

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1866.

FREEMASONRY IN CHINA.

The following correspondence between the D. Prov. G.M. of China, E.C., and the D.D.G.M. Massachusetts, Constitution U. S. A., will explain itself, and cannot fail to be interesting to our readers.

The correspondent who has favoured us with the above, has also forwarded a full account of the laying the foundation stone of the New Trinity Church, Shanghai.

Summons to attend the Provincial Grand Lodge of China.

Shanghai, May 15th, 1866.

Dear Sir and Brother,—You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of China to be holden at the Masonic Hall, Shanghai, on Thursday, the 24th of May, at Half-past Three o'clock, p.m., punctually.

By order of the D. Prov. G.M.,

C. E. ENDICOTT,
Acting P.G. Assist. Sec.

To Bro.

This summons will serve as a pass to the Hall.

Business.

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting, held at Hong Kong, on the 13th January, 1866.

To consider a recommendation to the several lodges concerning the passage of a bye-law in re-initiation of candidates.

To lay the foundation stone of the New Trinity Church, by request of H.B.M.'s Consul and the trustees and treasurers.

Correspondence between the D.P.G.M. and the D.D.G.M. Massachusetts, Constitution U.S.A.

Letter No. 1.

R.W. Charles E. Parker, D. Provincial G.M. of Masons in China, under the M.W. G. Lodge of England.

Dear Sir and Brother,—I beg to lay before you, as representative at Shanghai of the M.W. G. Lodge of England, a few suggestions.

As peace and harmony are the support of all institutions, more particularly this of ours, it is highly desirable that the lodges in Shanghai, though working under different jurisdictions, should constitute one great family, and that they should, as far as possible, avoid all possibility of disagreement or unpleasantness.

I see nothing to disturb the amicable and fraternal relations at present existing among the lodges there, except the difference in the manner of accepting or rejecting candidates for the degrees. In the lodges working under an American Master, upon each application a committee is appointed to inquire into the fitness of the candidates, and report to the lodge. When an application has been committed, the applicant has no power to withdraw his application, and must be either accepted or rejected; and in case of rejection, the rejection be communicated to the other lodges. In the lodges working under English charters no committee of investigation is appointed, and the candidate may, and frequently does, withdraw his application before ballot, in which case there is no rejection which can be communicated to the other lodges.

It is evident that, under the present practice, our lodge may innocently receive a candidate who has been refused admission by another, and that thus the Fraternity may be injured by the introduction of an unworthy member, and the harmony of the lodges may be disturbed. It is obviously quite possible that a candidate who has been refused admission may within a few months be found at the door of the lodge by which he was refused, asking admission as a visitor from another lodge. Under the American charters a candidate is required to declare in his application to what lodges, if any, he has previously applied, but, of course, a bad man might make a false declaration. Having indicated what seems to me a danger, I shall leave to you the task of pointing out the means of avoiding it, should you agree with me in my estimate of it, assuring you of my hearty co-operation in any measure calculated to preserve the harmony of the Fraternity.

I am, Right Worshipful Sir,

Truly and fraternally yours,

(Signed) J. B. EAMES,

D.D.G. Master of Masons in China,
under the M.W. G. Lodge of
Massachusetts.

Letter No. 2.

Provincial Grand Lodge of China, Shanghai,
May 11th, 1866, R.W. Bro. J. B. Eames,
D.D. G. Master of Freemasons in China, M.G.,
U.S.A.

SHANGHAI.

R.W. Dear Sir and Brother,—I have to acknow-

ledge the receipt of your valued communication of yesterday and fully concurring with you in the hope that such provisions may be made concerning the working of the lodge, under our respective constitutions, as may conduce to harmony and good will; thank you for your timely mention of a point which may, perhaps, hereafter lead to some misunderstanding. The subject of your communication is one which had already presented itself to my mind as requiring some particular legislation, but it will be a point which it will be difficult entirely to cover, and while endeavouring to place such safeguards as may be possible in the way of any evils arising from it, I trust that should by chance any escape the provisions of our rules they may be recognised by you as unavoidable accidents.

It is true that in many instances applications are withdrawn under objections in our lodges, and this course seems to me quite proper so long as the provision remains in our Constitutions, that all initiates in any lodge shall be received as members thereof without further ballot. Objections may, in many instances, be brought forward against a candidate from personal motives, from the fact that initiation would constitute membership; while, perhaps, no objection would be urged, if it were in the power of a brother to prevent membership after the degrees had been conferred.

It has frequently happened that the name of a candidate proposed in one of our lodges and withdrawn, has been immediately proposed in a sister lodge and the degrees conferred, and while the difficulty exists of ascertaining definitively the reasons influencing an objection to a candidate, I think it is but just to any person applying for the degrees to allow his name to be withdrawn on objection, rather than subject him to the chance of the stigma of a black ball upon merely personal grounds.

Again, sometimes no objection is made privately, but upon the ballot a black ball appears which may still be the effect of personal objection only, so that you can readily see a record in our books either of withdrawal or rejection does not necessarily imply unfitness on the part of a candidate for the degrees.

Your committee could, of course, always ascertain from our secretaries whether any person proposed in your lodge had been already refused admittance in ours, but while our Constitution

remains as it is, I think no ill effects could arise, even if you initiated such a person after ascertaining that we had rejected him.

On the other hand, as you have a committee to inquire into the fitness of a candidate, and make the ballot for initiations distinct from that for membership, there seems to be less chance for the exercise of personal objection, and an opportunity for us to add a safeguard against the introduction of unfit members by calling upon any candidate to our lodges to state if he has ever applied elsewhere, and if so, to defer his initiation until inquiries have been made concerning the cause of his rejection. Upon inquiry should it be found that in spite of a favourable report by your committee, a black ball had still been cast in your lodge, a surmise of personal objection as the reason might still be entertained.

A Provincial Grand Lodge will shortly be held, and will afford a very favourable opportunity for bringing this matter to the attention of the Masters of our lodges; and I propose to introduce a resolution recommending the lodges under the English Constitution to pass a by-law that in future no candidate shall be initiated until after he has declared solemnly that he has never applied elsewhere for the degrees in Shanghae, or if it be found that application elsewhere has been made, accompanied by objection until after inquiries have been made concerning the cause of such rejection, and communicated to the brethren.

This would seem to cover the ground, as far as it is possible for us to do so, and while even with this precaution one improper person might be accidentally admitted, there would still remain for both of us the alternative of refusing admission as visitor or member afterwards of an objectionable brother.

I trust you will see in this course the evidence of a desire to promote harmony and goodwill between the brethren of our respective Constitutions, and while thus endeavouring to throw safeguards around some accidental breach, I trust that no occasion may arise to disturb them, and can only assure you of my readiness to promote any means calculated to make them perpetual.

I remain, R.W. dear Sir and Brother,

Yours very truly and fraternally,

(Signed) C. E. PARKER.

D. Prov. G. Master of Freemasonry
for China, E.C.

Letter No. 3.

R.W. Charles E. Parker, D. Prov. G. Master of
Masons in China, E.C.

R.W. Sir and Brother,—Your esteemed favour of the 11th inst. was duly received, and I beg to offer to you my warmest thanks for the promptitude with which you have replied to my communication of the 10th inst., as well as for the expressions of good feeling contained in your reply. My knowledge of your deep interest in the welfare of the Fraternity emboldened me to write as I did. I am fully aware of the difficulties in which the matter under consideration is involved, and the measure proposed by you seems to me to be the best—perhaps the only one which, under the circumstances, can be adopted. It will, at least, prevent any lodge from using material rejected by another lodge, in ignorance of such rejection; and I feel quite sure that no lodge in Shanghae will initiate into the mysteries of our ancient and honourable Fraternity any candidate whom they have good reason to believe unworthy.

You suggest that we sometimes “black ball” a candidate upon whom our committee have reported favourably, and in that you are quite right, but I beg to inform you that the committee, in addition to their written report, make an oral report, *seriatim*, and it sometimes happens that the committee, although not feeling at liberty to report unfavourably, make oral statements concerning the character of the applicant which lead to his rejection.

With the assurance that I shall ever be ready to do all in my power to advance the prosperity of the Fraternity,

I remain, R.W. Sir and Brother,

Yours truly and fraternally,

(Signed) J. B. EAMES,

D.D.G. Master of Masons in China,
M.C., U.S.A.

Minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge of China, held at the Masonic Hall, Shanghae, May 24, A.D. 1866, A.L. 5866.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in form by the D.P.G.M., Acting P.G.M. at half-past three p.m.

Present: Bros. C. E. Parker, D.P.G.M., acting P.G.M.; A. R. Lilley, P.J.G.D., D.P.G.M.; W. Jackson, W.M. 501, P.S.G.W.; R. A. Jamieson, W.M. 570, P.J.G.W.; Rev. M. Kaufmann, 570, P.G. Chap.; R. J. Fearon, 570, P.G. Treas.; C. E. Endicoff 501, P.G. Rég.; J. M. Hoekley, 570, P.G. Assist. Sec.; R. S. Gunday, W.M. 1027, acting P.S.G.D.; V. Leaman, S.W. 501,

P.J.G.D.; W. Kidnor, 570, P.G. Supt. of Works; C. M. Donaldson, P.M., P.G. Dir. of Cors.; W. C. Blanchard, Ancient Landmark, P.G. Assist. Dir. of Cors.; J. McMillan, 1027, P.G. Sword Bearer; R. A. Houston, 527, P.G. Assist. Purst.; D. Patridge, 501, acting P.G. Steward; H. W. Hardy, 570; W. Pearson, 501; W. E. Stephenson, 501; E. W. Rice, 501; T. W. Eckfeldt, 501; J. Jacques, 1027; B. W. Fellowes, 501; Joffreys, P.G. Tyler; P. H. Underwood, P.M. 570; E. C. Windmans, acting J.W. 1027; E. Whittall, 501; J. A. Maitland, 570; A. J. Johnston, 570; H. J. Canham, 501; M. L. Smith, 501. Visitors: Bros. J. B. Eames, D.D.G.M. Massachusetts Constitution, U.S.A.; H. D. Cartwright, P.P.G.M. Western India; A. M. Moore, P.P.S.G.W. Bombay; T. S. Borradaile, W.M. Cosmopolitan Lodge; F. B. Forbes, 322, New York, U.S.A.; S. C. Farnham, W. Tarrant, F. G. Walsh, and J. P. Martin.

N.B.—The Prov. G. Chap., Bro. C. H. Butcher, having to perform service in the church, was not present at the opening of the P.G. lodge, but officiated in his proper capacity during the ceremony of laying the stone, as will be seen below, his place in the P.G. lodge being occupied by Bro. M. Kaufmann, Chaplain of lodge 570.

The minutes of the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of China, held at Hong Kong, on the 13th day of January, A.D. 1866, were then read by command of the Acting P.G.M., and unanimously confirmed.

Bro. R. A. Houston was then invested as P.G. Assist. Purst., in accordance with the request of the P.G.M. contained in his letter of the 10th May, 1866, to the D.P.G.M.

The Acting P.G.M. then stated that the next business on the summons was to consider a recommendation to the English lodges concerning the passage of an especial bye-law in re-initiation of candidates, and that the consideration of this subject had been undertaken on this occasion on account of the holding of the P.G. lodge, being a fitting opportunity for bringing before the Masters of the lodges a point which is of much importance to the Masonic bodies working under different constitutions. He stated that he had been in correspondence on the subject with the D.D.G.M., Massachusetts Constitution, U.S.A., the R.W. Bro. J. B. Eames, and he then read the letters numbered 1, 2, and 3, copies of which are inscribed at the head of these minutes. The A.P.G.M. further remarked that the reasons for bringing this subject to the attention of the P.G. lodge were, he had no doubt, clearly apparent to the brethren in the correspondence just read, and that the difficulty was one which arose from the requirements of the different constitutions being quite dissimilar on the matter of the balloting for and reception of candidates, and he hoped that the resolution which

he should shortly bring forward would meet with the approbation of the members, as besides other results, it would be a public expression given to the representative of American Freemasonry in China, of a wish that everything should be done on our part to conduce to harmony and good will between the various lodges of the different nationalities. He then proposed the following resolution, which he stated had been by him communicated already to P.G.M., and had met with his entire approval. The resolution, which was seconded by the Acting P.J.G.W., and carried unanimously, was as follows:—

“That in accordance with the correspondence which had just been read between the D.P.G.M., E.C., and the R.W. Bro. J. B. Eames, D.D.G.M. of Freemasonry in China, Massachusetts Constitution, U.S.A., and with a view to perpetuating between the lodges working under different Constitutions that harmony and good feeling which at present exists, the three lodges working under the English Constitution, namely, the Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 501), Anthem Lodge of China (No. 570), and Tuscan Lodge (No. 1027) be recommended to pass a by-law that in future no candidate shall be initiated until after he had solemnly declared that he has never applied elsewhere for the degrees in Shanghai, or if it be found that application elsewhere has been made concerning the cause of rejection or withdrawal of name, and the result of such inquiries communicated to the brethren of the lodge for their action upon the same.”

The acting P.G.M. then requested the P.G. Assist. Sec. to take due notice of what had been done, saying further that he would shortly hand him a draft of a letter which it would be necessary to send to the several lodges on the subject.

The acting P.G.M. then said he had received a letter from the P.G.M. dated Hong Kong, May 16th, 1866, a portion of which was relative to a subject in which many of the Masonic bodies here are interested; it relating to a point of usage, the decision of which was continually called for from the W.M.'s of lodges, and that he would read the extract for their information:—

“I know the Royal Order of Harodim very well, and respect it highly as an ancient and honourable emendation from symbolic and ineffable Masonry, but its decorations are utterly inadmissible in any English lodge or chapter, and you must refuse admission to any brother attempt-

ing to wear them in your P. Grand Lodge, no matter what Grand Lodge he may hail from.

“Visiting brethren may wear whatever aprons and sashes they please, provided that the same belong to some Craft Lodge, but no jewels or other articles appertaining to any degrees but the three first, P.M. and the R.A. Bear in mind that the Earl of Zetland once dismissed a P.G.M. for wearing Harodim jewels in his P.G. Lodge.”

The Acting P.G.W. stated that this opinion given by the P.G.M., needed no further remark from himself, to insure its observance among the brethren who had or might become aware of it.

The Acting P.G.M. then said that the next business on the summons was to proceed to lay the foundation stone of the new Trinity Church in accordance with his assent to do so, at the request of H.B.M.'s Consul and the trustees of the said church and that the procession would now be formed, composed of the Provincial Grand Lodge, visitors, and the several bodies who were waiting below, viz., the three English lodges, as well as the Ancient Landmark and Cosmopolitan lodges, who had readily accepted the invitation of the Provincial Grand Lodge to be present at the ceremony, and also certain visiting brethren.

The Provincial Grand Lodge then proceeded in proper order to the street below, and having joined the aforesaid Masonic bodies, the procession moved to the Trinity Church, where a portion of the evening service of the Established Church of England was read, and a sermon from the text in the Book of Nehemiah, chap. ii., v. 18, “Let us rise up and build,” was delivered by Rev. Bro. C. H. Butcher, Prov. G. Chap. The benediction having been given, the procession reformed and proceeded to the site of the new Trinity Church, where the ceremony of laying the foundation stone was performed. A full report of the route of the procession, and of the ceremony is attached hereto, in extract cut from the *North China Herald*, of the 26th May, 1866, which is correct in every particular. The ceremony having been concluded, the Masonic bodies and the Provincial Grand Lodge returned to the Masonic building, and the Provincial Grand Lodge resumed labour in the Hall.

The acting P.G.M. said he desired to return his sincere thanks to the different brethren who had acted as P.G. officers for their attendance, and he wished particularly to thank Bro. C. M. Donaldson, acting P.G. Dir. of Cers., and Bro.

W. C. Blanchard, acting P.G. Assist. Dir. of Cers., for their services, which had been performed in the most thorough and efficient manner. Bro. Hockley, P.G. Assist. Sec., then arose and said he regretted to be obliged to resign the office of P.G. Assist. Sec., but it was necessary for him to do so, as he intended shortly to leave this country for England. The acting P.G.M. replied that he was sorry that circumstances rendered it necessary for Bro. Hockley to vacate the office which he had so ably occupied, and of course he was obliged to accept his resignation for the reasons named, and that he begged to thank Bro. Hockley for the readiness he had always evinced to assist him in the work, and also for tendering his resignation at this time, as it gave him an opportunity of appointing and investing his successor. He then desired Bro. C. E. Endicott to accept the office, which was readily assented to, and he was then formally invested with the badge of office, and was told by the Acting P.G.M. that his warrant of appointment would be sent from Hong Kong as soon as the Prov. G. Master could be communicated with. Bro. Endicott then took the seat just vacated by Bro. Hockley.

No further business offering itself, the P.G. lodge was closed in formed at seven o'clock p.m., the brethren separating in peace, harmony, and brotherly love.

Laying the Foundation Stone of the New Trinity Church.

A more favourable afternoon could not have occurred than that which was selected for this ceremony. The sun shone brightly and cheerfully, and a cool breeze pleasantly tempered the heat of the atmosphere. A larger number of ladies than we ever remember to have seen assembled before in Shanghai, were induced to witness the ceremony from the stand which had been erected for their accommodation in the church compound; and a number of spectators of the other sex, with crowds of Chinese, lined the streets through which the Masonic procession passed, and filled the church compound. The brethren assembled in force under the banners of their respective lodges, opposite the Masonic Hall, at 3.30 p.m., and the P.G. lodge having been opened in the lodge room, and its members formed in proper order, the whole procession marched to H.B.M. Consulate, where it was joined by H.B.M. Consul, the Consul General for France, the Consul

General for America, and other members of the Consular body. A body of seamen and marines who had been drawn up in the consulate compound also fell in, and the whole procession thus enlarged, returned to the church in the following order:—

Assistant Marshall, Bro. Drucker.
Shanghai Volunteers, under Sir E. Hornby,
and
Seamen and Mariners under Captain Boys, R.N.
Band of Music.
Visiting Brethren, not Members of any Lodge present
(two and two).
Office Bearers and Members of the Lodges present, viz.:—
The Ancient Landmark Lodge, Mass., U.S.A., in charge of
Bro. B. R. Lewis.
The Tuscan Lodge, No. 1027, E.C., in charge of
Bro. E. C. Winchurst.
The Cosmopolitan Lodge, No. 428, S.C., in charge of
Bro. J. G. S. Coghill, Deputy Master.
The Northern Lodge of China, No. 570, E.C., in charge of
Bro. J. Johnston.
The Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 501, E.C., in charge of
Bro. A. Overweg.
Tyler.
Banner. Steward.*
Brethren two and two, Juniors first.
Inner Guard.
Junior Deacon, with Wand. Senior Deacon, with Wand.
Secretary. Treasurer.
Junior Warden. Senior Warden.
Past Masters.
Steward, with Wand. Steward, with Wand.
* Steward. Worshipful Master.
Builder, with the Plans, Bro. S. C. Farnham.
† Steward, { Cornucopia with Corn, } Steward, †
borne by { Bro. J. P. Martin. } Bro. T. W. Eckfeldt.
Bro. E. W. Rico.
Ewer, with Wine, by Bro. T. S. Borradaile, W.M., Cosmopolitan.
Prov. G. Purst., Bro. R. A. Houston.
Ewer, with Oil, by Bro. P. H. Underwood, P.M., 570.
Acting Prov. G. Org., Bro. C. F. Jackson.
Assist. G. Dir. of Cers., Bro. W. C. Blanchard.
Acting Prov. G. Supt. of Works, with Inscription Roll,
Bro. W. Kidner.
Acting P.G. Sec., with Book of Constitutions, Bro. J. M. Hockley,
Acting P.G. Treas., with Phil of Coins, &c.,
Bro. R. J. Fearon.
Steward, Bro. H. W. Hardy. Steward, Bro. W. Pearson.
Acting P.G. Registrar, Bro. C. E. Endicott.
Rough Ashlar, borne by Bro. E. Whittall.
Bro. F. B. Forbes, 32nd, New York, U.S.A.
Visitors { W. Bro. A. M. Moore, P. Prov. S.G.W., Bombay.
R.W. Bro. H. D. Cartwright, P. Prov. G.M., Western
India.
The Column of the Prov. J.G. Warden, borne by
Bro. J. A. Maitland.
The Acting Prov. J.G. Warden, with the Plumb Rule,
Bro. R. A. Jamieson, W.M., No. 570.
Perfect Ashlar, borne by Bro. A. J. Johnston.
The Column of the Prov. S.G. Warden, borne by Bro. W. Tarrant.
The Acting Prov. S.G. Warden, with the Level,
Bro. W. Jackson, W.M. 501.
Acting Prov. J.G. Deacon, Bro. Vernon Seaman, S.W. 501.
Bro. H. J. Canham, with the Compasses.
Bro. M. L. Smith, with the Square.

THE VOLUME OF THE SACRED LAW

On a Cushion borne by Bro. F. G. Walsh.
 Steward, Bro. W. E. Stephenson. Steward, Bro. D. Patridge.
 The Acting Prov. G. Chap., Bro. Rev. M. Kaufman.
 The Acting D. Prov. G.M. with Square, Bro. A. R. Tilby, P.M. 1027.
 The Mallet, borne by Bro. B. Eames, D.D.G.M.,
 Mass. Constitution, U.S.A.

Volunteers :

Acting P.G.S.B., Bro. J. McMillan.
 The Acting Prov. G.M., W. Bro. C. E. Parker, P.M. 501, D.P.G.M.
 Acting Prov. G.S. Deacon, Bro. R. S. Gundry, W.M. 1027.
 Acting Prov. G. Steward, Bro. J. Jaques.
 Acting Prov. G. Steward, Bro. B. W. Fellowes.
 Acting Prov. G. Tyler, Bro. Jeffreys.

Volunteers :

The Consular Body.
 Officers of Army and Navy.
 The Trustees of New Church.
 The Municipal Council.
 Commissioner of Customs.
 Cordon of Six Policemen.

The brethren then entered the church, where evening service was read and an appropriate sermon preached by the Rev. C. H. Butcher; after which they proceeded to the spot where the foundation stone was suspended.

The Masonic anthem was played by the band after which the Prov. G.M. delivered this introduction :—

Men women, and children assembled here to-day to behold this ceremony, know all of you that we be lawful Masons, true to the laws of our country, and established of old with peace and honour, to do good to our brethren, to build buildings and to fear God who is the Great Architect of all things. To-day we are met together, in the presence of you all, to lay the foundation stone of a building to be dedicated to the service and worship of the Almighty Creator. Let us therefore praise and magnify His holy name, who has been pleased to permit us to join in this undertaking, by singing an anthem to His honour. The brethren will unite in singing the 1st anthem :—

Lord! Thou hast been our dwelling-place,
 Through years of old, and ages past;
 And still Thy laws we seek to trace,
 On Thee our trust we humbly cast.
 Father of Light! Builder Divine!
 Behold our work, and make it Thine!

A prayer was then offered by the Prov. G. Chap., Bro. C. H. Butcher, M.A.

H.B.M.'s Consul then presented a handsome silver trowel to the P.G.M., requesting him to make use of it in laying the stone. The P.G.M. thanked the Consul in a few words for the present, saying that he hoped the use which would be made

of the trowel during the day, would be such as to meet with his approbation

The P.G.M. then called upon the P. G. Assist. Sec. to read the inscription to be placed upon the stone, which was as follows :—

THE FOUNDATION STONE
of

TRINITY CHURCH, SHANGHAI,

Paid with Masonic ceremony
 Under the direction and superintendence of
 The D.P.G.M. of Freemasonry for China, E.C.,
 On the 24th May, 1866,
 Being the birthday of

Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria,

H.B.M.'s Consul.—Chas. A Winchester, Esq.

C. E. Parker, Esq., D.P.G.M.

Trustees.—Wm. G. Cuthbertson, Esq., and Wm. Keswick, Esq.

Treasurer.—Hy. Dickinson, Esq.

Architects.—G. G. Scott, Esq., R.A., and Wm. Kidner, Esq.

Builders.—Messrs. S. C. Farnham & Co.

Consular Chaplain.—Rev. C. H. Butcher, M.A.

The list of articles to be deposited in the stone was then read.

List of Articles Deposited in the Stone.

New Coins from the Hong Kong Mint.

Copy of Inscription on Stone.

Bye-Laws of Royal Sussex Lodge, 501.

Bye-Laws of Northern Lodge of China, 507.

Bye-Laws of Tuscan Lodge, 1027.

Bye-Laws of Ancient Landmark, Mass. Constitution, U.S.A.

Bye-Laws of Cosmopolitan Lodge, S.C. 428.

Copy of "North China Herald" of 19th May, 1866.

Copy of "North China Daily News" of 24th May, 1866.

Copy of "Shanghai Recorder" of 24th May, 1866.

Copy of "Friend of China" of 22nd May, 1866.

Copy of "Hong List" for January, 1866.

List of Prov G. Officers of the day.

And these, with copy of the inscription, were deposited in the cavity by the P.G. Assist. Sec. and P.G. Treas., after which the P.G. Supt. of Works was called upon to provide cement and workmen for the purpose of placing the stone. The P.G.M. smoothed the cement with the trowel, after which the stone was lowered with three stops the band playing solemn music.

The following dialogue then took place between the Acting P.G.M. and his officers :—

Prov. G.M. Bro. Grand Junior Warden. The plumb being the proper jewel of your office, I will thank you to apply it to the several edges of the stone and report to me whether or no they are correct.

G.J.W. Right Worshipful Sir, I have tested the stone with the plumb and find it truly and properly laid.

Prov. G.M. Bro. Grand Senior Warden. The level being the proper jewel of your office, I will

thank you to apply it to the top of the stone and report to me whether it is correct.

G.S.W. Right Worshipful Sir, I have tested the stone with the level and find it truly and properly aid.

Prov. G.M. Bro. Deputy. The square being the proper jewel of your office, I will thank you to apply it to those parts of the stone which should be square and report to me whether or no they are correct.

D. Prov. G.M. Right Worshipful Sir, I have tested the stone with the square and find it truly and properly laid.

The Prov. G.M. then said: Brethren, fully assured of your skill in the Royal Art, it only remains for me to finish the work. He then struck the stone three times with the mallet, saying: I declare that the squaring of this stone is correct, and that the Craftsmen have done their duty. May this undertaking, thus commenced in order, be conducted speedily and successfully to its conclusion, and may the stone laid this day prove the foundation of an Edifice whence shall emanate words of life and light to us and to those that shall come after us.

The Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. then called for three cheers, which were given with a hearty good will, the band playing a lively air.

The Prov. G.M. then called upon the Prov. G. Supt. of Works for the plans, and after ascertaining from Mr. Consul Winchester that these had met with his approval, returned them to the Prov. G. Supt. of Works enjoining upon him the utmost care and diligence in the prosecution of the work.

The corn, wine, and oil were then handed to the D. Prov. G.M., Prov. G.S.W., and Prov. G.J.W. respectively, who in turn handed them to the Prov. G.M., who proceeded as follows, pouring each as mentioned.

"Corn, the symbol of Plenty; Wine, the symbol of Joy; and Oil, the symbol of Peace. I now strew on this stone, with the prayer that these symbols may each be realised in the prosecution of the work, [and peace, plenty, and good will reign here and amongst us for ever."

The Prov. G.M. then anointed the stone copiously with oil, saying: "Furthermore, in like manner as Jacob anointed the pillar of stones sleeping upon which he had dreamed that he saw the gates of heaven, calling the place Bethel or the House of God, so do I now anoint this stone with pure oil, praying that in the building which

may arise from it may be found good and true men and men that fear God."

The 2nd anthem was then sung as follows, to the tune of Devizes:—

After which the P.G.M. spoke as follows:—

Mr. Consul Winchester and Gentlemen Trustees,—It is customary, and indeed, almost necessary, on occasions like the present, to offer a few explanatory remarks upon the forms and ceremonies made use of by us, and witnessed by many perhaps for the first time; and to enlarge upon the forms and ceremonies made use of by us, and witnessed by many perhaps for the first time, and to enlarge upon the uses and benefits of our Institution, throwing aside for the moment the reserve and silence with which we are wont to veil the subject. My time is too short to enter upon a disquisition upon the Order generally, or I might endeavour to show you how far and how essentially it differs, in its moral organisation and benevolent character, from all other human societies, both from the simplicity of its principles and their natural and complete adaptation to the desired end. I will content myself with observing that our Institution is founded upon the sacred law, giving us a guide for our feet, and setting before us the hope of eternal life; equally distinct from bigotry and fanaticism, teaching us to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly in our allotted path, and willingly to draw all people, of whatever clime or colour within its charmed circle, standing, not as a rival but as a handmaid and support of true religion. Our symbols are our poetry, and from the sublimity of their nature and the aptitude of their application, possess the quality as we conceive of exalting the character of our Order to the highest point of beauty and usefulness. Of the symbols brought prominently before you to-day, the principal ones, besides the corn, wine, and oil, which were explained in their application, are the square, level, and plumb rule; and while perhaps many saw in these but the common implements of the architect, we recognise them as emblems of great moral principles and duties. The square, as a symbol of morality, pointing out the volume of the sacred law as the true guide to life and conduct, and inculcating faith in God, hope in eternal life, and charity towards all mankind; the Level as a symbol of equality, teaching that all men are equal before Him who causeth the sun to shine as well on the humble cottage as on the abode of wealth

and luxury, virtue being the only true dividing line; and the Plumb Rule as an emblem of rectitude, reminding us to act justly and equitably in all our dealings. In like manner the other symbols before you have each their meaning, the whole forming a chain of poetry and morality which is a charm of our Institution. I will not detain you further, but having now fairly tested this foundation stone, and poured upon it the symbols of peace, plenty, and goodwill, I have the honour to inform you that it has been faithfully laid according to our ancient and established rites; and while thanking you in the name of the brethren for the honour conferred upon the Fraternity in selecting them for the performance of this duty, permit me also to express the hope that the proceedings commenced so auspiciously may continue successfully, and your new church soon become an ornament and a blessing to the settlement.

H.B.M.'s Consul read the following address in reply: "The Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master having reported the Masonic ceremony to be duly finished, it becomes my duty to announce to you that the foundation stone of Trinity Church is now laid. On no more auspicious day could so important an act have been performed than on this the anniversary of the birth of our most Gracious Queen. It is indeed fitting that the present members of the English community, the legislative successors of former generations who lived here under the shadow of the British protection, should take occasion to combine the remembrance of this interesting ceremony with a *fête*, the return of which is welcomed by Englishmen all over the globe with feelings of delight.

And first, gentlemen, let me return my thanks to the Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the other brethren, for the care and labour which they have bestowed in arranging the details of the proceedings. It is a fact which must be known to the students of Masonic history, that many of the great Christian temples reared in the Middle Ages in France, the Low Countries, and England, were not the production of single architects, but the work of companies of Masons bound together by ties more or less similar to those which are recognised by the theoretic Masons of the present day, and that they have left engraved on solid blocks of Masonry, interspersed throughout these vast Gothic edifices, the symbols of the time-honoured Craft. There appeared therefore to the trustees a peculiar fitness, in this distant land, in

their calling for the assistance of the Masonic brethren on this solemn and interesting occasion.

Next, I desire to offer our thanks to my worthy colleagues the Consul Generals for France and the United States, and the rest of the consular body, for having favoured us with their attendance. Neither on this occasion should I omit to refer to the concern manifested by the Taotai, of whose presence a sudden summons to Soochow has deprived us, nor to recognise the hearty goodwill with which the native magistrates have responded to our invitation. Our obligations ought to be expressed to the senior naval officer and men of H.M. squadron, and to the commandants, officers, and volunteers foot and mounted, whose escort has dignified our procession. To our other guests, and especially to the ladies who have graced the ceremony by their presence, we specially desire to tender our most sincere thanks.

You are aware that the spacious area on which we now stand was presented to the community almost as a gift by Mr. Thomas Chay Beale, an influential merchant, who died here several years ago.

The first church on it was the design of Mr. George Strachan, architect, and was completed in the year 1847. The first clergyman appointed to its cure was Mr. John Lowder, who arrived in the beginning of 1848, and was unfortunately drowned, September 24th, 1849. His successor, the Rev. John Hobson, was appointed in 1850. In July of that year the roof of the church fell in one Sunday morning a short time prior to the hour of service. The restoration of the church occupied about a year, and service was resumed in the building in August, 1851.

In 1862, this (which may be called the second church) was taken down, the tower and roof being declared unsafe. In the same year, the community had the misfortune to lose its Chaplain, the late worthy and Rev. John Hobson.

The temporary church in which we now worship was opened for service at Christmas 1862, and the present respected incumbent was placed amongst us, May 9th, 1864. Neither ought we, in recalling the benefactions made to this society to pass over the presentation of the organ by Mr. J. Skinner, long time a resident merchant in Shanghai. The edifice of which we have this day laid the foundation stone may therefore be considered as the fourth place of worship erected in connection with the Church of England, and the Establishment provided

for by the 6th George IV., cap. 87. It is not necessary that I should enlarge on the beauty of the plan, modified as it has necessarily been by the want of funds to complete it in the costly materials contemplated when the wishes of the community were made known to the great ecclesiastical architect by whom it was designed. Let us hope that the building will be brought to completion in a manner calculated to reflect credit on the names already connected with it,—that it will not only be a headstone, but a durable edifice,—that not only this single stone but all its foundations may be laid firm and sure,—and that the noble fane may be completed so as to remain standing for many generations.

My friends, it is very true that the society which we represent, regulates its proceedings by the regulations instituted by the Secretary of State, but it should also be known that its connection with Her Majesty's Government has, except in reference to special works like the present, been for several years purely honorary. This great community has long outgrown the want of government assistance, and the building we trust to see erected will owe its existence almost entirely to the munificence and religious feelings of the mercantile community of this great port. It reflects, I think the highest credit on it, that, notwithstanding the enormous losses sustained both in general trading and local enterprise during late years, no lack of funds to complete this edifice has been experienced.

I propose to bring this short address to a conclusion by expressing the heartfelt wish, in which I am sure you will all join, that Trinity Church may be speedily completed and long continue to receive the crowds of Englishmen who, in this far land, may seek its courts to worship after the manner of their fathers.

The proceedings terminated by the singing of the following two versns of the 100th Psalm:—

ANTHEM III.

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.
For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

After which the procession was reformed in inverted order and returned to the Masonic hall where the P.G. Lodge was closed, &c.

We understand the trowel is to bear the following inscription:—

Presented to
C. E. Parker, Esq., D. Prov. G.M. of Freemasonry for China, E.C.,
On the occasion of the
Laying of the Foundation Stone of Trinity Church, Shanghai,
On the 24th May, 1866,
Being the Anniversary of the birth of Her Most Gracious
Majesty Queen Victoria,
By C. A. Winchester, Esq., H.B.M. Consul for Shanghai,
Chairman, and the Trustees and Treasurer
of the
British Church Establishment there.

WEST LANCASHIRE RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Subjoined is the sixth annual report of this excellent Institution, whose importance and merits are not as fully appreciated as they deserve to be.

The object of the Institution are briefly these, first the unmasking of impostors, secondly, the relief of the deserving. We need, we are sure, say no more to commend it to the favourable notice of the Craft.

The West Lancashire Masonic relief Committee have completed the sixth year of the duties entrusted to them, in the confident hope that past experience will have convinced the brethren of the usefulness and good of the committee's labours.

The committee was established for the purpose of investigating the claims of unknown and doubtful petitioners, and adjudicating thereon; the committee trust that brethren will not grant any relief but to such as are worthy, without first bringing the case before the committee, many cases having come to the knowledge of the committee as being unworthy recipients.

The committees of Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, and Birmingham experienced the value of weekly interchange of reports of cases relieved by each committee, having prevented money being throw away upon impostors.

The cases relieved have been of an ordinary character, and it will be seen are principally Masons travelling with certificates under the Irish, Scotch, and foreign constitutions. The committee hand a list of cases investigated during the last six years:—English, 139; Irish, 178; Scotch, 192; foreign, 184; total, 693.

The committee tender their thanks to Bro. J. L. Hine, P.G.T. of East Lancashire, and Secretary

to the Manchester Relief Committee, for the promptitude with which reports of cases have been exchanged. They have also to thank the Secretaries of Birmingham and Newcastle for their kind assistance.

In two cases which came under the notice of the committee, medical attendance was required, and application was made to Bro. Joseph Kellett Smith, *M.D.*, and he with the utmost alacrity attended to those requests, and also placed his professional services at the disposal of the committee, whenever required.

The committee being anxious to see the brethren generally interesting themselves in the work of charity, invite their co-operation.

The Secretaries of the various lodges will confer a special favour on the Secretary by promptly transmitting the names and addresses of the delegates nominated by the lodges as members of this committee.

The annual grant is now due, and can be paid to the Treasurer.

On behalf of the Committee

THOS. MARSH, Hon. Sec.

Committee Rooms, Masonic Temple,
22, Hope-street, Liverpool.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE GLORIOUS ARCHITECT OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

A brother at Florence is not mistaken in the memorandum respecting these words, which he states was made by him, when visiting an English lodge, at the commencement of a pocket edition of the "Constitutions of the Ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons," published by the authority of the United Grand Lodge of England, into which my brother looked upon that occasion. There are printed charges from the Ancient Records of Lodges beyond Sea, and of those in England, Scotland, and Ireland. In the first charge, which is that concerning God and religion, there is this passage:—"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.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

VOLTAIRE A FREEMASON.

The pamphlet to which an East Kent brother refers was printed at Paris in 1814 is entitled "*Défense et Apologie de la Francmaçonnerie, ou Réfutation des accusations dirigées contre elle à différentes époques et par divers auteurs.*" It is no longer in my possession. The passage respecting Voltaire transferred, as my brother reminds me, when he was present in the library at Denton Court, autumn of 1854, to a Common Place Book, has, after a long search, been discovered. I subjoin a copy. "Voltaire après avoir écrit lui-même contre la Maçonnerie,

revent de son erreur, s'y fit initier, et finit par reconnaître et déclarer son importance et son utilité." See my communications to the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE—the one entitled "Voltaire's Assertion respecting the Origin of Freemasonry," vol ix., page 375; the other entitled "Voltaire and Freemasonry," vol. x., page 43.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

DEAFNESS.

In reply to your correspondent "P.M.," who asks "What is to be done with a very deaf candidate?" I may put on record in your pages a very interesting case of this nature which came under my own observation on two occasions, when presiding in place of the W.M. of a lodge, and which, when first reported to me prior to a meeting of the lodge, I deemed it almost impossible to perform the ceremony:—A gentleman, so completely deaf that he could not hear the report of a pistol if fired off close to his ear, presented himself for initiation, and his brother, a member of the lodge, undertook to interpret to him by the deaf and dumb alphabet the whole of the ceremony. The chief difficulty, of course, lay in the earlier portion of the proceedings, but the brother, holding one of the candidate's hands in his, interpreted to him, by touch, the words addressed to him from the chair, and to which, as required, the candidate gave the fitting responses, to the great interest of a large number of brethren. The manner in which the candidate repeated the O.B. was especially truly marvellous. Occasionally he gave a wrong word, but on his brother again touching his hand with the signs, the right word was readily substituted. Of course, during the subsequent part of the ceremony the difficulty was very considerably lessened. In the same manner the candidate was regularly passed and raised, and the only difference between this and ordinary cases was that in each instance a much longer time was occupied in performing the ceremony. Should the candidate referred to by "P.M." and some member of the lodge be conversant with the deaf and dumb alphabet, the same mode of initiation might be tried, but I very much doubt whether another deaf candidate could be met with who could so readily go through the ceremony of initiation as the brother above mentioned.—D. Prov. G.M.

"COWANS."

In our paper on Mother Kilwinning appearing in the MAGAZINE of date August 29, 1863, there occurs the following passage:—"Kilwinning, Dec. 20, 1705, . . . the same day by consent of the meeting, it was agreed that no Measson shall employ no Cowan, which is to say without the word, to work. If there be ane Measson to be found within fifteen myles he is not to employ ane Cowan, under the pain of fourtie shillings Scots." This definition of Cowan proves the absurdity of the attempt made by certain anti-Masonic writers to derive the word from the "chouans" of the French Revolution. Mackie, to show that the word was Masonically in use long before the French Revolution was even meditated, quotes from Anderson's "Constitutions" (printed in 1759) a sentence in which "Cowan" occurs; but here we find it in use by Mother Kilwinning in 1705 to denote irregular or uninitiated operatives. A revision of our notes enables us to adduce a still stronger proof of the antiquity of the word Cowan,

as urged by Masons, and we now supply that evidence, drawn from the records of the mother lodge:—

"The Court of the Massoun Tred of the Ludge of Kilwyning, holdin in the upper chamber of Hew Smythe at the croce of Kilwyning the xx of Decr. 1645. . . . Item they hev ordanit that Hew Mure sall not work with ony Cowane in tymes cuming, under the pane of x lb monie. Item John Smythe is becum cationner for Hew Mure to pay xx s. for his absence last year, and the said Hew Mure obleges him to relieff him under the dubble thair of."

"xix Decr., 1646. . . . The qlk day Hew Mure in Kilmarnock wes decernit to pay to the box ten lb monie of. unlaw for working with Cowans, contrari to the Acts and Ordinances of the said Ludge; and for the whair of the said Hew Mure as principall, and Johnne Allasoun, massoun, as cationner for him, bind and obleges thaim to pay the fairsaid unlaw betwixt and Decr. 1647; and the said Hew obldiges him to relieff his cationner under the paine of dubling the soum. Off the qlk unlaw ther is pay'd be Hew Mure xx s."

"At Air the twenty aucht day of Januar, the zeir of God sextein hunder fourtie sevin zeires. The Court of the Massounes of the Ludge of Kilwinning . . . Quhilk day Robert Qubyt, masoun in Air, upoun oath disclymd all working with the Cowains at any tyme, and obldiges him to his Ludge and to observe the auncient rewles maid thairanent, under the paine of fourtie pund, conforme to the Act."—
D. MURRAY LYON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—My attention has just been called to your number of July 14th, in which your correspondent "An old P.M. and Life Governor" has thought fit to reflect upon me in a manner libellous and highly injurious to me in my profession.

I am happy to say that the reports from time to time of the Examiners of the boys in the School, as well as the reports of the Committee to the subscribers at the Festivals, prove and admit my efficiency as Head Master; and I have the satisfaction of holding testimonials from men whose opinions of my character and ability I highly prize, the terms of which, as respects my qualifications, are the reverse of those in which "An old P.M. and Life Governor" has gratuitously, and with an absence of brotherly love, ventured to describe me.

I have to request that you will publish this in your next number, and that you will furnish me with the name and address of your correspondent, together with the manuscript of the article I complain of, in order that I may be able to adopt such a course as I am advised to take for the vindication of my character so unjustly aspersed.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

FREDERICK RUSSELL, P.M. 28,

late Head Master of the Royal Masonic

Institution for Boys.

2, St. Mary Abbott's Terrace, Kensington.

July 28th, 1866.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

OUR CHARITIES, A SUGGESTION FOR THEIR IMPROVEMENT.—

A brother, who is skilful in the use of his pen, was some time ago asked to print on cards, in imitation of letter press, some prayers on entering and leaving church for school children. This he did in the form of book markers, adding by way of decoration some appropriate artistic emblems, these he gradually improved, and employed his leisure hours in the work, giving away several hundreds to his friends. At last he thought he might gain something by them for the Masonic Charities, and determined to make a charge for this purpose, which, of course, diminished the demand. Subsequently he made another set containing short morning and evening prayers on the two sides of the cards, adding other decorations. Lastly he made a set of a Masonic character, with quotations from published works illustrative of Masonry, of which he has selected about 200, and has devised nearly the same number of Masonic emblems, so that there is a great variety, scarcely any two being alike in all respects. The idea is novel and ingenious, and the execution reflects great credit upon our indefatigable and industrious brother. He has thus been able to make a contribution of £5 to the Masonic Boys' School, and is anxious to raise the same or a greater amount for the other Charities, promising to continue his work so long as there is a demand. Having obtained some of these book markers, we cordially recommend them to brother Masons as a means of assisting the Charities, the more especially as the brother who executes them receives no remuneration for his labour, and each one must be a work of some hours. They are sold at one shilling each, ten shillings for a dozen, or twenty shillings for twenty-five. On forwarding us a post-office order or postage stamps for any amount, the number of book markers required will be sent by book post. Purchasers may have all of either one of the three sets, or some of each, as they may specify. We have no doubt there are many amongst the Craft who will embrace the opportunity thus afforded them of assisting the Charities, if the subject becomes known to them. We may add that the esteemed brother, who has thus exerted himself has been distinguished for many years past by his zeal in all that is conducive to the welfare of the Craft, and we hail with considerable pleasure the industry and application which he is now bringing to bear in aid of our Charities.

THE SEPARATION OF COLONIAL GRAND LODGES.—Our contemporary the *St. John* (New Brunswick) *Morning Post*, in speaking of Masonic affairs in the lower provinces, and the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge in Nova Scotia, this organisation being an addition to the Provincial Grand Lodge, holding under the authority of England and of Scotland; states, there are now, therefore, three grand bodies having jurisdiction over subordinate lodges in Nova Scotia. In New Brunswick, at the present time, there is a District Grand Lodge holding under the authority from England, and subordinate lodges working under the authority direct from Scotland and Ireland. In Canada there is an Independent Grand Lodge, and subordinate lodges operating under warrants from Scotland and England. In other of the provinces we believe an anomaly of a like kind prevails. With these facts, and a knowledge of the difficulties which arise from the existense of such a state of

things before them, we think the fraternity would display commendable wisdom by considering the propriety of affecting an arrangement which would do away with these diversified authorities and the conflicting interests which arises from their maintenance, and of adopting some general plan for the better government of this time-honoured institution. If a suggestion of ours would not be considered amiss, we would propose that there be organised, as speedily as circumstances will admit and the consent and co-operation of the Parent Grand Lodges can be obtained, a Grand Lodge of British North America, under the patronage of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland. And to further this design, we would commend the assembling in convention at some central or nearly central place—say St. John—of delegates from the lodges in the various provinces, vested with authority to consider all matters relating to the government of the Craft within their respective jurisdictions, and frame schemes of amalgamation.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.—The Earl de Grey and Ripon will preside at the next annual festival of this school.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex will be held at Lewes, on Thursday, the 23rd inst.

Our contemporary the *Irish Times* states that his Excellency the Marquis of Abercorn is an old member and warm supporter of the Order, as is also Lord Naas, the new Chief Secretary.

METROPOLITAN.

INSTRUCTION.

PANMURE LODGE.—The usual weekly meeting of this lodge held on Thursday, the 26th ult., at the Loughborough Arms Hotel, Brixton, was attended by an unusual number of members, and was marked by a very pleasing circumstance, viz.: the presentation of a testimonial to the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. J. Stevens, P.M. After working the ceremony and lectures of the 2nd degree, Bro. Hodges, W.M. of the Mother Lodge, addressing Bro. Perrot the W.M. of the evening, said he had been requested to entrust to him a very handsome gold pen holder, and one of Mordan's gold pencil cases contained in a morocco case bearing a suitable inscription—which had been subscribed for by a number of members in token of the esteem in which Bro. Stevens was held. Bro. Perrot in eulogistic language then presented the testimonial to that brother who replied thanking the brethren for this additional mark of their approbation. After the closing of the lodge, about twenty-five of the brethren sat down to supper, under the presidency of Bro. Perrot, when several appropriate speeches were made in connection with the proposition of the healths of Bros. Stevens, Hodges, Thomas, Perrot, Unwin, &c. The testimonial was supplied by Bros. Loewenstark and Sons, and was highly approved.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—The usual July meeting of this prosperous lodge was held, as a summer festival, at the Greyhound Hotel, Dulwich, on Wednesday July 25th, at two o'clock. The lodge was duly opened by the W.M. Bro. H. A. Collington, assisted by Bros. W. Andrews, S.W.; J. Truelove, as J.W.; J. Stevens, P.M. Treas.; F. Walters, P.M. Sec.; J. Hawker, S.D.; S. G. Cook, R. West, C. Wood, J. T. W. Barrett, D. Masson, M. Coucnen, G. F. Honey, W. Dalziel, W. Billington, H. Whittle and others. Amongst a large number of visitors. We noticed Bros. T. G. Dilke, P.G. Purst; J. Haslen, 79; C. Eagle, 167; M. Burch, 180; and others whose names we were unable to ascertain. The only candidates who presented themselves, were Bros. C. Wood, and J. W. T. Banett, who were in an able and efficient manner passed to the degree of Fellow Craft Freemasons. The ceremony being rendered in the usual superior style of the excellent working of the W.M., which is now too well known to admit of any comment in its favour. Bro. C. G. C. Stahn, P.M., tendered his resignation as a member of this lodge, which was duly accepted. Bros. W. Billington, 73; and W. Dalziel, 147; were unanimously admitted as joining members. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the next lodge meeting, which was agreed to be held as an emergency, on Friday, August 3rd, there being so much work to be

done before the regular October meeting. The lodge was duly closed. The brethren then spent a very agreeable afternoon together at the various amusements which abound at the establishment. At six o'clock they partook of a splendid banquet which was followed by a first-class dessert. The usual loyal toasts were given and received. After spending a few happy hours together over the festive board, the brethren separated highly pleased with their first summer festival determining that it should not be the last one.

THE UNITED STRENGTH LODGE (No. 228).—This lodge held its summer festival at the Crown, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, on Tuesday, the 17th ult. Upwards of forty brethren and ladies were present, and the banquet was served in the pavilion attached to the grounds. Bro. A. Colston, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Allen, Winsland, Terry, Dudley, P.M.'s; Davies, S.W.; Harris, J.W.; and many other officers and brethren. On the removal of the cloth, and after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. proposed "The Health of the Ladies who had honoured them with their presence on the occasion," and expressed the pleasure it afforded himself and the brethren in having them around on so festive an occasion. He reminded them that although the brethren appreciated the presence of the ladies at their summer festival, and the charm it added to their assembly, yet the cause and object of the noble institution of Freemasonry, was to disseminate the grand principle of universal charity, and while the brethren felt this in the midst of their own enjoyment, they did not forget the nobler aim they had in view that of assisting those amongst them whom adversity had compelled to seek that assistance the Institution was at all times so ready to give. The toast was drunk with all due honour. Bro. Vivian, on behalf of the ladies, responded, expressing the pleasure it afforded them in being present, and hoping that they might frequently enjoy a similar day of pleasure. Bro. Allen, P.M., then proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master," in complimentary terms and expressing his satisfaction at the arrangements for the summer festival. The W. Master in reply thanked them for the honour they had done him, and acknowledged the kind assistance he had received from the P.M.'s and officers generally, in arranging for the success of the day. It gave him the greatest pleasure on being as warmly supported by the lodge, a pleasure still more enhanced by seeing amongst the visitors so many old and respected members of the lodge, showing the interest they still took in the United Strength. "The Health of the Visitors," having been proposed by the W.M., and most ably responded to by Mr. Terry, Sen., on their behalf, the brethren and ladies after enjoying the beauties of the gardens and grounds so admirably laid out by Bro. Beddingfield, returned to town after having spent most agreeable day.

PROVINCIAL.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

CARLISLE.—*Union Lodge (No. 310).*—The regular monthly meeting of the above lodge was held on Tuesday evening, 31st ult., at half-past seven, at which the Rev. Bro. W. Cockett, W.M. P. Prov. G. Chap., occupied the chair of K.S., assisted by Bros. G. G. Hayward, S.W.; J. Slack, J.W.; J. B. Paisley, S.D.; W. H. Pulford, J.D.; G. T. Clark, Sec.; A. Woodhouse, I.G.; J. Barnes, Tyler; also the following brethren were present, viz.: Bros. F. W. Hayward, P.M., Dir. of Cers. and Treas., P. Prov. J.G.D.; W. Murray, P.M.; J. Brown, P.M.; J. Howe, J.P., P.M.; G. Turnbull, J. Gibson, W. Court, A. Johnson, W. Fisher, George Somerville, and visiting Bros. Thos. Gibson, 327, Nigton, H. H. Southcott, 106, Exmouth. The lodge was duly opened, the minutes read and passed; the only business brought forward was a petition to the Grand Lodge of benevolence for Bro. Thomas Storey, one of the unsuccessful candidates at the last election of aged Freemasons, also reference to the Provincial Grand meeting that takes place at Workington, on Wednesday, the 1st of August; a gentleman was proposed to become a member, after which the lodge was duly closed by Bro. F. W. Hayward, and the brethren retired to the refreshment room for an hour, and parted in harmony.

HAMPSHIRE.

BASINGSTOKE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—This lodge held its annual meeting at Basingstoke, on the 31st ult., under the

presidency of Bro. Sir Lucius Curtis, Admiral of the fleet, the R.W. Prov. G.M., who was supported by Bros. C. E. Deacon, P.G.D. of England, D. Prov. G.M.; Col. Meehan, W.M. Lodge No. 257, Portsmouth, Prov. S.G.W.; R. S. Hulbert, P.M. 694, Basingstoke, Prov. J.G.W., and the other officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and nearly a hundred members of the Craft. The lodge was held in the Town Hall, and during the transaction of its business the P.G.M. appointed the following officers of the province for the year ensuing: Bros. Fabian, 487, Portsmouth, S.G.W.; Gale, 804, Havant, J.G.W.; Dr. Bradshaw, D.D., 394, Southampton, re-appointed G. Chap.; Col. M. Frost, P.M. 487, re-appointed G. Treas.; Ford, 694, Basingstoke, G. Sec.; Everitt, 76, Winchester, S.G.D.; Ribbeck, 195, Bournemouth, J.G.D.; Howell, 394, Southampton, G. Dir. of Cers.; Hogg, 487, Portsmouth, Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Wallingford, 903, Gosport, G. Sword Bearer; Shackell, 395, G. Purst.; R. Sharpe, Org. 180, Southampton, re-appointed G. Org.; Barber, 342, Portsmouth, G. Std. Bearer; Massey, 694; Douglas, 309, Fareham; Brown, 723, Aldershot; Wilson, 903; Hannard, 928, Petersfield; and Cawte, 342, Portsea, G. Stewards; and Dawkins, 394, and Biggs, 180, G. Tylers. The R.W. Prov. G.M. afterwards fixed the next Provincial Grand Lodge to be held at Southsea, and expressed a hope that this would be found for the future most convenient for the brethren at Portsea, Gosport, and Portsmouth. In the afternoon about eighty of the brethren sat down to a banquet provided by Mr. Lodder, of the Black Boy, the excellence of which gave general satisfaction.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

SCARBORO'.—*Old Globe Lodge* (No. 200).—A regular meeting of this old, flourishing, and hard-working lodge was held on the 18th inst. at the Masonic Hall, Scarborough; the chair of K.S. was occupied by the W.M. Bro. G. Knight, supported by his officers, Bros. Williamson, S.W.; Crosby, J.W.; Armitage, S.D.; Pennock, J.D.; Rosser, I.G.; and Bros. Bean, Woodall, Rook, and Stewart, P.M.'s; Martin, P.M. and Hon. Secretary, and Bros. Ash and Saunders, Tylers. There was a numerous attendance of members and visiting brethren. The lodge was opened at half-past six p.m., and the minutes read and confirmed. Messrs. C. Browning, C. Smailes, J. Jackson, M.D., and J. Livingston were ballotted for, and approved as candidates for initiation into our ancient and honourable Order, and being present were admitted and initiated into the E.A. degree in due form, the ceremony being most impressively and ably conducted by the W.M., assisted by his officers. Mr. James Kirby, builder, Scarborough, was proposed for initiation at the next meeting. Bro. L. J. Sefton, of Lodge No. 314, Preston, was proposed as a joining member. All business being closed, the brethren dispersed with that peace and harmony which pre-eminently characterises the Order.

ROYAL ARCH.

SURREY.

CHERTSEY.—*St. George's Chapter* (No. 370).—At the regular meeting of this chapter held at the Masonic Hall, on Saturday, the 28th ult., there were present:—Comps. W. Smith, Z.; W. L. Bird, J.; W. F. Harrison, H.; Dr. Harcourt, W. G. Smith, W. Blenkin, R. Spencer, P.Z.'s. Visitors: Comps. Blackburn, Binckes, and Kingsmill. The following brethren, after due examination were prepared, and duly exalted into this sublime degree, viz.: Bros. C. Rawson, North Lodge of China, Shanghai; B. Lee, Lodge No. 14, Ireland; Rustamjee C. Shroff, Concord Lodge, Bombay; Pestonjee Bazonjee, Cadogan Lodge, London; and J. Shuckford of St. George's Lodge, Chertsey. At the banquet the several candidate expressed themselves much gratified at the honour conferred upon them by being admitted members of the sublime Royal Arch degree.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

METROPOLITAN.

WOOLWICH.—*Keymeys Tynte Encampment*. A meeting of this encampment took place on Friday, July 20th, 1866. There were present Sir Knts. J. R. Thomson, E.C.; George Cockle,

Col. H. Clerk, P.G.C. for Kent; Joseph Lyons, Capt. N. Philips, D.P.G.C.; Capt. J. G. Sondemon, Capt. W. F. P. Dadson, 1st Captain; J. W. Figg, P.E.C., as 2nd Captain; Capt. Boyles, P.E.C., Treas.; P. Laird, P.E.C., Reg.; J. J. Forrester, Expert; Joseph Taylor, Capt. of Lines. The minutes were read and confirmed. Capt. J. G. Sandeman was unanimously elected a joining member. Capt. W. F. P. Dadson was then installed into the office of E.C. in a very able manner, by J. R. Thomson, the outgoing E.C. The E.C. then appointed his officers as follows:—J. R. Thomson, Prelate; J. J. Forrester, 1st Capt.; Joseph Taylor, 2nd Capt.; Capt. Boyles, Treas.; P. Laird, Reg.; G. Cockle, Expert; Capt. Sandsman, Capt. of Lines; J. Forrester, 1st Herald. After the encampment was closed, the Sir Knts. adjourned to the banquet, and a most agreeable evening was spent.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESAREE (No. 590).—The regular monthly meeting was held at the Masonic temple on Thursday, July 26th. The first chair was filled by Bro C. Le Sueur, P.M., at the request of the W.M., who was detained by business during the early part of the evening. The Wardens' chairs were occupied by the proper officers, Bros. Outley and Viel, and that of I.P.M. by Bro. Dr. Hopkins. The lodge was opened at a quarter past seven in the 1st degree, and after the reading and confirmation of the minutes, in the 2nd degree. Bro. P. J. Gibaut was then examined as to his proficiency and dismissed for preparation. The lodge was opened in the 3rd degree, and on the readmission of the candidate he was duly raised to the rank of M.M. The lodge having been resumed in the 1st degree, a ballot was taken for Messrs. Fr. Amay, Ph. Le Geyt, and Ch. Aubin, who had been regularly proposed for initiation, and this having in each case proved favourable, they received the benefit of admission as Entered Apprentices at the hands of Bro. C. Le Sueur, P.M. Some matters of business were then transacted, arising from written applications of various kinds, among which were several requests for relief, one of which was granted, and in the other cases committees of inquiry were appointed. Bro. Manuel having informed the lodge that a well known brother about to leave Jersey was then present for the last time, expressed his assent as W.M. to a request that he might be allowed to offer a farewell address to the members. Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M. then spoke as follows:—

"Worshipful Master and dear Brethren of the Césarée Lodge: Lightly as in many cases the Masonic tie is regarded by those who have joined the ranks without imbibing the spirit which should animate all who have taken its solemn and sacred obligations; unwilling as some are to pursue the subject through its several branches, the promotion of morality, the cultivation of intellectual progress, a preparation for immortality, as taught in the three degrees, remaining content with occasional attendance at the lodge to witness the ceremonial observances conducted by others, without a spark of ambition to join the rank of workers, nay more, caring nothing for aught but the amenities of the social board, I trust, brethren, that among you, members of Lodge La Césarée, there are but few who so neglect the first principles of the Order, the pledges taken, the truths inculcated. Under this impression, I venture to hope, that on this the last opportunity I shall have of addressing you, to my mind a most serious occasion, you will bear with me for a short time while I offer a few parting remarks, before I finally quit you for another sphere of action. I have the more reason to claim your indulgence because I am now but a visitor among you, yet a brother, who in many past days, and even years, has been a fellow worker with you, has shared your trials, your disappointments, your hopes, your successes, your triumphs.

"Eight years ago I came to this island, a stranger, without friends or connections, with no recommendation but that of having entered into bonds of brotherhood, which are too often justly regarded with fear and suspicion, as I myself soon found. Had it been otherwise, the language in which your work is carried on would have sufficed to exclude me from membership of this lodge, and I should have joined another. Unfortunately in one sense, but happily in another, since it led me to seek an asylum with you, doubts, jealousies, and suspicions with regard to myself arose in a different quarter, and your kind and open reception induced me to brave the difficulties of a foreign tongue,

in order that I might associate with Masons with whose hearts mine beat in unison, actuated by the same spirit of Fraternity, the same aspirations towards all that is good and elevating, the same hatred of all that is mean, cowardly, untruthful, and dishonourable. Well have I been repaid for the care I took in the selection of a lodge, since I can conscientiously say, that many as have been the causes of vexation among us, they have all arisen from extraneous circumstances, whilst between ourselves all has been unity, fraternity, and peace. Brethren, such were the habits to which I had previously been accustomed in my Mother Lodge, and now having passed nearly the same term in each, it would be difficult for me to decide in which of the two I have met with the most cordiality, have enjoyed the greatest amount of happiness. The balance must perhaps preponderate in favour of Paul's Lodge (No. 43), solely because it is that in which I received Masonic birth and first saw the light.

"During a life of nearly three score years, from the commencement of my school days, I have felt most strongly, that next to the practice of virtue, occupation, and industry are essential to happiness, and that indeed the former is best promoted by the latter, since, in the single words of Dr. Watts, "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do," defective health even not being allowed as a valid excuse for indulgence in ease and pleasure. Hence, having been compelled by this cause to abandon my profession, one of the most honourable and useful, yet arduous and responsible, in which man can be engaged; when I came hither, I looked around me for a sphere of usefulness. I found it in efforts to take up many questions of political or social interest in your local journals, without looking for reward or remuneration beyond the hope of doing good. Undoubtedly I have thus offended the *amour propre* of some, opposed the opinions, perhaps prejudices, of others, interfered with the pecuniary interests of a few, temporarily found myself antagonistic to friends whom I esteemed, some of whom have subsequently acknowledged that I was right, been accused of officious meddling by nearly all. I see some among you brethren now present, who have occasionally thought harshly of me on one or other of these grounds; yet, on reviewing the past eight years, I can conscientiously say that I am satisfied with my own course. I beg all to whose feelings and notions I have run counter to believe, that any desire to do so beyond the bounds of duty, courtesy and gentlemanly conduct, has not entered into my thoughts, and if any other ideas be cherished, I assure you they are mistaken. If I have seriously offended any, I beg forgiveness.

"In Masonry, too, pursuing the same sort of course, I have not come off scathless. You and I, brethren, have been associated in several struggles, either for the maintenance of Masonic principles, or in opposition to what was not in accordance with them, whether moral or constitutional. We have not always met with success, but on one important subject at least a short time longer will probably suffice for that. You will understand to what I refer, without any specific mention of it. Some of you I desire to thank most heartily for the energy you have displayed, and the consistency with which you have maintained your cause, whilst I cannot but regret the want of moral courage on the part of others, in hesitating to carry out their desires and convictions, by which your efforts have been nullified, and thus the Craft in Jersey continues to suffer, not only internally but in the estimation of non-Masons.

"Amongst the subjects for congratulation presented during the period of my Masonic career here, none stands out more boldly than the erection of the temple in which we are now assembled, and I trust that the time is not far distant when you may be able to give the finishing stroke by adding appropriate emblematic decorations to this hall. Having previously elsewhere taken part in a similar attempt, I at once cordially embraced the opportunity of renewing my humble efforts in the cause, one now crowned with complete success on the eve as it were of my departure, by the cessation of the last remnant of tavern influences, since the only lodge in the island which held out has recently adopted this as its home.

"Permit me to refer to one other circumstance connected with my sojourn here. Nearly four years ago I requested from you as a body, not from your Worshipful Master and Wardens merely, sanction for the opening of a lodge in another part of the island. To this you willingly assented. I know that I shall not be accused of presumption in saying, that hitherto the St. Aubin's Lodge has to a great extent been maintained by the constant energy and vigilance of a few active members in conjunction with myself. Now that I am about to leave Jersey,

allow me to commit to your charge the child to which I have acted as nurse. I commend it to you as weaned, but still requiring assistance to bring it to maturity. It has learnt to walk, but has need of help and guidance to enable it to run alone, and to guard it from accidents which may endanger its constitution and existence. I pray you not to neglect it. Consider yourselves as responsible for its prosperity and well-doing. If needful, lend it your aid by recommending your members to join it, which, according to the by-laws, can be done by non-residents in that district on moderate terms. Thus you will give proof of interest in your offspring, of your regard for its founder.

"In conclusion, accept my assurances of continued attachment, my warm and sincere thanks for the consideration I have ever received at your hands, for the happiness I have derived from my connection with you, for the many acts of kindness you have so generously bestowed upon me. With my pen, if not with my tongue, I have endeavoured to serve you, and thus have incurred displeasure and odium in some quarters, where, however, publicity is a matter of dread, and whence blame cannot be considered as a reproach. Here let me remark, that having established a connection with the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, and made the Césarés Lodge known and respected throughout England, I trust you will take means for continuance of the reports, by which I as well as others may be kept *au courant* as to your proceedings. Often shall I think of you, brethren, when elsewhere engaged in Masonic duties. Your continued prosperity will be my earnest hope, nor can you fail to obtain it if you persevere in the course you have pursued and are pursuing. I beg that I may still, though absent, occupy a place in your hearts just so far as I have deserved it, and continue to do so. May the Great Architect of the Universe grant the continuance of His aid on behalf of yourselves and all true and sincere Masons. Brethren, farewell."

At the conclusion of the preceding address, which was listened to with great attention and occasional expressions of approbation, some remarks were made by Bros. C. Le Seur, acting W.M.; Schmitt, P.M. and Sec.; and Manuel, W.M., in reference to it. On the proposition of the two brethren last named, a resolution was unanimously passed, that Bro. Dr. Hopkins be requested to furnish a copy, and that it be entered on the minutes of the lodge proceedings. Bro. Manuel observed thereupon, that he did not wish this to be regarded as a precedent, since it was frequently the case that brethren offered some remarks on leaving the lodge, who had not, like the brother alluded to, distinguished themselves for many years by their active exertions as pillars of Masonry in the province. In many ways his Masonic career here had been marked, not the least important of which was that by his liberal donations of books he was, in fact, the founder of the Masonic Temple library. For this reason he (the W.M.) had desired to have a special resolution on the subject, rather than himself direct the Secretary to take a copy of the address. The lodge was closed in the usual solemn manner at ten o'clock, and an adjournment to the banqueting room took place. Many visitors were present during the evening, among whom was Bro. Martin, a Provincial Grand Officer from Kent.

CANADA.

GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF CANADA.

The annual meeting of this Grand Lodge was held in Montreal, on the 11th ult. The Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the M.W. the G.M., the following officers being present: W. B. Simpson, G.M.; A. G. Kirkpatrick, G.S.W.; B. C. Davy, G.J.W. pro tem.; Rev. V. Clementi, G. Chap.; H. Groff, Treas.; R. Irwin, Reg.; F. Clough, Tyler; F. C. Drosser, S.D.; G. Smith, J.D.; H. Sims, Supt. of Works; B. E. Charlton, Dir. of Cers.; Dr. Fergusson, G. Assist. Supt. of Works, pro tem.; W. Reid, Assist. Dir. of Cers.

The Grand Lodge being opened, and the minutes read, the G.M. read the following address:

"Brethren,—The rapid and unerring tide of time has borne another year to its fathers in the endless vaults of eternity, and we are all again permitted by the G.A.O.T.U., to assemble in annual communication to review the past, and to devise means whereby the principles of our Order may be more thoroughly inculcated, and our organization for good be rendered more efficient for the future.

"When I had last the pleasure of addressing you, I took occasion of drawing your attention to the eventful times we

were living in, and to remark that, notwithstanding the many changes which had taken place across the wide Atlantic, yet, that upon the dim horizon of the future, portentous clouds loomed up. Since then a mighty struggle has commenced, one which deluges Europe with blood, and shakes it to its centre. Who can foresee the end, or say that this, our native land, shall escape the tide of war. Be it, therefore, our duty, my brethren, to be prepared for every emergency, so that whether we be called upon to repel the foreign foe, or to perform the peaceful duties that more immediately pertain to our Order, our motto may ever be, 'ready, aye, ready.'

"Within the last few weeks the soil of Canada has been polluted by the tread of a band of lawless invaders the very pariahs of society, such men, in fact, as the great and terrible war in the neighbouring States was but too likely to produce, and whose object in life is to prey on society. It matters little whether it be by appropriating the hard-earned savings of the poor Irish servant, or by deliberate theft and rapine. A more criminal raid was never heard of in the history of modern nations. The idea of assisting Irish independence by a murderous onslaught on the peaceful inhabitants of a remote and happy British province, is too absurd to be entertained. Plunder was the object, and may the just laws of our country mete out to them a just reward. Deeply is it to be lamented that any of our brave and gallant volunteers, 'the flower of the youth of Canada,' should have fallen by such ignoble hands. Be it our duty, my brethren, to cherish their memory by an ever green remembrance, and like them let us ever be prepared at our country's call, to shed our heart's best blood in her defence.

"If there is one duty more strongly inculcated by Freemasonry than another, it is loyalty. With political questions, we, as a body, have nothing to do, but to be true and loyal to our Sovereign and country is, as you are well aware, not only our paramount duty, but our highest privilege, and yet there are those who, either in consequence of having been refused admittance into our lodges, or because the see of Rome has lately issued a silly document against Freemasonry, have not hesitated foully to slander us in public prints, and to class us with Fenians and other subverters of the peace of society, forgetting naturally that the uncle and father of our gracious and most loved Queen, was a Grand Master of our Order, itself a sufficient guarantee, were any necessary, for our loyalty. But, brethren, I am not here as an apologist for Freemasonry—it needs no apology—its acts speak for themselves, and by those acts I am willing that it should be judged. Nor should I have alluded to these foul slanders, but that I feared as a prominent member of the Craft had noticed them in the public prints, that my silence might be misconstrued. I am at all times much opposed to rushing into print on Masonic matters, but in this instance I was particularly so, for I deemed it beneath my notice as your Grand Master to pay the slightest attention to such palpalable calumnies.

"From present appearances, there is every reason to believe that the great question of Confederation of the British North American provinces will, within a few short weeks, be accomplished. Let us then carefully consider the position in which this Grand Lodge will be placed by that event. A strong feeling is, I am given to understand, entertained by many prominent Masons in the sister provinces in favour of a Grand Lodge for the whole of British North America, with a Provincial Grand Lodge under her in each province. With these views, as you are well aware from the remarks I made at the Toronto Masonic Banquet last July, I fully concur; being persuaded that such a confederation would prove of incalculable benefit to our Order, and place us in the foremost rank of the Grand Lodges of the world—not even second to our honoured and revered parent, the Grand Lodge of England. Ponder well, then, my brethren, the advisability of uniting with our brethren of the Maritime Provinces for this purpose. And if on due deliberation you concur in my views, let a committee be appointed by this Grand Lodge whose duty it shall be to invite the lodges in the sister provinces, by their delegates, to meet them at some central place, and there prepare the necessary steps to receive them into this Grand Lodge, which may then be called together for the purpose of ratifying their acts and declaring itself the Grand Lodge of British North America. Before closing this part of my address, I would draw your attention to the important fact that so soon as the confederation of these provinces takes place, the Grand Lodge of Canada is necessarily placed in precisely the same position in regard to the sister provinces as

the Grand Lodge of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and may at any time elect lodges in either of them.

"Early in the month of March I received a communication signed by three brothers, styling themselves respectively Master, Grand Registrar, and Grand Secretary elect of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, informing me that after due deliberation the Scottish Prov. G. L. of Nova Scotia had dissolved itself and that a convention of Scottish Masons had then been held, at which a Grand Lodge was formed and the officers thereof duly elected, and requesting me to nominate some brother to proceed to Halifax to install the Grand Master. To this communication, I regret to say, I found it impossible to return a favourable answer, for, on carefully perusing the statement sent home of the course pursued by our Nova Scotia brethren, I found their whole proceedings so irregular as to render, in my opinion, the legality of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia more than doubtful, I therefore directed the Grand Sec. to acknowledge the receipt of their letter, to say that, taking into consideration the peculiar action of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, in the proposed formation of a Grand Lodge for that province, the Grand Master of Canada did not feel justified in exercising his prerogative in installing their Grand Master, without first consulting the Grand Lodge of Canada at its next regular convocation, that had the movement to form a Grand Lodge been participated in by the lodges hailing indiscriminately from other jurisdictions than the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Grand Master would not have had the slightest hesitation in at once extending to them the right hand of fellowship, but he feared the simple fact of the English and Irish Leagues not having been formally invited or solicited to co-operate in the movement, although possessing equal rights with the Scottish Lodge, must prove fatal to the speedy acknowledgment of the proposed Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. As this question is one that demands the most careful consideration, I shall recommend that a special committee be appointed to enquire into the action taken by our Nova Scotian brethren, and to report to this Grand Lodge to-morrow evening. I last year drew the attention of the Grand Lodge to the existing want of uniformity of work in our subordinate lodges, and earnestly endeavoured to impress upon it the necessity of immediately appointing one or two Grand Lecturers to remedy this evil, but as this would trench largely upon the funds of the lodge, it was not then thought advisable to act upon my advice; another method was therefore adopted which, I regret to say, has produced no beneficial results. Now, brethren, believe me, this is the falsest of all false economy, for nothing can be more calculated to lessen the love of our brethren for Masonry than a want of system, correctness, and uniformity of work. Why is it that we have so many unaffiliated Masons in our midst? Undoubtedly because they have either never been properly taught, or their young love has been cooled by the slovenly working of their lodges. Correct, then, this evil without loss of time; let the necessary question be invariably put to the candidate, in the anti-room, before his initiation, rigidly enforce the law requiring the candidate to be well instructed in the preceding degrees before he is advanced higher, compel every Mason sent to pass an examination as to his qualifications to fill the chair before he is installed into that high and responsible office, above all appoint a Grand Lecturer, who shall teach our lodges to be prouder of the correctness of their work, than accumulation of material, and I am satisfied that in less than a twelvemonth you will not only see a noble advancement towards perfect Masonry, but such a large increase in our roll of membership, by the return to our fold of the unaffiliated, as will amply repay Grand Lodge the outlay I now recommend. Such of my official acts as may be deemed of sufficient importance to engage your attention, I shall now endeavour to enumerate; I shall at any time hereafter be happy to afford such additional information on the subjects treated of as may be desired so far as may lie in my power.

"In compliance with the resolution passed by the Grand Lodge, requesting me to take the necessary steps to get the consolidated statutes of Lower Canada amended so as to remove the doubts which existed as to the standing of the Grand Lodge in Lower Canada, I proceeded to Quebec, and with the kind assistance of several gentlemen of both Houses, belonging to our Order, succeeded in getting the amendment passed by the Legislature.

"I have much pleasure in presenting our worthy Grand Pursuivant, Bro. Blondheim, with the jewel of his office, as directed by resolution of Grand Lodge at its annual communication in 1863. The jewel which was ordered by Grand Lodge

at its last annual communication to be presented Bro. Groff in testimony of the high sense it entertained of the services he has rendered to the Craft in the faithful and efficient performance of the important and highly responsible duties of Grand Treasurer. I have only recently been enabled to procure, and shall take an early opportunity of presenting it to that meritorious officer.

"Since the last annual communication of Grand Lodge I have granted dispensations for the erection of the following lodges:

"Plattsville, of Plattsville, in 1863.

"Bothwell, of Bothwell.

"Speed, of Guelph.

"In each case the petitions were regularly and strongly recommended, and were accompanied by the regular certificates from the D.D.G.M., as to the competency of the proposed W.M., I trust, therefore, that the Grand Lecturer will see fit to confirm them by warrant.

The Bro., who was appointed first Master of Simpson Lodge, having through some understanding with the Past D.D.G.M., failed to pass his examination, the warrant never having been delivered to him, he, together with two (or ten?) other members, have petitioned that the Rev. C. S. Denroche may be appointed the first W.M. in his stead, as it would not now be convenient for him to accept that office. This case appearing to me to be a hard one for the brethren interested, I have deemed it advisable to accede to the prayer of the petition. In order to fulfil as far as was in my power the responsible duty of examining and correcting the by-laws of the subordinate lodges under this Grand Lodge, I directed the G.S. to transmit to me copies without delay. One hundred have been received, all of which I have corrected with the greatest care and returned. Why the balance have not been sent to me I am unable to say, but trust they will be handed in at this communication, so that the great desideratum, uniformity, may be carried out.

"It is my melancholy duty to announce to you the death of that exalted Mason and good man, the Ven. Archdeacon Scott, R.W., P.D.G.M. of this Grand Lodge. All who knew him revered and respected him for his many virtues, kind disposition, and amiable deportment; and I trust the Grand Lodge will take an early opportunity of paying a tribute of respect to his memory.

"Amongst the prominent members of the Craft in other jurisdictions whom it has pleased the wise Master Builder to summon from the earthly tabernacle which their life adorned, I would mention the names of Bros. W. H. White, G. Steward of Pennsylvania; Thomas D. Merrick, G. Steward of Arkansas; and C. Pearl, our late representative in Maine. Time does not permit me to do more than to make a passing record of the names of those fathers in Masonry whose loss we deplore. Be it our duty to honour their memory by striving to emulate their virtues. The position of this Grand Lodge with reference to the other Grand Lodges of the world is, I am happy to say, of the most cordial and fraternal kind. A report on this head will, I have no doubt, be submitted by the Board of General Purposes; but as the limited time that is at the disposal of the Board at our annual meetings is totally inadequate to permit of a comprehensive report on foreign correspondence being drawn up, I would strongly recommend that in future this important subject be placed in the hands of a sub-committee of one or at most of two of said Board.

"Before closing my address, I wish to draw the attention of the G.L. to the awful conflagration which has recently visited the beautiful city of Portland, the seat of the Grand Lecturer of Maine, and to recommend that some suitable and substantial expression of our warm and heartfelt sympathy be immediately sent to brethren of that city.

"Notwithstanding the length of these remarks, I fear that there are many topics of importance to us in a local point of view, to which I have failed to refer. As, however, many subjects of interest to individual lodges, and to us as a whole, will undoubtedly be found in the reports of the D.D.G.M., I would refer you to them for information on such points as I may have omitted.

"In conclusion, let me express the hope that our proceedings at this communication, may be characterised by that harmony and fraternal bearing which should ever illustrate the intercourse of Masons, and that our legislation, guarded by prudence and wisdom, may promote the best interests of our Order. Thanking you for the courtesy and patience with which you have listened to my remarks, and submitting them to your calm

consideration, I humbly invoke the guidance of the G.A.O.T.U. on all our deliberations.

"W. B. SIMPSON, Grand Master."

The following are the officers of Grand Lodge elected for the ensuing year:—

Bro. William M. Wilson.....	G. Master.
" A. A. Stephenson.....	D.G. Master.
" John Kerr	S.G.W.
" Isaac Stearns	G.J.W.
" Rev. V. Clementi	G. Chap.
" Henry Groff	G. Treas.
" T. B. Harris	G. Sec.

DISTRICT DEPUTIES.

Bro. F. Westlake	London District.
" D. Curtis.....	Wilson "
" Dr. Kahn	Huron "
" James Seymour	Hamilton "
" A. De Grassi	Toronto "
" W. H. Weller	Ontario "
" D. Fraser.....	P. Edward "
" McNeill Clerk	Central "
" Richard Bell	Montreal "
" J. H. Grattan.....	Eastern Townships District.
" John Turner	Quebec District.

The next session of Grand Lodge will be held in Kingston.

BRITISH BURMAH,

(From our own correspondent.)

We have much pleasure in giving insertion to the following highly interesting paper on Freemasonry in a portion of the world where the efforts of zealous brethren do not seem to be sufficiently known. There, however, our brethren of "the mystic tie" are actively engaged in spreading the beneficent influences of Freemasonry, and great indeed has been their success. Sincerely do we trust that merits such as theirs will not pass unrewarded, and that "the powers that be" will be induced to accord to such good men and true the privilege of a District Grand Lodge. There can be little doubt, that in such a case our respected Bro. Colonel Greenlaw, who has been the mainspring of Masonic vigour and energy in the province, and who is highly popular with all classes, would, we trust, be promoted to the chair of District G.M. We cannot but believe that the claims of our brethren in British Burmah require only to be known in order to meet with due recognition.

British Burmah, although one of the most rising of our India provinces is probably but little known to home residents. It consists of the ancient kingdoms of Pegue and Arakan, with the long line of sea coast to the southward known as Tenasserim. The two last were acquired by treaty after the first war with the Burmese Government in 1825—26, and Pegue was annexed consequent on the second war 1852.

The province of British Burmah as now constituted lies along the eastern shore of the Bay of Bengal, extending from the southern edge of the Bengal Presidency, in about 20° 50' north latitude, down to the Puckchan River in the Malay Peninsula about 10° 50'. The line of sea coast is fully 900 miles long, and the area of the province is ninety thousand square miles, or equal to the combined area of England, Scotland, and Wales.

Each of the three divisions of the province has its seaport town. Thus Arrakan has Akyab, Tenasserim has Moulmein; and Pegue has Rangoon, which latter city is the seat of the Local Government. The local population of the province is upwards of two millions, while Moulmein and Rangoon have each a population of nearly 70,000 inhabitants.

Since 1862, the whole province has been consolidated into one administration under a Chief Commissioner, and Sular Eniate Judicial Magisterial and Revenue Officers. It is the station of one of the divisions of the Madras Army, consisting of European Infantry and Artillery and Native Troops, Rangoon being the Head Quarters of the Major General Commanding and the Divisional Staff.

In the seaport towns, Europeans and Asiatic foreigners have settled in large numbers, comprising examples of almost all the nations of the east. Thus there are Parsees, Moguls, Surattees, Jews, Armenians, Chinese, and Hindoos; many of each of these

classes carrying on commercial transactions on a large scale. There are two banks in Rangoon, and one in Moulmein; while the large and important dwelling houses and business offices speak plainly of the progress of trade and the wealth of those engaged in it.

British Burmah may well be termed "The Granary of the East." A most fertile soil readily yields yearly, magnificent crops of the staple commodity, rice, in quantities far beyond the necessities of the province. Thus in the year ending 30th of April, 1865, the exports of rice from British Burmah amounted to four hundred and seventy thousand tons, of the value of two millions and a half sterling.

The local value of the trade of the province, that is imports and exports during the past year, was upwards of ten millions of pounds sterling. Two thousand six hundred and eighty ships cleared out of the different ports, with an aggregate of nearly eight hundred thousand tons.

And yet this is but the beginning of what British Burmah will be. The most important division, that of Pegue, we have only had in our possession twelve years, and its progress has been unprecedented in the East. It has the advantage of possessing the magnificent river Irawaddy, navigable for hundreds of miles to the frontier of China: crowded with quickly rising towns on its banks ending with the City of Rangoon, close to its mouth in a position unrivalled for the facilities it affords for the development of trade.

There is regular steam communication between British Burmah and India, the five vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company, running four times a month between Calcutta, Madras, and the Burmese seaports. There is also on the Irawaddy a strong fleet of steamers, the property of a private company which keep up communication with the City of Mandalay, the capital of the Burmese kingdom, some six hundred miles from Rangoon, and arrangements are now being made to develop largely this internal traffic.

At first British Burmah carried on its trade and commerce through the capital cities, Calcutta and Madras from which the houses of business were mere branches, but now it has an independent and direct trade, and the province has risen into the position of a self contained and important portion of the British possessions.

Similarly the details of Government have developed with the prosperity of the country; and the administration is now so extensive that it offers wide field for the several officers, irrespective of any needed transfer to the true Indian Presidencies of Bengal, Madras, or Bombay. This is morally due to the fact that the people of the country are different in language, customs, and religion, from the inhabitants of the Indian Peninsula, and thus the experience and qualifications for Government service in British Burmah tend to keep the officials there during the length of their service. It has, therefore, on this account a class of officials more generally permanent in the duties assigned to them than is the case in any of the Indian Presidencies.

Masonry in British Burmah has fully kept pace with the material and commercial progress of the province as the following list of lodges will show:—

No.	Name.	Locality.	Date of Warrant.
542	Philanthropy	Moulmein	1847
614	Star of Burmah	Rangoon	1853
646	Lodge Arrakan	Akyab	1855
674	Astrea Lodge	Thayetungo	1856
832	Victoria in Burmah	Rangoon	1860
1095	Greenlaw Lodge	Tonghoo	1865
	Lodge of Isles	Port Blair	1865

These lodges are all under the English Constitution, and with the exception of Victoria in Burmah, are under the District Grand Lodge of Southern India (Madras).

Each of the five first named lodges have substantial and suitable lodge rooms, properly fitted up, and used solely for Masonic purposes, the remaining two have only been opened during the current year. The fact that the lodges have each their properly dedicated Masonic halls, is proof sufficient of the earnestness and liberality which have marked the action of the Craft in British Burmah; and we may add that in regularity and purity of working, these lodges will bear comparison with the best of these in India, or even those at home.

While steadily advancing during previous years in extending and strengthening our Orders, the past year, 1865, was especially

marked by a rapid development of Masonic energy. This was due to the return from England of R.W. Bro. Col. Greenlaw, on whom the Grand Master had conferred the high honour of Past Senior Grand Warden of England. Bro. Greenlaw had always been a zealous and working Mason, and during his stay in England on leave, had not forgotten the province to which he was attached.

Arriving in Burmah in the end of 1864, he brought with him the warrant for the Victoria and Burmah Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 68, under the English Constitution, and this particular degree soon spread both in Burmah, Bengal, and Madras. During the year, R.W. Bro. Greenlaw was appointed Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masters for Madras and Burmah; and the great success which has attended the introduction of this degree of Masonry cannot be better shown than by giving the following list of lodges attached to the Provincial Grand Lodge:—

No. 61	St. Mark's Lodge.....	Madras.
" 68	Victoria in Burmah	Rangoon.
" 77	William Figg	Akyab.
" 85	Astrea	Thayetungo.
" 79	Philanthropy	Moulmein.
" 81	Keystone	Bellary.
	Hiram	Bangalore.
	James Edward.....	Cannanore.
	Star of Burmah	Rangoon.

While two Mark lodges in Calcutta and one at Umballa and Meerut have been transferred to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masters in Bengal, which has just been established.

Thus in Mark Masonry no less than twelve new lodges have been opened during the past year, and the Provincial Grand Lodge has been most successfully established.

We now come to Royal Arch Masonry, and in that degree also we are able to record that two chapters have been opened during the past year, viz.: the Royal Burmah Chapter, attached to Victoria in Burmah (No. 832), and the "Morning Star" Chapter, attached to Star of Burmah (No. 614). It may be expected too that a chapter will be attached to "Philanthropy" at Moulmein, and to the "Arrakan Lodge in Akyab."

And now to complete the record of the new degrees of Masonry opened in British Burmah, there still remains to be told that during the past year also, the Royal Burmah Encampment of Knights of the Holy Temple and Sepulchre, as well as a Priory of Knights of Malta and the Mediterranean Pass was opened in Rangoon, and that R.W. Bro. Greenlaw has since been appointed Very Eminent Commander of the Provincial Grand Encampment of British Burmah, and doubtless this degree will shortly extend as all the others have heretofore.

These then are the doings of the Masons in British Burmah, and they are thus shortly told because the record of work done and accomplished sufficiently speaks for the zeal and capability of the workers. But there is still another good work to describe, and that is the movement originated by R.W. Bro. Greenlaw, to establish Masonic Orphan Funds, for the support of the children of poor or deceased brethren in India.

The movement has been most warmly taken up by the lodges throughout India. Some discussion has usefully and necessarily taken place as to the working details, and indeed until a little experience has been gained, these of course, must be only tentative, but the grand thing is the regular subscription to a fund in each province, which shall be devoted specifically and exclusively to the education of the children of Masons, and there seems no doubt that this most praiseworthy object will be gained.

Now it is felt in British Burmah that there is something wanting to consolidate the Order, and to reward the healthful ambition which all good Masons should possess, and that is the establishment of a District Grand Lodge of Craft Masonry where the lodges are so numerous as in this province. The members form a large and influential body, working cheerfully and willingly in their respective lodges, but feeling the want of that higher form of administration which they think requisite for the further success of the Order.

Dr. Oliver puts the following words* in the mouth of the Installing Officer when inducting an imaginary Provincial Grand Master, and they seem quite applicable to the position of British Burmah:—

"This is an age of progress; and Freemasonry in common

* Book of the Lodge, page 92.

with all other social institutions, has a right to expect that the advent of a new rule will conduce to advantage."

These are the thoughts of the Masons in British Burmah, expressed by petitions from every lodge in the province, asking for a District Grand Lodge, and we trust the petition may be complied with as a reward for past, and a stimulus to future exertions.

One pardonable desire is that of maintaining and developing their own Provincial Charities, which is impossible at present. The District Grand Lodges of Bengal and Madras, to whom the money is now sent, have, of course, local claims on them, and their distance from Burmah precludes reference to them in many cases of urgent need.

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, MUSIC, DRAMA, AND THE FINE ARTS.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul, the very distinguished entertainment givers are now in Scarborough, and will visit the following watering-places in the next three weeks:—Whitby, Buxton, Fleetwood, Blackpool, Southport, Rhyl, Carnarvon, Llandudno, and Aberystwith, with their new and highly amusing entertainment. This will be their farewell appearance in each place previous to sailing to America on September 15th. Their last performance in England will be in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on September 14th.

Madame Rudersdorff is said to be occupied in the composition of a grand opera.

Mr. Boucicault writes to the *Era* to say that he is not, and has no intention of becoming, the lessee of any London theatre.

Mrs. Norton's serial tale, "Old Sir Douglas," which had been interrupted for a time, will be resumed in the September number of "Macmillan."

Miss Amy Sedgwick is going to make a professional tour through the provinces and America after a short summer season at the Haymarket Theatre.

The *Era* says Mr. Vernon Rigby is engaged as principal tenor for the winter season at the Royal Italian Opera House, Copenhagen.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen drove out on the afternoon of the 25th inst., with Princess Louise and walked in the grounds on the morning of the 26th ult., with the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Louise, and Princess Beatrice. Her Majesty held a council at one o'clock, at which were present the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Devon, and Sir Stafford Northcote. The Queen drove out in the afternoon with Prince Leopold, attended by Lady Augusta Stanley. Prince Louise and Princess Beatrice drove also. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales dined with her Majesty. The Queen, with Princess Louise, walked in the grounds on the morning of the 27th ult., and Prince Leopold drove out. The Queen drove out in the afternoon with Princess Louise and again on the morning of the 28th ult., with her Royal Highness. Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice went also. The Queen drove out in the afternoon with Princess Louise, in a carriage and four, attended by Lady Augusta Stanley. The Princess of Wales and Princess Leiningen dined with her Majesty in the evening. Divine service was performed on the 29th ult., at Osborne before the Queen and their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Edin-

burgh, Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, The Dean of Westminster officiated. The Queen walked in the grounds on the morning of the 30th ult., with Princess Louise, attended by Lady Augusta Stanley. The Prince and Princess of Wales visited her Majesty. The Queen drove out in the afternoon in a carriage and four with Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and Her Majesty walked in the grounds on the morning of the 31st ult. with Princess Louise. The Queen went out in the afternoon with Princess Louise, and again on the morning of the 1st inst., with her Royal Highness, attended by Lady Augusta Stanley.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS on the 25th ult., in reply to a question put by Lord Shaftesbury, the Earl of Derby said the Government had not given its consent to a meeting being held in Hyde Park on the 30th ult. On the contrary, no such meeting would be allowed. The House disposed of some other business, and adjourned shortly before seven o'clock.—On the 27th ult., Lord Shaftesbury suggested that places should be set apart for public open air meetings.—Lord Derby thought the suggestion a good one, and promised to consider it.—Lord Redesdale subsequently introduced a series of alterations in the standing orders in reference to railway bills.—The alterations were opposed by Lord Stanley of Alderley, and other peers, but were eventually carried. The other business was of no public importance.—Several bills were advanced a stage. Nothing of public interest transpired.—The Earl of Carnarvon announced that before bringing in a bill to give effect to the proposed confederation of North American colonies the Government would communicate with the Government of the colonies. Other business of little importance. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS had a morning sitting, at which a series of resolutions in reference to Admiralty administration was moved by Mr. Seely and discussed at great length. Mr. Seely finally withdrew them.—At the evening sitting, in reply to a question, Mr. Walpole said the Government had issued invitations for special constables to repress further riots. In reply to Mr. B. Osborne, Mr. Walpole went into a long explanation to show that he had been wholly misunderstood by Mr. Beales in reference to the proposed meeting in Hyde Park. He announced that no such meeting would be permitted, but that Primrose Hill might be used. Mr. J. S. Mill stated that Mr. Beales and his friends regretted the misunderstanding, and that they would abstain from holding the meeting.—Among the other questions was one relating to Frankfort, as to which Lord Stanley gave some information in reference to the exactions of the Prussian General. Lord Naas, in reply to Mr. B. Osborne, said it would be proposed to extend the bill suspending *habeas corpus* in Ireland.—A long discussion took place upon a declaratory resolution moved by Mr. Lowe as to the duties of returning officers. The motion, which arose out of the Helston case, declared it to be the duty of a returning officer, in cases of equality of votes, to return all the candidates. Eventually the resolution was carried.—Major Jervis moved for a Royal Commission to inquire into the condition of railways which are in pecuniary difficulties. An interesting debate followed, but at the request of Sir S. Northcote the motion was withdrawn.—After some other matters had been rather briefly discussed, the House went into committee of supply and proceeded at once to deal with the remaining estimates.—On the 27th ult. the House had a morning sitting, which was chiefly taken up with a discussion in committee of the Reformatory Schools Bill. At the evening sitting Mr. Maguire gave notice of his intention to move a resolution antagonistic to the renewal of the Habeas Corpus (Ireland) Suspension Act. On the motion for adjournment, two topics were discussed—

namely, the mode of voting at meetings of companies, and the prevalence of cholera on board of emigrant ships. As to the latter, an interesting speech was made by the O'Connor Don, and it was announced that inquiries were being made in reference to emigrant ships. The House then proceeded to discuss the Railway (Ireland) Temporary Advances Bill.—On the 30th ult. Lord Naas announced that Mr. Napier had resigned the post of Lord Justice of Appeal. Subsequently Mr. Baillie Cochrane insisted on making an explanation in reference to his recent attack on Mr. Bright for that gentleman's letter as to the meeting in Hyde Park. The explanation made the original offence worse. Mr. Baillie Cochrane had said the letter was written after the statements made by Mr. Walpole and Sir George Grey in the House in reference to the Hyde Park meeting. *The Star* pointed out that the statement was not true. Mr. Baillie Cochrane admitted that he was mistaken, but said Mr. Bright sent the letter to the newspapers after the said statement had been made, and therefore was open to the censure which had been passed upon him. Mr. McLaren pointed out that this was untrue. Mr. Bright had never sent the letter to the newspapers. He sent it to a private individual, who thought fit to publish it. After a few manly words from Mr. Hadfield the matter dropped. The Appropriation Bill was read a second time. A discussion arose in reference to a bill for authorising the raising of money for more fortifications. Mr. Gladstone opposed the bill, and after some debate it was withdrawn.—On the 31st ult. the House had a morning sitting, at which Mr. Watkin moved for a Royal Commission to inquire into the Bank Charter Act and its influence on commerce. He supported the motion in a long and able speech. Mr. Akroyd seconded the motion, which was opposed by Sir Stafford Northcote and Mr. Gladstone. Sir Stafford Northcote promised that in the recess the matter should have the serious attention of the Government. At ten minutes to four o'clock the debate was adjourned. At the evening sitting the House was occupied with a long and deeply-interesting debate in reference to the recent events in Jamaica. It was introduced by Mr. Buxton, who, calling attention to the summing up of the Royal Commissioners, moved a series of resolutions declaring that the punishments inflicted were excessive; that compensation ought to be given to those who had suffered by the excesses of the military; and that all further punishments should be stayed. Mr. Buxton moved the resolutions in a speech in which he went over the whole history of the melancholy business. He concluded by exhorting the Government to give its assistance in the work of repairing some of the evil which had been done.—Mr. Adderley replied to him, contending that to pass the resolutions would be virtually to try over again a question which had already been tried once by the Royal Commissioners, whose report the Government accepted. He stated that the authorities of Jamaica had applied within the last few days for assistance to put down an insurrection which was anticipated. He declared Mr. Gordon would have been found guilty had he been tried by a civil court, and in effect he justified all that had been done in Jamaica. Of course he had a fling at Mr. Bright, who was not present.—Mr. Mill declared his willingness to go to the country on the speech of Mr. Adderley as proving most completely the necessity for further inquiry. With great lucidity he pointed out the atrocious acts of the soldiery, and concluded by moving an amendment. The debate was continued by Mr. Forster, Mr. Baillie Cochrane, Mr. Russell Gurney, and others. On the 1st inst., the House was occupied with the discussion of Mr. Gladstone's Compulsory Church Rates Abolition Bill. The

debate was rather warm. Among others Lord John Manners and the Solicitor-General opposed the bill. Mr. Gladstone, in replying, expressed his surprise that after he had received distinct assurance from the Government that the second reading of the bill would not be opposed three members of the Government had opposed it. Lord John Manners had described the measure as founded on one of Mr. Bright's. Whereupon Mr. Gladstone pointed out that the hon. member for Birmingham was made general bugbear by the party opposite, and said that he thought it rather hard that he should be dragged into a debate on so humble a bill as that before the House. Eventually the bill was read a second time without a division, the members of the Government leaving the House amidst general laughter. The other church-rate bills were withdrawn. The House rose shortly before six o'clock.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The weekly return of the Registrar General of births and deaths for the week ending Saturday, July 28, presents another fearful increase in the prevailing epidemic. No fewer than 1,253 deaths in the week have been registered from cholera and diarrhoea, 904 from the former and 349 from the latter. The deaths by cholera in the last five weeks have been 6, 14, 32, 346, and 904; and by diarrhoea 67, 102, 150, 221, and 349. Of the aggregate deaths from these two diseases (namely 1,253), 924 took place in the six districts of Bethnal-green, Whitechapel, St. George's-in-the-East, Stepney, Mile-end Old Town, and Poplar including Bow. Amongst the victims are Dr. Ansell, the meritorious health officer, and Mr. Ceeley, to the Board of Works. In Liverpool, of the 440 deaths returned last week, 87 were referred to cholera (against 45 in the preceding week). Deaths from the same cause are also returned from Southampton, 24; Manchester and Salford, 8; Bristol, 2; Sheffield, 2; Leeds, 4; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2; and Hull, 3. The Registrar says that in London the nuisances inspection and removal is insufficient.—On the 26th ult. an important and influential deputation from the Association for Improving Workhouse Infirmarys had an interview with Mr. G. Hardy, President of the Poor Law Board. The deputation strongly urged the necessity of some steps being taken to improve the condition of the sick poor in workhouses. Mr. Hardy declared that he was fully impressed with the importance of the subject, and would give it his best attention.—The Government has addressed letters to the different vestries of the metropolis, asking them to use their influence for the enrolment of special constables, and to give the use of their halls for that purpose. The vestry of St. Ann's, Westminster, unanimously resolved not to accede to the request on the ground that it was unnecessary and inexpedient. At Marylebone vestry a discussion took place, and an amendment was moved against complying with the request. Eventually, however, a compromise was effected, and the amendment was withdrawn.—Mr. Knox was called upon to deal with some more charges by the police against persons captured in Hyde Park. The cases were all dealt with in the manner in which those on previous days had been disposed of, and no end of hard words were flung at the prisoners by the magistrate. At Bow-street, Mr. Niess, a member of the council of the Reform League, was brought up charged with obstructing the thoroughfare in the Strand. Certain policemen swore that he was haranguing a mob and using incendiary expressions. Witnesses were called, who proved that Mr. Niess was engaged in exhorting the people to disperse when he was taken into custody. Sir T. Henry believed the defence and disbelieved the constables, for he discharged Mr. Niess.—The Atlantic cable is actually laid, and messages may be sent through it. The announcement is one which will be gladly re-

ceived everywhere.—The foundation stone of the Thames Embankment on the south side was laid on the 28th ult. Mr. Mr. Tite, M.P., laid the stone in the presence of Lord John Manners and a large number of gentlemen. The embankment will be a great improvement to the river when it is completed. A good deal of progress has already been made in the works. —The Atlantic cable is working well. The communication, however, between Newfoundland and the mainland is not yet complete, and therefore we have not perfect telegraphic connection as yet between London and New York. The part wanting is, however, being now supplied, and a few days at furthest will see the great work complete. Messages from London are being sent in great numbers.—The Queen has transmitted through the Atlantic cable a congratulatory message to the President of the United States. Her Majesty's letter is brief, but to the point; and when she hopes that the undertaking "may serve as an additional bond of union between the United States and England" she gives expression to the unanimous feeling of the nation.—After several adjournments the inquest on the bodies of two persons who were burnt to death at a fire which occurred some time ago in the house of a Mr. Fuggles, of Hoxton, was concluded. The jury found an open verdict—the deceased had been burnt to death, but how the fire originated there was no evidence to show.—Jane Revill, who at the last Nottingham assizes was found guilty of the murder of her child and sentenced to death, had been respited. —From Dr. Letheby we have the gratifying report that the health of the City of London is not unfavourable. There were last week fewer cases of fever and diarrhoea than in the corresponding week last year. Dr. Letheby, however, very wisely urges that every sanitary precaution should be taken, and that measures should be adopted by which any outbreak of cholera could be promptly met.—A case of cholera in the Thames Police-court was reported on the 31st ult. Ellen Pridham, who had been a nurse of cholera patients in the Poplar Workhouse was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the infirmary of that institution. The magistrate sentenced her to twenty-one day's imprisonment, and she was removed to a cell. About two hours afterwards it was found she was suffering from cholera, and the magistrate ordered a medical man to be sent for. There was some difficulty in getting one, however, and the woman was thereupon put into a cab and sent back to the workhouse.—A man named James Peters was brought up at Bow-street, charged with a breach of the Foreign Enlistment Act. It was shown that he had induced seamen to ship on board the *Greatham Hall*, for service with the Chilianians against the Spaniards. He was remanded.—The Lord Mayor gave the usual banquet to her Majesty's Minister, on the 1st inst. Lord Derby and twelve other members of the Government were present. The speeches were of the usual complimentary character. Lord Derby spoke at some length, but said nothing of much interest. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was not much more explicit. The whole of the proceedings were of a pleasant, genial character.—The annual meeting of the Volunteer Artillery Association is in full swing at Shoeburyness. It began on the 31st ult., with a competition for the Lords' and Commons' prize. The contest was only completed on the 1st inst., the prize being carried off by the 3rd Sussex (Eastbourne), who made 28 points. The Duke of Cambridge's prize was won by the Aberdeenshire detachment, who made 22 points.—In the Court of Chancery, on the 1st inst., Vice-Chancellor Kindersley delivered an elaborate judgment on the motion made on behalf of a shareholder in the Credit Foncier Company against

Mr. Albert Grant, the managing director of the company. The motion was refused.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The great belligerents are waiting in front of each other while the diplomatists are endeavouring to make arrangements by which any resumption of the war may be avoided. Italy has occupied the Val Sugana, and actually beleaguered Venice, where much alarm exists among the inhabitants. But Prussia has made no truce with Bavaria or the Federal army. General Manteuffel is pressing the latter hard.—There is no doubt whatever that the Prussians are endeavouring to levy heavy contributions on Frankfort. The merchants and bankers there are taking defensive measures, and the whole affair is likely to produce great ill-feeling against Prussia. The *Berlin Official Gazette* justifies the levying of the contribution on several grounds, the chief of which is that the Government of Frankfort has always been hostile to Prussia. Considering that Frankfort was one of the few members of the Federal Diet voting against Austria in the decisive vote, and in favour of Prussia, this reason has a very suspicious look. It is stated that Bavaria is inclined to refuse to join any Confederation in which there would be but one great Power. What Bavaria is inclined to do will probably have very little influence indeed upon the result of present actions.—There is every prospect of the negotiations for peace progressing. The truce between Austria and Prussia which was to expire on the 27th ult. has been prolonged to the 2nd of August, and a four weeks' armistice commencing from that date is concluded. Count Karolyi has arrived at Vienna with the preliminaries of peace agreed upon between himself and Count Bismarck. They are to be ratified by the Emperor of Austria. One of the conditions of the armistice is that Prussia shall continue to occupy Bohemia and Moravia. Prussia, however, continues her campaign against Bavaria. On the 27th ult. there was a battle near Wurzburg, which the Berlin account says ended unfavourably for the Bavarians. This is rather a mild expression, and means probably that the Prussians had tough work.—King William has postponed the opening of the Prussian Chambers to some time next week. He wishes he says, to open them in person, and he cannot get to Berlin in time for the 30th, when the opening was to have taken place.—An armistice for four months has been signed between Austria and Prussia. It seems, too, that Italy is satisfied. The question of the Tyrol is settled, and the Italian accounts say that the Roman question is not to be raised in any Congress. The *Constitutionnel* gives rather full details of the preliminaries. According to that paper, Austria is to lose no territory save Venetia. Saxony also is to be kept intact. A confederation of the Northern German States is to be formed under the exclusive direction of Prussia. The Southern German States will remain independent, and be free to group themselves as they think proper. Austria will pay Prussia an indemnity of seventy-five million francs. These are hard terms for Austria. A notice on the Paris Bourse asserts that an armistice has been signed by the Bavarian Minister on behalf of the Southern German States.—Although both Prussia and Italy have concluded an armistice with Austria, the former power continues warlike operations against Bavaria. The Grand Duke of Mecklenburgh has taken possession of Upper Franconia in the name of the King of Prussia. On the 29th ult., the Prussian vanguard near Hof dispersed a battalion of Bavarian Life Guards, taking several of them prisoners.—The sovereigns of Baden, Darmstadt, and Saxe-Meiningen are preferring requests for an armistice direct to the King of Prussia.