

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1865.

OUR CHARITIES.

The Masonic season of 1865 has commenced well. The Festival in aid of the funds of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows was held on Wednesday, when about 200 brethren and 150 ladies were present, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master, and Provincial Grand Master for West Yorkshire, presiding. The noble Earl spoke, as he always does, with earnestness and to the point, and the whole of the proceedings passed off most satisfactorily, the utmost order prevailing throughout the evening. But the grand test of the success of a festival is to be found in the amount of the subscriptions—and this was more than gratifying, the announcement being £3,548 16s. 6d., the largest amount ever produced for this Charity by £200 or £300, the next largest amount having been produced when the brethren were determined to show to the Grand Master that the Institution could support an Annual Festival, and that despite the cold shoulder of official red-tapism. But that time is past; and we have no wish to revive the remembrance of it otherwise than pleasantly. West Yorkshire nobly supported the Provincial Grand Master, and sent up £1,000 for the Widows' Fund, with an intimation that the list for the Male Fund is not yet made up. West Yorkshire—shall we call that £500 more? We think we may. East Lancashire, with four or five Stewards, came up with £375. We must have a day for East Lancashire, with their Provincial Grand Master in the chair. He is unknown in London, but he will be none the less welcome for that. The metropolis, as usual, did its duty, the highest individual list standing at £251; then came two lists at £122 10s. each; and from that they became small by degrees and beautifully less. Yorkshire West, with the Deputy Grand Master at its head, has spoken out. Yorkshire East and West, led by the Grand Master, when will you do likewise?

BRO. FRANZ ANTON MESMER.

By BRO. THE REV. J. KINGSTON, SOMETIME ACTING DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO BRO. H.M. THE KING OF HANOVER, &c.

As a Freemason, Mesmer will doubtless receive a more patient hearing from his brethren than he has hitherto received from the world without; whilst, as a persecuted man, he will enlist the sym-

pathies of a body whose principles—grounded as they are on brotherly love—have ever been abhorrent to unfairness of every kind.

Mesmer was not, indeed, a perfect man. Where is such to be found? Nor must it be denied that he committed many and grievous mistakes; that several of his theories are fanciful and untenable; and that he made a gain of a discovery which, if it really was what he professes it to be, must surely have been intended for the benefit of all mankind.

Hence various and contradictory are the opinions respecting him. By many he is regarded as a charlatan, a knave, an impostor utterly unworthy of attention, whilst by others he is lauded to the skies.

Thinking that we might be helped to a right conclusion as to the real character of this very remarkable personage, I have ventured to translate from the German some extracts from his life by Dr. Kerner, which has recently come into my hands. I am not without hope that these papers may prove interesting to the readers of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. At any rate, they may help to throw some light on Mesmer and Mesmerism, and thus indirectly, perhaps, on "our beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols." For there is, I feel convinced, a closer connection between Mesmerism (or animal magnetism) and Freemasonry than is generally imagined. Of this, at least, I am sure, that the brother who honestly and impartially bestows some attention on the wondrous system which Mesmer discovered, or rather recovered, will confess that the study has been productive of pleasure and profit, and that his labour has not been in vain.

"Franz Anton Mesmer, of Suabia, the discoverer of Animal Magnetism. Memoirs of the same, with an account of the last years of his life, at Meersburg, on the Bodensee," by Dr. Justinus Kerner. (Franz Anton Mesmer, aus Schwaben, Entdecker des thierischen magnetismus. Erinnerungen an denselben, nebst Nachrichten von den letzten Jahren seines lebens zu Meersburg, am Bodensee, von Dr. Justinus Kerner.)

THE CEMETERY AT MEERSBURG.

Near the ever-open entrance of the cemetery at Meersburg, peacefully looking down on the restless waves of the wide Bodensee, is the grave of Franz Anton Mesmer, the discoverer of animal magnetism. With emotion have I frequently

stood, during the past summer, on this grave, as on the grave of a martyr to a truth of nature which he was the first to discover. At that time it was my privilege to stay in Old Meersburg, the property and residence of the noble, remarkable, and, though now in a very advanced age, fresh-hearted, true-to-nature, and inexpressibly worthy gentleman, Herr von Lassberg.

It is the same cemetery in which the poetess, Annette Droste-Hülshof, sister of Frau von Lassburg, twenty years since found her resting place.

* * * * *

In front of the mortuary chapel in that cemetery, which Herr von Lassberg caused to be built, rest her mortal remains. Roses, lilies, flowers of every sort, which sisterly affection plants and carefully tends, bedeck that hillock, sacred to every one who knows her songs. Mesmer's grave-mound, on the contrary, no longer manifests the hand of care. There are, however, the remnants of a monument (malevolence or superstition will have it thus violated) which friends to his discovery and learning in far distant Berlin erected to his memory in the year 1815. A fuller description of this I shall give at the end of these pages.

May I be permitted to insert here the following touching lines, on the subject of the foregoing chapter? They are from the pen of Bro. the Rev. C. Kegan Paul, of Eton College, and will be found in the *Zoist*, vol. xii., p. 248:—

MESMER'S GRAVE AT MEERSBURG, IN SUABIA.

We left the boat, the quaint old street
To climb where frowns the castle hill
And drawbridge, o'er the cotton mill,
O'er noise of shuttles 'neath their feet.

Though far above us, all things told
Of warrior lords and iron knocks,
The torrents cried from quarried rocks,
"The new age undermines the old."

Up past these towers to other halls,
Dismantled home of princely priest,
Where mingled tones of prayer and feast
Still seem to lurk on curtained walls;

Up, higher up, we came, where vines
Enclasp the rude-hewn crucifix,
And summer suns and showers mix
Their golden glory into vines;

Up, higher up, we saw the wave
Reflect the mountain's rosy show,
We found a churchyard baked in glow,
And there we stood by Mesmer's grave.

A pleasant rest! for him who sought
To lift the veil from Nature's face,
And bore the laugh of all his race
Who dread results of honest thought.

A pleasant rest; and we, for whom
The laws he groped for dimly dawn,
The breakings of a glorious morn,
May learn, in standing near his tomb,

To toil in patience, till the gold
Of sunrise light the hills of truth,
For science aye renews her youth,
"The new age undermines the old."

(To be continued.)

GERMAN MASONRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Germania Lodge of Boston (Massachusetts) resumed its operations on the 29th September last, subsequent to the annual vacation. On this occasion the ex-Grand Master, Bro. Winslow Lewis, presented to the lodge a new charter, the old one having been destroyed by fire. Bro. W. Lewis, who had signed the first certificate while Grand Master, has been very favourable to the Germania Lodge ever since its foundation, and promised to supply to the lodge such a charter as no other lodge of America perhaps possessed. This important document has been executed on the finest parchment, of a very large size, in most artistic, ornamental writing, showing various well-adapted Masonic emblems. The prospects of this lodge are most hopeful.

On Friday, the 14th of October, the foundation stone of a new Masonic Temple was laid at Boston, with all Masonic ceremonies, in the place of that lately destroyed by fire. Deputations from all lodges of the State were present. Although the building of the new Temple cannot be commenced before next spring, the whole of the plans and sections have been submitted to and have received the approval of the Council. The building is to be erected in the Gothic or German style.

In consequence of the large number of applications for membership, the various Boston Masonic lodges have raised the amount of the reception fee to fifty dollars instead of forty, the Germania Lodge alone preserving the forty dollar fee.

The industrious and flourishing town of Scranton is partly inhabited by Germans, some of whom belong to the Craft. Up to a recent date, the latter used to join the native American lodge of that town, but of late the German brethren became convinced of the expediency of possessing a lodge of their own. On the 15th of June last a German lodge was established under the name of Schiller (No. 345), under the superintendence of Bro. Ofner, who has belonged to the Craft for

many years past. The lodge is thriving, and prospering very much under the able leadership of this active brother. Its meetings are held usually on the second Monday in every month. The following are the names of the dignitaries:—Bros. Bernhard Ofner, W.M.; Ferdinand Burger, S.W.; C. Robinson, J.W.; Jacob Robinson, Treas.; and Julius Josephson, Sec.

BLOCK-SINKING; OR BRICK AND MORTAR REMINISCENCES IN THE EAST.

(Concluded from page 37.)

To convey some idea of the importance of the work for which all these 298 blocks were required, and which, if put one on the top of another, would make a column above 9 furlongs high, it is necessary to state that they were intended to carry the piers and abutments of a work comprising fifteen tunnels, each 192ft. long, and through which the rainfall on 216 square miles of country was to flow by fits and starts—if not for all eternity, at all events, long past the anticipated advent of that mythical New Zealand celebrity who is to come some fine day and sketch the perishable remains of our fine brick-and-mortar metropolis! Over this row of tunnels, 24ft. above the river bed, was to be a noble channel for conveying the body of water 170ft. wide, and, when necessary, 10ft. deep, destined to feed the canal and its branches, aggregating, when all finished, no less than 850 miles in length!

Now, considering the incalculable value of water in a country like India, the utter dependence of the people on the periodical rains, and the terrific famines that result occasionally, from a total failure of that uncertain supply, it is impossible to over-estimate the boon that will be—and, as one of those awful events has already proved, *has been*—conferred on the country by distributing over one million acres and a half this magnificent supply of water, which has been running waste in the sacred but much polluted stream of the Ganges ever since—when shall I say—? India rose from the sea—if geologists have no objection.

On being informed of the bewildering fact that 122 millions of bricks (not the small English ones either) were required for building this wonderful structure, it instantly became necessary to cudgel my brains to pack all this material into some intelligible shape before being able to comprehend how much could be done with it. Put end on end, these bricks would reach 23,106 miles, which is not far short three of times and a half the circumference of the moon. Or if an idea less lunatic than this be preferred, the material could be represented by a brick-and-mortar pyramid, 400ft. square at the base, and 280ft. high. Compared bulk for bulk, with some of the first-class works in England in these days, this aqueduct

would make very nearly seven Britannia Bridges, barring the tubes, of course—a little above five Tweed Viaducts, and something over twelve Newcastle High-level Bridges.

The whole of the work was calculated to cost £300,000, and to give some idea of the difference between the cost of brick and mortar in England and in India, calculated at the Newcastle rates, the bill for this little job would have run up to something about *two millions* sterling. Since the mutiny, however, what with the introduction of railways on all sides of India, and the unpleasant consequences attending the universal greed for cotton, prosperity has made such giant strides throughout the land, that cheapness, even in the item of brick and mortar, is no longer the order of the day. The changes that have been brought about by the above causes are more remarkably exhibited in the case of all the common necessities of life, which in many parts of India have more than quadrupled in cost, much to the disgust of my poor exiled friends on fixed incomes; at least so, from “Over the sea, over the sea,” that’s why my “little bird whispers to me.”

But I have not done with those everlasting blocks yet, though such a long digression as the above may possibly have encouraged such an idea.

Regarding the comparative merits of rectangular blocks and cylindrical wells, to which an allusion was made in a foregoing paragraph, I may mention that the latter have been used in the foundations of the East-Indian Railway Bridge across the river Jumma, at Allahabad, and were constructed under very different circumstances from the foundation blocks of the “Solani aqueduct.” Ah! that’s the name of my old friend.

Whilst the bed of the Solani, as it has been seen, is dry during the working season, and thus affords every facility for building operations, the river Jumma, on the other hand, at the site of the bridge which was selected on account of the river being so shallow thereabouts, has, it appears, an average depth of 15ft. in it at low water.

Here, then, was a formidable obstacle to contend with, and it was cleverly overcome by forming artificial islands on which to lay the iron curbs (not timber frames in this case) of the ten cylinders, 13½ft. diameter, required for each pier. These wells are sunk 43ft. below water-level, and consequently at an average depth of 28ft. below the bed of the river. This is 8ft. deeper than the foundations of the Solani aqueduct, and certainly not more than sufficient, considering, as I understand it, their totally unprotected condition, and the enormous body of water that will impinge upon the piers during high floods.

The heaviest floods in the Solani are provided for by piers 12½ft. high to springing of arch; whilst the rise of the Jumma in ordinary floods is no less than 45ft., and, on more occasions than one, as much as 51½ft. During the last *débâcle* of this

sort, in 1862, the sand supporting the cylinders got washed away, and four of them toppled over on to their sides. Great must have been the fall thereof! and it is very certain that all the king's horses, and all the king's men, will never put *those* Humpty-Dumpties on their legs again.

It has been stated somewhere in this paper that extraordinary care had been taken to protect the foundations of the Solani aqueduct from the action of the current during floods. This was accomplished by building a solid flooring 3ft. thick over the whole of the waterway between the two abutments; and a precious long tough job it must have been, besides no end of cunning devices on a very extensive scale on the up and down stream sides of the work. By these measures, then, the whole of the foundations are hermetically sealed, as it were; and it may safely be predicted, I think, that the stability of the structure is positively beyond all reach of danger.

Although the body of water that passes down the Solani during floods is, beyond all comparison, less than what it is in the Jumna, still it must be remembered how the current is affected by the obstacles presented to its progress in the shape of fourteen piers, each 216ft. long, 10ft. thick, and only 50ft. apart. Hence the necessity, no doubt, for the wise precaution in making the foundations of this work so impregnable to attack.

Now, in the case of the Jumna Bridge, there are fourteen piers 205ft. apart, and, as nearly as I can ascertain, 74ft. long and 25ft. thick. There is no flooring, of course, as in the case of the Solani aqueduct, and, like that work, the foundations are sunk in sand of unknown depth. The foundations of the pier are thus isolated, as far as the bed of the river is concerned; and their future safety must depend upon the depth (28ft.) to which the cylinders composing them have been sunk proving sufficient; or, in other words, upon the river being good enough not to scoop out the sand below that depth in any of its uncontrollable vagaries. The piers of this noble bridge have an abundance of elbow-room, it is true; and experience has doubtless settled the important fact long ere this, that the stability of their respective ten stilts is not dangerously affected in any way, even by a flood above 66ft. deep, going at the easy pace of nine miles an hour.

It used to be a favourite remark at one time, that on the annihilation of British power in the East—and in the general order of things, such must be the case some day, I suppose; to wit, when our friend, the New Zealander, will be making a trip to India, to sketch all the fine ruins there—the only trace left behind him by the enterprising Anglo-Saxon would be his empty beer-bottles. To these vitreous remains of fallen grandeur might be added, perhaps, the melancholy fragments of a “grand trunk road.” The construction of the Ganges Canal was decidedly the

first thing accomplished towards removing this standing reproach from a power, in whose dominions, to use another favourite expression, the sun never sets. All honour, then, to the man who originated the idea and boldly carried it out. Since then the railroads, with their magnificent and unrivalled viaducts, are in a fair way of impressing the land with some indelible marks of British pluck and enterprise.

I can honestly recommend my travelling countrymen who have “done” the Continent, just to take a passage in a Peninsular and Oriental steamer, and “do” Bombay (I’ll warrant they can get the compliment returned), and delight their eyes with a sight of the Bhore Ghaut incline, on the Great Indian Peninsular Railway; for this alone would the trip repay him, to say nothing of the renowned antiquarian wonders of Ellora and Adjunta, the former only forty, and the latter but twenty miles distant from that line of railway. Why, that incomparable old fort at Dowlatabad, close to Ellora, and such a pretty road to it, with its labyrinthine tunnelings, and matchless scarp of 150ft. (it looks double this when close to it), all cut out of the hard trap rock; its picturesque ramifications of old fortified walls, and the lovely view from the breezy summits—surely these sights alone are worth going all the distance to see.

But, for a few parting words about the Bhore Ghaut Incline, if only to tempt the reader to go and judge for himself. I have the most pleasing recollection of going over this astonishing work shortly before it was opened, in company with the intelligent contractor, Mr. C. We took our seats on a trolley early one fine morning, at Kandalla, the station situate on the summit of the incline. “But before going any further, Mr. Scribbler, pray say what is a trolley?” Well, the simplest looking form of conveyance in the world—nothing, in fact, but an unprotected platform on four wheels, as I saw it; and the novel sensation, let me tell you, of being whisked along at some fearful pace, with but imperfect confidence in the means of checking it, down this inclined plane, by the mere force of gravity, through pitch dark tunnels, along giddy precipices, and over unfathomable-looking abysses, was as nearly like going to perdition in a dogcart as anything I can possibly imagine.

The incline traverses a hilly region composed of the toughest basalt; so the difficulty of boring the twenty-five tunnels through it, aggregating some 4,000 running yards, may be easily imagined. The road altogether is $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, rising in this short distance a height of 1,832ft. The steepest gradient is 1 in 37, and the whole work occupied a period of seven years and a half, costing at the rate of £68,750 per mile.

One of the cleverest engineering devices yet seen in railway work is the “reversing station,” as it is called, where the position of the train in

regard to the engine is reversed, *i.e.*, the head of it becoming the tail.

The wildness of the scenery on this road is something charming to behold. There are several commanding peaks about Kandalla, and one of them would be very appropriately surmounted with a colossal statue of the eminent engineer, Mr. J. J. Berkeley, whose decease not long before the completion of his magnificent work was a source of such deep regret to every one connected with it.

Hoping that all the foregoing prosaic details of my wanderings from "far away in the north-west" to the Bhore Ghaut Incline have not been found too overpowering, I shall now reward the reader's patience by subscribing myself, in the language of my little bird "over the sea," his very obedient servant,

RAJ MISTRI.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

POWER OF FREEMASONRY FOR GOOD.

The position which Freemasonry now occupies before the world, its general diffusion through all ranks and grades of society, and the commanding influence universally accorded to it, invest it with an ability to do good, far beyond that which ordinarily falls to the lot of human institutions.—P. M.

MY BROTHER.

"FOURTHLY—Ye shall call all Masons your Fellows, or your Brethren, and no other names.

My Brother! what a healing thought,
These simple words convey!
They have the power to sooth the soul,
And drive revenge away.
Deep in this heart their magic steals,
To calm—to purify;
And none but hardest hearts of stone,
Their influence deny.

My Brother! in our ancient lodge
We mutually have wrought;
And the same light that warms the heart,
Together have we sought.
At the same altar have we knelt—
Our trust is aye the same;
And all the knowledge we have gained,
From one great Master came.

My Brother! let us not forget
The lessons we have learned;
And let us faithfully employ
The wages we have earned.
Let no unfriendly word or deed,
Our Friendship come between;
And let us keep, with tender care,
The Cassia ever green?

Who is the author of the above?—H. T.

GRAND CROSS DEGREE.

Having seen in your paper of the 14th inst., a question put by a southern K.T. as to what the Grand Cross degree, frequently conferred in northern encampments, was, I may inform him that it is considered by Scotch Knight Templars as the culminating point of the Temple degree, and can be conferred solely by the Grand Master of the Order in person, when presiding in Chapter General. It is

now, however, nearly extinct in Scotland, as the late Duke of Athol, during the many years he held the office of Grand Master of the Temple in Scotland, refused, for some reason only known to himself, ever to exercise his privilege of exalting anyone to this degree, even including his own brother. In Chapter General this degree, as also the steps of Kt. Companion and Kt. Commander, are conferred without any ritual or ceremony, the two latter by vote of the Chapter, the former by the Grand Master at his pleasure. The degree is, however, I believe, thoroughly worked in the Royal Kent Encampment, Newcastle-on-Tyne, where they confer it only on Past Commanders, opening a board of Grand Crosses after the encampment business is over for the purpose of conferring the degree.—A SCOTCH TEMPLAR.

OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE.

A writer, in a foreign Masonic journal, explains very satisfactorily why a pole-cat can never be allowed in a Masonic Lodge: "Because his weapon is both offensive and defensive."—EX. EX.

POSITIVISM AND FREEMASONRY.

A Master of a London lodge inquires whether he should do right in initiating a candidate whom he knows to profess positivism. I am unwilling to give a direct answer to this inquiry. I will only remark that Positivism is *not*, as I believe, necessarily Atheism. Still, some Positivists in their published writings avow Atheism; and in a recent able treatise, "Caro, l'Idée de Dieu, et ses Nouveaux Critiques," there is the following passage, transferred by me to a common-place book, from whence it is now copied:—"Le Positiviste, réduit à l'empirisme, ne voit dans la vie universelle qu'une collection d'individus, ce qui est la marque de l'Athéisme."—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

FREEMASONRY DESCRIBED.

As to the particular society under our notice, we can safely say that it is very religious, harmless, and benevolent, and various parts of its secret rites sublime. We who have assisted in the consecration of a lodge know that, in grandeur and solemnity, it surpasses the finest theatrical efforts, and is yet so chaste, so pious, and so glorious, that, one interesting part excepted (which we *know* was practised among the Druids), it would be a beautiful model even for Protestant liturgy. Freemasonry is an ancient and genial institution; not an operative art, but a system of piety, wisdom, and philanthropy, symbolised by architectural emblems, and supported by historical traditions.—*Gentleman's Magazine*, 1823.

NAME WANTED.

"As every one initiated into the Order of Masonry must be classed under one of three characters—either as an ornament to it, a cypher in it, or as a disgrace to it—it may not be amiss for the novice to view himself awhile in this compendious mirror here held up to him, and seriously consider, by turning over in his mind, the consequences of adopting either of those characters here presented to his view."

The above is extracted from a small pamphlet called *An Introduction to Freemasonry; being a General Outline of that Ancient and Venerable Institution, pointing out the Dignity of its Design and the Means*

for attaining it, its Arcana excepted. By A BROTHER. London: Sold by Longman and Co., and by W. Hodgetts, Birmingham. 1820. I have been particular in giving the entire title-page, because I am desirous of ascertaining the author's name. The whole occupies 118 pages, and after the words "the end" is the imprint of "William Hodgetts, printer, Birmingham." Who wrote that work? is the query of SPES.

ANCIENT PATRIARCHAL CROSS.

Can you give any information as to what connection the cross (of which I send a drawing) has with the Craft? It was purchased at Malta, and has all the appearance of being very old. I should add that it is made of pure gold. It is supposed to belong to some of the higher orders of Masonry.—GILBERT H. SANDERS, P.M. 176, and P.G.S.W., Isle of Wight.—[We have taken counsel with two very high Freemasons who have spent much of their time in Malta, and they most decidedly pronounce against its having a connection with any of the higher grades of Freemasonry. Our own opinion is that it is a patriarchal cross belonging to a dignitary of one of the Eastern—perhaps Greek, or Russo-Greek—churches. A very similar example may be seen in Dr. King's *History of the Greek Church in Russia*. Presuming the letters to be copied with accuracy, they do not indicate great age. Neither do the rounded forms at the extremities of each limb betoken a remote antiquity.]

CORNELIUS AGRIPPA.

We often hear of Cornelius Agrippa. How can I form any idea of what he was?—A. G.—[By reading the two following extracts from his works:—"When Adam was in Paradise, the angel Raziel appeared to him and gave him a book containing all the secrets of nature, and all the divine wisdom. This book, handed down miraculously from generation to generation, reached the hands of Solomon, who learned from it his matchless sagacity. It was lost, perhaps, or destroyed in some of the Jewish convulsions; but some stray scraps of its cunning floated down the tide of time to certain Jews of the middle ages, who embodied them in works of high and holy import. These works were said to relate to the *Caballa*. They purported to furnish a key to the hidden meaning of Scripture, which hidden meaning was to be discovered by a subtle study of the letters, words, and sentences of the chapters of the Old Testament. Especially vital was the spelling and pronunciation of names. It was by a right knowledge of names which, the Scripture tells us, are written in heaven, that the ancient prophets performed their miracles, and above all other names in importance was the name of Jehovah. 'Whoever,' said the Cabalists, 'Knows the true pronunciation of the name Jehovah, had the world in his mouth.' The *mirific word* is a spell by the aid of which all miracles can be performed.

"In *The Second Book of Magic*, he begins his inquiry into numbers thus:—The Pythagorean preferred, above all others, the number *four*. It signifies *solidity* as the origin of a square. There are four elements, four seasons, four qualities of things—heat, cold, dryness, and moisture; four letters in the name of God in most languages; four evangelists in the Bible; four beasts standing round the throne in Revelations. *Five* is the sign of wedlock, being composed of a

female number *two* and a male number *three*. *Six* stands for the world. *Seven* was entitled the vehicle of life as containing the body and soul, that is to say, the four elements of the body—spirit, flesh, bone, and humour; and the three elements of the soul—reason, passion, and desire. Man's life is divided into stages of seven years; with the tenth seven it ends. There are seven main parts of the body. Beyond seven days life cannot be sustained without food; beyond seven hours it cannot continue without health. Seven is the number of rest, as the Lord rested on the seventh day, whence it was a sacred number among the Jews; in Hebrew, *to seven* meant *to swear*. There are seven planets; seven angels round the throne; seven openings in the head. *Eight* signifies justice, because when divided it forms perfect and equal halves, each of which may be subdivided equally. So on to *one hundred* each number has a significance of its own, which, rightly interpreted, and considered in conjunction with the stars, may help the understanding of many things which seem obscure or accidental."]

A REGARD FOR VOWS.

Men generally think there is some weight, and awe, and terror in a vow; and even the profane of men stand in fear of breaking foolish and rash vows. In Proverbs vii. 14, the harlot thus speaks: "This day have I paid my vows." I have known where a wicked fellow, having made a vow that he would never go in at his neighbour's door, durst not, for his vow's sake, go in at the door; but would be content to creep in at the window. And another, that having made a vow that he would not go in to such an alehouse of so long a time, durst not, for his vow's sake, go into it; but could be content to be carried in. Now, however these wretches dallied with God and trifled with their views, and their own souls, yet they showed that there is some awe of a vow, even upon an ungodly heart, and that that stands over them as with a whip and scourge.—*Lightfoot*.

CRAFT DATES.

Can you inform me by what rule of arithmetic the dates on our Craft and Royal Arch certificates are calculated? I was admitted into Masonry in February, 1856, and my certificate says A.D. 1856, A.L. 5856. Now, I believe that Our Saviour was born in the year of the world 4004, to which if we add 1856, the result will be 5860. Perhaps you may be able to explain this, which to me appears an anomaly. My K.T. and Rose Croix certificates are dated correctly.—A P.M. of 47.—[A similar query to the above was answered in our issue for December 10th, 1864. It will be found at page 445, under the heading "Chronology of Freemasonry."

THE FOUR OLD LODGES.

What were the names of the four old lodges that are so often spoken of as uniting to form a Grand Lodge in 1717?—X. Y. Z.—[They had no names at that time, but were called "the lodges at the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Churchyard; the Crown, in Parker's-lane, near Drury-lane; the Apple-tree Tavern, in Charles-street, Covent Garden; and the Rummer and Grapes Tavern, in Channel-row, Westminster."—See Preston's *Illustrations*, sect. vii.]

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

A lodge of instruction, under the warrant of the Lodge of Faith, 141, having been opened at the East End of London, brethren are invited to attend every Wednesday evening, at Bro. Eason's, the Old King Harry, corner of Grafton-road, Mile End-road, from half-past seven until half-past nine o'clock.

At the meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence on Wednesday, the 18th inst., Bro. Col. A. Loury Cole, C.B., S.G.W., in the chair, eight petitioners were relieved with various sums, amounting in the aggregate to £95.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

On Monday, the 16th inst., a Quarterly General Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys was held at the office, 16A, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields. Bro. John Symonds was voted to the chair. There were present Bros. J. Creaton, J. Udall, W. N. Warr, C. H. Patten, C. Swan.

A letter from the Secretary, Bro. F. Binckes, was read, regretting that he was not able to be present, being confined to his house by a throat complaint.

The minutes of the last Quarterly Court, and also of the General Committee meetings for November, December, and January, were read and confirmed.

The first motion in the business paper was one by Bro. R. W. Stuart, to the effect that Law 53, p. 16, which defines the amount to be paid quarterly for the education of boys out of the establishment, be amended by substituting £2 2s. for £1 5s.

In the absence of Bro. Stuart, the resolution was moved by Bro. Udall, who remarked that it was scarcely likely that boys would elect to be out of the Institution, but cases occasionally arose; there were four at the present time—in which, for special reasons, it was advisable that they should have an opportunity of receiving their education elsewhere; and it was necessary to alter the rule, which limited the payment for such to £1 5s., so that they might receive the benefit of a knowledge of French, and also of Latin to a certain extent.

The motion was seconded by Bro. Creaton, and carried.

Bro. Udall then moved, "That donors of ten guineas and upwards to the General Fund shall receive two votes for every additional five guineas contributed to the Building Fund." Bro. Udall stated that he moved and carried this motion in April last, and it was to be in force for the remainder of the year. His present motion, therefore, was but a revival of that which was formerly passed, and which expired on the 31st December. He again proposed that it should exist to the end of the year. The effect of giving to Life Governors additional privileges for the further sum named in the resolution was to bring in a sum of £700, the greater part of which would not otherwise have been obtained. The Secretary had told him that in the country, where he got ten guineas, and showed the donors they could get the same number of votes for another five guineas, he almost invariably succeeded in getting that sum.

Bro. Creaton also seconded this resolution, which was carried *nem. con.*

A vote of thanks to Bro. Symonds for his conduct in the chair closed the proceedings.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The annual festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution was celebrated on Wednesday evening, in the Freemasons' Hall, and was most numerous attended. There were upwards of 100 stewards, of which Bro. the Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., was the Chairman, and Bro. Benjamin Head, P.G.D., Treas.

The utmost exertions had been made to produce a gathering and corresponding return hitherto unparalleled in the history of the Institution, and the result showed that the labour had not been in vain; for a larger sum was announced than had ever before been collected on any similar occasion.

The chair was taken by the Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master, supported by Bros. Col. Bowyer, Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire; Tomkins, G. Treas.; Potter, P.G.D.; Havers, P.J.G.W.; Lord Richard Grosvenor, P.S.G.W.; Capt. R. R. Nelson, P.D. Prov. G.M. for West Yorkshire; Heed, P.G.D.; Udall, P.G.D.; Maudesley, G.D.; A. Packings, P.J.G.W.; Gray Clarke, G. Sec.; Woods, G. Dir. of Cers. Hervey, P.G.D.; Symonds, P.G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Nutt, P.G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Spiers, P.G.S.B.; J. Smith, P.G. Purst.; Barratt, V.P.; Patten, Sec. of the Girls' School; Bentley Shaw, D. Prov. G.M. of Yorkshire; Col. Edwards, M.P., P. Prov. S.G.W. of West Yorkshire; Major Waterhouse, M.P. for Pontefract, and S.D. of the St. Oswald Lodge (No. 910); T. Few, P.M., P.G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Affleck, Dir. of Cers. of the province of Lancashire; Wyke (Bury); and numerous brethren from London and provincial lodges.

The cloth having been drawn, and the grace, "Benedictus," sung by the professional singers,

The CHAIRMAN said,—Brethren, the first toast I have to propose to-night, as it always occurs on every public occasion in this country, is the health of her Majesty the Queen. It is impossible to find any novel language in which we can propose that honourable toast, for, from the first hour of the reign of our gracious Sovereign to the present time in this country, there has been one strong growing feeling of respect, loyalty, and admiration of our Sovereign, who, while she is fitted to hold the exalted position of Sovereign of these realms, has set a bright example to every portion of her Majesty's grateful people. Brethren, I give you "The Health of the Queen."

The toast was drunk with great cordiality, followed by the National Anthem.

The CHAIRMAN said the next toast he had to propose was Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family. He said, from the time the Prince of Wales had been placed at the head of English society, he had discharged his duties in an admirable manner, and satisfied the expectations of the country. But he believed there was no act of his life which had met with more approbation from the people of this country than the choice of the illustrious Princess who was now his wife. He gave "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family."

The toast was cordially drunk, which was followed by the ode, "Hail to thee, Albert!" which was received with great applause.

The CHAIRMAN said,—I rise for the purpose of asking you to drink the health of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master the Earl of Zetland. That is a toast which needs not to be recommended by me, for you all know the worth of Lord Zetland, for the able manner in which he has laboured for the Craft; for it was under his auspices that the Widows' Fund was added to the other Charity which had called them together that evening, and it would ever be recorded in the annals of Free-

masonry as one of the most important events in Lord Zetland's Mastership. He gave "The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, President of the Institution."

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

Miss Wells sang "Gentle Flower," from "Life's Ransom," which was greatly applauded.

The CHAIRMAN said the prosperity of Masonry would mainly depend upon the zeal and solid feeling of those selected by the Most Worshipful Grand Master to act under his orders; for the increase and spread of Masonry, and the true Masonic principle that then happily animated the Craft, was, in a great measure, owing to the Provincial Grand Masters, who, in their various provinces, laboured in conjunction with the Most Worshipful Grand Master. He gave them "The Provincial Grand Masters," coupling with the toast the name of "Bro. Col. Bowyer, Provincial Grand Master for Oxfordshire."

The toast was exceedingly well received.

BRO. COL. BOWYER, Provincial Grand Master for Oxfordshire, said he felt grateful for the kind and cordial manner in which the toast had been proposed by the Deputy Grand Master of England, and for the way in which that toast had been received. It was with regret that he found that he stood alone to return thanks for the Provincial Grand Masters. But the brethren should at the same time recollect how inconvenient it was for the Provincial Grand Masters to come so great a distance from the country, at that particular time of the year; and he trusted and believed that they were doing their duty in their provinces, and emulating what was then being done by the Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, who was anxious to promote not only the interests of the Craft, but the prosperity of the brethren throughout the world. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN then said,—We are met this evening upon one of those occasions which in each succeeding year is certain to bring together a goodly assembly of Freemasons. We are met for the purpose of expressing the interest we feel in one of those valuable Charities which we consider constitute the pride of our Order. (Cheers.) When those who do not belong to us are heard to cavil at Freemasonry, and to ask with a sneer what are our objects and what are our principles, which are so shrouded in mystery and kept to ourselves, we can in these days point to the practical results as they are based on our three great Charities. We can reply to such questioners, "These are our fruits, and by these shall ye know us" (cheers); and I think I am perfectly justified in saying in the face of, I will not say hostility, but in the face of fair criticism, that we can maintain our position, and vindicate for the Craft those sacred principles of charity which, as Freemasons, we are bound to adopt, and, consequently, to act upon. It is to that principle to which we lay no exclusive claim; it is to that virtue of which we seek no exclusive monopoly; but what we say and feel is, that while other men may forget and postpone it, if we are true to the principles of the Craft, it is with us amongst the foremost duties of life. (Loud cheers.) But, brethren, that word "charity" is a wide word, and capable of many meanings, and, like all other things, it is not impossible that it may be abused; yet, I may say, that in no part of the world's history ever was there a greater need of charity and aid to the suffering poor than at the present time. Wealth has risen in this country to a pitch the world has never before seen, but at the same time in no past history has there been greater or more painful distress than there is now in this country. There never was a time when, in a condition of civilisation, it was more necessary that charity should be dealt with wisely, considerately, and judiciously, for without discrimination charity may be made

the object of mischief rather than of good. Nothing was easier than for a man, with money in his pocket, to go and dispense charity without asking; but what was wanted was to do real good to the poor and to aid our poorer brethren—to be assured that their cases will be well discussed and considered, to seek out fit objects for assistance, and having found them, to give without stint according to their means. The money you give to them, you know how it will be managed, and you feel convinced that it will be expended on fitting and worthy objects. Now, when we have institutions of this kind, the offspring and best fruits of the Craft, none, I am sure, will hesitate to come forward to support them. You are rising from year to year in prosperity, and you are now conferring upon the Craft greater benefits than at any previous period of Freemasonry; and, as this is an age of progress, I trust you will go forward in good works, and never think that you have done enough. It would be invidious and impossible on an occasion like this to discuss the merits of our various Charities or to institute any comparison between them, as they have all their allotted work to do. It would seem that we can do nothing more important—that nothing can have greater claims upon us for assistance than those charities intended for the education of youth in our institutions, where children with intelligence and abilities may have those abilities brought out, which from the poverty or loss of their parents might never have had the opportunity of being developed; but one is almost tempted to think that there might be something even worse than that, and that was, poor and neglected old age. (Loud cheers.) In the battle of life, when the strong are so free and the competition is so active, men who are rapidly marching towards the goal of success, in this struggle of life, little heed those they pass by, and they are often knocked down and trampled upon in their march. At such a time as this it is fitting that some one should step aside from this fierce contest, and aid those who are forced out of the crowd, weary and wounded, having failed in their journey to obtain the moderate comforts of life; and in their old age build up for them, in some quiet corner, a small refuge wherein they may end in tranquillity and peace the few days that are yet left to them upon earth. (Loud cheers.) Few objects were more calculated to interest the good man or to elicit the feelings of every Mason; but we are bound to them by a closer tie than the brethren at large. We have seen them, we have become acquainted with them, perhaps they may have been the members of the same lodge, they are bound by the same obligations, fulfilling the same duties, and probably, in their prosperity, were engaged in the same charitable objects and undertakings. Then it is a noble work to see those whom they leave behind by premature death either guided in the paths of virtue from the ways of evil, or in their latter days obtain that tranquillity which is the object of this Institution, and I have no hesitation in commending to you this as one of those noble Charities which has special claims upon your advocacy and support. (Cheers.) That support ought not to be given solely by those who are present on this occasion, for it is easy for us to come here—it is easy to meet on a single night in the year and celebrate the glories obtained for the Craft by the labours of others—but I think what we ought to do is not to celebrate what has been done, but to consider that which remains to be done. We have not done our duty in providing for this festive meeting if it is not productive of, and to extend the benefits of the charity. If that has not been done it is useless, and we are making a mockery of ourselves. As respects this Charity, let me communicate to you some information, which is satisfactory as far as it goes. I find that, as regards that part of the Institution which provides

for the Aged Masons, it was established in 1848 on the recommendation of our Illustrious Grand Master the Duke of Sussex, and since that time 224 aged Masons have been aided by it. I find at the present moment there are 77 men who are annuitants and on the books of the Charity. With regard to the widows, a fund which was established in the time of our present Grand Master in 1850, since then 83 widows have been admitted at a cost of £7,183, and there are now 53 annuitants receiving relief. (Cheers.) Consequently, it is only 23 years since the first Institution was established, and only 15 years since the second came into operation; and having heard the results, you will say in themselves that they are satisfactory. But, instead of looking at the short time that has elapsed since the establishment of these Institutions, and remembering that all good things grow slowly, and all require time to develop themselves, can we regard this state of things as satisfactory? When we look at the number of the Masonic body, when we look at its ramifications in every part of the country, relying on the fact that we pride ourselves, with our increasing numbers, that at the present moment we have only 77 male and 53 female annuitants, I must say I am struck with the inadequacy of the results as compared with the demands of our poor brethren. I say now, as I have said before, that we must not rest on our oars. We have done much, no doubt, but we must do more when we compare the numbers, the wealth of our Order. Our numbers are increasing, and it is our duty to see that the charitable resources of our Order increase also. I believe if we bear in mind and labour in the true spirit of Masonry, by aiding our poor brethren wisely and discriminately in the extension of our noble Charities, we shall do much to widen the foundation, we shall place it on a basis which shall endure for all time, and defy from every quarter cavils and misrepresentations. Brethren, I give you "Success to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows." (Loud cheers.)

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

Bro. FARNFIELD, Secretary, then read the list of subscriptions, and amongst them were the following:—Province of West Yorkshire, £1,000; East Lancashire, £374 8s.; and the following lodges: No. 998, £50; No. 198, £34; No. 162, £94 8s.; No. 33, £250 19s. (including £50 for Bro. Maudslay, Steward); No. 55, £64 15s.; No. 169, £69 15s.; No. 45, £53; No. 173, £30 19s. 6d.; No. 25, £122; No. 403, £70, and many other similar sums. The total amount, with one list to come in, was £3,548 16s. 6d. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. Colonel BOWYER proposed the health of the Deputy Grand Master of England, Earl de Grey and Ripon, which was received with three times three.

The CHAIRMAN returned his most sincere thanks for the honour the brethren had just conferred upon him, and he was very grateful to the Right Hon. Bro. Bowyer for the very flattering terms in which he had been pleased to propose the toast. He congratulated the brethren on the very satisfactory subscriptions which had just been announced, and he could say, if any poor exertions of his had contributed to that important result, it was to him a source of the highest satisfaction and he was proud that the province over which it was his privilege and happiness to preside, had proved itself not unworthy of its ancient reputation.

The CHAIRMAN next gave "The Right Hon. Lord Southampton, Past President, the Trustees, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Committee, and Officers of the Institution," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Tomkins, Grand Treasurer.

Bro. TOMKINS returned thanks, and said that every effort

would be used to promote the welfare of the Institution; and it was most gratifying to them to see, year after year, that the amount received at their Festival exceeded that of the year preceding.

The CHAIRMAN next gave "The other Masonic Charities, the Boys' School Festival on the 8th of March, and the Girls' School Festival on the 10th of May."

Bro. PATTEN, Secretary to the Girls' School, returned thanks in the absence of Bro. Binckes (through illness) for the Boys' School, and afterwards took occasion to advert to the Institution with which he was connected, and hoped the Festival would be well supported, which would take place on the 10th of May. He said they had lately enlarged the building to accommodate twenty additional girls, which had been paid for, and the twenty children had been taken in at an additional expense of £600 per annum; but he regretted, in going over his accounts the other day, to find that he was deficient £600 this year in the ordinary receipts as compared with 1863, and this, added to the £600 he had spoken of, would make them worse off by £1,200 than they were in 1864. Therefore, he asked all the brethren present to come to the Girls' Festival, and bring as many more with them as they could, so that this Charity might be well supported.

The CHAIRMAN, then, in a humorous address, gave "The Ladies."

"The Stewards" was next given, for which Bro. Lord Richard Grosvenor returned thanks, and said it would always be marked as a red-letter day with his brother Stewards when they served for this Festival.

With this toast terminated the proceedings.

The selection of music was under the direction of Bro. Donald King, assisted by Miss Jane Wells, Miss King, Miss M. King, Miss Van Noorden, Miss Hunt, Miss Watkins, Miss Bedell, Bros. Montem Smith, Barnby, and Lawler.

Bro. Spencer was, as usual, a most efficient toastmaster.

METROPOLITAN.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This old established red-apron lodge held its installation meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday evening, the 19th inst., when the following brethren were present:—Bros. R. Gibbons, W.M.; George Smith, S.W.; L. D. Phillips, J.W.; A. H. Hewlett, P.M. and Treas.; Matthew Cooke, Sec.; E. J. Page, S.D.; W. Watson, F. J. Hill, H. H. Collins, G. S. Brandon, and R. M. Smith, P.M.'s, together with Bros. Warr, Lovell, W. H. Mansbridge, May, Stedwell, Holland, Platt, Johnston, Walsh, J. Mansbridge, Kirby, Burgess, Howell, Harrison, Clements, Walkley, Yates, Meacock, and Howe. The visitors were—Bros. Mason, Industry, 186; Redgrave, Crystal Palace, 742; Cary, Alfred, 784; Ritterbrandt, Polish National, 534; Littell, Dalhousie, 860; G. T. Carter, Royal Union, 356; T. Lawler, Moira, 109; and Thomas Young, St. George's, 5. A gentleman, Mr. Usher, was initiated, Bro. W. H. Mansbridge passed, and Bro. Redgrave, of the Crystal Palace Lodge, raised. After which a board of Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. George Smith, Past Grand Steward and S.W., having been unanimously elected W.M., was duly installed; the ceremony of the same being divided between Bros. Gibbons, the out-going W.M., and Bro. W. Watson, and it is quite unnecessary to say how the latter performed his share of the duties; but a word or two of strong praise is due to his coadjutor, Bro. Gibbons, for the delivery of his part of the ceremony. After the board had been closed, the investiture of the following officers took place:—Bros. L. D. Phillips, S.W.; J. E. Page, J.W.; Hewlett, P.M. and Treas., re-invested; Yates, J.D.; Walsh, I.G.; Lovell, Dir. of Cers.; and Crawley, re-invested Tyler. Five pounds were voted to the old men, and the Treasurer gave notice of motion to limit the number of brethren to forty. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted, and the balance in favour of the lodge

was very satisfactory. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a very handsome banquet, which did credit to Bros. Elkington and the venerable lodge Steward, W. Watson. After grace had been said, and the cloth removed, the new W.M., Bro. GEORGE SMITH, rose and said:—Brethren, in every assemblage of Britons—more particularly at social meetings and festive boards—the loyalty of our countrymen is first exemplified by a toast in honour of the august lady who is our Sovereign, and “the fountain of honour” in this mighty empire. To dilate upon her Majesty’s many virtues is a somewhat difficult task, because it presupposes such an intimacy with the ruler of the land that few can pretend to lay claim to. Therefore, as Englishmen, as loyal men and Freemasons—and every Freemason is, or ought to be, a loyal man—I beg to propose the first toast of the evening, the daughter of a Freemason, and our Sovereign, summed up in one brief sentence, “The Queen and the Craft.”—After the National Anthem had been sung, the W.M. proceeded to say that the brethren, having proved their loyalty to the Queen, must now come a step or two lower in the social scale, to show their obedience to the elected chief of the Craft. Here again one could not boast of an intimacy with the Grand Master; and though that was a red apron lodge, there were very few brethren any nearer connected with his lordship than being a Grand Steward, which was the nearest approach to grand office by members of the Globe Lodge. However, that might pass: as the Earl of Zetland had been rechosen so many years as Grand Master, they were all bound to suppose he had done something for Freemasonry, and bow to his position. The next toast would be “The Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland.”—The W. MASTER rose and said, the health of the Grand Officers, past and present, came next, and at their head was a nobleman known for talents as a statesman, oratory of no mean order, and a most zealous Deputy Grand Master. In that lodge they had a past and present Grand Officer. There was their Past Master, Bro. Thomas Alexander Adams, a Past Grand Officer, who, he regretted to find, was absent on that occasion, and Bro. Kirby, the Grand Steward of the year. The W.M. said he would couple the name of Bro. Kirby with the toast, because, when his year of office expired—thanks to the usages which found support in headquarters—he would no longer be regarded as a Grand, or even Past Grand Officer; and he thought if red-apron lodges were to bear the expenses in honour of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, they should sometimes participate in the rewards his lordship could bestow. He then gave “The Health of the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, with the rest of the Grand Officers, and their present Grand Steward, Bro. Kirby.”—Bro. KIRBY, Grand Steward, was very happy to return thanks on behalf of such a nobleman as the Deputy Grand Master; and although the members of the Globe Lodge were but Grand Officers for the year, it was a proud thing for them to be associated, even for that brief period, with the Earl de Grey and Ripon. For his own part, he hoped to see many brethren of No. 23 in the office he held, and hoped they would all endeavour to support the dignity of the Globe Lodge; and he returned his sincere thanks for the compliment they had so kindly paid him.—The W. MASTER said all Freemasons were proud in receiving a new brother into Freemasonry, and the Globe Lodge was behind none in this respect; still, they must remember that it was not in numbers alone that respectability and comfort were to be found. He would be one of the last to advocate a limitation, as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, to their numbers, but they ought to bear in mind that they did not initiate gentlemen for themselves only, but made them part and parcel of the great body of Freemasons—not of the Globe Lodge only, but of the globe itself. Their lodge was one of the eighteen privileged who furnish the Craft with their Grand Stewards, and they ought, on that account as well, to be doubly particular as to those they received. That day they had admitted a brother amongst them. He was yet young in their mysteries and customs, and so could not be supposed to comprehend, at a glance, the deep meanings and recondite subjects which appertain to Freemasonry. But, as he proceeded, it was to be hoped he would feel a stimulus to make himself better acquainted with their principles which, if rightly comprehended, would do him no little service and them no small honour. Brother Usher’s proposer had chosen that lodge for his initiation. He came to them well and worthily recommended, and they cordially greeted him as a brother Freemason. He would, no doubt, form many

friendships from the step he had taken that day, and he hoped they would be as stable as he could desire, and they could wish. Might he ever regard that, his mother lodge, with the feelings of a dutiful child, and long be spared as an ornament to it, and continue one of its happiest offspring. The W.M. then gave the initiate’s health.—Bro. USHER thanked them very cordially and sincerely, and hoped, as he progressed in the knowledge of the fraternity, he should make a similar progress in their good opinion.—The W. MASTER observed that visitors were ever welcome to their lodge, but they sadly puzzled a Master who did not know their antecedents. They, too, were said to be “distinguished visitors,” and that made his position ten times worse. If he said the right thing of the right man in the right place he should esteem himself very fortunate; but if he omitted to say the same right thing of the rest of the right brethren, he would be equally unfortunate, and, to avoid that difficulty, he read the list of those present. No doubt they were all good men and true, or their friends of the lodge would not have asked them there. He knew the brethren felt with him that they were glad to see them. They welcomed them in the most fraternal spirit, and hoped they would like them so well that they would come again. As Masons, they ought to be courteous to brethren—proud of the honour they had done them by coming there—sorry to part with them when they left—but happy to meet them again. He then gave “The Health of our Visitors.”—Bro. RITTERBRANDT, on behalf of the visitors, returned thanks, and said he had been to the lodge many years before, when it was not quite as prosperous; but he was happy to congratulate them on their progress, and he was sure that feeling was shared by every visitor present.—The W. MASTER, addressing the Immediate Past Master, Bro. Gibbons, said he would be very brief with him, known as he was to every member of the lodge. He was well aware of their love and respect towards him. The duties of Worshipful Master had been most ably and efficiently performed by him last year, and the lodge, through him (Bro. Geo. Smith), requested his acceptance of a jewel as a tangible token of its esteem. In placing it upon his (Bro. Gibbons’) breast, he expressed the hope that he might wear it with as much pleasure for many years as the lodge felt in giving it, and he trusted Bro. Gibbons might have health, strength, and happiness, with every other good wish that the Globe Lodge and its Master could desire for him, or he could wish for himself.—Bro. GIBBONS, I.P.M., felt highly gratified by the kind and cordial expressions of the W.M. He was very happy to say that he looked back with some degree of pride, and no small pleasure, to his year of office. The brethren had kindly and warmly supported him, and he knew how to appreciate their favour. He was much flattered by the gift of the jewel he had just received, and would tell them honestly he had tried to deserve it; and, as they had given it, he supposed he might consider his endeavours to have been successful. Although he was now a P.M., that would make no difference in his feelings, but thanking both his officers of last year, and the brethren, for their sympathy and kindness, he would promise them his future conduct should be to use his best interests to serve the Globe Lodge. Bro. Gibbons then proposed the health of the new W.M., to which Bro. GEORGE SMITH replied, very neatly and briefly, requesting them to suspend their judgment until his term of office had expired, when, if he did as they could wish, nothing would be more welcome than their praise.—The W. MASTER was sure he would be pardoned, but there were so many Past Masters of the lodge, and in the lodge, that he was entirely at a loss where to begin. But as he must go in, he acknowledged that to the P.M.’s of the lodge, they were all deeply indebted. Every one of them had done his duty to the lodge, and to single one out more than another, would be an invidious task; therefore, he gave the health of the P.M.’s of the lodge, and hoped they would arrange amongst themselves who should respond.—Bro. W. WATSON, father of the lodge, was delighted at the very kind manner in which the P.M.’s were always treated by every member of the lodge. It was pleasant to them to see how well the lodge was supported, and what a vigorous child it had grown. The P.M.’s hailed with satisfaction the position of the lodge, and desired to make themselves useful at all times. If assistance was required, they were there to lend it; but with a W.M. and I.P.M. so able to do their duties, the P.M.’s’ lot was a light one. Deeply gratified at the prosperity of the lodge, they, the P.M.’s, one and all felt the Globe Lodge was a great success, and they had each, in their turn, helped to contribute to it. With such feelings he, on behalf of the P.M.’s and him-

self, returned their hearty thanks for the toast.—The W. MASTER was sure they all agreed with him that they had an excellent Treasurer, who took care of their money, and a Secretary who so delighted in their company that he, the W.M., should not be surprised if the latter brother did not invite them, at the next audit, to spend the day with him looking over the accounts. Bro. Hewlett had been their Treasurer now some eight years, or thereabouts, and, as they could not have a better, he hoped he might be so eight, or eighty, years more. Bro. Matthew Cooke so ably cooked the accounts that the real cookery got cold while they were hunting after two guineas, and when it was given up he dished it up for them better late than never. The brethren, he thought, would agree with him that they had two good, useful, and ornamental officers in their Treasurer and Secretary, and he called upon them to drink their good healths.—Bro. HEWLETT, P.M. and Treas., had been so occupied looking over their accounts that he had come down late to dinner. For the confidence and trust they reposed in him he was proud and grateful. They might depend on his taking care of their funds, and hoped they could trust him by that time, he having spent some years in their service. He was happy to say their Secretary worked hard himself, and made them work pretty hard too; for they had to look a long time over the accounts to trace two mysterious guineas, but he found them himself at the last moment; and as their Treasurer he (Bro. Hewlett) had the pleasure to say they were found, and the lodge held, in his hands, a very pretty balance in its favour. He was pleased that it was so, grateful for their confidence, and truly happy to see the lodge in such a prosperous condition.—Bro. MATTHEW COOKE, Sec., followed, but, as he had kept them so long at the audit, would inflict no more tedium on them on that occasion, but to return his best thanks for the toast just given.—The W. MASTER felt very fortunate in the appointments he had made that day. His Senior Warden, Bro. Phillips, would, he was sure, be a most painstaking officer, and he should be very glad of such a successor. Bro. Page, the Junior Warden, no doubt would be equally zealous in the discharge of his duties; and as the latter was already equal to the Worshipful Master in another lodge, it was an earnest of the good they might expect from him when he came to fill that chair. The W.M. then proposed "The Healths of the Senior and Junior Wardens."—Bro. Bro. PHILLIPS, S.W., was afraid, after Bro. Young's beautiful tones, that what he had to say must fall with but little effect on their ears. It was, however, a pleasing duty to acknowledge the toast on that, as well as on other occasions. His experience had taught him two things, viz., that no Master could properly conduct a lodge unless he was fairly and zealously supported; and also that every lodge took its tone from its Master. If the officers took their tone from the late and present W.M.'s, it was to be hoped they would be found equally efficient when it came to their turn, and on behalf of himself and the Junior Warden, they were willing and desirous to second the W.M. with decorum and ability. For the honour of the toast he returned thanks.—The W. MASTER then gave "The Junior Officers," which was replied to, and was succeeded by the Tyler's toast.—Bro. WILLIAM WATSON, P.M., in the name of the lodge, thanked the Secretary for the pleasant musical treat he had prepared that night, to which Bro. H. H. COLLINS objected, on the ground that it was due to the singers, and not the Secretary, Bro. Matthew Cooke. The glees, songs, &c., were most ably performed by Bros. Thomas Young, G. T. Carter, and T. Lawler; Bro. Arthur Walkley, a member of the lodge, sung, with admirable effect, for which he was warmly applauded, two popular comic songs, and Bro. Crawley gave "The Eternal Apprentice" capitally. With the exception of the one dissident brother, every one present was lavish in praise of the whole proceedings; and the installation meeting of the Globe Lodge for 1862 bids fair to be long remembered by those who were fortunate enough to be present.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—The regular meeting of this justly celebrated and prosperous lodge was held on Tuesday, January 17th, at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, (Bro. C. A. Cathie's), Bro. E. N. Levy, W.M., assisted by Bros. F. Walters, I.P.M.; H. Moon, S.W.; J. C. Gooddy, J.W.; W. Jackson, P.M., Treas.; E. Harris, P.M., Sec.; G. Morris, W.S.; J. Donkin, P.M.; C. R. Dean, P.M.; Dr. Dixon, P.M.; W. D. Hughes, P.M.; R. G. Chipperfield, C. D. Watkins, F. H. Ebsworth, C. A. Cathie, T. J. Sabine, R. Fenn, H. Jacobs, G. Drapper, R. Stevens, Barclay, H. Wollett, J. K. Elliott, D. Rose, J. Brookhouse, A. D. Steel, J. T. C. Powell, Parker, W. H. Jarvis, R. Hurrell, N. Lake, G. J. Love, Jackson,

and many others, presided over the lodge. The minutes were confirmed, with the exception of that portion relating to the benevolent fund rules, which was not confirmed. The report of the audit committee was received and approved of. Ballots were taken for Messrs. G. Free and E. Stabb, which were declared to be unanimous in favour of their admission. A ballot was taken for Bro. Frederick William Crispin, No. 200, S.C., as a joining member, which was unanimous in favour of his admission. Messrs. Davis, Ramson, G. Free, and E. Stabb, being in attendance, were each introduced, and separately initiated into ancient Freemasonry. The ceremony was well rendered. Bro. H. Moore, S.W., and W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. F. Walters, I.P.M., to the W.M., to receive at his hands the benefit of installation. The board of Installed Masters, consisting of nine, was duly formed, and Bro. H. Moore was duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. Bros. F. Walters, P.M., and Dr. Dixon, P.M., finished the ceremony. The W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. E. N. Levy, I.P.M.; J. C. Gooddy, S.W.; G. Morris, J.W.; E. Harris, P.M., Treas.; J. Donkin, P.M., Sec.; F. Walters, P.M., Dir. of Cers.; T. J. Sabine, S.D.; F. H. Ebsworth, J.D.; J. T. C. Powell, I.G.; M. A. Loewenstark, W.S.; Waldhouse, Tyler. Bro. E. N. Levy, I.P.M., agreed to represent the lodge as Steward for the Boys' School, at the next festival. Bro. F. Walters, P.M., agreed to represent the lodge as Steward for the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, at the Festival of January, 1866. Bro. Dr. Dixon, P.M., then, in an appropriate speech, presented Bro. E. N. Levy, I.P.M., with a massive gold Past Master's jewel, which was given to him by the voluntary subscriptions of the members of the lodge, as a mark of esteem. Bro. E. N. Levy, I.P.M., returned his thanks for this token of their regard in a neat speech. After the lodge was closed, the brethren partook of a very superior banquet, prepared with skill and care, and then followed an elegant dessert. The evening was spent in love and harmony, and every brother seemed well pleased. Visitors—G. Powell, 142; G. Bolton, P.M. and Treas., 147, P.M. and P.Z., 169, 742; J. Bavin, W.M. 147; J. Lightfoot, S.W. 147; E. Worthington, 507; R. Welsford, P.M. and Treas., 548; J. Goswin, 720; W. Oaff, W.M. 765; J. Breeze, 890; F. W. Crispin, 200, S.C.; and very many others whose names we were unable to learn.

EASTERN STAR LODGE (No. 95).—The members of this lodge met on Tuesday, January 17th, at the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street; Bro. Frank L. Goode, W.M., presided. Bros. Graves, Few, and Jeune were passed to the second degree, and Bro. Goodchild was raised to the third degree. This being the lodge for election of officers, Bro. Geo. Griffiths was chosen for the Mastership for the ensuing year; Bro. E. W. Davis, Treasurer; and Bro. Speight, Tyler. Bro. Davis proposed, and Bro. How seconded a resolution, that a jewel, value five guineas, be presented at the next lodge to the retiring Master, Bro. Goode, in acknowledgment of his efficient discharge of the duties of the chair during the past year. The auditors were appointed, and the lodge was closed.

St. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 140).—This old established lodge met on Wednesday, January 18th, at the Lecture Hall, Greenwich; Bro. E. Hubbuck, W.M., presided. He was supported by Bros. C. L. Smyth, S. Wand, W.M. elect; Badger, J.W.; A. H. Tattershall, S.D.; W. Noak, J.D.; Pook, I.G.; Dr. Scott, I.P.M.; F. Ryder, P.M. and Treas.; G. Edington, P.M.; G. N. Mourylian, P.M. and Sec.; H. A. Collington, P.M.; Hudson, Cogan, F. E. Ward, and very many others too numerous to mention. Amongst a large number of visitors, we noticed Bros. J. Graydon, P.J.D. of Kent, P.M. 13; W. C. Penny, P.M. 72, P.M. and Treas. 79; F. Walters, P.M., Dir. of Cers. 73, 147, Sec. 871; W. Orchard, P.M. 79; F. W. Ward, S.W. 79; S. Vinten, J.W. 79; and others whose names we were unable to learn. The business was two passings, two raisings, and one initiation, all of which were done by the W.M. in his usual first-rate manner. Bro. Dr. Scott, I.P.M., then took the chair. The W.M. then presented Bro. C. L. Smyth, S.W., and W.M. elect, to receive the benefit of installation. The board of eight Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. C. L. Smyth was duly installed according to ancient custom. The brethren were then admitted and saluted him, when he was proclaimed in the several degrees. He appointed as his officers Bros. Badger, S.W.; Tattershall, J.W.; G. Edington, P.M., Treas.; G. N. Mourylian, P.M., Sec.; W. Noak, S.D.; Pook, J.D.; Hudson, I.G.; Riley, Tyler. The address were then given in an able manner, and when done, were received with applause. The lodge was then closed. The brethren,

upwards of forty in number, then adjourned to the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich (Bro. J. Moore's), where they partook of an excellent banquet.

PRUDENT BRETHREN LODGE (No. 145).—Tuesday, the 26th inst., being the installation meeting of the Prudent Brethren, there were a large number of the members present, and several visitors, who came especially to show a mark of respect to Bro. John Boyd, a P.M., who was unanimously elected to fill the chair a second time, after an interval of some years. Bro. William Carter, the outgoing W.M., opened the lodge, and initiated Mr. Summers in a very excellent style. The brethren then proceeded to the installation, and Bro. John Boyd, P.M. and W.M. elect., having been presented by Bro. George States, Treas., was, after a board of Installed Masters had been formed, most impressively, correctly, and yet painfully, from his recent illness, inducted into the chair by Bro. W. F. Blackburn, P.M. and Sec., in the presence of Bros. Carter, Graygoose, C. Hart, and Exall, P.M.'s of the lodge; the Treasurer, and some visitors. The board of Masters having been closed, the W.M. appointed his officers, as follows:—Bros. Brown, S.W.; Crabb, J.W.; Geo. S. States, reinvested Treas.; W. F. Blackburn, P.M., reinvested Sec.; George Sharp, S.D.; Taylor, J.D.; Knox, I.G.; and Daly, reinvested Tyler; after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet.—To so practised a veteran as Bro. John Boyd the toasts were more child's play, yet he contrived to infuse into them some amount of amusement and no small stock of good humour. When his health was proposed, in the course of his reply he regretted that the honour of being W.M. had not fallen on other shoulders, but as it had been offered to several brethren and they had declined it in his favour, he felt bound to accept the compliment offered to him, and had done what he could for the benefit of the lodge, and would continue to do the same. In proposing the health of his predecessor, Bro. Carter, he said he had known him for many years, and at his earnest solicitation, Bro. Carter at last consented to take office. Bro. Boyd had watched him step by step, and when Bro. Carter arrived at the office of S.W., he hesitated, and feared he never could undertake the duties. Then Bro. Boyd pressed him, and he ultimately accepted it, doing credit to himself and honour to the lodge. Turning to Bro. Carter, I.P.M., he continued,—And if ever a brother deserved a jewel for his working the lodge Bro. Carter did, and it gave him great pleasure in affixing it to his breast. Bro. Carter, in a few words, said it was the assistance of his officers that enabled him to go through the year. He knew his ability was limited, but he had tried to do his duty, and was pleased to think he had not failed. The Treasurer, Secretary, and other officers were duly mentioned, and thanks were returned by each of them. A most agreeable evening was spent, to which the musical abilities of Bros. E. Hart, Taylor, Exall, and others contributed no little share.

LODGE OF TEMPERANCE (No. 169).—At a meeting held on Thursday, January 19th, at the Plough Tavern, Plough Bridge, Plough Road, Rotherhithe (Bro. Holman's), of this old lodge, Bro. G. Brown, W.M., presided. He was assisted by J. Searle, S.W.; Wingfield, J.W.; Payne, S.D.; J. Tibbals, P.M., Sec.; G. Bolton, P.M.; Nowlan, P.M.; Barrett, P.M.; M. Roach, P.M.; R. Moore, P.M.; J. T. Moss, Pulley, and many others. We noticed, amongst an unusual large number of visitors, Bros. F. Walters, P.M., Dir. of Cers. 73, 147, Sec. 871; J. Bavin, W.M. 147; J. Lightfoot, S.W. 147; G. Chapman, J.W. 147; C. G. C. Stahr, W.M. 871; J. Rosenstock, I.G. 871, &c. Bro. G. Bolton, P.M., by request of the W.M., took the chair. Bro. J. Searle, S.W. and W.M. elect., was presented to the W.M. to receive at his hands the benefit of installation. Twelve Installed Masters then formed the board, and Bro. J. Searle was regularly and duly installed into the chair of K.S., according to ancient custom. He was proclaimed, and saluted in the several degrees. He invested the collars and jewels of office as follows, on Bros. Brown, I.P.M., Treas.; Tibbals, P.M., Sec.; Mowbray, S.D.; Marryatt, J.D.; Pulley, I.G.; B. Holt, Tyler. The addresses were then most ably given, and when concluded, were received with acclamation. Bro. G. Bolton, P.M., having rendered this portion of the ceremony in his usual superior, impressive manner, the W.M., Bro. J. Searle put himself into harness at once, by separately initiating three gentlemen into ancient Freemasonry. It has seldom or ever been our happy lot to witness this all-important ceremony so well and ably given as on this occasion, more especially by a new W.M. It reflected the greatest credit on him, and substantially proves how the ceremonies can be learnt

when a lodge of instruction is constantly and perseveringly attended to. This good beginning augurs well for a prosperous year of office, and we congratulate this old lodge in having such a proficient W.M. Bro. J. T. Moss, in a feeling speech, alluded to the past efficient services rendered to the lodge by Bro. G. Brown, I.P.M., during his year of office; therefore he proposed "That a five guinea Past Master's jewel be presented to him from the lodge funds." This was carried *nem. con.* Bro. J. Searle, W.M., reminded the brethren that on the Wednesday he hoped to receive their support at the Festival in the same liberal manner as they had given to his list. Bro. F. Walters, P.M. 73, informed the lodge that he intended on the next Festival for the Royal Benevolent Institution, 1866, to stand Steward to represent his lodges and that district, when he hoped to receive that hearty co-operation and support which had always been given whenever the Lodge of Temperance had sent a Steward to any of the Festivals; he, therefore, on behalf of the Lodge of Justice and Royal Oak Lodges, solicited their support, and when all this year's Festivals were over, he would renew his solicitations for their help. After business, the brethren adjourned to the banquet.

YARNBOROUGH LODGE (No. 551).—The usual monthly meeting of this highly prosperous lodge took place, on the 5th inst., at Bro. Walters, Green Dragon, Stepney. Bro. J. R. Carr, W.M.; Bros. Hamilton, Wynn, Vasey, Kindred, and Hampton, P.M.'s; Hudson, S.W.; Clarke, J.W.; Moseley, S.D.; and Stevens, J.D. Amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. H. J. Thompson, P.M. 869, P. Prov. G.W. Herts; Sissons, I.P.M. 901; Shaboe, P.M. 554; and Saqui, P.M. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes read and confirmed, when the ballot was taken and declared unanimous in favour of Bro. Hutchinson, No. 1013, as a joining member; also Mr. W. H. Runtton and Mr. William Ellis as candidates for initiation, who were most ably initiated into the Order by the W.M. Bro. Jones then answered the usual questions qualifying him for the second degree, and retired. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Jones passed to the degree of F.C. The next business was the installation of Bro. Hudson, S.W. and W.M. elect, who was presented to the installing Master, Bro. J. H. Wynn, P.M., by Bro. Hamilton, P.M., to receive the benefit of installation. The board of Installed Masters, consisting of twelve, was then formed, and Bro. Hudson was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The brethren were then admitted, and the W.M. proclaimed and saluted in the three degrees. He then appointed and invested his officers as follows, viz., Bros. Clarke, S.W.; Moseley, J.W.; J. H. Stevens, S.D.; Preece, J.D.; Brow, I.G.; J. Green, Dir. of Cers; Roberts, Sec.; and Spaight, Tyler. The addresses were then most ably and impressively given by Bro. Hamilton, P.M., whose painstaking manner of rendering every ceremony commands universal admiration. On the W.M. rising for the first time it was proposed that a five guinea P.M.'s jewel be purchased from the lodge funds, and presented to Bro. J. R. Carr, I.P.M., as a slight recognition of the able services rendered during his prosperous year of office. A sum was then voted to a decayed brother, also to a deceased brother's widow. All business being ended, the lodge was closed in due form. The brethren, nearly fifty in number, then sat down to a superior banquet. After the repast, which was admirably served up by Bro. Walters, the usual loyal toasts were drunk, and a pleasant evening spent.

PROVINCIAL.

CHESHIRE.

SEACOMBE.—*Combermere Lodge (No. 605).*—This lodge, which has for some years been in a precarious condition, is now about to be revived under the auspices of Bro. Wade, P.M. 477 and 724, and Prov. G. Purst. of Cheshire. It is more especially a subject for congratulation, as the lodge was named after the respected Grand Master of the province, F.M. Lord Combermere, who has always taken a warm interest in its welfare, and has on more than one occasion expressed his regret that the lodge was not in a more prosperous state. Thursday, the 19th inst., having been appointed as the day for celebrating the Festival of St. John, and installing the W.M. elect, Bro. Wade, the brethren assembled at the picturesque hotel of Bro. Stokes, at Seacombe, in large numbers, in order to do honour to the occasion. There was a large attendance of Past Masters and visitors, even exceeding in number the brethren

of the lodge, among whom were Bros. Roden, Brattan, Griffith, New, Meacock, Liddell, Ralph Langley, Jones, &c. Punctuality being a Masonic virtue, the lodge was opened at the appointed hour in due form and with solemn prayer by Bros. Meacock, W.M.; Lewin, as S.W.; and Liddell, as J.W. The requisite minutes having been read and confirmed, and the lodge having been opened in the second degree. Bro. New, the Installing Master, assumed the chair, and Bro. Wade duly inducted in King Solomon's chair. On the return of the brethren, the W.M., Bro. Wade, was proclaimed, saluted, and honoured according to ancient custom, and appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. John Horbury, S.W.; James T. Lee, J.W.; Henry Langley, S.D.; Leighton, J.D.; and W. Theobalds, Sec. and Treas. The brethren having been called from labour adjourned to the banquet, which was prepared and served in Bro. Stokes' accustomed style. After the usual loyal toasts—in which the W. Master referred to the rumour of the Prince of Wales having been proposed at the Apollo Lodge, Oxford, and the possibility of his becoming the Grand Master—he proposed "The Health of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Lord Zetland," and spoke of his personal experience of his lordship's urbanity in Grand Lodge during his many visits there. The health of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Lord Combermere, was responded to by Bro. Brattan, Prov. G. Supt. of Works for Cheshire, in an able and eloquent speech, during which he expressed his surprise that so great an honour had been conferred upon him, though older P.M.'s still wore the blue. He stated that the rank had been entirely unsolicited, and he could only account for it as a reward for the energy and zeal which he had, as far as his capability went, always displayed in the cause of Masonry in general, and this province in particular. On the health of the W.M., Bro. Wade, being proposed, in feeling terms, by Bro. Meacock, he expressed his appreciation of the honour conferred upon him by the unanimous consent of the members, and promised to use his strenuous efforts to place the lodge in the first rank among the lodges of the province—feeling assured that an active co-operation on the part of his officers would necessarily insure so desirable a result, being the sure concomitant of active exertion. The other toasts having been duly acknowledged, the brethren resumed labour, and parted in the hope of a speedy reunion. The evening was enlivened by the humorous songs of Bros. Roden and Lee, and the more pathetic strains of Bros. Brattan, New, and Liddell.

DORSETSHIRE.

POOLE.—*Lodge of Amity* (No. 137).—At the regular meeting on the 18th inst., Bro. Richard Sydenham was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being most impressively performed by Bro. R. Hoskins, P.M., and P. Prov. J.G.W. The following officers were appointed and invested:—Bros. E. Edsall, S.W.; G. H. Milledge, J.W.; J. B. Halford, S.D.; J. Harris, J.D.; W. Greenslade, I.G.; and E. J. King, Sec. Bro. J. White was re-elected Tyler, and Bro. Benjamin Moores, P.M., Steward. A number of visiting brethren were present, and a most agreeable evening was spent in a truly Masonic manner. The present promises to be a red letter year in the Masonic annals of Poole, as this lodge will have attained its centenary in April next, and the brethren are unanimous in determining to celebrate that event in a manner suitable to the occasion. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Dorset will also be holden at Poole in the course of the summer.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

TEWKESBURY.—*St George's Lodge* (No. 900).—A lodge of emergency will be held by the members of this aristocratic lodge on Friday, February the 3rd, to celebrate the festival of St. John the Evangelist, and install Bro. Nathaniel Treasure, the W.M. elect for the ensuing year. A large attendance of brethren from the neighbouring Provinces of Hereford, Gloucester, and Worcester is expected to attend to give our Bro. Treasure—so long known and respected by the Craft in the Provinces of Berks, Hants, and Gloucestershire, and the founder of the St. George's Lodge in connection with the late Bro. Cossens, a truly Masonic greeting.

HAMPSHIRE.

PORTSMOUTH.—*Royal Sussex Lodge* (No. 342).—On Wednesday evening, the 18th, Bro. George Wilkins was installed as W.M. of this flourishing lodge for the ensuing year. The installation ceremony was performed by Bro. Ogburn, P.M., P.P.J.G.W., in the presence of fifteen W.M.'s and P.M.'s. The

W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Redward, S.W.; J. S. Dyer, J.W.; Wilson, S.D.; R. Barber, J.D.; and Kempster, I.G. Bro. J. R. Barnes was re-appointed Treasurer, and Bro. W. A. Wolfe, Hon. Sec.; Bros. Cawte and West, Stewards. A well-deserved mark of respect was paid to the retiring W.M. (Bro. H. M. Emanuel) previous to his leaving the chair, the brethren having subscribed to present him with a testimonial, consisting of an elegant P.M.'s jewel, and the following resolution written on vellum, and enclosed in a handsome walnut frame:—Extract of minutes of proceedings of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 342, held at the Freemason's Hall, St. George's square, Portsea, on Wednesday, 21st of December, 1864. Resolved unanimously, "That the members of the Royal Sussex Lodge, 342, highly appreciating the inestimable services of Bro. H. M. Emanuel, P.M. and W.M., P. Prov. S.G.W., Hants, during the time he has presided over them, beg to tender him their sincere and heartfelt thanks for his regular attendance to his duties, his kind and courteous disposition, and above all his zealous and persevering endeavours to raise and maintain the character and dignity of the lodge, and further to promote and extend the principles of Freemasonry. This and the many virtues which he possesses have so endeared him to them that, although the time has now arrived for his vacating the chair, they assure him they shall always look back with pride and fond remembrance to this the jubilee year of the lodge, which has been so distinguished by his presidency, and their earnest prayer will ever be that the Great Architect of the Universe will long spare him amongst them." The jewel bore the following inscription:—"Presented with the testimonial on vellum, by the members of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 342, to Bro. H. M. Emanuel, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.W., Hants, and W.M. of the lodge during its year of jubilee, 1864, in token of their fraternal regard and esteem. January, 1865." Bro. H. M. Emmanuel responded in a feeling and appropriate speech. About sixty of the brethren afterwards partook of a sumptuous banquet. The newly installed W.M. presided, and was supported by a large number of W.M.'s of the Phoenix, Portsmouth, Gosport, and Carnarvon (Havant) lodges, and the Mayor (Bro. R. W. Ford, P.M.). The usual toasts were drunk, and the evening was spent in a very agreeable manner.

MIDDLESEX.

UXBRIDGE.—*Royal Union Lodge* (No. 332).—The bi-monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, at Bro. Line's, the Chequers Hotel, Uxbridge. As usual, the brethren from London mustered strong. At five o'clock the lodge was duly opened by the W.M., Bro. W. Coombes. Bros. Penn, Wilkes, and Coulter passed to the second degree. There were three raisings to take place, but as the brethren did not attend in time they are postponed till next meeting. Bro. Glaisher, of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and of Britannia Lodge (No. 33), was admitted a joining member. The election of officers then took place, when Bro. C. Herring, S.W., was unanimously voted to be the W.M. for the year; Bro. W. Coombes, Treasurer and Hon. Secretary (Bro. Gawthrop kindly affording assistance). The Auditors were Bros. Winfield, Irving, and Besant. A Tiler was also elected. Bro. Hugh Gawthrop then passed a high eulogium upon the W.M. upon his retiring from that office, and said no one had with more zeal and energy performed the duties than Bro. Coombes, and he proposed that a P.M.'s jewel should be presented to him. This being duly seconded, it was unanimously carried. W.M. Coombes made a graceful and feeling reply. Business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to banquet, Bro. host Line catering in his usual excellent style. Among those present we observed Bros. Weedon, P.M.; C. Herring, S.W.; J. W. Chegwidden, J.W.; E. H. Hicks, J. D.; J. D. Mills, W.S.; J. W. Chaisen, &c. The repast being over, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and a very pleasant evening was passed.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

At high noon, on Wednesday, December 28th, the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of the province was held. Owing to the illness of the R.W. the Prov. G.M., Bro. John E. Welch Rolls, of the Hendre Lodge, the chair was taken by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Major Lyne, who read a letter which he had received from Bro. Rolls, full of fraternal feeling and of solicitude for the prosperity of Masonry, and also announcing his intention to present each W.M. of the two Newport lodges

with a Life Governorship in the Boys' and Girls' School, London, or, if preferred, a Life Governorship in the Aged and Decayed Freemasons' Asylum, Croydon, the selection being left in the hands of the W.M.'s.

The officers appointed for the ensuing year were as follows:—

Bro. J. N. King	Prov. S.G.W.
„ J. Maund	„ J.G.W.
„ Rev. George Roberts	„ G. Chap.
„ J. Allan Rolls	„ G. Reg.
„ William Williams	„ G. Sec.
„ Pickford	„ G. Treas.
„ H. Martyn Kennard	„ S.G.D.
„ Higginson	„ J.G.D.
„ Hancorn	„ G. Supt. of Works.
„ J. Pierce	„ G. Dir. of Cers.
„ R. B. Evans	„ G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.
„ Thomas Beynon	„ G. Sword Bearer.
„ Groves	„ G. Org.
„ Browning	„ G. Parst.
„ Thomas Lewis Preece	„ G. Tyler.
„ William Burton	„ G. Stewards.
„ Wyndham Jones	
„ Samuel S. Hallen	
„ P. Morgan	
„ John Morgan	
„ W. Sherreff	

A code of by-laws for the province was discussed and adopted with some slight amendments. The sum of £10 10s. was voted to the fund for enlarging the Boys' and Girls' Schools in London, and £26 5s. was voted towards the purchase of the jewel about to be presented to the R.W. the Prov. G.M.

The lodge having been closed in due form, the brethren adjourned to the banqueting-room.

It has been already announced that the members of the Craft in the province of Monmouthshire have subscribed a hundred guineas for the purchase of a jewel, which is to be presented to the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Rolls. The order for this handsome Masonic decoration was given to Bro. William Platt, Beaufort-buildings, Strand, who has executed it with credit to himself and great satisfaction to the subscribers. It is, indeed, one of the handsomest jewels we have seen. Bro. Rolls's coat of arms is encircled by two belts, on the first of which is inscribed the name "John Etherington Welch Rolls," and on the second the names of the four lodges in the province, viz., the Loyal Monmouth, Silurian, Isea, and Philanthropic (Abergavenny). Underneath on a scroll is the motto, *Celeritas et veritas*. The whole is surmounted with the Prince of Wales's plume, composed of brilliants, which also encircles the jewel itself, and imparts to it a gorgeous and sparkling effect. The presentation, which was to have taken place at this festival, has been deferred, owing to the illness of Bro. Rolls.

THE BANQUET

was prepared by Bro. J. Lloyd, of the King's Head Hotel, whose arrangements for the occasion were unexceptionable. A large banner, bearing Masonic emblems, depended from the balcony in front of the house, and the room where the dinner was served up was appropriately decorated for the occasion.

The company numbered between fifty and sixty brethren, amongst whom were Bro. Charles Lyne, D. Prov. G.M. (in the chair); John Allan Rolls, H. Martyn Kennard, James Pierce, Samuel Hancorn, R. B. Evans, G. Roberts, John Maund, W. A. Scott, W. Pickford; Thomas Williams, J. Gould, J. S. Stone, James Sanders, W. Williams, J. Griffiths, A. McDonald, Henry Collier, J. Hyndman, W. G. Lloyd, H. J. Greene, J. W. Jones, Wyndham Jones, James Bellerby, H. J. Higginson, S. Browning, D. Meredith, Thomas Morgan, J. Morgan, Joseph Greene, J. G. Morgan, Thomas Bell, Thomas Spittle, John Spittle, Thomas L. Reece, R. H. Richards, Henry J. Gratte, David Roberts, Edward Wells, Bartholomew Thomas, Charles Henry Oliver, Henry Griffiths, G. J. Hands, Edward Hier Evans, Henry L. Williams, Roger Twist, Henry P. Bolt, Lawrence B. Moore, William Watkins, William Randall, Richard Wade, Samuel Fox, and Henry Hellyer.

The cloth having been removed, the business of the evening commenced.

The first toasts from the chair were "The Queen," "The Earl of Zetland," and "Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the other Officers of the Grand Lodge of England," which were drunk with Masonic honours.

The D. Prov. G. MASTER then rose to propose the toast of

the evening, in doing which he could not help feeling regret. He need scarcely tell the brethren that he alluded to their worthy and respected brother, Provincial Grand Master Rolls, who was precluded from being present by illness. Whether he (Bro. Lyne) travelled east or west, north or south, his conviction was, that no Provincial Grand Master reigned more successfully in the hearts of his brethren than the Provincial Grand Master of this province. (Loud cheers.) His high position in the country, his kindness to the poor, as well as his hospitality to the rich, were proverbial, and still more proverbial was the high feeling he entertained of the good of Masonry. (Hear, hear.) They could fully appreciate such a man as Bro. Rolls. In the hour of need he was ready to answer their call. (Hear, hear.) It seldom fell to the lot, even of a Provincial Grand Master, to be returned by the unanimous consent of every Mason in the province where he resided. Fortunately, it was so in Bro. Rolls' case—every eye, every heart, pointed towards him. The Earl of Zetland was pleased to ratify the universal wish, and now he (Bro. Lyne) only regretted that Bro. Rolls was not present. He regretted it the more, owing to the cause of his absence, namely, that Providence had pleased to visit him with sickness. May that kind Providence vouchsafe early to restore him to his wonted health, for the sake of his friends, his family, and also the great family of Masons! (Cheers.) His worthy son on his (the chairman's) left, would in a few minutes be obliged to leave to attend at the sick bed of his worthy father, that good and kind man. He, therefore, hastened to give the toast, which was "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Rolls." He could have wished Bro. Rolls had been present on this occasion to receive the jewel which the province desired to present to him as a small token of the estimation in which he was held. He hoped and trusted that the day was not far distant when the Masons of Monmouthshire should have the pleasure of congregating round their Grand Master. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. J. A. ROLLS responded to the toast in a very appropriate speech, thanking the company for the kind, cordial, and fraternal reception given to his father's name. He had received a letter that morning full of regrets and thanks for their forbearance in putting off the presentation of the magnificent testimonial they had prepared for him. His father had a keen appreciation of the honour and pleasure of being surrounded by the Masons of the province, and he had always remarked that no gathering could be compared to these Masonic gatherings—that Freemasonry promoted goodwill, hospitality, and general good feeling, and that a good Mason must be a good man. (Hear, and cheers.) It would, indeed, have been a source of the greatest pleasure to his father to see so many good Masons around him as were assembled here this evening. (Cheers.) And let us all remember (continued the speaker) that we are members of that most ancient and most honourable Order—one that demands a firm and faithful allegiance, demands that we should act uprightly in this life, respecting ourselves and thereby ensuring the respect of others. (Applause.) Bro. Rolls concluded by proposing "The Health of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Lyne." (Great cheering.) It was a source of consolation to his father to feel that the chair was filled in his absence by a brother so well known and respected in the province; and most gratifying it was for him to hear how well Bro. Lyne, in his intercourse with the brethren, promoted those great principles of the Order which tended to bind them together, and conducted to that friendship which characterised Freemasonry. (The toast was drunk with honours.)

Bro. LYNE, in responding, said that his task was comparatively an easy one, having to carry out the instructions of a popular Master, who never required anything but what his brethren approved, and conducted to the benefit of Masonry. Speaking Masonically, and in the highest sense of the word, he assured them that, in carrying out the wishes of the Provincial Grand Master, he had no feeling for this or that lodge in the province, whether it be at Newport, at Monmouth, at Abergavenny, or, as intimated to-day as being in the womb of the future, at Chepstow, he cared not—the more the merrier, and he regarded them without distinction, his desire being to tread in the straightforward, honest course of Masonry. In conclusion, he wished them all a merry Christmas time, and a happy New Year.

The D. Prov. G. MASTER again rose, and proposed "The Health of Bro. J. A. Rolls," who briefly responded.

"The Provincial Grand Officers" was the next toast from the

Chair. It had been said that the volunteer movement would interfere with the advance of Masonry; on what grounds he could not say. The result, however, showed that, although the volunteer movement had not retrograded, Masonry had steadily progressed. That it would progress was certain; and if those men who ought to hold office neglected their opportunities, other men would come forward and take their places. They were fortunate in possessing men of the proper stamp as office-bearers in this province. He coupled with the toast the health of Bro. Wells, P. Prov. S.G.W.

Bro. WELLS responded. He congratulated the Provincial Grand Master and the Chairman on the wise discretion shown by the admission of those Masons who had taken the first and second degrees to see and hear the proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

Bro. PICKFORD gave "The Health of the Visiting Brethren." Several of those present, from Bristol and elsewhere, had repeatedly shown their fraternal feeling in joining in their festivities.

Bros. BELL, SCOTT, ROBERTS, and BELLERBY responded.

Bro. WELLS gave "The Health of Bro. J. Griffiths," and warmly congratulated him on his installation as W.M. of the Silurian Lodge.

Bro. GRIFFITHS suitably acknowledged the compliment, and referred with pride to the progress of the Silurian, as evinced by the fact that not fewer than thirteen or fourteen good men and true had been initiated during the reign of his predecessor.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER proposed "The Lodges of the Province." Not only were the lodges of this province on the increase as to numbers, but the great principle of brotherly love was every day more and more developed. It was very desirable to have one common banquet for the province; and he was glad to see around him the members of the Monmouth, the Abergavenny, the Silurian, and Isca Lodges; but he should have liked to have seen more of the members of the last-mentioned lodge present. Speaking of Masonry, the chairman mentioned the fact that he was the first Mason who took the high Order of St. John of Malta. He had the honour of wearing a decoration held by the last Knight of Malta, and which was presented to him by one of the knight's illustrious family. He was also proud to wear another badge, given to him in Persia; but there was one jewel he prized above all, which had been presented to him by the Silurian Lodge, of which he had been Master. The speaker then enlarged on the gratifying circumstances which had led to this presentation, and, in giving the toast, coupled with it the healths of Bros. Pierce and R. B. Evans.

Both brethren suitably acknowledged the toast.

Bro. T. WILLIAMS, being called upon, also responded on behalf of the Isca.

Bro. HIGGINSON proposed—"Prosperity to the Masonic Charities."

Bro. McDONALD sang with excellent taste Robert Burns's "Farewell to the Tarbolton Lodge of Freemasons," on the intended departure of the poet to the West Indies; and then called on the brethren to "Drink to the memory of him whose words he had very inadequately endeavoured to repeat—one of whom Masonry was proud—the great, the unequalled natural poet of his native land." (Drunk in solemn silence.)

The D. PROV. G. MASTER then proceeded to make a presentation to Bro. Hancorn, on behalf of the Silurian Lodge, the members of which had thus given expression to a universal feeling of gratitude for the services, and esteem for the character, of that worthy brother, whose efforts in promoting the efficiency and prosperity of the lodge have been unceasing. The testimonial consisted of a handsome jewel, in presenting which, the chairman enlarged on those meritorious traits which had been so emphatically appreciated by the brethren. The investiture was made amidst loud cheers.

Bro. HANCORN, in an appropriate speech, expressed his acknowledgments.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER proposed "The Health of the Provincial Grand Chaplain Bro. the Rev. G. Roberts, and also Bro. the Rev. S. Fox," who, on his initiation, had been appointed Chaplain of the Silurian Lodge.

The toast was duly acknowledged by Bro. Fox, Bro. Roberts having left the room.

"The Press" was proposed by Bro. Wells, coupled with "The Health of Bro. T. Williams, of the *Star of Gwent*, who returned thanks.

Bro. J. S. STONE gave "The Provincial Grand Treasurer

and Provincial Grand Secretary," acknowledged by Bros. Pickford and W. Williams.

The following toasts succeeded:—"The Health of Bro. Coombs," "Poor and distressed Masons all over the world," "Host and Hostess," "The Commercial Interest of Newport," with "The Health of Bro. G. W. Jones," &c.

The brethren retired at a seasonable hour, all greatly pleased with the proceedings of the festival throughout.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge* (No. 471).—On Tuesday, Dec. 27, 1884, the installation of Bro. John Griffiths, as W.M., took place at the Masonic Hall, Dock-street, in this town, before a large and distinguished assemblage of the Craft. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Bridges, D. Prov. G.M. for Somerset, and P.G.S.B. in Grand Lodge of England, who had come expressly for the purpose. The following appointments were made:—Bros. R. B. Evans, P.M.; Bartholemow Thomas, S.W.; C. H. Oliver, J.W.; Rev. S. Fox, Chap.; W. Williams, Sec.; W. Pickford, Treas.; H. J. Parnall, S.D.; J. S. Stone, J.D.; E. Davies, and W. Randall, Stewards; J. Gobbett, I.G.; W. McFee, Tyler. Prior to the commencement of proceedings, the brethren were invited to "refreshment," which had been liberally provided by the W.M. elect, in the ante-room of the lodge. In the course of the evening it was announced by the W.M. that a grant of £50 had been made by the Grand Lodge of England to a worthy and afflicted brother, whose name in connection with the progress of Masonry in Newport is a "household word." Bro. Bridges, who is always ready to give his valuable assistance to the lodges of this district, and especially of this town, where he has won "golden opinions," has, at the earnest solicitation of the Silurian, promised to present to that lodge a *fac simile* of the marble bust recently presented to him by the Province of Somerset. The bust will, we understand, be placed in an appropriate niche in the lodge.

NORFOLK.

NORWICH.—*Perseverance Lodge* (No. 213).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 17th, at the Masonic Hall, for the purpose of installing Bro. Joseph English, the W.M. elect, and also for presenting a Past Master's jewel to Bro. John Boyce, the retiring W.M., in recognition of the zeal and efficiency with which he had discharged the duties of his office during the past year. The installation was very impressively performed by Bro. James Dawbarn, P.M., assisted by Bro. F. Colsey, P.M. After being installed, in the presence of eleven Past Masters, the W.M. appointed the following as his officers:—Bros. James Dunsford, S.W.; B. W. Harcourt, J.W.; James Short, S.D.; James Brittain, J.D.; Robert Sidney, Sec., and James Skippon, Treas. The brethren, to the number of forty, then sat down to a splendid banquet provided by Bro. J. Woods. In the course of the evening Bro. Colsey, P.M., presented to Bro. J. Boyce, I.P.M., the jewel already referred to, and adverted in eulogistic terms to the warm interest which Bro. Boyce had taken in the affairs of the lodge, and the ability with which he had discharged the duties of W.M. during his year of office. Bro. Boyce returned thanks in a few appropriate remarks. The health of the W.M., Bro. English, was proposed and warmly received, and altogether a pleasant and harmonious evening was passed.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

LICHFIELD.—CONSECRATION OF ST. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 1039).

This new lodge was consecrated at the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Wednesday, January 11th, by the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. W. K. Harvey, assisted by Bros. D. Burton, R.W. D. Prov. G.M.; Baker, Prov. S.G.W.; E. Hooper, as J.W.; Clarke, Prov. G. Chap.; Hill, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. Bro. Stimpson, W.M. 938, G. Org., kindly undertook the direction of the musical service, and presided at the harmonium. About ninety brethren were present, those of St. John's Lodge being—Bros. Thomas James, P. Prov. S.G.W., W.M. nominate; J. C. McLean, Sam. Pearsall, J. S. Barber, J. Joberus, Jas. Redfern, R. Crosskey, E. White, C. Amsden, W. Elkington, W. H. Heape, F. Egginton, T. Nevill, T. Bedsmore, C. E. E. Welchman, C. Trigg, C. Gillard, T. Greensmith, G. A. Smith, F. Bezzant, T. James, A. Barnes, J. Owen.

The ceremony throughout was most efficiently performed. The oration was delivered by Bro. the Rev. A. Clarke, Prov. G. Chap., who briefly, but emphatically, referred to the ancient

custom of addresses on Masonic doctrine on appropriate occasions of interest, and congratulated the members of St. John's Lodge on the auspicious circumstances attending the consecration of their lodge. He specially pointed out the duties of Masons out of lodge. They were not to show to the world a mere passive, speculative admiration of virtue, but by active illustration to manifest that, by becoming Masons, they had been made better men; and thus, by trust in God, benevolence to man, and active good works, they might hope to ascend from this terrestrial lodge to the Grand Lodge above.

Dr. Boyce's anthem, "I have surely built Thee an house to dwell in," was given by a choir, consisting of Bros. Pearsall, Pursall, Shargool, Beresford, Wharton, and Senior, who sustained their several parts in a manner that elicited universal admiration.

After the consecration ceremony was concluded, Bro. F. Empson, P.M. 43, 539, P. Prov. S.G.W. Warwickshire, installed Bro. Thomas James into the chair of the lodge. The following brethren were invested as officers for the ensuing year;—Bros. J. C. McLean, S.W.; S. Pearsall, J.W.; W. Elkington, Treas.; R. Crosskey, Sec.; J. S. Barber, S.D.; J. Joberus, J.D.; T. Bedsmore, Org.; E. White, Dir. of Cers.; C. Amsden and C. Trigg, Stewards; Hamlet, Tyler.

At the termination of the proceedings a procession was formed, and, headed by the band of the First Staffordshire Militia, the brethren proceeded to the George Hotel, and partook of a banquet, which reflected the highest credit on Bro. Owen.

The usual loyal toasts, and the supreme authorities of the Craft, having been duly honoured,

The W. MASTER proposed "The Health of their Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Harvey," and remarked that, although it had no doubt given him satisfaction to add another to the lodges on the roll in his province, so soon after he had been placed in his exalted position, yet he hoped that, at no very distant period, it might increase the difficulty of his position. A Provincial Grand Master who had only nine or ten offices at his disposal, and eighteen lodges from which to make his selection, must inevitably cause disappointment to some brethren who were in every respect worthy of distinction. Every new lodge would add to the list of claimants, whilst the number of appointments to be made would remain the same; and he trusted that, in course of time, some members of St. John's Lodge would be found deserving of office in Provincial Grand Lodge. Bro. Harvey had undertaken the command of the province, after one of the most distinguished Masons in the kingdom. He must, therefore, look to have the cordial co-operation of all the brethren, to enable him to keep it up to the state of efficiency in which it was left by Colonel Vernon. He, on his part, and he trusted all present, would join him, and would do everything in his power to strengthen the hands of their excellent Provincial Grand Master.

The R.W. PROV. G. MASTER thanked them for the very hearty manner in which his name had been received. It had given him great pleasure to assist in the ceremonies of that day, and felt convinced that under the guidance of their Worshipful Master, the St. John's Lodge would soon be equal to any in his province. It would always be his endeavour to follow the course of his distinguished predecessor, and hoped that he should gain the confidence of all his Staffordshire brethren.

Bro. BUCKTON proposed the R.W.D. Prov. G.M., Dr. Bruton, and the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge. He said that the proceedings of that day had given him the greatest pleasure. He was a very old Mason, and having been resident in that locality for some years, had hitherto been unable to keep up his connection with the Craft; he, therefore, hailed the establishment of a lodge in Lichfield with extreme satisfaction.

Dr. BURTON, D. Prov. G.M., replied to the toast in his usual happy manner, and remarked that owing to circumstances which were unforeseen when he accepted the office from Col. Vernon, he had been for two years virtually the ruler of the province, and during that time it had been his desire to act with impartiality and independence; and if he had been fortunate enough to gain the goodwill of his brethren he was amply repaid for any trouble he had taken.

The W. MASTER said the next toast was one which he hoped would never be omitted at any of their festive occasions, "The Health of the Past Provincial Grand Master, Colonel Vernon," who had by his mild though firm rule over them, endeared himself to every Staffordshire Mason. At the present time

Colonel Vernon was not only suffering a grievous domestic calamity, the unfortunate death of his eldest son, but he was sorry to hear was himself on a bed of sickness. He was sure that all who know him would express the deepest sentiments of sympathy and condolence.

Bro. Dr. BURTON then rose to propose "The Health of Bro. Thomas James, W.M.," and spoke in very flattering terms of his ability as a Mason; he said he knew no one better calculated to rule a new lodge.

The W. MASTER said he was placed in a position of great difficulty, as he could not find words adequately to thank them. Having presided over three other lodges, he did not think that he should ever be called upon again to undertake the duties of so important an office; but from the manner in which the request was conveyed to him, he could scarcely have refused. He hoped by strict adherence to the Constitutions, and the ancient landmarks of the Order, and by performing the ceremonies in the fullest integrity, without any fanciful additions or alterations, to render this lodge in due time an honour to the province and to the Craft.

The W. MASTER, in proposing "The Visitors," said that having so many distinguished Masons present, it would almost seem invidious to mention the name of any one in particular; but he could not refrain from coupling with that toast his esteemed and worthy friend, who had that day for the third time placed him in the chair of a lodge, Bro. Frederick Empson. He had made the acquaintance of that brother eighteen years ago, when engaged in establishing the Lodge of St. Matthew, Walsall, and it was entirely owing to his teaching as the first W.M. of that lodge that he had acquired his knowledge of the working in Masonry, and from time to the present he had found in him a most valued friend.

Bro. EMPSON, P. Prov. S.G.W., Warwickshire, returned thanks, and expressed the delight it had given him in coming amongst them, and the happiness he felt in being selected for the third time to install his friend, their Worshipful Master.

The W. Master proposed the "Newly Initiated Brethren," which was duly responded to by Bro. White, the Mayor of Lichfield, who was the first initiated in the lodge, whilst under dispensation.

The toasts of the "Masonic Charities," and the Tyler's toast, brought this interesting gathering to a close.

The proceedings were enlivened by the admirable singing of Bros. Pearsall and Senior, and by the Band of the Staffordshire Militia, which was stationed in the vestibule.

SURREY.

REIGATE.—*Surrey Lodge* (No. 416).—This lodge held its usual quarterly meeting at the Public Hall Lodge Room, on Saturday, 21st January. Present, Bros. C. J. Smith, W.M.; Caruthers, I.P.M.; Lees and Sisson, P.M.'s; Lainson, S.W.; W. T. Sargant, J.W.; Thomson, S.D.; Foot, J.D.; Last, I.G.; Hart, Secretary; Morrison, Treasurer; and other brethren. Visitors, Bros. Hon. Monson, 357; Wood, 90; Durrant, 76; Philpot, 874; Hobbs, 301. The lodge being duly opened, the minutes of last lodge read and confirmed, a ballot was then taken for Bros. Hanbury and G. Baker as joining members, also for Mr. G. Pym and Mr. James Down for initiation. The ballot proving unanimous in their favour, the W.M., in a careful and impressive manner, duly initiated Messrs. Pym and Down into Masonry, the lecture on the tracing board being given by Bro. Lees, P.M. The W.M. called the attention of the brethren to the fact that the Festival for Aged Freemasons would be held on Wednesday next, for which he would be happy to receive any donations or subscriptions. The duties of the evening were then brought to a close, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet. The usual Masonic toasts were then preceded with. The brethren then separated, highly satisfied with the evening's labour of this flourishing country lodge.

MOST persons will find difficulties and hardships enough without seeking them; let them not repine, but take them as a part of that educational discipline necessary to fit the mind to arrive at its highest good.

It is disagreeable to a prodigal to keep an account of his expenses, as it is to a sinner to examine his conscience; the deeper they search, the worse they find themselves.

If all those who attain not their desires should die of disappointment, who would be living upon the earth?

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The following is the report of the Committee of General Purposes to be presented to Grand Chapter on Wednesday next:—

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 18th October, 1864, to the 17th January, 1865, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:—

Balance 18th October	£313	6	10
Subsequent receipts	201	5	0
	514	11	10
Disbursements during the quarter.....	£196	6	8
Balance	318	5	2
	514	11	10

which balance is in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival, and Co., bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The Committee beg also to report that pursuant to the directions of Grand Chapter, at the quarterly convocation held in November last, they investigated the complaint of the Wellington Chapter (No. 784), Deal, against Comp. Stephen Wilson, jun., in the presence of that companion and four other members of the chapter.

After hearing the complainants and defendant, and perusing several letters that passed between them, your Committee found that although Comp. Wilson was appointed by the Supreme Grand Chapter to be the First Principal of the chapter, yet that he attended once only during his year of office, when he was installed, and on three occasions deputed a qualified companion to act for him; yet, as he left the chapter at eight of the annual meetings without any head, and thus prevented the ordinary business being transacted, and seeing that the tone of his correspondence with the chapter was not Masonic, and calculated to destroy that peace and harmony which ought to prevail, they are of opinion that his conduct is deserving of censure, but they cannot recommend that he be deprived of his position as a Past Z. of the chapter, as prayed for by the complainants.

Your Committee have also to report that in accordance with the authority given them, they have removed the suspension of the High Cross Chapter (No. 754), Tottenham—that chapter having expressed regret for its past misconduct, and promised forthwith to remove from London to Tottenham, and for the future strictly to obey the rules and orders of the Supreme Grand Chapter.

The attention of your Committee has been called to the law passed at the last Grand Chapter, giving to the Second and Third Principals of chapters in the colonies, similar powers to those conferred on Grand Superintendents with respect to hearing and deciding on Masonic complaints, thus virtually establishing three Masonic chiefs in each district. Your Committee believe this law was inadvertently passed in consequence of the unavoidable absence of the President, and they therefore recommend that it be rescinded, and that the following law, which they believe will meet all the objections that have been raised on the ground of the vast extent of some districts in the colonies, be enacted, namely:—

"In colonies and foreign parts, a Grand Superintendent may depute the Second or Third Principal of the Provincial Grand Chapter to visit chapters within the district to inquire into and investigate any case of irregularity. That the companion so

deputed shall report to the Grand Superintendent, with whom alone shall rest the power to determine any complaint or irregularity, either of a chapter or an individual Royal Arch Mason, and to adjudicate on the case."

Your Committee recommend that the foregoing words be introduced in Article 3, page 12, of the regulations, in place of the words proposed to be rescinded.

Your Committee regret to have to call attention of the Grand Chapter to an irregularity, which they believe to have been inadvertently committed by the petitioners for a chapter at Otago, New Zealand. At the quarterly communication holden on the 4th November, 1863, the Grand Chapter granted a charter to be held in connection with the Lodge of Otago (No. 844). The promoters of the chapter, upon receipt of the charter (which authorised them to open and hold the same at a future date), reported that acting under a dispensation granted by the Grand Superintendent of Victoria, they had for some time been at work as a chapter, and had exalted several companions, whose names they returned for registration. Your Committee believe, as before mentioned, that the chapter had acted inadvertently, and without any intention to transgress the laws, and they therefore recommended that Grand Chapter should pass a resolution sanctioning the proceedings that took place when the companions were acting under the said dispensation, and should also authorise Grand Chapter certificates to be issued to those companions who have been exalted.

Your Committee have directed a communication to be addressed to the Grand Superintendent of Victoria, pointing out to him that he has no jurisdiction beyond his own district, and further, that he has no power to grant a dispensation, authorising Royal Arch Masons to meet as a chapter, even within his own province.

The attention of your Committee has been drawn to the chapter on regalia in the Regulations, wherein it is stated at page 26, "That officers of Provincial Grand Chapters wear collars similar to those worn by the officers of the Supreme Grand Chapter, but such collars are not to exceed two inches in width.

Your Committee are of opinion that a Grand Superintendent who takes rank in the Supreme Grand Chapter immediately after the Grand Principals ought to wear a collar different from the other officers of the Provincial Grand Chapter, and therefore recommend that the paragraph on paraphernalia, page 26 of the Regulations, be altered by introducing at the commencement, the following words, viz.:—"Provincial Grand Superintendents wear collars similar to those of Officers of the Supreme Grand Chapter—Other" And they also recommend that in the paragraph in the same page commencing "the silk or satin ground of the triangle" be altered, by inserting in the 5th line after the word "chapter," the words "and Grand Superintendents of Provinces."

The Committee have received a communication or appeal from Comp. Moss Isreal, of the Zetland Chapter of Australia (No. 390), Sydney, New South Wales, praying that he may now be installed as First Principal of the chapter, the election of officers having taken place when he was under Masonic suspension, and was thus precluded from being regularly elected to that office. The Committee cannot recommend that the petition be granted.

The Committee have received an application from the St. John's Chapter (No. 325), Pendleton, praying for permission to remove to Salford, whither the lodge either has or is about immediately to be removed. The application being in order, your Committee recommend that the prayer thereof be granted.

The Committee have finally to report that they have received the following petitions for new chapters.

1stly. From Comps. Joseph Cotterell as Z., Joseph Devereux

as H., John Wigginton as J., and six others, for a Chapter, to be attached to the Castle Lodge (No. 771), Windsor, to be called the "Windsor Castle Chapter," to meet at the Masonic Hall, Windsor, on the third Thursday in every month.

2ndly. From Companions Edwin Yates as Z., John James Turner as H., William Hopkins as J., and seven others, for a Chapter, to be attached to the St. James' Lodge (No. 482), Handsworth, in the county of Stafford, to be called the "St. James' Chapter," to meet at the New Inn, Handsworth, on the third Monday in March, June, September, and December.

3rdly. From Companions John Dixon as Z., Frederick Walters as H., Edward Nathan Levy as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Mount Lebanon Lodge (No. 73), Tooley-street, Southwark, to be called the "Mount Lebanon Chapter," to meet at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark, on the third Tuesday in every month.

4thly. From Companions James Brett as Z., Robert Wentworth Little as H., William Henry Hubbard as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Rose of Denmark Lodge (No. 975), Barnes, Surrey, to be called the "Rose of Denmark Chapter," to meet at the White Hart, Barnes, Surrey, on the first Saturday of every month.

5thly. From Companions William Cross Marsh as Z., William George Dyson as H., Thomas Robinson as J., and twelve others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge of Truth (No. 521), Huddersfield, to be called the "Chapter of Truth," to meet at the Freemasons' Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, Huddersfield, on the third Friday of every month.

These petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have also received a petition from Companions Martin Edward Naylor as Z., George Hadswell Westernman as H., Rowland Childe as J., and ten others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge of Unanimity (No. 154), Wakefield, in the county of York, to be called the "Chapter of Unanimity," to meet at the Freemasons' Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield, on the seventh day of March next.

In this petition, there is no day named on which the meetings are to be held. This information has been written for, and subject to its being received in time, the Committee recommend that the prayer be granted, the petition being in other respects regular.

(Signed) WM. PULTENEY SCOTT, President.
Freemasons' Hall, London, 19th January, 1865.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT CALVARY ENCAMPMENT.—A meeting was holden at the Masonic Union Hall, 14, Bedford-row, W.C., on Friday, the 13th inst., when there were present Sir Knts. F. Binckes, E.C. (Assist. Grand Dir. of Cers.); C. Swan, Prelate; the Rev. Joseph Hill Grice, M.A., 1st Captain (E.C. elect); W. Paas, 2nd Captain (Grand Banner Bearer); M. H. Shuttleworth, P.E.C. (Grand Vice-Chancellor), as Expert; H. J. Thompson, P.E.C., Registrar (Grand Warden of Regalia); H. J. W. Thompson, Herald (Grand Herald); J. Stohwasser (Grand Standard Bearer); Boyd and Smith, M.D.; Knts. Companions Chancellor, Allen, Stone, Geach, &c. The Encampment was opened in ancient and solemn form, and Comps. Sigismund, Rosenthal, and Wilhelm Ganz were unanimously elected and installed Knight Companions of the Ancient Military and Religious Order of the Temple. The E.C. then, in the most solemn and impressive manner, installed the Rev. Sir Knt. J. H. Grice, M.A., as Eminent Commander for the ensuing year, who then appointed his officers:—Sir Knts. Jno. Smith, M.D., Prelate; W. Paas, 1st Capt.; W.S. Wallace, 2nd Capt.; H. J. Thompson, P.E.C., Registrar; L. Lemanski, Almoner;

H. J. W. Thompson, Expert; Stilwell and Lean, Standard Bearers; Chancellor, Captain of Lines; Stone, Sword Bearer; Watts and Allen, Heralds; Ganz, Organist; and Hoare, Equerry. All business being concluded, the alms were collected, and the Encampment closed in ancient and solemn form, and adjourned to the banquet room, after which a Privy of the Knights of the Knights of Malta was holden, when Sir Knt. F. Binckes, E.P., Installed the Knights Companions, Howard Geach, Charles Allen, Sigismund Rosenthal, and Wilhelm Ganz, Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes, and Malta. Sir Knt. Binckes then, in his usual able and impressive manner, inaugurated the Rev. Sir Knt. J. H. Grice, M.A. as Eminent Prior; and the meeting of the Priory was adjourned.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

SOUTHWARK LODGE (No. 11, S.C.)—This flourishing and prosperous lodge held an emergency meeting on Monday, January 15th, at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley Street, Southwark (Bro. C. A. Cathie's). Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, P.R.W.M., Thistle, No. 8 (in the unavoidable absence of Bro. C. H. Murr, R.W.M., caused by his professional duties), presided as R.W.M., by the unanimous wish of the brethren. He was assisted by Bros. F. J. Lilley, S.W.; A. Avery, J.W.; A. D. Loewenstark, P.R.W.M., Treas.; F. Walters, Sec.; G. Morris, S.D.; J. L. Vallentin, T.K.; R. Welsford, C. A. Cathie, J. Hawker, and very many others. Bros. T. J. Sabine, H. N. Goulty, H. Jacobs, and C. T. Bass, all members of Mount Lebanon Lodge, 73, being introduced, and having proved themselves properly qualified for advancement, withdrew. On their re-admission, they were all regularly advanced to the ancient and honourable rank of Mark Master Masons. The minutes of the last meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. A vote of thanks, to be recorded on the lodge minute book, was given to Bro. C. Cottebrune, P.R.W.M. No. 8, for his kindness in presiding over them, in the unavoidable absence of their R.W.M. and all the P.R.W.M.'s. Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, P.R.W.M., returned thanks in a suitable manner. After business, the brethren spent a few hours in social enjoyment. The usual loyal toasts were given and received. Visitors—Bros. C. A. Cottebrune, P.R.W.M. No. 3, T. Vesper.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and Royal Family continue at Osborne—the Prince and Princess of Wales being on a visit to her Majesty. There is no truth in the report that the next session of Parliament will be opened by the Queen in person.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The Registrar-General informs us that in the ten principal cities and boroughs of the United Kingdom the births during the week were 4,071, and the deaths 3,218. Of these ten towns seven are in England, and the deaths in them, subtracted from the others, amounted to 2,618, or at the rate of 29 in the thousand annually. Of this mortality 1,585 falls to the share of London, which is 52 less than the average mortality of the last ten years. The births for the week were 2,122, which is just about the average. It will thus be seen that rather less than half the deaths in the ten towns occurred in London alone, and rather more than half the births.—The Queen has addressed a letter to the authorities of some of the railways which centre in London, expressing her "warmest hopes" that they will carefully consider every means of guarding against accidents, "which are not at all the necessary accompaniments of railway travelling." Her Majesty says she "is aware that when she travels extraordinary precautions are taken, but it is on account of her family, of those travelling upon her service, and of her people generally, that she expresses the hope that the same security may be ensured for all that is so carefully provided for herself." Railway directors are reminded of the responsibility involved in "the monopoly of the means of travelling of almost the entire population of the country."

—After a long and painful illness, the Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry died at Seaham Hall, near Sunderland, on Friday, 20th inst.—The returns of pauperism show a slight increase this week, but the change appears open to a satisfactory explanation in the circumstance of the Relief Committees at Stockport having closed, and thus thrown the remnants of distress off their funds on to the ordinary provision of the poor law. Thirteen unions have more paupers, the increase amounting to 1,050. Of this number 340 belonged to the Stockport union. Six unions indicate no change, and nine return fewer claimants on their relief lists. Among these Ashton-under-Lyne has 210; the Fylde, 110; Haslingden, 180; and Oldham, 100 fewer paupers. Were it not for the exceptional increase at Stockport, Mr. Purdy's report for the third week of the present month would have shown a slight decrease. The adult able bodied have diminished by 137. The outdoor relief is a little under the amount disbursed last week, and, about £3,500 less than in the corresponding week of 1864.—The metropolis was visited on Saturday with a fog more dense than has been known for several years past, accompanied by just frost enough to make the damp ground as slippery as glass. The interruption thereby caused to traffic was very great. The navigation of the Thames was stopped for nearly the whole day, and as darkness set in the fog covered the streets with a dark dense pall, which stopped all traffic whether of horses or cabs through the streets. Several accidents took place. It seems the fog extended a considerable way into the country. The frost which set in with the fog on Saturday began to yield on Monday night, and there was a complete thaw, though the weather continued intensely cold. During the continuance of the frost, which was pretty general over the country, there was a good deal of skating; and we regret to add that, as the ice was in no part very thick, several accidents took place. In London and the neighbourhood the skaters, for the most part, escaped with little worse than a ducking.—A serious accident occurred to a number of skaters on a sheet of water at Gledhow Hall Park, near Leeds. About five o'clock the ice gave way where the water was deep, and several persons unfortunately fell into the water. Two of them, a young gentleman named Smith, and a lady named Bulmer, who was being propelled in a sledge, were drowned. A similar accident happened near Wolverhampton.—The first annual meeting of the subscribers to the Bishop of London's Fund was held on Wednesday. The Bishop presided. A most voluminous report was read giving a full account of all the proceedings in relation to the fund from its origination to the end of 1864. The Bishop also verbally explained the mode which had been adopted for distributing the fund. There was an available balance at the end of 1864 of over £22,000; but if the work is to be continued, the subscriptions must come in as they have hitherto done. The report was adopted, and votes of thanks were given to the Bishop and the committee.—Mr. Milner Gibson, in the course of a speech at Ashton, referred to the relations between the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade, and stated that one result of Mr. Forster's Committee had been the creation of a commercial department at the Foreign Office, "which would carry on all the correspondence on commercial matters with her Majesty's missions abroad, with the representatives of foreign powers in England, with the Board of Trade, and the other departments of her Majesty's Government, and with commercial associations and private individuals at home and abroad." On the question of reform, the right hon. gentleman was content with saying that the Government could do nothing without the support of the country and the House; and he attributed the failure of the last Ministerial measure to the indifference with which it was received, both by the people and by Parliament.—The St. Pancras guardians of the poor have had a curious

matter under investigation. There is, in the St. Pancras workhouse, a pauper named Smart, who claims to be the owner of property in Leicestershire and Staffordshire of great value, and out of which he says he is unduly kept. Lately, it seems, he made a will, which was drawn by Mr. Bishop, one of the guardians. In this document he made Mr. Morrison, the master of the workhouse, his residuary legatee, and gave to Mr. Bishop a considerable sum. Of course the will is based on the supposition that Smart is really the owner of the property in question. The guardians have been discussing the matter and got Smart to sign an order to Mr. Bishop to hand the will to the Board for inspection. At the meeting of the guardians on Wednesday Mr. Bishop declared they had discovered a mare's nest, and refused to give any explanation except in writing. Thus it stands.—Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., attended a *soirée* of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce last week. He spoke in the course of the evening on the relations between the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade in regard to foreign commercial matters. He showed that the Foreign Office had hitherto taken no cognisance of such matters, but had referred them to the Board of Trade. That proceeding was not satisfactory, and he hoped that there would be an alteration, which would centre in the Foreign Office all care of foreign commercial subjects.—A deputation from Maidstone, headed by the borough members, waited upon the Secretary of War to remonstrate against the contemplated removal of the cavalry depots from Maidstone, on account of the losses their departure would inflict on the trade interests of the town. Earl de Grey said it was considered necessary for the sake of economy to amalgamate in one the separate establishments of Maidstone and Canterbury, but he added that the interests of Maidstone would, as far as possible, be consulted by keeping other troops in the barracks.—A great anti-malt tax meeting was held at Leicester on Saturday. Lord Berners occupied the chair, and among the speakers were Lord John Manners, Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Lord Curzon, Mr. Hartopp, and Mr. Ferrand. The chairman counselled moderation in pressing their case upon the Government, for he did not believe that the immediate repeal of the tax could be obtained. Lord John Manners spoke to the same effect, while Lord Curzon "pledged himself" in any way that he considered the quickest and best to get rid of that most obnoxious tax." Resolutions condemning the impost were passed; and Sir Fitzroy Kelly intimated his intention of giving notice of a motion on the subject on the first night of the approaching session.—A despatch from Admiral Elliot furnishes us with details of the destruction of her Majesty's ship *Bombay*. It seems that on the 14th of December, while the *Bombay* was cruising off Flores Island, about thirteen miles from Monte Video, fire was discovered in the after part of the ship. It is supposed to have broken out in or near the spirit-room; and this conjecture appears to explain the rapidity with which the flames spread. In about half an hour all hope of saving the ship was at an end, and the officers and crew took to the boats, or lowered themselves over the ship's side. The main loss of life seems to have occurred from the falling of the anchors, to which many of the crew were clinging. The assistant surgeon was drowned alongside, and about 93 men are missing. The ship's boats were picked up by passing vessels; and we may venture to hope that some at least of the missing men are still alive. About five hours after the fire broke out, one of the magazines blew up, and the *Bombay* went to the bottom.—The master builders of Birmingham, and generally of the midland counties, held a meeting in that town on Monday, at which, after a long and sharp discussion, a resolution was agreed to that the "discharge note," which had driven the men to strike, should be unconditionally withdrawn. The news created great excitement in Birmingham, and the men expressed their willingness

to return to work immediately now that the note, so objectionable to their feelings, has been withdrawn.—The commander of the Peruvian corvette *Union*, who is accused of having enlisted British subjects for service on board his ship, was arrested on Wednesday week. The *Union* arrived at that port on the previous day, and the commander was taken into custody just as he was leaving the official residence of the Port Admiral, to whom he had been paying his respects. On the following Friday he was examined and discharged. Captain Corbet, who is charged with having engaged men for service in the Confederate steamer *Shenandoah*, which is now prowling in search of Federal merchant vessels, was committed for trial at Bow-street. He was admitted to bail.—An authoritative denial is given to the statement that troops are about to be despatched to Canada, in anticipation of a possible war with the United States.—At the Middlesex Sessions two men were tried on a charge of swindling. They were selling purses, and one of them pretending to put two half-crowns into a purse offered to sell it for a shilling. This tempted the cupidity of a juvenile looker-on, but on getting his purchase into his possession he found only two halfpence, and the purse fell to pieces. The prisoners were found guilty, and the judge discharged them on their own recognisances, to be brought up for judgment when called upon.—Mrs. Chetwynd is at length free from her husband. After a trial unusually protracted even for the Divorce Court, and abounding in more than the normal fetidness which poisons the atmosphere of that tribunal, the jury came to a verdict that Mr. Chetwynd had been guilty of cruelty and adultery, which offences had not been condoned, and that Mrs. Chetwynd had not been guilty of the recriminatory charges alleged against her. The judge therefore pronounced for a conditional dissolution of the marriage.—A rather curious newspaper case was tried on Saturday in the Court of Exchequer. A Mr. Woodhead, who is proprietor of the *Huddersfield Examiner*, attacked in strong and gross terms, in his paper, Colonel Crosland, who is proprietor of the *Huddersfield Chronicle*, and who purposes to stand for the representation of the town at the next election. An action for libel was brought, and was about to be tried, when the defendant, by his solicitor, made a handsome apology, and promised to publish it in his paper. The action was therefore stayed, but the defendant refused to insert the apology, and now a motion was made to compel him. The Court, after a good deal of discussion, agreed to grant a rule calling on the defendant to show why he did not complete his engagement, or why there should not be a new trial.—A case such as does not often come before our law courts was tried on Saturday in the Bail Court. A family had hired a house in St. John's Wood and went to reside in it, but they were so annoyed with the vermin with which they said the house abounded, that they left it after a few nights' trial. The owner sued them for the rent, which they resisted on the grounds alleged, but the jury did not take the same view of the matter, and returned a verdict for the plaintiff.—A curious case of libel was brought before Alderman Lusk, at the Guildhall, on Tuesday. Captain Colborne, of the 60th Rifles, was charged with publishing, under an assumed name, a defamatory libel against Mr. James Plineas Davis, a solicitor, of Clifford-street, Bond-street, charging him, along with others, with being an extortionate money-lender, and luring on young men of family to their ruin. The defendant, by his counsel, did not deny the publication, but undertook to justify it in a higher court. He was therefore committed for trial, but liberated on bail.—A curious case is now before the Irish Courts. Mr. R. B. Tedford, a surgeon practising at San Francisco, and Miss Sarah Shillington, a lady living in Ireland, had for some time carried on a correspondence which, it is alleged, resulted in the lady informing him that if he came to Ireland she would

marry the gentleman. He accordingly disposed of his business, and crossed the Atlantic, but after all, the lady refused to fulfil her promise. He died, it is said, of "agony of mind," and his executor has commenced an action against Miss Shillington for breach of promise of marriage.—The necessity of a reform in the law of bankruptcy was incidentally referred to on Monday by Mr. Commissioner Goulburn. If another amendment was to take place he would recommend that one feature in the reforms should be not to appoint what is called a creditors' assignee as a matter of course, especially when there were no assets to collect, but that one should be appointed only when there was something for him to do, some assets to collect and distribute among the creditors.—The Italian who stands charged with the murder of Harrington, and with stabbing two other men at Saffron-hill, was brought up on Monday before Mr. Knox, at Clerkenwell Police-court. Both the men who were stabbed, and who are now in a fair way of recovery, were present and gave evidence. The testimony of one of them, Rebbeck, the barman of the public-house, is very important. It will be remembered that at the last examination an attempt was made to show that the outrages were committed, not by the prisoner, but by another man who was very like him, but who has since disappeared. Rebbeck swears distinctly that it was the prisoner, whom he had known for the last five or six years, who stabbed him, and that he saw him twice over with a knife in his hand. The prisoner was committed for trial.—As a train was about to start from the Victoria Station, Manchester, on the morning of the 8th instant, a woman gave the guard a box, saying she was going to Preston, and that the box was her luggage. It was placed in the van, but was not claimed at Preston; and after a time it was sent to the "left luggage" department at Euston Station. It was opened there on Friday, and was then found to contain the body of a female child about twelve months old. From the medical evidence given at the inquest, which was opened on Monday, it appears certain that the child was packed into the box alive, and thus suffocated.—On Friday a man, named William Hebblethwaite, fell down a coalpit shaft at Silkstone Common, near Barnsley, and was killed. In his descent he struck, but did not seriously injure, a miner who was being raised to the bank in what is called "a sinking trunk." It is probable that this collision disturbed the machinery, for shortly afterwards, as two men, named English and Walton, were being drawn up, they were thrown out of the trunk, and falling to the bottom, were killed.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. B. J., FOR A. M. AND THREE WIDOWS.—We must refer you to the Secretary, Bro. Farnfield, at the Grand Secretary's office.

MARK MASTER.—Bro. Fredk. Binckes, Masonic Chambers, Bedford-row, W.C.

SRES.—Music, however desirable in the ceremonies, is a modern innovation; and we have not yet seen a selection for the various degrees to which we can give our approval.

NON-CONTENT is likely to remain so as far as we are concerned.

B. W.—The sooner you consign the book to the fire the better.

We decline answering correspondents who take a Masonic test-word for their signature. No true Mason would do so.