George Grey moved, as an amendment, that a Select Committee be appointed to consider the subject; and after some discussion, the proposition of the right hon. baronet was carried by a majority of 148 to 100.—On Monday, Sir Robert Peel, in answer to a question from Mr. Maguire, said the Government had no intention of introducing this session a tenant right measure for Ireland.—Mr. Gladstone, deferring to the opinion generally expressed by the Scotch members in a debate the other night, withdrew the bill which he had introduced to authorise the existing banks in Scotland to issue additional notes to the amount of the lapsed issue of the late Western Bank.—Mr. Bruce, in reply to a question, said the recent experiments in vaccinating sheep had shown that the process afforded no security against small-pox.—In answer to a

question from Sir John Pakington, Lord Clarence Paget said the Channel fleet, as regards stores, &c., was ready to proceed to any part of the world in twenty-four hours.—Sir George Grey said it was intended to bring in an indemnity bill for the protection of the five Under Secretaries of State who recently sat illegally in the House.—The consideration of the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill as amended led to several discussions. One of the amendments proposed was that the sugar duties should be continued for one year only; but, on a division, Mr. Gladstone found himself supported by a large majority.—On Tuesday Mr. Cobden gave notice of a motion declaring it to be the duty of this country to maintain a policy of strict non-intervention in the civil war in China.—In answer to a question from Mr. Darby Griffith, Sir George Grey said the Government had received the strongest assurances from Vienna that the Austrian squadron, now assembling in the North Sea, would not enter the Baltic—its mission being simply to protect German commerce, and to prevent a Danish blockade of the Elbe and Weser. That being the case, he declined to state what course Admiral Dacres had been ordered to pursue in the event of the Austrians attempting to pass the Cattegat.—Mr. Cardwell, in answer to a question, said it was quite true that permission had been given to the Federal troops to pursue the insurgent Sioux into British territory, but this had been done purely on grounds of humanity.—A long debate took place on the subject of capital punishment. Mr. W. Ewart moved for a Select Committee to consider the expediency of maintaining the present system, while Lord H. Lennox proposed, as an amendment, that the inquiry should be limited to the "operation of the laws relating to capital punishment." Mr. Neate suggested a Royal Commission, and Sir George Grey, who urged that it was absolutely necessary, in the interest of society, to visit murder with the punishment of death, accepted the proposal of the member for Oxford. The motion and amendment were ultimately withdrawn, and it was agreed to address the Crown for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the operation of the present law, and into the mode in which the prerogative of mercy is exercised.—On Wednesday, Mr. D. Griffith gave notice that on Friday week he should call attention to the permission which had been given to the Austrian fleet to leave these shores and take up a position favourable for the further prosecution of the war against Denmark, without any practical check or supervision by means of a British naval force.—On the motion for going into committee on the Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, Mr. Humberston, while admitting that a change in the system of weights and measures was necessary, said he thought it should be effected by a process more simple than that proposed by the Bill. He believed the measure would benefit neither our home nor our foreign trade, and therefore he should oppose the going into committee. Mr. Adderley supported the metric system as being simple, while the present system was confused. After a few words from Mr. D. Griffith, the House went into committee on the Bill. On clause 2, Mr. Milner Gibson opposed it on the ground that it made the metric system legal and to be used when no standards had been deposited. A lengthy discussion followed, in the course of which Mr. Ewart declared that the objection taken by Mr. Gibson aimed at the very essence of the Bill. He contended that there were standards in existence, and urged that any doubts upon the subject might be set at rest by the issue of a Royal Commission. Mr. M. Gibson declined to promise that there should be a Royal Commission. His object was to prevent the metric system from being made compulsory at present. Mr. Cobden suggested that the further consideration of the Bill should be postponed, in order that

Mr. Gibson might embody in a Bill the objects which he had in view. Mr. Ewart acceded to this suggestion, and the chairman was ordered to report progress. The House then went into committee on the Chief Rents (Ireland) Bill. Several of the clauses were agreed to with amendments.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The health of London last week was as near an approach to the average mortality for the spring season as it is perhaps possible to reach. The number of deaths was 1,307, and of births 1,946. The corrected average for the week amounts to deaths 1,321, births 1,971. The week was further remarkable in that there was not a single case of death from small-pox—a circumstance that has not happened before since the prevalence of that disease in the metropolis.—Lord Palmerston, we regret to learn, is once more laid up with the gout.—The Channel squadron—which consists of the flagship *Edgar*, the frigate *Aurora*, and the “iron-clads” *Warrior*, *Defence*, *Hector*, and *Black Prince*—is now anchored in the Downs, and all officers absent on leave have been ordered to join their ships with as little delay as possible.—The two Austrian frigates, *Schwartzenberg* and *Radetski*, left the Downs on Saturday night, steering northwards, while their tender—a gunboat—is at Sheerness, undergoing some repairs. Several other Austrian ships, including the iron-clad, *Don John of Austria*, are daily expected at one of our ports.—The annual meeting of the Association for the Revision of the Liturgy was held on Tuesday at Willis’s Rooms, when the chairman, Lord Ebury, who is also a member of the Royal Commission recently appointed on this subject, made the important statement that, though he was not at liberty to divulge what was doing in that Commission, he might state that the days and even the hours, of the Act of Uniformity were numbered. This statement was received with great satisfaction by the meeting.—Archdeacon Sinclair has held his annual visitation and delivered his charge to the clergy in the western portion of the diocese in St. Paul’s Church, Covent-garden. The venerable archdeacon adverted to such questions as an increase of the episcopate, the rights of clergymen in Convocation, and the election of bishops, which latter subject he said, though he did not think it required to be examined at present, might by and bye come to be of importance. He also discussed the rights of the laity in the election both of bishops and presbyters, and their admission to Convocation.—The South Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, under the command of Lord Radstock, were reviewed on Saturday afternoon by Col. McMurdo, and went through an extended course of evolutions. The colonel, whose horse fell with him in the course of the proceedings, though happily without causing him any injury, gave high praise to the regiment for the precision and accuracy of its movements, which, in some instances, he described to be absolutely perfect. In conclusion, he adverted to the review on Easter Monday, and said the rough ground they then met with was the best ground on which to try volunteers, as that would be the kind of ground on which, if ever their services were wanted in earnest, they would be required to act.—There was a private view of the pictures in the Royal Academy on Saturday, in anticipation of the opening to the public on Monday. The exhibition is fully equal to the average of former years, though some of our great artists, engaged in other works, do not show this year.—The celebrations of the Shakespeare tercentenary at Stratford, so far as the local committee made themselves responsible for them, have come to a close. It is satisfactory to know that the receipts from the various representations will cover all the expenditure, so that the managers will incur no pecuniary loss.—The Poor-Law Board’s statement this week shows a further reduction of pauperism, 4,250 having gone off the Guardians’ relief lists, notwithstanding the cir-

cumstance that some places have recently relieved more persons from the poor rates in consequence of the closing of local relief committees. Six unions are noticeable for the extent of decrease:—Manchester, 666; Preston, 610; Ashton-under-Lyne, 510; Rochdale, 480; Bury, 290; and Chorlton, 290 paupers. Comparing Mr. Purdy’s present return with previous ones we observe that the outdoor relief, which for the last week of March amounted to £8,262, is now reduced to £7,000, and that nearly 2,000 able-bodied adults went off the rates last week, leaving, however, 32,540 still on the union lists. The pauperism of the district is now 120,000; or about 70,000 in excess of that which may be termed its normal amount.—Mr. Farnall’s return, read at the meeting of the Central Relief Committee, shows that in the cotton manufacturing districts, between 6,000 and 7,000 persons were struck off the parochial relief lists during the fortnight ending on the 23rd ult.—The ironmasters of the United Kingdom have held a meeting, and passed a series of resolutions which plainly enough intimate that they will no longer submit to the control which the operative iron-workers’ powerful Union seeks to exercise over both employer and employed. They disavow any desire to interfere with the right of the workmen to combine for any fair and legitimate object, but they assert their firm determination to resist all attempts on the part of the men to “dictate to their employers the mode in which their work shall be conducted and what workmen they shall employ;” and with a view to maintain this principle, it was decided to form a committee representing all the iron-making districts. The “lock out” in the West Riding is still in force, and it is stated that some of the ironmasters hope, by the introduction of the puddling machine, to overcome, to some extent at least, the difficulties of their present position.—At the last meeting of the Court of Aldermen considerable surprise was expressed by Mr. Alderman Rose, Mr. Alderman Copeland, and other members, at the ignorance in which the Court had been kept of the progress of the Brokers’ Rents and Bonds Bill in the House of Commons—a measure which would go far to emancipate the brokers in the City from the control of the corporation. It was said that only those members who opposed the principle of the bill knew of its existence and were called on to give evidence. The Remembrancer rose to give explanations, but it was thought better to have them in private.—The inquiry into the loss of the steamship *City of New York* on Daunt’s Rock has terminated, the Court deciding that the disaster was caused by the default of Captain Kennedy, whose certificate has, therefore, been suspended for eight months.—A girl, named Bottomley, residing at Clifton, near Halifax, while playing on Sunday with a gun which she did not know to be loaded, shot her mother dead. This is a fresh and terrible instance of the folly of handling fire-arms as if they were harmless toys.—The trial respecting the validity of a will made by Mr. Hutchinson who, having become a Roman Catholic, left his property to the Brompton Oratory, and which was disputed by his brother-in-law, Mr. Alfred Smee, came to a close on Saturday. Sir James Wilde gave judgment in favour of the validity of the will, and ordered the costs of the trial to be paid by the disputant.—Mr. Smales, the ex-paymaster of the Inniskilling Dragoons, has been dragged to the ground by the Mhow court-martial. He has made his appearance in the London Bankruptcy Court, with liabilities estimated at about £3,000.—A true bill has been returned by the grand jury in the Court of Queen’s Bench against Mr. Rumble for a breach of the Foreign Enlistment Act in the case of the *Rappahannock*.—We regret to learn that Sir Thomas Fitzgerald, Bart., of Golden Hills, Tipperary, committed suicide by drowning in the River Suir on Wednesday last. Sir Thomas held a high position in

the county and was in the prime of life. No cause has yet been assigned for this distressing act.—John Devine, the murderer of Mr. Duck, builder, in Marylebone, was executed at Newgate on Monday. The unhappy criminal made a full confession. The crowd was unusually small.—A man, named Wingfield, residing in a village in the neighbourhood of Doncaster, made a desperate attempt to murder his housekeeper, whose life was only saved by the timely interposition of a man named Wilson. The woman was very seriously wounded.—A melancholy occurrence took place at Bolton on Wednesday week. A widow named Rylands, enjoyed a small pension from the London and North-Western Railway Company, in whose employment her husband had been for many years. Having seven children to support she endeavoured to eke out her pension by keeping a provision shop, but it was not successful, and she became nervous and low-spirited in consequence. She was particularly depressed on Tuesday night, and early next morning she cut the throat of her youngest child, about six weeks old. There is little doubt but she was of unsound mind.—The death of a respectable young woman by drowning in the Lea has formed the subject of inquiry, but the proximate cause of that death remains unclear. No inducement to suicide is alleged.—A sad state of affairs has been disclosed during an inquest at Kingsland respecting the death of a woman. The jury decidedly condemn the landlord of the house in which she lived and died, for overcrowding, want of ventilation, draining, &c.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor of the French received the Japanese Ambassadors on Tuesday, and heard their announcement that they had come to explain the difficulties regarding the execution of a treaty and the mishap which led to an attack upon a French officer. The Emperor delivered a reply, which although courteous and friendly in tone, yet dwelt decisively on the necessity of causing international law to be respected, and conveyed to the envoys a cheering assurance that the European Powers would never fail to combine for the purpose of defending their honour and interest in distant countries.—A despatch from Paris announces the death of Meyerbeer in the 70th year of his age. Meyerbeer was born at Berlin, and evinced strong musical talent from an early age. How well the promise of his youth has been realised by his subsequent career the whole musical world is a witness.—In Paris the movement of the Channel fleet is much commented on, but not much for the benefit of Denmark is expected from that movement. The demonstrative attitude of England, it is thought in the French metropolis, is assumed too late, more especially as the French Government appears likely to side rather with Germany than Denmark.—A telegram from Athens states that the question of the Ionian elections has been settled satisfactorily, and that the Budget has been adopted.—In an "allocation" delivered lately in a Consistory held in the Vatican, the Pope protested against the conduct of the Emperor of Russia, who, as Pius IX. declares, has driven his subjects into insurrection, and is now endeavouring to extirpate the Roman Catholic religion in Poland by "transporting whole populations into frozen countries, exiling bishops, and depriving them of their functions." The allocation is said to have made a great impression at Rome.—The *Moniteur* states that accounts received from Mexico up to the 29th of March, confirm the news of the rapid progress of the French intervention. The conciliatory part adopted by the French army was beginning, it is stated, to be better understood, and adhesions were accordingly multiplying. The despatches announce a series of military successes, which, it is stated, complete the dispersion of the *Jurist* bands. The Mexican news contained in the American journals by no means corresponds with the

optimist views of the *Moniteur*. The latter journal also publishes despatches, the purport of which is to show that there is no real cause for serious apprehension with regard to the insurrectionary movements in Algeria.—The English, French, and Italian ships of war at Tunis have landed their marines, which will protect the lives and property of Europeans if the insurgents should attack the city. The tribes throughout the Tunisian territories are said to have revolted against the Bey, and it is surmised that the insurrection may be connected with the rising of some of the Algerian tribes against the French, and with disturbances which are alleged to have occurred in Morocco.—According to a Vienna telegram, the Emperor and Empress of Russia will arrive on the 15th of next month at Kissingen, where they will stay a fortnight, and where they will probably be visited by the Emperor and Empress of Austria. If this imperial interview really takes place, it may probably be regarded as a sure token that the Russian Cabinet has overcome the grudge which it has cherished against Austria since the Crimean war, and that the old understanding between Russia, Austria, and Prussia has been fully restored.—A Turin telegram brings us intelligence that Prince Napoleon has chose this time to send a letter to the "Venetian Committee." In this letter we are told, the Prince expresses his belief that "the Venetian question demands speedy solution," and his ardent wish that "Italy should be free from the Alps to the Adriatic, in accordance with the words of the Emperor."—Accounts from Copenhagen inform us that the Danes have entirely evacuated Fredericia, the troops being able to carry away the principal war material and stores and to spike those guns which were left behind.—The semi-official journal of Berlin has declared, in reference to the announcement made in the French *Moniteur* of Monday, that the German Powers have not yet offered to relinquish possession of Jutland, but have intimated their readiness "to make concessions respecting the possession of Jutland should an armistice be concluded, comprising the suspension of the blockade, the surrender of the captured vessels, and the evacuation of the Schleswig islands." At the same time the semi-official journal of Vienna has announced that the Austrian and Prussian representatives at the London Conference are "to obtain from Denmark a satisfactory indemnity for the damage done to German shipping and commerce, and likewise a full guarantee against any future recurrence of the same. The Conference has met twice in London this week, without, it is stated, any definite result as regards an armistice.—The *Moniteur* announces that the English Cabinet requested explanations respecting the despatch of an Austrian squadron to the Baltic. The Austrian Government replied that no such intention existed; and, consequently, the English Cabinet renounced its design of sending a fleet to the Baltic.—The fortifications of Fredericia are to be blown up. Such is the order of General von Gablenz, despite of Fredericia being outside the boundary which both Austria and Prussia declared in the beginning should be the limit of military operations. The municipality of the town of Horsens, in Jutland, have refused to pay the war contribution imposed by Marshal von Wrangel, and have been sent off as prisoners to Rendsburg. The first instalment of the contribution which the Prussian commander proposes to levy in Jutland amounts to £96,000.—In the Danubian principalities the people are siding with the Government in their quarrel with the Chambers, and have made a public demonstration against the vote of censure passed by the latter on the Administration. The Chambers have been prorogued to the 14th of May.—General Garibaldi, has arrived at Gibraltar, and proceeded to Caprera. The *Undine* reached

Gibraltar on Tuesday with all on board well. She was to leave again the same night.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The scanty news brought by the Calcutta and China mail has been anticipated by telegrams. The Mahomedan conspirators arrested at Patna had been examined, and it was not thought that the conspiracy had very extensive ramifications throughout India. In consequence of Colonel Neale's vigorous remonstrances, the Japanese authorities had ceased to impede the supply of goods to European traders.—A summary of Sir Charles Trevelyan's Indian budget shows the surplus for the year 1863-4 was only £40,000, but that for the ensuing year is estimated at £820,000. The 10 per cent. import duties were to be reduced to 7½ per cent.; but "the valuation of price goods and yarns is adjusted to the market rates, thus doubling the duty."—A telegram from Shanghai reports the advance of Major Gordon against the Taipings. He had captured Eshing and two other cities, and was marching on Nankin. From Japan it is stated that an Englishman had been nearly assassinated at Nagasaki. Sir R. Alcock had arrived at Yokohama.

AMERICA.—The announcement of a severe defeat sustained on the 8th ult., by the Federal expedition up the Red River, is the principal intelligence brought by the *Persia*. It appears from the account given by the *Chicago Journal*—the only narrative which has yet been published—that General Banks's army had been advancing from Grand Ecore, in the neighbourhood of Natchitoches, and that his cavalry had been pressing the Confederates. On the 8th inst. the commander of the cavalry sent for reinforcements, and Generals Stone and Ransom brought up two divisions of infantry. After a sharp engagement, the Federal cavalry was broken, and the infantry fell back in disorder, was so closely pressed by the Confederates that "the retreat became a rout." A battery of artillery and the baggage of the cavalry fell into the hands of the pursuing Confederates, who were ultimately checked by a fresh Federal corps, 7,000 strong. The Federal loss was "large, probably 2,000;" and General Banks's whole army was falling back to Grand Ecore, "where it must wait to re-organise before proceeding further towards Shreveport." A Confederate rumour transmitted from Mobile asserted that the Federal loss in the engagement amounted to 14,000 men killed, wounded, or taken prisoners; but the greatness of these numbers sufficiently shows that the rumour was based on no certain information. A committee had been appointed to inquire into the accounts of the massacre by the Confederates at Fort Pillow; and President Lincoln had declared that if those accounts were true he would order some retaliation to be made, though he could not yet determine the form or extent of that retaliation. Congress was discussing a bill providing for the introduction of European immigrants, who are to repay to the Federal Government out of their wages the cost of their passage. The House of Representatives was debating a tax bill, and Secretary Chase had declared in a letter that it would be necessary to provide by taxation for at least one half of the Government's expenditure. Intelligence has been brought by the *Peruvian*, from New York, to the evening of the 23rd ult. The transmission of news from Virginia had been stopped by the Federal Government; and it was consequently supposed that either General Lee or General Grant had put his army in motion. Deserters reported that General Longstreet's corps was moving down the Shenandoah Valley, and that ten days' rations had been issued to General Lee's army. General Grant had left Washington for the front, and General Burnside had gone to Fort Monroe, where large bodies of Federal troops were arriving from the coast of South Carolina. The Confede-

rates had suddenly and vigorously assumed the offensive in North Carolina, and had attacked Plymouth. An attempt made by land on the 17th ult. to take Fort Gray, the work which defends that down, was unsuccessful; but a ram—probably one of the iron-clad steamers which rumour had for some time asserted that the Confederates were building up the North Carolina rivers—sank three Federal gunboats, and obtained full command of the river Roanoke below Plymouth, thus intercepting the garrison's communications. Several gunboats had left Fort Monroe to aid the Federals, and the garrison of Plymouth was said to be well supplied with provisions, and to be able to hold out. It was, nevertheless, supposed that the Federals would be compelled to evacuate Plymouth, but would be enabled to hold Newbern. In Florida the Federals had abandoned Pilatka, and another of their transports had been sunk by torpedoes in the St. John's river. The greater part of the town of Hickman, in Kentucky, had been burned by Confederate guerrillas. Nothing was certainly known respecting General Forrest's movements—some reports representing that he was moving into the state of Mississippi, and others that he was marching towards Memphis. The account of the defeat sustained on the 8th inst. by the Federal expedition up the Red River, at Pleasant Hill, in the neighbourhood of Natchitoches, had been fully confirmed. It was, however, reported—though the statement was unconfirmed by New Orleans advices, dated the 16th ult. when the defeat of the 8th was known in that city—that the engagement was renewed on the 9th, when the Confederates "were routed with heavy loss," three of their Generals, Morton, Pearson, and Green, being killed. General Banks had, as it was asserted countermanded the order for a retreat into Alexandria; but the Federal flotilla, which had ascended the Red River to a point within 80 miles of Shreveport, had been ordered to return, and on its way down the stream had been attacked by the Confederates, who were repulsed with heavy loss. The governors of four Western States, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana, had arrived at Washington for the purpose of urging President Lincoln to call out 200,000 volunteers for six months; and the Governor of New York had offered the services of the militia for the occupation of all the Federal forts in that state. The Confederate cruiser *Georgia* arrived in the Mersey on Wednesday. The object of this unexpected visit is not known, but it is rumoured that an effort will be made to sell the vessel, on the alleged ground that she is unfit for the service in which she has been employed for some time past.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- T. B.—A brother who has passed the chair of your lodge is a P.M. of it, even though he should have resigned the lodge; and on visiting it had a right to stand up with the other P.M.'s in acknowledgment of the toast.
- S. S.—Certainly not.
- T. O.—Your question is simply ridiculous.
- J. W. S.—We think in 1792.
- W. B.—In the Scientific Lodge, Cambridge.
- A. A.—See our report of last week.
- E. V.—Answered next week.
- M. A. A.—A very voluminous article on the same subject appeared in our columns a few weeks since. Yours is consequently declined with thanks.
- J. M. (Belfast).—It was in 1852 Her Majesty graciously became Patron of the Boys' School.
- A. B. F.—In a few weeks.