

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1866.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE LODGE OF
FREEMASONS AT THORNHILL.*By D. MURRAY LYON, one of the Grand Stewards in the
Grand Lodge of Scotland.**(Continued from page 383.)*

The first foundation-stone laid under the immediate auspices of St. John's, Thornhill, was that of its own hall, April 4, 1834, the R.W. Bro. W. M'Lachlan, presiding—the brethren afterwards dining together in honour of the great occasion.

To place the corner-stone of the New Parish Church of Morton was the next public act of the Thornhill Lodge, work peculiarly appropriate to a Fraternity professing to be the handmaid to religion. On the forenoon of the 11th of May, 1840, after entering three candidates, the lodge, accompanied by most respectable deputations of brethren from Cumnock and Dumfries, the clergymen and other influential gentlemen in the district, proceeded to the site of the proposed building, and laid its foundation according to the rules of Masonry.

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The third instance of St. John's trowel being employed in preparing a bed for the reception of a corner-stone was at the site of the Cample Bridge, Sep. 10, 1847. The R.W. Bro. James M'Lachlan presided, and deputations were present from the Lodges Kilwinning, Dumfries; St. Magdalene, Lochmaben; Quhytewoolen, Lockerby. In the procession appeared the Town Council, and the Thornhill Lodge of Oddfellows, the two latter-named bodies being invited to dine with the lodge, on the express understanding that they (the neutrals) should "retire in half an hour after the dinner is over." Whether the Council or the Oddfellows accepted an invitation qualified with so undignified a condition cannot be ascertained from the minutes of the day's proceedings; but it is recorded that the dinner in question was attended by upwards of eighty brethren.

The placing of the key-stone of the Cample Viaduct, March 24, 1842, was also the occasion of another public demonstration by the lodge, which went in procession to Closeburn Hall, where it was joined by Bro. Sir James Stuart Menteth, Bart (a member of St. Luke's, Edinburgh, and an Honorary Member of No. 252), who, acceding to

the request of the R.W. Bro. Robert Brown, accompanied the lodge to the Cample and there performed the ceremony in true Masonic style.

Sir James Menteth is again found elongating his C.: T.: that he might the better serve the Thornhill Lodge, when it met on the 7th of June, 1850, for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone of Thornhill Railway Station-house. Having assumed the hiram, Sir James directed the Craft in their mystic work, gave it the finishing stroke, and thereafter in eloquent terms addressed the assemblage.

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The next corner-stone planted by St. John's, was that of the Union Bank at Thornhill in 1852. Bro. Dr. Pringle of Lawnhall was the Acting Master, and the Dumfries and Lochmaben Lodges were represented by deputations.

The Lodge having, as we have seen, been called to erect its Doric column over against the site of a temple dedicated to Masonry, Virtue, Universal Charity, and Benevolence—of an edifice dedicated to religion—and of works closely allied with the commercial greatness of this country, the Tyrian monarch next unveiled the emblem of his mystic rule at the corner-stone of a building to be erected, not for oppressing the poor, who, we know on Divine authority, are ever with us, but to afford a refuge to those who are helpless and have no one to take care of them. It was by request of the lodge that its Proxy Master, Bro. Dr. M'Cowan, presided at laying the foundation-stone of the Upper Nithsdale Combination Poor House, 4th August, 1854.

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The laying of yet another foundation-stone by the lodge No. 252, remains to be chronicled—that of the new Parish School-house of Morton, August 23, 1864. Responding to an invitation from the proper quarter, the brethren, to the number of seventy, repaired to the site of the building, where the ceremony began by the instrumental band playing the national anthem. This was followed by the Chaplain of the lodge offering up an impressive and well-ordered prayer; on the conclusion of which, the Treasurer and Secretary deposited in the hollow of the stone a couple of hermetically-sealed jars containing the current coins of the realm, newspapers, &c. It is unnecessary further to particularise the details of a ceremony with which all are so familiar. Suffice it to say that the Wardens and other officiating

office-bearers, greatly aided the R.W.M. in the graceful and effective execution of the work for which the lodge had specially met.

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The procession was reformed, the lodge returned to Freemasons' Hall, where, amid the huzzas of willing workmen, the Corinthian column was upreared, its delicate and graceful proportions eclipsing for a time the robust solidity of its baseless companion in the west, whose temporary prostration seemed to be viewed not with indifference merely, but with every manifestation of delight—the working tools were replaced by flowing bowls, mirth and glee resounded through the hall, and the cares of life were forgotten amid the harmony which prevailed. At length an ominous movement reminded the Craft of the evanescent nature of sublunary enjoyments, and the recumbent monarch in the West, like a giant refreshed, resuming his ancient sway, in due time and in ample form dispersed his subjects to their respective stations in the neutral world.

Of the foundation-stones which the lodge of Thornhill has aided in planting, the following is a summary:—That of a church at Lochmaben, April 1818; bridge at Annan, April 1825; bridge over the River Milk at Lockerby, July, 1834; St. Mary's Church, Dumfries, May, 1837; Manse at Lochmaben, April, 1839; Caledonian Railway Station-house at Lockerby, May, 1847; Victoria Bridge, over the Clyde, at Glasgow, March, 1851; bridge at Lockerby, July, 1851; bank at Lochmaben, May, 1852; new poorhouse at Dumfries, July, 1853; Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, June, 1858; Wallace Monument at the Abbey Craig, near Stirling, June, 1862; new bridge over the Nith at New Cumnock, August, 1863; Mechanics' Institute at Lockerby, January, 1865.

St. John's took part in the installation of the present P.G.M. of Dumfriesshire in 1853; and was represented by deputation at the consecration of the Lodge St. John's, New Galloway, May, 1823, as well as that of St. Thomas Kilwinning, Dalmellington, Ayrshire, January, 1865. It is worthy of mention that at the latter affair, when by some oversight the Provincial Grand Wardens' columns were wanting, the courteous offer of those belonging to St. John's, Thornhill, was cheerfully accepted by the Provincial Grand Master; so that the brethren of Nithsdale enjoyed the rare privilege of contributing strength and beauty to a Provincial Grand Lodge temporarily erected

among the hills which overhang the source of the classic doon, and presided over by the Master of Mother Kilwinning.

Although by a majority of its members No. 252 declined to send a deputation to the Masonic inauguration of the equestrian statue in honour of the Duke of Wellington, at Edinburgh, June, 1852, the lodge was represented on that occasion by brethren who spiritedly paid their own expenses; and under precisely similar circumstances was St. John's represented in the Funeral Grand Lodge held at Edinburgh, February, 1864, in memory of the deceased Grand Master, the Duke of Athole. The inauguration of the statue of the late Earl of Eglinton, erected at Ayr, took place on the 21st October, 1865, in the presence of the largest assemblage of Freemasons ever before witnessed in the south-west of Scotland; and of the thirty-two lodges which attended, No. 252 formed one.

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In January, 1860, No. 252 was represented at the centenary meeting of St. Andrew, Annan; and in the same year a deputation crossed the border to fraternise with Union, Carlisle, No. 389, in its celebration of the anniversary of her Majesty's accession to the throne. Besides giving attendance as already indicated, St. John's has seldom, on ordinary occasions even, "sat the call of a brother," fraternising not only with its more immediate neighbours, but extending the grip fraternal to its sisters of New Cumnock Castle-Douglas, and other distant places. And, to its credit be it said, there is not a single instance on record of its ever having been embroiled in unseemly disputation with any one of its numerous Masonic contemporaries—so filled are its members with the leaven of brotherly love.

The restoration of peace to our country, and the anniversary of our Most Gracious Majesty's birthday, were celebrated by a public procession of the brethren, May 29, 1856; and in the public rejoicings over the marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, St. John's, like other lodges of Freemasons, mingled perfumes of the sweetest odour with the incense ascending from the thousand censers which the loyalty of the British public had charged in honour of an event, the consummation of which has rendered the 10th of March, 1863, a day for ever memorable in the nation's history. Some there were who questioned the propriety of any Masonic demonstration on the

bridal day, on the ground of the Prince not being frater, nor yet the son of one: but though this be true, the Royal Family have been so intimately connected with Freemasonry that it would have ill become the brethren to have remained quiescent amid the universal outburst of loyalty which the nuptials of the grandson of his late Royal Highness Bro. the Duke of Kent had called forth; for to the father of her Majesty were the Craft laid under the deepest obligations. One of the most accomplished of British Craftsmen, he rendered signal service in the reorganisation in Scotland of the degree of Knight Templar at a period in the history of the high grades when these had become so identified with illegitimate Masonry as to lead to their repudiation by all who wished to see Royal Arch and Knight Templary placed under the jurisdiction of properly constituted Heads in each country; and the wise and energetic steps taken by the Duke of Kent to facilitate the erection of the Supreme Grand Encampment of Scotland, led ultimately to the formation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. It is well known that the late lamented father of the Prince of Wales declined to become a freemason, when on a visit with her Majesty to his country some years ago he was invited by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to do so; but it is not so generally known that the death of Bro. the Duke of Sussex had an important bearing with regard to the connection of Prince Albert with Freemasonry. From the period of Victoria's accession to the throne, her uncle, the Duke of Sussex, had been her principal adviser and guide, and, acting the part of a father to his youthful Sovereign, he it was who gave her away to Prince Albert at the altar in the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, six-and-twenty years ago. The Duke was then the Grand Master Mason of England, and holding such a prominent position among the Craft, and at the same time continuing to occupy to some extent the position of counsellor to the young couple, it may naturally be inferred that Freemasonry would, in his frequent interviews with the Prince, form the subject of conversation. That such was really the case is placed beyond doubt, it being stated on the authority of the *London Freemasons' Magazine*, that "prior to the last illness of the Duke of Sussex it had been arranged to have a special meeting of a lodge at Kensington Palace for the purpose of initiating Prince Albert, but the death of his Royal Highness caused the postponement of the ceremony.

Subsequently, under the advice of Sir Robert Peel that he should not in any way connect himself with any party in the State, the Prince abstained from joining the Order—Sir Robert, who was not a Mason, evidently having formed an erroneous impression of the Craft, not being aware how studiously Freemasons, as such, keep themselves aloof from politics." Had the Duke of Sussex, then, not died at the time he did, in all probability the late Prince Consort would have joined the Fraternity, and, as a *lewis*, the Prince of Wales might ere this have claimed the privileges belonging to one in that favoured position.

LODGE OFFICERS, THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES.

Continuation of a Lecture delivered before Stella Lodge (No. 485, N.Y., U.S.).

(Continued from page 407.)

THE SECRETARY *(Continued).*

The bad habit of writing the minutes on loose scraps of paper, and making short-hand notes, illegible to himself or any one else five minutes after they are made, should be sedulously avoided; the practice, apart from its slovenliness, involves a dependence on memory, which, somehow or other, invariably fails us when we charge it with a miscellaneous collection of odds and ends, so that the Secretary who flatters himself that he can next day recollect everything which transpired at the lodge will be apt to find more than one item turn up missing.

It is a good plan, in making the final copy, to give each item a paragraph by itself, to separate them by a blank line, and to make the marginal notes before referred to in red ink.

The charge to the Secretary at his installation describes, as part of his duty, that "he is to receive all money from the hands of the brethren." This is an onerous and delicate duty, from the performance of which, in a lodge of extended membership, he ought to be relieved either by the appointment of an assistant, or, as is the practice in European lodges, by making it the duty of the Treasurer to receive the money due to the lodge, as well as pay out such sums as may be ordered. In advocating such a change we are not to be charged with a desire to remove the landmarks; for the office of Secretary is not a landmark at all, having only come into existence since the revival of 1717, none being required in the occasional

lodges held previous to that time. In the lodge to which we belong the members pay their dues to the Treasurer, and he furnishes a minute of the names and amounts to the Secretary, who is thus enabled to devote his whole attention to the business of the lodge. But while we continue to work as at present, and the Secretary is expected to keep all the accounts of the lodge, he should be specially careful in all money transactions to keep memory entirely out of the question, and depend only on the written record. He should never consent to receive a dime from a brother without at once committing the fact to writing, for his own guidance, and giving his receipt to the brother as a safeguard against any future trouble. There are plenty of men who spend their money with great freedom and entertain no pangs for their liberality; but those are the very ones who will not quietly submit to any question of money matters in which they think themselves right. Such a man is apt to think he has paid because he is in the habit of recurring to his pocket-book on the slightest provocation; still he may have neglected one or more quarterly payments from mere forgetfulness, or he may have paid with the remark of careless men, "Scratch it off." This the Secretary may have forgotten to do, and thus the whole business is reduced to a question of memory, and ultimately to one of veracity. When a man's veracity is questioned, he, to use a vulgarism, "gets his back up," and the feeling between a brother thus situated and the Secretary being mutual, they are in position for a quarrel. Suspicion creeps in and suggests to each the certainty that the other is trying to wrong him, bad blood ensues, and the friendly union of the Craft is destroyed. Brother Secretary cannot too carefully guard against such occurrences, and as long as he is compelled to receive lodge money at all, let him keep a record between himself and trouble. Finally, it may be said of this officer that a careful attention to his duties is the very best preparatory school for preparing the mind to weigh and decipher the various questions submitted, and to make him competent to accept the position of Warden, and ultimately to rule and govern the lodge.

THE DEACONS.

It is a matter of some doubt when these officers were first recognised as a part of the official staff of a subordinate lodge, probably when, after the defection of Lawrence Dermott, the mania for ex-

tending and embellishing the ritual took possession of the English Craft. As we now have it, the Senior Deacon is the special proxy of the Master, to carry messages from him to the west and elsewhere about the body. The Junior Deacon holds a similar relation to the Senior Warden; but is, in American lodges, more particularly charged with guarding the inner door. These officers, in the discharge of their duties, are authorised to move about the lodge, and this is a privilege which, during the hours of labour, is reserved to them. In the good old times the brethren never left their places to run about the lodge, as we so frequently see at present. They not only refrained from holding private committees and conversations, but remained in their places unless they had special permission to leave them. It is respectfully submitted that we cannot too carefully avoid the free and easy style which marks the sessions of Congress, which permits the members to put their feet over the back of the seat in front of them, to gather in groups around a speaker, and to turn the representative wisdom of the nation into a bear garden. Our meetings, more than all others, should be in the highest degree decorous and orderly, and every member should not only refrain from indecorum himself, but aid by his influence and example in preserving that calm and quiet dignity which belong to the Institution. The feature of the Senior Deacon's position, however, is in the fact that upon him devolves, among other things, the reception of visiting brethren. In our great cities, and among our prominent lodges, the custom of visiting is so common that no notice whatever is taken of brethren not members of the lodge: they are supposed to know what to do, and are left to do it in the way most convenient and agreeable to themselves—no one apparently deeming it worth his while to inquire whether a visiting brother is an entire stranger from abroad or a member of some neighbouring lodge, used to the "sloshing around" style which prevails among us; but it is respectfully submitted that justice to ourselves and a moderate degree of deference to the usages of civilised society demand a better state of things. I hazard nothing in saying that there is no member of the Fraternity who would not instinctively take off his hat in the presence of a lady, who would not step out into the muddy street to allow an aged person to pass, who, when a friend or a stranger calls on him, does not receive him politely, and listen patiently to any

communication he may have to make, who would not blush if he failed to offer him a seat and otherwise tender those little civilities which are to be had at such a moderate price, and yet go so far toward taking off the rough edges and making social intercourse pleasant. Now the lodge room is our Masonic home, and all who come to visit us are our brethren, bound to us by the mystic tie of our solemn engagements, having a claim upon us and our good offices which the profane cannot equal, and still we allow them to come and go without offering them the cheap sacrifice of a welcome, or bestirring ourselves to the extent of ascertaining that they are made as comfortable as our means permit. There is, however, no good reason why we should not be as polite in the lodge room as in the parlour, nor any why we should leave our civility in the anteroom with our overcoats. On the contrary, we should treat the visiting brother as a welcome guest, make him feel that he is in the house of a brother who is glad to enjoy his company, and so commend ourselves and our lodge that his visit will be to him a source of pleasant recollection. Several cases have recently come to my knowledge where brethren attempting to visit in a neighbouring State have been left to cool their heels for an hour or so, and then been obliged to leave without being able to obtain a hearing. I do not for a moment suppose that such an occurrence could take place here; but I mention it to show that there is room for improvement in the matter of politeness.

You will scarcely need to be reminded that when a visitor is admitted during labour every brother is not expected to rise from his place to surround and shake hands with the new comer, or to offer him his seat; for the confusion thus created would be intolerable; but you will, I think, agree with me that the Senior Deacon may and ought to make it a part of his duty to represent the lodge, and in this respect to dispense its hospitalities.

THE STEWARDS, OR MASTERS OF CEREMONIES.

These officers, once charged with the most important functions, have now come to be mere aids in the performance of the ritual. In the days when refreshment meant to take something, when a lodge meeting was incomplete without a supper and the trimmings, when the moral design of the society was made subordinate to the physical contentment of the members, when the best trencherman was the man to be looked up to, when skill

in handling the fork and emptying the glass obtained for its possessor a certain reputation: in those days the Stewards were men of mark, as they are in England to-day; for the Stewards of the annual feast given by the Grand Lodge in June pay about seventy-five dollars each for the honour of directing the banquet. In former days the system prevailed here, and either the dry nature of our climate or the tendency of our people to carry everything to extremes gradually converted Masonry into a vast dining-room, where the table was always spread, and where there were no checks to be presented at the bar. The evil grew to such an extent that it was found expedient by the Grand Lodge to cut it off as the man did the dog's tail—right behind the ears; and since that time the Stewards, like Shakspeare's hero, find their occupation gone. They are in most lodges replaced by the Masters of Ceremonies. Their duties are accessory to those of the Senior Deacon, and as they are the first to come officially in contact with aspirants for our mysteries, the remarks offered in speaking of the Deacons may be commended to their appreciation.

THE TYLER,

Though last in the list of officers, is far from being the least important. In fact, without him the lodge could not proceed to business; nor would it be safe to continue should he, after the commencement of labour, desert his post. He should be a reliable man, and a man who would discharge the duties of his position not only with firmness but with courtesy. While he is to exercise the utmost caution that none pass or repass without the requisite permission, it does not follow that he is to regard everyone approaching his station, as a Cowan, nor answer a civil question as if he were afraid his answer might be used against him in a suit for defamation of character. A friend of mine lately visited the anteroom of a lodge, and told the Tyler that he was a stranger, desirous of visiting and anxious to be examined. The Tyler vouchsafed a nod, but disdained any further action; after a time the would-be-visitor thought the Tyler appeared to be watching him as if he suspected he was about to carry off an old arm-chair in which he was sitting, while in his own mind the conviction was gradually forcing itself upon him that he had fallen into the company of a boor, and to avoid the painful necessity of deciding he left the premises. Now there is no warrant for

any such conduct on the part of the Tyler. It is his business to know the business of every person in the anteroom. If they desire to visit he should at once furnish them with card and pencil, and send the name in, that the visitor may be admitted if known, or examined if not. He should see that there be no unnecessary loitering or loud conversation in his apartment, and especially that it be not used as a club-room for the discussion of talk and tobacco; but, withal, he should be a gentleman, and command respect by firm but urbane discharge of duty.

Finally, I may renew the advice to select the best men for every station in the lodge. Many brethren are placed in office because of their genial natures; and yet their geniality does not enable them to second the efforts of the Master in such manner as to be of real utility. In the selection of officers, then, it may be safely adopted as a rule always to put "the right man in the right place."

MONITA SECRETA SOCIETATIS JESU.

SECRET INJUNCTIONS OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS.

(Continued from page 435.)

CHAPTER XIV.

On reserved cases, and reasons for expelling a member from the Society.

1. Besides the cases stated in the Constitutions, in which the Superior on his own authority, or an ordinary confessor by permission of the superior, may grant absolution, there are sodomy, licentiousness, fornication, adultery, rape, illicit contact between male and female, besides making any kind of move against the Society, its honour or utility, under the pretence of zeal or for the sake of the opportunity—all just causes of dismissal.

2. If anyone owns to anything of this kind in confession, he is not to receive absolution, unless he promises to make a similar statement to the superior, either himself or through the instrumentality of the confessor. The superior will thus be enabled to judge what may appear most conducive to the good of the Society, and if there be a well-founded hope of concealing the offender, he is only to be visited with commensurate penance; otherwise he is to be dismissed as soon as possible. But in the meantime the confessor is to take great care that the penitent does not become aware of his being booked (*periclitari*) for expulsion.

3. If any confessor of ours should have learnt from a person, being a stranger, that the latter had committed something shameful with any member of the Society, such person is not to receive the absolution unless he makes known the name of the member in question, besides his confession; and, even after having stated it, he is to be absolved only if he promises on oath never to reveal such fact to any mortal, save with the acquiescence of the Society.

4. If two of our members have carnally sinned, the one who was the first to make the statement is to be kept in the Society, the other to be dismissed; but the one who is retained should thereafter be mortified and ill-used in every possible manner, so as to furnish, by

his bad temper and impatience, a just cause for dismissal, which is to be carried out within a short time.

5. The Society being a noble and eminent body in the Church, may also free itself in the same manner of such persons as may appear to be less appropriate for the carrying out of our works, though they have given satisfaction at the commencement. A suitable opportunity may easily be found. They should be teased continually, treated in a manner most repugnant to their feelings, submitted to severe superiors, kept aloof from studies and posts of honour, &c., until they commence to grumble.

6. Those should by no means be retained who openly show themselves refractory to the superiors, or make complaints, openly or in secret, to companions or even strangers; neither those who animadvert with either on the proceedings of the Society through which it secures the possession or administration of temporal goods, or on its other modes of acting, *i.e.*, crushing (*conculcandi*) and oppressing those who are ill affected to the Society, or who have been expelled, &c.; also those who in conversation support or defend the Venetians, French, and others who have ejected the Society, and at whose hands it has received great injury.

7. Previous to the dismissal, those booked for expulsion are to be treated most severely (*acerrime*); they are to be removed from their habitual offices, and put to one thing or another, however well they may discharge their duties; they are to be censured, and upon such pretext put to a different occupation again. Should they commit any slight fault, they are to be visited with severe punishment. They are to be confounded in public, till they become impatient, and then they may be dismissed as being pernicious to others, but at a time when they expect it least.

8. If any one of our members have any well-founded hope of obtaining a bishopric or some other dignity in the Church, he should be compelled to take one more vow besides the usual ones, *viz.*, to remain always well affected to the Institute of the Society, and speak well of it; never to employ any confessor but one belonging to the Society, and to take no step whatever of any importance, unless he has heard the opinion of the Society previously. Cardinal Toledo not having observed this prescription, the Society obtained from the Holy See an order that in future no descendant of Jews or Mahometans (*perfidie judaice aut mahometice heres*) should be admitted, unless he consent to take this vow, but should be expelled as an enemy of the Society, however great his renown may be.

CHAPTER XV.

How nuns and pious women are to be treated.

1. Confessors and preachers should be very careful not to offend nuns, or afford them any temptations incompatible with their vocation. On the contrary, they are to secure the goodwill of the respective lady superior, with a view to elicit (*excipere*) some extraordinary confession from the nuns, and they may preach to the latter if they find that they are welcome. Noble, and chiefly wealthy abbesses, may indeed do a great deal of good to the Society, either on their own account or through their parents and relations, so that it may readily secure the attention and friendship of a whole city through its acquaintance with the chief nunneries.

2. The pious women of our flocks should, however, be prevented from visiting those nunneries, lest they might take a fancy to the mode of life in use therein, and thus the expectations of the Society, with reference to their goods, be frustrated. Still they should be induced to make to their confessors the vow of chastity and obedience; they are to be taught that this mode of life is in keeping with the manners of the primitive Church, that its light is of a homely kind (*lucentem in domo*), and concealed in a bush, and that the soul may derive great edification and benefit from it. It should be impressed

upon them that they ought to assist Christ in his companions with their possessions, in the manner of those evangelical widows. At last everything that speaks in disfavour of a cloistral life should be laid before, and these instructions given to them, under the seal of silence, so that they cannot reach the ears of nuns.

CHAPTER XVI.

In what manner a show of contempt of wealth is to be made.

1. To prevent the secular clergy charging us with greed, it is expedient sometimes to decline donations of smaller amount offered in consideration of services rendered by the Society, although it is as well to accept even the smallest amounts from those who are well affected to us, for fear lest we might be accused of avarice if we take only the larger gifts.

2. Burials in our temples are to be denied to persons of low standing (*personis villibus*), though they may have been very well affected to the Society, lest it might appear that we seek riches from the plurality of the dead, and the benefits we derive from the deceased become known.

3. With widows and other persons who have bequeathed most of their property to the Society, a more energetical mode of action should be followed, *ceteris paribus*, than with others, that we may not appear to favour them more than these in consideration of their temporal goods. The same is to be observed with regard to members of the Society, but only after they have given up and resigned their property in favour of the Society. If it should be necessary, they may even be dismissed, but with all due discretion, that they may at least leave a portion of what they have given to the Society, and bequeath it to the latter in their will.

CHAPTER XVII.

How to further the interests of the Society.

1. All are to endeavour to be always of one mind in things of little importance, or at least to make it appear so, for in this manner, whatever the troubles of this world may be, the Society will necessarily increase and consolidate itself.

2. Thus, all should try to shine by learning and by their good example, to put into shade all other religious orders, and chiefly the clergy, pastors, &c., to secure our influence with the masses (*vulgus*). It may even be said in public that pastors do not require so much learning, but should only discharge their duties properly, and that it would be expedient for them to avail themselves of the advice of the Society, who have always considerable talent at their command.

3. Kings and princes should be imbued (*foventi*) with this doctrine that the Catholic faith cannot exist in its present state without political tendencies (*politismus*), but in this great caution is necessary. In this manner the members of our Order will become agreeable to the great, and be chosen as their more intimate councillors.

4. These may be fostered also by sending them the most select and averred news from everywhere.

5. It will be of no little avail if the dissensions between noblemen and princes are fostered cautiously and secretly, even at the risk of injuring the power of both (*etiam cum mutui virium infractione*). If there be any apparent chance of their becoming reconciled, the Society is to try as soon as possible to appease them, lest steps to that effect should be taken from another quarter.

6. By every possible means the opinion should be cultivated, chiefly among the vulgar and noblemen, that the establishment of the Society is due to a special divine Providence, according to the prophecies of the Abbot Joachim, in order to free the depressed Church of the heretics.

7. The goodwill of noblemen and bishops once gained, clerical benefices and canonicates should be secured, with a view to the more efficient reformation of the clergy who in former times used to live on a certain rule with

their bishops, and were aspiring towards perfection. Next to this, abbacies and prelacies should be sought after, and may easily be obtained when they become vacant, considering the inertia and stupidity of monks. Indeed, it would be much to the advantage of the Church if all bishoprics were held by the Society, and the latter become even possessed of the Apostolical See, especially if the Pope were to be the temporal prince for all property. To this end the worldly possessions of the Society should be gradually increased by all possible means, but cautiously and in secret, and then, no doubt, there will be a golden age and continual and universal peace, and, consequently, the Church would be in full enjoyment of divine blessings.

8. If the hope of attaining such end be vain, considering that scandals will be inevitable, a different course of policy should be followed for a time, and those princes who employ us with confidence be made to go to war with each other, that the Society may be everywhere asked for and entrusted with the reconciliation of the public, as the originator of the common good, and be indemnified by the chief ecclesiastical benefices and dignities.

9. Lastly, the Society should endeavour to effect at least this, that, having once secured the goodwill and power of princes, it be feared by those who are not favourably inclined towards it.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

PULLING OFF A SHOE.

I have read with interest the following in an American Masonic paper upon the old Masonic custom of "pulling off a shoe":—"The Jews attached a more extended signification to this old Masonic custom of 'pulling off a shoe' than most of your readers understand. 1. Entering the Temple of the Lord, they pulled off their shoes, that no dust or pollution might profane the holy ground. 2. It was the closing or cement of a holy contract among the Eastern nations—the party conveying the right or privilege pulled off his shoe, and gave it to his fellow as a pledge of his fidelity. 3. Among the Jews it was a token of renunciation. Thus the kinsman of Ruth renounced his claim upon her in favour of Boaz. He loosed his shoe from his foot, which showed Ruth was released from all engagements by which the laws of her country had bound her to her nearest of kin.—BETA.

WHY FREEMASONRY IS CALLED UNIVERSAL.

In answer to "Iota," I say that all men who rightly use their reason can, by the Light of Nature, unassisted by revelation, arrive at a knowledge of the Moral Law, of the Soul's Immortality, and of the One God. These are the three essential principles of Freemasonry. All men recognising these principles are admissible into Freemasonry. Now, if all men rightly used their reason, all men would recognise these principles, and, consequently, all men would be admissible into Freemasonry. Hence, as it seems to me, Freemasonry is properly called universal.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

ATHEISM AND FREEMASONRY IN GERMANY.

A brother, who has just finished a three years' continental tour, expresses his surprise that many of the Freemasons in Germany with whom he happened to associate, whatever they may have been when initiated (he suggests that some were Deists, others Mystic Pantheists), had adopted Atheism without

disguise. A little volume by the late Professor Emile Saisset, entitled "Mélanges d'Histoire, de Morale et de Critique," contains a passage which, as it seems to me, sufficiently explains the fact mentioned by my correspondent, a fact which every English member of our excellent Institution, becoming aware of it, must most deeply deplore: "La philosophie allemande, si pure dans Fichte, si noble dans Schelling, si imposante encore dans Hegel, s'est précipitée aux derniers excès de l'Athéisme."—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE ORIGIN OF "FREEMASON."

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In Nos. 360 and 361 of your publication I notice an article by Bro. W. S. Rockwell on the origin of the names of the Fraternity, in which the author treats us to certain etymological researches purporting to extract the phrase "Freemason" from the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. Now, with due deference to Bro. Rockwell's authoritative voice, I crave permission to submit a few observations on his deductions. Voltaire, if I mistake not, or some other heterodox writer, *ejusdem farinae*, says that "etymology is a science, in which consonants count for very little, and vowels for nothing at all." This *dictum*, though somewhat too trenchant, properly depicts the state of the case in many instances. Now, I do not deny that both consonants and vowels may vary, and still the radix of the word remain intact and identical. Thus, *γαῖα* in the Ionic dialect becomes *γῆ* in Attic, and *σα* in Doric, and yet there is but one root to all of them. It is very easy, however, to go beyond the proper bounds in this respect. For an example, I knew many years ago an old German professor, rejoicing in the euphonious name of Hartknoch, who would derive the word *fox* (or *Fuchs* in German) from the Greek *ἀλώπηξ*, by means of an etymological anti-climax, thus:—

alopez, lopez, opex, pex,
pix, pax, pox, fox (or fuchs).

This, I think, is too much of a good thing. If the labial joined to the x sound forms the radix of the animal in question, there is no need for passing through a whole *terra incognita* of nondescripts, for really I do not see what business *pax* and *pox* have to appear in this series.

Much discretion, indeed, should be used in tracing to Oriental sources words belonging to European languages. I admit that the groundwords of most Indo-German idioms may be found in their primitive shape in the Semitic tongues, and whatever the modifications in their outward appearance, these roots will preserve their original character throughout. Thus, the Semitic radix *ab* may be traced, with multifarious variations of the labials, in all languages of Grecian, Latin, and Teutonic origin—*pater*, *vater*, *fädre*, *father*, *padre*, *père*, &c., the same as the radix *am* in *mater*, *mutter*, *moeder*, *mother*, *mādre*, *mère*, &c. Professor Egger, of the Collège de France, has, in his *Grammaire Comparée*, applied the same principle to a score of words in some twelve or fourteen idioms of Europe and Western and Central Asia. But looking for a common origin of the fundamental elements of all these languages is one thing; tracing

to on Oriental source derivatives that belong legitimately to any particular Western tongue, is another. To resort indiscriminately to Hebrew or Egyptian, in order to explain the meaning of words that stand part and parcel of the Anglo-Saxon idiom, may be thought very clever on the other side of the Atlantic, but no English philologist will endorse such an unwarrantable system.

Bro. Rockwell, in investigating into the etymology of the word "Freemason," gives us a very elaborate account of his researches, the long and short of which is that he derives that word from *phre*, the Sun, *mes*, *mes*, or *mas*, regenerates, and *sn*, them, *i.e.*, "the sun regenerates them," otherwise "Sons of Light." This certainly beats Professor Hartknoch hollow. Any man in full enjoyment of his senses would think that Freemason is a compound word, made up of *free* and *mason*; and it is like carrying owls to Athens to say that the whole history of our Order in past centuries, as well as the present use of plum, trowel, and other implements taken from the building arts, warrants the opinion that the phrase "Freemason" originated with the Institution, as understood nowadays, during the Middle Ages. By this I do not mean to impugn the analogy between the ancient mysteries and ours; I am only speaking of the name. Now, I defy Bro. Rockwell to show me the word Freemason in any authentic document prior to the year 1200 of the Christian era; for his *Phre mes sn*, concocted in a most arbitrary manner, and devoid of the support of any acknowledged authority, I reject as utterly untenable.

But, Sir, I will, just for argument's sake, admit for a moment that the existence of the word "Freemason" in Egyptian was prior to the Institution in its modern shape; but would this tend in any way to prove the antiquity and continuity of the said Institution? By no means. I take it for granted that *Francmaçon* in French, *libero muratore* in Italian, and *Francmason* in Spanish, are all translations of the English phrase; but the same is not the case, as regards the expressions *Freimaurer* in German and *Vrijmetselaar* in Dutch; the origin of both phrases is prior to, or at least coeval with, the English "Freemason." Does our Transatlantic brother mean to trace both of these also to Champollion's hieroglyphics? or, perhaps, he will produce some other Ismail Aga who may support his theory in his Circassian twang.

As a specimen of Transatlantic scientific inquiry, Bro. Rockwell's researches may be very interesting; the value of their result, however, is *nil*. I believe you are rather too moderate in remarking that "his case is not fully made out." Surely, such attempts of an individual at obtruding his own peculiar opinions upon an Institution like ours, with a view to advance his own purposes, cannot be censured too severely. But let us take the most lenient view of the case; that may be more in keeping with the principles of our Fraternity. Let us only say that our esteemed brother labours under a fatal hallucination, and that the abortive production to which he has given birth is what the French call *galimatias*, and what is styled in plain English "balderdash."

Trusting that I am not encroaching too much on your valuable space, I am, dear Sir and Brother,

AN OLD BOOKWORM.

St. Mary's, Lambeth, June 6th, 1866.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEM.

NORFOLK.—The warrant has been issued for a new lodge at Fakenham, called the Joppa Lodge (No. 1114).

GRAND LODGE.

* The quarterly communication of the United Grand Lodge of England took place on Thursday, at the Freemason's Hall. The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., occupied the throne; Bro. Gilbert Greenall, M.P., S.G.W.; Bro. Maxwell C. Close, J.G.W., and there were on the dais the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M.; the Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, P.D.G.M.; Bros. Perkins, P.G.W.; Havers, P.G.W.; Æ. J. McIntyre, G. Reg.; Bro. Faucett, Prov. G.M., Somersetshire; Bro. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M., Essex; Bro. Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; Bro. Dr. Bowles, Prov. G.M., Herefordshire; Bro. Hopwood, President of the Colonial Board; Bro. A. Woods, G. Dir. of Cers.; Colonel Adair, G.M., Somersetshire; Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Spiers, P.G.S.B., D.P.G.M. Oxford; J. Smith, P.G.P.; Adams, P.G.P.; Young, P.G.S.B.; Pullen, P.G.D.; Udall, P.G.D.; Gregory, P.G.D.; Col. Lowry Cole, P.G.W.; Crombie, P.G.D.; Thomas and Davey, P.G. Chaps.; Tomkins, G. Treas.; Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, Bart., P.G. Chap.; Mason, G.S.B.; Clarke, G. Sec.; Snell, G.D.; Emmens, G. Purst.; Lewis, Assist. G. Purst.; Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Conard, G. Org.; Patton, P.G.S.B.; Gumbleton, G.D.; Cockerell, G. Supt. of Works; Maudeslay, P.G.D.; Clabon, G.D.; Hervey, P.G.D.; Lawrence Newall, G.D.; G. Cox, P.G.D.; Savage, P.G.D.; Victor Williamson, P.G.W.; Symonds, P.G.S.B.; Theodore M. Talbot, Prov. G.M. Eastern Division of South Wales; F. Dundas, P.G.W.; Fenn, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Head, P.G.W.; H. Thompson, P.M. 177; &c.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form and with solemn prayer.

The G. SECRETARY read the minutes of the last quarterly communication, which were confirmed.

THE GRAND FESTIVAL.

The G. SECRETARY read the minutes of the last Grand Festival, which were confirmed.

THE LATE GRAND SECRETARY, BRO. WHITE.

The G. SECRETARY read a letter from the nephew of the late Grand Secretary, Bro. White, in answer to the address of condolence ordered to be presented to the family of Bro. White from the Grand Lodge.

The G. MASTER moved that the letter be received and entered on the minutes.

The D.G. MASTER seconded the motion, which was put and unanimously agreed to.

THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The next business on the paper was the election of members of the Board of General Purpose, and there being no opposition, they were elected as follows:—Bro. J. L. Evans, President; Bros. Æ. J. McIntyre, Clabon, J. S. Pullen, G. Cox, G. Snell, J. R. Stobbing, A. W. Woods, J. Savage, W. Young, J. Smith, G. Powell; J. Gurton, W.M.G.S. Lodge; Bros. Huggins, W.M., 18; J. E. Welch, W.M., 25; Conrad Dumas, W.M., 46; J. C. Forster, W.M., 69; A. G. Lapworth, W.M., 91; S. Poynter, W.M. 902; S. L. Tomkins, P.M., 2; Fraser, P.M., 3; Truman, P.M., 5; Brack-

stone Baker, P.M., 21; J. Hogg, P.M., 172; Sheen, P.M., 201; and E. Cox, P.M., 657.

THE COLONIAL BOARD.

The following were the members selected to form the Colonial Board for the ensuing year:—Bro. J. S. Hopwood, President; Bros. A. A. Le Veau, J. Smith, E. J. Fraser, P.M., V.P.; F. Adlard, P.M., 7; C. Lee, P.M., 9; M. Lovenson, P.M., 19; J. Hogg, P.M., 172; J. G. Marsh, P.M., 28; B. Baker, P.M., 3; R. Gray, P.M., 222.

THE ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The following were elected and nominated to form the Committee of Management for the ensuing year:—

NOMINATED BY THE GRAND MASTER.

Bros. Æneas J. McIntyre, William Gray Clarke, George Cox, R. H. Girard, John S. S. Hopwood, A. W. Woods, A. A. Le Veau, John Emmens, Joseph Smith.

ELECTED BY THE GRAND LODGE.

Bros. Brackstone Baker, P.M. 21; James Broitt, P.M. 177; J. G. Chancellor and Edward Cox, P.M.'s 657; Edward Davis, P.M. 172; George Lambert, P.M. 198; Thomas Lewis, P.M. 45; J. A. Farnfield, P.M. 907.

The following Past Masters were elected by the subscribers, in pursuance of Article 7 of the Regulations of the Institution:—Bros. Frederick Adlard, 7; Anthony Hewlett, 23; Charles Lee, 9; Morris Lovenson, 19; William G. Masterman, 410; J. Clarke, 227; J. R. Sheen, 201; Raynham Stewart, 108; Henry G. Warren, 172; William Young, 60; J. G. Marsh, 28; and J. E. Welch, 25.

THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

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

The widow of the late Bro. Alfred Bowles, of the Prince of Wales' Lodge (No. 599), Ipswich	£35
Bro. James Pilkington, of the Lodge of Perseverance (No. 345), Blackburn	40
The widow of the late Bro. Jeremiah Tuting, of the Constitutional Lodge (No. 294), Beverley	30
Bro. William Dixon, of the Lodge of Integrity (No. 380), Moreley	100

The recommendations were put and agreed to, on the motion of Bros. Smith, Udall, and Savage, seconded by Bro. Perkins. In support of the latter recommendation, Bro. Savage said Bro. Dixon had been a Master for upwards of thirty-six years, five times W.M. and Prov. G. Treas. for Yorkshire. The motion was seconded by the Right Hon. the Earl De Grey and Ripon, who took occasion to advert to the many Masonic virtues of Bro. Dixon, and the motion was carried unanimously.

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The report of the Board of General Purposes was presented, and it was as follows:—

1. A complaint was preferred by the Lodge of Benevolence against the Gihon Lodge, No. 49, London, for having certified to the petition of a widow for relief that the late husband of the petitioner, a member of the lodge, had been a subscribing member for two years, whereas Grand Lodge dues had been paid for him for one year only. The Master and Wardens with the Treasurer and Secretary attended, and produced the warrant and books, and admitted that they had made a mistake in their return to Grand Lodge, by having omitted to return the name of the brother for the second year, and that the lodge had received the Grand Lodge dues for such second year, and expressed their regret. The Board censured the lodge for

their carelessness, ordered the amount due to be paid, which was at once done, and cautioned the Master to be more careful for the future.

The Board have been in communication with the General Committee of the Supreme Grand Chapter with reference to the arrangement which at present exists, of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter paying separate salaries to the Grand Secretary, and to the several clerks in his department, and to the question of maximum and minimum salaries in the same department for the future.

The Board, with the concurrence of the General Committee of the Supreme Grand Chapter, recommend that this practice of paying separate salaries should be abolished, and that the Grand Chapter—in consideration of having no separate staff to maintain, and no office expenses to defray, except a small quarterly payment of £5 for petty disbursements—should be invited for the future to pay one-sixth of the salaries of the Grand Secretary, and the clerks employed in his department.

The Board recommend that on future appointments to the office of Grand Secretary, the salary of such officer shall commence at £150. That after the completion of the second year of office an annual increase of £15 shall be made in such salary until the sum of £600 is reached, which shall be the maximum salary.

Having regard to the duties of the office as regards the business of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, the Board are of opinion that four clerks are sufficient. They recommend that they be dealt with as follows as regards future appointments, and that as regards the clerks now in the office the following will be the maximum of the salaries which they shall respectively receive, to be arrived at according to the following scale:

The Chief, or Head Clerk.—That the salary of this officer shall commence at £200 per annum. That after the completion of the second year of office an annual increase of £10 shall be made in such salary until the sum of £350 is reached, which shall be the maximum salary.

The Second Clerk.—That the salary of this officer shall commence at £150 per annum. That after the completion of the second year of office an annual increase of £10 shall be made to such salary until the sum of £200 is reached, which shall be the maximum salary.

THE THIRD AND FOURTH CLERKS.

That the respective salaries of these officers shall commence at £100 per annum; that after the completion of the second year of office an annual increase of £10 shall be made to such salary, until the sum of £150 is reached, which shall be the maximum salary.

The Board having regard to the scale above recommended for the salary of a future Grand Secretary, and the length of service of the present Grand Secretary, recommend that an addition of £100 be made to his present salary as from the 31st day of March last; and that in the year 1867 and thereafter, until the above maximum of £600 be reached, an annual increase of £15 be made to such salary, commencing on the 31st day of March in each year.

Having been informed by Bro. William Farnfield, who has been forty-one years employed in the service of Grand Lodge, and who has during that long period faithfully discharged the duties devolving on him, that he is desirous of retiring, his health no longer admitting of his giving that close attention to business that the exigencies of the office require, the Board recommend that a retiring pension of £250 be granted him, such pension to be paid quarterly, and to commence from the date of his resignation of office, and to be considered as repre-

senting a retiring pension on the part as well of Grand Chapter as of Grand Lodge.

The Board recommend that for the future no person permanently employed in the department of the Grand Secretary's office shall be permitted to act as Secretary for any of the Masonic Charities, or to hold any other appointment which may interfere with the duties of the office during office hours.
(Signed) J. LLEWELLYN EVANS.

To the report is subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 11th instant, showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £1,708 2s., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash, £50.

BRO. LLEWELLYN EVANS, President of the Board, moved that the report be received and entered on the minutes.

BRO. WARREN, P.G.S., said he did not consider the Grand Lodge was in a position to grant the remuneration to the retiring officers in the way proposed. He objected to the retiring pensions being granted in this piecemeal manner, and thought that some general scheme should be laid down and which should guide them as to the amount they were to receive. He objected to the report on another ground, for when it was proposed to build the new hall it was a part of the scheme that there should be a library and reading room for the use of the members with proper officers, but for which no provision whatever appeared to be made. He also objected to the mode proposed for the payment of the Grand Secretary, believing that he should have a fixed and not a progressive salary as by his status he was required to take a position amongst the highest in the land. He also urged that the Grand Tyler should be paid in a more adequate manner. He concluded by moving as an amendment that all the report of the Board of General Purposes except the first paragraph be referred back to the committee for further consideration, and especially that part of it having regard to the retiring allowances after a given number of years' service, and as to what officers might be required for the new library and reading room for the members.

BRO. WYNN, P.M. Yarborough Lodge, seconded the amendment.

BRO. GREGORY, P.G.D., said, while he supported the recommendation of the Board, he thought it would be well for the Board to take into consideration the salary of the Grand Tyler.

The G. MASTER then put the amendment, which was negatively by a large majority.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES then moved the first recommendation of the Board "That with the concurrence of the General Committee of the Supreme Grand Chapter, the practice of paying separate salaries be abolished, and that the Grand Chapter, in consideration of having no separate staff to maintain and no office expenses to defray, except a small quarterly payment of £5 for petty disbursements, do for the future pay one-sixth of the salaries of the Grand Secretary, the clerks employed in his department, and the Grand Tyler.

The G. REGISTRAR seconded the motion.

After a remark from a brother as to the amount to be paid in the event of these offices being divided, the motion was put and agreed to.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES then moved the next resolution:—

"That on future appointments to the office of Grand Secretary the salary of such officer shall commence at £450. That after the completion of the second year of office an annual increase

of £15 shall be made in such salary until the sum of £600 is reached, which shall be the maximum salary."

It had been considered that the minimum salary of the Grand Secretary should not be less than £150 per annum, the Board believing that sum would not be too much for a very responsible office.

The motion having been seconded, Bro. HENRY G. Warden, rose to move as an amendment that there should be no minimum salary, but that on appointment the Grand Secretary should receive a salary of £600 per annum, which would only be an adequate amount for a gentleman of liberal education and in the prime of life. Were such a sum given no gentleman would hesitate to give up any other employment, and devote himself entirely to the duties of his office. He should move that the salary of the Grand Secretary be £600 for the present, as well as for the future.

Bro. WYNNE, P.M., Yarboro' Lodge, seconded the amendment.

Bro. HAYERS, P.G. Warden, suggested that this amendment could not be put, as no notice of it had been given.

Bro. WARREN said as the business paper was only put into their hands on entering the room, it was impossible for them to know what was going on, and therefore no notice of an amendment could possibly be given.

Bro. SYMONDS said he agreed with Bro. Warren that it was objectionable that they had no notice of what was coming on, but at the same time they should be careful how they increased grants of money unless notice of such increase had previously been given. Were that to be allowed, a brother who was absent might say that had he been aware that such an increase was about to be made, he should have been in his place to oppose it. He would suggest, however, to Bro. Warren that it was competent for him to move that that part of the report should be referred back to the committee for further consideration.

Bro. HAYERS, P.G.W., said he agreed with Bro. Warren that it was a great grievance that the members of Grand Lodge had no notice of what was about to be proposed, or could they give notice of an amendment unless it was submitted to the Board of Masters, and some years ago he proposed a resolution to meet this very objection, but Grand Lodge rejected it.

Bro. WARREN said if he was precluded by these rules from moving his amendment, at the next Grand Lodge he would propose a rule to meet the difficulty.

The D.G. MASTER said this was not simply moving an amendment without notice, but it was for the increase of a grant money; therefore the rule did not apply to any other question but to a grant for money. Any other amendment could be put and discussed by the Grand Lodge.

Bro. Colonel LOWRY COLE, P.G.W., said he looked upon this merely as an arrangement for the future, and not that their present G. Sec. should be paid £600 per annum. As it was merely an arrangement as regarded the salary of a future G. Sec., he hardly thought the amendment came into the category of a grant of money.

Bro. JOSEPH SHARP, D.C.L., looked upon it as a defect that the brethren had no opportunity of giving notice of an amendment on anything that was to be brought before them at Grand Lodge, and that appeared to him to be a great mistake. As to the objection of Bro. Warren, he thought it would be better to send the question back to the Committee of General Purposes for them to consider the mode in which justice could be done; for it was admitted by all the brethren that the present system contained a certain amount of evil.

It was then moved and seconded, as an amendment, that the report be referred back to the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. HORWOOD, P.G.D., said he entertained a strong opinion

that when a man was in the prime of life he was the man the most fitted for the discharge of his duties, and he could then fulfil them with the largest amount of satisfaction, and he ought to be fully and fairly remunerated without regard to future service. When he was entitled to further remuneration that ought to be considered, but it ought not to be held out as an inducement for a man to obtain an increased salary for a man to keep in an office when he became *effete* and was worn out. He looked upon it as bad policy to offer rewards for a continuance in office when a man was unfitted for his duties, merely for the sake of obtaining an increase in his salary. He hoped that this question would be considered fairly, and that they would have an opportunity of properly considering it in Grand Lodge.

Bro. HAYERS said he could not take the same view of this question as had been taken by Bro. Hopwood, and he would ask whether it was not the rule in all public establishments that a man should get an increased salary for long service. He agreed with Bro. Sharp and also with Bro. Warren that these were difficulties the members laboured under in respect of notice of motion, for they were in this position that they could not bring anything before the Grand Lodge unless it had previously been submitted to a Board of Masters. He agreed with them as to the difficulty, but he did not agree that there had been any wrong doing on the part of the Board of General Purposes as the rule was made by the brethren themselves. Even if it was a bad law, as they had themselves made it, they must obey it as it was no act of the executive. Ten years ago he (Bro. Hayers) proposed a resolution to avoid this evil in Grand Lodge, but they rejected it. When they got a proper man to perform the duties of Grand Secretary at once for £450, with a prospect of succeeding to the larger sum of £600, he believed it would be an inducement to him to work, and an earnest that he will be remunerated in a proper manner. They might get a man who might turn out to be unable to perform the duties of Grand Secretary and quite unfit for them, and if they were to give him £600 at the commencement he might turn out not to be worth 600 pence, and they would not then like to turn him off and get rid of him. Therefore, under all the circumstances, he thought it better that there should be a progressive increase of salary.

Bro. MURTON thought by the scale proposed it would take too many years to arrive at the maximum salary.

A Brother thought that £600 a year was an inadequate salary for a gentlemen to perform such important duties as those of Grand Secretary, and he hoped an advance of 50 guineas a year for three years would be adopted.

Bro. TOMKINS, G. Treas., was of opinion that the subject was worthy of consideration, but could be better discussed in a small body who could talk the matter over. He thought it quite impossible to settle the salary in a body where there might be 500 different opinions.

Bro. VICTOR WILLIAMSON, P.G.W., wished to correct an impression that the Grand Lodge was not paying liberally when they proposed to make an increase of £15 in the second year, of the Grand Secretary's salary. When he looked at the salaries paid in the government offices—and he believed their worthy brother, the Deputy Grand Master, would correct him if he was wrong,—the advance of salary there was only £10, and they all knew what competition there was amongst the highest and best educated in the land to obtain these government appointments. Again, amongst members of the bar, they knew what competition there was for offices of small salary and considerably less than £400 a year. Therefore, he did not see why Grand Lodge should pay higher prices than

the Government or any other public body of this country, and should support the motion submitted by the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. SAVAGE, P.G.D., did not agree with those brethren who talked of the minimum salary of £450 for the Grand Secretary as inadequate, and he would draw the attention of Grand Lodge to the fact that the largest sum Bro. White ever received was £450 a year—£400 from Grand Lodge, and £50 from the Grand Chapter, and they never had a better Grand Secretary than Bro. White. He believed that £450 would be sufficient to provide a suitable person for Grand Secretary.

The G. SECRETARY then put the amendment, which was negatived, and the resolution was carried.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES then moved the adoption of the following paragraphs of the report:—

“Having regard to the duties of the office as regards the business of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, the Board are of opinion that four clerks are sufficient. They recommend that they be dealt with as follows as regards future appointments, and that as regards the clerks now in the office, the following be the maximum of the salaries which they shall respectively receive, to be arrived at according to the following scale:—

“The Chief, or Head Clerk.—That the salary of this officer shall commence at £200 per annum. That after the completion of the second year of office an annual increase of £10 shall be made in such salary until the sum of £350 is reached, which shall be the maximum salary.

“The Second Clerk.—That the salary of this officer shall commence at £150 per annum. That after the completion of the second year of office an annual increase of £10 shall be made to such salary until the sum of £200 is reached, which shall be the maximum salary.

“The Third and Fourth Clerks.—That the respective salaries of these officers shall commence at £100 per annum; that after the completion of the second year of office an annual increase of £10 shall be made to such salary, until the sum of £150 is reached, which shall be the maximum salary.

In support of them Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS said the board had well considered these recommendations, and submitted them to Grand Lodge with one or two verbal alterations.

Bro. Col. LOWRY COLE said they had a series of three resolutions not in the identical words in the report, and he suggested that the Board of General Purposes should put on the paper the exact resolutions which they intended to submit. In the case of the first resolution there was no allusion to the Grand Tyler at all.

Bro. WARREN said it was his opinion that as the exact words of the resolutions had not been given in the paper of business, these motions could not be put at all.

The G. REGISTRAR contended that as the substance of these motions had been given in writing to the Board of Masters, therefore the resolutions could properly be put.

Bro. HAVERS, P.G.W., said allusion had been made to the Grand Tyler, whose duties were not very onerous, and he had, in addition to his salary, apartments in that building which the brethren had provided, and it was his opinion that unless they wished to spoil a very good and useful officer they would not give him more wages, but would let his salary remain as it was.

Bro. CROMBIE, P.G.D., said Bro. Farnfield was about to retire, and it was said that Bro. Buss was to be appointed to the office. At the present time Bro. Buss received a salary of £200 a year, and if he was to be promoted to the office now

held by Bro. Farnfield he would have a promotion with no increase of salary. If any one else was appointed, then Bro. Buss would have an officer over him who would have no extra salary, which was a great inconsistency, and thus they were placed on the horns of a dilemma. He quite agreed with Bro. Havers that they ought to have the business brought before them in a proper and intelligible manner, and it was his opinion that they ought to know some time before what business was to be transacted, and not know for the first time on entering the room by the paper that was then put into their hands. These were matters which ought not to be discussed in Grand Lodge at all, and if the Board would only bring forward their recommendations in a proper manner Grand Lodge would, no doubt, adopt them.

Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS contended that the proceedings had been perfectly regular, for the whole of these resolutions had been submitted to the Board of Masters in the usual way.

The G. MASTER then put the motions, which were carried unanimously.

Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS then moved, “The Board having regard to the scale above recommended for the salary of a future Grand Secretary, and the length of service of the present Grand Secretary, recommend that an addition of £10 be made to his present salary as from the 31st day of March last; and that in the year 1867 and thereafter, until the above maximum of £600 be reached, an annual increase of £15 be made to such salary, commencing on the 31st day of March in each year.”

The worthy brother at some length enforced the claims which Bro. Clarke had upon the craft.

The motion was agreed to.

Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS said the next matter he had to bring under notice was one referring to Bro. Farnfield, whose services they were about to lose, he having served them for a great number of years. The Board made a recommendation that he should receive a retiring allowance of £200 a year, but in retiring from the office of Assistant Grand Secretary he would still retain the office of Secretary to one of their Masonic institutions, and he trusted he might for many years enjoy good health, and that the institution might long have the benefit of his services. He concluded by moving the following resolution:—

“Having been informed by Bro. William Farnfield, who has been forty-one years employed in the service of Grand Lodge, and who has during that long period faithfully discharged the duties devolving on him, that he is desirous of retiring, his health no longer admitting of his giving that close attention to business that the exigencies of the office require, the Board recommend that a retiring pension of £250 be granted him, such pension to be paid quarterly, and to commence from the date of his resignation of office, and to be considered as representing a retiring pension on the part as well of Grand Chapter as of Grand Lodge.”

The G. MASTER put the resolution, which was carried unanimously, followed by loud cheering.

The G. MASTER said: On the resolution just passed being confirmed, it was his intention to confer upon Bro. Farnfield the rank of Past Grand Assistant Secretary.

Bro. Farnfield on re-entering the Grand Lodge was received with general cheering.

Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS then moved the last resolution—“The Board recommend that for the future no person permanently employed in the department of the Grand Secretary’s office shall be permitted to act as Secretary for any of the Masonic Charities.”

or to hold any other appointment which may interfere with the duties of the office during office hours."

The motion having been seconded, the G. MASTER put the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

S. The Annual Report of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows will be laid before the Grand Lodge, and the following proposed alterations of the laws, which were agreed to at the annual general meeting of the Institution, held on Friday the 18th inst., will be submitted for the approval of Grand Lodge, viz. :—

"1st. To repeal Article 21, page 9, of the Rules and Regulations, and substitute the following as Rule 21 :

"A lodge, chapter, or Masonic society subscribing £50 in one or more payments during the space of three years, shall during its existence be entitled to ten votes for annuitants on the particular fund to which the donation is paid, and the Master or First Principal of such lodge or chapter for the time being shall be a Vice-President of the Institution in right of such payment. A donation of £10 to either fund in one or more payments in two years shall entitle a lodge, chapter, or Masonic society to two votes during its existence, and a donation of £5 in one payment to two votes for fifteen years.

"2ndly. To amend Rule 22 by adding, after the words 'either fund,' the words 'or partly to each fund,' also by striking out the words 'within five years,' and substituting the following, 'of not less than five pounds each.'

"3rdly. To amend Rule 1 (Widow's Fund), by striking out the words 'and that the marriage took place three years previously to his ceasing to be a subscribing member to a lodge, and substituting the following, 'nor if the widow of an annuitant, unless the marriage took place three years, at least, previously to the presentation of her husband's petition.'"

Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS said these resolutions had all been carried by the members of the Institution, but required confirmation by Grand Lodge.

The G. MASTER wanted to know what was meant by "Masonic society."

Bro. UDALL said it meant the member of any Masonic society, although it might be such a society as was not recognised by Grand Lodge. He then moved the first resolution.

The G. MASTER put the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bro. UDALL, P.G.D., then moved the second recommendation, which was also carried.

On moving the third resolution, Bro. Udall said the alteration had been suggested as the existing rule had been found to work prejudicially.

The motion was then agreed to.

APPEAL FROM CAWNPORE.

The next matter was to consider the appeal of Bro. Francis Joseph Jordan, of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 438, Cawnpore, against his expulsion from Masonry by the District Grand Lodge of Bengal.

The G. REGISTRAR said this was a troublesome and complicated case to explain to the Grand Lodge, and it appeared that the Grand Lodge of Bengal had made it a condition that Asiatics might be admitted into Freemasonry if they could bring testimonials to their good character, but there was a by-law passed which prevented them from being so initiated unless with the dispensation of the District Grand Master; but this by-law had not been acted upon since 1863. One of the Asiatic princes was desirous of entering Freemasonry in Hong Kong, and he

was proposed by one Past Master and seconded by another, and upon this the attention of the Worshipful Master was called to the by-law, but as he considered it was opposed to the "Book of Constitutions," an application was made to the District Grand Master for a dispensation. The Asiatic was proposed, balloted for, and accepted; he was of good character and his father was an Arch Mason. The dispensation did not arrive, but a telegraphic message refusing it. As the candidate had come a considerable distance for the purpose of being initiated, it was thought that if he was sent back without being so initiated it would be detrimental to him in his social position, and as the by-law was in contravention of the "Book of Constitutions," the Worshipful Master took the advice of his Past Masters, and initiated him into Freemasonry. He was justified in doing so, for the ancient charge said—"A man is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law, and if he rightly understand the art he will never be a stupid Atheist nor an irreligious libertine. He, of all men, should best understand that God seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh at the outward appearance, but God looketh at the heart. A Mason is, therefore, particularly bound never to act against the dictates of conscience. Let a man's religion or mode of worship be what it may, he is not excluded from the Order, provided he believe in the Glorious Architect of Heaven and Earth, and practise the sacred duties of morality." Thus, according to the principles of Freemasonry they were bound to initiate him. Immediately they had initiated this brother into Freemasonry, the Master was called upon by the District Grand Master to tell the Past Masters that they had acted with contumacy, and they were called upon to submit to the District Grand Master an expression of their contrition for what they had done, under pain of being suspended from all their Masonic privileges. Two of the Past Masters gave in, but one of them stood by the Master, determined to support him in what he had done. This controversy having taken place, the District Grand Master placed the lodge under the ruling of the Senior Warden, and there the Master made the first mistake, placed the lodge in abeyance, which he had no power to do. The District Grand Master then said the Master had acted with contumacy, and he expelled Bro. Jordan from the lodge, and it was against that expulsion that he now appealed. The correspondence was extremely lengthy, but those were the facts of the case. He (the G. Registrar), should recommend that as the by-law was in contravention of the Book of Constitutions, and opposed to the main principles of Freemasonry, and as the decision of the District Grand Master was wrong, that his decision be reversed and Bro. Jordan restored to all his Masonic privileges.

Bro. L. EVANS seconded the motion, which was put and carried unanimously, amidst great cheering.

THE LATE BRO. STEPHEN BARTON WILSON.

Bro. J. C. FORSTER, P.M. 162, in bringing forward the motion of which he had given notice, said he had great hesitation in rising to speak of the late Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, when he remembered the good that he had done for Freemasonry, no less for his having well served their charities than for his untiring energy for the good of the Craft. He said, therefore, that he had great hesitation in bringing this subject forward from his own inadequacy to do justice to the case he was representing. It was amongst those whom he might call the junior members of the Craft that Stephen Barton Wilson was peculiarly well known. That Grand Lodge was fully aware that for at least thirty years he had held the office of President of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement,

and he was there to be found Friday night after Friday night giving instruction to the younger members of the Craft, and he could always give good reasons for the peculiarity of his working. It was there he was to be seen in the most perfect position more than as a steward of the Charities or as the superintendent of that great building which was rising up under him. In the lodge he shone above his fellows, for there were few who devoted so much time and patience to the junior members of Freemasonry. It was his desire in his teaching to impress every word, and he was at all times ready to give a reason for every word that was uttered. He concluded by moving a resolution to the effect that a resolution be recorded on the minutes of the Grand Lodge expressive of the great loss Freemasonry had sustained in the death of the active, esteemed, and energetic Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, and of his untiring zeal and devotion in having done so much to promote the cultivation of right feelings in the Order. Having held the office of President of Emulation Lodge of Improvement for 30 years he had won the esteem of every brother Mason, and that a copy of that resolution should be sent to the family of Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson.

Bro. SAVAGE seconded the resolution, and said for thirty years he had the pleasure of Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson's acquaintance, having found him an instructor in the Craft, when he entered it. He felt the deepest debt of gratitude was due to him for what he (Bro. Savage) knew of Freemasonry, and he was an esteemed friend. He took him by the hand, for when he first entered the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson was in the chair thirty years ago working the third degree, and when he solicited his aid Bro. Wilson cheerfully gave it to him, as he did to other brethren. He would not detain Grand Lodge, for his feelings would not allow him to make those remarks he could address to them, but he fully believed that the Craft owed him a debt of obligation which the never could repay. He entirely agreed in all that had been said by Bro. Forster as to young members of the Craft, and he begged to second the resolution, believing that it would be a long time before the vacancy caused by the death of Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson could be filled up, for no one was so capable of filling his position as himself. He was able to give a reason for everything he asserted, he was ready to answer any questions as to their ceremonies or lectures, his information was most valuable, and he deeply studied those great principles with which he stored his well cultivated mind, and his (Bro. Savage's) deep regret was that amongst "the old familiar faces" they should see him no more.

The resolution was then put and agreed to unanimously.

COALS FOR THE ASYLUM.

Bro. JOHN UDALL, P.G.D., moved that the sum of £50 be given from the Fund of General Purposes. That the money be placed in the hands of the Secretary of the Asylum of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their widows, to supply the inmates at Croydon with coals during the winter season.

The motion was agreed to, and Grand Lodge was closed in ample form and with solemn prayer.

PROVINCIAL.

ESSEX.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Wednesday, the 30th ult., the R.W. Bro. R. J. Bagshaw, held a Provincial Grand Lodge at the Three Cups Hotel, Col-

chester, which was attended by about sixty of the officers and members of the Provincial Lodge and the various Craft lodges in the province, amongst whom were:—

Bros. Rev. F. B. Shepherd, Prov. G. Chap.; A. E. Church, P.M., Prov. J.G.W.; J. Burton, P.M., Prov. G. Treas.; J. Mann, P.M., Prov. G. Sec.; P. Matthews, P.M., Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. D. Ward, Prov. G.I.G.; and W. Liddington, Prov. G. Tyler.

Lodge 51, Colchester.—Bros. E. S. Bean, W.M.; H. Darken, S.W.; W. H. Bland, P.M.; W. Griffin, P.M.; Coppin, P.M.; S. Chaplin, T. Fenning, R. Evans, C. Becker, J. Salmon, G. Allen, P. Hast, E. Stammers, W. P. Lewis, Z. Pettit, J. H. Pettit, G. W. Smith, and J. Witten.

Lodge 214, Romford.—Bros. E. S. Taylor, P.M.; and J. Self, S.D.

Lodge 276, Chelmsford.—Bros. W. M. Humphrey, P.M.; A. Durrant, Prov. S.G.W.; and J. W. Hair.

Lodge 311, Lewes.—Bro. C. T. Wheable.

Lodge 433, Brightlingsea.—Bros. T. Lake, W.M.; J. Francis, S.W.; H. York, J.W.; W. Bishop, P.M.; J. Chapman, P.M.; C. Blythe, P.M.; J. Rodger.

Lodge 453, Chigwell.—Bros. J. Glass, W.M.; J. B. Lomas, P.M.; G. Motion, P.M.; R. E. Motion, P.M.

Lodge 650, Harwich.—Bros. Surridge, P.M.; and J. South, P.M.

Lodge 697, Colchester.—Bros. C. Carnegie, W.M.; A. Wolverson, S.W.; Captain Sherringham, J.W.; P. Martin, L. Miller, D. Lewis, W. E. Holland, and J. Swann.

Lodge 1,024, Maldon.—Bros. T. G. Green, W.M.; Rev. E. R. Horwood, J.W. and Chap.; T. Aldham, C. Clarke, W. Laver, J. M. Barrington, G. P. Jay, E. J. Bridge, C. J. Andrew, and W. Bright.

The lodge was opened in due form and with prayer, by the Provincial Grand Chaplain. The minutes of the last meeting, held at Chelmsford in 1863, having been confirmed, a statement of accounts for the past three years was presented, showing a balance in hand of rather over £70.

Among other correspondence read was a copy of a letter addressed by the brethren of the Chelmsford Lodge to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Bro. Major Skinner), condoling with him in his serious illness, with Bro. Skinner's reply thereto, written, as it stated, from his death bed, expressing the satisfaction he had had in being a Mason for over forty years and his good wishes for every lodge in the province. A letter was ordered to be written on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge, expressive of the sympathy of every brother with the Deputy Grand Master in this his great hour of trial.

On the motion of the Rev. Chaplain (who spoke in high terms of the usefulness of the Institution), seconded by Bro. Becker, and supported by Bro. Matthews, a donation of £10 10s. was voted to the Essex and Colchester Hospital; also donations of £5 5s. each to the four principal Masonic Charities, viz., the Boys' and Girls' Schools, the Benevolent Institution, and the Widows' Fund.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. appointed the following brethren Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year:—

Bro. E. Bean, P.M. 51	Prov. G.S.W.
„ Humphrey, P.M. 276	„ G.J.W.
„ Rev. F. B. Shepherd, 276 ...	„ G. Chap.
„ John Mann, P.M.	„ G. Sec.
„ Joseph Burton, P.M.	„ G. Treas.
„ Lomas, P.M. 453	„ G.S.D.
„ W. Bishop, 433	„ G.J.D.
„ J. W. Hair, 276	„ G. Reg.
„ C. Carnegie, W.M. 697	„ G. Supt. of Works.

„ Job Austin, P.M.	„ G. Org.
„ Peter Matthews, P.M.	„ G. Dir. of Cers.
„ J. Surridge, 650.....	„ Assist. Dir. of Cers.
„ J. South, 630	„ G.S.B.
„ C. O. Becker, 51	„ G. Purst.

Upwards of fifty brethren afterwards partook of a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Host Salter; and during the evening the customary Masonic toasts were drank, and congratulations exchanged upon the flourishing condition of Masonry in the province.

BRIGHTLINGSEA.—*Lodge of Hope* (No. 433.)—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 28th of May, at the Swan Inn. There were present Bros. J. Lake, W.M.; Walford, P.M.; G. Riches, S.W.; H. York, J.W.; W. Clarey, P.M. and Treas.; John E. Wiseman, Hon. Sec.; J. Francis, S.D.; W. Bragg, J.D.; W. Minter, I.G.; W. Harmer, Tyler; and about fifteen members. The lodge was opened in due form according to ancient custom, when the minutes of previous meetings were read and confirmed. The lodge then proceeded to ballot for a W.M., when Bro. J. Francis was duly elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. W. Clarey was then elected Treas., and Bro. Harmer, Tyler; the business being ended the brethren adjourned for refreshment. The W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts which were heartily responded to.

OXFORDSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Oxfordshire held its annual meeting at the University Masonic Hall, on the 24th ult., at five o'clock, when the Prov. G.M. Bro. Colonel H. Atkins Bowyer presided, and was supported by the following brethren:—Bro. Alderman R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B., Dep. Prov. G.M.; W. E. Gumbleton, J.G.D. England; N. Bradford, P.G.D.C. England; F. Binckes, G. Steward, Sec. Boys' School; W. Smith, C.E., P.G. Steward, Prop. FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE; Rev. F. T. Ravenshaw, Prov. G. Chap., Wiltshire; Rev. G. Ross, Prov. G. Chap., Cornwall; Dr. Fyrrer, W.M. No. 301; Dr. Goldsboro', P.M., Nos. 201 and 998; A. S. Hurford, W.M., 340; Rev. W. F. Short, W.M., 357; C. W. Spencer-Stanhope, W.M. 478; A. Samman W.M., 599; W. J. Smith, W.M., 1036; H. D'Almaine, W.M. 945; Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.M. 478; E. G. Bruton, T. Randall, R. Havers, J. B. Looker, P. Prov. G.W.'s, Oxon; J. S. Lowe, SW., 340; S. P. Spiers, P. Prov. G. Supt. of W., J.W., 340; G. H. Rainey, P. Prov. G.S. of Works., S.W., 478; G. Gumbleton, J.W. 478; H. Churchill, P. Prov. G.D., S.W., 599; E. J. Hartley, P. Prov. G.D.C., J.W., 599; Rev. W. H. Marah, S.W., 1,036; Rev. C. Eddy; Lord Warkworth, Earl of Jersey, Prov. G. Sec.; W. W. Statter, Rev. C. L. Acland, J. S. Warman, A. E. Hardy, R. T. Raikes, Rev. G. Notley, E. Lockwood, A. G. H. Gibbs, F. McCalmont, H. Latham, G. E. Gardiner, J. Plowman, W. F. Thurland, J. T. Foster, Louis Jullien, J. G. Betteris, Eskell, T. Wootton, W. Barrett, W. R. Hobbs, Pemberton, T. M. Grizelle, Dyson, Marriot, Birch, Whitehouse.

The Prov. G.M. reported the death of Sir D'Arcy Legard, Bart., since the last Provincial Lodge, and the appointment of the Earl of Jersey to fill the office of Prov. G. Sec., thereby vacated.

The report of the Charity Committee was received, and on the motion of Bro. C. T. Hawkins, P.M. of the Alfred Lodge, and Bro. Rev. W. F. Short, W.M. of the Apollo Lodge, was adopted.

The Treasurer's report was received and adopted, and Bro. Alderman Randall was unanimously re-elected treasurer.

The sum of eleven guineas was voted to the Charity Committee for their disposal among the Masonic Charities as heretofore; also the sum of seven guineas to the local charities; and two guineas towards the restoration of Worcester Cathedral.

A charity jewel was voted to Bro. Harrison, and also a bar

to Bro. Hurford, W.M. of the Alfred Lodge, for their services to the Masonic Charities.

It was also agreed to raise the salary of Bro. W. Hobbs, Assist. Prov. G. Sec., from eight guineas to ten guineas in consideration of his many valuable services to the lodge.

The Prov. G.M. read a report on the state of the several lodges in the province, and then proceeded to the appointment and investment of the following brethren as his officers:—

Bro. Rev. W. F. Short, W.M. 357...	Prov. S.G.W.
„ A. S. Hurford, W.M., 340	„ J.G.W.
„ Rev. W. H. Marah	„ G. Chaplain.
„ Rev. C. Eddy	„ „
„ W. J. Smith, W.M., 1036	„ G. Registrar.
„ Alderman Randall	„ G. Treasurer.
„ The Earl of Jersey	„ G. Secretary.
„ J. S. Lowe	„ S.G.D.
„ G. Gumbleton, Ch. Ch.	„ J.G.D.
„ P. B. Bernard, Balliol College ...	„ G.Supt. of Works.
„ Alfred E. Hardy, Balliol College	„ Prov. G.D. of C.
„ Henry Margetts	„ „
„ T. Wootton	„ G. Sword Bearer.
„ W. A. Barrett	„ G. Organist.
„ W. R. Hobbs	„ G. Assist. Sec.
„ C. Pettitt	„ Pursuivant.
„ R. T. Raikes, Merton	„ G. Steward.
„ T. M. Grizelle	„ „
„ N. Gepp, New College	„ „
„ C. L. Pemberton	„ „
„ T. L. Princep, Merton	„ „
„ H. Hartley	„ „
„ W. Stephens	„ G. Tyler.
„ Thomas Moss	„ „

On the conclusion of the business, the annual banquet, which this year was under the auspices of the Churchill Lodge, took place in the Assembly Room, at the Clarendon Hotel, which was tastefully decorated with Masonic banners.

The Prov. G.M. presided, and was supported by the newly appointed Prov. G. Officers and brethren previously enumerated, all of whom were dressed in full Masonic costume.

The banquet was of the most *recherché* character, and its abundance and excellence were only equalled by the elegance and taste with which it was served.

The following is a list of the toasts and of the music which succeeded them:—"The Queen and the Craft;" "National Anthem," (solo, Bro. Dyson). "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," song, "God bless the Prince of Wales." "The Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland;" glee, "Push the red wine about," (Bishop). "The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Colonel Bowyer;" ballad, "Shylee Bawn," (Bro. Marriot—Wrighton), "The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the Grand Officers, past and present;" song, "Alice, where art thou?" (Bro. Gumbleton—Ascher). "The Visitors;" glee, "King Canute," (Macfarren). "The Provincial Grand Officers, past and present;" song, "When we were boys together," (Bro. Whitehouse—Weiss). "The Churchill Lodge;" glee, "O Willie brew'd a peck o' malt," (Shore). "The Entered Apprentices;" song, "Entered Apprentices." "The Lodges in the Province, and the Abbey Lodge, Abingdon;" glee, "Hark, Apollo," (Bishop). "The Masonic Charities;" song, "Never mind the rest," (Bro. Dyson—Fase). "The Officers of the Churchill Lodge;" glee, "Mynheer Van dunck," (Bishop). "Tyler's Toast."

In proposing "The Health of the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Earl de Grey and Ripon," it was expressed as a

matter of agreeable surprise to find that energetic statesman, in the face of his heavy official duties, still devoting so much time towards the promotion of the welfare of Freemasonry.

In proposing "The Health of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Colonel Bowyer," Bro. Alderman Spiers referred to the great services rendered to the cause of Freemasonry by the Prov. G.M., and stated that during the time (we believe ten years) the province had been under his charge, Freemasonry had made most rapid advances within his jurisdiction. Bro. Spiers dwelt upon the interest taken by the Prov. G.M. in the various lodges in the province, as evidenced by his periodically personally visiting them, and he believed that to this circumstance was to be attributed, to a great extent, the prosperous state of the province. The value of the labours of the Prov. G.M. was enhanced, owing to the many calls upon his time and services in his capacity of master of the hounds, his connection with the volunteers, &c.

The toast of "The Visitors" was responded to by several important brethren from the lodges of various other provinces.

In proposing the toast of the "Provincial Grand Officers, past and present," the R.W. Prov. G. passed a well merited eulogium upon Bro. Alderman Spiers, the Dep. Prov. G.M., and stated that too much praise could not be bestowed upon him for the way in which everything in the province was conducted, and that the brethren were indebted to Bro. Spiers for his having, by his zealous and indefatigable labours, done so much to render the provincial festivals of this year a great success.

The toast of "The Churchill Lodge" was responded to by Bros. Spencer-Stanhope, Martin, and others.

The toast of "The Entered Apprentices" was replied to in most feeling, appropriate, and highly creditable terms by the Brother Initiates.

The toast of "The Masonic Charities" was responded to by Bro. Binckes, with more than his usual powerful eloquence.

The enjoyment of the banquet was greatly enhanced by a bountiful supply of champagne, contributed by the Prov. G.M. with his usual generosity. The dessert, wines, &c., were in every respect worthy of the banquet, and great credit is due to the Clarendon Hotel Company, and to their obliging manageress, Miss Smith, for the perfect and most successful manner in which the entire arrangements, even to the minutest detail, were studied and carried out.

It is scarcely necessary to add that with such professional talent as was brought to bear by Bros. Dyson, Marriott, and Whitehouse, and by the distinguished amateur Bro. Gumbleton, of Ch. Ch., the musical portion of the proceedings was of a very high character, and thoroughly enjoyed. In addition to the above pieces, at the unanimous wish of the company, Bro. Dyson gave, in his most charming and effective style, Longfellow's beautiful song, "Excelsior," and Bro. Marriott sung the old and popular ballad, "Sally in our alley," with chaste but telling effect.

The Prov. G.M. presided with his usual ability and unaffected eloquence, and under his chairmanship a most agreeable evening was spent, and one which will long be remembered by all who had the good fortune to be present.

ROYAL ARCH.

ROSE OF DENMARK (No. 375).—A convocation of this chapter was held at the White Hart Tavern, Barnes, Surrey, on Saturday, the 2nd inst. Among the Companions present were, Comps. R. W. Little, M.E.Z.; Hubbard, H.; Terry, J.; Brett, P.Z.; Buss, P.Z., Treas.; Pendlebury, P.S.; Powell, 1st. Assist.; and Page, 2nd Assist. Soj.; Turner, Dir. of Cers.; E. Goodale, H.

Goodale, White, Squire, Peters, Willcox, Long, and Green. Visitors: Comps. J. S. States, P.Z. 534 and 742; C. P. Payne, J. 177; and Crabb. The chapter having been duly opened, and the minutes confirmed, Bro. Wilshin of the St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 331, was introduced, and exalted to this supreme degree, the ceremony being rendered by the various officers in a most correct and impressive manner. The chapter was then closed, and the companions adjourned to a capital banquet provided by Host Willcox, whose name is so favourably known in connection with aquatic sports. After the removal of the cloth, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the M.E.Z. proposed "The newly-exalted Comp. T. Wilshin," and then "The Visitors," expatiating on the great interest evinced by Comp. States, in everything appertaining to the Order, and the esteem in which Comp. Payne, of the Domestic Chapter, was deservedly held by all who know him. A cordial reception having been accorded to this toast, Comp. States, in an able speech, returned thanks and expressed the great pleasure he had experienced in witnessing the work in the chapter, as although he had visited many chapters, he had never seen it surpassed. Comp. Brett, P.Z. then proposed "The Health of the M.E.Z.," and eulogised the manner in which Comp. Little had performed his several duties. The M.E.Z. having responded, proposed "The Second and Third Principals," and said he was highly gratified to find that he was so well supported by those important officers who were both so efficient that he hardly knew which deserved the greatest credit. Comp. Hubbard, H., briefly responded, and "The Healths of Comps. Brett and Buss, P.Z.'s," followed. The M.E.Z. alluded particularly to the services rendered by Comp. Brett in the formation of the Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, of which he was the president, and the M.E.Z. further advised the companions present to pay the new chapter a visit at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, where the meetings were held every Tuesday evening, at seven o'clock. Comp. Brett replied in an effective speech, and urged the companions generally to support the attempt now being made to diffuse the genuine working of the R.A. degree; he thanked the M.E.Z. for his assistance in forwarding the good work, and there were several other companions present who had rendered valuable aid. Comps. Pendlebury, P.S., and Turner, Dir. of Cers., responded ably for the officers; and the Janitor's toast concluded the proceedings of the evening, to the enjoyment of which Comps. Wilshin, Peters, and Green, materially contributed by several excellent songs.

RED CROSS KNIGHTS.

ORIGINAL, OR PREMIER, CONCLAVE OF ENGLAND.

The anniversary assembly of this ancient and distinguished conclave was held at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on Wednesday, the 30th ult. The conclave was duly opened by Sir Knt. J. G. Marsh, M.P.S., assisted by Sir Knts. G. Powell, V.E.; W. H. Hubbard, G. Treas.; R. W. Little, G.R.; H. G. Buss, G. Almoner; G. H. Oliver, W. Turner, C. B. Payne, J. Terry, Viceroy; W. Dodd, R. Gurney, H. J. W. Thompson, and others; and the minutes having been duly confirmed, ballots were severally and favourably taken for the following candidates, viz., Bro. F. M. Williams, M.P.; S. E. Clarke, M.R.C.S.; J. S. Charlton, C. Burmeister, T. Wescombe, B. P. Todd, G. S. States, and G. R. Green, also for Sir Knts. Sacker, Margerison, and Graham as joining members. The following brethren being in attendance were then regularly admitted, received and installed as Knights of the Order, viz., The Rev. J. M. Vaughan, Dr. S. E. Clarke, J. S. Charlton, T. Wescombe, and B. P. Todd. The beautiful ceremony was rendered in a most efficient manner by the M.P.S. and his officers, more especially by Sir Knt. Terry, who kindly acted as H.P., and delivered most impressively the historical oration of the Order. The following are the officers for the ensuing year:—Sir Knt. T. Cubitt, S.G.; R. Gurney, J.G.; Rev. J. M. Vaughan, H. Prelate; W. H. Hubbard, Treas.; R. W. Little, Recorder; F. C. Sacker, Prefect; Dr. S. E. Clarke, Standard Bearer; J. S. Charlton, Herald; and J. Gilbert, Sentinel. It was then unanimously resolved "That the members of this conclave desire to express their deep sense of the loss which the Order has sustained by the lamented decease of the M.I.G.S., the venerable Sir Knt. Wm. Henry White, who for a period of nearly 60 years was a valued and esteemed member of the original conclave in which he was enthroned as Sovereign on the 13th March, 1809;" and this resolution was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Sir Knt. Little then proposed Bro. A. M. MacDougal, *F.R.C.S. Eng.*, and several other brethren for installation at the next assembly. The conclave was then closed in ancient form and with solemn prayer, and the Knight Companions adjourned to a sumptuous banquet comprising all the delicacies of the season, under the presidency of Sir Knt. Marsh, G. Architect, and M.P.S., and a very pleasant evening was spent—the usual loyal toasts and those peculiar to this Christian Order being received and duly honoured. The presiding officer alluded to the fact of their late Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Kent and Sussex, having been members of the Order, and informed the Companions that the old minutes of the Original Conclave in which the installation of the latter prince and other eminent personages was registered were now in the possession of Sir Knt. Little, the Recorder; and he congratulated them heartily on the very satisfactory position to which the Order had attained since the re-establishment of the Grand Council under their lamented Past Sovereign W. H. White, and further augured for the future, not merely a great accession of numerical strength, but what was of far greater importance, the influx of members chosen from the Craft for possessing the qualifications essential in every brother who desired to enter the Order, and was willing to regulate his mind and actions by the noble and inspiring principles of Freemasonry. The proceedings were brought to a close by the Sentinel's toast, but so thoroughly was the evening enjoyed that the worthy M.P. Sovereign was solicited to call a special assembly at no distant date. Letters from Bro. Williams, *M.P.*, and other candidates explaining their unavoidable non-attendance on this occasion have been received by the Recorder.

PLANTAGENET CONCLAVE. No. 2.

The first anniversary assembly of this flourishing conclave was held at Dicks' Hotel, Fleet-street, on Tuesday, the 22nd ult. The conclave were duly opened, and the minutes of the previous assembly were read and confirmed, when a favourable ballot having been taken for several candidates, and Bro. G. F. Cook, of Lodge, No. 65, being in attendance, he was regularly admitted, received, constituted, and installed as a Knight of this ancient Order. Sir Knt. R. W. Little, G.R. and P. Sov., then proceeded according to immemorial custom, to open a senate of Princes, all Sir Knights below that rank having retired, and Sir Knt. Robert Jones, M.P. Sov. elect, was then solemnly enthroned as a lawful successor of Constantine. The senate having been declared special, the dignity of M.P. Sov. was also conferred upon Sir Knt. J. G. Marsh, who had been duly elected to fill that high station in the Original or premier Conclave of England, and there being a great number of candidates for installation in that distinguished conclave, it was considered expedient to enable Sir Knt. Marsh to instal them at once at the approaching assembly, and thereby obviate the delay which the performance of the enthroning ceremony would necessarily entail.

The members of the senate being also Grand Councillors of the Order, it was resolved to advance Sir Knts. Jones and Marsh, to that supreme position, and Sir Knt. Jones was accordingly elected G.J. General, and Sir Knt. Marsh, G. Architect. The senate was then closed, and the other members being admitted, Sir Knt. W. Turner (who had been previously consecrated as a Priest Mason), was then inducted into the chair of Eusebius.

The other officers appointed for the ensuing year were Sir Knts. A. A. Pendlebury, S.G.; J. Terry, J.G.; Powell, H.P.; H. G. Buss, G.A. Treas.; R. W. Little, G.R. Recorder; C. Margerison, Prefect; J. Coutts, Standard Bearer; T. Cubitt, Herald; Sacker, Steward; Comp. J. Gilbert, Sentinel. Several propositions having been announced, the conclave was closed with solemn prayer, and the Knights Companions adjourned to the refectory, where a substantial repast awaited them.

After the cloth was drawn, the M.P.S. gave "The Queen and Christian Masonry," mentioning that her Majesty's father the late Duke of Kent, and also the Duke of Sussex, were members of the Red Cross Order, and that the deceased venerable Sir Knt. W. H. White, P. G. Secretary of England, had occupied a seat in the Grand Council for nearly sixty years. Sir Knt. Marsh responded to the toast of the Grand Council and expressed his thanks for the honour conferred upon him in appointing him Grand Architect.

The health of the M.P.S. was proposed in eulogistic terms by Sir Knt. Hubbard, G. Treas., the I.P. Sovereign, and Sir Knt.

Jones in his reply expressed the deep interest he felt not only in the prosperity of the Plantagenet Conclave, but of the Order at large.

The health of the newly installed companion in arms, Sir Knt Cook then followed, and having been cordially received, was responded to by him in appropriate terms. The health of the I.P.S. was then announced and met with a cordial reception, and Sir Knt. Hubbard effectively returned thanks. The M.P.S. then proposed "The Health of the Visitor," Sir Knt. Joseph Smith, G.S.G., and expatiated upon the eminent services rendered by that well known brother in every department and degree of Freemasonry with which he was connected. Red Cross honours having been accorded to this toast, Sir Knt. Smith rose to reply and expressed the deep satisfaction he felt at the steady progress of the Order, and he assured the knight companions that his utmost endeavours would be used in conjunction with the other members of the Supreme Council, to promote the interests of this important branch of Christian Masonry.

The M.P. Sov. then proposed "The Enthroning Sovereign," and in doing so took occasion to mention the great zeal manifested by Sir Knt. Little for the good of the conclave, and the able manner in which he carried out every ceremony of the Order. An equally hearty reception having been given to this toast, Sir Knt. Little, in response, assured the Companions that his best exertions should still be at their service. He would never have been a member of the Order had he not felt that it was a valuable adjunct to the Craft, and had received not merely the approval but the warm support of the late Duke of Sussex and the lamented Sir Knt. W. H. White. "The Health of the Treasurer," was then proposed by Sir Knt. Little, who enlarged upon the praiseworthy management of the finances during the year by Sir Knt. Buss to whom the merit was due of having steered the conclave free of debt, to the end of the first year of its existence. Sir Knt. Buss, in reply, said he would always endeavour to husband their resources, and considered it a main element of success to be able to say they were perfectly solvent. It was true that they had been very prosperous; no less than thirty brethren had been enrolled during the year, but the preliminary expenses incidental in forming new lodges, chapters, or conclaves were heavy, and had to be defrayed. In conclusion, he thanked them heartily for the kind manner in which his health was responded to.

Sir Knt. Turner, V.E., in an able speech, expressed his acknowledgments for the flattering mention of his name as the next toast, and said he was resolved to become as proficient as possible in the ceremonies of the Order. Sir Knts. Pendlebury and Terry, S. and J.G.'s, then severally returned thanks for the officers, and the Sentinel's toast concluded the proceedings of this very pleasant Masonic *réunion*. We must not omit to mention that Sir Knts. Margerison and Terry delivered, in admirable style, some choice recitations, and Sir Knt. Marsh equally delighted the Companions by two or three capital songs.

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 16TH, 1866.

Monday, June 11th.—ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty went out on the morning of the 30th ult., attended by the Duchess Dowager of Athole. In the afternoon her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Helena, and attended by the Duchess of Athole, drove out. Princess Helena drove out in the morning. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Helena, went out on the morning of the 31st ult., and also in the afternoon. Princess Louise drove out in the afternoon. Prince Leopold went out driving. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Helena, went out on the 2nd inst. Princess Louise drove out, attended by Miss Bowater. Princess Beatrice went out driving, attended by Madlle Norelle. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Helena, and attended by the Duchess Dow-

ager of Athole, drove out in the afternoon. The Queen drove out on the afternoon of the 4th inst., accompanied by Princess Helena, and attended by the Duchess Dowager of Athole and the Equerry in waiting. The Queen, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena, Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold, arrived at Windsor Castle at six o'clock, on the 5th inst., from Cliveden. In attendance were the Dowager Duchess of Athole, the Hon. Flora Macdonald, Lieutenant-General Hon. C. Grey, Lord Charles Fitzroy, Lieutenant Stirling, and Mr. Sahl. The Duke of Edinburgh, attended by Colonel the Hon. A. Liddell and the Hon. E. Yorke, received the freedom of the Merchant Taylors' Company, and was entertained by them at their hall in the city after the ceremony. The Queen, attended by her Royal Highness Princess Helena, left Windsor Castle for London, at half-past twelve o'clock on the 6th inst., attended by the Dowager Duchess of Athole, the Hon. Flora Macdonald, and Lord Charles Fitzroy. Her Majesty travelled by special train to Paddington, and proceeded thence, escorted by a detachment of the 14th Hussars, to Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Helena, left Buckingham Palace for Windsor Castle, at half-past six o'clock.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on the 31st ult., the Capital Punishment Bill was considered in committee. Earl Grey moved the omission of the clause retaining the designation of murder for a crime which it was proposed to call murder in a first or second degree. The Government opposed the amendment. On a division, the numbers were equal—38 for and against the clause. On the usual ground, this was held to be fatal to the clause, and the Lord Chancellor suggested that the further consideration of the bill should be postponed. This was agreed to, and the House shortly afterwards adjourned.—On the 1st inst. the chief business was the discussion of the Sunday Trading Bill. Various amendments were proposed, and finally there was a division on the motion that the bill do pass. It only found 39 supporters, while 69 voted against it, and therefore the bill was rejected.—On the 4th inst Lord Redesdale moved a series of alterations in the standing orders to give effect to the suggestions which he made on a previous occasion in reference to the manner in which railway and other companies are promoted and carried through Parliament. The motion was strongly opposed, and after a long discussion Lord Redesdale withdrew it giving notice that he should move for a select committee to inquire into what amendments in the standing orders are necessary. The House soon afterwards adjourned.—On the 5th inst. the Earl of Clarendon complained of the attack which had been made upon him on the previous night, in the House of Commons, by Mr. Disraeli. Most of the charges made against him he could afford to pass over, but there was one which he must notice. It was said that in the Paris Congress of 1856 he entered into a conspiracy to put down the free press of Belgium. He denied that he had done anything of the kind. At the Congress Count Walewski had mentioned that there were journals in Belgium got up by French exiles and preaching assassination, and these might cause misunderstanding between France and Belgium. The Earl of Clarendon said in reply to this that he could not be any party to an attack on the free press of Belgium, but it was the duty of everyone to denounce assassination. He read from the protocol to show that this was what took place, and said if Mr. Disraeli knew of the protocol his charge was unjustifiable; if he did not it was reckless. Their lordships then took up the Public Schools Bill, and, after two divisions on clauses, passed it through committee. The Lord Chancellor brought up a Royal Message announcing the approaching mar-

riage of the Princess Mary of Cambridge, and expressing assurance that their lordships would concur in making further provision for her Royal Highness. The House then adjourned.—In the House of Commons, on the 31st ult., among those who had assembled last evening to hear the Reform debate were the Chinese Ambassadors and their suite. They had the pleasure of hearing a question asked as to their standing in the country, and Mr. Layard's explanation that, though they were not regularly accredited to this Court, her Majesty's Government had been asked to give them every facility in seeing the country. Mr. Doulton was fired with new zeal for the cause of his constituents, and gave notice that in committee he should move that Lambeth be divided into two boroughs, with two members each, the necessary two members to be found by disfranchising boroughs with less than 10,000 inhabitants where corrupt practices have prevailed. The adjourned debate on the Reform Bills was resumed by Mr. Julian Goldsmid. He pointed out anomalies in the Distribution of Seats Bill, and urged that as several boroughs with between 8,000 and 10,000 inhabitants were still to have two members, while some of the groups would have more than 10,000 and only one member, this was unjust, and two ought to be given to them. If that course was pursued with respect to the Honiton group he should vote for the Bill. Mr. Goschen had no objection, if the House agreed to it, to draw the line at 10,000 inhabitants instead of 8,000, but wherever the line was drawn anomalies must be created. Turning to the general question, he caustically showed up the policy of the Opposition in never venturing an amendment of their own, but backing up any proposal from the Liberal benches which threatened to obstruct the Bill. Finally, he declared that the Government could not accept a defeat on Captain Hayter's amendment. Sir John Pakington followed with a speech which had apparently been prepared for the discussion on the Franchise Bill. He quoted Mr. Mill's declaration—that the Conservative party by the very law of its existence was the stupidest party in the State, and triumphantly asked did Mr. Mill think so now. Mr. Mill followed Sir John, and promptly replied that he did think so, but added in effect that the Adullamites were running the Conservatives very close in this respect. Referring to the appeals which had been made to his writings, he said he wished members would read more than the passages they quoted. He gave in his adhesion to the Government scheme. Mr. Scourfield followed with an attack on the Bills, while Mr. Baxter sharply attacked the policy pursued by the Opposition; and pointed out that it must inevitably lead to a more comprehensive measure being introduced. Mr. Mowbray, Lord F. Cavendish, and Mr. Ducane having spoken, Mr. Lowe attacked the Bills. He began by declaring that the measures before them had never been read a second time, and after that went on to denounce them in a series of most carefully elaborated sentences. The Attorney General replied, and the debate was adjourned on the motion of Sir Hugh Cairns.—On the 1st inst., the House was kept from the Reform debate for more than an hour by a speech of Mr. Whalley, who sought to show that Fenianism was caused by Roman Catholicism. A very extraordinary scene was exhibited owing to the pertinacity with which Mr. Whalley persevered in addressing the House against the wishes of the members. In a very full House, containing about four hundred members, Sir P. Burrell moved that the House be counted, and simultaneously three-fourths of the gentlemen present rose from their seats and rushed to the door. A sufficient number remained to prevent the House being counted out, but Sir P. Burrell attained the much-desired object of bringing Mr. Whalley's address to a close; not, however, before the Speaker had made an appeal to Mr. Whalley.—

The House then resumed the debate on the Reform Bills. Sir H. Cairns led off with a speech in which he echoed the criticisms of Mr. Lowe and all those who had opposed the bills. Mr. Acland followed in support of the measure. In the course of the subsequent discussion Mr. C. W. Martin, one of the members for Newport, a borough proposed to be grouped, spoke against Captain Hayter's amendment. The other member for Newport, Mr. Kennard, supported the amendment.—There was a short and sharp prelude to the Reform debate in the House, on the 4th inst. Lord Elcho repeated his question as to whether the Government, in case they were successful in defeating Captain Hayter's amendment, intended to withdraw the Distribution of Seats Bill. Mr. Hadfield wanted to know if the Government had been informed that Captain Hayter intended to withdraw his amendment. The Chancellor of the Exchequer replying first to Mr. Hadfield, said the Government had had no communication with Captain Hayter. As to Lord Elcho's question he declined in effect to give any answer to it. Sir Hugh Cairns wanted to know if the Government adhered to its resolution not to prorogue Parliament till the bills were either carried or rejected. Again the Chancellor of the Exchequer declined to give any answer. Mr. Hadfield addressed himself to Captain Hayter, and wished to know from him whether he intended to withdraw his motion. Captain Hayter replied that he could not just then come to a decision. Sir T. Bateson thereupon wanted to know if the Government had been to the gallant captain with any promises of manipulation of the Distribution of Seats Bill. Captain Hayter replied emphatically in the negative. Mr. Horsman, who probably felt the Cave growing darker, wanted to know if the Government would stand or fall by the bill. The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied that they had already said they would, and as yet they had made no change in their intentions.—After this brisk cross-firing the debate on the real question was mildly begun by Lord John Manners, who, of course, opposed the Bill. Earl Grosvenor did not like the bills, but he disliked a Tory Government more, and therefore he should vote with the Government. Mr. Bernal Osborne, in a speech hitting out right and left, supported the Government. Mr. Adderley repeated in effect the speech he recently delivered at Stoke-upon-Trent against Mr. Bright and the Bill, and was smartly replied to by Mr. Grenfell. Lord R. Montagu opposed the Bill, which found a supporter in Mr. Pim and another opponent in Mr. Walrond. Mr. Wyld hoped the Government would not regard their plan of grouping as unchangeable in committee, and Mr. Mitford hoped the bills would be rejected. Mr. Henry Seymour thanked the Government for bringing forward the bills, and Sir T. Bateson issued a fierce diatribe against the measures. Mr. Coleridge came next with a powerful speech, in which he fitly rebuked the extravagances of Mr. Lowe. He was replied to by Mr. Whiteside. After Mr. Marsh and Mr. A. Egerton had spoken against the bill, the Chancellor of the Exchequer addressed himself to the task of answering the objections to the Bill. He spoke for about two hours, and effectually demolished the arguments of his opponents. Mr. Disraeli got the place he loves—that of last in the debate. He indulged in a good deal of sarcasm, but very little argument. Captain Hayter then wished to withdraw his amendment, but the House would not permit this, and it was negatived without a division. The House went into committee *pro forma*, and, after a rather exciting scene and a division, resumed.—On the 5th inst, in reply to Sir Stafford Northcote, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said the Terminable Annuities Bill would not be taken on Thursday evening, but the Government would go on with the

Reform Bills. A string of amendments to the bills would appear to-day on the notices in his name, the object of which was to fuse the two bills and to provide that they should both take effect at the same time. He thought it would be better to have the bills reprinted before going into committee with the amendments he should propose, and he moved a resolution to that effect. A discussion followed, in the course of which it was said that the proceeding was irregular. Eventually the motion was withdrawn, on the understanding that it would be brought on again on Thursday.—In reply to General Peel, the Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed the report that the proposed European conference had been broken off.—Subsequently there were discussions in reference to the payment of medical officers of unions in Ireland and Metropolitan Improvements. As to the latter, Mr. Baillie Cochrane moved a royal commission to inquire into the constitution of the Metropolitan Board of Works, the office of Public Works, and the office of Woods and Forests with a view to the better carrying out of metropolitan improvements. The motion was opposed, and after a short discussion was withdrawn.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer brought up a Royal Message in reference to the marriage of the Princess Mary of Cambridge, and moved that it be taken into consideration on Thursday next. The motion was agreed to. The House was shortly afterwards counted out.—On the 6th inst., the first business of importance was the consideration of the Real Estate Intestacy Bill, the second reading of which was moved by Mr. Locke King. The object of the measure was to assimilate the law of intestacy as regards real property to that in reference to personal property. There was a warm debate, the Bill being opposed by the Attorney-General, Mr. B. Hope, and other members. Mr. Bright spoke strongly in favour of the Bill. Eventually it was negatived; the numbers being—for the Bill 84, against it, 281.—Mr. Bouverie then moved the third reading of the Fellows of Colleges Declaration Bill. Mr. G. Hardy opposed the Bill, and moved its rejection. The debate upon it continued until a quarter to six, when it was adjourned to the 11th of July.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg, accompanied by several members of the Orleanist family, arrived in London on the 31st ult.—It the Court of Common Council the Bishop of London, through the medium of a letter, applied for a piece of land near the Cattle Market as a site for a church. Mr. Medwin sharply criticised the Bishop's proceedings, and in the end the letter was somewhat cavalierly handed over to a committee. At a meeting of Common Council, it was finally resolved that Southwark Bridge should be purchased for £200,000, the motion being carried by a majority of forty.—Mr. John Scott Russell applied at the Westminster Police-court, in obedience to a summons charging him with perjury. The case arose out of some evidence given by Mr. Russell, before the Court of Queen's Bench, as to a system of constructing iron ships which had been patented by Mr. Clarke. The examination of witnesses lasted several hours, and the case was finally adjourned.—In the Court of Probate on the 1st inst. the petition of Mrs. Ryves, who claims to be the legitimate granddaughter of Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland and therefore the inheritor of that title, came before a full court of the judges and a special jury. When Dr. W. Smith was entering into the facts of the case he was stopped by an objection of the court to the effect that if the marriage of the plaintiff's grandmother with the Royal Duke was proved, her mother's marriage, which took place after the passage of the Royal Marriage Act, would be illegal. The Lord Chief Justice asked Dr. Smith to address himself to this part of the case, and the

learned counsel, who is assisted by Mr. David Morgan Thomas, did so. Eventually, however, the point was waived for the time, and Dr. Smith proceeded to state the case.—The panic has driven at least one poor man out of his senses. An inquest has been held at Clapham on the body of James Christie, a large shareholder in the Bank of London, who, haunted by the fear of ruin, committed suicide. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased committed the act while in a state of temporary insanity.—Householders who keep dirty chimneys either from thoughtlessness or to save themselves the trouble or expense of employing a sweep will, perhaps, take warning from the cases which were heard, under the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Act, at the Clerkenwell police court. In nearly every instance the persons whose chimneys caught fire were fined by Mr. D'Eyncourt.—The case, "*Ryves v. the Attorney General*," was resumed on the 2nd instant. Several witnesses were called to prove the birth and position of Dr. Wilnot, and the authenticity of several certificates signed by him: The case will not be resumed till Wednesday next.—An inquest on the body of Samuel Stringer another of the sufferers by the gas explosion in the residence of Mr. Gambart, Regent's Park, was also held. The jury found a verdict of accidental death.—In August last a young man named Dominique Carroll, was committed for trial on a charge *sacrilege*. Subsequently he was sentenced to seven years' transportation. About a month ago one of the real culprits, believing himself at the point of death, confessed that Carroll had nothing whatever to do with the crime, whereupon this declaration was at once forwarded to the Home Secretary. It is announced that a free pardon had been granted to Carroll.—The Prince of Wales went to Colchester on the 5th inst. and reviewed the 11th Hussars.—The Duke of Edinburgh went into the City, and was made free of the *Merchant Taylors' Company*. After the ceremony his Royal Highness took luncheon with the officers of the company.—A breach of promise case was tried in the Court of Common Pleas. The suit was instituted by a young lady named Myers, against a Mr. Harris, both of the parties being Jews. One feature of the evidence was that the defendant, as was alleged, had burnt the letters he had addressed to Miss Myers. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, £60.—A case of some interest to the sporting public was tried at the Surrey Sessions. A commercial traveller named Hodson, of whose respectability ample evidence was forthcoming, was charged with stealing a sum of money from the person of one Hartley or Hargreaves, on the Derby Day. It appeared that the prisoner had made some bets with the prosecutor, but on being informed; rightly or wrongly, that he was "a welcher," he, together with some other persons, insisted on having his money returned, and employed force to accomplish that object. There appeared to be no doubt as to the facts, and the jury therefore returned a verdict of guilty, with a strong recommendation to mercy. The Chairman, while taking a lenient view of the offence, very properly pointed out that even on the Epsom racecourse persons were not at liberty to take the law into their own hands; and sentenced Mr. Hodson to a month's imprisonment, but without hard labour.—The workmen engaged at Guildhall making preparations for a visit of the Duke of Edinburgh, were suddenly subjected to a serious danger, a scaffold giving way, several men fell from a considerable height to the ground. Many of them sustained serious fractures.—We regret to announce that on the evening of the 6th inst., the directors of the Agra and Masterman's Bank decided to suspend payment. All through the present panic the bank has been

assailed with innumerable rumours, which have spread to India, where the bank has branches. The effect was a withdrawal of confidence, resulting in the managers there telegraphing for assistance. This the directors were unable to afford. During the present crisis they have lost about £3,000,000 by the withdrawal of deposit and current accounts, and no money could be spared without sacrifices which the board considered would be unjustifiable. The directors were obliged to suspend.—A grand choral festival took place in Westminster Abbey on the 6th inst., in aid of the Bishop of London's Fund. The Dean of Westminster preached the sermon, in which he urged the obligations of Christian charity and the advantages of a well-directed zeal.—There is some further news of the Abyssinian prisoners. They have long since set out for the coast, and are soon expected to arrive in Egypt.—The case of Mrs Ryves, who claims to be the Princess Olive of Cumberland again came before the Court of Probate. Mr. Netherclift, the expert, was examined with reference to the genuineness of the signatures of George III., which were attached to the petitioner's documents. His examination lasted the whole day, and had not concluded when the court rose.—At the Surrey Sessions, an application was made to the Deputy Chairman requesting him to discharge from further punishment a Mr. Hodson, now under sentence of imprisonment for stealing money from the betting-man who was mobbed at Epsom on the Derby Day. Statements were brought forward to show that the sentence was an unusually severe one; and it was also mentioned that eleven of the jury, after hearing the sentence, had united in drawing up a petition to the court, begging for the reversion of the judgment. The Deputy-Chairman referred Mr. Hodson's friends to the Secretary of State, and said he himself would readily assist in procuring a mitigation of the sentence.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The news in reference to the proposed Conference is conflicting. One story has it that the Emperor Napoleon is to preside. That, to say the least, is most unlikely. Another is that the most anxious desire has been expressed by France that Count Mensdorff should be present. Then we are told that Prussia accepts the Conference without condition—adding, however, that the imminence of war has not been caused by the Schleswig-Holstein question, about which Prussia would never have gone to war, but by the threatening armaments of Austria and Saxony. Austria, on the other hand, we are assured, only accepts the Conference on the understanding that Venetia is not to be discussed. If so, the Conference might as well never take place. It seems certain, however, that the meeting of the plenipotentiaries will be held at the latter end of next week, and that the bellicose Powers have promised not to begin hostilities until a definite result of some kind had been arrived at by the Conference.—An important announcement was made by M. Rouher in the Corps Legislatif. He said that hitherto all negotiations with England for a new treaty of extradition had proved fruitless; but the present treaty had been prolonged for six months to give time for further negotiations.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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NOTICE!

To prevent disappointment to advertisers, contributors of Lodge Reports and other matter intended for publication in the current number of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR for the week during which they are received, we again announce that all Lodge Reports must be received by us not later than eleven a.m. of every Thursday, and all advertisements not later than five p.m. of every Thursday.

H. G. M.—We have written you upon the subject.

J. W.—Abandon the idea; your efforts will be futile.