

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1864.

GRAND LODGE.

The meeting of Grand Lodge on Wednesday was one of the thinnest we have ever seen; and, but for a discussion relative to the future of the Freemasons' Tavern, would have been altogether devoid of interest. The Grand Master was absent, and so also was the Deputy Grand Master, the chair being occupied by Bro. Bagshaw, the Provincial Grand Master for Essex—the only Provincial Grand Master present. Why Provincial Grand Masters should take the chair in the absence of its rightful occupants we cannot tell, there being no warrant for such a proceeding in the "Book of Constitutions." According to that book the duty should devolve on the Grand Wardens or Past Grand Wardens; and we are astonished that brethren of the Masonic standing and position of Bro. Dundas, Bro. Colonel Brownrigg, or Bro. Havers can consent to set aside their rights in favour of Provincial Grand Masters, who hold no position in Grand Lodge beyond that which is accorded them by courtesy.

The Senior Grand Warden was absent. The Junior Warden, we regret to say, has been called from amongst us to that home to which we must all ultimately repair.

On the reading of the minutes, Bro. George asked the questions to which we referred last week, and was well replied to by Bro. Havers, who stated that the Committee had not granted a lease to the present tenants, having no power to do so until the minutes of the last Grand Lodge were confirmed, but that they had given them a provisional agreement for a lease, subject to that confirmation. The Committee had not given the tenants power to form a Joint-Stock Company, but it had no objection to their doing so, and believed that the Tavern could be better managed by such a Company than under private enterprise. The Committee had not placed any restriction on the lessees as to the parties they should bring into the Company as partners being all Masons; and he (Bro. Havers) thought it was rather matter of congratulation that those outside the pale of Masonry were willing to take part in the undertaking, though personally he should prefer seeing it solely in the hands of Masons, if they only took one share each. Bro. Havers also stated the terms upon which the lease was to be granted, viz., a premium of £5,000, and a rent commencing at

£1,200 a year, gradually advancing to £1,800, at which it is to remain until the expiry of the lease, which is to be granted for twenty-one years. A sharp and rather sprightly discussion followed the statement of Bro. Havers, in the course of which it was stated that of the 6,500 shares into which the capital is to be divided, 4,800 had been taken up, exclusive of those which may be required by the directors and their friends, and of that number 4,200 had been paid upon. Of the total applied for, 672 were taken by Masons, and the rest by the public. That enough has already been subscribed for to secure the carrying out of the Company will therefore be seen, and the other shares may be placed as opportunity offers. Bro. George spoke of the large margin existing between the amount to be given for the lease, and the amount of capital, but he should remember in all Joint-Stock undertakings more should be nominally raised than it is ever proposed to call up, for that Company would be in a sorry plight which called up all its capital and left no portion fructifying in the pockets of the shareholders to meet unforeseen contingencies, and it would find that if in no other respect, at least in credit and prestige it would be "limited." Ultimately, the minutes were confirmed with one dissentient, Bro. George, who was faithful to the last. The lease may, therefore, be considered as granted, and those brothers who wish to do so may yet have shares, as the allotment will not take place for ten days or a fortnight.

Then came the consideration of the reports of the Colonial Board, and another discussion arose resulting in that portion relative to the Grand Lodge of Canada, and the recognition of the St. George's Lodge, English Constitution, being referred back to the Board for further consideration, in consequence of the receipt of later advices from Canada, recognising the report, and rendering it altogether nugatory. The discussion was chiefly interesting through the nice legal distinctions drawn by the Grand Registrar as to how one portion of the report could be acted upon without the other, and which were about as lucid as the distinction to be drawn "twixt tweedledum and tweedledee." After some unnecessary badgering, however, Bro. Havers came to the rescue. Bro. McIntyre agreed with Bro. Havers, and everybody agreeing with both and everybody, the matter was settled.

At next Grand Lodge we presume a vote of thanks will be given to Bro. Brackstone Baker for

his exertions in getting the dispute between the Grand Lodges of England and Canada amicably settled—his only reward at present being that he was put out of the Board during his absence from England doing that work which the Board could not itself accomplish—a few minutes of oral explanations overcoming difficulties which all the writing power of the President of the Board and the Grand Secretary combined could never have effected.

MASONIC SAYINGS AND DOINGS ABROAD.

Every now and then our foreign exchanges do not arrive with that punctuality they ought. This month we have a case in point, and have been literally overwhelmed with bulletins, periodicals, and newspapers for the months of April, May, June, and July. To give detailed accounts of their contents would be simply impossible in our limited space, and some of the occurrences they mention could no longer be looked upon as news; therefore we are reduced to the alternative of writing some few paragraphs founded, and commenting occasionally, on the events they chronicle.

RESUSCITATION OF A LODGE.—The Lodge Etoile et Compas, of Lyons, having fallen into abeyance since 1859 has been re-opened with an apparently good prospect of success. Including this lodge, there are now seven lodges in the city of Lyons owning allegiance to the Grand Orient of France besides several of the Rite Eccossais, and one or two under the rites of Misraim and Memphis.

ACCOUNTS OF THE GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE.—In order to afford a contrast with our own Grand Lodge accounts we summarise those of the Grand Orient of France from March, 1863, to February, 1864. The principal items may be classified thus, omitting fractions:—

	Francs.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand on March 1, 1863...	2,285	=	91	8 0
Annual Income	71,838	=	2,873	10 5
Incidental Receipts	72,270	=	2,890	16 0
	Francs 146,493	=	£5,855	14 5
Working Expenses.....	57,967	=	2,318	13 7
Banquets.....	2,585	=	103	8 0
Relief of various kinds.....	7,696	=	307	16 9
Incidental charges.....	56,658	=	2,266	6 5
	Francs 124,906	=	£4,996	4 9

Funds contributed by Masons to be disposed of by the Grand Orient in various Charities not Masonic.

	Francs.	£
Balance in hand, 1863-4	3,658	= say 146
Receipts and Donations	5,546	= 221
	Francs 9,204	= say £367
Relief to various persons.....	728	= 29
Expenses	125	= 5
	Francs 853	= £34
Balance in hand, 4,691 francs; or, omitting fractions, £187.		

Since the formation of this Special Fund it has

	Francs.	£
Received	10,914	= 436
Expended	6,222	= 248

MASONIC PRINTING.—If in nothing else connected with Freemasonry cosmopolitanism exists, there can be no doubt that the printing of Masonic matters generally entail a loss. The "Bulletin," or official journal, issued by the Grand Orient of France, in monthly parts, for last year,

	Francs.	£	s.	d.
Cost	4,178	=	167	2 5
Produced	1,509	=	60	7 2½
Loss.....	Francs 2,669	=	£106	15 2½

BENEFIT CONCERT.—The Lodge l'Humanité de la Drome, at Valence, gave a concert for the benefit of the poor of that town. It appears to have produced about £30 in all. The brethren were warmly supported by the authorities, the garrison, the military bands stationed there, and the local choral union. Many professional musicians readily gave their assistance, and an officer of one of the regiments in garrison created a very great sensation on account of his wonderful bass voice.

A NEW MASONIC HISTORY.—Bro. Valliant, of Monte Video, has lately published a volume of 120 pages, 18mo., in the Spanish language, on the *History, Principles, and Maxims of Freemasonry*. There are but very few Masonic works in Spanish, and every new addition to that number is not only of much utility to the brethren of Spain and her dependencies, but is eagerly sought. The work itself reproduces the recognised traditions of the Craft, explains very lucidly and moderately its principles, and gives a *resumé* of various modes of life and action consistent with Masonic duties.

GERMAN BISHOPS.—The German bishops of Munster and Paderboon have commenced a crusade against Freemasonry, and, as usual, denied the consolations of the Church to any of her sons who may belong to the Order. The latter prelate kindly stigmatises the Craft as tending to over-

throw all religion by destroying Christianity, and of course appeals to the secular arm to intervene by working on the fears of rulers, because, as he says, "if the altar is destroyed the thrones will share the same fate." It is the old story of about a century since revived. The Romish clergy are incessantly crying wolf against our Order, but with what success is patent to the world.

PROPOSED MASONIC CONGRESS.—Some of the German Masonic papers have been advocating a Masonic Congress for the purpose of settling many differences of opinion on Craft subjects and working. Its promoters, however, wish to confine it to the most narrow limits possible, ruthlessly excluding all Catholic systems of Freemasonry and substituting their own version of the three degrees. The Royal Arch and Mark are thrown overboard, as well as the high grades, and, in consequence, it does not appear likely—even if it should take effect—to realise any good for cosmopolitan Freemasonry. It has found an able and warm opponent in Bro. Dr. Zille, whose objections to it are founded on its tendency towards a centralising power which would accrue to those who propose it, and naturally tend to contract the basis on which a wide-spread recognition of Freemasonry, in all its varieties and shapes, obtains footing amongst the more enlightened portion of the Order in all lands.

FREEMASONRY AND SPIRITUALISM.—A journal entitled "Light for All" has recently appeared in France. It is conducted by a brother who has attained to the degree of Rose Croix, and, it seems, has been so captivated by mediums and such gentry that he has seriously commenced this undertaking to prove that Spiritualism is superior to Freemasonry! Of course it is perfectly open to any brother to broach his views on any portion of the subject; but it is deplorable to find a man, otherwise of keen sense, a good writer, and a clever author, led away by the delusions of Spiritualism. Freemasonry has its mysteries, but they have an object, which cannot be said of Spiritualism. The latter is totally beneath notice, and it is to be regretted so many have been unsettled in their minds, for life, by its baneful and absurd pretensions.

RED-TAPE AT A PREMIUM.—If we could ever be brought to believe that a Mr. Deputy Chaffwax was in any way useful to Freemasonry, it would be in the case of the Order in Italy. That such an individual would be "a real blessing to

brothers" in the sunny South there can be no two opinions. At Florence there has been a conference extending over four days, two sittings each, at which some seventy Italian lodges were represented, composed of forty under the Ancient and Accepted Rite, and thirty under the Italian Rite. On the second day the brethren of the latter took themselves off *en masse*, and assigned little or no reason for so doing. The remainder set to work with a will, and almost unanimously declared they had come to a conclusion on the following points, viz., the absolute and entire liberty of each rite to its own fundamental constitution; the separation of the dogmatic from the administrative power; an annual election of one Grand Master for Freemasonry, of every grade, which should take place in the capital of the kingdom, and have his seat of Government there. That forty lodges of the Rite Ecossais and forty lodges of the Rite Italian should, by their representatives, form the Grand Orient of Italy, and that there should be a general toleration and reform in Freemasonry. They then proceeded to elect General Garibaldi the Grand Master of Italy, and this was carried with but five votes against him. Bro. Francois de Luca was also elected President of the Grand Orient. Most people would imagine the situation to be promising; but no, in a second it seems all to have been blown to the winds. Bro. Garibaldi resigned. Well, we should suppose another Grand Master could be found; and so he was; Bro. Buscaloni succeeded to that high office, and no sooner had he got there than he vanished, and gave place to Bro. Mariani. We have since lost sight of him, too, and find some one else elected, or appointed—no one can tell by whom—to the Provisional Grand Regent. This brother, too, has suffered an eclipse, and all that we can make out for certain from the confused notices which reach us, is, that there are seventy lodges in Italy, and some hundreds or thousands of brethren; but beyond knowing that there are Freemasons there we entirely fail to discover any ruling power, or know who's who. With such a state of things a thorough red-tapist would be an invaluable boon to the Italian brotherhood. He might be slow, and it might take a generation or two to get the materials into working order; but if they could only secure the services of such a Grand Master's Master, the whole, perhaps, would come right in the long run. There is a European Grand Lodge,

noted for its red-tape proceedings, with a doubly supreme autocrat, as the lever, who could well be spared, and countless blessings from many free-born Masonic slaves, would attend any Grand Lodge who would take the red-tapist to their bosom; and we specially commend the matter to the notice of the brotherhood in Italy as a most desirable opportunity of securing one who would be sure to keep the machine in its regular groove.

FREEMASONRY FROM THE INSIDE.

[From a Correspondent.]

We do not pretend to know what Kendal is famous for. At one time its green was a colour as much in repute as that of Lincoln, and from the specimen printed in your issue of the 27th ultimo the vivid tint would appear to be as verdant in Kendal as ever, taking the local newspaper as a fair sample.

Editors, in general, are reputed to have the itch—for writing—but the editor of the *Kendal Mercury* not only is afflicted with that cutaneous disorder, but has it in a very bad form, for greenness is so unmistakably his plight, that itch as he may—boast of “itching ears” as he does—he cannot overcome the disease which has so affected him that he does not know what he writes about. This is the more remarkable because it might naturally be supposed that even small writers in obscure places could get speedy advice and relief; but when we come to consider the title of his broad sheet we are surprised that he has not adopted some mercurial preparation to have reduced those alarming symptoms of *viridis cacoethes* which his case presents.

Poor fellow! he is on the outside, and, like all outsiders, in every position in life, is a nuisance. They all want to get in, but they can't get in—they're only entrusted with the key of the street; and so they try to raise a din and a hubbub in the neighbourhood, all because they're on the wrong side of the door, and they continue to pester and annoy the student or man of business within, until at last they are marched off by the police.

If ever there was a benighted individual it is the editor of the *Kendal Mercury*. He complains, in true Yankee fashion, that “he's left out in the cold”—that he is on the outside—when all the while he is the very centre of Royal Arch Masonry in his own proper person. He may not know it—

and the more's the pity—but there are scores of companions who will recognise him as that ancient Egyptian symbol, a delta, having for his essential parts the animal (himself), the mineral (his Mercury), and the vegetable (his greenness), all properly developed and displayed in the article bewailing his own sad fate of an outsider.

Like all persons suffering from an aberration of intellect the man has his lucid interval. He says before a man can become a Freemason he must pay so much “down.” This evidently shows that he is not oblivious to all social obligations, but it “lets the cat out of the bag” in intimating that to “come down with the dust” is one reason why he is on the outside. If so there let him stop and knock, kick, ring, hoot, and try to alarm all the neighbours as long as he likes, for the old distich runs—

“I've trusted many to my sorrow,
Pay to-day; I'll trust to-morrow.”

And if he ever does pay why—of course—he'll be trusted and know all about it.

However, pitying the poor man's distress, we intend to take compassion on him, and, as he implores some Kendal brother to tell him all about it, we authorise every one of them to set his desires at rest, and, as he requests, to SPLIT—their sides with laughter to think that they would enlighten the editor of the *Kendal Mercury* on matters which are withheld even from the editor of the *Times*. Split then, our Kendal brethren—split your sides with laughter at the proposition, and we will hold you harmless from all pains and penalties.

And now, having, according to the Apostolic injunction, treated a fool according to his folly, let us address a few serious reflections to our brethren of the Craft at large.

We who are inside the door of Freemasonry should remember that there is a scoffing, mocking, and depreciatory feeling abroad, in many places, against our Order. We who know what the door of Freemasonry parts us from should be doubly watchful of our lives and actions, and should keep them as safely, pure, and unpolluted as we do our secrets. We who have passed that door, and left some ribalds shouting at the outer side, have taken upon ourselves—voluntarily—to live a new life and to cherish goodness, virtue, piety, friendship, and justice because we are Freemasons. We have undertaken to shape ourselves after a peculiar manner, and to respect every brother's conscientious religious views. We have never, and

may we never think of standing to our brethren in the light of a revelation. Each one of us serves God in the way in which he holds best, but Freemasonry will never stand him in stead of personal religion. Ours is a human institution, and, like all humanity, imperfect. There is but one Perfection, and it should be our aim to seek that, each for himself: and while here smooth the path of our brethren—minister to them in their need—help them by counsel—join them in innocent festivity—cherish the aged—train the young—and never forget that the eye of the Almighty watches our every word and action. So shall we live down the taunts and misrepresentations of those to whom our bond of brotherhood is unintelligible, and by our demeanour show that Freemasonry from the Inside is pure, manly, moral, and pious, whilst to those on the Outside it is a something undefined, yet demanding their veneration and respect.

A RUN TO THE LAKES: BORROWDALE.

(Continued from page 165.)

As we are not travellers in search of the picturesque merely, we must ask our readers to have patience with us while we try to describe some of the most prominent physical phenomena of the English Lake district.

We need scarcely repeat what everybody knows, that the Lake district consists of a series of mountain ridges and plateaux of the very highest altitude in England; although still the lowest in the scale of Great Britain and Ireland. Thus Scawfell Pike, in Cumberland, which is the highest mountain in England, is 3,166ft.; Snowdon, in Carnarvonshire, the highest mountain in Wales, is 3,571ft.; Ben Macdui,* in Aberdeenshire, the highest mountain in Scotland, is 4,418ft.; and Gurrane Tual, in county Kerry, the highest mountain in Ireland, is 3,404ft. above the level of the sea.

It is no part of our business to enlarge on the cosmical theories of the various schools to which the Cumbrian mountains are correlated. The Plutonists have had their day; the Neptunists have lived to see their philosophy submerged; and the votaries of the Icebergs have long since been liquefied or solved. Whether these *lacunae* have been worn down by water or scooped out by ice, will be accepted just as we adopt the theories of a fluvial action (which is difficult) or a glacial action (which is more simple). Some of the lakes, as Ennerdale, do not exceed 80ft. in

extreme depth; Windermere is 240ft.; and Wast Water, which is so deep as never to be frozen, is 270ft. With regard to their altitude, this varies a good deal. Windermere is only 116ft., Ulleswater is 380ft., while Thirlmere is 473ft. above the level of the sea. Some of the small receptacles of still water, called *tarns* far exceed these measurements. For example, Sprinkling Tarn, in Borrowdale, and Red Tarn, on Helvellyn, lie at an altitude of 1,900ft. and 2,400ft. respectively.

The next point we must notice is the technical geology of the district. But no sooner do we begin to investigate this subject than we get into a perfect labyrinth of scientific miracles. The great *original* authority, we may state, is Professor Sedgwick, whose letters to Wordsworth form the basis of all the modern systems of the geology of the Lakes. From these letters and other publications of Mr. Sedgwick, and particularly from the admirable synopsis of Professor Philips, appended to Black's "Guide Book," we are enabled at least to give the reader a rough idea of the subject.

The Lakes of the north of England, like those of Scotland, Wales, and some districts of Ireland, are situate among the most ancient of unstratified rocks, including slaty formations with organic remains, and others still older, which have not as yet yielded any fossils.* These strata form, in a general sense, one broad rugged dome, surrounded on the flanks by later deposits of old red sandstone, mountain limestone, millstone grit, coal, and new red sandstone. The map of these strata shows us the following superimposition:—

- A. The mountainous district of slaty rocks, inclosing the Lakes.
- B. The raised border of limestone grit, coal, &c.
- C. The plains of red sandstone.

But the regularity of this rugged dome and its borders is disguised by a thousand inequalities of detail. The strata of the interior are not uplifted in a regular arch, but bent into innumerable complex curves, forming anticlinal ridges and synclinal hollows, and all so broken by "faults" that the originally continuous rocks are divided, and the parts changed in level from 10 yards to 1,000 yards! These great movements of the strata were accomplished with violence; and one of the coincident effects was the forcible injection of melted rocks into many of the fissures and void spaces left between the broken masses. Thus granite, porphyry, and other rocks produced by heat, and not stratified, have found their way amongst their older strata, and have produced on them, near the surfaces of contact, certain chemical and mechanical changes, converting the sunk and argillaceous masses into compounds which

* While we write, we perceive that the recent Ordnance survey has reduced the claim of Ben Macdui to be the highest mountain in Scotland, and restored Ben Nevis to its ancient supremacy.

* During the period of our visit a local geologist had discovered species of the *graphitolite* in Skiddaw slate. This fact will afford abundant materials for new generalisations of the clay slate groups.

approach to the nature of the igneous rocks. To these the title of metamorphic rock is assigned.*

These metamorphic rocks, however, as well as the vast chains of granitic and igneous rocks, are for all economical purposes next to useless, and the great mass of the sandstone, unless it be on the outskirts of the great field of clay slate, is unfit for building purposes. The few specimens we collected and examined, such as those from Tallantire, Lammonby, and a portion of the old red sandstone from Baggrow, were coarse in the grit, and very friable; although we have seen excellent specimens from the quarries of Cockermouth on the one hand, and Penrith on the other.

The clay slate, therefore, is the rock of greatest importance in the central Lake districts. In the original Cumbrian group of Sedgwick, it is divided into three great generic classes, as follows:—

1. Hornblendic clay slate (lower).
2. Chistolite slate (middle).
3. Clay slate proper (upper).

The first rocks are of a uniform argillaceous character, except where the veins and their *laminae* of quartz diversify their aspect; or where igneous rocks change their textures. The colour is usually dark, the surface glossy, and the mass irregularly laminated. They are more or less characterised by what is known as slaty cleavage.

The boundaries of the district occupied by *middle slates* are on the north-west line from Egremont to Keswick. The face of the whole mass, as seen on Derwentwater, about Barrow, is a red, mottled, argillaceous rock, usually regarded as a breccia. The colour being considered accidental, we find similar brecciated structures and various grey tints among the rocks at the entrances of Borrowdale, around the north side of Grasmere, and other places. A close scrutiny of the circumstance under which the rocks are associated suggests the idea of their being in part aggregates of volcanic mud and submarine streams of felspathic lava.

The *upper slates*, clay slate proper, or, rather, as they are termed, micaceous flags and slates, correspond in some parts of the series with the upper Ludlow slates and tile-stone beds of Shropshire and Caermarthenshire. In some places they yield excellent roofing-slates. As represented by the Kirby group, they somewhat resemble the flags of Llandeilo, in South Wales; or still more closely, as Professor Sedgwick has pointed out, the flags of Denbighshire, in North Wales.

This sketch will probably be sufficient to show that the economic geology of the district is chiefly

concentrated in the groups of clay slate. It is these rocks which, on disintegration, yield the rich clayey soil of the valleys. From these rocks are also derived nearly the whole materials for building, from the pavement-flags to the roofing-slates, from the lintels and jambs to the rouble and the road metal. As to the analogous groups of fine-grained grey or green slaty rocks, as well as those porphyries which seem to be composed of indurated, argillaceous matter, we must in the mean time refrain from describing them; but they are all to be referred in their geological classification to one or other of the above groups.

We strongly recommend all persons interested in the physical aspects of the country to take a ride up by Derwentwater, through Borrowdale. Thither we went, partly for the purpose of seeing that dreary valley (of which it may be mentioned that Earl Russell said, not long ago, that it was the most magnificent prospect in the district), partly to study the rocks, and also partly to inspect the village of Seathwaite, which, as we all know, is celebrated in modern story for its heavy rainfall. The first thing worth noticing is the waterfall at Lodore, which is chiefly remarkable for the enormous chasm that the water has worn through the rocks. After passing through the "Jaws of Borrowdale," as the entrance to the valley is not inappropriately termed, we ascend by one of the narrow and precipitous roads so common in the district to the quarry of Queyfoot, in which the "schistus" clay-slate is extensively worked, and altogether, it would seem, from the surface. From this quarry most of the buildings in Keswick and the neighbourhood are supplied. Further on we arrive at the celebrated "Bowder Stone," an immense block of basaltic green stone, which has evidently broken away from the overhanging cliff, and has been computed to weigh nearly 19,000 tons. Nearly opposite this "bowder" we observe the Castle Crag, famous as the site of a Roman fortification; and from this crag the view up Derwentwater, under a favourable aspect, is unapproachably beautiful. There is the calm and placid surface of the silent lake, the majestic hills which rise in graceful and irregular slopes on either side, the green islands, the projecting crags, the vapoury clouds, and the rich sunny hues—

"That gild with yellow radiance all the vale."

Such a picture one seldom sees and long remembers. But, to turn again to Borrowdale, the geologist may easily observe the green mounds, covered with boulders of transported rocks, which mark the place where the glacier of a former period had melted away and deposited its burden. A more practised eye will also detect the surfaces of the striated and polished rocks, which record at once the character and the direction of a force which, as Agassiz has detected in our time, is still at work among the glaciers in the Alpine regions of Switzerland. After passing the pretty

* While stating thus the commonly accepted theories of the able authorities above cited, we may also add that there are chemico-physical investigators who account for the metamorphic rocks in a somewhat different manner.—Comp. Dr. Bischoff's Elements of Chem. and Physical Geology; Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, &c.

village of Rosthwaite, and the charming residence of Mr. Fisher, of Seatollar, we arrived at the head of the valley, at the village of Seathwaite. There are three phenomena to be observed here: first, the four magnificent yew-trees, joined in one, commemorated by Wordsworth, in the lines beginning—

“Fraternal four of Borrowdale;”

secondly, the celebrated lead mine, or plumbago mine, which lies right overhead, on the face of the hill; and, lastly, the rain-gauge. The yew trees we saw; but the mine is not working at present; and unfortunately it did not rain that day, so that the respectable lady who makes the observations could not discourse of the rain-fall in operation. We learned, however, that for the last half-year it had been considerably under the average; and, what is of greater consequence, that, although the greatest *quantity* of rain falls here in all England, there are many low-lying districts which are blessed with a far greater number of rainy days. We shall explain this paradox as we proceed.

In the year 1851 Mr. Otley, of Keswick, recorded a series of observations of local rain-fall from a rain-gauge kept near the town, and his results were highest in the year 1846, being 67·678in.; lowest in the year 1844, being 40·629in.; and on the average of ten years (1842-51), 57·162in. About the same period Mr. Millar, of Whitehaven, made an elaborate average of the principal stations in the Lake district, and a comparison of these averages with those of London, Edinburgh, Dublin, &c.; and from this computation we learn that while London was 24·800in., Edinburgh, 25·600in., Dublin 30·087in., Liverpool 34·700in., and Manchester 37·300in., the Lake district averaged respectively—Keswick, 57·162in.; Great Gable, 89·400in.; Styhead, 92·800in.; Grasmere, 107·500in.; and Seathwaite, 140·600in. A still later average, quoted in one of the guide-books, gives us—Keswick, 60in.; Crummock, 85in.; Ambleside, 82in.; Kendal, 61in.; and Troutbeck, 81in. To these we will just add from our own observations that in Keswick last year the rain-fall, as observed by Mr. Fisher Crosthwaite, was 71in.; and in Seathwaite, in Borrowdale, the village we had the curiosity to go and see, 173in.* It is highly proper to point out that, although there is more rain in the mountain districts than in low countries, there is also more brilliant weather. To quote the language of Dr. Leitch in the *Lancet*, “the rain comes down more heartily, and the weather clears up more cordially here than elsewhere.”

The barometer has been very accurately observed in Keswick, and varies from 29in. to 30in. But we have not succeeded in procuring any trustworthy series of thermometrical returns. The temperature of the district, we should say, rea-

soning *à priori*, is lower in summer and higher in winter than any of the lowland districts. But we can speak from experience of the difference between noon and midnight, and more particularly of the difference between the temperature in the sun and in the shade, which latter, we imagine, is much greater than that of any other district in all England. For example, to pass from the direct action of the sun's rays on the side of a hill to the shadow of the neighbouring woods is something excessively like plunging into cold water on a very hot day. As to the force and direction of the wind, we regret that none of Admiral Fitzroy's nautical observers are stationed in the district; otherwise we might then compute the degree of force on Scawfell and Skiddaw of that Atlantic south-wester which carries with it all the moisture and deposits all the rain. But as it is, we can only state that the difference between the force of the wind on the surface of the lakes and on the tops of the mountains is so great as to bear comparison with the official idea of a calm breeze and a storm. We have just room to add here, that the county of Cumberland is deficient in ozone. Of the tabulated returns from fifty-four meteorological stations in the last quarterly return of the Registrar General, Cockermouth and Carlisle stand lowest in the scale.

We must finish these dry statistics with a few physiological remarks. In the first place, with regard to the climate of the Lake District, we may observe that from its altitude, its peculiar topography, its exposure to the great atmospheric current of the Atlantic Ocean, its exuberant vegetation, and its clayey soil, it is necessarily the most humid atmosphere in all England. Accordingly, we might be prepared to find a preponderance of those diseases which are peculiar to an alpine country; and in this case we should not be altogether disappointed. The late Jonathan Otley, whom we have mentioned, relates that when he was a boy (about the period of Dalton's observations) ague was so common in the vale of Keswick, that every country lad coming to service from the low country had to go through a fit of “shaking” which lasted six weeks! An old shepherd whom we met on the hills in Borrowdale, informed us that there was plenty of ague, accompanied by fever, in his youth. And although there was nothing of that sort now, there was still plenty of rheumatism, as he happened to know! Although cases of *goutte* are now exceedingly rare, these were by no means uncommon twenty or thirty years ago; and even yet, we were informed, a swelling of the glands of the neck is not an unfrequent malady. Colds, inflammation of the lungs, phthisis, and all the diseases which arise from excess of moisture and exposure to low and changing temperature, are of course more or less abundant. And it is impossible for the stranger fresh from the rural districts of Essex and Hampshire not to perceive

* Those who wish to pursue this subject ought to consult an admirable monograph “Essay on the Meteorology of the Lake District,” by J. F. Millar, Esq. London. 4to. 1859.

that, when compared with the ruddy complexions of the Southern peasantry, the laboratory people are, as it were, blanched and etiolated. Although the death-rate of Cumberland is lower than that of England and Wales (21), yet when we consider its sparse population it is relatively high. As far as our limited means of observation served us, we never saw a population among the lower classes so temperate and frugal in their habits. Indeed, it occurred to us once or twice, that they possibly "err on the safe side" in this direction; since we could scarcely conceive of a district in which a proper allowance of good cheer would be attended with so beneficial an effect. Their cottages are rapidly improving in construction, through the spirited competition of the landed proprietors. But there are still too many of the old-fashioned diminutive, ill-lighted, and uncomfortable habitations in the district. Some of the farm houses are even worse off than the labourers' cottages. A great many in the neighbourhood of Bassenthwaite and Threlkeld bear on their antique lintels dates varying from 1668 to 1724; and are constructed on the ground-floors with low oblong lattices, and in the upper rooms, with openings about 2½ ft. square. It is strange, in a climate where sunlight is so valuable, that it should be often so persistently shut out! For the rest there is plenty of fresh air and pure water in the district; and were it not for the natural drawbacks we have referred to, one could scarcely imagine "a better land," as Mrs. Heman sings. But even in these natural circumstances it is pleasing to report a gradual and silent improvement. The snow in winter no longer lies six months on the hills: it is seldom more than two, and never exceeds three even at the greatest altitudes. Sometimes in a mild winter there is no snow seen on the hills at all. The steady progress of agriculture, and particularly of the drainage of the land, has exercised a prodigious influence in clearing the valleys of surplus water; and the rain-fall, it must be observed, is decreasing, except at one or two remote heights. Whether it be that the principle of amelioration which originally reduced the horrible terrestrial convulsions which we see around to an equipoise, and produced those scenes of beauty and grandeur, which we all admire, from their very ashes. Whether this principle is still at work it would be difficult, and perhaps impossible, to decide; but there cannot be a shadow of doubt that, from whatever cause, the lakes are rising perceptibly in the necessary conditions of public health.

(To be continued.)

"FIDELIO" in English will form a feature at both Opera Houses this winter. In this event we do hope a better translation will be found than at present published. Beethoven set German words; then a wretched Italian libretto was made; and from that a still more vague and indifferent English version. In the name of all that is fair and honest to Beethoven's fame, let us have English words that convey the sense that the master set. Let this be seen to.—Orchestra.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

A HINT TO MASONIC PROFESSIONALS.

Having had some Indian newspapers sent me, I was amused by the following, which I send you, to use or destroy at your discretion, thinking it may prove a valuable hint to some of our professional brethren.—Edw. C., P.M.

TOWN HALL, BOMBAY.

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 30TH, 1863.

GRAND COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT TO THE SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS BY THE MASONIC FRATERNITY OF BOMBAY.

The San Francisco Minstrels have much pleasure in laying before the public of Bombay the following correspondence:—

To the San Francisco Minstrels.

The Sons of Light having, by those means so well known to the Craft, discovered the Masonic radiance in the countenances of five of the Sons of Harmony, even through the darkness in which their countenances are wont to be enveloped, hail them as brethren of the mystic tie, and request that they will favour Bombay with at least one more musical treat before they migrate to other lands, and that, with the readiness to please, which has made them so eminently successful, they will give that entertainment in the Town Hall.

GEORGE TAYLOR, Prov. G.M. of Bombay.

G. S. JUDGE, D. Prov. G.M. of Bombay,
and W.M. to Lodge of Truth.

W. TREVOR ROPER, W.M. Lodge of St. George.

ALFRED KING, W.M. Lodge of Concord.

Bombay, April 16th.

To George Taylor, Esq., Prov. G.M. of Bombay.

„ G. S. Judge, D. Prov. G.M. of Bombay, and W.M. to Lodge of Truth.

„ W. Trevor Roper, W.M. Lodge St. George.

„ Alfred King, W.M. Lodge of Concord.

BRETHREN,—Yours of the 16th inst., requesting us to give an entertainment at the Town Hall before our departure from Bombay, has just been received, and in reply beg to thank you most sincerely for the kind interest you have shown us during our stay in this city, and also for this further proof of your brotherly regard. We have, therefore, great pleasure in naming Thursday evening, April 30th, for the proposed Concert.

We have the honour to remain,

Dear Sirs and Brethren,

Yours fraternally,

J. O. PIERCE,

DAVE CARSON,

T. P. BROWER,

L. F. PALIN,

of the San Francisco Minstrels.

Adelphi Hotel, 18th April, 1863.

MASONIC ANECDOTES.

(From the *Masonic Record of Western India*.)

SIGNOR CRUDELI, a Mason, was imprisoned at Florence, by the Inquisition, and suffered the most unmerited cruelties for maintaining the innocence of the association. When the Grand Lodge of England was informed of his miserable situation, they recollected that a foreigner, however low his rank, and however

distant his abode, had a claim upon their sympathy. They accordingly transmitted to him £20 for procuring immediate necessities, and by great exertions effected his liberation.

A SCOTTISH gentleman in the Prussian service was taken prisoner at the battle of Lutzen, and was conveyed to Prague along with 400 of his companions in arms. As soon as it was known that he was a Mason, he was released from confinement: he was invited to the table of the most distinguished citizens, and requested to consider himself as a Freemason and not a prisoner of war. About three months after the engagement, an exchange of prisoners took place, and the Scottish officer was presented by the fraternity with a purse of sixty ducats to defray the expenses of his journey.

At a meeting of the Leith and Canongate Lodge on the 5th March, 1829, a visitor who was the captain of a ship, stated that when sailing in the South American seas, he was boarded by pirates, whose numbers were so overpowering as to render all resistance unavailing. The captain and several of the crew were treated with rudeness, and were about to be placed in irons, while the plunder of the ship went on. In this situation, when supplication and entreaty were disregarded, the captain, as a *dernier resort* made the mystic sign "which none but Craftsmen ever know." The commander of the piratical crew immediately returned the sign, and gave orders to stop proceedings. He grasped his newly-discovered brother by the hand with all the familiarity of an old acquaintance, and swore he should sustain no injury. Mutual acts of kindness then passed between them; every article that had been seized was restored to its place, and the two ships parted company with three hearty cheers.

It is stated in the tenth volume of Alison's History of Europe, that a detachment of the French army was surprised by Platoff, who passed the Elbe at the head of the Cossacks, and took five hundred prisoners. In a footnote he mentions, on the authority of Sir Robert Wilson, that the French officer in command owed his life to the fortunate incident of giving the Freemasons' sign to an officer, who seized his hand just as a lance was about to pierce his breast.

THE same fortunate presence of mind, in making use of the Freemasons' sign, saved the life of a gallant officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Tyler, during the American war, who by giving one of the enemy's officers the Freemasons' grip when he lay on the ground with a bayonet at his breast, succeeded in interesting the generous American in his behalf, and saving his life.—B.

[We have heard, or read, most of the above before, but as Bro. "B." wishes us to insert them so as to give as wide a circulation as possible to the source from whence he takes them, we comply with his request.]

"THE SECRET JOURNAL OF FREEMASONS."

In Grand Master Harington's address, inserted in the last number of the MAGAZINE there is this passage:—"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 revolu-

tionary 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 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." This may be news to others beside myself, and I should very much like to know where, and by whom, how often, and at what price, the *Secret Journal of Freemasons* is issued. A copy of any number addressed to the care of the Editor, for me, would be thankfully received by—A JOURNALIST.

A FIVE POINTED CHARGE.

Stretch forth your hands to assist a brother, whenever it is in your power; be always ready to go any where to serve him; offer your warmest petition for his welfare; betray no confidence he reposes in you; and whisper good counsel whenever his best interests need it.—ANON.

DANGER TO FREEMASONRY IN NUMBERS.

Look around you. See the many crooked sticks and rough ashlar, already incorporated into our Temple; sticks, that have been so imperfectly and hastily prepared, that even the outer bark has not yet been wholly removed. Ashlars, upon whose surface we can scarce distinguish the trace of the tools of the workman, whose corners stick out so prominently that we are painfully reminded that they have never been adjusted by the working tools of the F.C.—the plumb of rectitude, the square of virtue, and the level of equality. See how they mar the beauty of our edifice. See how the cement is exhausted in filling up the chinks between these half finished moral blocks. And then notice the army that literally besieges the doors of our lodges. What a motley crew! All complexions, moral, mental, and physical, are among them, from the good man and true to the Sabbath breaker, adulterer, and blasphemer—from the capacious and finely cultivated intellect to the weak-minded and semi-idiotic—from the man of hale and entire limbs, as a man ought to be, to the lame, the halt, and even the blind. And with what constancy and vigour and persistency do they push against our door, in their anxiety for admission!

Truly there is danger that in opening our doors to admit one good man, a dozen bad ones may crowd in with him, and ere long our good name, and our very existence be endangered, if not utterly destroyed. There is danger that in the haste to increase our number we shall introduce material mentally unfit for

use, and thus weaken the security of the Order; or morally imperfect, and thus injure the respectability of the Order; or physically disqualified, and thus mar the utility of the Order.

There is danger that in the present high pressure manner in which so many are put through the degrees we shall by and by forget the good old-fashioned truism, that "Haste makes Waste;" that by slighting our work, and turning it out half done, we shall by and by forget how to finish it all. There is danger that by our continual encroaching upon the ancient usages and customs of the fraternity, we shall by and by lose sight entirely of the very landmarks which our fathers have set, and Masonry only live in history, instead of its wise and serious truths being impressed upon the minds of the fraternity, and thus transmitted through a succession of ages unimpaired.—△▽△.

THE SECRET OF THE ORDER OF FREEMASONS, AND
THE CEREMONIES OBSERVED AT THE RECEPTION
OF MEMBERS INTO IT.

First of all the person must be proposed in one of the lodges by a brother of the society, as a good subject; and, when the latter obtains his request, the recipiendary is conducted by the proposer, who becomes his godfather, into one of the chambers of the lodge where there is no light, and there they ask him whether he has a calling to be received; he answers Yes. After which they ask him his name, surname, and quality, take from him all metals and jewels which he may have about him, as buckles, buttons, rings, boxes, &c. His right knee is uncovered, he wears his left shoe as a slipper, then they blindfold him, and keep him in that condition about an hour, delivered up to his reflections. After this the godfather goes and knocks three times at the door of the reception room in which the venerable Grand Master of the lodge is, who answers by three knocks from within and orders the door to be opened; then the godfather says that a gentleman by name — presents himself in order to be received. (Note—That both on the outside and within this chamber several brothers stand with their swords drawn, in order to keep off profane people.) The Grand Master, who has about his neck a blue ribband cut in a triangle, says, *Ask him whether he has the calling?* The godfather puts him the question, and the recipiendary having answered in the affirmative, the Grand Master orders him to be brought in. Then they introduce him and make him take three turns in the room, round a sort of ring on the floor, in which, with a pencil, they draw upon two columns a sort of representation of the ruins of Solomon's Temple. On each side of that space they also make with the pencil a great *I* and a great *B*, which they don't explain till after the reception. In the middle there are three lighted wax candles, laid in a triangle upon which they throw gunpowder and rosin at the novice's arrival, in order to terrify him by the effect of these matters. The three turns having been made, the recipiendary is brought into the middle of the writing above-mentioned in three pauses, over against the Grand Master, who is at the upper end behind an arm chair, on which is the book of *St. John's Gospel*, and asks him *Do you feel the calling?* Upon his answering *Yes*, the Grand Master says, *Shew him the light, he has been long enough deprived of it.* In that instant they take the cloth from before his eyes, and all the

brothers, standing in a circle, draw their swords; they cause the recipiendary to advance in three pauses up to a stool which is at the foot of the arm chair. The brother orator addresses him in these terms, *You are going to embrace a respectable Order which is more serious than you imagine. There is nothing in it against the law, against religion, against the state, against the King, nor against manners. The venerable Grand Master will tell you the rest.* At the same time they make him kneel on the stool with his right knee which is bare, and hold the left foot in the air. Then the Grand Master says to him, *You promise never to trace, write, or reveal the secrets of the Freemasons, or Freemasonry, but to a brother in the lodge, and in the Grand Master's presence?* Then they uncover his breast to see if he is not a woman, and put a pair of compasses on his left pap, which he holds himself; he puts his right hand on the Gospel and pronounces his oath in these terms: *I consent that my tongue may be pulled out, my heart torn to pieces, my body burnt, and my ashes scattered, if, &c. (sic),* after which he kisses the book. Then the Grand Master makes him stand by him; they give him the *Freemasons'* apron, which is a white skin, a pair of men's gloves for himself, and a pair of women's gloves for the person of that sex for whom he has the most esteem. They also explain to him the *I* and *B* traced on the floor, which are the type of the sign by which the brothers know one another. The *I* signifies *Jahkin*, and the *B* *Boiaes*. In the signs which the *Freemasons* make among one another, they represent those two words, by putting the right hand to the left side of the chin, from whence they draw it back to the right side upon the same line; then they strike the skirt of their coat on the right side, and also stretch out their hands to each other, laying the right thumb upon the great joint of his comrade's first finger, which is accompanied by the word *Jahkin*; they strike their breasts with the right hand and take each other by the hand again, by reciprocally touching with the right thumb the first and great joint of the middle finger, which is accompanied by the word *Boiaes*. This ceremony being performed and explained, the recipiendary is called brother; after which they sit down, and, with the Grand Master's leave, drink the new brother's health. Every man has his bottle. When they have a mind to drink, they say, "Give some powder," viz., fill the glass. The Grand Master says, "Lay your hands to your firelocks;" then they drink ye brother's health, and the glass is carried at three different motions to the mouth; before they set it down upon the table, they lay it to the left pap, then to the right, and then forwards, and in three other pauses they lay the glass perpendicular upon the table, clap their hands three times, and cry three times *Vivat*. They observe to have three wax-candles disposed in a triangle upon the table. If they perceive or suspect that some suspicious person has introduced himself amongst them, they declare it by saying, "*It rains*," which signifies they must say nothing. As some people might have discovered the signs which denote the terms *Jahkin* and *Boiaes*, a *Freemason* may be known by taking him by the hand as above mentioned, and pronouncing *I*, to which the other answers *A*; the first says *H*, the second replies *K*; the first ends with *I*, and the other with *N*, which makes *Jahkin*. It is the same with regard to *Boiaes*.

INNOVATIONS OF AMERICAN FREEMASONRY.

We may judge of the innovations which have been introduced into Freemasonry in America, by the following extracts from an editorial in a Masonic journal. Let each member examine the membership of his lodge, and he will find that we are not far wrong. To please the majority, therefore, not only brings the most profit, but a degree of fame, ephemeral it is true, but answers every purpose for the time being. Ignorance of Masonic history and law, and the traditions of the Order is more wide spread than is generally supposed. * * A most intelligent Craftsman, who has time and again raised his voice in solemn and earnest warning against innovations of all kinds, writes to us as follows:—"If these continued encroachments upon Masonry be not checked, and determined resistance to every species of innovations be not resolutely persisted in, Ancient York Masonry may finally become anything but reputable. Your strictures on 'Sisters' Lodges, and Masonic Baptism' are not half severe enough. How any enlightened Mason can presume to mix up such contemptible mummery with Masonry, it is not possible to conceive. If Masons wish to flirt and trifle with the wives, daughters, or sisters of other brethren, let them choose some other place than the lodge room, in which to gratify such favourite propensities. The lodge is a sacred place, and Freemasonry was not instituted for the purpose of being converted into a cloak to screen iniquity." Right, brother, we must do our duty in endeavouring to prevent the destruction of the Temple of Freemasonry. Others may, for gain or popularity, raise the wanton hand or defile its portals, so that within its courts will no longer be heard the sweet tones of brotherly love, and the heart's aspirations to the Universal Father, but neither gain nor fame can cause neither you nor us to be untrue to our obligations, nor countenance the wrong. * * We are determined to do our duty regardless of consequences. We will not pander to the contracted views of any member of the fraternity, nor of any number of them. According to our obligations, and our sense of right and duty, we are determined to wage war against all innovations in the body of Masonry, against the introduction of all new tests and false teachings, all the new isms and rights, both male and female, against all sectarian or political sentiments, sought to be embodied in the work of Masonry.—Ex. Ex.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

LODGE No. 600.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—You have again published some charitable tables connected with Lodge No. 600. A brother, signing himself "Investigator," again denies their accuracy. I neither know the lodge or the brother, but I think it is a pity these tables should be printed if they are untrue, and I think it equally pitiable "Investigator" should attack them if they are true.

This is the second year similar tables have been inserted in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, and the charge against them re-iterated. It appears to me an

easy question to solve, Are they true or false? and I think it imperatively demands that a decision should be arrived at one way or the other.

The obvious plan would be for the Master, Wardens, and Auditors of Lodge No. 600, to state "We have examined the tables referred to, and pronounce them to be correct," or, on the other hand, to give a denial to them by some such form as "We have had no proofs given us that such sums of money are in existence or have been disbursed," and let them each sign whichever of these two statements is the correct one.

For the good of Freemasonry in general, and Lodge No. 600 in particular, something of this kind must be done, for the truth will be sure to prevail, and come out, sooner or later.

The subject is one, if divested of all Masonic relevance, that a jury would treat as an imposition if the tables are proved to be imaginary, or as a libel on the Treasurer and his lodge if the charge of falsity is proved worthless.

This matter no longer belongs to Lodge No. 600 and "Investigator," it is now a Craft scandal, and every brother is interested in demanding that a plain affirmative or negative of the truth of the tables should be given by the officers of Lodge No. 600, so that if they are, as it is to be hoped, found to be correct, "Investigator" must be compelled to apologize, under his own proper name, and as publicly as he has twice brought the charge; or, if they are the worthless things asserted, then the officers of Lodge No. 600 must as publicly disown them, and leave its Treasurer to meet the ridicule he has himself provoked.

Yours fraternally,

COMMON SENSE.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—When I noticed the publication of the tables of Lodge 600, I must confess I trembled for fear that we were on the eve of another paper war, which, if I recollect rightly, ended last year without giving us any information. I did hope we should never more see those tables, or, if so, that they would carry with them their own explanation. When they reappeared in your paper, I trusted they would be allowed to pass unnoticed; but, alas! your former correspondent, "Investigator" denounces them in unmistakeable terms, and makes them appear so spurious that we must, in common candour, ask this lodge either to defend their position, or keep their doings within their own circle in future. I do not care personally whether they are real or fictitious, or whether the Institutions are on solid earth or in the clouds; but I want us to have peace, and I must say a responsibility rests on this lodge for having provoked another breach of courtesy. It is no small matter to be branded as guilty of "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare," and to my mind, either this lodge or its assailant have a good deal to answer for. Let the Treasurer make his case clear, or keep his peculiar notions to himself, seeing that nobody else can understand him, and they are capable of such interpretations as make them appear devoid of truthfulness. Apologising for troubling you to insert this in the name of all that is good and useful in our Order.

I am truly yours,

PEACE.

COMMON ORIGIN OF FREEMASONS AND GIPSIES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your last impression I see nearly two columns of your truly valuable space devoted to a reprint from the notes of Dr. Daleho, appended to the second edition of his *Ahiman Rezon*, 1822, in which Freemasons and Gipsies are classed together. It would have been better had the writer acknowledged the source of his information, instead of leading your readers to suppose that he had searched the works of the different authors quoted by him. In all probability the "Note" in the *FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE* was copied bodily from a work entitled "The Mysteries of Freemasonry," by John Fellowes, A.M., a Holywell-street publication, which I remember to have seen some years since, and which, if I remember right, touches upon this point amidst a mass of other rubbish connected with profitless speculations upon the origin of our fraternity.

I have been very much struck with the great value of your columns of "Masonic Notes and Queries," and am surprised that more use is not made of them, as the means of bringing the antiquities and curiosities of the Craft before the notice of the younger brethren. With this view I have ventured to transmit you a copy of a paper [this paper, entitled "The Secret of the Order of Freemasons, &c.," will be found under the head of "Notes and Queries"] which appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1738. I do not know whether or not it took a place in the "Masonic Antiquities" which you published in the *FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE* some time ago, but I am sure that, if it has not already appeared, you will find it quite as great a curiosity as Richards' "Dissector." The early volumes of the *Gentleman's Magazine* are becoming every year more rare, and I do not think that the paper in question has been reprinted, unless in your columns. I enclose my card, and am—

Yours fraternally,
A. W.

Derby, Sept. 7, 1864.

THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND AND CANADA.

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

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers inform me what were the differences between our Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Canada, which appear to have been so hard to reconcile, although now happily accomplished? Why are there are any lodges in Canada still hailing under our Grand Lodge, and are there still any Provincial Grand Masters and a Provincial Grand Lodge in that province? Surely a divided Masonic jurisdiction is not desirable.

Yours, &c.,
MASONICUS.

It is said that negotiations are already in progress between the directors of the Crystal Palace Company and the committee of the Sacred Harmonic Society for holding another great Triennial Handel Festival in the summer of 1865. Several important improvements and modifications of the arrangements are in contemplation which are likely to result in still further extending the *prestige* and influence of these great musical gatherings.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

GRAND LODGE.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

The quarterly communication was held on Wednesday last, Bro. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M., of Essex as G.M.; Bro. Dundas, P.G.W. as D.G.M.; Bro. Col. Brownrigg, P.G.W. as S.G.W.; Bro. Havers, P.G.W. as J.G.W.; Bros. the Revs. A. F. A. Woodford and J. Huyshe, G. Chaps.; Bro. McIntyre, G. Reg.; Bro. Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; Bro. Clarke, G. Sec.; Bros. Stebbing and Plucknett, S.G.D.'s; Bro. Maunsdley, J.G.D.; Bro. Wood, G. Dir. of Cers.; Bro. Fenn, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Bro. Young, G.S.B.; Bro. Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Bros. Dickie and Emmens, G. Pursts. There were also present:—Bros. the Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, P.G. Chap.; Bros. Udall, S. B. Wilson, Hopwood, Gregory, Scott, Creaton, Head, Hervey, and Phillips, P.G.S.B.'s; Bros. Empson, and Nutt, P.G. Dir. of Cers.; Bros. Bridges and Patten, P.G.S.B.'s; Bros. Smith and Adams, P.G. Pursts.; and various other brethren, the Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of different lodges.

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

The G. SECRETARY announced that he had received a communication from the Grand Master, stating his inability to attend in consequence of illness in his family.

The G. SECRETARY then read the minutes of the quarterly communication of the last of June.

On the question being put that the minutes be confirmed,

Bro. J. GEORGE, W.M. 780, said, before the motion was put, he should move an amendment that so much of the minutes as related to the report of the committee on the new buildings be not confirmed. He wished to have the opinion of Grand Lodge as to the powers that were delegated to the Building Committee; and if they passed this motion, the Grand Lodge would have lost all power over any arrangements that were made. He thought, at any rate, that the Grand Lodge ought to know whether the committee had made the most advantageous terms, and to know what those terms were before the minutes were confirmed. The Building Committee had left Grand Lodge in total ignorance as to what they were about to do, and the members of it made no sign. He should like to know from the members of the Building Committee what measures they had taken to select a proper person to be their tenant. The chairman of that committee (Bro. Havers) had said at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, that all things being equal in any offer that was made, that the old tenants ought to have the preference, but he should like to know if any other persons had been consulted as to the leasing of the building besides the present tenants; for if they had not, then it showed that the Building Committee had come to a foregone conclusion in their favour. He wanted to know upon what terms the building was to be leased, but he had heard and he believed it was tolerably well understood that a premium of £5,000 was to be given for the lease. He wanted to know in what way the committee had arrived at the conclusion that £5,000 was the proper sum to be given for the lease of their buildings, after the large sums of money that the Craft would spend upon them. Therefore, he repeated he wanted to know how the committee had arrived at it that £5,000 was the proper sum to be given for the lease. He came next to another point, which was whether they were going to place their property in the hands of a joint-stock company, who promised large dividends; but he had heard of dividends being paid out of capital. But he wished to ask the committee whether they

considered a joint-stock company were the best people to be selected to rule a Masonic lodge, and whether they would allow other persons than Freemasons to become shareholders. Bro. George having made some observations which were very indistinctly heard, said his object in making these observations was to elicit from the Building Committee an answer which might be satisfactory to the members of Grand Lodge. He concluded by moving "That the portion of the minutes of the last quarterly communication relating to the Building Committee, be not confirmed."

Some time elapsed, but at length Bro. HARRIS (No. 185), seconded the amendment.

Bro. HAYERS, P.J.G.W., and chairman of the Building Committee, said it seemed to him that Bro. George, in his excited and somewhat discursive speech, had forgotten to ask the questions of which he had given notice. Still, he submitted that as Bro. George had given notice of certain questions, he desired that the fullest answer should be given to them; and therefore he asked Grand Lodge to waive any privilege it might have, and allow not only those questions but any others to be answered by those who represented them; and, if they had fairly carried out the work entrusted to them, to approve them. Bro. George was a young Mason, and had that night said things which he would wish unsaid on the morrow; but he (Bro. Hayers) would answer all the questions of which he had given notice categorically, and would then take the first:—"Have the Building Committee granted a lease to the present tenant?" If he was to give a plain answer he should say, No; they had not granted a lease. They had not the power to grant a lease, unless Grand Lodge should strengthen their hands that night; and although they had agreed to a lease it was subject, to the confirmation of Grand Lodge. With regard to the second question, "Have they given him permission to convert that lease into a marketable commodity by conveying it to a joint-stock company?" Now, if I was to answer emphatically "No," that would not be the whole truth, for in their conferences with Bro. Shrewsbury he had stated that he could find parties to back him with large sums of money, and to carry on the business as a joint-stock company, upon which they told him that if he could produce persons of the most undoubted respectability as the members of it, and they shall prove their capacity to satisfactorily carry on the business, that they would accept them as tenants. Then as to the third question, "And are other than Masons allowed to become shareholders." His answer to that was, that was a matter with which they had nothing to do, although he should be glad if none but Masons were the shareholders. He should be most happy if every member would take but one share, it would be but the risk of £10, and trust to what they would get for it, but there was no power to dictate to the persons who were to form the company whether they were Masons or not. He must, however, remind them that it was only last year they paid the last tontine dividend to those who built the hall in which they were then assembled. The last dividend was paid to two old ladies, who were of course not Masons, and that hall therefore, built a hundred years ago, was built with the money of the public. He should be very glad if the Masons would take the matter in hand, as he had stated in the letter he wrote a few days ago, and which he was prepared to justify; but, if they as Masons, were applied to at the wrong time of the year, when their lodges did not meet, they could not complain that other persons should come forward and readily pay their deposits on shares amounting to £42,000, but on the contrary they ought to be very glad of it. He hoped still that they should have a large number of Masons as share-

holders, and they could legitimately recommend it to their brethren. They would not be required to lay out a large sum of money in bricks and mortar, and they had a handsome and lucrative business ready made to their hands. It was a capital undertaking, and were he (Bro. Hayers) not their representative on the committee, he would most assuredly be a shareholder. Bro. Shrewsbury was a very able man, and there were few men who had capital enough to carry on a thing so well, but Bro. Shrewsbury told them that he would get them a company formed of men of the greatest respectability, and able to carry on the business in the most satisfactory manner, and he (Bro. Hayers) would then tell them the terms. The present rental was £800 per annum, and one guinea every time the hall was occupied, making in addition from £100 to £120 per annum. The company would commence by a payment of £1,200 a year for the first, second, and third years, £1,300 for the fourth year, £1,500 for the sixth and seventh years, and increasing £50 per annum, until it reached £1,800 a-year, at which sum it would remain. His (Bro. Hayers) impression was that more equitable terms could not be made, leaving a fair margin for profit for the company and he thought their committee had done well to get such terms. Already deposits had been received on shares for £42,000, and he believed that Grand Lodge would say that the committee had really done them good service. He hoped that Bro. George would not be blamed for raising this question, as he was most undoubtedly entitled to a plain and categorical answer. He had asked them how they had arrived at the conclusion that £5,000 was a fair premium for the lease of their buildings. Now the committee did not trust to their own judgment, but they placed the matter in the hands of two trustworthy Masons, Bros. Pullen and Horsey, for their professional opinion, and they, like good Masons, undertook this duty without charge; and he was glad to say that there was not a difference of more than £200 between their own valuers and those of the tenants, and under those circumstances the committee considered that they should allow this difference to go to the advantage of the tenant, and give him a chance of getting a living. The interest of the committee was to maintain the interests of their tenants, so that they should do their work well. His (Bro. Hayers) impression was that the company would raise more money than they wanted, and that they would not want more than £30,000. They had already got £12,000 more than they wanted, and that was a very ample margin for them to work upon. He begged the Craft to understand that the whole of those and the adjoining buildings would remain theirs. They would have the right of access at all times to the Grand Hall, which would be their own private property; they would have their lodge rooms, library, and other apartments, and all they would lease was the tavern, to which also they would have access, and for which they would receive a rent of £1,800 per annum, besides a premium of £5,000 for the lease. They had no right to ask the company why they raised more capital than they wanted, as that was a matter for themselves. As to the question whether none but Masons should be allowed to become shareholders, he said that 3,000 letters were sent to the lodges besides 1,700 private letters, inviting persons to take shares; but nothing was done, and were the committee then to say to the committee, to whom, after the most careful deliberation, you entrusted powers to arrange a lease, and which they had arranged on the most liberal terms, that Grand Lodge would then repudiate what they had done three months ago? Were they to do so, what members of the commercial community would ever negotiate with them again? They would refuse to deal with them at all. He asked every man who wished to see the prosperity of the tavern—he asked every individual member of the Craft

to take one share, as it would be but £10, they had made a good bargain, and he hoped the committee would be supported in what they had done. (Cheers.)

Bro. JESSE TURNER, of No. 30, said, with great humility, he wished to make a few remarks on the reply of Bro. Havers, and he would endeavour to follow him categorically on the different questions as briefly as he could. In reference to the notice placed on the paper as to whether the Building Committee had granted a lease to the present tenant, Bro. Havers said they had not done so, but it appeared to be all but a *fait accompli*, and was already arranged. The next question asked, was whether they had given him permission to convert the lease into marketable commodity by conveying it to a joint-stock company, and he submitted once for all that at the last Grand Lodge, when powers were given to the committee to arrange as to their future tenant, it was never thought or intended to turn the matter into a joint-stock speculation. Were they then to have their hands tied behind them, as he conceived that powers were never given to the committee to be used for purposes of this character. It was no part of their duty to join any company without coming to Grand Lodge, and as to 3,000 notices being sent to the lodges, he was not aware of anything of the sort, and the first intimation he had of it was by seeing an advertisement in the *Times* newspaper. Bro. Havers had said he should be glad if every member who took shares was a Mason, but he said that those outside the Grand Lodge did not like the speculation, and said it was a job; for they had never given the committee power to turn their property over to a joint-stock company.

Bro. WARREN said that various points arose out of this question, which went far beyond whether the committee should let the lease of the property to a joint-stock company or to an individual. The question had been discussed in lodges and by large bodies of Masons for years past, and the general opinion seemed to be that the tavern, as it was proposed to enlarge it, could not properly be carried out, except through the agency of a joint-stock company. Bro. George said he would confine the shares to Masons, and he (Bro. Warren) wished that he could, but with ten or twelve years' experience of the Craft, during which he had circulated tens of thousands of letters amongst them, and knew how they replied, he did not believe that it could be done. The new Tavern Company had sent out 3,000 circulars inviting Masons to take shares, but the replies were a per centage of 1 in 150. They had advertised in the *Times*, *Telegraph*, *Standard*, *Star*, and other papers, and there were 180 inquiries from Masons as the total result. To between 1,700 and 1,800 private letters there were but 40 replies, and as not one-tenth of the required capital had been applied for by Masons, it showed that there was little chance of carrying the plan out with success if they relied upon the Masons only. Some time hence the shares of this company might find their way into the hands of Masons through the market, but they would not take them in the first instance. He hoped they would not tie the hands of the committee, but leave them to do the best they could for the interest of the Craft. They would have a good start with their property, and in a reasonable time they would get a fair return for their money. He was not an auctioneer; he was not a valuer; but he had consulted many who were connected with taverns, and they assured him that £1,800 was a good sum for rent, independently of the £5,000 premium, and it appeared they were now to get both. (Cheers.)

Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS, as a member of the committee, said they had endeavoured to get the best terms they could for their property, and they had really nothing to do with the joint-

stock company. Not one of the committee had taken a share in it, and for the very reason that no charge should be brought against them that they were interested in it. Now, a joint-stock company if properly carried on, might be a very paying concern, and at the same time prove a benefit to themselves. He thought the committee could not do better for them than to accept a fair rent with such covenants in the lease as would enable them to enforce the business being carried on in such a way as to be satisfactory and for the benefit of the Craft.

Bro. ABRAHAM, of the Joppa Lodge, approved of the formation of a company composed of gentlemen with plenty of capital; and, as the brethren had not taken shares when they had the opportunity of doing so, he thought they would do well to give the outer world some benefit as well as themselves, for he had no doubt that many of these gentlemen of the Stock Exchange would be initiated, passed, and raised, and become members of the Craft. It would be advantageous to have men of large capital, and as the committee had taken the advice of some of the first auctioneers in the country, if they had taken too little, they had done their best for the Craft. He hoped the motion for the confirmation of the minutes would be unanimously carried, and thus strengthen for the future the hands of the committee.

Bro. Col. A. LOWRY COLE, S.G.W., was glad to hear that explanation from Bro. Havers, as there was a strong feeling upon the subject amongst the members of the Craft. He should like to hear from Bro. Havers information upon another point, whether the lease could be transferred from the company, for if it was to become a commercial commodity and bought and sold that would be most objectionable.

Bro. HAYERS, P.J.G.W., said he had great pleasure in answering that question. Amongst other very stringent covenants, one most important one was that on no account should the lease be transferred without the consent of Grand Lodge.

Bro. GREGORY, P.J.G.D., supported the decision which was come to at the last quarterly communication. He was sure that there was one word which had dropped from Bro. Turner which he would be most anxious to withdraw. In their meetings they ought to avoid recriminations, and he felt sure that the brother who used the word "job" would be very glad to withdraw it.

Bro. HORWOOD, P.J.G.D., said he considered the discussion which had taken place was, to his mind, very profitable, for he was astounded when he heard that their property was about being consigned to a joint-stock company. With the explanation of Bro. Havers, that a large portion of the property would still remain in their own hands and for their own personal convenience, it satisfied him, and he should vote for a confirmation of the minutes.

Bro. STEBBING, S.G.D., was sorry to hear the observation which had fallen from a brother that a job had been perpetrated, which implied that some advantage had been come to for the purpose of benefitting a third person. Now, he challenged inquiry, or let the observation be withdrawn. He had devoted an immense deal of time to this matter, and had come up to London at least twenty times on the business, and anything he had done was to protect the interest of Grand Lodge, and they had consulted other persons, rather than being influenced by their own judgment as to the proper price that should be given for their property. It was, therefore, very disagreeable to be met with an insinuation of that kind. If there was anything in it let them have it out. If there was an unguarded one let them be frank and generous, and withdraw it. If there was anything in it let them have a full inquiry. They must let the property go out of the hands of the Grand Lodge, for they could not be tavern keepers themselves, and a body of gentle-

men were better proprietors for management of it than a single individual, however talented he might be. Bro. Shrewsbury had told them that if they compelled him to manage their tavern that they must re-consider the amount of their premium, but if they agreed to accept the company proposed they would give them all they asked. As he had said, if there was anything in the objection, let it be investigated, but he believed they had got the most money they could obtain for their property, and under the most favourable circumstances, with covenants so that it should be managed with care, and if there should be any disposition to go either to the right or the left, Grand Lodge would have the power to step in, and he felt assured they would never regret the arrangement they had made or doubt that the interests of their property would be fully sustained.

Bro. HAYERS said he did not think that the brother who made the observation attributed anything like a job to the committee.

Bro. JESSE TURNER said it was considered outside that a job had been perpetrated, but he did not attribute that to the committee.

Bro. HAYERS.—Then who are the jobbers?

No answer was given.

The ACTING GRAND MASTER said he rejoiced at the discussion which had taken place, as it had placed the integrity of the committee beyond suspicion, and everyone must be satisfied with it. He trusted that the brother who moved the amendment would withdraw it, and let the business go on without further interruption.

Bro. GEORGE was about to reply, when

The G. REGISTRAR said, as Bro. George was the mover of an amendment, he was not entitled to a reply.

Bro. HARRIS said, after the very satisfactory explanation of Bro. Havers, he should withdraw his seconding of the amendment.

The G. MASTER: Then the amendment falls to the ground.

The G. REGISTRAR suggested that the motion ought to be put.

The G. MASTER then put the amendment, for which one hand was held up, and afterwards the original motion for the confirmation of the minutes, which was unanimously agreed to.

THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter was presented.

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The report was taken as read, and on the motion of the Board, it was received and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The PRESIDENT then moved that as 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 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.

703 Carnarvon Lodge, Hampton Court.

724 Derby Lodge, Bootle.

877 Royal Alfred Lodge, Jersey.

The motion was seconded by Bro. SCOTT, P.S.G.D., and unanimously agreed to.

THE COLONIAL BOARD.

On the motion of Bro. HOPWOOD, P.J.G.D., President of the Board, the report was taken as read. It was then moved that it be received and entered on the minutes, when

Bro. BRACKSTONE BAKER asked whether some further communications had not been received from Canada which might render that portion of the report referring to the Grand Lodge of Canada nugatory.

Bro. HOPWOOD replied that he was most happy to say that further communications had been received in reference to the question upon which differences had for some time existed between the Colonial Board and the Grand Lodge of Canada, with regard to the recognition of the St. George's Lodge of Montreal. He then read communications from Bro. Thos. D. Harington, Grand Master of Canada, in which he stated that the remaining differences were at an end; that Lodge, No. 643, was fully recognised by the Grand Lodge of Canada; that all misunderstandings between the two lodges were at an end, and that he should leave office with a clean bill of health. The communication from Bro. Stevens, representative of the Grand Lodge of England, at the Grand Lodge of Canada, announced the recognition of Lodge No. 643, and forwarded a certified copy of the decision upon it. He was happy to say that all misunderstandings between the two Orders were at an end. He said he felt it incumbent on him to make some observations as President of the Colonial Board relating to the exclusion of the St. George's Lodge, which was entitled to all the privileges of a lodge holding authority under the Grand Lodge, and the result of the differences produced the report which had been made by the Colonial Board. He regretted that the communications he had received had not arrived sooner, as it would save them the necessity of making the report, their desire being that a good feeling should always exist between the two bodies. He believed to Bro. Brackstone Baker was due this happy communication, and that it was to his personal exertions that it had been brought about.

Bro. WARREN said this report ought not to be entered on the minutes, and there was no necessity for doing so, it having been presented. It was scarcely fair on the part of Bro. Hopwood to state that he believed it was through the exertions of Bro. Brackstone Baker that this desirable result had been brought about. It was positively known that it was through the exertions of Bro. Baker that the dispute had been adjusted, for the Grand Master of Canada had publicly stated it in his annual address to his Grand Lodge, which had been published; but in the absence of Bro. Baker in Canada, who had used his influence to bring this adjustment about, he had been removed from the Colonial Board; and on his return to England he found that was he no longer a member of the Board, through the act of Grand Lodge in his absence. It was too much the habit of the various Boards to nominate their own successors. The Board of General Purposes did so, the Board of Masters did so, and the Colonial Board must follow their example; so that with arranged lists the independent members of Grand Lodge had in reality no power. The result was, when Bro. Baker came home, and could have told his colleagues what he had done, he found he was no longer a member of the Board, having been removed in his absence; and hence this report, which, coming after all differences were adjusted, was of no more use than waste paper, and ought not to be entered on their minutes. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. HOPWOOD said there was no desire on the part of the Colonial Board to make this report, but had they neglected to

have done so they would not have done their duty. He believed that it was in consequence of Bro. Brackstone Baker's sojourn in Canada that he was not elected on to the Colonial Board, and it was to him (Bro. Hopwood) a matter of personal regret, for from his great ability he knew that he was extremely useful. He should have been most happy to have told the Grand Lodge that all ill feeling had subsided, and that this long-vexed question which had existed had been brought to a conclusion, for which they were indebted to Bro. Baker, but it could not have been done earlier.

Bro. SINGER, No. 21, moved "That the Report of the Colonial Board be referred back to the Board in consequence of additional important documents for further consideration."

A long discussion here ensued as to the proper form of proceeding, and whether they ought or ought not to receive the report, but eventually it was put and carried that the report be received.

Bro. SINGER, having withdrawn the previous amendment, now moved the following:—"That so much of the report of the Colonial Board as refers to the matters of the St. George's Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Canada be referred back to the Colonial Board in consequence of the receipt of additional important documents."

The motion having been seconded,

Bro. BRACKSTONE BAKER said he took advantage of being in Quebec, without having spoken to a single friend, to see the Grand Master of Canada, who approached him in the most frank and generous manner, as to the differences which existed between the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Canada in respect of the St. George's Lodge, which was regularly constituted under the Grand Lodge of England. At that time a reconciliation was hopeless, but in a few days afterwards it was brought about. Having thus done good suit and service, on his return to England he was annoyed and mortified to find that he was no longer a member of the Colonial Board.

Bro. HAYERS rose to order. The observations of Bro. Brackstone Baker had nothing to do with the question before them, and, as it was getting late, they had better proceed to business.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The following paragraph of the report was then taken into consideration:—

"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, page 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.

Bro. HOPWOOD urged the annoyance that was often felt when four members of the Colonial Board were assembled, and were unable to proceed with business in consequence of five being required to form a quorum. He moved that the number required to constitute a quorum be reduced to three.

Bro. ADLARD seconded the motion, which was put and agreed to.

APPEAL FROM SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

A long correspondence was read by the Grand Secretary, on the subject of an appeal by Bro. Moss Israel, of the Zetland

Lodge of Australia (No. 655), Sydney, New South Wales, against his suspension by the Provincial Grand Master.

The G. REGISTRAR said in this case the Provincial Grand Master, instead of fining or admonishing Bro. Moss Israel, had suspended him from his Masonic functions for two years, which was a power not given to him by the "Book of Constitutions," and therefore he advised Grand Lodge to allow Bro. Moss Israel's appeal, and reverse the decision of the Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master had only power to suspend a member until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge. He moved that the appeal of Bro. Moss Israel be allowed, and the decision of the Provincial Grand Master reversed.

The motion was put and referred to.

APPEAL FROM NEW BRUNSWICK.

The next business was the 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.

In this case it appeared the Albion Lodge refused to admit Bro. Spinney as a visitor to the Albion Lodge, on the ground of immorality of conduct on his part, but the reason was not expressed to him. Bro. Spinney wrote to his own lodge complaining of his not being admitted, but took no further steps in the matter. The lodge, however, took up the subject on his account, which led to the present appeal, it appearing that the Provincial Grand Master confirmed the course which had been pursued by the members of the Albion Lodge.

The G. REGISTRAR advised the Grand Lodge to uphold the decision of the Provincial Grand Master. The brother who had been refused admission to the lodge did not complain, and only wrote to his own lodge. The lodge itself had no reason of complaint, and consequently no *locus standi*. If the Albion Lodge believed the applicant was a person of bad character, they were justified in refusing him admission. He moved that the appeal be dismissed.

The motion was put, and unanimously agreed to.

There being no further business, the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form and with solemn prayer, shortly before eleven o'clock.

[Although it was not mentioned in the discussion which ensued, it was generally understood throughout Grand Lodge that a limited number of shares, not exceeding, we believe, 1,000, had been reserved for the special applications of the Masonic body, so that as soon as the final approval of the arrangements has been given by Grand Lodge the brethren, might obtain an interest in this excellent undertaking, which has already been followed extensively; echoing, in fact, the expressed hope of Bro. Havers that a large number of the brethren would associate in the share list, if only to the extent of five shares each. The applications are to be made to the Directors, care of Messrs. Elkington and Co., Freemasons' Tavern.]

METROPOLITAN.

YARBOROUGH LODGE (No. 554).—This very flourishing lodge held its regular monthly meeting on the 1st inst., at Bro. Walters, Green Dragon, Stepney. The members were summoned at 5.30, at which hour Bro. J. R. Carr, W.M., proceeded to open the lodge, assisted by Bros. Kindred, P.M.; Hampton, P.M.; Vasey, P.M., Sec.; Hudson, S.W.; Clarke, J.W.; Moseley, S.D.; Stevens, J.D.; and J. Green, *pro*. Bro. Preece, I.G. The lodge was opened in the first and second degrees,

and Bro. J. B. Scott having answered the questions in a most satisfactory manner retired, when the lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bro. Scott was raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the ceremony being performed by Bro. Kindred in a most impressive and efficient manner. The lodge was then resumed to the first degree. The minutes were read by the Secretary and confirmed, and the ballot taken for Mr. Manuel Garcia Martinez, C.E., who was unanimously elected, and was initiated into the Order by the W.M., the ceremony being performed with great feeling and exactitude. Bro. Cousins then answered the usual questions entitling him to be passed to the second degree, and withdrew. The lodge was re-opened, and the brother passed to the degree of F.C. All business being ended, the lodge was closed at half-past eight. The brethren then partook of refreshments, and after the usual toasts, the health of the visiting brethren was proposed by the W.M., and responded to by Bros. Thompson, P. Prov. S.G.W. for Yorkshire; Boron, 993; Pozner, 25; and Stevenson, 840, in most appropriate speeches, each brother expressing his delight at the excellent working of the ceremonies, and the highly Masonic feeling exhibited by every member of the lodge. Some excellent songs were sung by Bros. Thompson, Scott, Stevens, Stride, Stevenson, Gray, and Kindred, and the masterly manner in which Bros. Stevens sang "The Slave Ship," Scott, the "Maid of Athens," and Stevenson "Auld Lang Syne," called forth bursts of applause; also Bro. Stevens's recitation from Tom Hood, highly amused the brethren. The Tyler's toast being given, the brethren separated at eleven, after spending a most delightful evening.

PROVINCIAL.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge of Instruction*.—The brethren of this lodge met, on Tuesday, August 30th, for the purpose of presenting Bro. Whitechurch, P.M., with a testimonial as an appreciation of the services he has rendered as M.C. The presentation took place at the King's Head Hotel, and a large number of brethren assembled to take a farewell of Bro. Whitechurch, who is about to leave this town for Southampton. Bro. B. B. Evans was unanimously voted to the chair, and in a neat speech presented Bro. Whitechurch with a handsome P.M.'s jewel and a massive silver teapot. Bro. Whitechurch feelingly responded, and after several other toasts, and a very pleasant evening, the brethren separated.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

SOUTHWARK LODGE (No. 11, S.C.)—This flourishing and prosperous lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, September 5th, at Bro. C. A. Cathie's, Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark. The lodge was opened by Bro. C. N. Levy, P.R.W.M. (in the unavoidable absence of Bro. H. A. Collington, R.W.M.), who was assisted by Bros. A. D. Loewenstark, D.R.W.M.; C. H. Murr, S.W.; W. Y. Laing, J.W.; F. Walters, Sec.; E. Harris, R. of M.; F. J. Lilley, S.D.; G. Morris, J.D.; A. Avery; G. J. Love, C. A. Cathie, J. Avery, J. L. Vallentin, E. Smith, T. E. Tout, R. Welsford, J. Hawker, G. E. Lane, and many others. The only visitor was Bro. T. Moore. Bro. H. A. Collington, R.W.M., then took the chair, and presided over the lodge for the remainder of the evening. Ballots were taken for the following brethren to be advanced into Mark Masonry, and to become members of this lodge, viz., for Bros. F. E. Ebsworth, 73, G. C. Fraser, 134, Clements and G. Beckett, 619, all of which were declared to be unanimous in favour of their admission. Bro. Julius Rosenstock, I.G., 871, being the only candidate who presented himself for advancement, the R.W.M. Bro. H. A. Collington, in his usual superior manner, advanced him to the ancient and honourable degree of a Mark Master Mason. This being the election night of officers for the ensuing year, a ballot was taken for R.W.M., when the votes were declared to be in favour of Bro. C. H. Murr, S.W., who, when the result was declared to him, in a fluent speech expressed his thanks for the honour conferred on him. A ballot was also taken for Treasurer, which proved in favour of the Treasurer, Bro. W. Y. Laing, he being now for the third time successively elected to that distinguished position. Bro. W.

Alldouse was unanimously re-elected Tyler. It was proposed, seconded, and carried, that a life membership of any of the Masonic Charities be presented to Bro. H. A. Collington, R.W.M., as a mark of respect and gratitude for the able and efficient manner he presided over the lodge during his year of office. All business being ended, the lodge was closed. The brethren then partook of a cold collation. The usual loyal toasts were given and received, and some excellent songs and recitations brought this pleasant reunion to a close.

IRELAND.

GRAND LODGE.

The *Dublin Evening Mail* says:—"We are requested to state that the observations made by the Marquis of Donegal, at the Masonic assembly recently held at Belfast, in reference to the late riots there, have attracted the attention and drawn down the animadversion of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, as being altogether at variance with the fundamental rule of the Order, which specially prohibits the discussion of any matter of a political or sectarian tendency at Masonic meetings. We trust this step will be followed by a grave caution against the introduction of reporters into such assemblies."—[We should rather think that the proceedings show the necessity of allowing reporters, always presuming that they are members of the Craft, being allowed to be present, in order to put a check on the violation of our rules. According to our Dublin contemporary it would appear that it don't matter how far our laws are transgressed if we can only keep the fact from the public. We cannot agree to any such proposition.—Ed. F. M.]

Obituary.

BRO. JOHN RATCLIFF, KNIGHT.

It is with great regret we have to accord the death of our esteemed Bro. Sir John Ratcliff, of Birmingham. Our deceased brother, though not a very active member of the Craft, had attained the eminence of P.M. in his mother lodge, the Faithful (No. 473), and was at the time of his death J.G.W. of England. Sir John was born at Birmingham in 1798, and commenced business at a very early age, in which he was eminently successful. He was elected a commissioner under the Local Act for the Government of the town, the powers of which were in force until 1851. In 1852, he was elected a member of the Birmingham Town Council, and was re-elected in the following November. He was subsequently elected to the honourable post of alderman of the borough of Birmingham, and in 1856, he was elected mayor. During the first year of his mayoralty, he induced his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, to visit Birmingham on June 1st, 1857, to assist in the inauguration of a piece of land, thirty acres in extent, presented by Lord Calthorpe, as a place of recreation for the inhabitants. Sir John was also instrumental in inducing the promoters of the National Association for Advancement of Social Science, to hold their first meeting in Birmingham. On that occasion, Lord John Russell and Lord Stanley, were the guests of Sir J. Ratcliff. His liberality in entertaining not only the distinguished visitors on these occasions, but providing liberal repasts for the working classes of the town and his poorer brethren, rendered him exceedingly popular; and at the end of his first year of office, he was unanimously re-elected mayor. On the 25th of January, 1858, on the occasion of the marriage of the Princess Royal, he gave a banquet to one thousand of the poor and aged of the town, and also *fêted* the municipal authorities in celebration of the event.

Another occurrence in the life of Sir J. Ratcliff of a very important character took place in this year. He took the initiatory steps in soliciting her Majesty to visit Birmingham and open the People's Park at Aston, which was performed in person on the 15th of June. On that occasion the honour of knighthood was conferred upon Sir J. Ratcliff, and her Majesty was graciously pleased to remark to him: "I am delighted with all the proceedings of the day. It is the finest reception I have ever received." In the evening of that day Sir John gave an elegant banquet to about 400 guests at the Town Hall, and the health of the newly made Knight was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm.

The subject of this short sketch was taken suddenly ill about

a month since at Scarborough, where he had gone for the benefit of his health. His complaint (diabetes) being aggravated by an attack of paralysis, he was ordered back to Birmingham, where he was attended by the first medical men; but he gradually sank, and his spirit departed to that Grand Lodge, eternal in the heavens, on Thursday last.

Sir John was a liberal supporter of the charitable institutions of the town of Birmingham, and his contributions to the various societies connected with the Wesleyan Church were dispensed with a liberal hand. As a business man he was very punctual, and his loss will be regretted by an immense number of persons.

The body of the deceased will be interred in the burial ground attached to the romantic village church of Edgbaston this day (Saturday). The funeral cortege will leave Sir John's residence Wydrington at an early hour.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

THE "WORLD OF MAGIC."

Bro. Anderson—whose reputation as the "Great Wizard of the North," was firmly established when the young men of the present generation had hardly learned the art of walking in the world of which they had become the infantine inhabitants—reappeared on Monday last in the metropolis, after an absence of seven years. During this interval, the Professor has visited Australia, California, and America; and, indeed, there can be few parts of the earth worthy of being placarded where his enormous "posters of the sea and land" have not announced his arrival, and scarcely a populated island in the wide ocean of the Pacific where he has not, according to the assurance conveyed in his programme, astonished the natives by the display of his dexterity. The St. James's Hall is now the scene of his exploits, and, vast as are its proportions, it fails to accommodate the enormous assemblage who nightly throng every portion of the building, in order to discover the new wonders he had brought back with him from the new world. The spacious hall has been elegantly fitted up for the occasion, and the raised stage, or, as it is designated by the philologist to the establishment, the "Psychomanteum" is elaborately decorated in a costly manner, and, with its back-ground of star-spangled crimson drapery, presents an exceedingly showy appearance. The Professor, who seems to have employed some branch of the conjuror's craft in effacing all traces of the influence of time and travel on the human frame, was warmly welcomed on his appearance, and a few minutes sufficed to prove that he had lost nothing of his old skill in baffling the eye by the quietness of his hand. Of course the Professor brings geese, and rabbits, and birdcages, and boxes, out of an ordinary-sized scrap-book; but he adds to his former exploits by extracting therefrom his daughter, who spiritedly sings a Scotch song immediately she is introduced as a living quotation from its pages. The "inexhaustible bottle" plays its part in the programme, under somewhat varied conditions; and the rapping-table and bell are again made the medium of references to "spiritualism," which the Professor denounces in most unmeasured terms. The only confederates employed are obviously chemistry, pneumatics, and electricity; and, with these under his subjection, the performer accomplishes some effective feats, intelligible enough to the scientific experimentalist, but sufficiently startling to the uninitiated spectator. In compliance with a request from the illusionist, four gentlemen advanced from the body of the hall to co-operate in a portion of the evening's entertainments; and, by thus shrewdly making the audience contribute to their own amusement, the exhibitor obtained a satisfactory guarantee of their acquiring an additional share of interest in all his undertakings. The "World of Magic" bids fair to become an important addition to the recreations of the metropolis, and no expense seems to have been spared in giving Bro. Anderson's new speculation every chance of success with a wonder-seeking public.

WE should see to it that we are continually climbing in this life. There is no going down. It is climbing or falling. Every upward step makes another needful; and so we must go on until we reach the summit of the aspirations of time.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and Royal Family still continue at Balmoral. The Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Cobourg and Gotha are on a visit to her Majesty. The Duke frequently amuses himself deer-stalking and in the other Highland sports. The Prince and Princess of Wales on Saturday afternoon embarked on board the *Osborne* for Copenhagen, on a visit to the King of Denmark. Telegrams from Fridensborg inform us that their Royal Highnesses arrived there at half-past four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. The Czaraewitch arrived in the town a short time before them. The reception their Royal Highnesses have up to the present time met with has been all that could be desired.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The Registrar General's weekly return shows a small increase in the rate of mortality, and a large increase over the average of the last ten years, even corrected for the advance in population. Nearly four-sevenths of those who died were under 20 years of age. The births, however, continue by a large per-centage to exceed the deaths.—The inquest on the fireman who was killed by the explosion of the locomotive on the North-London line on the 10th ult. was resumed on Thursday week. The only witness examined was Captain Tyler, the Government inspector, who read an elaborate and minute report of the explosion and its cause, which he had made to the Board of Trade. The substance of his report was that the copper stays supporting the fire-box had become weakened by long use and had ultimately given way. He stated that as these stays were covered, the gradual decay could only have been detected by taking the engine to pieces, or by subjecting it more frequently than appeared to have been done to hydraulic pressure. He added that the engineer on this line tested his engines more frequently than engineers were in the habit of doing, but still, as this case showed, not frequently enough. The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure, with an expression of opinion that the engine ought to have been more frequently tested than it was, considering its age.—The inquest on the woman Birch, who was found dead in her bedroom on Saturday night week, was held a few days since. The evidence went to show that the deceased was a woman of intemperate habits, and that she and her husband lived a miserable life. Marks of violence were on her person, but not sufficient to cause death. A post-mortem examination showed the rupture of an artery produced by violence; but the doctor thought it might have resulted from a fall as easily as from a blow, and the position of the body rather suggested the idea of an accidental fall. The husband is in custody on the charge of murder; but the jury at the inquest returned a verdict of manslaughter.—Lord Palmerston on Saturday assisted at the inauguration of a statue erected in Hereford in memory of the late Sir George Cornwall Lewis—a statesman who was highly respected even by those who most widely differed from him. An unusual throng assembled in the quiet cathedral town, which was decorated in the ordinary way. There was a procession, an address to the Premier, a reply in suitable language, and then the statue was uncovered, bands playing music and guns firing a salute. After a speech from the Reverend Archer Clive, Lord Palmerston pronounced a heartfelt eulogium upon his late and lamented colleague; and when the ceremony was concluded, the Premier lunched with the bishop, soon afterwards returning to town. On his departure he received a hearty farewell from those assembled at the station.—One of the magistrates at the Westminster Court has hit upon a punishment which may have some effect in restraining paupers

from breaking the windows of workhouses in order to ensure themselves lodging. On Saturday he committed a woman for a fortnight, saying that if he sent her for longer she would have good food, but for the two weeks she would have to live on bread and water. The bravado with which the prisoner received the sentence seems to show that she felt the punishment as the magistrate intended. Such persons as this woman are given to pretending stoicism when they are most grievously annoyed.—On Saturday morning a very serious fire broke out in Dean-street, Soho, and destroyed property to the amount of several thousand pounds. A police constable first discovered the conflagration, and having raised an alarm several engines were speedily on the spot, but were unable to do more than prevent the fire from spreading to the adjoining buildings, some of which were, however, injured. Another fire in Lime-street, City, on Sunday morning, caused some alarm and did very serious damage.—On Saturday the first case under the new act for the regulation of the City traffic came before the sitting magistrate at the Guildhall. A carman in the employment of a firm in Bishopsgate-street was charged with driving a cart laden with timber exceeding 25ft. in length through the City between the hours of nine a.m. and six p.m. The offence was proved, and a nominal fine, as it was the first case, was inflicted.—A few days since a mass of chalk fell suddenly and without warning upon some navvies that were making a cutting for a new line of railway between Deptford and Lewisham. Four of the men were buried under the mass, and it was some time before they could be extricated. When they were reached it was found that two were still living. The other two were dead.—The South London Foresters, who had their annual *fete* at the Crystal Palace on Tuesday, were favoured with better weather than their comrades of the general metropolitan district. The amusements were of the usual description, and the benevolent fund of the lodges was benefited to a considerable extent by the receipts at the doors.—A frightful wife murder is recorded by the Irish papers. A Mr. William Hudson, residing near Loughrea, in the West of Ireland, sitting quietly with his wife and daughter, suddenly seized a razor and cut his wife's throat, afterwards destroying himself in the same manner. His daughter was left unharmed. Mrs. Hudson was a member of a most respectable family, and she has left nine children to mourn her death at the hand of their father, who, it appears, had of late suffered from insanity. Strange that one so afflicted should have been allowed access to a razor!—It is very desirable that places of public amusement should be kept clear of disorderly characters, who inflict upon the peaceably disposed visitors not only annoyance but injury. Mr. Giovannelli, of Highbury Barn, has had occasion to charge before the magistrate at the Clerkenwell Police-court four young men, who created a disturbance on his premises on Saturday night, and all four were bound over to keep the peace—a penalty about which we need not complain, but one which will be evidently insufficient in case of a repetition of such silly conduct.—Franz Muller is captured! Such was the news that at once startled and satisfied London on Tuesday when the evening papers appeared. The iron grasp of the law is on him and—he protests his innocence. Protests his innocence the while, as the detective runs his fingers into the prisoner's waistcoat pocket, he there finds the murdered man's watch. Protests his innocence, and is all the time wearing Mr. Briggs's hat. Surely the chain is complete. Where is a link lacking? And yet the man may not be guilty; he may be able to prove an *alibi*; he may succeed in showing that he fairly bought the watch, and the hat, and the chain, and that bleeding at the nose stained the sleeve lining found at his lodgings. All this is pos-

sible; and we would not prejudice even such a case as this. But the law has hunted him down; innocent or guilty, it has its hand upon him; and when London learnt the news it gave a sigh of relief and of thankfulness that the law had vindicated its power. There remains but the extradition, the Old Bailey, and—if conviction be there made—the last scene of all, the grim doings in front of Newgate, with all low-life London to see, and stare, and go home to breakfast.—In a tavern at Bow on Tuesday night a man confessed to the landlord that he was Muller's accomplice in the murder of Mr. Briggs. At the Worship-street Police-court the fellow, who it appears was tipsy at the time of the confession, denied any further connection with the murder than helping to carry Mr. Briggs's body from the railway. There seems to be little doubt that the revelation was made as a bit of sensation bravado during drunkenness; but the magistrate seems to have found some reason for detaining the prisoner, who stands remanded for a week—by the end of which his imagination will probably have cooled down a little. We shall, likely enough, have some more of these sensation confessions from tipsy fools.—Another Muller was on Tuesday found guilty at the Middlesex Sessions of wounding with a knife a man who remonstrated at his brutal and indecent treatment of a child. At the Surrey Sessions two cases of indecent assault and one of indecent exposure occupied the deputy chairman's attention. They had also a stabbing case over the water; but stabbing cases are frequent enough now, and imprisonments of six or nine months will not stop them.—At the Guildhall, on Wednesday, Charles Davis and William Cooper were brought up on remand, charged with conspiracy to defraud. The system pursued by the prisoners was rather ingenious. They got not goods, but expensive samples; and when these were sent for again they alleged that a porter had called and taken them away. The prisoners' defence was plausible. They said they were only servants, doing their best for a master; and the reason why that master did not appear was that a sheriff's officer was looking for him with a writ. But if the evidence in the case is to be believed, the prisoners, by producing their master, would only drag him in, not exculpate themselves.—At the Middlesex Sessions, on Wednesday, the Great Eastern Railway Company prosecuted Thomas Whyman for unlawfully opening gates at a crossing, and allowing a horse to get on the line to the danger of passengers. It appeared that the prisoner, desiring to catch a horse in a certain field, left the gate open while he chased the animal, which ran along the line and nearly caused a very serious accident. The prisoner having been found guilty, the railway company was satisfied with his being held to bail to come up for judgment when called upon.—A man named John Barber was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and hard labour for an indecent assault on a child in a carriage of the City and Hammersmith Railway. For another indecent assault on a child in Gordon-square, George Jones was sent to eight months' hard labour. These sentences, it is to be hoped, will do something to deter ruffians from insulting women and children.—The Lord Mayor on Wednesday committed to Newgate, for trial, a man named Christopher, who had written threatening letters to Mr. T. D. Hopper, a City merchant, who was executor to the widow of a man formerly in Mr. Hopper's employment. The prisoner's alleged grievance was that Mr. Hopper had received a legacy rightly due to himself. The prisoner was arrested in the infirmary of a workhouse.—The resumed inquest on the bodies of Mrs. Buckingham and Mrs. Gribbins, found dead in a house at Mile-end on the 26th August, was concluded on Wednesday. No allusion to the man of weak intellect found in the house with the corpses is to be seen in the verdict, which simply records the fact of death

from poison.—The "Ladies Club" has turned up again. The Lambeth Police-court was the scene, Mr. Paget the magistrate. Mrs. Grey wanted to be restored to the benefits of the Star of the East Friendly Society, from which she was excluded, as alleged, by Mrs. Jones's scheming. But by the rules of the society the case was out of court, and Mrs. Grey's only remedy was pronounced to be arbitration, which she said was as much as giving her no remedy at all.—On Wednesday the annual show of the Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Society, was held at Knutsford, and was considered as a decided success on the whole. The exhibition was indirectly the cause of a rather alarming railway accident at the Altrincham Station. Some empty carriages were being shunted on to a special train bound for Knutsford, when they became accidentally detached from the engine, and rolling down an incline, came into collision with the train. The passengers were violently shaken, and some of them received injuries of a serious though not of a dangerous nature. One young lady had several of her teeth knocked out.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor Napoleon, who has returned to St. Cloud from the Chalons camp, has quite recovered from his indisposition, which is said to have been a sharp attack of rheumatism. The report of an intended interview between the Emperor and the King of Prussia, is again revived.—The *Moniteur*, in announcing the departure of the Empress Eugenie for Schwalbach, in Nassau, where she is going to drink the waters, states that the journey is to be made under the strictest *incognito*. The Empress is reported to be somewhat out of health.—The Queen of Spain has given a flattering reception to the envoy of the Emperor Maximilian, and expressed her desire that a good understanding should exist between Spain and Mexico.—According to a Copenhagen telegram, it is believed that the heir of the Russian Crown will soon be betrothed to the Princess Dagmar, sister of the Princess of Wales. It is also rumoured on the Continent that the King of Greece will espouse a Russian Princess.—The Danish Rigsraad was closed on Thursday, the 1st, by a short message being read from the King, in which he said he would convoke the Chambers for an extraordinary session, if necessary. The reports of the political and military committees had been adopted by the Folksthing on the previous day. The Grand Duke of Nicholas of Russia has arrived at Copenhagen. A Berlin journal, the *Kreuz Zeitung*, asserts that the Vienna Conference for a definitive treaty of peace between Denmark and the German Powers are not likely to be soon resumed, inasmuch as "there being nothing further to negotiate respecting the territorial question, the Danes display the greatest tenacity upon the financial question, and threaten to break off negotiations, and to give notice of the termination of the armistice, being of opinion that they cannot lose more than they have already lost." The *Kreuz Zeitung* coolly adds that if hostilities were resumed, the consequence would be that "Denmark would at least lose the already conquered Jutland."—The state of Geneva continues so alarming that the Federal Council has thought it necessary to send a third battalion from Berne to preserve order. Several more arrests had been made. M. James Fazy, one of the chiefs of the Liberal faction at Geneva, having been cited to appear before the juge d'instruction, left the city, which step he says, in a letter to the *Nation Suisse*, he took to avoid assassination. The city remained tranquil.

INDIA.—We have intelligence from Bombay to the 8th ult. There had been plentiful rain in every part of the peninsula, and the reports of the state of the crops from all quarters were most favourable. Owing to the heavy falls, some portions of the cotton would have to be re-sown, but in most places the cotton

fields presented a very promising appearance. The Viceroy is expected to leave Simla early next month for Lahore, and proceed to Calcutta about the beginning of November. Sir Charles Trevelyan's minute on the introduction of a gold currency has been published in the *Gazette*, and the introduction of the English sovereign into India as legal tender for ten rupees has been adopted by the Governor-General in Council. The Bhootanese have commenced quarrelling among themselves, and there is every prospect of a serious civil war between the respective chiefs and their partisans. From Afghanistan we learn that the Ameer and his rebellious brother have become friends, and that there is now some hope of a good understanding between them. The Khelat difficulty has also been adjusted by the election of the old ruler, Khodobod Khan, to fill the place of the late ruler, who was assassinated. The Bombay share market continued depressed, and there was an entire absence of speculation, though money was plentiful.

NEW ZEALAND.—New Zealand advices announce that on the 25th June the Maoris were attacked and defeated by the British troops. The aborigines lost 200 men, and among the killed was the chief who had commanded them in the engagement at the Gate pah.

AMERICA.—The *Persia* brought news from New York to the 24th ult. A fierce struggle was going on between Generals Grant and Lee for the Weldon Railroad. On the 19th the Federals took up a position on it, but were surprised and driven back with a loss of 3,000 killed and wounded. The Federals being strongly reinforced, advanced and regained the position, and though the Confederates made repeated efforts to dislodge them, they maintained an entrenched position at the Reams Station on the 24th. On the 21st an engagement took place between the Confederate General Early and General Sheridan, near Charleston. The latter was defeated and fell back to Halltown, the former proceeding to Martinsburgh, whither it was reported General Lee was advancing to join him with a large force, with the intention of invading Maryland. Further advices have been received by the *City of Baltimore* to 27th, by which we are told that General Grant's losses on the 19th and 21st ult. amounted to at least 5,000 men. The Confederate cruiser *Tallahassee* had burned twenty-two Federal fishing vessels off Prince Edward's Island on the 25th ult. The Confederates were said to have sunk a steamer in Mobile Bay in such a way as to "render all access to the city impossible" before her removal. Some Republican leaders had urged President Lincoln and General Fremont to withdraw themselves as candidates for the Presidency, in order that the Republicans might choose some other candidate who would receive the support of the entire party. General Fremont had intimated his willingness to consent if President Lincoln would follow his example.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. P.—The trowel is not considered one of the working tools in English Craft Masonry. It is, however, described as such in Scotch Masonry. The P.M. of your lodge is wrong in introducing it into the ceremony.

S. S.—We have no recollection of any such work.

K. T.—All in good time.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RIGHT.—Dr. Leeson of the Isle of Wight.

ERRATUM.—In Bro. Purton Cooper's communication which appeared in page 146 of the present volume of the *MAGAZINE*, 37th line, for "I saw him guillotined," read "they saw him guillotined."