

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1868.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

By ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

BOOK II.—CHAPTER I.

THE BULL "OMNE DATUM OPTIMUM."

Analysis of the Bull. Abuse of privileges by Templars and Hospitallers. The Council Third of the Lateran held. The Orders reprimanded.

LET us pause here in our history of the Templars, and consider them apart from their deeds in the battle field. Let us view them in the privacy of their Preceptories, and examine their conduct in private life. No more suitable time could be taken, than when the Holy City was for ever lost to the Crusaders, the Holy Land slipping inch by inch from the Christian grasp, and the Templars already scheming the formation of a formidable power in the West, which should hold monarchs in check, and command the world. There is but little doubt that such was the secret purpose of the Order, and this purpose the far seeing Philip detected, and immediately put in execution those schemes, which resulted in its destruction. With this however we do not deal. We only indicate the purpose of the Order for the better understanding the significance of what has to follow.

Historians, without exception, are partisans. The calm judicial mind, which deduces from deeds certain truths, is wanting. The present judges the past by a standard of its own, the blots of its predecessor by an affected purism of its own, not that it is a tittle less free from these blots itself. The present in turn shall be judged by the future, by its standard of excellence, not that it in turn will be a bit better or purer. Thus while the present styles the past the Dark Ages, so will the future call the present the Dark Ages. To err is human, but what a consolation it is to know that the Final Judge, will not be Man, but God. We must therefore not judge the past by the standard of the present to arrive at the truth, but we must compare it man by his contemporary man; deed by its contemporaneous deed. The Templars must be judged by the other Religious Orders, to learn their guilt or innocence.

The Templars by their valour, their piety, and the wonderful privileges bestowed upon them by successive Popes, had rivetted the attention of Christendom upon them. Their possessions were

immense, and in every country their power overshadowed that of the Crown. They even set monarchs at defiance, were an *imperium in imperio*, owning no head but the Pope, no law but the voice of their chiefs. They acknowledged no bishop, as having spiritual precedence of them, for their Master was also their *Bishop*. Among the many Bulls to be noticed particularly, is the Bull "Omne datum optimum," the Magna Charta of the Order, and the ready key to all their power and privileges. It was granted in 1162,* and addressed to the then Grand Master de Blanchefort. It was renewed ten years after, during the Mastership of Odo de Saint Amando. We subjoin an outline of it.

The Bull commences thus—"Alexander, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God, to his beloved Sons, Odo, Master of the Religious Chivalry of the Temple, situated at Jerusalem, to his successors, and to all the brethren regularly professed." I then proceeds—"Every good gift and every perfect reward,† cometh from above, descending from the Father of Light, with whom there is no change, nor shadow of turning. Therefore, O beloved children in the Lord, we praise the Almighty God, for the gift of your holy fraternity, for your religious and venerated institution, now celebrated over the entire world. For while by nature ye are the servants of wrath, and slaves to the pleasures of this life, yet by favouring grace you, have not remained deaf hearers of the gospel but throwing aside all the pomp and enjoyments of earth, and passing from the broad road which goeth to destruction, you have in humbleness of spirit chosen the difficult way to everlasting life. Constantly carrying upon your breasts the symbol of the life giving Cross, you fulfil faithfully the character of the soldiery of the Lord. Moreover like true sons of Israel, and the ripest combatants of the divine battle, inflamed with true charity, you fulfil by your deeds the words of the Gospel which say 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man will sacrifice his life for his friends;' so that, in obedience to the voice of the Great Shepherd, you in nowise fear to lay down your lives for your brethren, and to protect them from the ravages of the heathen. Well may you be termed Holy Warriors, since you have been placed by the Lord to defend the Church Catholic, and to combat the enemies of Christ."

The Pope then calls upon the Templars to maintain their glorious name in the future, to

pursue with diligence their high calling, to defend the Christians in the East with heart and soul, and to smite the enemies of the Cross. Calling upon the authority of God, and "the blessed Peter, Prince of Apostles," he orders that the Temple in which they were gathered together to the praise and glory of God, for the defence of the faithful, and the deliverance of the Church should remain for evermore under the safe guard and protection of the Holy Apostolic See, together with all the goods and possessions which the Templars then lawfully enjoyed, and all that they might thereafter rightfully obtain, through the liberality of Christian kings and princes, and the alms and oblations of the faithful; thus placing himself, and his successors, as the sole superiors of the Order.

He declared, that the regular discipline, which by the divine favour, had been instituted in their society, should be rigidly observed, and that the brethren who had dedicated themselves to the service of the omnipotent God, should live together in charity, and without property. Making good their profession both in word and deed, they should remain subject and obedient in all things to the Master, or to him whom the Master should set in authority over them. And, as the chief house at Jerusalem had been the source and fountain of their sacred institution and Order, the Master thereof should always be considered the head and chief of all the houses and places belonging to it. The Pope decreed that upon the death of the then Grand Master, Odo de Saint Amando, or any of his successors, no one should be set in authority over the Templars, unless he belonged to the Order, had regularly professed the habit and fellowship, and had been elected by the unanimous voice of the brethren, or by a majority of them. It was furthermore forbidden any ecclesiastical or secular person to infringe upon or diminish the customs and observances of their religion and profession, as instituted by the Master and brethren in common; and such rules as had been reduced to writing and observed by them in times past, were not to be changed except by the authority of the Master, with the consent of a majority of the chapter. No ecclesiastical or secular person was to be permitted to exact from the Master or brethren of the Temple, oaths, guarantees, or any such securities as was the custom to exact from the laity.

That since their sacred institution and religious

Chivalry had been established by divine Providence, it was not fit that anyone should enter into another Order with the view of leading a more religious life, for God, the Immutable and Eternal, approved not of an inconstant heart; but wished rather that the good purpose, when once begun, should be persevered in, to the end. "How many and great persons have pleased the lord of an earthly empire, under the military girdle and habit. How many and distinguished men, gathered together in arms, have bravely fought, in these our times, in the cause of the gospel of God, and in defence of the laws of our Father; and, consecrating their hands in the blood of the unbelievers in the Lord, have, after their pains and toils in this world's warfare, obtained the reward of everlasting life! Do you, therefore, both Knights and serving brethren, assiduously pay attention to your profession, and, in accordance with the saying of the apostle, 'Let each one of you steadfastly remain in the vocation to which you have been called.' We therefore ordain, that when your brethren have once taken the vows, and have been received in your sacred college, and have taken upon themselves your warfare, and the habit of your religion, they shall no longer have the power of returning again to the world; nor can any, after they have once made profession, abjure the cross and habit of your religion, with the view of entering into another convent or monastery of stricter or more lax discipline, without the consent of the brethren or Master, or of him whom the Master hath set in authority over them; nor shall any ecclesiastical or secular person be permitted to receive or retain them.

The Bull proceeds, that since those who were the defenders of the Church ought to be supported and maintained out of the good things of the Church, the Pope prohibited all manner of men from exacting tythes from the Templars, in respect of their moveables or immoveables, or any of the goods and possessions appertaining unto their venerable house. That nothing might be wanting to the plenitude of their salvation, and the care of their souls; and that they might more conveniently hear divine service, and receive the sacraments in their sacred college, he ordained that it should be lawful for the Templars to admit within their fraternity, honest and godly clergymen and priests, in such numbers as they might conscientiously require; and to receive them from whatever parts they should come, as well in their chief house at

Jerusalem, as in all the other houses and places depending upon it, so that they did not belong to any other religious profession or Order, and so that they asked them of the bishop, if they came from the neighbourhood; but if the bishop refused his consent, they had permission to receive and retain them by the authority of the Holy Apostolic See. If, however, any of them, after they were professed, turned out to be useless, or became disturbers of the brethren or religion, permission was granted the Templars, with the consent of the major part of the chapter to remove them, and give them leave to enter any other Order where they might wish to live in the service of God, and to substitute others in their places who should undergo a probation of one year in the Order. Upon the expiry of this probation, if their morals rendered them worthy of the Templars' fellowship, and they should be found fit and proper persons for discharging their sacred duties, then they were to make the regular profession of life according to the rule, and of obedience to the Master, they in return, having food, clothing and lodging from the brethren. However, it was declared illegal for them presumptuously to take part in the consultations of the chapter, or in the government of the Order. They were permitted to do so only when requested by the Templars. Regarding the care of souls they were to occupy themselves with that business, when their services were required. They were to be subject to no person, power, or authority except their own chapter, and they were to pay perfect obedience in all matters and upon all occasions "to thee our beloved Son in the Lord, Odo, and to thy successors, as their Master and Bishop."

(To be continued.)

THE PATRON SAINT OF FREEMASONRY.

By Bro. C. I. PATON, P.M. of Lodge Caledonian (No. 392), &c.

The great patron Saint of Freemasons is St. John, and the Order could not have chosen among men a purer and a braver spirit. His birth was out of the ordinary course of nature, his life was a model of all the virtues, and his death a fearful exhibition of the malignity of the human heart. His father, Zacharias, and his mother, Elizabeth, were both eminently devout and holy. He himself was, even before his baptism, declared to be one who would be called "the prophet of the highest"—one who

would "go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways"—one who would "give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death," and thus guide God's people out of the way of danger, and "into the way of peace." The predictions made concerning him in his infancy were marvellously fulfilled in his riper years. "The child," we are told, "grew and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts," or less populous localities, "till the day of his showing unto Israel;" in other words he reached manhood strong in those natural gifts and graces which a life of temperance, industry, frugality, and earnest solitary study never fails to confer; and guided and controlled by that wisdom and discretion which direct and frequent communion and fellowship with the Great Architect are so well fitted to communicate and inspire. He was a whole man, body and soul, and qualified, therefore, to talk with and influence men who themselves desired to be made every whit whole.

Practice, far more than precept, moulds the minds and manners of men, and governs the world, and St. John was a minister who exhibited his faith by his works, and demonstrated the excellence of his principles by acts which gave them their soundest and happiest exemplification. He lived in an age of dress and effeminacy, and he appeared wearing a rough garment of camel's hair, with a leathern girdle about his loins. He was thrown among a population whose god was their belly, and who delighted in ministering to every carnal and sensual appetite and passion, and he rebuked them by his plain and simple diet—his living on locusts and wild honey. He was sent as a preacher to a conceited, arrogant, and self-righteous race of people, who were ready at all times to boast of their descent from Abraham, and to thank God that they were not as other men, and he thundered in their ears the great doctrine of repentance—a total change of life and manners—a wholesale reform in principle and practice. How he scathed with righteous indignation the proud and haughty Pharisees and Sadducees who, in the *eclat* which at first surrounded his ministry, came to be baptized by him! "O generation of vipers," he exclaimed, "who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" "Bring forth fruits meet for repentance," he continued, as he laid bare to general observation the rank formalism that lay concealed under the shining mantle of their temporary zeal. "Think not

to say within yourselves," he went on to add, "we have Abraham to our father," as if hereditary descent or family *prestige* could be accepted by either God or man in lieu of personal worth, or as cancelling the necessity of genuine religion in the soul; and then he proceeded, with the true unction and earnestness of a teacher who would drive the truth home to the understanding and the heart, to warn them that the axe of divine judgment would be applied to the root of every merely professional tree; that "every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire;" that, however men may deceive themselves, or suffer themselves to be deceived, the Great Husbandman will one day "thoroughly purge his floor and gather his wheat into the garner," and just as thoroughly "burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

What a glorious set of doctrines, too, he preached! When the people stimulated and inflamed by his discourses, asked him, "What shall we do?" his answer was, "He that hath two coats let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat let him do likewise." When the publicans or tax-gatherers, who were notorious for their extortions, came to him and asked what they should do, his reply was "Exact no more than that which is appointed you." When the soldiers, whose brutality had become proverbial, and their discontent and insubordination perilous to the well-being of society, interrogated him as to the way in which they should conduct themselves, he summed up all he had to say to them in the expressive and powerful remark, "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely, and be content with your wages." Thus benevolence was taught to the selfish, honesty to the unscrupulous, tenderness to the brutal, integrity to the false, and contentment to the lawless and disobedient. These however, are only a small part of the doctrines taught by St. John. He fulfilled to the letter the prophecy of Isaiah concerning him, that he would be as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'" It was of his ministry it was said, "Every valley shall be filled"—that is the lowly and humble shall be exalted—"and every mountain and hill shall be brought low"—that is, the proud and haughty shall be made to lick the dust—"and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth"—in other words, perversity of will and

stubbornness of purpose shall be brought into subjection to the mind and will of Christ, and every obstacle to the progress of Divine truth, and every difficulty standing in the way of Divine mercy and grace, shall be so operated upon and so dealt with as to bring about universal happiness and universal good.

It must be a subject of world-wide regret that St. John's ministry should have been so short-lived, even though it was succeeded by the personal ministry of his Great Master and Lord. The world has always had too few, and never can have too many, brave and faithful men. St. John would not crouch to the great, nor flatter the wealthy nor the proud; on the contrary, he was bold and fearless as a lion in vindication of all truth, and in opposition to everything false and wrong. He would reprove the ruler as readily and as firmly as he would reprove the subject, when he found him degrading or dishonouring his high office, or bringing law or morality to shame. What true Christian probity of conduct he displayed in remonstrating with the profligate Herod, the tetrarch of the province in which he lived and taught! The story though it is nearly two thousand years old, will be ever memorable as an exhibition of genuine courage and self-sacrificing zeal. Herod took to himself and lived with Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. He did this to gratify his selfish, unlawful, and incestuous passion. To take his brother's wife was a flagrant crime against the laws of God and of his country; an outrage against civilisation, and a sin of the deepest dye. St. John knew the fact of the incestuous concubinage, and hurled his most powerful remonstrances against it. He felt himself, as a faithful minister, bound to protest against all unnatural lust and crime even though it should be in the person of the king, and he made his protest so vigorously and so effectively that the king deemed himself safe, or likely to have rest, only by imprisoning and thrusting him murderously out of the way. St. John, who opposed crime, was cast into prison and treated as a felon; nay, more—that he might not again protest against an unnatural passion and incestuous connection—his life was made to pay the forfeit of his honour and his honesty. He was beheaded, and his head presented in a charger to a daughter glorying in her own and her mother's profligacy. His body was handed over to the disciples of his affection and regard. The Scripture narrative of this most touching tale is simply told.

"When Herod's birth-day was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod, whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whosoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said 'give me here, John the Baptist's head in a charger.' And the king was sorry; nevertheless for his oath's sake and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. And he sent and beheaded John in the prison, and his head was brought in a charger and given to the damsel, and she brought it to her mother, and his disciples came and took up the body and buried it, and sent and told Jesus."

St. John was thus a martyr to truth. He died because in an age of extreme lewdness and wickedness, he denounced the living with or marriage of a man with his brother's widow, as a marriage unlawful in its nature, incestuous, and calculated to bring down the wrath of God upon the guilty parties themselves, and upon the children that might, through it, be brought into the world. It is important that his conduct should ever be kept in mind, and it reflects credit on the Masonic Fraternity, that a teacher whose benevolence extended to the distribution of one out of two coats to those really in need, and whose fidelity to high and holy social and moral principles would not permit him to spare a king, who deliberately ignored or recklessly trampled on the laws of God and man, should have been chosen by them as their patron Saint.

From the reign of Vespasian to the present time, Freemasons have adopted St. John as their patron Saint. The primitive or mother lodge held at Jerusalem, of which all other lodges are only branches, was erected to God, and dedicated to St. John, who left the example of his virtues to his brethren. St. John's Day is held in every country where Freemasonry is practised; it is celebrated as a Festival, a day set apart by the brotherhood for a feast of brotherly affection, to the worshipping of the Great Architect of Heaven and Earth, and to the imploring of His blessings on the great family of mankind.

In every just, perfect, regular, and well governed lodge, there is a symbol representing a point within a circle, the point indicating an individual brother, the circle representing the boundary line of his duty to God and man, beyond which he is never to suffer his passions, prejudices, or interest to betray him on any occasion. This circle is

embroidered by two perpendicular parallel lines, representing St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, who were perfect parallels in Christianity as well as Masonry; and upon the vertex rests the book of Holy Scriptures, the great light of Masonry pointing out the whole duty of Freemasons. In going round the circle, we necessarily touch upon these two lines, as well as upon the Holy Scriptures; and while Masons keep themselves thus circumscribed, it is impossible that they should materially err.

St. John's Day, the birth-day of the Baptist, is *par excellence* the Masons day, as it has been celebrated annually, during upwards of eighteen hundred years; and, so long as large hearted benevolence and great hearted courage are respected and admired, it will continue to be lovingly regarded and reverentially observed. Let Freemasons never depart from the teachings and principles of their patron Saint. Should they do so, the Order would certainly fall into decay.

OPENING ADDRESS.

Delivered to the members of the Pleiades Lodge of Mark Masters (No. 26), Totnes, on Thursday, Jan. 23rd, 1868, by Bro. Dr. HOPKINS, P.M. 74, &c., after his installation as first W.M.

Brethren,—It has been my custom, whenever I have been privileged to be installed in the first chair of a lodge or Royal Arch Chapter, to offer a short address to those over whom I have been appointed to rule, and by whom I have been thus selected. In like manner, on relinquishing the exalted position, I have felt it a duty to take a retrospect of the past year, to mark any points of interest which have presented themselves in the course of it, and to endeavour to make the experience thus gained profitable to my successors. Being at this moment placed under the former of these circumstances, I beg your indulgence while I offer a few observations in reference to it.

Brethren, five months ago I was unknown, even by name, to almost all of you, and my introduction to this district is due entirely to the kind Masonic feeling of one of your number, Bro. Andrew Sparke Distin, who, in the early part of last year, in the most fraternal manner interested himself in my behalf, on my application to him, then personally a stranger, for information. My claim upon him as a brother was cordially met, and I desire thus publicly to offer my grateful acknowledgment to him. My occupation of the chair this day, as your head, is therefore a somewhat extraordinary circumstance, wherein is displayed

the effect of Masonic influences, and an exemplification of one of the leading Masonic virtues, Faith, not in the highest sense in which that word is used among us, but in the signification so well expressed in the well-known song, which recommends us to "have faith in one another." without which Freemasonry would be deprived of one of its highest and most beautiful qualities. Yet, brethren, when we look around on the members of the Craft whom we casually meet in society, conscientious scruples sometimes arise, as to whether we dare implicitly act up to our professions, by taking it for granted that a title to the expressive and endearing name of brother, as conferred by admission into our Order, is a guarantee for all that is honourable, just and true. Hence arises the necessity for that careful examination into the character and antecedents of aspirants to our honours and principles, which has been lately emphatically urged upon us by the highest Masonic authority in this realm. This is one of the points, which, at the commencement of my official career among you, I desire to impress in the strongest manner possible. It is true that in our case, as Mark Master Masons, the choice lies not among those who are as yet unconnected with the Fraternity. Herein we evince our loyalty to the Grand Craft Lodge of England, inasmuch as we admit none who have not been received by it. Our candidates for advancement have gone through the ordeal of admission into the chief branch of our Order, and ought to have been led to make its principles and practices conducive to the development of a higher tone of charity and moral sentiment. Alas, however, such is the frailty of human nature, that some are apt to fall away under temptation, and to become the objects of our pity, even while under the direct influence of Masonic teachings. Though we would endeavour to regard their failings with leniency, we owe it to ourselves to beware how we display such backsliders to the eternal world, as patterns for imitation, and ensamples of our Fraternity. Allow me to adopt the words of a Masonic writer on this point. "Am I to respect the bad man, because forsooth by forswearing himself he has gained the secrets of the Craft? No, 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." This, in my view, exactly represents the course we ought to pursue in regard to all who prove themselves unworthy of our Order, by forgetfulness of its high professions and of their own vows on admission to it. The several subsequent ordeals which must be submitted to after initiation, before taking the Mark and Royal Arch degrees, are thus salutary checks and safeguards and admonitions in the Masonic career, terms of probation which it behoves us not to neglect. Let me then recommend to you a paramount regard

for the quality, the character, the zeal of our members, rather than an estimate of our success based only on their number.

Desiring not to weary you after the labours of this evening, I shall select but one other among the variety of topics which might be advantageously alluded to on an occasion such as this, and it is one to which I attach much importance, under the impression that whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well. I refer to uniformity in the rituals, correctness in the verbiage used in its enunciation, and exactitude in the manner in which our rites and ceremonies are administered, and, so to speak, manipulated. The degree which we confer in this lodge is closely allied to the Guilds and operative lodges, the predecessors of speculative Masonry, which exercised so powerful an influence during the periods when the magnificent ecclesiastical structures in this country and on the continent were erected, be it observed, *en passant*, under the direct sanction of that Church which has of late years shown itself so hostile to our claims as a moral and religious society. They had their secrets, not only of the same character and for the same purposes as ours, but others relating to different branches of trade and art, some of which have been lost since the extinction of the specific institution; as an instance of this may be mentioned the production of certain brilliant colours in staining glass. The details of the history of these mediæval Guilds or lodges of operative Masons, have been inquired into and admirably elucidated in a series of articles in the *Freemasons' Magazine* during the past year by my esteemed friend Bro. Hughan, of Truro, which I specially recommend to your attention. Notwithstanding the connection of Mark with operative Masonry, yet, in this branch of the modern Craft more than in the others, there has been a great amount of looseness, a vast difference in ritual and in usages, without any attempt to reduce them to a compact and well organised system, until within a very few years, when, owing to the unwillingness on the part of the English Craft authorities to follow the example of Ireland and Scotland by recognising the degree, it became necessary to establish a second jurisdiction, under the title of the Grand Mark Lodge of England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown, from which we have received our warrant, and to whose authority we now hold ourselves amenable. Those who, like myself, appreciate this degree as a valuable and interesting link in the Masonic chain, deeply regret a policy which weakens both branches, when each might be made a source of strength to the other. I presume, brethren, from your adherence to the distinct system thus established, that you entertain a similar opinion. Let it be fully understood, however, that we work in no

spirit of hostility or rivalry, that as being necessarily members of the Great Brotherhood of Craft Masonry, we regard department as paramount, desiring all our operations to be conducted in a line parallel with it. I am sanguine enough to hope that ere very long we shall find ourselves in the same position as Royal Arch Masonry, that is, recognised by the Grand Craft Lodge of England, but still maintaining a separate jurisdiction.

By our Mark authorities an attempt has been made to compile a simple and effective ceremony from the variety of elements existing in different districts, and those among us whose experience enables them to compare the ritual we practice with some of those in vogue no longer than twenty years ago, must come to the conclusion that the landmarks, traditions and safeguards have been well preserved, that much which was objectionable and even ludicrous has been wisely discarded, as innovations imprudently and irreverently introduced at a time when the true objects of the Order were but imperfectly understood, and that the result has been beneficial both as to moral influence and intellectual dignity. Preposterous as some of these practices were, they could not be more so than many I have witnessed on the continent even in Craft Masonry but a very few years ago.

Well, brethren, having been the first Master of a Mark Lodge elsewhere, I necessarily acquired some knowledge of the ritual, some experience of the manner in which it should be carried out, and to this accidental circumstance, of which you have taken advantage, rather than to any personal merit, must be attributed your favour in placing me in the eminent position I this evening occupy. The post I now assume is one which can confer no additional rank on myself, can gratify no ambitious feeling; on the contrary, it entails great labour and responsibility, from much of which, if I succeed, my successors will be exempt, since I hope they will find everything brought into a proper train. I have been induced to accept it by my love of Masonry, by a desire to be useful, and to carry out former obligations, whereby, in common with all other rulers in the Craft, I have undertaken to disseminate our system wherever and whenever opportunity offers, under a conviction that the promotion of kindly feelings, and the inculcation of the principles of Freemasonry, will do much to advance the moral progress of mankind, nay, even to save human life, of which it is possible to adduce many past examples, under imprisonment, on the field of battle, and even when exposed to danger from one suffering from insanity, who was nevertheless open to Masonic influences. Moreover, having been blessed with moderate means and ample leisure, I consider myself bound to employ my time and such powers as I possess for the good of others. thus obeying the

apostolic injunction, "Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification."

In conclusion, I beg to assure you that I have done all in my power to make such preliminary arrangements as appeared to me most likely to conduce to a successful commencement and the future prosperity of our new lodge, especially in affording means to the officers of acquiring a knowledge of the ritual, and in the preparation of a complete set of books for the necessary records, without putting you to any expense. The cost of the warrant has been defrayed by the W.M. and Wardens. Our furniture is at present very limited, comprising barely what is essential, for I have felt that prudence and economy must be the first consideration. As time advances and pecuniary means increase, we may hope gradually to supply all deficiencies.

In carrying out the duties of the first chair during the next year, I pledge myself not to relax in my efforts; and I call upon you, brother officers, to do your part, by acquiring such facility in the practice of our ceremonies as shall make the lodge attractive to its members, deserving the respect of the other branches of our Institution, drawing them to us, and giving hopes of a bright future. This I do most earnestly and affectionately, in accordance with the charge which has been solemnly committed to me, to teach you to practise out of the lodge the duties you are taught within it, that the world may see the happy and beneficial effects of our ancient Institution. As being almost a stranger among you, my personal influence is necessarily limited to that which every ruler in the Craft ought to possess; and it is very uncertain whether my sojourn in this neighbourhood will be of sufficient duration to produce any important results, beyond putting you in fair working order. Still, it will be my aim to enforce our principles, to carry out our Constitutions, to win your esteem, to instruct our younger members, and to promote union, love, and harmony. I cannot but fear that the latter are at present somewhat deficient, if I may judge by the number of resident members of the Fraternity, gentlemen of influence, education, and position in society, who abstain from active participation in Masonic duties, and rarely attend our regular assemblies. Thus I may hope to satisfy my own conscience, and whenever I may depart hence, to feel that I leave my mark among you, one of honour, of virtue, of duty, faithfully performed. To you, Bro. Wardens, most especially and confidently, do I appeal for a fulfilment of the exhortation you have received, assiduously to assist the Master in the discharge of his important trust, since from your experience as rulers in other departments of our art, you well know its importance.

Brethren, I entreat you all to regard the whole of

our system as symbolical of those great moral and spiritual truths and lofty sentiments which will tend to purify your own hearts and minds, to teach you your duties to the Grand Overseer of the Universe and your fellow men, especially your brethren in the Craft, and finally to prepare you for that scrutiny which will thoroughly test your work, proving whether you are entitled to eat of the hidden manna, to receive the white stone, and to learn the new name which will be the portion of him that overcometh, when earthly labours are brought to an end, and we are summoned to apply for our wages, by Him who alone can determine, by his searching eye and unerring wisdom, whether we have "marked well or ill," and have "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

It now only remains to express my obligation, and you will doubtless desire me to add that of the lodge also, to my excellent friend, V.W. Bro. Vincent Bird whom a few months ago I had the pleasure of installing in the Master's chair of St. Aubyn's Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 64, Devonport, and who has this evening favoured us with his valuable aid, by so ably officiating at the ceremony of inducting me into my present position. I am sure, brethren, that you will cordially assent to a vote of thanks to him, to be recorded in the minutes of the lodge, for his kindness in coming so far to assist us in a time of need, and for the skilful and impressive manner in which he has performed the ceremony of installation, and those duties which were necessary to carry out the warrant, and to constitute us a duly authorised lodge of Mark Masters, which I now propose.

This proposition was seconded by the S.W., and carried unanimously.

V.W. Bro. V. Bird briefly acknowledged the compliment which had been paid to him in terms expressive of the satisfaction and pleasure he had felt in being instrumental in the revival of Mark Masonry in Totnes.

The S.W. rose and in feeling terms commented on the address which had just been delivered, observing that the instruction and sentiments contained in it, as well as the mode of their expression, could not have failed to impress all present. He concluded by moving a cordial vote of thanks to the W.M. for the trouble he had taken in thus placing before the brethren the character of Mark Masonry and their duties in regard to it; also for the zeal he had manifested in preparing and presenting to the lodge the various books to contain the records and other documents.

The J.W. enlarged at some length on the proposition just made, observing that though a desire had long existed for the revival of the Lodge of Mark

Masters, it could not now have been accomplished but for the ready response with which Bro. Dr. H. had met the request that he would undertake the necessary arrangements, and accept the Mastership, for which he had been qualified by his previous experience in this branch of the Craft. He concluded by seconding the motion.

Bro. A. S. Distin, Treas., felt called upon to support the proposition, the more especially as his name had been so kindly and honourably mentioned by the W.M. He had but done his duty as a Mason when he had been applied to by a brother for information, and he had now reason to congratulate himself on having been instrumental in bringing the W.M. into this district as a resident.

The motion, thus proposed and seconded, was put to the meeting by the S.W., and carried unanimously.

The W.M. pleaded the lateness of the hour and his exertions during the evening as reasons for contenting himself with a brief acknowledgment of the compliment, and an expression of his satisfaction that he had obtained the approbation of the brethren at the commencement of his year of office by his preparations for carrying out their object. He felt that it was too early for them to be justified in forming any opinion of his rule, and hoped that by his conduct he might merit the same at its conclusion.

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP OF MASONRY.—A remark of Gen. Washington's, that if Masonry never accomplished anything else, but the protection it threw around the female relations of Masons, it was worth all the labour it cost, made a permanent impression upon our mind, as evincing a social theory second to none in the world. No true Freemason can look upon the mother, wife, sister, or daughter of a brother, without experiencing in their behalf a tenderness of sympathy and interest only understood by the fraternity. He looks upon them as his special wards, and he knows not how soon he must assume, through the stern mandates of death, all the relationship of "brother;" having this daily experience on account of those who have passed away, he already feels towards the female relations of his living brother the sentiments of sincere esteem and protection. To him all are virtuous, and that character he defends for them, if necessary, with his life-blood; this tie is reciprocal through the Masonic relationship of the world, hence arises that undefinable confidence in the social circle, which the profane cannot understand. This relationship is sacred, and the man who, so lost to all sense of honour and trust as to violate this assurance, had better never been born. From this delicate relationship springs the highest sentiments of regard for female character and virtue. The passions are subdued and tamed by the exercise of an exalted morality, and we are taught to feel that we do live in a world where the better principles of our nature can and must triumph.

THE CABLE TOW.—This Masonic cable-tow is emblematic of a cord of affection, that should ever be regarded as binding the whole Masonic Brotherhood firmly together, and make them one in feelings of love. The Prophet of Israel must have known something of the use of this cord, when he said: "I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love." Every member should ever consider that the Masonic cord extends "from the rivers unto the ends of the earth." It reaches around the entire globe, where Masonry, with her mission of love, can, and is permitted to go. The hearts of the subjects of the world are drawn by this strong cord of affection, and are entitled to its lasting benefits.—*Mystic Star*.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

31ST DEGREE.

The 31st Degree, or that of Inspector of the A. and A. Rite, is in exercise in many countries. In a foreign by-law I see it stated the lodge has attached to it a chapter of the high degrees, and a tribunal of the 31st. By one clause it is stated that in case of the exclusion or expulsion of a member the lodge, before deciding, shall demand the decision of the tribunal; but in case the tribunal shall not have decided before the second regular meeting, the lodge can decide definitively, whether the tribunal have given its decision or not.—R. Y.

THE MORAL LAW.—KANT.

A brother, whose letter has the signature "A Theist," will find the criterion of Kant, by which we may determine what we ought to do, and what we ought not to do, stated in my communication "The Moral Law—Freemasonry," *Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. xiv., page 290.—C. P. COOPER.

RITE D'ORIENT.

In the "Explication de la Croix Philosophique," by Bro. Chereau, Paris, 1806, he calls himself Officer General of the Ordres d'Orient. This is afterwards called Rite d'Orient, and at page 17 this appears to be identified with that of Memphis. It is stated there are variations in the R⁺ and other degrees from the A. and A. Rite, from that of Heredom and that of France. Chereau's pamphlet affirms that the Rite d'Orient is the only legitimate one, and that its history was then being written by several learned brethren.—R. Y.

ROYAL ARCH.

"A Masonic Student" has explained the nature of our correspondence on the Royal Arch, and as the letters on the subject are now before the Craft, please let the matter rest so far as my humble endeavours are concerned, until I am able to present the second part of "An analysis of ancient and modern Freemasonry." All being well, the "Analysis" will be divided into seven parts, some longer and others shorter than the first; and in the interim, any information of value tending to elucidate facts on Freemasonry, will be gladly received by me. The Royal Arch degree will be especially considered in the third part.—W. J. HUGHAN.

RIGHT OF VISITORS TO VOTE.

In many parts of the world it is held as a principle, and recorded in the constitutions and by-laws, that visiting Bros. have the right to ballot on the admission of candidates, because each Mason has an interest in the admission of anyone.—R. Y.

FACTS CONCERNING HUMAN LIFE.—The total number of human beings on the earth is computed at 1,000,000,000 (one thousand millions), and they speak 3,064 tongues. The average duration of human life is 33 1/3 years. One fourth of those born die before they are 7 years old, and one half before the age of 17. Out of 100 persons, only six reach the age of 60 years. Out of 500 persons only one attains the age of 80 years. Sixty persons die every minute. Tall men live longer than short ones. Married men are longer lived than the single. Rich men live, on the average, 42 years, but the poor only 30 years. There is a drunkard to every 74 persons.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

A JUNIOR WARDEN'S INQUIRY.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—In our late lamented Bro. Dr. Oliver's work, "Masonic Jurisprudence" (Spencer, London), page 238, paragraph 5, I find the following reference to Masonic tests:—"Our ancient brethren had many ways of detecting such pretended Masons; one of which was by taking up any rough stone that lay in his way, and handing it over to the beggar, and asking him what it smells of. There is only one legitimate answer to the question, and it is impossible for any person to know it unless he has been in the habit of frequenting a lodge." You will readily understand that I have been in the habit of frequenting a lodge; in fact, for the last two years I am not aware of having missed more than one of our regular meetings, yet I have, I must confess, failed in satisfactorily elucidating the above. Moreover, I have made numerous inquiries amongst my Masonic friends and acquaintances, some of them Past Masters and Masons of thirty or forty years' standing, without being able to elicit an explanation; not one of them knew the meaning of, or the answer to, the test. In my despair, I venture, frivolous as it may seem to one so * * * as yourself, to apply to you. I know your uniform kindness and genuine willingness to assist young students in Masonry. Can you help me?

Yours fraternally,

JUNIOR WARDEN.

[Perhaps our esteemed Bro., Charles Purton Cooper, will oblige by replying to this communication.—Ed. F. M.]

MASONIC RESEARCHES.

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

Dear Sir and Brother.—Being on a visit some time ago with friends in Oxford, and to while away a dull hour during a fall of rain, I amused myself in looking through the vols. of the Camden Soc., published 1839, and among other interesting matters happened to stumble on some curious passages, which I at once extracted, as conceiving them in some sort illustrative of the mysteries of Masonry.

As there are many students of our "Ars Mystica," that will understand better than I how to turn these extracts to account in treating on Masonic subjects, I have very great pleasure in presenting them to their notice.

"Pentalpha Pentacle.—This mark was heretofore used as the sign of the * is now, *sc.* at the beginning of letters or books, for good luck's sake; and the women amongst the Jewes (Dr. Ralph Bathurst tells me) did make this mark on the children's chrysome clothes. Mr. Wyld Clarke, merchant (factor), at Santo Crux, in Barbarie, tells me that the Jewes in Barbarie have this mark on their trunks in nailes, and on their cupboards and tables. So in France, &c., and heretofore in England, were built crosses for good luck;



and my old friend, Mr. Lancelot Morehouse, rector of Portwood, Wilts, was wont to make this mark at the top of his missive letters, as the Roman Catholics do the ✠, and he told me (1660) that the Greek Christians did so."

"The figure of three triangles intersected (adds W. Keane), and made of five lines, is called the Pentangle of Solomon, and when it is delineated in the body of a man it is pretended to touch and point out the five places wherein our Saviour was wounded. And therefore there was the old superstitious conceit, that the figure was a *fuge demonum*—the devils were afraid of it."

NOTE.

The "Pentaculum Solomonis," the "Driden-fus" of the German magical writers, and which is regarded at the present day by the superstitious in Germany as an effective hindrance to the power of witches, is said to have its origin in the secret doctrines of the Pythagoreans, and to have been from thence transferred to the mysteries of Druides. Be this as it may, it is certain it was looked upon in the middle ages as a sign of immense power; and at the present moment the magical Pentalpha, in the western window of the southern aisle of Westminster Abbey, is one of the emblems which still exist, and tell to the initiated that the black monks who once chanted in the choir were deeply read in occult science. We are not, therefore, surprised to find it treated of in Dr. Carl Grabner's "Bilder der Wunderkunst und des Aberglaubens," 8vo., Weimar, 1837, p. 86, or that Goethe should have made Faust avail himself of its influence—

"Für solche halbe Hollenbrat,
Ist Salomonis Schlüssell gut;"

but it would scarcely be expected that a belief in its influence should be gravely avowed in a work published at the commencement of the nineteenth century.

"It is always necessary to have this Pentacle in readiness to bind with in case the spirits should refuse to be obedient, as they can have no power over the Exorcist while provided with and fortified by the Pentacle, the virtue of the holy names therein written presiding with wonderful influence over the spirits. It should be made in the day and hour of mercury upon parchment made of a kid's skin, or virgin, or pure clean white paper, and the figures and letters wrote in pure gold, and ought to be consecrated and sprinkled (as before often spoken) with holy water."—Barret's "Magus," book 2, part iii. (109.)

"Anecdotes and Traditions, illustrative of Early English History and Literature, derived from MS. Sources." Camden Soc., 1839.

Hoping the above may serve to interest, if it be not of any other use to your many scientific readers,

I am, yours fraternally,

MACCADDUS, 1,075.

CUSTOM HOUSE OFFICIALS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I perceive in a recent impression of the *Standard*, a letter referring to the underpaid condition of the Custom House officials,

the writer of which signs himself "Masonic." Now the letter referred to is a perfectly correct account of the condition of the particular class; and I have no doubt that the writer was actuated by the best motives in writing it; but I think, as a Mason, that he was not justified in connecting the Craft in any way with the object he had in view. I am not quite sure that I am correct in the view I take of this matter, but my ideas of Masonry, as I have learnt it, are, that it ought not to be used as an instrument in promoting any agitation for any purpose foreign to itself; and though, in this particular instance the object is a laudable one, the principle remains the same, that no member of the Craft is justified in preventing the uses of his Masonic profession by an appeal to the general public in that character. I am aware there is a growing tendency, in the present time, towards making (what I cannot but consider), this improper use of the Masonic privilege; and if it is allowed to continue unchecked, I feel certain that it will have a most disastrous influence upon our whole body. If it is allowable to make use of it for any one purpose unconnected with the interests of the Society, it must be also in every other, so long as the purpose to be gained may be considered a good one; but where would this end? In the opinion of some people the object which all ought to strive to attain would be religious equality; with others, political reform is the only object to be sought for. In this way the important influence, which a body so extensive as that of Freemasons possesses, would become the potent genii which every leader of party, whether social, religious, or political, would strive to command, and the result would be fatal to our body.

I may be wrong in my surmises, and I may also be wrong in my ideas as to the latitude allowed to Masons in using the influence they possess in bearing that name. If so, I shall be happy to be informed more fully on the subject by some older Mason than myself, many of whom I recognise as constant correspondents to your Journal; but I should not have called attention to this particular instance (which I consider a most laudable one in itself) were it not that I continually see cases in which Masonic influence is appealed to, and, in many of them, in direct violation of our obligation.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

W. I. N.

[We entirely agree with the opinions expressed by the writer of the above letter, and as the subject is worthy of the most serious consideration by the members of our Order, we give the letter insertion in its integrity, and feel obliged to the writer for bringing forward the subject. We trust more official check will be given to the practice, as it is becoming an evil of such magnitude, and still rapidly increasing growth, it requires censure from the Masonic powers that be.—ED. F.M.]

A CHINAMAN SUPPORTING A HOME MISSION.—By the last China Mail Mr. Whompoa, the hospitable Chinese merchant at Singapore, sent £50 to the Royal Naval Scripture Reader's Society. This is the third donation of like amount bestowed by this kind-hearted and charitable Chinaman upon royal naval associations.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEM.

WE call the attention of our readers to the copious report in our present issue of the proceedings in connection with Mark Masonry in Totnes. In the very eloquent and effective address which Bro. H. Hopkins delivered on the occasion he dealt fully, not only with the importance of the Mark degrees, but enunciates, in a rare manner, the principles and doctrines of true Masonry. We recommend the address to the careful perusal of all aspirants who would emulate the worthy example of our esteemed brother.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The anniversary festival for the benefit of the funds of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was celebrated on Wednesday evening, in the new banqueting hall, Freemasons' Tavern. Bro. Alexander Dobie, Prov. G. Master for Surrey, presided, supported by Bros. Rev. J. D. Maurice, Prov. G. Chap. for Surrey; Dr. W. J. May, surgeon to the Institution; Rev. J. Hayshe, Prov. G.M. for Devon; Rt. Hon. Lord Eliot, *M.P.*, S.G.W.; Lorenzo P. Metham, J.G.D., D. Prov. G.M. for Devon; Dr. Jabez Hogg, J.G.D.; G. W. K. Potter, P.G.D.; J. Hervey, P.G.D.; J. Syraids, P. Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; E. S. Snell, P.G.D.; Stephen Blair, Prov. G.M. for East Lancashire; T. M. Talbot, Prov. G.M. for South Wales; S. Tomkins, G. Treas.; Æ. J. McIntyre, G. Reg.; Gray Clarke, G. Sec.; J. Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; J. Udall, P.G.D.; Major Creaton, B. Head, and George Cox, P.G.D.'s; J. Smith, P.G. Purst.; W. Farnfield, Secretary to the Institution; John Emmens, P.G. Purst.; W. J. Meymott, Captain Braithwaite; W. Ough, Assist. G. Purst.; E. H. Patten, Prov. G.S.B., and Secretary to the Girls' School; and about 150 other brethren.

This institution, as is well known to the older members of the Craft, is situate at Croydon; and, from the salubrity of the site and the ample accommodation provided for the inmates, it offers to the distressed Mason or his widow a comfortable home, in which they can spend the evening of their life in happiness and repose. The institution is founded on the most popular principles and the most enlarged basis, inasmuch as the annual subscription is so low that it is within the reach of almost every Mason to add his mite towards the promotion of its success, and at the same time carry out practically one of our most distinguishing characteristics, which is charity. While helping those who are unable to help themselves, he has the inward satisfaction of having done his duty, and the knowledge that his bounty, like mercy:—

"Is twice blessed.

It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

And, to crown all, it is the brightest gem which can adorn our Masonic profession. This noble institution was inaugurated by the late revered Grand Master, the Duke of Sussex, in 1842, and since that period numerous have been the recipients from its funds, whose hearts have been gladdened and whose path has been smoothed in the declining hours of their lives. The present occasion, being the twenty-fifth anniversary of its

establishment, was speedily enforced on the attention of the Craft, urging their support on the completion of quarter a century, and the appeal has been met with a fitting response, for the subscriptions of money amounted to upwards of £3,000.

The dinner was served in Bro. Gosdon's best style, and fully maintained the well-known reputation of the Freemasons' Tavern, for it embraced every delicacy of the season, and contrasted in a very strong manner with the fare at many other establishments.

The cloth having been withdrawn,

The Chairman, in a few remarks, gave "The Queen," which was followed by the National Anthem, the solo parts by Miss Rebecca Isaacs and Miss Palmer.

The Chairman next gave "Their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," and in doing so expressed his regret at the continued indisposition of the Princess of Wales, with a hope that she would soon again be restored to perfect health. The toast was very cordially responded to, followed by the trio, "My Lady the Countess," by Miss Rose Hersee, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, and Miss Palmer.

The Chairman next gave "The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, President of this Institution." He said they had already drank the health of the sovereign who reigned over these realms, but he now asked them to join with him in drinking the health of the sovereign who reigned over Freemasonry. The Earl of Zetland had presided over the Craft for twenty-five years, and before that he filled the office of Provincial Grand Master of their Order. Under his reign Masonry had increased in every part of the civilised world, and the funds of the Grand Lodge had increased in a corresponding manner to an extent that would scarcely have been credited fifty years ago. Considering the urbanity and kindness with which he had presided over the Craft for twenty-five years, he thought they could not do less than drink his health in a bumper. (The toast was enthusiastically responded to.)

Bro. Montem Smith sung in exquisite style, "The four-leaved shamrock," which was rapturously applauded.

The Chairman then gave "The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the present and past Grand Officers." He said he felt sure that the Deputy Grand Master had given satisfaction to every member who had the privilege of attending the grand lodge, for the able manner in which he discharged his duties, which must be a great satisfaction to the Craft. He coupled with the toast the eldest Grand Officer present, which was Bro. Udall.

Bro. Udall returned thanks, and said it was a great pleasure to have such a Deputy Grand Master; for, in addition to those duties, he was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of one of the largest provinces, and it sent up to their institution very large contributions. On behalf of the Grand Officers he thanked them for that mark of their kindness in drinking their healths.

Song, Miss Rose Hersee—"Sleep, my pretty one, sleep," which was encored.

The Grand Registrar gave "The Provincial Grand Masters," and in doing said that, although those who were then assembled in that hall were supposed to represent metropolitan Masonry, unless they had the assistance of their brethren in the provinces, they would fall very short in their support of their Masonic charities. The voice of charity was heard far and wide; for they had the north represented by their Bro. Stephen Blair, who had come from that distant part to do honour to and support their charities. The west was represented by their Bro. the Rev. J. Hayshe, who for many years had served

the office of D.G. Master for Devonshire, and for a long period had borne the burden of that province, and well had he earned his promotion as P.G. Master. They had also the wilds of Wales represented by Bro. Talbot, and therefore those distant places were well represented at their charities. He gave "The health of the Provincial Grand Masters of England, coupling with them the name of Bro. Huyshe, P.G.M. for Devonshire." Enthusiastic cheering followed this toast.

Bro. Huyshe returned thanks.

The Chairman gave the toast of the evening, "success to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons." He said, Brethren, this institution is one of the three bright stars of charity which adorn Freemasonry, and I trust that this evening will show as good support to that charity as has preceded it on any former occasion. I feel it very difficult to do justice to the position in which I am placed, as I cannot fail to recollect the ability of those noblemen who have filled this chair on former occasions. I feel behindhand certainly in advocating the charities with the eloquence they have displayed, but as regards sincerity I will give way to none. Therefore I have only to hope that you will treat me with kindness and forbearance in the few words that I shall address you upon this occasion. It will be in the recollection of some who are here present, looking back for a period of thirty years, that our late respected Bro. Walter was the first who entertained the idea of commencing an annuity fund for aged Freemasons, but it was some time before he was able to get any support from the Grand Lodge. Still he persevered under the auspices of the late Grand Master, the Duke of Sussex, and the annual fund was commenced in 1842. Those brethren who can look back to the time I have stated will also recollect that a worthy and distinguished brother—our Bro. Crucifix—laid the first stone of the building for the reception of aged Freemasons; and in subsequent years, when there were two institutions, there was a general feeling that they ought to be united. Accordingly the Grand Lodge appointed a committee to consider that subject, and I had the honour to be appointed as the chairman of it. That was in 1849. In 1850 I helped to consecrate the Asylum at Croydon, the Widows' Fund being added in 1849, and the first election took place in 1850. I will not detain you with the progress of the institution from that period, but I have obtained a few facts from Bro. Farnfield, and I have selected a few figures which show the present position of the institution, and which I will read to you, and in doing so I hope that you will not think I detain you too long. The annuity fund for aged Freemasons has an annual income of £1,230, composed of £500 from the Grand Lodge, £100 from the Grand Chapter, and the dividends on landed property amounting to £630, the residue of the expenditure being made up from subscription, which are varied and productive, one third of which are invested. The expenditure from 1843 to 1867 amounts in all to £27,769 5s., and the expenditure since that period had gone on increasing at the rate of about £500 a year. As regards the Widows' Fund, that part of the institution was established in 1849, and its income derived in a similar manner to the other fund, viz., £300 from the Grand Lodge, £100 from the Grand Chapter, and £350 from dividends. The donations amount the £1,150, and of that sum one-third is invested. The total expenditure from this fund has been £10,655. After the election in May last, the number of aged brethren who had received the benefit of this fund was 88, at an annual cost of £2,177. The money is sufficient to maintain the asylum, which is free of all rent, and there is £1,000 invested in the fund, which is applicable to any repairs the institution may require. At the last election in May a considerable number of aged brethren and widows of brethren were not elected, and on the present list there are approved by the committee as candidates twenty-five aged brethren and sixteen widows. On their behalf I appeal to your liberality, to your generosity, and call upon you to furnish the funds by which the committee may have sufficient means to meet the claims for the support of this institution. Charity is the distinguishing characteristic of our order. It blesses him who gives as well as him who receives, and no Mason can be engaged in a duty more consistent with our Order than in supporting our institution. The toast was heartily responded to.

Bro. Farnfield, the Secretary, then read the list of subscriptions, and the following are a few of the principal items:—Bro. Stephen Blair, Prov. G.M. for East Lancashire, £15; T. M. Talbot, Prov. G.M. for South Wales, £125 19s. 6d.; Metham,

D. Prov. G.M. for Devonshire, £161 17s. 6d.; Challis, S.W. 4, £50 and £10 annually; Lodge No. 5, £69 6s.; No. 7, £27; No. 8, £21 4s.; No. 16, £60, and Bro. McIntyre, also of No. 16, £20; No. 27, £74 6s.; No. 33, £38; No. 42, £26 5s.; No. 55, £59 15s.; Captain Starkie, No. 64, £50; No. 65, £65; No. 87, £44 10s.; No. 141, £40; No. 129, £21; No. 169, £30; No. 172, £70 18s., with a promise from Bro. the Rev. J. W. Laughlin, Chaplain of the lodge, and incumbent of St. Peter's, Saffron-hill, to preach a sermon on behalf of the Institution; Bro. A. Dobie, chairman, £20; Bro. Strong, surgeon to the Institution, £25; No. 174, £37; No. 177, £18 3s.; No. 179, £36; No. 228 (Bro. Terry) £192 7s.; No. 321, £77 10s.; No. 315, £23; No. 487 (Bro. Frost, Hampshire), £34; No. 749, £100; No. 829 (Bro. Snow), £105 from the lodge, and Bro. Snow's own contribution of £50; No. 851, £15 10s.; No. 933, £55 15s.; No. 975 (Bro. Little), £40 17s.; No. 1,154, £15; No. 1,178, £25.

The Chairman said the total amount received was £3,128, with three lists to come in.

Bro. Stephen Blair, P.G.M. for East Lancashire, proposed "The Health of the Chairman," and said, it gave him great pleasure to do so as he had known him for a great number of years, and he esteemed it an honour to have the privilege of proposing his health, which was a duty he preferred rather than have to return thanks for the Provincial Grand Masters, although he was the oldest then present. They had heard how their charities had progressed, and they received the support of the provinces. It was some time before they could know anything about them, but having come up to London and visited their festivals he saw the good that was done for them, upon which he made up his mind, heart, and soul, and determined to render them all the assistance that lay in his power. He commenced with the old men, then he went by the boys, the girls next, and then the aged widows of Freemasons. He was the Grand Master of a very large province, consisting of seventy-two lodges with upwards of 3,000 paying members, and he thought if he led them they would follow his example, and he had the satisfaction of bringing up £1,000 to the Boys' School, to the Girls' about a similar amount, and he hoped to do similar good to the other institutions. He asked them to drink bumpers to the health of their chairman, hoping that he might live long to preside over the Province of Surrey, and that the funds might continue to increase, not only for the support of this charity, but of the others.

The Chairman said, he thanked the brethren for the way in which the toast had been received, and although that was his first appearance in that capacity as chairman he could tell them sincerely and heartfelt his gratitude, if he had in any way advanced the interest of that charity. He had never failed to perform any duties he was called upon to perform in Masonry, he had been a member of every committee, and that evening he had met with a reception which he should ever be proud of, and for the support they had given to the charity on that occasion. He hoped that for many years that support would be given and that he should have the opportunity of meeting them.

Lord Eliot, M.P., said it was not his intention at that part of the evening to take up their time by making a long speech, but he would merely say that the establishment required a certain number of officers who took an interest in the institution. He gave "The Right Hon. Lord Southampton, Past President; the Trustees, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Committee, and Officers of the Institution," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Dr. Strong, surgeon to the institution.

Bro. Dr. Strong returned thanks. Bro. Nike, Prov. J.G.W., East Lancashire, proposed "The other Masonic Charities; the Boys' School, Festival 11th of March; and the Girls' School, Festival, 13th of May;" and he said, from personal information he knew that no better information could be received than was given in their Masonic schools. The toast was well received.

Bro. Binckes responded on behalf of the boys' school, and said that, although it had been thought by some persons that the festival for the benefit of aged Freemasons could not be an annual institution without injury to the others, he for one never entertained that opinion, and the result had shown that there had been no falling off, but increased support to the other institutions. He rejoiced at the great support the charity had received that evening, and he congratulated Bro. Farnfield upon it. They were running a friendly rivalry to see who could do the most good; but they required their help; and he would repeat what he had before said, that Masonic hearts were large enough and their purses were deep enough to support all their institutions. The boys' school, however, was in a very peculiar

position to all the rest, for they were £10,000 in debt; their property was mortgaged to strangers, and they were unable to admit those who were knocking at their doors seeking for admission. They had plenty of room, but not the funds to admit the boys; and he hoped that at the next festival for the boys' school the subscription would be at least double what it was that evening.

Bro. Patten also briefly advocated the interests of the girls' school, the festival for which would take place on the 13th of May.

"The Ladies" and "The Stewards" were afterwards toasted, and the proceedings were brought to a close.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. George Tedder, assisted by Miss Rose Hersee, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Miss Palmer, Bros. Moutain Smith, C. Braid, and Farquharson. Bro. Henry Parker presided at the pianoforte.

Bro. Spencer officiated as toastmaster with his usual ability; and it was generally admitted that the festival had been a great success.

METROPOLITAN.

OLD KING'S ARMS LODGE (No. 28).—The installation meeting of this old lodge (which dates from 1725) was held at the Freemason's Tavern on Monday, the 27th inst. The lodge was opened by Bro. Dr. O'Connor, the W.M.; assisted by his Wardens, Bros. Wright and Farmer; Past Masters Marsh, Paas, Gurnoy, etc., and several members and visitors, amongst whom we noticed Bros. Patten, P.G., S.B.; R. W. Stewart, P.M. 108; H. Muggeridge, P.M. 192; R. W. Little, P.M. 975; Bagstor; Gregory; Jones, 108; Percival; etc. The installation ceremony was ably performed by Bro. J. G. Marsh, P.M.; the incoming Master being Bro. G. H. Wright, S.W., who appointed or invested his officers as follows: Bros. W. O'Connor, I.P.M.; E. Farmer, S.W.; C. Tigne, J.W.; W. Paas, P.M., Treas.; W. Jaques, P.M., Sec.; G. W. Martin, S.D.; E. Twentyman, J.D.; W. Crawley, Tyler. The customary addresses were then delivered by the Installing Master, and, two gentlemen having been proposed for initiation, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a *recherche* banquet, served *à la Russe* in a most admirable manner under the supervision of Bro. C. Gosden, the manager. The musical arrangements for the evening, which had been entrusted to Bro. G. Tedder, were entirely successful; and the brethren were highly pleased with the vocalists, who comprised Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Miss Cox, Bros. Farquharson and Tedder himself. In the course of the proceedings, the interesting fact was elicited that the lodge was represented, *as usual*, this year by a Steward for *all* the Masonic Charities—viz.: the W.M. for the boys; Bro. Farmer, S.W., the girls; and Bro. Jaques, P.M., the esteemed Sec., for the Royal Benevolent Institution—thus clearly evincing that in this respect, as well as in every other, the "Old King's Arms" is worthy of its ancient *prestige* and renown.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—At the Bridge House Hotel, Wellington-street, Southwark, on Tuesday 21st inst., the installation meeting was held of this prosperous lodge. Bro. F. Walters, P.M., opened the lodge. Bro. E. N. Levy, P.M., initiated five gentlemen into Freemasonry. Bro. Dr. Dixon, P.M., took the chair. Bro. F. Walters, P.M., presented Bro. T. J. Sabine, S.W. and W.M. elect, for installation, and he was installed W.M., there being no less than twenty Installed Masters present as supporters. The W.M. then invested Bros. F. H. Ebsworth, S.W.; D. Rose, J.W.; E. Harris, P.M., Treas. re-invested; J. Doukin, P.M., Sec. re-invested; M. A. Loewenstark, S.D.; G. Free, J.D.; R. Ord, I.G.; G. J. Grace, Dir. of Cers. R. Stevens, W.S. The addresses were then given, and showed how well Bro. Dr. Dixon, P.M., was able to render this ceremony. There were present besides those already named, Bros. H. Moore, P.M.; G. Morris, P.M.; and an unusual large number of the brethren. The visitors were more numerous than usual and without attempting to enumerate all we noticed, Bros. E. H. Patten, H. Muggeridge, G. Bolton, W. Smith, C.E., Batthey. A first class dinner, served *à la russe*, followed.

LODGE OF TEMPERANCE (No. 169).—This old lodge met at the White Swan Tavern, High Street, Deptford, on Thursday, 16th inst. Bro. J. Payne, W.M., opened the lodge. He raised Bro. Clack to the third degree. Bro. Dr. Downing he passed to the second degree. Bro. G. Bolton, P.M., took the chair and installed Bro. J. Searle, P.M., as the W.M., in the presence

of a dozen Installed Masters. Bro. Searle, W.M., appointed and invested Bros. Woodland, S.W.; Pulley, J.W.; Brown, P.M., Treas. re-invested; J. T. Tibbals, P.M., Sec.; Williamson, S.D.; Rosenstock, J.D.; Holt, P.M., Tyler re-invested. Then followed the beautiful addresses which were admirably given, and when completed called forth the unanimous approbation of all present proving how well and correctly Bro. G. Bolton, P.M., is able to do and does this all important ceremony. Bro. J. Payne, I.P.M., had the customary five guinea jewel given to him. The lodge was closed amongst a large number of visitors were Bros. Walters, P.M. 73; Gale, P.M., 548, &c.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 201).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemason's Tavern, Great Queen Street, on Friday the 17th inst., at 3 p.m., and was very numerous attended. The W.M., Bro. J. Hammond, opened the lodge in the first degree, and the minutes were read and confirmed. Bros. Cecil Rogers and Stowden, 998, were then examined as to their proficiency, and passed out of the lodge which was then opened in the second degree. W. Bro. Dr. Goldsboro' then took the chair, in order to pass the above brethren, who were personal friends of his, to the second degree. The ceremony of passing having been performed in W. Bro. Goldsboro's usual able manner, the chair was resumed by the W.M., who opened the lodge in the third degree, and raised Bros. W. Rolls and G. Bainbridge to the sublime degree. W. Bro. Goldsboro' then presented Bro. J. Shepherd, S.W., as W.M. elect, and the W.M. proceeded with the ceremony of installation, until the formation of the board of installed masters, when the chair was taken by W. Bro. J. R. Sheen, who completed the ceremony, in a most impressive manner. The board of Installed Masters consisted of the following, W. Bros. E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B.; E. Spooner, J. R. Sheen, H. M. Arliss, R. Watts, J. Robinson, T. W. J. Goldsboro', M.D., P. Prov. S.G.W., North Wales and Shropshire; J. Dyer, R. J. Jeffer, W. Hammond, H. Carvill, J. Harris, J. Hammond, P.M.'s 201; F. Smith, P.M., 998; Rev. J. J. Farnham, P.M. 757, 1062, and P.D.S.G.W., Bombay; and T. Gervise, P.M. 247. The ceremony of installation being completed, the W.M. proceeded to invest his officers as follows: W. Bro. J. Hammond, J.P.M.; Bros. G. W. Martin, S.W.; F. Smith, J.W.; R. Watts, Treas.; E. Spooner, Sec.; P. Robinson, I.G.; M. Wolfsky, J.D.; H. M. Arliss, Dir. of Cers.; J. Robinson, W.S.; Rev. J. J. Farnham, I.G. W. Bro. Arliss then proposed that a P.M.'s jewel should be presented to W. Bro. J. Hammond, for his valuable services as W.M. during the past year. This was seconded by W. Bro. Goldsboro', and carried unanimously. W. Bro. Sheen then spoke of the loss recently sustained by Bro. S. May, by the destruction of Her Majesty's Theatre, he having lost costumes, which it had taken him many years and cost him some thousand of pounds to accumulate. He stated that a fund was being formed to present Bro. May with a purse from his Masonic and theatrical friends, and proposed that £5 5s. be voted from the lodge funds for that purpose. W. Bro. Robinson, in seconding this, said that no more generous Mason lived than Bro. May. In time of his prosperity, his heart and his hand had alike been ever open, and it was the duty of his brethren, now, to help him in the hour of his need. We are glad to announce that not only was the resolution unanimously carried, but that about £30 was afterwards subscribed to the fund by members of the lodge. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, after which the usual loyal, Masonic, and complimentary toasts were drunk, and some excellent songs were sung.

WHITTINGTON LODGE (No. 862).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at Bedford-row on the 20th inst. Bro. T. J. Nix opened the lodge, and was supported by Bros. W. F. Smith, P.M., as S.W.; J. Weaver, J.W.; J. G. Thompson, P.M., Treas.; R. W. Little, P.M., Sec.; J. Brett, P.M., W.S.; W. Hurstone, W.; F. N. Quilty, P.M.; J. Salisbury, J.D.; Allman, Frickenhaus, Stone, Tunks, Jones, Kingston, Walker, etc. In the course of the evening Bro. Bergoman was passed, and Messrs. A. Williams, G. Payne, and C. A. Payne were duly initiated, both ceremonies being admirably rendered by the W.M. The lodge having been closed the brethren proceeded to Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street (where the future meetings of the lodge will be held), and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The lodge was favoured with the presence of Bro. H. Tanner, W.M. (686, Bristol), who was the only visitor.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, 22nd inst. Bro. W. Andrews, W.M., presided. He passed Bro. Watson to the second degree.

Initiated Messrs. Reed and Furge into Masonry. The ballot for W.M. was for Andrews, W.M., two votes, F. Walters, Sec., six votes, J. Hawker, S.W., nine votes, and Bro. J. Hawker, S.W., was declared to be elected W.M. Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treas., Winn, P.M., Tyler. The lodge was closed. Visitors, G. Hill, 73; H. Endson, 73; Gale, 548, &c.

PROVINCIAL.

DORSETSHIRE.

BOURTON, DORSET.—*Lodge [of Science (No. 437).—Installation of Meeting.*—The brethren of this lodge met on Thursday, the 9th ult., for the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. J. W. Parfitt. The impressive ceremony was very ably performed by Bro. G. Parfitt, P.M. 976, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, assisted by Bros. Collett, P.M. 135, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers; Jelley, P.M. 976, P.G.S.D.; Heginbotham, W.M. 976; and Atwell, W.M. 437, P. Prov. G. P. At the close of the ceremony the W.M. appointed and invested the following brethren officers for the ensuing year; viz.:—Bros. Atwell, I.P.M.; Luce, S.W.; Shepherd, J.W.; Edwards, S.D.; Sherring, J.D.; Matthews, I.G.; Atwell, Treas.; Russell, Sec.; Fry, Steward. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, supplied by Bro. Meaden in his usual liberal and satisfactory style. Ample justice having been done to the good things provided, the brethren retired to the lodge room, when Bro. Dr. Luce, on behalf of the Wincanton brethren in a most eloquent speech presented to Bro. Atwell a very handsome P.M. jewel and apron as a token of their regard and esteem for his services as W.M. for the past year. Bro. Atwell replied by thanking the brethren for their kind expressions and handsome present. The lodge was then closed and the brethren then spent a very harmonious meeting.

HAMPSHIRE.

PORTSMOUTH.—*Portsmouth Lodge (No. 487).*—The ceremony of installing Bro. Samuel Hogg as the R.W. Master of this lodge for the ensuing year took place on Thursday, the 9th ult., when there was a large attendance of the brethren, among those present being Bros. E. Emery, P.S.G.W., Hants; T. Cousins, P.J.G.W., Hants; A. P. Fabian, P. Prov. S.G.W.; J. L. Rastrick, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Ogburn, P. Prov. J.G.W.; M. E. Frost, Prov. G. Treas., and many other provincial officers, past and present, besides several P.M.'s and W.M.'s of lodges in the neighbourhood. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. E. Frost, P.M., Prov. G. Treas., Hants, in an able and impressive manner, and the W.M. was subsequently received by the brethren with the customary salutes. The following were appointed officers of the lodge, and invested by the W.M.: Bros. H. Hollingsworth, I.P.M.; J. Douglas, S.W.; A. Cuddlipp, J.W.; E. M. Wells, P.M., Treas.; M. E. Frost, P.M., Sec.; E. Pratt, S.D.; J. Astridge, J.D.; R. H. C. Ubsdell, I.G.; H. T. Cecil and G. S. Lancaster, Stewards; G. Peters and Hawgood, Assistant Stewards; J. Watson, Tyler. There was a numerous attendance at the banquet which followed, the W.M. presiding, and giving the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were responded to by the brethren.

GOSPORT.—*Gosport Lodge (No. 903).*—The ceremony of installing the W.M. of this lodge for the ensuing year took place at the regular monthly meeting at the Star Hotel, on Tuesday evening, the 14th ult., when Bro. E. S. Main, S.W., the W.M. elect, was duly installed in the chair of K.S. by Bro. J. Ogburn, P.M. Royal Sussex Lodge, 342, P. Prov. J.G.W. Hants, who performed the ceremony with great ability. The W.M. afterwards appointed and invested his officers for the year. The following are the officers of the lodge: Bros. E. S. Main, W.M.; J. Wilson, I.P.M.; Dr. G. W. Egles, S.W.; E. Groves, J.W.; Rev. W. Wray, Chap.; J. Wilson, Treas.; H. W. Sperring, Sec.; J. Brodie, S.D.; James McIntyre, J.D.; J. Wallingford, P.M., D.C.; J. Cooper, Steward; G. Pitt, I.G.; L. Cauvin, Tyler. The W.M. presided at the banquet which followed, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to during the evening.

PORTSEA.—*Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 342).*—At the monthly meeting of the members of this lodge, on Wednesday, the 15th ult., Bro. H. Cawte, J.W., the W.M. elect, was installed, according to the ancient custom, as the W.M. of the lodge for

the ensuing year. There was a numerous attendance of the brethren, among those present being Bros. E. Emery, Prov. S.G.W.; T. Cousins, Prov. J.G.W.; M. E. Frost, Prov. G. Treas.; H. M. Emmanuel, P. Prov. S.G.W.; J. Ogburn, P. Prov. J.G.W.; J. L. Rastrick, P. Prov. J.G.W.; H. Ford, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Forbes, P. Prov. J.G.W., Essex; E. M. Wells, P. Prov. G.S.D.; W. A. Wolfe, P. Prov. G.S.D.; Slade, P.M.; Stapleford, P.M.; J. R. Barnes, P.M.; Redward, P.M.; Wilkins, P.M.; Taohy, P.M.; Friedeberg, W.M.; and several other P.M.'s and W.M.'s, including, among others, the W.M.'s of the Phoenix (Portsmouth), Fareham, and Gosport Lodges. The installation ceremonies were most ably and impressively conducted by Bro. J. Ogburn, the Senior P.M. of the lodge, and the W.M. was subsequently saluted by the brethren with the usual honours. The following officers for the ensuing year were appointed:—Bros. J. Friedeberg, I.P.M.; R. Barber, S.W.; H. J. Guy, J.W.; E. Emery, P.M. Treas.; W. A. Wolfe, P.M., Sec.; W. Bowles, S.D.; J. Morgan, J.D.; C. S. Wolloons (W.M. 390), Dir. of Cers.; Page, I.G.; G. Wilkins, P.M. and G. A. Green, Stewards; and Copus, Tyler. Previous to the the installation ceremony, a vote of thanks, engrossed on vellum, in a handsome gilt frame, was presented by Bro. Friedeberg, the retiring W.M., to Bro. Barnes, P.M., for the able manner in which he had fulfilled the duties of Treasurer of the Royal Sussex Lodge for the last seven years. Bro. Barnes briefly returned thanks for the testimonial. Bro. Ogburn, P.M., then presented to Bro. Wolfe, P.M., a very handsome testimonial, of the value of forty guineas, being the voluntary subscriptions of the members of the lodge, in recognition of his inestimable services as Secretary of the Royal Sussex Lodge for many years past, and of his truly Masonic career whilst connected with the lodge. The testimonial consisted of a massive tea and coffee service, of the Louis Quatorze pattern, having the Masonic emblems on each article (supplied by Bro. H. M. Emanuel, of 12, Ordnance Row, Portsea), and bearing the following inscriptions:—Presented by the Brethren of the Royal Sussex Lodge, Portsea, No. 342, to Bro. William Alfred Wolfe, P.M., Honorary Secretary, and P. Prov. G.D. Hants, as a mark of their fraternal regard and esteem.—January 16, 1867. Bro. Ogburn alluded at some length to Bro. Wolfe's services to the Craft, and to his career as a Freemason, and concluded by begging his acceptance of this mark of their esteem. Bro. Wolfe thanked the brethren in suitable terms for the very handsome testimonial presented to him. About fifty brethren sat down to the banquet, provided by Bro. Wilkins, Portsea. The W.M. presided, supported right and left by the Prov. Grand Officers and the P.M.'s of the lodge. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly given and responded to.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*John of Gaunt Lodge (No. 523).*—A monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemason's Hall on Thursday, the 16th ult. There were present Bros. G. H. Hodges, W.M., W. Kelly, P.M., and D. Prov. G.M.; Duff, P.M. (as S.W.); G. Toller, J.W.; Sculthorpe, Sec.; J. C. Clarke, S.D.; Sargeant, I.G.; M. H. Lewin; Baines, Mace; Partridge; C. Johnson (P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works, Jersey); Organist; and others. Visitors: Bros. Taylor, W.M., Arberatrum Lodge, Derby; Ekin, Scientific Lodge, Cambridge; Attwood, Garden City Lodge, Chicago, U.S. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, the minutes of the last lodge were read and confirmed; after which the lodge was opened in the second degree. Two passings and a raising were due; but, the candidates not being in attendance, the ceremony of passing was worked for instruction, Bro. Sculthorpe being the candidate, and the ceremony being performed by the W.M.; after which the D. Prov. G. M. gave the lecture on the tracing board of the degree. The lodge was then raised to the third degree, and, after being closed in the third and second degrees, was finally closed in harmony, two gentlemen were proposed for admission into the Order. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, and separated at an early hour.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Isca Lodge (No. 683).*

The installation of Bro. Thomas Williams (proprietor and editor of the *Star of Gwent*), as W.M. of this lodge, took place at the Masonic Hall, Great Dock-street, on the 15th ult. In

the absence of Bro. Bridges, P.G.S.B. of England (from whom a telegram was received stating that he was unavoidably detained), Bro. Middleton, Prov. G.J.W., officiated as Installing Master. From sixty to seventy brethren, including several visitors from other provinces, were present, and the following appointments were made, viz.:—Bros. J. W. Bussell, S.W.; R. J. Chambers, J.W.; Rev. S. Fox, Chap.; H. Mullock, Treas.; W. Parfitt, S.D.; A. H. Tapson, J.D.; R. Bond, Dir. of Cers.; H. J. Grover, Organist; Dr. Butler, I.G.; Frank Lewis and J. H. Skeats, Stewards; and W. McFee, Tyler.

The lodge having been closed in due form, the brethren adjourned to the Westgate Hotel, where the banquet took place at six o'clock. The newly-installed W.M. presided.

Grace was chanted before and after meat, Bro. J. Groves leading. The post prandial proceedings were inaugurated by

The W.M. proposing, in appropriate and eloquent terms, "The Queen and Craft"—a toast which was received with right loyal cheers. Referring to the annals of Freemasonry, the W.M. remarked that kings in every age had been promoters of the Art. Of this fact, the house of Brunswick furnished an illustrious example; for it was well known our own beloved Queen was the daughter of a Freemason; and of her several uncles—two of whom had sat upon the throne of Great Britain—were also members of the Craft; while a third, the Duke of Sussex, who was a good and enthusiastic Freemason, had been for thirty years Grand Master of England. Moreover, her most gracious Majesty herself was patroness of one of the most distinguished Masonic Charities; and her daughter, our own Princess Royal, was wedded to a Prince who was a Mason. The W.M. then made a graceful and loyal allusion to the private life of our well beloved Sovereign, especially referring to the volume of extracts from her Majesty's diary, recently published, and which, he observed, would be read with the greatest interest throughout the whole world. Whatever opinion might exist with regard to the particular time at which that record of the inner life of Queen Victoria's Court should have been sent forth, there could be but one opinion as to its contents—these were deeply interesting, pathetically simple, and their simplicity proved their truth. The book threw a flood of light upon such a life of purity and happiness as, it did the heart good to know, could exist amidst the pomp, and circumstance, and glitter, and excitement of a court, presided over by the most powerful monarch on earth, over whose realm, as over the realm of Freemasonry, the sun never set.

Solo and chorus—"God save the Queen."

The W.M. then gave "The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, and the Grand Lodge of England," which was duly honoured.

The W.M. proposed "The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Rolls, and the Grand Lodge of Monmouthshire." Having expressed sincere regret at his illness, and an earnest wish that he might be restored to his wonted health, the W.M. remarked that the R.W. the Prov. G. Master had given many practical proofs of his zeal for Freemasonry, one of the most recent being that he had subscribed out of his own private purse a sum which enabled the masters of all the lodges in his province to be life governors of one of the Masonic Charities.

Bro. R. Laybourne then gave "The Health of the Worshipful Master, 683."

The W.M., in responding, alluded in humorous terms to an article in one of the popular serials on "Talking" and among the many varieties of the species "Talker" he instanced the "phraseological"—the man who never called a "spade" a spade. Your "phraseological talker," were he invited to a dinner, such as they now enjoyed, would dignify it by the style and title of "banquet;" with him, every physician was a son of Æsculapius; and were there a phraseological talker now present he would call Bro. Groves a disciple of Apollo, and having heard him sing as he had sung that night, he would, without imputing to Bro. Groves pugilistic proclivities, have said he had "struck the living lyre." Unfortunately he (the W.M.) was not a phraseological talker; but he desired, in the most simple yet comprehensive manner he could command, to return them his sincere thanks not only for the honour they had done him in rallying around him that evening in such large numbers, but also for the high honour conferred by electing and installing him Master of his Lodge.

The W.M. then gave "The health of the Installing Master," who had performed the ceremony with so much ability, though called upon at a moment's notice.

Bro. Middleton returned thanks.

The W.M. then proposed "The Health of the Immediate P.M. Bro. J. Maddocks.

Bro. Maddocks suitably responded.

The W.M. proposed in suitable terms "The Health of Bro. Philip Bird, W.M. of the Bute Lodge, Cardiff, who cordially acknowledged the compliment.

Bro. Roper then gave "The Lodges of the Province," coupled with the W.M.'s of the Silurian and St. George's Lodges.

Bros. C. H. Oliver and S. G. Homfray returned thanks.

Bro. W. Pickford proposed "The Visiting Brethren," coupled with the name of a Brother whom he regarded *par excellence* as a distinguished visitor, who would be always welcome at Newport—Bro. H. Shepard.

Bro. Sheppard responded in one of his characteristically genial and happy speeches, in which he repudiated the idea of being classed among visitors, because, although removed to another and distant locality, he still felt himself identified with the town of Newport.

"The Officers of the Lodge" was then given from the chair, and responded to by Bros. Bussell, S.W., and Chambers, J.W.

Bro. Middleton proposed "The P.M.'s of the Silurian Lodge," which was acknowledged by Bros. B. Thomas, Coombs, Hellyor, Pickford, J. Griffiths, W. West, and J. Hyndman.

Bro. J. Griffiths gave "The Governors of the Masonic Hall, to which Bro. Middleton replied.

"The Ladies" was then proposed by Bro. Maddocks, and acknowledged by Bro. Frank Lewis.

Bro. Pickford gave "The Masonic Charities."

The toast "To all poor and distressed Masons," from the chair, brought the list to a termination.

The evening was spent in the most harmonious and fraternal manner.

The healths of Bro. Groves and of the brethren who had kindly rendered their services in the musical department, were drunk in a bumper; and the excellent catering of the host was duly recognised.

NORWICH.

NORWICH.—*Perseverance Lodge* (No. 213).—The annual meeting of this lodge for the installation of the W.M. elect, was held at the Freemasons' Hall on the 28th ult. Among the brethren present there was a large attendance of P.M.'s and visitors, namely: Bros. B. W. Harcourt, the retiring W.M.; J. Dawbarn, P.G. Reg.; A. M. F. Morgan, P.G.S.; H. Mason, P.G., Dir. of Cers., P.M.; T. Campling, P.M.; J. Boyce, P.M.; J. Dunsford, P.M.; J. W. Taylor, W.M.; J. English, P.M.; G. Stevens, W.M.; Whitwell, P.M.; Wick, P.M.; Gidney, P.M.; J. Short, W.M.; Rev. S. Titlow, P. Prov. G. Chap.; J. Marshall, P.M.; Deacon, W.M., &c. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, and an initiation having taken place, the ceremony of installing Bro. John Short, the W.M. elect was ably and impressively performed by Bro. Dawbarn, who for several years past has most obligingly fulfilled the office of Installing Master in connection with *Perseverance Lodge*. In the course of the ceremony the newly installed W.M., appointed the following as his officers for the ensuing year: Bros. G. Brittain, S.W.; Harold Youngman, J.W.; B. Quinton, S.D.; Chatfield, J.D.; W. Wright, I.G.; Gidney, Sec.; and Youngman, Treas., were re-appointed. There were two new appointments of officers, one having taken place in consequence of the retirement of the late J.D. (Bro. Turner), who is about leaving Norwich. Before the lodge was closed three or four candidates were proposed for initiation, and two or three sums of money were voted for the relief of distressed brethren. Fortunately the lodge funds are in a very healthy state. About forty brethren afterwards partook of a *recherche* banquet provided by Bro. Woods, and given in compliment to Bro. Harcourt, the retiring Master. The toasts proposed were generally of the usual Masonic and complimentary character, but there was a slight divergence from the ordinary gaiety of the festive board when the brethren simultaneously rose at the call of the W.M., and listened to a very touching address from Bro. Dawbarn upon the death of the late Bro. Colsey, who lost his life whilst bathing at Yarmouth last summer. The health of Bro. Harcourt was proposed in laudatory terms by the W.M., and Bro. Short had his health proposed and drank in a manner which showed an earnest desire on the part of the brethren to rally round and support him during his year of office.

SOUTH WALES (EASTERN DIVISION).

NEATH.—*Cambrian Lodge*, No. 364.—The brethren of this lodge assembled in goodly numbers at their hall on Tuesday last, the 20th ult., to celebrate the installation of Bro. W. M. Rees, P.G.S., as W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was conducted in a most able and impressive manner by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. E. J. Morris, after which the W.M. appointed the following brethren officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. W. H. Bell, S.W.; J. Hill, J.W.; N. B. Allan, Treas.; J. L. Matthews, Sec.; C. S. Gardner, S.D.; J. Samuel, J.D.; E. J. Pole, I.G.; R. R. Thomas, Stew. At the conclusion of the ceremony, thirty-six of the brethren retired to the Castle Hotel to a banquet, which was served up in a magnificent manner, reflecting the highest credit on Bro. Henry Hancock. The W.M. Bro. W. M. Rees presided, and the vice-chair was ably filled by Bro. W. H. Bell, S.W. The following are the names of the brethren who favoured the W.M. with their company:—Bros. E. J. Morris, D. Pro. G.M.; F. D. Michael, P. Prov. S.G.W.; C. Bath, P. Pro. J.G.W.; H. L. Pritchard, P. Pro. P.G.W.; W. Cox, P. Pro. G.T.; Rowland Thomas, P.J.G.W.; N. R. Allan, P. Pro. G.T.; W. Whittington, P. Prov. G. Sec.; D. Williams, Prov. G. Sec.; P. Donaldson, Prov. G. Stew.; How. Cuthbertson, P.M.; C. S. B. Gardner, R. W. Thomas, H. H. Garter, W. Jones, E. J. Poor, R. Phillips, W. Jones, J. Jones Hewson, E. J. Fricker, W. H. Bell, John Smith, Harry Davies, W. G. Davies, George Jones, John Hill, John Samuel, William Andrew, William Whitelow, Thomas Jones, C. Daniel; also the visiting brethren, Bros. Chigwidden, Wilson, and Homfray. The party broke up at eleven, having spent a most agreeable evening, the pleasure of which was highly enhanced by choice and excellent music and singing by Bros. H. Davis, W. Cox, J. Jones Hewson, and E. J. Fricker.

IRELAND.

OMAGH.

CAPPAGH LODGE (No. 350).—On Wednesday evening, the 8th ult., this lodge met at six o'clock, in their lodge room, to celebrate the feast of St. John the Evangelist. The lodge being opened in due form, and the ordinary business transacted, Bro. Dr. Love, in name of the lodge, presented our late W.M., Bro. G. Quails, with a P.M.'s jewel as a token of the regard and esteem in which he is held by the brethren of No. 350, and to mark their appreciation of his efficiency and ability, and the satisfactory discharge of his onerous duties during the past six months. The J.W. was then requested to call the lodge to refreshments. At seven o'clock the brethren sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by Mrs. McConner, Stewart Arms Hotel; and it reflects great credit on the establishment for the superior quality of the various dishes and the style in which it was served. The decorations of the room were very neatly arranged, and the mottoes, "Prosperity to the Lodges of Tyrone," "Peace," "Love," "Harmony," were very appropriate on the occasion, and over the entrance the word "Welcome" was conspicuously observed. The usual Masonic toasts were given and responded with that warm of heart known only to Freemasons. Bro. Dr. West contributed greatly to the harmony of the evening by singing some very choice airs in his usual happy manner. The lodge closed in love and harmony at an early hour. This lodge, though one of the oldest in Ireland, has only been working for the past year, having remained dormant for a considerable time, and through the exertions of Bro. C. Scott, P.G.R.C., it was revived in January, 1867, and, if it progresses as favourably as it has done since then, there is every prospect of it becoming second to none in the kingdom. The officers for ensuing six months are Bros. R. McConnells, W.M.; A. M. Elroy, S.W.; J. Glendinning, J.W.; C. Scott, Sec.; J. Cunningham, S.D.; Towney, B.B.; Ball, J.D.; J. Worthington, I.G.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

DOMATIC CHAPTER (No. 177).—A convocation of this chapter was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 23rd inst., when a goodly number of companions attended. The elections

for the ensuing year were all unanimous, and resulted as follows: Comps. C. B. Payne, M.E.Z.; R. W. Little (P.Z. 975), H.; W. H. Hubbard, J.; H. G. Buss, P.Z. S.E.; T. H. Foulgor, S.N.; I. Smith, P.Z.; Treas. W. Gilbert, P.S. A Past Principals' Jewel was voted to Comp. Sutton, the retiring M.E.Z., and the companions then adjourned to the banquet table, where, in addition to those mentioned, the following companions supported the M.E.Z.: P.Z.'s Brett, Tyrell, Cottebrune, Adams, Sisson, and Dickie. Comps. Dalwood, Lee, J. R. Foulger, Berri, Coutts, Goddes, Bolton, Cubitt, Lacey, M.D., etc., and another pleasant evening was added to the many which it has been our good fortune to enjoy at the Domatic Chapter.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.—*Consecration of the Rosslyn Royal Arch Chapter* (No. 119), and *the Thetis Royal Arch Chapter* (No. 122).—The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland having granted charters for the above two chapters, both in the Glasgow province, the companions met, on the evening of the 24th ult., within the St. Marks Hall, Buchanan-street, for the purpose of consecration and installation. The hall was well filled, in spite of the unfavourable and stormy weather; and the companions who came through from Edinburgh, headed by the Grand Scribe, E., Comp. Lindsay Mackersy, are deserving of considerable credit for the readiness with which they had come forward upon this occasion to render their assistance and countenance to their companions of the west. The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter was opened in a room adjacent by M.E. Comps. F. A. Barrow, acting Grand Z.; Dr. Middleton, acting Deputy; Alexander Hay, acting G.H.; A. Kay, acting G.J.; Lindsay Mackersy, G.S.E.; F. L. Law, acting G.S.N. The following distinguished companions of the Glasgow province, viz.: Thomas M. Campbell, James Wallace, John Wallace, and W. Alexander, acting G. Sojs.; Comp. W. M. Bryce officiated as G. Janitor. A deputation was then received from the companions assembled, informing the G. office-bearers that they were prepared to receive them. The G. officers then proceeded to the hall, conducted by the deputation. The G.S.E. having called over the names of the respective office-bearers elect, and the 1st G. Principal having asked them if they accepted their respective offices, the answer being given in the affirmative, prayer was offered up by the 3rd G. Principal. The 1st G. Principal then administered the O.B. The 1st G. Principal then directed the G.S.G. to read the Charters of Erection and Constitution, which was done accordingly. The following is a list of the office-bearers of 119: John Anderson, 1st Principal; James Somerville, 2nd do.; John Stephenson, 3rd do.; William Wright, Scribe E.; William Dobbie, Scribe N.; George Elder, George Thallon, and — Healy, Sojs.; William Albin, Dir. of Music; George Paterson, Dir. of Cers.; Patrick Ross, Supt. of Works; John Paterson, Janitor. The office-bearers were then presented to the G.Z., and duly installed and invested with the clothing and jewels of their respective offices. The G.Z. then addressed the non office-bearers and members of both chapters in a very impressive manner, reminding them of their various duties. The 1st G. Principal then proclaimed both chapters, viz.: Rosslyn, 119, and the Thetis, 122, regularly constituted, and their office-bearers duly installed. The Supreme G. Chapter then retired to the adjacent room, where it was closed with all solemnity, according to the usages of the Order. The office-bearers and companions met afterwards and sat down to supper. The Rosslyn in the Hall, 19, Croy-place, and the Thetis in the Nelson Hotel, 45, Clyde-place. The members of the Supreme Chapter supped with the companions of the Rosslyn in their Chapter Rooms, 19, Croy-place, and afterwards visited the Thetis, in the Nelson Hotel. We may add that five chapters have been added to the list of the Supreme Grand list during the past twelve months. We wish them all every success.

MARK MASONRY.

CORNWALL.

HAYLE.—*Cornubian Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 87).

The third annual meeting of this lodge took place on Thursday, 16th inst., for the purpose of installing Bro. Dr. Mudge, P.G.S.D., as W.M. for the ensuing year, the lodge was opened at 2 o'clock, p.m., in due form, the minutes of the last meeting

were read and confirmed, there being no other business than that of the installation. Bro. Thomas Chirgwin, P.M. 87, &c., G.S. and P.G.S.W., took the chair for installation, assisted by Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.M., 78, 87, 94, &c., G.O. and P.G.S. Bro. Dr. Mudge, P.G.S.D., was then introduced by the retiring W.M., Frank Harvey, P.G.M.O., after going through the necessary forms according to the ancient custom all the brethren who were not P.M.'s were ordered to retire. After being again readmitted they saluted Bro. Dr. Mudge as W.M. of the Cornubian Lodge, No. 87, in such manner as is only known by Mark Masters. The ceremony was faithfully performed, particulars need not here be stated as Bros. Chirgwin and Hughan are so well known by the readers of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE that the mention of their names is a satisfactory proof that the ceremonies were ably performed. The W.M. then proceeded to invest his officers as follows: Bros. Frank Harvey, I.P.M., P.G.M.O.; J. H. Burall, S.W.; W. J. Crotch, P.G. Prov. J.W.; F. H. Pool, M.O.; George Eustice, S.O.; W. W. Mildren, J.O.; N. J. West, Chap.; F. H. Pool, Treas.; John Coombe, P.G.S.W., R. of M. and Sec.; James Pool, S.D.; Martin Dunn, J.D.; W. W. Tabb, I.G.; and Christopher Trathen, Tyler. After the usual address had been given to the officers, Bro. Hughan, favoured them with an eloquent lecture on ancient and modern history of the Mark Degree, which was not only a credit but a honour to him, if the same were published in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE it would be highly appreciated by its readers, and richly rewarded would he be that read it. A vote of thanks was then proposed to Bro. Hughan and Chirgwin for the able manner in which they had conducted the ceremony, and for the interest that they take in Masonry, the same was ordered to be entered into the minutes. The lodge was then closed in solemn form by the W.M., and the brethren adjourned to the banquet-room, where there was a *recherché* banquet provided by Bro. Crotch (an old Mason of sixty years standing and equally good as old), comprising every delicacy in season, and wines of the rarest flavour and bouquet. Bro. Dr. Mudge, W.M. and P.G.S.D., presided and the I.P.M. Frank Harvey, P.G.M.O., filled the vice-chair. An agreeable and fraternal evening was spent, and the brethren retired at an early hour in love and harmony, trusting to the Great Architect of the Universe that they should meet again.

DEVONSHIRE.

TOTNES.—*Pleiades Lodge* (No. 26.)

In the number of the MAGAZINE of December 28th ult., it was announced that on the 19th a preliminary meeting had been held to consider the question of the revival of Mark Masonry at Totnes, which was decided in the affirmative. No time was lost, as appears from the fact that on that day five weeks, Thursday, January 23rd, the arrangements were brought to a successful issue by the opening of a new lodge, under warrant bearing date December 26th, 1867, as the successor of the Dart Lodge of Mark Masters, 45, whose warrant and apparatus had been consumed in the fire which destroyed the premises and furniture in December, 1859, the only article saved being the keystone, which has now again been brought into use, and the Minute Book, which was in the possession of the Secretary.

On the evening of the day named, the brethren of the Mark degree assembled at the Masonic Rooms, Mill-lane, there being present Bros. Dr. Hopkins, P.M. 74, W.M. designate; Rev. R. Bowden, S.W., designate; John Heath, J.W., designate (these three being nominated in the warrant); John Marks, A. S. Distin, John Adams; and as visitors, Bro. Vincent Bird, P.G.M.O., and W.M. of St. Aubyn's Lodge, 64, Devonport, Installing Master, and Bro. Wherry. Two of the promoters were unavoidably absent.

At 7.30 p.m. proceedings commenced by the W.M. designate introducing Bro. Bird as Installing Master, who, after having ascertained that all present were Master Masons, called for the warrant, which was read. He then announced that as Bro. Dr. Hopkins was already an Installed Master, it would be unnecessary to go through the whole of the ceremony, and at once proceeded to administer the obligation of W.M. elect, after which he placed him in the chair of the lodge. The customary procession, salutation, and proclamation took place.

The W.M. then appointed his officers, investing those who were present as follows: Bros. Rev. R. Bowden, S.W.; John Heath, J.W.; John Marks, M.O.; R. H. Watson, S.O.; William Oldrey, J.O.; A. S. Distin, Treas.; John Adams, S.D. The

Installing Master completed the ceremony by delivering the charges to the Wardens, Officers and brethren.

The W.M. commenced his duties by opening the lodge in the prescribed form.

The minutes of the preliminary meetings were read and confirmed.

A ballot was taken for the following candidates for advancement at seven days' notice, which proved unanimous in their favour: Bros. Arthur B. Niner, Hatter, of Totnes; John Hains, Surgeon, of Bridgetown; George Heath, Surveyor, of Exeter; Thomas Edward Owen, Surgeon, of Totnes; John Crocker, Tyler of the Pleiades Craft Lodge, as a serving brother.

The W.M., having announced that the by-laws of the lodge, as previously agreed upon, had received the sanction of the board in London, to which they are required to be submitted, the M.S. copy was signed in open lodge by the W.M. and Wardens. Estimates for printing the same, and also a blank form of circulars of summons, having been laid before the brethren, it was determined that they should be accepted. The W.M. presented to the lodge the following books which he had prepared for its use, with the proper headings, &c.: M.S. Book of By-Laws, Register, with about two hundred marks copied from ancient buildings, for adoption by candidates; Attendance Book, Register for returns to Grand Lodge and Prov. Grand Lodge; Scripture extracts for Chaplain, Tabular Register of Fees and Subscriptions; Receipt Book; also twenty copies of Mark Master's Song and two diagrams.

The W.M. stated that he had improvised a wicket, part of which had been presented by the J.W., to serve the purpose until the lodge could afford to have a superior one constructed on the plan a drawing of which was offered.

Five brethren from Newton were proposed as candidates for advancement at the meeting in March. Of those already balloted for three were unavoidably absent.

Bro. A. B. Niner and J. Crocker were introduced, properly prepared, and duly advanced to the degree of Mark Master by the W.M., who also gave them the lecture illustrative of the history and traditions of the degree. He afterwards invested the former of these brethren as Secretary, and announced to the latter his appointment as Tyler of the lodge. The W.M. unexpectedly delivered a formal opening address, which was listened to by the brethren with the most perfect attention, and which will be found in another page.

On the proposition of the Wardens it was resolved that the Secretary be requested to procure twelve copies of the Book of Constitutions for presentation to candidates on their advancement.

The W.M. having inquired four times, and no other business offering, the lodge was closed at half-past nine, in perfect harmony, and with solemn prayer.

SUSSEX.

BRIGHTON.—*Royal Sussex Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 75).

The installation meeting of this young and successful lodge was held on the 25th ult., at the Old Ship Hotel, at five o'clock, when Bro. J. M. Cunningham, W.M., Grand Steward, presided, and in a most impressive manner advanced Bros. W. Hudson and James Dobson to the ancient degree. The report of the audit committee having been presented by the Secretary, Bro. Sabine, G.S., Bro. Cunningham, W.M.G.S., then proceeded to instal Bro. H. N. Goulty, S.W. and W.M. elect, as the W.M. of the lodge for the ensuing year. The ceremony was beautifully rendered by the outgoing W.M. At the conclusion the W.M. then invested his officers as follows:—Bros. J. M. Cunningham, G.S., as I.P.M.; Nelson Smith, S.W.; T. Cook, J.W.; W. R. Wood, Treas.; T. J. Sabine, Chap.; G. R. Lockyer, Sec.; E. Lewis, M.O.; M. Hornsey, S.O.; B. Chatfield, J.O.; E. Wrigglesworth, R.M.; H. C. Davis, S.D.; W. J. Smith, J.D.; A. Cowley, I.G.; E. Turner, P.M.P.G.J.D., Dir. of Cers.

On the motion of Bro. T. J. Sabine, the sum of one guinea was voted to the list of Bro. Thos. Meggy, P.G.S., who is acting as P.G. Steward to the Boys' School on behalf of the Mark Lodges and Mark Masons of England.

Several brethren were proposed for advancement, and one as a joining member, when, all business being ended, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony at seven o'clock, and the brethren adjourned to the Ladies' Boudoir, Royal Pavilion, where Bro.

Cowley had prepared a most luxurious banquet, every delicacy in season being placed before the guests. The tables were elaborately decorated with hothouse flowers, and the dessert comprised the most choice fruits. The wines, supplied from the cellars of Bro. Turner, were of rare vintages, good age, and choice flavour. The singing during the evening was well supplied by Bros. A. Cowley, Wood, Turner, and Dobson.

Grace having been said,

The W.M., Bro. Goulty, rose and proposed the first toast, "The Queen and Mark Masonry," which was drunk with the customary devotional loyalty observed among Mark Masons. The next toast was introduced by the W.M. with a few complimentary observations, "The Right Worshipful Grand Master of Mark Masons," Bro. W. B. Beach, Esq., *M.P.*, which was duly honoured.

The W.M. then gave "The Deputy Grand Master," the Rev. R. G. Portal, and the Grand Officers present and past. This toast was responded to by

Bro. E. Turner, P.M., P.G.J.D., who said he thanked the brethren for the honour done the Grand Officers in the last toast, and congratulated the Masons of Brighton on the establishment of a Mark Masters Lodge in the town, the first one of the higher grades in Freemasonry, and he hoped ere long to see the whole of the higher grades fully represented in the town, and trusted the day would come quickly. For his own part he was prepared to assist in so doing, and to take his share of the work of spreading a knowledge and a respect for those high grades, nearly all of which he had become a member. In Mark Masonry assisted by Bros. Goulty and Sabine he had done so, and had no doubt that in a few years he should see a lodge of Mark Masons in every principal town of Sussex; he knew that his efforts would be seconded, supported and assisted by the Mark Masons of Brighton, as well as by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masons of England, on whose behalf he again thanked them.

Bro. J. M. Cunningham, I.P.M., Grand Steward, then proposed "The Health of the Newly Installed Worshipful Master of the Lodge," Bro. H. N. Goulty, and in doing so expressed warmly the pleasure he felt in this toast falling to his hands. He is a gentleman of position in the town, and has won the admiration of all who came in contact with him; by his gentlemanly manner, his kindness of heart, and his pleasant disposition he is gradually making a sure progress in Freemasonry. Respected by all who know him, and esteemed by every member of the Masonic body who had had the pleasure, I may say privilege, of meeting him. He is always ready to assist the distressed, to extend comfort and consolation to the unfortunate, the practice of that truly Masonic virtue, benevolence, and is one of the original founders of this lodge, his name being mentioned in the warrant as the first Junior Warden. In conclusion, he wished him long life, health and happiness.

The W.M. then replied: I assure you brethren it affords me great satisfaction to hear the words spoken by Bro. P.M. Cunningham, who is a very distinguished Mason, and whose good opinion was so heartily expressed, not as mere empty compliment, for he is a brother who always means what he says, and I thank him for the cordial manner in which he introduced the toast, and you brethren and officers for the unanimous manner in which you honoured me by responding to my name. I have no doubt during the present year we shall have a large accession of members to our lodge, no effort of mine will be wanting to maintain the effective efficiency of the lodge; so that at the end of my year of office I shall hand over my gavel to my successor as pure and unsullied as I have received it to-night from the hands of the distinguished brother who is now the I.P.M. of this lodge.

"The newly advanced brethren," was the next toast proposed by the W.M., who in appropriate terms, pointed out the duties, the position, and the hopes of all Mark Masons, so that this additional bond of union may be strengthened by the keystone of brotherly friendship.

Bro. W. Hudson said: In being introduced this evening by the W.M., and seconded by the late worthy Sec., Bro. Sabine, to this beautiful and highly instructive degree, so carefully rendered by Bro. Cunningham, I feel that an impression has been made on my mind, far beyond what I had contemplated. The ceremony of advancement very much delighted me and I hope under the guidance and instruction of the W.M. and officers of the lodge I shall make such progress in its teachings, as will in due time enable me to reach the highest post it is possible to confer on me by the members.

Br. James Dobson also replied: In Scotland I had often heard of the beauty and importance of the Mark degree in Freemasonry, but little thought it would be my good fortune, to be able to enter into it so far south. Believe me in being thus united with you, on this occasion I shall use every endeavour to become a good and useful member among you, and hope that at some future time, I may be able to wear the badge of a higher and more honourable position in the lodge, in which to-night I have witnessed the practical expression of true Freemasonry and heard the sentiments of true Masonic fraternity fully and kindly expressed.

The "Past Masters" was feelingly proposed by the W.M., and responded to briefly by Bro. J. M. Cunningham, I.P.M., who before resuming his seat begged of the W.M. the privilege to propose the health of Bro. H. W. J. Sabine, G. Steward and late Sec. of the lodge. I can assure you that many opportunities have been afforded me during my year of office of witnessing the skill and ability with which Bro. Sabine has managed the various duties of his office, and which has very materially assisted to establish the lodge in its present prosperous condition both Masonically and financially. During his year of office as Secretary the by-laws have been completed, approved by Grand Lodge, printed, and to night circulated for the first time among the members; increasing and untiring in his energy to promote the welfare and success of the lodge, he has, by his knowledge and business capabilities, placed the finances of the lodge on a firm footing, and to-night given us a clear report as to our past, present, and future position in a monetary point of view; and I must also bear my individual testimony to the kind and attentive assistance rendered to me by him during my year as the W.M.; and, in conclusion, I am sure we all congratulate him on his recent preferment as the W.M. of the Mount Lebanon Lodge (No. 73), and most sincerely do we hope he will continue to work with zeal and assiduity for the good of Freemasonry in general, and of this Mark Lodge in particular.

Bro. T. J. Sabine, G. Steward, then briefly replied, and assured the brethren he would at all times use his best endeavours to promote the success of all those branches of Freemasonry to which he belonged—whether Craft, Royal Arch, or Mark Masonry—and steadily to encourage a spirit of true Masonic feeling and benevolence, the one true end and aim of every faithful member of the fraternity.

"The Officers of the Lodge" and other toasts were then proposed, concluded with the Tyler's toast, when the brethren separated, after having passed a most happy evening.

KNIGHTS OF THE RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE. METROPOLITAN.

ROMAN EAGLE CONCLAVE (No. 6).—An assembly of Knights was held, on the 25th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, for the purpose of installing brethren as founders of the above-named new conclave. The conclave was opened by Sir Knt. R. W. Little, G.R., as Inspector-General, assisted by Sir Knts. W. H. Hubbard, G. Treas.; H. G. Buss, G.H.A.; J. G. Marsh, G.A.; Dr. S. E. Clarke, M.P.S. elect, 3; J. Brett, P.S. 2; and A. A. Pendlebury, S.G. 2. The following brethren were then severally introduced and installed as Knights of the Order, viz.: Bros. W. F. N. Quilty, P.M. 862; H.C. Levander, *M.A.*, P.M. 76; C. H. Rogers Harrison, *M.D.*, P.M. 857; W. R. Woodman, *M.D.*, P.M. 66; W. Hurlstone, P.M. 862; H. Tanner, W.M. 686; J. Read, P.M. 879; T. J. Nix, W.M. 862; S. H. Rawley, P.M. 174; W. C. Barlow, P.M. 174; H. Thompson, P.M. 177; Rev. W. B. Church, *M.A.*, Chap. 165; J. R. Foulger, S.W. 771; J. Weaver, J.W. 862; W. A. Barrett, 340; H. Allman, 862; H. Geddes, 901; I. Stone, 862; G. Smith, 901; A. Frickenhaus, 862; G. M. Mugleston, 852; J. Tunks, 862; T. Kingston, 862; C. E. Thompson, Sec. 1, 158; W. C. Lucey, *M.D.*, Scotch Lodge; and E. J. Alment, of an Irish lodge. Sir Knt. Dr. Vincent W. Bates, Past G.C., K.T. New York, and P.S. K.R.C., was affiliated as a joining member on renewing his vows as a Christian Knight. The Knights then proceeded to elect their first M.P.S., when Sir Knt. Quilty was unanimously chosen for that high office, and Sir Knt. Levander, *M.A.*, was elected as first V.E. Among other business, it was resolved that the inauguration of the conclave take place on the 22nd February, on which occasion, if we may judge by the distinguished position and zeal of many of the founders, a further accession of members may be confidently anticipated.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

LIVERPOOL.

GRAND MASONIC BALL.

The annual ball in aid of the West Lancashire Educational Institution, is always a popular one. Its benevolent object appeals to the warm-hearted; and the picturesque badges, mystic jewellery, and emblematical robes of the various orders of the ancient Craft have their share in the attractions which always cause the annual event to be well attended. Much of this popularity is also due to the growing respect in which the order is held—an order non-sectarian, non-political, but chiefly benevolent in its objects, of an age beyond date, and of a *prestige* arising out of the benefits which history has received from its ancient masters of practical masonry, in the conservation of arts to which we owe the birth and preservation of the grand structures of ancient nations, both in the eastern and western portions of the Old World. Additional interest was given by the arrangement which placed at the service of the committee the brilliant, though frigid, temporary corridor connecting the ballroom in the town-hall with the larger and more elegant room of the exchange company, and the elegant adornments of the rooms, including the bronzes and statuettes, which Messrs. Elkington and Co. kindly permitted to remain.

The front of the town-hall had been covered in, and the space was sufficient for three or four carriages to set down at once. Ladies' and gentlemen's cloak rooms were provided in the various offices on the ground-floor. The large ballroom, the gallery leading to the newsroom, and even that room also, by half-past ten, were thronged. The fine *suite* of rooms in the town-hall were wisely left without any special decoration. The passages and corridors on the ground-floor were lined with white and green muslin, which had a very light and pleasing effect. Perhaps one of the prettiest sights was that of the long sloping gallery from the large ballroom to the exchange newsroom. It was most tastefully decorated with drapery, mirrors, and lights, and, standing at either end, the spectator beheld a long vista of moving figures reflected in mirrors on either side, the whole forming a most brilliant and interesting picture. The new exchange newsroom, under the hands of half a hundred busy workers, had been transformed into probably the most perfect ballroom in the world. The proportions of the room are magnificent. It has an area, nearly square in form, of over 700 square yards, without a single break or interruption of any kind. It is very lofty, and over the centre rises a magnificent dome, fifty feet in diameter. The many natural beauties of this noble hall, if they may so be expressed, required no temporary embellishments, and when a most elegant and beautiful dais had been erected in a recess on the south side, and the eastern gallery transformed into a tastefully appointed drawing-room, overlooking the hall floor below, when the orchestra had been erected, and the main floor of the hall made resplendent with beeswax, the principal preparations were here completed. It was intended, of course, that this hall should be specially devoted to dancing.

The use of the exchange newsroom was granted by the proprietors for the purpose of gracefully falling in with the suggestion to make this concession to the Masonic committee for the courtesy with which they had given up the town-hall rooms, which they had previously engaged the preparations for the royal ball rendering it necessary that another evening should be substituted for the ball. This difficulty, which at first appeared likely to be prejudicial to the success of that usually brilliant affair, by the tact and energy of the honorary secretary, Bro. Geo. Broadbridge, W.M., 241, was made an additional element

of success. Instead of the number of tickets being limited to 1,000, they were enabled to issue 600 or 700 more; and the grand ball mania excited by the event of the previous night and by the general desire to see the exchange newsroom before it was restored to its more legitimate use, caused the further issue to be quickly absorbed. A rumour also became current that Prince Arthur intended to visit the ball *incog.*, but this was like a thousand other *canards* arising out of the royal visit. The company began to assemble shortly before eight; and the arrivals continued up to midnight, when the small and large ballrooms of the town-hall were tolerably full, and, on passing through the arctic regions to the newsroom, the agreeable surprise of late comers was general, to discover in that noble triumph of modern architectural art a scene which, for picturesque brilliancy, has never been surpassed in Liverpool. This room, like those in the town-hall, was comfortably filled, and here, as in the ballroom proper, dancing was kept up with great spirit until the "wee sma'" hours. Owing to domestic affliction Br. Lieut.-Colonel Sir T. G. P. Hesketh, Bart., M.P., Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire, was unable to be present, and the customary semi-military reception by the Knight Templars under "the arch of steel" was dispensed with. Amongst those present we noticed Bros. Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Birchall, W. Prov. J.G.W., West Lancashire; C. J. Bannister, P.G.S.B., Eng.; Edward Busher, G.S.B., Eng.; A. C. Mott, Prov. G.S.B.; H. W. Collins, P. Prov. G.D.C.; W. Allender, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Thomas Wylie, Prov. G.S.; the Worshipful Masters and Wardens of the different local and neighbouring lodges, and many of the leading residents of the town and neighbourhood, the total number present at one time being stated to be about 1,700. The excellent band of the 4th Artillery Brigade played selections of classical and other music in the vestibule, but the dance music, of which the following is the programme, was entrusted to the skilful quadrille bands of Bro. G. A. W. Phillips:—1, galop; 2, quadrille; 3, polka; 4, lancers; 5, waltz; 6, quadrille; 7, Schottische; 8, galop; 9, lancers; 10, polka; 11, quadrille; 12, waltz; 13, polka; 14, quadrille; 15, galop; 16, lancers; 17, waltz; 18, quadrille; 19, Schottische; 20, galop; 21, lancers; 22, polka; 23, quadrille; 24, waltz. Bro. Molyneux, as heretofore, courteously and most efficiently discharged the duties of M.C. The arrangements for refreshments were under the direction of Mr. Ballard, managing director of the Liverpool Dining Company, Limited, and there was an excellent bill of fare, though a struggle at "the supper hour," to take advantage of it, was a necessary consequence of the comparatively limited accommodation in the banquetting-room for so large a number of visitors. The most gratifying fact, however, remains, and one which fully compensates for any trifling inconvenience of this kind that may have been experienced is, that a balance of about £400 will remain in the hands of the committee, in aid of the funds of an excellent educational institution, for the benefit of children of old and distressed Freemasons—an institution which, though largely supported by subscriptions from the Lancashire lodges, has so much good work in hand that this annual surplus of the Masonic ball proceeds will find a ready and praiseworthy application.—*Liverpool Albion.*

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE AND BRO. S. MAY.

On Tuesday the 23rd ult an adjourned meeting of the Masonic and theatrical friends of Bro. May was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street.

Bro. John Udall, P.G.D., was unanimously voted to the chair.

Bro. Thomas Beard, the hon. secretary, read the

minutes of the last meeting, which were put for confirmation, after which numerous letters were read enclosing donations and offering professional services. A communication was read from Bro. Chatterton relative to a morning performance at Drury Lane Theatre, to take place early in March, and a sub-committee was formed to take the necessary steps for organising the same. The day performance at St. James's Hall, so handsomely proffered by the Christy's Minstrels, is fixed for Monday the 17th inst., tickets for which can be procured of any member of the committee. In addition to these fixtures, arrangements are pending with other managers who have expressed themselves desirous of expressing their deep sympathy with Bro. May in the severe loss which has befallen him. Several resolutions as to matters of detail were passed, after which the meeting was adjourned to Monday, February 3rd, at 5 o'clock, p.m. Donations will be received by Bro. Ledger, Treasurer, Era office, Catherine-street, Strand; Bro. Beard, Hon. Secretary, 10, Basinghall-street, or any member of the committee.

MEETINGS OF THE LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 8TH, 1868.

TUESDAY, 4th.—Institution of Civil Engineers, at 8.

WEDNESDAY, 5th.—Society of Arts, at 8. Geographical Society, at 8.

METROPOLITAN LODGE MEETINGS, ETC., FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 8TH, 1868.

MONDAY, February 27th.—Lodges:—Robert Burns, 25, Freemasons' Hall. Unity, 69, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Royal Jubilee, 72, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. St. John's, 90, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. St. Luke's, 144, Pier Hotel, Cheyne-walk, Chelsea. Joppa, 188, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Unions, 256, Freemasons' Hall.

TUESDAY, February 4th.—Colonial Board, at 3. Lodges:—Old Dundee, 18, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Temple, 101, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street. Old Concord, 172, Freemasons' Hall. La Tolerance, 538, Freemasons' Hall. St. James's, 765, Leather Market Tavern, New Weston-street, Bermondsey. Chapters:—Temperance, 169, White Swan Tavern, Deptford. United Pilgrims, 507, Horns Tavern, Kennington.

WEDNESDAY, February 5th.—Grand Chapter, at 8. Lodges:—Westminster and Keystone, 10, Freemasons' Hall. Stability, 217, George Hotel, Aldermanbury.

THURSDAY, February 6th.—Lodges:—Egyptian, 27, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Strong Man, 45, Freemasons' Hall. Good Report, 136, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Ionic, 827, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street. St. Andrew's, 231, Freemasons' Hall. Yarborough, 554, Green Dragon, Stepney. Victoria Rifles, 822, Freemasons' Hall. Excelsior, 1,155, Sydney Arms, Lewisham-road. Perfect Ashlar, 1,178, Gregorian Arms, Bermondsey-road. Sincerity, 174, Cheshire Cheese Tavern, Crutched Friars. Chapters:—St. James's Chapter, 2, Freemasons' Hall; Crystal Palace, 742, Crystal Palace, Sydenham.

FRIDAY, February 7th.—Lodges:—Florence Nightingale, 706, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich. Hornsey Lodge, 890, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Prince of Wales', 259, Willis's-rooms, St. James's. British Chapter, 8, Freemasons' Hall.

SATURDAY, February 8th.—Lodges:—London, 108, Freemasons' Hall. Phoenix, 173, Freemasons' Hall.

Poetry.

CHRISTMAS PLEASURES.

By T. I. SWAIN.

Christmas pleasures,—bright and happy
Are the joyous hours one spends
In the midst of sweet surroundings,
In the midst of home and friends.
Festive season—gladly welcome,
Time of feasting and good cheer,
Every one looks forward to thee
Lighting up the closing year.

Christmas pleasures—pure and holy
Are the joys kind actions bring,
If we spend our Christmas rightly,
Pleasing memories to it cling.
Can we find a pleasure greater
Than to mitigate distress?
Occupation that our Saviour
In his mercy deigns to bless.

Christmas pleasures—may benevolence
Ever guide our hearts aright,
May we each successive season
In true charity delight.
May our joys seem still more precious
From the consciousness we feel,
That—as Masons should—we've striven
Other's sufferings to heal.

LODGE SONG.

AIR—"Home Again."

Met again, met again, in this lov'd retreat,
And oh! it fills our souls with joy,
Our brothers here to greet.
Here friendship beams from ev'ry eye,
And smiles on ev'ry face,
There's naught on earth can break the tie
That binds us to this place.

Trusting hearts, trusting hearts here each other greet,
And oh! besides our happy home,
There's not a place so sweet.
The price of wealth, the pride of birth,
We keep within our door.
Receive the humblest son on earth,
If true—we ask no more.

Friendship sweet, friendship sweet, lingers round the place
And on each heart 'tis grav'd in lines
That time cannot efface.
We meet in Peace, we work in Love,
And part upon the Square;
And unto Him who rules above
Lift up our voice in prayer.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

ERRATA.—In our review last week of the British, Irish and Colonial Masonic Calendar, it should have been stated that the book was published "for the proprietors, at 20, Buchanan-street, Glasgow," instead of "Glasgow, W. Porteous."

J. W.—Your communication has been received, and shall be answered in our next.