

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1864.

GRAND LODGE.

The business of Grand Lodge on Wednesday next certainly does not promise to be of any great moment—and that will be matter of little regret at this dull period of the year.

The report of the Board of General Purposes does not contain a single point of importance, lest it be a censure on the members of the Lodge of Justice, for having forwarded a recommendation of a petitioner to the Board of Benevolence, “purporting to be signed by the Master, Wardens, and majority of members in open lodge assembled, whereas such recommendation had not been signed in open lodge, as required by the ‘Book of Constitutions,’ p. 96, art. 6. The Master and Wardens having been summoned to answer the complaint, attended with other members of the lodge. No mention of the petition appeared in the minute book of the lodge; and it was admitted that the petition had never been before the lodge at all, but that the recommendation had been signed out of lodge.”

Upon this the Board report—“The Board considering such a breach of the law highly reprehensible on the part of the W. Master and the other brethren who had signed the recommendation, and as tending to mislead the members of the Lodge of Benevolence, and possibly to lead to a wrong application of the funds of Grand Lodge entrusted to their distribution, severely reprimanded the Master and the other members who had attached their names to the recommendation, and warned them to be more cautious for the future.” All falsehoods, all breaches of the law are reprehensible; but we would ask whether the question raised under this complaint does not in truth point out the necessity of some revision in the rules which govern the Board of Benevolence? A brother gets into temporary difficulties, and wants immediate relief; but as his lodge only meets five months in the year, it may possibly happen before he can apply to his lodge for a recommendation six months must elapse, and then another month before his petition goes before the Board; and should substantial relief be granted, probably two months more before it can come before Grand Lodge—and then, if the relief is *really* substantial, three months more before the vote is confirmed, during which time the brother may starve, or go to the workhouse, for anything

our beautiful laws (all inquiry into which is strongly resisted by our conservative brethren, Jones, Brown, Robinson, and Co.) will do for him. He ought not to fall into distress out of season.

It may be urged that the lodge might hold an emergency for the purpose of signing the petition; but are brethren to be taxed for such a purpose? and would it not be better to put their hands into their pockets at once and relieve the brother, than so to waste their time and dissipate the funds of the lodge; for, should we suppose the lodge to be held at the Freemasons’ Tavern, we cannot calculate the average cost of a lodge of emergency at less than £2 2s., whilst some twenty or thirty brethren will be called from their homes to transact business, which, where the petitioner is well known to the brethren, can be equally as well, if not better performed at their houses or offices at the cost of a few pence or, at all events, shillings. But such a course might tend to the production of three or four more petitions in the course of a year, and give half-an-hour’s extra work to the great “W^m” who are annually re-elected or re-appointed to the Board, and become the sole dictators of the manner in which the funds of the Board shall be distributed—their principal claim to such re-election or re-appointment being that, having constituted themselves such dictators, they may become troublesome to the “authorities” in Grand Lodge should they be passed by or superseded.

The report of the Colonial Board is principally occupied with the details of the dispute with the Grand Lodge of Canada relative to the non-recognition of the St. George’s Lodge, working under the English Constitutions. The report, however, was scarcely in our hands when we received the annual address of Bro. Harington, the Grand Master of Canada, showing that the dispute had been amicably settled, and that he recommended the Grand Lodge of Canada to recognise the lodge. This satisfactory decision has been arrived at through the exertions of Bro. Brackstone Baker, one of the members of the Colonial Board, who, being in Canada on business, took the opportunity of seeing Bro. Harington, and by personal explanations did more in a quarter of an hour to set the matter right than would one hundred of the turgid, red tape communications of the Grand Secretary.

It is a pity, in appointing a representative to

the Grand Lodge of England, that, instead of listening to recommendations from this side of the water, the Grand Lodge of Canada did not appoint as its representative here a brother like Bro. Brackstone Baker, who, being himself a Canadian Mason, is better fitted to represent Canadian brethren, rather than a nobleman, who, however amiable and talented, knows nothing of the feelings and wants of the Canadian brethren, whilst his "instructions" from Canada and his position in Grand Lodge must, should any dispute arise, be opposed to each other.

Bro. George is to ask the following questions :—

"Have the Building Committee granted a lease to the present tenant?"

"Have they given him possession to convert that lease into a marketable commodity by conveying it to a 'Joint-Stock Company'?"

"And are other than Masons allowed to become shareholders?"

The answer, we take it, will be tolerably easy—

1. Until the confirmation of the minutes on Wednesday next the Committee have no power to grant a lease.

2. Not having granted the lease, they could not give the permission, though there is no doubt that many of the members of the Committee approve of such a Company being formed; and,

3. If none but Masons are allowed to become shareholders, the best thing the promoters can do will be to withdraw the scheme, as assuredly they will never get the money.

THE MARQUIS OF DONEGALL.

It is with extreme regret that we have to call the attention of the brethren to the report which appears in another column of the installation of our noble brother, the Marquis of Donegall, as Provincial Grand Master of Belfast and North Down—inasmuch as it will be seen that, in an institution and at a festival in which *nothing but* charity and good-will should prevail, the noble Marquis went out of his way to introduce politics into his speech, and attack the Mayor, who was not present, for not doing his duty during the recent disastrous riots, and, in fact, for leaving Belfast at the time they were taking place. Nothing could have been in worse taste; and we regret that the Marquis did not find a more appropriate place to make his remarks than an assemblage of Freemasons, who are bound not to intro-

duce politics into their lodges. The friends of the Mayor were not allowed to defend him as they were properly checked in their endeavours to reply, but so should the Marquis have been in his attack.

The charges of the Marquis have been replied to by the Mayor of Belfast, in a series of letters, which, however far they may go to exculpate the writer from the blame attached to him, shows that his controversial style is extremely energetic. The writer also denies that there was any expectation of riots when he left Belfast for Harrogate, and throws back upon the Marquis the charge of not acting with sufficient energy, inasmuch as the Marquis was in the town when the riots broke out, and in his capacity of Lord Lieutenant might have called out the whole force of the district, both civil and military.

With these disputes we have nothing to do, but we should like to ask, how often the Lord Lieutenant of the county and Provincial Grand Master has been in Belfast during the last eight years, seeing that he has not found time during the whole of that period to meet the brethren and go through the ceremony of installation, and whether he has not himself been somewhat negligent in the discharge of his duties?

A RUN TO THE LAKES.

It is one of the inestimable blessings of our modern system of travelling that we can get to the country easier than our forefathers could. For example, a poor Londoner who is sick unto death of the dust in Piccadilly or the liquid manure of Oxford-street—who wishes to get out of the way of the metropolitan sewers or the metropolitan railways—who is apprehensive of a *coup-de-soleil* or a brain fever,—in one word, he who wishes to get out of London during the dog-days, will find it an agreeable change to do as we did a few days ago—take a run to the Lakes. It is possible to breakfast in London, leave Euston-square about nine o'clock, and, after travelling over some 300 miles of country, to dine about five at Windermere, in the county of Westmoreland, in one of the nicest hotels in the north of England, in a cool, clear, bracing mountain atmosphere, and with a panorama spread out before the eye which recalls everything that we can conceive of an earthly paradise.

The first impression of Windermere is one which the traveller is not likely to forget. There is a sweet little modern-antique Anglo-Norman village in the foreground; a silver lake, richly wooded, half hid among hills of a dark purplish colour, in the distance, which overtop each other until the Cumberland mountains and the peak of the

"Mighty Helvellyn" are seen towering in bold relief against the horizon. Numerous villages and cottages here and there gleaming amongst the exuberant foliage impart an aspect of domestic beauty to the unrivalled landscape, and supply all that is necessary to complete the picture.

The picturesque element in this English fairy-land so strongly overshadows and dwarfs every other subject, that it will not be easy for us to bear in mind the object we have always more or less in view while travelling, viz., to obtain some personal information concerning the condition of the people. The readers of the *Builder* have had abundant evidence for concluding that the most beautiful and romantic district of a country is not necessarily the most salubrious and healthy; and, although we shall not be able to point to such flagrant cases of sanitary neglect in the Lake districts as we were unfortunately compelled to do in Buckinghamshire or Newcastle, still we think that the few observations we have been able to make will not be altogether useless. For one thing these lovely lakes are very wet places, and, as all good meteorologists know, they are signalized by a rainfall which is beyond comparison the heaviest in England. This fact is of itself sufficiently interesting to admit of our devoting some consideration to the condition of existence in the Lake district.

At the same time we must not be supposed to be insensible to the natural beauty and grandeur of the scenery. It is indeed impossible for an Englishman not to feel proud of his native country as he stands over the brink of Windermere, or climbs to the summit of Skiddaw or Helvellyn! A thousand associations arise to connect the romantic beauty with much that is memorable in English history; with the superstitions of the ancient Druids; the Roman encampments; the Anglo-Saxon Kings; the Norman Conquest; the wars with the Scotch; and, finally, with the unfortunate fate of the last of the Earls of Derwentwater. Here we stand in presence of the *genius loci* of some of England's greatest modern poets, of whom Southey and Wordsworth have found in the old picturesque churchyards of the district their final resting-place; and here, too, are the veritable scenes of the labours of such philosophers as Dalton and Sedgwick, who endeavoured not unsuccessfully to educe from the chaos of physical phenomena the true theories of a well-ordered and harmonious universe. The stranger who traverses these regions for the first time will be at no loss, if he study the guide-books, to find such associations recalled. Not to speak of Wordsworth's admirable work on the scenery of the Lakes, we have in this quarter such a prolific crop of guide-books that we seriously question if any place in all England—the metropolis excepted—could boast of a literature so extensive. To judge from its popularity and compact information, we may reasonably suppose that Black's is the best for all

practical purposes; still, there is valuable stuff contained in them all. Miss Martineau, it is worth mentioning, has written a rather attractive account of the scenery in which she loves to dwell; of which account we might have been better satisfied had it contained less of that ingenious lady's peculiar opinions. For example, she tells the tourist "that he must spend a day on the mountains, and if alone, so much the better. If he knows what it is to spend a day so far above the every-day world, he is aware that it is good to be alone."* To this doctrine we are afraid we must decidedly demur; since long experience has taught us that it is better to travel in pairs through all such unfrequented passes either in the English lakes or Scottish highlands. There is only one other little objection we must make to the guide-books (in most of which, by the way, and as a matter of course, there are many scientific and even topographical inaccuracies), and that is the conceit of comparing the English lakes with those of Switzerland and Italy. Thus Windermere is the English Zurich; Derwentwater is Lake Como; Ulleswater is Lucerne; and so on. Such fanciful analogies can serve no good purpose. Those who know the continental lakes best will pronounce that neither in "lake, alp, nor cloud," to use Mr. Ruskin's points, is there anything else than a very distant resemblance. The geological character is different; the sky is very different; the climate, of course, is entirely different. Equally out of place, in our opinion, is a comparison with the Scotch lochs, which are possessed of another and distinct order of grandeur. It is Pennant, the prince of tourists, who, if we recollect properly, somewhere very happily applies a story of Queen Elizabeth's time to this very subject. Sir James Melville, the Scotch ambassador at the English court, was one day asked in a jesting manner by the Queen, whether he thought she was as handsome as Mary Queen of Scots was reported to be? "Most gracious lady," replied the wily statesman, "your majesty is the most beautiful woman in England; and my mistress is the most beautiful woman in Scotland."

It is often a matter of surprise on the part of the travellers that the Lake district should be so destitute of those local traditions and ancient ballads with which the rest of the border country is so profusely enriched. Southey tells us, indeed, by way of hypothesis, "that there is little or nothing of historical or romantic interest belonging to this region; for this part of the country was protected by the Solway and by its natural strength; nor does it appear at any time after it became English to have been troubled with feuds. The inhabitants being left in peace, had therefore neither ballad heroes nor ballad poets, happy in having afforded no field for the one and no materials of this kind for the other." But,

* "Complete Guide to the English Lakes," p. 57.

with proper submission to so high an authority, we venture to doubt whether this be the true solution; and will continue to wonder that a region so naturally wild and romantic was aboriginally so barren of poetry and folk-lore. It was suggested to us that the whole thing may be accounted for by the destruction of the Derwentwater family; for it would seem that all the poetry and traditions of a highland people must cling, like the lay of the last minstrel, to the parent stock of the great baron or the feudal chief. If we suppose this to be the case, there may even yet be relics of forgotten lays and mountain lyrics still floating about the region. But Southey, unlike Sir Walter Scott, was not the man to collect them. We learned quite by accident in Keswick, that a long Jacobite lament on the gallant Earl of Derwentwater was orally recited by an old woman in the neighbourhood till the day of her death; and that a few stanzas are still remembered by a gentleman of that town who once had the good fortune to hear it.

But if there is a lack of ancient poetry and tradition, it must be owned that the moderns have certainly done their utmost to supply the deficiency. The materials, to be sure, were rich and abundant; but the quarry, if we may use a professional metaphor, has been uncommonly well worked, particularly on the upper beds. The fact is, the poets have fairly run riot in these Elysian fields. There is scarcely a mountain, hill, or "pike"—there is not a lake, a waterfall, or rivulet—we might almost say there is hardly a tree or rock, on which some of "the Lakers," as Byron contemptuously styled them, have not contrived to affix their seal and superscription. Southey, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Christopher North, Sir Walter Scott, Thomas de Quincey, Hartley Coleridge, Mrs. Radcliffe, Felicia Hemans, Elizabeth Smith, Miss Jewsbury, and a whole legion of minor poets, whose very names would require a catalogue, have here succeeded, to a greater or less extent, in giving to their "airy nothings"

"A local habitation and a name."

Perhaps we shall be told that the gods have not made us poetical when we state, that in our opinion, even the master-minds do not show to the best advantage. We must own that we got rather tired of Southey's hexameters and Wordsworth's pastorals, when studying them, as the geologist would say, *in situ*. As for the smaller minstrels who have chirped so melodiously on the margin of Grassmere or Buttermere, their rhymes are, for the most part, so licentious, and their apostrophes so exaggerated, as to overpower and obliterate whatever meaning they might have otherwise possessed; and they are therefore altogether destructive of the effect which they were intended to produce. Besides, it is rather a hard task on the weary traveller to be told and expected to recollect the names of all the poets who

have composed sonnets in praise of this lake or of that waterfall! And the truth is the mere description of external nature, however life-like and beautiful, soon begins to pall even on the most voracious appetite. On the principle that "good wine needs no bush," we may safely say that the English lakes require no extra poetic stimulus to excite admiration. Even the most prosaic mind cannot be unconscious of a certain awe and astonishment as he traverses those regions of floods and volcanoes; and the true poet will, we suspect, always feel that the task of connecting such mysterious operations of nature with the beauty of the landscape or the course of human destiny is a task beyond the reach of our poetry, perhaps of our philosophy.*

But to proceed. The ride from Windermere to Keswick—which is commonly accomplished by means of a mail-coach of the ancient type and three stout horses harnessed abreast, as in the Paddington omnibuses—is one which may well excite the astonishment of even an Alpine traveller. In place of winding round the bases of the mountains—like General Wade's excellent military roads in the Scotch Highlands—it seems to have been abruptly led over the haunches of some of the lesser hills. Accordingly, the gradients are in some places so steep as to be rather dangerous, particularly at some of the narrow turnings, such as at Smethwaite Bridge, about five miles from Keswick. We may mention that the lakers are rather proud of their bridges. "Travellers who may not have been accustomed to pay attention to things so unobtrusive," says Wordsworth, "will excuse me if I point out the proportions between the span and elevation of the arch, the lightness of the parapet, and the graceful manner in which its curve follows faithfully that of the arch."† This may be a very poetical description, and it is almost literally true—the lines of the *extrados* and *entradados*, or of the roadway and archway, seem to be drawn from the same centre, and somewhat resemble the construction of a tubular drain or sewer. We need not point out that "such unobtrusive things" are very difficult to get across; and, in-

* We quote a single stanza from Coleridge, which is worth a cartload of the commonplace stuff one meets with so constantly at the Lakes. It is entitled, "A Thought suggested by a View of Saddleback:"—

"On stern Blencathra's perilous height
The winds are tyrannous and strong;
And flashing forth unsteady light
From stern Blencathra's skyey height,
How loud the torrents throng!
Beneath the moon in gentle weather,
They bind the earth and sky together;
But, oh! the sky and all its forms how quiet.
The things that seek the earth, how full of noise and riot!"

Saddleback, we may mention, is a hill of the Siddaw range, which overlooks the valley of Threlkeld, about 2,800ft. in altitude. Its original and British name is Blencathra. The modern pseudonym arises from its peculiar shape when viewed from the neighbourhood of Penrith.

† "Scenery of the Lakes."

deed, as we have said, they are not unfrequently dangerous.

As we go jolting along this mountain pass we have time to observe the "drystone docks" or fences of the fields and enclosures. These are all constructed with the peculiar clay slate of the district; and one curious feature they possess is the sloping, flat-arched appearance of the coping, arising from the necessity of laying the stones on the angle of their natural cleavage, thus producing a very pretty naturalistic effect. The gate-posts are curious things. All the landed proprietors in the south of England know to their cost the difficulty and expense of providing substantial and durable gate-posts, particularly if the boys in the village are fond of swinging on the gates, after the model of Gainsborough's celebrated picture. But in the Lake district there is no difficulty. The purpose is served by a heavy monolith of clay-slate, for the most part undressed, varying from 2in. to 4in. thick, and the breadth of the section of the wall with the hinges sometimes battled in and sometimes fastened through with a bolt and nut. Many elegant and some commonplace villas adorn the base of the mountains and the margin of the Lakes, of which we pass in succession Windermere, Rydal Water (where Wordsworth is buried), Grassmere, and Thirlmere or Leathes Water. Some of the churches are rather pretentious modern buildings, particularly that of St. Mary Ambleside, which was completed and consecrated by the Bishop of Chester in 1854. It stands near the centre of the valley, a little to the west of the town, and is built of the dark green stone of the neighbourhood. But the spire is of freestone, and the mullions of the windows, the copings of the buttresses, and the doorways are also faced with the same material. The steeple is unusually large in proportion to the rest of the building, and has to our taste rather a clumsy effect. The interior is said to be handsome and commodious, consisting of a large central aisle and two smaller ones, and the north-east corner contains a memorial window of Wordsworth. Some of the older churches are very poor structures, particularly that at Wytheburn, hard by the Lake of Thirlmere, which is said to be one of the smallest churches in England; but it really possesses so very little of an ecclesiastical character, that one may easily mistake it for a cottage of the better class, or, at the very most, a school-house. It always occurs to us, regarding these little chapels scattered here and there in a mountain district, and amidst a sparse population, to wish that their founders had been somewhat more liberal in the buildings as well as in the endowments. It should be remembered that as to inherent powers of support, they are not to be compared with the lowly *chapelle* of the mediæval hermit, where prayers and benedictions were constantly required for travellers as well as natives. In Cumberland, we suspect,

the architectural student will find the very *reductio ad absurdum* of English ecclesiastical architecture; but we need not dwell on the subject at present. As for the secular buildings, the farm-houses and cottages we passed, they present externally no remarkable feature. They are either built of the dark clay slate or green-stone of the district; sometimes with dressings of freestone in the higher types. Sometimes we observe the buildings are rough cast; sometimes the joints are neatly pointed; but more frequently the rough uneven edges of the untractable buildings are left to face the weather without any finishing. A very common form of chimney-pot, we may mention, consists in the odd-looking combination of four slates with mitred ends—quite an episcopal chimney-pot! There are very few thatched cottages in the district, a circumstance which is doubtless due to the abundance of the different sorts of slate.

At Dunmail Raise, on this road—remarkable as the grave of the last of the Cumbrian kings—just before we reach Thirlmere, we cross the boundary line between Westmoreland and Cumberland. A few miles farther on, after crossing the Naddle valley, the matchless glories of Derwentwater and Bassenthwaite Lake burst into view; and here we reach the picturesque market-town of Keswick, at once the centre and the metropolis of the Lake district, and, as we believe the poet Gray pronounced it, "the Elysium of the North."

Here we shall take a rest, or rather give our readers a rest for a day or two.—*Builder*.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

COMMON ORIGIN OF FREEMASONS AND GIPSIES.

Dr. Priestly, in his remarks on Dupuis' *Origin of all Religions*, classes the Freemasons and gipsies together. He affirms that "they have formed themselves into a body, though of a very heterogeneous kind, but are not able to give any rational account of their origin." The philosopher has certainly placed us in bad company by classing us with these vagrants, but his influence is nevertheless true. The purposes for which our institution was first organised, are now as unknown as the date of its origin. Whether it was designed for architectural purposes, for the improvement of the arts and sciences, or for the preservation of revealed religion, by significant symbols and impressive rites, in an idolatrous and barbarous age, cannot now be ascertained. Perhaps all these objects gave rise or perfection to the institution.

When the Hindoos claim for their Shastras an antiquity of more than 2,000,000 of years; when the Chaldeans boast of observations of the stars for more than 470,000 years, and Manetho Sebennyta, the high priest of Heliopolis, claims for the Egyptians a national existence of near 54,000 years, who would hesitate to pronounce them all fabulous? Let Freemasons, then, give up the vain boastings which ignorance has foisted into the Order, and relinquish

a fabulous antiquity rather than sacrifice common sense. Let us trace our principles to Adam, or, with reverence be it spoken, even to God Himself; but let us not excite the pity of the wise by calling Adam a Freemason. This will not lessen the dignity or importance of the institution, but rather add to its celebrity by giving it a reasonable origin.

Mr. Clinch supposes Freemasonry was introduced into Europe by means of the gipsies. Although this is a very ridiculous supposition, it is highly probable that the leaders of the first emigrants of this tribe from Egypt had been initiated into the lesser mysteries; and, perhaps, copied in part from them the form of the oath which they administer to their initiates. "Every person who was not guilty of some public crime could obtain admission to the lesser mysteries. Those vagabonds called Egyptian priests, in Greece and Italy, required considerable sums for initiations, and the gipsies practice similar mummeries to obtain money."—(De Puaw's *Egypt*, ii. 42). The customs of the gipsies, and the oath which they impose on each other have been preserved by Bailey, who says:—"The gipsies derive their origin and name from the Egyptians, a people heretofore very famous for astronomy, natural magic, the art of divination, &c., and, therefore, are great pretenders to fortune-telling. It is the custom of these vagrants to swear all that are admitted into their fraternity by a form, and articles annexed to it, administered by the principle Maunder, or roguish stroller, and which they generally observe inviolably. The manner of admitting a new member, together with the said oath, and articles, is as follows:—The name of the person is first demanded, and a nick-name is then given him, in its stead, by which he is ever after called, and, in time, his own name is quite forgotten. Then standing up in the middle of the fraternity, and directing his face to the Dimber-Damber, or prince of the gang, he swears in this manner, dictated to him by one of the most experienced:—

"I, Crank-Cuffin, do swear to be a true brother, and will, in all things, obey the commands of the great Tawney Prince, and keep his council and not divulge the secrets of my brethren.

"I will never leave nor forsake this company, but observe and keep all the times of appointments, either by day or by night, in any place whatsoever.

"I will not teach any one to cant, nor will I disclose ought of our mysteries to them, although they flog me to death.

"I will take my Prince's part against all that shall oppose him, or any of us, according to the utmost of my ability; nor will I suffer him, or any belonging to us, to be abused by any strange Abrams, Rufflers, Hookers, &c., but will defend him, or them, as much as I can against all other outlyers whatever.

"I will not conceal aught I win out of Libkins, or from Ruffinans; but will preserve it for the use of the company."

"The canters have, it seems, a tradition that from the first three articles of this oath, the first founders of a certain boastful, worshipful fraternity, who pretend to derive their origin from the earliest times borrowed of them, both the hint and form of their establishment, and that their pretended derivation from the first Adam is a forgery, it being only from the first Adam-Tiler.

"The same author has given the meaning of the cant terms before used, as, Abrams—shabby beggars; Rufflers—notorious rogues; Hookers—petty thieves; Libkin—a house to lie in; Ruffmans—the wood, or bushes; Adam-Tiler—the comrade of a pick-pocket who receives the stolen goods and scours off with them."

After reading the above I drew breath, and mentally said, "Well, what next, I wonder? Freemasons are accused of being murderers (Morgan, to wit); cannibals (broiled baby for supper); seditionists (Professor Robison and Barruel, the accusers); godless heretics (Clement XII.); perpetrators of horrible crimes and indecencies (the Veil Raised); conjurors, necromancers, and charlatans (Carlyle); and I don't know what beside. Could not some brother make out a list of all the pleasant occupations writers have assigned to the Freemasons? I think I have done my share 'in the days when we went gipsying a long time ago.'—†*†.

SOUTHERN MASONIC FEMALE COLLEGE.

We have been much interested in reading the Catalogue and Report of this institution for the year ending July last. There were at that time 176 pupils, divided into classes as follows:—Senior class 20; Junior class 40; Sophomore class 33; Freshman class 35; Irregulars 2; Preparatory department, Advanced class, 25; First class 21; total 176. The studies are arranged on a liberal scale, and practical plan. Commencing with spelling, we have in succession reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, vocal music, grammar, English composition, natural philosophy, botany, philosophy, history, natural history, mythology, algebra, rhetoric, ancient and modern languages (these are optional), logic, geometry, anatomy, physiology and hygiene, biblical history, trigonometry and mensuration, astronomy, moral philosophy, evidences of Christianity, geology, music, drawing and painting. The tuition fees vary from 20 dollars to 185 dollars per annum. Board 12 dollars per month. The collegiate year commences on the third Thursday in September, and closes on the 4th of June. Lectures are delivered every week on astronomy, geology, natural philosophy, and chemistry. Not bad this for a nation struggling for independence.—Ex. Ex.

IMPROVEMENT IN FREEMASONRY.

There are some men who never try to learn anything that is useful or good. They pass from boyhood to old age with idle, listless, and vacant minds. Of such a man it is impossible to make a Freemason. Any person of good mother wit, ordinary memory, and active habits, by conversing with well-informed Masons at leisure time, may learn the working of the blue degrees in three months, without any interference with his ordinary avocation; and with proper application he may learn the beautiful lectures upon all three of the degrees in twelve months, and this regardless of his early education. Masonry educates a man. Some of the brightest Masons are men who received but little or no early education. Masonry found them in the field and in the workshop, took them by the hand, led them into her temple, unfolded to them her sublime mysteries, imparted to them a new language, and clothed their tongues with an eloquence that is not to be found in books, or learned

in colleges. My brother, turn your mind back for a moment to the happy years of early boyhood. What thrilling scenes and pleasing reminiscences come rushing back to memory, shaded by the melancholy reflection that they are gone for ever! Do you not remember the beautiful grove; the spring that gushed up at the foot of the hill, and sent its bright waters leaping and laughing through the vale; the playground, the nimble feet that bounded after the flying ball, and the merry voices that mingled their shouts in the youthful sports; the pretty girl for whom you constructed the summer-house of the branches of the green trees, and embellished it with flowers, and whose sweet smile awakened the first tender emotions in your youthful heart? But do you not also remember the old-fashioned school-master, who, morning and evening, with the rod in his hand, and the glasses on his nose, drew up the whole school in a half-circle, and drilled them in the art of spelling? How intently you studied the pages of the spelling-book to master the hard words. How ambitious you were to stand at the head of the class, and how deeply mortified you were to find yourself at the bottom of it on the close of the exercises? My brother, why does that laudable ambition sleep now since you have grown up to be a man and a Freemason? Why do you not strive to excel in Freemasonry as you did then in spelling? Why are you content to stand at the bottom among your brethren in the lodge? The same industry and application that made you spell when a boy, will place you side by side with the brightest of your brethren, if not at the head. The only distinction recognised among Freemasons is that of an excellence in virtue and intelligence. In all other respects they stand upon a level.—*Cincinnati Masonic Review*.

MASONIC SECRETS IN VERSE.

It is frequently asserted that there are many poems which are full of Masonic secrets, and treat of the mysteries of the Order. Can an authority for this statement be adduced?—J. R., P.M.—[There are thousands of such works extant. Will Sir Philip Sidney satisfy you?—He says, "there are many mysteries contained in poetry, which of purpose were written darkly; lest by prophane wits it should be abused."]

AHIMAN REZON.

What is the meaning of Ahiman Rezon?—DESD.—[It is a corruption of three Hebrew words—achi man ratzon—which signify the thoughts, or opinions, of a true and faithful brother. The "Book of Constitutions" is termed Ahiman Rezon in more countries than one.]

VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE.—Valuable knowledge can be obtained only by personal effort. Every one must traverse the hills and valleys for himself, and it is only by unremitting application and perseverance that the attempt will be crowned with success. But to the devoted, persevering seekers, success is certain. Their state of mind is such as to insure the best use being made of any accessible helps, and of the exercise of ingenuity and application in surmounting difficulties, even in absence of all foreign aid. Whatever may be his present deficiencies and disadvantages, the person—especially the young person—who is sensible of the value of knowledge as to apply his heart to understanding—to seek for it as for silver, and to search for it as for hidden treasure—assuredly shall not seek in vain. Knowledge is the prize of application.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

A NOVEL IDEA.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—You are aware that "the usages and customs among Masons" in this province are somewhat *unique*, and by no means, in some cases, worthy of imitation. Nor do we expect any great improvement whilst the province remains under the jurisdiction of a Provincial Grand Master who, however amiable and exemplary in his private capacity, has no claims to so high and important a Masonic post, save those of an hereditary nature.

My object now is not, however, to dilate upon the incapacity of a Provincial Grand Master, but to criticise, in no unfriendly or acrimonious spirit, the (to me) most extraordinary decision of the eldest lodge in the province, under the advice of an experienced Past Master, whose opinions, when *independently* given, would carry much weight, not only in his own lodge and province, but among any body of Masons.

The Glamorgan Lodge (No. 36) has decided that the Worshipful Master of a lodge is not competent to sit upon a committee of "Past Masters." It is true this conclusion was arrived at in a lodge composed only of seven members, of which a majority were Past Masters; but still it is the recorded decision of the lodge, and, acting upon it, they excluded their W.M. from a committee formed under the auspices of the active and efficient Deputy Provincial Grand Master (the sooner the subordinate title is dropped the better for the cause of Freemasonry) for the laudable purpose of promoting "uniformity of working in the province." The argument by which this *dictum* was supported was, that the qualification to such appointment consisted in his having filled the chair of a lodge for a stipulated period of twelve months, but this opinion appears so falacious that I cannot imagine it is entertained by any intelligent and experienced Past Master, besides the one already referred to; and my object in making this communication is to elicit the sentiments of some of your numerous correspondents upon the subject, as well as your own, should you deem it worthy your consideration.

I am aware that, in order to confer the right of membership in Grand Lodge, at a subsequent period to that of his actually filling the chair, a brother must, not only have been "regularly elected and installed a Master of a lodge," but must also have "executed that office for one year;" but let it not be forgotten that, *during* such "execution," he is, by virtue of his office, an actual member of Grand Lodge, and fully entitled, as such, to all the rights and privileges of a Past Master, even taken precedence, not only in his own lodge, but in Grand Lodge itself, over every Past Master of his lodge. Further, I take it that, as an Entered Apprentice becomes one upon taking the E.A. Ob., a Fellow-Craft upon taking the F.C. Ob., and a Master Mason such upon taking the M.M.'s Ob., so a Past Master becomes such *de facto* and in full possession of all his rights and privileges as such immediately upon taking the "Past Master's Ob.," and being duly installed in the chair of a lodge; and although a failure in the execution of his office for

the full period of "one year" may be hereafter detrimental to his Grand Lodge rights, I can but look upon any such attempt as this of the Glamorgan Lodge, to deprive him of the privileges of a Past Master during the tenure of his office as Worshipful Master, as a simple absurdity. Nevertheless, I do not pretend to set myself up as an authority on Masonic jurisprudence, and hoping this may lead to further discussion upon the subject, beg to subscribe myself,

Yours fraternally,

A TEN YEARS' "FULL PRIVATE."

South Wales, Eastern Division.

LODGE FURNITURE AND THE FREEMASONS' TAVERN.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—About the first fruits of the building scheme in Great Queen-street, is the inquiry what are the lodges and chapters meeting there to do with the furniture? Out it must go, and a very pretty item in lodge expenses will be the next two years' removal, backwards and forwards, to say nothing of the wear, tear, and destruction of lodge and chapter fittings consequent on the pulling down.

The Janitor of my chapter came here with a long face stating that the store gallery at the top of the house must be cleared by the end of the month, and wanting to know where the furniture should be taken? It is both handsome and good, and stood the chance of being worthless, in a very short time, if left in the Tavern. Our M.E.Z., fortunately, could give it house room, but if we have to pay every time of meeting for two removals, I fancy, when the audit comes round, some of the companions will pull pretty long faces at the bills.

What is to be done? Can we meet without furniture till the new building is ready, and then must we sell at a ruinous sacrifice?

I am, yours fraternally,
R. A.

LODGE No. 600.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—It would be unnecessary to notice again the "tables" paraded by this lodge, were they not calculated to mislead the unwary. As to the thirteen local and other charities which receive its support, to the exclusion of all the Masonic Charities, the object is so palpable that it may be left to tell its own tale; but it may again be asked (though with a certainty that the questions are unanswerable), have the "funds" in Table No. 1 any existence, except on paper, or in the fertile imagination of the Treasurer? Have the "institutions connected with the lodge" any foundation, or do they still remain *in nubibus*? Will the still "further development of the system" produce any advantage to Freemasonry, or redound to the credit of this lodge? "The system" may create an increase of members and funds; but how long will the lodge allow its yearly published tables to be branded as "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare?"

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours truly and fraternally,

INVESTIGATOR.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

We regret to hear that Bro. Sir John Ratcliff, J.G.W., lies dangerously ill, and that all hopes of his recovery have been given up by his friends.

GRAND LODGE.

The following is the agenda of the business to be transacted in Grand Lodge on Wednesday next, September 7th:—

1. The minutes of the quarterly communication of the 1st June to be read, and put for confirmation.

2. The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter.

3.—THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of England.

The Board of General Purposes beg to report that a complaint has been preferred by the Lodge of Benevolence against the Lodge of Justice (No. 147), Deptford, for having attached to the petition of an applicant for relief a certificate or recommendation, purporting to be signed by the Master, Wardens, and majority of members in open lodge assembled, whereas such recommendation had not been signed in open lodge, as required by the "Book of Constitutions," p. 96, art. 6. The Master and Wardens having been summoned to answer the complaint, attended with other members of the lodge. No mention of the petition appeared in the minute book of the lodge, and it was admitted that the petition had never been before the lodge all, but that the recommendation had been signed out of the lodge. The Board considering such a breach of the law highly reprehensible on the part of the W. Master and the other brethren who had signed the recommendation, and as tending to mislead the members of the Lodge of Benevolence, and possibly to lead to a wrong application of the funds of Grand Lodge entrusted to their distribution, severely reprimanded the Master and the other members who had attached their names to the recommendation, and warned them to be more cautious for the future.

The Board have also to report that the undermentioned lodges have for some time past neglected to make the prescribed returns and payments to the Grand Lodge, and several applications having been made to such lodges calling for returns without effect, the Board recommend that the Masters and Wardens of the lodges comprised in the subjoined list be respectively summoned to attend the Grand Lodge at the quarterly communication to be holden in December next, to show cause why their warrants should not be forfeited, and their lodges erased from the list of lodges, viz.:—

Nos. 353 Royal Sussex Lodge, Repton.

466 Lodge of Merit, Oundle.

555 Lodge of Fidelity, Southwold.

616 London and North-Western Lodge of Fidelity, Crewe.

626 Lansdowne Lodge of Unity, Calne.

627 South Suffolk Lodge, Sudbury.

708 Carnarvon Lodge, Hampton Court.

724 Derby Lodge, Bootle.

877 Royal Alfred Lodge, Jersey.

(Signed) J. LLEWELLYN EVANS,

Freemasons' Hall,

London, August 24, 1864.

President.

To the report is subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on

the 12th ult., showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £3,096 Gs. 3d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash, £30. Of these sums there belong to the Fund of Benevolence, £875 1s. 1d.; to the Fund of General Purposes, £1,781 7s. 9d.; and there is in the Unappropriated Account, £186 17s. 5d.

4.—THE REPORT OF THE COLONIAL BOARD.

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of England.

It is with regret that the Colonial Board have to report that, after a protracted correspondence with the Grand Master of Canada, all endeavours to obtain the recognition of the St. George's Lodge, (No. 440), Montreal, by the Grand Lodge of Canada, have failed; the M.W. Bro. Thomas Douglas Harington, Grand Master of Canada, having in a letter, dated the 27th of June last, stated that he cannot advocate any reversal of a resolution passed by his Grand Lodge, declaring the said St. George's Lodge irregular.

The Colonial Board in their report, dated August 19th, 1863 (which was received and adopted by Grand Lodge on the 2nd of September following), entered so fully into the reasons that led them to the opinion that the St. George's Lodge was entitled to be considered in every respect regular under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, they deem it unnecessary to repeat all the details, but it may be well to mention that certified copies of the minutes of the St. George's Lodge during the year 1856 are in possession of the Board, showing that the lodge was then holding its meetings regularly; and returns to the Grand Lodge of England having been frequently made since that date show that the lodge has continued its labours up to the present time. It must be borne in mind that the present Grand Lodge of Canada was not formed till July, 1858, two years and a-half after the St. George's Lodge had resumed work after an interruption of three months, caused by the agitation in Canada for an independent Grand Lodge in the latter part of the year 1855, and that when the Grand Lodge of Canada was recognised by the Grand Lodge of England at the quarterly communication holden December 1st, 1858, it was stipulated that all lodges in Canada maintaining their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England should be recognised by the Grand Lodge of Canada. That the St. George's Lodge was at that time considered to be one of those lodges cannot be questioned; as, in a letter dated February 9th, 1859, addressed by the then Grand Master of Canada, Bro. William Mercer Wilson, to the M.W. Grand Master the Earl of Zetland, and which was laid before Grand Lodge March 2nd, 1859, there is the following passage:—"In the district of Montreal and William Henry there are only four English lodges, and these are all in the city of Montreal," the St. George's Lodge being one of the four alluded to. And Bro. Wilson, in another part of the same letter, writes, "I have ever held, and frequently expressed the opinion, that any subordinate lodge preferring to continue under their English warrant had a perfect and undoubted right to do so, and were entitled not only to recognition from us, but to all their Masonic privileges."

The Board cannot refrain from referring to the case of the St. Lawrence Lodge (No. 640), also meeting at Montreal, and which for a long period was similarly repudiated by the Grand Lodge of Canada; the St. Lawrence Lodge being one of the four allowed by Grand Master Wilson to be in existence when the Grand Lodge of Canada was acknowledged, and which he admitted had a perfect and undoubted right to continue to work under the English warrant, and to be entitled to recognition from the Grand Lodge of Canada, and to the enjoyment of all its Masonic privileges.

The efforts of the Board having been unsuccessful in obtaining justice from the Grand Lodge of Canada for the St. George's Lodge, they now leave the matter to the Grand Lodge, to deal with it as may be deemed just.

Some inconvenience has been experienced in consequence of five members out of ten being required to form a quorum of the Colonial Board—a number more than is requisite, and wholly disproportionate to the number required to form a quorum of the Board of General Purposes, where five only out of twenty-nine are deemed to be sufficient for ordinary business, and also to the Committee of General Purposes of the Grand Chapter, where three only out of twelve are necessary in any case. It is therefore respectfully recommended by the Board to Grand Lodge that in Art. 5, p. 109, of the "Book of Constitutions," the word *three* be substituted for the word *five* in the second line, so that to remedy such inconvenience in future three members shall form a quorum of the Colonial Board.

(Signed) J. S. S. HORWOOD,

Freemasons' Hall,

President.

London, August 23rd, 1864.

5. Appeal of Bro. Moss Israel, of the Zetland Lodge of Australia (No. 655), Sydney, New South Wales, against his suspension by the Provincial Grand Master.

6. Appeal of the Union Lodge of Portland (No. 535), St. John's, New Brunswick, against a decision of the Provincial Grand Master in the matter of a complaint against the Albion Lodge (No. 400), St. John's, New Brunswick, for refusing to admit as a visitor Bro. A. B. Spinney, a member of the said Union Lodge of Portland.

The appeal cases are in the Grand Secretary's office, and open for perusal till the meeting of Grand Lodge.

NOTICE.

Bro. Joseph George, W.M., No. 780, will ask the following questions:—

"Have the Building Committee granted a lease to the present tenant?"

"Have they given him permission to convert that lease into a marketable commodity by conveying it to a Joint-Stock Company?" And,

"Are other than Masons allowed to become shareholders?"

METROPOLITAN.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—This lodge held its regular monthly meeting at the Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford (Bro. J. Stevens's), on Wednesday, August 24th. Bro. F. Walters, P.M. 73 and Secretary of the lodge (in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. C. G. C. Stahr) took the chair, and, assisted by Bros. H. A. Collington, P.M., S.W.; J. H. Pembroke, J.W.; J. Stevens, P.M.; J. W. Weir, P.M.; J. Hawker, W.S.; H. J. Wells, G. Holman, R. Mills, R. Phipps, and others, opened the lodge. Amongst an unusual large number of visitors we noticed Bros. Dr. Dixon, P.M. 73, 871; R. Hurrell, J.D. 73, 619; J. W. Halsey, P.M. 134; J. Patte, J.D. 147; G. Brown, W.M. 169; A. D. Loewenstark, P.M. 548, 733; A. Avery, P.M. and Treas. 619, and others. The first ceremony was passing Bro. G. Holman to the degree of a F.C., after he had given proofs of his proficiency in the former degree in a superior manner. Ballots were taken for the following gentlemen, viz., Messrs. David Barber and Henry Stevens, and declared to be unanimous in favour of their admission. Bro. John Stevens, P.M. 548, and a member of this lodge, then took the chair. Mr. H. Stevens being in attendance, and he being a Lewis, was duly initiated into Freemasonry by his brother who was presiding. Mr. D. Barber was likewise duly initiated. The ceremony of initiation was beautifully given and the candidates seemed to appreciate it. The passing was ably given; in fact it seldom occurs in any lodge, where two P.M.'s are called upon at a

minute's notice to work the ceremonies, to see two such able brothers fill the chair, and render the working in such a superior manner. The next business was that of presenting Bro. F. Walters, P.M. and Secretary, with a Secretary's jewel, which had been unanimously voted to him. Bro. Dr. Dixon, by permission of the presiding W.M., in a fluent speech presented the jewel to the Secretary, and dwelt at length on the efficient manner the duties of Secretary had been carried out on all occasions. He having been the first W.M. was able to speak from experience, and also having known their Secretary longer in Masonry than any brother present, he could bear testimony to his unceasing zeal for the good of the Order in general, and that lodge in particular. Before placing the jewel on the Secretary, he read the inscription which is engraved on its back. "Presented to Bro. Frederick Walters, P.M. and Sec., from the lodge funds by the Royal Oak Lodge (No. 871), as a mark of respect and gratitude for the able, talented, and efficient manner he performed the duties of Secretary to the lodge from its founding up to August, 1864. Also for the many great and essential services rendered to the lodge." Bro. F. Walters, in a brief speech, returned thanks for the present. The jewel was made by Bro. A. D. Loewenstark and reflects great credit on the manufacturer. All business being finished the lodge was closed. The brethren then partook of the banquet. The usual loyal toasts were given and received. Bro. H. A. Collington presided at the festive board. After spending a few agreeable hours together the brethren separated.

PROVINCIAL.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 148).—This ancient lodge has regularly met during the summer months. The last meeting took place on Monday evening last; the W.M., Bro. John Bowes, presided; Bro. Captain Knight, as S.W., in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Gilbert Greenall, M.P.; Bro. H. B. White, P.M., as J.W., the other officers, and a number of brethren, were present. The lodge was opened in solemn form, according to ancient custom, when the minutes were read and confirmed. Letters of apology for non-attendance were announced from Bros. the Rev. J. N. Porter, Major Greenall, and C. Pettitt, J.W. and Secretary. The W.M. also announced that Bro. M. Trumble was seriously ill, and not likely to recover. Mr. Albert Latham having been approved at the previous meeting, and being now present, was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry, by the W.M., Bro. Bowes, Bro. J. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., acting as J.D. and Lecturer. Bro. H. B. White gave the charge. The W.M. announced the receipt of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge communications. Bro. H. B. White, P.M., drew attention to the fact of the near approach of the centenary of the lodge, and exhibited a design for a jewel. He also announced that the Provincial Grand Lodge had promised to meet at Warrington on the occasion, so that they might look forward to an interesting and influential meeting. A vote of thanks was warmly accorded to Bro. Hamer, for his instructive and interesting lecture. There being no further business, the lodge was closed in form, and the brethren separated in harmony.

WALES, SOUTH (EASTERN DIVISION).

CARDIFF.—*Bute Lodge* (No. 960).—A lodge of emergency was held at the Masonic Hall, Bute Docks, on Friday, the 26th ult., "To elect three Past Masters to represent this lodge in a committee to promote uniformity of working in this province." The lodge was opened in due form at seven o'clock by Bro. J. C. Thorp, W.M., P.M. 340, 960, P. Prov. S.G.W. Oxon; Bros. W. H. Martin, S.W.; F. Ware, J.W. (pro tem.); H. W. Morcton, P.M. 471, Sec.; R. Atkins, S.D.; T. B. Bell, J.D.; S. Daniels, I.G.—The W. MASTER explained the very praiseworthy object which the Provincial Grand Lodge, at the instigation of the zealous and efficient Deputy Provincial Grand Master, had in view in establishing this committee, and reminded the brethren that this lodge was in a somewhat peculiar position—he being the first W.M., there could be no actual P.M. of the lodge. There were, however, several P.M.'s of other lodges who were subscribing members of this, and amongst those who frequently occupied a place upon the dais of the Bute Lodge in

that capacity was Bro. Dr. Roberts, the much-respected W.M. of the Glamorgan Lodge (No. 36). He (Bro. Thorp) was surprised to find that in consequence of the ruling of Bro. Langley, P.M., that Bro. Roberts, as W.M. of the lodge, was ineligible to serve upon a P.M.'s committee, the Glamorgan Lodge had nominated and appointed three other P.M.'s to the exclusion of their W.M. As he (Bro. Thorp) entertained opinions quite the reverse to those which influenced the other lodge in coming to such a conclusion, without at all attempting to dictate to the brethren, he should certainly like to see the W.M. of No. 36 one of the representatives of the Bute Lodge upon the proposed committee.—Bro. F. WARE, J.W. (pro tem.) fully coincided with the views of the W.M. as to the eligibility of the Master of a lodge to serve upon such a committee, believing him of all others to be the fittest for such a capacity, and thought there must be other reasons than those of a logical nature for wishing to deny the W.M., in the present case, such an inalienable privilege. He (Bro. Ware) had much pleasure in proposing "That the Past Masters representing the Bute Lodge upon the proposed committee be the W.M., Bro. Thorp; the W.M. of the Glamorgan Lodge, Bro. Roberts; and Bro. N. B. Calder," whom he described as a Senior Past Master of the Glamorgan "innocent of the purple."—This proposition was seconded by Bro. T. B. BELL, J.D.—Bro. W. H. MARTIN, S.W., thought that as the brethren of the Glamorgan Lodge had in their wisdom decided that their W.M. was not entitled to sit upon a committee of P.M.'s, they might take offence at this lodge coming to, and acting upon, a different conclusion; and with this view proposed an amendment, substituting the name of another P.M. for that of Bro. Roberts.—The amendment was seconded by Bro. ATKINS, and upon being put to the lodge received the support of those two brethren only. The original proposition, being supported by all the other brethren, was duly carried.—The W. MASTER stated that the brethren of the province had been invited to lay the foundation-stone of the new parish church at Neath, and he hoped to see a godly muster of the Bute Lodge upon that occasion. The ceremony would take place in the latter end of September, and ample notice would be given of the day when fixed.—The lodge having also been summoned for passing and raising was passed to the second degree, when Bros. Travell and Morgan, having undergone an examination in this degree, retired, and upon the lodge being opened in the third degree, were re-admitted, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons in due form and according to ancient custom, the W.M. performing the ceremony in his usually solemn and impressive manner. The lodge was closed down, and finally closed in perfect harmony at half-past nine o'clock.

IRELAND.

BELFAST AND NORTH DOWNS.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Tuesday, the 23rd ult., the Most Noble the Marquis of Donegall was installed as Provincial Grand Master, at Belfast, and the occasion was celebrated with full Masonic honours. Lord Donegall's appointment dates from the 10th of July, 1856, in succession to Archdeacon Mant, resigned; but, owing to his lordship's absence from the province, the ceremony of installation was not gone through until the present time. Advantage has been taken of his lordship's visit to his property in Belfast to perform that duty, and it was accomplished with all the pomp and display befitting the occasion. The aggregate number of Masons present was about 300. The ceremony took place in the Ulster Hall. The minor hall was fitted up as a lodge, and at five o'clock, the brethren having assembled, properly clothed, the lodge was opened in due form by Bro. C. Lanyon, D. Prov G.M., assisted by the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The proceedings were then adjourned to the large hall, the officers occupying the orchestra, and the other members being disposed round the balcony. A procession of grand officers, representing the Grand Lodge of Ireland, was formed in the following order, which filed down the middle of the hall, and proceeded to take up their positions on the orchestra in front of the grand organ, Bro. Dr. Chipp, G. Org., playing on the organ during the time the brethren were taking their seats:—

Grand Tyler, Bro. G. McCullough.

Grand Pursuivant, Bro. Edward Smyth.

Four members of the committee, two and two:

Bro. O. C. Shaw, No. 59 | Bro. James Adrain, No. 272.
 Bro. J. T. McIlveen, No. 88 | Bro. A. Forde, No. 609.
 Stewards, with wands:
 Bro. J. A. Henderson; Bro. Plato Oulton.
 Organist, Bro. Chipp.
 Director of Ceremonies, Bro. H. Murney.
 Senior Grand Deacon, Bro. James McCullough, with wand and column of labour.
 Junior Grand Deacon, Bro. A. C. Dobbin, with wand and column of refreshment.
 Grand Secretary, Bro. S. Black, with patent of appointment.
 Grand Treasurer, Bro. William Emerson.
 Grand Chaplain, Bro. Archdeacon Mant, with Bible on a cushion.
 Deputy Prov. G. Masters.
 The Prov. Grand Master Elect.
 Corinthian Light, borne by Bro. Heyn, P.M. 40.
 Junior G. Warden, Bro. W. C. Cunningham, with Plumb Line.
 Doric Light, borne by Bro. E. W. Lee, P.M. 154.
 Senior G. Warden, Bro. James McCracken, with Level.
 Bro. F. Kinahan, P.M., with Ionic Light.
 Bro. G. A. Carruthers, P.M., with Square.
 Representative of Grand Master, Bro. Pirrie.
 Two Members of Committee, with wands.
 Bro. J. Shelley, P.M. 7.
 Bro. J. G. McGee, P.M. 154.

Bro. Dr. Pirrie had been appointed by his Grace the Duke of Leinster, G.M. of Ireland, to represent his Grace at the installation, and the officers and brethren being duly placed, that officer declared the purpose of the assembly to be the installation of a Provincial Grand Master for the province of Belfast and North Down, appointed under the provisions of the regulations and laws concerning such offices. He then directed Bro. S. Black, Prov. G. Sec., to read Article I. of the section of the constitution of the order relating to the Provincial Grand Master, and also the patent of appointment.

That duty having been discharged, the Provincial Grand Master was then presented by Bro. Lanyon, D. Prov. G.M., and Bro. Archdeacon Mant, P. Prov. G.M., and bound to his trust, installed, invested, and saluted, according to due form.

After these ceremonies, Bro. Archdeacon Mant, Prov. G. Chap., read the appointed prayer, and a Masonic anthem was performed on the grand organ by Bro. Dr. Chipp. The brethren then again adjourned to the minor hall, where the Most Noble the Marquis of Donegall, as Prov. G.M., took the chair, and closed the lodge in due form. The brethren then separated, and met again in the body of the large hall for

THE BANQUET,

Which took place at six o'clock, and the magnificent hall set off the decorations of the Masonic Order assembled to the utmost effect. There was a great number of ladies in the gallery.

Amongst the brethren in attendance were:—Bro. Charles Lanyon, D. Prov. G.M., in the chair; the M.W. the Prov. G.M. the Marquis of Donegall, on the left; Bro. James Torrens, the Ven. Archdeacon Mant, P. Prov. G.M.; Bros. T. Gist, Sewel, Serigsson, Wilson, 4th Hussars; Sub-Inspector, T. McCarthy. On the right of the chair—Bros. Dr. Pirrie, representative of the Grand Master of Ireland on this occasion; Captain Lindsay, 4th Hussars; Colonel O'Connor, the very Rev. the Dean of Down, Dr. Woodward. Bros. Kennedy and Neviston, 4th Hussars; G. F. Echlin, Captain Bland, S. Black, E. Orme, W. R. Anketell, John S. Charley, A. Tate, J. Shelley, Capt. Whitla, Dr. Murney, Francis Watson, Lakeview; H. H. Bottomley, Wm. Emerson, W.M. No. 7; Roberts, 44, Clonmel; J. Preston, James Dickson, William Dobbin, J. A. Henderson, Captain Ramsbotham, W. Williams, County Inspector; H. Bindon, John Oulton, G. K. Smith, Forde Hutcheson, J. P. Stranocum, G. Heyn, C. Kinahan, Henry Kirk, C. Garraway, Jas. Hamilton, Rev. Nixon Porter, D. McTear, J. Boyd, John G. McGee, John Emerson, James Henry, H. J. Neill, D. Jaffé, N. Greer, J. Robertson, Rev. J. Labarte, R. Boag, Edward Smyth, Stevens, Belleek; D. Leonard, Banbridge; Charles Duffin, W. Gill, W. J. Wheeler, R. Kelly, W. C. Cunningham, R. Atkinson, W. H. Kisbey, Dr. Chipp, E. W. Lee, W. J. Johnston, Thomas Valentine, James W. Valentine, H. G. Henderson, Philip Richardson, John Herdman, Edward Riddell, N. Gowan, Plato Oulton, Francis Ward, James McLean, R. Beath, James McCracken, S.W., P.G.S.; Samuel Teirney, J. Orr, R. Braithwaite, W.M. 46; J. Noble, 24, Bainbridge.

Thanks having been returned by the Archdeacon of Down,

The D. PROV. G. MASTER said: Brethren, fill your glasses Before I give the first toast which has been arranged on your programme for the proceedings of this evening, I think it right to say that, however numerous, influential, and respectable the display this evening has elicited, I believe we would have had a much more numerous display if it had not been for the necessity that had unfortunately arisen for the adjournment of this our banquet from Tuesday last to the present occasion. (Hear, hear.) But, brethren, I am glad and happy to say that, although we have been deprived of the presence of a great number of our friends and a great number of distinguished visitors who would have honoured our banquet on Tuesday last, and would have attended here for the purpose of doing honour to our most noble guest who sits at my side—(loud applause)—although I am sure we have been disappointed of the presence of a great number of brethren, I am sure there is not a brother amongst us who does not think the committee who had the management of that banquet used a wise discretion in the postponement thereof—(hear, hear, and applause)—and I am sure of this, that there is not a brother present who does not regret with the utmost sincerity the cause which necessitated that postponement. (Hear, hear.) It is refreshing to think that amidst all the strife with which this town has been visited during the past week that in this room at least, among the brethren present, we can say that peace, love, and harmony prevail. (Loud cheers, and hear, hear.) Brethren, if these principles which actuate our ancient brotherhood were more generally known, and more generally acted upon, we should not have the periodical visitations which have lately disgraced our town. (Hear, hear.) I shall now, brethren, proceed to give you the toast which is the first on our list, and as Masons, brethren, it is a toast which we all delight to honour, for loyalty to the throne has always been a distinguished principle of Masonry. (Loud applause.) And at no time, I am sure, will the toast be received with greater enthusiasm than at the present, when she who sits on the throne has enlisted the good feeling and sympathy of all classes of her subjects—(applause)—not only by her conduct on that throne, but by the exercise of every domestic and social virtue. (Loud applause.) I beg, therefore, to give you "The Health of the Queen." (Loud applause.)

The D. PROV. G. MASTER: Brethren, the toast I have now to propose is the health of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family. Brethren, when last I had the honour of addressing an assembly such as this, it was just at that period when his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was about adopting a very important change in his life, and we, as Masons, were most hearty in our congratulations and in our wishes that every happiness should attend him. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers.) Brethren, now I think we may congratulate him that he has been so fortunate in the selection which he has made, for no one could have rendered herself more popular than the object of his choice in the land of her adoption. (Loud cheers.) I ventured also at the time to express the hope that it would not be long before his Royal Highness would join that ancient brotherhood of which we are all members, and I am glad to learn from the public prints that he has, or is about shortly to enter into that bond of brotherhood; and I am sure that all Masons will do their best to receive him as he ought to be received. (Loud cheers.) I beg to propose to you "The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family." (Applause.)

The D. PROV. G. MASTER: Brethren, the next toast I have to propose to you is that of the health of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Ireland. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Brethren, I need not say that no one is more respected in his position, either as a Mason or as a distinguished Irish nobleman, than the Grand Master of Ireland—(hear, hear)—and I am quite sure that I shall receive your approbation when I say that a great deal is due to him for his anxiety to improve the status of Masonry in this country. I believe, also, that it is due to him that, at a time when all secret societies were attempted to be put down in this country, our noble Grand Master of Ireland succeeded in establishing the principle that Masonry should be exempted from that order. I therefore beg to give you "The Health of our Most Noble Grand Master of Ireland, His Grace the Duke of Leinster." (Received with all the Masonic honours.)

The D. PROV. G. MASTER: Brethren, the toast I have now to propose to you is, the health of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England. (Applause.) As Masons, brethren, we always delight to express our sympathy with our English brethren, and I am sure you will do honour to the toast which

has now been proposed. (Applause.) It is, perhaps, an incident worth mentioning on this occasion, that it is owing to one of the ancestors of the noble family in whose honour we have met this evening—one of the Lords Chichester—that the quartering of the harp of Ireland was adopted in the arms of England. I beg to propose "The Health of the Worshipful Grand Master of England." (Applause.)

¶ [The D. Prov. G. MASTER: The toast I have now to propose is "The Memory of the late Grand Master of Scotland." Brethren, respect for the memory of the late Grand Master of Scotland, will cause us to drink this toast without a salute.

The D. Prov. G. MASTER gave the next toast—"The Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Ireland." Received with due Masonic honours.

BRO. PIRRIE: In an assemblage such as this, it would be a pleasure for any man or any Mason to rise to speak. I had the opportunity to-day, and I consider it a great opportunity and great pleasure to have had the honour of representing our Grand Master, the Duke of Leinster, in the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and, as such, I have now been obliged to respond to the toast which has just been given. I can say for my brethren individually, and for the brethren of the province, that it is with pleasure we have assembled here this evening. It has been a pleasure and a pride to myself to have had, as it were, the honour of introducing our noble brother to the Masonic province over which he has been appointed to preside. It has been our first meeting with him, and I trust sincerely it will not be our last. He occupies certainly in the mind of his Masonic brethren his true position, when, as lord of the soil, he takes his position at the head of the Masons of this province. (Hear, hear.) I am sure I express the opinions of you all when I say he will always be received here with the respect which is due to him as a man and Mason, especially on every occasion he comes among us associated with his consort. (Loud cheers.) Brethren, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, I return you my most sincere thanks. (Loud cheers.)

The D. Prov. G. MASTER, on giving the toast of the health of Lord Donegall, said before giving the toast which is next on the list, and which, in the usual language which prevails on these occasions, must be termed the toast of the evening, I think it necessary that I should advert to the cause which has led me to occupy the chair on the present occasion. In the presence of our Worshipful Grand Master the position is rather an anomalous one; but as our Provincial Grand Master could not act as chairman and guest on the same occasion, and as this banquet has been originated in order to give the brethren an opportunity of entertaining his lordship, and thereby expressing to him their thankfulness for his acceptance of the office into which he has been installed this day, there was no alternative. The seal of authority has been abandoned by our Provincial Grand Master for that which I am sure will be considered the more honourable in deference to those feelings which have induced us to invite his lordship to be our guest; and I regret much that the duty has not fallen into the hands of one more competent to do honour to the occasion than myself. Brethren, I should be delighted to see his lordship in this chair, and I sadly feel my inadequacy to fill it. Brethren, the installation of our Most Noble and Worshipful Provincial Grand Master has this day been most gratifying to us all. He is perhaps the oldest Mason amongst us, having enjoyed that privilege for upwards of forty-five years. Independent, however, of his seniority as a Mason, there are other grounds on which I may congratulate the brethren on the installation in which, as citizens of Belfast, as well as Masons, they will, I am sure, readily concur. Our Provincial Grand Master is head of a family who have been most intimately connected with our town, and who have been eminent in the history of this country. It is, perhaps, three centuries since the noble house of Chichester first settled at Carrickfergus, and soon after in this our town of Belfast. Lord Chichester, who, for many years, was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, held one of the first positions as soldier and statesman. He contributed more than perhaps any other man of his day to the settlement of the feuds by which Ireland had been disturbed, and to the settlement of Ulster in particular, and he did much to improve the social condition of the inhabitants, by inducing them to form villages for common defence and benefit, and to improve their knowledge in the cultivation of the soil. What a contrast must this town now present to the towns to which I refer in the rapid development which has taken place in its population and prosperity. A more prosperous town does not exist in the Kingdom, and, beyond all question, much of this rapid and enormous ex-

tension is to be traced to the generous grants made by the family. There is, perhaps, no estate in the United Kingdom where the rents are so low. It is also well known that the gratitude of the inhabitants of Belfast is largely due to our Prov. G. Master, as but for his co-operation after he came of age, his father would have been unable to give a single perpetuity deed. This I allude to in order to show the entire identity of interest between the inhabitants of this great town and our noble guest. In giving you the health of our Provincial Grand Master, I shall venture to express a hope, which I am sure is not confined to us as brethren, but is the general wish of the inhabitants of this town—that his lordship will occasionally reside amongst us, and that we may have more frequent opportunities of seeing him in this chair. (Hear, hear.) Brethren, I trust that the enthusiasm with which this wish has been received will long continue to ring in his lordship's ears, and that, whenever the thought occurs to him again of coming to pay us a visit, the recollection of the welcome reception which he has this day experienced from his brother Masons will lead him to a right conclusion in the matter. I beg now to propose to you "The Health of the Noble Provincial Grand Master of Belfast and North Down." (Loud cheers.) The toast was received with the most enthusiastic demonstrations which Masonry can bestow.

The Marquis of DONEGALL, the newly-installed Prov. G.M. of Belfast and North Down, then rose amid long-continued and warm applause. When it had subsided, he said: Worshipful Master and Brethren, I really am at a loss to find words sufficiently strong to express my thanks for the manner in which my health has been proposed, and the way it has been received by this distinguished company, or to convey to you my feelings of gratitude for the honour you have conferred on, and high position in which you have placed me. However devoted I have hitherto been to Masonry, this demonstration of the brethren will unite me more, if possible, than ever to the Order. (Applause.) The Masonic body has fortunately nothing to do with politics or strife. (Hear.) We are brethren united by the fondest bonds, ever striving to do good, bearing no enmities—or, if such should unfortunately exist, casting oil on the troubled waters, in place of endeavouring to crush or to annihilate. The mystic sign has ere this saved life, for in the conflict when the bayonet was pointed to terminate existence, the arm that was uplifted to strike the fatal blow has fallen, and the hand of friendship and succour been extended in its place. (Cheers.) I am not now about to enter more deeply into the subject of Masonry, but simply to indicate why we should endeavour to uphold and increase our Order, and, with the aid of the Great Architect of the Universe, to guide and shield us, it will increase, and daily is increasing, in all parts of the civilised world. It is a matter of heartfelt regret on my part that we were not enabled to meet on the day first fixed, and I assure you that it was with the greatest reluctance that I offered you my recommendation for the postponement; but I felt that the rioting which unhappily existed in the town was such as to render this a matter of necessity—(hear, hear)—for, although the probability was that the evening might have passed off quietly, still the possibility of its not doing so was apparent; and, considering, my position as Lord Lieutenant of this county, entrusted with its tranquillity and safety, and that public duties are paramount, I felt that no other alternative existed. I am sorry to say that in this matter I found many of the local magistracy absent from the post they should have occupied—(hear)—and that only a limited number were doing the duty imposed upon them of applying the available powers for quelling the rioting and restoring peace. But to do those justice, I must say they were most zealous and active. Even these seemed to me to be too much and unnecessarily under fear of personal responsibility, which prevented them from meeting the rioters as they ought to have been met. (Hear, hear.) And it is with regret I have to remark that the Mayor of this town was absent during the critical time of the disturbance, and in fact left the place after it had commenced; and, as the main responsibility in regard to the peace and safety of the place devolved upon him as Chief Magistrate of the borough, he ought to have been at his post exerting himself from the very outset to put down the disturbance with a strong hand. If he had, I believe the disturbances never would have reached the magnitude they did. (Hear, hear, and applause.) But, brethren, enough on this head. Nothing can be more gratifying, after a long absence, than to return and to find you have not been forgotten; and I should be wanting in gratitude

were I not to avail myself of this opportunity of thanking the inhabitants generally for the warm and enthusiastic reception I have received, and of expressing my great delight at the enormous and rapid extension of the town and its trade; indeed, so great are they, that had I not known the place right well of old, I could not have recognised it as the one wherein I had passed a great portion of my earlier days. (Applause.) I am pleased also to find that if it has increased in size, its commerce and wealth have increased in proportion. (Hear, hear.) That it may continue so to prosper is my most fervent prayer, and that, although I may not live to see it, it may, ere long, rival, if not eclipse, the great emporium of commerce on the other side of the Channel. The leading object, brethren, of my family from its earliest days was the extension, promotion, and welfare of Belfast and the district. In my own day, our zeal for this object has not been less than formerly; and, if the rise of the place is attributable to the encouraging grants made by my ancestors, and particularly by my father, from powers concurred in by me, it affords me the greater satisfaction. (Applause.) It is not alone in the increase of its inhabitants, the extension of its wealth, as shown by its countless manufactories; its extensive and splendid quays, independent of its great docks, in progress and laid out; its magnificent shipping; its great banking and commercial establishments, that I rejoice, but also in its educational establishments in the various grades, from the Ragged Schools up to its eminently successful university, as well as the elevated social position of the people, and the rank its merchants hold for honour, ability, and enterprise; and, though last, not least, I rejoice in the devoted attachment of the people to the crown of these realms, and their respect for the laws and institutions and Government of the country; but I cannot include in this class of the community the parties who have been mixed up in these disgraceful disturbances, who, I am told, and hope are principally strangers to the place. (Hear, hear.) It is pleasing, also, in looking at the progress and present condition of the country to contrast the peaceful and happy circumstances under which my friend his Excellency Lord Carlisle has had the good fortune to be placed, compared with the difficulties experienced by my ancestor in regulating and tranquillising the affairs of Ireland when he for many years filled the same office under James I. My family have ever been devoted adherents to the Crown, and the advocates of civil and religious liberty. (Cheers.) And, brethren, I admonish you to cultivate peace and goodwill in your several spheres and relations of life. It is now time that I should express my deep and serious regret at the delay that has occurred in meeting you, but the truth is that for many years I could not bring myself to visit a place associated most deeply with the memory of one who was most dear to me—who was so truly interested in everything connected with the place, and who, had it pleased the Almighty to spare him, would not only have been of great service to you, but an honour to his family; but, alas! he is no more! Time has in some degree softened these impressions, but it has left a blank in this heart which can never be filled. Added to this, I am no longer five-and-twenty, though I assure you I would be if I could. That enemy of all mankind, old age, is creeping on apace, impairing the energies I have hitherto enjoyed, and, consequently, making it more difficult for me to leave home than formerly. However, I must hope for the best, and if it pleases the Ruler of our actions to permit it—my health enabling me—I will be more amongst you for the future. (Applause.) And now, brethren, before I sit down, I desire to recommend to you a little more zeal for the position of our own Order of Masonry. Why should we be obliged to hire a building for our social meetings? (Hear, hear.) Splendid as this one is—and I admire it much—why should we not have a Masonic Hall of our own? Let us be stirred up by good example, of which we see so much, and have a suitable building. I, for one, will most readily contribute, and believe me, if we only once set about it in earnest, we shall find that there is no such word as fail. (Prolonged cheering.) In conclusion, Worshipful Master and brethren, let me request of you to forgive me for having detained you so long, the more especially as I have so inadequately expressed myself; but I am no orator, nor have I the power of language of a Burke or a Grattan; were I so gifted, you probably would have had to remain here until to-morrow morning before I could have expressed all the promptings of my heart on this occasion; and I must, therefore, beg of you to accept the will for the deed, and again assure you of my heartfelt gratitude for the great honour you have done me, and the

warm welcome you have given me. (Applause.) The recollection of it, together with the gratifying manner in which Lady Donegall—(cheers)—as well as myself has been received, will ever remain indelibly fixed in my memory. Let me then wish you all merry, merry, merry days, with health, wealth, and prosperity to enjoy them, and happiness here and hereafter. (Loud applause.) He then proposed "The Health of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and other Provincial Grand Officers."

The D. PROV. G. MASTER, in reply, said he felt very much the obligation that had been placed upon him. He trusted that, since he received the appointment of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, he had done the best in his power, and, if he had not done his duty, it was not for want of zeal or energy. He had always endeavoured to do his duty. (Hear, hear.) He thanked them most sincerely for the honour they had done him, and he trusted he would always be worthy of receiving the reception which they had given to the toast. (Loud applause.)

The next toast on the list was that of "Our Distressed Brethren," but before the chairman rose to propose it, a great many brethren rose to their feet and endeavoured to obtain a hearing. Fully one-half of the meeting called upon them to sit down, and the others lustily called on them to proceed. Ultimately, Bro. Black, T.C., rose, and there were loud calls of "Hear Black," "Hear Black;" and, all having taken their seats,

Bro. BLACK, T.C., said: Would you allow me to make a few remarks before you go to the next toast on your list? and I do not think, connected as I am with the Mayor of the town and the Town Council, that I should not stand up here—even in a Masonic meeting—to disabuse the public mind of what must be their sentiments of the remarks of this evening as they will go forth to the world. I regret exceedingly that such a statement should have been made in this lodge. I am sure that if it had occurred to our worshipful brother that he was accusing blame to an honourable and a worthy man he would not have done so. I regret such a statement should have been made, and we all must regret it, for it is a fact that the Mayor was out of the town before the riots began. I am sure there never was a man more anxious to do his duty.

Bro. Archdeacon MANT: Rise to order. ("Chair, chair." "Order, order.") I will not be put down. (Applause, and "Chair, chair.") We have here a programme of the toasts to be carried out, and no one can interfere, and especially a Mason. (Hear, hear, and applause, and cries of "Go on, Black.")

Bro. BLACK: I claim a privilege.

Bro. Archdeacon MANT: A programme has been laid before the brethren with certain toasts here to be proposed, and it is expressly said that no toast will be received, and no statement will be made, but those agreed upon. I beg to state, Most Worshipful Prov. G. Master, that the list of toasts has been gone through to a certain point—that we have drunk "Our Distressed Brethren," and I hope we have drunk it as it ought to be received, with our hearts, hands, and pockets. I move that the list shall be proceeded with.

Bro. BLACK: I rise sir — ("Order, order;" "Chair, chair.")

Bro. Archdeacon MANT: I am in order, sir. (Loud calls of "Order" and cheers, in the midst of which many in the meeting got up to speak.)

Bro. Archdeacon MANT: The next business is "The Health of our Visiting Brethren." (Calls of "Black, Black," "Order, order.") I beg to state that no business whatever can be taken into consideration at meetings of Masons at refreshments except that in the programme, and that no brother, no matter what his rank or standing in the lodge may be, can introduce these extraneous topics.

[Loud calls for "Bro. Black."]

Bro. Archdeacon MANT: Nothing of the kind can be allowed.

Bro. BLACK: Worshipful sir —. (Cheers and hisses.)

Bro. PIRRIE: I do think that Brother Black has said all he wants to state with reference to his absent friend, and I hope he will now sit down. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear.")

The D. PROV. G. MASTER: Now, Black, do sit down. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. GILMORE: Are we assembled here as Masons? ("Chair, chair;" "Order, order.") I do say that the attack on the Mayor —. ("Hear, hear;" "Order, order.")

When peace had been restored.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER said the next toast was that of the visiting brethren. He observed that there had been some representations made on the present occasion in reference to

some observations that had been made with regard to their worthy and excellent Mayor. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) He was quite sure the observations would be met when he stated that the Mayor was not in Belfast when the riots commenced, and there was a sufficient justification for his absence on that occasion. He did not think it necessary to go into the matter. The man was then absent, and his responsibility ceased. (Hear, hear.) He hoped no further observations would be made on this subject, and he gave their "Visiting Brethren."

Captain LINDSAY (4th Hussars) responded.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER then gave "The Stewards."

Bro. MURNEY responded in a few appropriate remarks.

Bro. IRELAND wished to make a few remarks with reference to the charge made by the Provincial Grand Master against the Mayor. ("Order, order;" "Chair, chair.")

A VOICE: Is this Masonry? Will you hear Bro. Ireland?

Another VOICE: The Mayor is not a Mason. We can't discuss it here.

A third VOICE: Neither is John F. Ferguson.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER: Stop now, gentlemen, and I will propose the last toast, namely, "The Health of the Ladies, coupled with the Marchioness of Donegall." He regretted extremely that the meeting should separate except in the most perfect feeling of unanimity and concord. (Hear, hear.) Observations had been made in reference to the Mayor, and he believed the brethren present were quite satisfied that if the Mayor had been present on the occasion of the outbreak of the riots and tumults, things would have been very different in this town. He believed that the observations which had been made by their most noble brother only went the length of saying that he considered the Mayor was not present when the outbreak first took place. He was quite satisfied Lord Donegall did not intend to convey to that assembly that any blame was to be attached to the Mayor, but that he merely wished to say this, that if the Mayor had been present at the outbreak a great deal of what had taken place might have been prevented. It was only due to the Mayor to make these observations, and he was quite sure the Prov. Grand Master did not intend to convey anything derogatory to the Mayor, but only to regret that he was not here when, in his opinion, these outbreaks had occurred. He would not have entered into these observations if the meeting did not appear to feel it in a most remarkable manner.

The PROV. G. MASTER, in responding to the toast of "The Ladies, coupled with Lady Donegall," said: I beg leave, on behalf of Lady Donegall, to return you my most sincere thanks for the honour you have done her. I am sure there is no one takes a deeper interest in the prosperity of this town than she does. She had no idea of its extent or size when she came to it, nor had she any idea of its various institutions, in which, since she came here, she has taken so deep an interest, and it will be her pride, as it will be mine, to visit you as often as we can. (Hear, hear.) Now, with respect to what fell from me with regard to the Mayor, I have only this remark to make, that I should be very sorry to accuse him unjustly, and it will very easy for the Mayor to prove he was absent before the commencement of the riots, and, if so, I will withdraw all I have said with respect to him, but I have a public duty to perform. I did not see the Mayor in his place where he ought to have been, and it was my duty to say what I said, and from my duty I never will shrink. (Hear, hear.) If the Mayor proves he was absent—and I hope he can do so—I will most cheerfully withdraw all I said concerning him; but as I have said, as Lord Lieutenant of this county, and doing all I could to put down these riots, I had a duty to discharge, and from that I will never shrink. (Loud applause.) I beg to return you my sincere thanks for the toast you have so cheerfully responded to, and hope we may have many merry meetings.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HAND.—Two charming women were discussing, one day, what it is which constitutes beauty in the hand. They differed in opinion as much as in the shape of the beautiful members whose merits they were discussing. A gentleman friend presented himself, and by common consent the question was referred to him. It was a delicate matter. He thought of Paris and the three goddesses. Glancing from one to the other of the beautiful white hands presented for his examination, he replied at last: "I give it up—the question is too hard for me; but ask the poor, and they will tell you that the most beautiful hand in the world is the hand that gives."

CANADA.

GRAND LODGE.

The following is the address of the Grand Master of Canada to the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Canada, assembled in Annual Communication, at Hamilton, 13th July, 1861.

BRETHREN,—We now assemble for our ninth annual communication. For nine years has the Great Architect of the Universe been mercifully pleased to spare us to meet each other in social intercourse and friendship, and consult together for our common good, and (all thanksgiving and humble gratitude to Him) the beginning of each Masonic year has shown the Ancient Craft to be advancing in prosperity and usefulness, and the Grand Lodge, to which we all acknowledge special allegiance, to have been making rapid strides to a vigorous manhood. What was born in 1855 has become the fostering parent of upwards of 160 lodges—all working, I have reason to believe, in order, peace, and harmony, and with a continually growing family. I am happy to tell Grand Lodge that I know of nothing that seriously affects the symmetry of our firmly founded Masonic edifice. Freemasons should be eminently loyal men. Without loyalty they cannot be in practice what they profess to be, and, therefore, I make no apology before noticing our own specific affairs, for mentioning as a matter of sincere congratulation, the auspicious birth of a Prince—born, let us hope and pray, to be a joy to its illustrious parents, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and an additional source, combined with the unwavering affection of her subjects, of consolation to our widowed good Queen, and to secure to our common country, the British Empire, a continuation of those virtues and excellencies that belong to our sovereign and also the well-known attributes of the lamented Prince Consort, and which live not only in the national heart, but are freely acknowledged by the world at large. I am sure you will not be backward in expressing your sentiments on this happy event.

During the past year I have granted eight dispensations to hold the following new lodges, viz.:—

Alexandra, at Oil Springs, Co. Lambton.
Goodwood, at Richmond, C.W.
Garrison, at Quebec.
Percy, at Warkworth, Co. Northumberland.
Forest, at Wroxeter, C. W.
Browne, at Adamsville, C. E.
Star in the East, at Wellington, Co. Prince Edward.
Burlington, at Wellington-square.

The petitions in each case were regularly and strongly recommended, and I trust Grand Lodge will confirm them by warrants.

I received a petition for a new Wentworth Lodge, to be held at Stoney Creek, but as it was recommended by a lodge, though supported by the District Deputy Grand Master, I was obliged to decline granting a dispensation, and I am unaware if further steps have been adopted, with a view to apply for a warrant.

I have to report that Norfolk Lodge (No. 10), and Simcoe Lodge (No. 63), both held at Simcoe, have, for the advantage of our Order in their locality, amalgamated, with my concurrence, and No. 63 having dissolved, the warrant has been surrendered, and is in the custody of the Grand Secretary, to be cancelled by your authority.

Such of the proceedings of our sister lodges as have been received by the Grand Secretary, are with the Board of General Purposes for general information, and that we are on terms of friendly intercourse with all I am thankful and happy to be able to state. I make some necessary remarks on some which have come directly to my notice.

ENGLAND.

The Grand Lodge of England, as it promised to do, has erased from its list all lodges claimed by me as belonging to the Grand Lodge of Canada, retaining only those to which no objection can be raised, the Nos. of which I think it well to give here; they are 17-214-182, and 931-648 Quebec; 514-374 and 923-640 Montreal; 720-490 Goderich; 796-544 Carleton Place, C. W., and 835-571 Ottawas. The latter figures are the existing numbers; 774-532 St. John's, C. E., was also retained, but I pointed out the error, and it is to be rectified. No. 643-440 Montreal, is likewise claimed, and is the cause of the one only unadjusted difficulty. You have declared it to be an irregular body; the Grand Lodge of England as positively insists that it has never ceased to be

one of her regular lodges, and they base their decision and determination on the plain fact that its warrant was never surrendered in 1855 by the unanimous resolve of its members, as proved by minutes accompanying a formal appeal for protection and that she is the real judge of her own subordinate. I have appended the important portion of the correspondence to my present address, and Grand Lodge will there see that I made application for a copy of the evidence submitted to the Grand Lodge of England, for if there was not unanimity in the surrender of the warrant, Nos. 643 has not ceased to have legal existence, and Masonic intercourse must be resumed with it. I have recently had the advantage of a personal call from a Canadian Mason, a member of the Colonial Board of the Grand Lodge of England, and I may add, from knowledge, a warm friend and advocate of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and he assured me in very kind and unhesitating terms, that the Grand Lodge of England claim her lodge under convincing testimony. It would be beneficial to dispose of this sole cause of difference altogether. It rests with you, of course, in what manner to do it and I candidly express my opinion that this assertion, from his position, should not be lightly received. He bore gratifying testimony to the good feeling existing towards the Grand Lodge of Canada, which I endeavoured to impress upon him was truly reciprocal, and I wish he could have remained long enough in this country to have been personally introduced and welcomed at this communication. I hope, however, to see the representative of England in his place.

It was a great mistake we made in not determining a fixed date, when there must be exclusive jurisdiction throughout Canada, and serving a formal notice to that effect on the Grand Lodges having subordinates here, that these last might be numbered and registered and receive warrants from the Grand Lodge of Canada, or choose the alternative of dissolving. It was the natural sequence to the events occurring in and since 1855, and no compromise should have been entered by us except as to time. I am only surprised that those few outstanding, and, as it were, isolated lodges, do not of their own accord, become an integral part of our Canadian nationality, and take the same pride in it as we do. It is very certain that if we were to endeavour to plant an offset in the old country, we should be denounced, and rightly so, and the Grand Lodges there have clearly no right to lodges *ad infinitum* here. We are not absolutely the Grand Lodge of Canada, though declared and acknowledged so to be, while these few cometary fragments revolve in our system. They are theoretically under control, but practically they are not. While misunderstandings, &c., can be and are remedied on our part by a present supreme power, redress from these foreign lodges (foreign I mean as to jurisdiction), is a tedious, complicated process, if successful at last, and irregularities are not to be controlled at all—each of these lodges acts really as if its own judge and jury. About three of these we have already been in difficulty, and are never out of danger of trouble with each and all. I believe no dishonour could attach the Grand Lodge of Canada, if, considering the practical trouble we have had to encounter, we were even now to issue a notification with respect to these lodges, such as we should have done when we took our place amongst the other Grand Lodges of Freemasonry. It is a delicate subject, but a matter of real grievance, and certainly opposed to Masonic jurisprudence, and causes an important defect in our otherwise perfect structure.

The proceedings, in connexion with laying the corner stone, by the M.W. Grand Master of England, in April last, of a new and more commodious Freemasons' Hall in London, have come to hand, and are very interesting. This has long been a desideratum with our English brethren, and I am sure I embody your sentiments, when I congratulate them on the happy fulfilment of their desire, with every fraternal wish for their welfare, and the Grand Architect of the Universe on their undertaking.

SCOTLAND.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland has suffered a severe loss. Its esteemed Grand Master for the last twenty years, the M.W. Brother the Duke of Athol, departed this life on the 16th of January last. Your representative sent official information of this melancholy event, and did not fail to take part in the solemn ceremonies attending the funeral of that distinguished Freemason. I requested him to express your deep sympathy with and for our sister Grand Lodge. Several funeral or sorrow lodges were subsequently held, and the expression of regret was universal.

That eminent brother, Sir Archibald Alison, Prov. G. Master for Glasgow, &c., describes the deceased Grand Master in these eloquent terms, "He belonged to a race which, for above a century, had repeatedly given a Grand Master to the Freemasons of Scotland, and had never ceased to feel an interest in their proceedings. His own disposition rendered him peculiarly open to its influence. At once energetic and active, patient and enduring of suffering, resolute and humane, his spirit was unwearied, his heart was warm, his disposition was chivalrous. His ear was ever open to the tale of suffering, his hand ready to assuage it. * * * * * Assailed in the prime of life by a slow, but incurable and most painful disease, he bore his sufferings with fortitude, and looked forward to the issue without dismay. For three months he was face to face with the King of Terrors in his most appalling form, and he never flinched from the sight. His whole thought was of others; his whole anxiety to discharge his duty to his Queen, his people, and his country. * * * * * When his sufferings were terminated, he yielded up his last breath with the hope of a Christian, with the courage of a Highlander, and in the spirit of a Freemason." Brethren, this is a noble epitaph, worthy of all parties, and one which every *real* Freemason should be sincerely and truthfully entitled to have pronounced over his memory.

VERMONT.

Over the remains of one of our first and stoutest of friends, the W.M. Bro. Tucker, late Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, a suitable monument has been erected by his brethren, who loved the good and true old man, and had cheerfully submitted to his rule for a long period. The subject was brought to my notice by M.W. Bro. Bernard, the representative of Vermont, and being aware of the high estimation in which you held the late Bro. Tucker, who, at the time of his death, held rank as Past Grand Master in the Grand Lodge of Canada, I directed a contribution to be made from your funds towards this testimonial of worthily earned respect, and entrusted to Bro. Bernard, the graceful, and to him specially gratifying task, of making known our desire of participation. I am glad to say that the act was appreciated and welcomed and warmly acknowledged, and I hope Bro. Bernard will be present to report to you all that occurred in his well-known eloquent language, though he has forwarded the papers to me in the event of his unavoidable absence.

MAINE.

Our R. W. Bro. Cyril Pearl has made made known his resignation of the appointment of representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine in Canada. He advised me also that our R.W. Grand Registrar, Bro. I. H. Graham, was nominated to succeed him, an appointment I could not do otherwise than approve, and, on the presentation of his credentials, I propose with your concurrence, to confer upon him, as a member of this Grand Lodge, the rank of a Past Junior Grand Warden.

PENNSYLVANIA.

From the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania I have received a fraternal communication, expressive of its desire for a free interchange of information; and to ensure the safe reception of its own proceedings, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence took the trouble to forward copies to each Grand Master, as well as Grand Secretary, and an explanatory letter at the same time. I have replied with thanks, and in terms inviting a mutual representation.

With regard to the Grand Lodges of the United States generally, it is pleasant to notice the manifold injunctions to Freemasons under their control, to remember their Order, and to endeavour to render it subservient to lessening the misery caused by the long, bloody, and unnatural strife still raging there. While all mourn for the unhappy condition of their country, and the amount of human suffering witnessed, they point out that in war, as in peace, the Masonic duties and privileges are alike binding and reciprocal. No political struggles can affect the standing of a brother, nor interfere with the mission of Masonry, which is to try to mitigate suffering and alleviate distress. I have been particularly struck with Missouri, where many lodge rooms have been robbed of all the furniture, jewels, records, everything of the slightest value. The Committee on Grievances report thus nobly and Masonically: "It is not for us who have preserved relations of loyalty, to pronounce sentence of outlawry upon brothers, who, wherever they may be, are as conscientious in their action as we claim to be in ours. We may grieve that so many of our brethren entertain conflict-

ing political sentiments, that lead to civil war and carnage; but as Masons we hope the day will never come when our lodge rooms will be closed against a worthy brother on account alone of political opinions." South Carolina, by the mouth of her Grand Master, is singularly impressive in warning that all Masons are to be met with all due and regular intercommunications, "whether met in lodges dedicate, or only known by divers means, in darkness or light, in health or sickness, in wealth or want, in peril or safety, in prison, escape, or freedom, in charity or evil mindedness, armed or unarmed, friend or seeming foe." Brethren, this is as it should be—true Freemasonry!

I now return home again, and, first, it is my melancholy duty to report the departure from amongst us of several brethren. It has pleased God that their labour should cease and they be at rest, since we met last year. I cannot give you their names in detail, but one of the members of the Grand Lodge, I am told, left his family in very destitute circumstances. I felt it to be incumbent on me to afford some temporary relief to his suffering widow, leaving it to you to adopt additional measures, if, upon inquiry, they were found necessary. The Grand Registrar brought to my notice the condition of the wife of the late Reverend Bro. Fallow, chaplain of his lodge. He has left a large, young family, and their straitened circumstances demand consideration. The above case was specially made known to me, and I should be wanting in my duty if I failed to take this early occasion of mentioning it to Grand Lodge.

I have, during the past year, to the best of my ability, examined into and arranged the matters referred to me for final adjudication. I have acted conscientiously I know, and I believe justly. M. W. Bro. Stephens, I am glad to say, is in possession of his well-earned testimonial, and the jewel ordered by your resolution last year is ready for presentation to your Grand Pursuivant, a most deserving officer. After due consideration, I am determined to be in no hurry in the appointment of a special committee to report upon the Masonic Districts, with a view to reconstruction, &c., thinking that lodges or brethren, if they really desired a change, would open some kind of communication with me on the subject; but I have not received a single word, and, therefore, remembering the former pains in dividing the districts, and the already large number of Grand and Past Grand Officers, I concluded to let well alone, and the matter remains intact.

Many dispensations have been asked of and granted by me—many Constitutional queries have been propounded and replied to—and various minor complaints I have endeavoured to dispose of satisfactorily; my object being at all times to save Grand Lodge, whose time is of too much consequence to be diverted from matters of real importance.

The revision of our Constitution has to be resumed from where we left off, and in connexion with this I may mention that I have been repeatedly asked by lodges for authority to elect a Master for a third year, and also to initiate candidates in one lodge, his place of residence being nearer to another. I really hope that the clauses of the Constitution, rendering these applications necessary, will be repealed. My opinion (of course an individual one only) is, that when a lodge has secured a good Master it should have the privilege of keeping him in office. I think the English Constitution alone restricts the period. And I do think also, that the candidate who resolves to run the gauntlet of the ballot and inquiry, of his own free will and accord, should of right be allowed to choose the lodge in which to incur the risk, and be welcomed into our Order by friends, who take a personal interest in him, and are, as it were, more immediately concerned in his proving a credit to the Craft, instead of light dawning upon him probably amidst comparative strangers. Wherever an objection has come to my knowledge it has been one of *£ s. d.*, and I believe the law to belong to this continent alone. Dissatisfaction exists with respect to the present law of "Honorary Members." It is not clear. The privilege is generally conferred on old members, and their lodges wish naturally to make it as ample a privilege as possible, not only as a mark of esteem, but as one method of appreciating past services. That this is a right inherent in the lodge itself, there is no doubt, and I would recommend adding to the end of the clause which enacts that honorary membership does not give the "right" of voting, the words—"except it be so especially declared by open vote of the lodge at the time of election," or to that effect.

There are two subjects I think it necessary to submit likewise for the consideration of the Grand Lodge, with a view to some

remedial measure being determined upon. The first is the qualification of Masters of Lodges. I have been told that in some lodges even the proper ceremony of opening and closing is not understood, and the appointment of Grand Lecturer has been suggested, to be elected by Grand Lodge, and classed amongst the officers and paid a salary. It is not to be expected that District Deputy Grand Masters, who have plenty of other Masonic business, beside their own private avocations to attend to, can spare the necessary time, however much they may have the inclination, thoroughly and systematically to instruct lodges in the proper working. The second subject I mention most in the light of a caution than otherwise. I am afraid, from what I hear, that there is not sufficient precaution observed in the admission of foreign visitors, and joining members to our lodges; that there is too much of what I call taking things for granted. Now, in these troublesome times, more especially, very great circumspection is absolutely necessary, and no test can be too severe to establish recognition and good standing. The examination should not be allowed to degenerate into one of mere form, and the exhibition of a certificate that all is right and on the square should be rightly insisted on. Incalculable mischief may result from carelessness, not alone to ourselves, but to others, and Freemasonry be brought into disrepute, not to speak of differences arising with, and complaints preferred by other Masonic bodies, for the unfortunate admittance into one lodge generally acts as a voucher of character into others and the evil continually multiplies. The Reports of the Board of General Purposes, and of the several District Deputy Grand Masters will furnish you with full information respecting your general finances, Fund of Benevolences, Investments, &c., and also of the general condition of local Masonry throughout your jurisdiction. I think I have forgotten nothing of general interest. Breaches of Masonic law have occurred on the part of lodges, rendering them liable to much censure, but, believing as I do, that they have been perpetrated in haste, and under a feeling of excitement at the time, and are not likely again to occur, I am desirous that they should sink into oblivion, and be as things that never were.

My brethren, I would, in conclusion, once again, as I did last year, invite you to reflect on the signs of the times. You may be required, sooner than any of us think, to give up peace and comfort for danger and distress. The European horizon is by no means a clear one. The final effect upon us of the unfortunate civil war still raging in the neighbouring states cannot yet be foretold, or even guessed at. It is for us, therefore, to try and keep our houses in order, to perform our allotted tasks while it is yet day, and then we shall be quite prepared to do our duty as men and Masons, in any way we may be called upon, never forgetting that, in peace or tumult, the aim of our ancient and honourable Order is the cultivation of morality and virtue, and practical benevolence and charity to all mankind. In the carrying on of this design Masonic statistics state that there are, in both hemispheres, some 9,000 lodges, and probably three million and a half of members, more or less active. That our motives and acts are miserably misconstrued is not our fault—the fact that they are so is ever brought home to our very thresholds. In an article stated to have appeared in what is called the *Secret Journal of Freemasons*, on the continent of Europe, and republished by a newspaper at Toronto, very recently, and which I cannot resist quoting, though its absurdity is quite manifest, our Order is made to foster political plots and revolutionary proceedings. Italian Freemasonry is said to be especially occupied with politics. Lord Palmerston is made to "recall the British Ambassador, because the latter supported the Italian Lodges in acquiring independent self-government, thereby annihilating the secret English tribunal in Italy." And it is then seriously stated, that "the English Lodge had had the grief of seeing the Grand Lodge of Canada separate itself from the Thames and the political differences which have arisen between Great Britain and Northern America about Canada are directly connected with this lodge affair." I am stated, by name, to have excommunicated two English Lodges and one Irish, and an alliance between Canada and the United States, is described to have been sealed by reciprocal visits and meetings." Whether you will deem it expedient to notice such slander, I know not; I give it a place to show that we are not afraid of the poison—the best antidote is our own conduct. We know that the avoidance of political topics and discussions is one of our landmarks, not to be defaced or removed.

May peace be with us and our country; may our Great

Creator spare us to meet again, and may He continue to preserve our Order, and cement and adorn it with every moral and social virtue. So mote it be.

T. DOUGLAS HARRINGTON, Grand Master.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

PORT ELIZABETH.

LODGE OF GOODWILL (No. 711).—The interesting ceremony of installing the W.M., appointing and investing the officers of the above-named lodge for the present Masonic year took place in the New Masonic Hall, on Friday, June 24th, it being the anniversary of the birth of St. John the Baptist. There was a large gathering of the brethren, and at a few minutes after the appointed hour, high noon, the retiring W.M., Bro. Robert Archibald, took the chair, and, assisted by the Wardens and officers, opened the lodge, after which the minutes referring to the nomination, election, and confirmation of a new Master, &c., were read by the Secretary. Bro. F. Durant Deare, the W.M. elect, was then formally presented by Bro. William Bawden, P.M., to receive the benefit of installation, and after the usual preliminaries had been gone through was duly installed as W.M. by Bro. Robert Archibald, the retiring W.M., assisted by Bros. Bawden, Board, White, and Fairbridge, P.M.'s, and by the W.M. of the Lodge of Good Hope (No. 863), Bro. Jacob Conway, who with his officers and several members of his lodge honoured the meeting with their presence. The new W.M., after receiving the congratulations of his brethren, rose and thanked them most cordially for the great honour they had conferred upon him in having chosen him to preside over the lodge during the present Masonic year. He hoped with the kind assistance of the P.M.'s, which had been generously proffered him, the aid of the officers he had that day appointed, so to discharge the duties of his high office as to merit the approval of his brethren. This lodge is now constituted as follows:—Bros. F. Durant Deare, W.M.; Robert Archibald, I.P.M.; William Hume, P.M., S.W.; John Hurry, J.W.; J. C. Kemsley, Sec.; T. M. du Toit, Treas.; S. Bain, S.D.; Charles F. Gehit, J.D.; W. M. Baxter, I.G.; James Morley, Tyler; Dorward and Pearson, Stewards. The newly-installed Master then closed the lodge, and the brethren dispersed. In the evening they again met to the number of about 60 for the purpose of completing the observances usual on that day by dining together. Bro. F. D. Deare, the newly-installed W.M., occupied the chair, supported on his right by Bros. Fairbridge and Bowden, P.M.'s; and on his left by the W.M. of the Lodge of Good Hope, and Bros. the Rev. W. A. Robinson and Hurry, P.M.'s, acting as Croupiers. Ample justice having been done to the creature comforts set before them, the brethren present proceeded to discuss the toasts. "The Health of Her Majesty the Queen" was given by the chairman, and was drunk with becoming enthusiasm and full Masonic honours. Bro. Deare next gave "The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of England," drunk with all the honours and with great enthusiasm. "The Health of the Prov. G.M. Bro. R. Southey," followed, and was warmly drunk with honours. Following these came "The Health of the newly-installed Master, Bro. Deare;" "The Retiring Master and Officers;" "The Master and Officers of the Lodge of Good Hope and other Visitors," &c. The company broke up at about 9.30 p.m.

FORT BEAUFORT.

ZETLAND LODGE (No. 608).—The members of this lodge assembled on Friday, June 24th (St. John's Day), according to custom to celebrate their annual festival, and to install the W.M. for the ensuing year. The lodge was opened at high twelve by the W.M. The W.M. elect, Bro. Henry Pearson, was duly installed by the retiring W.M., Bro. J. Ward, after which the W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. J. Vizne, S.W.; J. Davidson, J.W.; W. Estmert, Treas.; W. H. Rawstorne, Sec.; H. Wienand, Org.; C. Henman, S.D.; J. Rorke, J.D.; S. B. Bishop, I.G.; A. Muller, Tyler. The brethren dined together in the evening at Hanley's Hotel, presided over by the W.M. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.

Joy is like the rainbow, which in the morning shines over evening, and in the evening arches over the East.

CHINA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SHANGHAI.—*Tuscan Lodge.*—The inaugural meeting of this lodge, working under a dispensation from R.W. Bro. Mercer, Prov. G.M., took place on the 18th June, at the Masonic Hall. Present: Bros. R. F. Gould, W.M. 570, P.M. 153 and 743, as Installing Master; P. H. Underwood, P.M. 570, as P.M.; I. G. Dunlop, P.M. 570, as S.W.; C. E. Parker, W.M. 501, as J.W.; T. J. Birdseye, P.M. 570, as Sec.; Rawson, P. Prov. G.M.; Donaldson, P.M.; J. Thorne, 453; J. Gibb, 501; A. R. Tilby, 570; H. Lidford, 570; R. Jamieson, 570; E. Oppert, 501; J. Hooper; W. Jacques, 501; J. Bowker, 317; E. Deslandes, 312; H. Canham, 501; M. Smith, 501; D. Emery, 413; G. Bretts, 877; J. Clark, 570; W. Saunders, 13; Col. Yonge, 570; W. Spencer, 501; W. Pearson, 501; E. Lawrence, 570; F. C. Sibbald, 570; J. Johnston, 570; A. Johnston, 570; J. Hockly, 570; J. Coutts, 570; C. Dallas, 570; V. Seaman, 501; C. Robertson, 30 (San Francisco); J. Lloyd, 570; G. Jury, 1,045. Bro. Gould having briefly addressed the lodge, the dispensation was read, and the brethren present having testified their approval of the officer's nomination to preside over them, the ceremony of installation was proceeded with, and Bro. A. R. Tilby placed in the chair agreeably with ancient usage. After the customary salutations had been made, the following officers were invested:—Bros. H. Lidford, S.W.; R. A. Jamieson, J.W.; O. R. Crockett, S.D.; J. H. Gibbs, J.D.; J. Jacques, Sec. and Treas.; M. L. Smith, I.G.; W. Phillips, Tyler. The W. Master proposed "That the lodge should place first in the list of honorary members the name of Bro. C. Thorne, P.M. 570, to whose zeal and assistance its formation was mainly due;" he further proposed Bros. Rawson, P. Prov. G.M., and Gould, P.M., as honorary members, and these propositions, duly seconded by the S.W., were carried unanimously. Six candidates were proposed for joining, and three for initiation, and all business being concluded, the lodge was closed.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

A very delightful day was spent on Wednesday by those who visited the Crystal Palace. The members of the various choirs in the metropolis, under the auspices of the Tonic Sol-Fa Association, were brought together in the Crystal Palace. Upwards of 5,000 choristers occupied the Handel orchestra, and sang most charmingly a variety of pieces, sacred and secular. Notwithstanding that the morning was very wet upwards of 24,000 visitors entered the Palace.

Poetry.

STRANGERS YET.

By LORD HOUGHTON, D.C.L.

Strangers yet!

After years of life together,
After fair and stormy weather,
After travel in far lands,
After touch of wedded hands;
Why thus joined, why ever met?
If they must be strangers yet.

Strangers yet!

After childhood's winning ways,
After care, and blame, and praise,
Counsel asked, and wisdom given,
After mutual prayers to heaven,
Child and parent scarce regret,
When they part—are strangers yet.

Strangers yet!

After strife for common ends,
After title of old friends,
After passion fierce and tender,
After cheerful self-surrender,
Hearts may beat and eyes be wet,
And the souls be strangers yet.

Strangers yet!
Strange and bitter thought to scan
All the loneliness of man.
Nature by magnetic laws
Circle unto circle draws;
Circles only touch when met,
Never mingle—strangers yet.

Strangers yet!
Will it evermore be thus—
Spirits still impervious?
Shall we ever fairly stand
Soul to soul, as hand to hand?
Are the bounds eternal set
To retain us strangers yet?

Strangers yet!
Tell not love it must aspire
Unto something other—higher:
God Himself were loved the best,
Were man's sympathies at rest;
Rest above the strain and fret
Of the world of strangers yet!
Strangers yet!

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by the younger members of the Royal family, and the Prince and Princess of Hesse, and attended by a numerous suite, left Osborne, Isle of Wight, at the close of last week, and returned to Windsor. On Saturday, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse took leave of her Majesty, and proceeded from Windsor to Gravesend, where they embarked on board the *Victoria* and *Albert*, on their return to Germany. In the course of the afternoon, the Duke and Duchess of Coburg, who had come over from Germany on a visit to her Majesty, landed at Dover, and proceeded to Windsor by the South-Western Railway. Her Majesty, accompanied by the younger members of her family, by the Duke and Duchess of Coburg, and a numerous suite, left Windsor Castle at seven o'clock on Monday night, for Scotland. The route lay over the Great Western to the Bushbury junction, where it was transferred to the London and North-Western, and so by way of Carlisle into Scotland. Her Majesty arrived at her highland residence at Balmoral about half-past four on Tuesday afternoon. A stay of some time was made at Perth, where the Queen, between nine and ten o'clock in the forenoon, honoured with her presence the unveiling of the statue erected to the late Prince Consort; and in token of her appreciation of this mark of respect for the memory of her deceased husband, she conferred on Provost Ross the honour of knighthood. The Prince and Princess of Wales remain in Scotland. A Paris letter asserts with some confidence that their Royal Highnesses are to extend his proposed northern trip from Copenhagen to Stockholm and St. Petersburg, and that on their way home they will drop in upon our Imperial neighbour across the Channel.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality of London still continues above the average, principally owing to the summer diseases. The number of deaths reported last week amounted to 1,413, which is 56 above the corrected average. The births were 1,915, the average number 1844.—Friday, the 26th ult., was the anniversary of the birthday of the late Prince Consort, and the day was observed in accordance with a suggestion made by her Majesty, by opening the Royal Horticultural Gardens to the public without charge. The privilege was gladly accepted by a large concourse of persons and especially by the children from the metropolitan schools, who were conveyed to the gardens in vans, and were soon spread over the grounds. The weather

was favourable, and several bands having volunteered their services on the occasion the day proved to be one of thorough enjoyment.—The first Manchester Athletic Festival was held at Old Trafford on Saturday. The Committee presented a very good programme, there were competitors from almost all parts of the north of England, and there was a large attendance of spectators. The only drawback arose out of the very unsatisfactory manner in which the ground was kept.—The Archbishop of York has taken advantage of a visit to Aberdeen to explain the object of his recent speech in Parliament on the Scottish Episcopal Disabilities Bill. He says that while he now considers that the guarantees which the bill imposes are so stringent that he should not like to have proposed them, he is, considering the comparative positions of the Church of England and the Church of Scotland, prepared to justify the course he took in Parliament. That course was adopted with a view not to oppose the bill, but to place it before a committee.—Mr. Stansfeld has lately been presented with an address at Aberdovey. It spoke in terms of high approval of his course in Parliament, and expressed strong regret that he had felt it his duty to resign office. Mr. Stansfeld, in reply, entered at some length into questions connected with the maintenance and management of the Royal Navy, and briefly sketched the circumstances under which he felt himself compelled to resign the post he had held.—Miles Ellison, the man who was charged a few days ago with inducing the soldiers of the Royal Engineers to desert her Majesty's service, and to go into the Federal army, was again brought before the magistrates at Woolwich on Saturday. The evidence of some more soldiers was taken, but the charge of inciting to actual desertion was not made out. The magistrate in discharging the prisoner remarked on the bad state of discipline observed in the barracks, which admitted of a civilian passing the night there. The prisoner was again taken into custody on another charge.—In consequence of a suspicion that all was not right in a house occupied by a Mr. Backingham, at Mile End, the place was entered on Friday night, the 26th ult., by some of the neighbours. Mrs. Backingham and her sister, Mary Gribbin, were found dead, and Mr. Backingham, who is said to have shown signs of insanity for some time past, was discovered, partly naked, lying on the floor. He greeted those who entered with an idiotic stare, and could give no explanation as to the cause of the women's deaths. The front parlour, where the bodies were found, was in a very disordered state, as though a severe struggle had taken place, and according to the opinion of a medical man there is reason to believe that the women have been poisoned. An inquest has been opened on the bodies of Mrs. Gribbin and Mrs. Backingham, but nothing transpired to show the cause of death; and the proceedings were adjourned till an analysis has been made of the stomachs and intestines.—A man named Wilkinson was apprehended on Monday morning on the charge of murdering his wife. It seems the unhappy couple had some friends visiting them on Sunday evening, and on separating one of them kissed Mrs. Wilkinson, which so enraged the husband that he attacked her in the street. He appears afterwards to have become inflamed with liquor, and again fell upon his wife, striking and kicking her to death.—An old man named Butler, a lock-keeper on the river Severn, near Worcester, has been committed for trial for the murder of his housekeeper, Catherine Gulliver. On the night of the 13th ult. Butler and the deceased quarrelled. The next day the deceased was missed by her neighbours, and Butler gave a very confused and unsatisfactory account of her absence. Her body was subsequently discovered in the river, and bore evident marks of violence.—

A murder, attended by circumstances of a most barbarous character, has been committed in Ireland. A solicitor named M'Crossan, apparently well known in Tyrone, was advising with the Sheriff about executing a distress warrant at the house of a man named M'Loughlin, at Omagh. While Mr. M'Crossan was conversing with the Sheriff and his officers, a few feet from M'Loughlin's house, a barbed iron rod was pushed out of one of the windows, and plunged into Mr. M'Crossan's throat. He lingered for a day or two, when he died. M'Loughlin is now in custody.—It is now ascertained that 150 persons were more or less injured in the course of the Belfast riots. Nine deaths have already taken place, of whom five were Protestants, and four Roman Catholics. It argues strongly for the still heated state of the popular feeling when we find that in every case the coroner's juries return open verdicts.—An inquest on the body of a child that was said to have been starved to death by the neglect of its father, the Rev. Mr. Webb, has been held. The evidence bore out the statement that Mr. Webb left four children—the eldest being only eleven years of age—for a whole month without any one to take charge of them, and with only £1 12s. to supply them with food. The evidence as to the cruelty of Mr. Webb to the children while he was with them was conflicting. The jury returned a verdict that the death of the child was caused by neglect, and that the conduct of the father was highly censurable.—An inquest was held on Wednesday in Bethnal-green, on the body of George Holmes, an old man, who had died suddenly. The evidence was to the effect that the deceased was unable to earn enough to keep him, and that, in fact, his death was hastened by absolute want. Some of the details of what occurred previous to his dying were of a most interesting character. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the facts stated.—The Mayor of Woodstock died suddenly in the corporation pew of the parish church on Sunday last while Divine service was proceeding. He arrived at church apparently in his usual health, but fell back in his seat while the second lesson was being read. Medical assistance was procured, but he was dead.—On Saturday the last sentence of the law was executed at Gloucester, on Lewis Gough, the man who was convicted of the murder of the blind old woman Curthoys, who, blind as she was, appears to have led a vicious life, and to have inspired Gough with a feeling of jealousy that led to murder. The convict was very penitent, and acknowledged the justice of his sentence. There was a large crowd present, but their behaviour throughout was orderly.—At an early hour on Wednesday week, a serious collision occurred near the Nore, between two fine screw steamers, the *Amity* and the *John Fenwick*. The *Amity* was seriously damaged, and it was deemed necessary to run her on an adjoining sand bank. While the captain and some of the crew were in the cabin arranging and securing the ship's papers, the vessel slid off the sands into deep water. All the hands escaped into the rigging except the captain, who was drowned before he could reach the deck.—The *Straits Times* reports the seizure of an English vessel by Chinese pirates, the murder of her officers, and her being set on fire. Some of the crew were picked up by another vessel. It is added that many ships which are never heard of, and are supposed to have foundered at sea, may probably have perished in this more terrible manner.—A preliminary trial of the *Scorpion*, one of the Birkenhead rams, was made at Liverpool, by the builders, Messrs. Laird and Co. The ship averaged a speed of 12·57 knots per hour. She answered her helm readily, and the trial was considered highly satisfactory.—One of the most painful cases, amongst the many painful cases, of misery and death, resulting from destitution in the metropolis, was investigated by a coroner's jury on Wednesday, in the

east end of London. A family—the chief of which, Mr. Jeffreys' had formerly been in a large way of business as a paper manufacturer—had by a reverse of fortune become reduced to great poverty. Determined to battle bravely with their altered circumstances they went on from day to day, working and pinching, endeavouring by every honest means to increase their income and reduce their expenditure. In this desperate struggle the two young ladies of the family took a prominent part, working day and night for a slopseller, who paid them "2s. a dozen for making flannel shirts, and for blue and white ones they got 2s. 6d. a dozen!" Incessant work, little food, and the bare boards to sleep upon, at length produced their effects, and one by one the members of this unfortunate family were stricken down by illness, thus being deprived of the means of procuring the wretched subsistence which had hitherto enabled them to keep body and soul together. One of the girls died from sheer starvation—"effusion of serum" is, we believe, the poetical name—refusing to the last to allow any medical man to see her, because he must at the same time discover all the wretchedness and misery of the family. The other girl lay stretched out on the floor in a dying condition when the coroner's jury visited the place, and refused to the last to be handed over to the guardianship of the workhouse authorities. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence, and the case is officially disposed of—at least until the services of the jury are again required to decide upon the cause of death of the other sister, who yet lives.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—Prince Humbert of Italy arrived at the Palais Royal on Saturday as anticipated. On Sunday he was to have visited St. Cloud. The Emperor of the French left Paris for the Camp at Chalons on Monday. His Majesty was accompanied by Prince Humbert of Italy, the Prince Imperial, and Prince Napoleon. The stay of the Imperial and Royal visitors will be necessarily a brief one, as the camp is to be broken up early in September, on the departure of Marshal Macmahon to take into his hands the conduct of affairs in Algeria. In a speech made at St. Etienne last week, M. De Persigny proposed the health of Napoleon III. "as the founder of liberty in France," and at the same time declared that freedom of the press could not be advantageous until "a new, vigorous, and independent political generation should arise to replace the minds enervated by revolutions"—or, in other words, that so long as we live and the Emperor reigns the press will never be free in France. The French Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, M. Belie, has been entertained at a banquet by the principal merchants of Marseilles, and in the course of his address shadowed out further Customs reforms based upon the financial interests of the country only. He also promised the establishment of a new code of commercial legislation and an extension of the right of association.—The two men, Latour and Audouy, charged with the wholesale murder of the inhabitants of the Chateau de Baillard, and the subsequent robbery of the place, have been found guilty by the French tribunal before whom they were tried. The former was sentenced to death, and the latter to hard labour for life.—On Tuesday the King of Italy officially received the envoy of the Emperor of Mexico at Turin. The usual compliments were passed, and the best good wishes mutually expressed. According to official advices received at Paris from Mexico, things were in a most satisfactory condition there at the commencement of last month. Several expeditions for the purpose of driving the Juarists from points still held by them were in preparation. A considerable land force, sustained by a naval squadron, was to proceed to Matamoras with the view of establishing the Imperial authority on a strong basis there.—Letters

from Turin confirm the news relative to the disturbed state of the Southern Tyrol, and affords an additional illustration of the fact that the Austrian tenure of Venetia rests solely upon the display of an overwhelming force and the occupation of the Quadrilateral. Arrests and domiciliary visits are the order of the day; the functions of the police are in full activity, and necessarily there is great alarm prevailing among the population.—The election of M. Cheneviere to a seat in the Conseil d'Etat having been the alleged cause of the outbreak at Geneva, the Great Council of the Canton has resolved upon demanding of the Federal Council to support the decision of the electors.—If the statement of the *Neue Preussische Zeitung* of Berlin is to be relied upon, the occupation of Jutland by the Prussians is not likely to terminate very speedily; seeing that we are assured by this semi-official print that until the definitive conclusion of peace the question of the withdrawal of the troops cannot even be raised as a subject of discussion.—The Duke of Augustenburg has dispatched to the Federal Diet at Frankfurt a memorial in support of his claims to Schleswig-Holstein.—Prince Couza, the ruler of the Danubian Principalities, has entered upon his reforming career with an earnestness and sincerity that must be gratifying to all philanthropic minds. Letters from Bucharest announce the abolition of compulsory labour and the granting of permission to the peasants to become landed proprietors upon the payment of an indemnity to the landowners.—By the evidence afforded from several quarters of late it seems clear that the kingdom and government of Greece is far from being in a settled condition. It appears that some member of the Opposition recently thought fit to send an insulting letter to the King. This led to an excited sitting of the Assembly, and gave rise to considerable popular feeling. It is satisfactory, however, to notice that ultimately good sense and good taste prevailed, and the Assembly expressed its indignation at the letter by a majority of 193 to 27.—The recent hopes of the re-establishment of peace amongst the South American Republics have been disappointed. A telegram from Lisbon, in anticipation of the mail announces from Buenos Ayres, under date of the 29th of July that the negotiations for peace have not been successful, and that hostilities have recommenced.—A French steamer has brought to Toulon important dispatches from Tunis to the 27th inst. It appears from these that the admirals of the various foreign fleets have advised the Ottoman Commissioner to leave the country, in order to simplify the question and give some chance of a speedier solution.—Some of the Spanish journals have the coolness to recommend the Government to erect straightway a fortress in the Chincha Islands, on the ground that these islands are the legitimate property of Spain.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The Calcutta and China mail has arrived, but neither from India or China is there any political intelligence of importance. The Persian Gulf telegraph cable is reported to be broken, but there does not seem to be any reason to suppose that the damage is of a kind which cannot be repaired without great difficulty. A telegram from Suez, giving Bombay dates to the 9th ult., says that Sir Charles Trevelyan has recommended the introduction of the sovereign into India as a legal tender of ten rupees. Should the recommendation be acted upon it will settle the vexed question of a gold standard for our Indian possessions.

AMERICA.—The American news is to the 20th ult. Two corps of General Grant's army had been suddenly landed on the 14th ult. on the north bank of the James River, and had occupied a position either six or nine miles from Richmond. They had taken several guns and a few hundred prisoners; but the Confederate works in front of them were said to be ex-

tremely strong. General Sheridan, whose forces had pursued the Confederates up the Shenandoah Valley, had fallen back to the neighbourhood of Winchester. It was thought that a battle was imminent between his corps and the troops of the Confederate General Early, who was said to have been reinforced by 20,000 men drawn from General Lee's army. There was no fresh news from Atlanta, and apparently there were no details of the engagement which, according to Confederate despatches, occurred on the 6th inst., when two Federal attacks on part of General Hood's position were alleged to have been repulsed. The Confederate General Wheeler had commenced operations which might seriously affect General Sherman's communications and supplies. On the 14th ult. he was besieging the post of Dalton, in Georgia, held by 800 Federals; but it was then hoped that the garrison might hold out till it could be succoured. He had captured a railway train and a quantity of Federal stores; and, so long as he could maintain his position at Dalton, he, of course, interrupted all railway transport between General Sherman's army and his base of supplies at Chattanooga. According to the latest New York telegrams, however, the garrison of Dalton had been reinforced, and had "driven off" General Wheeler. Federal despatches from Admiral Farragut's fleet confirmed the accounts of the operations at Mobile. The squadron passed Forts Gaines and Morgan under full steam, giving and receiving "a terrible fire." The Federal loss during the whole engagement amounted to about 250 men, including the crew of the "monitor" *Tecumseh*, which was instantaneously sunk by a torpedo. The Confederates had abandoned Fort Powell, and the garrison had unconditionally surrendered Fort Gaines to the Federals, who were preparing to invest Fort Morgan, which they had already begun to shell from two mortar vessels. A body of Federal troops was also said to be advancing from Pensacola in order to "flank" Mobile. A body of Confederate guerrillas had suddenly crossed the Ohio River from the Kentucky bank, and had destroyed eight river steamers. The Confederate cruiser *Tallahassee* had arrived at Halifax after having burned more than 50 Federal merchantmen or fishing vessels off New York and the coast of the Northern States. The *New York Herald* was urging that Commissioners should be sent to Richmond, in order to propose an armistice for six months and the convocation of a convention from all states to devise the best means of obtaining peace. Since the above was in type, news has been received to the 22nd. Grant's movement to the north bank of the James River seems again to have been a feint or an attempt at a surprise, for his troops had recrossed, and the 5th corps was pushed forward to the Weldon railroad. On the 19th ult. they were in position on the road, when they were surprised by the Confederates and driven back with the loss of 3,000 men. Reinforcements were, however, brought up, and the Federals recovered their lost ground. At last accounts, fighting continued. It is mentioned, incidentally, that Early's return northward was creating much excitement in Maryland.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W.M.—Attend Grand Lodge and judge for yourselves.

S.S.—Honorary members are not acknowledged by the "Book of Constitutions."

P.M.—In 1843.

S.W.—North and South.

H. S. T.—The subject is of too private a nature for our pages.

We are sure we should be doing more mischief than good were we to publish *ex parte* statements on disputes between the brethren, even if they do occur in lodge.

BETA will find all the information he wants in our volume for 1859.

A NON-MASON shall receive the information he asks for on sending us his name and address.

S. J. R.—Charles Dickens is not a Mason, so far as we know. Probably you allude to his Bro. Alfred, who died two or three years since. He was W.M. of the Universal Lodge at the time of his death.