

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1866.

FREEMASONRY IN SCANDINAVIA.

At a recent meeting of the St. Christopher Lodge, of Christianstad, Sweden, Bro. Dr. Ahlfeld gave the following outline of the history of this lodge, which is at present one of the most flourishing in Scandinavia:—

The St. Christopher Lodge received its constitution and was inaugurated on the 24th of June, 1776, and has thus been in existence for eighty-nine and a half years. The 24th of June is, therefore, the proper anniversary of the foundation of this lodge, and was celebrated as such for many years. However, a variety of circumstances that rendered difficult the assembling of officers and brethren on this day, induced the leading members to petition for leave to substitute therefore the first legal working day in January; and it is on the latter day that the anniversary of the lodge has been celebrated ever since 1814.

The first ordained officers of the St. Christopher Lodge were Bros. K. C. Freiherr von Barnekow, Grand Equerry, W.M.; Lieut.-Colonel Ritter Baltzar Wederwar, S.W.; Colonel Ritter Rudolph Stjernswärd, J.W.

They were all brethren of chivalrous spirit, animated with firm loyalty and love for king and fatherland, who did not spare either time or pains to promote the welfare of the lodge, and the archives of the latter contain many evidences of their laudable efforts. Of material difficulties and losses the lodge has been subject to, we may mention more particularly the fire from which it suffered on the nights of the 7th and 8th of October, 1777, not much more than one year after its erection. Scarcely three weeks previous to this disaster, the lodge had been honoured by a visit from the then Grand Master of Sweden, Bro. Charles, Duke of Södermannland, who was very much pleased with the activity and the fraternal and affectionate spirit prevailing in the lodge. A fire having broken out in the house adjoining the building in which the lodge used to hold its meetings, both were totally destroyed, and nothing remained of the property of the lodge. But as early as the 17th of the same month the brethren met again in the home of Bro. Col. Gustavskiöld, and resumed their labours with increased zeal and alacrity—they submitted to many sacrifices in order to secure their object. The supreme authorities

of the Order of the province gave them credit for their commendable efforts, and when, on June 5th of the following year, King Gustave III., the illustrious protector of the Masons of Sweden, accompanied by his brother, Duke Charles of Södermannland, and the then Grand Master, Bro. Widsköfle, visited Christianstad and held a Grand Lodge there, he expressed his great satisfaction with the noble aspirations and great assiduity of the brethren of the St. Christopher Lodge.

As a token of his benevolence King Gustave gave leave to the officers of the lodge to work also upon the Scottish system; they soon availed themselves of this permission to establish the Scottish Cubic Stone Lodge, which at first worked in the Hall belonging to the St. Christopher Lodge, but afterwards received a constitution, and commenced working in a temple of its own (Nov. 26th, 1778).

Bro. the Duke of Södermannland, having become King of Sweden, visited the lodge several times previous, and subsequent to his ascension of the throne; King Charles XIV., John, visited it three times. The late King Oscar, who was a Freemason in the truest and noblest meaning of the word, visited it more frequently still, both while Crown Prince and in his capacity of Supreme Protector of the Province. More than once he raised, from the chair of K.S. of this lodge, his clear and loving eye, and his soft voice in addressing the brethren of the West, South, and North, and, as a brother, exhorted them to the practise of true Masonic virtue, and the maintenance of peace and harmony; his simple words were responded to in each breast, for they came from the noblest heart that ever beat for the good of mankind, and conceived the fundamental idea of Freemasonry in its noblest and most liberal meaning. The present King also has visited this lodge, in 1852, as Crown Prince, and S. P. of the Province, and attended several of its labours and festivities; and in a like manner it has been honoured by Bro. H.R.H. the Duke of Ostergothland, and Prince Oscar, the present S. P. of the ninth Province.

In this manner the St. Christopher Lodge has steadily advanced in vigour and efficiency, and enjoys at present the happiest prospects for the future.

In the obituary with which Bro. Ahlfeld concluded his oration, he first alluded to the death of Bros. Barnekow, Balamb, and Axel de la Gardie,

and commemorated the death of Bro. King Frederic VII. of Denmark in the following words:—

“A brother has departed who can never be lost in the remembrance of the Freemasons of the North. This deceased brother was the beloved king of our neighbouring country—Frederic VII., the faithful Protector and Grand Master of the eighth Masonic province. He died on the 15th of November, 1863, having ruled over his loyal people in genuine Danish spirit for fifteen years. Every true Mason, to whatever nationality or persuasion he may belong, will always remember with gratitude his royal brother Frederic VII. Hand in hand with his beloved brother and friend, King Charles XV., he worked for the promotion of identical objects, *i.e.*, the union of the North, the existence and honour of the North, agreement in faith and its teaching, control over the members of the Order, with a view to enforce their discharging their duties and obligations, in the

manner prescribed by the laws of the Order, viz., the practice of the fear of God, pure and unsophisticated, loyalty and love of king and fatherland, honesty in every-day life, sympathy for their neighbours, forbearance to their enemies, modesty in fortune, courage and pertinacity in misfortune; last, not least, courage and strength to look death in the face.”—Compiled from the *Bauhütte*.

CITY OF LONDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The Corporation of the City of London, a few days ago, unanimously voted the use of the Guildhall, recently restored at great cost, for the purpose of an industrial exhibition, to be inaugurated on the 1st of March next. On the motion of Mr. Thomas Lamprey, F.R.G.S., of Paternoster-row, member of the general and executive committees, it has been determined to devote the surplus funds towards the establishment of the Free Public Library for the City of London. Several City firms have already expressed their intention of liberally contributing to the project, and it is believed the Corporation will also lend its aid.

WHOEVER brings the tales of others to you will be sure to carry tales of you to them.

THE PEN-AND-INK SKETCHES OF ONE FANG.

(Continued from page 463, Vol. XIII.)

No. 9.



THE PRECIOUS WHEEL OF CURIOUS POSTURES.

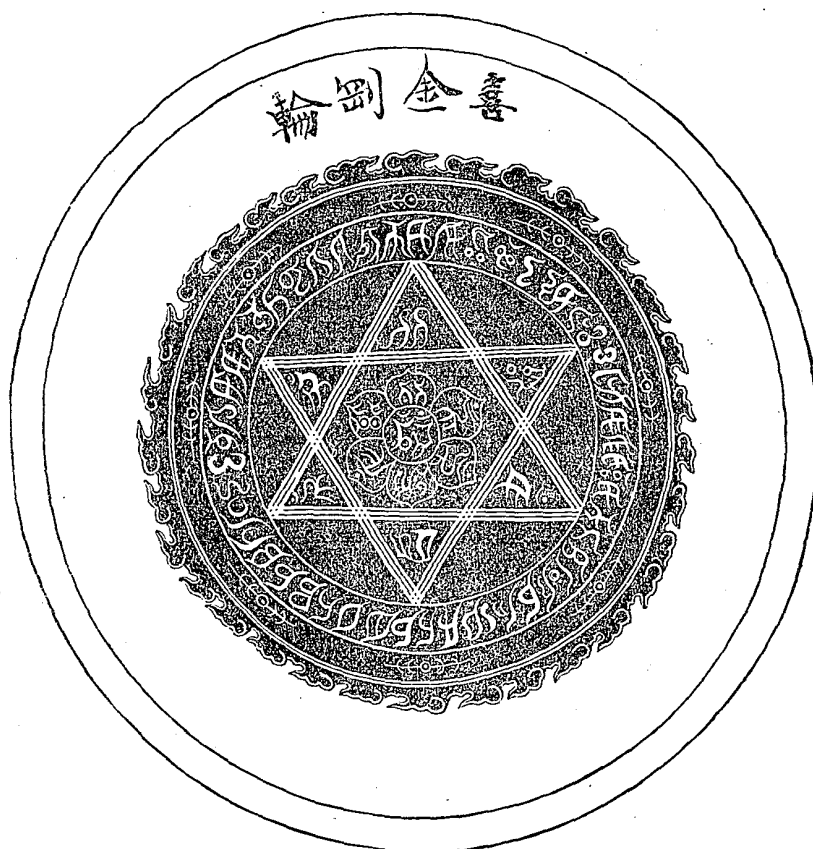
No. 10.

無生不滅有
色竟空水澄
象澈玄出其

中 于 齋



If we had not been born we should not die.
Everything is vanity.
The heart should be pure as clear water.
Buddhism is summed up in these sentences.



THE WHEEL OF THE FAITHFUL KIN KANG (GOLDEN GOD)

ON THE PROBABLE ORIGIN OF FREEMASONRY.

By Bro. the REV. SALEM TOWN, of New York.

In the following lines we purpose giving a sketch of ancient Freemasonry so far as it can be correctly collated from the annals of ancient, profane, sacred, and ecclesiastical history; and we shall endeavour especially to make known to the reader the names of those men who have been protectors and benefactors of our Institution in olden times.

The opinions of historiographers, and of Freemasons themselves, as to the age of Freemasonry are vastly different, and this very circumstance constitutes an incontrovertible proof of its great antiquity. No difficulties could exist on that score if Freemasonry were of modern creation, as its origin would evidently have been recorded in the annals of the epoch. An excess of enthusiasm in favour of its antiquity has induced many to endorse the hypothesis, that Freemasonry owes its origin to the very beginning of all times. They have accepted as an axiom that "So long as there has been symmetry, and harmony has displayed its charms, our Order has been in existence." No doubt the principles of "universal morals" have always been co-existent with true religion, but it by no means follows that the same should be the case with Masonry in its systematical form. In inquiring into the origin of Freemasonry and the stage to which its organisation had advanced at any time, it would be out of place to speak of it merely in the abstract, and take into account only its fundamental principles. All the materials of which a building is made up may exist in a more or less advanced state of preparation; but this would not involve the existence of the building itself, unless these materials had been previously picked, arranged, and united to a *tout ensemble*. The same with Freemasonry. Though its principles have been in existence from the very commencement of time, and the very creation of all things, and though there may be many highly instructive symbolical configurations suggestive of those eminent truths that tend to illustrate its excellence, and substantiate its claims to great antiquity, these are not proofs sufficient to demonstrate that Freemasonry itself has always been co-existent with the same. Were we to proceed to argue in this manner, we should prove more than what every brother can admit, considering that in the course of time many of our symbols

have been originated at epochs very far distant from each other; in fact, by proving too much, we should prove nothing at all. It is evident that if once we start from premises, according to which the origin of moral principles coincides with that of Freemasonry, the latter must be, to all intents and purposes, coeval with that of the Almighty! In assuming that it dated from the existence of symmetry and proportion, we date it from the creation of the world, that is, from a time in which no human being was in existence, and, if we date it from the first introduction of our symbols, we openly contradict ourselves. It would therefore be absurd to derive from any one of these epochs the origin of Freemasonry as a regularly organised institution. Could we indeed affirm that the earth has an absolute existence merely because a Divine will had decided it, so long as the creating power of the All-powerful has not decreed its formation? The same with Freemasonry. We are entirely in the dark as to its origin up to the time when its principles were formed and constituted into a system, and it became an institution organised with a view to social gatherings. It results from this that there are ample reasons militating in favour of the assumption that the organisation of the so-called Masonic body owes its origin to the age when social gatherings increased in importance, when greater mutuality arose amongst men, and a lively desire of promoting the welfare of the human species at large became manifest in certain classes. Those men who considered as sacred the character of Divinity, thought that they could not do greater honour to its name than by discharging their duties to the utmost, and their spirit of benevolence must have prompted them to coalesce and jointly combine their efforts and endeavours in favour of the cause of humanity.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC POETS OF SCOTLAND—No. I.

ROBERT BURNS.

By the REV. ANDREW R. BONAR, Minister of First Charge of Canongate, Edinburgh.

(Continued from page 6.)

Such was Burns, who has bequeathed in his poetry and songs so many specimens of accurate description, of unaffected pathos, and of humour provocative, in even the less susceptible, of "laughter holding both its sides." Some of his conversational retorts and repartees were as pointed and

pungent as any recorded of the great talker Samuel Johnson. But he passed away, the "meteor of a season." With the profits accruing from the sale of his poems he proposed to settle down upon the farm of Ellisland, which he was thereby able to stock, but generously lending part of the sum to his brother Gilbert, who was then struggling with adverse circumstances, and had, moreover, engaged to provide support for his surviving parent. Burns seems also to have paid a second visit to Edinburgh, previous to settling at Ellisland. There would, however, appear to have been ground for the cooler manners of some in Edinburgh who had once thought better of Burns—a change which, as afterwards at Dumfries, he felt keenly. Still, with prudence, he might have been happy. The farm was not, indeed, of the most promising description; so, with the laudable desire of having something else to fall back upon, Burns applied for and obtained a situation as *gauger*, the duties of which might not be very congenial to his taste, and which had also the effect, by taking him much from home, of interfering with the regular cultivation of the acres which he rented. He had made a poet's rather than a farmer's choice, and had been allured to Ellisland, chiefly on account of the beauty of the neighbouring scenery. It was a wild sport, with fields unenclosed, and a steading having to be built, for the expense of which last, however, allowance was made in the contract of lease.

At last, settled down at Ellisland, with his Jean beside him, this was probably the happiest period of Burns' life. But the enterprise did not prosper. "How could he miss but fail," was said to Allan Cunningham by a sagacious neighbouring farmer, "when the servants ate the bread as fast as it was baked?" Only by close economy could £20 a year have been cleared by Ellisland. But Burns neither ploughed, sowed, nor reaped like a hard-working farmer, and he had a bevy of Ayrshire lasses under his roof-tree. "The lasses did nothing but bake bread, and the lads sat by the fireside and ate it warm, with ale." In truth, the poet was too wayward to attend to the stated duties of a husbandman, and too impatient to wait till the ground returned in grain the cultivation that was bestowed upon it. No wonder that he seemed to be dissatisfied. "Ever on the move, on foot or on horseback. In the course of a single day he might be seen holding the plough, angling in the river, sauntering, his hands behind his

back, on the banks of the stream, looking at the running water, walking round his buildings, or over his fields; or, if you lost sight of him for an hour, returning perhaps from Friar's Carse, or spurring his horse through the Nith to spend the evening in some distant place with such friends or acquaintances as fell in his way—procedure by no means conducive to worldly prosperity or ordinary comfort."

We have neither space nor wish to dwell on the latter incidents of Burns' career. After years of disappointment, and when better times seemed approaching, his means expended on the farm with poor or scarcely any return, he gave up that struggle. The sun that had tipped the heavens with roseate hue, had not shed much light upon the poet's head, and was soon to set in gloom and storm. Imprudence of speech drew down censure, when to speak freely was regarded by certain authorities as a luxury not permitted to a Government official in the days of Pitt, port wine and red tapeism (the latter not wholly done away), when supervisors might be Pecksniffs," and "toadies" would gladly inform the greater "toadies" above them. That Burns ever was unpatriotic we deny; that he was rash and bitter in speech when he conceived himself hardly treated, we may as readily admit. Did he praise actors in the first French Revolution? He did so in common with many whom posterity has not, on that account, blamed—who, no more than Burns, foresaw the storm of fire and blood by which the political atmosphere was to be clouded. His proud soul, accordingly, soured by what he considered as neglect; the epithet of Jacobin affixed to him; a rising family around, for whose support the means were but scanty, even though he had possessed more prudence than has pertained to the most of the tuneful race; unhappily, too, the old sin recurring—his wife bringing up, as a "neebor's bairn," the fruit of that intimacy; a prey to convivial habits—"asked out" that the mental "Samson" might make sport even among "Philistines," darker clouds yet gathered. In poverty, the dark eyes lit with fever's gleam, and the frame reduced, yet kind friends ministering to him, if friends of humbler grade; his countrymen of every rank who knew and valued Burns' writings, more especially the "people"—the cottar, the farmer, the shepherd boy upon the hills; those whom his strains had roused, and in whose souls they had awakened a sympathetic thrill—strains most

musical, sprightly, or sad—that have stirred the tenderest of passions, and cheered the downcast and dispirited; thousands on thousands heard, as if the blow had been struck at their own hearts and homes, that the minstrel's eye was closed in death; that Burns had expired prematurely old; that the poet of the people, who had sung so sweetly of the “ingle side,” and so graphically depicted Scottish customs; whose shade seemed to hover by wood, stream, and waterfall, to linger in the sequestered glen and by the hoary ruin; who had immortalised the place of “tryst,” and Tam o’ Shanter’s flight, and the “banks and braes o’ bonnie Doon,” had departed to join the vast multitude of the undying.

We shall not enlarge upon the poetry of Burns. True poetry essentially consists in a reflection or sublimation of feeling; it glows with the fire of passion, or gives utterance, musically, to some universal or particular truth. Often, in happy words, describing objects with which we are conversant, it drapes them with a mantle of beauty. So poetry, when treating of familiar themes—weaving the spells of youthful fancy, or depicting the tenderness of human love, or investing commoner objects with lustre—appeals to as wide a circle as it can reach. In addition, Burns’ poetry appealed to popular sympathies and likings; it breathed a spirit of manliest independence—did not deal in far-fetched allusions—and often embodied the fervour of a full heart. Instead of an epic, he wrote “The Twa Dogs” and “Tam o’ Shanter.” Patriotism he appealed to in such strains as these: “Does haughty Gaul invasion threat?” or better still, in the “Scots, wha hae.” Often did he write concerning *love*—the theme of not a few of his poems, and of the larger proportion of his songs, beautifully portraying (though sometimes dwelling on its coarser aspects) many of its gentler promptings and emotions. How closely, too, had he looked on the changeful aspect of surrounding nature, truly sketching—with the few touches bringing out the idea as by a master’s hand—the scenery with which he was conversant!

We specify, as worthy of notice, the power of describing both scenery and persons which Burns possessed, mingled with and influenced by warmth of emotion. Thus, the well-known lines on a “mountain daisy:”—

Wee modest, crimson-tipped flower,
I’ve met thee in an evil hour;

For I maun crush amang the stour
Thy slender stem:
To spare thee now is past my power,
Thou bonny gem.

Could blew the bitter, biting north
Upon thy early, humble birth;
Yet cheerfully thou glinted forth
Amid the storm,
Scarce rear’d above the parent earth
Thy tender form.

The flaunting flowers our gardens yield,
High sheltering woods and wa’s maun shield;
But thou, beneath the random bield
O’ clod or stane,
Adorns the histie stibble-field
Unseen, alane.

There, in thy scanty mantle clad,
Thy snawy bosom sunward spread,
Thou lifts thy unassuming head
In humble guise;
But now the *share* uptears thy bed,
And low thou lies.

Such is the fate of hapless maid,
Sweet floweret of the rural shade!
By love’s simplicity betray’d,
And guileless trust,
Till she, like thee, all soil’d is laid
Low i’ the dust.

Let us also notice the description of the “bonnie lark” in the same poem:—

Bending thee ’mang the dewy weet,
Wi’ speckled breast,
Then, upward springing, blythe to meet
The kindling east:

A peculiarly striking and well-defined image.

Pervaded by equal tenderness and beauty are the “Stanzas to a Mouse on turning her up in her nest with the Plough,” which Francis Jeffrey singled out for admiration when reviewing Burns’ writings fifteen years after the poet’s death.

Such are characteristic specimens of his poetry in its purest and most natural vein. Of Burns’ songs—perhaps the most perfect of all his compositions—we shall soon say something. But we would remark upon what may be called, for lack of a better expression, the excellence of his *moralising descriptions*:—

But pleasures are like poppies spread,
We seize the flower, the bloom is fled;
Or like the snow-flake on the river,
One moment seen, then lost for ever.

How deep the pathos, and natural the feeling, expressed in what follows, but taking a rather worldly view, though well worthy of quotation on account of the fineness of the expression:—

I’ll wander on, wi’ tentless heed
How never halting moments speed,

Till fate shall snap the brittle thread.
 Then, all unknown,
 I'll lay me with the inglorious dead,
 Forgot and gone!

But why o' death begin a tale?
 Just now we're living sound and hale,
 Then top and maintop crowd the sail,
 Heave care o'er side!
 And large, before enjoyment's gale,
 Let's tak the tide.

The contrast follows:—

— Ance that five-and-forty's speel'd,
 See, crazy, weary, joyless eild,
 Wi' wrinkled face,
 Comes hostin', hirplin', owre the field,
 Wi' creepin' pace.

When ance life's day draws near the gloamin',
 Then fareweel vacant careless roamin';
 And fareweel cheerfu' tankards foamin',
 And social noise.

O life! how pleasant is thy morning,
 Young fancy's rays the hills adorning!
 Cold-pausing caution's lesson scorning,
 We frisk away,
 Like schoolboys, at the expected warning,
 To joy and play.

We wander there, we wander here,
 We eye the rose upon the brier,
 Unmindful that the thorn is near,
 Among the leaves;
 And though the puny wound appear,
 Short while it grieves.

The poem of "Tam o' Shanter" we have not space to analyse, yet cannot help observing the fine descriptive touches throughout. Every word "tells." What might Burns not have done with fuller opportunities and ampler scope for cultivating the gifts with which he was endowed! With high purposes once formed, and looking to the concentrated power of this one tale, it is not matter of regret he did not embody other tales founded on traditionary lore, in which national customs might have been as graphically depicted as in the "Hallowe'en?"

Another poem, of a different nature, we may refer to; those exquisitely beautiful stanzas in which the form of his buried love, of his first and fairest—"Highland Mary"—is recalled. It was composed under the following circumstances:—Burns had been all day with the shearers in the field, and much of the crop being likely to be soon got in, was in good spirits. But, at gloaming, he grew sad, restless, wandering first up the water-side, then turning to the barnyard. His wife followed, begging that he would come in, as he had been previously unwell, and the air was cold and sharp.

"He always promised," said Mrs. Burns, "but still remained where he was, striding up and down, and looking at the clear sky, and particularly at one star, which shone with peculiar brightness." He threw himself down on some loose sheaves, still continuing to gaze at the star. The fruit of that hour of thoughtfulness was the pathetic poem, "Mary in Heaven"—

Thou lingering star, with lessening ray,
 That lov'st to greet the early morn,
 Again thou usher'st in the day
 My Mary from my soul was torn.

That sacred hour can I forget?
 Can I forget the hallow'd grove,
 Where by the winding Ayr we met,
 To live one day of parting love?
 Eternity will not efface
 Those records dear of transports past;
 Thy image at our last embrace;
 Ah! little thought I 'twas our last!
 Ayr, gurgling, kiss'd his pebbled shore,
 O'erhung with wild woods, thickening green;
 The fragrant brier, and hawthorn hoar,
 Twined amorous round the raptured scene;
 The flowers sprang wanton to be prest,
 The birds sang love on every spray—
 Till too, too soon, the glowing west
 Proclaim'd the speed of wing'd day.
 Still o'er these scenes my memory wakes,
 And fondly broods with miser care!
 Time but the impression stronger makes,
 As streams their channels deeper wear.
 My Mary! dear departed shade!
 Where is thy place of blissful rest?
 See'st thou thy lover lowly laid?
 Hear'st thou the groans that rend his breast?

Many other passages might be quoted, but we forbear, referring merely, in illustration of the intense severity of Burns' sarcasm, to one or two of his epigrams or epitaphs, some of which are, however, far from decorous. Thus—"On a School-master"—

"Here lies Willie Michie's banes;
 O Satan, when ye tak him,
 Gie him the schooling o' your weans,
 For clever deils he'll mak them."

The other I introduce for the sake of the anecdote of a Mason with whom Burns frequently had a polemical argument*—

"Below thir stanes lie Jamie's banes;
 O Death, it's my opinion,
 Thou ne'er took such a bleth'rin bitch,
 Into thy dark dominion!"

On the songs of Burns we shall briefly touch.

* He died in poverty, having solicited charity for some time before his death, particularly from the passengers by the Mauchline coach; appealing thus to the anticipated epitaph—"Please, Sirs, I'm Burns's bletherin' bitch!"

In many of them his light shines with least obstruction, in its highest beauty and with pellucid clearness. The song is a short and simple species of composition, requiring genuine poetic feeling and truthfulness. Burns' songs, Carlyle has truly remarked, "actually and in themselves are music—have received their life, and fashioned themselves together in the medium of harmony, as Venus rose from the bosom of the sea." They resemble the little careless catches or drops of song which Shakespeare has here and there sprinkled over his dramas. With what tenderness does the poet sing, and yet with what vehemence and entireness! There is a piercing wail in his sorrow, and rapture in his joy. He burns with the sternest ire, or laughs with the loudest or slyest mirth; yet is he also sweet and soft. From the loud flowing revel of "Willie brew'd a peck o' maut" to the rapt enthusiasm of sadness for "Mary in heaven;" from the cordial greeting of "Auld lang syne," or the comic archness of "Duncan Gray," to the fire-eyed strength of "Scots, wha hae," meditated amidst drenching rain, while riding over the moorlands—the stanzas shaped amidst the reverberation of thunderpeals, and the words as if tipped with lightning—Burns has spoken home to the heart. For men under every aspect save one, but the highest—for has man not "thoughts that wander through eternity?" or is passionate love to be his earthly and only heaven?—there is something to fix the mind and thrill the spirit. So have the songs of Burns become part of the valued property not of Scotland only, or of Britain, but of the countless thousands elsewhere who speak our language. The mother sings them softly beside her cradled infant; pure affection wearies not of hearing them. "The moors and mosses, many O," not less than Australian sheep-walks and Canadian forests, have thus had their weariness beguiled. Even where Nile and Niger flow their cadences have been repeated, and as they are sung, perhaps beneath a tropic sky and near the towering palm-tree; or midst wastes of snow; or close by crowded wharfs, where a new world of interest or ambition invites the bold heart and steady arm; or by the camp-fire, amidst the almost oppressive undulations of the prairie; as in the huts at home where poor men lie; in such varied scenes they have thousands of times been sung. In the cellar or the garret, musing on happier days, the auld wife may have "crooned them," thinking of the cot where

she was born, of father, mother, sister, lover, play-mate, all or mostly all departed—the bright-hued and silver-haired alike mouldering in the dust, waiting the opening of earth's graves! Or, when did Scotchmen meet in a far and foreign land, but home with its blessed memories was by their means recalled, the "burn stealing under the lang yellow broom," the "bonnie broom" by which childhood strayed, and lassies "wi' lint white locks" and eyes of liquid blue, looked shyly on strangers, or the "Lammas night," when "corn rigs were bonny" and the full-orbed moon shed silver on the stooks. Such songs have made the tear start to the eye, and the breast heave with emotion. Voices that once sang them to some of us shall sing no more; and hearts that once responded to them have ceased to beat. "A man's a man for a' that" has made the blood rush more swiftly through the veins; and, when the temperate cup has been partaken of, how natural for young and old—hand linked in hand—heart knit to heart—care, tumult, turmoil for the time forgotten—how natural that the feelings of brotherhood should become stronger, as the days of "Auld Lang Syne" once again rise before the mind?

Scotchmen at least believe that Burns' place is both high, sure, and deserved among the masters of song.

The dead but sceptered heroes, who still rule,
Our spirits from their urns.*

* Some of Burns' poems have been translated into German, and M. Leon de Wailly has undertaken, with what measure of success we do not care to say, the difficult task of translating his whole poems into French. The volume, which is entitled "Poesies complètes de Robert Burns," (Paris, Delahays Rue Voltaire, 1840) does credit to the translator's industry, though some of the renderings are rather droll. We give two short specimens, the first of them from what the M. de Wailly styles, "Requête au Diable."

O toi, quel que soit le titre qui te convienne,
Vieux cornu, Satan, Nick, ou pied fourchu,
Qui là-bas dans ta caverne sombre et enfumée,
Enfermé sous les ecouilles,
Fais jailler autour de toi l'écuelle de soufre
Pour échauder les pauvres malheureux.

The translation of "Jolly Beggars" is not less amusing; but we must content ourselves with quoting the opening verse of "Duncan Gray."

"Duncan Gray vint ici faire la cour,
Ah! ah! quelle cour!
Le joyeux soir de noel que nous étions gris,
Ah! ah! quelle cour!
Maggie leva bien haut la tête,
Regarda de travers et très fierment,
Et força le pauvre Duncan de se tenir à distance,
Ah! ah! quelle cour!

THERE are minds so habituated to intrigue and mystery in themselves, and so prone to expect it from others, that they will never accept of a plain reason for a plain fact, if it be possible to devise causes for it that are obscure, far-fetched, and usually not worth the carriage.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

* * All communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The annual Christmas entertainment took place at the Institution, Wood Green, Tottenham, on the 5th inst. We are glad to find that the heads of the noble Masonic Institution appreciate the full force of the old adage that "All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy."

Those who availed themselves of the invitation to be present at this entertainment must have been delighted, not only with the successful results of the evening's proceedings, the excellency of the general arrangements, and especially those for the comfort of the visitors; but to witness the happiness and the glad faces of the young folks, the inmates, was in itself a treat to those interested in the welfare and instruction of the young, and especially that of the boys of our noble Institution at Wood Green.

As the expression of the countenance is generally indicative of the comfort or otherwise of the individual, young or old, under the *regime* to which he is subject, we should argue that, judging from the beaming countenances of the young on the evening under notice, that the happy medium has been arrived at in our Boys' School of tempering strict discipline and sound instruction with healthy, soul and body enlivening, *recreation*.

About 120 visitors, friends, and supporters of the institution were present, including the following members of the House Committee:—Bros. J. S. S. Hopwood, R. Head, W. Paces, G. Cox, W. Young, R. W. Stewart, A. H. Hewlett, H. J. Thompson, and Edward Farthing. There were also present 23 of the children from the Royal Freemasons' Girls' School, whose brothers are in this institution, with Miss Jarwood, Matron; Miss Davis, Governess; Bros. S. E. Nutt, W. Waine, and Holmes Coote. A cold collation was prepared for the visitors, with substantial refreshments, and tea and coffee throughout the evening, the children being liberally provided for. The dining hall was profusely and tastefully decorated with Masonic devices, festoons of evergreens, &c. The Christmas tree, which was of proportions suited to the hall, was lavishly "dressed" and brilliantly "lighted" with coloured lamps. The "masque" was interspersed with songs, glees, and fairy dances, all executed by the boys in the school, and which were received with the most enthusiastic approbation. It will be superfluous for us to add that "The New Grand Christmas Masque" was an excellent production, and the parts in it well adapted for the youthful performers, when we state that it was written and arranged by the indefatigable Secretary to the Institution, Bro. Binckes, and indeed the entire entertainment being under his direction.

The dresses were most kindly and liberally lent by Bro. S. May, who never wearies in contributing to the enjoyment and happiness of all within the walls of the Institution. Music and dancing continued the festivities until the time for departure by the last train. The boys do not leave the school during the Christmas vacation, but everything is done to ensure them a full participation in the gaieties of the season, and owing to the thoughtful and generous liberality of a few friends, their happiness during the last fortnight has been, we are pleased to add, on their own statement, so cared for as to have left them nothing to desire.

METROPOLITAN.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—The installation of W.M. for this ancient and well governed lodge took place on the evening of Tuesday, the 2nd inst., at Freemasons' Tavern, when the ceremony was performed by Bro. Rackstraw, P.M., in a style of unsurpassable excellence. Bro. Stevens, the recipient of his exhortations, seemed deeply to appreciate their value, and from the profound attention with which he listened to the solemn instructions as they proceeded from the lips of his venerable mentor, gave strong prescience of his high Masonic feeling and strict adherence to his duties during his official time. After installation the W.M. nominated his various officers, viz.:—Bros. Willey, S.W.; Coste, J.W.; Gillard, S.D.; Buller, J.D.; Benson, I.G.; Buckland, Org.; Rackstraw, P.M., Sec.; Lee, P.M., Treas.; Vallentine, P.M., Treasurer of Benevolent Fund; Burton, P.M., Steward; Woods, P.M., Dir. of Cers. The other P.M.'s present were Bros. Poulton, I.P.M.; Friend, Abbott, Perryman, Young, Warr, and Moring. The visitors were, Bros. Harling, West, Godsell, Marshall, Elms, Davis, Winsland, Purdy, Garland, Mitchell, and Charles Sloman. Two brethren were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., viz., Bros. Marshall and Parker, when, after various other business connected with lodge details, the brethren adjourned to the banquet. Bros. Buckland, Davis, and Charles Sloman contributed largely to the vocal and instrumental harmony.

ROBERT BURNS' LODGE (No. 25).—The brethren of this long-established lodge congregated on the evening of Monday, the 1st inst., under the auspices of their well working W.M., Bro. John T. Nicholls. The minutes of the last lodge having been read and confirmed, the W.M. proceeded to induct into Masonry Messrs. George Coleman, Grant Salisbury, James Brent Bartlett, and Charles Edmund Shoulding. He then passed Bros. Caldwell and Mann through the ordeal of the grade of F.C., and wound up his labour by elevating to the crowning position of M.M. Bros. Oesterman, Oppermann, Bawn, Harrison, and Wall. The lodge was then closed with Masonic formality until the first Monday in the ensuing month.

PERCY LODGE (No. 198).—ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The anniversary meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening, the 9th inst., at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street. Bro. Heath, W.M., occupied the chair; Bro. Allison, S.W.; and Bro. Adams, J.W. The other officers were present, including Bros. Thorne, Treas.; Key, Sec.; Lambert, Hon. Sec.; and a large body of visitors, amongst whom were Bros. Udall, P.G.D.; Isidor Levinson, P.G.S., and P.M. of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony; Slee, W.M. of the Burlington Lodge; Henry Thompson, P.M. of the Domestic Lodge; Corben, P.M. of the Old Concord Lodge; Rough, P.M. of the Enoch Lodge; and several other visiting brethren.

The lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read, the only business before it was the installation of Bro. Allison, the W.M. elect. He was presented in due form, and the usual preliminaries having been gone through, all the brethren below the chair retired. A Board of Installed Masters was then formed, and Bro. Allison was, according to ancient custom, installed into the chair of K.S. as W.M. of the Percy Lodge for the ensuing year. The other brethren were then admitted, and, having saluted the new W.M. in the three degrees, the appointment of officers of the lodge then took place. The W.M. then appointed Bros. Adams, S.W.; Walker, J.W.; Thorne, P.M., Treas.; Key, Sec.; Lambert, Hon. Sec.; Davis, S.D.; Craster, J.D.; Smith, Tyler. Bro. Heath, I.P.M., then proceeded with the rest of the ceremony, and delivered the usual addresses in a very able manner. The W.M. invested his officers with an ability rarely witnessed in any lodge.

The new W. MASTER then addressed Bro. Heath, the I.P.M., and said he had a very pleasing duty to perform, which was to present him with the jewel the lodge had voted to him in recognition of his services, and he trusted he might live long to wear it.

Bro. HEATH, I.P.M., said when, some weeks ago, Bro. Thorne informed him that he was about to move a resolution in the lodge that it should be presented to him, he thought that he was undeserving of it, as he had had no working, although he had always been punctual in his attendance if such should have been required of him; but, as they had thought fit to present him with it, he thanked them most sincerely for it, and he should wear it with pleasure for the rest of his life. He took it as an earnest of not what he had done, but of what he might

do, for he was then the servant of the lodge, and he could assure them that he would do all that lay in his power to promote its prosperity. During the coming year, he would assure them that he would always be present to do anything that might be required of him. He cordially thanked the brethren for the honour they had conferred upon him.

The lodge was then closed and the brethren adjourned to a banquet, which was furnished in Bro. Panter's style, so well known to the frequenters of the Ship and Turtle. It embraced everything in season, and was of a bountiful description.

The cloth having been withdrawn,

The W. MASTER briefly gave the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft," which was heartily responded to, followed by the "National Anthem," the solo verses by Bro. Davies.

The W. MASTER then gave "The Health of the Earl of Zeland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons," which was equally well received.

The W. MASTER gave "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Past and Present," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Udall, P.G.D.

Bro. UDALL said it was with pleasure that he had to return thanks for the health of Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers, and he could say that a more efficient member of the Craft than Earl de Grey and Ripon did not exist. In addition to the duties he performed in the service of his Queen and his country, by his presence in the Grand Lodge of England he showed the zeal he felt in the Craft, and the benefits derived from it. On the part of the rest of the Grand Officers he assured them that they were most efficient in their duties, and it was only that day he had been with five Grand Officers going over the accounts for the annuitants, and it was gratifying to him to be able to say that during the year £2,500 had been given to the females, and £2,000 to the male annuitants, and those were the largest sums ever received since the charity was established. Those were the results of the good the Craft had done by their liberal subscriptions, which were greater that year than they had ever been before. About £11,000 had been contributed to the Boys' School, and to the other charities upwards of £8,000 more, so that the total subscriptions towards these institutions by the Craft for the year were upwards of £19,000. The Percy Lodge always sent a Steward to all their charities, and he was glad to hear that night they had voted five guineas towards the old men's asylum, and he trusted they would contribute a similar sum to the boys and girls, and although he might be supposed to have more interest in the Girls' School, yet as the Boys' wanted the money the most, he trusted that by a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, they would get the Boys' School well up in its finances.

Bro. HEATH, I.P.M., said the toast he had to propose required no apology from him, as it was "The Health of the Worshipful Master." He thought the Percy Lodge had done well in the selection they had made in electing Bro. Allison as their W.M. Judging from the specimen they had seen in the investment of his officers, it augured well for the future as a token of proficiency. He hoped the W.M. would have plenty of initiates and a prosperous year of office. (Cheers.)

The W. MASTER said he felt exceedingly obliged to the brethren for the manner in which they had responded to the toast proposed by Bro. Heath, their I.P.M., but he hardly thought he deserved such a reception. As he had obtained the position he then occupied, he could assure them that he would do his duty to the best of his ability, and if he was supported, as he had no doubt he should be, he hoped to leave the chair in the same state as he found it, pure and unsullied; and he felt very much obliged to them for the kind manner in which they had drank his health. (Hear, hear.)

The W. MASTER next proposed "The Health of the Visitors."

Bro. LAWSON, P.M. Peace and Harmony, returned thanks for the visitors for the splendid hospitality with which they had been received, and hoped that would not be the last occasion they would have the pleasure of visiting the Percy Lodge, which he said stood A 1 in the Craft.

The W. MASTER said the next toast he had to introduce was one that was received in all lodges with every mark of respect and courtesy, as it was "The Past Masters of the Percy Lodge." Without the assistance of the P.M.'s a lodge would soon go to the wall, and he was sure that the Percy Lodge would. Therefore they had reason to be thankful to them for the support they had received from them on every occasion. He submitted the toast with great confidence, and he

hoped it would be responded to in a way which the attention and support received from them deserved.

The toast was very cordially drunk.

Bro. HEATH said during the time he occupied the position of W.M., he could never understand why the immediate P.M. should always be called upon to return thanks for the P.M.'s, as he thought that should come from the oldest of them, but then he understood how it was. The W.M. was in the habit of talking so much, that instead of casting him into oblivion at once, which might sour his temper, it was thought better to let him down easy, and allow him to return thanks for the P.M.'s. (Laughter.)

On the part of the P.M.'s of the Percy Lodge, and of which he had the honour to be a member, he said it would be a pleasure to them to assist the W.M. or any of the officers coming to the chair, and those services would be freely given and with free good will. As to the W.M. in the chair, from what they had seen, he did not think that he would want much assistance from the P.M.'s. On their behalf he felt obliged to them for the way in which they had received the toast, and as long as they had P.M.'s they would never lack their assistance. For the kind way in which they had received their names one and all, they wished the brethren prosperity for the year and prosperity in their various lodges. (Loud applause.)

The W. MASTER said, in proposing the health of their Treasurer and Secretary, as they were both so well known, as well as how they had done their duties, it required no lengthened remarks from him. Without further remarks then he asked the brethren to join with him in drinking "The Health of Bro. Thorne, Treasurer, and Bro. Kay, their Secretary." (Drunk with applause.)

Bro. THORNE, in returning thanks, said he had the honour of belonging to the lodge for 35 years, and Bro. Key had been in it nearly as long. He was not only the Treasurer but the father of the lodge, and all he would say was that he trusted every brother would derive as much pleasure and comfort as he had done from the Percy Lodge.

Bro. LAMBERT also acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the Secretaries of the lodge, and hoped the new W.M. would have plenty of work, and a long and happy life.

The W. MASTER next gave "The Officers of the Percy Lodge," which was responded to by Bro. Adams, and "The Tylers," having been given by Bro. Smith, the proceedings of a very agreeable evening were brought to a close before ten o'clock.

Bro. Davies and some of the brethren contributed to the harmony of the gathering by some choice songs, &c.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKS AND BUCKS.

WINDSOR.—*Etonian Lodge* (No. 209).—The brethren of this old-established lodge held their annual festival at the New Inn, Windsor, on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., when the appointments of officers for the ensuing year took place as follows:—Bros. Gibbons, S.W., was installed into King Solomon's chair; Tilley, S.W.; Byrne, J.W.; Rev. J. S. Simpson, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W. Durham, Chap.; Grey, S.D.; Redout, J.D.; Pullin, Treas.; Strange, Sec.; Stacey, Org.; Shepherd, jun., I.G.; Case, O.G. In all the degrees the business was admirably conducted, important assistance being rendered by Bros. Powell, P.M., and the Rev. J. S. Simpson, whose appropriate and beautiful prayers in each ceremony produced a solemn and reverential effect upon all the brethren. Several Past Masters from other lodges, including Bro. Lambert, were present on this occasion, and were much gratified in witnessing the superior manner in which all the ceremonies were performed by the respective officers of the lodge. The banquet table was supplied with the accustomed taste and liberality always met with at this hotel; and the evening's proceedings were much enhanced by the excellent singing of Bros. Marriott, Tolly, and Bridgewater, members of the choir of the Chapel Royal of St. George.

CHESHIRE.

CREWE.—*Lodge of the Four Cardinal Virtues* (No. 979).—This lodge held an emergency meeting on Thursday, January 4th (the room having been accidentally let for a dinner on the 3rd), when Bros. Whale, S.W. *pro tem.*, Eardley, J.W.; Radcliffe, S.D.; Whitting, J.D.; Moody, Sec.; Price, I.G.; and

several other members were present. The special business was to ballot for Mr. Heginbotham, pass Bro. J. Phillips, and raise Bro. Bagshaw. The ballot being clear for the candidate, he was impressively initiated by the W.M. Bro. Bullock then examined Bro. Phillips, who was highly complimented for his proficiency, he never making the slightest slip or even hesitation in his replies. The W.M. then passed him to the degree of F.C. Bro. Bagshaw was next passed through the F.C.'s ordeal, and retired. The lodge being opened to the third degree the W.M. raised him to the sublime degree of a M.M., his working being perfect, and leaving the proper impressions on the candidate's mind. The lodge was then regularly closed down. The W.M. announced that he had raised £5 to present to Bro. Cope, G.S.B., who was a steward for the Royal Benevolent Institution. He also announced his intention of accepting a stewardship for the Boys' School, drawing the brethren's attention to the correspondence on the subject of charity stewards, which had recently appeared in THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR, which he hoped they would all read; and the W.M. also drew attention to Bro. White's letter on the subject of the Black, which had honoured Crewe with a fortnight's stay a few weeks back, and whose doings the W.M. had made known. The brethren all seemed delighted and grateful to Bro. White for stopping for a time at least the career of such a villain. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren retired to their homes.

DORSETSHIRE.

POOLE.—St. John's Day was duly celebrated by the brethren of this town on the 27th ult. A lodge was held in the evening at the Masonic Hall, when Bro. Richard Sydenham was re-elected W.M., and Bro. G. H. Gutch, Treas. The lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent the remainder of the evening in a very congenial manner. The customary loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured.

SHAFTESBURY.—On the 27th ult. the brethren of this town and neighbourhood celebrated the festival of St. John the Evangelist. The brethren assembled at their lodge-room, Town Hall, at 3 p.m., when the new W.M., Bro. Jos. New, was installed to that office, and afterwards appointed his officers for the year ensuing.—The appointments were as follow:—Bro. Richmond, S.W.; Jos. Sutton, J.W.; Usher, Sec.; Swaine, S.D.; C. J. Highman, J.D.; and W. T. Buckland, I.G. The lodge re-elected Bro. J. Bennett, Treasurer, and Bro. Belbin, Tyler. The brethren then proceeded to Bro. Gen. Freke's Grosvenor Arms Hotel, to dinner, which was served up in good style, and was highly appreciated by all present. An excellent haunch of mutton was presented for the occasion by Bro. W. Bennett, of Chilmark, from his splendid sheep which took the gold medal prize against All England at the late agricultural show, Islington. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts, &c., were given and duly responded to, and a most agreeable evening was spent by those present.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

FLEETWOOD.—*Hesketh Lodge* (No. 950).—A meeting of this lodge was held, on the evening of the 4th inst, in the lodge room at the Fleetwood Arms Hotel. The lodge having been opened in due form at six p.m., Mr. Thos. Grimshaw, Master Mariner, of Fleetwood, being in attendance as an approved candidate to be admitted into our ancient Order, the ceremony of initiation was most impressively performed by the W.M., Bro. J. Gibson. After which the brethren were called off from labour to refreshment, and spent the remainder of the night in the enjoyments afforded at the soiree and ball, which will be found noticed in another column under the head of "Masonic Festivities."

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM.—*Athol Lodge* (No. 74).—The installation of the W.M. of this lodge took place on Wednesday, the 3rd inst., at the Masonic Hall, Severn-street. A large number of the brethren of the lodge and a goodly complement of visitors assembled on the occasion. The usual routine business having been transacted, and the ceremony of initiation performed on a neophyte, Bro. Yates Poulton was passed to the degree of F.C. Bro. Charles Lee, P.M., proceeded to instal Bro. M. Smart into the chair of K.S. The ceremony was performed in a correct

and impressive manner. The W.M. then proceeded to nominate and invest the following brethren as his officers for the year:—Bros. Charles Lee, P.M.; James Bowker, S.W.; R. T. Horley, J.W.; C. J. Penn, Treas.; W. J. Walters, Sec.; W. Baylis, Assist. Sec.; J. Fenn, S.D.; Stephen Wood, J.D.; Benjamin Hunt, S.W.; Thomas Bragg, Dir. of Cers.; J. Vaughan, Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Alfred Minshall, John Clements, Michael Davis, William Whitehouse, and R. H. Vertegaus, Stewards; J. Coates, Tyler. Bro. W. J. Walters proposed that the sum of fifteen guineas be given to the Warwickshire Annuity Fund, which, being duly seconded, only awaits the confirmation of the next lodge. The scheme of the Warwickshire Annuity Fund was first propounded in the Athol Lodge by the Prov. G.M., Lord Leigh, and this, we believe, will be the second contribution from No. 74. The brethren then adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. R. T. Horley, of the King's Head Hotel, which gave the greatest satisfaction.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

NEW MASONIC HALL IN LEEDS.

A Masonic hall has been long wanted in Leeds, and several attempts have been made in years gone by to provide one. There are at present four lodges holding meetings in this town, and the Order musters a large number of members. Each lodge has its separate place of meeting, and they are held in private rooms. The Philanthropic Lodge (No. 304) finding its members increasing, resolved to build a new hall on a good scale, which has been erected in Great George-street, on the north side of the Town Hall, and during the past and present week it has been opened with great *eclat*. On Wednesday, the 27th ult., the installation of the W.M. and the festival of St. John were celebrated. On Friday, the 29th, a ball took place, to which brethren of the Philanthropic had the privilege of inviting friends who were non-Masons. There was a brilliant reception, about 330 being present, and the ball passed off admirably. On Monday, Jan. 1st, the Philanthropic Chapter held its meeting, and installed the officers for the ensuing year, and on Wednesday, Jan. 3rd, there was a large gathering of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire to dedicate the hall to "Masonry." This imposing ceremony was performed by Bro. Bentley Shaw, of Woodfield House, Huddersfield, the R.W. D. Prov. G.M. in the unavoidable absence of the Earl de Grey and Ripon, R.W. Prov. G. Master of West Yorkshire.

After the dedication a sumptuous banquet was served up to the brethren, and the events which have rapidly followed each other in the opening of this hall have created a lively interest in the Craft, and the greatest goodwill, fraternal fellowship, and harmony characterised the whole of the proceedings, and will long be remembered by all who took part in these delightful meetings.

The Masonic Hall fronts into Great George's-street, and is faced with stone. It is in the early Gothic style, and possesses great originality in its design, which, although peculiar, is chaste, and, with the emblems of the Craft judiciously introduced in carved panels, its character is stamped at once as a building erected for a special object.

The entrance to the hall is at the south end, through a spacious vestibule and staircase, which is provided with an array of hat and cloak rails. At the foot of the stairs is the smoke room, 31ft. long, 16ft. wide, and 13ft. high, efficiently ventilated. After ascending a spacious staircase to the first floor we find a handsome banqueting room, 52ft. long, 22ft. wide, and 15ft. high, chastely decorated and finished; a robing room, 19ft. long, 16ft. wide, and 12ft. high; and a beautiful hall which occupies the entire size of the building to the front, and is 58ft. long, 29ft. wide, and 27ft. high.

An arcade surrounds the walls with clustered shafts and curved capitals, from which springs a dome vaulted ceiling, most effectively carried out and decorated with a blue ground sprinkled with stars. The ribs are crimson and yellow, and the contrast of colour is beautifully harmonious. The lower part of the walls is of a pleasing warm moroon colour, with black diaper thereon, and a border of blue and crimson of Vandyke pattern.

The east end, or dais, separates itself by a handsome arch, panelled in colour with a domical ceiling in blue mixed with stars, and the ribs of oak with gilt pateras picked in with vermillion, the whole having a pleasing, rich, and elegant effect. The dais is raised three steps above the hall floor, and is fitted

with oak stalls and seats covered with green leather, which surround the walls of the hall.

Spacious kitchens, lift, cooking appliances, lavatory, &c., formed part of the arrangements also made, and every convenience has been provided to make the building complete, commodious, and convenient.

The building was designed and carried out under the direction of Messrs Perkin and Son, architects, and is we understand, in the highest degree satisfactory to the brethren by whom it has been erected.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

TEMPERANCE CHAPTER (No. 69).—The regular convocation of this chapter was held on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., at the White Swan, Deptford. Comp. G. Bolton, M.E.Z., presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Ballots were taken for Bros. Whiffen, 147, and Marriott, 169, which were favourable. These brethren, being in attendance, were introduced and exalted. This being election night the following companions were elected:—Comps. Simmons, H., as Z.; Tibbals, J., as H.; G. Brown, P.S., as J.; N. Wingfield, S.E.; E. Stahr, S.N.; J. Searle, 1st A.S., as P.S.; G. Bolton, M.E.Z., re-elected Treasurer; B. Holt, re-elected Janitor. Every officer and a majority of the members were present. Installation meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd. There were no visitors, and it was proposed by Comp. J. Read, and seconded by Comp. Walters, that a five guinea Z. jewel be presented, purchased from the chapter funds, to Comp. G. Bolton for his able presidency in the years 1863 and 1865. The motion was carried unanimously. An Audit Committee was appointed, and the Comps. adjourned to refreshment.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

WATFORD.—*Stuart Encampment*.—The first meeting of this encampment for the current year was held on Monday last, the 8th inst., and, though not numerously attended, fourteen Sir Knights answered to their names on the muster roll being called over. After the encampment had been opened the Registrar read several letters expressive of the regret of members at their inability to attend, amongst them one from the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Sir Knt. W. Stuart, P.E.C. of the Encampment, absent in Edinburgh on a visit to his brother-in-law, General Walker, commanding the forces in North Britain (an installed Knight of this encampment), another from Sir Knt. the Rev. R. Branson, Prelate, and several others. There were present Sir Knts. G. Francis, Prov. G.C.; Burchall Herne, D. Prov. G.C., Registrar; H. C. Finch, E.C.; Brett, Wilson Iles, Banks, Copeland, Rogers, Horsley, Humbert, and others. The business of the day was to ballot for and instal Comp. Cottam of the Watford Chapter, a duty which was most efficiently performed by Sir Knt. Finch, E.C.; to elect the E.C. and Treasurer for the ensuing year, when the present E.C. and Treasurer were unanimously re-elected, and the consideration of the report of the committee on the by-laws. A new code, as suggested by the committee, after considerable discussion, was agreed to, and the same ordered to be printed. There being no other business, the Sir Knts. adjourned to the banquet.

MARK MASONRY.

SAMSON AND LION LODGE (No. 86 E.C.)—This newest Mark Lodge was consecrated on Wednesday by Bro. F. Binckes, G.S.M.M., at 14, Bedford-row, Holborn. The ceremony, unlike that of the consecration of a chapter, was very short, and after it was finished the installation took place. Bro. A. D. Loewenstark was duly installed the first W.M. of the lodge, after which he appointed Bros. Stevens, S.V.; M. A. Loewenstark, J.W.; and Walters, Secretary. The other officers will be appointed when it is ascertained what members the new lodge has. After the lodge was closed the brethren adjourned to banquet. The following members of the English Grand Lodge

of Mark Masters were present:—Bros. F. Empson, Warr, G. W. Mobbs, D. Shaboe, T. Meggy, C. Swan, Rev. J. W. Laughlin, M. A. Shuttleworth, J. How, J. Nunn, C. A. Cottebrune, F. Davison. There were also present Bros. Sloman, H. A. Collington, 111; F. H. W. Taylor, 111; H. Massey, 111. Four brethren were advanced to this ancient degree during the evening, viz., Bros. Boncey, Oberdoeffler, Green, and Hayho.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

LA CESAREE LODGE (No. 590).—On Thursday, December 28th, the lodge was opened at 7 p.m. by Bro. C. Le Sueur, assisted by Bros. Chevalier, S.W.; Oatley, J.W.; and Dr. Hopkins, acting as P.M. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the lodge was opened in the second degree. Bros. Boudier and Pinel were examined as to their proficiency, and, after having been entrusted, retired for preparation. The lodge was opened in the third degree. Bro. Durell entered and took his chair as I.P.M. The candidates were then raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by the W.M. A ballot was taken for Mr. F. De Veulle, and another for Capt. G. E. Renouf, as candidates for initiation, after evidence had been given in their favour, which in each case was unanimous for admission. The lodge was resumed in the first degree. Mr. De Veulle was admitted, properly prepared, and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry by the W.M. The Secretary announced that the portrait of Bro. Le Geyt had been faithfully painted by a youth, the son of Bro. Oules, a member of the lodge. On behalf of Bro. Le Geyt, he offered it as a present to the Césarée Lodge, to hang on the walls of the temple. It was resolved unanimously that this present be received with gratitude. No other business offering, the lodge was closed at 9.20, and the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room for refreshment.

IRELAND.

CORK.

The brethren of the Third Lodge of Ireland celebrated the festival of St. John on Wednesday evening, the 27th ult., at the Commercial Hotel. Bro. E. W. Wignmore, K.T., W.M., occupied the chair. There was a very large attendance of the brethren, including Bros. Martin and Bruce, No. 1; Dyas, No. 8; Malcolm Macneil Johnston, Nos. 39 and 63, Armagh; Trew, 68, Youghal, &c. The dinner reflected much credit on Bro. Stephens, P.M., as also on the worthy hostess, for the manner in which it was served. After the removal of the cloth, and the "Non Nobis Domine" having been given, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and heartily responded to, accompanied with glees, duets, and choruses, performed by the musical brethren of the lodge, under the able direction of Bro. J. C. Marks, Mus. Bac., Oxon, which added greatly to the pleasure of the evening. The brethren separated at the usual hour, having enjoyed one of those agreeable and rational reunions for which Old No. 3 has so long been celebrated. In the course of the evening it was proposed to give a concert to assist in obtaining additional funds towards building a Masonic hall.

INDIA.

(From the *Indian Freemason's Friend*.)

BENGAL.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE.

A quarterly meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 22nd of September last. Bro. Hugh D. Sandeman, Prov. G.M., presided, supported by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. John B. Roberts; and the following brethren were also present:—Bros. W. H. Abbott, W. J. Judge, E. Pittar, T. Riseley, J. H. Linton, J. Ben- nett, J. B. Knight, G. Keighly, F. McAlpin, W. H. Sandeman, G. B. Lissant, W. Money, F. W. Baker, G. H. Mills, T. B. Lane, D. J. Daniel, C. Crichton (Scotch), C. W. Hawes (of Orissa), Capt. J. T. Browne (of Mauritius), J. Wetherall, W. Bourne, M.D.; H. F. Blanford, H. Haverlocke, C. T. Davis, H. J. Leitch,

J. Mackintosh, A. H. Gowenloch, J. Brander, W. Pare, — Williams, — Andrews, D. Liebenhals, and W. B. Farr.

Apologies were received from Bros. John W. Brown, P. Anderson, James W. Browne, W. M. Benwell, S. Fenn, A. G. Pendleton, R. T. Lattey, W. Swinhoe, I. Taylor, C. F. Jacobson, and W. A. Mitchell.

The PROV. G. MASTER addressed the District Grand Lodge as follows:—

"Brethren,—I cannot open Grand Lodge to-night without remarking on the unavoidable scantiness of the attendance of its members. It is never usual to see a large gathering of Masons either in District Grand Lodge, or in any private lodge at this season of the year. The weather is so intensely oppressive, and the climate so dangerous, that all who have the opportunity of doing so, desert the capital for other places, leaving behind those only whose calls of business or of duty positively prohibit them from taking a holiday. But Grand Lodge has suffered to an unusual extent this year, so much so that out of twenty grand officers in all, no less than eleven, or more than half the number, have been removed by death, sickness, or duty. This circumstance alone furnishes a good answer to those who would wish to establish Provincial Grand Lodges in local provinces, where the number of European residents would be insufficient to maintain a Grand Lodge, even in the absence of casualties, unless, indeed, a purple instead of a blue apron were to be conferred upon every brother as soon as he were raised to the degree of a Master Mason.

"Every brother in Calcutta must have been grieved to hear of the loss which this Grand Lodge has sustained, in common with the private lodges of which they were such useful members, in the deaths of Bros. Callan and Baxter. They will both dwell long in our memories, as hearty companions and zealous Freemasons; and it will take time to accustom ourselves to their absence from our pleasant Masonic gatherings in Calcutta.

"From the Provincial Grand Officers, I regret to announce the absence, on duty, of Bro. Dove, Grand Registrar, and of Bro. Powell, who had taken up the duties of Provincial Grand Secretary, in the place of Bro. Hoff, himself also absent on duty, while others are away either on the sick list or on trips of pleasure, and thus, as I have stated, the Grand Lodge is, for a time, deprived of the services of more than one-half the number of its officers.

"We have to-night to consider one report only, viz., from the Finance Committee, by which you will see that our finances are still in a bad position, for although the abstract of the Grand Treasurer's accounts shows a balance of Rs. 779-4-7 at our credit, it must be remembered that we are indebted to the Fund of Benevolence Rs. 2,875-0-2, a debt, which I, for one, am very anxious to see paid off.

"In consequence of several representations being made to me of great delay in getting Grand Lodge certificates for brethren who have taken their Master Mason's degree, I have asked the Grand Secretary to furnish me with blank certificates under the provisions laid down in page 57 of the Constitutions (Ed. 1861), so that they may be furnished to brethren as soon as they have been "raised." These certificates are signed and sealed in England, but have the spaces for the name of the holder left blank, in order that they may be filled up in this country. Lodges taking advantage of these certificates must bear in mind that they will not, under any circumstances, be granted, except upon actual payment of the fee as prescribed in the Constitutions, and that Masters must invariably transmit to the Grand Secretary in London, a duplicate of any return or payment made to the District Grand Lodge; and their attention is accordingly specially invited to pars. 3 to 5 inclusive, at pp. 57 and 58, of the Constitutions under this head. I need scarcely say that this will be found very convenient in the case, for instance, of a brother leaving the port shortly after taking his degree; but it must be understood that lodges wishing to take certificates in this manner must do so in all cases, as it would be inconvenient—indeed would lead to considerable confusion—were lodges to take some certificates from me and others from the Grand Secretary's office. The fee for registration of Masons made in colonial or foreign offices is, as you are aware, seven shillings and sixpence, or Rs. 3-12; while the fee for a brother joining any such lodge is two shillings and sixpence, or Rs. 1-4; but should he require a Grand Lodge certificate, then the full fee of seven shillings and sixpence is required to be paid. Considering the expense of overland postage and other incidental items that will fall upon the District Grand Lodge, I would suggest that a charge be made of

Rs. 4 for registration, and Rs. 1-8 for joining; indeed, without some such additional charge, the duty cannot be performed without the District Grand Lodge being put to an expense which would not be advisable in the present state of its finances.

"I have to announce the arrival from England of the warrant for the Rock of Gwalior Lodge, at Morar in Gwalior, numbered 1,066 on the registry of the Grand Lodge of England.

"I have to report the exclusion of Bro. A. Von Walstab from Lodge St. Luke (No. 848), in Fort William, for non-payment of dues, notwithstanding repeated applications made to him."

The report of the Finance Committee was read. The accounts of the Provincial Grand Treasurer showed a balance in the District Grand Lodge of Rs. 779, and in the Fund of Benevolence of Rs. 2,470. The Committee recorded the following observations:—

"The Finance Committee think that bills for contingent charges of the Secretary's Office, should not be submitted to the committee; and it was suggested that it be put to the Provincial Grand Lodge for inquiry if the sum of Rs. 200, allowed to the Provincial Grand Secretary, was not intended to cover ordinary contingencies.

"The Finance Committee observe with regret that there are still many outstandings from some of the Calcutta lodges, though they think it due to the Provincial Grand Treasurer to notice prominently the great reduction that has been made in them through his exertions. The lodge most in arrears is Excelsior, which has paid no house-rent since October 1862, while their subscription to the Musical Instrument Fund is unadjusted from the same date. Their returns for the 4th quarter of 1864, and for the first two quarters of the current year, have not yet been submitted, while those for the remaining portion of 1864 appear to have been only recently sent in, as they have not been passed by the Provincial Grand Secretary. The committee suggest that the Worshipful Master be requested to show cause why the lodge should not be erased under the 36th by-law of the District Grand Lodge. The committee observe that Lodges Star in the East and Industry and Perseverance are also considerably in arrears, while the Lodges True Friendship and Courage with Humanity have paid all dues up to date.

"The Finance Committee notice that the lighting of the banquet room is somewhat deficient, and would suggest that two more gaseliers be added, and, if necessary, the plated candelabra be disposed of to meet the expenses of the same."

Bro. ROBERTS moved "that the accounts be passed as correct," and took the opportunity of apologising for his absence from the last meeting of the Finance Committee. Monday was always a day of heavy work for him, and with the best intentions he had found it impossible to get away in time to attend.

Bro. ABBOTT proposed as an amendment "that the accounts be not received as correct." In those accounts certain payments made by Lodge Excelsior had not been credited, and, as one of the Past Masters of that lodge, he could not suffer them to pass.

Bro. KEIGHLY, W.M. of Lodge Excelsior, rose to place before the Grand Lodge facts in support of Bro. Abbott's statement, but he wished first to know whether he was to connect the accounts with the remarks subsequently made by the Finance Committee on Lodge Excelsior.

Bro. ROBERTS thought it would be better to take the recommendations of the Finance Committee first, leaving the accounts to be brought forward after they had heard Bro. Keighly's explanation; and with this view he withdrew his motion.

The PROV. G. SECRETARY then read the first suggestion of the Finance Committee (respecting the salary of the Secretary).

After an explanation from the Prov. G.M. that a writer was paid by the Secretary out of his salary, but that the cost of a peon was paid by the Provincial Grand Lodge; and from Bro. Mills that it appeared from the accounts that the cost of stationary expended did not exceed Rs. 4 or 5 per month, Bro. W. Judge proposed, and Bro. Roberts seconded, that the Provincial Grand Secretary be expected, out of his salary of 200 rupees per month, to pay all charges for stationary, exclusive of books and postage. Carried unanimously.

The PROV. G. SECRETARY read the second clause of the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Bro. ABBOTT moved as an amendment "that the report be not received, as it was incorrect."

Bro. JUDGE said: The question is whether that report of the Finance Committee regarding Lodge Excelsior is correct or not. I suggest that it be referred back to the Finance Committee for further inquiry. When we have Bro. Keighly's statement before us we shall be better able to decide. There has apparently been some precipitancy shown, but, no doubt the members of the Finance Committee will be only too glad to correct any error they may have committed.

Bro. KEIGHLY rose to propose "that the par. which had just been read be sent back to the Finance Committee for re-consideration." He did so because the statements therein made were incorrect. Sums which had been paid by Lodge Excelsior had not been taken into account, and he was prepared to prove his assertion. He held a letter from the Provincial Grand Treasurer, in which he acknowledged the receipt of Rs. 275 on account of the dues of Lodge Excelsior. In the books of the Grand Treasurer this amount appeared as a deposit, and in his letter of acknowledgment, he said he had no instructions as to the mode in which it was to be applied, and could therefore only regard it as a deposit. He (Bro. Keighly) asked whether this was fair to the lodge which he represented. The Finance Committee had shown improper precipitancy in this matter. As Master of the lodge, he had been complimented by the Provincial Grand Master on the efforts he had made to pay up the lodge dues, and he thought that the Finance Committee should have shown more fair treatment towards him. In his (Bro. Keighly's) absence from Calcutta, this attack on a lodge holding the position of Excelsior should not have been made. The committee should have ascertained that they had more stable grounds to go upon ere they branded the lodge, not only before this Grand Lodge, but in the eyes of the Masonic fraternity, as a defaulter. But they were also charged with omitting to render their returns. He held receipts from the Provincial Grand Treasurer, which proved the following facts: that the dues of the first quarter of 1864 were paid on the 3rd February, 1865; of the second quarter on the 8th March, 1865; and of the third quarter on the 25th April, 1865. It was too bad to allow six months to pass and then to say that these amounts had not been duly paid. With these facts before them he repeated that it was most unfair that Lodge Excelsior should be branded as withholding dues. That there was still a large amount due from Lodge Excelsior he admitted, but every effort was being made to reduce it, and none knew this better than the Provincial Grand Master. And he maintained that, in the face of these facts, the Finance Committee had not acted in the brotherly spirit characteristic of Masonry, in bringing this matter forward without first communicating with him on the subject. With these remarks, he proposed that the paragraph be sent back to the Finance Committee for reconsideration, and should reserve to himself the right to bring the question forward again when the revised report was presented.

Bro. JUDGE seconded the motion.

Bro. ABBOTT remarked, that he was present in Calcutta when this report was prepared. Bro. Pendleton was also in Calcutta, and he thought it would only have been an act of brotherly courtesy to have communicated with one or the other before so harsh a step had been taken.

Bro. McALPIN, a member of the Finance Committee, said that as the accounts were presented to them by the Grand Treasurer, so they were bound to report upon them. The usual question was put, what lodges are in arrears? and it was shown that a large amount was due from Lodge Excelsior, and had been due for a great length of time. The Treasurer stated that a sum of money had been paid to account, but as no returns had been sent in, it had been placed in suspense account. Under these circumstances the Finance Committee had no alternative but to take action as they had done.

Bro. W. B. FARR, Secretary of Lodge Excelsior, rose to correct Bro. McAlpin's statement. Returns had been sent in with the money.

The PROV. G. TREASURER stated that the statement in question was now in his hands, and showed that Lodge Excelsior owed Grand Lodge Rs. 426 for house-rent, Musical Instrument Fund, &c., from October 1862 to 31st December, 1864, independent of the dues for first and third quarters of 1864, and first second and third quarters of 1865. For the first and second quarters of 1864 a sum of Rs. 170 had been deposited, but was deficient according to returns. A sum of Rs. 275 was also received, but without any instructions, and therefore was kept in suspense. If the Worshipful Master would examine the receipt he held in his hand, he would find that it simply acknowledged

the receipt of the money on deposit, without specifying any account to which it was credited. The amount could not be credited to old outstandings until the Treasurer received instructions.

Bro. ROBERTS said he thought the Grand Treasurer was right in principle. It was the duty of a lodge not only to send in returns, but to state distinctly how every payment made was to be disposed of. The Grand Treasurer might have applied the funds to payment of house-rent, leaving all other dues unpaid, in which case the lodge would have stood in a much worse position. The fault laid with the lodge which sends in money without instructions as to its application. He could not say that blame should be attached to the Finance Committee for the course they had taken, but he thought that in so small a meeting, a little more caution might fairly have been exercised, or, at all events, some explanation might have been called for before the matter had been reported to Provincial Grand Lodge.

Bro. FARR said that Bro. Roberts had spoken under a misapprehension. Funds were forwarded to the Provincial Grand Treasurer along with the quarterly returns on three different dates, and in each case particular instructions had been given as to the way in which the money was to be applied.

Bro. ABBOTT said, that when money was paid to the Grand Lodge, unaccompanied by any instructions, the Grand Treasurer was both legally and morally bound to apply the same to some account, and not to leave it in suspense.

The PROV. G. TREASURER repeated his assertion that the sum of Rs. 275, which was placed in suspense, was sent to him without any instructions whatever.

Bro. KEIGHLY said, admitting that to have been the case, the Finance Committee should not have omitted from their report the fact that a sum of Rs. 275 actually stood to the credit of the lodge. It was not fair to put down all the debits and entirely omit the credit from the account. The Provincial Grand Master knew how that sum had been collected, that it was the product of a separate contribution from the members, in addition to their dues, and it was hard that, after having made such an effort, they should still be represented as debtors for the full amount.

The PROV. G. MASTER said he quite concurred in the opinion expressed by Bro. Roberts, as to the inconvenience of Monday as a day of meeting, and thought it might be avoided in future. With regard to the case before them there had evidently been a misunderstanding, but he could not throw the blame of it on Bro. McAlpin, who, with Bro. Mills, was the only member of the Finance Committee who was present at the last meeting. It was the bounden duty of Provincial Grand Officers to work for Masonry, and he regretted that some of them manifested so small a disposition to do so; he would not particularise individuals, but he could mention at least one member of the Finance Committee who had not once attended its meetings. He did not think he went beyond his province in expressing a hope that the motion would be carried in order that the Finance Committee, after the explanations that had been given, might have an opportunity of omitting the clause from their report. But he repeated, that to them he attached no blame. They had done no more than their duty on the facts before them. The Secretary had placed in his hands a most formidable list of outstandings, and it was high time some steps should be taken to collect them. Bro. Roberts was quite correct in his statement as to the duty of the Grand Treasurer. If Provincial Grand Officers and members of the Finance Committee will not do their duty, and present themselves at the meetings, others must do the work. They had a paid Secretary, and yet a large amount of work fell on him (the Provincial Grand Master). He had a fair right to call on Grand Officers, who accepted the purple apron, to assist him to the utmost in their power. How had they done so in this particular case? Neither the Provincial Senior Grand Warden (the Past Master of the Lodge Excelsior), nor the Master of the lodge attended the meeting of the Finance Committee, of which they were members. Only two members attended, and as the report of the committee had to be printed and circulated in the agenda paper, there was really no time for reference. He would suggest that, under these circumstances, and as some misconception had evidently arisen, they should allow the motion to be carried, and that Bro. Keighly should treat it as a misunderstanding that the Committee should treat it as a misunderstanding that the Committee would not willingly have fallen into, and not carry the matter any further.

The motion was then put, and carried unanimously.

Bro. JUDGE said that if the sum paid by the Lodge Excelsior did not appear in the accounts submitted by the Finance Committee, it would be necessary that they should be amended. He would therefore propose "that the accounts be referred back to the Finance Committee for amendment."

Bro. ROBERTS said that, as the sum in question was placed in suspense, the accounts did not show all the money actually received during the quarter; he therefore seconded the motion "that the accounts should be referred back to the Finance Committee."

Bro. ABBOTT explained why he was unable to attend the meetings of the Finance Committee. They were held at a most inconvenient hour, an hour when, as a professional man, he was always most busily engaged, and if, as Grand Warden, he was expected to attend at that hour, he should be compelled to resign his office. With regard to his other obligations as a Mason, he had always been earnest in their fulfilment. He must again express his opinion that the Finance Committee had acted with discourtesy in not communicating with him before issuing their report.

The Prov. G. MASTER, in putting the motion, remarked that it became the members to consider how, if the dues of lodges were not paid, the business of Grand Lodge was to be conducted. As it was, they had great difficulty in keeping above water. Economy was being observed in all their outgoings, but still it was a constant struggle in consequence of the heavy outstandings which, with the Constitutions before them, never ought to be allowed to exist, and would not exist if the Masters of lodges only did their duty. It was equally necessary, also, that help should be given in the conduct of business. It was no doubt often inconvenient for members to attend committees, but they must have committees, or the business of Masonry could not be carried on.

The motion was then put and carried.

The 3rd par. of the report having been read,

Bro. ROBERTS said, he, for one, should be extremely sorry that the Grand Lodge should part with what was undoubtedly the finest service of plate in Calcutta. If additional gaseliers were necessary, by all means have them, if they could afford to do so, but let them, under any circumstances, retain almost the only valuable ornament appertaining to the Grand Lodge.

The Prov. G. MASTER said that, if the Grand Lodge would leave the matter in his hands, he would endeavour to put up the two additional gaseliers without sacrificing any of the property of the lodge. He quite agreed with Bro. Roberts that it would be a pity to sell their service of plate. He regretted that they had not more property of an ornamental character; but to show how little encouragement they offered to any one to make presents, he would state that he saw the other day a very beautiful Scotch mull which had been presented by their late Provincial Grand Master, Bro. General Ramsay, in a most pitiable condition, almost destroyed by insects. He had appointed their late Bro. Baxter custodian for the express purpose of taking care of their property, and he hoped, now that he was gone, some other brother, whose taste lay in that direction, would come forward and undertake the duties.

It was agreed to leave the matter in the hands of the Grand Master.

Bro. ROBERTS here suggested that for the future the hour and day of meeting of the Finance Committee be left in the hands of the President.

This was assented to, and there being no other business before the lodge, it was closed in due form at nine o'clock, p.m.

THE BANQUET.

About thirty brethren sat down to the banquet.

The Prov. G. MASTER proposed "The Health of Her Majesty the Queen," speaking in eloquent terms of the way in which she had brought up her family, and associated them with her in all matters interesting to her subjects.

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

Bro. ABBOTT, S.G.W., then gave "The Health of the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of the Order." (Loud cheers.)

Bro. JUDGE proposed the next toast, "The Health of the Grand Masters of Scotland and Ireland," which was well received.

Bro. CRICHTON, W.M. of Lodge St. Andrew in the East, returned thanks, expressing the great pleasure he felt at the harmony and unity of feeling which existed between Scotch and

English Masons, bound together, as they were, in one bond of universal brotherhood.

Bro. ROBERTS said that the Craft had found a man whom all must acknowledge a marvel in energy in the cause of Masonry; he alluded to their Provincial Grand Master (loud cheers), and he proposed his health as one who, nothing dismayed, stood firm to his colours in spite of every discouragement. Steadfast of purpose, energetic in action, honest in principle, swerving not in the course he marked out for himself, such was the brother who, he was free to confess, had taken the wind out of his (the speaker's) Masonic sails. Their Grand Master deserved all the honour they could render him, and his toast would have, he felt assured, a hearty reception.

The toast was drunk with hearty applause.

The Prov. G. MASTER returned thanks. Some apology, he said, was due for the manner in which matters had been conducted upstairs this evening. He was no lawyer. If he had been, doubtless he would have been an ornament to the profession.—(Laughter.) But what with propositions and amendments, he scarcely knew how the question before them stood. However, he was far from complaining of the work which Freemasonry threw upon him—he loved it. It was by his own seeking that he was placed in the honourable position, he said, and so long as he possessed health his best energies would be expended for the good of Masonry. Some rather critical questions were now pending. At this moment a feeling existed that there should be a Grand Lodge in every district where two or three lodges were working. This was the idea in Burmah. He (the Prov. G.M.) was about to visit Rangoon and Moulmein, and hoped then to be able to explain his views, and the views of all the Calcutta Masons, that it would be detrimental to Calcutta, and no advantage to the lodges in Burmah, to have a Grand Lodge there. Even in Calcutta it was no light task to keep up the efficiency of the Grand Lodge. There were many Masons here, leading men in society, who, in spite of their Masonic oaths to act as true and faithful Masons, had deserted lodge and neglected to support the society which it was their duty to uphold. It remained for them (the faithful ones) to stick to it all the more closely. For himself, he would say that many of his dearest friendships had arisen in Masonry, and he should be ungrateful indeed if he allowed his interest in it to cool. It would hold a high place in his affections so long as he lived, and at his dying moments he still hoped to say—I love Masonry. Reverting to the work upstairs, his sole desire had been to bring a somewhat disagreeable matter to a pleasant termination, and Bro. Keighly's handsome conduct had made it comparatively easy to do so. The Prov. G.M. concluded with a hearty wish for more prosperous times for Masonry, larger meetings, and the wide diffusion of true Masonic spirit.

The Prov. G. MASTER again rose to propose "The Health of the Grand Officers," at the head of whom stood their respected fellow citizen, Bro. Roberts, their Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Bro. Roberts had always acted with an energy and zeal in Masonry which was highly commendable. The Grand Officers were all loved and respected among them. They were selected as men who had the true spirit of Masonry in them, and well had they justified his selection.

The toast was received with loud applause.

Bro. ROBERTS responded to the toast. They had all done, he said, their best to fulfil the duties of their office satisfactorily.

The Prov. G. MASTER then proposed "The Health of the Grand Stewards," eulogising them for the excellent arrangements of the evening.

Bro. BRUCE LANE returned thanks.

The Prov. G. MASTER, in proposing the next toast, said, he regretted that he had not the power of conferring the purple collar as an honorary mark of distinction on Masons in the province who had rendered important services to Masonry. The Mofussil lodges laboured under difficulties of which they had no experience in Calcutta, and it was only when a Master gifted with great energy presided over them, that they could enjoy prosperity. He would give the toast "The Mofussil Lodges," and had much pleasure in coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Money, the Master of Lodge Star of Orissa, at Cuttack, who was present on this occasion, and who had worked well and energetically for Masonry.

Bro. MONEY returned thanks.

Soon after this the Provincial Grand Master gave the parting toast, and the brethren separated after passing a pleasant and social evening.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

MASONIC SOIREE AND BALL AT FLEETWOOD.

The brethren of the Hesketh Lodge (No. 950) held a Soirée and Ball on the evening of the 4th inst., in the lodge rooms, at the Fleetwood Arms Hotel. The wives and lady friends of the members having arrived by invitation, were joined by the brethren after the termination of the regular lodge business (which will be found in another column). The brethren appeared in Masonic clothing, a dispensation to that effect having been obtained.

Bro. Norwood, of Preston, attended with the requisite music for dancing, which commenced soon after eight o'clock, and was kept up with unflagging spirit till six a.m. on the morning of the 5th, but, as may be inferred, not without occasional visits to the refreshment room, which was set out with great taste and contained every delicacy of the season—both substantial and light—the worthy hostess, Mrs. Whiteside, fully maintaining her reputation as a successful caterer to the “public taste,” as all who visit that favourite hostelry can testify. Never was a lodge closed with more regret than on this hitherto happy morning, when, after singing the National Anthem, the W.M. stated that this must be done, and the ladies leave them a short time to themselves, for the party (partaking, as it did, of so much of a private nature, and into which was infused that beautiful feature of the Masonic character, “Harmony”), were very loathe to separate, the guests convinced “No mortal can more the ladies adore, than a Free and Accepted Mason,” and all eagerly looking forward to “our next merry meeting.”

IRELAND.

GRAND MASONIC CONCERT AT CORK.

The brethren of the Third Lodge of Ireland have announced a grand Masonic concert to come off on the day we are now going to press, and which the local papers anticipate will prove one of the greatest musical treats ever enjoyed at Cork. The Masonic body are to appear in the full costume of their several grades. The commanding officers of the three regiments in garrison have kindly given permission to their bands to perform, and selections and combinations have been made, which, with the orchestra in training, and the trained fine voices of the local amateurs, must produce grand effects in such choruses as “Glory to the men of old,” by Gounod, from “Faust,” &c. M. Henry Distin, of Great Newport-street, London, who recently gained such celebrity by the manufacture of the monstre drum for the Handel Festival, and the silver drums for the Life Guards, has kindly sent the Secretary for the concert, free of charge, a new and very novel instrument—a 4-octave peal of beautifully-toned bells, played on by the pianoforte action finger-board—an instrument much needed to produce rare and pleasing orchestral effects.

It may be mentioned to the uninitiated in Masonic lore, that the Protestant Hall has been selected for the concert, simply from the circumstance that it is the best

adapted room in the city to give effect to performances of this magnitude. The voices and instruments can be distinctly heard without clashing and producing discords, which entirely mar the effects and spoil the performance, as well as distort the very melodies sang or played in apartments unfitted for musical purposes.

The proceeds of the concert are to be devoted to the purposes of building a Masonic Hall in the city of Cork.

Obituary.

BRO. CHARLES WILLIAM RAMSAY-RAMSAY.

We regret to have to announce the death, on the 30th ult., of Bro. Charles William Ramsay-Ramsay, a highly respected member of the Apollo University Lodge, Oxford, No. 357. The deceased Bro. was initiated in the Apollo Lodge on the 4th February, 1862, in company with the present Sir John Gage Saunders Sebright, Bart., and on the 2nd of December in the same year was appointed Junior Grand Deacon in the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

He became a joining member of the Churchill and the Alfred Lodges, Oxford, and served the office of Secretary in the former lodge.

Bro. Ramsay was present at the celebration a few weeks ago of the coming of age of Sir Norman Macdonald Lockhart, of Lee and Carnwath, and was then in his usual health. While returning to Lanark from a ball given by Mr. Monteath, of Carstairs, the driver of the omnibus on which Bro. Ramsay, with other gentlemen, was riding, confused by the darkness of the night, mistook a turn of the road, and drove the omnibus under some trees, a branch of one of which dragged Bro. Ramsay off the 'bus. In falling Bro. Ramsay's leg, coming in contact with the iron step of the 'bus, sustained an abraded wound below the knee, which was at first disregarded as a mere scratch. Bro. Ramsay returned to Barnton on the following day; and, as showing how little he thought of the injury he had sustained, we may mention that he did not think it necessary to confine himself to the house, but went out as usual to the hunt. Shortly, however, the leg became inflamed, and otherwise feeling himself unwell, he was induced to call in Dr. Carruthers, of Cramond. His symptoms getting worse, Dr. Keiller, of Edinburgh, Bro. Ramsay's usual medical adviser, was sent for, and subsequently, in consequence of erysipelas and fever supervening, it was deemed prudent to recommend a consultation, and, accordingly, Professor Simpson and Dr. Begbie were requested to see Bro. Ramsay. Professor Spence was also consulted regarding the condition of Bro. Ramsay's leg. During the week previous to his death the erysipelas was diminished, and occasional favourable symptoms appeared, but the continuance of the fever, and the shock which his naturally weak constitution had sustained, rendered his case almost hopeless. For a week before his death Bro. Ramsay's state was so critical that Professor Simpson and Dr. Keiller found it necessary to give constant attendance, and remained at Barnton, the seat of the deceased, during the greater part of his serious illness. Notwithstanding the use of every means which his medical attendants could suggest, Bro. Ramsay's state gradually sank, and he expired calmly at about nine o'clock on the morning of the 30th ult. The deceased was unmarried, and had only attained his majority in February last, so that he has been cut off in his 22nd year.

It is all very well for prosperous men to prate of the vices of their unfortunate brethren. A clock that marks the most exact time will, if you tilt it the least on one side, go all wrong, or suddenly stop going at all.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

The Royal English Opera Company has made a decided hit with its brilliant spectacle-extravaganza-cum-Pantomime of "Aladdin," and often as the story has been presented on the stage, it has never been realised in such a picturesque and magnificent manner.

ss Rachel Sanger as *Aladdin*, Mr. Charles Steyne as the Mother, and the famous Mr. W. H. Payne and his son, the scarcely less popular Mr. F. Payne, maintained the liveliness of the opening with unflagging vigour. The novel and highly characteristic ballet of the second scene will be long remembered as a triumph of the choregraphic art, and the exquisite scenery with which the veteran artist, Mr. T. Grieve, has enriched this costly production, will clearly prove that this eminent master is in the zenith of his powers. The Harlequinade, supported by Mdle. Esta, as *Columbine*; Mr. F. Payne, *Harlequin*; Mr. Harry Payne, *Clown*; and Mr. Paul Herring, *Pantaloon*, is so brisk and funny that it ought not to be left unseen by any of the laughter-enjoying throng nightly filling this elegant and spacious theatre.

DRURY LANE.

This theatre, of late years so renowned for its Pantomimes, has secured a success in "Little King Pippin" which will be evidently found to excel even that attained by the most prosperous of its predecessors. Much of this is unquestionably due to the remarkably clever acting of that wonderful boy, Master Percy Roselle, who, as the Little King, exhibits a grasp of character which has rarely been attained even by actors of maturity. In the scene where he has to depict the growing passion of avarice there are some strong touches of expression, which will vividly recall to old playgoers the masterly power of the elder Kean. The performance is not so much a display of talent as of absolute genius. The Lillipution Court—the best ever produced on the Drury Lane stage—would be alone sufficient to make the Pantomime a marked triumph. The stage-manager, Mr. Robert Roxby, is entitled to the warmest acknowledgments for the completeness with which he has carried out this idea, and devised the general arrangements. Mr. Henri Drayton, Mr. G. Belmore, Miss Augusta Thomson, and Mr. F. Barsby are excellent in their respective impersonations, and with Mr. William Beverley's tasteful and highly artistic scenery, a combination of attractions is produced that will not exhaust the admiration of the whole metropolis for many weeks to come. The comic scenes, so admirably supported by Mr. Harry Bolen, a *Clown* of the true Grimaldi kind; Mr. C. Lauri, wonderfully active and diverting; Messrs.

Barnes and Morris, capital *Pantaloons*; Messrs. Cormack and Saville, most agile of *Harlequins*; and Madame Bolen and Miss L. Morgan most graceful of *Columbines*, are important additions to the entertainment. Mr. Cormack's ballet, called "A Pantomimic Piece of Patchwork," is to be warmly praised for the ingenuity of its design and the novelty and neatness of its execution.

HAYMARKET.

The extravaganza of "Orpheus" has the advantage of Mr. Planché's elegantly and wittily written libretto, which shows the veteran author, to whom the stage has been so long indebted, has lost nothing of his fine poetic feeling and sparkling fancy. The music of "Orphée aux Enfers" the town has been tolerably familiar with during the last twelvemonth, but wedded to the lines of this accomplished writer it becomes possessed of a new charm. Miss Helen Howard looks and acts with excellent effect as *Public Opinion*, supplying in the action the place of the old Greek Chorus; and Mr. David Fisher, Miss Louise Keeley, Miss Nelly Moore, Mr. W. Farren, Mr. Bartleman, and the bevy of pretty actresses who represent the feminine inhabitants of Olympus, complete a cast with which the Haymarket audience is evidently highly satisfied.

LITERARY EXTRACTS.

SCIENTIFIC TASTES OF THE ARABS.—Some authors, travelled or otherwise, have represented the Arabs of the interior as a race absolutely incapable of any real attainment or progress in practical and material science, and have supposed that branch of knowledge to be the exclusive portion of Japhet, to borrow for an instant the typical but convenient classification used by many; while Shem and his descendants, amongst whom the Arabs hold a distinguished place, are to be allowed neither part nor lot in this matter. My own experience, if indeed it may bear the name of experience, would lead me to a very different conclusion; and I am rather inclined to regard the Arabs, taken in themselves, and individually, as endowed with a remarkable aptitude for these very pursuits, and hardly less adapted "to the railroad, to the steamship," or any other nineteenth century invention or natural research than the natives of Sheffield or Birmingham themselves. But lack of communication with other countries, and especially with those which were in former times, and yet are, the fountain-heads of that special activity; and, in addition, the Mahometan drug, which paralyses whatever it does not kill outright, have kept them back in the intellectual race, to be outrun by others more favoured by circumstances, though not perhaps by nature. When the Koran and Mecca shall have disappeared from Arabia, then, and then only, can we seriously expect to see the Arab assume that place in the ranks of civilisation from which Mahomet and his book have, more than any other individual cause, long held him back.—Palgrave's *Central and Eastern Arabia*.

Poetry.

CASTLES IN THE AIR.

By T. J. SWAIN.

Sad ones who traverse life's broad road of sorrow,
Whose crosses and trials are heavy to bear,
Oft at times a respite from their misery borrow
In the glorious castles they build in the air.

They behold, whilst thus seated in solitude dreaming,
The fulfilment of wishes their minds held most dear,
And life's purest joys by Hope's silver lamp gleaming
Before their elysian fancies appear.

They imagine themselves to be once more partaking
Of innocent pleasures with those they love best,
And tho' their fond day-dream must have its sad waking,
It soothes the tried spirit and lulls it to rest.

Thus they rise from their musings refresh'd and assisted
In encount'ring their troublesome burden of care;
The most desolate beings that ever existed
Have found solace in castles they built in the air.

For a visit to fairy land softens affliction,
Relieves the full heart when 'tis bursting with woe,
And acts like the charm of a friend's kind prediction
In light'ning our sorrow whilst suffering below.

Then let us with thankfulness bless the Almighty
Who sends us such visions to mitigate pain,
And illumines the future before us more brightly
With a foretaste of happiness dawning again.

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 20TH, 1866.

Tuesday, 16th.—INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.
Wednesday, 17th.—SOCIETY OF ARTS.—"On Automatic Telegraphy." By Alexander Bain, Esq.
Thursday, 18th.—CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Their Serene Highnesses Prince and Princess Hermann, of Hohenlohe, arrived at Osborne on Saturday last on a visit to her Majesty, and were met at Trinity Pier, East Cowes, by his Royal Highness Prince Arthur, attended by Major Elphinstone. Her Majesty, their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena, Princess Louise, and Prince Arthur attended Divine service at Osborne, on Sunday last, which was performed by the Rev. G. Prothero. Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice attended the service at Whippingham Church. The Queen has honoured Miss Durant with sittings for the medallion of her Majesty, to be placed in Wolsey's Chapel. Prince Arthur, attended by Major Elphinstone, returned on Wednesday to the Ranger's House, Greenwich Park.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The Registrar General has been able to add Sheffield and Newcastle-upon-Tyne to the other towns that send him in weekly returns of their bills of mortality, so that the return comprises 13 large towns, containing a population of more than six millions of souls. The mortality over these towns is at the rate of 30 in the thousand. Edinburgh is lowest in the scale, and London next, their proportion being 25 and 26. Liverpool this week is quite frightful; its rate of mortality is 45, or 20 beyond Edinburgh, and 15 beyond the average rate. Even the next highest in the scale, the newly added town of Newcastle, drops 9 below it. The total number of deaths was 3,940, of which 1,520 took place in London, being 65 below the estimated rate for the metropolis,

and less by 83 than in the previous week. The births in all the towns amounted to 6,353, of whom 2,252 belong to London. This was nearly 200 beyond the London birth average. —A meeting of the Middlesex magistrates was held on the 4th inst. in reference to the cattle plague. The chairman introduced the subject, and advocated the closing of the Metropolitan Cattle Market for a time. It seems that the Lord Mayor and City authorities have the power of closing the market by order; but the Middlesex magistrates can effect the same object in another way. They can order that no cattle shall be driven from one part of the country to another, provided that in being removed the cattle travel on or cross a turnpike road. The chairman of the magistrates and others of the court were in favour of adopting this course, and thus virtually closing the market by not allowing cattle to be driven there. An amendment was, however, moved to this suggestion, and that amendment was carried. It provides for further consideration of the matter. —Patrick Welsh, who was sentenced to death for murder at the last Leeds assizes, has had that sentence commuted to one of penal servitude for life. —The two men, Farrell and Butler, who were charged a few days ago with endeavouring to induce a soldier to desert and join the Fenian conspiracy were brought up again at the Thames Police Court, on the 5th inst. Some further evidence was forthcoming, from which it would seem that part of the military clothes found in Farrell's house belonged to soldiers who had deserted from their regiments. It is said the police have information to show that the prisoners have been engaged for some time in inducing soldiers to desert. Both men were remanded. —At the Westminster Police-court, Mr. Selfe gave his decision as to the application for a summons calling on Sir Charles Fox to answer a charge of perjury in regard to his evidence in the case of *Clare v. the Queen*. Mr. Selfe reviewed the statements that had been made to induce him to grant the summons, and decided that they were not sufficient to warrant him in issuing the summons. —The Board of Trade inquiry into the collision in the Channel between the *Samphire* and the *Fanny Buck* was brought to a close on Saturday last. Captain Bennett handed in a statement in his defence, and counsel addressed the court. After an hour's deliberation the Mayor of Dover announced the decision of the court. It was that Captain Bennett was blameable for having driven the *Samphire* at so high a rate of speed on such a dark and foggy night; but this blame was lessened by the further expression of opinion that the Post Office and passengers make the great speed essential. In the end, Captain Bennett had his certificate handed back to him. The official report of the court will not be published for several days. —Eli Sykes, the young man who was convicted at the late Leeds assizes of the murder of a young woman and her mother at Dewsbury, is dead. Some days ago, since his conviction, he threw himself over the railing of a staircase in Armley Gaol and injured himself fearfully. From the effects of these injuries he died. —Another of the Fenians has been tried, convicted, and sentenced. Charles Kickham was one of the men captured at the same time that Stephens was taken. He is very deaf, and the trial was rather a tedious affair. He has been sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude. —The tenant farmers appear to be taking active measures to obtain a mitigation of the evils inflicted upon them by the game laws. One of their number in Norfolk has suggested that a memorial should be presented to the Prince of Wales, asking him to use his influence to obtain a lessening of the injury done by excessive game preserving. The memorial he suggests appears to be a fairly out-spoken document. The tenant farmers, however, will have slight chance of obtaining relief until they

make the matter a hustings question, and, disregarding landlord influence, return men belonging to their own body, or who may be trusted to oppose the game laws in the House of Parliament. A case well worthy of notice was heard at Bow-street Police-court on Saturday last. The landlady of a public-house in the Strand was charged with having her house open at forbidden hours on the morning of December 23rd last. A policeman was examined, and made statements as to the alleged offence, which, if true, would have rendered the defendant liable to fine. But she was able to call three gentlemen as witnesses who disproved the accuracy of the policeman's statement. Mr. Vaughan dismissed the summons, and very properly denounced the conduct of the policeman as a poisoning of the fountain head of justice.—A strange case of suicide was inquired into on Saturday last by a jury under the direction of Dr. Lankester. A Mr. Steele, a law stationer, had been found dead in his chambers in Chancery-lane. It was thought at first that he had died from natural causes, but on closer examination it was found that he had adopted Hamlet's suggestion, and "his quietus made with a bare bodkin." He had stabbed himself under the left breast with a stationer's bodkin, which, penetrating the heart, had caused his death instantaneously. The jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity. It is positively stated that the report that Mr. Goschen was to be appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is well founded, and that he has actually accepted the office.—A fearful gale, or rather a succession of heavy squalls, raged over London for several hours on Monday morning. In one of these squalls, about noon, the roof of a house in Fleet-street was blown bodily into the roadway, fortunately without hurting anybody. A good deal of damage was done elsewhere in London.—Three young men—two of whom were described on the charge-sheet as gentlemen—were brought up at Worship-street Police-court on Monday, charged with cruelty to animals. On Saturday night the prisoners were going homewards, having with them three dogs. These dogs they incited to worry the cats that were unfortunate enough to come in their way. In a very short distance no less than three cats were thus mangled and killed. The magistrate sentenced each of the prisoners to pay a fine of 40s. and costs.—The Mansion House committee, formed four years ago for the relief of distress in Lancashire held its last meeting on Tuesday. It appeared from the report that considerably over half a million sterling had been received, and the greater portion of it distributed, together with a large amount of clothing, blankets, &c. There was still nearly £10,000 in hand. A proposal was made to form out of this sum the nucleus of a fund for improving the dwellings of the poor, but the majority of the committee were of opinion that they had no power to divert the money of the subscribers to other objects than that for which it was subscribed; so they agreed to lock it up in the funds.—Charles Christopher Robinson, a youth of 19, who was condemned to death for the murder of a girl named Seager, at Batley, in Staffordshire, was executed in front of Stafford jail on Tuesday morning. Efforts had been made to obtain a commutation of the sentence on the plea of insanity, but the Home Secretary declined to interfere. There were about 4,000 persons present to witness the execution, but their conduct was upon the whole orderly. It is said that the convict made a statement to the chaplain, but with a condition that it should not be given to the public.—The Mansion House on Wednesday was the scene of a pleasant ceremony. A number of Jewish gentlemen, deputed by the vestry of the Great Synagogue, waited upon the Lord Mayor to present him with an address of congratulation. The Lord Mayor acknowledged the address in a brief manly speech, in which he

made graceful allusion to the fact that intolerance was certainly not a failing of the Corporation.—At the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday William Shirley was tried on a charge of shooting with a pistol at Mr. Hus, a lamp manufacturer in Lambeth. It will be remembered that the firing of the pistol took place in the manufactory of Mr. Hus, who was wounded. The prisoner also was wounded, and he declared that Mr. Hus attacked him first, and that in seeking to wrest the pistol from Hus that individual was injured. This was the defence set up at the trial. The jury acquitted the prisoner.—A melancholy case of wife killing occurred on Tuesday night at Paddington. A paperhanger named Ringwood and his wife were in a beer-shop together when the woman began abusing him. After hearing this some time he took up a knife and stabbed her in the neck. She died almost instantly. He was brought up at the Marylebone Police-court on Wednesday, and remanded. It is stated that the woman was given to drunken habits, and that the prisoner had repeatedly paid fines which had been imposed upon her for drunkenness. They had nine children, who have been taken to the workhouse. They were in a deplorable condition.—We have the report of an incendiary fire in Yorkshire. On Wednesday morning early a fire was discovered in the stackyard of a farmer living near Hessle, a village close to Hull. Several stacks of corn were destroyed before a mastery was got over the flames. A man against whom there is cause for suspicion was arrested and charged with having caused the fire. At Brigg, in North Lincolnshire, there was an incendiary fire on Monday night. It is to be hoped that these are not the forerunners of a series of stack-burnings such as disgraced Yorkshire last winter.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The French and Austrian friendship is still the subject of discussion on the Continent. It is asked, how will Austria act with respect to Venetia if she and France are to draw closer together? In her conduct she does not seem as if she contemplated any evacuation of that province. The municipality of Venice is severed completely from the Venetian territory, and the order for a new constitution seems intended to rivet still firmer the chains of the Venetians.—A Madrid telegram says that the military insurgents of Ocana, after leaving that place, broke down the bridges over the Tagus to delay the troops sent in pursuit of them. If this be true, the insurgents are no mere rabble. It is worthy of notice that almost every revolution in Spain has been of a military character. The army, or part of it, has revolted, and, putting a general at its head, has conquered its opponents. The authorities say that General Prim is at the head of the insurgents, who, to the number of 600, were marching towards Tarrancon. The garrison of Avila, 300 strong, had also revolted, but were refused admission to Zamora, where the garrison remained loyal. Great efforts are being made by the authorities, however, to represent the rising as of no significance. The Minister of the Interior had informed the Cortes that order would be soon re-established. He proceeded to say that the revolt was the work of the Progressists, and was promptly contradicted on that head by a Progressist member of the Cortes. There is, however, the ugly fact that it has been thought necessary to put Madrid under martial law and to stop the distribution of the opposition papers. Marshal O'Donnell had inspected the barracks in Madrid, had been received with cries of "Viva la Reina!" He, it is stated, has admitted that the affair is a very serious one, and that a wide-spread conspiracy had existed.—The telegraph brings important news from Madrid. A rumour, which we should be disposed to think well founded, prevailed in that city that General Prim had defeated the column commanded by General Coucha (the Marquis de Duero)

and that Marshal Serrano had gone to the defeated general's assistance. A correspondent at Madrid says that the impression there was that if Prim could succeed in defeating one of his opponents he would rally numbers of the soldiery round the insurgent standard. The probability is that this result will follow on the battle with Concha, and that the insurrection will become much more formidable. Already it is clear that there are more than one band of insurgents in the field, and it will not be matter of much surprise if we should hear shortly of other victories over the government forces. A state of siege has been proclaimed in Arragon. At Barcelona the people who gathered together for a demonstration against the government were dispersed by the firing upon them by the military.—A telegram from Rome asserts that, owing to the measures taken by the Papal Government, brigandage is entirely put down. The brigands have, it seems, acted a good deal like Colonel Crockett's 'coon. "Are you in earnest, Colonel," said the sagacious animal, when that hero pointed his gun at him. "I guess I am," was the reply. "Then I'll just come down and save you the trouble of shooting." If we may believe the reports that have come to hand, this is just the course the brigands have taken. When once they were convinced that the papal authorities were in earnest, they "came down."—Owing to the very stormy weather, Earl Cowley, who had been on a visit to England, was unable to cross the channel in time to be present at the New Year's Day reception by the Emperor of the ambassadors. His lordship, on arriving in Paris, solicited a special audience to express to the Emperor the good wishes of the Queen for the new year. The audience was granted, and took place on Saturday afternoon.—We understand that Mr. Ingham, of Palermo, has generously subscribed the handsome amount of £3,000 towards the erection of Himslet Moor Church, Leeds, the total estimated cost of the church being £5,000. The design of the church is by Messrs. Perkin and Son, of Leeds.—Mr. Ingham has taken great interest in the subject of church buildings both in Sicily and at home. The Emperor Napoleon on Wednesday received M. Van Praet, whose duty it was to notify to his Majesty the accession of Leopold II. to the Belgian throne. Of this fact, of course, the Emperor was long ago aware; but emperors must make sacrifices at the diplomatic and state altar. Hence this audience. It meant nothing but a form, though we should be sorry to say that the friendly things which the Emperor said to M. Van Praet were merely formal.—It seems as if the union between Transylvania and Hungary would really be accomplished. An Imperial rescript has prorogued the Transylvanian Diet, and ordered the deputies to appear at the Diet of Pesth. There is no doubt the question of union will be discussed.

AMERICA.—The *Java* brings news from New York to Dec. 27. The telegram of that news speaks again of fears in the Southern States of a negro rising about Christmas, and as if to give support to these fears mention is made of two negro disturbances in Virginia. There is not much ground, we imagine, for these reports. The slaveholders were always fearing negro insurrections, and they are not yet so well accustomed to the new order of things as to have mastered their fears. It is stated that General Grant is to visit the Rio Grande in the flagship of the Gulf squadron. From Mexico there comes a report of a rising against the Emperor Maximilian. We are told, however, that the report is "doubtful." Another rumour which has reached New York, was that Juarez had resigned his presidency. Gold on the morning of the 27th of December was quoted at 145½. We have news from the United States to the 30th of December last. The Radicals were dissatisfied with Mr. Johnson's reconstruction policy, and through General

Wilson, one of the most trusty of their leaders, had notified to him their want of confidence. The President, however, who is sustained by the Democrats and the Conservative Republicans, expressed his determination to adhere to his views.—Various rumours relative to Mexico are current at Washington. One attributing to the great European Powers an alliance for keeping Maximilian on the throne is too absurd to be more than mentioned. Another rumour, to the effect that France has promised to withdraw her troops from Mexico if the United States will undertake to abstain from attacking the Emperor, is more probable.

INDIA; CHINA, &c.—We have a telegram from Bombay by way of Alexandria. The news is to December 13. There were rumours of disturbances in the Afghan States, but not of a nature to affect British interests. Some fears were felt as to the stability of the Bhootan peace. Sir Bartle Frere had met the South Mahratta chiefs in Durbar and addressed them in their own language. Money was in demand at Bombay, and the cotton and piece goods markets were steady. Several shipping disasters are reported.—A telegram from Shanghai tells us that the Mikado of Japan has given his formal sanction to the ratification of the commercial treaty, and that the ports of Osaca and Hiogo were to be opened for trade on the 1st of January.—The anti-foreign party at Pekin were gaining power and endeavouring to carry out an exclusive policy. Articles of war were being manufactured in large quantities. Sir Rutherford Alcock had, however, arrived at Pekin, and it is to be hoped that he will be able to settle all difficulties. Trade was brisk. The cotton crop had failed.—From Japan we have news directly contradicting that contained in a recent telegram. It was stated that the Mikado had consented to the opening of the ports of Osaca and Hiogo. We are now assured that he has positively refused to open these ports. A Chamber of Commerce has been established at Yokohama.

AUSTRALIA.—The difficulty between the Government and the Legislative Council of Victoria appears to be no nearer settlement. A telegram from Melbourne, dated November 26th, informs us that the Legislative Council had refused to pass the Tariff Bill. The Ministers, who had received a majority on a vote of want of confidence in the Legislative Assembly, had hereupon refused to bring in the Approximation Bill, had prorogued Parliament, and had announced that they would appeal to the country. A petition praying for the removal of the Governor had been very numerous signed, and, as may be readily conceived, great dissatisfaction prevailed.—By way of Sydney we have news from New Zealand later than that already published. It tells of many fights with the natives. At Opotiki several of the Maories had been shot, and among them one of the murderers of Mr. Volkeur. The Kawa Pah had been captured, the rebels suffering great loss. At Poverty and Hawkes Bays the natives were laying down their arms.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * All communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS.—Subscribers who are in arrears are requested to forward without delay the amounts due from them by Post-office Order, payable to the Proprietor, Bro. William Smith, C.E., 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ERRATUM.—In the report which appeared in our last issue of the meeting of the Lodge of Perseverance (No. 345), Blackburn, it should have been stated that about ninety brethren, instead of about thirty brethren, sat down to banquet.

P.M.—The "Book of Constitutions," you will find, clearly provides for the contingency to which you refer. Our opinion coincides with what is therein stated.

A MARK MASON IN TURKEY will be answered in our next.

T.—The remark was an uncharitable one on the part of th brother, but we advise you to forget it rather than make it a grievance.