

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1866.

HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN
CORNWALL.By ✠ Bro. WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN, 18°, &c,
(Continued from page 382.)

Upwards of eighty subscribers from various towns in Cornwall appear on the list. No doubt the minute of the author's attendance at the Falmouth Lodge will explain all, as doubtless he was combining business with pleasure, in taking a tour through the West.

April 18th, 1764. "This night the bye-laws standing in this lodge were read, and some continued, others altered, explained, etc., and some new ones made; and the whole bye-laws ordered to be transcribed in a book for that purpose.

On a visit to Falmouth recently, to obtain all intelligence possible on the history of this lodge, we were unable to describe any clue or information about a printed or MS. copy of its bye-laws before 1802, excepting those contained in the minute book of the first volume of the transactions of this lodge, which were inserted in a previous number of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, and to which we would refer those brethren who may not have seen them before, and are fond of reading the rules that were law about 1751, at Falmouth.

On April 12th, 1764. Bro. Bartholomew, attorney-at-law, of this town, was balloted for on the 26th inst., and accepted. The officers for the next half year were elected and appointed on June 25th, as follows:—Bro. Matthew Allison, W.M.; R. Vivian, S.W.; Henry Pye, J.W.; Edward Snoxell, Treas.; John Lilly, Sec. It was proposed by the R.W.M., Bro. Matthew Allison, that the sum of two guineas be sent to the Grand Charity, and that as the R.W.M., is about to set out for London, it is by ballot determined that he is desired to pay the same sum into the hands of the Grand Secretary." A proposition was made by Bro. Stephen Bell, P.G.M., "That a ballot should be called in order to know whether honorary members should be admitted, and finding six white balls for, and four black against it, proved in the affirmative, and accordingly was entered in the bye-laws," (Nov. 8th, 1764). It was then proposed that two brethren (whose names were mentioned) become honorary members, who were immediately balloted for and rejected. This result might almost have been expected under the circumstances, as the privilege of being made an honorary member of a lodge was intended as a special thing for strangers as a rule, or some extra service having been rendered by a member to the lodge. In this case

there were no such claims, and the brethren were subscribing members of the lodge when the ballot was taken. The next meeting carried out one of the most spirited and determined resolutions that could well be in regard to the question at issue. Being one of considerable interest, and unique in its way, we will let the Secretary tell the tale in his own style, and may such a punishment be never more merited in the good old lodge of Love and Honour.

"November 29th, 1764.—Lodge opened in due form. Present, Bro. Henry Pye, R.W.M.; P.T., and several brethren. Proposed by Bro. Yonge, that Mr. Thomas B—— be refused admittance in this lodge for the future, even as a visitor, till he has acquitted himself of many severe imputations upon his character, not only as a Mason, but as a honest man. Ballot called, and all black balls. Resolved that notice be sent to every lodge in the county of this proceeding. It was also agreed that from the impertinence and plain conviction, his apron shall be *burnt* in the lodge that no brother should *defile* himself by ever wearing it in the future."

Brother Henry Pye was chosen Master on Dec. 27th, and appointed Bro. James Hooten, S.W.; Bro. A. Moses, J.W.; Bro. J. Enys, P.M., Treas.; and Bro. Stephen Bell, Secretary. The lodge was then adjourned to the 10th January, 1765, when Bro. the Rev. — Lane, of St. Ives, visited the lodge. A letter was read from the party who was expelled last November, desiring a clearance of his character and the imputations laid against him. It was proposed by Bro. Yonge that no answer or notice at all be given to the said letter. A ballot called, and all agreed to the proposition."

As Bro. Stephen Bell was desirous of being relieved from the duties of Secretary, the Master appointed Bro. Nathaniel Steel, and invested him properly with the jewel of his office. The question demanded, and nothing proposed, lodge closed in due form, and regularly adjourned.

The officers of the lodge for the second half-year of 1765, were—Brother Thomas Vivian, W.M.; Bro. Stephen Bell, S.W.; Bro. N. Steel, J.W.; Bro. E. Snoxell, Treasurer; Bro. Richard Vivian, Secretary; and on 24th June they dined together at Bro. Snoxell's house. A letter was read from the Grand Secretary, requesting a contribution towards the chairs and candlesticks of the Grand Lodge. The consideration of the subject was deferred to a more convenient season, which seems never to have arrived. Bro. S. Bell being elected the Master of the lodge on the 12th December, he selected the following as his officers:—Bros. Nathaniel Steel, S.W.; J. Hooten, J.W.; E. Snoxell, Treasurer; Matthew Allison, Secretary.

The festival of St. John the Evangelist was observed

during the same month. Bros. Luke and Mitchell were present on the 27th February, 1766, from Penzance. The following curious minute was recorded August 28th:—"Brother James proposed Mr. Thomas Hefferman to be admitted to the Entered Apprentice degree, and he being commander of a ship, and only dependant upon the wind, and other circumstances for his stay, it was agreed unanimously to comply with his request, and he was admitted an E.P. and F.C. accordingly."

"This night (December 24th, 1766,) being thought proper to elect a Master, a ballot was called whereby Bro. Allison was chosen, who appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Hooten, S.W.; McLellan, J.W.; Bro. Snoxell, Treasurer; and Wescott, Secretary." A Master's lodge was ordered to be held next night. At the lodge opened in due form 11th June, 1767, a letter was read from the Star Lodge in Penzance, requesting the members of this lodge to attend them on St. John's Day, and no tickets required."

The festival was held by the Falmouth brethren, when the regular business was concluded, but no appointments of officers are notified, as they did not occur until 9th July, when Bro. Stephen Bell was elected Master, and Bro. R. Wescott was appointed S.W.; Bro. Wheelwright, J.W.; Bro. Edwd. Snoxell, Treasurer, and Bro. R. Vivian, Secretary.

The year 1767 was a prosperous one, Masonically, at Falmouth, and the officers were kept well in harness, and at their posts each lodge night, as many a rough ashler was rendered fit for the expert workman, and the neophytes were not content until they had ascended the winding staircase, received their wages in a peculiar manner, and penetrated to the very precincts of the Sanctum Sanctorum itself. The election of officers took place at Michaelmas, 1768, having been deferred to this time, because Bro. S. Bell consented to occupy the chair of the lodge for one year instead of six months. Bros. P. Wescott was elected Master; Nathaniel Steel, S.W.; Edward Snoxell, Treasurer (as usual because of being the *host*, we suppose); Brother Pendle was appointed J.W.; and Bro. Lilly, Secretary.

The Festival of St. John the Evangelist was observed on the 27th December, 1769.

(To be Continued.)

SOUTH METROPOLITAN MASONIC HALL COMPANY (LIMITED).

A meeting of this company was held on the 23rd ult., at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, for the purpose of deciding on the most desirable measures to be taken for carrying into effect the objects sought by this company, which may be stated to be two-

fold; primarily, the erection of a hall or institution in some central position in the southern portion of the metropolis, where the various Masonic lodges may meet for the transaction of their business, and performance of all the interesting rites and ceremonies peculiar to the Craft; and, secondly, it is considered by the promoters that there will be such a demand for the use of the hall for other purposes as will ensure a certain amount of commercial success, apart from the benefit which will accrue to the Order. It has long been felt by many prominent members of the Craft in the south of London, that, considering the number of lodges in the district, it would be a great advantage if some place of meeting could be provided apart from taverns and public-houses, and that the want of such accommodation has had a prejudicial effect on the progress of the Order in public estimation. The anathemas of the Pope, and the sneers of those who understand but little of the noble objects effectuated and aimed at by Freemasonry, may have produced little effect on any well-balanced mind, but the constant association of a lodge and a licensed house, although in reality quite accidental, would not always be so considered by those who did not take the trouble to inquire, and the consequence would be a reluctance to join the society on the part of many who thoroughly appreciated and admired its philanthropic and fraternal principles, but who were averse to connecting them with pleasures, which, although perfectly innocent in themselves, were felt to have no natural connection with the business of the Order. In taking this view, no reflection whatever is intended on those who have hitherto afforded accommodation to the various lodges, and who are many of them very useful and energetic members of the Order; but whilst the brethren in many provincial towns have the privilege of meeting in a hall of their own, it was felt that those in the metropolis were at a disadvantage in not being in the same position. The efforts which have been made on various former occasions to carry out this object have failed for want of sufficient support and co-operation amongst the members of the Order, but the present scheme is put forward under different auspices, and seems likely to be brought to a successful issue. It is no inconsiderable advantage to have, unsolicited, the hearty support and co-operation of a member of Parliament, such as was evinced on Tuesday evening by Captain Mellor, M.P., who kindly took the chair

and advocated the cause of the company in an able speech; and the very numerous promises of support which have been already received leave little doubt that the very moderate capital of one thousand £5 shares will soon be raised. As was well put by Mr. E. Dresser Rogers, a very large amount of capital is not required for such an undertaking, and when it is remembered that so great is the scarcity of accommodation for public meetings in the district, that one of the most favourite buildings for winter gatherings is used as a swimming bath in the summer, there seems every probability of a remunerative return being made on the outlay. The promoters, however, do not at all insist upon this view of the case, although, of course, it is not entirely lost sight of. They say, simply, here is a great and acknowledged want which has long pressed on the Masonic brotherhood; let us, by a little mutual co-operation supply it; and if, in so doing, we can also benefit ourselves in a pecuniary point of view, so much the better. This is the tone to create confidence and ensure success; and if, as is contemplated, a really good central site is selected, there can be no doubt but that a hearty measure of support will be awarded. The directors were requested to make inquiries as to what sites are available, and report to the meeting to be held on the 27th inst.; and although some may be inclined to wait until that time before applying for shares, we venture to suggest that by so doing they will stand a chance of getting no allotment, and at the same time debar themselves from the right of voting on the question of site, should there be any difference of opinion. It is not so much a long pull, or a very strong pull, as a pull altogether, which is here required; and from the good feeling and readiness to subordinate individual wishes to the good of the whole, exhibited on the 23rd ult., there is every reason to anticipate that perfect unanimity which is one of the attributes of Freemasonry. We heartily commend the scheme to the attention of all our Masonic brethren.

ORATION

Delivered by Bro. the Rev. THOMAS SOMERVILLE, A.M., at the inauguration of the new Masonic Hall, Victoria, Vancouver's Island.

The dedication of the lodge is one of the most solemn ordinances of our ancient Order, and I

am certain that as these holy symbols stood unveiled in their new resting-place, and your thoughts wandered back through the corridor of ages to the scene of their first introduction, and forward to the rich associations that will be entwined around them in the future, thoughts deep and hallowed could not fail to well up from the springs of your heart. Be it simply mine, then, as one for all, to voice forth these your silent reflections.

The work completed to-day is called "The Dedication of the Lodge to the Holy Saint John," the patron of our Order; but, strictly speaking, the work has a double purpose—both dedication and consecration. The lodge is dedicated to virtue, in the name of the Great Jehovah, and consecrated, separated, and set apart to the purpose of preserving the memory of these illustrious names.

It is dedicated to virtue. True Masonry is the dutiful daughter of Heaven. The lodge is the sacred shrine of Almighty Jehovah. By His law every Mason must be a good and true man—true to himself, his fellows, and to the Being before whom he has bent in adoring reverence. The "stupid atheist or irreligious libertine" may make himself a false man, but never a good Mason. The Mason is pledged to pious virtue. Nor let it be forgotten that virtue originally meant valour. Among the old Romans the most valorous man was esteemed the most virtuous; now, while strength should not be all, it must still form an important element of goodness. The good man must ever be a strong man. Mere sentimentalism is silly; like the vapour it appeareth for a little while and then vanisheth away. In every "good and true man" there must be a healthy firmness. The feeling of desire must be yoked with the principle of right, and will must drive them both.

Rugged strength and radiant beauty—
These were once in nature's plan;
Humble toil and Heavenward duty—
These will form the perfect man.

To virtue, strong and beautiful, is this Hall dedicated. Never, then, let careless feet defile its pavement, nor unclean hands touch its vessels; never let angry disputations be heard within its walls. Conscience as a faithful Tyler must guard off the furies of discord; temper must be ever tempered, and feeling chastened. It is that we may become better men than we meet here, and all our labours—the charges, the rituals, the cere-

monies, nay, every jewel and ornament, every article of furniture, every emblem and hieroglyphic, tend to this point.

But more, the lodge is consecrated to the memory of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist; and it is proper we should shortly recall to our minds their lives and labours. Right, too, that their names should have been linked together, not that they were like each other, but but just because they were widely different in their temperaments and teachings. They were the exponents of the two extremes in human character—the Baptist being the representative of fiery boldness, the Evangelist of shrinking love. The one was a sturdy Doric column, the other a graceful Corinthian pillar. The one was the complement of the other; united together they combine strength and beauty.

The Baptist was a truly heroic character. The last of all the prophets, he was the greatest of all. Of his life we get only a few glimpses, but these show us what sort of man he was. The first picture is that of an ardent youth among the solitudes of Israel's deserts. Saddened by the hollowness of life in Israel, and perplexed with the controversies of Jerusalem—the wrangling of Sadducee with Pharisee, of formalist with mystic, of the disciples of one infallible rabbi with the disciples of another infallible rabbi—he fled for refuge to the wilderness, to see if God could be found by the earnest soul that sought Him alone. For thirty years he lived in the desert; then came the time when the qualities nursed in solitude burst forth upon the world. The people felt that a king of men stood before them. The desert swarmed with crowds—warriors, profligates, publicans, the heart-broken, the worldly, the disappointed—all came. Even the king's attention is gained; he is taken away from the simple life of the desert, and placed among the artificialities of the royal city. And now comes the question, "Does the stern prophet degenerate into a sweet tongued courtier?" Is the rough ashlar of the forest broken into pieces in the process of polishing? Verily, no. He stands in Herod's court, the prophet of the desert still, preaching boldly the truth. When Herod would ally himself with his guilty mistress, she at once said, "It is not lawful for thee to have her." Now he is struck down like an eagle in its flight. The last picture is that of this earnest, strong man cast into a dungeon by the guards of the king. There he

wears out his restless soul, until sacrificed to a courtesan's whim.

May his name ever remind us of courage in the hour of trial, and inspire us with fortitude to reprove sternly all departures from Masonic rule.

None have ever had more of the essential spirit of Masonry than St. John the Evangelist. He was the principle of love personified. Love was the secret of his religion, the burden of his teaching, the substance of his life, and the promise of his heaven. Whether we behold him leaning on his Master's breast, or wandering as a teacher among the nations of the East, he was the living illustration of his constant theme. His, too, was a love not easily quenched; he was persecuted, imprisoned, banished, tortured; but his love survived his trials. His life was love. Hear him, when old and feeble, writing to his disciples, "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light; he that hateth his brother walketh in darkness." Such was the man.

May his name inspire us with his spirit, so that our labours in the lodge below may prepare us for the rest in the temple above.

Brethren, the service in which we have this day engaged and the symbols upon which we have gazed must have brought vividly to mind the high antiquity of our Order. And this thought let us cherish; it will add dignity and lustre to our pursuits. It is impossible not to feel the spell of long prescription in some degree. The Jew cannot but feel proud that the blood which fired Abraham's bosom still runs in his veins; the Greek, wandering among the beautiful groves of his native land, cannot but reflect with pleasure on the time when the fathers of philosophy assembled there their pupils, and the poet's song waked rapturous applause in the neighbouring theatres; the modern denizen of Rome, when he sees the eager strangers throng its streets and spoil its temples, feels the emotion of pride as he reflects that the time was when the queenly city, seated securely on her seven hills, gave laws to their barbarous forefathers; the representative of Great Britain, gazing upon his country's flag in the land of the stranger, feels it all the dearer to his heart when he remembers that for a thousand years it has braved the battle and the breeze, and numbers up the many hard fought battles over which it has floated; the worshipper in an ancient church has all the more attachment to it when he considers that the walls of its cathedrals are now grey with years, and that for cen-

turies has gone up to the Most High the same sacred song; and if any cherish this feeling, surely may we, when we search the records of Masonry and look back upon its existence even beyond the period of these records. "The sources of the noblest rivers which spread fertility over continents and bear richly laden vessels to the sea, are to be sought for in wild and barren tracts, incorrectly laid down in maps and rarely explored by travellers." Far back in the dim and hoary past, beyond the period of authentic history lies the origin of Masonry. We do indeed catch glimpses of it as it rolls along near to the fountain head, yet when we first clearly behold it, it bursts upon our eyes as a broad, deep river, well defined and beautiful. There can be little doubt that long before the Christian era, the mountains of Judea, the plains of Syria, the deserts of India, and the valley of the Nile were cheered by its presence and fertilised by its current. Nearly three thousand years ago there were in Asia the Dionysian architects, a great corporation who undertook and even monopolised the building of temples, stadiums, and theatres, recognised each other by signs and tokens, were possessed of certain esoteric doctrine, and called all other men profane, who were not admitted to these mysteries. Of these were the cunning workmen sent by Hiram, King of Tyre, to aid in the erection of the temple 1,000 years before the Christian era. Here it is that Masonry first meets us in strength and beauty. In the construction of this magnificent edifice, 113,000 men were engaged under 300 overseers, and its building occupied seven years. And surely that day when the first temple was completed, must rise vividly before the minds of us assembled within the last consecrated. It was a great and joyous day in Jerusalem. Wearily had they waited whilst it gradually rose up towards the skies, and now the capstone was brought forth with shoutings. The multitude of the people thronged the courts and stretched away down the streets to the very walls of the city. Attracting every eye, crowning the summit of Mount Moriah stood the temple with its lofty columns, and beauteous towers and gilded roof, sparkling in the pure sunlight of heaven—the chosen dwelling place of Jehovah—the joy of the whole earth, and the visible symbol of that other not made with hands. Within it were placed the brazen altar, and the golden altar, and the other vessels that had been in the tabernacle. In the

holy of holies placed they the mercy seat and the ark, and within that the moral law written on the tables of stone and delivered long before to Moses amid the thunderings of Sinai. Then, as it has been said, "did Masonry go forth bearing upon her brow the name of Jehovah, in her bosom a jewel of living radiance, and in her hand the key that unlocked the gates of immortality. For more than 2,000 years has she been telling man of a Being brighter than the stars, and endless as eternity." Before the victorious son of Philip marched his phalanxes, or ever Romulus walked by Tiber's stream, had she been telling man how to live and how to die. Oh! surely it is something to boast of, that her language has rolled from so many tongues—that her altar fires have been kindled for so many centuries—that her beneficent works have been performed by so many hands. To remove her landmarks and her handmarks, the ancient buildings and the cathedrals, those *chefs d'œuvre* of the middle age must be razed to the ground, even to the last stone; for everywhere in the floor, the pavements, the columns, the mouldings, and the roofs, the masons, the sculptors, and the architects have left their marks. Thus high and honourable is the prescription in her favour. Old she is, but there appear not yet the signs of senility. Mighty her works in the past, but there gather not the manifestations of weakness or weariness. Time has written no wrinkle on her spotless brow. In the virtues of her children, she ever renews her youth. In her purification from profane appendages, she ever strengthens her stakes. In the distribution of the civilised races she ever lengthens her cords. Her lessons and her precepts—those grand moral *flora* of the universe—are of perennial growth. As they bloomed in Palestine, they bloom in this the farthest west. As they were with Solomon and our fathers, so they are with us; and as with us, so shall they be with our children's children.

Of such thoughts are we reminded by the lodge and the dedication service. Turn we now to the living stones of the temple—the members of the Craft. As a society of men, we assert the dignity of labour, the harmony of union, and the wisdom of organisation.

We assert the dignity of labour. Activity is demanded, inaction and sloth proscribed. The high vocation of man is to be the fellow-worker with God. The vitalities of the universe are of God, the instrumentalities are of man. The Great

Architect has laid out for us a plan and richly covered the earth with material, but man must work it to its end. Even Paradise had to be dressed, and though the earth were all to become as fair and fertile as the primeval abode, the neglect of a single generation would throw it back to a weary waste. God has sown in society the seeds of government, of science, of art; but man must develope and apply them. The laws of taste, for instance, are innately planted within us, but it is the chisel of the sculptor and the pencil of the artist that give embodiment to these laws in the noble temple and the magnificent picture. In everything man's labour is the complement of the Creator's bounty. "*Laborare est orare.*" Work is truly religious, nay, labour is life.

"Nature lives by action;
Beast, bird, air, fire, the heavens and rolling world,
All live by action; nothing lives at rest
But death and ruin; man is cured of care,
Fashioned and improved by labor."

These truths are too often forgotten. They have in some measure been slipping away from the present generation—that looks upon work as degrading. To look upon our platforms and our exchanges where men most do congregate, one might think that the chief end of man was to talk, to buy and to sell—not to work. In the midst of all this does Masonry assert the dignity of labour. Originally a fraternity of practical builders, in later days the work is of a speculative nature; still, however, the motto is "a fair day's wage for a fair day's work." Honours are given to the diligent, the drones are discouraged in the busy hive, and in many ways she asserts the dignity of man's primeval duty.

Your presence here also asserts the harmony of union. The lodge is the world in miniature. From east to west is its length, from south to north is its breadth, from earth to heaven is its height, and from the surface to the centre of the terraqueous globe is its depth. And in few places can this conception be realised so well as here. At the ends of the earth we draw material from all the earth. What a variety of races, nationalities, creeds and religions are here represented! We have the Jew, long identified with Masonry, forgetting his exclusiveness in communion with his brethren—the Italian from the sunny south, joining hand with the exile from Old Caledonia, the "Ultima Thule" of his forefathers—the Saxon from the good old German stock, sitting in fellowship with his sprightly neighbour from the joyous

land of France. The Englishman and the American forgetting each their jealousies, and rejoicing together in liberty, equality, and fraternity. Nor are the colonists awaiting. Here the Canadian meets the Australian, and here Nova Scotia and Vancouver Island intertwine their branches—all living stones in the building, bound together by the cement of charity, all forming a fit symbol and type of the time.

"When man to man the world o'er,
Shall brithers be for a' that."

Furthermore, we assert the wisdom of organisation. There may be a union which is not a unity. The atoms in a sandpit are close enough together, but they do not form a unity. There is no unity in a flock of sheep, it is simply the repetition or so many things similar to each other. In an organised unity all the members are properly subordinated each to another, and the parts harmoniously arranged in their suitable relations. The body of man is an organisation where all the different parts, head, heart, fingers, fibres, and limbs severally conduce to a common good, and depend on each other. Now, Nature has not intended us to be like a flock of sheep, near each other and yet distinct from each other; we are to be organised. A common interest is to flow as the lifeblood through all. As men rise in civilisation, there appear the higher and finer developments of combined relations. In savage life men are slightly organised. The tribe is simply like a flock of sheep. The kingdom or the empire is the result of experience and refinement. It says much for Masonry that its common name has become "The Order." To quote from an illustrious member, whose memory is deservedly dear on this Pacific coast—the manly and large-hearted Thomas Starr King:—"How Masonry reflects to us or rather illustrates the wisdom breathed by the Great Architect through all nature! It is said that order is Heaven's first law; it is no less true that it is Earth's first privilege. It is the condition of beauty, of liberty, of peace. Think how the principle of order for all the orbs of heaven is hidden in the sun. The tremendous power of his gravitation reached thousands of millions of miles, and hampers the selfwill—the centrifugal force of mighty Jupiter, of Uranus with his staff of moons, and of Neptune. There's a Grand Lodge for you, in which these separate Masters are held in check by the Most Worshipful Grand Master's power. Nor is it any

hardship that these separate globes are so strictly under rule, and pay obedience to the sun. Is it not their chief blessing—their sovereign privilege? What if the Order were less distinct and punctual? What if the force in these globes that chafes under the central rein, and champs its curb, should be successful for even a single day? What if the earth should gain liberty against the pull of the sun? Beauty from that moment would wither, fertility would begin to shrivel. The hour of seeming freedom would be the dawn of anarchy; for the sun's rule is the condition of perpetual harmony, bounty, and joy."

"The idea of this heaven determined order, is committed to our body through its Worshipful Grand Masters, Master, Wardens, Deacons, and Craftsmen. The proper regard for it has preserved it amid the breaking up of old empires, and maintains it in its mysterious, symmetrical and sublime proportions. It is the source of its living vigour, and the promise of its future strength."

Finally, brethren, we read that when Solomon had finished the temple, he besought that the presence of the Lord would dwell there. May this enlivening presence ever sanctify our fellowship! What of our beautiful house and our service without that? What of the altar without the altar fire? What of the richly ornate casket without the jewel within? What of the Mason without Masonic principle? He is only as the dead among the living—a rotten stone in the building. Our Masonry, brethren, must either be a real thing, or an awful sham, a thing to be laid hold of and nailed down to the counter by the detector and hater of all shams. Am I to respect the bad man, because forsooth by forswearing himself, he has gained the secrets of the Craft? Shall I prefer the man who has tried to hide his rottenness with the garments of light? No brethren, I will endure him—I will try faithfully to perform my vows to him, but it is not in human nature to restrain my contempt for him.

Masonry is the daughter of heaven; let us who wear her favours, never soil them on the earth. Invested as we are with these ancient and noble badges, let us walk in the light and not in darkness. With clean hands and right spirits with an eye of compassion for the tear of sorrow, with an ear ever open to the cry of the distreseed—with a hand ever ready to help the widow, and the orphan, and the stranger, let us show to the world the inherent nobleness of

our Order. Thus may we go on from strength to strength, and at length be admitted into the presence of the Supreme Grand Master, and receive the password to celestial bliss.

The words of that old Masonic marching hymn, lately quoted by Carlyle in his address to the students at Edinburgh should ring upon our ears:—

The Mason's ways are
A type of existence,
And his persistence
Is as the days are,
Of men in the world.

The future hides in it
Gladness and sorrow;
We press still thorow,
Nought that abides in it
Daunting us. Onward.

And solemn before us,
Veiled, the dark portal,
Goal of all mortal.
Stars silent rest o'er us,
Graves under us silent.

While earnest thou gazest,
Comes boding of terror,
Comes phantasm and error,
Perplexes the bravest
With doubt and misgiving.

But heard are the voices;
Heard are the sages,
The worlds and the ages,
Choose well! your choice is
Brief, and yet endless.

Here eyes do regard you
In eternity's stillness;
Here is all fulness;
Ye brave to reward you;
Work and despair not.

CLASSICAL THEOLOGY.—LXXXIII.

JUNO AND JANUARY.

When Juno became aware of Jupiter's visits to Alcmena, the wife of Amphitryo, King of Thebes, wary and deadly grew her hatred to the embryo Hercules. At that time it happened that the Queen of Myncæ was in that situation subject sometimes to ladies who love their lords. Juno, by her immortal arts or blandishments, at least so it is said, contrived to obtain an edict from Jupiter to this designing effect, that whichever of the two children of the two queens might be born the first should be the superior. Thereupon, Juno, by her invested power, as a nuptial goddess, accelerated, by three months, the birth of Euristheus, who after the decease of his father, Ithenelus, became king of Mycenæ. Not only did this decree subgate the Alcides to his master, but at the instigations of the supreme goddess the tyrant planned, and enjoined him to perform those twelve mighty labours, the glory of which obtained

for him the honour of the name of Hercules, "Juno græcè dicitur Ἥρα and κλεος (Hera-cleos) gloria unde nomen Hercules." Bear in mind, nevertheless it is recorded, that Juno, after she had sent the two vipers to destroy the "vigorous babe" in his cradle, upon the mediation of Pallas, grew so far reconciled to the infant as to offer him her breast, of which, nothing daunted, the noble little fellow partook so violently as to occasion the nursing goddess such smarting pain as to make her put him away over suddenly. But here, at least, is to be seen evidence of the milk of human kindness being in the nature of Juno. Some of this aliment just as the poets declare it to be, though spilt was not lost, some fell upon the sky, whence the formation and derivation of γαλαξία (Galaxia) or the Milky Way; some fell upon the earth, whence the production and denomination of *Rosæ Junonice*, or the roses of Juno.

The appellation of Juno, as we have formerly shown, may signify the air, the sky, the atmosphere surrounding the earth, the ether, or 'Hæa, 'Era, of loving, the goddess of love, &c. But we know how often Virgil makes Juno as "speaking from her cloud," and thus to consider 'Hæa or Hera to mean darkness as well as a cloud, let us not stop here to resolve: neither how she was adored under the names of Astarte, Venus, and Urania, than otherwise that we find her to have been the one and the same with the Juno of the Romans; the Isis of the Egyptians; the Alita of the Arabians, the Mena of the Hebrews, and the Cælestis of the Africans, that is to say the Σεληνα (Selenana), ΜΗΝΗ, vx Selene; or the Mother of Night and Queen of Heaven: as, similarly, Jupiter was the Σειρ (Sier), Λιός, vx, Elios; or the Father of Day, and the King of Heaven. Originally the Jews had no especial names for their months, they counted first, second, third, fourth, and so on. Afterwards they followed the system of the Egyptians in the division of their months and years. Twelve months, or three hundred and sixty-five days, constituted their year (as enumerated in Gen. VII). Each month contained thirty days up to the last, unto which they added five more, and, to allow for slow time, at the expiration of every one hundred and twenty years, they intercalated a whole month of thirty days. The origin of the names of these months has given rise to much learned controversy. We read of Chodesh Abib, as an Egyptian name, afterwards changed to Nisan, the first month of the

spring and of the holy year; of Zif, the second month of the holy year, which afterwards, was called Ijar, of Bul, the eighth month of the holy year, now answering to Marchesvan, of Ethanim, or the month of the Valiant, altered to Tishri, the seventh of the holy year. Be it here understood that the Rabbinic names of the months are composed of those Chaldaic letters which are now termed Hebrew, from their having been used by Ezra in his transcript of the Scriptures. They are nearly pronounced as entered in our table, which we believe of itself will indicate its significant agreement with our subject, notwithstanding the substitution of the several new names in place of the old nominations of the days and months withdrawn, and the blending of Languages, as may be exemplified even in so small a space as here allotted.

Days of the week as named after the principal divinities or planets of the nations under the following headings:—

Roman.	Saxon.	Hindu.	French.	Governed by	Anglicised Greek Name.
Dies—Solis.	Sunsdæg, or Sun's day.	Aditvar.	Dimanche.	Surya.	Helios.
" Lunæ.	Moonsdæg, or Moon's day.	Somvar.	Lundi.	Chandra.	Selene.
" Martis.	Tywsdæg, or Tyr's day.	Monvalgar.	Mardi.	Mangala.	Ares.
" Mercurii.	Wodensdæg, or Odin's day.	Budvar.	Mercredi.	Budha.	Hermes.
" Jovis.	Thursdæg, or Thor's day.	Virhaspetvar.	Jeudi.	Virispati.	Zeus.
" Veneris.	Freyasdæg, or Freya's day.	Sukervar.	Vendredi.	Sukra.	Aphrodite.
" Saturni.	Seternsdæg, or Setern's day.	Sanivar.	Samedi.	Sani.	Kronus.

The Hebrew month named according to the order of the sacred and civil years, and corresponding with the Latin of the months attached.

Sac.	Civ.
VII.	1. Nisan, Martius—Mars, or March, O.S.
VIII.	2. Jjar, Aprilis—Avril, or April.
IX.	3. Sivan, Mains—Mai, or May.
X.	4. Tammuz, Junius—Juin, or June.
XI.	5. Ab, Julius—Juillet, or July.
XII.	6. Elul, Augustus—Auguste, or August.
I.	7. Tishri, September—Septembre, or September.
II.	8. Marcheshvan, October—Octobre, or October.
III.	9. Chislen, December—Decembre, or December.
IV.	10. Tebeth, November—Novembre, or November.
V.	11. Shebat, Januarius—Janvier, or January.
VI.	12. Adar, Februarius—Fevrier, or February.

The Saxons worshipped the sun and moon and the earth under the personifications of Wodin, whom they made to replace Odin, of Thunre, whom they made to replace Thor; and of Herth, whom seemingly they made to represent the goddess Terra. Thor was not only their god of hosts, but also their god of mercy and justice. From the corruption of the worship of Odin,

a new deity under the name of Irmensula, was formed to super-mediate in the supremacy of Thor. It has been pointed out that this institution of a deity of a different nature, and adored distinctively is so far from being confined to mythology, that parallel cases are frequently to be found in the earlier periods of religion authenticated by history, yet still leading sometimes to such difficulties that no researches anteceding their eras have hitherto been able to elucidate. We can but admit this to a circumscribed extent to be the truth, almost if not all national systems of religions account in themselves for their change that is to say, they offer some explanation for any change that may have occurred. Idolatrous worship became or spread till it was universal, and although God in His own image, or God with us, has instructed man on earth, one form after another of church service, has met with condemnation and been left to desolation. Yet still Christianity, in itself, like a tender mother, is more and more extending its compassion and gathering a subdued world to its divine bosom and embrace. This holy Christianity does not flout in gawdy robes and adventurous ceremonies; it is not the eye, but the heart alone it would influence and attract; therefore human loving kindness and angelic simplicity, complete the perfection of its beauty, which when unadorned is adorned the most.

The goddess Rheda, or Eastre of the Anglo-Saxon, was of Eastern origin, as her name, which signifies "from the East," implies. A special worship was paid to her in March, hence Rhedmonath; and hence, from the Festival of Eastre, because it happened in this month, and had a corresponding O.S. date, the anniversary of the resurrection of our Lord is by the English called Easter.

Of the religion of the Celts, whose priests were the Druids, little appears for certain to be known, though we hear of Druidical lodges in mystical order to this day. Tacitus and Cæsar scarcely more than inform us that Mars and Mercury were held in honour by the Celts as the chief gods, and that the general bearing of their religion was gloomy and cruel; the horrible institution of human sacrifices being amongst their rites. It mingled with some of its observances some of the mythological theology of the North, whilst in other respects it was totally distinct. Bryant and others are of opinion that their principal object of

worship was the Sun, and they would further show that the Druids were followers of the occult science of the Persian Magi.

THE NEMESIS: A TALE OF THE DAYS OF TRAJAN.

By BRO. A. ONEAL HAYE, K.M., K. Cal., Corresponding Member of the German Society, Leipzig, Knight Templar, Scot.; Author of "The History of the Knights Templars;" "Vara Queer;" "Gatherings in Wanderings;" "Songs and Ballads;" "Poemata;" "Legends of Edinburgh." &c., &c., &c.; Poet Laureate of the Canongate, Kilwinning; P.M. St. Stephens; P.P.Z. of St. Andrews, R.A. Chap.; &c.; &c.

(Continued from page 348.)

CHAPTER X.

A ROMAN PUBLISHER.

"He hath a rare store of works, Sir, curiously written, and rarely illumined. Wilt thou step in, Sir, his scribes are at work upon another poet's poem?"

A few mornings after the boar hunt, Caius, on his way to the palace of the emperor, called in at the shop of Marcus, the Bibliopole, in the Argiletus, to whose charge he had committed the transcribing of his poems, and whose slaves were then busily engaged upon the work. One copy Marcus had had that morning completed, in the highest style of penmanship, by the hand of his most experienced slave, which was intended for presentation to no less a person than the Emperor Trajan. It had become quite fashionable before the reign of Trajan, for the wealthy Romans to form a private library, which was meant more for show than reading. The larger the library, the higher was the owner's rank and fashion. The book trade thus received an immense impetus, for Tryphon, Quincillian's publisher, kept a numerous staff of copyists and illuminators in constant employment; and large sums were readily given for new works. For a portion of his immense extracts the elder Pliny was offered 400,000 sesterces, upwards of £3,000 sterling. Martial, who was a Roman Grub-street hack, and wrote for bread, in his Epigrams, gives some interesting accounts of the trade. An acquaintance, who broadly hinted that a present of his works would be acceptable, was told by the needy poet that a copy might readily be had from Tryphon. A good copy of his first book of Epigrams sold for five denarii, about 3s. 8d. as he informs us in his works.

Caius on entering the shop, found Balbus there to whom the Bibliopole was showing the new book.

"A rare prize, this," said Balbus, after they had interchanged greetings pointing to the book; "Marcus has excelled himself. Did'st thou ever see so fair a pen? but precious gems, such as are our poems, deserves the richest dress."

"Nothing can be too rich for Trajan," replied Caius. "His Ulpian Library bids fair to be the finest in Rome. He says truly, that victory gives peace, but books contentment; and while victory repels the insolence of barbarians, books advance the people in civilisation."

"He is a great man," said Balbus.

"And a great fosterer of our trade," said Marcus. "We have a hundred books on hand copying for the Ulpian. Look at this Virgil. Its equal was never in Rome. Is it not rarely written, and these devices, are they not quaint?"

"It is excellent, but what books are the best?"

"Ah, ha!" said the bibliopole, "every library in Rome has been searched for rare copies and rare works. Now who do you think has the finest library?"

"I am sure I know not."

"I do not speak of the number of books, but of their value: Your cousin Adrian—I called upon him shortly after his arrival from his travels, requesting to see his manuscripts. He has works in all languages, and such a Homer! The finest that ever Athens produced. It is written on the finest Papyrus, in the loveliest characters and illumined with rich lettering, and full of illustrative drawings. One thousand pounds did not pay the expense."

"I knew he had some rich works, but did not think they were so valuable."

"I shall show you one of his meanest—Lupo, go and bring me hither the Plato." The slave brought it. "This is a real work of art, my slaves cannot touch it," said Marcus, reverently opening the tome. "I cannot have more than one of these in my shop at a time, what a loss there would be to the world, were this to be destroyed or damaged."

"But there are surely other copies in the world?"

"Other copies, other trash," said the bibliopole, angrily, "tell me when saw you ever such papyrus, such illumining; such writing. Another copy, it is unequalled?"

"I crave your pardon, Marcus," said Caius, smiling, "you spoke of the material body, I of the soul."

"Body or soul, the book is unique."

"By the way, Marcus," said Balbus, "I have some poems lying by me at present, which I think had better be put into shape. I shall send you some immediately."

"Of what description are they? Nothing, I hope, in the style of the 'Gentes Romae?' I doubt if such another work could be safely published."

"Ah no, they are pastoral poems, satires and the such like. Quite innocent. A child might read them."

"Very good, I shall publish them, but on the understanding that I may expunge what I please."

"Agreed. Whether go you now, Caius?"

"To the palace, to present this work to the Emperor."

"So far shall I make bold to accompany you," and saluting the bibliopole, who was lost in admiration of the Plato, they left the shop. "Is not Marcus a very bear, Caius? He is as tender of the delicate reputation of his works, as a prude of her good name."

"I honour him for it," replied Caius, "written immorality lives, while spoken immorality dies with the generation. I admire the poet in Ovid, but I hate his principles. Cutting out the indelicacy from his pages, there is still sufficient left to prove his claim to greatness. Perhaps more, for his licentiousness is only the gross earth enveloping the spirit, destroy that body and the soul rises at once to heaven."

"I believe you are right, Caius. My unfortunate 'Gentes Romae' was written in the cause of virtue, its theme was the ugliness of vice, and how could I show that but by example. Precept is good, example better."

"True, but the past is past, and should be left in its funeral urn."

"I wish I had submitted the work to you before I committed it to the world, still it has had a great sale."

"Doubtless, for one purchaser of 'Virgil's Eniad,' Marcus has twenty for 'Ovid's Art of Love.' 'Tis the world."

"A noble Greek, Murtius by name, at present living at Rome desires your acquaintanceship."

"Murtius?" said Caius, musingly, "surely I know the name. I have heard of it somewhere before."

"Likely," said Balbus, an uncomfortable feeling

crossing his heart. "Can he have heard of his ill fame?"

"I have it," said Caius. "He is an Athenian, a great scholar. I remember Scopas the Rhetorician mentioning his name at the Emperor's table. A famous man is he not, renowned as a philosopher?"

"Yes," answered Balbus, drawing a breath of relief, "he is a great philosopher, and you will delight in his converse. Some day, perhaps, you may find leisure to accompany me to his house. May I carry him your consent, which will give him much pleasure?"

"Certainly. A philosopher and a Greek are too honourable names to refuse them so kind an invitation."

"By the way, Caius, you can do me a favour. You see the daughter of this philosopher has asked me—womanly vanity—to pen her some verses. This I am unable to do at present, and as she is pressing for them, perhaps you would do them for me, and in my name?"

"A formidable request, truly," answered Caius, laughing. "Apollo sat upon my pen this morning, expecting your request, and here are the verses ready. They are thine, so take whatever credit is due to them. But here is the palace, and here we part."

"I thank you for the verses," said Balbus, "and I shall inform Murtius of your acceptance of his invitation."

"Do so," replied Caius, and entered the palace.

Balbus hurried home with the verses which he had so cleverly got from Caius. They were entitled—"To Sexta," but substituting the name of "Phryne," he transcribed the following verses, no great things for a great Roman poet, but if Homer nodded among the gods, why not the young Caius, among the Muses?

"Smile, Phryne, smile, and round thy lip
Let waves of laughter roll;
Deep in wild joy thy bright eyes dip,
And glad my soul.
Loose let thy ringlets flow, as streams
Bound down a mountain's brow,
While gladness in each dimple gleams,
And Mirth's lips glow.
Let play the fountains of the heart,
And free each fetter'd smile.
The day we'll toss to craft and art,
Stars woo beguile.
No moulded looks, nor stiffened limbs,
No studied looks, nor words,
The days each secret blessing dims,
Stars touch sweet chords.

Yes, smile my Phryne, while the cup
Creams with the heavenly grape,
To-night will we with Bacchus sup,
To-morrow gape.
For life's at best an airy thread,
Each passing wind may shake,
Death brings the dark funereal bread,
That it must break."

"A fair song, by Apollo," muttered Balbus, looking at the transcribed verses. "It will appear well in my new volume of poems, I must have that lazy scoundrel Mamma laid by the heels. How dare he give forth that he is writing a tragedy when he knows that it must be mine. It is a profitable investment lending these poor knaves of authors money, only, were it not dangerous, I would clip the wings of that Cenna. Hum, he must be removed. He is in my way. I suspect him for a traitor, although I know not why. Perhaps the river Liber may carry him to the sea. The prying knave, I believe he knows of our haunt in the Suburra."

Dismissing these thoughts from his mind, he betook himself to Murtius' house, and presented Phryne with the verses. After reading them, Phryne gazed at Balbus intently, and said, "The verses are fair. Are they yours, or some of our young poets?"

"Mine, fair lady."

A smile crossed her lip, but further conversation was put a stop to by the entrance of Murtius.

"I bring you good tidings," said Balbus, "the noble Caius Fabius has accepted your invitation."

"Indeed, then I shall invite the noblest of our friends to the banquet. Remember Phryne your part in the play. You are a woman, fascinate him. Come with me, Balbus," and they left the room.

"I am a woman, fascinate him," thought Phryne. "I am a wretch, in whose touch there is pollution, but others have made me what I am, and not in love, but in revenge, Caius Fabius, shalt thou be mine?"

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

RELIGION AND FREEMASONRY.

Whilst it is the studious aim of the English Freemason to avoid by every possible means any interference with the established laws and institutions of the country, including that great national establishment—the Church, the following resolution or "invitation" by the Italian lodge at Pisa, under the Supreme Council of Palermo, will be read with

interest as indicative of the important part which our Italian brethren consider Freemasonry should play as regards the rights of liberty of conscience.

The following is a literal translation of the circular issued by the lodge referred to:—

O. di Pisa, 28th Oct., 1866.

THE LODGE DOVERE—DIRITTO.

By the deliberation taken in the sitting of 27th inst.

Considering that religion requires the same liberty as art and science, as the believer, the artist, and the savant are dependant only on their individual moral conviction, of which they must give account to their own conscience and reason,—that all intervention of authority and force in matters of religion becomes unjust and tyrannical, the Government having neither the duty nor the right to support, impose, or protect one form of worship whatever in preference to another. That it is necessary to instruct the people until there is a universal conviction of these truths, since, whilst they take many obstacles out of the way of the free progress of human society, they also promote and cement the sincere union of individuals, families, and nations,—invites all the learned who are educated in the school of progress and of liberty, without distinction of sex or of nation, to write, even if in their native language, their thoughts regarding liberty of conscience.

A commission elected by the lodge is charged to examine the works of this nature which shall be received by it up to 30th of April, 1867, and will declare upon its responsibility the one which best responds to the elevation and importance of the subject.

The work as above designated will have a prize of 1000 Italian lire (£40).

It is not however intended that the vote of the commission should be prejudicial to the others, for the public will have the opportunity of knowing their value, as they will be printed, and, if possible, circulated, without any expense to their respective authors.

Those journals which shall zealously and worthily co-operate in the propagation and execution of the present deliberation, will receive a handsome premium, and will have the consciousness of, having accelerated the fulfilment of the many aspirations of noble martyrs in the cause of liberty.

All manuscripts and publications which are intended to compete for the above-named prizes must be addressed thus:—Alla Libreria e Cartoleria, via Palestro, No. 4, Pisa, Italy.

MASONIC PROCESSIONS.—Our public processions have been instituted for many noble purposes. We visit the house of God in public to offer up our prayers and praises for mercies and blessings; we attend in a body to show the world our mutual attachment as a band of brothers; we are arranged in a set form to exhibit the beauty of our system, constructed on the most harmonious proportions, and modelled into a series of imperceptible grades of rank which cement and unite us in that indissoluble chain of sincere affection which is so well understood by Master Masons; and blend the attributes of equality and subordination in a balance so nice and equable, that the concord between rulers and brethren is never subject to violation, while we meet on the level and part on the square.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

The M.W. Grand Master has appointed Bro. the Right Hon the Earl of Limerick Prov. Grand Master for Bristol.

GLASGOW.—The centenary festival of the Lodge of St. Mark (No. 102, S.C.) was celebrated most successfully on Monday last, in McLean's Hotel, St. Vincent street. The chair was occupied by the R.W.M., Bro. Major R. D. Barbor, supported on the right by Bros. J. White Melville, Grand Master Mason of Scotland; Sir M. S. Stewart, Prov. G.M. Renfrewshire West; Dick; W. Merry Gilmour, S. Prov. G.M. Middle Ward; G. K. Flindt, Chap.; D. H. Miller, P.M.; W. A. Baillie, Treas. On the left were Bros. R. Wylie, W.M. of Mother Kilwinning Lodge, and Prov. G.M. for Ayrshire; Colonel Campbell, Prov. G.M. Renfrew East; Lieut. Barrington Campbell; Captain M'Casland; A. Steward, Grand Clerk; T. Halkett, Sec.; Barra-dale, S.W.; J. O. Smith, J.W.; J. M. Allan, Grand Steward; J. Leith, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; and J. Campbell, Prov. G.S.B., were also present. The guests numbered over one hundred, and among them were deputations from all the lodges in the province, from some lodges out of the province, and a deputation from the young lodge at Millport, the Kelburne (No. 459), consisting of Bros. the Rev. H. H. Richardson, W.M.; A. M'Kay, S.D.; A. Hunter, J.D.; S. H. Miller, R. P. Rees, and A. Houston. Want of space compels us to defer giving the report of the proceedings until next week.

METROPOLITAN.

TEMPERANCE LODGE (No. 169).—This prosperous old lodge met on the 15th inst., at the White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford. Bro. N. Wingfield, W.M., presided. All the three ceremonies were done in an efficient manner. A large sum was collected for the unemployed operatives of Deptford and Greenwich. There were several visitors present.

UNITED STRENGTH LODGE (No. 228).—The members of this ancient lodge held their November meeting at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, on Tuesday evening, the 13th inst. Among the visitors who joined the brethren at the lodge and banquet room we noticed Bros. S. May, J.W. 701; Dunning, Boys, and Garratt, 704; Hurren, 901; Sawyer, 733; Ward, 917; Newton, 174, and others. The ceremonies of initiation and passing were ably performed by Bro. A. Colston, W.M., assisted by the officers and brethren, after which the brethren sat down to an admirable banquet prepared for them by their enterprising host, Bro. S. Wicken. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been duly honoured, the W.M. proposed "The Health of Bro. Thaine," the initiate who had joined them that evening, which was duly and cordially received. Bro. Thaine in returning thanks expressed the pleasure it afforded him in becoming a member of so ancient an institution, and the kind reception he had met with from the brethren of the lodge. The "Visitors," were next proposed in appropriate terms, and the honour was humbly acknowledged by Bro. Boys. "The Health of the Worshipful Master, Past Masters, and Officers," having been duly honoured, the W.M. rose and proposed "The Masonic Charities," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. J. N. Frost, P.M., who purposed representing the United Strength Lodge at the next festival as their Steward for and on behalf of the Aged Freemasons and their widows. He (the W.M.) trusted that the brethren would do all in their power to support their respected P.M., Bro. Frost, who was so universally known and acknowledged for his talents in that lodge, and who was also so eminently known and respected at the Camden and many other lodges, for his zeal and assiduity in having before represented the Charities as Steward on two occasions. The institutions

with which these Charities were connected, recommended themselves to all from the vast amount of good they had done, and were still the means of producing, by affording relief and assistance to those among them whom the adversity of life had brought low; there might be even those among them in the lodge who may have cause to remember, perhaps, in future years, that those Charities had been the means of affording consolation to some brother whom they themselves knew to be worthy, and who doubtless as little thought they would be to him a lasting source of comfort in later years. The W.M. also alluded to the valuable services rendered by Bro. S. May in promoting the election of a son of one their deceased members to the Boys' School, and reminded the lodge they owed a debt of gratitude to that worthy and respected brother. The toast having been cordially received, Bro. Frost responded by expressing the pleasure it afforded him of representing the lodge as their Steward at the approaching festival, and trusted the brethren would testify by his list the interest they took in the Masonic Charities. The host, Bro. S. Wickens, having been deservedly complimented by the W.M. for his attention in catering for the brethren, acknowledged the same and expressed the delight it always gave him when his exertions were so flatteringly recognised. The Tyler's toast terminated the proceedings, which were at intervals enlivened by the harmony of Bros. Garratt, Ward, and others.

PAXMURE LODGE (No. 720).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Monday, the 19th inst., under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. Hodges. Bro. Aultill was duly passed to the second degree, and Bro. Bell advanced to the third. The death of Bro. Selth, a member of the lodge, was announced, and received with sympathetic regret. The members were invited to attend the adjourned meeting on the 27th inst., at the Horns Tavern, on the subject of the proposed southern Masonic Hall. A committee was also appointed to consider the advisability and practicability of holding a ball early in January, such committee to report to the next lodge meeting. A considerable number of brethren sat down to banquet, the W.M. being supported by Bros. Thomas, Reid, and Stevens, P.M.'s, and by his officers in strong force. There were three visitors present, viz., Bros. George J. Shakell, 35; J. Niblett, 72; and Wackrill, 1,044, each of whom returned thanks for their healths having been proposed after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. The health of Bro. J. W. Anson, Secretary to the Dramatic College, &c., was proposed as a joining member, and that brother eloquently and appropriately replied. The health of the P.M.'s was proposed and severally responded to, and Bro. Reid in a very kind manner proposed the W.M.'s health, which was warmly received, and duly acknowledged by Bro. Hodges. The W.M. paid a high compliment to his officers for the efficient manner in which they discharged their duties. Excluding the Treasurer and Secretary, both of whom had been already honoured as P.M.'s, he expressed the pleasure he felt in being so well supported by those present, viz., Bros. Oswin, S.W.; Hare, J.W.; Taylor, S.D.; Gates, J.D.; Smith, Org.; and Smetzer, I.G. He regretted the absence of the Steward and the Dir. of Cers., but he was bound to say that their non-attendance had been satisfactorily accounted for. He could conscientiously say that, great as he considered the honour, and much as he enjoyed the pleasure of occupying the chair, he should be still better pleased when the time arrived for him to sit in the Past Master's chair, to aid and support their worthy Senior Warden, whose Masonic ability was generally admitted, and whom in due time he hoped to hail as his successor. The toast was drunk with applause, and responded to on behalf of himself and his colleagues by Bro. Oswin, S.W. The Tyler's toast, followed by the final song, "Happy to meet, sorry to part," brought the proceedings (which had been enlivened by some excellent glees, songs, and recitations) to a satisfactory conclusion at the reasonable hour of a quarter past ten.

BELGRAVE LODGE (No. 749).

The installation meeting of this flourishing lodge took place on the 14th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. There were present, Bros. Ough, W.M.; Potter, S.W.; Slade, J.W.; Bourne, S.D.; Peirce, J.D.; Watkinson, I.G.; Garrod, P.M., Sec.; Froude, P.M. and Treas.; the P.M.'s of the lodge, Ranting, Nash, and Watson; and Bro. Dr. Edwards, Staples, Strip, Wickham, Beckham, Homewood, Catmur, Pymm, and about fifty more of the brethren. The lodge on this occasion was graced by the presence of the following distinguished visitors, Bros. Colonel Mansell, P.M. 99, P. Prov. S.G.W. Guernsey; Bond, P.M. 87;

Johnson, W.M. 134; S. May, S.W. 101; Smead, S.W. 946; Laundry, 619; Avrillon, 173; Lamb, 101; Layton, 121; Edwards, 190. The lodge was opened in the three degrees at three o'clock.

The following brethren were introduced and raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons, viz.: Bros. Copp, Turner, Alexander, and Paybody. After this ceremony the lodge was lowered to the first degree, and the ballot taken for the following gentlemen, Messrs. E. J. Scott, G. B. Baker, E. T. Daniels, and G. G. Rayner, and having proved unanimous in their favour, were separately introduced and initiated into our ancient and honourable Order, in a faultless manner. Mr. Church already balloted for, was likewise introduced and initiated, the lodge was again raised to the third degree, and Bro. Garrod presented Bro. Potter, W.M. elect, and he was duly installed in the chair of K.S., by Bro. Ough, and who, by the impressive manner in which this crowning act of his year of office was performed, received the warmest commendations from all the brethren present. After the brethren had saluted the newly-installed W.M. in the three degrees, he appointed and invested with their insignia of office the following brethren as his officers for the year ensuing, Bros. Slade, S.W.; W. Bourne, J.W.; J. G. Froude, P.M., Treas.; H. Garrod, P.M., Sec.; W. Peirce, S.D.; H. Watkinson, J.D.; G. Pymm, I.G.; P. Parsons, Steward; Daly, Tyler; and the manner in which this was performed evinced to the brethren that they had again made the best officer in the lodge the W.M.

Bro. FROUDE, P.M., then brought forward his proposition that £40 be voted to the Benevolent Fund, thus putting the Belgrave Lodge in the proud position of Vice-Presidents to the three Masonic Charities. In the few remarks made he drew the brethren's attention to the fact that Bro. Ough had offered himself as Steward again for the third time during his year of office, first for the Boys, secondly for the Girls, and now for the Aged, and concluded by observing that he hoped other lodges would follow the example so nobly led by the Belgrave. It would be superfluous to say more than "carried unanimously," as was Bro. Garrod's motion that the initiation fee should be raised from six to eight, as a preliminary step to ten guineas. The lodge was then closed with solemn prayer, and the brethren, to the number of sixty-five, adjourned to the large banquet-room, where Bro. Clemow served up a dinner that reflected great credit on this old hostelry. The cloth being drawn, and grace returned,

The W. MASTER rose and said: Brethren,—As the subject of the three first toasts are so well known to you all, and as they relate to the most exalted personage in the nation, and the other two to the most eminent in the Craft, and as you have so often heard their worth and their virtues expatiated upon, I shall proceed to give those toasts without any comments of my own. Our first toast then is "The Queen and the Craft." Brethren, the next is "The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of England." Our next toast is "The Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master of England, and the rest of the Grand Officers." Our next toast is "The Healths of our Brother Initiates." It is a toast which is always hailed with a great deal of enthusiasm in this lodge, indeed it is a toast which is sure to meet with a hearty response from every Freemason, and I think justly so, because of its congratulating or welcoming those of the popular world on entering the pale of our institution, by which means we are enabled to extend the principles and influence of our Order, thereby breaking through the prejudice and calumny which has ever beset this institution. Brother Initiates, this institution has stood the test against prejudice and slander through all ages. I congratulate you on having joined the mystic Craft, and if you give a little time to its precepts I think you will derive a great deal of pleasure from it; and if you are patient and industrious you will find that it is calculated to raise you in the moral and social scale, to a degree of eminence that no other institution can, for it inculcates nothing but is good, teaches nothing but is holy. Brethren, I give you "The Health of the Initiates."

Bro. BAKER responded for himself and brother initiates.

Bro. OUGH, I.P.M., then rose, and in a few well chosen words proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master," which was done with all Masonic honours.

The W. MASTER said: Past Masters, Visitors, and Brethren,—I assure you I feel deeply the honour you have done me in so unanimously electing me, and so cordially welcoming me to the exalted position I now occupy. I do not know what words I

could use that would sufficiently convey my thanks to you on this occasion, but I hope I shall be able to requite your kindness by a faithful discharge of my duties as Master of this lodge. I assure you I feel deeply the responsibility of this position, but as I told you on a previous occasion, I had some ambition to obtain this position, and perhaps it may not be out of place on this occasion, if I tell you in a few brief words what first inspired and stimulated that ambition. It was, brethren, the second time of attending Grand Lodge that I began to reflect on what I saw, what I heard, and on the constitution of that great assembly. To me the light was novel and grand, and when I come to reflect on that important assembly, and when I reflected that that assembly was composed of noblemen and gentlemen of the highest degree, eminent in councils of their sovereign, and in the senate of the country; eminent in religion, in the law, and in literature, indeed in every art and science, and every profession down to humble individuals like myself, and when I reflected that that assembly met on the level, and acted on the square, for the well ruling and governing of our ancient and honourable institution, and to assist the widow and orphan, the aged and decayed of our poorer brethren, I thought that to become a member of that assembly was not only worthy of my ambition, but was worth a very great effort to obtain. Brethren, by placing me in this exalted position, you have not only gratified my ambition but you have made me a member of Grand Lodge as long as I remain a subscribing member to the Craft, which I hope to do to my latest hour. With respect to my duties as Master of this lodge, I will be punctual and regular if possible in my attendance, and I will discharge my duty to the utmost of my ability, and as you have been pleased to express your approbation of me to-night in the beginning of my office as W.M. So, I hope, may you express yourselves at the close of my official year. Bro. Ough, for the kind and flattering manner you have proposed my health to the brethren, I beg most sincerely to thank you; and to you, brethren, for the very hearty and cordial manner you have drank my health to-night I thank you from my heart. Brethren, the next toast I have to propose is "The Health of our excellent and esteemed Immediate Past Master, Bro. Ough." I am sorry the duty of proposing this toast has not devolved upon some one more able than myself,—one whose ability would have enabled them to have expatiated on his merit, and told you of his worth, for I fear that anything I may attempt to say will detract rather than add to his worth. And had it not been for our brother initiates, and that we are honoured here this evening by so many of our visiting brethren, I should have been inclined simply to have proposed his health, without any comments of my own; for you, brethren, know his worth better than I can tell you, from his devotion and zeal to the cause of Freemasonry, and from the constant and punctual attendance to his duties to the lodge; for constant he has been,—from the first day he was appointed an officer to the time he so honourably passes this chair he has never been absent from his duties on one single occasion, and from the able manner in which he has performed those duties, and from the excellency of his working not only reflects great credit to himself, but has been the source of great gratification, and I may say congratulation to the lodge. But when we take into consideration what he has done for those noble institutions which are the ornaments of our Order,—I mean the Charities, all else, excellent as it may be, sinks into mere insignificance; but you do not want reminding, brethren, that he has this year stood Steward for two of the Charities, and this evening you have heard it announced in open lodge that he is going to stand for the third. And all this is not only attended with a great deal of trouble and anxiety, but great expense; the expense he thinks nothing of; he has often told us that anything given in charity is returned to the giver ten-fold. Bro. Ough, one of the proudest moments of my life has now arrived; I assure you, nothing ever has occurred, and nothing ever will, that has given me greater pleasure than I feel in having the honour of presenting you with this jewel in the name of the brethren of the Belgrave Lodge in a token of the great regard and esteem, and long may T.G.A.O.T.U. spare you to wear it. I am sure, sir, you will receive it in the spirit it is given in, and never was a jewel more worthily or more honourably earned, and never was one more heartily voted. And worshipful sir, when the time shall arrive, as in the ordinary course of nature it will arrive, when perhaps from failing energy or disinclination your visits may not be so frequent amongst Masons, may this jewel be the means of causing you some happy reflections, not only that

you have passed a pleasant evening at this or that banquetting-table, may it be the means of causing those sabbler and happier reflections that you have done your duty as a citizen of the world, a brother to mankind, and a Freemason. Worshipful sir, I am disposed to believe that you have derived some pleasure, some gratification and some degree of pride in presiding as W.M. over the Belgrave Lodge, and if you have been proud of the lodge, I am sure I only echo the sentiments of the brethren when I say the lodge has been proud of you. Brethren, I call upon you to drink "The Health of I.P.M. Bro. Ough."

Bro. OUGH, I.P.M., rose and said: Worshipful Sir,—I feel quite at a loss to thank you adequately for the very flattering manner in which you have proposed my health, and to the brethren in responding to the same. I really do not think I deserve so much. I have only endeavoured to do my duty, a duty I solemnly engaged to do when I was installed into the chair you so honourably fill this evening; and if my humble services have met with the approbation of the lodge, I am quite satisfied; but although I have vacated this proud position you now occupy, I assure you I shall not take the less interest in the Belgrave Lodge, but shall at all times be ready to give it my humble services should they be required. A man must indeed be cold if he could sit here without his heart swelling with emotion, at receiving this lasting token of affection and esteem of the Belgrave Lodge, and the very flattering manner in which you have spoken of my humble services during my year of office.

The W. MASTER next proposed "The Past Masters of the Belgrave Lodge." He commenced by pointing out the harmonious and prosperous course the lodge had hitherto pursued. Speaking of the celebrity the lodge had obtained, he attributed this happy state to the excellent management of the P.M.'s, whom he eulogised for the important services they had rendered to the lodge.

Bro. FROUDE, P.M., replied on behalf of the P.M.'s. He said he would not detain them but a few moments, as Bro. Watson was present, whom he hoped would afterwards address them, but from the flattering way the W.M. had recognised his services, he begged to assure them that he should be ready at all times to do anything possible to serve the Belgrave Lodge.

Bro. WATSON, P.M., said, he had been requested by the Past Master to say a few words. He commenced by complimenting the W.M. upon the graceful and gentlemanly manner in which he had gone through his duties, the able and efficient way he had invested his officers and closed down the lodge, had afforded him very great pleasure. He next congratulated the lodge on having elected so able a Master, and so skilful a Craftsman as their W.M. for the ensuing year. He next reviewed the progress of the lodge, congratulating the brethren upon the proud position the lodge held in the Craft. He delivered one of his able addresses to the initiates, and concluded an able speech by making an eloquent and pathetic appeal to the brethren to support their energetic P.M., Bro. Ough, in his arduous duties of standing Steward for the Charities the third time this year, and concluded by saying he looked upon the Belgrave Lodge as being one of the best lodges in the metropolis.

The W. MASTER said he had one more toast to propose, and though last, it was not less in importance, indeed he felt it to be one of great importance, after a few preface remarks, he commented upon the officers individually, stating that it was a great source of pleasure, and gave him great confidence upon assuming the duties of his important office, knowing that he had such an able staff of officers to assist him in his year of office. He gave them "The Officers of the Lodge."

The S. WARDEN briefly responded for the officers.

The Tyler's toast brought the evening to a close, which was enlivened by some excellent singing from many of the members.

MERCHANT NAVY LODGE (No. 781).—This flourishing East End lodge held its first monthly meeting at their new lodge room, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Limehouse, having been compelled to leave the Jamaica Hotel, West India Docks, by reason of the large family of the new proprietor, Bro. McKenzie, and he wanting further accommodation for domestic requirements. The lodge was opened with solemn prayer at five o'clock precisely. There were present Bros. C. K. Killick, W.M.; Davis, S.W.; Bracebridge, J.W.; Helps, acting as S.D.; Daniel, P.M., as J.D.; Bradbury, I.G.; E. J. Read, Hon. Sec.; Blickfeldt, Wright, and With, P.M.'s, and numerous brethren

and visitors. Amongst the latter we observed Bros. Dr. Harris, Lodge Friendship (206); Newton, W.M., Lodge Sincerity (No. 174); Neal, S.W., of the same lodge; Allison, P.M., Eastern Star Lodge (No. 94). The minutes of the last regular lodge and emergency meeting having been read by the Secretary, and the same being respectively confirmed, a ballot was taken and declared unanimous in favour of Mr. John Holt, and Mr. John Perkins, as candidates for initiation, and also as a joining member Bro. Andries Scheerboon. Mr. John Holt being present, was regularly initiated into ancient Freemasonry; the ceremony (notwithstanding the indisposition of the W.M.), was worked very impressively. The lodge being opened in the second degree, Bros. Coleman, and Firfield, being candidates for the third degree, and after being entrusted, were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason by Bro. Wright, P.M., who kindly worked this ceremony consequent upon the illness of the W.M. Upon the lodge being resumed to the first degree, Bro. Read, the Secretary, then read to the lodge a letter of resignation received from Bro. Fitzmaurice, which was accepted. There being no further business the lodge as customary, closed with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned at an early hour to banquet; and it is but just to our newly initiated brother, the worthy host, to say that the banquet was all that even the most fastidious could desire, and which elicited from all the brethren the most lively satisfaction. After the removal of the cloth, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given and duly honoured, Bro. Wright, P.M., proposed the health of their W.M. He was sure all would agree with him that it was very commendable, the interest he took in everything pertaining to Masonry, that he should have come among them that evening with such a severe cold as rendered his voice quite inaudible; he had so endeared himself to the brethren by his urbanity and genial disposition, that it would be superfluous for him, Bro. Wright, to make further comment upon his many inestimable qualities. The W.M., in replying felt highly gratified at the many high encomiums passed upon him by their worthy P.M., Bro. Wright; he endeavoured to do his duty as their W.M., and he hoped to their satisfaction, and while that harmonious and kindly feeling existed among all the brethren, he could not resist the temptation of coming among them, although he felt himself quite unequal to the fatigue. "The Health of the Past Masters" was then given, and duly responded to by Bro. Daniel and With. Bro. Wright then gave "The Masonic Charities," and coupling with them the name of Bro. Kindred, P.M., who was always at work for one or more of the Charities. He had made his name popular in every direction by the earnestness of his application to the good work. He might also add, and he was sure that all the brethren would be delighted to hear that the Merchant Navy Lodge would be ably represented at the next Festival for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, by Bro. Bracebridge their S.W., as Steward. Bro. Kindred, P.M., replied that he felt a pleasure in assisting by his exertions to the success of any candidate, and also in promoting the benefit of those noble institutions which were such a credit to the Craft, and added that he was much pleased to hear that Bro. Bracebridge would represent that lodge, and he hoped that all the brethren would give him their warm support, and that the Merchant Navy Lodge would be liberally as well as ably represented. The health of the initiate, Bro. Holt the host, was then given, who replied that he thanked the brethren for the kind manner in which he had been received by them, and added that he felt gratified that his humble efforts in catering for them this evening had elicited such satisfaction. The health of the visitors was then given, coupling the name of Bro. Newton, W.M., Lodge Sincerity (No. 174), who replied that he was placed in rather an invidious position to return thanks on behalf of the visitors when he could scarcely consider himself as such, as he was so frequently among them, and was personally known to most of the brethren, he was delighted to see such kindly feeling manifested between the lodge over which he had the honour of presiding, and the Merchant Navy Lodge, he should at all times be pleased to give any of the brethren that hearty welcome that he himself had at any occasion received from them. The health of the officers was then given and responded to by Bro. Wright, P.M., and Treas. Bros. Davis, S.W.; and Bracebridge, J.W., who alluded to the Masonic Charities, and his Stewardship, he felt it a high honour to represent the Merchant Navy Lodge at the festival, and he hoped that the brethren would gain him greater reason to be proud of it by their liberality, and that he should go up with a good list. The Tyler's toast brought this pleasant evening to a close, and the

brethren dispersed in love and harmony, congratulating themselves upon the successful and happy manner in which the proceedings of the Merchant Navy Lodge had been inaugurated at its new place of meeting. The pleasures of the evening were much enhanced by some excellent songs from Bros. Levy, Gibbs, Kindred, Hocking, Holt, Reeves, Walker, and Bradbury.

ROSE OF DENMARK LODGE (No. 975).—The installation meeting of this prosperous lodge was held on the 16th inst., at the White Hart Hotel, Barnes, Surrey, when the lodge was opened by Bro. J. Cockburn, assisted by Bro. G. H. Oliver, S.W.; C. Page, J.W.; H. Potts, Treas.; R. W. Little, P.M. and Sec.; G. T. Noyce, J.D.; J. Barnes, I.G.; J. Smith, P.M.; H. G. Buss, Past Sec.; Samels, Newens, Willcox, Hankins, Beemish, Graham, H. Goodale, Dr. Clarke, Guy, C. A. Smith, H. R. Hewitt, Gurney, Davis, &c. After the minutes had been confirmed, ballots were taken for four candidates, and the lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Barnard having proved his proficiency as a F.C., was entrusted and retired. The lodge was opened in the third degree, and the ceremony of raising Bro. Barnard was well rendered by the W.M. and his officers. The lodge having been resumed to the second degree, Bro. J. Smith, P.G. Parst. and P.M., assumed the chair, with Bros. Little and Potter, as S. and J.W.; and Bro. Oliver, W.M. elect, was duly presented for installation. After the customary formalities a board of Installed Masters was formed, and the new W.M. was regularly placed in the chair of K.S. The brethren were then re-admitted and the usual salutes given, when the officers for the ensuing year were appointed as follows:—Bros. C. Page, S.W.; Newens, J.W.; Potter, Treas.; Little, P.M., Sec.; Noyce, S.D.; Clarke, J.D.; Barnes, I.G.; C. A. Smith, Dir. of Cers.; Samels, W.S. The re-appointment of Bro. Little as Secretary, was received with applause, the brethren heartily endorsing the complimentary terms in which the W.M. addressed him. Bro. Smith delivered the address to the Master, and the Secretary gave those to the Wardens and brethren. The newly-installed W.M. then, in a most creditable manner, initiated Messrs. F. P. Smith, H. N. Hewitt, G. C. Harrison, and H. L. Farrer into the mysteries of the Order. The report of the Audit Committee showing a handsome balance in hand, was read and approved, and a P.M.'s jewel presented in the name of the lodge, by the W.M. to Bro. Cockburn, I.P.M., who responded in brief but appropriate terms. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a capital banquet, under the presidency of Bro. Oliver, who proposed "The Health of Bro. Smith," in connection with the toast of the Grand Officers, and Bro. Smith, in reply, stated that he was about to serve as Steward at the next festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution on the 31st Jan., 1867, and solicited the support of the lodge, to which a liberal collection was the response. "The Healths of the Initiates," were well received, and were followed by the "E.A. Song," given by the Secretary. The new Master's health was received with enthusiasm, Bro. Oliver being thoroughly popular and greatly respected by every member of the lodge. The W.M. expressed his gratification at the cordial reception of his name, and also how much he appreciated the high position in which he had been placed, and assured the brethren that his best endeavours should be exerted to promote the prosperity of the Rose of Denmark Lodge. Bro. the Rev. J. S. Darwell, W.M. elect 108 (who officiated as Chaplain at the consecration of the lodge), Bro. Jager, P.M. 453, and several other brethren responded for the visitors; Bros. Page, J.W., Potter, &c., for the officers, and the Tyler's toast brought the meeting to an end, the utmost unanimity and good feeling having prevailed throughout the protracted proceedings of this happy *réunion*.

PROVINCIAL.

CORNWALL.

TRURO.—Fortitude Lodge (No. 131).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, Quay-street, on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at seven p.m., Bro. Stephen Holloway, W.M., Prov. G.S., in the chair. A large number of the members were present. The minutes having been read and unanimously confirmed, one Entered Apprentice was examined as to his proficiency in Masonry, and the trial having proved satisfactory, he was passed to the second degree by Bro. Thomas Clirgwin, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.W., in a most effective manner. Bro. Stephen Holloway gave the tools, Bro. William James

Hughan the lecture on the tracing board, and the acting W.M. delivered the concluding charge. In consequence of the lodge having been so handsomely decorated, and thereby incurring additional liabilities, it was very wisely determined to increase the annual subscription some 25 per cent., as also the fee for initiation at the same rate. The reasons for these alterations were lucidly explained by the worthy Treasurer, Bro. Thomas Obirgwin. Bro. W. C. Oke, S.W., was proposed for election as Master for the term ensuing, and the present Treasurer, by special desire of the lodge, again consented to act in that capacity, and it is to be hoped he will agree to the same another year as well. The Tyler having been also nominated, and a candidate for Freemasonry proposed and seconded, the lodge was closed at an early hour in peace and harmony. The annual festival will be held in January by both lodges in Truro. As an index of the position of Freemasonry in Cornwall, we may mention that the majority of mayors chosen during the month for the various towns in the county are members of the Craft.

DURHAM.

DURHAM.—*Marquis of Granby Lodge* (No. 124).—On Tuesday, the 13th inst., a lodge of emergency, regularly summoned, was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Old Elvet. The lodge was opened at seven o'clock p.m. by Bro. W. R. Fitz Gerald, 18°, W.M., with the assistance of the regular officers. Amongst the brethren present were Bros. Stoker, J. Cundill, and W. Brignall, P.M.'s; Rev. G. R. Bulman, Prov. G. Chap.; Rev. F. Thompson, P. Prov. G. Chap., &c. Bro. Pechell, W.M. United Service Lodge (No. 215 I.C.), attended as visitor. The circular calling the lodge, and the request in writing to summon the same having been read and entered on the minutes, the ballot was taken for the Rev. A. Rawson Ashwell, M.A., who was duly elected. Bro. H. J. Baker-Baker, being a candidate for advancement, underwent the usual examination, and, acquitting himself satisfactorily, withdrew. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when he was readmitted and passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was resumed in the first degree, when Bro. Ashwell, being in attendance, was regularly introduced, and made an E.A. The entire ceremony and the charge was given by the W.M. in an effective manner. The business of the evening being ended, the lodge was closed in due form, after which the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

ESSEX.

HARWICH.—*Lodge Star in the East* (No. 650).—The members of this lodge held their regular monthly meeting at the Pier Hotel, on Monday, the 12th inst. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. Durrant, P.M., presided. There were also present Bros. Butcher, I.P.M.; W. O. Ward, P.M.; J. Surridge, P.M., Sec.; J. Farthing, S.W.; E. Dorling, P.M., as J.W.; R. Dickson, S.D.; W. R. Lodge, J.D.; W. Basham, I.G.; R. Barlow, Tyler; Brice, &c. The visitors were Bros. W. T. Westgate, W.M. 225, 376. Dir. of Cers. 959, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. Suffolk; Davy, S.W. 225; J. Williams, 376, 959; G. W. Johnson, 461; S. Wright, 959; J. Chinnock, 959; W. B. Rand, I.G. 225, 376, 959; Flory, 225; J. Alloway, Treas. 959, Prov. G. Steward Suffolk; M. Low, 376; Goodling, 959; &c. The lodge was opened at seven o'clock with solemn prayer. The minutes were read and confirmed. No particular business offering, Bro. Durrant expressed the great pleasure he felt on the present occasion, as it fell to his lot to present a Past Master's jewel to a brother who had rendered them signal service on many occasions. He alluded to Bro. Westgate. He trusted Bro. Westgate would be spared many years to wear the jewel he now had the honour to fix on his breast. Bro. Westgate, in acknowledging the compliment, said: "I must most certainly state that there has been a great degree of selfishness in the frequent visits I have paid to Lodge Star in the East, still I hope that selfishness has been of an honourable description, for feeling the desire to progress in Freemasonry; and I well knew that the best method of gaining instruction was to take part in the work as often as circumstances would permit. Still, at the same time, I must congratulate you, worshipful sir, on the excellent working of your lodge, and assure you it will afford me the greatest pleasure to visit and assist you at any time. I thank you most heartily for the very valuable present made to me this evening, which I will preserve as a mark of your respect as long as it may please the Great Architect of the Universe to give me the power to do so." Bro. Dorling, P.M., proposed, seconded by Bro. Dickson, S.D., that a Past Master's jewel be

presented to Bro. Durrant, P.M., for the able manner in which he had fulfilled the duties of Master of this lodge, which, on being put, was carried unanimously. Bro. W. O. Ward, P.M., said that such a resolution had been come to by several of the brethren, and he had anticipated the pleasure of presenting it on that evening, but from some unexplained cause it had not arrived. He quite coincided with the wish of the lodge. After receiving the proposition of a gentlemen for initiation, the lodge was closed in solemn form. The brethren then retired from labour to refreshment. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given, the brethren separated after an enjoyable evening.

ISLE OF MAN.

RAMSAY.—*St. Manghold Lodge* (No. 1075).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the Ramsay Grammar School, Waterloo-road, on Thursday evening, the 15th inst. The chair of K.S. was occupied by Bro. Rothwell, W.M., with Bros. A. Dumbell, S.W.; W. Hunter, J.W.; Rev. W. Kermode, Chaplain; W. Laughlin, Sec.; H. P. Webb, S.D.; G. H. Walker, J.D.; R. B. Henderson, I.G.; Bros. McWhannell, R. Teare, Cleator, Pellett, J. Higgins, Thos. Allen, Thos. M. Feare, F. E. Harrison, E. M. Taubender, A. B. Skeoch, Thomas Vondy. The harmonium was presided over by Bro. Allen in a very creditable manner, which added very much to the impressiveness of the several ceremonies. The minutes having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for the gentlemen who were proposed last month, and resulted in their favour; after which Bros. Higgins, Dr. Teare and Vondy were passed to the degree of F.D. and Bro. Harrison raised to the M.M. degree by the W.M. in his usual masterly style, the solemnity of the latter degree was very much increased by the able manner in which the Chaplain did his parts of the ceremony. An audit committee having been appointed the brethren adjourned to one of anterooms, where the refreshment had been spread. The W.M. proposed and the brethren drank the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, after which the health of the brethren who had that night been passed was drank, and responded to by Bros. Dr. Teare and Vondy. Bro. Harrison's (the newly-raised) health was proposed and duly responded to. The health of Bro. Pellett was proposed by the W.M. who said that it was at all times a pleasure to have the chief magistrates amongst us, but especially so to-night. Bro. Pellett had informed him that it was now nearly fifty years since he was initiated, and had shown by his prompt attendance this evening that he still retained a love for the Craft. Bro. Pellett briefly responded. The Tyler's toast was then given, when all separated in harmony.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

GARSTON.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 220).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 5th inst., Bro. Leedham, W.M., in the chair, and all the officers in attendance as usual. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, Messrs. Prensman, Hessenmüller, and Wagner, were duly admitted to light by the W.M., in his usual earnest and impressive manner, and declared themselves subscribing members. The preliminary examinations being satisfactory, and the lodge being opened in the second degree, Bros. Evans, Sellar, Eaves, and Tait were passed to the degree of Fellow Crafts, by Bro. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas. Lancashire West. After which Bro. W. H. L. Smith, T. O. Speakman, and R. Jones were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., by Bro. Leedham. The lodge having closed down, a petition was presented from Mrs. Rogers, the wife of an unworthy brother, who has absconded. Her case excited much commiseration, and the sum of three guineas and a half was voted for her present wants, and the case was strongly recommended to the visiting brethren to be brought forward at their respective lodges. The West Lancashire relief committee being short of funds, owing to the large numbers of Masons passing through Liverpool who are really deserving of assistance, the sum of two guineas was voted to the funds. This committee, we may here say, sets an example well worthy of adoption in other towns, as all the lodges refer petitions for relief to it, and while the "professionals" receive their just dues, the really worthy and distressed brethren are properly cared for. The brethren then adjourned to the refreshment table, furnished in Bro. Wood's usual excellent style. We noticed among the visiting brethren, Bros. H. Williams, P.M. 249; J. Healing, S.W. 249; Croxton and A. Little, 249; Prensau, 160; Hunter, Bulshaw, Kerr, Spencer, Taylor, Mowall, and Lunt, all of 1086;

Pease (lately of this lodge, just returned from the United States), &c. After the usual Masonic toasts, the W.M. proposed "The Health of the Visiting Brethren," incidentally referring to the long distance many of the brethren had come, and expressing his gratification at the fact, as he considered that Masonry was best promoted, and harmony preserved in its constituent parts, by a system of visiting. Bro. Healing responded on behalf of the visitors, and after cordially endorsing the remarks of the W.M., referred to the fact of Bro. Leedham having nearly attained his majority as a Mason, it being within a few months of twenty-one years since he first saw light in the Mariners' Lodge, No. 249. Previously to resuming his seat, Bro. Healing requested permission to propose the next toast, which being accorded, he proposed "The Health of Bro. Hamer, the Grand Treasurer of the Province," who might justly be denominated the father of Masonry in this district, and whose lectures on the various degrees had probably been heard with delight by most of them. Bro. Hamer then responded and informed the brethren that he was the oldest initiated member of that lodge, having been made a Mason more than a quarter of a century ago, and he was glad to be able to say that the principles of true Masonry had always been well carried out in Lodge No. 220, and he hoped it would always be the same. A very social evening was brought to a happy conclusion at an early hour, and the brethren evidently would have prolonged their sitting had it not been that they remembered that the true Mason never permits his Masonic pleasures to interfere with the more endearing ties of his domestic fireside.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*John of Gawnt Lodge* (No. 523).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday, the 15th inst., when among those present were, Bros. Kelly, D. Prov. G.M. (who presided); Rev. John Spittal, C. J. Willey, and Duff, P.M.'s; J. H. Hodges, J.W.; Barfoot, Sec.; Sheppard, P.M. and Treas.; Atkins, S.D.; Buzzard, J.D.; Manning, I.G.; J. C. Clarke, Bithrey, Moir, Toller, Baines, Sergeant, Mace, Wardle, and Watson. Visitor, Bro. Stanley, No. 279. The minutes of the last regular lodge and of a lodge of emergency having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Messrs. W. Sculthorpe and S. S. Partridge, as candidates for initiation, who were declared unanimously elected. Bro. Mace was then called to the pedestal and examined as to his qualifications as an Entered Apprentice, after which, having been entrusted, he retired, and the lodge having been opened in the second degree, he was passed a Fellow Craft. The F.C.'s lodge was then closed, and the chair being taken by Bro. the Rev. J. Spittal, I.P.M., he proceeded to initiate Messrs. Sculthorpe and Partridge, after which the D. Prov. G.M. gave the explanation of the working tools, the lecture on the tracing board, and the charge. Arrangements were then made for commencing the working of a lodge of instruction, jointly with the members of the St. John's Lodge, No. 279, to meet on the last Thursday in every month, at eight o'clock, and to close at ten. The lodge to be opened every evening in the three degrees, and one of the ceremonies to be worked in rotation with such portion of the lectures as time will permit. Some further business of a routine character having been transacted, the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, under the presidency of the D. Prov. G.M. After the healths of the newly initiated brethren had been proposed, in doing which the D. Prov. G.M. briefly explained the symbolical character of the ceremonies through which they had passed, Bro. Clarke sang the "Entered Apprentice's Song," and Bros. Sculthorpe and Partridge responded in appropriate terms, expressing themselves as deeply impressed with what they had seen of Masonry, and trusting that they might prove themselves worthy of so ancient an institution.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

TOWCESTER.—*Lodge of Fidelity* (No. 445).—At a meeting of the brethren of this lodge, held on the 19th ult. at the Pomfret Arms Hotel, Bro. John Wardlaw was reinstalled as W.M. for the ensuing year, and the following brethren were appointed as his officers:—Bros. S. Inns, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., P.M.; Wm. Jones, S.W.; Richd. Howes, J.W.; Rev. Wm. A. Howes, S.D. and Chap.; Henry Sheppard, J.D.; Thos. R. Carter, I.G.; Geo. Osborn, Treas.; Jas. Seton, Sec.; and Geo. Halford, O.G. The lodge meetings are held at the Pomfret Arms Hotel, on the Friday before the full of the moon, monthly, omitting the three summer months.

NORFOLK.

NORWICH.—THE LATE DEPUTY PROV. GRAND MASTER.—Owing to the death of the D. Prov. G.M. of this province (Bro. W. Leedes Fox), all the lodges that are now being held are draped in black, and the brethren themselves appear at the business proceedings in Masonic mourning. The monthly meeting of *Lodge Perseverance* (No. 213) was held at the Freemason's Hall, on Tuesday evening, when Bro. Fox's death was touchingly adverted to by Bro. Dunsford, W.M., and on the proposition of Bro. Colsey, P.M., seconded by Bro. Stevens, P.M., the following resolution was ordered to be entered upon the minutes, and a copy forwarded to the widow and family of the deceased: "The Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren of *Lodge Perseverance* (No. 213), in taking the earliest opportunity of recording their great regret at the death of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. W. Leedes Fox, and in acknowledging their sense of the great loss which the Craft has sustained by the removal of a brother of such untiring zeal and earnestness in the cause of Freemasonry, desire at the same time to express their deep sympathy and condolence with the widow and family of Bro. Fox, and pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may comfort and sustain them in their great bereavement." We do not hear that any steps have yet been taken regarding the appointment of a successor to the late Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

SOUTH WALES (EASTERN DIVISION).

CARDIFF.—*Bute Lodge* (No. 960).—The fortnightly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Bute Docks, on Tuesday, the 20th inst. The lodge was opened at seven o'clock p.m., when there were present Bros. Jno. Willans, Prov. S.G.D., W.M.; J. H. Sladen, S.W. *pro tem.*; T. B. Bell, Prov. G. Purst., J.W.; W. H. Moreton, P.M., Sec.; W. H. Martin, Prov. G.D., Treas.; T. G. Glass, S.D.; W. Coleman, J.D. *pro tem.*; Jas. Willans, Dir. of Cers.; W. Hurman, I.G.; W. H. Davies, S. Weitchert, F. Ware, and numerous other brethren. The minutes of the last regular lodge having been read and confirmed, the W.M. said he had the unpleasant duty of bringing before the lodge a circumstance which had taken place since the last lodge, upon which, however, at present he would make no comment. Hearing that several parties were going from this town to Haverfordwest, for the purpose of being initiated into the Order, he had felt it his duty (failing the usual act of courtesy he had expected from the W.M. of the lodge at that place), to write to the W.M. of Lodge 990, requesting to be furnished with the names of those parties who had been proposed, in order that he might make any representation thereon he deemed necessary. The reply he received from the W.M. of 990 was that his letter should be laid before the lodge, and the next information he received was that three of those parties had been initiated in 990, without any further intimation having been made, either to himself or the Master of the other lodge in this place. The W.M. expressed himself in very guarded and truly Masonic terms in reference to such conduct, but also said he did not think the matter ought to be allowed to end here. Bro. Ware said that this being one of the methods of "touting for candidates," which he had for many years consistently endeavoured to show up, and, if possible, counteract, he would not be content by expressing himself in the same mild terms which the W.M. had used. He considered such conduct (although in his experience he had seen much of it) a disgraceful abuse of the first principles of Freemasonry, and coming, as it did, so immediately after a special manifesto had (as he understood) been issued by the Grand Master on this very subject, he proposed that this lodge take steps to report the circumstances of the case to the Grand Master, the Grand Lodge, or the Board of General Purposes, as might be considered desirable. The W.M. said he quite agreed with Bro. Ware's suggestion, and, having intimated that it was his full intention to adopt some such steps as those Bro. Ware proposed, the subject was allowed for the present to drop. Mr. J. Tamplin, accepted at the last lodge, being now present, was introduced and initiated into the privileges of the Order in an able manner by the W.M. The charge was delivered with unsurpassable effect by the J.W., who appears to be the only candidate for the chair at the approaching election of W.M. A candidate having been proposed, the lodge was resolved into one of instruction, and, several sections having been satisfactorily worked, was closed shortly after nine o'clock.

SUFFOLK.

IPSWICH.—*Lodge St. Luke* (No. 225).—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the Coach and Horses, Brook-street, on Wednesday, the 14th inst., Bro. W. T. Westgate, W.M., in the chair. Present, Bros. Davy, S.W.; Richmond, P.M., J.W. *pro tem.*; P. Whitehead, S.D.; R. C. Brown, J.D.; W. R. Rand, I.G.; Syer, Tyler; J. Whitehead, Clark, A. Barber, Turner, and S. B. King, P.M.'s; Robb, Clements, Barber, Flory, Godbold, Meek, J. Baker, Bloomfield, &c. Visitors: Bros. Pedgrill, P.M. 388, P. Prov. & Reg.; Brock, 376; Wright, 259, &c. The lodge being opened in due form, the minutes of last lodge were read and confirmed. The brethren then proceeded to ballot for Mr. W. D. Skinner, which being unanimous, he was duly initiated by the W.M., the S.W. delivered the working tools. The charge was given by Bro. Whitehead, P.M. Bro. Skinner having retired, the W.M. then proceeded to examine Bro. Bloomfield in the questions leading from the first to the second degree. The lodge was then opened in the second degree. Bro. Bloomfield was duly passed to the degree of a F.C. by the W.M. The lodge was closed in the second degree, the W.M. informed the brethren the next business was to elect a Master to preside over them for the ensuing twelve months. On the ballot being taken, it was declared unanimous in favour of Bro. Drvy, S.W. Bro. Clark was elected Treasurer, and Bro. Syer, Tyler. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation. No further business offering the lodge was closed in solemn form, and the brethren retired to refreshment. The toast of "The Queen, Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family" being given, the W.M. next gave "The Grand Master," "The Deputy Grand Master," "The Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Col. A. S. Adair," "The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Lockwood, and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers," complied with that toast Bro. Barber, Prov. G. Org., who acknowledged the same in very suitable terms. After various songs from several of the brethren, and a few other toasts, the brethren retired at high twelve, after a very pleasant evening.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON CHAPTER (No. 73).—An emergency meeting of this new chapter was held on Thursday, the 15th inst., at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark. The convocation was opened by Comp. F. Walters, M.E.Z.; J. W. Halsey, as H.; H. Muggeridge, P.Z., as J. The companions were admitted. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Comp. A. D. Loewenstark, S.N. and Treas., J., 185, then took the J. chair. Bro. W. C. Farries, 73, Mount Lebanon Lodge, being in attendance, was exalted into Royal Arch Masonry. Comp. R. Watts, P.Z., acted as P.S. All the officers did their work in an able and efficient manner. Three brethren were proposed as candidates for the next meeting, and one companion as a joining member. The chapter was closed until Thursday, January 10th, 1867, to meet seven o'clock, p.m. Visitors, Comps. J. W. Halsey, H. 507; J. Lightfoot, 169, &c.

MARK MASONRY.

SCARBORO'.—*Star in the East* (No. 95).—The consecration of a new lodge of Mark Masters, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters in England, called the "Star in the East," No. 95, took place at the Masonic Hall, Scarborough, on Saturday the 17th inst. The brethren assembled at three o'clock p.m., when the ceremony of consecration was very ably performed by Bro. Frederick Binckes, G. Steward, who proceeded to install Bros. Dr. Wm. Pester Rooke, W.M.; Major J. W. Woodall, S.W.; W. Peacock, J.W. (the petitioners for the warrant of constitution), Cap. Knocker, M.O.; J. F. Spurr, P.M.; W. J. Farthing, P.M., J.O.; Sergeant H. C. Martin, P.M., Sec., and Reg. of Marks; J. Chapman, J.D. and Treas.; J. D. C. Jackson, I.G.; W. Milner, Tyler. The following members of the Old Globe Lodge of Freemasons were balloted for and advanced to the degree of Mark Masters: Bros. W. Spong, W. Peacock, H. H. Garnett, J. Raper, J. D. C. Jackson, and W. Milner, and several candidates were proposed for the ballot, after which the lodge was closed at six o'clock, when the brethren dined together and spent a very social and agreeable evening. We may add that this is the first and only lodge of Mark Masters, under the said jurisdiction in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

KENT LODGE OF MARK MASTERS.—This lodge having removed to the excellently arranged lodge room of Bro. Todd, George Hotel, Aldermanbury, met on Tuesday last, Bros. H. J. Thompson, W.M.; W. Wynne, S.W. and Treas.; the Rev. D. Shaboe, Chap.; Swan, Sec.; Warr, S. O., and many other highly respected members being present. Bros. Todd and Wescomb were advanced, and several propositions of candidates for advancement at the next meeting were made. After closing the lodge the brethren adjourned to Bro. Todd's handsome and comfortable banquet room, where they found substantial refreshment and excellent wines, and after the usual toasts and some good vocal music, retired at eleven o'clock.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

DEVON.

Monday, the 19th inst., was a red letter day for the Saint Aubyn Chapter of S.P.R. Present, the Ill. Bro. Vincent Bird, 30°, as M.W.S. The Excellent and Perfect Bro. Samuel Chapple, 18°, as Prelate. E. and P. Bro. William J. Hughlan, 18°, First General; E. and P. Bro. Matthew Paul for the Ill. Bro. F. M. Williams, 30°, M.P. for Truro, as Second General; E. and P. Bro. John Brown, 18°, as Grand Marshal; James Hawton, 18°, as Raphael; John Oxland, 18°, as Capt. of Guard, and about twenty others. The business of the day commenced at two p.m. The ballots having been taken, and the following brethren having signed the declaration of allegiance, they were declared to be entitled to the privileges of this ancient and noble Order.—William Gordon Cornwallis Eliot, commonly called Lord Eliot, M.P. for Devonport; John George Mason, P. Prov. S.G.W., Cornwall; Frederick William Dabb, P. Prov. J.G.W., Cornwall; John Hocking, jun. P. Prov. J.G.W., Cornwall; Thomas Taylor, P.M.; and William Henry Roberts, M.M. A Grand Lodge of Perfection being opened, the degrees from the fourth to the fourteenth were conferred, and the brethren declared to be entitled to the rank thereof. This Grand Lodge being closed, a council of the Princes of Jerusalem was opened, and the degrees of 15 and 16 then conferred; subsequently an encampment of the Knights of the East and West having been planted, the brethren were therein intrusted with the qualification to pass them into the Royal Chapter of Rose Croix of H.R.D.M. The ceremonies peculiar to this sublime degree in its several parts were rendered in a feeling and solemn manner, and calculated to leave a lasting impression on those privileged to be present. The Knights of the East and West having performed their allotted task, reached the perfection of Masonry, and were duly constituted Knights of the Pelican and Eagle, and perfected Princes of the Holy Order of Rose of H.R.D.M. were proclaimed as such, and summoned by the Herald to take their places in the Chapter. Congratulations having ensued, the Chapter was duly closed in ancient form at 6.30.

The proprietor of the premises in which the Masonic business of Saint Aubyn is conducted seems to be actuated by a desire to spare no expense so that proper accommodation shall be given to work all the degrees efficiently, and the whole of the officers, from the M.W.S. to the serving brother, seem to vie with each other as to who shall be most efficient in the discharge of their duties.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

ROMFORD.—*Temple Crossing Encampment*.—This flourishing encampment met on Thursday week, at the White Hart Hotel, under the command of Sir Knt. Dr. Lilley, who, in his usual impressive and efficient manner, installed Comp. W. N. Rudge, of the Royal York Chapter; the E.C. was ably supported by his officers, Sir Knts. Leuaine, P.E.C., Prelate; Farran, P.E.C., Reg.; Major Du Cane as 1st Capt.; F. W. Mitchell, 2nd Capt.; and H. F. Smith, Capt. of Lines. Sir Knt. H. F. Smith presented a very superior suit of armour to the encampment, for which the E.C. in a most appropriate speech on behalf of the encampment, moved a vote of thanks, which was carried unanimously and ordered to be entered on the minutes. After the closing of the encampment the knights adjourned to a banquet provided in the excellent manner for which Mr. Cowland, the proprietor of the hotel, is so deservedly noted.

KNIGHTS OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

CORNWALL.

TRURO.—*Fortitude Council*.—A meeting of this council, under authority of the St. Anbyn Grand Council, was held at the Masonic Hall lately (the precise date we are unable to give), and a large number of the members assembled under the presidency of Sir Knt. William James Hughan, Ill. Sov., to elevate three candidates to the degree of a Masonic Knight of Constantinople, and to transact the regular business of the council. Sir Knt. Thomas Chirgwin, Treas., was chosen to preside over the convocations for the year ensuing, and, after he was enthroned as Ill. Sov., the members were readmitted, and the following were appointed as the officers to assist him in carrying out the duties of the council:—Sir Knts. William James Hughan, P. Sov.; William Tweedy, Seneschal; Frederick M. Williams, M.P., C.A.; William J. Johns, M.A.; Captain Hasby Barber, Prelate; Stephen Holloway, R. and M.F.; W. J. Hughan, P. Sov., M.D.; Thomas Tregaskis, Assist. M.D.; Frederick W. Dabb, Marshal; Richard Bodilly, Assist. Marshal; W. H. W. Blight, Almoner; William Boase, 1st Std. Bearer; T. E. Lanyon, 2nd Std. Bearer; John Nunn, Sword Bearer; William Lake, 1st Herald; W. M. Couch, 2nd Herald; Richard Johns, Capt. of Guard; Thomas Mann, W.; John Langdon, Purveyor; and W. Wyatt, Sentinel. The members then adjourned to the Red Lion Hotel, and partook of their annual banquet. Several good speeches were made, and hopeful anticipations were expressed as to the success of the council during the coming year, under the management of the newly-appointed officers. The financial and numerical position of the Order in Cornwall is most satisfactory, and we understand the same experience is enjoyed by the Grand Council.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

GUERNSEY.

DOYLE LODGE, No. 84.—The usual monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, Nov. 14th, at the Masonic Rooms, and was more interesting to many, and therefore better attended than usual, owing to the circumstance that there was an initiation, the first under the present Mastership, which is now drawing to a close. Whatever may be said to the contrary, or however desirable it may be to give a more intellectual cast to Masonic meetings, instead of the monotonous repetition of ceremonial observances, it cannot be denied that the performance of an initiation, passing or raising, is more attractive, and brings together the brethren in greater numbers than the delivery of lectures or discussions on Masonic subjects. This deficiency in the Doyle Lodge in what forms the staple occupation of so many lodges, to the exclusion of other instructive work, must not be attributed to a lack of zeal among the members, but rather to care and discrimination on those points which have lately been commented upon by the M.W. the Grand Master of England in his circular to Prov. Grand Masters, especially the character and habits of those seeking admission into the Order. The spirit of proselytising does not appear to exist in Guernsey, and so retiring are the Masons in regard to all that concerns the Craft, that there is nothing to attract public notice and inquiry. The writer of this report particularly observed that the W.M. mentioned as a matter for congratulation the fact that the candidate had not been sought and solicited, as is too often the case, but that he had himself come forward in every sense of the words "freely and voluntarily," that being the most desirable condition under which a new member can be received.

Several visitors were present, among whom were the Rev. Bro. Trueman, a Prov. G. Officer in Somersetshire; Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M. 43 and 958, and P. Prov. S.G.W. for Warwickshire; Bro. H. Smythson, W.M. of 168, and others.

The lodge was opened at 7.50 by Bro. John Guilbert, W.M., assisted by Bro. Cole, S.W.; Bro. W. Martin, J.W.; and Bro. Churchouse, I.P.M. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. Thomas Carré, which proved unanimous in his favour. The candidate was then introduced properly prepared, and received the benefit of initiation at the hands of the W.M., who conducted the ceremony carefully and efficiently—indeed, remarkably so, considering his long want of practice. At his request the usual

charge was delivered by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, to whose skill and impressiveness ample testimony was afterwards openly expressed by the Rev. Bro. Trueman. The lodge was closed at nine o'clock, and the brethren proceeded to the refreshment room, where they remained in the enjoyment of social intercourse till eleven o'clock.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

We would remind our readers of the forthcoming benefit of Mr. Fred. Burgess, the Manager of the Christy Minstrels, on Monday, the 3rd prox., at the above hall. We have had much pleasure in witnessing the talent displayed by Mr. Burgess's Company of twenty performers, included amongst which are the original members who identified the title of Christy's Minstrels in 1857. Although we have now "Christy's Minstrels" without number, and many of them claiming the right to the title of "Originals," it tells very favourably indeed for the merits of Mr. Burgess's Company that they have continued for such a considerable period here, where they have drawn nightly a crowded and approving audience.

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 1st, 1866.

Monday, Nov. 26th.—ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.

Tuesday, Nov. 27th.—INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.

Wednesday, Nov. 28th.—SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, walked and drove on the 14th inst. Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Louise, and attended by the Countess of Caledon and Lord Alfred Paget, left Windsor by special train on the Great Western Railway, at ten minutes past eleven o'clock on the 15th inst., for London, and drove from Paddington to Hyde Park, where her Majesty inspected the works in progress for the National Memorial to the Prince Consort. The Queen accompanied by her Royal Highness, Princess Christian, drove out in the afternoon, and her Majesty, with Princess Beatrice, went out in the grounds on the morning of the 16th inst. The Queen, with the Princess of Wales, drove out in the afternoon. Her Majesty, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Louise, and attended by Lady Susan Melville, drove out on the morning of the 17th inst. The Queen, with her Royal Highness the Princess Christian, drove out in the afternoon; Princess Beatrice drove out also. The Queen, her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, and the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting attended Divine service on the morning of the 18th inst., in the private chapel. The Rev. J. R. Woodford preached the sermon. The Queen, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Princess of Wales and Princess Christian, drove out on the morning of the 19th inst. The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness

Princess Louise, walked and drove in the afternoon, and went out in the grounds on the morning of the 20th inst., with Princess Beatrice. The Queen, accompanied by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, walked and drove in the afternoon, and her Majesty drove out with her Royal Highness on the 21st inst.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—We rejoice to find by the Registrar General's return for the week ending Saturday, Nov. 17, that the health of the metropolis continues to improve. The deaths registered from all causes were 1,428, being less than the average number (corrected for increase of population) for the corresponding week in former years by 91. The mortality has been below the average for two successive weeks, a circumstance which has not happened since the outburst of cholera. In the past week 32 persons died of that disease and 22 of diarrhoea. Divided into districts the incidence of mortality was—cholera: west 0, north 1, central 5, east 14, south 12—diarrhoea: west 3, north 9, central 2, east 3, south 5. The deaths from the two forms of disease together for the last six weeks were 254, 199, 144, 101, 100, and last week 54. The annual rates of mortality in thirteen of the principal towns in the United Kingdom in the week ending Nov. 10 were per 1,000 as follows:—Hull 19, Bristol and Birmingham 20, London 24, Sheffield 25, Leeds and Edinburgh 28, Liverpool and Salford 29, Manchester 30, Glasgow 31, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Dublin 37. The report gives no information as to the cholera at Dublin, Liverpool, and Edinburgh.—The statue of Sir John Franklin, which has been erected near the Athenæum Club, was on the 15th inst. unveiled by Sir J. Pakington. The statue is by Mr. J. Noble, and is one of the most successful of that eminent sculptor's efforts. On the pedestal, which is of polished granite, there are two bas-reliefs, one representing the burial of Sir John Franklin, and the other a chart of the Polar seas. On another side of the pedestal all the names of the men who perished in the expedition are cut. The bas-reliefs are most admirable specimens of the sculptor's art.—Two or three matters of some moment came before the Court of Common Council. In the first place the council passed a very deserved complimentary resolution expressive of their appreciation of the able manner in which the ex-Lord Mayor discharged the duties of chief magistrate during his year of office. A resolution of sympathy with the sufferers by the late conflagration in Quebec, and a determination to contribute £500 towards the fund now being raised for their relief, was agreed to with almost an equal amount of readiness. The gas question formed another topic of discussion. Mr. J. F. Bontems informed the council that an intimation had been received from the Home Secretary and the Board of Trade, stating that it was the intention of the Government to introduce a bill next session, with a view to carry out the suggestions of the Committee of the House of Commons in reference to the supply of gas to the metropolis. A report respecting the charges preferred against Mr. Commissioner Kerr was brought up and adopted. It completely exonerated the learned gentleman from all the charges that had been made against him. The dwellings of the poor in the city of London formed another fruitful source of discussion.—Joseph Thomas Hand, "the gentlemanly-looking old man" who stands charged with embezzling £200 belonging to his employers, Messrs. Morrison, and also with stealing other sums belonging to one of the partners, was again brought before the Guildhall police magistrate on the 16th inst. The prisoner declined to say anything in his defence, and he was fully committed for trial on no less than three charges. It was stated that there were other charges of a much larger amount, but

not of such recent date, to be brought against the prisoner.—The floods in the North of England are almost without precedent, alike for their severity and for the extent over which they have spread. Great districts of Lancashire, the West Riding, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire are under water. Unfortunately, besides the great wreck of property there has been fearful loss of life. At Leeds on Saturday, the 17th inst., a crowd of people had gathered on a wooden terrace to see the rush of the swollen waters, when the terrace gave way, and those upon it were precipitated into the flood. It is estimated that at least twenty lives have been lost, and many persons had hair-breadth escapes. From other places also come stories almost as sad. Nor are the evil doings of the storm confined to the land. On the east coast two vessels at least have been lost with all hands. There are good hopes that the loss of life by the accident at Leeds bridge has been exaggerated. Only 20 persons, it would seem, actually fell into the water, and of these some twelve or fifteen are known to be safe. The accounts now published from various parts of the inundated districts give a painful idea of the desolating character of the floods, and the terrible destruction of property which they have occasioned. It is impossible to present a complete picture of these devastations or to do more than give a few of the most notable instances of the mischief or loss of life which they have entailed.—The death of Mr. Yardley, the well-known police magistrate, took place on the 18th inst.—The inquest on the bodies of the children of Mr. Lazarus, Hampstead-road, who were suffocated by a fire on his premises a fortnight ago, is concluded. On previous occasions it was alleged that the lives of the children could easily have been saved had it not been for the interference of the police. That statement has been strengthened by further evidence. The jury found a verdict censuring the police, but said they did not wish it to be constructed into a verdict of manslaughter. They further expressed their disbelief of Marshall's evidence.—The first general meeting in England of representatives of the various English volunteer regiments which sent detachments to the late Belgian Fêtes in Brussels was held on the 20th inst. Viscount Bury presided. The object of the meeting was to adopt measures to raise a fund towards defraying the expense of giving a hospitable reception to as many Belgians as may feel disposed to visit England on the occasion of the next national rifle prize meeting at Wimbledon in July next. The various speakers hoped that the movement they desired to set on foot would not be looked upon as a mere volunteer affair, but as a matter in which the whole nation ought to be interested. To make the proposed invitation and reception as widely taken part in as possible, resolutions were passed requesting the representatives of the corps in the several counties to call meetings in their respective districts, and appoint one or more sub-committees, as might be deemed necessary, to obtain the support of gentlemen of influence, as well as volunteers. It was stated that both the late Lord Mayor and the present had consented to become members of the general committee, as well as a goodly number of influential gentlemen resident in the provinces.—The trial of Hayes, the second of the two policemen who were charged with perjury under circumstances of an extraordinary character, was commenced at the Central Criminal Court on the 20th inst. It appears that the man who was tried last month was defended at his own expense; but the Commissioners of Police are apparently so well satisfied with the result of that trial, and are so impressed with a sense of what is due to the dignity of the force, that on this occasion they have specially retained Serjeant Ballantine for the defence. The case for the prosecution was closed, and Mr. Serjeant Ballantine addressed the jury for the defence. The court then adjourned.