

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1865.

THE THREE GRAND LODGES.

By BRO. ROBERT MITCHELL, P. PROV. G. SEC.
GLASGOW.

This week I received a copy of the "British, Irish, and Colonial Masonic Calendar, Pocket-book, and Diary for the Year 1865." On the contents of last year's edition I made a few discursive remarks in the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE, under the above heading, and propose to do the same in this year's. A short inspection shows that the work includes two leading divisions; one—the purely commercial—consists of ninety-five pages of the usual matter, the other—the Masonic—of 160 pages of small type. At the beginning, of course, are four pages occupied by the title, the index, a dedication to the Earl of Dalhousie, and the preface. At the end are four pages of advertisements relating to Masonic literature, paraphernalia, &c; and now the reader is advised of all within the boards of the "Calendar." By the way, dedications, to be alliterative, are fast falling out of fashion. They are not requisite these days, when everyone almost can read, and is ready to patronise (or purchase, which is the same thing) any book useful to him; and there can be no question that, by all Freemasons acquainted with the English language, the "Calendar," had they an opportunity of making its acquaintance, would be classed in that category. If, however, a dedication be thought indispensable, I venture to suggest that in future it should be couched in Masonic legal phrase, and addressed "To all Freemasons on the terraqueous globe, to whom these presents shall come, greeting, &c.," that is, to the courteous consulters, not readers—no one ever reads straight through a calendar. Distinguished noblemen, and all the other brethren on a level with them, would thus be embraced in a comprehensive sentence or two. Special permission would not be required for the dedication, and no brother would feel as if a cringing obeisance had been made in his own person to another, and the excellent old landmarks, equality and fraternity, been disturbed. On the contrary, he would be conscious that they had been fairly upheld.

The English Masonic information fills 76 pages, the Scottish 50, the Irish 22, and the foreign 12. Besides their customary distribution of temporary aid to the necessitous, a system of benevolence extensively practised in Scotland and Ireland like-

wise, it is truly honourable to the leading principles of the Craft, and refreshing to each brother, to be able to turn the attention of a neutral world, too apt to sneer, to what the brethren south of Tweed have accomplished, and are still doing, towards lessening the aggregate of human distress. There, in London, will be found flourishing three noble institutions—the "Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children," the "Royal Masonic Institution for the Sons of indigent and deceased Freemasons," and the "Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows." Ireland, too, is possessed of her "Masonic Orphan Schools." The schools are all supported by voluntary contributions, and at pages 109, 110, 111, and 230 of the "Calendar" some interesting notes on the English and Irish Charities can be perused. "Scotland, my auld respectit mither," I am sorry to say, cannot as yet boast of any kindred institution; and the brethren who could remedy the want would deserve, and willingly receive, the lasting esteem and gratitude of all their countrymen. A noble field is open for the influential and energetic members of the Order in Scotland.

In previous years' editions it was noticeable that no memorabilia relating to Ireland appeared in the "Calendar." That want is to be supplied in the issue for 1866; and it is not necessary that the events noted should emerge in long file out of the haze of past centuries. Charitable actions, were there no other, will be ever sufficiently agreeable to a brother to make the records of them pleasant reading. While on the subject of the memorabilia, it will no doubt have been remarked that the English relate to about 100 occurrences, the Scottish to a half more, nearly. Bro. J. K. Donald, who assisted the editor in the compilation of the "Calendar," would have given evidence of a judicious exercise of the functions belonging to his department had he dispensed with at least one half of the Scottish incidents, and rectified a little the composition of the remainder. It is scarcely a fact worthy of special remembrance by the Masonic world that the Grand Lodge of Scotland has presented about fifteen addresses to Royal personages since its constitution. Royal personages could not prevent them doing so—had just to submit; and if the Grand Lodge of Scotland chooses to seize them, it will find opportunities to vote and send forty addresses to Royal personages during the next score years. The statement that

on such and such a date the Grand Master or Provincial Grand Master visited the lodges under his care does not embody a conspicuous event in the annals of Scottish Masonry. It was his duty to do so periodically, and it is a plain inference that the duty had been previously neglected, seeing that its accomplishment is thought remarkable enough to be made a note of. The announcement, once for all, that the Grand Lodge of Scotland celebrates the Festival of Saint Andrew on or about the 30th of November yearly would render an annual record of the fact unnecessary. Masonic balls, however graced by nobility, are of importance only to the individual lodges within whose walls the brethren with handles to their names have gone through certain saltatory revolutions, much like other people, and not calling for special observation. A little consideration of the wording of the memorandum referring to the Festival of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow on 4th March, 1858, was requisite. As the note stands, it conveys a meaning not intended, and the same remark is applicable to the festival of the same body in celebration of the Burns' centenary, the proceedings of which could scarcely have been ruled by about five hundred presidents. I recommend these jottings to the attention of the editor and his assistant. There is no mention made in the English memorabilia of festival, visit, ball, congratulatory, or other sort of address.

In the preface to the "Calendar," several improvements on this year's issue are detailed. Under the third head of these a re-arrangement of lodges, holding their meetings in the three cities, is mentioned; and I would suggest that in the edition yet to be sent forth this excellent feature should be extended so as to include all the large towns in the United Kingdom. As is the case with lodges in England and Scotland, English chapters, and Irish lodges and chapters, should be all arranged alphabetically, according to the towns where they assemble, and not of the counties. A traveller generally knows the town or village in which he may happen to be located for the night; but he is not, in every instance, perfectly sure in what county the said town or village lies. The arrangement last suggested would save him making inquiries, and exhibiting his geographical attainments.

To brethren who are not like your correspondent, Royal Arch Masons, Knights Templar, and Hospitaller of Saint John of Jerusalem, &c.,

it must be an incentive to farther progress in the Order to know that by perseverance they may have in due time conferred on them, and so understand, the proper signification of such titles as Grand Mareschal, Grand Provost, First Grand Captain, Second Grand Expert, First Grand Principal, Baucennifer, Bearer of the Vexillum Belli; and that, should they ever go to Paris, and wish to see the working of the Grand Orient de France, they, by taking their Masonic "Calendar" from their pockets, and turning to page 258, will find that the Grand Master, His Excellency Marshal Magnan, will be happy to see them any Monday in the Hotel, 16, Rue Cadet, between three and five in the afternoon—and so will Bro. Heullant any other day of the week, between the same hours. I do not know whether Bro. Heullant receives on Sundays, or if he and the Marshal, both together, hold the Monday *levée*; and I doubt such are not the facts, notwithstanding the "Calendar" distinctly says so.

An explanation of several of the contractions which occur in the "Calendar" would have been another improvement. Very young Masons, and it is they who are most anxious to visit different lodges, do not all know that the letters F.M.T. denote Freemasons' Tavern, London, only; To. Ha., the Town Hall of the particular place; M. L. Ro., Masonic Lodge Room; F.M.H., Freemasons' Hall; M. Tem., Masonic Temple; Ro. Ho., Royal Hotel; Lo. Ro., Lodge Room; Ma., March; My., May; Tu. n. f. m., Tuesday next full moon—referring of course to the day of meeting; Fr. on or af. f. m., Friday or after full moon; 4th Th. De., No., &c., fourth Thursday in December, November, as is shown at No. 66 of the English lodges; only it should have been No. De. instead of De. No. It would take a brother of more than ordinary penetration to discover what "Lo. George Ho." implied. The riddle can be examined at page 125, No. 493; and the hint that "Lo." stands for lower, not for lodge, in this instance, as I only found out by reference to former "Calendars," makes the matter clear.

The able and enthusiastic editor of the "Calendar," Bro. Donald Campbell, in his preface expresses a hope that this year's issue will be found superior in freedom from inaccuracies to any of its predecessors. It is certainly so. Indeed, after a pretty close scrutiny only two other observations, besides the very few above noted, occur to me, and they are of very little moment. The "D.'s" in

the list of M.P.'s for England and Wales are rather dejected, and at page 20, near the top, the word "dominical" is misspelled.

I have been informed that, as very many of the lodges of Scotland have not their annual elections till the 27th December, and consequently cannot give correct "returns" for the ensuing year until after that day, it is impossible to get out the "Calendar" by the first day of the year. Could it not be issued and in the hands of all the subscribers by the second week in January. The publisher (Bro. John Davidson, of 16, St. Enoch-square, Glasgow) should make a strenuous effort in this direction; and perhaps he may be able to have the useful and portable work distributed throughout the United Kingdom a fortnight earlier than it has been this year.

BRO. FRANZ ANTON MESMER.

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

(Continued from page 54.)

In his second chapter, Dr. Kerner gives a detailed account of his discovery of Mesmer's relics. As the passage is an interesting one, I translate it entire:—

When I learned from Herr von Laasberg that the heirs and distant relatives of Mesmer still resided at Meersburg, I sought amongst them for his MSS., and anything else memorable as to his life. What I obtained for them—alas! only a few things, for money and good words—may perhaps interest the admirers of this remarkable man to learn.

1. Some of Mesmer's original letters.
2. Several fragments in Mesmer's handwriting, in the French language, of his own work, which was translated by Wolfart into German, viz., "Mesmerism, a System of Mutual Operation, &c.," Berlin, 1814.
3. A fragment in his own handwriting, in German, on his discovery and theory.
4. Some fragments in French on the same, of the date 1780.
5. A MS. treatise, containing the history of a blind girl, named Paradis, in Vienna, who most unjustly occasioned so many calumnies against Mesmer. This treatise appears to have been composed by the father of Paradis himself.
6. A series of letters from Professor Wolfart to Mesmer, and a *carte blanche*, drawn up by

Hufeland, for Wolfart, on the occasion of his sending him to Mesmer.

I shall communicate in the course of this work from these papers whatever is remarkable as regards Mesmer's life.

What caused me much rejoicing was that, in addition to these papers, I was enabled to get possession, in a similar manner, of a life-size oil painting of Mesmer. It represents this remarkable man as he looked when in his seventy-sixth year, A.D. 1810. It is very well preserved, and gives the impression of a man possessed of bodily and mental power, of strength of will and benevolence coupled with firmness. At the bottom of the picture are the words, "Franz Anton Mesmer, docteur en médecine, âgé 76 ans, auteur du magnétisme animal, 1810."

The name of the painter is also inscribed, but is no longer legible. It appears to be the work of a Frenchman.

On a residence-card which Mesmer received in Paris, in the year 1798, and which is also among these papers, stands his description, subscribed with his own hand, thus:—Age, 64 years; weight, 1 mètre 76 centimètres; hair and eyebrows, brown; eyes, ditto, chin, double; face, full; forehead, high; nose and mouth, middle size.

Herr von Lassberg knew Mesmer in life, and found the picture, of the existence of which he was previously unaware, to be very well executed. This portrait was destined, after Mesmer's death, for his dearest friend, Dr. Hirzel, of Zurich, and had been even forwarded; but in the meantime Dr. Hirzel having also died, it was sent back to Mesmer's relations, in whose possession it then was. It is quite different from two little copper-plate engravings which I also obtained from these heirs, one of which was prefixed to Mesmer's works published by Wolfart. These, according to a declaration of such as were acquainted with Mesmer during his life, are not at all like him, and are, when compared with his picture, from which they were evidently not engraved, mere caricatures.

Several days before Herr von Lassberg saw the picture, the communicative old man had kindly exhibited to me his large collection of cameos; and amongst several which were shown was one containing Plato's likeness. "This cameo with Plato's likeness take," said he, "as a memento of me. A Jew brought it to me about twenty years ago; he had broken it out of a ring he obtained, I know not where. The ring he sold as gold to

the goldsmith, but the cameo he brought for sale to me, as he knew that I would give him a better price than the goldsmith. But you must not think that it is of high value; for it has not been cut by an old Greek artist, but it has all the appearance of being Italian workmanship." Willingly did I accept this memento from the noble man. We were, however, surprised when, our attention having been directed to it by my daughter, we perceived that the very cameo, with Plato's likeness, which Herr von Lassberg had presented me with a few days before, corresponded with the ring on the finger in the painting. "That," laughingly said Herr von Lassberg, "is the cameo which I gave you." "It is now," I replied, "doubly dear to me."

In order to satisfy myself that Mesmer possessed a ring with such a cameo, I went to his heirs, and having turned over the inventory of his remains and gone through it only once, I observed and read beneath the rubric, "Gold: A gold ring with an antique Plato." Thereupon an old female relative of Mesmer told me that the ring had fallen by lot to her cousin, a forester, and that he had immediately turned it into money. Thus this ornament of Mesmer's beneficent hand came into the possession of Herr von Lassberg, and through his kindness into mine.

Wolfart aptly prefixed to Mesmer's works a saying of Plato's; and rightly does Mesmer consecrate his hand, by wearing on it this ring, with Plato's likeness. Mesmer's faith, works, theories, even as Plato's, sprang from inner prevision, inner life, inner knowledge of nature, rather than from the exertion of isolated intellectual operations, or book-learning. Mesmer says, in his work published by Professor Wolfart, "I declare, at the outset, that this work, of which I have conceived the idea from no external hint, makes its appearance without any scientific experiment, but has issued from my own sole experience and reflection. I keep it free throughout from those prepossessions and mistakes which over refined information and education may instill. I have abstained in every way from a hypercritical spirit, or a display of learning; it remains for posterity to measure out and embellish the road which I have merely opened."

When the noble gentlemen, Herr von Lassberg, saw that I was so much delighted with Mesmer's various relics, he said to me, "Come, now, once more with me into my cabinets." The fine old

man of fourscore and four years, with his long white hair and beard, like an apparition of the days of romance, holding in his hand a bunch of keys, now preceded me through the long corridors of his ancient Meersburg, adorned with huge stag and wild goats' horns. The oldest tower of this castle had King Dagobert built; and the very window is still pointed out from which Conradin of Suabia, before his fatal journey to Italy, gazed with rapture over the lovely neighbourhood. Here Herr von Lassberg led me down to his cabinets, in which the most remarkable treasures of old German literature, especially the poetry of the Middle Ages, &c., and several rare documents of olden and modern times, were preserved in rows of presses. On the top of these are ranged stone bottles, goblets, cups, urns, arms, and weapons of the olden time.

Here the noble old man pointed out to me a compartment in which papers and documents of the last century, highly valued by him, were contained, and said, "Now, then, as it has happened that so much that is valuable of good old Mesmer's has fallen into your possession, I believe that it would be his wish that his doctor's diploma should also become yours; and I believe," he added, thinking indeed far too highly of me, "that in our Suabia I could not place it in better hands; I obtained it about twenty years since, in the same manner as I did that cameo."

Thus I got full possession of Mesmer's doctor's diploma; and, with heartfelt thanks towards the noble donor, I deposited it for safe keeping, together with Mesmer's picture, his cameo again set in the ring, and Mesmer's MSS., in the Magnetic Institute of my son at Stuttgart.

I give now, in the following pages, those literary remains of Mesmer which have come into my possession—fragments and letters in his own hand, descriptions of, and opinions on him from those who, for a long period, had personal intercourse with him; Wolfart's letters to him, &c., and some extracts from his earlier writings which are no longer to be found in the book trade. I have arranged them, for the most part, in the order of time. If, in consequence of this arrangement, a merely superficial sketch of Mesmer's life be presented, I admit that these pages can lay no claim to an effective biography of Mesmer, inasmuch as they hazard no critical nor erudite examination into Mesmer's theories. Their aim is simply this, to awaken a kindly remembrance of Mesmer, and

to give to those who have acquired a wrong impression of him a true one. I have, therefore, in these pages permitted him, as much as possible, to speak in his own words. I have remained silent myself, and have been a listener, rather than a talker; for I have, as I have already observed, very frequently remarked in those works which treat of Mesmer's theories and person, that whilst these latter were fully enlarged on, his precise, distinct words were but sparingly imparted.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

MASONRY DEVELOPED.

The highest developments of Freemasonry are seen in the conduct of Freemasons as individuals to one another. Next inferior to them are the developments of Freemasonry in the capacity of a lodge membership. Selfishness controls men much more as corporations than as individuals. Next again in inferiority, and, lowest of all, come Grand Lodges. The first of these is profitable to brotherly love, the last to discipline.—A. O.

ROSE CROIX.

Few persons have thought to study this interesting grade—to know its historical basis; in one word, to appreciate its colour in its real, religious, philosophical, and Masonic view.

Several writers think the creation of this grade is the work of Bawn. T. T. Smiler assures us that the society of the Rose Croix was founded in Egypt, in the fourteenth century, by Rosenkreuzer.

An ancient author relates, that in the city of Benares, in the East Indies, there is a triangle encircling a cross, ornamented with a rose, that the people have in great veneration.

A distinguished writer attributes the institution of this grade to Godfrey de Bouillon, King of Jerusalem.

An oriental tradition tells us of an interesting occurrence in the death of Our Saviour Jesus Christ—the first drop of blood that fell from his wounds was changed into a rose. The circumstance unites the rose and the cross.

What is the most striking fact is, that the grade of Rose Croix cannot be considered but to commemorate the institution of the evangelical doctrine.—A. CYKOSKI.

BROTHER PROFESSOR WEISHAUP.

The brother at York, who inquires respecting this illustrious Mason, will find him noticed in my communications to the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE, vol. x., pages 205 and 305. His philosophical writings are numerous. It does not appear that there is any work by him upon Freemasonry; but there are two publications by him in defence, and in exposition, of the doctrines of his Order of the Illuminati. 1. "Apologie des Illuminés," Leipzig, 1786. 2. "Le Système des Illuminés perfectionné," ib. 1818. There is an earlier edition of this last. Both publications are in octavo.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

PARODY ON "THE ENTERED APPRENTICE."

The Convivials.

To the voice of a friend,
Ye convivials attend,
And in chorus the subject prolong;
Mirth, freedom, and ease,
Must certainly please,
And such to convivials belong.

Joy and friendship's our plan,
Deny it, who can,
To be happy and cheerful each night;
All wrangling or noise,
Which true pleasure destroys,
We banish, as foe to delight.

Let the bucks of the age,
Double meanings engage,
Let Masons their wisdom display;
Without any offence,
We wish to commence,
An order as happy as they.

A fine starry night's
The choice spirit's delight,
While, jocund, they raise up their songs;
If goodness of heart,
Reigns when they depart,
The same to convivials belong.

Then come, let us join,
In a theme so divine,
And jovially make the room ring;
Mirth, freedom, and ease,
Must certainly please,
And friendship's a feast for a king.

—†††.

BRETHREN OF THE BRIDGE OR BRIDGES.

This order existed in the twelfth and thirteenth century, and the brethren were in the noblest sense of the words the first foresters, gamekeepers, military escorts, troopers, and police officers, as well as the revivors, or rather, creators of domestic trade and of architecture. They, as well as the Knights of the Temple and of Malta, were engaged in protecting and providing for travellers, whether they were sick or well, and in escorting them with their arms in their hands, and in erecting and keeping in repair bridges, roads, and ferries. To enable them the better to devote their whole lives to this object they took vows of celibacy, poverty, and obedience to their chiefs. The expense of maintaining this brotherhood, and of keeping in repair the roads, bridges, &c., which they had built, was defrayed by alms, gifts, and legacies from pious people. All of which we now know of the origin of the Order of Bridge Brethren rests upon a bull, issued by Pope Clement the Third in the year 1189 to one of their superiors called Raymond. It is said therein that the holy father, following the example of his predecessor Lucius III., 1182, took the brotherhood and all its possessions under his especial protection as a mark of his respect and gratitude to the Order for the many benefits they had conferred upon mankind, not only by building the bridge of Por Pas, three miles from Avignon, but for their mercy, liberality, &c. They built many other bridges, and the celebrated bridge, "Pont St. Esprit," in the Department de Gard, in former times called Pontus Sancti Saturnini, is a beautiful and lasting monument of the industry, skill, and activity of this brotherhood. Its foundation was laid on the 21st of August, 1265, and near it, well as near the bridge of Avignon, they built an hospital and a house for the Order, in which they lodged and refreshed travellers. It is believed

that the Knights Hospitallers of St. John in Jerusalem, as well as the Maltese Knights, or Knights of Malta, originated from this Order. So much is certain that the possessions of these brethren in Por Pas came into the hands of the Knights of Malta.—PROV. G. SUPT. OF WORKS.

SIDE DEGREES.

What are generally known as side degrees, and where did the term originate?—SPES.—[Side degrees are legal portions of Freemasonry unrecognised by any particular rite. They, as it were, stand alone. Some are old, not ancient, but old—i.e., about a century—and many are known to be modern inventions. We take the term to be of American origin, and, in support of that opinion, append some remarks made in the *American Freemason* on this very question. The writer there says:—

"A great deal of sarcasm has been consumed, and an undue stress placed upon the term *side degrees*, as if *side degrees* were necessarily trivial, bastard, and clandestine. This is a great mistake. The proper definition of the term relates to the Temple of Solomon, which possessed *side chambers* collateral to the main design. Any degree which is not comprised in a system of degrees having a governing body to whom allegiance is sworn, is a side degree. Some of the side degrees are extremely beautiful, ancient, and instructive.

"Degrees are *side* in some countries which are regular in others. Degrees are *side* at one period of history and regular at another. Finally, degrees are *side* in one system of rites which are regular in another. For example: the degree of Mark Master is a regular degree in the United States, but a *side* degree in other countries.

"The Mark degree is *not* a side degree in Scotland and Ireland, but *is* so—unless under Scotch or Irish authority—in England. So is the Past Master's degree, which, to some extent, is *regular* here, but always a side degree elsewhere. So of the Most Excellent. The degree of Knight of Holy Sepulchre is regular abroad, but *side* here.

"The degrees of Mark, Past, Most Excellent, Royal Master, Select Master, &c., were all *side* degrees in this country until within the last sixty or seventy years. Thos. Smith Webb, and others, took liberties with them which some enterprising brethren may yet take with the side degrees of Knights of Constantine, the Cable Tow, Eureka Hiatus, &c., and made them up (by borrowing largely of the Scotch Rite for ornaments and cement) into orders.

"Degrees in this country are regular in Councils of Royal and Select Masters which are side degrees in the Scotch Rite. For instance, one brother may communicate the degrees of Royal and Select Master with nothing more than a pledge of secrecy; while another, living in the same house, could only join eight others, and with a regular chamber, furniture, by-laws, &c., and with a systematised form of ceremonial, and a thoroughly arranged covenant, assist in conferring them."

THE SONG OF THE N. P. D.

In an American paper I picked up the following song and introduction, which is too good to be lost. Its application may come nearer home:

"In the proceedings of various Grand Lodges may be seen, after certain black lists of suspensions, the quaint expression, "N. P. D." It is a labour-saving symbol for "non-payment of dues," and implies that the foregoing A. B., C. D., &c., were rejected from the Masonic Temple on account of their unwillingness to pay the established dues of the Institution.

"We have often gone to the trouble, far more than the subject was worth, to examine as to the amounts due from such fellows, and find that they rarely exceed five dollars each. The annual dues of such lodges as have a company of "N. P. D.'s" in their membership are usually two dollars; and these gentlemen generally swing about two years and a half before they are finally suspended.

"But what sort of precaution do the lodges use that take in such chaps? Are the qualifications of candidates properly investigated? Do those who recommend and vouch for them *know* that whereof they speak when they pledge their honour to the lodge for their good character. Doubtful.

"We beg that it may be distinctly understood that no lodge ever suspends its members because they *cannot* pay; it is the *will*, not the ability, that brings on this severe punishment; and the lodge, considering that the parties are as much bound to pay their dues punctually as they are to do or keep any other portion of the Masonic covenant, cannot do otherwise with justice to itself and its faithful members, than to put the brand of punishment upon such as knowingly and wilfully cheat, wrong, or defraud the lodge.

"We are glad to put a mark of ridicule upon such by publishing the following squib, furnished by a caustic pen:—

(You may sing this adagio to "Yankee Doodle" or any other solemn tune.)

Once more I'm free from Masonry,
Once more outside the door, Sir,
And while I have my senses five
I'll enter it no more, Sir.

Chorus.

No more your raps, nor apron flaps,
No more your colour blue, Sir,
I'm tired of your Mason's work,
And sick of paying dues, Sir!

I never felt myself a man,
I never sat at ease, Sir,
So many ways the Masons has,
From doing as they please, Sir.

Chorus.

Whenever things was going wrong,
I swore a gentle "d—n," Sir,
They made me come before 'em all,
And take a reprimand, Sir!

Chorus.

When at the fracas I "went in,"
And blacked a feller's eyes,
They made me walk the winding stairs,
And quick apologise, Sir!

Chorus.

If swapping horses I was keen,
To take a feller in, Sir,
They made me rue my honest work,
And give it back again, Sir!

Chorus.

They've bled my purse, they've milked me dry,
They've stripped me like a tree, Sir,
And every year of Masonry
Has cost me dollars three, Sir!

Chorus.

But now I'm free from Masonry,
Once more outside the door, Sir,
And while I have my senses five,
I'll enter it no more, Sir.
Chorus.

Un-fraternally yours,

N. P. D.
—Ex. Ex.

THE SEVEN PRECEPTS OF NOAH.

The *shebang mitzoth beni Noah*, or "seven precepts of the Noachidae," are thus laid down in the Gemara or Commentary on the Jewish law:—

1. Abstain from idolatry.
2. Do not blaspheme.
3. Commit not murder.
4. Commit not adultery.
5. Do not steal.
6. Administer justice.
7. Abstain from eating flesh taken from a live animal.

The Rabbins say that the first six were given by Adam, and that the seventh was added by Noah. Collected they composed the "Book of Constitutions" of the primitive Freemasons.—E. C. L. B.

THE THREE FOUNDATIONS.

The foundation of domestic happiness is faith in the virtue of woman; the foundation of all happiness, temporal and eternal, reliance on the goodness of God.—P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Everyone must be delighted with the excellent speech of the Right Hon. Lord de Grey and Ripon as Chairman of the late Festival of the Benevolent Institute for Aged Masons and their Widows, which I would commend to the careful perusal of every brother in our Masonic world; and more particularly the latter portion, where he alludes to the comparative "inadequacy of the results."

One thing, particularly, has struck me in looking over a few old reports of several of our "Charities," viz., the commission paid for collection, including the amount raised at these annual festivals. While I would have every man paid, and well paid, too, for work done, I must protest against the sum of more than £100 being paid out of the sums collected at such festival, where, as far as my knowledge goes, the collector's services are not required. There are one or two other items connected with these Charities which I should like to see altered, but at present I will content myself by calling attention to the above.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

A SUBSCRIBER.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—The annual meeting of this excellent lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Monday last, when Bro. Matthews, W.M., opened the lodge at half-past four o'clock. Bro. Tom Abercrombie Hedley, of Lodge 33, was unanimously elected a joining member. Bros. C. Long, C. A. Long, E. W. Long, and Schreiber were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons, and Corker passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. Bros. John Thomas Nicholls was installed Worshipful Master by Bro. Watson, P.M., father of the lodge. The Worshipful Master appointed the following brethren to their respective offices:—Bros. Newall, S.W.; Welch, J.W.; Farmer, P.M., Treas.; John W. Lyon, P.M., Sec.; Hartley, S.D.; Tuck, J.D.; Readwin, I.G.; Watson, P.M. Wine Steward; Dawes, Deputy Wine Steward; Caulcher, P.M., Dir. of Cers.; Dalton, Collecting Steward. Messrs. Walter Ford and T. Payne, who had been balloted for, and unanimously elected, were initiated into Freemasonry. The visitors present were Bros. Aeneas J. McIntyre, G. Reg.; J. Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; J. Savage, P.G.D.; G. T. States, G. Stewards' Lodge; Potter, 11; Nicholson, 59; Platt, 144; E. Abel, 55; H. Dalwood, 49; T. Gooderhand, 177; John Denton, W.M. 1001; Charles Sloman, late, 25; George Rhodes, W.M. 157; P. Duff, St. John's Lodge; Patterson, late No. 25; E. F. Wright, 23; Joseph Scott, 901; Caulfield, W.M. 141. At eight o'clock a very elegant banquet was served under the direction of Bros. Shrewsbury and Elkington, the only drawback to enjoyment being the attendance. On the removal of the cloth, the toasts of the "Queen and the Craft," and the "Most Worshipful Grand Master" were duly honoured; after which the W. MASTER gave "The Health of the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers." He had no doubt that there were many brethren present who had heard the noble lord, at the late Festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows, eloquently and forcibly advocate the claims of the Charities to their support, and who must have been gratified at the earnestness with which he discharged his duties. The noble Earl, though zealously performing his duties to his country as Minister of War, had shown himself no less a minister of peace by the interest which he had taken in all matters regarding Freemasonry. He could not give the toast without noticing the fact that they were honoured that evening by the presence of the Grand Registrar (Bro. McIntyre), the President of the Board of General Purposes (Bro. Evans), Bro. J. Savage, P.G.D., all of whom held distinguished positions in the Craft, and were deservedly respected by all who had the honour of their acquaintance, and their old friend, Bro. Farmer, P.G. Purst.—The toast having been received with all due honours, the GRAND REGISTRAR said he felt it a high privilege to be called upon to return thanks on behalf of the Deputy Grand Master and the other Grand Officers. Those who had experience of the good work and attention of the Deputy Grand Master could bear testimony to the zeal and ability with which he discharged his duties. He had now held office for some time, and he had set a bright example to the Craft by showing them, notwithstanding his public avocations, how well he could discharge the duties required from him by the Craft. He was sure the Deputy Grand Master felt it a high honour to be connected with a body of men who could so well appreciate his services; and he would advise all young Masons to endeavour to emulate his lordship in the manner in which he discharged his Masonic duties. With regard to the other Grand Officers, he could truly say that they endeavoured to discharge their duties so as to deserve the approbation of their brother Masons. He had on his right a distinguished brother, the President of the Board of General Purposes, who had most onerous duties to perform, and who was sometimes brought into a most invidious position with the members of the Craft; for whilst in the discharge of his duties he was called upon to castigate those who did evil, he had no power to reward those who did well. But such was the courtesy and talent with which he performed his duties, that he believed that no Mason went before the Board over which Bro. Evans presided but felt, even when the decision was against him, that he had been fairly dealt with by the Board. Of

Bro. Savage, he knew there was not one who would say a word against the honour and independence with which he had supported the interests of the Craft; whilst Bro. Farmer, as one of their own body, had been known too long to them to need one word from him, though he was sure the longer they knew him the more they would respect him. As regarded himself, he (Bro. McIntyre) could only say that he had passed a most edifying and gratifying evening, and had been equally pleased with the working of the outgoing Master, the admirable manner in which the installation was conducted, and at seeing the new Master at once enter upon his duties and perform the ceremonies with an accuracy which would do honour to much older Masons. It reflected alike honour on the brother and on the lodge; and they might fairly feel confident that, whilst they placed such brethren in the chair, the glory and efficiency of the Robert Burns Lodge would never wane.—The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES also expressed his thanks for the reception he had received, and having experienced a most delightful evening, though he regretted that he had not been present to witness the excellent working of their outgoing Master, which, he was told, was fully equal to that which he had witnessed. He was glad of having the opportunity of being present that evening, because he knew in his official capacity that some little difficulties had existed in the Robert Burns Lodge, which he was happy to say had passed away, and he could assure the brethren that whilst they went on as they were now doing they would never want the support of those in authority to maintain the lodge in the proud position it now held.—Bro. SAVAGE having been called upon, said he could only re-echo the sentiments of goodwill expressed by the two brethren who had preceded him.—The W.M. next gave the health of the visitors, coupled with the name of Bro. Savage, P.G.D.—Bro. SAVAGE returned thanks on behalf of himself and brother visitors, for the very kind reception they had received, and must bear testimony to their excellent working. Some years since he had been a constant visitor at their lodge, and knew how they could work then; and it was most gratifying to find that the prestige of twenty years since had been so well maintained. Unfortunately he had not been enabled to attend their meetings of late, as he had formerly done; and whilst he felt that that was a misfortune, he knew also that the fault, in some measure, rested with himself, as he had been ever invited; but with the progress of years engagements had greatly increased upon him, and prevented his enjoying the pleasure of being among them. He was delighted, however, with the opportunity of renewing his connection with the Robert Burns Lodge, and hoped yet to have many opportunities of visiting it and witnessing its prosperity.—Bro. MATTHEWS, P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M." They had worked together for several years, during which Bro. Nicholls had always shown the most kind and gentlemanly feeling towards all the brethren. They had seen how he could work, and he was sure they could not have a better Master.—The W.M. returned thanks. He felt some little difficulty in adequately returning thanks for the honour conferred upon him, but could assure the brethren that no efforts should be wanting on his part to maintain the honour and dignity of the lodge. As regarded his working, they had seen what he could do in the first degree; and he was told he could do equally well in the others. He should endeavour to emulate his predecessor, and then he was sure he would do well. "The Health of the Initiates" followed, which was responded to by Bro. FORD, who regretted that he had allowed fifty summers to pass over his head before becoming a Freemason, whilst he assured the brethren that, during the waning years of his life, he would endeavour to prove himself a worthy member of the Craft. The W. MASTER next gave "The Health of the Past Masters of the Lodge," of whom there were present Bros. Matthews, Watson, the father of the lodge, Bennett, Clements, Coulcher, Lyons, Farmer, and Paterson, all of whom had rendered good suit and service, and were now ready to advance the interests of the lodge.—Bro. WATSON returned thanks, and stated this was the 26th installation at which he had been present, and he had never seen the lodge in a state of greater prosperity—their numbers increasing and everything going on as satisfactorily as they could wish. Some fourteen or fifteen years since they had established a fund of benevolence, and though they had distributed £150 amongst their own members who had required assistance, so successful had been its working that they had been this year enabled to give £205 to the Masonic Charities, giving the lodge votes in perpetuity in each. He was happy to say that the lodge was now

happy and prosperous, and he hoped it might long continue so. The health of the officers having been drunk, and responded to by Bro. Bennett, P.M., in the absence of Bro. Newall, the company separated. The harmony of the evening was enhanced by the singing of Bros. Paterson, Sloman, Nicholls, and others.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 201).—The anniversary of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 20th ult. It was numerously attended by the members, and among the visitors were Bro. Hyde Pullen, P.G.S.B., and Bros. Baynam Stewart, Gurney, Luce, Raw, Levien, Cleave, Hersee, Hart, &c. Mr. Charles W. Marshall was initiated, Bro. Newman passed, and Bros. Macmildrow, Baron, and Benjafield were raised. Bro. Henry Carvill, the W.M. elect, was then installed W.M. for the ensuing year, this, as well as the other ceremonies of the evening, being performed by Bro. W. Hammond, the retiring W.M., with his usual ability. Bro. Carvill appointed the following brethren to the various offices:—J. Harris, S.W.; J. Hammond, J.W.; R. Watts, P.M., Treas.; E. Spooner, P.M., Sec.; H. M. Arliss, P.M., Dir. of Cers.; J. Robinson, P.M., and S. J. Bollaert, Wine Stewards; J. Shepherd, S.D.; G. W. Martin, J.D.; and F. Smith, I.G. Many of these brethren have already earned a reputation for diligent and accurate working, and their appointment seemed to give general satisfaction. On the proposition of Bro. Sheen, P.M., seconded by Bro. Robinson, P.M. and W.S., a motion to the following effect was carried unanimously:—"That the business of the Freemasons' Tavern being about to be transferred to a public company, the thanks of the Jordan Lodge be presented to Bros. Elkington and Shrewsbury, the present lessees, in acknowledgment of the great attention and liberal treatment which the lodge had invariably received from them during their tenancy. That this resolution be entered on the minutes, and that a copy be forwarded to the lessees." At the banquet which followed, Bro. Hyde Pullen, P.G.S.B., responded to the toast of the Grand Officers, and paid a handsome compliment to the highly esteemed Bro. Patten, P.G.S.B., who had been a member of the Jordan Lodge for forty years. The health of the W.M. being proposed by Bro. Hammond, P.M., Bro. Cavill, in returning thanks, took the opportunity of strongly recommending the younger brethren to carry out Masonic principles in their daily life. It was impossible for a good Mason to be other than a good subject and son, and if fortunately placed in such a relation, a good husband and father. Among the toasts of the evening was one to Bro. Brown, a country member of the Jordan, and Secretary of a flourishing lodge recently formed at Welsl-pool. Bro. Brown expressed his gratification at being so cordially received among them. He had a great affection for the Jordan—it was his mother lodge—and he felt a pride in being still a member of it. In the excellency of the working, and in the good feeling existing among its members, he considered that it was a model lodge, and it was his earnest desire that the prosperous lodge of which he was the Secretary should come as near it as possible. The toast of the Charities was responded to by Bros. Watts, Arliss, and Goldsbro', representing as Stewards the Boys, Girls, and Annuitants, respectively. The W.M., in proposing the health of the officers, said that he considered himself singularly fortunate in securing the assistance of such talented Masons as those who had that evening taken office under him, and he had no doubt but that they would all discharge their duties in a manner alike creditable to themselves and satisfactory to the lodge. The attention paid to the comfort of the brethren by Bro. Arliss, Dir. of Cers., and Bros. Robinson and Bollaert, the Wine Stewards, was unremitting and most successful; whilst the dinner provided by Bros. Elkington and Shrewsbury was such as to satisfy the most fastidious. The evening was enlivened by some excellent songs sung by Bros. Hersee, Levien, Robinson, and others, and concluded with the National Anthem.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 231).—The installation meeting of this very distinguished lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern on Thursday, the 2nd of February. There were present the following members of the lodge:—C. J. Curtis, W.M.; J. Perceval, S.W.; F. Joseph Cronin, J.W. and W.M. elect; J. Messent, P.M. and Treas.; R. Mills, P.M. and Sec.; W. S. Webster, S.D.; Dr. Richardson, I.G.; B. West, W. H. Warr, Pierce Egan, J. H. Paul, A. Richards, and St. Aubyn, P.M.'s; together with Bros. Bruder, Hersee, H. C. Stevens, Wilby, A. Brown, Yeo, Furber, A. C. Cronin, Jos. Mansbridge, and many others. The visiting brethren numbered twenty-five, amongst whom were Bros. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D.; T. G. Dickie, G. Purst.; Dr. Madden, 9; F. Binckes, P.M. 10; A. Wallis, 11;

T. Wilson, 21; J. Hart, 22; C. G. Prideaux, P.M. 165; R. G. Griffiths, P.M. 171; H. Robinson, W.M. 180; Dr. Staples, 186; J. Dyer, P.M. 201; P. W. Griffiths, 218; J. Hill, 404; S. Rosenthal, W.M. 435; Twinberrow, 556; H. Sutlow, 857; Matthew Cooke, W.M. 905 and Sec. 23; H. Mahomed, 969; R. E. Van Noorden, 1017, and J. de Vries, St. John's, New Brunswick. The business of the evening was undertaken by Bro. J. Messent, P.M. and Treas., whose performance of the ceremonies of installation was so graceful, gentlemanly, and excellent as to win the approval of every one present. Bro. W. H. Warr, P.M., presented Bro. F. Joseph Cronin, J.W., and W.M. elect, and he was installed by Bro. Messent in a board of no less than twenty P.M.'s; and, when seated in the chair, Bro. Messent invested him with the very appropriate jewel of the lodge, which had been presented to it by Bro. B. West, P.M., always to be worn by its W.M. The W.M. was no novice at his duties, and, although brief in his addresses, was to the point. He invested the following brethren as his officers for the year. William Shakespeare Webster, son of Bro. Benjamin Webster, P.G.W., S.W.; Dr. Richardson, J.W.; J. Messent, P.M., re-invested Treas.; R. Mills, P.M., re-invested Sec.; Henry Brown, S.D.; — Hersee, J.D.; Aubrey Brown, I.G., and Longstaff, Tyler. The lodge being closed, some fifty-six brethren adjourned to the banquet, which reflected much credit on Messrs. Shrewsbury and Co. for its excellence and profusion. After the cloth had been removed the W. MASTER gave in rapid succession the toasts of "The Queen;" "The M.W.G.M.;" "The D.G.M. and Grand Officers," remarking that they were honoured by the presence of two that evening, Bro. S. B. Wilson, P.G.D., and Bro. Dickie, G. Purst, and thanking them for their company.—Bro. S. B. WILSON, P.G.D., thought those in harness should return thanks, and so left the honour in Bro. Dickie's hands.—Bro. DICKIE, G. Purst, said all that could be said for the Grand Officers, complimented the lodge on its working and hospitality, and thanked the brethren for the toast.—Bro. FREDERICK JOSEPH CRONIN, W.M., was sure that if the lodge possessed one virtue more than another it was in the cordiality with which they always welcomed their visitors. That evening they were favoured with the attendance of twenty or five-and-twenty, and with whom to associate the toast he was at a loss, but would couple it with the name of Bro. Van Noorden.—Bro. VAN NOORDEN was rather taken by surprise, because there were so many present better known and higher than himself in the Craft for whom he was unable to do justice. He felt proud of his own reception there, and supposed that because he had known the W.M. previous to his becoming a brother, he had been selected to return thanks. He felt sure the W.M. would make an excellent Master, and in the name of the visitors he gratefully acknowledged the toast.—Bro. CURTIS, I.P.M., had the gratification to propose the next toast. He had no cause, for himself, to regret his own appointment to that high office he had just departed from, and he was sure that the lodge could have none at its selection of their new W.M., who was possessed of the necessary talent and ability to win golden opinions from all, and he was sure the lodge ought to be congratulated in securing such a W.M., whose health he begged to propose.—The W.M., Bro. FREDERICK JOSEPH CRONIN, deeply felt the honour the lodge had done him, and, as far as his ability extended, he hoped to acquit himself with satisfaction to the lodge and credit for his good intentions.—The W. MASTER said the next toast was always received with great cordiality because of the many kindnesses the P.M.'s conferred on the lodge and its individual members. For his own part he had to acknowledge his personal obligations to Bro. Messent, who had initiated him, and that day installed him in a way that had won deserved praise from all. He then gave the toast of the P.M.'s of the lodge.—Bro. CURTIS, I.P.M., said, as usual, it generally fell to the lot of the most incompetent to return thanks, and for that reason, he presumed, they had delegated him to say that they were happy to render any service they could; and there were some of the P.M.'s who could render any services that might be required of them.—Bro. PIERCE EGAN, P.M., wished to draw their attention to the Boys' School Festival, on the 8th of March, at which he had undertaken to represent the lodge as its steward. He was speaking to the members of the lodge, and not to the visitors—unless any of the latter were so won by his eloquence that they chose to add their donations to the list. He had had the honour to represent them at the Girls' School Festival, and was handsomely supported by the lodge then, and hoped his list on the forthcoming occasion would certainly not be less. He should like every brother to come forward and put a guinea

in his hand, for which, he could assure them, they would not only deserve but have his most grateful thanks.—The W. MASTER gave "The Masonic Charities," which was replied to by Bro. F. Binckes, who most zealously advocated the cause of his more immediate institution. The W.M. knew that the officers had the laudable ambition to do credit to the working of the lodge, and he was proud to say they were quite up to their work, and would deserve to be advanced. The two senior officers were hard-working brethren, and the three juniors were very effectively treading in their steps. From that he augured much credit to the lodge, and concluded by proposing the toast of the officers of the lodge.—Bro. W. S. WEBSTER, S.W., was sure, from the examples they had before them, they would all endeavour to do credit to their position, and, for himself, it would be his desire to do his best throughout the ensuing year.—Dr. RICHARDSON, J.W., did not feel the time had come to accept thanks for his services, because he could only make promises; but when he remembered that Freemasonry was founded on masonic art, that it was the offspring of practical men, such as erected King's College Chapel at Cambridge, they must be aware that its entire usefulness had changed. They came there to meet society; and though their ceremonies were most engaging, yet to rub off the asperities of life, as they did in their lodges, was to him the true end and aim of Masonry in the present age. With such views he entered upon his post, and would strive with sincerity and anxiety to carry out his duties; and if he were successful in so doing, then he should be glad to say more on the subject.—Bro. BROWN, S.D., expressed his hope to progress and go on to higher office.—Bro. HERSEE, J.D., felt grateful for his share of the toast. He could not receive it as a mere compliment, but as an expression of sympathy and goodwill. He reminded them that he was diffident, but would try to do his best, and he hoped the lodge would not suffer from any default of his.—Bro. AUBREY BROWN, I.G., had to thank them for his official position, which, by careful conduct, he hoped to merit.—The W. MASTER next gave "The Masonic Press," to which Bro. MATTHEW COOKE replied. There was some very excellent singing by Bros. St. Aubyn, Van Noorden, Matthew Cooke, J. Messent, Pierce Egan, and others, and the lodge broke up at a reasonable hour.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKSHIRE.

NEWBURY.—*Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope* (No. 574).—This lodge held its installation meeting at the Town Hall, Newbury, on Friday, the 3rd inst.: present, B. Hall, W.M.; Geo. Boyer, W.M. elect, S.W.; Robert A. Ryott, J.W.; T. Deller, P.M., Treasurer; W. W. King, P.M., Sec.; — bland, S.D., and several others. Visitors—Bros. C. Swan, P. Prov. G.D. Herts, P.M. 201 and 869, and J. Welsh. The chair was taken by Bro. Hall, the W.M., and after the minutes of the former meeting had been read and confirmed, Bro. Swan took the chair and proceeded to install Bro. Geo. Boyer, the S.W. of the lodge, as W.M. for the year ensuing. The W.M. then appointed Bros. R. A. Ryott, S.W.; Bland, J.W.; J. Deller, Treas. and I.G.; W. W. King, P.M., Sec.; Shadwell, Tyler,—the addresses to those officers being delivered by Bro. Swan, the Installing Master. After this ceremony was completed, Bro. King rose and said, that with the W.M.'s permission he must propose that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes of this lodge to Bro. Swan for his readiness to come down and perform the ceremony which he had done, and at so short a notice; and they hoped they should have his services for many years to come for the same ceremony. This, after being duly seconded by Bro. Hall, P.M., was carried unanimously. There being no further business, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet-room, where a first-rate repast was provided, to which the brethren did ample justice, and the evening was passed in a highly social manner.

CHEESHIRE.

CHESTER.—*Lodge of Independence* (No. 721).—CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN.—The annual festival of the patron saint was celebrated by the brethren of the Lodge of Independence (No. 721) on Tuesday, the 31st ult., at their splendid new lodge rooms, lately erected by Bro. Tucker in

connection with his hotel, Foregate-street, Chester. At three o'clock the W.M., Lord Richard Grosvenor, Past S.G.W. of England, assisted by the immediate P.M., Bro. Watts; Bro. W. R. Bainbridge, S.W.; Bro. Capt. Gwynne, J.W.; Bro. Ellis, S.D.; Bro. Harrison, J.D.; Bro. Bainbridge, jun., acting I.G., opened the lodge with the usual forms and ceremonies. His lordship having consented, and being previously accepted unanimously by ballot, the form of installation was dispensed with. The installing P.M., Bro. Lyon, having delivered the working tools, &c., the usual proclamations and honours were given. The W.M. then proceeded to appoint his officers for the ensuing year as follows:—Bros. Gwynne, S.W.; Ellis, J.W.; Gerrard, Treas.; Lyon, Sec.; Harrison, S.D.; Parry, J.D.; Capt. Davis, I.G.; Duke, Tyler; Southern, Steward. Bro. Lyon, P.M., afterwards delivered an impressive address to each on the duties of his office, and an oration on Masonry. The brethren then proceeded to the banquetting-room, where a magnificent dinner was laid out. Nearly fifty sat down. Lord Richard Grosvenor occupied the chair, supported on his right by Bro. W. T. Roper, P.M. St. George Lodge, 807, Bombay; Bro. Truss, P.G. Supt. of Works; Bro. Platt, P. Prov. J.G.D. 537; Bro. H. Bulley, P.M. and P. Prov. G. Parst, 537; Bro. Sheriff Butt, W.M. 425; Bro. Dutton, P.M. and P. Prov. G.S.D. On his lordship's left were the immediate P.M., Bro. Watts, 721; the installing P.M., Bro. Lyon, 721; Bro. S. Brown, P.M. and Dir. of Cers.; Bro. Winlow, P.M. 363, P. Prov. G.J.D. of Northumberland; Bro. J. D. Notts, of Ireland; Bro. Gerrard, P.M. and Treas. There were also present the following members and visitors:—Bros. W. R. Bainbridge, P.S.W. 721; Capt. Gwynne, W. Ellis, J. Harrison, R. Parry, Capt. Davis, W. Bainbridge, jun., J. Lansdale, E. Williams, W. Williams, J. L. Sellers, E. Tasker, W. Daine, A. J. Brereton, J. M'Evoy, W. Brown, T. Horabin, Asst. Sec.; T. Dodd, F. Green, A. Alsop, W. C. Hunt, 425; J. Salmon, 425; Capt. Hitchin, 615; W. Woods, 148; T. Wood, J.D. 425; T. Wilcock, P.S.W. 425; J. S. Berrington, 482; S. Sapio, P.M., H. Platt, 425, &c. Grace having been pronounced, the following loyal and Masonic toasts were delivered from the chair:—"The Queen and the Craft," which was received with due honours; "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family;" "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," responded to by Capt. Gwynne, S.W., for the Army, and by Bro. Quartermaster Dutton most eloquently on behalf of the Volunteers; "The Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, and his Deputy," with the customary honours; "The Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire, P.M. Viscount Combermere, and his Deputy, Colonel Cotton." The noble lord, in feeling and glowing terms, alluded to the Cheshire hero's long and valuable services as a soldier, and the great good he had rendered to the Craft by the zeal and attention he had always paid to the duties of his high office. Grand honours and applause. "Sir W. W. Wynne, P.G.M., and his Deputy, Bro. Dymock, and the Brethren of North Wales and Salop," with Masonic honours.—Bro. WATTS, in an excellent speech, gave "The Worshipful Master of the lodge, Lord Richard Grosvenor, observing how much the brethren were indebted to his lordship for kindly consenting to take the chair for another twelve-months. It was a further proof (if any were wanting) to show his zeal and interest for the welfare of the Lodge 721, and his attachment to Freemasonry generally. (Masonic honours).—In responding to the toast, his lordship begged to thank the brethren for a second time placing him in the chair, and to assure them that he should take every opportunity of attending to his duties as the Worshipful Master when his Parliamentary engagements did not prevent him. He was very proud to see so many of the Cestrian (No. 425) present; he felt honoured on the occasion, and he hoped it was a type of the olive branch that was to bind the two lodges in the bond of peace and harmony. "Bro. W. T. Roper, P.M. St. George Lodge (No. 807), Bombay."—Bro. ROVER responded in an interesting speech, and stated that he had found Freemasonry invaluable in his travels through India.—"The Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Cestrian Lodge (No. 425).—Bro. SHERIFF BUTT, the W.M., acknowledged the compliment in a neat speech.—"The Past and Present Provincial Grand Officers of the Province of Cheshire."—Bro. DUTTON, P.M. and P. Prov. J.G.D., responded, and pointed out the difficult duties some of the Provincial Grand Officers had to perform, but he believed their conduct had met with the approbation of the brethren upon all occasions.—"Bro. Platt, and Success to the Masonic Charities and Schools in Cheshire."—The worthy brother who was the promoter of these schools returned thanks, and stated that the schools were in a most

prosperous state, and working well.—"The Past and Present Officers of the Lodge, coupling the name of Bro. Bainbridge, P.S.W."—Bro. BAINBRIDGE returned thanks for the handsome manner his lordship had mentioned his name, and the brethren for the manner they had received it, in connection with the past and present officers of the lodge, and stated his endeavours had ever been and should be to promote the harmony of the lodge.—Bro. Capt. GWYNNE, S.W., also returned thanks for the rest of the officers.—Three gentlemen were proposed for initiation, and Bro. Tasker having been highly complimented for the liberal and excellent banquet he had provided, the meeting was brought to a close by the Tyler's toast, with the usual form and ceremonies, the brethren separating highly delighted with the proceedings of the day. Before concluding it is necessary to say something of this very commodious hotel. About twelve-months since Bro. Tasker stated to the lodge that he would build an hotel with every convenience for lodge purposes, regardless of expense, and he certainly has exceeded the expectation of the brethren. It is clear that he has not only a large heart, but a very large purse, for the banquetting and lodge rooms alone must have cost several hundred pounds. The banquetting room is fifty feet long by thirty feet wide, with ante-rooms in proportion. The decorations are most elaborate, in the Italian style, consisting of medallions with sculptured life-sized busts issuing therefrom, being faithful likenesses of eminent men in history. They were modelled expressly for this room. The remaining casts consist of allegorical subjects. The whole have been Bro. Tasker's own design, and reflect the greatest credit upon him as his own architect.

DEVONSHIRE.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—*Lodge St. Aubyn* (No. 954).—This lodge was summoned by command of the W.M. at seven o'clock, p.m., on the 30th ult., in consequence of a proposition under the hands of Bro. J. Hawton and Bro. M. Paul proposing and seconding respectively Mr. Daniel Augustus Cochrane, and also a similar proposition from Bro. B. Trounce, sen., proposer, and Bro. M. Paul, seconder, in favour of Mr. Charles Snell, and in each case the proposers asked for lodges of emergency, as both candidates were certain to leave the port in a few days. The balloting-box having been passed round to the brethren, was shown to the W.M., who pronounced the result of the ballot to be in favour of initiating both these gentlemen. The W.M. (Bro. Horace B. Kent) then initiated into the first degree these two candidates, and each expressed his desire to be enrolled as a member of the lodge. Bro. S. W. Chen delivered the charge in a masterly manner, the W. Bro. R. H. Rae, W.M. of Lodge Sincerity, explaining the mystic nature of the tools. The lodge was closed by the W.M. at nine o'clock, p.m., with solemn prayer, and the brethren retired to the festive board. On the toast of the D. Prov. G.M. (Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, M.A., Past Grand Chaplain) Bro. Rae, as a Provincial Grand Officer, returned thanks, assuring the brethren that he was a pattern for Masons and a pattern for men, at the same time informing the brethren that, in whatever laudatory terms he might speak of the R.W. D. Prov. G.M. for Devon, all his efforts would fall short in conveying to them the high opinion he was not only held in Devonshire, but also in the Grand Lodge itself. Bro. J. R. W. Spry, S.W., in proposing the health of the W. Bro. H. B. Kent, W.M., said that one fact must be patent to all, that the worshipful brother shrank from no duty, however arduous, and that every brother, whether a member of that lodge or any other, must feel convinced that their W.M. was one who not only did his own duty, but also saw that his officers did theirs also, and he (Bro. Spry) believed that to this fact, as well as to the punctual manner in which the W.M. attended to the duties of the lodge, as regards time, never summoning the lodge at half-past six p.m. to mean seven, but that the hour called was the hour meant,—to this fact he thought may be traced one reason of the prompt attention of the officers and brethren. The W.M. stated, in reply, his desire to deserve the good opinion of his brethren; and now, believing he had obtained their good opinion, he would strive hard to retain it. He assured the brethren that he was delighted to meet them there whenever the business of the lodge called them together. He trusted that the same harmony and good feeling which was happily marked in Lodge St. Aubyn would continue until time shall be no more. The W.M. concluded by thanking the brethren for their kindness in drinking the toast of the health of the W.M. so cordially. The brethren shortly

after left.—On the 25th ult., an emergency meeting was held, pursuant to summons by the W.M., Bro. Horace B. Kent, in their spacious and tastefully decorated lodge room, to ballot for and, if accepted, initiate Mr. James Hill Toms, proposed under the emergency clause, in consequence of his being about to leave the neighbourhood. The ballot proving clear, the W.M. proceeded with the initiation of Mr. Toms, who expressed his wish to join the lodge. Business being over, the lodge was closed at nine o'clock.

DURHAM.

HARTLEPOOL.—*St Helen's Lodge* (No. 531).—The regular lodge was held on Thursday, the 2nd, at half-past seven p.m. Present—Bros. Dr. Moore, W.M.; S. Armstrong, P.M.; B. Huntley, P.M.; J. Groves, I.P.M.; Nathan, S.W.; Siveright, J.W.; Hill, S.D.; S. Leigh, Sec. as J.D.; Allen, I.G.; Mowbray, Tyler; J. Armstrong, Taylor, Forbes, Maginness, Sale, Tose, &c. Visitors: Bros. Harpley, J.W., Harbour of Refuge Lodge (No. 764); H. Lorraine, Enoch Lodge (No. 11); and Marshall. The lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the preceding lodges read and confirmed. Mr. Mark Windross, West Hartlepool, was then balloted for and initiated into the mysteries of the Order. The lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Alexander Keir, coming properly qualified, was duly passed to that degree. The W.M. performed the ceremonies in a solemn and impressive manner, and the charges were delivered by Bro. Leigh. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, and the brethren called from labour to refreshment. To the toast of the visitors Bro. Lorraine responded, and afterwards the brethren experienced a treat in his thrilling recitation of Tennyson's famous "Charge of the Six Hundred." The proceedings were further enlivened by the excellent singing of the W.M. and Bro. Marshall. On return to labour the lodge was finally closed with solemn prayer, and the brethren separated, highly gratified with the agreeable evening they had spent.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Merchant's Lodge of Instruction* (No. 241).—The sixth anniversary meeting of the above lodge of instruction was held in the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool, on January 31, 1865. This lodge of instruction has prospered greatly since its commencement, and its beneficial influences have been much felt and often acknowledged by those brethren, connected with various lodges in the town, who have formed its members. It has, however, been highly favoured in those who have been chosen to direct its operations. Bro. Younghusband, whose great Masonic skill and zeal for the Craft are acknowledged throughout the province, was its first and late preceptor, and when his resignation (in consequence of ill-health) was tendered to the brethren, they accepted it with the deepest regret. In its present preceptor, Bro. A. C. Mott, the lodge has, however, a worthy successor of Bro. Younghusband, and one whose devotion to the cause in general, and especially to the interests of the lodge of instruction (No. 241) are well known in this town and district. That the members of the lodge fully appreciate the worth and services of Bro. Preceptor Mott they gave a handsome proof during the evening by voting the sum of fifteen guineas, to be paid from the funds of the lodge into those of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, and thus to constitute Bro. Mott a Vice-President of that Institution. Bro. Mott, in very appropriate terms, acknowledged the handsomeness of the gift, and the high honour it conveyed, assuring the brethren that no manner of expressing their appreciation of his services could be more consonant with his own feelings.

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 148).—The regular meeting of this ancient lodge was held on the last Monday in January, at the Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M. (Bro. Gilbert Greenall, M.P.), the chair was occupied by the S.W., Bro. H. B. White, P.M.; Bros. John Bowes, I.P.M., as S.W.; W. Smith, J.W.; John Pierpoint, S.D.; Dr. Spinks, J.D.; the other officers, and an excellent attendance of brethren. Bro. Rev. R. Garland, LL.B., visited on the occasion. The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed. Mr. John Brown, having been previously approved, was impressively initiated into the mysteries by Bro. White. Bros. B. P. Coxon and W. H. Spring were candidates for advancement, and, having given proof of their fitness, were entrusted,

and retired. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. John Bowes having assumed the chair of K.S., passed the candidates to the degree of F.C.'s. Bro. Dr. Pennington now presented himself for promotion, and, having given proof of his claims, was entrusted. The lodge was now opened in the third degree, and Bro. White, having resumed the chair, raised Bro. Pennington to the sublime degree of a M.M. The lodge was now closed down, and some routine business transacted, after which it was finally closed in love and harmony in ancient form, with solemn prayer.

NORFOLK.

NORWICH.—*Philanthropic Lodge* (No. 107).—The meeting of this lodge for the installation of its W.M. for the ensuing year was held at the Globe Hotel, King's Lynn, on Monday, Feb. 6. The lodge assembled at four o'clock, and after the requisite preliminaries the ceremony of installation was performed in a very able manner by Bro. James Dawbarn, P.M., of Norwich, the W.M. elect (Bro. George Webster) being presented by Bro. F. Colsey, P.M., of Norwich. The new W.M. was saluted by the brethren in the three degrees, according to ancient custom, and proceeded to appoint and invest his officers, and also to invest those (the Treasurer and Tyler) who had been previously elected, as follows:—Bros. W. R. Pridgeon, S.W.; C. T. Ives, J.W.; G. G. Sadler, S.D.; A. Sheriff, J.D.; J. T. Banks, I.G.; Charles Miller and Robert Wells, Stewards; R. Cruso, Treas.; J. Green, Sec.; and Woolsey, Tyler. The business having been so far completed, the brethren were called from labour to refreshment, and at six o'clock sat down to a sumptuous banquet, served in the best style by the host, Bro. Marshall. The W. Master presided, and was supported by Bros. T. M. Wilkin, the I.P.M.; Dawbarn, P.M.; T. M. Kendall, P.M.; R. Whitwell, P.M.; F. Colsey, P.M.; the Rev. H. H. Bridgewater; Garthwaite (Long Sutton); Gidney (East Dereham); Hillyard (London), together with the officers and members of the lodge, to the number, in all, of thirty-one. The repast, which included every delicacy of the season, was much enjoyed, and was accompanied and followed by an ample supply of excellent wines. Grace was said by the Rev. H. H. Bridgewater. The cloth having been drawn, the W.M. rose and expressed his gratification in being so numerously and well supported by members and visitors, and his regret at the unavoidable absence, from various causes, of the following brethren, who had expressed their intention or wish to attend the gathering:—Bros. R. Young (Wisbech); Patrick (Wisbech); Wright (March); Richardson (London); Cole (Long Sutton); H. Mason (Norwich); Barwell (Dereham); and the Hon. F. Walpole (Norwich). He then proposed, "The Queen and the Craft," the first toast, which was received with Masonic honours. The Secretary's toast was given with the accustomed ceremony, and was succeeded in rapid rotation by the following toasts:—"The Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland," by the W.M.; "The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl de Grey and Ripon," by the W.M.; "The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, B. Bond Cabell," by the S.W.; "The Very Worshipful the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Leades Fox, and the Officers, Past and Present, of the Provincial Grand Lodge," by the J.W., and responded to by Bro. Kendall, Prov. J.G.W.; "The Worshipful Master," by Bro. Wilkin, P. Prov. S.G.W., and duly responded to; "The Installing Master, Bro. Dawbarn," by the W.M., and duly acknowledged; "The Immediate Past Master and the Past Masters present," by Bro. R. H. Household, P.S.W., and responded to by Bros. Wilkin, Kendall, and Whitwell; "The Visiting Brethren," by Bro. Sheriff, J.D., and responded to by Bro. Colsey, P.M.; "The Officers of the Lodge," by Bro. Whitwell, and responded to by Bro. Pridgeon, S.W.; "The Treasurer," by Bro. Dawbarn, and acknowledged by Bro. Cruso; "The Masonic Charities," by Bro. Rev. H. H. Bridgewater; "The Entered Apprentices," by Bro. Garthwaite, and responded to by Bro. Mills; and the Tyler's toast concluded the programme. These toasts were, in all appropriate cases, greeted with the honours of the Fraternity. Between the several addresses, a variety of Masonic and other songs and glees were excellently sung by Bros. Dr. Reed, Cruso, Green, Colsey, and Marshall; and, after the toast of "The Charities," the gift-box was circulated, and a collection made, amounting to £2 13s., in behalf of the Benevolent Fund of the lodge and the Charities to which it is applied. The brethren having been recalled to labour, and two candidates for installation

having been proposed and seconded, the lodge was duly closed until the next monthly meeting, and the brethren separated, having spent an exceedingly pleasant evening, throughout which a truly Masonic feeling had prevailed.

SOUTH WALES (EASTERN DIVISION).

ABERAVON.—*Afan Lodge* (No. 833).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 2nd inst., when the following were present:—Bros. H. L. Prichard, W.M.; W. L. Powell, Geo. Newman, Edward J. Morris, P.M.'s; D. Longdon, S.W.; J. Felton, J.W.; J. Jones, jun., Sec.; M. Tennant, S.D.; I. Daniel, J.D.; W. E. Chalinder, M.C.; J. McOwen, Org.; Edward Jones, I.G.; D. Smith, Steward; J. Barnes, W. Loveluck, D. Jenkins, J. Jones, Conway, Whitelaw, Thomas, Davies, and others. The W.M. opened the lodge at seven. The minutes of the last meeting confirmed, and some routine business transacted. Two gentlemen from Bridgend were proposed as candidates for initiation, and the W.M. recommended the case of Edwin Price Jones, the candidate of the Indefatigable Lodge (No. 237), for election to the Boys' School in April next, as most deserving their support. The chair was then taken by Bro. Edward J. Morris, P.M., who successively advanced Bros. W. J. Davies and Iltid Morgan to the second degree, and Bros. Thomas Jones and W. B. Popkin to the third degree. After the closing of the lodge, the brethren adjourned to the Walnut Tree Hotel to supper. A pleasant evening was spent, enlivened by some excellent singing, contributed to by Bros. J. Jones, jun., T. Daniel, and Longdon.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

BAILDON, NEAR BRADFORD.—*Airdale Lodge* (No. 387).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday evening, Bro. Horatio Butterworth, W.M., in the chair, assisted by most of his officers and a goodly number of brethren. There being no important business, instruction was the order of the evening. After the lodge was closed, the brethren enjoyed an agreeable hour in the refreshment-room.

ROYAL ARCH.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

SCARBOROUGH.—*Old Globe Chapter* (No. 200).—This chapter was convened for Wednesday, the 1st of February, and was opened by Comps. W. E. Richardson, M.E.Z.; Wm. Bean, M.E.H.; J. F. Spurr, M.E.J. The following companions were also present:—Comps. J. W. Woodall, Scribe E.; John Webb, Scribe N.; George Symons, P.S.; Godfrey Knight, S.S.; J. R. Smith, J.S.; W. Milner, Jan.; W. Martin, W. F. Rooke, W. B. Stewart, John Chapman, &c. The minutes of the last chapter having been confirmed, the ballot-box was prepared for Bros. J. W. Farthing, the W.M. elect, and Robert Dobson, S.W. of the Royal Lodge Filey, who were duly balloted for and accepted, and exalted to the Royal Arch degree. Comp. E. Brown was admitted as a joining brother. One worthy brother was proposed as a candidate for exaltation, after which the chapter was duly closed, and the companions adjourned to refreshment, provided for them by the host, Comp. Chapman, of the Old Globe Hotel, and spent the remainder of the evening very pleasantly.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

WAKEFIELD.—*Wakefield Chapter* (No. 495).—A regular meeting of this chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, on Tuesday evening, at seven o'clock; present, the M.E.Z. Comp. Fred. Lumb, assisted by Henry Smith, P.Z., as H., and John Gill, J.; Roland Childe, S.E.; H. France, as S.N.; W. H. Gill, Treas.; D. Wilson, Thos. Senior, &c. After the routine business had been disposed of, some appropriate remarks were made respecting the death of Comp. J. Beckett, who expired on the 11th of January, after a short illness. He had acted as Janitor for some years, and was followed to the grave by many of his former companions. Comp. France brought forward a resolution, of which he had given notice last month, respecting refreshments, which was seconded by Comp. John Gill, J., and carried unanimously. Several companions signed and received their certificates, and the chapter was closed in harmony at nine o'clock.

MARK MASONRY.

DEVONSHIRE.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—*St. Aubyn Lodge* (No. 954).—This newly-established lodge held their meeting on the 23rd ult., for the purpose of balloting, and, if accepted, advancing Bros. Fisher and Hunt. The ballot proving clear, the W.M., Bro. Horace B. Kent, advanced the candidates to the rank of M.M.M. Business being ended, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony at 9.30 p.m.

KNIGHTS OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

DEVONPORT.—A grand council of these ancient and illustrious Knights assembled in the Masonic Rooms, Morice Town, on Monday, presided over by Bro. F. G. Irvin as Illustrious Sovereign, who, after appointing and installing his officers, admitted three Master Masons to this degree, and entrusted them with its ancient secrets. Several Master Masons were proposed for admission at the next meeting of the council, after which the Sir Knights proceeded to the refectory, and concluded the evening in peace, harmony, and fraternity.

IRELAND.

ROYAL ARCH.

NEWBLISS CHAPTER.—On Tuesday evening, the 24th ult., this chapter, attached to the Newbliss Lodge (No. 974), assembled in due form in their lodge room, for the purpose of exalting to the mysteries of the Royal Arch degree eight candidates belonging to Lodge 473, Enniskillen. The solemnity of the entire proceedings, the gorgeous robes and other insignia worn by the chapter officers, together with the able manner in which the whole was conducted by Comps. Fraser and Hunter, of the Newbliss Chapter, assisted by Comps. Patterson and Clarke, of 881, Clones, rendered the entire one of the most interesting and imposing ceremonies ever witnessed in Newbliss. The business of the chapter occupied in all about six hours. At its conclusion the companions sat down in the Town Hall to a sumptuous repast, provided for the occasion by Comp. Gillespie. The chair was ably filled by Comp. A. Ker Robinson, M.D., and the vice-chair by Comp. Crawford. During the course of the evening the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed, and received with every mark of respect. The healths proposed on the occasion included "The Queen," "Duke of Leinster," "The newly admitted Companions," "A. Ker Robinson, Esq.," and "Comps. Patterson and Clarke." The *recherché* style of the supper, provided by Comp. Gillespie, elicited the warmest marks of approbation from the brethren present. The companions separated for their respective homes at a late hour, highly delighted with the night's proceedings.

TURKEY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

CONSTANTINOPLE.—*Oriental Lodge* (No. 687).—The festival of St. John and the installation of the newly-elected W.M. of this flourishing lodge, the senior one in the Ottoman Empire, was celebrated at Baltzer's Hotel, Pera, on the present occasion, with considerable éclat. The newly-elected W.M., W. W. Evans, occupied a very prominent position amongst the brethren in Turkey. The M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland, in recognition of his zealous services to the Craft, granted a special dispensation authorising him to act as W.M. for the Oriental Lodge while he

retained the chair of the *Deutscher Bund*. The Worshipful brother is also Prov. S.G.W. for the district. The installation ceremony was very ably performed by Bros. Silly, Mountain, Thompson, and Smorffitt, P.M.'s. There were, in addition, some W.M.'s of other lodges not under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, Bro. Veneziani, of the Lodge Italia, and others. The attendance of the brethren was numerous. After the usual ceremonial, the W.M. proceeded to invest the following brethren as officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. J. O'Connor, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., as S.W.; C. Theodoride, J.W.; R. T. Allan, Prov. G.S.B., Treas.; R. A. Carleton, Prov. G. Sec., as Sec.; J. Broad, S.D.; G. Warren, J.D.; Henry Arnold, I.G.; and T. Cipriotti, Tyler. After the investiture of the officers, the brethren adjourned to a most excellent banquet. After proper justice had been done to the good fare, the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," drunk with loud applause. This was followed by "His Majesty the Sultan," "The M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland and the Grand Officers," which was received with full Masonic honours. "The R.W. Prov. G.M. for Turkey, the Right Hon. Sir Henry L. Bulwer, G.C.B., and the Provincial Grand Officers," which was also duly honoured. The Prov. G. Sec., Bro. R. A. Carleton, returned thanks. The W.M. then gave "Our newly-initiated Brethren," which was responded to by Bro. G. Gurgilio, of the Ottoman Navy; "The Visiting Brethren," responded to by Bro. Capt. Currey, of Newcastle. Bro. Smorffitt, P.M., then proceeded in some very felicitous terms to propose the health of the newly-installed W.M., Bro. W. W. Evans, whose nomination to his present position would, he felt assured, be hailed with the liveliest satisfaction by every friend to the spread of Masonry in Turkey. It was a toast that required no preface from him, and he had therefore not the slightest hesitation in calling upon them to drink to the health of one they all had every right to hold in the highest esteem, whose zeal and exertions had placed him in the foremost rank of the brethren in this country—"The Health of the W.M., Bro. W. W. Evans." The toast was drunk with full honours, and received with long-continued applause. Bro. J. Smorffitt, I.P.M., in appropriate terms, proposed the health of the newly-installed W.M., Bro. W. W. Evans, which was drunk with all the honours. The W.M. in returning thanks said—Brethren, before I thank you for the very kind manner in which my health was proposed and received, let me beg to call your attention to a retrospect of the proceedings of the Oriental Lodge from its infancy. The origin of this lodge is somewhat peculiar. In 1856, there was a Mason in Constantinople, named Honnegar. We subsequently ascertained that he was a mere adventurer. However, to him may really be ascribed the formation of the Oriental Lodge. This brother, with the assistance of a Bro. Rothschild, hunted up—I don't know a more appropriate word—nearly all the Freemasons in Constantinople. What Bro. Honnegar's object was I subsequently ascertained, and so did other brethren, I am sorry to say, to our cost. The two brethren had circulars printed—the lodge had afterwards to pay the account—and sent them to the brethren, calling a meeting at Baltzer's Hotel, on Sunday, the 7th of September, 1856; the meeting was stated to be held for the purpose of considering the best measures to be taken to form a Masonic lodge in Constantinople. At that meeting there were sixteen brethren present; Bro. Silly presided. The first business was to read a letter from a well known brother, who stated his religious scruples prevented his attendance at a meeting of Masons held on a Sunday, and if I am not mistaken the Royal Athelstone Lodge hold their regular meetings likewise on a Sunday. Well, after this subject had been discussed, it was unanimously agreed to form a Masonic lodge at Constantinople, and in order to do so the brethren present were requested to shell out at once to the best of their ability. I am happy to say that this call was well responded to, the sum of £25 being at once subscribed; the two promoters—a modern word very applicable to the parties—putting their names down on the list for £5 each, which amount they quite forgot to pay. After this, a long discussion ensued; eventually it was proposed to send a memorial praying for permission to hold a lodge of Masons in Constantinople to her Majesty's Ambassador, requesting him to lay it before the Sultan. This proposition was, however, negatived. It was also proposed that the warrant should be obtained from the Grand Lodge of Turkey at Smyrna, but fortunately this was not carried out, as it was subsequently ascertained that the so-called Grand Lodge of Turkey was a self-constituted and irregular lodge. The warrant, as you are well aware, was obtained from the Grand Lodge of England.

We, the founders, held altogether seven meetings, at which everything necessary for the foundation of the lodge was arranged, the total amount of donations at the end of 1856 amounting to £114 4s.—not a bad beginning. Of the difficulties and delays the founders had to encounter I shall not waste your time by describing. Suffice it to say that, after waiting for several months, the warrant, furniture, and paraphernalia arrived at the end of July in the ensuing year, 1857; and on the 7th August of that year this lodge was consecrated in due form, and the first W.M., Bro. Silly, installed, the requisite ceremonies being most efficiently performed by Bro. F. Hahnel, to whom the thanks of this lodge are especially due, as he not only obtained the warrant and furniture for us, but also rendered other valuable services, which I am sure will never be forgotten. In 1857, twelve meetings were held, at which 293 brethren attended, 20 gentlemen were initiated, and 21 brethren joined the lodge. In 1858, Bro. Silly was again elected to the chair; he held twenty-six meetings—tolerably good work—at which 691 brethren attended. In that year there were 20 initiations, and 5 brethren joined the lodge. In 1859, Bro. S. Aznevour was elected to the chair; he held sixteen meetings, at which 347 brethren attended; there were 8 initiations, and 10 brethren joined the lodge. In 1860, Bro. G. Laurie was elected W.M.; he held 17 meetings, at which 357 brethren were present; there were 7 initiations, and 1 brother joined the lodge. I am sorry to say to say that, in consequence of a long and painful illness, I was not able to complete my statistics of this lodge. I hope to be able to do so at a period not far distant. I trust, my brethren, that I have not trespassed too long on your time, nor proved tedious; my object was to give the younger members of the lodge a history of its foundation, of which most of them, I believe, were unacquainted. But now to return to the toast of the W.M. of the Oriental Lodge; and, brethren, let me beg to state that I know of no office in which a man may justly feel more proud than being a Master of a lodge, and more especially of this lodge, the pioneer of Freemasonry in Turkey. I need scarcely assure you that I esteem very highly the honour of being elected to that position in this lodge. If it should please Providence to spare me during the ensuing twelve months, I hope to be able to support and maintain the dignity of the chair, to which I have this day been elevated, and to perform the duties allotted to me in a satisfactory manner. I can assure you that I shall endeavour to carry out the principles of Masonry, and if I fail in the proper discharge of my duties, you must not attribute it to a want of good intentions. Hitherto, however, as twice Secretary, Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and again Secretary, I have always rendered you satisfaction, the proof of which is this very handsome gold snuff-box, as also a testimonial on vellum which accompanied it, presented to me by the lodge as an appreciation of my services. I think we shall be able, brethren, to get on well together, and at the conclusion of my year of office, as Bro. Kinnock would say if he was in my place, "I trust that the ship being placed under my command, worked by good officers and an efficient crew, I shall safely steer the vessel into port, after performing a safe and prosperous voyage. I beg to express my gratitude at the kind manner in which my health was proposed and responded to by you, and wish you all many happy new years, with health, prosperity, and happiness. The W.M. resumed his seat amidst loud applause. The health of the P.M.'s was then given and suitably replied to by Bro. Mountain, P.M. The W.M., in proposing the health of the Wardens and Officers of the Oriental Lodge, said—The next toast is one that affects me deeply; for it must be borne in mind a Master, however proficient himself, is awkwardly situated without good officers. I have appointed as my officers brethren in whom I have the greatest confidence, and I believe I shall not look in vain for their co-operation and support. I hope they will be constant in their attendance, for I consider them equally with myself to be in a position, the claims of which should be forestalled by nothing but actual duty or sickness; and I sincerely trust that we shall thus get on harmoniously and comfortably during the ensuing year. Bro. J. O. Connor, S.W., in a few appropriate remarks, returned thanks for the Officers. The W.M. then proposed "The Founders of the Lodge." The loving cup was then passed round, and after the toast "To all poor and distressed Masons," the festivities were concluded by the brethren singing "God Save the Queen." During the evening, Bros. T. Lamb and Brewer sang several duets, and other songs were given by the W.M., and Bros. O'Connor, Freeth, and Broad.

CEYLON.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 454, E.C.)—This lodge met at the Freemasons' Hall, Colombo, on Wednesday evening, the 21st December, at half-past eight, for the purpose of installing the W.M. for the ensuing year. The lodge was opened in form in the first degree by Bro. Thompson, P.M. No. 107, I.C., assisted by Bros. J. L. Sim, S.W.; J. Quarry, J.W.; J. Maitland, Sec.; C. G. S. Williams, S.D.; Bischoff, J.D.; S. Grenier, I.G.; D. W. Williams, Tyler; and other brethren, members of the lodge as well as visitors, members of the Sphinx Lodge (No. 107, I.C.), and Serendib Lodge (No. 112, I.C.) Bro. C. S. Hay, the W.M. elect, was then presented to the presiding W.M. by Bros. Col. Sim, I.P.M. Sphinx Lodge (No. 107, I.C.), and B. Grindrod, W.M. of Sphinx; and after the ancient charge had been most impressively and admirably delivered by Bro. Thompson, W.M., the lodge was successively called up to the third degree. A P.M.'s lodge having been formed, Bro. C. S. Hay was admitted and duly installed W.M. The lodge having been closed down to the first degree, the brethren in attendance were re-admitted in their various degrees, and saluted the chair according to ancient authority. A candidate having been initiated into the rites and mysteries of the Entered Apprentice degree, the lodge was closed in peace, love, and harmony. The newly-installed W.M. then entertained a party of his Masonic friends in the club rooms immediately beneath the lodge.

SERENDIB LODGE (No. 112, I.C.)—The 27th of December is a day highly prized among Freemasons as the festival of St. John the Evangelist, when the W.M.'s and officers of lodges under the Irish Constitution are usually installed. Accordingly, a meeting of Serendib (No. 112, I.C.) was convened at the Masonic Hall at half-past six in the evening, when Bro. G. S. Williams was installed W.M. for the ensuing six months in due form by a lodge of Masters and Past Masters, composed of Bros. H. Thompson, Col. Sim, B. Grindrod, and C. S. Hay. When he had been saluted by the brethren as W.M. he proceeded to appoint the following officers, and to invest them with their distinguishing collars and jewels:—Bros. Gorman as S.W.; Scriven, J.W.; Bischoff, Sec.; Molison, S.D.; Gillman, J.D.; Gibbon, I.G.; Smith, Tyler.

Sphinx Lodge (No. 107, I.C.)—The Sphinx Lodge met at half-past eight on the same evening, and after the ordinary business of the lodge, Bro. C. A. Lorenz was installed as W.M. with the accustomed ceremonies, and then followed the appointment and investiture of the following officers:—Bros. J. L. Sim, S.W.; Quarry, J.W.; Winzer, Sec.; Bischoff, S.D.; Larkum, J.D.; Kriekenbeek, I.G.; Maitland, Dir. of Cers.; W. Williams, Steward. The lodge having been closed in peace, love, and harmony, the brethren of both the Colombo Lodges, with visitors to the number of forty in all, adjourned about ten o'clock to the large room of the Masonic Club, where an excellent cold collation was served, the W.M. of the Sphinx, of course, presiding, supported on either side by the W.M.'s of St. John's and Serendib and the P.M.'s of the Sphinx. When full justice had been done to the eatables and drinkables, the W.M. rose to propose the first toast. He said he should mention a name which in all societies, whether Masonic or otherwise—amongst all classes and communities whatsoever, was received with enthusiasm—"The Queen!" God bless her!—The toast was of course drunk with all honours, Bro. C. H. Newton leading the National Anthem in capital style.—The W.M. said there was another toast which needed nothing from him to ensure it a most cordial reception, "The Prince and Princess of Wales."—The W.M. then gave "The Three Grand Masters." He said that in all ordinary political discussions it was usual to speak of the three kingdoms, now happily one, in the order of their prominence and importance—England, Ireland, and Scotland. (Expressions of dissent from some sons of Caledonia.) He would, however, propose advisedly the Grand Masters of Ireland, England, and Scotland, for they, as Irish, naturally spoke of their mother first.—The W.M. said, from the frequency with which he addressed them he feared they would consider him a bore, but there was one toast which would assert itself in spite of all the boredom in the universe. He had to propose the health of three brethren whom he saw around him—three who had served as Masters of the Sphinx, and who, from the position they occupied in society and the kindness and good feeling they evinced as Masons and men would, he was sure, be very heartily received by them all. Need he mention their names? The worthy and worshipful Past Master Thompson, the founder and promoter of the Sphinx Lodge; P.M. Sim, as fine and

zealous a Mason as ever sat in lodge; and their good kind friend, Barton Grindrod, who had just vacated the chair—which nobody could regret more than he; in short, they were all entitled to three hearty cheers.—Bro. Grindrod, P.M., for himself and the other P.M.'s, returned thanks. He said they had all striven their best for the lodge, and the lodge had certainly gone on and prospered; he had no doubt, too, that under its present auspices it would still continue to do so. He had already given an account of the lodge funds during the past half year—he would now say a word about its members. There had been eleven brethren initiated, eleven passed, ten raised, and two affiliated. At the time he took office as W.M. there were in all a hundred and nine subscribing brethren; there had been thirteen resignations, and one death, and there were now 110 subscribing members. He remembered that old Masons had told them when starting the Sphinx that Masonry would never succeed in Ceylon; but they were able now to refute that assertion. He believed, indeed, that very few lodges in England could show as long a roll of members as the Sphinx. He thanked the brethren very heartily for the way they had supported the chair during his period of office, and enjoined them to do so by their regular attendance during the time of his successor.—Bro. Col. Sim, P.M., said he had been entrusted with a toast which he thought he might call the toast of the evening; and when he told them that it was the health of their new W.M., Bro. Lorenz (cheers) they would agree that he was justified in calling it so. In saying this he did not imply any invidious comparison between the lodges, but it was natural that they should first drink to the Master of the mother lodge of Ceylon. That position was one of great importance. Under his (the W.M.'s) Maul were counted at least 100 disciples; and when he left that room for the one above, the task, besides being one of pleasure, was one also of grave responsibility. They might relieve some of their Master's care and anxiety, but he must retain great power for good. They recognised in him talents and eloquence; from the former they anticipated much benefit to Masonry; and from the latter they looked to derive great pleasure. He (Colonel Sim) had no doubt that his régime would be a very successful epoch in the annals of the Sphinx. (Cheers.)—The W.M. said he had to return thanks both for the way in which his health had been drunk, and for the honour they had done him in placing him at the head of that lodge. He felt his unworthiness of the position, but he was encouraged and sustained by the kindness and goodness which met him on all sides. He was accustomed both to failures and to successes, but he could say with all sincerity that no success had ever given him so much pleasure as that which placed him in the Master's chair of the Sphinx Lodge. (Hear.) He had the misfortune to belong to two professions in which he appeared as the enemy of mankind. As a lawyer he was oftentimes opposed to his friends, and as a member of the Fourth Estate, his hand was against every man and every man's hand against him; but nevertheless they had shown that whatever his profession, he had been able to secure their kindly regard and confidence as a Mason, and he assured them that he very cordially reciprocated the feeling.—Bro. Thompson, P.M., said he had to propose a toast which might stand entirely upon its own intrinsic merits—"The Health of Bro. Hay, the new Master of St. John's Lodge." He need not expatiate on the qualities which rendered Bro. Hay eminently fitted for that position; the "hero of his tale" was so well known that he would rather leave that point untouched. He might add, however, that the Kandy Lodge was a difficult one to rule, requiring much tact and discrimination in its Master; but he could not doubt that whilst Bro. Hay was in the chair, all would go well in Kandy. (Hear, hear.)—The W.M. of St. John's, in returning thanks, called attention to the fact that his was the oldest lodge in the island, that it had been established in 1838, and had struggled on through times when Masons were very few and far between in Ceylon; but it had lived to see the day when almost every one was pressing forward to pierce the mysterious veil which covered their rites and ceremonies, in the appointed way. He compared himself to the young King of Greece, in having left his own kingdom and come to another to be crowned; referred to the establishment and progress of the Sphinx under the auspices of Bro. Thomson, and concluded by proposing "The Health of Bro. Williams," the new W.M. of Serendib, which, as an offshoot of the Sphinx Lodge, he did not doubt would be successful.—The W.M. of the Serendib Lodge returned thanks, and explained that but for the extremely Masonic conduct of

Bro. Arrowsmith (who had been elected) in resigning on his departure, he (Bro. Williams) would not have occupied that position. He acknowledged the obligations they were under to the Sphinx, and said they should never forget them. He said that as yet the Masters had had the glory of the evening to themselves, and he thought they had glorified themselves to a pretty considerable extent; but they should not forget that much of the working of the lodge depended on the Wardens, and he would propose the Wardens of all the lodges.—Bro. J. L. Sim returned thanks, with an expression of hope that the new officers might be able to carry on the Sphinx Lodge as it had been in the past, and in conclusion, proposed the health of its Past Officers.—Bro. Maitland, P.S.W., returned thanks in an appropriate speech, in which he touched on the success of the lodge under Bro. Grindrod's rule, assured the new officers that there was lots of work to do, and expressed his confidence that with such officers all would go well. Before sitting down he proposed "The Visitors."—Bro. Wright, in acknowledging the toast, said he had been "made" in Nova Scotia twelve years ago, and drew upon his recollections of Masonry in Ceylon prior to 1860, and his knowledge of its progress since, for good auguries as to the future.—The W.M., in fitting terms, proposed "The Ladies," calling upon Bro. Newton, of whose innate gallantry they were aware, to reply. Bro. Newton did reply with eloquence worthy the theme; adding, with respect to the Sphinx, that he had been one of its founders, that his name was enrolled on the Grand Lodge warrant, and that when he looked round on those who were met under that authority, he could not but feel proud of the fact. (Hear, hear.) The Tyler gave "All Poor and Distressed Masons throughout the World," which was drunk in solemn silence. This was the last toast of the evening; but speeches only gave place to song, and the brethren did not separate until Bros. Morris, Williams, and Newton had each thus added their quota to the harmony and hilarity of the occasion. The National Anthem (solo by Bro. Morris and chorus by all present, accompanied by Bro. Grenier on the harmonium) concluded a meeting in which nothing had occurred to mar the thorough good feeling and enjoyment that distinguished all its proceedings.

INDIA.

(From the *Indian Freemasons' Friend*.)

BENGAL.

CALCUTTA.—*Lodge St. John* (No. 486).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, No. 48, Cossitollah, on Friday, October 21st, 1865. Present:—Bros. John William Brown, D. Prov. G.M. of Bengal and P.M. of the lodge; Dr. Frank Powell, P.M. of the lodge; Fenn, S.W.; Rosamond, as J.W.; Lattey, as S.D.; George Chisholm, J.D.; Baxter, Sec. and Treas.; Vangreiken, as I.G.; Daniel, O.G., members and visitors. Elected as joining members:—Bros. Walker Marshall, Pink, and R. S. Erskine. Bro. Powell conferred the second degree on Bro. Hopkins. Bro. Brown initiated Messrs. G. K. Livesay and W. J. B. Alder. Relief was voted to the widow of a M.M. who had perished in the storm of the 5th October. On the motion of Bro. Chisholm, adopted by the lodge, it was arranged that a list be opened for contributions from the members of the lodge in aid of the sufferers by the cyclone of the fourth and fifth days of October. A regular meeting was also held on Friday, the 11th November. Present:—Bros. E. W. Pittar, W.M., presiding; Dr. Frank Powell, P.M.; John Wm. Brown, D. Prov. G.M. of Bengal; Fenn, S.W.; Rosamond, S.W.; W. G. Baxter, Sec. and Treas.; George Chisholm, S.D.; J. Wright, J.D.; J. Amory, I.G.; D. J. Daniel, Tyler. The following brethren were elected joining members:—Captain J. Obbard, J. T. Foggo, H. Clarton, and J. B. Morewood. The following gentlemen were initiated into Freemasonry:—Captain Edmund Stacepool, Richard Allen Lattey, and Montague Clement Smith. Bro. Grenville Moffet was raised to the degree of M.M. by Bro. John William Brown, P.M.

LODGE HUMILITY WITH FORTITUDE (No. 229).—A meeting of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, on the 7th November, last. Present:—Bros. Hugh D. Sandeman, Prov. G.M. of Bengal, and an honorary member of the lodge; J. Bruce Gillon, W.M.; J. G. Bowerman, P.M.; F. McAlpin, S.W. and Treas.; E. Symonds, J.W.; H. Cockburn, Sec.; J. Mackintosh, S.D.; A. D'Cruz, jun., as J.D.; E. Hickmott, I.G.;

B. Jacob, Tyler, members and visitors. The report of the Permanent Committee was read and adopted. A ballot was taken for the admission of Bro. J. Besemeres, a member of Lodge True Friendship (No. 218), which resulted in his being unanimously elected. An application for relief from a distressed brother, warmly seconded by Bro. Macgregor, was then read, and a donation granted. Allusion was then made to the loss the lodge had sustained, in consequence of the late cyclone, by the death of three old and valued members, Bro. Salmon, late Secretary of the I.G.S.N. Company, passenger in the ill-fated *Persia*, and Bros. C. P. Sutherland and P. Hill, in command of the tug steamers *Dwarkanath* and *Phoenix* respectively. Fitting tributes were paid to the memory of those true and upright brothers by Bro. Bowerman, the W.M., and the S.W., and a resolution was adopted, expressing the grief of the lodge at their loss, and respect to their memory. Bro. R. Little, of Lodge Harmony (No. 641), Cawnpore, was proposed as a joining member, and Bro. J. B. Nelson was re-transferred to the subscribing list. At the banquet table, after the customary toasts had been proposed and duly honoured, the W.M. proposed the health of the Prov. G.M., adverting to the dismay which had been caused amongst the Masonic fraternity by the rumour that that brother had been lost in the recent tempest, and the joy experienced when the rumour was proved to be groundless. The Prov. G.M., in responding to the toast, spoke of the pleasure it always gave him to visit Lodge Humility with Fortitude—one great reason for which was that he looked upon it as Bro. Hoff's lodge, and, in addition to all its other merits, honoured the lodge on this account. In proposing the health of the W.M., the Prov. G.M. paid him and the lodge a high compliment, speaking of the careful and orderly mode of working, and the thoroughly fraternal spirit which prevailed. The W. Master having duly acknowledged this toast, next proposed, in suitable terms, the health of the visiting brethren. This was responded to by Bro. E. V. H. Haldane, who mentioned that he had had the honour of ruling over the mother lodge of the W.M. (St. Andrew's in the East, No. 343), Poona, and was much pleased that one of the pupils of that lodge should have turned out so well, and attained to such honour in the Craft. The health of the officers of the lodge was then proposed by the W. Master, who congratulated himself on having such efficient supporters in the ruling of the lodge, and paid a well-deserved tribute to the Treasurer for his financial exertions. He expressed his pleasure at seeing the Secretary's chair once more filled by Bro. Cockburn, who had returned from Simla, and he thanked Bro. Mackintosh for the willing aid rendered by him in the discharge of the duties of that post. The evening was enlivened by some melodies from Bros. Beaton, Cockburn, Cooper, McAlpin, and other musical brethren.

ROYAL ARCH.

DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER OF BENGAL.

The annual Convocation of the District Grand Chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, Nov. 3, last.

The Convocation had been preceded by an emergent convocation of Chapter Hope, which, in compliance with a request made by the Grand Superintendent, had met early in the evening for the purpose of installing Comp. Stephen W. Rains, the first Principal elect of an Irish chapter in Colombo, Ceylon.

The Grand Superintendent, M.E. Comp. Hugh D. Sandeman, presided at the meeting of the District Grand Chapter. He informed the companions that a new chapter had been established at Rangoon, and that an old chapter had been revived at Peshawar. The list of chapters in the province stood as follows:—Hope, 109, Calcutta; Holy Zion, 392, Calcutta; Firm Hope, 413, Meerut; Dalhousie, 459, Simla; Mount Zion, 519, Benares; Ramsay, 552, Lucknow; Umballa, 563, Umballa; Border, 582, Peshawar; Morning Star, 614, Rangoon; St. John the Baptist, 639, Mussoorie; Punjab, 782, Lahore.

The chapters at Lucknow and Meerut had not yet rendered returns for 1863; and Chapter St. John the Baptist, at Mussoorie, had furnished no return since the year 1859. It would be necessary to deal firmly with the Mussoorie Chapter.

The Prov. G. Scribe read the report of the Finance Committee on the audit of the Prov. G. Treasurer's accounts. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 853, and the disbursements to Rs. 1,549. The balance in hand was Rs. 1,114, of which Rs. 1,000 was a fixed deposit. The disbursements had been chiefly on account of the clothing ordered for the District Grand Chapter last year.

The following resolutions were passed :—

"That, with regard to the failure of Chapter St. John the Baptist, at Mussoorie, to furnish any returns for a considerable period, an explanation be called for from the chapter, and notice given to it that, in the absence of any satisfactory explanation from it within two months after the date of such notice, its charter will be recalled."

"That fifty copies of the new edition of the Regulations of the Supreme Grand Chapter be obtained from England at the risk of the District Grand Chapter, and sold to such chapters or individual Masons as may be desirous of possessing a copy."

"That, with reference to the heavy expenses which have recently been borne by the District Grand Lodge Fund in lighting the Freemasons' Hall with gas, &c., the sum of five hundred rupees be transferred to that fund from the fund of the District Grand Chapter."

The Grand Superintendent appointed the following officers for the ensuing twelve months, and took the opportunity to pass a eulogium on M.E. Comp. J. W. Brown, who was about to pass out of the chair of Provincial Grand Principal H. :—

Comp. J. B. Knight	Prov. G.P.H.
" J. H. Linton	" G.P.J.
" W. H. Hoff	" G. Scribe E.
" C. K. Dove	" G. Scribe N.
" T. Bruce Lane.....	" G. Principal Soj.
" P. Powell.....	" G. 1st Assist. Soj.
" W. G. Baxter	" G. 2nd Assist. Soj.
" I. L. Taylor.....	" G. Registrar.
" G. Chisholm	" G. Standard Bearer.
" G. M. Ogilvie	" G. Dir. of Cers.
" T. Riseley	" G. Org.
" D. J. Daniel	" G.J.

E. Comp. T. Dickson was re-elected Prov. G. Treasurer.

At the banquet table, the Grand Superintendent, besides the usual toasts, proposed the health of M.E. Comp. J. W. Brown, with reference to his retirement from the office of Second Grand Principal. The Grand Superintendent felt sure that Comp. Brown, having attained high past rank, would not rest upon his oars, but would still be found in the energetic discharge of Masonic duties. Comp. Brown had that very evening performed an important service, having as it were given the means of existence to Royal Arch Masonry in Colombo. Comp. Rains, an elected Principal, had arrived in Calcutta from Ceylon, chiefly for the purpose of getting himself installed; for without installation, it would not be in his power to open and work the chapter at Colombo. To enable that companion to gain his object, the Grand Superintendent had directed the Grand Scribe to apply for aid to Comp. Brown, Principal Z. of Chapter Hope. The Grand Superintendent had felt quite certain, when the letter was dispatched, that the installation of Comp. Rains had been secured; such was the dependence he (the Grand Superintendent) had on Comp. Brown's zeal. Although the notice had been very short, Comp. Brown had succeeded in getting the aid of a sufficient number of Principals, and had that evening inducted Comp. Rains in the chair of Principal Z.

Comp. Brown acknowledged the compliment which had been paid to him, and stated, with reference to the special service alluded to by the Grand Superintendent, that he was indebted to the activity of the Scribe of his chapter (Comp. Chisholm) for the meeting which had been convened for the induction of Comp. Rains. Comp. Brown had been lying ill in bed when Comp. Hoff's letter had reached him, and he had consequently been obliged to get his wife to act as *amanuensis*, and to despatch instructions to the Scribe of his chapter, who, on receiving them, had instantly exerted himself to carry them into execution. It was satisfactory to him (Comp. Brown) to find that office in the District Grand Chapter had been conferred on Comp. Chisholm.

The Grand Superintendent then proposed the health of Comp. Rains as a visitor. That companion belonged to the Constitution of Ireland, and he had received a hearty welcome, in Calcutta, from companions owing allegiance to the Supreme Grand Chapter of England; so that it must be evident to him that, whatever estrangement might occasionally arise between lodges and chapters of very different jurisdictions in the same province, the mere circumstance of a Mason belonging to a different constitution never prevented his receiving a fraternal greeting all the world over.

Comp. Rains, in acknowledging the toast, offered some very interesting remarks regarding the small beginnings of Masonry in Colombo, and its recent progress, and gave great credit to

Col. Maydwell, whose name was pretty well known in the Craft. He concurred with the Grand Superintendent in the opinion that the existence of different jurisdictions in one province only led to collisions, and regretted that the principle which prevented the establishment of English lodges in Scotland and Ireland, of Scotch lodges in England and Ireland, and of Irish lodges in England and Scotland was not observed in the colonies.

The Grand Superintendent and three or four others passed an hour or two very pleasantly after the final toast had been given.

BAHAMAS.

NASSAU, NEW PROVIDENCE.

The Festival of St. John the Evangelist, December 27th, 1864, was celebrated here with full Masonic honours. A grand procession was formed of the members under the Grand Lodge of Scotland (the Prov. G.M. under the English Constitution not allowing any of his brethren to appear in the procession clothed in the badges of the Order), and, accompanied by the band of the 1st W. I. Regiment playing the Masonic March, they proceeded to the Cathedral of Nassau, upon arriving at which the organ pealed forth a noble strain as the brethren marched into the aisles. A large assembly attended. The prayers were read for St. John's Day, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Swann, the text being taken from Luke x., part of the 25th verse. The reverend gentleman, not being a Mason, and, in fact, altogether misunderstanding its principles, delivered a sermon full of matters irrelevant to the occasion, and so utterly distasteful to many of the brethren present, that it has given rise to a correspondence in the *Bahama Herald*, which we append. On the return of the procession to the Masonic Hall, the proceedings under the Grand Lodge of England commenced by the Royal Victoria Lodge installing the W.M. for the ensuing year, the charge being read by Bro. Spry. The banquet was held at six p.m. in the Provincial Buildings (kindly granted by the Governor). The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured, and the proceedings wound up in the most harmonious manner. The following is the letter alluded to above :—

"To the Editor of the *Bahama Herald*."

"Nassau, N.P., December, 1864."

"SIR,—Being one of the visitors present on Tuesday morning last (the Anniversary of St. John the Evangelist) at the Cathedral on the occasion of the Masonic visitation there, I feel called upon to make a few remarks, lest some strangers present might form a wrong idea of what Freemasonry is, from some uncalled-for remarks which fell from the reverend gentleman who preached the sermon for the occasion.

"We must travel a very long way back to the distant ages to find the origin of Masonry, and, even then, we find a difficulty in tracing its birth. That it has, however, flourished, defying calumny, ridicule, and persecution, was a proof that its vitality was peculiar and deeply rooted. It was practised by the astronomers and soothsayers of Chaldea, by the priests and kings of ancient Egypt, by the Brahmins of India, and by the philosophers of Greece, and it had reached its meridian glory when Solomon, with the aid of his brethren of the Craft, laid the foundation-stones of the Temple which he was about to erect to the honour of God. Its symbols are even to be traced on the works of ancient nations, widely distant from each other, on the pyramids of Egypt, the caves of Elaphanta, the mystic temples of classic Greece, the mysterious round towers of Iceland, the courts of the Alhambra, and on the walls of all our principal cathedrals. Whence, then, this universal presence and permanence? Because its foundations rested, not on the changing and perishable circumstances of external nature, but on circumstances springing from, and appealing to, the best affections of human nature and on the purest principles of piety and virtue.

"In our lodges, the volume of the Sacred Law is never closed,—from its pages we are taught our duty to God, our neighbour, and ourselves. We are taught to extend charity and benevolence without regard to sect, colour, or creed, and to look up to God as the one great cause of all, to implore His aid in all our lawful undertakings, and to bend with resignation to His divine will. The charities connected with this world wide institution consist of the Orphan Schools and Asylum for the Aged, &c. To the Lancashire distress fund large subscriptions

were given also to the Patriotic Fund—in fact, to everything tending to relieve the distressed, sums of money are yearly voted. Widespread then as those principles are, there is at the present time no part of the habitable globe in which Masonry does not flourish. It has a universal language understood by the fraternity in every part of the world. That it neither threatened the state or true religion, but rather tended to insure the stability of both, is shown from the number of dignitaries of the church and royal personages, who have since its introduction into England, 1600 years ago by St. Austin, presided over its councils—Alfred the Great, Edward the Confessor, Henry I., Henry VI., James I., Charles I., William III., William Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter, William of Wykeham, Cardinal Wolsey, and the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and a host of others, such as Locke, Newton, Sir Christopher Wren, Inigo Jones, Wellington, &c. And the only distinction carried by that great, pure, and patriotic Washington into his retirement was that of Grand Master of Freemasons in America. And even now in the present day, such names as the Earl of Zetland, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, the late Duke of Atholl, the Duke of Leinster, the Marquis of Huntingdon, Viscount Combermere, Earl Howe, the Duke of St. Albans, the late Duke of Newcastle, the Earl of Fife, and numbers of our own blood royal, have not thought it derogatory to lay aside their royalty and preside over our councils; whilst amongst foreigners of distinction we can at the present time name Charles XV. of Sweden, William I. of Prussia, the Prince of Prussia, the Prince of the Netherlands, &c. Such names as these surely ought to silence calumny and ridicule, and show that the views Freemasonry embrace has deep and abiding interests for the statesman, the minister of religion, the patriot, and the man of science. They prove that—

‘Our order was designed
To expand the human race and elevate mankind.
Wisdom herself contrived the mystic frame—
Strength to support, to adorn it beauty came.
It bids us ever gratefully to adore
The God of all—the Universal power.’

“It should not militate against the Order that all its members have not profited by its teaching. There must be imperfections and shortcomings in every human institution; but Masonry would never make a good man bad, whilst the exhortations of better brethren have made many a bad man good. Such, then, are some of the principles of this Society. Many may have laboured under a wrong idea of the Institution. If they have, and if these few remarks set them thinking and inquiring, the object of the writer will be obtained.

“I., Fidelity (No. 230).”

Obituary.

BRO. ROBERT WADISON.

We regret to announce the death of Bro. Robert Wadison, which occurred at his residence, Birchin-lane, on Monday, the 23rd ult., after a few days' illness, in the 56th year of his age. Bro. Wadison was initiated in the Wellington Lodge, Deptford, in October, 1854, and passed through its various offices. He was also a member of the Domatic Chapter and the Thistle Lodge of Mark Masters.

REVIEWS.

The Dramatic Almanack for 1865. By J. W. ANSON. Arliss, Great Queen-street.

This is a most useful little almanack, and contains a fund of information relative to the theatrical and musical professions which must prove extensively valuable to all who take an interest in public amusements. The general information is well selected; and certainly not one of the least recommendations of this annual is to be found in the fact “the profits are devoted to the Dramatic, Equestrian, and Musical Sick Fund.”

LITERARY EXTRACTS.

ABOUT WHIST.—Whist is unquestionably of English origin, though as to the time and place of its birth we do not possess any precise evidence. Whist is not mentioned by Shakespeare, nor by any writer of the Elizabethan era, from which we may infer that the game was then scarcely in existence. All that we know about the extreme childhood of whist is, that it was spent in the servants' hall. Its associates there, we are informed on the authority of Daines Barrington, were “put” and “all-fours.” The game seems soon to have manifested seductive powers, for as early as 1630 Taylor, the Water Poet, mentions whist as inducing the prodigal to “fling his money free with carelessness.” We cannot deny that at this period the character and friends of whist were decidedly low. Whist even appears in a lock-up in the questionable company of Mr. Jonathan Wild. The great Fielding records that when the ingenious Count la Ruse was domiciled with Mr. Geoffrey Snap (who enjoyed office under the sheriffs of London and Middlesex), his countship sought to beguile the tedium of his in-door existence by recourse to the amusements of the day. Mr. Snap's two daughters benevolently aided him and chose Wild to make up their parties. Whisk and swabbers (which is only whist under an *alias*), was then (1682) greatly in vogue, and the ladies were consequently obliged to look out for a fourth person. In the “Memoirs of the Lives, Intrigues, and Comical Adventures of the most Famous Gamesters” from the time of Charles II. to that of Queen Anne, we come across a sharper named Johnson, whose last adventure was that he was hanged in 1690. Of him it is written that he excelled in the art of “securing” honours for himself and partner when playing at whist. We next hear of whist frequenting public-houses in the City. “The Compleat Gamester,” originally published in 1674, does not mention whist at all; but in later editions we are told that whist was a tavern game, and that sharpers generally took care to put about the bottle before business began. For all this, whist never accommodated itself easily to the designs of card legs. It never took to them kindly, but, like Oliver Twist, it was the victim of circumstances and of its own inexperience. Whist was more sinned against than sinning. Accordingly it contrived, after a time, to escape from its tavern acquaintances; and early in the eighteenth century, though not as yet fashionable, it had, at least, become respectable. Its principal friends at this epoch were country squires and country parsons. In the “Beaux Stratagem,” by Farquhar (1707), Squire Sullen is said to be fond of whist, and Mrs. Sullen, who was a fine lady from London, refers to her husband's predilection in terms which imply that whist was then classed with rural rather than with West-end accomplishments. Pope, also, about this time (1715) alludes to whist in connection with the squirearchy; and Swift, in his “Essay on the Fates of Clergymen” (1728) says that the clergy occasionally indulged in the society of whist. This patronage does not seem to have been equal to the task of altogether retrieving whist from the character of vulgarity. Better days, however, were in store for it. About this time “The Compleat Gamester” became amalgamated with the “Court Gamester,” and whist was admitted into the first, the courtly division of the work, in company with “ombre, quadrille, quintille, picquet, and the royal game of chess.” About 1730, a party of gentlemen, of whom the first Lord Folkestone was one, frequented the Crown coffee-house in Bedford-row, and there introduced whist, studied the game, and, it is believed, discovered some of its principles. They laid down the following rules:—Lead from the strong suit; study your partner's hand, and attend to the score. In 1743, whist was adopted by Edmund Hoyle, who is to this day called the father of the game. Under his auspices whist made the acquaintance of all the rank

and fashion of England, and travelled across the Channel during the Anglo-mania which prevailed in France in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The Baron de V — says, "It was even represented at Versailles, but I cannot affirm whether it was by the English ambassador in person." The remainder of the career of whist is well known. It was welcomed to all the chocolate-houses, clubs, and fashionable assemblies. It became the lion of the day. It was talked about and written about. Once really known, it was esteemed a universal favourite, admired and respected by all; and in spite of a little contretemps with the premier baron of England, some thirty years back, it has retained its ascendancy until now.—*London Society.*

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and the younger members of the Royal Family continue at Osborne. The Prince and Princess of Wales returned to London on Saturday, and on Monday visited Covent Garden Theatre.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—The session was opened on Tuesday by Royal Commission. In the Speech from the Throne, the conclusion of peace between Denmark and Germany is referred to, and her Majesty states that the communications she "receives from foreign powers lead her to entertain a well-founded hope that no renewed disturbance of the peace of Europe is to be apprehended." The American war, the late operations in Japan, the rebellion in New Zealand, the proposed confederation of the British North American provinces, the expedition against the Bhootanese, and the Calcutta cyclone, are the remaining topics of the first division of the speech. Turning to matters of domestic interest, the House of Commons is assured that the estimates "have been prepared with every attention to economy, and with due regard to the efficiency of the public service." "My lords and gentlemen" are then informed that the general condition of the country is satisfactory; that the revenue "realises its estimated amount;" that the distress in Lancashire "has greatly abated;" that Ireland has had a good harvest, and is experiencing a "gradual extension of trades and manufactures. Bills will be introduced for the concentration of the law courts in London, for continuing and completing the revision of the statute law, for the amendment of the patent laws, and for conferring on the County Courts an equitable jurisdiction in cases of small amount. An effort will also be made to remedy certain defects in the Poor Law, and Parliament will be invited to give its sanction to a measure founded on the report of the Public Schools Commission. In the HOUSE OF LORDS the address in reply to the Royal Speech was moved by Lord Charlemont and seconded by Lord Houghton. Lord Derby, after a sarcastic allusion to the tameness of the programme submitted to a moribund Parliament, called attention to the notice given by the Government of the United States for the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty and of the convention by which the neutrality of the American lakes has for many years been secured. It was absurd to suppose that the Canadians entertained any designs upon the United States, and he could only view the course taken by the Government of Washington as hostile and aggressive. In this state of things it would be the duty of England to secure a preponderance of power on the lakes, and he rejoiced at the prospect of our North American provinces being consolidated into a powerful nation. The noble earl referred to the distress in Lancashire, remarking that, though fluctuations in the state of employment may still be expected, the worst of the crisis had been passed. With reference to the public works, he was afraid

that in some cases schemes had been sanctioned which demanded skilled labour, and had therefore conferred but little benefit upon those for whose relief the Act was specially passed. He expressed his regret at the proposal to bring in a Bill on the public schools, preferring in such matters voluntary to compulsory reforms. After some remarks from Lord Granville and Lord Leitrim, Lord Russell replied to one or two of Lord Derby's observations. Lord Derby had attributed the rupture of diplomatic relations with Brazil to the course taken by the Foreign Office, but Lord Russell submitted that the Brazilian Government alone was to blame. He expressed a hope, however, that the breach would soon be healed. Coming to a more important question, he said Lord Derby had not taken sufficient account of the not unnatural irritation which had been produced in the American mind by the depredations of Confederate cruisers, and the mischief done by Southerners who had made Canada a basis of operations. At the same time, while making every allowance for the irritation which prevailed in the United States, her Majesty's Government would not allow claims to be pressed which were not founded upon law and justice. Lord Granville remarked, with reference to the notice given by the American Government for the termination of the treaties, that there was still time for negotiations with respect to these matters. The address was agreed to, and their lordships adjourned.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, several recently elected members took their seats, and new writs were ordered for Salford, Tralee, Cork, and Truro. Several notices of motion were given.—Sir John Pakington will shortly move for a select committee to inquire into the constitution of the Committee of Council, Mr. Moffatt for a committee of inquiry into the Bankruptcy Act, and Lord R. Montagu for a committee on the utilisation of sewage.—Sir Fitzroy Kelly proposes to submit to the House a resolution on the malt tax, and Mr. Roebuck intends on an early day to ask whether the Government would institute an inquiry into our railway system, with a view to future legislation on the subject. The address was moved by Sir Hedworth Williamson, and seconded by Mr. Hanbury-Tracy, and, after a long and not very interesting discussion, the motion was agreed to.—On Wednesday, Mr. Walter gave notice of his intention to move, as an addition to Sir John Pakington's motion on the Committee of Council on Education, the words, "and also as to the best mode of extending the benefit of Government inspection and parliamentary grants to schools supported by the State." Sir Hedworth Williamson having brought up the report on the Address, Mr. Vincent Scully moved the omission of the paragraph relating to Ireland, and the insertion of a sentence expressing regret at "the general condition" of that country. Mr. O'Reilly seconded the amendment, which, after a short discussion, was rejected by 67 votes to 12. The report was agreed to, and the House adjourned.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The rate of mortality in the metropolis continues to be high, and was last week 15 per cent. more than in the corresponding week of the last ten years. But, by the comparison now drawn in the Registrar General's report, it is pleasant for Londoners to see that of the ten great cities of Great Britain only two have a lower death rate than London, these two being Birmingham and Bristol, which are considerably below the average and a trifle below the metropolis. Glasgow seems by the present return to be the most unhealthy city of the ten. No fewer than 32 deaths resulted during the week from accidents; but the additions to the juvenile population continue to outnumber the deaths.—The weekly return of the Poor-Law Board indicates a stationary condition of the pauperism of the cotton manufacturing unions. Six are re-

ported as having experienced no change, while eleven had an increase of 820 paupers, which number was slightly over-balanced by a decrease of 830 in the remaining eleven. Of the unions that increased, Ashton-under-Lyne had 100; Chorlton, 110; Manchester, 190; and Stockport, 160 more than in the previous week. Of those which decreased, Blackburn had 210, and Haslingden, 110 fewer. The total number now on the rates is 98,620, or about 48,000 over the average of "full work" seasons. The expenditure by the guardians for out-door relief, and the number of adult able-bodied paupers, differ by a very small fraction from the figures last returned. Mr. Maclure reports that in the past month, as compared with December, there was a further considerable increase in the number of cotton operatives working full time; but it is added that "the present depressed state of the market renders it extremely doubtful" whether the improvement will be maintained throughout February. At the close of the month the guardians had 86,301 persons on their books, and the relief committees 33,243; making a total of 119,544. This represents a great mass of indigence, but the number is 10,853 below that reported in the last week in December. Of the 119,544 persons supported by the rates, or the funds raised by public subscription, 9,335 are described as able-bodied men. In seven of the 28 unions comprising the cotton district there are now no local committees distributing relief, but in the remaining 21 there are 53 committees still in operation.—The St. Pancras guardians met again on Tuesday to inquire about the way in which a pauper named Smart was alleged to have been influenced in the disposition of some supposed property. Smart, it appears, has denied that he intended to leave the bulk of his property to the master of the workhouse, and some other curious information has been elicited. The evidence, which is to be printed, is to be taken into consideration at the next meeting.—At the Court of Aldermen, when it was announced that the day of execution had been changed from Monday to Wednesday, Mr. Alderman Copeland suggested that the Sheriffs ought to go a step further and urge on the Home Secretary the necessity of having the executions conducted in private; and Mr. Alderman Phillips gave notice of a motion on the subject, and Mr. Alderman Sidney gave notice of an amendment requiring executions to be conducted out of the City altogether.—A meeting was held at the Freemasons' Tavern to promote the repeal of the malt-tax. Sir Fitzroy Kelly presided, and there were present a goodly number of county members and farmers. Sir Fitzroy Kelly, in opening the proceedings, advised the farmers not to ask for more than they were likely to get. The resolutions, which were nearly unanimously passed, asked for a repeal of the duty as soon as possible, and demanded that surplus revenue should be appropriated in that way. Several members of Parliament were amongst the speakers.—Mr. Massey, the new Finance Minister of India, was on Saturday sworn in a member of the Privy Council, at Osborne.—The legal patronage of the Government is being dispensed with a not illiberal hand. The other day Mr. Mure, who had held the office of Lord Advocate under Lord Derby, was appointed to a seat on the Scottish Bench; and now the judgeship which has been made vacant by the retirement of Mr. Justice Williams has been conferred upon Mr. Montague Smith, the Conservative member for Truro.—At a meeting of Benchers, representing the various Inns of Court, held on Tuesday, it was decided, by a majority of one—12 to 11—that clergymen should be henceforth eligible for call to the Bar. Clergymen desirous of unfrocking themselves and going to the Bar have still, however, before them the obstacles which Mr. Bouverie has been endeavouring, so far without success, to induce Parliament to remove.—Lord Gough has

had a very narrow escape. For some time past he has been staying with his old companion in arms, Sir Patrick Grant, at Lentrane House, near Inverness. Early on Sunday week, a fire broke out in the house, and the veteran field-marshal was only "carried out of his bed at a time when five minutes' longer delay would have insured his destruction." By this fire the whole of Sir Patrick Grant's Indian journals have been destroyed.—We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. Gregson, one of the members for Lancaster. It seems that the hon. Gentleman had been suffering from influenza, but he was in his place in the House of Commons on Tuesday night, and nothing serious was apprehended until within a few hours of his death, which took place on Wednesday morning.—If we may believe the *Shipping Gazette*, the projected modification of the French navigation laws is likely to be less beneficial to foreign shipping than Mr. Lindsay led us to expect some time ago. The Superior Council of Commerce is now stated to have come to a resolution to the effect that 2fr. per ton should be charged upon all foreign ships entering the ports of France; and it is apprehended that the Protectionists will yet succeed in raising a still more serious barrier against external competition.—The Brompton Oratory case has been again before the public. Mr. Collette, the solicitor, has made an application to Mr. Arnold, at Westminster, for certain summonses against Father Charles Bowden and other persons, whom he charged with being concerned in the abduction of the girl M'Dermot. He first charged them with the abduction itself, but on Mr. Arnold informing him that the evidence he adduced was not sufficient to justify him in issuing the summons, Mr. Collette said he would go into the question of conspiracy on a future day.—The Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench has delivered the judgment of the Court in the case of "Feather against the Queen." As formerly intimated, the judges were unanimous in their decision for the Crown, on the ground that the Crown, in making any grant to a subject, parted with none of its own rights unless the parting was expressly declared. The judgment was elaborately drawn up in writing, as it is understood that it will form the subject of appeal.—The recommendations of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the working of the patent laws have just been issued. Among the more important of these may be mentioned—That no importation of a foreign invention shall be patented; that no patent shall be extended beyond its original term of fourteen years; and that the Crown shall be entitled to the use of all patents, the remuneration to be fixed by the Treasury.—The trial of Mr. Rumble on the charge of enlisting men for the Confederate service came to an end on Saturday last, when several witnesses were examined for the defence, and among them some members of Mr. Rumble's own family, who distinctly disproved some of the allegations made by the witnesses for the prosecution. The Lord Chief Justice, in summing up, commented with some severity on the arts that had been used to entrap witnesses, or engage them to give evidence for the prosecution, and said he hoped for all their sakes that one of the chief managers of these arts, O'Kelly, was not an Englishman. The jury, after a very short deliberation, returned a verdict of Not Guilty, and their verdict was received with applause by a crowded court.—A case of breach of promise was tried before the Lord Chief Justice and a jury on Monday, which brought out some curious features. The defendant, a mature gentleman of some thirty years of age, returned home from India, and being introduced to the plaintiff's family, fell, or fancied he fell, in love with her. After a few month's courtship, though there was not the shadow of impeachment on the lady's character, the warmth of his feel-

ings abated, and he took the novel course of consulting his mother what he should do. Under her advice he wrote to the lady breaking off the match, stating that he had mistaken his own feelings. To soften this blow the mother enclosed in the letter some hymns of an intensely pious character. The jury did not think, however, that these verses would atone to the plaintiff for the disappointment, and they awarded £2,000 damages.—A daring and ingenious burglary was discovered on Monday morning in the shop of Mr. Walker, jeweller, in Cornhill. The thieves broke through the premises of two other persons to get at the object of their plunder, and forcing open the safe door, carried off valuable chronometers, watches, jewels, &c., to the value of £6,000. There was nobody on the premises, and the police had no suspicion of what was going on. Between Saturday night and Sunday morning the shop of Mr. Howard, jeweller, in Market-street, Manchester, was also entered by thieves, who stripped the place of almost every portable article of value it contained. Over Mr. Howard's shop is a room occupied by a hairdresser, which is entered by a stair from Corporation-street. To this room the thieves gained access, apparently without much difficulty, and, cutting a hole through the floor, they lowered themselves into the shop beneath. Mr. Howard had his jewellery locked in a safe, but the ingenious scoundrels worked their way through this obstacle, and gained possession of property valued at upwards of £3,000, almost the same operations being gone through as at Mr. Walker's.—At the Clerkenwell Court, on Tuesday, a solicitor raised the point that a prisoner could not be convicted for attempting to steal if the pocket that he tried was empty. It is likely this defence would have succeeded, but that, unluckily for the prisoner, the prosecutrix swore her pocket was not quite empty.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—Politics are generally in abeyance in Paris, and the public are awaiting with calmness the meeting of the Chambers on the 15th. One subject, however, is discussed with some interest—the affront put upon France by the Federal Senate, affirming the existence of the “Republic of Mexico.” It is universally expected that it will lead to a speedy recognition by France of the Southern Confederacy. The Privy Council met again on Saturday, and sat for a long time, but it was said the subject of discussion was that of primary education. The statement received by the last American mail respecting the cession of certain Mexican provinces to France is declared to be without foundation. The Military Bill which Count Bismarck has presented to the Prussian House of Deputies proposes that there shall be an annual levy of 11 in every 1,000 of the male population, or about 100,000 recruits every year. In the Chamber of Deputies the Minister of Marine has preferred a request for authority to contract a loan of £9,000,000, to be used in the construction of a fleet. This permission granted, no doubt need be entertained as to the disposition of the Duchies.—The address of the nobles of Moscow in favour of representative institutions appears to be regarded with serious displeasure by the Russian Government, which has taken steps to prevent a renewal of such demonstrations; and it is said that the Emperor Alexander himself is about to proceed to Moscow.—King Victor Emmanuel has arrived at Florence, where he was received with enthusiastic demonstrations of loyalty by the people.

INDIA.—According to the Indian intelligence brought by the Bombay mail, the operations against the mountaineers of Bhootan appear to have encountered very little opposition; and the campaign seems to be almost terminated, the British troops having occupied all, or nearly all, the districts and posts which it is intended to retain.

AMERICA.—By the arrival of the *China* we have intelligence from New York to the 25th ult. The Confederates have blown up and abandoned several forts and other defensive works at Wilmington since the capture of Fort Fisher. Admiral Porter is advancing towards Wilmington, and believes he will shortly have possession of it. He also asserts that the Confederates have destroyed two of their own steamers, believed to be the *Chickamauga* and the *Tallahassee*. The military commander of Wilmington declares he will burn the place rather than suffer the Federals to get possession of it. Sherman, according to the *Richmond Dispatch*, had concentrated his forces near the Combahee River, where he had received a check, which would probably delay him there for a considerable time. General Johnston has been reinstated, and appointed to the command of the Confederate army in the West. An address was about to be issued by the Southern Congress announcing to the people their determination to prosecute the war. Judge Coursal who released the St. Alban's raiders, has been suspended by the Government. The advices brought by the *Moravian* announce that Mr. Blair had returned from Richmond to Washington, and that his mission was “understood to be an utter failure,” as President Davis required that any negotiations should be “conducted as between independent nationalities,” and should be preceded by an armistice. A Confederate squadron, composed of three ironclads and five gunboats, and said to have been commanded by Captain Semmes, descended the James river during the night of the 23rd ult. with the supposed purpose of surprising the Federal flotilla, and destroying General Grant's stores and transports at City Point. But the Confederate vessels failed to pass the obstructions laid by the Federals in the stream; one of them ran aground, and had to be destroyed; and the others were compelled to return without effecting anything. There were contradictory accounts respecting the state of affairs at Wilmington; but it appeared certain that General Terry had demanded the surrender of the town, and it was not known whether the Confederates would evacuate or defend the place, though the Federal reconnaissance had shown them to be in strong force. It was reported that a strong Federal expedition was ascending the Chowan River, in North Carolina. General Sherman had received considerable reinforcements at Savannah, and it was said that large bodies of troops were descending the Mississippi, and were to be sent to join his army, or to be employed against Mobile. There was a rumour, brought from Hilton Head, that the Federals had captured 2,000 prisoners and three guns on the Upper Broad River. There was also a rumour that the Confederate General Price had taken Fort Smith, in Arkansas, with its Federal garrison of 2,000 men. President Davis had accepted the Confederate Congress's resolutions creating a Commander in Chief, and had informed Congress that General Lee would be appointed to the new office whenever he might find it practicable to undertake it without withdrawing from the direct command of the army of Virginia. It was reported that great changes would be made in the Confederate Cabinet, Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Seddon having tendered their resignations. The city of New York was to furnish 20,000 recruits under President Lincoln's last levy; and the Government had refused to reduce the quota. General McClellan, accompanied by Mrs. McClellan and Mr. Belmont, one of the leading Democrats of the North, arrived at Liverpool in the Cunard steamer *China*, from New York.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. MURRAY LYON.—Your communication shall appear in our next.

L. O.—In page 83 of the “Calendar and Pocket-book” of this year.

A. H.—We are not quite certain. We will communicate with you privately.

H. T.—Decidedly not.