

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1864.

GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication was held on Wednesday, under the able presidency of the Deputy Grand Master—the Grand Master, we regret to state, being absent from indisposition. The first business was the nomination of the Grand Master for re-election for the ensuing year, which was received with loud applause.

A variety of important business was then transacted, upon which we shall feel it our duty to make some remarks, but which we are compelled by the urgency of other engagements to postpone until next week.

FREEMASONRY IN FRANCE.

In the *Journal des Initiés* for December the protestation of Bro. Rebold against the omission of the name of God in the Constitution of the Paris lodges, which we published in our last issue, is reproduced and fully endorsed; but Bro. Aug. Crouette, who comments upon that paper, strongly objects to Bro. Rebold's opinions as to the origin of French Masonry, and the obligations devolving upon it as a bequest from the Grand Lodge of London. "Should we be subjected to the laws and rules of the English Masonry," he writes, "we should be like the latter—that is, we should be devoid of all that characterises Freemasonry, an ancient and universal institution, which is the moral light of the world; because it teaches and practices the natural law, natural religion, which is written by God himself, in characters of life, in the great book of physical, intellectual, and moral nature. It is from this natural law that we derive our instruction and mission. The English Masonry, having always remained in arrear of this grand and holy task, has only just transmitted to us in its forms of organisation, which we have thoroughly transformed by improving them. The English Masonry adheres to the Bible, which lies open upon the altar of every Master; it is exclusive, aristocratic to all intents and purposes. The English Masons are nothing else but a society of convivial liberals (*libéraux essentiellement bons viveurs*); each of their meetings is followed up by a more or less sumptuous banquet, vastly different from our plain and spiritualistic *agapes*. Once more, French Masonry owes its origin to natural law only, and by no means to the Freemasons of England."

THE PAST OF FREEMASONRY.

The following address on the Past of Freemasonry, with a short account of the Caledonian Lodge, was delivered at the centenary meeting of the above lodge, Nov. 15, 1864, by Bro. Joshua Nunn, I.P.M.:—

In the presence of so many distinguished Masons, and so many highly esteemed brethren, it is something like presumption on my part to attempt to address you on the Past of Freemasonry, linked as it is with the world's history, blending through all the ramifications of past ages, and singling out the bright spots of bygone times as each separate generation has marked its progress to our own in this century.

Recent investigations have shown the great importance of Freemasonry in an archæological point of view, and also in elucidating the continuous history of the fraternity, inasmuch as the marks used by the ancient Craftsmen have all some hidden symbolical reference, and are to be found amidst the ruins of every important edifice on the face of the globe. By actual inspection we are therefore enabled to trace the connecting links of Masonry in structures erected by our ancient brethren for a period looking back nearly forty centuries.

Thus we seek to uplift the veil that throws the pall of its dark shadow on the past, and to admit a ray of light, which, though faintly visible to the outer world, to us serves to illuminate the gloom left by past ages, and which enables us to discover some of those broken links and scattered fragments which, when re-united, will constitute the perfect chain of true Masonic history.

The origin of our fraternity is covered with darkness, and its history is, to a great extent, obscure; yet we can with confidence say it is the most ancient society in the world; and we are equally certain that its principles are based on pure morality; that its ethics are the ethics of Christianity, its doctrines the doctrines of patriotism and brotherly love, and its sentiments the sentiments of exalted benevolence. Upon these points there can be no doubt, all that is good, and kind, and charitable it encourages; all that is vicious, cruel, and oppressive it reprobates.

Freemasonry in principle is undoubtedly coeval with the Creation; but in its organisation as a peculiar institution, as it now exists, we trace it no further back than the building of King Solomon's Temple. It has, however, in its origin been closely connected with the ancient mysteries; and the philosophers and sages in the earliest ages, by the dim light of nature, traced the first great doctrines of Masonry in unity with the supremacy of the Deity and the immortality of the soul.

The building of that magnificent Temple at Jerusalem by King Solomon established Freemasonry as a peculiar institution; and after the completion of the Holy Temple the workmen dispersed to the several great nations of the earth. And in an ancient manuscript (well known to some of our most learned brethren) that was discovered by Locke in the Bodleian Library, and said to be in the handwriting of Kinry Henry the Sixth, who was himself a Mason, it is expressly said "that Pythagoras brought Masonry from Egypt and Syria into Greece, and from thence in process of time it passed to this country."

It is supposed that in the year 43 after Christ

Freemasons first came to England, and built the monastery of Glastonbury, in Somersetshire.

In the year 714 B.C., or about that time, an institution was established at Rome by members of the Order of Freemasons, and from them emanated those bands of travelling artisans, under the title of Free and Accepted Masons, who have beautified, embellished, and set their mark on all the ancient cities of Europe and Asia existing at that early period.

In the tenth century of the present era they established a free guild or corporation in Lombardy, the most celebrated lodge or branch being held at Como; and after filling Lombardy with sacred edifices, they passed beyond the Alps into all the countries where Christianity had then recently been established. They were encouraged by the Popes; a monopoly was granted them in the erection of all religious edifices; and they were declared independent of the Sovereigns of the countries they embellished, and were only subject to their own private laws. They ultimately passed over to Scotland, and raised the Abbey of Kilwinning, the germ of old Scotch Masonry. That was about the year 1140, but Freemasonry was known both in England and Scotland long before that period.

Without minutely tracing Freemasonry through all its various changes, I may here mention that, according to ancient manuscripts, in the early part of the fourth century of the present era, Masons in England used to meet in lodges or districts, and once a year congregated together; and in a MS. (once in the possession of Nicholas Stone, a sculptor under the celebrated Inigo Jones) it states that St. Albans, "who loved and cherished Masons," procured a charter from the council to hold general assemblies.

In the year A.D. 926, upon application of his brother, Prince Edwin, King Athelstan granted a charter for the first English Grand Lodge, which was established at York, and it was from that ancient assembly that our ancient Constitutions derive their authority, and from that period in this country the Fraternity in various places and under different auspices have continued to pursue their labours.

About the year 1567 the Masons of the southern part of this island elected Sir Thomas Gresham, the celebrated merchant, their Grand Master, they having seceded from the York Masons. He was succeeded by the illustrious architect, Inigo Jones. There were then two Grand Masters in England, assuming distinctive titles, the York Grand Master being called the "Grand Master of All England," and the other the "Grand Master of England."

In 1715 Freemasonry was at so low an ebb in the south of England that there were but four lodges working, and they were all in London. They were without a Grand Master, Sir Christopher Wren being dead, and no Grand Master having been appointed to succeed him. After various struggles, and undergoing many changes and vicissitudes in the year 1813, the different branches of Freemasons in England (as at that time, for want of proper organisation, they were many) agreed to unite under the Grand Mastership of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, and became what they are now, one United Grand Lodge.

In glancing over the history of our ancient brethren we cannot fail to be struck by several important peculiarities. The intimate connection between Ma-

sonry and religion in the earliest ages by practice—in their communities, and in the erection of ecclesiastical edifices—and as, at the early period of our history, they were all operative Masons, they had, therefore, to depend principally on the clergy, the only men of learning at that time—to assume the speculative, and to devise for them their plans and designs, thus bringing about what may be said to be the rise of speculative Freemasonry, to the exclusion of the operative, or rather separating one from the other. And, lastly, that from these our ancient brethren may be traced not only that unity of design that has the admiration of the world, and that is to be found wherever art flourishes, but from whose ruins may also be traced the records of our earliest foundation, and from whom we claim our own laws, forms, and ceremonies.

As one of the many connecting links of Masonic history, humble although it be, a short account of the Caledonian Lodge will not be out of place here. I regret that the information I am able to impart respecting it does not, in my mind, fully do it justice, as, from losses of minute-books and other causes, the early part of its history is but little known to us. What I can this evening impart to you has been gleaned from the records of the United Grand Lodge, and what remains of our own minute-books.

It is with pride, however, that I am able to say that the Old Caledonians, since the foundation of this lodge, have ever endeavoured to set forth the beauties of our noble and venerable institution; that they have, by a succession of worthy Masons, good men and true, materially assisted in preserving the good name and character of the lodge, and have, down even to our own time, set such an example in the Craft that it has often been a source of pride and pleasure to me to hear, as I have heard it said (when conversing with brethren in the Craft whose Masonic standing ranks far above my own) that the Caledonian is a highly respectable lodge, and one that has materially assisted the Grand Lodge, the Craft, and the Charities.

I hope, brethren, we may ever retain that position in the Craft; and although we all among "the wastes of time must go," may we be succeeded by brethren who will be found good and true men and Masons, workmen, hewers of stone in the great quarries of life; fellers of timber in the vast forests of time, and artificers of metals in the clay grounds of eternity, looking upwards with hope to the Grand Lodge above, and leaving to brethren of centuries yet unborn the legacy of a good name, a worthy lodge, and the honour and esteem of the Craft in general.

In the first place, I may state the Caledonian Lodge was consecrated at the Half Moon, Cheapside, in the City of London, on the 15th November, 1764, and was then numbered on the books of the old Grand Lodge of York as No. 325. In 1770, from the lapsing of certain lodges, it became No. 263; in 1781, No. 211; in 1792, No. 180. On Dec. 27th, 1813, at the union, No. 218; in 1832, No. 156; and last year, 1864, to its present number, 134.

As I before explained, the minute books for the earliest period of our existence have been lost. From particulars gleaned from the books of Grand Lodge, I find that a Bro. Isaac Clementson was W.M. in the year 1804, and from 1806 to 1810; that Bro. Thos. Bell was W.M. in 1805, and from 1811 to 1817, and

again in 1820 and 1821. Our Bro. Bell received the distinguished honour of being appointed Grand Sword Bearer by the Grand Master in 1816, and in that year the jewel attached to the W.M.'s square was earned by a handsome donation towards building the beautiful hall where our Grand Lodges are at present held. In 1808, on the 14th February, a sermon was preached by a brother of the Caledonian Lodge, the Rev. Robt. Crosby, at St. Magnus's Church, in aid of the funds for the Girls' School. In 1818 and 1819, Henry Woodthorpe, jun., was W.M. Bro. Woodthorpe was a well-known civic functionary of that period. In 1821, £10 10s. were subscribed towards the building of a sick room at the Girls' School. In 1822 and 1823, Bro. William Hogg was W.M. In 1824, Bro. Chas. Baumer ruled the lodge; in 1825, Bro. Thos. Wallis; in 1826, Bro. John Stevens; in 1827, Bro. John Sylvester; in 1828, Bro. John Haes; in 1829, Bro. William Longstaff; in 1830, Bro. Thos. Surr; in 1831, Bro. Thos. Wallis; in 1832 and 1833, Bro. William Hogg; in 1834, Bro. Geo. S. Heales; in 1835 and 1836, Bro. John Mather; in 1837, after a lapse of thirteen years, Bro. Chas. Baumer again ruled as W.M.; in 1838, Bro. Henry Chas. Surr was W.M. This worshipful brother was originally a representative from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the M.W.G.M. of England presented him with the distinguished rank of Past Grand Warden of England. In 1839 and 1840, Bro. Silvanus Luis Pereira ruled the lodge; in 1841, Bro. Bernard Cowvan was W.M. In this year a lodge of instruction was held under the sanction of the lodge at the Crown Inn, Bow-lane. In 1842, Bro. Thomas Cole reigned as W.M.; in 1843, Bro. Geo. H. Buckton; in 1844, Bro. Edw. Grafton; in 1845 and 1846, Bro. Samuel Edw. Donne; in 1847, Bro. Thos. Surr; in 1848, Bro. Donne was again re-elected; in 1849, Bro. John Gosling Halsey; in 1850, our venerable Father was elected W.M.; in 1851, Bro. Peter Berrell; in 1852, Bro. Chas. Browne; in 1853 and 1854, Bro. Samuel W. Osborne; in 1855, Bro. Robt. H. Terrell; in 1856, Bro. Alfred Downes; in 1857, Bro. Benj. W. Wells; in 1858, Bro. William A. Kennett; in 1859, Bro. John Grant; in 1860, Bro. James Taylor; in 1861, Bro. Jas. W. Halsey; in 1862, Bro. Alfred Brett; and last year the brethren did me the distinguished honour of electing me W.M. Our present W.M., Dr. Richards, having gained the confidence of the lodge, has during his official career, added fresh lustre to Masonry, and more especially to this lodge. Having named the Worshipful Masters from the only source open to me, I will add a few more items that may be interesting to our members. The lodge was consecrated at the Half Moon, Cheapside, Nov. 15, 1764; from thence it removed to Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street; then to the Horns Tavern, Doctors' Commons; the George and Vulture, Cornhill; the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street; the London Coffee House, Ludgate-hill; again to the George and Vulture; and lastly, to our present meeting-house, the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street.

The number of members initiated in the lodge since 1777 have been 588, with only 67 joining members; the subscribing members to the lodge appear never to have exceeded 30 to 35 annually. I find the lodge

has been principally a professional one, the titles of the brethren being clergymen, barristers, notaries, city officials, officers of the Royal Navy, and members of Parliament. I also find recorded among our commercial brethren, limners, cordwainers, and others.

The ancient Caledonians have assisted the Charities a little. From extracts since 1804, the sum of £535 10s. 6d. appears towards the Girls' School, from £600 to £700 towards private charity, and occasional small sums towards the other Charities (the Boys' School and the Annuity Fund). Our brethren also subscribed towards presentation jewels, &c., to Grand Officers, and I hope it will not be considered impertinent when I say they have represented the Caledonian Lodge well both in charities and liberality.

That concludes all I can say for the past of the Caledonian Lodge, and long may we live to honour the deeds of our Masonic ancestors as the incentives to exertion, not the title-deeds to sloth. Let us honour the laurels that overshadow the graves of our forefathers. It is our forefathers we should emulate when, beneath the evergreen that we ourselves have planted, our own ashes may repose.

And among the Caledonians who are aspiring to the Chair of King Solomon, many, I have no doubt, will be found who will not only emulate those gone and passed away, but will endeavour to raise our lodge far above its present level—in fact, as near perfection as human energy and human skill can raise the Craft.

I fear, brethren, I have exhausted your patience; therefore, leaving to abler brothers the more agreeable portion of the evening's labour, the speculative, with these words from one of the greatest of living poets I will conclude—

Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime;
And departing, leave behind us,
Footprints on the sands of time.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

MASONIC INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE.

A learned and very pious brother says he reads the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, by the light of Freemasonry. What does he mean?—M.M.—[Would it not be better to ask him than us? But although we can perfectly understand him, and know the wonders the twelve volumes of the New Jerusalem Guide open to the Freemason in search of light, yet there are reasons why waverers (Jas. i. 6) should be careful in not plunging beyond their depth. The author of the key was a most wonderfully gifted brother, but few can follow his recondite meanings. We shall be always happy to hear from you, but your queries must not go into matters so palpable. You see how it has been altered, and that through your overstating the point.]

SO MOTE IT BE.

From whence is the phrase "So mote it be" derived?—P.M.—[It is Anglo-Saxon. Heaven preserve us from a philological inquiry! Try Bopp's "Comparative Grammar," but do not commence a system of torture, and subject us to some dozen conjectural derivations.]

FRERES ET COMPAGNONS.

Please give me the French words of the Masonic song, "Frères et Compagnons."—O.—[In *Instructions pour les Trois Premiers Grades* they are printed thus:—

Frères et compagnons
De la maçonnerie,
Sans chagrin jouissons
Des plaisirs de la vie.
Munis d'un rouge bord,
Que par trois fois le signal de nos verres,
Soit une preuve que, d'accord,
Nous buvons à nos frères.

Joignons-nous main en main,
Tenons-nous ferme ensemble;
Rendons grâce au destin
Du *neud* qui nous rassemble.
Et soyons assuré,
Qu'il ne se boit, sur les deux hémisphères,
Point de plus illustre santé,
Que celle de nos frères.]

THE TARGUM.

What are the allusions to Masonry in the Targum? I see you have quoted the Talmud, lately, in English; now tell us about the Targum.—SHIN.—[Unreasonable man! know that we do not keep a Hebraist ready cut and dried to answer such large questions as yours. It is evident you know where to look for the allusions yourself, and therefore, as they are so numerous, we must decline to work through an English translation of Rabbi Ben Ezra on a wild goose chase.]

MASONIC WATER-MARK.

I have a large blank leaf of paper, very old and very brown, and the water-mark is a square and compasses, surrounded by seven five-pointed stars. Who was the maker?—W.

LATOMIA.

Is the German Masonic Quarterly called *Latomia* still in existence, and can it be procured here?—A. Q.—[Apply to Bro. R. Spencer. If it is in existence he will obtain it for you.]

SECRET MONITOR.

Is there such a degree as the Secret Monitor? If so I presume it must allude to the inward working of a brother's conscience?—W.—[There is. It is an American manufacture. It is not a matter of conscience at all, but one of pelf. It is a trading degree, in which hints are given to deal, or not to deal, with a tradesman. The worship of the almighty dollar is the sole aim and end of it.]

"FREEMASONRY TRIED AND FOUND WANTING."

I have three leaves headed "Freemasonry Tried and Found Wanting;" they are numbered 4, 5, and 6. What book, or pamphlet, do they belong to?—QUERIST.

THE MARQUIS OF CAERNARVON.

There was a Grand Master the Marquis of Caernarvon; is he the ancestor of the present Earl of Carnarvon, a member of the Craft?—S. G.—[No. The former was a Bridges, the latter is a Herbert.]

THE THIRTIETH DEGREE.

Was the thirtieth degree ever conferred under the Grand Lodge of England?—30°.—[Yes; and the Grand Lodge gave a certificate that it did so.]

A BROOM AS A SYMBOL.

In a Masonic engraving *penes me* there is a broom—I think it is a birch-broom—included among a lot of Masonic tools and symbols. What does a broom signify?—P.M.

J. AND B.

I met with a book called "J. and B." the other day. When did it first appear?—B. J.—[About 1740. There have been some twenty-five or thirty reprints of it.]

THE KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

The *Morning Post* of the 29th ult. contains the following:—"Yesterday Cardinal Wiseman officiated at a solemn mass of requiem, celebrated by the Knights and members of the S. military order of St. John of Jerusalem, in their new church in Great Ormond-street, for the repose of the soul of the late venerable Bailli Count Colleredo, Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Order. The members of this Order were known as the Brother Hospitallers, also as the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, the Knights of Rhodes, and, lastly, as the Knights of Malta. The Order was established in Jerusalem after the taking of that city by the Crusaders in 1099, by Gerard Tour. His intention was to provide hospitality for pilgrims, and attendants, while sick, to cure their maladies. Under Raymond Dupuy, in 1121, the knights defended themselves by force of arms against the infidels, and thus became at once a religious and military body. When Saladin took Jerusalem in 1188, they retired first to Acre, and afterwards to Rhodes in 1310. Driven from this island after a long siege and memorable defence, they established themselves in 1530 in the island of Malta, which Charles V. had ceded to them. The music yesterday was that of Mozart's 'Requiem,' with full orchestral accompaniments, and it was most solemnly rendered. The church was crowded with well-dressed people in every variety of colour, mourning habiliments being strictly prohibited by the Order." Where do these knights hold their meetings, and how are they received into the Order?—R. R.

VOLTAIRE.

Wanted, the particulars of the Masonic career of Voltaire, the well-known French philosopher.—SPES.

TASSO'S "JERUSALEM DELIVERED."

Is Tasso's "Jerusalem Delivered" amongst the works which have a Masonic interpretation?—C. A.—[It is.—

"Cull we Love's rose, and let us love while we,
Still loving, meet with fond return of love."

Read the whole of cantos 9 to 16, inclusive, and then you will say, at once, it bears two meanings, one esoteric, one exoteric.]

SECRET CYPHER.

In turning over the Masonic curiosities of a friend I found the following:—

"F. zmc usgdqr ldds hm Bkdqjdovdkk zmc, zr qdoqdrmszshudr ne sgd Xnqj Lzrnmr, fhud rdudqzk edfqddr mn knmfdq vngjde tmedq sgd fqzmc kned." Does it mean anything or nothing?—*.*.*—[It is one of the most simple of cyphers, formed by making the last letter of the alphabet, z, stand for a, and then

continuing the alphabet, making *a* stand for *b*, *b* for *c*, and so forth. The sentence will read thus:—"G., that is, the late Bro. Goldsworthy, "and others meet in Clerkenwell and, as representatives of the York Masons, give several degrees no longer worked under the Grand Lodge." Having read your riddle, now oblige us, in our turn, by ascertaining the date when this was written. The writer could not have been a York Mason, because they were pledged never to say from whom, or where, they obtained those degrees, and here is both person and place mentioned.]

HERMETIC FREEMASONRY.

Who gives the best account of Pernety, and his system of Hermetic Freemasonry? By the way, most guide-books, lexicons, &c., spell his name *Pernetti*, when it was *Pernety*.—E. C. L. B.

CHRONOLOGY OF FREEMASONRY.

Whence is the date *Anno Lucis* derived?—X. Z.—[The practice amongst Freemasons in fixing the era known as *Anno Lucis* may be arrived at by an extract from Brother Dr. Anderson's *History and Constitutions of the most ancient and honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons*, 4to. "In the vulgar year of Masonry 5746." At page 2 there is the following note:—"The first Christians computed their times as the nations did among whom they lived till A.D. 532, when Dionysius Exiguus, a Roman Abbot, taught them first to compute from the birth of Christ; but he lost 4 years, or began the Christian era 4 years later than just. Therefore, tho' according to the Hebrew chronology of the Old Testament and other good vouchers, Christ was truly born in some month of the year of the world or A.M. 4000, yet these 4 years make 4004 Not before the birth of Christ but before the Christian era, viz. 1737 For the true *Anno Domini* or year of Christ's birth is 1740 But the Masons being used to compute by the vulgar *Anno Domini* of Christian era... 1737 And adding to it not 4004 as it ought but the strict years before Christ's birth, viz.... 4000

They usually call this year of Masonry 5737 instead of the accurate year 5740." The reason for introducing the date 5737 as being "this year of Masonry," is by reason of Bro. Anderson's preface to the edition being signed "From my study in Exeter Court, Strand, 4 Nov., 1738." How that date is to be reconciled with "the vulgar year of Masonry 5746," at the foot of the title, we shall not attempt to offer an opinion.]

TO SWEDENBORGIANS.

I shall be very happy to meet with any brother who is a professed Swedenborgian. Such an one would confer a favour if he would be kind enough to appoint an interview with—MATTHEW COOKE.

REQUESTS OR GIFTS FOR MASONIC RELIEF.

As it was justly said in the pages of the *MAGAZINE*, no one ever gives, or leaves, funds to the Lodge of Benevolence for the relief of the distressed. They do these things better in America, as the following extracts will prove.—Ex. Ex.—"To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men; but particularly on Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy,

to sympathise with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds, is the grand aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships, and establish our connections." This is the sublime lesson imparted to the Mason upon the first visit he pays the lodge. These precepts, expressed in the forcible language of Preston, are still further enforced in part, by a ceremonial admirably contrived to impress the duty of benevolence or almsgiving upon the young brother's mind. The whole leaves indelible traces of the Masonic chisel. But how best, how surely, how most systematically to do the work of charity—how to avoid the impostors who swarm around us, while we neglect not the worthy poor who shrink modestly from our gaze—these are problems which have exercised the minds of our wisest and most experienced, nor yet received a proper solution. The most successful effort, however, yet set in motion is the establishment of Relief Lodges, from which all the Masonic benefactions of a community may emanate, and whose experience in the examination of applicants will enable them to guard the fraternity against unworthy objects. Of this sort are those now in existence in New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, St. Louis, Buffalo, and Louisville, each established for the sole purpose of dispensing Masonic charity, in the most economical and systematic manner, and each having a history of its own, which affords encouragement for perseverance and imitation. The general plan involves a Committee of Examination, who look carefully into an applicant's antecedents and present condition; a Financial Committee, who have an eye to judicious supplies of money for current demands, and stated reports to the lodges, &c., represented therein. The practical results are to lessen the number of impostors, draw larger sums from the purses of the brotherhood, and suitably dispense them to the reduction of human misery, and the honour of the Masonic institutions. The millionaire, Stephen Girard, upon his death (Dec. 26, 1831) donated an amount which in a few years, by arrears of interest, made an aggregate of thirty thousand dollars, and which by his will he ordained as a perpetual fund, the interest upon which should be for ever appropriated to the relief of distressed worthy Masons. This bequest yields an income of thirty-three thousand dollars per annum, all of which is faithfully appropriated as designed by the giver.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

INSTALLATION OF THE W.M. OF THE WHITTINGTON LODGE.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Allow me the privilege of informing the Craft generally, through the medium of your next publication, that I am not the brother alluded to in your report of the installation of the W.M. at the Whittington Lodge, on Monday, Nov. 21st.

Yours respectfully and fraternally,
H. SIDNEY WARR.

63, High Holborn, London,
Dec. 1st, 1864.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication was held on Wednesday, the Right. Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G. Master, in the chair, supported by Bro. Dobie, P.G.R., and Prov. G.M. for Surrey, as D.G.M.; Bro. Colonel Cole, S.G.W.; Bro. Perkins, as J.G.W.; Bro. Tomkins, G. Treas.; Bro. McIntyre, G. Reg.; Bro. Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; Bro. Clarke, G. Sec.; the Rev Sir Gore Ouseley, G. Chap.; Bros. Deighton and Maudslay, G.D.'s; Bro. Woods, G. Dir. of Cers.; Bro. Fenn, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Bro. Young, G.S.B.; Bro. Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Bro. Dickie, G. Purst. There were also present Bro. Lord Sherborne, Prov. G.M. Gloucestershire; Bro. Harvey, Prov. G.M. Staffordshire; Bro. Colonel Brownrigg, F. Dundas, and J. Havers, P.G.W.'s; Bro. Roxburgh, P.G. Reg.; the Revs. Dr. Senior, Sir Warren Hayes, and J. Huyshe, P.G. Chaps.; Bros. Savage, Slight, Harvey, Wilson, Creaton, Head, Potter, Gregory, Hopwood, Patten, Crombie, and Udall, P.G.D.'s; Bros. Jennings, Symonds, and Empson, P.G. Dirs. of Cers.; Bros. Wheeler, Bradford, and Bridges, P.G.S.B.'s; Bro. Adams and Smith, P.G. Pursts.; the Master, Past Master, and Wardens of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, and the Master, Past Masters, and Wardens of various other lodges.

The lodge having been opened in due form,

The G. SECRETARY read a letter from the M.W. Grand Master, regretting his inability to attend, being confined to his house in the country by sciatica.

THE LAST QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

The GRAND SECRETARY read the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 7th of September last, which were confirmed.

NOMINATION OF THE GRAND MASTER.

Bro. CLABON said he had the honour, last year, to nominate the M.W. Grand Master; and when they saw the ability with which he presided over them, and the justness of his decisions, but greater still for the kind feelings which marked his words and actions, he was sure that he was entitled to the regard and esteem of every true Mason. He therefore nominated for re-election their present M.W. Grand Master.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The D. G. MASTER said the next business was the election of twelve Past Masters to serve on the Board of Benevolence. There were but twelve nominated, viz., Bros. Adlard, 7; Cox, 567; Gale, 19; Levinson, 19; Sheen, 201; Clabon, 235; Brett, 177; Cottebrune, 733; Frost, 709; Lambert, 198; Nunn, 134; Tyrrell, 144.

Bro. H. G. WARREN wished to know if it was competent for two members from the same lodge to serve on the Board of Benevolence, as it was not allowed on the Board of General Purposes.

The G. REGISTRAR ruled that there was no restriction in this case.

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER declared the twelve brethren named to be duly elected.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter was presented, which contained recommendations for the following grants:—

	£	s.	d.
Bro. S. C., of the Silurian Lodge (No. 471) Newport, Monmouthshire	50	0	0
The widow of the late Bro. W. R., of the Lion and Lamb Lodge (No. 192), London	50	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Bro. H. B., of the Lodge of Truth (No. 521), Huddersfield	50	0	0
„ G. T., of the Manchester Lodge (No. 179) London	30	0	0
„ T. V., of the Yarborough Lodge (No. 554), London	50	0	0
„ J. K., of the Mersey Lodge (No. 477), Birkenhead	30	0	0
The widow of the late Bro. R. S., of the St. Luke's Lodge (No. 225), Ipswich	50	0	0

The first of these grants gave rise to a long discussion, it being suggested by the Grand Registrar that as they had before them four recommendations from the Board of Benevolence for grants of £50, and two of £30, he thought it would be right as each grant was proposed that the brethren should state why they sent these cases to the Grand Lodge, instead of being relieved by the Board of Benevolence. To put the matter in proper form he would move that the report be received and entered on the minutes, and when the particular sums were proposed to be granted the brethren might state the reasons for their recommendation.

Bro. NUNN said he was not aware that what the Grand Registrar had asked for would be required, or he would have come prepared to answer the question as to why the grant was proposed to be made to Bro. C. for past services. Since the grant had been recommended by the Board of Benevolence, however circumstances had come to his knowledge which made him (Bro. Nunn) wish that a lesser sum had been proposed. He believed it had been stated that he had given twenty-seven years' service, and had been a Provincial Grand Officer; but since the meeting of the Board it had been discovered that the lodge to which he belonged had for fourteen years paid his subscription, and it appeared that he himself had been a subscribing member for little more than twelve years. He would, therefore, ask the Grand Lodge to reduce the sum to £30, and he moved that that sum be granted.

This motion was not seconded.

Bro. HORWOOD, President of the Colonial Board, said he was in the chair at the Fund of Benevolence when this grant was proposed, and he did not know what had transpired since then, but at that time he must say that the proposition had his entire sympathy. He moved that the recommendation be confirmed.

Bro. CROMBIE, P.G.D., seconded the motion.

Bro. GALE said if they had many such recommendations, they would not have money enough to pay such grants.

Bro. BRIDGES said he had known Bro. C. for many years as a most respectable man, and he stood very high in the Craft, as he had worked night and day for the good of Freemasonry, and the Craft in general.

The petition to the Board of Benevolence having been read,

Bro. ROXBURGH, P.G. Reg., said he was glad that it had been read, as they could not have better evidence than the petition itself of the propriety of the course pursued by the Board of Benevolence.

Bro. CLABON supported the grant.

The G. REGISTRAR said that it was the duty of the Committee of the Board of Benevolence to hear and determine the cases on the facts then submitted to them; but it appeared that in this case the grant had been made under a misapprehension of the circumstances. It seemed to him that the Board were under the impression that Bro. C. had been a subscribing member to the lodge for twenty-six years, and they ought to be disabused of that impression, for the fact was, that he had only

been a subscribing member for eleven years. He did not say that was a reason why he should not have £50, but they ought to have a full knowledge of all the facts. If the Board of Benevolence had done anything under a misapprehension, it ought to be rectified; but if they now thought right to adhere to their original recommendation for £50, he for one should never think of opposing it.

Bro. CROMBIE, P.G.D., said that Bro. C. had been a member of the Silurian Lodge for twenty-seven years, and whether the dues were paid by himself or by the brethren of the lodge to the Board of Benevolence, that was quite immaterial, and he was entitled to the £50.

Several other brethren having expressed their opinions, the resolution was put and agreed to.

Bro. UDALL, P.G.D., moved that the recommendation for £50 to the widow of Bro. R. be confirmed.

Bro. GALE seconded the motion.

Bro. HAYERS, P.G.J.W., hoped for the future that in all cases where the Board of Benevolence considered themselves incapable of dealing with them, and they were sent to Grand Lodge, that the brethren would be prepared to state the reasons for making the recommendations. He might state that they had at present, by these grants, overdrawn their bankers' accounts by £150, and their next month's income would be mortgaged to the extent of £200.

Bro. CROMBIE said that if they were not to make these grants for the want of funds they ought to know it, and to be told that the Grand Lodge would dispense with the Board of Benevolence, and that they must suspend their functions, as they had no funds to dispose of. If they wanted those funds for their other Charities they ought to know it; but still they had large funded property, and were they to be told that that was not to be distributed for benevolence if it was required?

Bro. HAYERS said a certain sum was paid every year for benevolence, and in addition to granting relief to their poor, they charged themselves with contributions to their various Charities. Hitherto the Board of Benevolence had been found sufficient to relieve their casual poor, and to put by something for their permanent Charities. The Board of Benevolence was charged every year with the sum of £800 for the decayed men and women; and if the grants that evening were carried, he hoped for the future they would examine more fully into the merits of every petition, and endeavour to avoid a repetition of the proceedings of that evening, as they had expended the whole of the funds, had overdrawn them by £150, and mortgaged the next month by £200. He would be very sorry that the time should come when they should be compelled to sell out their Stock, and trusted that their annual subscriptions would keep up a good fund for casual purposes; for the moment they began to trench upon their funded property, from that moment he should begin to date their downfall. He thought it would be a fatal day for them when they should begin to sell out their funded property; and instead of doing so, they ought every year to add something to their Stock for the relief of their aged poor.

The D.G. MASTER, while agreeing with what had been done by the Board of Benevolence, said it would be a complete abdication of the functions of Grand Lodge if it was supposed that the recommendations for these grants were to pass as a mere matter of course. It was their first duty to relieve the wants of their poorer brethren, but they were also specially interested to see that their funds were not given in a wasteful or extravagant manner. It was the duty of Grand Lodge carefully and critically to examine the acts of the Board of Benevolence, and he believed that good would arise from the discussion which had taken place; and as there was no practical opposition to the

grants, he hoped the Grand Registrar would not press a motion which he had put forward in the early part of the discussion.

The motion was then put by the D.G. Master, and agreed to.

The rest of the recommendations were agreed to without observation.

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES moved that the report be taken as read, which was agreed to, and he afterwards moved that it be received, and entered on the minutes. In making that motion it would be merely for the purpose of receiving the report, and could be done without considering such matters referred to in it as would form the subject of separate resolutions.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES then said it was his duty to bring under the consideration of Grand Lodge a resolution in reference to an alteration in the scale of fees of honour hitherto payable by Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Masters. The Board considered that the present scale of fees was both impolitic and unjust, and it prevented them from obtaining the services of many eminent members of the Craft who objected to pay the large fees now demanded of brethren on taking office. Grand Officers were appointed for one of two reasons, either services they had performed, or services they were expected to perform. It was unjust to charge large fees to brethren who were appointed to offices for services already performed and rendered, and it was equally unjust to others who were expected to give them to the promotion of the interests of Freemasonry. They did not propose to abolish these fees of honour altogether, but they did propose to abolish the payment of them to the Board of General Purposes. The funds of the Board of General Purposes had been increasing for some years past, and he believed they would continue to increase. The certificates they had issued that year were between 5,000 and 6,000, and he had no doubt that number would go on increasing. The Board were anxious not to trench upon their funds, and after a careful investigation and calculation they found that, with the alteration proposed to be made in the scale of fees of honour, the loss to the fund of the Board of Benevolence would not be more than £80 a year. Their high fees were prejudicial to Freemasonry, and the exaction of them was unworthy a great body like the Freemasons. There were formerly large fees paid by those who received honours from the State, but the Government felt that it was unjust to make these demands when rewarding men for their past services. The Board of General Purposes had acted in the same spirit by doing away with these large fees, for by maintaining them they were deprived of the services of brethren who had done good suit and service to the Craft, and who were willing to devote a large portion of their time to the duties of their office. He should move that Articles 1, 2, and 3, at pages 110 and 111 of the "Book of Constitutions," be repealed.

Bro. ADLARD seconded the motion. The question had been very fully gone into and considered by the Board of General Purposes, and there was a unanimous feeling that the settlement of this important question would lead to the promotion of Freemasonry; therefore he had great pleasure in seconding the motion.

Bro. H. G. WARREN was desirous that they should get rid of fees altogether; but while the Board of General Purposes had made these recommendations, he thought it would be unfair and unjust to the body of Grand Stewards that they should still be called upon to pay £15 for serving that office, without giving them past rank or entitling them after their year of office to wear a red collar, unless they chose to go to a further ex-

pense and join the Grand Stewards' Lodge. It was certainly a difficult subject for him to speak upon, as a Past Grand Steward, but he was not speaking for that body, but those to come. Under the present law a Past Grand Steward was allowed a reduction in the fees should he be appointed a Grand Officer; but under the proposed law there was nothing asked worth reducing. Nor would he, on behalf of the Grand Stewards, ask such a concession; but he did ask that they should be placed in a proper position, and allowed their past grand rank—which, in fact, was only allowing them a certain defined position in Masonic processions, which he supposed, on an average, they might have an opportunity of availing themselves of about twice in the course of their lives. He was not then in a position to make a motion, but he did not see why the brethren attending the grand Festival should not be called upon to pay full price for their tickets. The Grand Stewards were called upon to pay £15, and the by-laws of most red apron lodges called upon the brethren to serve the Stewardship of one or more of the Charities before taking the office of Grand Steward, so that few brethren obtained that position at a less cost than £50 or £60. He was sure they would never want for Grand Stewards, but whilst altering the law he thought justice ought to be done to that body.

Bro. GREGORY, P.G.D., said he entirely endorsed the proposal of the Board of General Purposes, for the more free these places of honour were made the better; but when he compared the preamble of the report he found that it did not agree with the proposed enactment. The preamble said—"The attention of the Board has been called to the large amount payable as fees of honour by Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Masters on their first appointment to office. The Board consider it undesirable that brethren who, on account of their energy and devotion to Masonry, might be esteemed by the M.W. the Grand Master worthy to be raised to rank and distinction in the Craft, should be compelled to pay on their advancement the very high fees at present required by the 'Book of Constitutions.'" He accepted that preamble, for he thought that a man who had earned distinction in the Craft ought not to be called upon to pay high fees. But how was that principle carried out in the enactment? The worthy brother then proceeded to enumerate some of the old fees, and, comparing them with the new, contended that in some instances they were an advance, and not a reduction, of those payable at the present time; and that where the reduction was effected it was made in respect to those who were best able to pay high fees.

The G. REGISTRAR having corrected the statements of Bro. Gregory, said they proposed to reduce the fees payable by the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, from twenty to ten guineas, and to reduce the fees of Grand Deacon, Grand Director of Ceremonies, Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies, and Grand Superintendent of Works from 10 to 5 guineas. If they did not allow a brother to pay for his honours, so much the better; but if he paid at all, above all things let him pay it to the Board of Benevolence. One word as to the Grand Stewards. It was true that there was no scale, and they were not able to deal with the fees payable by the Grand Stewards; but he did not find in the "Book of Constitutions" anything to compel the brethren to pay as Grand Stewards. They at present charged 15s. for the tickets to the grand Festival, but there was nothing to prevent the Grand Stewards from making an arrangement with the tavern master to enable them to charge a larger sum; at the same time he believed there would never be wanting brethren willing to fill the office of Grand Stewards. But that

was not the question then before them. If they were charged too high fees for the honour of serving as Grand Stewards let notice be given and the question discussed in Grand Lodge, and then he should be prepared to consider whether any alteration should be made to give them a better status. He was disposed, with Bro. Gregory, to go beyond the resolution of the Board of General Purposes; but the reduction of the fees then proposed was a step in the right direction.

Bro. GREGORY accepted the castigation of the Grand Registrar, and apologised for the mistake he had made in quoting the wrong table of fees.

Bro. H. G. WARREN said that the Grand Registrar had said that there was nothing in the "Book of Constitutions," or in the practice in reference to the Grand Stewards; but the first thing read to a Grand Steward after his appointment was a statement that he must do certain things that he must not pay less than £15, and that he must not sell the tickets for more than fifteen shillings.

The D.G. MASTER put the motion for the alteration of the articles in the "Book of Constitutions," which was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD then moved, in lieu of the previous fees:—

"Every brother on his first appointment to either of the following offices shall pay to the Fund of Benevolence:—

	£	s.	d.
The Pro Grand Master	10	10	0
The Deputy Grand Master	10	10	0
Grand Warden	10	10	0
Grand Treasurer	10	10	0
Grand Registrar	10	10	0
President of the Board of General Purposes...	10	10	0
Grand Secretary	10	10	0
Grand Deacon	5	5	0
Grand Director of Ceremonies.....	5	5	0
Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies.....	5	5	0
Grand Superintendent of Works.....	5	5	0
Grand Sword Bearer.....	5	5	0

Bro. H. G. WARREN moved, as an amendment, the omission of the line referring to the Grand Secretary; for to appoint a paid officer at £500 a-year, and then charge him 10 guineas for appointing him, was simply ridiculous.

Bro. HAYES, as a matter of form, seconded the amendment, remarking that if it was ridiculous to charge £10 10s. for an appointment with a good salary it must be the more so to charge £31 10s. for a purely honorary office.

The D.G. MASTER put the amendment, but it was lost, and the original motion was carried.

The following resolution was also agreed—"A Provincial Grand Master shall pay £3 3s. for his patent, and £10 10s. to the Fund of Benevolence. The £10 10s. to the Fund of Benevolence is not, however, to be paid by a Provincial Grand Master appointed to a colonial or foreign district, provided the brother be a resident in such district. And that the necessary alterations be made in the 'Book of Constitutions' accordingly."

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Grand Lodge then proceeded to consider the following portion of the report of the Board of General Purposes in reference to honorary members:—"The Board have also to report that their attention has been directed to the question of the status and privileges of what are termed honorary members of lodges who are not mentioned in the 'Book of Constitutions.' Upon this subject the Board have received a communication from the Colonial Board, which embodies the views of the Grand Registrar, whose opinion the

Colonial Board had consulted. The Board fully coincide in the opinion expressed on the subject by the Grand Registrar, and adopted by the Colonial Board, viz., that the 'Book of Constitutions' does not in any way recognise honorary members of private lodges. When that book speaks of members it means only those brethren who are regularly contributing members to the funds of the lodge to which they may belong. Such brethren only ought to be returned to Grand Lodge as members of private lodges. The status of an honorary member must be strictly confined to the lodge which so elects him, and can in no way give him any position in the Craft outside the door of his lodge. He cannot, therefore, hold any office in the lodge, or vote upon any subject which might, even remotely, affect the Craft at large. In short, his status and privileges as an honorary member entitle him to attend the meetings of the lodge and partake of its refreshments without the necessity of being introduced by a subscribing member, provided always that he be a subscribing member to some other lodge. Honorary members have no other right or privilege whatever."

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD having moved the adoption of this declaratory statement,

Bro. H. G. WARREN proposed as an amendment to leave out the words, "Provided always that he be a subscribing member to some other lodge." He moved that amendment on the ground that a man might be a member of a lodge for forty or fifty years, and that lodge might wish to confer upon him special honour, but they could not do so unless he was a subscribing member to some of them. If the law was defective before, and they were now going to amend it, he hoped they would make it perfect.

Bro. MASON seconded the original motion, hoping that, if there was any doubt as to the privileges of honorary members the question would be set at rest by the vote of that evening.

The D.G. MASTER said the amendment as it stood would be inconsistent, if not with the letter, with the spirit of the "Book of Constitutions," and, if it was to be done, it must be done by a substantive motion. He could not put this amendment as a side wind to the resolution.

Bro. GREGORY said in most lodges the Secretary was exempt from subscription, and he hoped that excellent regulation would not be interfered with, as they were entitled to all the privileges of the Board of Benevolence by the "Book of Constitutions."

Bro. HAINES said that Secretaries of lodges were regulated by the "Book of Constitutions," in which it was expressly stated that they were not precluded from the privileges of the Board of Benevolence, as their services were considered to be equivalent to their subscriptions.

Bro. SYMONDS hoped the Board of General Purposes would not press the motion that night, for if they were to pass a new law, Grand Lodge would be taken by surprise. If they thought it desirable that a new law should be enacted, let them give notice of it at the next Grand Lodge, and then it could be fully considered.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD said he should move that the report be received and entered on the minutes, but they had not yet come to that.

Bro. Col. COLE, S.G.W., said this question had been undecided year after year; it had been shelved and put off, and then they had their A B C to go over again. He was a Master of a lodge, and the question of the privileges of honorary members had come up in a very awkward way; and he wanted to know, from the legal adviser of Grand Lodge, what was the actual state of the law at present. If the Grand Lodge considered that the law as it at present stood required alteration, they must give notice of it; but he was sorry the question had not been brought

forward before, and he must protest against the question being any longer deferred. He hoped the Grand Lodge would adopt the opinion of the Board of General Purposes, and by declaring what was the state of the law, let it go forth throughout the country as such.

The D.G. MASTER having ruled that the motion for the adoption of the report could be put without notice,

Bro. SYMONDS, while bowing to the decision of the D.G. Master, said he should submit an amendment "That the matter be referred back to the Board of General Purposes, and that they be recommended to submit at the next Grand Lodge the exact words of the declaratory law they propose to be adopted."

Bro. ADLARD said the Board of General Purposes did not first entertain this question, but it had received the approval of the Colonial Board, and in that opinion they agreed.

Bro. HOPWOOD said unless some very strong reason was given, he did not see why this question should be longer delayed.

Bro. HAINES concurred in the ruling of the D.G. Master, and said this was a right and proper resolution for adoption; and the only doubt he had in his mind was, whether it had been brought before them in a fit and proper manner. In times past he had occasion to battle for his reports, but he never got a resolution passed unless he had given a substantial notice of the resolution he was about to propose. If the Grand Lodge approved of the expression of the Colonial Board, by all means let them do so; but if they were taken by surprise, as had been suggested by Bro. Symonds, why, then they would act wisely to take the discussion on a future occasion.

Bro. H. G. WARREN said there were words in the resolution of the Board of General Purposes that were omitted from the resolution of the Colonial Board; so that, if they adopted the report of the Colonial Board and that of the Board of General Purposes, they would adopt two things that would clash with each other.

The G. REGISTRAR said no brother could visit a lodge more than once unless he was a subscribing member, and no resolution could interfere with the "Book of Constitutions," which did not recognise honorary members of private lodges, and would not recognise them. He agreed with the President of the Board of General Purposes that, in asking Grand Lodge to adopt the opinion of the Board of General Purposes and the Colonial Board, they were not asking them to enact any new law, but to declare what was the law on the subject. They said that was the law at present, and they asked Grand Lodge to adopt it.

The D.G. MASTER said, if they were asked by the adoption of the new report to enact any new law, it would not be done; but they were asked to express such an opinion as would justify the Board of General Purposes in acting upon it; but at the same time, without a distinct law it would not be legally binding on the Craft. If Grand Lodge wished to express a more definite opinion beyond that of the Colonial Board and the Board of General Purposes, that must be brought forward by a separate resolution. If they wished to pass a distinct and authoritative opinion it must be by a distinct resolution, and discussed on a future occasion.

The amendment was then put and lost.

The D.G. MASTER then put the original resolution, which was carried.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL BOARD.

Bro. HOPWOOD, President of the Board, moved that the report of the Colonial Board be taken as read, and afterwards moved that it be received and entered on the minutes. He

said, in reference to the first part of the report, it was his duty to give an explanation of the differences which existed between the Grand Lodge of Canada and the Grand Lodge of England. It appeared from inquiries made to the Colonial Board that there were two lodges in Canada claiming to hold allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, but they were excluded from their Masonic privileges and not freely recognised by the Grand Lodge of Canada. The Colonial Board caused inquiries to be made on the subject, and the result of that was that the St. Lawrence Lodge was recognised in its full privileges, and admitted to be working under the Grand Lodge of England. There was, however, another lodge, the St. George's Lodge, also working under the Grand Lodge of England, but the Grand Lodge of Canada refused to recognise it. Some days after this communication was made from the Grand Lodge he received a further communication that the St. George's Lodge was fully recognised and restored to all its Masonic privileges. This information he communicated to the Grand Lodge that the question was settled, and a resolution was carried to refer back the report to the Colonial Board, in consequence of the subsequent information that had been obtained, for a further report. They were indebted to Bro. Brackstone Baker, who had been instrumental in bringing about this happy result, and he had a notice on the paper in reference to the subject; but perhaps he hardly deemed it necessary to proceed with it. He then moved the following resolution:—
 "That the Grand Lodge of Canada having at length recognised the St. George's Lodge (No. 440), Montreal, this Grand Lodge expresses its satisfaction at the termination of the differences which have existed on the subject, and earnestly hopes that in future the utmost harmony and brotherly love may prevail between the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Canada, as well as between the brethren of the several Canadian lodges and of those lodges in Canada remaining under the constitution of this Grand Lodge."

Bro. BRACKSTONE BAKER said he should second the motion, and asked permission to withdraw the motion of which he had given notice. As Bro. Hopwood had said, he had some hand in bringing about this happy solution. Being in Quebec in July, he felt it to be his duty to see the Grand Master of Canada in reference to the St. George's Lodge, and he was happy to say he took his dictum at its real worth, for before he left the chair on the 26th of July, he gracefully consented to submit the matter to his Grand Lodge, and three days afterwards he revoked his former decision, and the St. George's Lodge was restored to all its privileges.

Bro. GREGORY wished that the services of Bro. Brackstone Baker should be recognised, and moved an addition to the resolution to that effect.

The D.G. MASTER, while ruling that the amendment could not be put, congratulated the Craft here and in Canada on the suit.

Bro. HOPWOOD wished that the Grand Lodge of Canada had yielded to the remonstrances of the Colonial Board rather than to the *ipse dixit* of an individual member of it. (Hear, hear, from Brackstone Baker.)

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

Bro. HAYERS moved that the report of the Committee on the Grand Lodge Property be read, received, and entered on the minutes, and said he should be happy to answer any questions. Bro. Dobie had suggested to him that they should pass a resolution empowering the trustees who had been instructed to prepare a lease for the letting the Tavern to have power to execute it.

Bro. DOBIE said the trustees were appointed by Grand Lodge, and he contended that the words of the resolution of June did not authorise the trustees to execute the lease.

The D.G. MASTER thought the trustees need not hesitate to execute the lease under the original resolution, but legal gentlemen were very particular as to form, although they did not always express their opinions in the most intelligible language. But as regarded a resolution, it appeared to him that it could not be passed without notice, and, therefore, he could not put it.

Bro. HAYERS moved the following paragraph in the report:—
 "That the Committee be directed to take the necessary steps for furnishing the various rooms; to make such arrangements as seem to them to be judicious for the convenience of the Grand Lodge, the various boards, executive officers, and private lodges and chapters, and that they be authorised to confer with private lodges and chapters, and with the Committees of the Charities, and arrange the terms upon which the various rooms may be occupied." He said the rooms were in an advanced state; some of the flooring would be put down this week, and they hoped to be able to accommodate the lodges and the executive department in the early part of next year.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES seconded the resolution, which was put and carried.

THE IRISH GRAND LODGE.

The G. SECRETARY read a letter from the Deputy Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, expressing the satisfaction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland with the opinion given by the Grand Lodge of England as regards the position which a Past Master under the Irish Constitution occupies in a lodge under the English Constitution.

APPEAL FROM AUSTRALIA.

Grand Lodge next proceeded to consider an appeal of Bro. James C. Hawker, P.M. of the South Australian Lodge of Friendship (No. 423), Adelaide, South Australia, and others, against the ruling of the Provincial Grand Master, with respect to a proposed by-law of the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Australia.

In this case, according to the statement of the Grand Registrar, it appeared that a committee of the Provincial Grand Lodge had been appointed to revise the by-laws, and amongst other things they proposed that the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge should take place in July; and although the Provincial Grand Master said this was an infringement of his privileges, they passed the resolution. The Provincial Grand Master then reiterated that this act was an infringement of his privileges and refused to sanction it, and hence this appeal. According to the rule at page 54 of the "Book of Constitutions," the Provincial Lodge emanated from the Provincial Grand Master; that this was an infringement of his prerogative, and that he was wrong in putting the resolution.

The appeal was dismissed, and the decision of the Provincial Grand Master was upheld.

This being the whole of the business, Grand Lodge was closed in due form, and with solemn prayer, soon after eleven o'clock.

ONE joyous thought in this world of sadness is, that there is never a day in the calendar but many are celebrating their birthday upon it; and there is joy and gladness in many a house. It is a dark heart that never looks at the bright side of things.

METROPOLITAN.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—This prosperous lodge held an emergency meeting on Monday, the 5th inst., at the Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford, (Bro. J. Stevens's). Bro. C. G. C. Stahr, assisted by Bros. J. H. Pembroke, J.W.; F. Walters, P.M., Sec.; J. S. Blomeley, J.D.; J. Rosenstock, I.G.; G. Wilton, I.P.M.; J. Stevens, P.M.; H. Stevens, and others, opened the lodge. Amongst a large number of visitors we noticed—Bros. W. Jackson, P.M. 73, Grand Stewards' Lodge; G. Morris, W.S. 73; F. H. Elsworth, 73; A. P. Stedman, 73; C. A. Cathie, 73; M. A. Loewenstark, 73; J. Liddiard, 147; F. W. Crispin, 200 (S.C.); and others. The only ceremony was the initiation of Capt. Munster, which the W.M. performed in his usual careful manner. After business the brethren separated.

INSTRUCTION.

EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT (No. 251).

This old and highly influential lodge, working under the sanction of the Lodge of Unions (No. 256), held its annual festival on Friday evening, November 25th, in the Freemasons' Hall, and, as usual, brought together a very numerous attendance of the members of the Craft. Previous to the festival, the lodge was held in the Temple, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D., presiding; Bro. Fenn, A.G.D.C., acting as S.W.; and Bro. J. Hervey, P.G.D., as J.W.

The lodge was opened at seven o'clock, when the following sections of the lectures were most ably and efficiently worked by the brethren whose names are attached thereto:—

2nd Section of the 2nd Lecture	... By Bro. C. A. Murton, P.M. 7, (Sec.)
3rd ditto	" " A. A. Richards, G.S., S.W. 8.
4th ditto	" " E. Woodman, 901.
1st ditto of the 3rd Lecture	" " T. Fenn, A.G.D.C., P.M. 162.
2nd ditto	" " G. Powell, S.W. 142.
3rd ditto	" " Pike, Grenadiers' Lodge.

The working throughout was unexceptionable, and gave general satisfaction.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the large hall for refreshment, at which Bro. Llewellyn Evans (President of the Board of General Purposes) presided, supported by Bros. McIntyre, Grand Registrar; Hopwood, President of the Colonial Board; Farnfield, Assistant G. Secretary; Albert Woods, Grand Dir. of Cers., and the following body of Stewards:—

Bro. W. C. Bacon, S.D. 222.	Bro. F. Mead, W.M. 227.
" J. Clark, J.W. 227.	" W. Moates, P.M. 410.
" T. Fenn, Assist. Grand Dir. of Cers., P.M. 162, 83, 259.	" C. A. Murton (Secretary), P.M. 7, 83, 822.
" J. Glaisher, 33.	" M. Ohren, 33.
" R. Grey, S.W. 222, 259.	" G. Powell, S.W. 142.
" J. J. Hardey, P.M. 3, 753, 865.	" A. A. Richards, G.S., S.W. 8, 865.
" J. N. Harrington, J.W. 92.	" W. A. Smith, 12.
" J. Hervey (Treasurer), P.G.D.	" S. Leith Tomkins, P.M. 2.
" W. Hollingworth, S.W. 63.	" J. D. Tucker, J.D. 263.
" C. H. Hopwood, S.W. 263.	" J. Udall, P.G.D.
" Horace Lloyd, W.M. 96.	" S. B. Wilson (President), P.G.D.
" E. B. Lynch, 500, I.C.	" E. Woodman, 901.

The fare was very ample, and was served in Bro. Elkington's usual excellent manner.

The cloth having been drawn,

The PRESIDENT said the first toast always given on such occasions as the present was "The pious memory of Peter Gilkes," which was drunk upstanding, and in solemn silence.

The PRESIDENT again rose and said, that the brethren would readily anticipate the toast which he was about to propose, which was that of the Queen. As Englishmen they revered the Sovereign who presided over their glorious empire; but as Masons they looked on her as the daughter and niece of a Mason, and he wished he could also add, the mother of a Mason. She was dear to them all, and therefore he gave them "The Queen and the Craft."

The toast was received with all due honours.

The PRESIDENT said the next toast he had to propose was the revered Sovereign of their Order, the Earl of Zetland, who for twenty years had presided over the Craft. They knew as well as he (the President) did the amount of zeal and labour he brought into the discharge of his high and important duties. Under his rule the Craft had greatly increased not only in numbers, but in respectability; and when they found that it was progressing in every part of the world, they might reasonably conclude that it was well governed, and that they owed their present high position to their Grand Master. It was only the other day that they beheld a very impressive assembly presided over

by the Grand Master, on the occasion of laying the first stone of an establishment which was intended to disserve for ever the tavern from Freemasonry, and when it could no longer be said that Freemasons' Hall was held in Freemasons' Tavern, as at present it was popularly known to be. It was the earnest wish that the life of their respected Grand Master might be spared to dedicate that temple to Freemasonry, and he was sure those whom he had addressed would heartily join in that wish by drinking the toast he then proposed, which was "The Health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of England."

The toast was very enthusiastically received.

The PRESIDENT said he had then to request them to do honour to "The Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Past and Present." He said it was not necessary for him to speak of the merits of the Grand Officers, as it was well known to the Craft that they ably discharged their duties. The Deputy Grand Master, in addition to the responsible office he held under his Sovereign, ably presided in the absence of the Grand Master; and as his merits were so well known he would not take up the time of the brethren by enlarging upon them. As to the Grand Officers, they had present Bros. Havers, Hopwood, Stephen Barton Wilson, Udall, and several others, who were always ready and willing to give the Craft any assistance that might be required of them. Therefore he asked them to give the Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers that meed of praise which he was sure they were so justly entitled to.

Bro. HAVERS, P.S.G.W., said there seemed to be a universal consent on the part of Masons that the Deputy Grand Master deserved all the honours that were paid to him, and in his name he (Bro. Havers) thanked them for the honour they had done him and the rest of the Grand Officers. There were none more conscious of what was expected of them than the officers of the Grand Lodge of England, and it would be affectation on their part if they were not to say that, having attained the highest rank, it entailed upon them more zealous attention to their duties. Some of them were placed in positions of great trust in providing for the Craft a fitting temple for Freemasons. It only remained for him to thank the brethren for the very pleasant evening they had spent in the lodge, and he trusted it might long be the centre from which the genuine principles and practice of Freemasonry should be disseminated throughout the globe. (Cheers.)

The PRESIDENT said they had now arrived at what might be called the toast of the evening. He had then to propose "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement." That lodge of improvement, as was well known, had existed ever since the time of the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, established under the auspices of their late Bro. Gilkes, whom he knew, having had the honour to belong to the lodge for many years. At that time Bro. Gilkes met them under very different circumstances, and they had not that good attendance they now had. When Bro. Gilkes was called from this world, his mantle descended on his excellent friend on his left (Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson). Bro. Gilkes was a brother of immense memory and of great application, by means of which he was enabled to commit to memory all the lectures as well as the ceremonies of the lodge, and he was, indeed, the Elijah of the lodge. Their Bro. Wilson brought to them a greater amount of knowledge than Bro. Gilkes, for having joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement he had by immense labour shown his anxious desire to promote the principles and true interests of Freemasonry. Lodges of Instruction were most valuable to all Masons, for they were compelled to go to them to ascertain the meaning of what they had seen; and under the able auspices of Bro. Wilson, long might the Emulation Lodge of Improvement go on and prosper. He would not detain them any longer by any observations of his own, but would at once give them "Prosperity to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson. (The toast was most cordially received.)

Bro. S. B. WILSON rose and was received with prolonged cheering. He was very indistinctly heard, but was understood to say that he thought that the toast their worthy President had proposed was a little out of order, and that his name should have been left until the toast of the W.M. had been drunk. Without, however, questioning whether he had done right or wrong, and even if the toast was a little out of place, he hoped they would give him credit, as an old member of the lodge, for the feeling he possessed to do what he could for the good of

Freemasonry in general. He had been for a great number of years a member of the lodge, indeed, ever since the demise of their respected Bro. Gilkes, and had known their President for upwards of thirty years; and he felt sincerely obliged to him and the brethren for the interest they had taken and the support they had given to the lodge. Their worthy President was an old member of the lodge, and was so during the time of Bro. Gilkes, whose portrait he had then the pleasure of exhibiting to them. After a few other observations, he thanked them for the honour they had conferred upon him in coupling his name with the toast.

Bro. MCINTYRE, Grand Registrar, said he felt it to be a high privilege to be permitted to propose the health of the President who occupied the chair on the present occasion, and they were delighted to see him do honour to the lodge as one of its members for so many years. They had on the present occasion as their President an old and valued Mason, who achieved distinction when the late Duke of Sussex placed him in an honourable position. He (Bro. McIntyre) was glad to find that he had not forgotten the lessons he had learnt in his youth, but was determined to carry them out in after life, thus showing that when once a Mason he would always be a Mason. Their esteemed Bro. Evans had accorded to him, by the Duke of Sussex, the position of Grand Deacon, and they then saw him as President of the Board of General Purposes. He had well achieved his success, and he hoped that every brother would do honour to him who did honour to himself by coming amongst them, for a better man never entered within the walls of Freemasonry. (The toast was most cordially received.)

The PRESIDENT (Bro. Llewellyn Evans) said he could assure them that it was with very great gratification he received that meed of praise at their hands, and it was with extreme pleasure that he presided at that festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. Bro. Wilson taught him what little he knew of Freemasonry, and he had endeavoured to disseminate what he had learnt from him through the Craft; but he hardly ever expected to have the honour accorded to him of presiding over the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. He was very glad to see his preceptor in good health, and he trusted that God would long spare him to preside over the lodge, and to continue to live to a good old age. As to the Board of General Purposes, he (Bro. Evans) had sometimes an unpleasant duty to perform as the organ of conveying reproof to the brethren; but now he was happy to say they rarely had a complaint to consider. Never was the Craft so free from complaints—bringing back the golden days of Freemasonry. For the next Grand Lodge there was not a single notice, which showed that the Craft were satisfied with the way in which they were going on. They were very prosperous: their finances were increasing, and they were looked upon as the first Grand Lodge in the world. He hoped they would profit by it, and, by continuing in the same peaceful state, show to the world that Freemasonry meant peace and goodwill amongst all mankind.

The PRESIDENT said the brethren of that lodge met under the auspices of the Lodge of Unions, and he thought that lodge ought to be proud of so good a child as the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. Still, when they met on such occasions it was their duty to thank the lodge under whose sanction they were assembled. He gave "Prosperity to the Lodge of Unions," and, in the absence of the W.M. of that lodge, he coupled with it the name of Bro. Green.

Bro. GREEN, in responding to the toast, said he regretted that they had not selected Bro. Hervey to have returned thanks for the honour conferred upon the Lodge of Unions; but he gathered from him that it afforded him great gratification to see the working of the lodge, which was held under the auspices of the lodge to which they had the honour to belong. For himself, he could say that he had never seen the sections so excellently given as on that evening, and a most pleasing episode in it was the spontaneous working of one of the sections by Bro. Pike. Long might the lodge continue to prosper in the admirable working they had seen that night, and long might he be spared to see the excellent way in which it was conducted under the Lodge of Unions.

The PRESIDENT said he had then to bring before the brethren the toast of a sister lodge, which was the Stability Lodge of Instruction. In proposing that lodge he was to some extent proposing his own health, for he had for thirty years been a member of it. He remembered it when they used to meet at an old pot-house at St. Mary-at-Hill, when it used to be called a "Pot-and-pipe lodge." (Laughter.) They used to have a little

working, then knock-off and enjoy a pot of half-and-half, then resume, and finish up with a pot of half-and-half again. (Laughter.) The Stability Lodge of Instruction was now an important one, but they worked the lectures and the ceremonies in a somewhat different manner. He regretted that he did not see present the worthy preceptor of the Lodge of Stability (Bro. Muggeridge), for he hoped, with the united efforts of himself and Bro. Wilson, they would bring about a uniformity of working. He gave them "Prosperity to the Stability Lodge of Instruction;" and as he knew they had an able and learned member of that lodge present amongst the company, he would couple with the toast the name of Bro. Havers.

Bro. HAVERS, P.G.S.W., said at that late hour of the evening he would not detain them for more than two or three minutes. Between the Lodge of Stability and the Lodge of Emulation there was no material difference, except a generous rivalry as to which could best discharge its duty. There were, however, one or two points of difference between them. The Lodge of Emulation very wisely changed their President every year, but the Lodge of Stability most unwisely always kept him in harness. (A laugh.) He thanked them on the part of the Lodge of Stability, and said it was always their desire to give the ritual of Freemasonry carefully and accurately.

The PRESIDENT said the next toast he had to bring before the brethren was the noble Charities of their Order. The toast he had to give was "Prosperity to the Girls' School, the Boys' School, and the Asylum for Aged and Decayed Freemasons and their Widows." It was gratifying to them to know how Freemasons supported their Charities, for the sum annually subscribed far exceeded that subscribed by any other society of their limited number. They must not be satisfied, however, until they saw the whole of their noble buildings well endowed, for the Charities of their Order would always commend themselves to all Freemasons. He was sure that he had only to ask them and they would at once drink success to their Masonic Charities. (This toast was most cordially received.)

Bro. FARNFIELD, Assistant Grand Secretary, and Secretary to the Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons, returned thanks on behalf of that institution, and said that the annual festival would take place on the 25th of January, and he was happy to say that 95 lodges would send stewards to it. He hoped the brethren of the lodges who had sent stewards would well support them, so that they might have a grand subscription on the occasion, not only for the credit of the lodges they represented, but to do honour to the Deputy Grand Master, who would preside.

Bro. BIRCKES, Secretary to the Boys' School, said the present occasion offered a great temptation to him to enlarge upon the merits of their Charities, but he should exercise some discretion at that late hour of the evening, and would confine his remarks into narrow limits so as not to weary them by any such appeal on behalf of all or any of their Masonic Charities. He sincerely trusted that all Bro. Farnfield's anticipations would be realised in January next, and that success would also attend the Festival for the Girls' School; and he felt obliged to their President for his kind allusions to the Boys' School. The committee had taken upon themselves a very responsible task and a great and onerous duty, and if he might compare great things with small, he was a sort of Atlas to bear the weight of the world, for the carrying on the building at Wood Green had proved a greater task than he ever anticipated; but he felt it to be his duty, both in season and out of season, to do all he could to place the Boys' School on the same scale and in the same satisfactory position as their other Charities. For the last three years their Charities had flourished to an enormous extent on account of the liberal, indeed munificent, support they had received. The Craft had been generally appealed to, or the committee of the Boys' School would not have been justified in undertaking what they were then doing. The new building was now in a rapid state of construction, and would cost a large amount, which, when completed, would be a magnificent home for 150 boys; and when those who then sat round that table were numbered with the dead, future applicants would find that they had laid their foundation well, and after generations would say that the Masons of the present day had not built for themselves, but had done wisely and for all time. He was anxious to bring into the circle of their magnificent institutions those whose purses have not yet been reached, and to stimulate them to general acts of liberality. Long might their Charities flourish in that generous rivalry to which Bro. Havers had alluded in providing for the young, and a home for the aged in

the decline of life; but at the same time he should be sorry if the support of one Charity interfered with the other.

The PRESIDENT next proposed the health of those members who had worked the sections.

Bro. MURTON, Secretary, returned thanks, which brought the proceedings of the evening to a close, having given entire satisfaction to all.

In the course of the evening Bro. Elton Woollams, of the Old Concord Lodge, delighted the company with some choice pieces of vocal music.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKS AND BUCKS.

WINDSOR.—NEW MASONIC HALL.

On Thursday, the 24th ult., the opening of the Masonic Hall at Windsor took place with the usual ceremonial. The great increase of members to this popular lodge, heretofore held at the Castle Hotel, induced the members to purchase some suitable premises in Church-street, which had been built by Bro. Sir Christopher Wren. These premises have been converted into a spacious lodge, which, with other apartments, have rendered the building admirably adapted for the purposes of Masonry. Great praise is due to the brethren, more particularly to Bro. Devereux, for the great zeal, liberality, and good taste with which the work has been so successfully accomplished.

The dedication was fixed, as above stated, and the ceremony was to have been performed by the R.W. the G. Registrar of England, Acting Prov. G. Master for Berks and Bucks; but that gentleman being unable to attend at the appointed time, he deputed the V.W. Bro. Devereux, Prov. G. Sec. of Berks and Bucks, to commence proceedings. The lodge having been opened in due form,

The PROV. G. SEC. addressed the assembly as follows:—Brethren,—In the absence of the R.W.G. Registrar, A.P.G.M. of the Province, I have been deputed by him to preside on this interesting occasion; and so suddenly have I been called upon to discharge this duty, and so great is the responsibility I feel, that I must claim your kindness and indulgence while I endeavour to perform the duties devolving upon me. Let me then, brethren, for a few moments direct your attention to the peculiar circumstances under which we meet this day, to celebrate an event long hoped for and earnestly desired by those who alone can appreciate the benefits to be derived by assembling in a place set apart, not only for the ceremonial of Freemasonry, but for the transaction of all business connected with the lodge. And I must congratulate you, my brethren, in having obtained possession of a building erected after a design by that great architect and illustrious Grand Master of England, Sir C. Wren—a name ever to be held in the deepest veneration by Englishmen, but more especially by those belonging to the Masonic Craft. You are also the possessors of a property which for many generations has been associated with one of the best institutions which adorned this ancient and royal borough, viz., the Bluecoat School, whose benefactors have been some of the most illustrious in deeds of charity and benevolence in the history of this town from the reign of Charles I. And now, on this auspicious day, we meet for the purpose of dedicating this hall to Freemasonry—and in that name we recognise all that raises a man's moral standard: in one word, we dedicate it to *universal benevolence*. The ceremonies we are about to perform are not unmeaning rites, or they would not have been adopted by the great and learned throughout successive generations. We dedicate this hall to Masonry; we consecrate this place in the name of the great Jehovah, to His service, His glory. May we never forget that His all-seeing eye observes us, and may our acts be the reflection of the fear and love of our Almighty Father. We dedicate this hall to Virtue, and may the moral duties so continually inculcated not only find a place in our hearts, but may they be the cherished actions of our lives. May brotherly love prevail amongst us, and may all those whose names are enrolled as members of the Craft display that affection to each other, and extend to all mankind benevolence and charity.

The Rev. and V.W. Bro. R. J. SIMPSON, Prov. G. Chap., then delivered the following beautiful oration:—

Right Worshipful Master and Brethren,—It is my duty, and I may add, my high privilege to address you on this most interesting occasion, an occasion of deep interest must it be to us all—as men—as Masons—as inhabitants of Windsor. As

men we must ever rejoice when we are called together for a purpose which brings us more directly in connection with the Great Author of our being, the divine object of our praise and worship, the preserver of our lives and fortunes, and the end of our highest hopes and aspirations. As Masons we must be deeply gratified to take part in a solemn act of dedication, whereby one more is added to the glorious roll of Masonic Temples, in which our beautiful and significant ceremonies are conducted, and the principles of our Masonic art are fostered; and, as inhabitants of this place, we must congratulate ourselves, not only on finding Masonry in so flourishing a state as to be able to erect here a temple to its Grand Master's honour, but also in the fact that the Masons of Windsor have been willing to raise and do raise to-day a building at once worthy of our noble Order and this royal and ancient borough. If, however, any elements were wanting to increase the interest which attaches to the erection, or rather transformation, of this building, it might be supplied by the reflection that it has been for many years a seat of light and learning, in which many good and useful men have been trained, and that it was designed by our noble forefather, Brother Sir Christopher Wren. But there is one circumstance which gives peculiar interest and significance to this act of to-day. A Masonic lodge moves from a house of public entertainment to a temple—from a place of lodging to its own home. In saying this, I do not for a moment mean to disparage the excellent arrangements, the courtesy, the kindness, the Masonic feeling, and the high character of the proprietors of such houses, either in this or any other town; but this we must all allow, that, looking on the one hand to the dignity of Freemasonry, its religious character, its antecedents, its high objects, and on the other to frail human nature, and the customs of society, with their accompanying temptations, a hall of its own must be preferable to a hired room at an hotel, as an abode for a Freemasons' lodge. It is right we should eat and drink, and when we do so with moderation and thankfulness we offend not God nor injure man; but there are right times and places for these—the times are not those when Masons meet for the ordinary duties of the lodge, the places are not the lodges themselves. Occasions there are for social gatherings, such as that on which we are happily met to-day; and when these are marked by no excess in word or deed, when men remember they are men—gentlemen in the truest sense of the term, and Masons—happy is such intercourse. But granting all this, still must we fall back on the conclusion that any movement which has for its main object the drawing us away from the lure of false, or at least fleeting pleasures, and the things of time and sense, and pointing our thoughts and affections to the bright and unfading glories of a higher world, must be good in its nature, and beneficial in its results; but there is yet another element of joy on this occasion, and if you seek it, I would say with the well-known epitaph on our brother's tomb in St. Paul's, "circumspice." "Yes, brethren, look around on this beautiful little hall, a gem of art and an honour to our Order;" and while doing so, I am sure I should not be doing justice to your feelings or my views, if I were not to add in all sincerity that this work reflects infinite credit on our excellent Brother Devereux, P.M., whose undaunted spirit, refined taste, valuable time, and unwearied zeal have all been devoted most ungrudgingly to this admirable design, and to whom we are in great measure indebted for the very perfect manner in which it has been carried out. It might not be inappropriate on such an occasion as this to enlarge on the subject of the dedication and consecration of certain places or buildings to religious purposes, either in connection with ourselves or the outer world. I might trace from the earliest ages, as recorded both in sacred and profane history, how these were set apart, not only by command of the Most High, but by the suggestions of that inner law written in man's heart, which prompted the creature to dedicate some of his beautiful gifts to the Creator, and to hallow the places of prayer and praise; but I forbear to enter upon this theme, though fraught with deep interest as an historical research, and I would rather draw your thoughts and my own to one or two points of more practical importance. We are told by the Jewish historian, Josephus, that "the foundation of Solomon's Temple was laid prodigiously deep, and the stones were not of the largest size, but hard and firm enough to endure all weathers, morticed one into another, and wedged into the rock." He goes on to say, "there were several partitions, and every one had its covering apart, independent one of another; but they were all coupled and fastened together in such a manner that they appeared to

be one piece, and as if the walls were the stronger for them." He added, "the walls were all of white stones, wainscoted with cedar, and they were so artfully put together that there was no joint to be discerned, nor the least sign of a hammer that had come upon them." Is it in the power of language to describe our Institution in fitter terms than these? What a happy description of our mystical fabric! founded in strength, ordered by wisdom, and adorned with beauty! for say what institution can have a firmer foundation than this volume of God's revealed truth? And why is this so independent of its own claim to our recognition? Because it sanctions all that experience teaches us respecting the natural powers of the mind. It leads up in grateful remembrance to Him who bestowed the principle of life at the first, and who continues to impart it through all successive generations. It enhances its value by asserting and proving its immortality. It renders the man useful to society by cherishing the love of goodness, and by encouraging hatred to vice; by revealing the future destination of the spirit to eternal happiness as the free reward of obedience, or eternal misery as the just punishment of sin; and thus furnishes a more powerful guard of virtue and barrier against vice than all the laws of society could impose and preserve.

He, then, that is an enemy to revelation is an enemy to himself. He is extinguishing, so far as he can extinguish, the light which is sent to guide him home, and absorb the feeble inefficient ray of reason and of nature—he is refusing the only cup of consolation given as a genuine antidote to the bitter draught of sorrow,—he is rolling a great stone over the door of his own sepulchre.

But he is an enemy to mankind, for he is robbing society of the cement which holds it together, of the light which has illumined the darkest times and habitations of our earth; of its intelligence, its happiness, its glory; and he who is the enemy of mankind is the enemy of God, for He is the parent of the universe, the friend of man. He stamped human nature with His image and He loves it still. Yes.

His glorious revelation breathes only peace. It strengthens the cause of philanthropy. The one favour it asks is that men would love themselves, and while it pours a thousand blessings on the present and lightens all the way, it points out to every wandering child of Adam "the path of life."

But if truth lies at the foundation, wisdom has raised the superstructure of our holy house. No one of thoughtful mind, and who has studied Freemasonry to any extent, can fail to observe the connection of our whole system, as well as the relative dependence of its several parts. The great objects severally brought out in the three degrees; the eloquent significance of the various implements of art; the lessons taught by our traditional histories, the pointed meaning of every ornament that adorns our lodge—striking emblems of blessed verities, outer things mutely conveying the highest duties and deepest truths connected with our inner life! Never do I hear a brother raised to the degree of a Master Mason without feeling myself most deeply moved by the solemnity of a ceremony which, for instruction, impressiveness, and power, is second to none in this lower world. And is our house not only wisely built, but beautifully adorned? Are not purity of thought, integrity of purpose, urbanity of manner, and, above all, the spotless robe of sweet charity, the beautiful garments with which a Freemason is invested? It is these that render our names worthy of cedar; these that must immortalise our art; these that through centuries have given it power to stand firm and unmoved amidst the persecutions of the oppressor, the taunts of the ignorant, and the denunciations of the superstitions.

I have just named charity; say, brethren, do we strive to put on this bond of perfectness, "whiter than the skin of the Lamb, brighter than the fairest of our jewels?" are we "kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love preferring one another?"

Oh, how lovely is this charity! it constitutes the dignity of human nature, it tends to promote the happiness of mankind, it elevates and refines our feelings, it calms the storms of passion that ruffles the serenity of life, it causes men to look with kindness on each other, and to view no one as a stranger whose joys we can brighten, whose wants we can supply, or whose sorrows we can soothe. No distinction of rank will affect its operations. It will consider no object as beneath its notice that can be benefitted by its exertions, and no task as mean by which it can promote human happiness. Where would be the boasted dignity of reason if employed only to promote our narrow and selfish aims? where the glory of that

knowledge which never enlightened, advised, or comforted another? and where the honour of that power which never promoted indigent merit, or wiped a tear from the mourner's eye? A fiend may possess a higher degree of reason, more knowledge, and more power than the wisest and best of men; destitute of benevolence, he is the more to be dreaded and detested, not revered. Who would esteem the man of rank whose haughty, selfish spirit could never dwell with complacency on modest worth? Of what avail is wealth imprisoned in the rusty coffers of the miser, or wantonly squandered away in the dissipation of the prodigal? Who would value our influence if never employed in promoting the prosperity of others? If such gifts are made subservient only to our personal advantage they cannot redound to our honour—they can have no effects but to render us more despicable by showing that, while we have the ability, we want the spirit and inclination to enjoy that greatest of all luxuries, the luxury of doing good. Let us then look well into our own hearts, and search into our motives. When we stand at this entrance of the dark character of those hearts we at first strive in vain to pierce its depths. At first we discover nothing—we can but stumble forward, feeling without seeing what is there, but the eye by degrees becomes accustomed to the shadow, outlines become distinct, even differences of shade become perceptible, until by God's help at length we see, though still "as in a glass," clearly the true forms of the feelings, principles, and convictions that crowd the hidden dwelling. In that knowledge is the secret of truth, as regards ourselves; and according to its agreement with that truth will be the consistency of our conduct in the sight of God. And when this knowledge discovers in that chamber of the heart the light of God's truth and sweet tones of gentle charity—oh! how blessed the result! How all the pursuits of pleasures and interests of a passing world grow small by comparison, and how one is inclined to realise the feeling of the great apostle—"For whom I suffer the loss of all things, and count them but dung." And do not these landmarks of our venerable Order ever point in this direction? Do not our glorious Charities for the widow, the orphan, and the aged furnish an eloquent memorial of our high duty to each other, as well as to Him who giveth to all? Do not the significant emblems that adorn our lodge shadow forth these eternal verities? Do not the beautiful ceremonies abound with lessons of wisdom? May the Great Architect of the Universe shed down on our conventions in this lodge the continual dew of His blessing. May He give us and those who succeed us wisdom to contrive in all our doings, strength to support in all difficulties, and beauty to adorn those heavenly mansions where His honour dwelleth, and where He reigneth for ever and ever.

The Grand Registrar by this time arrived, and proceeded with the formal dedication of the hall. This imposing ceremony was rendered deeply impressive by the anthems, expressly arranged by Bro. Tolley, who presided at the organ, and the singing was admirably performed by Bres. Marriott, Bridge-water, Buckland, Carter, and Shoebridge. The usual form of consecration by the presiding officer proceeding around the hall with the corn, wine, and oil, was followed by a consecration prayer, the uncovering of the lodge, and finished with a Masonic hymn. Afterwards several of the brethren were initiated and passed by Bro. Captain Farrer, W.M., who has contributed in a most liberal manner towards the funds and decorations.

After the hall was dedicated and other business transacted, the brethren assembled at the banquet table at the Town Hall, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given from the chair and drunk with Masonic honours, and followed by appropriate singing by the above professional gentlemen.

There were upwards of 100 brethren present, among whom were the Grand Registrar, who presided, supported on his right by the R.W. Master of the Castle Lodge, Bro. Captain Farrer; the W.M. of the Etonian Lodge, Bro. Nichols; Bro. Patten, Secretary to the Girls' School; and on the left by the V.W. Bro. J. Devereux, founder of the Hall; Bro. William Vansittart, M.P.; Bro. Binckes, Secretary to the Boys' School; and Bros. Holden, Martin, Palmer, &c. Several excellent speeches were delivered in the course of the evening, and allusion was made to the probability of the Prince of Wales becoming a Mason, an event, we hope, not far distant. The dinner, which was of the most choice and elegant description, was supplied by Bro. Pyecroft, of the Castle Hotel. The artistic decorations of the Hall were by Bro. Croyden.

In the adaptation of the building to its present purpose,

great care has been taken by the architects, Messrs. Edgington and Tait, not to destroy its character as originally designed by Sir Christopher Wren; the decorations generally have also been carried out in accordance therewith. The contractors for the works have been Bros. Holden, George, and Goddard, who have performed their several parts in the most creditable manner.

DURHAM.

GATESHEAD.—*Lodge of Industry* (No. 48).—This lodge was opened on the 28th ult., in the absence of the W.M., by Bro. R. J. Banning, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.W., assisted by Bros. C. J. Banister, P.M., P.G.S.R. of England, as P.M.; Bro. Winter, P.M., P. Prov. S.D., as S.W.; Yongal, J.W.; and the rest of the officers. Messrs. Elliott and Story were initiated into the mysteries of the Order by the acting W.M. Bro. Bowman was examined and passed to the second degree by Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M. Bro. Whitworth raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason by Bro. R. J. Banning, P.M. Bro. B. Bigger's notice of motion was carried unanimously—that five guineas be given to the widow of one of the members recently deceased. Business over, the lodge was closed in solemn form, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, under the presidency of Bro. R. J. Banning, P.M. The visitors present were Bros. Thos. Anderson, P.M. 541; Thos. Innis, Kilwinning Lodge, Scotland (No. 15); Jonas Whitworth, Roberts, P.M. 24; B. Smailes, No. 23, California; C. D. 124; W. Gibson, 406; &c.

HARTLEPOOL.—*St. Helen's Lodge* (No. 531).—The regular meeting of this lodge was holden at the Masonic Hall on Thursday, the 1st inst. On account of the great amount of business to be transacted, summonses were issued for seven p.m. instead of half-past. Five gentlemen were balloted for and accepted, four of whom being present were initiated into the mysteries of the Order, and Bro. Rev. A. Bleasdale was passed to the second degree. The ceremonies were most ably conducted by Bro. Grooves, W.M., assisted by Bro. Moore, P.M.; Bros. Armstrong, Nathan, Siveright, and Leigh were present and offic'ed. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation. Several matters of ordinary business were transacted, and Wednesday, the 28th inst., was selected as the day for the installation of Bro. Moore, P.M., the W.M. elect, and for the celebration by a banquet of the Festival of St. John. The brethren then retired to refreshment, and it was nearly midnight when the brethren separated. A lodge of emergency was holden on the 2nd inst., for the sake of passing Bro. Taylor to the second degree. Bro. Grooves, W.M., occupied the chair, and was assisted by Bros. Holmes, S.W.; Nathan as J.W.; and Leigh as S.D.

NORFOLK.

EAST DEREHAM.—*Sondes Lodge* (No. 996).—This new and flourishing lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the King's Head Hotel, East Dereham, on Wednesday, the 30th ult. The W.M., Bro. Henry John Mason, assisted by his officers, Bros. E. Barwell, S.W., and G. Gidney, J.W., opened the lodge in the first and second degrees. There was a heavy list of business to get through (viz., four initiations and three passings). Bros. Smith, Hatfield, and Starling were passed to the degree of F.C., after which the W.M. gave the lecture. The lodge was then closed to the first degree, when Mr. George Samuel Tinkler was initiated, which ceremony was characterised by the very impressive manner in which the several degrees are at all times given by Bro. Henry John Mason. This ceremony being concluded, the W.M. announced that the time had arrived when they were called upon to nominate their Master for the ensuing twelve months. Bro. Gidney thereupon rose, and said he hoped their present W.M. would be prevailed upon to continue in office for another year. He should, therefore, propose him with much pleasure; and at the same time he begged, in the name of the members of the lodge, to tender him their very best thanks for the kind assistance and marked attention he had at all times evinced to increase the prosperity of the lodge and the comfort of the brethren. The proposition having been seconded by Bro. Harwell, was carried with acclamation. Bro. Gidney then proposed that £5 5s. be subscribed by this lodge to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, instead of £2. 2s., as previously voted, which was carried unanimously. The lodge was then closed, after which the brethren retired to refreshment, and spent a very joyous evening.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Jacques de Molay Encampment*.—In the unavoidable absence of the E.C. Sir Thomas G. Hesketh, Bart., M.P., the conclave was opened in the Masonic Temple, Liverpool, on the 30th ult., by P.E.C. Sir Knt. C. J. Banister, assisted by P.E.C.'s Sir Knts. Clayton, as 1st Capt.; Wm. Cronkshaw, as 2nd Capt.; Edw. Pierpoint, Prelate; H. S. Alpass, Registrar; Sir Knt. Hale, as Capt. of Lines. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was unanimous in favour of the candidates, two being in attendance. Comps. Captain Beale and Friesch were each severally installed by the acting E.C., Sir Knt. Edwd. Pierpoint acting as Expert. Sir Knt. C. J. Banister's motion was carried to alter the day of installation to the 11th of March instead of September. There was a good attendance of Sir Knts., and a visitor from the Royal Kent Encampment, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sir Knt. S. D. Washburn. The conclave was closed in solemn form. The banquet was held at the Adelphi Hotel at six o'clock, under the presidency of P.E.C. Sir Knt. C. J. Banister, who proposed in regular rotation the loyal and Masonic toasts, the newly-installed Sir Knts. responding in a thorough knightly spirit to their health. Sir Knt. Captain Berry proposed the E.C., Sir T. G. Hesketh's, absent health, which was responded to by the acting E.C., who proposed "The Visitors," being much pleased to have one from his mother encampment, the Old Royal Kent. Full justice was done to the toast, and Sir Knt. Washburn returned thanks.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

SOUTHWARK LODGE (No. 11, S.C.).—This prosperous and flourishing lodge of Mark Masters held its regular meeting on Monday, the 5th inst., at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark (Bro. C. A. Cathie's). In the unavoidable absence of the R.W.M., Bro. C. H. Murr, Bro. E. N. Levy, P.R.W.M., presided over the lodge, which he opened, assisted by Bros. A. P. Leonard, D.R.W.M.; F. J. Lilley, S.W.; A. Avery, J.W.; A. D. Loewenstark, P.R.W.M., Treas.; F. Walters, Sec.; J. C. Goaddy, R. of M.; E. Harris, M.O.; G. Morris, S.O.; R. Welsford, J.O.; A. P. Steadman, Condr.; F. H. Elsworth, S.D.; J. Hawker, J.D.; C. A. Cathie, T.K.; Dr. Dixon, P.R.W.M.; and J. Rosenstock. Amongst the large number of visitors present we noticed Bros. J. Stevens, W. J. Laing, T. N. Moore, C. G. C. Stahr, and others. Four brethren having presented themselves for advancement, and proved themselves properly qualified, were advanced to the ancient and honourable degree of Mark Master Masons, viz., Bros. H. T. Turner, 73; F. W. Crispin, 200 (S.C.); W. E. Farnes, 73; and J. Brookhouse, 73. The ceremony was well rendered by the R.W.M., Bro. E. N. Levy, who was ably supported by Bro. Dr. Dixon, who gave an explanation of the working tools. Bro. A. D. Loewenstark, Treas., by the unanimous vote of the lodge, had the rank, honour, and privileges of a P.R.W.M. conferred on him, as a mark of respect and gratitude for the years of able assistance he had rendered to the lodge by zealously serving every office but R.W.M., which he had repeatedly declined in favour of younger brethren. After business the usual first-rate banquet followed.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—The monthly meeting of this lodge, held on Thursday, the 23rd ult., was less numerous than usual, owing to the bad state of the weather, not more than thirty-five being present. The lodge was opened at 7 p.m. by Bro. C. Le Sueur, W.M., assisted by Bros. P. E. Le Sueur, S.W.; C. J. Benest, J.W.; Dr. Hopkins acting as I.P.M. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Bro. Vigot as a joining member, and also for Mr. Ph. Renouf as a candidate for initiation, several members recommending him as a fit and proper person. In both cases the ballot was unanimously favourable. Messrs. Picot and Renouf, who had been balloted for on a previous evening, were introduced, properly prepared, and admitted to

the degree of Entered Apprentice by the W.M., with the usual ceremonies, ably and impressively administered. Bro. Schmitt read a numerously-signed requisition for the sanction of the lodge to a Royal Arch Chapter, to be attached to La Cesaree Lodge, and to bear the same name. Having supported the prayer of the petition, he proposed that such sanction be accorded. It was seconded by Bro. Dr. Hopkins. Bro. J. Durell spoke in its favour, and remarked that it was proposed to perform the work in English, though not to the exclusion of French, when the ritual shall have been translated, and a sufficient number of the companions shall have acquired a knowledge of it, on occasions when it may appear desirable. Bros. Benest and Rey urged that French should be considered the language usually adopted, English being only permissive when absolutely necessary, and proposed an amendment to that effect, which was, however, withdrawn after a discussion, in the course of which it was explained by the W.M. and Bros. Schmitt and Durell that unnecessary restrictions would hamper the proceedings at the commencement of the chapter, since the adoption of French at once would be impracticable, and that there would be nothing to interest it at a later period. The proposition in its original form was ultimately carried. Owing to the lateness of the hour, the delivery of the ordinary charge to the newly-initiated brethren was postponed, as was also a lecture on Freemasonry, which had been promised by Bro. Hanau. A candidate for initiation was proposed by Bro. Grouppillot, and seconded by Bro. Schmitt. The lodge was closed in perfect harmony at half-past nine, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment.

INDIA.

(From the Masonic Record of Western India.)

MHOW.

LODGE ST. PAUL'S (No. 389, S.C.)—The monthly meeting of the above lodge was holden on the evening of the 2nd Sept. last. The W.M., Bro. Dr. J. J. Pope, and officers having taken their respective places, the routine business of the evening was proceeded with. Messrs. Goad, Munro, Waller, Pallonjee Kusservanjee, and Rustonjee Bhicejee, candidates for initiation, were then admitted and duly initiated in ancient form. Bro. Robertson was regularly introduced and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. In consequence of Bro. Dr. Pope having been permanently appointed to the Indore Station, he resigned his office, and was succeeded by Bro. Capt. Clarke, of the 72nd Highlanders. The following vote of thanks, proposed by Bro. Doig and seconded by Bro. Clarke, P.M., and carried unanimously, was presented to him. The resolution was most beautifully embossed on white satin:—"That, in consideration of the able manner in which the Worshipful Master, Brother J. J. Pope, has worked this lodge during the past twelve months, and the unvarying kindness and urbanity which have characterised his dealings with the brethren in Mhow; that the deep sense the brethren entertain of his worth as a man and a Mason, be recorded in the minutes of the lodge, and a copy of the same be presented to him." Bro. Pope addressed the lodge in the following touching language:—"Worshipful Master, Office-bearers, and Brethren of Lodge St. Paul,—When I came amongst you in 1862, I had been a Master Mason four years. I was raised in Lodge Sincerity (No. 368), of Liverpool. I was also a Mark Master of Lodge 8 (Scotch Constitution), of Liverpool, and a companion of the Royal Arch chapter of 368, of the same place. On my joining the dépôt at Chatham, I became a member of Lodge Antiquity (No. 20), and also visited the chapter at that station. On my arrival in India, I was anxious to associate myself with the brethren, and became an affiliated brother of Lodge Hope, of Kurrachee. Do not, I pray, place these remarks down to any egotism on my part. I merely mention them to prove that I came amongst you with some knowledge of the principles of the noble Order of Freemasonry. I also think it due to you to know these facts, so that you may feel that when you did me the high honour of electing me Worshipful Master of this lodge, I recognised the importance of the position, and, that feeling this, I was determined to maintain its integrity to the best of my ability by justice, friendship, and regularity. That I had your confidence and support I felt at the time I accepted the office, and that my humble endeavours on behalf of Freemasonry in Mhow have been received by you with your accus-

tomed kindness and consideration, the handsome resolution you have just presented to me fully testifies. I feel I am unworthy of the high eulogium that Bro. Clarke, W.M., has so kindly passed upon me, and to which you have so heartily and freely responded. During my year of office nothing occurred that called for any peculiar action on my part; all was harmony and concord, and the mere working of degrees of Freemasonry in such a lodge cannot, and does not, deserve such a notice on your parts. That my heart was always with you I feel sure you will give me credit for; that I endeavoured to be punctual in my attendance I think you will allow; that I strove to maintain brotherly love and friendship I hope you will admit; but that I did more than that, or in any way called for or deserved such a high compliment as you have given me to-night, I will not admit, nor can I bring myself to believe. I cannot, worshipful sir, express my gratitude for such an unlooked for honour, and I can only say that such conduct fully corroborates the high opinion I formed two years ago of the members of Lodge St. Paul. To the officers of the lodge who have so nobly aided me I am deeply grateful. The assistance you gave me, the friendly support you accorded me, the right hand of fellowship you held out to me, have been the reason of my success, and the only cause of my occupying this proud position. To Bro. Fowler, the Secretary, I owe even more. Always at his post, always correct, business-like, and Masonic, I felt safe with such a condutor, and confident of your support and his assistance, the duties of the chair came lightly and pleasurable upon me. To the Masons of Mhow, for their presence and co-operation I shall always be grateful. Their welfare and interest will be uppermost in my heart; their success and prosperity will be my constant prayer, and the happiness I have enjoyed amongst them will remain with me as a sweet smelling savour. Never have I experienced Masonry more than in the portals of Lodge St. Paul, and never did I feel more proudly happy than on this evening." The evening's business being ended, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony at half-past nine p.m.

KURRACHEE.

CHAPTER FAITH AND CHARITY (No. 72, S.C.)—At the usual convocation of the above chapter, held in the rooms of Lodge Hope, on Friday evening, the 23rd of September, for the purpose of electing the Principals and office-bearers for the ensuing year, the following companions were present:—M.E. Comps. J. Berrie, P.Z.; G. Elander, P.H.; R. F. Cumming, P.J.; E. Comps. E. J. Martinnant, Acting Scribe E.; D. McNeill, Acting Scribe N.; J. Padan, Prin. Soj.; E. Johnston, 2nd Soj.; W. Pegler, 3rd Soj.; and A. Ramsay, Janitor. Members,—Comps. J. Kirkbride, J. J. Moffat, T. W. Edwards, W. Meiklejohn, and others, with Comp. F. Darby as visitor. The chapter being duly opened, and the routine business gone through, the ballot was taken for Comp. Darby for admission as an affiliated member, and found clear, after which the following companions were elected as the Principals and Office-bearers:—M.E. Comps. G. Elander, P.Z.; R. F. Cumming, P.H.; W. Meiklejohn, P.J.; Comps. J. B. Tapp, Treas.; E. J. Martinnant, Scribe E.; D. McNeill, Scribe N.; E. Leggett, Prin. Soj.; J. Padan, Senior Soj.; E. Johnston, Junior Soj.; C. W. J. Reid, Janitor. The election over, the Principals were respectively installed, and the oath *de fiddle* administered to the other office-bearers in accordance to the laws of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland. There being no other business, the chapter was closed with solemn prayer in love and harmony.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

MOUNT MORIAH ENCAMPMENT.—A priory of the Knights of Malta has recently been established in Bombay under the Priorship of M.E. Sir Knt. G. S. Judge, who was, we understand, the only Sir Knight of the Order previous to this time. Two assemblies were held during last month. On the first occasion, Sir Knts. the Rev. J. J. Farnham, J. P. Cornforth, A. Cuming, J. C. V. Johnson, and C. White were installed by M.E. Sir Knt. G. S. Judge. On the second assembly, Sir Knts. H. Gramble, W. H. S. Crawford, H. Arvon, W. King, W. Johnson, J. C. Burden, R. Newton, H. Binks, and J. Houghland, with the assistance of the first five Knts., were duly installed. It is very satisfactory to find that the ineffable degrees are gaining ground in Bombay; but grave doubts have already arisen in the minds of some of the newly created Knights of Malta as to the legality of a single Knight conferring the degree at all.

LITERARY EXTRACTS.

BLAKE THE PAINTER.

Blake was not a practical man, and, very much owing to his impracticability, had to struggle all his life with poverty and neglect, notwithstanding his genius. He was greatly beloved by his friends, but he had queer notions; he was apt to quarrel, and the subjects which he chose for the exhibition of his art were not likely to allure the public of his day. The title of one of his pictures was, "A spirit vaulting from a Cloud to turn and wind fiery Pegasus. The horse of intellect is leaping from the cliffs of memory and reasoning; it is a barren waste of Lock and Newton." Is any body likely to be attracted by such a title? Another picture is entitled "The spiritual form of Nelson guiding Leviathan, in whose wreathings are enfolded the nations of the earth." The companion picture to this is described as "The spiritual form of Pitt guiding Behemoth: he is that angel who, pleased to perform the Almighty's orders, rides on the whirlwind, directing the storms of war: he is ordering the reaper to reap the vine of the earth, and the ploughman to plough up the cities and towers." It is in such titles as these, and in some parts of the artist's conduct, that the indications of insanity are recognised. For conduct, what should we say of the man who would take his little back garden in this grimy metropolis for the Garden of Eden, and, to the horror of all his neighbours, might be seen in the costume of our first parents sauntering about it, his wife, bearing him company? Mr. Butts called one day upon Blake, and found him with his wife in the summer house, all innocent of clothing. "Come in," cried Blake, "it's only Adam and Eve, you know." Husband and wife had been reciting passages from the "Paradise Lost," and, to enter more fully into the spirit of the poet's verse, they had dressed, or rather undressed for their parts. Blake had a great opinion of the gymnosophists, and would insist on the virtues of nakedness. Nor was he alone in his views. He got his wife to accept them undoubtingly; and we are told of a family in the upper ranks of society, contemporary with Blake, though unknown to him, who had embraced the theory of "philosophical nakedness." Believing in the speedy coming of a golden age similar to the pristine state of innocence, the elders in this family taught the children to run naked about the house for a few hours every day, and in this condition the little innocents would run and open the door to Shelley. Their mother followed the same practice more privately, locking herself in her room; but she declared to her friends that the habit of going about every day for a time in a state of nudity did her much moral good. "She felt the better for it—so innocent during the rest of the day."—*Macmillan's Magazine*.

Mrs. LIRRIPIER BEGINS.—"Ah! it's pleasant to drop into my own easy chair my dear though a little palpitating what with trotting upstairs and what with trotting down, and why kitchen-stairs should all be corner stairs is for the builders to justify though I do not think they fully understand their trade and never did, else why the sameness and why not more convenience and fewer draughts and likewise making a practice of laying the plaster on too thick I am well convinced which holds the damp, and as to chimney pots putting them on by guesswork like hats at a party and no more knowing what their effect will be upon the smoke bless you than I do if so much, except that it will mostly be either to send it down your throat in a straight form or give it a twist before it goes there. And what I says speaking as I find of those new metal chimneys all manner of shapes (there's a row of 'em at Miss Wozenham's lodging-house lower down on the other side of the way) is that they only work your smoke into artificial patterns for you before you swallow it and that I'd quite as soon swallow mine plain, the flavour being the same, not to

mention the conceit of putting up signs on the top of your house to show the forms in which you take your smoke into your inside. Being here before your eyes my dear in my own easy-chair in my own quiet room in my own Lodging House Number Eighty-one Norfolk-street, Strand, London, situated midway between the City and St. James's—if anything is where it used to be with these hotels calling themselves Limited, but called Unlimited by Major Jackman, rising up everywhere, and rising up into flag-staffs where they can't go any higher, but my mind of those monsters give me a landlord's or landlady's wholesome face when I come off a journey, and not a brass plate with an electrified number clicking out of it which it's not in nature can be glad to see me and to which I don't want to be hoisted like molasses at the Docks and left there telegraphing for help with the most ingenious instruments but quite in vain—being here my dear I have no call to mention that I am still in the Lodgings as a business hoping to die in the same and if agreeable to the clergy partly read over at Saint Clement's Danes and concluded in Hatfield churchyard when lying once again by my poor Lirriper ashes to ashes and dust to dust.—*Mrs. Lirriper's Legacy*.

LEECH'S LITTLE FRIEND.—We have said that Mr. Leech's life and character are in his own "Sketches of Life and Character." Any anecdote that can be told of him has its double in his own works. Suppose we give this anecdote in the words of Mr. Charles Dickens. He was very fond of a boy known to Mr. Dickens, an extraordinary small boy, but of great spirit, who was a midshipman in the navy. "Whenever this boy came home from a cruise," says Mr. Dickens, "he and Leech, and never anybody else, used to go out in great state, and dine at the Garrick Club, and go to the play, and finish in an exemplary way with kidneys and harmony. On the first of these occasions, the officer came out so frightfully small, that, Leech told us afterwards, he was filled with horror when he saw him eating his dinner at the Garrick with a large knife. On the other hand, he felt that to suggest a small knife to an officer and a gentleman would be an unpardonable affront. So, after meditating for some time, he felt that his course was to object to the club knives as enormous and gigantic; to remonstrate with the servant on their huge proportions, and with a grim dissatisfaction to demand small ones. After which he and the officer messed with great satisfaction, and agreed that things in general were running too large in England." But incidents like these are precisely what we find pictured in his pages; and his friends, pointing to sketch after sketch, can say, "I told him that;" "This happened to himself;" "I was present when he came upon so-and-so."—*Cornhill Magazine*.

HAPPINESS.—Trifles make up the happiness or the misery of mortal life. The majority of men slip into their graves without having encountered on their way thither any signal catastrophe or exaltation of fortune or feeling. Collect a thousand of ignited sticks into a heap, and you have a bonfire which may be seen over three counties. If, during thirty years, the annoyances connected with shirt-buttons found missing when you are hurriedly dressing for dinner, were gathered into a mass and endured at once, it would be misery equal to a public execution. If, from the same space of time, all the little titillations of a man's vanity were gathered into one lump of honey and enjoyed at once, the pleasure of being crowned would not perhaps be much greater. If the equanimity of an ordinary man be at the mercy of trifles, how much more will the equanimity of the man of letters, who is usually the most sensitive of the race, and whose peculiar avocation makes sad work with the fine tissues of the nerves. Literary composition, I take it, with the exception of the crank, in which there is neither hope nor result, is the most exhausting to which a human being can apply himself.—*Dreamthorp*.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and younger members of the Royal Family are still resident at Windsor. On Monday, her Majesty, accompanied by the Princess Helena, came by the Great Western Railway from Windsor. Her Majesty, who appeared to be in excellent health, visited the Royal Horticultural Gardens at South Kensington, and expressed herself much pleased with the progress made since her last visit. Her Majesty also inspected the progress made in the Albert Memorial, now in course of erection in Hyde Park. In the course of the afternoon the Queen returned to Windsor.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality of London is still high, though it is still considerably lowered from the high rates of the previous weeks. Altogether, 1,264 persons died, of whom 834 were below twenty, and 325 above sixty years of age. The excess over the average mortality of the last ten years is 86. The births during the week were 1,863; the average 1,929. The pauperism of the distressed unions has again declined. In the last week of November there was a net decrease of 1,580; this, with the amount recorded in the previous report of the Poor-law Board, makes a total of 2,800 persons fewer on the rates than a fortnight ago. The only union which shows any marked increase in the statement before us is Charlton, and that is 230. Five unions only have increased; eight are stationary, and fifteen have decreased. Ashton-under-Lyne has a decrease of 230; Blackburn, 210; Bury, 250; Haslingden, 310; Saddleworth, 120; Stockport, 410; and Todmorden, 170. The adult able-bodied have decreased during the week by 1,040; and the sum which was expended by the Boards of Guardians as relief to out-door paupers is less by £176 than in the third week of November. The whole sum disbursed was £6,563. At the weekly meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works a sum of £45,652 was ordered to be paid for the purchase of the land for the new park at Finsbury. The engineer presented his report on the main drainage and the Thames embankment, and some other business was transacted. Lord Carlisle—one of the kindest and most accomplished of English nobles—died at Howard Castle, after several months' illness. He was in his 63rd year. He began public life as Chief Secretary for Ireland some thirty years ago, and he has since filled various posts under the Crown—the last being the Irish Viceroyalty, from which he retired a few months ago in consequence of ill health. It is affirmed that Mr. Gladstone and Sir Roundell Palmer have promised to support the project which has found so much favour in Mr. Disraeli's eyes, for creating a new Court of Appeal in spiritual matters. "The project," says the *Spectator*, "is distinctly intended to vest in the bishops the power of deciding on the law of the Church, that is, to give them the authority which the General Assembly exercises in Scotland, and so at once abolish the royal supremacy and evade the authority of Parliament."—The Controllorship of the Stationary Office has been conferred upon Mr. W. R. Greg, who is succeeded at the Customs Board by Colonel Romilly. Captain Burton, the African explorer, has been appointed consul at Santos, Brazil; and Mr. Charles Livingstone consul at Fernando Po.—The show of fat stock at the Agricultural Hall, at Islington—popularly known as the Smithfield Club Cattle Show—was opened on Monday. The show was the best in point of numbers that has ever been held. The prize animal was a shorthorn steer, which was, however, run hard by the Hereford that carried off the prize at the Birmingham Show. For the first time the inspection of the judges was carried on in public, and their proceedings excited great interest. The sale of the cattle com-

menced on Wednesday, and the prize animals were speedily disposed of, while the other specimens shown also went off at a brisk demand. The club also held its annual meeting on the same day, and from the report presented to the members of the club it appears to be in a very prosperous condition. The Duke of Richmond was elected president for the year.—The prosecution of Mr. Rumble, inspector of naval machinery at Sheerness, for inciting persons to join the Confederate steamer *Rappahannock*, in breach of the Foreign Enlistment Act, was commenced in the Court of Queen's Bench on Tuesday. Several witnesses were examined, and on one of them, named Newman, giving evidence of which the defendant had not been apprised, the Lord Chief Justice adjourned the trial on the ground that the defendant had been taken by surprise, and ought to have time to procure rebutting evidence. The case will therefore not come on again during the present sittings.—There was a very curious case in the Queen's Bench on Saturday. A solicitor who had been suspended for two years brought an action against the compiler of a law book for stating incidentally that he had been struck off the rolls. The passage complained of was—it was pointed out by the Chief Justice—to be found word for word in a law book issued by the counsel for the plaintiff; but in that instance no reference to names had been given and consequently no damage inflicted. The Chief Justice, in summing up, said it was unfortunate that the action had been brought, and, being brought, that it should have been resisted. It would have been better if the defendants had apologised instead of setting the plaintiff at defiance because he had done wrong once. The jury gave £100 damages, and the defendants obtained leave to move.—Mr. Justice Byles, in charging the Grand Jury at Stafford, called attention to the cases of intimidation arising out of the great colliers' strike, which terminated a week or two ago. The learned Judge, having explained the law with reference to combination, referred to the *Conseils de Prud'hommes* of France, and expressed his opinion that the establishment of such tribunals for the settlement of disputes between masters and workmen in this country might be productive of great good.—At the Manchester assizes, two Stockport brickmakers, named Slayter and Cheetham, were each sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude for a murderous attack upon another brickmaker, named Thomas Wild, who had refused to join in a "turn out" which the local union had decreed.—A robbery of a most extraordinary nature took place at Messrs. Baum and Sons, Lombard-street, between last Saturday night and Monday. The loss was estimated at £25,000, but Messrs. Baum state that as the greater part of the securities are only negotiable by transfer, the ultimate loss will not exceed £3,000.—The charges against Mr. Arthur Bootle Wilbraham for obtaining jewellery under false pretences have been withdrawn. It seems that, as far as Mr. Hancock's claim is concerned, he has been satisfied, while the jewellery got from Mr. Emmanuel has been offered to him again. Application was made on Wednesday to the magistrate at Marlborough-street that the parties might be allowed to withdraw from the prosecution. The magistrate declined to interfere, and as nobody intends to proceed further, the charges are virtually withdrawn.—A labourer was charged at the Thames Police-court with stealing £125 from a blacksmith, who was an old acquaintance. The prisoner, it appeared, had taken the money out of the prosecutor's pocket, and started to Dublin with it. Being there apprehended, he was remitted to London, and the magistrate here remanded him.—The Rev. C. J. Smith, vicar of Erith, and formerly Archdeacon of Jamaica, has been fined £5 (with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment) by the Bow-street magistrate for assaulting

a solicitor in a carriage on the North Kent Railway. It seems that the complainant was formerly a member of Mr. Smith's congregation, but differences had sprung up between them, and for the last three years their acquaintance had been broken off. On the evening of the 22nd November, Mr. Smith and the complainant got into the same carriage at Charing-cross, and it was proved to the satisfaction of the magistrate that the rev. gentleman behaved himself in a manner unbecoming any clergyman, and assaulted his former parishioner. On the part of Mr. Smith, the assault was denied.—A strange case has been before the Clerkenwell magistrate. A man named Davids, a Roman Catholic, formerly a butler, but lately cadging about the streets, was charged with stealing a lamp from a Roman Catholic chapel. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to six months' hard labour, which was probably more than would have been given but that a silver crucifix was stolen from the same chapel the previous day.—The prisoner Croft, who is in custody on the charge of murdering the poor old woman at Sunning-hill, near Windsor, has been examined before the magistrates. The evidence given was not very conclusive, and the prisoner was again remanded.—A shocking tragedy occurred at Shirley Common, near Southampton, on Saturday, the result of unbridled passion—or "love," as the assassin is pleased to style it. A recently married couple, who lived happily together, were visited on Saturday by a man named Broomfield, butler in the family in which the young woman had been a servant previous to marriage. During the temporary absence of the husband Broomfield shot the unfortunate wife dead, and afterwards wounded himself. He now lies in Southampton infirmary.—Two girls were killed on Sunday afternoon on the South-Eastern Railway. They had been visiting their parents, and on their return to Folkestone were walking along the line, when the mail train came up, and before it could be stopped, ran over both, killing them on the spot.—An accident of a very alarming character occurred at Harrington, Cumberland, last week. The embankment of a reservoir, three acres in extent, and situated at a short distance from the town, suddenly gave way, and the water thus liberated poured down through the streets, causing considerable damage to property. Happily not a life was lost. The reservoir was connected with the works of a private firm.—An inquest was held at Guy's Hospital on Monday on the body of a man named Hughes, who was found between one and two o'clock on the morning of Saturday week lying in Gracechurch-street, bleeding profusely from wounds in his head. He was taken to the hospital, where he died. The police heard no struggle or cry, and, though one had passed the spot only three minutes before, he saw nobody there. The man himself said he had been knocked down, he did not know by whom. It did not appear that he had been robbed. Under these circumstances the jury returned an open verdict.—The prisoners White and Sutton, who are in custody on the charge of scuttling the ship *Snowdrop*, of which they were the master and mate, were brought up on remand before the Lord Mayor. Evidence confirmatory of what was before given was offered by other witnesses. It will be remembered that the ship ran upon a reef of rocks in the Baltic; but it was said by the carpenter that she made no water till he, by the direction of the prisoners, bored several holes in her bottom. The prisoners were again remanded, the Lord Mayor refusing to accept bail for either of them.—The captain of the brig *Alcipo*, which has just arrived at Queenstown from Demarara, reports a frightful tragedy by which his voyage home was marked. Two of the crew, Frenchmen, murdered the mate and carpenter, and then attempted to

take the captain's life. Both the murderers are dead; but the accounts as to the manner in which they came to their end are conflicting. According to one statement one of the Frenchmen committed suicide by jumping from the rigging, while the other died from the injuries inflicted upon him in the efforts which were made by the remainder of the crew to secure him. A second version of the affair is that "both died within two days after the tragical occurrence—one from the effects of injuries inflicted on himself by beating his head against the side of the vessel until the brains protruded; and the other, it is believed, from the effects of poison, self-administered."—We have to report the murder of a woman in Aberdeenshire, and an attempt which was made on Wednesday morning by a young man at Halifax to drown a girl with whom he had been "keeping company."—At the Stafford Assizes, on Wednesday, a miner was sentenced to death for the murder of an old man who lived in a lonely hut near Tunstall.—An outbreak of convicts took place in Portland Island on Tuesday, but the authorities succeeded in restoring order, and are now engaged in capturing the fugitives.—The Home Secretary has decided that the whole of the reward of £300 for the discovery of the murderer of Mr. Briggs is to be paid to the cabman Matthews, who, it is stated, is now a prisoner for debt in Horsemonger-lane Gaol, and will have to be bankrupt, so that he will not in reality reap any advantage from the reward.—A woman named Lucy Thompson was tried at the Warwick Assizes on Wednesday, on a charge of poisoning her illegitimate child by administering strychnia. A verdict of not guilty, on the ground of insanity, was returned by the jury, and the judge ordered the prisoner to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The approaching *Jour-de-l'An*, some weeks distant although it still be, is fully occupying the Parisian mind, to the exclusion of all other matters, whether social or political. The condition of M. Mocquard is considered to be very precarious, and various candidates for his office are already named, as it is believed that even if he recover he can never resume the duties of his onerous situation again. By a convention between the French and Papal Governments, a new tariff is to come into operation, by which a telegraphic message between Rome and Paris may be transmitted for five francs, instead of 13½, as at present. The Court of Correctional Appeal of Paris has confirmed the sentence passed by the inferior court on the thirteen members of the Legislative Body, who were convicted of forming an illegal electioneering association. The trial seems to have excited little interest in Paris. The *Patrie* calls for the establishment of a French protectorate at Tunis to counteract English influence there. The *Constitutionnel*, by the aid of a special commissioner sent to investigate the state of matters, has discovered that the Channel Islands ought to have been annexed to France; the "nationality" of the islands is French; and an act of annexation would be of immense advantage to the inhabitants, delivering them from a long list of grievances perpetuated by British rule. According to intelligence received at Paris, the whole of Afghanistan is in a state of insurrection. A battle between the Russians and the Khan of Kokam had resulted in a loss of 6,000 men by that Prince.—The new constitution for Greece has been finally ratified by the King taking the oath to observe and maintain it. The people of Athens are reported to be much elated with their new constitutional prospects.—The German Diet has approved the demand made by Austria and Prussia, that the Federal "troops of execution" shall be withdrawn from the Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg. Saxony, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and some of the small

states voted against the proposal, which was carried by nine votes against six. The Prussian troops who have returned from the scene of the late war entered Berlin on Wednesday, with the King at their head, amid an immense and enthusiastic crowd. The King of Denmark has arrived at Kolding, in Jutland. The *Dagblad* asserts that several thousand inhabitants of Schleswig wanted to go to Kolding to render homage to the King, but that the German authorities prevented them, and that several arrests were made in consequence.

AMERICA.—Almost the only news of any interest brought by the *Africa*, from Boston and Halifax, is the intelligence that General Sherman's army, which was said to be 50,000 strong, had pursued its march from Atlanta towards Macon, and had arrived on the 19th ult. within eighteen miles of that city. The announcement proceeded from the Richmond newspapers, as General Sherman had completely abandoned his communication with Chattanooga. It was said that Macon was not very strongly fortified, and that the garrison was composed entirely of militia. It was also reported that several members of the Georgian Legislature had fallen into the hands of General Sherman, and that his cavalry had occupied Milledgeville, the capital of the state. Nothing was certainly known respecting the Confederate General Hood's movements; but the latest rumours represented that he was marching on Pulaski, in Tennessee, with the supposed intention of commencing operations in Kentucky and Middle and Eastern Tennessee. The Federal General Gillem, after his defeat by General Breckenridge, had retired to the neighbourhood of Knoxville; and it was asserted that General Breckenridge would invade Kentucky. There had been some skirmishing, but no important engagement, in the neighbourhood of Richmond. General Grant had paid a very short visit to New York, and had returned to head-quarters. It was conjectured that he was making preparations for a fresh attack on the Confederate defences. New York despatches to the afternoon of the 26th ult. have been brought by the *Peruvian* and *City of London*. The accounts of Sherman's progress through the heart of Georgia were very imperfect and uncertain; but the Southern journals reported that his march was attended with the greatest devastation to the country, and that his troops had burned Clinton, Griffin, Monticello, and several other Georgian towns. The rumour that he had captured and burned Macon and Milledgeville had not yet been confirmed; but it was known that telegraphic communication between Macon and Savannah was cut off. It was supposed by the Richmond journals that the Federal army was marching on Augusta; but of course no certain knowledge of the Federal General's intentions was possessed either by the Northern or by the Southern press. General Beauregard had issued a proclamation, dated from Corinth on the 18th ult., in which he informed the people of Georgia that he was hastening to their aid, and urged them to destroy everything which could aid General Sherman's forces. Everyone able to bear arms had been summoned to the Confederate standard in Georgia and the adjoining states; and it was asserted that General Lee was sending troops to the South, and was replacing them at Richmond and Petersburg by draughts from General Early's army in the Shenandoah Valley. General Hood's forces were said to be advancing on Pulaski, in Tennessee, whence the Federals had retired to Columbia, where it was supposed that a battle would be fought. An attempt was, we are told, made on the night of the 25th ult. to set fire simultaneously to a number of the great hotels, theatres, and public buildings of New York; but it is added that little damage was done. Two of the alleged incendiaries had been apprehended, and it was supposed that Confederate emissaries were "con-

nected with the plot." Lord Russell's reply to the note and manifesto of the Confederate Congress, recently presented to him by the Southern Commissioners, has been published. His Lordship states that since the outbreak of the war her Majesty's Government "have continued to entertain sentiments of friendship equally for the North and for the South," and "in the meantime they are convinced that they best consult the interests of peace and respect the rights of all parties by observing a strict and impartial neutrality." It is rather curious to note that in this despatch Lord Russell, while describing the Confederate States as "so-called," speaks of "the formerly United Republic of North America."

INDIA.—By the Bombay mail we learn that the Viceroy, Sir John Lawrence, returned to Calcutta on the 1st of November from his successful and brilliant visit to the capital of the Punjab. The entrance of the British force into Bhootan will take place about the middle of this month. The subscriptions in Bombay towards the cyclone relief fund at Calcutta had reached the amount of £20,000. There was another gale at Calcutta on the 21st, but fortunately attended with slight damage. There has been a violent gale at Masulipatam, on the Madras coast, which has reduced the town to a complete wreck by an inundation; thousands of lives are said to have been lost.

JAPAN.—A letter received at Paris states that by a decision of the Criminal Tribunal at Yeddo the two palaces of Prince Nagato were razed to the ground, and that this judgment was in consequence of his having refused to pay the stipulated war indemnity. The most astounding part of this judgment, however, is, that all his servants were sentenced to be put to death; and this sanguinary decree was actually carried into execution, the number of vicarious victims being 420 men and 215 women and children.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. COOKE is thanked. The one suggestion has been long under consideration. The other we have tried, and, though attended with considerable labour and expense, found it did not add 1s. a year to our revenue.

B. B. had better apply to the Grand Secretary.

ANTI-CLIMAX.—Bro. Portal will no doubt be happy to answer your question.

S. S.—Bro. F. Binckes, 16A, Great Queen-street, W.C.

PROV. G. S.—You have nothing to do, and have only to look on your red apron as a prelude to something better if you are in favour with the authorities, as we presume you are; the offices in the provinces being in the gift of the Prov. G. Masters.

XERXES.—Yes, the present Grand Master of Scotland is a commoner, Bro. White Melville. He is an accomplished Mason and a highly-respected gentleman. The Earl of Dalhousie, formerly D.G. Master for England, is the D. Grand Master, and Earl Loughborough Substitute Grand Master.

T. R.—Do exercise a little prudence. The publication of your letter would subject us, and you, to an action for libel, and a probable expulsion from the Craft. Not being interested, we naturally look upon the matter more dispassionately than you can be expected to do.

SOLUS.—We know nothing about the value of the sewing machines advertised in our columns, and do not sew on our own buttons. We, as married men, cannot sympathise with "Solus" in his dislike to having a living sewing machine in his house; but we have no doubt the proprietors of the "lock stitch" will give him all the information he wishes. Does "Solus" ever join in the chorus "What Masons can more," &c.? Perhaps that song is tabooed at the Temperance Lodge from which he dates.

MERCURION is altogether mistaken. He must have read it somewhere else—certainly not in our columns.