

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1861.

MASTER MASONS: EDWARD STRONG, &c.

My father possessed, and was proud of possessing, a copy of Small's "Treatise on Ploughs," carrying on its title-page, in a rough, free, manly hand, these memorable words, "Robert Burns, Poet." The book is now mine, and by its side stands a companion volume, precious in my eyes, of "Poems, chiefly in the Scottish Dialect. By Robert Burns;" on the title page of which is written "Allan Cunningham, Mason, 6th April, 1804." My father was then in his twenty-first year. The writing is the handwriting of each. "Burns had an unmistakeable right so to describe himself," my father once observed to me, on my calling his attention to the contrast in the descriptions. "There is no apprenticeship to poetry. I was apprenticed to a mason—to my brother James—and I am sure I am a mason, ay, a master-mason, and a good one:—when I was last in Edinburgh I could trace the marks of my chisel on many a stone in Charlotte-square. Yes," he added, after a pause, and with an air of pride, "and the stones were well and truly wrought."*

Masons have been architects, and occasionally good ones (the York water-gate, on the Thames, has recently been taken from Inigo Jones, architect, and given to Nicholas Stone, mason); but there is no instance, I believe, of an architect *proper* having ever been a mason *proper*.

In the church of St. Peter, in the disfranchised borough of St. Alban's, is a large well-wrought monument of marble (and good marble, too) carrying beneath a life-sized bust of the deceased (sculptor unknown) this suggestive inscription:—

"Near to this stone are deposited the Remains of
EDWARD STRONG,

Citizen and Mason, of London,
whose masterly Abilities and Skill in his Profession the
many public structures he
was employed in raising will most justly
manifest to Posterity.

In erecting the edifice of St. PAUL's several years of his
life were spent, even from its
foundation to his laying the last stone.

And herein,

equally with its ingenious Architect,

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN,

and its truly pious Diocesan, BISHOP COMPTON, he shared
the felicity of seeing both the
beginning and finishing of that stupendous
Fabric.

In piety to his GOD, in justice, fidelity, kindness, and
charity to his neighbour;

In temperance, humility, contempt of the
world, and the due government of
all his appetites and passions;

In conjugal and paternal affection, in every relation,
every action,

and scene of life, He was what the best man,
the best Christian,

would desire to be at the hour of Death.

* The *Builder* has called attention to the Masons' Marks still existing upon stones squared centuries since.

He died the 8th of February, MDCCXXIII.,
In the 72nd year of his Age.

Near Him lieth

MARTHA,

49 years his most beloved Wife:

A Wife in all respects worthy of such an Husband.

She Died

Y^e 15th of June, 1725, aged 72 years.

Their only Daughter,

Elizabeth New, of Newbarns, Widow,

Died 26th October, 1747, aged 71 years."

The bust *seems* a fine one. I say *seems*; for, shame to say, the monument is now buried beneath a cumbrous west end gallery at a distance of some five-and-twenty feet from the spectator; so that the chin, mouth, and nostrils of Sir Christopher Wren's Master Mason at St. Paul's "from its foundation to his laying the last stone," are alone seen.

I had the pleasure of seeing (half-seeing, rather) this fine monument in company with a skilled Master Mason—an old Pimlico acquaintance of mine from boyhood—Mr. Samuel Cundy. Need I tell you how much we joined in a mutual regret that a monument in every way so interesting should be thus buried? A small sum, he said, would cover the cost of moving it to a better site in the church, and it would then be once more a monument to be seen and admired. Perhaps the *Builder*; for so good a purpose, would undertake to receive subscriptions from one and all towards so good an end. I will vouch for obtaining the consent of the worthy vicar, the Rev. H. N. Dudding; and to see that men of skill and care (I was almost born in Chantrey's marble-yard) remove it with reverence to a proper site. There are masons, I may here observe, busy in replacing the compo-covered Perpendicular tracery of the south-west windows of the church with well-wrought stone; so that skilled men are at hand to effect what is necessary. Nor do I doubt of seeing it soon and well done, with your all-influential assistance, Mr. *Builder*.

The fate of monuments erected to English architects has been a little unfortunate. The monument to Inigo Jones, in the church of St. Benet, Paul's Wharf, was destroyed in the Great Fire, and the tombstone of Nicholas Hawksmoor (Wren's celebrated pupil) is to be seen in the churchyard of Shenley, shamefully broken in the middle, and its inscription scarcely legible.

The sister art of Sculpture, whatever she may have done or overdone in aid of architecture, has done little for architects. Wren has a cheap "*circumspice*" in St. Paul's; Vanbrugh lies in the vaults of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, without a monument; Gibbs reposes not in his own fine church of St. Martin's, but in the little brickbuilt church of old Marylebone, with a stonecutter's slab to record the circumstance. Kent and Lord Burlington sleep together in Chiswick Church, each without a monument; Sir William Chambers has a blue leger in the south transept of West-

minster Abbey; and Sir Charles Barry a bastard brass in its nave. Painters and sculptors have fared better, though Sir Peter Lely's monumental bust, by Grinling Gibbons, perished in the fire that destroyed Covent Garden Church; Cooper, that prince of miniature-painters, has a monument in old St. Pancras; Sir Godfrey Kneller has a monument and bust in Westminster Abbey; Reynolds has a statue (by Flaxman) in St. Paul's; and Flaxman a statue (by Watson) in London University.

Another person of the name of Strong (Thomas Strong) was employed in rebuilding St. Paul's, under Wren. His prices deserve quotation, and may challenge comparison with the prices of to-day:—

"For plain Portland stone-work, of the pilasters and rustics, window-jambs, architraves, and bosks, sixteen-pence halfpenny per foot.

"For carving faces of impost capitals, £6 each; panels with flowers and enrichments, £3 5s. each; escalops in the heads of the outside niches, £3 10s.

"Two large compartments and festoons, each 12ft. in length, £45; seventy-five great flowers, in the soffits of the five windows at the west end, 15s. each; and sixty smaller, 5s. each.

"Pendant strings, 3ft. 9in. in length, and 1ft. in breadth, £5 each.

"Cherubim, 10s.; flowers in the architrave, 9s. each.

"Four festoons, over the two straight windows at the east end, £20 each.

"Six festoons, over the three circular windows at the east end, £20 each.

"Five cherubim, on the key-stones of the five east windows, at £13 each key-stone.

"Three shields, each 3ft. high and 4ft. wide, £7 each."

Is a Portland stone cherubim cheap at twenty shillings? I would ask a classic-church-architect, if such a rarity can be found in Gothic England at this day.

The dislike which *Radcliffe Library* Gibbs showed on all occasions to monuments in churches is curiously exhibited in his finely proportioned church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. The curious monuments in the patched-and-added-to little church he was required to replace, he either destroyed or banished to a Siberian cellar or Cimmerian gloom underneath his own noble new building. The monuments to the celebrated sculptors, who called Inigo friend, and rendered Idigo good masonic service—Nicholas Stone and his son—he destroyed or sold with a savage fidelity to the rules he laid down. As a proof of his rigid adherents to his rules, in the vaults of the present building may still be found (I cannot say seen) the monument (the bust finely coloured to the life) of Sir Theodore Mayerne, the famous physician, with whom Rubens and Vandyck loved to talk touching the composition and duration of the pigments they should employ to resist the hand of Time. And here, by way of a Montaigne ramble, allow me to suggest that the authorities of St. Martin's might be asked to make a present of Sir Theodore to the neighbouring College of Physicians. They recently suffered all that remains of flesh and bone of the great John Hunter to be removed to

St. Paul's; and Her Majesty, to gratify the Scottish nation, has recently transferred the pictures of James III. and his queen from Hampton Court to Holyrood. There is a royal precedent for it, and St. Martin's is a royal and loyal parish.

New Barns, in Hertfordshire, the house of Sir Christopher's master mason at St. Paul's from the beginning even unto the end thereof, is a straggling-like structure, patched, vamped, and composed since Strong lived in it, and almost defying description. It is most pleasantly situate on the banks of the Ver, has noble trees worthy of Long-leat or Sion, and of rare character, planted by the master-mason himself, when he dropped the mason's trowel for the gardener's spade. The "trim gardens themselves" would receive critical commendation from a Loudon, a Lindley, or a Paxton. When I tell you (perhaps only remind you), that New Barns is the property and residence of Mrs. Worley, a wealthy and unworldly lady, and that Christ Church, St. Alban's, was built and endowed by her benevolence and munificence, the subscriptions I seek in aid of the Old Mortality task I undertake will not be without "a something," and something more from Mrs. Worley.

With the noble abbey we possess to inflame and inspire us; with the remembrances awakened by the ruins of Sopwell Nunnery—they were given to a master mason;—I do not doubt of success. Remember, the greatest individual subscriber to Sir Christopher's St. Paul's was a Hertfordshire lady.—PETER CUNNINGHAM,* in the *Builder*.

THE MOUNTAIN HOMES OF NORTH WALES.

"As the home, so the people."

During a trip from the noisy world for a few days,

"O'er hills, through valleys, and by rivers' brink,"

I put on your sanitary spectacles, and beg to send a few notes of that which came under observation, thinking that you will be interested and your readers amused.

The arrival in the little town of Llangollen, a place of resort by tourists, was most agreeable after the inconvenience experienced by the railway

* I have a "note" that Richard Jennings, "the Master Builder of St. Paul's Cathedral," is buried in the churchyard of Henley-upon-Thames. He lived at Badgemoor, —now Mr. Grote's the historian. How many masters are there now, I would ask in the building trade? I write about master masons, and have read or know of master bricklayers, master carpenters, master smiths, &c., and of Master-man the Banker; and I remember the old adage, "Jack of all trades, and master of none." Employer is a hateful word. I had the high pleasure of hearing the illustrious Duke of Wellington recognize the portrait by Sir Joshua of George IV., when Prince of Wales, with the words, "Ah! my old Master, and very like him." Proper words, properly applied. The recognition and remark were made at Sir Robert Peel's house, in Privy Gardens.

changes, and the offensive transit through the intolerable smoke and unromantic views of Birmingham, *alias* the "black country."

The ride of ten miles from Llangollen to Corwen, through Glyn Dyfrdwy, or the valley of the Dee (Telford's admirable road being formed at a great elevation at the side of the Berwyn range of mountains), is exceedingly picturesque, the country mountainous and varied, and only requires some continental appellation to render it fashionable.

Corwen is full of historic interest connected with the exploits of Owen Glyndwr, at whose birth the "heavens were all on fire, the earth did tremble," and "the goats ran from the mountains." The goats have certainly disappeared, and pigs extensively flourish in their place. Drains are laid in Corwen, leading to the Dee, and some forty improved cottages have been built by Mr. Lewis, postmaster; but still there is much to complain of—one closet only to six cottages continues. The rents of the cottages vary, at £2, £4, and £5 per annum; a shop, with kitchen, two bed-rooms, &c., £8 per annum. The rent of land is from £1 10s. to £3 per acre; in the meadows, £4 per acre.

The "Hand-book of English Ecclesiology," in alluding to the churches of North Wales, correctly describes them as being of a very mean description, mainly to be attributed to the poverty and scanty population of the district—with little or nothing of distinct architectural character—features coarse and rude, apparently of late date—little work earlier than perpendicular—extremely small—no marked division of chancel or aisles—resembling barns or cottages rather than churches. This picture is mainly true; there are, however, some noticeable features which will gratify the architectural student.

Corwen Church is Early English, with chancel, transepts, nave, tower, and north porch. Internal length, 105ft. 9½in.; width, 18ft. 9in.; across transepts, 64ft. 3in.; tower, 11ft. 5in. square. Some perpendicular windows have been inserted, and some modern windows of no character. The church requires to be properly restored (not pulled down as suggested), the painted Roman altar-piece, with its balusters, vases, curtains, &c., cleared away, and the deeply-splayed Early English triplet, now built up, re-opened and filled with suitable painted and stained glass, the flat eighteenth-century plastered ceiling removed, and the fine oak-timbered roof opened and restored. The pulpit stands at the north-east angle of the chancel by the transept, consequently the congregation face the cardinal points; the pews in the chancel (which latter is 40ft. long) should be removed, and the chancel devoted to its proper uses. The font is of the date of the church, upon a modern base; the lid bears date 1704; it is flat, with a handle like a copper-lid.

The ancient cross in the church-yard is well known; also the legend connected with the large spright stone built in the east wall of the porch.

Owen Glyndwr always entered the church by the north door of the tower.

At Llangwin, some few miles west of Corwen, the church has been altered and repaired. It is a Perpendicular church, 69ft. 9in. long,* by 17ft. 10in. wide, inside measurement, without any marked division of chancel or nave. The present font is a basin similar to a bracket, fixed in south wall—no water drain. The ancient font was octagonal, 2ft. 7in. in diameter, large enough for total immersion, with drain complete. It has been turned out of the church, and now stands on the side of a hill on Hont-y-Glyn, or bridge of the glen, properly Pont-y-Glyn Diffwys, used as a horse-trough! The basin of the font is perfect, and ought to be at once (prior to its being injured) removed to the church, and placed upon a suitable base.

In this church at Llangwin are many metal memorial plates, formerly attached to the walls. Five of these are now lying rusty and broken in a carved oak chest (lid off), bearing date 1675—two of these are in memory of vicars (the only memento of them), the Rev. Robert Morris, 1790, and the Rev. Edward Richards, 1814. One memorial plate has a tin socket let in, with a tallow candle,—fixed to a scaffold pole under the west gallery to light the church! One inscription has just been put on a metal shield, affixed upside down.

Some senseless person has cut in large letters on the seat of one or more benches "R. W. Esq." I remonstrated with an official, and said that it ought to be erased,—the reply was, "Oh! indeed! he was the greatest man of the parish."

The inscriptions on the monuments and memorials are nearly all in English.

A similar church, and perhaps by the same architect, but not much modernised, is that of Bettws Gwerfylgoch. It is Perpendicular, and internally 53ft. 2in. by 18ft.; open roof, rude and homely, with quatrefoils in the interstices. In the position usually occupied by the decalogue (beneath the east window) is placed a very curious oak carving of our Saviour, with symbols of the Crucifixion, in five compartments, in a frame. The rector (Rev. W. Hughes) informs me that it has been in the church from time immemorial, until 1854, when it was restored to its present state by the Rev. Mr. Barnack, headmaster of Ruthin Grammar School.

There is a flap attached to the altar-rails, for depositing money at funerals.

There are three Dissenting chapels,—mere rooms.

The village of Bettws Gwerfylgoch is situate in a valley by the river Dee; west of the church-yard are cottages in a passage 12ft. wide, with cows, pigs, and dung on the other side. The smell from the pigs is most offensive. The poor people are

* Originally not so long.

in delicate health; one woman has a chronic affection of the chest, and her daughter is in a decline. There is only one closet for all the people in the village! Surely there cannot be any necessity in the country to pack human beings and pigs together. The small farmers and poor people seem to have adopted the pig as a neighbour and friend—its habitation usually forms a wing to the cottage throughout Wales.

The cottages have about two rooms in each, the rent being £2 10s. per annum; no taxes. Formerly the rent was £1 10s. The land varies in value, the rent being 5s. to £1 per acre per annum.

It would be unfair to pass any opinion upon the general health of the farmers and labouring classes in Wales, without a visit to all the villages; nevertheless, I heard of four children dying at one time from diphtheria (buried in two coffins), a poor woman losing her husband by typhus fever, and other cases.

In the different churches I visited, it surprised me to find how many persons died at an early age.

The farms are small, and scattered over the country; the churches and villages are placed mostly in the valleys. The cottages are clean, and the people poor and very industrious. The rafters and joists are not lathed and plastered, but whitewashed. The walls of small cottages are 2ft. thick, formed of irregular masses of stone, and wedged together but with little mortar. The doors are sometimes 5ft. 6in. high; there are few windows, and those are about 2ft. square, in two divisions, in lead-lights. The roofs are covered with coarse slate, sometimes with thatch; the floors are paved with blue stone.

There are neither sewers nor drains, and many old cottages have no "closets." The occupiers go into the fields, and the soil, with that of the cattle and pigs, flushed by the rain, descends the hill and passes into some of the wells and springs. At many of the inns are open closets and no cess-pools or water. There can be no excuse for these offensive proceedings, as enough rain falls on the mountains and hills (if properly collected), to flush all the closets in Wales.

The lanes or passes to the hills and mountains are rugged and rough, their base being principally the natural rock, forming a good foothold.

The small farmers and labouring population are as uncultivated as the hills—"as the homes, so the people." Some farms continue to have the black bread, made with pure barley; it is preferred by the labourers, being more "satisfying." Milk is given to the labouring classes during the year, and in return the wives give one or two days' work in the time of harvest. In the cottages they have but little fresh meat—only once a week, and that on Sunday. They put their forks into the potatoes, and their knives into

the salt. The prints on the walls are of a good religious cast, very primitive, and many years behind those to be seen in the rural districts in England. The men work from six o'clock a.m. to eight o'clock p.m., and have 10d. per day (meals included); in harvest time, 1s. to 1s. 3d. per day—to keep a wife and often six children. Female servants have often from £4 to £5 per annum. With all these disadvantages they are more clean and respectable than many of the working classes in large cities who receive wages of treble the amount.

Intemperance injures many a farmer's home; a visit to Wales of a few of Father Mathews's disciples would undoubtedly benefit the population.

The harvest moon in Wales is in September, the corn being not yet gathered. The moonlight on the hills and mountains was very beautiful. A perfect rainbow on the hills was also interesting. The grand views are greatly marred by the wholesale system of whitewashing the houses and cottages, which scatter white patches over the hills and valleys. The natural colour of the stone would be far better, and present a more harmonious effect.

Stone, ready at hand, is often used instead of wood. The field-gates are hung to a slab of stone, set upright, with hook-and-eye hinges, the hook being let through the stone with nut and screw, and a piece of wood between the stone and nut. The stones are covered with moss and lichens, and present a Druidical appearance.

The people believe in ghosts. There are two kinds of ghosts in Wales:—1. Shadows cast on hill and dale from moving clouds—"come like shadows, so depart;" 2. Ghosts of the imagination—of these many. The people pertinaciously adhere to their fancies in the face of all arguments, and maintain that some of the clergy believe in ghosts. This I can easily imagine, after the active part they took in "clairvoyance," until the philosophy of Professor Faraday turned the tables upon them, and pointed out their error.

The inhabitants require to be educated, and a good example set them—not frightened. If the former had been looked to fifty years ago, the very numerous Dissenting chapels, or rooms, now to be found, would not have existed.

It has been remarked that "God made the country, and man made the town." The good and hospitable people of Wales should bear in mind that the tourist is not indebted to them for the romantic beauty of their country. The houses and cottages, however, the landlords are responsible for; and it is to be hoped that they will use their best endeavours to improve the dwellings of the rural population, and render them decent and comfortable, fit for habitation and inspection, and not as they are now, as rough and as rugged as the mountains.—W. P. GRIFFITHS, in the *Builder*.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

There are many Orders of Knighthood from which Freemasonry and its chivalry are descended; as I am preparing a list of such, can you help me by a few references to the dates of the establishment of such orders?—S. M.—[Some few years ago there was a list published containing the particulars you enquire for, and we have great pleasure in inserting it. The following is a complete list of the various Civil, Religious, Beneficent, and Military Orders, which have existed from the earliest ages to the present time, embracing their objects, countries, and date of institution—the whole arranged in alphabetical order. Of course, many of the organizations are now defunct; it is not considered advisable to intersperse any particulars in this list. Ashmole, Favin, Clark, Carlisle, De Vertot, Mackey, Nicholson, Putman, Mills, Addison, and others, have been carefully consulted in gathering materials for this compilation:—

AFRICA.		Titles.		Instituted.	
Titles.		Instituted.			
Palm and Alligator, Hon.....		St. George, Military		1494	
St. Anthony the Hermit,		St. Hubert, Military		1444	
Religious and Warlike ...		St. Michael, Civil and Eccl.		1693	
370		St. Rupert, Eccl. and Mil....		1701	
		Theresa, for ladies, Bene-		ficial.....	
		1827			
AMERICA (United States).					
Society of the Cincinnati,		BELGIUM.			
Honorary and Military... 1783		Iron Cross, Civil and Mil....		1833	
		Leopold, Civil and Military		1832	
AUSTRIA.					
Bear, Ecclesiastical & Mil...		BRUNSWICK—DUCHY OF.		1833	
Dragon Overthrown, in		Crosses of Distinction, Mil.		1833	
Hungary, Military		Henry the Lion, Civil and		1834	
1413		Military		1834	
Elisabeth Theresa, Military					
Equestrian Order of the					
German Empire, an Order					
of Nobility					
—		DENMARK.			
Equites Tusini, Military ...		Danebrog, Civil & Military		1219	
Golden Fleece, Eccl. & Mil.		Elephant, Eccl., Civil, and		1478	
1429		Military		1478	
Iron Crown, Civil and Mil.		Fidelity, Commemorative of		1732	
1816		Connubial Happiness.....		1732	
Leopold, Civil and Military					
1806					
Maria Theresa, Military ...					
1757					
Neighbourly Love, Secular,					
for both sexes.....					
1708					
Ordo Disciplinary, Mil....					
—		ENGLAND.			
St. George in Italy, Eccle-		Bannarets, England		1360	
siastical and Military ...		Bath, Military		1399	
1470		Carpet, Secular		1553	
St. George in Carinthia, Mil.		Garter, Honorary & Military		1344	
1279		Knights Bachelors, Hon. &		—	
St. Gerion, Rel. and Hon...		Military		—	
1190		Round Table, Military and		528	
St. Stephen, Civil and Mil.		Secular.....		528	
1561		St. George's, Military		1349	
Slaves to Virtue, Order of		St. Thomas of Acon, Eccl.		and Military	
Ladies		1370			
1662					
Star of the Cross, Order of					
Ladies					
1668					
Swan, Military, about					
500					
Tusini, Military, about					
1280					
BADEN—GRAND DUCHY OF.					
Fidelity, Eccl. and Civil ...		FRANCE.			
1715		Bee, for both sexes, Hon....		1703	
Military Merit, Military ...		Bourbon, Thistle, or Our		1370	
1807		Lady, Civil and Military.		1370	
Lion of Zaehringen, Civil...		Broom-Flower, Religious &		1234	
1812		Civil		1234	
		Christian Charity, Benevo-		1580	
		lent, about		1498	
		Cordeliere, for widows of		1448	
		nobility, Secular		1448	
		Crescent, Eccl. and Military		802	
		Crown-Flower, or Crown		500	
		Royal, Honorary & Mil.		500	
		Dog and Cock, Eccl. & Mil.		1784	
		Dove, for both sexes, Secular		1784	
		Ermine in Brittany, Civil		1450	
		and Honorary.....		726	
		Genet, Military		1429	
		Golden Fleece, Eccl. and		1363	
		Military		1363	
		Golden Shield, Eccl. and		1363	
		Military		1363	

Titles.		Instituted.		Titles.		Instituted.		
Holy Ghost, Eccl., Civil, & Military	1579	Knot, the in Naples, Amicable and Honorary	1351	Precious Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ, in Mantua, Honorary.....	1608	St. George, in Austria, Mil.	1470	
Holy Phial, an Order of Nobility	—	St. George, at Genoa, Hon.	1460	St. George, at Ravenna, Mil.	1534	St. Janarius, at Naples, an Order of Nobility	1738	
Holy Rosary, for ladies, Honorary, about.....	1630	St. Michael in Germany, at Mantua, Religious.....	1618	St. Michael, in Naples, Honorary, about.....	1670	St. Nicholas, at Naples, Commercial and Noble...	1382	
Jesus Christ, in France or Italy, Eccl. and Military	1206	Star in Sicily, at Naples, Mil.	1351	Virgin Mary, Religious and Philanthropic	1233			
Legion of Honour, Civil & Military	1803	LUCCA—DUCHY OF.						
Military Merit, Protestant .	1759	Cross of St. George, Mil. ...						1833
Our Lady of the Star, Religious	1022	NASSAU—DUCHY OF.						
Passion of Christ, Eccl. and Military, about	1325	Decorations (three), Military —						
Porcupine, Civil & Military	1393	Mark of Honour, Military .						1834
Rose, Knights and Nymphs of the, Secular	1780	NETHERLANDS—UNITED.						
Ship, or Double Crescent, Military	1269	Belgie Lion, an Order of Merit						1815
St. Anthony, Eccl. & Mil...	1121	Medal of the Hague, Civil and Military						1813
St. Denis, Eccl. & Military	1207	Wilhelm, Military.....						1815
St. George, in Burgundy, for both sexes, Honorary	1400	OLDENBURG—DUCHY OF.						
St. Lazarus, and our Lady of Mount Carmel (United Orders of), Ecclesiastical and Military	1608	Family Order of Merit, Hon. and Beneficent						1838
St. Louis, Military	1693	OTTOMAN EMPIRE.						
St. Mary Magdalen, Beneficent and Reformatory...	1614	Imperial Ottoman Order of the Crescent, Military ...						1801
St. Michael, Civil and Mil.	1460	PALESTINE.						
Star, Honorary and Military	1022	Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Eccl. and Military...						1099
Thistle of Bourbon, Military	1370	Hospitallars of St. John the Baptist, Eccl. & Mil.						1092
Virgin of Mount Carmel, Ecclesiastical & Military	1607	Knights of Malta, for ladies, Charitable and Religious.						1107
Yellow String, Secular	1606	Martyrs in Palestine, Charitable and Religious						1319
FRANCONIA.				Mount Joy, Eccl. and Mil.				1150
St. Joachim, Sec. & Capitular	1755	St. Blaise and the Virgin, Eccl. and Military.....						—
Teutonic, Eccl. & Military .	1192	St. Blaise of Acon, Military						1250
GERMANY.				St. Catharine at Mount Sinai, Hospitable and Military .				1063
Mustard Seed, Rel. & Ben.	1730	St. John of Acon, Benevolent and Military.....						1370
GREECE.				St. John of Acon, Eccl. and Military				1191
Constantinian, Angelic Knights of St. George, Military	456	St. John of Jerusalem, or of Malta, Eccl. and Military, insti. 1092, or						1113
The Redeemer, an Order of Merit	1833	St. Lazarus, Ecclesiastical and Military, about						1120
HANOVER.				St. Thomas of Acon, Benevolent and Military				1370
Royal Hanoverian Guelphic, an Order of Merit	1815	Sword of Cyprus, Civil and Military						1195
HESSE-CASSEL—ELECTORATE OF				Templars, Eccl. & Military.				1118
Golden Lion, an Hon. Order	1770	Teutonic, Benevolent & Mil.						1190
Iron Helmet, Military	1814	PARMA—GRAND DUCHY OF.						
Merit, Secular.....	1785	Constantine,* Eccl. & Mil.						1190
Military Merit, an Honorary Order	1769	PERSIAN EMPIRE.						
HESSE-DARMSTADT—GRAND DUCHY OF.				The Lion and the Sun, an Order of Merit				1808
Louis, Civil and Military...	1807							
IRELAND.								
St. Patrick, Honorary	1783							
ITALY.								
Annunciation, and St. Michael the Archangel in Mantua, Eccl. and Mil...	1618							
Argonauts of St. Nicholas, at Naples, Secular	1382							
Blood of Christ, in Mantua, Eccl.....	1608							
Crescent, Military	1464							
Ermine, in Naples, Civil & Military	1463							

* The origin of this order is extremely remote, and is involved in much obscurity—some historians making Constantine the Great its founder, so far back as the year 313; but the most probable statement is, that it was founded by the eastern emperor, Isaac Angelicus Comnenus in 1190, for the reward and distinction of those who devoted themselves to the defence of "The Empire."

POLAND.		SARDINIA.		SWITZERLAND.	
Titles.	Instituted.	Titles.	Instituted.	Titles.	Instituted.
St. Stanislaus, Benevolent .	1765	Annunciation, in Savoy, Military	1362	Seraphim, an Order of Nobility	1280
Water of Christ, Military .	1705	Mauritians, in Savoy, Mil. St. Maurice, of Savoy, Eccl. and Mil.	1434	Sword, Military	1525
White Eagle, Military	1697	St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, Military	1572	Vasa, an Order of Merit ...	1772
PORTUGAL AND THE BRAZILS.		Savoy, Military	1815		
Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Tower and the Sword, Honorary ...	1459	Savoy, an Order of Merit...	1831		
Avis, Eccl. and Military ...	1147	Sword of Cyprus, an Order of Nobility	1195		
Christ, Eccl. and Military ...	1317	SAXE-WEIMER-EISENACH—GRAND DUCHY OF,			
Civil Merit of St. James, Eccl. and Lay.....	1175	Vigilance, or White Falcon Hon.	1732		
Cross of the South, Hon., instituted by Peter the First, about.....	1360	SAXONY.			
Military Merit, of St. Bento d'Avis, Eccl., Civil, Mil., and Lay	1162	Civil Merit, Honorary	1815		
Our Lady of the Conception of Villa Vaposa, Mil. and Honorary	1818	Noble Passion, Military and Philanthropic.....	1704		
Peter, an Order conferred on Sovereigns only.....	—	Rue Crown, Honorary	1807		
Rose, Military and Civil ...	1829	St. Henry, Military	1736		
Royal Order of St. Isabella, Honorary	1804	Sincerity, Mil. and Amicable	1690		
St. Elizabeth (Royal Order) for ladies, Benevolent and Social	1801	SCOTLAND.			
St. James, Eccl. and Mil. ...	1310	St. Andrew, or the Thistle, Eccl. and Military, 809; first renewal, 1452; second, by James VI.	1605		
St. Michael's Wing, Eccl. and Military	1165	Thistle, Military, instituted 812; revived	1540		
PRUSSIA.		THE TWO SICILIES.			
African Architects, Sec. ...	1767	Constantine, Eccl. and Mil., instituted 1734; abolished 1806; revived	1814		
Black, or Prussian Eagle, Civil and Military.....	1701	Francis the First, Civil and Military	1829		
Christ in Livonia, Eccl. and Military	1200	St. Ferdinand, an Order of Merit	1799		
Concord, Mil. and Hon. ...	1660	St. George of the Reunion, Military	1819		
Favor, Honorary	—	St. Januarius, an Order of Nobility	1738		
Fools, Secular and Noble... 1380		SPAIN.			
Generosity, Benevolent.... 1685		Alcantara, Eccl. and Mil. 1160			
Iron Cross, Military..... 1813		Band, or Scarf, Secular and Military	1330		
Louisa, for ladies, Honorary 1814		Burgundian Cross, at Tunis, Hon. and Mil.	1535		
Military Merit, Military ... 1740		Calatrava, Eccl. and Mil. ... 1158			
Red Eagle, Civil and Mil. 1712		Calatrava, for ladies, Rel. ... 1219			
St. John, Ecclesiastical ... 1812		Charles the Third, an Order of Merit for the Nobility 1771			
ROME.		De la Banda, in Castile, Hon. and Military	1332		
Christ, an Order of Merit... 1319		De la Scama, in Castile, Military	1320		
Golden Spur, Rel., Civil, and Military	1559	Dove, Hon. and Mil. 1379			
Holy Ghost, Philanthropic and Religious.....	1198	Golden Fleece, Eccl. and Military	1429		
Jesus Christ, Eccl. and Mil. 1920		Lady of Mercy, at Aragon, for both sexes, Phil. 1218			
Jesus and Mary, Eccl. and Mil.	1615	Lily, or Lilies, at Aragon, Military	1403		
Loretto, Ecclesiastical	1587	Maria Louisa, for ladies of noble birth, Honorary ... 1792			
Most Glorious Virgin Mary, Eccl. and Mil.	1618	Maria Theresa, for ladies, Benevolent	1792		
Pius, or Pios, Eccl. and Mil. 1560		Montesa, Eccl. and Mil., about	1330		
St. George, Military	1498	Oak, of Navarre, Eccl. and Mil.	722		
St. Mary the Glorious, Eccl. and Mil.	1233	Ordre de la Scama, Mil. ... 1420			
St. Paul, Military	1540	Our Lady and St. George of Montésat, Eccl. and Military	1317		
St. Peter, Military	1520	Rosary of Toledo, Eccl. and Mil.	1212		
The Reel, or the Lioness, Military	—				
RUSSIA.					
St. Alexander Newski, Eccl. and Mil.	1722				
St. Andrew*, an Order of Merit	1698				
St. Anne, an Order of Merit 1735					
St. Catherine, for ladies, Benevolent	1714				
St. George, Military..... 1769					
St. Vladimir, an Order of Merit	1782				
Warfare of Christ, Mil. ... 1325					

* Tradition ascribes to this saint the introduction of Christianity into Muscovy.

"LL.D.," who supplies that most interesting quotation from "Philo Judæus" in the last number of the MAGAZINE, would confer a very great favour on many a Masonic student if he would also kindly give in some future communication to "Masonic Notes and Queries" a reference to the passage in the original or in the translation. The verification of quotations is one of the greatest trials to every Masonic student, and those who are careful enough and considerate enough to give them, deserve the best thanks of all, like myself, who occasionally devote a spare hour to the study of Masonic history and antiquity.—EBOR, October 4, 1864.

TYLERS AS COOKS.

I was made in a lodge in Scotland many years ago. It was the custom then for lodges to meet in various places and to banquet at their meeting room. The latter was furnished thus. Before the lodge met, the Tyler procured all the necessary refreshments and put them, uncooked, in the ante-room. When the lodge was called off, the Tyler was called in, locked the door, and set to work to cook the steaks, chops, haggis, toasted cheese, &c., and serve round the whiskey. In such a case, I need not say, a Tyler who was a good cook was a great prize. Is there such a custom in any London lodge, and if so where?—A. N.

MASONIC TOBACCO-PIPES.

Whose are the best designs for Masonic tobacco-pipes?—PUFF.—[We don't know. A friend brought us a most elaborately decorated emblematic clay from France, but as it weighs over three ounces it is not very useful. Such English made pipes as we have seen are poor paltry affairs.]

EARLY FREEMASONS.

Where can I find any references to the early Freemasons—those existing before the year 1600?—P. L. [Consult Chaucer, Gower, Spenser, Raleigh, Millot's *Histoire des Troubadours*, Browne's *Fasciculus Rerum*, sub voce; Wickliffe, James Acontius, Jean Léger,

Matthew Paris, Abbe Pluquet, Squarciafico, Boccacio, Dante, Petrarch, Tiraboschi, Lenoir, Lully, Cornelius Agrippa, Fludd, Ashmole, Nich. Maier, and hosts of others.]

SYMBOLISM.

Wanted, the symbolism of the five and seven pointed stars.—P. L.

STATISTICS OF THE HIGH-GRADES.

What number of brethren may be supposed to be members of the high-grades in England?—STATIST.—[Mere numbers is not sought. The high-grades are exclusive, and admit only brethren of rank, fortune, birth, fame, or Masonic merit and usefulness. With the retired members there are probably about 2,500 in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland not being included, as having independent Councils of their own. The list of the present subscribing members, here, includes about 800 names.]

LAWYER FREEMASONS.

What eminent lawyers, more particularly judges, have been, or are, Freemasons?—A LIMB OF THE LAW.

GAME AND NIGHTCAPS.

Two lodge summonses, different, are before me; one has printed the single mysterious word "game" upon it; in the other is a request for "brethren to bring their nightcaps." What do these odd announcements signify?—No JOKER.—[We cannot be supposed to be quite as learned as the book, now so widely placarded, *Enquire within upon Everything*, but advise our serious friend to apply to the respective Secretaries of the lodges referred to, and, if they do not satisfy him, try the above book. We should like to see the summonses.]

P. I. L. E.

Do the letters P. I. L. E. refer to any Masonic degree? I have just seen them on a silver star of five points.—E. C. L. B.—[We do not know if they may be used in any foreign rite or no. Certainly they are not English.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MASONIC TAXATION.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The persistence of a P.M. in advocating a system of Masonic taxation as a source of income for those very excellent adjuncts of Freemasonry, the Masonic Charities, will inevitably lead to good results, although not, perhaps, in the direction he anticipates.

The P.M. appears quite satisfied that the proposition he now makes, although it is no novelty, having been unsuccessfully suggested by a brother of great influence years ago, ought to become law for the sole reason that it would, according to his estimate, screw £12,500 a year out of the pockets of his brethren. He dilates, in the coolest possible manner, on the good that could be effected with such an amount, quite regardless that what he sees is obvious to every one else, and requires no very wonderful knowledge

of political economy to realise as a fact. He likewise waxes sentimental on our fraternal duties to each other, and appears to be struck, for the first time in his Masonic career, at his laxity hitherto, and, in atonement, furnishes you with two such characteristic epistles that Sheridan's couplet, in *Olio's Protest*, is most applicable; that author saying—

"You write with ease, to show your breeding,
But easy writing's d—d hard reading."

Leaving the P.M. to his newly-awakened twinges of conscience, the examination of the gist of his communications is not exactly time wasted.

The first inquiry which naturally arises is, What does the P.M. mean by putting forth such manifest feelers? He says, "He has no connection with the Charities, except a zeal for their welfare;" but he does not add whether or no he is in the position of the gentleman who declared "he was not musical himself, but had a friend that was;" and although the P.M. may neither be personally, nor collaterally, interested in our useful and valuable charitable institutions, I take leave to think the plan he advocates would be the most disastrous and suicidal to the objects of it that could possibly be imagined.

Supposing, for mere argument's sake, the P.M.'s proposition to be adopted, would it benefit the Charities, or increase the interest manifested for them by their benevolent and ardent supporters? Let us see.

Twenty-five thousand brethren are to be taxed *volens volens*. The very decree itself would cause a contraction of the purse-strings, as no one ever pays a fraction more than he is rated at, and so £12,500 would be the maximum until the law was repealed, to say nothing of those who systematically shirk all payment of taxes to State, Church, or any other governing power. Taxation is hateful to them, and they would generously double the amount as a voluntary offering, if not enforced as a legal demand.

Has the P.M. considered the results which would follow on his plan coming into operation? Tax-payers and rate-payers usually exercise a somewhat stringent control over the disposition of their payments, and it has yet to be proved that Masonic taxees would be exceptions to the rule, or such lovers of their kind, that they would take rank as new phenomena in nature. Leave the brethren alone and they will give freely, generously, and regularly—tax them, and the result will soon show for itself.

With every appreciation of the value of the Masonic Charities, it becomes absolutely necessary to ask, Why are we to be taxed to support them? Are either one of them the inheritance, right, or common resource to which any Freemason, his wife, widow, children, or orphans, have a claim by virtue of any interest, supposed or implied, in the time of poverty, sickness, old age, or want of education? No; no Freemason has a tittle of a claim on them. He, nor his, have no right to knock at their portals for relief. Those who enjoy the bounty of their brethren in such institutions have petitioned, canvassed, begged, and implored it, and at last gained their point by the will and pleasure of the subscribers, who buy votes and elect whom they choose. If this were not so, there would be no begging, borrowing, or exchanging votes; no appeals for "my case," and promises of support for "your case." If, then, the Charities are institutions kept up by Freemasons to assist such

Freemasons and their families as the warm-hearted and generous donors elect amongst themselves, where is the justice, or the right, to tax the brethren indiscriminately for that in which they can have no voice, and, at the same time, offend and cool the benevolence of those who have the will and the means to carry on the Charities to their honour and credit?

If Freemasons are to pay a compulsory tax towards the support of these institutions, it will only be fair that those who are taxed should assume the entire management of them through the Grand Lodge, and in that case it will be obvious that the Charities and their government must undergo a radical change. The waste and extravagance consequent on keeping up three separate establishments in three distant suburbs must, sooner or later, attract attention, lead to the sale of the three properties, and, from the proceeds, one great establishment—which can house the women and girls in the one wing, the boys and men in the other, and a chapel, hall, and warden's house in the centre—should be erected in some generally accessible neighbourhood.

Then there will be no need for any committees. A brother in holy orders, as warden and chaplain, chosen by the Grand Lodge, will suffice as governor for all. One set of tradesmen's contracts will be sufficient to provide for all. One collector will collect for all. The work of the secretaries can be done by the Grand Secretary, and there will be no need of rooms for offices to be set apart in the New Tavern Buildings. Printing, postage, and stationery accounts will be materially reduced, and special expenses entirely done away; and all for the same sum which our Grand Secretary costs us at present, and for which he is not employed more than a tithe of his time.

No annual festivals will be needed, because the tax will produce all the money the charities will ever get. No Boards of Stewards, and the charity medals—those baubles men purchase to blazon their liberality—may rust and the die be broken up. One strong reason for the vast outlay now being incurred in rebuilding the Tavern—larger space required for the festivals—will be useless, and the trouble, time, and fearful expense of remodelling the Grand Lodge property entirely thrown away.

If such a state of things is thought desirable by the P.M., and the Charities are to be damaged to this extent, besides losing all the interest taken in them by so many liberal and energetic brethren, there is no better means to effect it than for the P.M. to agitate, and, if possible, carry a law for their support by Masonic taxation. If this is compulsory, instead of an average income of the four realising some £16,000 per annum, voluntarily offered, the P.M. need never reckon on more than the tax will produce, £12,500, collected with difficulty and paid grudgingly, such as would be the mite of

Yours fraternally,
A W.M.

BUTE LODGE, No. 960.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I must claim a small space for brief and final reply to the W.M. of No. 960, touching his unfounded and unsubstantiated charges against the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE.

Hoping, in our case, difference of opinion may not alter friendship, I may say that my respect for that worthy brother has been almost fully restored by finding he has, albeit in a somewhat ungracious manner, wholly withdrawn the charge so far as it related to the editorial department—has, indeed, given its existence a total denial! Unfortunately for the credit of my friend's consistency, the "calumnious" resolution will only precede in our bound editions, by a few pages, the lame apology of its concoctor. The reckless charge contained in that resolution was, that the Editor of THE MAGAZINE had published "articles altogether inconsistent with facts." The mover, as well as author of that resolution having, however, now beat an inglorious retreat, I will not ungenerously follow him up, further than to impress upon that brother a caution to be more careful for the future in the construction of such bombastic manifestoes, as are not only intended to go the round of "The Prov. G.M., the D. Prov. G.M., and the W.M.'s of the various lodges in the province," but also to appear in the pages of a publication which will form a history of the Craft for future generations of Masons.

I much regret, however, that the W.M. of No. 960 has had the temerity "unhesitatingly to repeat" a charge which—equally with the one he now repudiates—has been openly and fearlessly denounced in his lodge, and to his face, whilst in the chair, in terms too unmeasured to require repetition, particularly as they have already some prominence in the MASONIC MIRROR. Although the double charge was the main feature in the resolution, of which I trust we have now heard the last, it is attempted to exonerate the Editor at the expense of his Correspondents, who are accused of having "misled" him, and "anonymously assailed the character of the Prov. G.M." A shabby way this of getting out of a difficulty, especially when such an accusation is repeated without the least attempt at proof.

The writer does indeed mystify himself and his readers with some most illogical argument regarding the opinions of your correspondents, which, because they not happened always to coincide with his own, have therefore been calculated and intended to mislead!—very conveniently overlooking the circumstance that those opinions have been only casually introduced in narrations of matters of history and matters of fact, which there has never been the least attempt to deny. These, and not the individual opinions of correspondents, have called forth the articles in your MAGAZINE, which the malicious resolution of the Bute Lodge, dictated by its W.M., has dared to designate falsehoods.

One word touching the invitation to attend the lodge for any redress of grievances.

The W.M. might have embodied his own opinions into a resolution brimful of flattery, without any occasion for any comment in the pages of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, so long as such a specimen of sycophancy was only intended to adorn the minute-book of his lodge, or for presentation to his Prov. G.M. But when, not content with this disingenuous bid for Provincial Grand honours, he goes on recklessly and ruthlessly to bespatter the character, not only of the correspondents, but of the editor of our truly independent organ, and requests insertion of his calumnies therein, he must expect through the

same medium the same fearless denunciation of groundless and unsubstantiated charges as he has already received in his lodge.

My sole object is this correspondence having been to repel a gross slander upon a publication which has the full confidence of the Craft (with such harmless exceptions as the Prov. G.M. of this Province), I shall take no notice of the personal allusions of the W.M. of 960, but subscribe myself, as heretofore,

Truly and fraternally yours,

ANTI-TOADY.

Cardiff, October 1, 1864.

MASONIC CHARITY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your are quite right in your remark respecting the amount subscribed by the brethren at the provincial meeting, held at Dukinfield. It is a disgrace to the province. I begin to think our boasted charity is only a name for something else. Had the Prov. G.M. been present, or the D. Prov. G.M. attended the banquet, it would perhaps have been different, for when it was known the D. Prov. G.M. could not stay, a large number of brethren, who could well afford to give, also left, and I suppose a majority of the 250 brethren who remained thought more of the good things before them than of that peculiar moment of their existence when they found themselves divested of all value. It struck me, when at the Provincial Grand Lodge, so excellent an institution as the Cheshire Educational Institute, should be supported from the Provincial Grand Lodge funds. What can they want with the large sum they have in hand, when so much good might be done, not only in supplying funds for education, but also in giving relief to distressed brethren, and that not with a niggardly hand or much delay? This should be looked into, but who are the brethren to do so?

Yours truly and fraternally,

S. W.

October 1st, 1864.

A CASE OF DISTRESS.

Our attention has been called to the painful position in which Bro. the Baron de Comin is at present placed. The Baron, who has been long an exile in this country, has up to a very recent period supported himself by the delivery of public lectures; but, owing to unforeseen circumstances, he is now reduced to great distress. During his career he has visited several lodges and delivered Masonic lectures, some of which have been reported in this "Magazine," and now, in the hour of distress, he throws himself on his brethren for some little assistance. He has lately been in the hospital, from which he has just been discharged, but is unable to do anything for his living owing to his boxes and papers being detained from him, for the want of two or three pounds to release them from a railway company, in whose hands they are. He cannot appeal to the Board of Benevolence for want of those papers, and in poverty and ill health—an exile in a foreign land—he is now obliged to throw himself on the sympathy of the Craft. Such of our readers as may be disposed to assist this brother in distress, may forward their contributions to the editor of this "Magazine," through which they will be thankfully acknowledged.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham will be held at the Masonic Hall, South Shields, on Tuesday, October 25.

The next meeting of the members of the 30°, for the reception of candidates, &c., will be held at the Hall of the "Masonic Union Company," 14, Bedford-row, W.C., on Tuesday, the 11th, at four o'clock, p.m.

METROPOLITAN.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—At a meeting held on Wednesday, September 28th, at the Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford (Bro. J. Stevens's), Bro. F. Walters, P.M. and Sec., in the unavoidable absence of Bro. C. G. C. Stahr, W.M., opened the lodge, assisted by Bros. H. A. Collington, P.M., S.W.; J. S. Blomeley, J.D.; J. Rosenstock, I.G.; J. Hawker, W.S.; J. Stevens, P.M.; J. W. Weir, P.M.; H. J. Wells, G. Holman, H. Stevens, D. Barber, and others. The visitors were numerous, and we noticed Bros. J. Brinn, 75; J. Bavin, S.W. 172; J. Lightfoot, J.W. 172; G. Brown, W.M. 169; D. Lines, I.G. 619, and many others. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. Bro. G. Holman in a superior manner proved his proficiency as a F.C., and having withdrawn, the lodge was opened in the third degree, when Bro. G. Holman was introduced, and raised to the degree of a Master Mason. The entire ceremony being given, the first portion by Bro. F. Walters, who vacated the chair, Bro. G. Wilton, the I.P.M. arrived, who then finished the work by giving the traditional history, tracing board, and working tools. This ceremony was beautifully and impressively rendered, more especially by Bro. G. Wilton, who seemed, if possible, to exceed all his previous good working. Bro. C. G. C. Stahr, W.M., then took the chair. Bros. H. Stevens and D. Barber were properly introduced and regularly passed to the degree of Fellow Craft Freemasons. The lodge was then closed according to ancient custom. After business the brethren passed an agreeable hour together in social conversation which brought a happy meeting to a pleasant close.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—This flourishing lodge held an emergency meeting on Thursday, September 29th, at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark, Bro. C. A. Cathie's. Bro. E. N. Levy, W.M., assisted by Bros. F. Walters, I.P.M.; H. Moore, S.W.; J. C. Gooddy, J.W.; E. Harris, P.M. and Sec.; R. Penn, F. H. Ebsworth, C. A. Cathie, Marshall, M. A. Loewenstark, H. Prouten, Jackson, A. P. Stedman, and numerous other brethren. Mr. Jonathan George Parry was proposed for initiation, and the ballot was declared to be unanimous in favour of his admission. He being in attendance was ably initiated into ancient Freemasonry. Bros. H. Prouten and J. M. Jackson gave proofs of their proficiency as Entered Apprentice Freemasons. They were introduced and passed to the degree of Fellow Craft Freemasons. This concluded all the ceremonies that were inserted in the summonses. Bro. E. N. Levy, W.M., had an opportunity of displaying his beautiful, impressive, and correct working, which of late years has never been surpassed, and scarcely ever equalled, in this lodge, because on the regular lodge nights he generally has more than six or eight candidates to confer degrees on, which must naturally tax his energies, which have, so far, never flagged; so that when, on this occasion, only three candidates were presented to him, and having leisure to do the work, he most ably conferred the several degrees on the candidates, which must have made a lasting impression on their minds, as well as those who had the good fortune to be present on that eventful night. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquetting room, where they passed a few hours together, anticipating the pleasures of the next regular lodge meeting, whilst enjoying the happy incidents which had caused their present reunion. Visitors: T. Johns, P.M. 30; G. Powell, 90; T. Radley, S.W. 20; J. Brinn, 75; and many others whose names we were unable to learn.

PROVINCIAL.

DURHAM.

FOUNDING OF A NEW MASONIC HALL AT WEST HARTLEPOOL.

On Thursday, the 29th ult., the interesting and picturesque spectacle was exhibited of the founding, according to ancient Masonic ritual, by the brethren of the mystic tie, of an addition to the public buildings of the town, to be devoted to the future special service of the Masonic brotherhood. The promoters of this movement are the members of the young but vigorous and prosperous Harbour of Refuge Lodge, West Hartlepool; and, as a succinct and detailed history of the movement and of the lodge with which it originated is given in the document printed below, read by the Secretary, Bro. Cackett, immediately before the laying of the foundation stone, we beg to refer our readers to that interesting record, for details it would be a work of supererogation here to repeat. Suffice it to say, that the building itself is being erected on an admirable site near Christ Church and at the end of Church-street, certainly the noblest thoroughfare in the new town of West Hartlepool—and according to a design by Bro. John Tilman, Prov. G. Architect of Sunderland; the contractors being Bros. J. Johnson and Jonathan Salmon, and the estimated cost of the building upwards of £600. The day was most propitious for the out-of-doors ceremonial, and a considerable number of visiting brethren were present. Most of these we name below. At about half-past eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the Master and brethren of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge formed into procession in front of the Royal Hotel (Bro. Murray, host), where the lodge has heretofore been held.

All were arrayed in the emblems and insignia of their order and respective offices, and the West Hartlepool Operatic Band contributed excellent music to their march, so that the mere spectacle was one creditable to the Craft, and not without interest to the uninitiated public. The procession, once set in motion, was directed in its course by the M.C., Bro. Levy, of Sunderland, to the gates of Christ Church, and entered the sacred edifice followed by a respectable congregation.

Here divine service was joined in; the Rev. J. G. Rowe, Incumbent of Christ Church, officiating. The chants were beautifully rendered by the Stranton Church Choir. The whole of the morning service was gone through by the officiating minister. The hymns given before and after the communion service were the 11th of the collection, commencing

"Sun of my soul, Thou Saviour dear,
It is not night if Thou be near;
O may no earth-born cloud arise
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes;"

and the deeply pathetic and highly devotional psalm (No. 96 in this collection) founded on the words "The love of Christ constraineth us." The Rev. J. G. Rowe announced as his text for the occasion the second chapter of St. Paul's epistle to the Ephesians, the 19th and following verses:—"Now, therefore, ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God: and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building, fitly framed together, groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: to whom ye are also builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit." The fraternity of Masons (the preacher said), involving as it does the notion of building, in a figurative sense—the building together of men in one unbroken brotherhood of Christian faith and love—is not out of harmony with the sacred Scriptures. On the contrary, both in the Old and New Testaments, figures are frequently employed, which had been taken from the builders' art. Unworthy teachers were in one passage, described as "unstable builders;" and, in the prophet Amos, God spoke of Himself as a builder in the following sublime terms:—"It is He that buildeth his storeys in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea and poureth them out on the earth: the Lord is His name." Our blessed Lord in His sermon on the mount reminded us that those that heard His sayings, and in faith and obedience received and acted upon them, were "like wise builders," while those who heard His sayings and did them not, He likened to foolish builders. Nor need he (the preacher) remind them, that the apostles frequently selected figures from the same art. St. Paul spoke of himself as a good master builder, who hath laid a good foundation; while in the text they were reminded what that good foundation was

—"built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." The great idea underlying all this was, that their foundation stone must be surely laid upon the rock, and their whole building fitly and firmly put together, and left to depend upon Him who was the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending, the foundation which upheld and the topstone that finished their building. He hoped that such would be the case with the building which was to be founded that day. "Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it." He trusted that the ceremonial of that day would not be a mere empty show; but that from many a pious heart the prayer would ascend, that it might be made a blessing to the brethren and subservient to His service to whom they ought to build. He also trusted that that confraternity were builded together in the Lord. The sermon was followed, and the services closed, by the minister pronouncing the benediction.

THE CEREMONIAL.

The procession was then re-formed, and directed its course from the western gate of the churchyard to the site of the intended new building, where a temporary gallery, raised for the accommodation of ladies, had been erected and was well filled; and here in the regretted absence of the Rev. Bro. Cundill, the chaplain, the W.M. Dr. Kirk, on silence being restored, read a form of solemn prayer and dedication to the Deity, used by the brethren on such occasions, which was responded to at the close with "So mote it be" from all the assembled brethren. This was followed by the singing, by the Stranton choir, of the piece "Lord for Thy dear Mercy's sake." All this time the brethren had stood devoutly uncovered, and many of the bystanders joined in their decent expression of reverence during the solemnities. Meanwhile the W.M. and his leading subordinates were ranged round the cross-trees, beneath which lay the foundation stone of the new building about to be erected. The band accompanied by a slow tune the raising of the stone, below which was being placed a good bed of mortar; and the Secretary presented to the W.M. a handsome silver trowel, bearing the following inscription:—

"Presented to Bro. Geo. Kirk, W.M. of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge (No. 764), on his laying the foundation-stone of the Masonic Hall, at West Hartlepool, 29th September, 1864." This the Prov. G.M. accepted, and then said:—"Brethren, having assembled here this day for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of a Masonic Hall, it will be my duty to see the ceremony correctly performed, in conformity with our ancient usages and customs. (Applause.) The Prov. G. Architect then came forward, and formally presented for inspection and approval the plans and elevations of the intended structure; which, having examined, the W.M. handed back, saying: "I approve the plans now submitted to me, which I return to you for the guidance and instructions of the workmen." The Secretary (Bro. F. J. Cackett) then read the following record:—"The stone within the cavity of which this document is deposited is the foundation stone of a Masonic Hall, to be erected by and for the brethren of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (No. 764), at West Hartlepool, in the county of Durham. This lodge was formed under warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, in the year 1859, and has heretofore been held at the Royal Hotel, West Hartlepool. It was originally No. 1,066, but that number was, on the numbering of lodges in 1863, altered to 764. The first appointed and installed Master was Bro. George Moore, who held that office for the year ending in 1860, and since that date the office of W.M. has been held as follows:—Bros. John Sutcliffe, 1860-61; John Sutcliffe, 1861-62; George Kirk, 1862-63; Henry Rank, 1863-64; George Kirk (present W.M.) 1864-65. Since the consecration of the lodge, a large number of brethren have been initiated, and the progress of the lodge has been steady and satisfactory. It being considered desirable for the good of Freemasonry, and also for this lodge, that an edifice should be built for the better holding of its meetings and other purposes connected therewith, a subscription has been raised for defraying the expenses; and a design prepared by Bro. John Tilman, of Sunderland, Prov. G. Architect has been selected by the lodge and approved by the Prov. G.M. This foundation stone is accordingly now laid by the W.M., George Kirk, acting under the dispensation from the Prov. G.M., in Masonic form, in the presence of a large number of brethren of the lodge and of visiting brethren. Herewith are also deposited the following newspapers:—The Times, the

Stockton and Hartlepool Mercury, &c., and several coins of the realm. The principal officers of the Order at this date are:—The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of England; the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, R.W.D.G.M. of England; J. Fawcett, R.W. Prov. G.M.; Henry Fenwick, M.P., R.W. Prov. G.M. The officers of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge, 764, at this date are:—Bros. George Kirk, W.M.; Henry Rank, P.M.; William Wilkinson Brunton, S.W.; Richard Brigham Harpley, S.W.; Francis John Cackett, Sec.; Joseph Bird, Treas.; Jonathan Salmon, S.D.; George Stephenson, S.D.; W. Sadler, I.G.; Matthew Muers, Tyler; John Tilman, Prov. G. Architect; Jonathan Johnson, Builder; Benjamin Levy, Prov. 1. Dir. of Cers., P. Prov. S.G.D. Dated this 29th day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty four, and in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.”

A copy of the foregoing record was now also deposited in the cavity beneath the stone, together with the other articles mentioned therein. The W.M. then touched the mortar with the point of his trowel, “*emblematically spreading the same*,” again the band resumed its music; and, in three distinct drops, the stone was lowered into its place. Then followed to the uninitiated the most mysterious and to all the most quaint and singular episode of the ceremonial. The W.M. (to the J.W.); Bro. Junior Warden, what is your emblem of office?—J.W. (advancing): The plumb rule.—The W.M.: What is its use?—J.W.: To try and adjust all perpendiculars whilst placing upon their proper bases.—W.M.: Then please to prove this stone is perfectly upright.—Here the J.W. applied his plumb rule in workmanlike manner, and replied that the stone was perpendicular.—Bro. Senior Warden was examined in like fashion, and was then told to prove that the horizontal was perfectly level—which he did; and then the D. Prov. G.M. was similarly cross-examined as to his emblem (the square), and gave ocular testimony to the rectangular accuracy of the stone. The W.M., to whom at this point a handsome gilt mallet had just been presented, then said: “*Having full confidence in your skill and in the royal art it only remains for me to complete the work.* (Then, striking the stone three times): In the name of the Most High, I pronounce this foundation stone duly laid as the foundation stone of an edifice to be hereafter consecrated for the purposes of ancient Freemasonry! (Applause.) Three P.M.’s then advanced bearing corn, wine, and oil, in silver tankards, which were presented to the W.M. Each of the three emblems were strewed and poured over the stone, the action being accompanied by the following solemn ejaculation:—“*To the Great Architect of the Universe I now dedicate this corner stone! To the Great Geometrician of the Universe, we consecrate this stone! In the name of the Most High, we dedicate this foundation stone.* (Then, turning to the brethren) May the all-righteous author of nature bless the inhabitants of this neighborhood with all the necessities, conveniences, and comforts of life; assist in the erection and completion of this building; protect the workmen against every accident; long preserve the structure from decay; and grant unto us all a plentiful supply of the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy. (Then, to the spectators): Men, women, and children assembled here to-day to behold this ceremony, know all of you that we be lawful Masons, true and faithful to the laws of our country, and engaged by solemn obligations to erect magnificent buildings to be serviceable to the brethren, and to fear God, the Great Architect of the Universe; that we have amongst us concealed from the eyes of all men secrets which cannot be divulged, and which never have been found out; but that these secrets are lawful and honourable, and not repugnant to the laws of God or man. They were intrusted in peace and honour to the Masons of ancient times, and have been faithfully transmitted to us; and it is our duty to convey them unimpaired to the latest posterity. Unless our Craft were good and our calling honourable, we should not have lasted for so many centuries; nor should we have been honoured with the patronage of so many illustrious men in all ages, who have ever shown themselves ready to promote our interests, and to defend us against all adversaries. We are assembled here in the face of you all to build a house for Masonry, which, we pray God, may deserve to prosper, by becoming a place of concourse for good men, and promoting harmony and brotherly love throughout the world till time shall be no more.” This concluded the ceremonial, when the procession re-formed, and returned to the lodge room at the Royal; where, at a special lodge, a splendid decorated badge was pre-

sented to the architect; and cordial votes of thanks were accorded to the Rev. J. G. Rowe, for having at short notice opened the church, and (in his unavoidable absence) supplied the place of the Prov. G. Chaplain; and to Bro. Levy, of Sunderland, for his kind and efficient services as Dir. of Cers. The lodge closed, and

THE BANQUET

at the “*Royal Hotel*” succeeded, served in Bro. Murray’s most superb style, and partaken of by a company numbering about fifty brethren of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge and visiting brethren. The W.M. presided, supported on the right by Bros. J. G. Thompson, W.M.; T. Nelson, P.M. of the Tees Lodge, Stockton; and on the left by Bros. J. Settle, P.M. of the Tees Lodge, Stockton, and Prov. G. Reg. of Durham; B. Levy, P.M. of the Palatine Lodge, Sunderland, and Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. Durham; and J. Tilman, J.D. of the Williamson Lodge, Sunderland. There were also present all the officers of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge, named above, and Bros. J. Pearson, F. English, W. Conolly, W. Park, C. Pace, G. Barnes, W. Farrar, C. Wilmott, W. Reed, J. N. Pigg, J. Macdonald, and J. Johnson. Bros. J. Groves, W.M.; J. E. Holmes, S.W.; L. M. Hill, I.G.; W. Donald, Sec.; J. P. Allen, A. Nathan, G. Irvine, and W. Stokell, of the St. Helen’s Lodge, Hartlepool; R. W. Halfnight, P.M. of the Williamson Lodge, Sunderland; H. J. Hogan, of the Friendship Lodge (No. 117); T. A. Scott, P.M. of the St. Magdalen’s (No. 100), Scotland; Jno. Bailey, Sec., and W. Banks, Restoration Lodge, Darlington; W. Best, P.M., Prov. J.G.W. of the Tees Lodge, Stockton; R. Burnett and W. Robson, of the St. John’s Lodge, Sunderland; and T. W. Hearon, of the Marquis of Granby Lodge, Durham, &c.

The evening was passed with all that cordial conviviality and good fellowship for which the ancient fraternity are famous. The toasts given from the chair were “*The Queen*,” “*The Rest of the Royal Family*,” “*The Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, R.W.D.G.M.*,” and “*Bro. John Fawcett, R.W. Prov. G.M.*,” interspersed with songs by Bros. Wilmott, Pace, Bird, Holmes, and Irvine. Then, “*H. Fenwick, Esq., M.P., R.W.D. Prov. G.M., and the Prov. G. Officers*,” responded to by Bro. Settle, followed by a recitation by Bro. Donald; “*The Army, Navy, and Volunteers*,” responded to by Bro. Cackett; “*The Bishop and Clergy*,” “*The Harbour of Refuge Lodge*,” “*Our Visiting Brethren*” (responded to by Bro. Nelson), “*The W.M.*,” and “*All Poor and Distressed Masons*.” Mirth, music, and song carried the proceedings forward to an advanced hour of the evening.

GATESHEAD.—*Lodge of Industry* (No. 48).—This lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. W. Boyden, assisted by the officers of the lodge. Bros. Robson, Whitworth, and Jamison were passed to the second degree by the W.M. Bro. A. Clapham, P.M., explained the working tools. Bro. B. Bigger, ex-mayor of Gateshead, was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by the W.M., assisted by Bro. R. J. Banning, P.M., M.D., P.J.G.W. A gentleman was proposed for initiation. There was a good number of visitors present. Business of the lodge over, it was closed in solemn form. At refreshments, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to in due course, and after spending a very pleasant and profitable evening, the brethren separated, happy to meet again.

HAMPSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire assembled at St. John’s House, Winchester, on Thursday, the 29th September. Bro. Charles Ewens Deacon, D. Prov. G.M., P.G.S.D. of England, presided in the enforced absence of Bro. Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., K.C.B., Admiral of the Fleet, and was supported by Bros. W. W. Beach, M.P., as D. Prov. G.M.; J. W. Fleming, M.P., Prov. G.M. of the Isle of Wight; Hyde Pullen, D. Prov. G.M. of the Isle of Wight; Rankin Stebbing, W.M. 76, S.G.D. of England; Douglas, Prov. S.G.W.; J. Naish, P.M. 76, as Prov. J.G.W.; the Rev. J. A. Wills, P.M. 309, Prov. G. Chap.; Heather, P.M. 257, Prov. G. Treas.; Alfred Smith, P.M. 76, Prov. G. Reg.; W. Hickman, P.M. 555, Prov. G. Sec.; H. Ford, P.M. 247, as Prov. S.G.D.; J. W. Lamb, P.M. 694, Prov. J.G.D.; Charles Sherry, P.M. 76, as Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. Emery, P.M. 342, as Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Lieut. Cox, Prov. G. Purst., and the Masters, Past Masters, and brethren of many lodges. Among the visitors we noticed Bro. Binckes, the indefatigable Secretary of the Boys’ School, who in reality belongs to the province and

he is a highly valued member of the Winchester Lodge of Economy, No. 76 (late 90), and Bro. W. Biggs, Prov. S.G.W. of Wilts.

Upwards of one hundred brethren attended the Provincial Grand Lodge on this occasion.

The lodges of the province having been called over, and the brethren present duly vouched for, the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at one p.m. with solemn prayer. The minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge were read and confirmed. Various votes of money were then passed in relief of local cases.

Bro. Rankin Stebbing, W.M. 76 and S.G.D. of England, proposed, and Bro. Ford, P.M. 247, seconded, and it was unanimously carried—"That a special donation of twenty-five guineas be made from the Provincial Grand Lodge funds to the Royal Masonic School for Boys."

Bro. Binckes (Secretary to the Boys' School) expressed his thanks for the donation, and the appreciation of all connected with the management of that Institution of this renewed instance of the munificent support of the province.

Bro. Rankin Stebbing proposed, and Bro. W. W. Beach, M.P., seconded, and it was carried unanimously—"That a Committee of Benevolence of the Province be appointed to act in urgent cases of distress between the annual meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge, and to recommend any such cases to the decision of the Provincial Grand Master for relief out of the Provincial Grand Lodge funds, and that such committee consist of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, Provincial Junior Grand Warden, Provincial Grand Treasurer, Provincial Grand Secretary, and three other brethren, to be annually appointed by Provincial Grand Lodge; and that Bros. Stebbing, Emery, and Frost be now appointed to act on such committee."

Bro. Alfred Smith, P.M. 76, Prov. G. Reg. proposed, and Bro. J. Norish, P.M. 76 acting Prov. J.G.W., seconded, and it was carried unanimously—"That a committee be appointed to revise the by-laws and submit such revision to the Prov. G. Master for his approval, and, on obtaining the same, the present by-laws, with the proposed alterations therein, be printed, and a copy sent to each of the lodges of the Province prior to the next Provincial Grand Lodge, and that such committee consist of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Treasurer, the Provincial Grand Secretary, and the Worshipful Bros. Rankin Stebbing, H. Ford, and Alfred Smith."

The Rev. Bro. Dr. Bradshaw proposed, and Bro. Alfred Smith seconded the re-election of Bro. Heather as Prov. G. Treas., which was carried unanimously. Bro. Heather returned thanks for the honoured conferred on him.

Bro. Alfred Smith, Prov. G. Reg. proposed, and Bro. W. W. Beach, M.P., seconded, and it was carried by acclamation:—"That this Grand Lodge deeply regrets to find that the recent illness of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., K.C.B., Admiral of the Fleet, deprived it of the honour and the gratification of his distinguished presence, and desires to assure him of its sincere regard and attachment, together with its ardent hope that he may be speedily restored to the blessings of health and strength, and soon be again associated with his Masonic brethren. That this Grand Lodge is highly gratified at the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Charles Evans Deacon, as acting Provincial Grand Master on this occasion, and recollects with the highest satisfaction the many former occasions on which he has most ably represented his Masonic chief. That this resolution be entered on the minutes of proceedings, and a copy be forwarded to the R.W. Provincial Grand Master."

The D. Prov. G. Master returned thanks, and expressed his pleasure in meeting the brethren again in Provincial Grand Lodge. Votes of thanks were also proposed and seconded and carried unanimously to the R.W. Prov. G.M. and D. Prov. G.M. of the Isle of Wight for their visit on this occasion, which were suitably acknowledged by them. The D. Prov. G.M. then invested the following brethren as Prov. G. Officers for the ensuing year:—

Bro. Charles Sherry Prov. S.G.W.

In investing this brother, the D. Prov. G. Master said that the R.W. Prov. G. Master wished by this appointment to mark his strong sense of Bro. Sherry's zealous and untiring services on behalf of the Masonic Charities.

Bro. J. Baker, W.M. 487	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. J. A. Wills, P.M. 309	" G. Chap.
" Alfred Heather, P.M. 257...	" G. Treas.
" J. Tayler, P.M. 309	" G. Reg.
" W. Hickman, P.M. 394.....	" G. Sec.
" J. Collis, W.M. 130	" S.G.D.
" W. Furber, P.M. 394.....	" J.G.D.
" J. W. Brewer, W.M. 359 ...	" G. Supt. of Works.
" G. Figgins, W.M. 694	" G. Dir. of Cers.
" G. Finley, J.W. 928	" G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.
" G. Wilkins, 342	" G.S.B.
" W. Rowley, W.M. 723	" G. Purst.
" Bradbeare, 342	" G. Org.
" J. Purnell, 804	" G. Standard-Bearer.
" Grant, 76	" } G. Tylers.
" Dawkins, 394.....	" }
" Kelway, 359	" }
" Barford, 359	" }
" Edwards, 309	" } G. Stewards.
" Fabian, 257.....	" }
" Eve, 723.....	" }
" Dew, 694.....	" }

The minute-books of the lodges having been submitted for confirmation, the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed at a quarter past three p.m. After an hour's interval, the brethren re-assembled and dined in St. John's Room; nearly all who attended the Provincial Grand Lodge remained to the banquet.

Non nobis Domine, having been beautifully sung by the choir,

The ACTING G. MASTER then proceeded with the list of toasts, first doing honour to the most illustrious lady of the land. He gave them "The Queen; God bless her." Drunk with the most loyal manifestations.

Choir—"The National Anthem."

The G. MASTER next gave, with warm eulogium, "The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," which was also most loyally received.

Song, Master Budder—"God Bless the Prince of Wales."

The G. MASTER proceeded to remark that the body of Freemasons were under great obligations, and owed immense advantages, to the Grand Lodge of England. Of course they all held in great esteem the noble Earl of Zetland, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, and they could but wish success to that Grand Lodge over which the earl presided in so distinguished a manner. (Hear.) The Masons of Hampshire, he knew, especially felt a debt of gratitude to the Grand Lodge, and they had one among them at the present time who had done his utmost on their behalf in Grand Lodge, and worked with the greatest sincerity to promote their welfare. They knew that he alluded to their respected and distinguished Bro. Stebbing. It was a special source of gratification to find one devoting so much of his time and energies to the ordinary routine of Masonry, and constantly shining in acts of brotherly love and charity—(cheers)—and to find that such efforts were recognised by the first authorities among Masons was also specially gratifying. (Hear, hear.) To sooth the cry of the orphan, and to dry the tear of the widow, their Bro. Stebbing had been the first to sacrifice his time and money, and a great deal beyond that; and he never felt tired of exertion in order to obtain for the distressed that comfort, and for the bereaved widow that consolation they were so entitled to at their hands—(hear)—and but for which they would have been allowed to have gone by and neglected. He was proud to allude to the selection of their brother to serve on the Board of General Purposes, and to his subsequent appointment to the high office of Senior Grand Deacon of England. It was most congratulatory to them that a brother they had so much and so long amongst them should have been selected to represent them in Grand Lodge. With the toast of "The M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland, the V.W.D.G.M. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge," he begged to couple the name of Bro. Stebbing, W.M. of Lodge 76, Winchester, and Senior Grand Deacon of England. (Great and prolonged cheering.)

Choir—Glee, "All hail thou lovely Queen."

BRO. RANKIN STEBBING confessed himself almost overpowered by the kindness of his reception. He was never more gratified in his life than to meet them all as one of the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of England, and he felt it the more from the evident affection they bore towards him. If it was a pleasure to them that he had been so distinguished by honours,

he was thereby far more rewarded, that they took a pleasure in something conferred on him as one of themselves, rather than gratified it had been conferred on himself. The R.W.G.M. now presiding over them had introduced him to Masonry thirty years ago, and he was proud to look up to him and see him apparently still so well in health, and if they would allow him to say so, still as young in looks as ever. (Hear, and laughter.) They two had climbed the hill together, his right worshipful friend being the brighter star and more distinguished Mason, but in a humble manner he had followed in his steps and endeavoured heartily to second all the efforts he had made in the glorious cause of Masonry—(hear)—and he hoped he had been successful in healing differences and difficulties which would occasionally arise, as well as in the gentler walks of charity. He had gained much in the way of success by his worthy friend's excellent example and kind assistance. He was proud and happy to see the honour of his present office conferred upon him, because in it he had succeeded his distinguished brother, who had filled it the previous year. Though a position of considerable importance, his brother had in this, as in all other Masonic matters, borne himself with all becoming modesty, and he knew that he had often "done good by stealth, and blushed to find it fame." (Hear.) He was convinced of this, that any Mason who by his conduct and working was found worthy of distinction and promotion, would be sure to find it come upon him in good time; and how much better and how much happier it must make a man when honour and reward came unsolicited and unexpected. (Hear.) Their R.W. acting Prov. Grand Master had received great distinctions, and totally unexpected. It had been intimated to him (Bro. S.) some time ago that he should receive some office of honour; but he had answered that it was not yet his time, and though he had been offered the high office he now had the honour to fill, he had humbly begged to give it up. He did not approve of men being too ready for the greatest honours they could have; he was not the most honoured who hastily took to all distinctions that might be his. (Hear.) He meant to say that he had previously solicited to be allowed to be passed by as to the office he now held. He had done what he would advise others to do—not to be too anxious to accept honours, but to bide their time, and then it was more honour for them to accept it—(hear)—and they then appeared in redoubled splendour. There were but few appointments in the power of the authorities to grant, and it must be remembered that many must wait for a long series of years. But rather would he work in the honourable duty of benevolence. A man had better be an Entered Apprentice on to a Master Mason, and a good working Mason, than wear all the jewels that could be heaped on his breast. It had much better be said of him, "See how well he fulfils his work," rather than, "See how bright his jewels are." (Cheers.) He gloried in his endeavours to carry out the living principles of Masonry, rather than in assuming the accidental honours he then wore. He was pure of having ever attempted to obtain an honour, but he had sought to do something for the good of Masonry, and he was reaping some of his reward that night. (Hear.) He begged to express his obligations for the toast so unanimously supported by Grand Lodge, in the name of the M.W. G.M. the Earl of Zetland, the Earl De Grey and Ripon, the D.G.M. (importantly engaged in the duties of the State). But a man may be a Peer or a Queen's Minister, or in any other high capacity in the service of his country, and yet be open to the tenderest feelings of charity, which ever pervaded all Masons' hearts; and these and such were always available when anything was desirable to be done for Masonry, conspicuous in the person of their honoured brother and member of Parliament, Bro. Beach, who sat next him, a truly good and honourable Mason in high position in the Craft. (Hear.) Alluding to late proceedings in the working of the Grand Lodge of England, Bro. Stebbing went on to speak of certain improvements, inferring that a phalanx of "young men from the country" had been the instruments of doing a deal of good to the government of the Craft. The government having got a little lax, a few had set up "a great shout in Israel," and said something must be done to make things right. In this improvement something probably was to be picked up by the country party, and truly their voices had been heard. He had not found much to wish different in the R.W. Grand Master; he discovered more traces of evil in his surrounding influences than in the R.W. Grand Master himself. He was, however, inclined to think that the R.W. Grand Master might, with very good effect, be changed, say once in every three or four years. (Some

one said "No, no.") He did not refer to the present Grand Master, so amiable and excellent a Mason, and because he was truly loyal to his Sovereign in Masonry, but yet he would say that there might well be a change of their M.W. Grand Master's once in three or four years. (Hear, hear.) He thanked that numerous and influential company, in behalf of the M.W. Grand Master, for the compliment which they had been pleased to pay to his lordship, to the Grand Lodge, and its officers. Independence was to be found in office, as well as out of office, and he should take good care that he did not lose his independence now he had risen higher in distinction, so that they should always be able to say—though Bro. Stebbing has got nearer the throne, he has not lost his independence; indeed, without that life would be valueless, and he should be ashamed to look his brethren in the face again. (Loud and long-continued cheering.)

The G. MASTER then proposed the toast of "The R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Admiral Sir Lucius Curtius, Bart., K.C.B.," whose absence on the present occasion they must all deeply regret. (Hear.) He would not then occupy their time with reference to Masonic subjects, but he was sure the announcement of the toast would be most acceptable. The Provincial Grand Master might well be compared with a honest and industrious labourer, contemplating an abundant harvest. They had experienced in his life an illustration of the practical utility and the true spirit of Masonry, and he feared when the worthy admiral was gone they would not see his like again. (Hear.) May the Great Architect of the Universe bless him, and allow them to see him amongst them yet on many occasions.

Glee, by the choir—"The Last Rose of Summer," rapturously encored.

Bro. J. NAISH, P. Prov. G.W., said he had no doubt the brethren would feel as much pleasure in receiving the next toast as he did in proposing it. It was the health of a gentleman they all well knew—"The R.W. Provincial Grand Master of the Isle of Wight, Bro. T. W. Fleming, M.P." (Cheers.) He was much pleased to give the toast, though he was sorry it had not been placed in better hands, as there were many brethren present with abilities superior to his own. It was with considerable pleasure, no doubt, they recognised the attainment of a honour by their honourable brother of late, and the gratification of a prevailing wish of his heart. They could well congratulate him on his return to Parliament, though they were not allowed to mix up politics with their proceedings in lodge hours. Long may he live to preside over the Isle of Wight province, and also to meet them here on many occasions. (Cheers.)

Song, Bro. Snary—"The meeting of the waters."

Bro. T. W. FLEMING, M.P., returned his sincere thanks for the compliment paid to the province of the Isle of Wight by drinking the health of its Grand Master in so cordial a manner. He always looked forward with pleasant anticipations of these meetings. Bro. Naish had spoken of a certain degree of rank that had lately accrued to him (Bro. Fleming); but while his friend was liable to be called to order for alluding to such a subject, he would still venture to say this, that he trusted, whether in victory or defeat in his political career, always to endeavour to show himself a thorough Mason; and should there be opposition, he would never utter a word with the intention of hurting the feelings of an opponent. (Hear, hear.) It was certainly a drawback to the lodge to experience the absence of their R.W. Prov. Grand Master; but probably the gallant old admiral who had stood so many stout battles in days gone past had merely gone up harbour, to return next year refreshed and restored, and to be again with them. Many of the brethren had before visited him in the Isle of Wight, at their out-door meeting, and his brother-in-law at Bonchurch used to lend his garden for their reception. Illness in the family, leading to a death, had this year made it necessary to put the affair off, but he hoped to meet them soon, in about a month, at Ventnor. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. W. W. BEACH, M.P., proposed the next toast. He said he had to perform a most gratifying task, namely to give the health of one who was regarded with such esteem and affection that it was most easy and agreeable to mention his name—the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Hants, Bro. Deacon. (Hear, and cheers.) He was sure that everywhere throughout that province his name would be received with marks of satisfaction and approval; the object of their love and respect had been many, many years a Mason, and one of great excellence, few

exceeding him in zeal for the cause; but his had been truly an eventful career, and he had filled so many offices well and worthily that the R.W. Grand Master had appointed him to his present honourable position. The Prov. Grand Master not having been able to attend himself, it was peculiarly fortunate that he could find such an efficient deputy. The Prov. Grand Master had been their ruler for so many years, and become so popular, and had exercised his important functions in such a truly Masonic manner, that he had earned the deepest love and affection of all the brethren over whom he had been placed. To govern a province a Master must possess a considerable amount of tact and ability, and these valuable qualities were wonderfully united in the worthy brother then presiding over them. (Cheers.) The Master must be well acquainted with the ritual of their Order, and be able to give a ready opinion in deciding all cases of difference, and to soothe difficulties by means of the mild influence of his affectionate character. True it was, a kind and feeling heart may be born with a man, but they thought Masonry may tend to produce in him the finer feelings of his nature, and soften the asperities to which he was liable. Most truly, fully, and Masonically did this kind heart beat in the bosom of their Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He would not now allude to some past occasions when their worthy Deputy Master was not amongst them; for it was so very evident that whether in health or sickness the sympathies of the whole of his brethren in Masonry were very largely extended to him, and where he was present there could be no mistaking the kindness of the Masonic hearts which gathered around him. (Cheers.) The toast was received and honoured with the most enthusiastic demonstrations.

Glee, by the choir—"Auld Lang Syne."

The D. Prov. G. MASTER said he rose naturally with feelings of pride and gratitude to acknowledge the too flattering manner in which his respected brother had proposed the toast, and to thank the numerous brethren around him who had so kindly and handsomely responded to it. For nearly a quarter of a century he had now been permitted by the Great Architect of the Universe to enjoy the great blessing which Freemasonry afforded them, but he did not feel that he deserved all the kind expressions which Bro. Beach had delivered himself of in proposing the toast. He asked no other verdict at their hands than that they believed that during the long period of his holding the various offices which he had had the honour of filling, he had properly discharged the duties devolving upon him, because he had been animated throughout by the best intentions and the worthiest of motives. (Hear.) During some period of his life his conscience told him that he had given more attention, devotion, and zeal to the cause of Masonry than he had given to graver and weightier subjects—his spiritual and temporal affairs. It had been his constant desire to carry out sincerely and truthfully the glorious principles upon which Masonry was founded. A good Mason was not only a good man, but the outer world must see that he is a good man, and one whom they saw and knew did his duty. From the highest to the lowest, the richest and the poorest, they all descended from the same common parent, and were all wending their way to the same common end. Certain and sure as they would find it, Masonry taught them to show love to their brethren, to honour all men, and to fear God, the great Creator of all. What could they do better than make each other happy? What was the spirit which united them? It was something inspired to them by the spirit of philanthropy which created the world. Their hearts were made by the Almighty to yearn for those who might be in trouble, and inspired them to use all means for each other's happiness, and those means especially which Masonry afforded them. They must not take up this Masonry as a flower, to be thrown down and forgotten—they were not to make it a purpose only of social enjoyment. Brethren who thought to do so knew not what Freemasonry was. (Hear.) He would appeal to any brother who did really carry out his Masonic principles, whether it did not really soften the asperities of life; he was sure that Masonry did give that comfort and that consolation so desirable. It was compounded of that universal love and that universal charity which must, perforce, conquer and destroy the most overpowering feelings of dislike, dissatisfaction, and prejudice, and infuse into all its magic and delightful influence. (Hear.) He asked them all to remember and bear in mind those solemn and important lessons which the ritual of Masonry conveyed to them, and to exercise on all occasions those principles they had solemnly declared to carry into effect by their conduct as Freemasons. (Hear.)

Bodily ailments had prevented him on many occasions from joining his brethren, but though he might not have been amongst them, he knew how much he had their sympathy by communications and personal assurances. He might yet be with them for a long or a short period, and in any good work which might be contemplated, he should at all times be glad to assist and co-operate in carrying it into effect. May their unity and harmony increase in the same proportion as their prosperity; he should never forget the kindness he had received at their hands that day and for many years past. It would be a comfort to him so long as he existed to have such a remembrance, and he should ever entertain the deepest gratitude to them for the kindness and consideration they had shown him since he had been connected with their glorious institution. (Immense cheering.)

Bro. A. SMITH, P.M. 76, Prov. G. Reg., said he had listened with great interest, much instruction, and inestimable gratification to the past speeches. He was sure, after such displays of eloquence and Masonic feeling, that he should best consult his own capacity and the taste of the company by simply proposing in the briefest terms the toast of the gallant defenders of their country—the Army, Navy, and Volunteers (hear, hear); and he would ask that they should drink to it upstanding. (Drunk with loud applause.)

Choir, glee from "Faust"—"Glory and Love to the Men of Old."

Bro. Col. MEEHAN, P.M. 319, briefly responded, in the course of his observations saying they might believe him the British Army was never in a higher state of discipline, or more aspiring for their country's fame than at the present time.

Bro. Col. FORD said, as he was the senior Volunteer officer present, he thankfully acknowledged the compliment paid to the force. He could only say how glad they were at all times to receive the encouraging approbation of their fellow men. He trusted their conduct and bearing would prove that the money spent on them by the Government had not been wasted. The Government had hitherto treated them liberally ("oh!") and he hoped soon to find that liberality much increased. (Hear, hear.) They would do as much as they could for the money given them, and he hoped they would be found fully able to perform any duty required by the country.

Bro. the Rev. G. BRADSHAW proposed the toast of "The Masonic Charities."

Glee, by choir—"By Celia's Arbour."

Bro. BICKLES, Secretary to the Masonic Boys' School, spoke fluently at some length in response to the toast. He said that if he consulted himself he should confine his observations to a few simple words, but he feared that his silence would then be attributed to motives which did not actuate him. He never rose to respond under circumstances of greater difficulty. He must not withhold his tribute of praise to the great liberality of the province of Hampshire. He would ask their pardon for all his past sins of commission, and he promised never to inflict upon them again a speech of so much length as to cause complaint. In no province was there less occasion to press on the brethren for assistance to the Charities, as they were thoroughly imbued with a spirit coinciding with the claims of the institutions of the Order, and it was only necessary to appeal at all except when some special claim arose. He must repeat his warmest thanks for the support they had contributed, not only to the Boys' School, with which he was particularly connected, but to the other Charities. The province of Hants had cheerfully borne the burden of those who were unable to aid themselves, and they had never flinched from supporting those institutions when properly called upon for their assistance. He would only refer to those members who had sustained the duties of Stewards for the Charities. He had received the names of two brethren who had consented to serve as Stewards of the Boys' School next year—one was Bro. Hubbert, of Basingstoke, and well known at Winchester, and the other Bro. Eve, of the Lodge at Alverstoke. He, therefore, knew that the interests of his school would not be neglected in 1865. (Hear.) He should say that the school he was connected with was just now in special need of support from a special want. He could furnish important statistics as to the course taken with their finances. The Girls' School was in a very flattering position; the building had been enlarged, and they could now accommodate one hundred children, and their subscriptions were increasing from year to year, and then there was £1,000 in funded property. The Aged Freemasons and their Widows Institution was also well situated, pecuniarily speaking.

They possessed £23,000 in funded property, and in receipt of an annual income of £1,660. The Boys' School, unfortunately, for which he was particularly concerned, would not now have one single farthing invested in the funds, and they had had a hard struggle to obtain an improved building. He might state that on the forthcoming Saturday a resolution would probably be passed for spending the last of their funded property. The whole would go for bricks and mortar, but it would be to raise as noble an institution as any that could be boasted of by any other charity in the country of equal proportion. From 150 to 200 boys would be accommodated, and an outlay incurred of £25,000, and they would not regret this large expenditure when they looked at the great good that would follow when the present brethren were all dead and gone. These Charities were the great pride and ornament of Masonry, and the sustenance and maintenance of them it was very pleasing to dilate upon. He came there that day with the greatest feeling of gratification; he had met with the most hearty reception, and he felt quite sure they would never withhold from him their support when it was properly asked for. He hoped the present prosperity of the province would long last and increase. (Cheers.)

Bro. W. HICKMAN, Prov. G. Sec., proposed the toast of "The Lodges of Hants." He said the lodges of the province had increased in numbers, and additions had been made to the members of each, and he could bear testimony to the perfect unanimity and concord prevailing in them all. They had been universally ready to lend a helping hand to the various charities in connection with the Craft. On a recent occasion he had the privilege of serving with the Provincial Grand Master as a Steward for the Boys' School, and to the greatest degree commendable was the response made by the whole of the lodges. (Hear.)

Serenade, Bro. Phillips—"I watch for thee in the starless night."

Responses to the toast were made by Bro. EMERY, No. 39, and Bro. BREWER, W.M. Lodge Peace and Harmony. The latter observed that his lodge was essentially a maritime one, and therefore was mainly instrumental by its members in disseminating Masonry throughout many countries on the face of the globe. A new lodge had lately been founded in South Africa and two in Turkey, which showed how rapidly and generally this institution was extending far and wide. His lodge was never without a visitor, and to all that came the right hand of fellowship was extended.

The G. MASTER then proposed "The Health of the Provincial Grand Officers, Past and Present." (Cheers.) He said he had long known them well and met them in their own lodges. The late Senior Grand Warden had been recognised in Southampton as a Mason who had performed his duties well in the place he represented. (Hear.) As to the appointments of that day they had been made to the best of his judgment and ability. Bro. Sherry, a worthy P.M. of No. 76, had for a long period, not quite a quarter of a century, been known and respected by the Masons of that province. (Hear, hear.) He believed that Bro. Sherry had always stood up strictly, and always would do so, for the ancient landmarks of the Craft. They knew that order was Heaven's first law, and no society could be satisfactorily conducted without it. Bro. Sherry's continued and zealous exertions for the Charities he would not then further allude to, but he would ask the company to drink heartily to the health of the Past Provincial Grand Officers and those whom it had been their pleasure to appoint that day. (Cheers.) He would name Bro. Douglas, and his successor in office, Bro. Sherry, to respond to the toast. Drunk with hearty applause.

Part song, choir—"March of the Men of Harlech."

Bro. DOUGLAS said he rose with very great pleasure to respond to the toast of the P. Prov. G. Officers of the Province. He must acknowledge the great kindness manifested by their most respected brother and Provincial Chief. (Hear.) If one man ever lived in the hearts of his brethren it was their Grand Master, Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart. He had proudly donned the blue conferred by such a worthy head. The Masonic world, equally with the general population, were now deeply lamenting the untimely death of an exalted brother—he alluded to the departed Captain Speke—whom he considered to have been one of the most gallant men of modern times. There had been a question put as to what inscription should be placed over his tomb, and he thought the reply could not be improved upon—

"Write his name." (Cheers.) Masonry, they well knew, was something more than a name, and the world by this time was beginning to know it. They had commenced their transactions that day by works of charity, and he knew they would also conclude them with charity; and surely the outer world, when they heard of their doings, must say they are something better or worse than other men. It was for them to prove on which side they stood. "Ichabod" was not yet put upon them, and their glory had not departed. The seed was in the ground, and it would grow up to reflect honour on the principles which those of their Order had in view. In conclusion, he would only observe that he knew those officers that day elected in his and other's places, would perform their duties as well if not better than their predecessors. (Cheers.)

Bro. C. SHERRY, S.G.W., said,—R.W. Grand Master, officers, and brethren, on behalf of the actual Provincial Grand Officers I beg to return you our sincere thanks. I trust we shall perform the duties entrusted to our keeping with credit to ourselves and in a manner worthy of the distinguished honours with which we have been favoured. For myself, I will answer that I will do my best to give satisfaction to all of you as well as to our R.W. Grand Master, Sir Lucius Curtis, of whom I can only speak by echoing the sentiments of the brother who has just spoken, my predecessor in this chair. I can do nothing more, but say I hope other provinces are governed equally as well as our own, thanking you for the compliment you have paid us.

Bro. LA CROIX, P.M. No. 76, proposed the next toast—"The Visiting Brethren." (Hear.) He said it was a toast that scarcely required any remark to introduce it, as it so directly appealed to their feelings. The great object of that provincial meeting had been to gather together as many of the Craft as they could, and if they had not received assistance from their provincial friends they would not have made such a goodly show. After the glorious enjoyment they had all experienced, they could but declare their kind and hearty thanks to those who had come in the shape of visitors. He would beg to associate the name of one of their visitors with the toast, and he was only sorry it did not lie with one more capable of enlarging upon that brother's peculiar merit. He alluded to Bro. Briggs, who had been a member of the Winchester Lodge, and had filled high positions in Wiltshire, being at present the Prov. G. Warden of that county. One of the neighbouring lodges near the coast had been alluded to as a maritime lodge, and one that greatly extended the tenets of the Craft. Bro. Briggs, also, by his continual travelling of the county, was enabled to render himself extremely useful in many places, and there was scarcely a lodge in Hants, Wilts, Dorset, or the Channel Islands which he had not cheered by his presence, and benefited by his instruction. (Drunk with loud cheering.)

Bro. BIGGS, who met with a most hearty reception, said he had been in hopes that he should not be left alone to respond. After the kind manner in which Bro. La Croix had proposed, and the company had responded to the toast, he could but return his sincere thanks for such flattering cordiality. He knew that he had always taken a warm interest in the welfare of the Masonic province of Wiltshire, but they would readily understand this when he informed them that Devizes was his native place, and that his family had been connected with the county for nearly a century, and it was no wonder he took an interest in it. It was eight years ago he received his first purple at Devizes, and this last year he had been made the Senior Grand Warden of Wilts. (Hear, hear.) It was greatly to the interest of the Masons of the provinces that their members should visit each other. The position he had held in this province had given him experience which had been the means of gaining him honour in the province of Wilts. It had been said that if a man had done one good act in his life, he believed he had done one in proposing Bro. Stebbing as a member of the Lodge of Economy. He had been at that lodge on the previous evening, and he had felt like the Prodigal Son returned to his home; he should become again a joining member of the old lodge if none of the brethren did not give him a black ball. (Hear, hear.) He returned his best thanks for the way they had received the toast of the visitors on that occasion. The port of Southampton he very frequently visited, and in no one province had he been received so warmly as he had throughout the province of Hants; but, as he said before, the adjoining county was his native place, and claimed his interest. (Hear, hear.)

Several other toasts were drunk, and the brethren separated.

LANCASHIRE WEST.

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 148).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 26th ult., Bros. John Bowes, W.M.; Gilbert Greenall, M.P., S.W.; Charles Pettitt, J.W. and Sec.; H. B. White, P.M. and Treas.; W. Woods, S.D.; W. Athern, I.G.; and other members and visitors attending. The minutes of the preceding meeting being duly confirmed, the most prominent event of the present meeting then ensued, namely, the presentation to this lodge, by Bro. Gilbert Greenall, M.P., the Senior Warden, of a large and very valuable landscape oil painting, the work of Bro. Charles Pettitt, J.W. and Sec., painted on the commission and at the expense of Bro. Greenall, expressly for the ornamentation of this lodge, the gratification of its members, and as a pleasing *souvenir* of Bro. Pettitt's membership. Several resolutions were duly passed, warmly thanking Bro. Greenall for his munificent liberality, and ordering the full details and circumstances of the presentation to be recorded on the minutes. Bro. Albert Latham was then duly and regularly passed to the F.C. degree by the W.M., Bro. Pettitt, J.W. &c., officiating as S.D. The E.A. Lodge being resumed, Bro. H. B. White, P.M., &c., read a petition and showed a design (both drawn and designed by himself) to be submitted to the M.W.G.M., praying his sanction to the said design and his warrant to authorise the brethren of this lodge to wear a jewel in accordance therewith, in commemoration of the centenary of this lodge. Nearly every brother present having signed the petition, it was directed to be forwarded to the M.W.G.M. A petition to the Board of Benevolence was signed by the officers and brethren on behalf of an aged former member. The lodge was duly closed in peace and harmony, and the brethren adjourned to the Lion Hotel for refreshments.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Lodge of Instruction* acting under warrant from Lodge No. 24.—This flourishing lodge of instruction was opened by Bro. A. Clapham, P.M., P. Prov. G. Reg., assisted by Bros. Hugal, as S.W.; Fulsham, as J.W., and the rest of the officers; Bro. Lambton acting as Sec., in the absence of Bro. R. J. Bunning, M.D., P.M., Prov. G.W. for Durham, who was elected as lecture master at the last meeting, and, professional duties preventing his attendance, it was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously, that Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M., P.G. Sword Bearer of England, be pleased to act as lecture master for the evening, which was at once accepted by him. Bro. Banister being desirous to see the working of the young members, solicited a volunteer to give the third degree, responded to by Bro. Fulsham, Bro. Greaves acting as a candidate. Bro. Hervey, of the Mount Lebanon Lodge (No. 73), acted as S.D. All the officers were complimented by the lecture master, who explained the difference in some parts of the working from different parts of the country and in London, and expressed a hope that some day the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland would come to one uniform mode of working. The lodge was closed at 9.15.

IRELAND.

LIMERICK.

The quarterly dinner of Lodge 73 was held on Thursday, evening, September 29th, at the lodge-rooms, Cecil-street. The following brethren were present—Bros. Capt. Burke, W.M. (acting); Horrell, S.W.; Moore, J.W.; Manning, S.D.; Adams, J.D.; Peacocke, P.M., Treas.; Bassett, P.M., Sec.; Trousdell, P.M.; M'Quaide, P.M.; W. Glover, P.M.; Thos. Glover, P.M.; Bigley, P.M.; O'Donnell, Bouchier, Wallace, Martin, Ferguson. Visiting brethren: Bros. M'Cormack, 620, Dublin; Williams, 3, Cork, P.M.; Bernal, P.M. 202, Newcastle; Perrse; and Smyth, P.M. 333, Limerick.

The dinner was excellent, and gave general satisfaction to all the brethren present, and certainly did Bro. Moore, J.W., much credit for his judicious catering.

The cloth having been removed,

The W. MASTER called on the brethren to fill their glasses, as he intended giving "The Health of her gracious Majesty the Queen," which was enthusiastically received by the brethren.

The next toast given was "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," which was well received.

¹ The next toast was "The three Grand Masters—the Earl of Zetland, for England, the Duke of Leinster, for Ireland, and the Scottish Grand Master." These exalted brethren were duly saluted according to their high rank.

The W. MASTER then called on the brethren to charge in the west, south, and east, and said—I am sure, brethren, you will receive the toast I am now going to propose with every possible respect when I mention the name of our "Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Henry Westroop." It is I am sure one that you will respond to as Masons, and give our worthy Prov. Grand Master's toast a bumper. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The toast was warmly received with all the honours.

Bros. PEACOCKE and M'QUAIDE, P.M.'s, Provincial Grand Officers, returned thanks on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The W. MASTER again rose and said—It is my intention to propose the health of an old and highly esteemed member of our Order. I mean our illustrious ex-Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Michael Funnell. I am sure, brethren, you will receive it in the manner he so eminently deserves by this lodge of which he is a member. The toast received all the honours amidst cheering.

The W. MASTER next gave "Our newly-initiated Bro. Martin," which was cordially received.

Bro. MARTIN said—As the youngest Mason present I cannot be expected to make a Masonic speech. From what I have seen of Masonry it only wants to be known to be admired. I am sure as I progress I shall like it even better. I have to thank the brethren who proposed me, especially Bro. M'Quaide. Brethren, I can only say I thank you for having admitted me a member of your honourable society, and shall do my utmost to merit your approval. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. GLOVER, P.M., asked permission of the chair to propose a toast, which was granted. He proposed "The Health of the W. Master presiding," which was most enthusiastically received.

The W. MASTER rose and said—Bro. Senior Warden, Bro. Junior Warden, and brethren, I feel the compliment paid me by this lodge, and the warm manner in which my health has been received. I much regret the cause that has hindered our esteemed Worshipful Master from taking the chair this evening. He has requested me to take his place, which I do with pleasure. Believe me, brethren, it is my wish that the Order of Freemasonry may flourish all over the world. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Burke, W.M., took his seat amidst much applause.

Bro. TROUSDELL having received permission from the chair, proposed "The Health of the W.M., Bro. Langley," and dwelt much on his Masonic virtues, hoping that he would soon resume his duties, important, no doubt, in presiding over one of the most flourishing lodges in Ireland. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The toast was received with all the honours.

"The Health of the Visiting Brethren" was then given.

Bro. BERNAL, P.M., said—As the oldest Past Master here, there is no doubt but the brethren will admit that I have served a just and lawful apprenticeship to the Order—(hear hear)—and I have no cause to regret my apprenticeship. Several brilliant members of Lodge 73 have been initiated by me, who, I must say, have acquitted themselves to my entire satisfaction, and are now Past Masters themselves. No. 73 is a lodge to be respected and admired, having a great portion of the true elements of Masonry attached to it. I thank you sincerely, brethren, for the kindness evinced by you in drinking my health as a visitor, yet I shall always consider myself as a member of your lodge. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. WILLIAMS (No. 3, Cork), being called on, rose and said—I will not fail to mention to my lodge the kind manner I was received in 73. Brethren, if any of you come to Cork we will do all in our power to make you comfortable and happy. (Cheers and laughter.) It is the first time I have entered a lodge in Limerick, and am happy to find things go on here similar to that of Cork. Brethren, I again thank you for coupling my name with the toast of "The Visiting Brethren."

Bro. M'CORMACK, of No. 620, Dublin, rose on behalf of his lodge, and said—Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and brethren, I feel very much indebted to you for the kind and fraternal manner in which my name in connection with the visiting brethren, has been proposed by your excellent Worshipful Master, and received by the brethren present.

Having been abroad for a period of twenty years, it is very pleasing to join my brethren in old Ireland; and I am led to address you in the words of the poet Moore—

"And doth not a meeting like this make amends,
For all the long years I have wandered away."

(Applause.) I have just been admitted a member of 620, Dublin, and at its next meeting I hope to see some brother of 73, when, no doubt, the toast of this lodge will get a hearty reception. Bro. McCormack resumed his seat, after delivering a most eloquent speech, amidst the cheers of the brethren.

Bro. SMYTH, P.M., next addressed the chair and said,—I feel very much the honour done me by Lodge 73, to whom I am no stranger, in thus drinking my health in connection with the visiting brethren. I am sure you are aware of my ardour for our glorious Freemasonry. I am glad to find this lodge in such an effective state, every moral and social duty uniting and cementing it. (Applause.) Bro. Capt. Smyth concluded a truly Masonic address, which was listened to with the greatest possible attention.

Bro. PERRSE said,—My being a very young Mason must plead my apology for not saying more than to simply return thanks to you, Worshipful Master and brethren, for coupling my name with the toast of the visiting brethren. It gives me great pleasure indeed to be associated with a society composed of such members as I see around me. At a period not far distant, I hope to arrive at the higher honours of Masonry, when I trust you will find me a worthy and deserving member. (Hear.)

The W. MASTER,—I request, brethren, you will fill your glasses, as I have a toast to propose, which I am convinced you will receive with every possible respect. I intend giving you the toast of the Press, and coupling with it the name of our worthy Bro. Bassett, who never fails to chronicle all our meetings for the furtherance of our Order. (Cheers.) I now, brother Masons, give "The Health of the Press," associating with it the name of Bro. Bassett, of the *Limerick Southern Chronicle*.

Bro. BASSETT rose and said—Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and brethren, as an humble member of the fourth estate, I beg to return you my most sincere thanks for the high honour done me in coupling my name in connection with that glorious bulwark of society—the press—for after all what would your meetings be—in fact, any meeting—if not recognised by that powerful engine. An honest independent press is the greatest blessing that can be vouchsafed to a community. (Hear, hear.) As regards our glorious Order of Freemasonry, as Bro. Smyth hath truly called it, I don't intend to place our light under a bushel: we have nothing to fear in giving our meetings publicity; and whilst I have the honour of being connected with the press, and also one of your members, I shall not fail to aid and assist in every way in my power to promote the interests of our time-honoured institution. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

Bro. BIGLEY, P.M., said—I beg, Worshipful Master, to propose the toast of an efficient officer of your lodge. I have had occasion to notice how well and truly Masonic our Senior Warden, Bro. Horrell, has attended to his duties, and it is most likely, when he arrives in that chair, Worshipful Master, which you so ably fill, that I shall have left Limerick and be residing in England. I never shall forget the pleasant evenings I spent in Lodge 73, and hope I shall always hear of its prosperity. I now give "The Health of the worthy Senior Warden," The toast was very well received with due honours.

Bro. HORRELL, S.W., rose and said—Worshipful Master, Bro. Bigley, and brethren, I thank you very much indeed for the kind and enthusiastic manner my health has been proposed and received by you all. I can only say, if I arrive at that high honour of becoming your Worshipful Master, it will be to me a source of pride and pleasure. Bro. Horrell resumed his seat amidst cheers.

The health of the Junior Warden, Bro. Moore, was then proposed in eulogistic terms, alluding to the manner in which the dinner and refreshments that evening were so amply provided.

Bro. MOORE said—Worshipful Master and brethren, I thank you sincerely for having received the toast of my health so warmly, which is owing to your goodness. I did my best, and I am more than repaid when I consider that you express yourself pleased with my services. (Hear.)

Bro. SMYTH, P.M., proposed the health of Bro. Glover, P.M., and said—I really consider it an honour to meet a brother Mason of over fifty years standing, and who appears this evening as much alive to the interests of Masons as he did many years ago. The toast was received with all the honours.

Bro. GLOVER returned thanks.

Bro. McCormack rose to propose, on the part of the visiting brethren, the toast of Lodge 73, which was responded to, on the part of the lodge, by the W. Master.

Several songs were sung during the evening, including—"Garryowen," by Bro. Trousdell, and "Shilly Shally," by Bro. Manning, together with a very humorous song by Bro. Ferguson, which kept the brethren in roars of laughter; after which they separated in peace, love, and harmony, not, however, without considering the claims of their poor and distressed brethren all over the world.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Jaques de Molay Encampment*.—Friday, Sept. 23rd, being the day to install the E. Commander for the ensuing year, the conclave was opened by the E. Commander, Sir Knt. W. Crankshaw, assisted by his officers, at the Masonic Temple. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Sir Thomas G. Hesketh, Bart., M.P., was then presented by Sir Knt. Alpess, P.E.C., P. Grand Herald, assisted by the Eminent Commander, under an arch of steel, to the Installing Master, Sir Knt. C. J. Banister, P.G. 1st A., who performed the ceremony with his usual care and earnestness. The following officers were then appointed and invested:—Sir Knts. Wm. Crankshaw, P.E.C.; E. Pierpoint, Prelate; S. White, 1st Captain; W. Horner, 2nd Captain; H. S. Alpess, Reg. and Treas.; James Heyes, Almoner; Chas. Colesworth, Expert; J. Feather, 1st Standard Bearer; James T. Hall, 2nd Standard Bearer; T. G. Blain, Capt. of Lines; R. F. Sparks, Herald; Wm. A. Clayton, Dir. of Cers.; John Smith, Equerry. The Almoner made the collection of alms amounting to 36s., and the business of the conclave over, it closed in ancient form. At five o'clock, the Sir Knights dined together at the Adelphi Hotel, under the presidency of Sir Knt. C. J. Banister, P.E.C., on behalf of the E.C., who was compelled to return home immediately after his installation. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were done justice to—Sir Knt. E. Pierpoint returning thanks for the M.E. and S. Grand Master and the Grand Officers; Sir Knt. Pickering for the Prov. G. Commander and the Provincial Grand Officers; the P.E.C., W. Crankshaw, for himself and the Past Commanders; Sir Knt. Samuel White, for the officers; Sir Knt. Horner, for the Masonic Charities; Sir Knt. Pierpoint, in most flattering terms, proposed the health of the president, Sir Knt. C. J. Banister, who returned thanks in a hearty and practical speech, and gave the last toast at nine o'clock.

MARK MASONRY.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Northumberland and Berwick-upon-Tweed*.—A meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, September 28th, at the Freemasons' Hall, Newgate-street. The lodge was opened by the W.M. Bro. C. J. Banister, P.G.S.O., assisted by his officers. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and three candidates were proposed for advancement into the Order. There being no candidates present to take the degree, and the business of the lodge over, it was closed at eight o'clock.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

Having commenced the season with the First Part of "King Henry the Fourth," the management certainly exhibited a due regard to the completeness of their Shakespearian programme when on Saturday evening last they furnished the public with the rare opportunity of witnessing the Second Part of the same play. As the reader of Shakspeare well knows, a very inadequate estimate of Falstaff's wondrous humour would be formed by those who part company with him on the field of Shrewsbury. To thoroughly appreciate the character of the famous knight, who has bequeathed the world such a vast inheritance of mirth, we must not be content with seeing how adroitly he turned to advantage his counterfeit death, but we must track him back to his old haunt in Eastcheap, and behold him, having successfully smoothed with his oily tongue the rusty temper of Hostess

Quickly, triumphantly reinstated in his own capacious arm-chair before the snug sea-coal fire of the Dolphin Chamber. Familiar as the subsequent adventures of the renowned *Sir John* may be to those who have pictured them in the poet's pages, the imagination has been seldom assisted by a stage embodiment of those persons who have been here called into imperishable existence by the dramatist's creative fancy. The very numerous audience which attended on Saturday night the performance of the Second Part of "King Henry IV." must have comprised a large majority to whom the representation would have the charm of complete novelty. Some old playgoers, with retentive memories, may call to mind its revival at Covent Garden Theatre in 1821, and be amused with the recollection that the coronation of Henry the Fifth in the last act was represented with spectacular grandeur, in order to gratify the curiosity of those who had been unable to view the coronation of George the Fourth, which had been so expensively celebrated a short time before. Although the cast then included names which are held in reverence by all who recur to the "palmy" days of the drama, it is not an injustice to believe that Mr. Farley's elaborate arrangement of the ceremonial, exhibiting the customs and forms attending the enthronement of an English monarch, was much more talked about by the theatrical public of that period than the fine elocution of Mr. Macready as the *King*, or the graceful bearing of Mr. Charles Kemble as the *Prince*. A long period elapsed before the title again figured in the playbills; and, in connection with what has been just recorded, it is curious to find that it reappeared in a programme expressly intended for royalty. Under the direction of Mr. Charles Kean, this play was represented in the Rubens Room of Windsor Castle, with the late Mr. Bartley as *Sir John Falstaff*, Mr. A. Wigan as the *Prince*, and Mr. Phelps as the *King*. This performance took place in January, 1853, and it naturally led, a few weeks afterwards, to the revival of the same play on the boards of Sadler's Wells, when Mr. Phelps, knowing how much his audience required of him, and perceiving how conveniently the feat could be accomplished, not only retained his part of the *King*, but assumed the character of *Justice Shallow* in addition. At Drury Lane Mr. Phelps again identifies his name with the double impersonation, and whilst, as the monarch, his fine sonorous delivery of the glowing blank verse claims the admiration due to an accomplished declaimer, his piping utterances as the garrulous old Gloucestershire justice fall upon the ear with an effect testifying to the skill of the comprehensive actor. This portraiture of the loquacious and tottering representative of the country squire, proud of his official position, and, with the infirmities of age upon him, recalling with infinite zest the midnight pranks of his youthful days, is depicted in the most vivid colours. The utmost pains have been evidently taken to render the picture perfect, and the result is one of those highly-finished works of histrionic art which the playgoer preserves in the hall of memory, and often turns back to look upon with renewed pleasure. It is not till the commencement of the third act that *Justice Shallow* comes upon the scene, and, whilst the quickening impulse that then stirred the spectators into a keener expression of interest in the play showed how much they had expected from the performer, the frequent bursts of applause which followed proved how little they were disappointed. The enjoyment of those reminiscences of the wildness of youth, recalled with such chuckling satisfaction by the old justice to the companions of his early day, was heartily shared by the whole audience, and the hilarious group assembled on that matchless night of revelry in the garden of *Shallow's* house found no lack of participants in their merriment. Mr. Barrett, who represented *Falstaff* when the play was brought out at Sadler's Wells, has been very fitly entrusted with the embodiment of the same onerous part on the present occasion, and the sensual propensities of *Sir John* in the sequel play, rendered more prominently, were illustrated with considerable unction. The reinstated possessor of the luxurious comforts of the Boar's Head, and the deposed favourite of the prince when, assuming the crown, he casts off the associates of his "madcap" days, found Mr. Barrett equally competent to portray the varying feelings which are exhibited in such strong contrast. Mr. Edmund Phelps, who is now the *Prince*, bears his elevation to higher dignities with becoming gravity of demeanour; and whilst the part of swaggering *Pistol* loses nothing of its grotesque bombast in the hands of Mr. Robert Roxby, *Hostess Quickly*, as personated with characteristic energy by Mrs. H. Vandenhoff, is by no means reduced in importance. The other characters are distributed among efficient representatives,

and the play—which is such a significant example of how the dry records of the chronicler can be illuminated by the brilliant imagination of the poet—will be found a desirable revival for many reasons, but for none stronger than the one afforded by the *Justice Shallow* of Mr. Phelps.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

The opening of this house for the winter season took place on Monday evening last. The pieces selected for the occasion were "Good for Nothing," "The Irish Ambassador," and "Teddy the Tiler." It is scarcely necessary to say that "Good for Nothing" in the hands of Miss Woolgar, Mr. J. Clarke, Mr. Billington, and Mr. W. H. Eburne, was all that could be desired. The great features of the evening, however, were "The Irish Ambassador" and "Teddy the Tiler" in which Mr. John Collins, a gentleman who has attained much celebrity in America as a delineator of Irish character and a singer of Irish songs, made his first appearance before a London audience, and produced a favourable impression as *Sir Patrick O'Plenipo*, in "The Irish Ambassador" and as *Teddy*, in "Teddy the Tiler."

Mr. Collins is an actor of no inconsiderable merit. He combines a perfect knowledge of stage business with a capital brogue, unexceptionable because it is genuine; and he carefully avoids most of the vulgarity in which many actors are too prone to indulge when representing Irish character. As a singer of Irish songs he is most effective, eliciting a unanimous encore for his opening song in "The Irish Ambassador," "The Bould Sojer Boy." If possible, he increased his reputation as a vocalist in "The Low-back'd Car," and more especially so in "Widow Machree," which was twice encored. Mr. Collins's style is gentlemanly, and without straining after effect he produces it, and fairly promises to be a favourite with the Adelphi audience. At the conclusion of "Teddy the Tiler" Mr. Collins was loudly called for, and bowed his acknowledgments.

ASTLEY'S THEATRE.

This favourite house was reopened for the season on Monday last by Mr. E. T. Smith, under the most favourable auspices, every part of the building being crowded to excess. The performances opened with the "Double-bedded Room," in which the characters were all well sustained by Messrs. S. Emery, Gresham, Craddock, and Akins, Mrs. E. F. Edgar, and Miss Minnie Clifford; but the piece passed off very quietly, owing to the enthusiasm being probably reserved for that which was to follow. Mr. Emery, as *Dulcimer Pipes*, however, was twice called before the curtain. With the drama of "Mazeppa," which followed, everybody is well acquainted; but the great novelty of this season is the appearance of a lady, Miss Adah Isaacs Menken, as *Mazeppa*. This lady, who has earned laurels in the United States, of which we understand she is a native, certainly filled the part to perfection, to use the words of the bills—"Fighting her own combats and climbing the fearful precipices on horseback herself, and not by deputy," and by her graceful action succeeded in drawing down thunders of applause and repeated encores. From the enthusiasm with which she was received on Monday night there is little doubt that her sojourn at this theatre will prove a very great attraction. The staff, which is necessarily very large, is well selected; the mechanical arrangements are good; and the new scenic effects are elegant. "Mazeppa" at Astley's will certainly again have a long run.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and younger branches of the Royal Family continue in Scotland. The Prince and Princess of Wales have received a magnificent reception in Sweden, and have returned to Denmark for a brief sojourn.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality in the metropolis for last week shows a slight increase over the week previous. The deaths for the week amount to 1,284, which is about 50 more than the week before, and between 30 and 40 higher than the corrected average of the last ten years. Among the diseases scarlatina seems to be on the increase. The births amounted to 2,027, which is 123 above the corrected average of the last ten years.—The revenue for the year ending on Friday the 30th ult. was £120,438 below the income of the preceding

twelve months. When we come to examine the items of the return, however, we shall see that Mr. Gladstone has good reason to congratulate himself upon the net result of the taxation of the year. There is an increase of £2,104,000 under the head of Excise, while Stamps, Taxes, the Post-office, Crown Lands, and Miscellaneous, show together an improvement of £1,027,562. It was to be expected that the Customs and the Income Tax would figure for a large decrease, and the total falling off under these two heads is £3,252,000. On the quarter, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, there is a net increase of £380,985.—The return of pauperism in the cotton manufacturing districts, published by the Poor-law Board, shows a very large increase this week. Since the commencement of September, 7,660 paupers have been added to the union relief lists; and of that number, 4,210 are due to the past week. Nineteen unions "have more paupers." The largest accessions took place in the Ashton-under-Lyne union, 400; in the Blackburn union, 300; in Manchester, 520; in the Preston union, 760; and in the Stockport union, 370. Nearly half the new additions to the pauper ranks last week were adult able-bodied, (1,796); and that class is now swollen to 21,400. The out relief disbursed by the Guardians was £362 in excess of the expenditure for the third week of September.—Some important facts respecting the condition of Ireland are given in the agricultural report of the Registrar-General for that country, which has just been issued. It appears that at the present time the extent of land under "cereal and green crops" is less than that of last year by 124,754 acres, while "meadow, clover, and flax" together show an increase of 135,247 acres. As compared with last year, there is thus an increase of 10,493 acres in the total area under crops of all descriptions. In the value of the stock of sheep and cattle there has been a great advance—so great, indeed, that after deducting £162,947 as the money value of the diminution in horses and pigs, Ireland is in the respect of live stock richer by £632,411 than it was this time last year. As regards emigration, there has (to the end of July) been an increase of 4,080 as compared with the previous year.—Lord Woodhouse, we are informed, has definitively accepted the office of Viceroy of Ireland, from which Lord Carlisle has been obliged to retire in consequence of ill-health. The Under Secretaryship for India thus becomes vacant.—At the Clerkenwell police-court, Mr. Charles Lloyd was charged by the Metropolitan Railway Company with leaving the carriage of one of their trains while the train was in motion. The incident occurred on the 10th of September at King's-cross Station, and the defendant had suffered severe personal injury, in consequence of which the magistrate inflicted the nominal penalty of one shilling.—At the Surrey Sessions Joseph Beal, a carman, was tried for injuring William Whilby, at Battersea. He was found guilty, and sentenced to three months hard labour. An Irishman named Cornelius Murray was convicted of a brutal assault upon a potman at the Black Dog Tavern, Vauxhall-walk. The fellow, it appeared, had been drummed out of the army some time ago. A sentence of nine months' imprisonment with hard labour was passed upon him.—A curious point of law was raised at the Middlesex Sessions on Friday last, whether a prosecutor is at liberty to adduce evidence as to the bad character of the prisoner. Mr. Payne held it to be settled law that evidence as to good character might be rebutted by evidence of a contrary description; and Mr. Bodkin, the assistant judge of the Middlesex Sessions, agreed with him; but, on account of the importance of the question, it was agreed to reserve the point for the Court of Criminal Appeal.—Two inquests were held in the course of Saturday—one at the London Hospital on the

body of a Spanish sailor who was stabbed in a quarrel by one of his countrymen; the other on the boy who was shot by another boy in Epping Forest. In the first case the verdict returned was one of manslaughter; in the other the jury returned a verdict of death from accident and misadventure.—An inquest has also been held on the body of a Frenchman, who drowned himself on Saturday in the River Lea. It seems the poor man had formerly been in good circumstances, but had fallen into distress, and become of intemperate habits. He had left a letter to his wife expressing his determination to drown himself. The jury returned a verdict of unsound mind.—A fearful explosion of gunpowder occurred on the banks of the Thames on Saturday morning. Messrs. Hall and Son, of Dartford, and the Tranmere Company had two magazines for the storage of gunpowder at a place called Low Wood, between Plumstead and Erith. On Saturday morning two barges laden with gunpowder were moored opposite this spot, and it is supposed that the cargo of one of these boats exploded. The second barge immediately afterwards blew up, and this was followed in an instant by the explosion of the two magazines, which contained a large quantity of gunpowder. The shock, as may be imagined, was terrific. It was felt for many miles round, causing a vast destruction of property, and leading most people in London and the neighbourhood to suppose that a violent earthquake had taken place. The precise number of persons killed by this disaster had not been ascertained. The names of five are known, but there were four persons in the barges when they blew up, and one or two others are missing, whilst six or seven are seriously injured. A good deal of damage was done to the river embankment near Low Wood; and it was only by the most strenuous exertions that it was sufficiently repaired to keep out the rising tide. Several thousand persons have visited the scene of the catastrophe, and approached as near the spot as the guards stationed round it will allow. The main efforts of the workmen have been directed to the strengthening of the river embankment. Their efforts, it is satisfactory to state, have been crowned with complete success. Monday's was the highest tide of the month, and the flood rose to a great height, but nothing beyond the wash of the higher waves went over the embankment. The excitement of the populace on Sunday led to a shocking accident. There was an immense crowd of persons at the little side station of Belvedere on the railway, and the most frantic efforts were made to get into the carriages as they arrived, which the police were unable to restrain. One gentleman fell between the carriage and was dreadfully mangled. He has since died. The coroner's inquest on the bodies of the sufferers was opened on Tuesday morning, but as yet there is no explanation of the cause of the accident.—A shocking accident in a mine, causing the loss of nine lives, took place last week, near Ironbridge. It seems that the last relay of workmen were ascending the pit, having left off work for the day, when some part of the machinery gave way, and the men were precipitated to the bottom. Three men and six boys lost their lives by this accident. The causes that led to it will be investigated before the coroner's inquest.—A melancholy accident occurred a day or two ago at an hotel in York. A box containing a loaded pistol was found under the pillow in one of the bed-rooms. It was brought into the bar of the hotel with a view to find out the owner, and while a gentleman there was examining it the pistol went off, and the ball lodged in the temple of the barmaid. The gentleman who fired the pistol is in custody, but it is not believed to be done by design.—It was supposed that the whole of the "rick-burners" who caused such devastation on the Yorkshire wolds some twelve

months ago had been safely housed in gaol, but several disastrous fires which have occurred in East Yorkshire and North Lincoln within the last few days have revived the panic of last year, and farmers are said to be actively "threshing out," preferring the chances of high or low prices to the risk of having their stacks burned down.—On Sunday afternoon the house of a man named John Cook, a barber, at Old Windsor, was entered by the neighbours, owing to none of the residents having been seen for some days, when a horrible discovery was made. In one apartment were found three girls lying dead, poisoned with, it is believed, sulphuric acid. In another room was the father and one of his daughters lying with their throats cut, but still alive. A fifth victim to this atrocity, since dead, was found suffering from the effects of poison. The man expired in the evening, but there are hopes of saving the little girl's life.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The despatch in which M. Drouyn de Lhuys directs M. de Sartiges to communicate to the Pope's Government the recent convention between the French and Italian Cabinets has been published in Paris. The occupation of Rome, the French Minister says, was "an act of intervention contrary to one of the fundamental principles of our public law," and moreover our "conscience obliges us too often to give advice which too often the Court of Rome believes itself bound to decline." The Italian Government has impressed its policy towards the Holy See with a tendency more in harmony with international duties, and France has therefore been enabled to fix a period at which the French troops shall evacuate Rome. The despatch has created a very profound impression in Paris. The unanimous opinion is that the document is in its tone bitterly hostile to the Pope, and that Italy by no means abandons her claims to Rome as the capital by any of the stipulations contained in the treaty. It is said that the Papal Government has declined to enter into the arrangements proposed by the Court of the Tuileries, and has informed the Emperor that the Pope retains the right of invoking other aid should France withdraw her forces from Rome.—The official journal of Rome states that on Thursday evening, when the retreat was sounded by the trumpets of the French cavalry, a "popular demonstration" was attempted by some persons who uttered "seditious cries," but who were speedily arrested by the French gendarmes.—The new Italian Administration has been formally completed by General Della Marmora, and it was officially announced at Turin that "the Ministry accepts the Convention stipulated with France, and at the same time the conditions of the transfer of the capital to another locality."—The explanations of the new Italian Ministry have been well received by the Turin journals, and the quiet and order of the city are completely restored. Baron Ricasoli, before he returned to Florence met his political friends and advised them to support the Ministry.—A meeting of delegates from several countries has taken place at Paris relative to the sugar duties. Some agreement has been come to regarding terms for a general diplomatic convention, to be carried out within a month.—Queen Christina, after an exile of many years, arrived at Madrid on Friday. Her Majesty was well received by the people, and the Madrid journals appear to be favourable to the Queen's return.—According to the advices received at Madrid from Lima, much discontent was manifested in Peru on account of the stagnation in trade, through the dispute with Spain.—The betrothal of the Crown Prince of Russia to the Princess Dagmar of Denmark has been officially proclaimed at St. Petersburg.—A curious document, indicating the progress of civilisation and constitutional freedom throughout the world has been published. The document in question is a speech of the King of the Sandwich Islands, who has called a convention

of his subjects to modify the constitution of his kingdom, which has been in existence for the last twelve years. In doing this his Majesty professes great anxiety for the liberties of his people, and his suggestions appear to support that view.—Mexican advices, transmitted from New Orleans to New York, assert that a body of French troops, landed at the mouth of the Rio Grande, had marched upon Matamoros, and had attacked and defeated the Mexican General Cortinas, who had afterwards crossed the Rio Grande into Texas. There he offered his services to the Federal Government, attacked the Confederates, and drove them out of Brownsville.

AMERICA.—The *Scotia* has not brought much news beyond a repetition of the accounts of the Confederate defeat in the Shenandoah Valley. We are now told that on the morning of the 19th September General Sheridan's army attacked the Confederates under General Early, in a position where the Berryville-road crosses Opequan Creek. After a stubborn resistance, which lasted till evening, the Confederates were completely defeated and driven through the town of Winchester. In this engagement the Federals estimate their own losses at either 2,000 or 3,000 men, including four generals, while they state that they took five guns and 3,000 prisoners, and that the Confederates had either 4,000 or 5,000 men killed or wounded, including five generals killed and three wounded. One despatch states that the victors resumed the pursuit of the Confederates on the 20th, but another telegram that General Sheridan had not yet moved in pursuit of General Early. General Grant had returned on the 19th September to the head-quarters of the army of the Potomac, and it was thought that a battle would soon be fought. There was no fresh news from Atlanta, Mobile, or the South-west. Two steamers had been seized on the 19th ult., near Bass Island on Lake Erie, by a party of Confederates, whom one account represents to have come from Canada, while another says that they were passengers on board. The Federal Government had received information that "two armed Confederate steamers, fitted out in Canadian ports," had made their appearance on Lake Erie. Mr. Vallandigham, one of the principal leaders of the peace Democrats, had declared his intention to support General McClellan as a presidential candidate. The *Pennsylvania* from New York to the 24th ult., brings accounts from New York to the 24th ult., which state that Sheridan pursued Early beyond Strasburg, and again routed him at Fisher's Hill, capturing sixteen guns. The pursuit continued. No fighting had taken place at Petersburg. The Confederate pirates on Lake Erie had been captured.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SOUTH WALES.—We are requested to state that our correspondent, "A Hater of Tomfoolery," was in error in stating that the consecration of the new church at Neath was performed by a lady, assisted by operative Masons. On the contrary, we are informed that the entire ceremony was performed by the D. Prov. G. Master, in strict accordance with constitutional usage, except that at the time when the operative Masons spread the mortar a lady (the wife of the gentleman who gave the site for the church) assisted them with a silver trowel, which had been presented to her prior to the ceremony. It is admitted, however, that our correspondent might easily be mistaken, as the crowd was very great; and it is not denied that the local papers fell into the same error, as will be seen by the accounts we published last week. We willingly give insertion to this explanation, though we think it would be at all times better for Freemasons to take no part in these ceremonies, unless they are left entirely in their hands; but as regards the presentation of the trowel to the lady as a memento of the event no one could raise an objection.