

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1865.

GRAND LODGE.

On Wednesday evening, prior to the meeting of Grand Lodge, a portion of the new buildings were thrown open to the members to view; and so far as a cursory view could enable us to judge, appear to have been admirably executed, though we regret that the works have not made that progress we could have wished.

The following is the copy of a paper issued to the brethren:—

It is believed that the following slight sketch will be of use to the brethren.

The parts of the Masonic building thrown open for inspection this evening consist of—

1. The vestibule to the Great Hall, into which open the doors of the Great Hall and of the Sussex Room—it is lighted by a sun-burner, and will be paved with ornamental tiles; it will be continuous hereafter with the vestibule of the Great Banqueting Room of the new Tavern, but will be separated from it *except when the latter is required for Masonic use.*
2. The stairs leading to the corridor; the steps are of single blocks of Portland stone 15 feet wide.
3. The first-floor corridor.

Proceeding along the corridor to the right, at the farther, or North end, is

4. The grand staircase; of this, the steps and landings are complete as far as first-floor, and two of the marble columns are in their places:—this part of the first section of the new buildings is the least forward of any, but it will probably be in the hands of the plasterers this week; it is lighted by a large and ornamental dome having a sun-burner in the centre, and it gives access to all the corridors.

Returning along the corridor towards the North, the first room on the right hand is

5. A small lodge-room and its adjoining ante-room. In the centre of the corridor are four Languedoc marble columns with carved Ionic caps; on the left are the stairs of the vestibule, and on the right the apse, lighted by skylight and sun-burner. Adjoining and behind the apse are the back staircase and lavatories, &c. The floor of the corridor is paved with Portland stone and ornamented with Masonic tiles.

Proceeding to the north end, on the right hand is

6. The ante-room to large lodge-room, and at the end of corridor is—
7. A large lodge-room; these rooms will serve as “clothing” and “Scrutineers’” rooms respectively at the meetings of Grand Lodge.

The other parts of the building, which are nearly as forward as those above referred to, are as follows:—

On the *Ground Floor*.—The ground-floor corridor, from which are approached in the following order:—Clerk’s office and ledger-room, &c., Grand Secretary’s office, &c., waiting-room back staircase, lavatories, &c., offices for the Secretaries of each of the three Charities, Board-room.

On the *Second Floor*.—The second-floor corridor, from which are reached small lodge-room and ante-room, the same as on first-floor, lavatories, &c., large lodge-room and ante-room.

In the *Basement* and on *Third-floor* are the usual domestic

offices and servants’ bed-rooms—in the basement and under the ledger-room is also a fire-proof muniment room.

The parts of the building *not yet commenced*, but which are included in the contract, and form part of the Masonic buildings, are

The Façade, which will be of Portland stone.

On *Ground Floor*.—The lobby, the library, the coffee-room.

On *First Floor*.—The Grand Master’s rooms, the Grand Officers’ robing-rooms.

On *Second Floor*.—Lodge-room and ante-room.

In *Basement* and on *Third Floor*.—Grand Tyler’s rooms and bed rooms.

March 1, 1865.

The business was of little importance, and Grand Lodge had the shortest meeting we ever recollect, the whole of the business being over a little before ten o’clock. The M.W. G. Master was of course unanimously re-elected, those who conscientiously object to continued re-elections, now, rather than oppose the noble Earl, or by their presence seem to give an assent to an arrangement of which they totally disapprove, abstaining from attending Grand Lodge when the motion is to be brought forward.

Power was given to the Building Committee to raise the money for ensuring the carrying out of the works with the greatest possible speed; and with that everything of interest terminated.

ORNAMENTED AND STAINED GLASS.

(Concluded from page 119.)

The stained windows of the Decorated or Second-Pointed churches retain in some measure the mosaic character of those of the thirteenth century; but, as there is a tendency in all manufactures to economise labour, so it was in the fourteenth century. The glass was used in much larger pieces, and was not quite so thick as before; and, in the early part of the century, the invention of staining white glass yellow, very much simplified the manipulation, and gave an unmistakable character of its own to the productions of the fourteenth century, which gradually partook more of the character of translucent paintings than of mosaics.

I am not aware of any account of the first introduction of yellow stain. It produced a most striking result, and was easy of application, and it has been freely used to the present day. It appears that if silver, or any combination of silver, is in contact with glass, and exposed to a full red heat, the silver enters the minute pores of the surface, changing the white glass to yellow, and blue glass to green; the surface of the glass being, to all appearance, unaltered. We do not know how the ancients applied the silver, but the fact that silver would stain glass being known, many ways of applying it would suggest themselves.

The union of stained glass with architecture has always been most close; the alterations in the one have been accompanied by alterations in the other. The greater freedom of design and approach to naturalism in the sculptures and wall decorations of the fourteenth century may also be traced in the stained glass of that period.

There is no finer example of Second-Pointed glass than that in the chapel of Merton College, Oxford. A range of subjects under short canopies are placed upon white glass, on which is traced the most exquisite linear ornament; and this range of highly-coloured subjects is carried entirely round the building, forming a glorious string-course of jewellery.

During the period of Third-Pointed architecture, stained windows were still retained as the most necessary enrichment. A new style of design, however, more in character with the alterations in the style of architecture, was introduced. The mosaic system of construction, and the rich colouring of the two preceding centuries, was laid aside, to be reproduced in our own day. The system of firing and leading the glass was of course retained; but the whole effort of the fifteenth century artists was to produce a silvery effect of colouring. There was an excessive proportion of white glass in all their windows, and the use of yellow stain on white glass in all their windows, and the use of yellow stain on white glass was the principal aim of their colourists. We must do them the justice to say that the manipulation was most painstaking, amounting in many instances, especially in the early part of the century, to microscopic care. There is a fine and well-coloured Third-Pointed window in the Beauchamp Chapel, Warwick, but it is an exceptional work. It was in this, the fifteenth century, that Gothic architecture, after living in strength for ten centuries, began its decline, and towards the commencement of the sixteenth century altogether disappeared; and stained glass, as a decorative art, shared, like a faithful servant, its decline of fortune.

In the sixteenth century there arose in Germany a new style of glass-painting, named by Winston the Cinque-cento style, from the introduction of Italian or Renaissance feeling into the ornamental parts of the windows. The Italians, although loving colour, always preferred it of the opaque sort, mosaics and frescoes, and rarely, if ever, filled their windows with stained glass. They, however, set the fashion to the world, in the sixteenth century, of Palladian architecture; and their ornamentation materially influenced the designs of northern windows. The church of Saint Jacques, at Liège, and the chapel of the Miraculous Sacrament at Brussels, contain the most marked and best-known painted windows of foreign sixteenth century work. They both seem to be the work of the same hands, the ornamental work, at least, bearing the same detestable character. The windows of King's College, Cam-

bridge, are the best English productions of the sixteenth century; and those in the apse of Lichfield Cathedral, the east windows of St. George's, Hanover-square, and of Fairford Church, Gloucestershire, are the best known foreign works in England. However good in drawing, and however skilful in manipulation the works of the sixteenth century may be, there is but little, if any, consistency between them and the architecture, which was treated as a mere framework for their exhibition.

The productions of the seventeenth and part of the eighteenth century were clumsy attempts at picture-making, and are not worth speaking of. The dawn of the revival of the art of glass-painting in England was about 1750. Sir Joshua Reynolds's window in New College, Oxford, painted by Jarvis, of York, in 1780, is the type of eighteenth century work: it is painted with semi-transparent enamel, on squares of white glass. There is a little yellow stain, but no coloured glass, if I remember rightly. For nearly seventy years this attempt at transparent picture-making prevailed; the introduction of raw pot-metal blue, and a little ruby glass, being an occasional improvement.

Ruby glass in 1820 was so prized that in some shops it was wrapped up in flannel for careful keeping; it can now be bought for 1s. a foot.

The introduction of stained glass windows similar in character to those of the thirteenth and fourteenth century is due to Pugin, who stirred up the few glass-painters who, previous to this time, were engaged in the production of coloured windows for staircases, hall-lamps, and, as an occasional higher flight, a church window. He gave commissions for windows to each of them in turn, but eventually induced Mr. Hardman, of Birmingham, then a metal-worker, to establish a business of glass-painting in connection with his metal-works. I need scarcely add that from small beginnings a most extensive business has for a long time been carried on there.

It is due to Pugin's memory to state, that his great energy and liberal dealing are now frequently spoken of among the surviving glass-painters of his time. Mr. Willement was engaged upon the same pursuit at the same period, but his works were principally heraldic.

The manufacture of stained windows, as now practised, resembles that of the fourteenth more than of the thirteenth century; but it has been greatly facilitated by the use of the diamond for cutting the glass, and by the use of iron kilns in place of those of clay.

This is the history of the production of a modern stained window, and it will apply to ninety cases out of a hundred. The person who wants one usually goes about as he would for a tomb-stone, and for a similar purpose. The best advice is obtained as to where it can be had, or he has seen some window that has met his fancy, and he goes

to the place where similar work can be supplied. In course of time a coloured drawing on a small scale is made, embodying his ideas; if approved, and the order given, the glass-painter commences his work. Instead of a board the size of the window, used by the ancient glass-painters (large sheets of paper not then being invented) a full-sized drawing is made on thick paper; this is called a cartoon. A length of common glazed lining-muslin, the same as ladies' dresses are lined with, is laid all over it, and the outside shapes of the hands, head, feet, drapery-lines, &c., are marked on it in black ink; each of the shapes thus marked out represents a separate piece of glass, which, with the diamond, are cut out of sheets of coloured glass, coloured all through when the glass itself was made, not stained afterwards. There is only one stain, and that is yellow. There is 140 different tints of colour now made to select from, instead of six or eight, as in the thirteenth century. The pieces of glass are then fitted together on the lining-muslin, and the features and lines of the drapery are then painted on the glass with opaque enamel.

There are now made large sheets of thick white glass, and on these the pieces of coloured glass forming the picture are fastened, by dropping from a pallet-knife a few drops of melted bees-wax and resin round each. The painting in progress can then be held up to the light, and alterations made if necessary. In this state the shadowing is done; it is not really shadowing, as understood in ordinary painting, for coloured glass is too beautiful a material to be obscured with shadow, but consists in toning down the too prominent parts and giving value to others. For instance, if the hair of the head, expressed by lines traced on the glass, has not sufficient force, a film of enamel colour, either grey or brown, is painted all over it; and force is given to drapery folds, which are expressed by strong black lines only, by indicating their form in a similar manner.

The so-called "shadow" is always found in old work: I believe it to be necessary to new. But in good work it never materially interferes with the flatness of the painting, or the translucency of the glass. It may be done by stippling; or, by smearing over the surface a coat of enamel, and removing what is not wanted with a hard brush: it is really immaterial which plan is used, each artist having his own favourite method. Shadowing is a necessary evil, and its excessive use has been one of the faults of modern work. After the glass is shadowed, it is taken down, and placed piece by piece upon beds of dry whiting on iron plates; then put in an iron kiln. There is no mystery in these kilns; they are simply iron boxes, around which play the flames of a fire beneath; a slab of fire-clay being interposed to prevent the direct action of the fire upon the bottom of the kiln.

The object is to obtain a regular and high degree

of heat, and to prevent the entrance of hot carburetted hydrogen from the fire, which would reduce the oxide of lead in the flux to a metallic state, and so cause its disintegration. These kilns are usually made much too short; a good size is 4ft. long, 14in. wide, and 14in. high, open in front. It will admit six or seven iron plates, resting on ledges at the sides. The brickwork should be the best that could be obtained; the bricks set close together, and grouted with fire-clay.

The pieces of glass, when properly fired and annealed, are put back, piece by piece, in their places on the muslin, stretched on a flat bench. The glazier joins the pieces together with leaden bands, having grooves on each side, as the ancients did; but the modern lead, instead of being cast in a mould, like the clumsy stuff formerly used, is forced through dies to the exact gauge required. The work is then soldered, and, when cemented, and fixed in its place, is preserved from injury by iron wire guards; copper guards are more yielding, more costly, and liable to be stolen.

There can be no objection to memorial windows, but the present custom of placing the works of different artists in the same church, without regard to architectural fitness, is an evil. Fancy the feelings of an architect, who, after the completion of his carefully-studied work, finds it to be considered merely as a frame for independent paintings on glass. I think it would conduce to better ornamentation of the interior, if, at the erection of a church, a scheme of the whole of the painted windows were drawn out, and no departure from that scheme allowed.

The whole should be, if possible, the work of one artist, whose style was thought to be the most suitable. Many schemes for a series of windows in a church, may be thought of. Take, for instance, the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of God, which was Dr. Buckland's mission in his *Bridge-water Treatise*; the Doctrine of Atonement; the Te Deum; Illustrations of the Three Dispensations, the Patriarchal, the Mosaic, and the Christian; the Ministry of Angels; the Acts of Mercy; the Beatitudes; or, the Miracles; all afford grand series of subjects which would be of far greater interest than an ill-considered mixture of subjects from various sources.

There is some probability that the two systems of decoration, stained glass and mosaic work, will, in England, become general; they have never, that I am aware of, been united to any great extent in the same building. It has been contended that the use of one does away with the necessity of the other. Chevreul takes this view, giving, as instances, St. Peter's at Rome of coloured walls, and Cologne Cathedral of coloured windows. The free use at the Wolsey's Chapel, Windsor, of mosaics and stained glass, will, when the work is completed, set this point at rest. I fear that the gold-ground mosaics, which already suffer from the glaring gilding of the principals, will be further

damaged in effect by the contrast of the stained glass.

The Exhibition of 1851 was a landmark in the history of glass-painting, as of most other industrial production. The works of Hardman, and the French windows of Lussow, Gerente, Capronier, and others, took the conceit out of most English glass painters. Then commenced a demand for a natural representation of the human figure, instead of the symbolical treatment of the thirteenth century; also for sheets of glass of similar texture to the old; this has been responded to by Messrs. Powell, of Whitefriars, and Messrs. Hartley, of Sunderland. There is still a want of circular ruby like that of the thirteenth century, and at a reasonable price; but this is likely to be supplied by Dr. Salviati, of Venice.

The short-comings of the English glass painters were amply redeemed in the Exhibition of 1862. No French work came up to either Clayton's glorious St. Cecilia, or Jones's glass for Waltham Abbey. The efforts of the French artists consisted of close imitations of ancient glass, or of semi-transparent paintings. Their attempts in the former were as a Chinaman's would be. You may remember a work of Coffetier, a reproduction of old glass: the subject was a Virgin and Child. The sinking of the surface of the glass below the traced lines, the effect of great age, was produced by the use of fluoric acid. This is on a par with the representation of decayed teeth in Ruskin's Renaissance lion. The French artists have not yet given that attention to material that has been an Englishman's care. The productions of Gerente are about the best of the modern French school, and his works have been fashionable in England; but compare his great staring window in Christ Church, Oxford, with the one in honour of the founder, a portion of which was in the Exhibition of 1862. In Harrow School chapel there is a most instructive series of windows by Gerente, Wailes, and Clayton & Bell: the advance in the art shown by the works of the last firm is unmistakable. The new Gothic Church of Sainte Clothilde, in Paris, is filled with the best efforts of the modern French school of glass and wall painting, and in both there is an entire absence of Gothic feeling; for, although the figures are well drawn, they appear more like coloured German prints than what figures in stained glass should be.

The exportation of painted windows should be to France, not of French work to England, for the English school of glass painting is as much in advance of the French school as the illustrations of our own *Punch* are superior to those of their *Charivari*. It is customary to produce stained glass windows, or painted glass (the terms are synonymous), by the square foot. The best English work varies from 30s. to 40s. per foot. The pretty picture glass of the Munich school is rarely supplied under £5 per foot. That price was paid for the glass in Peterhouse Chapel, Cambridge.

The new window that embellishes the east end of the church in Star-street, Paddington, cost £6 each square foot, and the cartoons were afterwards bought for a very high price, said to be £500.

The plainest glazed work has shared in the improvement of the higher branches. Quarries, formed by horizontal and perpendicular lines, and of many tints of white glass, mixed, or German circles, each about 4in. diameter, and glazed together, frequently take the place of the old 6in. by 4in. quarry of bilious cathedral glass. At the building of the University Union, at Oxford, the glazing with German circles was absurdly objected to, as looking like frog-spawn, or bottle bottoms. The upper parts of the Oxford Museum have since been glazed in this way; and when the sun shines on them, they are as bright and beautiful as clusters of diamonds.

A clever modification of circular glazing has been introduced by Mr. Norman Shaw, architect. It is the use of the centres of crown tables of glass, usually called "bulls' eyes." They are of the most trifling value, and answer the purpose of the expensive German circles. It is an improvement partially to stain a few of them.

It is a step in the wrong direction to use the sheets of rolled glass in which imitation lead lines are produced by indentations. The ancients were compelled to lead together their small pieces of glass, and the needless imitation of this has always a cheap-and-nasty appearance.

The press has hitherto taken but little part in educating the public in the knowledge of glass painting. An occasional honest and learned criticism on completed windows would prevent, in great measure, the selection of the trumpery works that sometimes disgrace our churches.—CLEMENT HEATON, in the *Builder*.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

BRO. THE REVEREND DR. DODD, FORMERLY GRAND CHAPLAIN.

Several inquiries having been made in these columns for a biographical sketch of the unfortunate Bro. Dr. Dodd, we are happy to be enabled to furnish a very trustworthy and fair memoir of him, extracted from the number for February 25th, 1865, of that clever and amusing periodical, *Once a Week*. Of course this has no reference to his Masonic career, which we have already given, but is a short biography of him, and exhausts the main facts of his history. The writer says:—

"William Dodd,* born in 1729, was the son of a clergyman, who for many years was vicar of Bourne, in Lincolnshire. After finishing his school education, Dodd was, in 1645, admitted as a sizar at Clare Hall, Cambridge. He appears to have attracted the notice

* The materials of this sketch are taken mainly from cotemporary biographies in the *Gentleman's and European Magazines*, the *Life of Dr. Dodd* prefixed to his *Prison Thoughts*, and other works quoted in the article itself.

of his superiors by the closeness of his application to study, and he took his Bachelor's degree with some reputation. With an elegant person and good address he distinguished himself in other ways. He was fond of company and dress, and in the refined language of one of his biographers—for Dodd, after attaining a sad celebrity, had several—he was a 'zealous votary of the god of dancing, being in return distinguished by the favour of those fair priestesses who preside at his mysteries.' At an early age Dodd began to write, and in 1747 appeared his first work, a sort of mock pastoral. He was about twenty years of age when he hastily quitted the university, and repaired to London, where he began a gay life, relying almost entirely on his pen for support. He became acquainted with a girl, beautiful, but much below him in station; and having married her, he showed the recklessness in money affairs which characterised his whole life, by taking and furnishing a house in Wardour-street, Soho, a much better quarter in those days than now. This course drew on him the censure of his father, who hurried to town, and forced him to give up his house.

"Dodd continued writing. In 1749 appeared *The African Prince in England to Zara, at his Father's Court, and Zara's answer*, suggested by the visit to England of two African youths, who were made much of here. He also wrote, about this time, a mock heroic, *A Day of Vacation in College*, and several other works, among them his *Beauties of Shakspeare*, the work by which he is best known; which is reprinted down to this day, and which can boast of the honour of having been quoted by Schlegel. He was ordained shortly before the publication of the last work in 1752, and in the preface to it, he took leave in the following words of what was then known as 'polite letters:—

"For my own part, better and more important things henceforth demand my attention; and I here, with no small pleasure, take leave of Shakspeare and the critics. As this work was begun and finished before I entered upon the sacred functions in which I am now happily employed, let me trust this juvenile performance will prove no objection, since graver, and some very eminent members, of the Church have thought it no improper employ to comment, explain, and publish the works of their country's poets."

"In the early years of devotion to his new profession, the outward demeanour of Dodd is said to have been exemplary: he was active and zealous, and was rapidly attaining some reputation as a popular preacher. But in the *Historical Memoirs*, which were received at the time of their publication as undoubtedly authentic, he is stated to have been the author of a work, *The Sisters*, published anonymously in 1754, 'which gave no very favourable idea of the purity of his mind; many of the scenes there described are painted with a warmth of imagination, and a luxuriance of colouring, which cannot but be dangerous to the young and susceptible.'

"Dodd had been active in promoting the establishment of the Magdalen Hospital, of which he was appointed the preacher in 1758. Here is a description of his performances by a lively contemporary, no other than our invaluable friend Horace Walpole; he dates January, 1760:—

"As soon as we entered the chapel the organ

played, and the Magdalens sung a hymn in parts,—you cannot imagine how well. The chapel was dressed with orange and myrtle; there wanted nothing but a little incense to drive away the devil or to invite him. Prayers then began; Psalms and sermon; the latter by a young clergyman, one Dodd, who contributed to the Popish idea one had imbibed, by haranguing entirely in the French style, and very elegantly and touchingly. He apostrophised the lost sheep, who sobbed and cried from their souls; so did my Lady Hertford and Fanny Pelham; till, I believe, the city dames took them for Jane Shores. The confessor then turned to the audience, and addressed himself to his Royal Highness (Prince Edward), whom he called most illustrious Prince, beseeching his protection. In short, it was a very pleasing performance, and I got the most illustrious to desire it might be printed."

"Notwithstanding his farewell to 'polite letters,' Dodd had continued to publish. His numerous religious works did not prevent him from having a keen eye to temporal matters, or rather they were undertaken with strictly worldly views. The grossest flattery to men who could serve was always ready, and Dodd occasionally erred by laying it on too thickly, as when on publishing an edition of *Bishop Hall's Contemplations*, he addressed to Miss Talbot, living in the family of Archbishop Secker, so fulsome a dedication, with an eye to that dignitary, that the archbishop interfered, and insisted on its withdrawal. But no flattery can be too gross for some men, and Dodd did not always miss his aim. On the appearance of a work by Dr. Squire, Dodd addressed to him a sonnet, with which the rising divine was so delighted, that on his appointment to the Bishopric of St. David's, Dodd became his chaplain. This piece, 'replete,' according to a critic, 'with imagery and classical ideas,' may serve as a taste of Dodd's quality.

"Sonnet occasioned by reading *The Truth and Importance of Natural Religion*, by S. Squire, D.D., Dean of Bristol, &c., afterwards Lord Bishop of St. David's.

'Methought I saw in a vision to other morn,
Celestial Reason in her azure vest;
A star there was which blazed upon her breast,
And placid sweetness did her brow adorn.
Firm Judgment here, and gentle Candour stood,
With meek-eyed Charity beside the queen;
With many graces more, but chief was seen
Instruction, hand in hand with Public Good.
Attendant these on heavenly Reason came,
And on religious shrine an offering laid!
I saw it straight her whole attention claim,
Then what it was how could I but inquire?
Instant with rapture, "Tis my son's," he said,
'The polished page of my judicious SQUIRE.'

"Dodd, moreover, egregiously flattered this prelate in the *Public Ledger*, in which he wrote, and he was further requited by being made, in 1763, a prebendary of Brecon.

"The *Christian Magazine* had been set on foot in 1760, and to it Dodd largely contributed. From one of its numbers we extract a criticism on Dodd himself:—"His style is at once elegant and nervous; neither careless nor yet affected; sufficiently open and diffuse for the pulpit, yet neither tedious nor redundant in the closet: in short, such a style as we would recommend to the imitation of those young divines who would desire to instruct without being tedious." The opinion of Dr. Johnson was scarcely so favourable; being asked whether Dodd's sermons were not addressed to the passions, 'They are nothing, sir,'

growled the lexicographer, 'be they addressed to what they may.'

"Dr. Squire did not lose sight of his panegyrist; it was he who introduced him to the Earl of Chesterfield (Johnson's Chesterfield, and the author of the *Letters*) as a tutor to his son—a connection that was destined to have a fatal influence on Dodd's career. In the year following this event, he was appointed one of the King's chaplains, and in 1766 took his degree of LL.D.

"Dodd had all along been living at a great rate, but he now launched out still more. Besides his house in Southampton Row, he had another at Ealing, and he exchanged his chariot for a coach. He had dabbled in lotteries, and having gained a £1,000 prize, he engaged with a builder to erect a chapel near the palace of the Queen, calling it, after her, Charlotte Chapel. He also entered into a partnership with respect to Charlotte Chapel, Bloomsbury. In the former, he had set apart a particular gallery for the heir-apparent, but he was deceived in his hopes, for royalty let him alone. His income from his chapels was considerable, but there were very heavy charges, and the old rate of living went on. Dodd was driven to expedients; a large *Commentary on the Bible* was undertaken and dedicated to Bishop Squire, who unfortunately died the next year. No matter what work it was, so long as it furnished an excuse for a dedication to some one in position to aid him. *Thoughts on the Glorious Epiphany* were addressed to the Bishop of Chester; a translation of *Massillon's Sermons* was inscribed to the Prince of Wales; *Sermons to Young Men* were dedicated to his pupil, Philip Stanhope.

"In 1772 the doctor obtained the rectory of Hockcliffe, in Bedfordshire. Returning from it to London in the same year, the coach in which were the doctor and his wife was stopped by a highwayman, who discharged a pistol into the carriage. 'Happily,' says the author of the memoirs ' (as it was then thought) the shot only broke the glass. On Dodd's evidence the man was hanged, and to this incident is probably owing the sermon published in the same year 'On the frequency of Capital Punishments.'

"In 1773, Lord Chesterfield died, and the doctor's old pupil succeeding him, Dodd was appointed his chaplain—another source of income; but he was now deeply in debt. A sinking man will catch at straws, and the rich living of St. George's, Hanover-square, having become vacant, Dodd determined to have it if possible *per fas aut nefas*. The plan he adopted shows to what desperate straits he must have been driven. The presentation to the living was in the gift of the Crown, and Dodd caused an anonymous letter to be sent to Lady Apsley, the wife of the Lord Chancellor, offering 3,000 guineas if, through her means, Dodd should be appointed. The letter was laid before the Lord Chancellor, traced to its source, and communicated to the King. Dodd aggravated his offence by declaring that the application had been made at the instance of his wife, and without his knowledge, but the story was not believed. The consequences of this conduct were fatal to him. He was in the zenith of his popularity; it was an age of scoffers, indeed, and perhaps it was not difficult to find in the bland and fashionable preacher a suitable mark for satirical shafts; 'the reverend doodle, Dr. Dodd,' had been more than once celebrated in verse

but those who revered and believed in him were numerous. But the press now opened on him, and Foote introduced into a piece at the Haymarket a Dr. Simony, whose lady spoke of her husband as a "populous" preacher in English not much worse, it was said, than Mrs. Dodd habitually used. Dodd wrote an evasive letter to the papers; 'to the torrent of popular invective' he opposed his past life, 'hoping that ere long time would put some circumstances in his favour which would lead to an elucidation of the affair.' The elucidation never came.

"Stung with shame, Dodd retired to Geneva to Lord Chesterfield, who poured oil into his wounds—a Buckinghamshire living was added to his means. Dodd's preferments now brought him in about £800 a year, but his extravagance outran his means. Desperately in debt—*hanc ignarus mali*—he exerted himself in the establishment of a society for the relief and discharge of small debtors; while to assist himself 'he descended so low,' says a biographer, 'as to become the editor of a newspaper.' Dodd having fallen to this pitch of social degradation, the ingenuity of infamy found a still lower depth—forgery.

"Pressed by creditors, in February, 1777, he signed the name of Lord Chesterfield to a bond for £4,200. There was some slight irregularity in the bond, and application was made to Lord Chesterfield for a fresh signature. His lordship disclaimed all knowledge of the affair, and Dodd, who then lived in Argyle-street, was apprehended. He immediately repaid the greater part of the money, and gave a judgment on his goods for the remainder. Those who had advanced the money would have withdrawn from the prosecution; Lord Chesterfield, it is said, placed the bond in the hands of Dodd, who was standing near a fire, in hopes that he might destroy it; but presence of mind was wanting to the wretched man, and he missed his chance. The Lord Mayor ordered a prosecution, and Dodd was committed to prison.

"The facts were too clear to leave any chance of escape: all that Dodd could plead was, that there was no intention to defraud,—he would have returned the money in the space of three months. The jury after a very short deliberation found him guilty, but with a recommendation to mercy. Sentence was postponed, to give time for the consideration of a point of law, and on the 26th of May, Dodd was brought up to receive sentence. Dodd had once only been in the society of Dr. Johnson,* but in his distress he applied to him. There was nothing in common between the shallow flippancy of Dodd, and the great, rough, earnest nature of the man to whom he looked for help; but to misery Johnson's heart was more tender than a woman's. He was agitated on receiving the application, made through a third person; paced up and down the room, and promised to do what he could. It was he who wrote the speech delivered by

* Dodd's account is:—"I spent yesterday afternoon with Johnson, the celebrated author of the *Rambler*, who is, of all others, the oddest and most peculiar fellow I ever saw. He is six feet high, has a violent convulsion in his head, and his eyes are distorted. He speaks roughly and loud; listens to no man's opinions, thoroughly pertinacious of his own. Good sense flows from him in all he utters, and he seems possessed of a prodigious fund of knowledge, which he is not at all reserved in communicating, but in a manner so obstinate, ungenteel, and boorish as renders it disagreeable and dissatisfactory. . . . He is a man of most universal and surprising genius, but in himself particular beyond expression."

Dodd before sentence; but in vain—the forger was condemned to death.

“Johnson’s efforts in his behalf continued, and he wrote more than one petition for the convict. These endeavours were seconded by an immense number of others; charitable societies, benefited by him, petitioned for his life; so did the Common Council and the jury. One petition was signed by 23,000 persons and was thirty-seven yards long. The public services rendered by Dodd were clamorously urged in his favour. But the recent execution of the Perreaus for forgery left Dodd no chance, and although his partisans fell foul of the court and jury, it is not easy to see how, if he had been acquitted, the punishment of death for forgery could ever have been carried out again. At this very time a woman had been branded and a man executed for washing a halfpenny so as to make it pass for a shilling, and every session saw strings of men hung up for far lighter offences than Dodd’s. Dodd himself reckoned 150 capital offences; twenty-three years later a more exact authority numbered above 160 different offences which subjected those found guilty to the penalty of death without benefit of clergy. The king was inflexible. Dodd meanwhile lay in his prison, living with great temperance, and buoyed up with hopes which some of his friends sustained to the last. His manner, in other respects, left much to be desired; there was far too much assumption of the martyr. He wrote of himself as being ‘conscious of the purity of his intention from any purpose to do injury, and happy in the full proof of that intention, by having done no injury to any man in respect to this unfortunate prosecution.’ In the *Prison Thoughts*, which he was now writing, he parodied the appeal of Cæsar:—

‘My Philip, my lov’d Stanhope—is it THOU?
Then let me die.’

The tawdry theatrical artifices which had secured his popularity in the pulpit, clung to him still. He has a pain in his side, and when asked what it is, replies, ‘*Lethalis arundo*.’

“In the preface to his *Prison Thoughts* he writes: ‘They are imperfect, but the language of the heart; and had I time and inclination, might be improved. But—’ Accepting Johnson’s dictum, that a man’s mind is wonderfully concentrated when he knows that he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it is difficult to believe on the evidence of the *Prison Thoughts*, that Dodd supposed he would be executed. They are on a level with the lines to Dr. Squire; loose, hasty, and utterly unreal. We quote a few lines describing the scene in which Dodd was soon to appear as chief actor:—

‘Crowd then along with yonder revel-rout,
To exemplary punishment! and mark
The language of the multitude, obscene,
Wild, blasphemous, and cruel! tent their looks
Of maddening, drunken, thoughtless, ruthless gaze,
Or giddy curiosity and vain!
Their deeds, still more emphatic, note; and see
By the sad spectacle unimpress’d, they dare,
Even in the eye of Death, what to their doom
Brought their expiring fellows!’

“This, too, is curious; a prophecy which some of us may live to see fulfilled:—

‘—————yes, the day—
I joy in the idea—will arrive
When Britons philanthropic shall reject
The cruel custom, to the sufferer cruel,
Useless and baneful to the gaping crowd!’

“On the 6th of June, Dodd delivered to his fellow-prisoners an address, which had been written for him by Dr. Johnson.

“The petitions for Dodd’s life failing, other attempts to save him were made. ‘He (Johnson) told us,’ says Boswell, ‘that Dodd’s city friends stood by him so, that a thousand pounds were ready to be given to the gaoler if he would let him escape. He added, that he knew a friend of Dodd’s, who walked about Newgate for some time on the evening before the day of his execution, with £500 in his pocket, ready to be paid to any of the turnkeys who could get him out; but it was too late, for he was watched with much circumspection. He said, Dodd’s friends had an image of him made of wax, which was to have been left in his place, and he believed it was carried into the prison.’

“On the fatal morning, Dodd appeared composed; the cart set out for Tyburn amid constant showers, and Dodd appeared greatly affected as he approached his former house. Let us borrow from an eye-witness an account of the last scene.*

“‘The doctor, to all appearance, was rendered perfectly stupid from despair. His hat was flapped all round, and pulled over his eyes, which were never directed to any object around, nor even raised, except now and then lifted up in the course of his prayers. He came in a coach, and a very heavy shower of rain fell just upon his entering the cart, and another just at his putting on his night-cap.

“‘He was a considerable time in praying, which some people standing about seemed rather tired with; they rather wished for some more interesting part of the tragedy. The wind, which was high, blew off his hat, which rather embarrassed him, and discovered to us his countenance, which we could scarcely see before. His hat, however, was soon restored to him, and he went on with his prayers. There were two clergymen attending him, one of whom seemed very much affected; the other, I suppose, was the ordinary of Newgate, as he was perfectly unfeeling in everything that he said and did.

“‘The executioner took both the hat and wig off at the same time. Why he put on his wig again I do not know, but he did, and the doctor took off the wig a second time, and then tied on a nightcap which did not fit him; but whether he stretched that, or took another, I could not perceive. He then put on his night-cap himself, and upon his taking it, he certainly had a smile on his countenance; very soon afterwards there was an end of all his hopes and fears on this side the grave. He never moved from the place he took in the cart; seemed absorbed in despair, and utterly dejected, without any other signs of animation but in praying.’

“According to a very general belief, the efforts of the doctor’s friends did not cease with the execution. It is said that the knot of the rope was placed in a particular manner under his ear, and that the hangman, who had been gained over by Dodd’s friends, whispered, as the cart drew off, ‘You must not move an inch!’ When cut down, the body was conveyed to a house in Goodge-street, where, under the direction of Pott, the celebrated surgeon, every attempt was made to restore animation. But the crowd had

* A. M. Storer to G. Selwyn, quoted by Jesse in *George Selwyn and his Contemporaries*.

been enormous, and the delay in the transport of the body had been too great; nevertheless there were not wanting people who believed that Dodd had been resuscitated and carried abroad.

"His wife, who seems to have borne him a sincere and lasting affection, died some years afterwards in indigence."—ALFRED MARKS.

INITIAL LETTERS.

The following initial letters occur in an old book belonging to the son of a deceased Knight Templar, SS. J.B., J.E., and J.A. What do they stand for?—A K.T.—[The three Saints John, viz., S. John the Baptist, S. John the Evangelist, and S. John the Almoner.]

JACQUEMIN THE FREEMASON.

It is plain to me that the brother who writes from Oxford, inquiring as to a London book entitled as above, has been misinformed. The anti-Masonic writing to which he refers is, I make no doubt, the ensuing publication of the French Roman Catholic Society of Saint Victor:—"Jacquemin le Franc-maçon; Légende des Sociétés secrètes, par Jean de Septchènes, Ancien Timbalier de Sa Majesté le Roi de Prusse; 4^e édition, revue et augmentée. 1 vol. 16mo, orné de six gravures. 1858." There is a note in my "Denton Court Jottings" that the contents of this scurrilous and mendacious publication are shortly described in an early number of the *Monde Maçonnique*.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

ORIGIN OF FREEMASONRY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Bro. Hyde Clarke's communication of to-day contains the following paragraph:—"There are, to my mind, two Masonic sites of antiquity to be restored to the practice of the Craft, Warrington and Masons' Hall; and had I remained in London I had proposed to petition for a lodge in the latter locality."

Bro. Hyde Clarke will, no doubt, be glad to hear that Warrington does not need to be restored to the practice of the Craft, as we have a prosperous lodge here, whose warrant dates from 1765. We believe that our lodge dates back to Ashmole's initiation, and we have proof that it existed some years before the date of its warrant.

We intend to celebrate our centenary on the 8th November next, and hope to be well supported by brethren who feel an interest in this town as connected with Masonry, and forming almost a landmark in its history.

Yours fraternally,

H. B. WHITE, P.M., &c.

Warrington, 25th February, 1865.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

We remind the brethren that the Boys' School Festival takes place on Wednesday next, under the presidency of our noble brother his Grace the Duke of Manchester, when a large muster is anticipated—great exertions being made to increase the building fund. At the same time we would remind the brethren that we are seeking votes to secure the election of two boys who have already been to the poll seven times unsuccessfully, viz., Benjamin Townsend Crabtree, of London, aged 13; and Robert Christopher Wilson, of Kendal, aged 13½. Brethren who have not promised their proxies are respectfully requested to assist us in supporting those who are evidently unsuccessful for want of influential friends to take up their cause. Proxies for any of the Charities will assist us in the object we have in view. The votes brought forward are only 143 and 72 respectively, whilst something like 500 each is necessary to ensure success. We hope next week to be able to announce that our list has commenced.

GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication was holden at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday last, the R.W.D.G. Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, presiding as G.M.; the R.W. Earl Dalhousie, P.D.G.M., as D.G.M.; Bro. F. Daudas, P.G.W., as S.G.W.; Bro. Col. Brownrigg, P.G.W., as J.G.W.; Bro. S. Tomkins, G. Treas.; Bro. A.E. J. McIntyre, G. Reg.; Bro. L.L. Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; Bros. Stebbing, Maudslay, Deighton, and Placknett, G.D.'s; Bro. Clarke, G. Sec.; Bro. Woods, G. Dir. of Cers.; Bro. Fenn, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Bro. Young, G.S.B.; Bro. Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Bro. Dickie, G. Purst.; Bro. Emmens, Assist. G. Purst. There were also present Bros. Col. Bowyer, Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire; Fawcett, Prov. G.M. Durham; Augustus Smith, M.P., Prov. G.M. Cornwall; Lord de Tabley, J. Havers, Cornwall Legh, F. Pattison, H. C. Sirr, R. W. Jennings, and Alg. Perkins, P.G.W.'s; Rev. J. Huyshe, P.G. Chap.; J. N. Tomkins, J. Savage, J. Nelson, Capt. Creaton, L. Crombie, J. Udall, G. W. K. Potter, B. Head, J. S. S. Hopwood, and C. L. Webb, P.G.D.'s; N. Bradford and E. Nutt, P. G. Dirs. of Cers.; J. Patten and R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B.'s; J. Smith and T. A. Adams, P.G. Pursts.; with the Master, P.M.'s, and Wardens of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, and various other lodges.

The Grand Lodge having been opened in due form and with solemn prayer by Bro. the Rev. J. Huyshe, P.G. Chap.,

The G. SECRETARY reported that he had received a communication from the M.W. Grand Master, stating his inability to leave Yorkshire, on account of illness in his family.

REGULATIONS OF GRAND LODGE.

The G. SECRETARY read the regulations for the government of Grand Lodge during the time of public business.

THE LAST QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

The G. SECRETARY read the minutes of the quarterly communication of the 7th of December last, which were confirmed without observation.

COLONIAL LODGES AND THE OFFICE OF GRAND STEWARD.

The D.G. MASTER said he had been requested to state that the Grand Master had directed the Board of General Purposes to take into consideration and report to him on the expediency of altering the law in respect to the formation of new lodges in the colonies, with a view of increasing the powers of Provincial

Grand Masters abroad in this respect, and also to take into consideration the propriety of increasing the powers of Provincial Grand Masters abroad in other respects. The Grand Master had also directed the Board of General Purposes to consider and report whether, in consequence of the alteration of the scale of fees payable by those who have not served the office of Grand Steward, it was desirable to make any, and if so what, alteration was desirable in the position of P. Grand Stewards.

ELECTION OF THE GRAND MASTER.

BRO. CLABON said—At the last Grand Lodge I had the honour to nominate the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland to be Grand Master, and I have now the high privilege to move that he be elected. I believe that it will be for the twenty-second time, and I am sure every brother is desirous of his re-election, for, under him, there has been a great increase in the number of Masons, our Charities have been developed, and the Board of Benevolence has spent in relief three times as much as it did twenty years ago. I hope he may see the temple of which he laid the first stone completed, and that he may live for many years to preside over the Craft.

BRO. COX had great pleasure in seconding the motion that the Earl of Zetland be elected Most Worshipful Grand Master for the year ensuing.

The motion was then put, and carried unanimously.

THE D.G. MASTER said—Brethren, I have been charged by the M.W. Grand Master, whom you have now unanimously re-elected after a long tenure of office, to return you his warmest thanks, and to give expression to his great gratification for the honour you have again conferred upon him—for the trust you have reposed in him, by electing him M.W. Grand Master of our ancient Order. The Grand Secretary, by his direction, has communicated to you the reasons which have detained the Earl of Zetland in Yorkshire, and which have prevented him from being present with us this evening, but I am sure there is not one but will sympathise with him, from the circumstances which have kept him from us. It would have been a great pleasure to the Earl of Zetland, indeed it would have been a high gratification to him, to have been present on this occasion, to have personally returned thanks for the honour again conferred upon him, but he has charged me to return thanks for him; and I am sure I only give expression to our feelings when I congratulate you and the Craft at large on his being once more placed in the chair.

The usual salutes were then given by the brethren, on the Grand Master's re-election.

ELECTION OF GRAND TREASURER.

BRO. C. A. MURTON, P.M. No. 7, moved the re-election of Bro. Tomkins as Grand Treasurer, he having with great satisfaction filled that responsible office for twelve years.

The motion was seconded, and unanimously agreed to.

BRO. TOMKINS thanked the brethren for re-electing him to so distinguished an office in the Craft, and it was a great pleasure to him to participate in the details of Freemasonry. He said he hoped to see the new building completed, which would tend to the dignity and extension of the Craft.

THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Board of Benevolence was received, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

THE D.G. MASTER said that in the report there was a recommendation for a grant to Bro. R. B., of the Kent Lodge (No. 15), for the sum of £100.

In this case, it appeared from a statement that this eminent brother had for a great number of years laboured hard in the cause of Freemasonry for the purpose of increasing the resources of the different Institutions, and from 1825 to 1835

was Secretary to the Committee for conducting excursions to the Nore, which realised to the Masonic Institution for Boys the aggregate sum of £1,032 16s. 4d. From 1839 to 1844 he paid in a further sum to the Boys' School, as Secretary or Treasurer to different amusements, the sum of £250, besides £175 to the Royal Benevolent Institution, and divers sums to the Freemasons' School for Female Children. These services had been recognised by many testimonials, &c.

BRO. TOMKINS, P.G.D., said it would be impossible for him to say more in favour of the recommendation than what had been laid before the Board of Benevolence, but he might add a few particulars. This brother was eighty-four years of age and had been a subscribing member for thirty-nine years to one lodge, and thirty-five years to another, so that he had outlived his contemporaries, and losses having fallen upon him, he was compelled to come to them for relief. He had made it his boast that he had made more Masons than any other brother living, and he believed he said that truly. The Board of Benevolence had agreed to this recommendation unanimously as a mark of their esteem of this brother; and it was now brought before Grand Lodge for confirmation. He begged to move that the recommendation of the Board of Benevolence that a sum of £100 be granted to Bro. R. B. be now confirmed.

BRO. HALSEY, P.M. of the Caledonian Lodge, seconded the motion.

THE D.G. MASTER put the motion, which was carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE.

The report of the annual Audit Committee of the Grand Lodge Accounts for the year 1864 was presented and agreed to.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

On the motion of Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS, President of the Board, the report of the Board of General Purposes was taken as read.

THE D.G. MASTER put the motion, which was agreed to.

BRO. L. EVANS then moved that the report be received and entered on the minutes, which was unanimously agreed to.

To the report was subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 10th February inst., showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £6,952 4s. 2d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash, £50. Of these sums there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence £733 13s. 4d., to the Fund of General Purposes £5,829 11s. 3d., and there is the Unappropriated Account, £438 19s. 7d.

THE NEW BUILDING.—REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

In the early part of the evening some portions of the works of the new building, consisting of the vestibule, first-floor, corridor, and the lodge-rooms opening out of it, were thrown open for the inspection of the brethren, lighted up with gas; and many embraced the opportunity of visiting them. Some surprise was expressed at the great progress which had been made in so brief a period, the general style of what could be seen giving an assurance that, when completed, the building will be one worthy of the Craft, and a credit to those who have had the care of its construction.

BRO. HAINES, P.J.G.W., Chairman of the Building Committee, moved that the report be taken as read, which was agreed to.

BRO. HAINES next moved that it be received and entered on the minutes, which, being agreed to, he then entered into a long statement as to the progress of the building, of which the following are the principal points. He said that the brethren would easily understand that the Building Committee, whom

he had the honour to represent that day, had met them under more favourable circumstances than heretofore, as they had that evening enabled the brethren to witness some of their performances, and he hoped what they had seen met with their approbation. Their progress might have been slow, for it was about eight years ago when he proposed a scheme for this object, and the first fruits they had seen that night. It was not very long ago since they had agreed to accept the plan, and it would not be twelve months until the 27th of next month when the M.W. Grand Master laid the first stone; and even if there had been a slow proceeding, he was satisfied that it was not an evil, as it allowed the walls to dry, and rendered them more substantial for the future work upon them. He had that night offered the brethren an opportunity of inspecting the new building, and he had done so at the earliest moment, to show them what the Committee were doing with their money. He had been warned a week ago of the disadvantage under which the Committee would labour were they to allow the brethren to look upon a building devoid of colour or paint; but in answer to this he said to himself, "Are not these men all speculative Masons? and I think it would be doing them an injustice to suppose they are not able to judge for themselves what the effect of the building will be, because there is no colour or paint upon it." The sketch which he had yesterday drawn up as to the progress of the building, which had been placed in their hands, would enable them to distinguish and appreciate the connection of their whole system, and the relative dependence of their several parts. They might ask him why they had not shown the whole of the building; but to make arrangements for what they had seen that night they had to displace the workmen at an early hour, and as some of the lifts and supporters were not complete, it might have been attended with danger, besides delaying the progress of the work for about two days; and it was thought that it would be satisfactory if they exhibited one corridor as an example of what the whole work would be. He wished to refer to one matter which was deeply interesting to the Committee. It had been pointed out by the brethren, in their instructions to the architect, and the committee had laid it down as their law, that simplicity, rather than elaborate workmanship, would influence their selections of a plan; and he thought the brethren would agree with him that their architect had well carried out their instructions. On a former occasion he (Bro. Havers) had pointed out the difficulty of building upon a site which was partly occupied; but he was happy to say that the architect had met and overcome every difficulty, and produced a result which was most creditable, in providing for the convenience of the executive, the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Lodge, and the Craft generally. At the same time, although they had assisted the architect, the credit was due, and justly due, to their accomplished Bro. Cockerell, with whom, for the whole time, they had worked together as one man; and there was no difference, no doubt, no question amongst them as to what should be done. In this instance, they might truly say that they had got the right man in the right place, and there was every probability that they would be able to produce a building "perfect in all its parts, and honourable to the builder." There was one point to which he wished to revert, and it was with no feelings of regret. There was not one of them then present who would forget the beautiful oration pronounced by Bro. Woodford on the occasion of laying the first stone of the new building, in which he appealed to the Great Architect of the Universe "that no danger might befall the workmen whilst engaged in the undertaking;" and it was a source of congratulation to them that no workman had received the slightest injury.

As to the circumstances which had taken place in reference to the competition on the plan upon which they were erecting the building, he would say that competition in the eyes of the world was sometimes looked upon as nothing more than a foregone conclusion, and that it was all a pretence for giving it to some selected individual; but, as he had told them last year, he knew nothing of the competitors, and the architect was then unknown to him. Probably he might be asked when the buildings were to be occupied, and he thought that the part they had seen that evening would be ready for some of the lodges in two months from that time; but the Committee could not install all the lodges, as they would be compelled to take some of the rooms and let them to the lessees of the Tavern for those rooms that they should have to take from them. As soon as the executive was put into other rooms, they would pull down the entire front of the present building, and should only be able to supply accommodation for a portion of the lodges for some months to come. He would then come to the matter mentioned in the report, which said:—"According to the terms of the agreement, they have inquired into the position and responsibility of the new Company, and, being satisfied thereon, they have sanctioned the granting of a lease to Mr. Shrewsbury, with power to transfer it to the new Company; and they further report that the agreement for lease has been duly executed, and that the premium of £5,000 has been received, and paid to the bankers of the Grand Treasurer." The brethren would remember that the fresh rental was at £1,200 a-year, rising until it reached £1,800, together with the premium of £5,000, and, therefore, he thought the Committee had not made a bad arrangement for their interests. The report then noticed that there were certain difficulties to be got over, so that, for the convenience of the tenants and the advantage of the Craft, the second and third sections of the building should be proceeded with at the same time. Now, there was one difficulty in the way, which they were desirous of keeping out of sight. One of their tenants had a small workshop, for which he held a lease that had three years and three-quarters to run; and had he stood out for terms, they could not have proceeded with that portion of the building for three years and three-quarters; but his objection had been entirely removed, and suggestions had been made to him with which he was perfectly satisfied. The Committee would, therefore, let the third section, and complete the whole building as early as possible, as it was the wish of the Committee to see the Craft established in their own home, and to give the tenants the greatest advantage from the new buildings, so that they might receive a larger rent. He trusted the tenants would pay as much attention to their wants as the Craft did to theirs, and as there would then be but one interest, that the tenants would respond to it by taking care of their property. He then came to the question of money, and he would refer to the report of May, 1863. The paragraph in the present report thus alludes to the question:—"The Committee desire to observe that there are several modes by which this money may be raised:—1st, by borrowing from public offices; 2nd, by debentures; and 3rd, by borrowing from the Fund of Benevolence. The Committee are unanimously of opinion that the latter is the most desirable course: the security is ample, the amount borrowed can be repaid by instalments, the society will not be obliged to seek extraneous aid, and the Fund of Benevolence will be benefited. The Committee therefore recommend that the practice which has been adopted on similar occasions shall be followed in this instance."

Bro. HAVERS then proceeded to say that he wanted to ask them to borrow £19,000 from the Board of Benevolence. In

1863, he pointed out on that occasion he should ask for the sum of £25,000, but he was then happy to say that he should be able to diminish the sum required from £25,000 to £19,000, and the reason of that was, that they had received the sum of £5,000 as the premium for the new lease, and they had also kept within the mark in all their speculations. He contended that it was perfectly right that they should borrow their own money, without being obliged to seek extraneous aid; the Fund of Benevolence would be benefited, and they would be sure to pay the money back. The time for repayment would commence six months after the completion of the building. Therefore, when the building had been completed six months, from that moment would commence the repayment. He (Bro. Havers) had told the brethren, two years ago, that the building would cost £45,000, but that sum would not include the necessary repairs to the hall in which they were assembled. He then believed that they would be able to keep within that sum, and they would not draw it unless it was absolutely wanted. He, however, entertained a strong opinion that the whole amount would be repaid in less than ten years, and he then asked them for £19,000 rather than run the risk of coming to them for an afterclap; for in three months they would have to pay the contractor £5,000, as by that time he would have completed the first section of his contract. He was sorry that he had been obliged to occupy their time so long, but, as he had laboured, so he would continue to labour in their service; and if there was any explanation required on any point he had not touched upon, he should be most happy to give it. He then moved—"That, for the purpose of completing the new buildings, a sum not exceeding £19,000 be raised by borrowing the same from the Fund of Benevolence, on mortgage of the freehold property belonging to the society; and that interest be paid thereon, at the rate of four per cent. per annum."

Bro. MASOX seconded the resolution which Bro. Havers had proposed, and if he rightly interpreted the feelings of Grand Lodge, he believed that they gave their approval to everything that the Committee had done up to the present time. Bro. Havers had said that, in the outset, they had to depend upon the promises of himself and the Committee; but they could then judge of him and the Committee by their works. Those works were really marvellous, and did the Committee credit and honour for the manner in which they had been conducted from the first to the present time. These works would be an honour to the Craft; and as he believed Grand Lodge approved of what Bro. Havers and the Committee had done, it required but few words to impress upon them the propriety of the resolution which had been proposed. They were sure that the funds would be properly appropriated, and he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution, hoping to see the works completed, and that something more substantial than a hearty vote of thanks would be accorded to the Committee.

Bro. WYNN wished to put a question as to whether, in the event of this money being borrowed from the Board of Benevolence, that could be done without interfering with the claims of their poorer brethren.

Bro. CLAEON said there was a time when he had his doubts whether money intended for benevolence ought not to remain sacred by being invested in the public funds; but he had since changed his mind, and from figures he had before him he believed that no poor brother ran the risk of losing a single penny by the Committee borrowing from this fund. As to the Board of Benevolence, they had last year invested £10,000, and the contributions of members last year amounted to £3,300, without the dividends, and these contributions of members alone had been found quite sufficient to meet for the period all the

claims upon the Board of Benevolence. The dividends were all invested, and therefore it was absurd to suppose that poor Masons were not safe, or that they would not have all they required. It was his opinion that this motion might not only be safely carried, but it might be carried with great benefit to the charity.

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

Bro. HAVERS said he had next to move the second resolution:—"That the necessary mortgage deeds be prepared; and that the trustees of the funded and freehold property be, and they are hereby, instructed to execute the same, and see that the provisions therein are duly carried out; and that the full amount of Stock, which may be sold out from the Fund of Benevolence for the purpose of this loan, shall be reinstated to that Fund." He said the only remark he had to make was as to the last paragraph which had been added to the resolution, so that the fund of the Board of Benevolence would not be injured.

Bro. COX seconded the motion, which was put, and also agreed to unanimously.

Bro. HAVERS moved the next resolution, as follows:—"That the Building Committee be, and they are hereby authorised to use such surplus money as may arise from the Fund of General Purposes; and to draw for a further sum, not exceeding £19,000, now to be borrowed from the Fund of Benevolence, at such times and in such amounts as may be required in the progress of the works; and, in like manner, to repay to the Fund of Benevolence the amount borrowed, by such yearly or half-yearly instalments as shall hereafter be found convenient."

The D.G. MASTER put the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to. He said, as the resolutions had been agreed to, he would then say that they had his entire concurrence; but before he had refrained from stating his opinion, so that he might not influence Grand Lodge in the proposals that were made to them. He believed the means for raising the money were the best that could be adopted; and he was glad to find that his opinion had been confirmed by the unanimous decision of Grand Lodge. He might be permitted to speak of the great gratification he had received that evening in inspecting the works in progress, which reflected great credit on the Building Committee, and he believed that they would raise a temple for Freemasonry that should be worthy of the reputation of their ancient Craft.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR OF GRAND LODGE ACCOUNTS.

The report of Bro. R. P. Harding of the receipts and disbursements of Grand Lodge during the year was presented and received.

There being no other business, Grand Lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer at half-past nine o'clock.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—This prosperous lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Tuesday, the 21st ult., at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark (Bro. C. A. Cathie's). The lodge was opened by Bro. Henry Moore, W.M., assisted by Bros. C. J. Gooddy, S.W.; G. Morris, J.W.; E. Harris, P.M., Treas.; J. Donkin, P.M., Sec.; T. J. Sabine, S.D.; F. H. Elsworth, J.D.; T. J. C. Powell, I.G.; F. Walters, P.M., Dir. of Cers.; M. A. Loewenstark, W.S.; E. N. Levy, I.P.M.; Wills, Meagher, Marshall, R. Fenn, R. Stevens, J. Gale, Davis, Jackson, D. Rose, G. Free, G. Drapper, Harrison, Goulty, D. Barclay, C. T. Bass, A. P. Stedman, and very many others too numerous to mention. Amongst a large number of visitors we noticed Bros. G. Brown, P.M. and Treas.,

169; A. D. Loewenstark, P.M. 548; Nelson, 702; G. Holman, 871; H. J. Wells, 871; and others whose names we were unable to learn. Bros. R. Stevens, J. Gale, Davis, Barclay, and Free were regularly passed to the degree of F.C. Freemasons. Bro. E. Walters, P.M., then took the chair (by the kind permission of the W.M. and the approval of the brethren) to initiate his friend, Mr. Robert Ord, into ancient Freemasonry, which he did in his usual superior manner. Bro. H. Moore then resumed his position, and initiated Messrs. Grace and Neale into the secrets and mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. The W.M. did all his work in a superior and impressive manner, proving the degree of perfection to be attained only by a close and regular attendance to a lodge of instruction; for, although he had to succeed such good workers as Bros. Dr. Dixon, H. G. Baker, R. Slade, F. Walters, and E. N. Levy, yet he was equal to them all, and superior to many, for the very correct manner in which he rendered every portion of these two ceremonies. This abundant proof of his proficiency naturally creates a hope from each member of the lodge that, when the time arrives, they may be able to witness their esteemed W.M. install his successor. The sum of ten guineas was voted from the lodge funds to support the Boys' School, and it was unanimously agreed that it should be put on Bro. E. N. Levy's list, who had kindly consented to represent their lodge as Steward for the forthcoming Festival, who, on appealing to the lodge for their generous support for subscriptions to his list, Bro. E. Harris, P.M. and Treas., headed the list with five guineas. Another brother immediately followed the good example by giving a similar sum, and others promised their help. It was agreed *nem. con.* that the W.M. should apply for a dispensation from the Grand Master for the lodge to wear a centenary jewel, the design being furnished by Bro. A. D. Loewenstark. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the next lodge meeting. Business being ended, the lodge was closed in due form. The brethren then partook of an excellent cold collation, and spent a pleasant evening together.

PYTHAGOREAN LODGE (No. 79).—This prosperous lodge held its installation meeting on Monday, February 27th, at the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich (Bro. J. Moore's). The lodge was opened by Bro. J. Hasler, W.M., supported by Bros. F. W. Ward, S.W.; S. Vinten, J.W.; W. C. Penny, P.M., Treas.; J. C. Peckham, P.M., Sec.; Trill, J.D.; Doughney, I.G.; W. R. Orchard, I.P.M.; J. Green, P.M.; H. A. Collington, P.M.; Boncey, Thomson, Beales, and others. The visitors were Bros. F. Walters, P.M., Dir. of Cers. 73, 147, Sec. 871; M. A. Loewenstark, W.S. 73; G. Edington, P.M. and Treas. 140; A. H. Tattershall, J.W. 140, J.D. 13; Hudson, 140; F. Durrant, P.M. 147; C. Boncey, 42 (S.C.), and many others whose names we were unable to ascertain. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. Ballots were taken separately for Messrs. Coppinger and Dupere, which were declared to be unanimous in favour of their admission, as also for Bro. William Palmer, 518, which was unanimous in favour of his admission. Messrs. Coppinger and Dupere being in attendance, were introduced separately and duly initiated into ancient Freemasonry in Bro. J. Hasler's usual impressive manner. Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., then took the chair. Bro. W. R. Orchard presented Bro. J. Hasler, W.M. elect, to receive the benefit of installation. The board of Installed Masters, consisting of ten, was formed, and Bro. J. Hasler, for the second time, was reinstalled as W.M. for the ensuing twelve months; after which he was proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees. The W.M. then appointed the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—W. R. Orchard, I.P.M.; F. W. Ward, S.W.; S. W. Vinten, J.W.; W. C. Penny, P.M., Treas.; J. C. Peckham, P.M., Sec.; Trill, S.D.; Doughney, J.D.; Boncey, I.G.; Riley, P.M., Tyler. The several addresses were then given, and listened to with marked attention, Bro. H. A. Collington receiving a hearty burst of applause. It is seldom our happy lot to witness this important ceremony of installation so correctly and impressively rendered. The time used to be when it was necessary year after year to bring a brother from London to all the lodges in this town and the neighbourhood to work this ceremony; but now, thanks to the energy, perseverance, and talent of several of the brethren, this state of affairs is altered, as all the lodges now own members who are well able to render every ceremony. Bro. Collington, P.M., announced to the brethren that it was his intention to represent their lodge as the Steward for the approaching Festival of the Girls' School; and there is no doubt but what he will receive very liberal support, as no brother has worked more indefatigably in the cause

of Masonry. The business being ended, the lodge was closed in due form. The brethren then partook of an excellent banquet, prepared by Bro. Moore in his usual first-class style. The usual toasts were given and received, and the brethren separated.

FITZROY LODGE (No. 569).—The monthly meeting of this military lodge was held on Friday, February 25, at the headquarters of the Hon. Artillery Company, City-road. Bros. T. Wilson (who has been elected for the second time as W.M.) presided, supported by Bros. Watson, S.W.; Maddick, J.W.; Crosthwaite, J.D.; and Huggins, I.G. Bro. Meggy, S.D., was prevented from attending in consequence of a heavy domestic affliction. There were also present Bros. Helsham, I.P.M.; May, P.M.; Peter Matthews, P.M., Treas.; Eglesse, P.M., Sec.; and the following visitors:—Bros. H. Thompson, P.M. Domestic; Dr. Armstrong Todd, Enoch; Lewis, Enoch; and W. Jolliffe, South Hants. The lodge having been opened, Bro. Eglesse, P.M., stated that after the grant which had been made by the last lodge, and the donation of several members, in aid of a poor brother, formerly a visitor to the lodge, he had waited upon him at the Hospital for Consumption, and he had expressed the gratitude he entertained towards the members of the Fitzroy Lodge for their kindness to him during his affliction; but he (Bro. Eglesse) was afraid that his time of being with them was only for a very limited term, as he apprehended he would sink under his formidable disease. Since then he had received a letter from the brother he alluded to, thanking the brethren of the Fitzroy Lodge for the deep sympathy they had shown towards him, and the more so as their kindness was quite unexpected, showing that they carried out the true principles of Masonry to a distressed and afflicted brother. A ballot having been taken for a joining brother from the St. Andrew's Lodge, Bro. EGLESSE, the Secretary, said he had received a letter from Bro. Patten, Secretary to the Girl's School, inviting the lodge to send a steward to represent it at the coming Festival to be held on behalf of the Girls' School in May next, upon which Bro. Wilson, the W.M., at once volunteered to serve that office, which was agreed to. Bro. Jolliffe was proposed as a joining member from the South Hants Lodge, which was agreed to, subject to a ballot at the next lodge. There being no further business, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment; but this being what is called an "off night," the attendance was not so numerous as usual. The cloth having been drawn, the W. MASTER proposed "The Queen and the Craft," which was of course well received, followed by the National Anthem, the solo parts by Bro. Maddick. The two next formal toasts were given and received with all due honours.—Bro. HELSHAM, I.P.M., said he had obtained the W.M.'s permission, and he begged to propose the next toast, which was "The Health of the Worshipful Master." His merits were so well known to the members that he need not enter into them, even if he could find language adequate to do justice to the toast, but should ask them to join with him in drinking his health.—The toast was enthusiastically received, and followed by a song from Bro. Maddick.—The W. MASTER said he thanked the brethren most sincerely for the kind way in which they had received his health; and likewise he thanked Bro. Helsham for the very flattering terms in which he had proposed it. Nothing could give him greater pleasure than to preside over them, and as long as he was in the chair he could assure them that he would endeavour to do his duty, and everything that could add to the comfort of the members, and tend to the welfare and prosperity of the lodge. That evening they had but a small meeting, but he was happy to say that all the officers he had recently appointed were in their places except one, who would have been present but for the heavy domestic affliction which had fallen upon him. Whether they had large or small meetings they were always unanimous in their decisions—a spirit of conviviality prevailed, so that things went off pleasantly, and every visiting brother went away well satisfied. The W. MASTER said the next toast he had to propose was always received with great pleasure by the brethren of the Fitzroy Lodge, and was always drunk with great enthusiasm. Nothing gave them so much pleasure as to see a numerous body of visitors amongst them, and they gave them a cordial and hearty welcome, and therefore he gave "The Health of the Visiting Brethren," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Todd.—After a song, "The anchor's weighed," from Bro. Vernon, of the New Concord Lodge, Bro. TODD returned thanks, on behalf of the visitors, for the truly Masonic hospitality with which they had been received.—The W. MASTER said the next toast he had to bring under the notice of the brethren was "The Health of the Past Masters of the

Lodge," to whom they were greatly indebted, for they were always ready and willing to render any assistance that was required of them in the lodge. They were punctual in their attendance, and were always present ever since he had been a member, and were most assiduous in devoting their time to the interests of the lodge. Besides being P.M.'s, they were members of the corps to which they all belonged; therefore, not only as officers of the lodge, but as soldiers they were bound to obey them. He had great pleasure in proposing the health of the P.M.'s, whom he knew would carry out the principles of Freemasonry in the full sincerity of their hearts.—The toast was well received, for which Bro. HELSHAM, I.P.M., returned thanks.—The W. MASTER said the next toast he had to propose was "The Health of Bro. Peter Matthews and Bro. Eglese, the Treasurer and Secretary of the Lodge." They were P.M.'s of the lodge, and had very important duties to perform, and the brethren knew how those duties had been discharged by them for many years. Bro. Matthews, their Treasurer, looked very carefully after their funds, and he said, with great sincerity, that he believed, from the careful manner in which their Treasurer had acted—and he (the W.M.) belonged to other lodges that stood very high in the Craft—that few of them had a better balance in hand than they had. They had a very worthy Treasurer, and one who was always at his post and ready to do all he could to promote the interests of the lodge. As to their brother Secretary, they all knew the onerous duties he had to perform to the lodge, and a better Secretary than Bro. Eglese could not be found. They always got their notices in due time, and he kept the minutes in a most admirable manner; and if ever they were required to be produced by the Grand Lodge, it would be found that the minutes of no lodge were ever better kept than those of the Fitzroy Lodge. They met under very peculiar circumstances, for there was only one night in the week in which they could assemble in that place, on account of its being required for other purposes; but he might say that it was the only settled military lodge in the world, as they ranked at the War Office last in the list after the regular troops. There was no other military settled lodge in the world, and therefore they possessed a peculiar privilege in the Craft. The other regiments of the line were drafted to different places, subject to her Majesty's will, but theirs was a settled military lodge. In conclusion, he proposed "The Health of Bro. Peter Matthews and Bro. Eglese, and God bless them." (Drunk with Masonic honours).—Bro. MATTHEWS thanked the W.M. and brethren for that mark of respect which they had been pleased to pay him, and said it was always his desire to keep their funds in a good state, for if a lodge ever got into debt, which it ought never to do, it showed that there was a fault somewhere, and that chiefly rested with the Treasurer; but the lodge so well supported him that, besides their banquets, they always had a small sum in hand to devote to charity. Their W.M. had made a remark as to military lodges, and the members of them were called to go forth to different parts of the world; but there was a little chest that went with them, and although the members of the lodge might be cut off by war, the little chest always remained. He frequently attended the United Lodge, at Colchester, and they were all military men who were made in that lodge, their term of remaining there lasting about three years; but when they left, through them Masonry was disseminated throughout all quarters of the globe; they went abroad and united with others in forming lodges, and so Masonry was more widely diffused in different parts of the world. One of the members of the United Lodge whom he installed went to Ceylon, and there formed a lodge, and on his return he (Bro. Matthews) saw him last year, and he informed him that Masonry was flourishing in Ceylon, and thus it was carried out in all parts of the world. The Fitzroy Lodge was the only military lodge meeting on its own ground, and he had no doubt that it would prove worthy of the Craft as long as they had a W.M. like the present, who commanded the esteem of the members; and every visitor was heard to speak of their working as perfect, and A1 in the Craft. He would do all he could to maintain the prosperity of the lodge, and they should have no reason to complain of the trust that was reposed in him.—Bro. EGLESE, P.M. and Sec., returned his sincere thanks for the kind manner in which the W.M. had been pleased to mention his name, and for the very cordial manner in which the brethren had responded to it. The Secretary had a most onerous duty to perform; for, next to the W.M. in the chair, the Secretary had the greatest amount of work to do, and more perhaps than many of the members were aware of; but with him it was a labour of love, and he would always continue to do it as he

had hitherto done. The W.M. had made mention of the officers of the regiment who took part in the affairs of the lodge, some of whom were very prominent. There was Captain Field, who took so great a part in ball practice of the regiment, and all would admit that he did his duty well as an officer; and he (Bro. Eglese) would do all he could to promote the prosperity of the lodge. His Bro. Matthews had alluded to the United Lodge, at Colchester, and he trusted they would find, as regarded the Fitzroy Lodge, the same feeling amongst the Hon. Artillery Company to disseminate their principles, when they left the lodge, for the benefit of those who are not Masons. He was glad to see the charitable feeling of the members in the case which he brought before the lodge at their last meeting, which was most gratifying to him, for, having laid the facts before them, they were all ready and willing to take part in relieving it; and, indeed, it was difficult for him to restrain the brethren from at once putting their hands in their pockets, because he thought it was strictly lodge business. He thanked them sincerely, and he was glad to see the principles of benevolence stood pre-eminent in the Fitzroy Lodge.—The W. MASTER said he had one other very important toast to propose, and it was with a great deal of pleasure that he saw the whole of the officers he appointed that evening but one; and he was in deep affliction, or he was sure he would have been there. Had he been there the number of officers would have been perfect, and that must be a great stimulus to him to do his duty without flinching; and when they saw the Master attentive, it must also be a stimulus to the officers themselves. Before he reached his present position, their brother S.W. had promised to support him, and he had well kept his word as a man and as a brother; and their brother J.W. had also done his duty in a very creditable manner. For himself he had served the office of Steward at the Festival for the benefit of Aged Freemasons when the largest amount for that Institution was collected, and he was glad to say that his amount was about fourth on the list. He was about to represent the Fitzroy Lodge on the occasion of the Festival for the Girls' School, and he trusted he should be supported by the brethren, and with no niggard hand.—Bro. WATSON, S.W., thanked the W.M. for the way in which he had spoken of him, and said he hoped to support him in a better way than he had done that evening; and as time should roll on, he trusted to do his duty more efficiently, and to support him in every possible way, for the happiest moments of his life were spent in the Fitzroy Lodge. He hoped the W.M. would be well supported as their Steward at the Festival for the Girls' School, and he should like to see what had taken place about twelve years ago repeated—that their members should appear there in uniform. That was a proud evening to him, for then the Fitzroy Lodge was greatly honoured, and he hoped that the example which was then set would be again carried out. With these few remarks he begged sincerely to thank the brethren for their kindness.—Bros. Maddick, Crosthwaite, and Huggins also returned thanks, and the Tyler's toast brought a truly happy meeting to a close.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—The fifth installation meeting of this young lodge was held on Wednesday, February 22nd, at the Royal Oak Tavern, Deptford (Bro. J. Stevens's). The W.M., Bro. C. G. C. Stahr, opened the lodge, supported by Bros. H. A. Collington, P.M.; S.W. and W.M. elect; J. H. Pembroke, J.W.; F. Walters, P.M., Sec.; G. S. Hodgson, S.D.; J. S. Blomeley, J.D.; J. Rosenstock, I.G.; J. Hawker, W.S.; G. Wilton, I.P.M.; J. Stevens, P.M.; W. Jeffery, G. Holman, H. J. Wells, W. H. Truelove, G. L. Tilbrook, J. Truelove, R. West, R. Phipps, H. Stevens, R. Mills, A. R. Parkinson, D. Barber, W. Andrews, W. T. Barber, and others. Amongst an extraordinary number of visitors, whose numbers have never been equalled since the consecration of the lodge, we noticed Bros. M. A. Loewenstark, W.S. 73; W. R. Orchard, P.M. 79; F. W. Ward, S.W. 79; S. Vinton, J.W. 79; E. W. Pook, J.D. 140; W. Noak, S.D. 140; G. Bolton, P.M. and Treas. 147; G. Brown, P.M. and Treas. 169; J. T. Tibbals, P.M. and Sec. 169; J. West, I.G. 548; E. Bamstead, S.W. 548; J. W. Davison, J.D. 742; G. Leach, 742, and very many others whose names we were unable to learn. Bro. G. Wilton, I.P.M., took the chair, and passed Bros. W. T. Barber, R. West, and G. L. Tilbrook to the F.C. degree, and raised Bro. W. H. Truelove to the M.M. degree. Bro. C. G. C. Stahr, W.M., then resumed the chair, and initiated Messrs. M. Concannon and J. W. Sampson into ancient Freemasonry. Bro. G. Wilton again took the chair, and Bro. F. Walters, P.M., presented Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., S.W., and W.M. elect, to receive the benefit of installation. A board of Installed Masters

was formed, composed of a dozen, and Bro. H. A. Collington was regularly and duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing twelve months. He was proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees, when he appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers:—Bro. C. G. Stahr, I.P.M.; J. H. Pembroke, S.W.; G. S. Hodgson, J.W.; J. Stevens, Treas.; F. Walters, P.M., Sec.; J. S. Blomeley, S.D.; J. Rosenstock, J.D.; J. Hawker, I.G.; W. Jeffery, W.S.; S. Ganett, P.M., Tyler. The usual addresses were delivered, and, when completed, a hearty burst of applause greeted the successful working of Bro. G. Wilton. Business being ended, the lodge was duly closed, and upwards of thirty of the brethren sat down. The usual loyal toasts were given and responded to. Songs were accompanied on the piano by Bro. Matthew Concannon. After a few hours spent in social enjoyment, the brethren separated, well pleased with this happy reunion.

PROVINCIAL.

DURHAM.

GATESHEAD.—*Borough Lodge* (No. 424).—On Monday, the 20th ult., the installation of Bro. E. E. Biesterfeld, as W.M. of the Borough Lodge, was performed with the usual ceremony, by Bro. E. D. Davis, P. Prov. S.G.W.; after which the W.M. appointed the following brethren as officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. T. Smith, P.M.; W. Sectt, S.W. and Treas.; F. A. Muller, J.W.; I. Stein, Sec.; T. Lilley, S.D.; D. Renieu, J.D.; Ch. Christiansen, I.G.; I. Curry, Tyler. The lodge being duly closed, the brethren then returned to refreshment, at which some very excellent speeches were delivered by Bros. E. D. Davis, the Rev. R. Thompson, and others. The dinner being provided with the utmost care, by Mr. Nielson, at the Grey Horse Inn the brethren did ample justice to the same, and the songs of Bros. W. J. Adams, Ralph Thompson, and J. Stein contributed no little to the harmony with which the evening was spent, and the brethren separated at a suitable hour, well pleased with their festival. Among those present were—Bros. E. D. Davis, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Rev. R. Thompson, late Chaplain to the Grand Lodge of Scotland; Dr. Banning, P. Prov. J.G.W.; H. Hotham, P.M.; A. Chapman, P.M.; T. Miller, P.M.; F. W. Weyergang, P.M.; J. Thompson, R. Watkins, J. Thorman, S. Dunn, R. Thompson, H. Smith, J. Sullivan, Falconer, Hunter, W. J. Adams, P. Bockel, T. Gillespie, Jefferson, W. S. Lotinga, J. Gilmore, Britton, J. H. Brown, Hugill, A. Ross, G. W. Dixon.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—*Harbour of Refuge Lodge* (No. 764).—A Lodge of Emergency was holden in the lodge-room at the Royal Hotel on Tuesday, Feb. 28th, when there was a large muster of the brethren, amongst whom were Bros. Dr. Kirk, P.J.G.W., W.M.; Jas. Groves, I.P.M. St. Helen's (No. 531) (the Mayor of Hartlepool); Dr. George Moore, W.M. St. Helen's, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Emra Holmes, Comp. R.A., P.G. Steward; Stowier Leigh; W. Brunton, S.W.; Harpley, J.W.; F. J. Cackett, Sec. (Surveyor of H.M. Customs), &c. Bros. Barnes, J. Byers Watt, and W. C. Ward Jackson having come duly prepared, were then raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the W.M., Bro. Kirk, very ably performing the ceremony, and being assisted by Bros. Groves and Moore. Business being concluded, the brethren retired to refreshment, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to with true fraternal union. The toast of our newly-raised brethren was acknowledged by Bro. W. C. Ward Jackson, who in a neat, able, and pithy speech, expressed his admiration of Masons and Masonry. The evening was begun in peace and closed in harmony.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

ORMSKIRK.—*Hesketh Lodge* (No. 986).—The brethren of this lodge held their monthly meeting at Croston, near Ormskirk, on Tuesday, the 21st ult. The lodge was opened by Bro. Jackson, W.M. The usual business having been performed, Bro. Pepper, P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cera., raised Bro. Mackerill to the sublime degree of M.M., and initiated one gentleman into the mysteries of Freemasonry. This lodge, in consequence of its isolated position, does not receive the mutual advantages of visitors, and it was suggested that Rufford as a locality would be preferable. The brethren, who mustered in good numbers, were called off to refreshment, when the J.W.

attended to that part of his duty admirably; and in due time the brethren separated with mutual good wishes, happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again.

OXFORDSHIRE.

BANBURY.—*Cherwell Lodge* (No. 559).—On Monday, the 13th ult., the W.M., officers, and brethren of this lodge assembled in their lodge room, at the Red Lion Hotel, for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. Dr. Rye. The ceremony of installation was most ably and impressively performed by Bro. Havers, P.M. The following brethren were present and took part in the ceremony:—The Prov. G.M. of Oxfordshire, Colonel Bowyer; the D. Prov. G.M., Alderman R. J. Spiers, of Oxford; Bros. F. A. C. B. Cave, W.M. of the Apollo Lodge, Oxford; C. T. Hawkins, W.M. of the Alfred Lodge, Oxford; P.M.'s Alderman Randall, J. Martin, H. Houghton, Harrison, J. T. Hester, of Oxford; J. Scroggs, of Deddington; Dr. Griffin, J. B. Looker, of Banbury; Rev. T. Russell, of Brackley; Rev. H. S. Syers, of Brasenose College, Oxford; B. A. Galland, Lincoln College; A. Verney, Claydon House; Bowyer, jun., of Steeple Aston; H. Hammas, H. Churchill, and H. Margetts, Deddington; J. Hartley, C. Pettit, E. W. Turner, Wells, Griffin, W. H. Griffin, J. Shelswell, of Banbury; W. Hobbs, W. Stephens, and Joseph Plowman, of Oxford. On the conclusion of the installation, the W.M. appointed his officers for the ensuing year, and invested them with their insignia of office. The charity box in aid of poor and distressed Masons was passed round as usual, and a handsome sum was collected. On the termination of their labours, the brethren proceeded to refreshment, a sumptuous banquet awaiting them in the Assembly Room of the Hotel. We have so often spoken of the banquets given by the Cherwell Lodge, at the Red Lion Hotel, that it is unnecessary to say more than that it included every delicacy of the season, was served up in that style of excellence for which the hostess, Mrs. Fowler, has become justly celebrated, and fully equalled, if not surpassed, any previous Masonic banquet at that well-known and well-conducted establishment. A variety of choice first-class wines, and an abundant supply of champagne, the latter the generous gift of the Prov. G.M., Colonel Bowyer, left nothing to be desired. A handsome dessert succeeded the dinner, so that nothing was wanting to make the banquet complete in every sense of the word. The W.M., Dr. Rye, presided with great ability, and introduced the various toasts in brief but telling and appropriate terms. In the course of the evening the Prov. G.M., the D. Prov. G.M., the W.M. of the Apollo Lodge, the W.M. of the Alfred Lodge, P.M. Harrison, of the Cherwell Lodge, and Bro. Verney, son of Sir Harry Verney, *Bart.*, *M.P.*, addressed the brethren in a very able manner. The latter brother gave a very interesting account of his experience of Masonry in India, and adverted to the contrast which a lodge of white men presented to those which he had been in the habit of attending, where nearly all present were men of colour. He spoke of the beneficial influence of Masonry in promoting a kindly feeling between Englishmen and the natives of India, and of the kindness which he received at their hands. The festivities of the evening were most agreeably diversified by songs by various brethren. Soon after ten o'clock the Oxford brethren were compelled to leave, in order to avail themselves of the special train most liberally provided for them by the Cherwell Lodge. The festival on the whole was, as usual, a great success, and fully bore out what was remarked by one of the brethren present, that the Cherwell anniversary is a red letter day in the Masonic year.

SUFFOLK.

THE PROPOSED NEW MASONIC HALL AND BUILDINGS IN IPSWICH.

As this project has now assumed something like a definite shape, we lay before our Masonic brethren the intention of the promoters with regard to the removal of the dilapidated buildings which have long been an eyesore to the inhabitants of this part of the town, and to the passers-by of this much-frequented locality. The great object for which the ground was purchased was for the purpose of erecting thereon a Masonic Hall at the back part of the premises nearest St. Stephen's Church, and also suitable buildings for shops in that part facing Brook-street. The land having been purchased by a member of the Masonic body, a scheme was proposed by him to raise £1,200 by

subscriptions of £1 each. This sum was offered in proportions of £300 each to the four lodges in this town, viz., the British Union, St. Luke's, The Perfect Friendship, and the Prince of Wales. The three former having declined to accept the proposition, the members of the Prince of Wales Lodge, determined not to let such an opportunity pass by, set about raising the necessary amount. The result is that the sum required has been subscribed exclusively by members of the Prince of Wales Lodge, and the plan of building already decided upon.

The architects of the proposed hall are Messrs. Bacon and Bell, of Arthur-street West, London Bridge. The hall and Masonic buildings will occupy a space of 193ft. in length, and will comprise an entrance-hall and vestibule, robing, committee, and ante-rooms; banqueting room, 40ft. by 20ft.; and hall, 45ft. by 22ft. 6in., with a height of 22½ft. The hall, which will be used for Masonic purposes only, will be elegantly decorated, fitted with sofa-cushioned seats, and lighted from the roof by the newly-invented sun light. There will be a gallery at the western end (where it is proposed to erect an organ), supported by two granite columns of appropriate architectural design. The building will be heated by hot water apparatus. All suitable offices, such as kitchens, lavatories, regalia, and store-rooms, will be included in the internal arrangements. At the western end of the building, and facing the churchyard, will be erected a dwelling-house for the Tyler or hall keeper. The exterior of the building will be plain, but of a substantial character, the great object of the promoters being directed to the interior as regards comfort, convenience, and appropriateness of arrangement. The approach to the hall will be by an ornamented doorway in St. Stephen's Church-lane.

Upon the vacant space next Brook-street it is intended to erect three shops, of tasteful design, having a depth of 54ft. each by 20ft. frontage.

In order to render the buildings uniform, and with every desire to meet the wishes of the parishioners of St. Stephen's, before the buildings were commenced, the promoters, through their solicitor, M. F. B. Jennings, communicated with the rector, the Rev. George Stokes, with regard to the wall which now stands on the south side of the proposed site of the hall. The result was that a meeting was called in the vestry on Friday week, when a proposition was laid before the meeting by Mr. Jennings—"Offering, on the part of the trustees, who had purchased land on the north side of the lane, for the purpose of erecting a Masonic Hall, to make a straight line on the north side of the lane, and to leave the lane of a uniform width of 6ft.½; In return for this concession, the trustees offered to give up a right of way from their premises into the churchyard, to repave and drain the lane, and to erect a new gas-lamp to be lighted on Sundays, and all such evenings when Divine service should be held. A plan accompanied the letter, showing that the piece of land required to be taken out of the lane for this purpose was a tapering strip, on the north side of the lane 22in. wide at the end next the churchyard, and tapering to a point at the end next Brook-street."

After some discussion, Mr. Bristo proposed the following resolution:—"That the proposition which had been received from Mr. Jennings be entertained to this extent—that the trustees of the ground should give up six inches at the lower end, next Brook-street, and then draw a straight line and take 1ft. 4in. at the end next the churchyard, leaving the passage clear 6ft. 6in. in width throughout, and they shall also give up the right-of-way, if any exist, into and over the churchyard."

Mr. F. Price seconded the proposition, which was carried with only one dissentient.

The meeting was then adjourned until twelve o'clock on Monday last, in order to receive the reply of the promoters, when the Rev. George Stokes presided, and opened the proceedings by reading the following letter from Mr. T. B. Jennings:—

To the Ministers, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Parish of St. Stephen, Ipswich.

Gentlemen,—Having reported to the trustees of the Masonic Hall Fund the resolution come to at your vestry meeting yesterday, I am instructed to tender their thanks to the parish for receiving their proposition in the liberal and kind manner in which it has been met, and to say that the trustees will be willing to give up the six inches at the end of the passage next Brook-street, thus making the passage 6ft. 6in. wide, and carry the same width throughout, with the exception of about 50ft. near the centre of the passage, where it will be only about 6ft., that being the spot where the hall will be placed, in the width of

which 6in. will be a great advantage, and which space they trust the parish will concede to them. The trustees will make a drain down the passage and connect it with the present one in the pathway through the churchyard, at the south side of the church, so as to clear off the water which usually collect there after a heavy rain—repave the passage, and put a gas lamp on the corner of the proposed Hall Keeper's House, so as to light the east entrance to the church, to be lighted on Sunday evenings and such other evenings when Divine service shall be held in the Church.

Mr. Bristo said he thought the application was a very fair one, and he should move that it be acceded to by the parish. He thought it would be a great acquisition to the parish to have the lane kept in a proper state.

Mr. Tracy spoke in favour of the proposition.

Mr. Price (churchwarden) seconded the proposition of Mr. Bristo.

The Chairman then put the question, which was unanimously agreed to.

It was also agreed that the arrangement entered into between the parish authorities and the trustees of the hall should be reduced to writing, for the satisfaction of both parties.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The Prince of Wales Lodge, the members of which are about to carry out this long-desired scheme, is almost the youngest in the province, having been established in June, 1863. Although so short a time in existence, it now numbers nearly seventy members, one of the earliest of whom was the Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, Col. R. A. S. Adair. Many of the distinguished members of London and provincial lodges are also connected with the Prince of Wales Lodge. Attached to the lodge is the Royal Alexandra Chapter, the Victor Albert Lodge of Mark Masters, the Royal Plantagenet Encampment of Knights Templars, and a Priory of Knights Hospitallars of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta. We understand it is in contemplation to add the higher degree of Rose Croix to the lodge.

SOUTH WALES (EASTERN DIVISION).

CARDIFF.—*Glamorgan Lodge* (No. 36).—The regular meeting of this ancient lodge was held on the 28th ult., when there were present Bros. D. Roberts, W.M.; T. H. Stephens, S.W.; R. P. Hunt, J.W.; E. J. Thomas, P.M. and Treas.; R. J. Fisher, Sec.; T. G. Glass, S.D. (*pro tem.*); M. Marks, J.D.; J. E. Dawson, I.G.; R. Langley, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W.; W. J. Gaskell, P.M., Prov. S.G.W.; Col. Hill, J. E. Billups, F. Ware, T. M. Williams, J. Robinson, &c. The minutes of the last lodge were confirmed, including an alteration in the by-laws, fixing the day of meeting for the second and fourth Mondays. The W.M. read a communication from the Acting Prov. G.M., Bro. T. M. Talbot, regretting his inability to be present, as he intended to advocate the cause of the Masonic Charities, and more especially that of the Boys' School, to whose forthcoming Festival this province is about, for the first time, to send a Steward. The W.M., however, made an able and earnest appeal on this behalf, and immediately obtained promises of donations to the extent of ten guineas. Bros. J. E. Billups and W. Cooper being desirous of passing to the second degree, underwent the usual examination, after which they were passed to the F.C. degree in due form and according to ancient custom. Bro. Colonel Hill then underwent an examination, and was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. Both ceremonies were admirably performed by the W.M., and the lodge was closed in harmony at ten o'clock, p.m.

MARK MASONRY.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—The brethren of Lodge No. 65, holding under the Grand Mark Lodge of England and Wales, held their regular meeting in the Masonic Temple, on Friday, the 17th ult., under the auspices of Bro. J. Hauser, Prov. G. Treas. West Lancashire, who at the previous meeting delivered the lecture pertaining to this beautiful degree, and on the present occasion advanced Bro. Duke, of Lodge 203, to the degree of Mark Master. Bro. Pepper, the Sec. and Reg., proposed five brethren for advancement at the next regular meeting, after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren retired to refreshment.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

BRADFORD.—*Encampment of Faith* (No. 29).—A regular meeting of this encampment was holden at the rooms of the Lodge of Hope (No. 302), on Monday evening, the 27th ult., at seven o'clock. Present—Sir Knts. John Gaunt, E.C.; Dr. P. A. Brady, 1st Capt.; John Craven Taylor, 2nd Capt.; Wm. Gath, Thos. Hill, Heratio Butterworth, Henry Smith, and G. W. Waud, P.E.C.'s; W. H. France, John J. Holmes, &c. Visiting Sir Knt., R. Reed Nelson, P.E.C., Prov. G. Reg., &c. After the minutes had been read, the ballot was taken for Comp. Manoah Rhodes, of the Chapter of Charity (No. 302), which, proving unanimous, he was afterwards conducted through the ceremony of installation by Sir Knt. H. Butterworth, as Expert. The balance-sheet was presented, showing a satisfactory progress, and the whole of the officers were re-appointed, with the additions of Sir Knts. W. H. France, as Reg., and M. Rhodes, as Capt. of the Lines. The fees to serving Sir Knts. were settled, the returns to the Grand and Provincial Encampments were ordered to be made, and certificates procured for the newly installed. The Almoner performed his office, and the encampment was closed in form at nine o'clock. The banquet was served in the adjoining room, where a very agreeable evening was spent, and the usual toasts duly honoured.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

ST. AUBIN'S LODGE (No. 958).—The W.M., Bro. E. C. M. de Carteret, presided over the monthly meeting of this lodge on Tuesday, the 21st ult., opening the labours of the evening soon after seven, assisted by Bros. Orange, S.W.; Mannan, acting as J.W.; and Dr. Hopkins, P.M. The minutes were read and confirmed. A letter from the P. Prov. G. Master was read, again cautioning the brethren against visiting Lodge Les Amis de l'Avenir, declared by Grand Lodge as irregular, because established under a foreign warrant in a country having a Masonic jurisdiction of its own. The I.P.M. expressed his belief that none of the members of St. Aubin's Lodge gave any sanction to the French lodge referred to, and suggested the plan recommended by Bro. Adams, to offer a special caution to every newly-initiated brother who, as a novice, might be misled. A vote of thanks was passed to the I.P.M. for a present of a frame of Masonic drawings. The W.M. read circulars announcing the meeting of Grand Lodge in March, and the festival in connection with the Freemasons' Girls' Schools in May, and then temporarily resigned his chair to Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M., who, with the assistance of the brethren present, worked the first and second sections of the second lectures. The W.M. having resumed his place, inquired if any brother had other business to bring forward, when a candidate for initiation at the next meeting was offered. The lodge was closed a little before nine, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, the meeting was a very good one, many visitors being present.

CESAREE LODGE (No. 950).—The brethren held their regular monthly meeting at the Masonic Temple, St. Helier, on Thursday, the 23rd ult., under the presidency of Bro. C. Le Sueur, W.M.; assisted by Bros. Ph. Binet, acting as S.W.; C. Benest, J.W.; and J. Darell, I.P.M. After the lodge had been opened in the first degree, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Ph. Renouf, having passed a satisfactory examination, was entrusted, and retired. The lodge was opened in the second degree, the candidate was re-introduced, and passed to the degree of F.C. by the W.M., Bro. J. Darell, P.M., giving the explanation of the second tracing board. The lodge was then closed in the second degree. The son of Bro. Goupillot, Treasurer of the lodge, was proposed for initiation at the next meeting. All business having been transacted, the labours of the evening were brought to a close at nine o'clock, and the brethren adjourned to the banqueting-room. Among the visitors of distinction were Bros. E. C. M. de Carteret, W.M. 958, Prov. G.W.; Le Crozeire, M.D., Prov. G. Treas.; and Malingre, of the Grand Orient of France.

INDIA.

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

BOMBAY.

LODGE PERSEVERANCE (No. 371, S.C.).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, Nov. 15th—Present, Bros. J. Jamieson, W.M.; E. Freeborn, S.W.; T. Wood, J.W.; H. H. Prescott, offg. Secretary; J. Haines, S.D.; H. Bailey, J.D.; C. Maggs, offg. I.G.; J. C. Houghland, Tyler and Steward. Members—T. Hammond, J. Shand, B. Field, J. Belford, T. H. Davis, J. Bonner, J. Kennedy, W. Read, D. Fletcher, J. Doughty, H. Showell, J. Reeves, J. Gleave, W. Hannaford, S. Hodgart, J. Riding, W. G. Mayhew, L. Perret, and W. Starstedt. Visitors—W. Hughes, F. Goward, R. C. Shroff, P. Hawkey, G. Judd, E. Leckey, R. Leckey, R. D. Anderson, and H. S. Elliott. The lodge was opened in due form. The proceedings of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. John Grey and James Lawson were then balloted for as joining members, the result being clear, after which Messrs. John Billingshi and R. Elder were balloted for as candidates for initiation, which proving favourable, they were properly introduced in ancient form. There being no further business before the lodge, it was closed in peace and harmony at eight o'clock.

LODGE RISING STAR (No. 342, S.C.).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 21st November, at the Masonic Hall, in Grant-buildings. Present:—Bros. Nowrojee Nanabhoy Framjee, W.M.; H. Wickham, K. R. Cama, and Merwanjee Manockjee Sethna, P.M.'s; Dossabhoy Ruttonjee Colah, officiating S.W.; Rustomjee Cowasjee Batherjee, officiating J.W.; Muncherjee Cowasjee Murzban, officiating S.D.; Hormusjee Pestonjee Framjee, officiating J.D.; Nowrojee Manockjee Lungdana, officiating I.G.; Cowasjee Sorabjee Patell, Tyler; together with a large number of members and visitors from various lodges. The lodge having been duly formed, it was opened in the first degree, when the proceedings of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The first business before the meeting was the election of a Worshipful Master, and the choice of the majority fell on Bro. Dossabhoy Ruttonjee Colah, who expressed his grateful thanks to the brethren for their confidence, which he would do all in his power to merit. The next business was to raise Bros. Sorabjee Shapoorjee, Cumroodeen Tyabjee, and Framjee Nusserwanjee Khan Bahadoor. These brethren being all present, the lodge was passed to the second degree, when they were severally examined as to their proficiency, which proving favourable, they were passed out for preparation, and the lodge was raised to the third degree. They were then re-admitted, and duly raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. The symbols and working tools of this degree having been illustrated to the newly-raised brethren, the lodge was lowered to the first degree. The W. Master intimated to the brethren that he had remitted 200 rupees to the Cyclone Relief Fund in the name of the lodge, and which, he had no doubt, would meet with the approval of the brethren. He also stated that it was his intention of raising a private subscription among the brethren for the same purpose. There being no further business before the lodge, it was closed in peace and harmony at a quarter past nine p.m., when the brethren retired to the banquet-hall. Ample justice having been done to the good things of this life, the cloth was removed, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and drunk with all the honours; and the evening was finished as it commenced, in the intercommunication of brotherly thought and reciprocation of genial enjoyment.

MHOW.

LODGE ST. PAUL'S (No. 389, S.C.).—The regular monthly meeting of the above lodge took place on the 1st November, Bro. Captain Ouchterlony, W.M., presiding. The lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The state of the charity funds belonging to this lodge was laid before the members, showing that St. John's box contained 105 rupees, 12 annas, and the Widows' and Orphans' Fund amounted to 146 rupees. The lodge was then passed to the second degree, when Bros. Goad, Munro, and R. Bhicajee, after due examination and being found proficient, were passed out for preparation, and the lodge was raised to the third degree. The brethren were readmitted, and raised to the sublime degree of M.M. in due and ancient form. The lodge was then lowered to the first degree, when Messrs. Stanley and Cowasjee Meudosjee (who had been balloted for and approved of

at a previous meeting) were regularly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. The following brethren were then appointed by the W.M. as office-bearers for the year 1865:—Bros. A. Steers, S.W.; Dadabhoj Nusserwanjee, J.W.; Hanbury, S.D.; Cowasjee Nusserwanjee, J.D.; Nowrojee Byramjee, I.G.; Eduljee Jamsec, Tyler. No further business being before the lodge, it was closed in harmony at a quarter past nine, p.m.

ROYAL ARCH.

CHAPTER PERSEVERANCE (No. 71, S.C.).—This chapter was opened on the 26th Nov., the following being the officers:—M.E. Comps. T. Carpenter, Z.; E. Freeborn, H.; Comps. G. Brooks, B.; J. Jamieson, N.; T. Wood, Treas.; G. L. F. Connell, Prin. Soj.; J. Gillon, 2nd Soj.; R. Farrow, 3rd Soj.; J. Houghland, Janitor. The candidates for this degree were Bros. K. R. Cama, D. Ruttonjee Colah, Muncherjee Cowasjee Murzban, J. Jehangheer Lammah, Hormusjee Pestonjee Framjee, T. Davis, H. Prescott, J. Lockley, and T. Ford. After going through the usual ceremony, M.E. Comp. J. Anderson delivered the address explaining the emblems in that remarkable lucid style of his with great impressiveness, after which the chapter was formally closed with prayer. The companions then adjourned to the banquetting hall. After the constitutional toasts of the evening, M.E. Comp. T. Carpenter, in a manner worthy of the occasion, remarked on the assistance afforded by M.E. Comp. Anderson to Chapter Perseverance, saying that had it not been for his willing co-operation, he felt sure the chapter would have been in abeyance long ago, and then expressed his thanks for the support accorded by him, and called upon the companions to drink to his health. M.E. Comp. Anderson rose and replied, thanking the companions for the ready response to the call of the P.Z., enlogised on the merits of the principal officers, and on the honour conferred upon the native portion of the companions in having admitted them into portals of Royal Arch Masonry; stigmatised the prejudices which hitherto existed against the admittance of worthy and influential natives into the Order, and praised the companions of Chapter Perseverance for having overruled all the objections adduced against them, saying that they had paved the way for the other chapters, and hoped that no further hindrance would be made to introducing such eminent brethren into the ranks of the Royal Arch. He then said it gave him great pleasure in being an eye-witness to the evening's work, as it was the opening of a new era in Royal Arch Masonry, and complimented the companions and officers on their correct working, and concluded by tendering them his heartfelt thanks. The next toast by the P.Z. was that of the newly-exalted companions. Comp. H. Prescott thanked the assembly for himself and the others for their admittance into the Order. Comp. K. R. Cama also rose and thanked the companions on behalf of the native members, saying that they did really consider it an honour in having been permitted to enter the R.A. degree, as hitherto they were debarred, and said it was a remarkable fact worthy of mention that the natives were greatly indebted to both Lodge and Chapter Perseverance, as from the former sprang Lodge Rising Star, and no doubt from the other some future day would spring a chapter of their own. He said he quite concurred in all that had been said by Comp. Anderson, and then tendered his warm thanks to the companions for the honour done to the native members in having drunk their health so enthusiastically. The next toast was that of the visiting companions, which was responded to by Comp. Fowler, who remarked upon the cordial way he had been entertained by this Chapter, and upon the pride he felt when he was first bedecked with the R.A. jewel, as he said it never afforded him greater pleasure as when that holy emblem was put upon his left breast. He would always remember the occasion with great satisfaction, as he was proud to be numbered in its ranks. He said he was but a junior member of the Order, but that had it not been for the apathy and lukewarmness evinced by those he first mentioned his intention to, and for which express purpose he obtained leave of absence some years back, he would have been an older member of the Order; that when he arrived at the Presidency, and in these very rooms, he felt sorry to say all his prospects were blasted, as those who promised to meet him were not forthcoming, and the result was that he was compelled to return from whence he came a non-Royal Arch Mason! He said he regretted it much, as had he then obtained the degree in all probability this day Lodge St. Paul's would have been able to boast of a Chapter to her name, and no doubt a list of worthy and eminent Companions. He concluded by again thanking

the Companions for their cordial welcome to him. The final constitutional toast was then proposed, and the assembly broke up.

CHAPTER KEYSTONE (No. 757, E.C.).—A regular meeting of this chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall, near Baboola Tank, on the 14th of November. Present:—M.E. Comp. J. Anderson, Z.; V.E. Comps. A. King, H.; J. J. Farnham, J.; Ex. Comps. A. Cumming, Scribe E.; C. E. Mitchell, N.; Comps. R. Donaldson, Offg. P. Soj.; C. E. Burden, Offg. 1st Assist. Soj.; S. Trenn, Offg. 2nd Assist. Soj.; W. G. King, Janitor; T. Hilton, T. Wood, P. C. Higgins, H. H. Avron, H. T. Binks, R. Newton. The visitors were M.E. Comps. J. H. Irvine, P.P.Z., and T. Carpenter, P.Z., Chapter Perseverance. The Principals having entered the chapter and opened it in due form, the remaining companions were admitted, and the chapter declared open for the transaction of business. The summons convening the meeting was then read. Comp. T. Wood, of Chapter Perseverance (No. 71), was admitted a joining member by acclamation. The following brethren having been duly proposed, seconded, and balloted for, were exalted to the Holy Royal Arch Degree in due and ancient form, viz.—Bros. Forrest London Brown, of Lodge St. George; R. C. Stovin, of Lodge Truth; and G. Fowler, of Lodge St. Paul's, Mhow. The following brethren were balloted for, and the result was clear, viz.—Bros. Small, of Lodge Concord; W. Gilbert, Charles Clifton, and J. Wright, of Lodge Truth. An allowance of 15 rupees per month, to be continued for twelve months, was unanimously voted to the widow of the late Comp. J. Roddle, Janitor to the chapter. There being no further business before the chapter, it was closed in due form at 8.40 p.m.

Obituary.

BRO. T. J. BIRDSEYE.

We regret to have to record the death of Bro. T. J. Birdseye, P.M. and Treasurer Northern Lodge of China (No. 570), Shanghai, which took place on the 1st January. The deceased was admitted into Masonry on the 11th May, 1850, passed on the 7th February, 1852, and received the third degree on the 3rd March of the same year. His services to the Craft in Shanghai were arduous and protracted; in 1852-3 he held the office of Secretary; in 1856, that of Senior Deacon; in 1857-8 that of Senior Warden; and in 1859 was installed W.M. of the Northern Lodge of China; whilst from 1860 to the period of his decease he worthily discharged the laborious and responsible duties of Treasurer—functions he so conscientiously performed as to lead the brethren of his lodge to vote him a P.M.'s jewel in token of their high appreciation of his worth and integrity. Bro. Birdseye was exalted in the Zion Chapter (No. 570) on the 8th February, 1862, and had served the office of 2nd Principal. In this lamented brother Shanghai has lost one of its oldest residents, and the mournful cortege which followed his mortal remains to the place of burial attested, by the large number of sorrowing friends, the feeling of respect and regard entertained for him by a very considerable section of the community. Bro. Birdseye had entered upon his 48th year.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

On Wednesday, the 31st half-yearly meeting was held at the offices of the company, in Cornhill; Mr. JAMES CLAY, M.P., in the chair.

After the Secretary had read the report (which will be found in our advertising columns),

The CHAIRMAN rose and said, he had but little to add to what was stated in the report, except to congratulate the proprietors upon the steady progress the company was making. It was true the present report was not so favourable as some previous ones. The profits were not so large as the directors had hoped, but that was accounted for by the extraordinary number of fatal accidents, viz., 26 in the half-year, the average claims in respect to which amounted to £13,600. This

was an entirely abnormal rate of loss, and was not to be looked for in ordinary years. Again, the increase of single journey tickets was slight, as compared with previous half years. He did not attach much value to this, because it was found that the more prudent portion, mankind preferred a more permanent mode of insurance, and that the comparative falling off in the journey tickets was more than compensated by the increase in the number of annual and life policies against all accidents. Upon the whole, therefore, he thought they had every reason to anticipate a continuous and still more satisfactory progress. The alteration in the terms of the policies, making the liability more clear and defined, was likewise operating to the advantage of the company, and the cases disputed were now becoming so few in number as largely to reduce the emoluments of the solicitor—a subject of congratulation to the company, and, he was satisfied, of no regret to the solicitor himself. (A laugh.) The statistics of the company were becoming annually more valuable, supplying them with far more reliable data than in the early years of their existence they possessed. As an instance of the fallacy of the ordinary statistics, he might mention that the President of the Board of Trade, who was supposed to be the impersonation of statistics—a laugh—stated in a recent speech that railway accidents occurred in the proportion of one passenger killed to every 16,000,000 carried; and that one out of every 315,000 odd was injured. Now he should be sorry to suppose that those who insured with this company were more liable to accidents than the rest of the travelling community, but their experience during the fifteen years they had been established gave the proportion as one passenger injured in every 10,700 who travelled. Without charging the Board of Trade with putting forth incorrect statistics, there were many reasons for accounting for the discrepancy. The Board of Trade did not generally hear of those accidents which were not felt at the time, and the effects of which were not immediately visible. They heard nothing of accidents which from the shock they inflicted upon the system were as much entitled to compensation as would a broken leg or a broken arm. These, however, came under the notice of the company in the claims made by the parties injured, and accounted in a great measure for the high rate their returns showed. Anything abnormal, either in the weather or the health of the country, affected the demands upon this office, and, as a matter of curiosity, he might state that the accidents which had occurred to persons insured with them resulting from the late severe weather, when the streets were so slippery from snow and frost, had cost them over £2,000. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

The motion having been seconded by Mr. M. Farquhar, a director, was carried.

Interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 2s. per share was then declared. The directors retiring by rotation and the auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

TESTIMONIAL TO BRO. STEBBING, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHAMPTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—The long and valuable services rendered to his fellow-townsmen by J. R. Stebbing, Esq., J.P., F.R.A.S., whereby the commercial interests of the port have been repeatedly and materially benefitted, received a graceful recognition on the 22nd ult., by the presentation to that gentleman of a very handsome testimonial, to which there were about 400 subscribers. The presentation was made in the presence of a large number of persons, by George Dunlop, Esq., Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce. The testimonial consisted of a purse of 600 sovereigns, a massive silver salver, and an illuminated volume containing a suitable address, and the names of all the subscribers written on vellum. The following inscription is engraved on the salver:—"This salver, with a purse containing £600, was presented to Joseph Rankin Stebbing, Esq., Justice of the Peace, and President of the Chamber of Commerce, by his friends and fellow-townsmen, in testimony of their high appreciation of the valuable services he has, during a long period of years, rendered to the town of Southampton and its neighbourhood; of the great ability and intelligence he has displayed in his efforts to develop the capabilities of its port, and of the exertions and personal sacrifices he has made for the extension of its trade and commerce.—Southampton, February 22, 1865." In the evening Bro. Stebbing was entertained at dinner at the Dolphin Hotel. The proceedings throughout were of the most gratifying character.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

Just as we were going to press we received the programme for the approaching season. We have not the space at present to do more than to say that the following will be the leading features:—

The Great Flower Show, Saturday, 20th May, 1865.

The Great Rose Show will be held on Saturday, 24th June.

Royal Dramatic College Fêtes, Saturday, 15th July, and Monday, 17th July.

Crystal Palace Opera Concerts and Saturday afternoon Promenades, on Saturdays in May, June, and July.

Crystal Palace Archery Meeting, Thursday, 6th, and Friday, 7th July.

Crystal Palace—Triennial Handel Festival, 1865.

Rehearsal..... Friday, 23rd June.

Messiah..... Monday, 26th June.

Selection..... Wednesday, 28th June.

Israel in Egypt..... Friday, 30th June.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen, attended by the youthful members of her family now residing with her at Windsor, came to town on Tuesday and held a Court, which was attended by the Ambassadors and Ministers of the different Powers with their suites, and by other eminent and distinguished persons who had the honour of receiving invitations. After holding the Court the Queen returned to Windsor in the course of the afternoon. We are glad to be able to state that her Majesty appeared to be in excellent health. The Prince and Princess of Wales are still resident in the metropolis.—The *Owl* states that the Dublin International Exhibition will be opened by the Prince of Wales, and that the Empress of the French has addressed a letter to the Queen and all the Sovereigns of Europe, requesting their co-operation in restoring the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. Prince Arthur has proceeded on a tour to the East.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Thursday, the 23rd ult., Lord Granville, in reply to a question from Lord Fortescue, said that Mr. Farnall's services in the cotton manufacturing districts had been of "great value," but he had performed the duties of special commissioner in Lancashire and inspector in London, without any addition having been made to his salary. At Lady-day, however, his duties in the cotton districts would cease. Lord Derby bore testimony to the services of Mr. Farnall, and also to the assistance rendered by the Poor-law Board, during the cotton famine.—In reply to a question from Lord Wharncliffe, Lord Granville said, that in the present state of the negotiations for the confederation of the British North American provinces, it would be injudicious to come to any decision upon the proposal to erect the Red River settlement into an independent colony.—On Friday the Lord Chancellor introduced a Bill for the amendment of the law relating to the remuneration of attorneys.—On Monday a short conversation took place on the subject of transportation to Australia. Lord Granville intimated that in three years transportation to Western Australia would entirely cease, and Lord Taunton—an ex-secretary for the colonies—rejoiced at a decision which, he believed, would produce a feeling of the deepest satisfaction among the colonists.—On Tuesday the Irish Law Reform Bill was read a second time.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, the 23rd ult., Mr. Whalley gave notice of a Bill to assimilate the law of Scotland to that of England with respect to the election of knights of the shire; which means, we presume, the extension of the franchise

to the forty-shilling freeholders of Scotland. The motion for the second reading of the Banks of Issue Bill gave rise to a discussion on the Bank Act of 1844. Mr. Buchanan, one of the members for Glasgow, moved, as an amendment to the second reading, that an inquiry should be instituted into the working of the Act, and that in the meantime Mr. Gladstone's Bill should be postponed. In the course of the debate which followed, the Chancellor of the Exchequer urged that the last session of a dying Parliament was an utterly unsuitable occasion for such an investigation as that proposed by the member for Glasgow, and he appealed to the House to agree to the second reading, in which case he should postpone the Committee for a month, in order to give the banking and commercial interests the fullest opportunity for examining the provisions of the Bill. The suggestion of the right hon. gentleman was accepted, and the House soon afterwards adjourned.—On Friday, some discussion took place on the motion for the second reading of the Liverpool Licensing Bill. Sir George Grey, Mr. Gladstone, and Lord Stanley supported the bill, but other members urged that the licensing system ought to be dealt with as a whole. Ultimately, the motion for the second reading was negatived without a division.—In reply to a question from Mr. Maguire, Mr. Layard said the French Government had been requested to mediate between Brazil and Monte Video, but no such application had been made to the Government of this country, and it was not the intention of her Majesty's Ministers to take any part in the quarrel.—Mr. Cardwell, in reply to Mr. Watkin, said he had made no representation to the Government of the United States upon the subject of the recently issued regulations requiring persons passing from Canada into the Northern States to be provided with passports. The passports had been established in consequence of the raids into Vermont, and he hoped that the regulations would be cancelled "as soon as the mischief ceased."—Mr. Henry Berkeley, having ascertained from Sir George Grey that the Government did not intend to bring in a Bill for the better prevention of bribery at elections, intimated his intention of introducing a measure on the subject in the course of the present session. This we take to be the notice of the annual motion on the ballot.—Mr. Hennessy moved an address to the Crown representing that the House "would readily support her Majesty in any well-devised measure to stimulate the profitable employment" of the people of Ireland. A long debate followed, during which Mr. Gladstone opposed the motion, and the debate was adjourned.—The Marquis of Hartington, in answer to a question from Colonel Gilpin, said it was quite true that on the 1st inst. the strength of the army was 4,000 below the establishment of last year; but it was up to the number which the Government proposed to retain.—In reply to Mr. White, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said the Government had no intention of granting a subsidy to the Company of African Merchants, with the view of enabling them to put a number of trading steamers on the Niger.—Mr. Layard repudiated as a hoax a paper on the Schleswig-Holstein question, which Sir Harry Verney described as purporting to be a despatch written by Earl Russell.—On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, the debate on Mr. Hennessy's resolution on the state of Ireland was resumed by Mr. Roebuck, who submitted that from 1820 down to the present time Ireland has had very little reason to complain of the conduct of England, and that her miseries were only perpetuated by the quarrels of her own children. The debate was continued by Lord Dunkellin, Sir Hugh Cairns, Mr. Lowe, and other members, and ultimately negatived by a large majority.—On Tuesday Mr. Holland gave notice of a Bill on a subject which is exciting a good deal of interest in some of the agricultural districts—the

travelling of locomotives on turnpike roads.—Mr. Dillwyn announced his intention of again bringing the question of the Irish Church before Parliament.—Sir John Pakington moved for a select committee to inquire into the constitution of the Committee of Council on Education, and the system under which the business of the office is conducted; and Mr. Walter proposed the addition of the words, "and also into the best mode of extending the benefits of Government inspection and the parliamentary grant to schools at present unassisted by the State." Mr. Walter said that, while large sums had been expended on normal schools, training colleges, and pupil teachers, a great portion of the rural districts had received no assistance from the Committee of Council. This he considered an unsatisfactory state of things; and his object was to induce the Government and Parliament to extend the benefits of the grant annually made for educational purposes. Mr. Lowe opposed both the motion and the amendment, and warmly defended the department over which he so lately presided. Mr. Bruce, Mr. Lowe's successor as vice-president of the Committee of Council, also defended the existing organisation, but he intimated, on the part of the Government, that no opposition would be offered either to Sir John Pakington's resolution or to Mr. Walter's rider. After some further discussion the resolution, with the addition, was agreed to.—On Wednesday, Sir Fitzroy Kelly's Bill for the amendment of the law of evidence was read a second time, the discussion upon the various provisions of the measure being postponed until the Committee.—Mr. Clifford obtained leave to bring in a Bill for the abolition of fines for non-attendance at church on Sundays.—Several Bills were advanced a stage.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—According to the weekly return of the Registrar General last week the births exceeded the deaths in each of the principal ten towns of the kingdom, except Dublin. The rate of mortality per thousand in London is still high compared with the average of the last ten years, but it is exceeded by six of the towns, on a level with one (Birmingham), and there are only two (Salford and Bristol) that show more favourably. The total number of deaths in London was 1,590, against 2,290 births.—We have to record a favourable change in the weekly statement of pauperism in the cotton manufacturing districts. Nine unions have increased by 560, comparing the third with the second week of the present month; four remained unchanged, and fifteen decreased by 1,290. Hence there is a net diminution in the twenty-eight unions of 730. Aslton-under-Lyne union has decreased 140; Chorlton, 120; Glossop, 240; Manchester, 210; Preston, 160; and Stockport, 110. There was last week a falling off of 340 in the number of adult able-bodied paupers. The outdoor relief distributed by the Guardians amounted to £6,073, or £3,057 less than in the corresponding week of 1864.—Lord Willoughby D'Eresby, joint hereditary great chamberlain of England, died on Wednesday week. He is succeeded in the peerage by his only son, the Hon. Alberic Drummond-Willoughby.—The body of the late Duke of Northumberland was buried in the Percy Chapel, in Westminster Abbey, on Saturday. There was a large assemblage of people in the Abbey, and the line of the procession from Northumberland House was densely thronged.—Lord Enfield has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Poor-law Board, in the room of Mr. Gilpin.—Our "declared" exports in the year 1864 amounted in value to £160,000,000—that is to say, they were £14,000,000 in excess of those for 1863, and £36,000,000 in excess of those for 1862.—An official return shows that the strength of the Lancashire volunteer force at the close of 1864 was 13,562, against 17,798 in the previous year. This progress is a

factory, but the return presents still more cheering features. In 1863 there were 4,996 non-efficients; in 1864 there were only 4,000. In 1863 only 12,802 volunteers were returned as receiving the allowances of 30s. (artillery) and 20s. (engineers and rifles); in 1864 the number was 14,562. Under the head of "Efficients receiving 10s. extra as passed into second class in musketry practice," the number increased from 3,523 in 1863, to 6,027 in 1864.—At the last meeting of the Court of Common Council a portrait of Mr. Peabody was presented, which the court, by a unanimous vote, expressed their approbation of, and ordered to be hung in a most conspicuous place. It was referred to a committee to consider and report upon the pay to be given to the City police, with a view to its increase.—A meeting of the London boardmen who have been deprived of their work by an edict of Sir Richard Mayne was held on Wednesday in the Working Men's Christian Institution, Parker-street, Drury-lane. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided. Several of the men told their grievances and asked the Earl of Shaftesbury to help them to procure redress. His lordship promised to do all in his power. As a first step he recommended the men to petition the Legislature on the subject.—The Marquis Townshend presided at a meeting in St. Martin's Hall, to express sympathy with Poland. Mr. Edmond Beales and several other gentlemen addressed the meeting, enlarging on the struggle which the Poles had made for independence, and pointing out the destitution in which many of the exiles were in Paris and elsewhere. Resolutions of sympathy with the cause of Polish nationality were passed, and steps taken to raise subscriptions to relieve the distress of the Poles.—A number of delegates representing the workmen of the most important of the iron districts of Great Britain met at Brierly Hill on Monday, to decide upon the course which ought to be adopted with reference to the notice given by the ironmasters that the prolongation of the North Staffordshire puddlers' strike would be met by a general lock-out. At first there seemed to be a strong disposition to resist the employers, but ultimately a resolution was carried—the North Staffordshire delegate alone dissenting—"respectfully" requesting the puddlers to resume work at once.—The Indo-European Telegraph was opened throughout on Tuesday, and at twenty-five minutes past eight o'clock on Wednesday morning, a telegram was received in London from Kurrachee announcing the fact.—The extraordinary will case of Nuttall, in which John Else has figured in so many codicils, was, it may be hoped, brought to a final close on Saturday last. It may be remembered that the latest discovered of codicils in relation to the will was in May last year, when the furniture of the testator was sold by auction, and among other things the bed on which he died, which on being taken down was discovered to contain some more codicils. On this the parties applied to have a new trial, which the Master of the Rolls refused, and the Lord Chancellor, on being appealed to, confirmed his judgment on Saturday, mainly on the ground that these papers were discovered in time to have been used in the late action if they were so minded.—A will cause in which a man named Cathrill put forth a will made by a widow lady in Lambeth in his favour, was finished on Tuesday. The jury, by their verdict, branded this will as not drawn up by the testator; and the judge ordered it and the documents relating to it to be impounded, as he was of opinion that the parties who brought it forward ought to be indicted.—The persons charged with the City burglaries, now increased to ten in number, were all brought before the Lord Mayor on Tuesday, the magistrate of Bow-street, before whom they were first brought, having consented to hand them over to the

City magistrates. The evidence given did not advance the case of Walker's burglary much beyond the point to which it had been carried before; but the burglary at Mr. Johnson's, in Threadneedle-street, was also entered on. The prisoners seemed anxious to exonerate their wives, but they were all remanded without bail. It is understood that more than one of the prisoners is now anxious to turn Queen's evidence.—An immense sugar-house, in course of erection near Edinburgh, fell on Monday afternoon, killing four men, and injuring others of the workmen.—We regret to have to report a shocking accident which occurred at Erith on Tuesday last. By the capsizing of a boat ten young cadets belonging to the training ship *Worcester* were drowned.—An explosion of gas took place on Tuesday evening in Saville House, Leicester-square—a house forming a conspicuous feature in London of the Georgian era—which set fire to the premises, and the conflagration consumed the greater part of the building and all that it contained. Fortunately, no lives were lost. The glare of the fire illuminated the sky to a great distance. The Prince of Wales paid a visit to the scene of the fire, and watched the efforts made for the subjugation with evident interest.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The new number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes* contains, from the pen of M. Eugene Forcade, a searching, well reasoned, and thoroughly independent critique of the Emperor's Preface to his "History of Julius Caesar." Hero worship, the writer points out, is the salient feature of this Preface, a worship which the author demands of his readers as a religious right, and Caesar, the subject of the biography, the object for whom present adoration is claimed. Against this claim M. Forcade enters a determined protest, denying the right of any man to this species of demi-godhood. It is, he thinks, somewhat preposterous that at a time when even the divinity of our Saviour is called in question, we should be required to acknowledge the divinity of Julius Caesar.—We hear that the commercial negotiations between Austria and Prussia have resulted in "mutual concessions," and a commercial treaty between Austria and the Zollverein will speedily be signed. The Austrian Premier has announced to the Reichsrath that no representative of the Government will attend the sittings of the Finance Committee "until the Lower House shall have decided whether the vote on the budgets of 1865 and 1866 is to be taken upon the basis of an understanding between the House and the Government." The official evening paper of Vienna states that the greater number of the Polish refugees who were interned in Austria have already quitted the country. Among them is the ex-Dictator Langiewicz, who after his two years of confinement is free. He has gone to Switzerland.—The Bavarian and Saxon Cabinets are announced to have abandoned all intention of moving the German Diet to recognise the Prince of Augustenberg as Duke of Schleswig-Holstein, for the simple reason that the Prussian Government has intimated its determination to regard as waste paper any resolution which the Federal Diet may adopt on the subject.—The Queen-Mother of the Netherlands died at the Hague on Wednesday evening. All the members of the Royal Family were present at her Majesty's bedside when she died. The Queen-Mother was Anna Paulovna, daughter of Czar Paul I. of Russia. She was born in 1795, and was married to the Prince, afterwards King William II. of the Netherlands, in 1816. She was left a widow in 1849.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- R. R.—We know nothing of the circumstances, nor do not wish to know. We have nothing to do with private quarrels.
 S. S.—Write a little more fully. We do not understand what you wish to be informed.
 T. S.—We should certainly say not.
 P. M.—We will make inquiries.
 CSMAN.—The subject is under consideration.