

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1868.

SCOTCH MASONIC LECTURES.

Since our last notice, numbers of the brethren in connection with the Dundee lodges have been earnestly engaged in forwarding the good work. Under the able Mastership of Bro. A. Willison, R.W.M. St. David's, 78, on the roll of Grand Lodge of Scotland, a course of lectures and readings were commenced some time ago, and have been continued on the Wednesday evenings of each succeeding week. Bro. Cowie gave the opening lecture of the series; the subject, Speculative Masonry. In his preface he said, that with some honourable exceptions, Scotch Masonry was very loosely conducted, the three degrees frequently given in one evening; even in the more general cases where the first alone was given, after a short time and without any instruction worth the name, the candidates were passed and raised. Should a delay take place between the giving the first and the higher degrees, it was seldom that the giving of instruction was the reason; it was only to allow the number of initiates to increase to perhaps half a dozen, who were then all knocked off in one batch. The consequence was, that most of these would only visit their lodges on the two festivals, to join in the convivial pleasures of the evenings, excepting which, their interest in the Craft was *nil*; there were of course many exceptions; had it not been so, the Craft would have ere this have ceased to exist in Scotland. The series of lectures he had been engaged on had no pretensions to instruct the learned brother. They were intended for those who having passed through the initiatory ceremonies, had received little or no further instruction; he would, therefore, begin by endeavouring to define the meaning, history, and purpose of Speculative Masonry. As we intend to publish Bro. Cowie's lectures in full, we will not go into details at present, but only mention that he went rapidly over the history of the Craft whilst it was operative, its spread through through many parts of Europe in the eleventh and succeeding centuries by the travelling fraternities of architects, till that period when it was resolved to extend the privileges of Freemasonry to other professions. Bro. Cowie said it was easy to comprehend the use and value of the tressel boards at a time when the worldly success of every brother depended upon his practical know-

ledge of Operative Masonry. When Masonry became *Speculative* she undertook, through the mediums of her ceremonies and symbols, to instruct the *intellect*—a difficult task in what was then still but a rude age. It was scarce to be wondered at that the privilege of calling to refreshment was frequently absurd. Bro. Cowie then gave a brief sketch of the history and origin of Grand Lodges, their present constitution and their relations to Provincial and subordinate lodges, and paid a high compliment to English Freemasonry, whose high standard of social and moral worth demanded from her initiates, her maintenance of the landmarks in purity; the intellectual interpretations of her symbols, and her many charitable institutions, had made the name of English Freemasonry respected through the world. We in Scotland are sometimes told that both in knowledge of Operative and Speculative Masonry we have degenerated from the days of our forefathers, and the remains of those magnificent ecclesiastical buildings in our land are pointed out as proofs. Whatever the piety of our forefathers had to do in contributing towards the erection of those edifices, their ingenuity and taste had little to do in the matter, for they were planned by men of either foreign education or foreign birth. The taste of our forefathers will be easily understood from the miserable and defaced condition of those noble structures; they certainly had been "things of beauty," but our predecessors had taken care that they should not be left to us as "joys for ever." As to Speculative Masonry, we could trace its history sufficiently to know, that till lately it had scarcely ever risen above a boon companionship in Scotland; but better days had dawned. Scotland had a long array of titles on her Masonic rolls whose mere names had done much to give Masonry a social standing in a country where rank had always been revered, but in these days something more than name was wanted, and there was hope that ere long Scotland would be able to point to her Masonic charities, her schools and homes, of which as yet, in connection with Freemasonry, she has nothing worth the name. Bro. Cowie concluded by defining Speculative Masonry as expressed through the symbols and ceremonies. Bro. J. D. Grant on a succeeding evening gave an admirable lecture on Geology, illustrated by paintings and drawings by Bro. Cowie. Bro. Robertson, P.M., gave readings from several of our most popular authors. This gentleman is one of the

Best readers of our day; he has long held a respected place amongst the brethren, and the Forfar and Kincardine Lodge (over which he for many years presided) owes its position principally to his exertions. Bro. Robertson is shortly to give lectures on the tracing boards. It may be remembered by some of our readers, that Bro. Robertson occupied the chair at the Masonic meeting in Dundee whilst that town was visited by the British Association.

Bro. Willison, R.W.M. Lodge St. David's, deserves high commendation for his successful efforts to provide instruction for the brethren. This gentleman's family predecessors have held office in St. David's Lodge for more than a century past. We are also informed that lodges of instruction are in course of formation; and when we mention that Bro. David Dickson, P.M. Lodge Ancient 49, G.L.S., is expected to take an active part in the movement, it will be a guarantee that the work will be ably done. Others of the brethren have also been labouring in the good cause. Bro. Beatts gave a lecture on Ancient Mythology; Bros. Hutton and Inverarity have also given readings.

On Wednesday, the 26th ult., Bro. Cowie gave a lecture in Lodge St. Davids, R.W.M. Willison in the chair. Bro. Cowie chose for his text, the Rosetta Stone in the British Museum, giving a rapid sketch of Egyptian history, the ancient secret associations, and the various opinions of their connection with Freemasonry. There was also announced for the 11th inst., a grand Masonic assembly of the Dundee lodges, which was expected to be a brilliant affair. We shall give several of the Scotch lectures in detail in future numbers of the MAGAZINE.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

By ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

(Continued from page 184.)

BOOK II.—CHAPTER V.

The allowance to the Grand Master was in keeping with his high office. He was allowed four horses, an esquire of noble birth, and in his train were two Knights as companions, a Chaplain and two Secretaries, the one for conducting his Latin correspondence, the other his Arabic. The Latin Secretary he might, should he think fit, permit to

become a Knight of the Order. In addition to these, he had a farrier, a cook,* a Turcopole, two footmen, and a Turcoman. The Turcoples were the offspring of a Turkish father by a Christian mother, or those who, having been reared among the Turks, had acquired a knowledge of their mode of fighting. The Christians employed a considerable number of them as a light force. The Turcomans, on the other hand, were born Turks, and employed as guides in the Holy Land. As might have been scarce expected, these mercenaries were true to their Masters, and fought bravely in defence of the Cross. Lardner says that, on a march, the Turcoman rode behind an esquire; but during the time of war he was led by a cord, to prevent his escape, should he prove treacherous. By the statutes, the Grand Master might take two beasts of burthen with him on an ordinary march; but in war time, or in case of his going beyond the Jordan, or the Dangerous Pass Nahr-el-Kelb (Les Pas de Chien), at the Dogs' River, near the sea on the way to Antioch, he might have four, but these were to be carefully stabled when he arrived at his destination, and placed at the service of the Order. In the times of war he was commander-in-chief. When he died, he was buried, with solemn and majestic honours, at the dead of night, by the light of torches and wax candles, an honour permitted by the Order to be shown to no other brother although the English brethren did so, in the case of one of their heads. All the Knights, within summons, were required to be present at the funeral, and the prelates within reach were invited to honour the occasion with their presence, which they were ever ready to do. Each brother was required, within seven days, to repeat two hundred times the Lord's Prayer, for the repose of the soul of the Grand Master; and a hundred poor persons were fed, at the expense of the Order, for a similar purpose.

By the Bull *Omne Datum Optimum*, the Pope declared the Grand Master to be Bishop of the Order. In a manner the Grand Master exercised sacerdotal functions, but we do not find him engaged in the hearing of private confessions, although he did public, or offering up the sacrifice of the altar and the like. He was Bishop in name only, but not in reality. This title, and his

* The cook seems to have been a person of importance, for we find in the days of the Persecution, Jacques de Molai having for his only attendant, this functionary.

custom of hearing public confession told heavily against the Order in the days of its persecution.

By Chapter xxxiii. of the Rule, it was enjoined that when anything should be ordered by the Master, or by him to whom the Master hath given authority, there should be no hesitation, but the thing was to be done at once, as though it had been commanded by heaven; even as the truth declared "In the hearing of the ear he hath obeyed me." Disobedience to the commands of the Grand Master or a superior officer, met with death, as in the case of Walter le Bachelor.

By Chapter xl., it was enacted that bags and trunks with locks and keys were not to be granted, nor was anyone to have them, without the permission of the Grand Master, or the Preceptor of the House. This regulation, however, did not extend to the Grand Master nor to the Preceptors in the different provinces.

Chapter xli. declared it to be unlawful for any of the brothers to receive letters from his parents, or from any man, or to send letters, without the license of the Master, or of his procurator. When the brother should obtain such leave, the letters were to be read in the presence of the Master, if he should so command. If his parents sent anything to him, he was on no account to receive it until he first informed the Master. This law also did not apply to the Master or the Preceptors.

The Grand Mastership was more an honour than a reality, resembling a Dogeship of Venice, or a Spartan Kingship. The holder could do nothing without the concurrence of the leading brethren, or the consent of the chapter, nor could he take money from the Treasury without the acquiescence of the keeper, who was generally the Grand Prior of Jerusalem. His chief power lay in his personal qualities. He had many distinctions. The greater part of the *executive* was in his hands, and as Vicar General of the Pope, he had episcopal jurisdiction over the priests of the Order. His rod or sceptre of office was a staff called the Abacus. It was six or seven feet long, made of hard wood, and bearing at the top a red cross within a circle of gold. On the circle was inscribed the motto of the Order. He ranked as head of the Order, as a sovereign prince, and took precedence of all ambassadors and peers in the general councils of the Church.

CHAPTER VI.

THE DIGNITARIES OF THE ORDER.

The Seneschal was the next in rank to the Master, and was his representative and lieutenant. He had a right to attend every meeting of the Order, and was conversant with all its affairs. He had the same number of horses as the Master, was allowed two esquires, a Knight as companion, a Deacon as Chaplain and Latin secretary, a Saracenic secretary, a Turcopole, and two footmen. Like the Master, he bore the seal of the Order. The Great Seal of the Order bore two Knights riding on one horse, as explained in the first book. Other seals however were used in different countries. The English Seal had an *Agnus Dei* for a device, with the words "*Templi Sigillum.*"

The Marshal was General of the Order, had charge of the Beauseant, and led the brethren to battle. He had the charge of executing all military matters, and provided arms, tents, horses, and the such like, requisite for war. All the arms, equipments, and horses, were under his superintendence, and he had the right of appointing the Sub-Marshal and Standard Bearer. He was appointed by the chapter, and had, as we have already said, the peculiar privilege, after the Grand Master's death, of exercising his functions. His allowances were four horses, two esquires, a serving brother, and a Turcopole. The Marshal was always a Knight of the most renowned courage, and of the noblest family; and in the records of the Order we find the Marshal performing prodigies of valour, and generally sustaining the fight when all the other Knights had fallen. The holder of the office, upon the death of the Grand Master, was often elected to the vacant headship of the Order.

The Sub-Marshal had charge of the inferior accoutrements, and was placed over the handicraftsmen, who were obliged to account to him for their work. He supplied them with tools, granted them holidays, and was in all respects their Master.

The Standard Bearer, on the other hand, had charge of the esquires, and the auxiliaries of the Order. He awarded them punishment and paid them their wages. Whenever the horses were led to pasture by the esquires, he preceded them with a banner; and he likewise presided at the dinner-table of the esquires and serving

brethren. On the march, the Beauseant* was carried behind him by an esquire, or on a wain; and when the battle commenced, he unfurled a banner on the point of a spear, and drew the esquires up in a martial order. He, like the Sub-Marshal, was under the order of the Marshal.

The Treasurer, who was always the Prior of Jerusalem, had the charge of the money department of the Order, of which he accounted to the Master and chapter. The Draper was assigned him as a companion; and the few ships belonging to the Order were placed under his charge, by reason of which he may be esteemed the Grand Admiral. His allowances were the same as the Seneschal's.

The Draper had charge of the clothing of the Order, which he distributed to the brethren as directed by the Treasurer. He was allowed four horses, two esquires, and a pack-servant. The office seems to have been of importance. He was enjoined by the Rule (cap. 26, 27) to distribute garments free from the suspicion of arroyance and superfluity to all the brethren, and was directed to take especial care that the garments were neither too long nor too short, but properly measured for the wearer, with equal measure, and with brotherly regard, that the eye of the whisperer or the accuser might not presume to notice anything.

Under the Priors were the Preceptors, who were divided into two classes, House Preceptors and Knight Preceptors, and corresponded with the commanders of the Hospital, as the preceptories did with their commanderies. The House Preceptors were often priests, and had charge of one or two houses; while the Knight Preceptors were always Knights, and each led ten Knights in battle. The Grand Priors and Preceptors were again all under the visitors, who were Knights sent by the Grand Master to examine the different houses of the Order, and correct abuses. Their powers, however, ceased when their business was performed.

There were various other officers of the Order,

* The Beauseant was formed of black and white cloth, on which was embroidered a red cross, and the pious motto of the Order. Burnes says, that *Beauseant* or *Bausant*, was, in old French a piebald horse. The word is still preserved, with its original meaning in the Scotch dialect, in the form *Bawsent*

"His honest, sousie, baws'nt face,
Aye gat him freends in ilka place."

The Templars' Standard, however typified that while fair and friendly to the Sons of the Cross, they were dark and terrible to its enemies.

such as the Grand Priors of Jerusalem, Tripolis, and Antioch, but there was nothing in their offices calling for particular notice, except the Prior of Jerusalem, whose duty it was to convey pilgrims to and from the Jordan, one of the principal objects of the Institution of the Order. When the True Cross was brought forth on any expedition, it was his duty to guard it, with ten Knights, night and day. He was to encamp close by it, and two brethren were constantly to keep guard over it. All the secular Knights were under his command. In the absence of the Marshal, he was General; and half the booty captured beyond the Jordan fell to his share, the other half to the kingdom.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE CHEVALIER RAMSAY.—HIGH GRADES.—REPROACHES AND LAMENTATIONS OF AN OLD MASTER MASON.

PART I.

"O! Ramsay, si comme j'aime à le penser, vos vues étaient droites et vos intentions pures, combien vous gémiriez en voyant les maux que vous avez faits à l'ordre respectable qui vous compta jadis au nombre de ses enfans. Ramsay, vous seul y avez introduit le désordre; vous seul avez détruit son principe fondamental, l'heureuse égalité. Avant vous le Maçon parvenu au troisième grade, ne voyait autour de lui que des égaux. Aujourd'hui ce lui qui porte le titre honorable de maître compte vingt classes de supérieurs."—From a large *carton* of extracts from foreign works upon Freemasonry in the possession of Bro. Charles P. Cooper.

SPECULATIVE MASONRY.

The Scotch got Speculative Masonry from the English; but from whom did the English get it?—Question taken from one of Bro. Purton Cooper's Masonic Note-Books.

OLD ENGLISH FREEMASONRY.

The history of old English Freemasonry lies hid in the Record Office, Fetter-lane.—From a manuscript volume in Bro. Purton Cooper's collections called "Freemasons' Table Talk."

TILING THE LODGE.

A correspondent, curious respecting this phrase, may look at Mr. Wyatt Papworth's paper, "Masons of England and their Works," *Freemason's Magazine*, vol. vii., p. 166.—C. P. COOPER.

INCONSISTENCY.

Bro. "J. D. H.," my answer to your letter is this. You rightly advocate the propagation of the Gospel. Now true Freemasonry is the assistant of the Gospel; and if you do not advocate the propagation of true Freemasonry, you must plead guilty to a charge of inconsistency.—C. P. COOPER.

MARTIN PASCHALIS.

If a Westmoreland brother had read the *Freemasons' Magazine* during the past year with his wonted attention, the "Innovations in Masonry, by Dr. Mackay," would not be entirely unknown to him. It is in those "Innovations" that he will find as much information as he appears to desire respecting Martin Paschalis. See *Freemason's Magazine*, No. 421, July 27th, 1867. The name of Martin Paschalis has no place in the "Biographie Universelle," 1823.—C. P. COOPER.

AFTER-DINNER BUSINESS.

I offer a few hints how to make the after-dinner business of a lodge disagreeable, which if the W.M. for the time being is a bore cannot fail to be effectual. He will, of course, take care to deliver the same speeches in the same words and order during his year of office; and if he abstains from visiting any other lodge he is more likely to adhere to the integrity of his programme. Let him not be too particular as to the names of the Grand Officers; and by abolishing ceremony he may get to the point of sitting down while drinking the M.W.G.M.'s health. The etiquette as to this varies; in some lodges the health of the visitors is received with this kind of Masonic honour, but it is seldom applied to Past Masters. After the W.M., the P.M.'s should be given, and this should always be responded to by the I.P.M., as this ensures getting the same speech six times running. The members may by constant practice find out whether there is any variation. The stereotyped form is, "By seeing this G. in my hand," &c. This is edifying. There is, perhaps, a penny book of these things, or they are taught by the Masonic instructors. Then give the Treasurer, the Wardens, the Officers, and any other toast, and before the Tyler's toast give the visitors. By this time it will be late, and the members will be tired and noisy; but if the W.M. has managed well, the visitors will not annoy the company. He will place next to him his own guest, an E.A. or F.C., taking precautions not to know any visitors introduced by any other members, and to know nothing of distinction or seniority. He will call on his own guest to respond, and if he states he knows nothing of Masonry and cannot respond, he will cut it short. The Tyler's toast will come, and the dreary evening be brought to an end.

There are some lodges where things are not so ordered. Sufficient men answer for the P.M. Some one able to do it, and who has ascertained the capacity of the visitors, proposes their health, and the visitors being brought out, several happy responses are made, to the great satisfaction of an intelligent and well-conducted lodge.

The bore system is more economical, as few men are tempted to visit twice a lodge where it prevails until after the interval of several years.—C. A. H.

THE APTITUDES AND DISPOSITIONS OF MEN.

Men are born with aptitudes and dispositions suited to the different employments of life. But those born with aptitudes and dispositions for the employments which are indispensable, as for the various kinds of simple and unscientific labour, are many; whilst those born with aptitudes and dispositions for the employments which are not indispensable, as for sculpture,

painting, music, mathematics, metaphysics, are few. . . . No; it is the Great Architect of the Universe who gives to all men coming into the world the fitting dispositions and aptitudes. . . . In all this the pious Freemason sees proof of unerring wisdom and never-ceasing providence.—From Bro. C. P. Cooper's Masonic Memorandum Book.

MASONIC EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

The system of exchanges of objects wanted, by newspaper correspondence, has of late afforded considerable assistance in mutual accommodation, and we are disposed to afford the same facilities to our subscribers.

Communications addressed to us will meet with attention.

Non-subscribers can remit sixpence in postage stamps for notices to be inserted of objects wanted, or at disposal.

The following inquiries have been received.

1. P. M. wishes to dispose of some old diplomas and seals.
2. R. C. has a Rose Croix apron, &c., he would exchange for Mark clothing.
3. M. M. wishes to exchange a jewel of No. 29.
4. A. S. wants a secondhand R. A. suit for travelling.
5. X. Y. Z. has a set of new clothing for the officers of a lodge under the Grand Orient of France, or Grand Oost of the Netherlands.
6. T. B. would exchange copies of seals.
7. W. J. L. wants rituals of the degrees below the 18th in English and French. He does not want what are called philosophic rituals.
8. R. T. wants the loan of the ritual of the old Templars, which is partly in Latin.
9. W. H. is open to exchange originals or copies of Masonic documents, charters, &c.

All answers to be addressed (post paid) to the respective numbers and initials, *Freemasons' Magazine office*, Salisbury-street, W.C., London.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

PRIORITY OF THE LODGE OF GLASGOW ST. JOHN.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I have the letter of Bro. "R. Y." in your last number, and would crave your permission to make a few remarks regarding it and his former one on page 128. On page 128 "R. Y." *inter alia* ridicules the idea of the King speaking of "The operative Masons of the city of Glasgow, of In-

incorporating Masons, of instituting* a lodge of the free incorporated Masons of Glasgow." Regarding the above I wish to know (supposing these words to have been used by Malcolm IV. in 1157, which I know no reason to dispute) if "R. Y." still considers them to be "monstrous," and, if so, to give his reasons? Regarding the money, that can be talked of again, as it may prove to be a mistake of the translator.

"R. Y." also says, "If this so-called Charter was produced before the Court of Session, the Lord Advocate would be usefully employed in prosecuting the forger if still alive." Now as by "R. Y.'s" style of writing he considers himself an authority on archæology, &c., he ought to have remembered the warning of Cosmo Innis against judging from translations, and not have hinted so much as that the charter was not produced in the above court, but have asked an explanation before he used such strong expressions as he does.

In the book, "Architects and Builders of the Middle Ages," by Bro. James Miller, P.M. of St. Mark's, No. 102, page 19, he says (after alluding to the open question of the date), "There is no doubt of its being an authentic charter, and it was sustained as such in an action before the Court of Session in 1815."

I see in the minute-book of the Incorporation at that date the following entry:—"Nov. 7th, 1815. The clerk was authorised to write Mr. D. Fisher, the agent in Edinburgh for the Incorporation in the process with A. Spence to employ Mr. Cranstoun as counsel, and to correspond with Mr. Fisher relative to this process, and the collector authorised to pay the expenses already incurred before the Town Council here." The above is all the information I have got as yet regarding this Court of Session case, but the above is so far so good. While the charter was in Edinburgh, it was examined by adepts and held as genuine—indeed that may be safely inferred before the Court would give any decision. But, be that as it may, the Charter, I understand, will immediately be placed in the hands of one of the best archæologists we can get; and I trust that as much as possible of it will be copied word for word, and thereafter printed, which will be the fairest way to satisfy all, and each may then judge of the translation for himself. In "R. Y.'s" letter, on page 166, I consider that he fairly contradicts himself in the last paragraph. He says "he will suspend his judgment," but adds "as to the bodily or partial forgeries in the Latin parchment." Upon what authority does "R. Y." even hint at any forgeries, partial or otherwise, being in the Latin parchment? While he sensibly says he will suspend his judgment, yet (although he has not seen the charter himself, and although other antiquarians have held it to be genuine) by some intuitive process unknown to common mortals he seems to feel that our old charter is bound to be either a bodily or partial forgery, and he fears much will follow in the wake of the chronicle of Ingulph.

Our charter commences word for word the same

* The English translation is not to blame for "R. Y." falling into the same error as others. It is not "instituting" a new lodge, but rather "confirming" an old one, which makes a considerable difference.

as some other charters of Malcolm's (IV.) reign. It is $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep by 12 inches broad, and contains $19\frac{1}{2}$ lines of writing, which reaches down about 9 inches. The writing running close up from side to side, there are no crosses in it, the names of the witnesses following on as part of the writing. The seal has hung from the centre by a tache about one inch broad, whether of the same parchment of the charter or not I cannot say. Where the date is given in our translation I could not say I saw neither letters or words which I could consider referred to it. The names I can say are for the most part correct; but I do not consider that it is the equivalent for "Bishop of Glasgow" that follows what looks like Andro Hamilton; for after Hamilton comes two or three words, then "multi quinque,"* and then other seven or eight words to the end. I can say nothing further about the charter in the meantime, as that might be interfering with the party who is to examine it authoritatively; but the charter being only an extra evidence of the priority of St. John's, during the time it is undergoing examination, we have to make up and connect our other historical data more fully.

Before parting with Bro. "R. Y.," I would respectfully hint that if he would deal a little less in the knock him down at all hazard style, and come out a little more with fair argument and giving his reasons for his opinions, it would be acting more fairly, and would be also more interesting to the readers of the *Magazine*, at same time giving more light.

It is now five weeks since Bro. Oneal Haye asserted at page 70 of the *MAGAZINE*, that "from proofs which he held in his hand" the Cannongate Kilwinning was entitled to rank above the Mary's Chapel and Melrose St. John, I have since at page 149 demonstrated that Bro. Haye must surely be wrong, and I even question the existence of the Cannongate Kilwinning in the 12th century at all; yet Bro. Haye has brought forward nothing as yet to explain what he said, which I consider he is fairly entitled to do in the *MAGAZINE*, having once made the assertion.

In the *MAGAZINE* of April 20th, 1867, page 303, Bro. D. Murray Lyon says "Than the Abbey of Kilwinning no Scottish ecclesiastical building is more closely associated with the early history of Freemasonry." Now I am not sure but that the Glasgow Cathedral can say more than that, for the Lodge of Glasgow St. John built the cathedral. Its members assisted at its preservation at the Reformation, and the lodge used to meet in the Crypt. A gallant feather I find has also been put into the St. John's cap lately, which I have no doubt troubled Bro. Lyon not a little when he wrote the paragraph in his article in the *MAGAZINE* of February 8th, at foot of page 102. The feather I allude to being the following paragraph in the 297th page of "Scotland in the Middle Ages," by Cosmo Innis, where after giving the names of a number of the Abbeys, &c., Kilwinning amongst the rest, the author says "This was the era of those enthusiastic fraternities or associations for church building which assisted in erecting most of the beautiful churches of Europe, and which undoubtedly bestowed that singular uniformity which

* Without prejudging it, I might be allowed to remark that quinque, with what follows it, may mean the 5th year of my reign, which for Malcolm IV. would be AD. 1157.

characterizes the ecclesiastical buildings of the same era, during the twelfth and following centuries. We find notice of a society of this kind having for its chief object the restoration of the Cathedral of Glasgow, after it had been burnt down in the reign of William the Lion. It was instituted* by Bishop Jocelin about the year 1190, and had a special charter of protection from King William the Lion."

So that is a nut for all the upholders of the Mother Kilwinning's pretensions to crack. To say that one of the greatest authorities of the day should have utterly overlooked the traditions of the Mother Kilwinning, and mentioned the charter from King William to the Lodge of St. John is something wonderful. Yet it is truly a sign of the times.

But to pass from that I would respectfully ask Bro. Lyon to mention in his next communication to the MAGAZINE if any or what portions of the Abbey of Kilwinning which is considered to have been founded about 1140 are still in existence?

If it would not be asking too much I would ask R. Y. if he can tell me who was the predecessor of the Gilchrist Comite de Menteth who signed a charter in the 11th year of Malcolm 4th reign to Scone? also who and what Masters Andrew and Arthur were, who signed the Great Kelso Charter, and their position at Malcolm 4th Court? Answers to the above will exceedingly oblige, and are fraternally asked.

Yours fraternally,

W. P. BUCHAN

[Though we have every desire to give the subject of the Priority of the Lodge of Glasgow St. John, No. 3^d, full ventilation in our pages, and we have willingly accorded a liberal—perhaps too liberal—amount of space to the discussions thereanent, we must really beg that our esteemed correspondents on this head will endeavour to be as *terse* as possible, and also close the correspondence on both sides at an early date.—Ed. F. M.]

H.R.H. PRINCE SKANDERBEG.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Nothing is further from my intention than to reflect on the eminent firm, consisting of zealous Masons, who addressed you last week; but when a firm, however eminent, offers itself especially to the Masonic world under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Skanderbeg, it is not unnatural it should be asked who Prince Skanderbeg is, and where he is now to be found. This is none the less desirable in consequence of their letter, in which it is stated that the firm "have the distinguished honour of holding the appointment of medallists to H.R.H. Prince Skanderbeg."

The members of that firm have no reason to complain as Masons of the course I have taken, and the more especially as I have stated to them a very good Masonic reason for wishing to know about H.R.H. Prince Skanderbeg, and that is, a brother wants to see him. I did not resort to a private application to them, nor do I intend to do so now, as the brother in

question has for years vainly sought the habitat of H.R.H. Prince Skanderbeg.

There can be no difficulty in stating who Prince Skanderbeg is, and where he lives. A personage so distinguished should have an address. The last I heard of Prince Skanderbeg was in the Paris papers; and what I read there makes me the more desirous to know why the firm in question should be medallists to H.R.H. Prince Skanderbeg. Until better informed, I must persist in believing that there is no one entitled to call himself H.R.H. Prince Skanderbeg, any more than to call himself his Majesty King Skanderbeg, and to give away decorations, titles, and colonelcies.

There was once an Iskander Bey, an historical personage, and there are respectable persons who claim alliance with his family; but what has this to do with H.R.H. Prince Skanderbeg, under whose patronage that well-known firm of Masonic jewellers has placed itself? Now that the matter has become more public than I meant, there will not be the least harm in the Masonic public knowing from them who and what H.R.H. Prince Skanderbeg is, and where he is to be found.

Yours fraternally,

A MASON.

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—A Lover of the Craft wishes to know what is "the tendency of some" (late?) "correspondence," and seems to have no wish to penetrate the Masonic past, content with the teachings of the Order. I am afraid that, however benefitting the teachings may be, it is of some small importance to know a little of their origin, for we are told that the Spirit of Darkness can put in an appearance as an Angel of Light. The brother's faith in the Order deserves the greatest credit, however.

"S7-S3" wants to know the drift of Bro. Hughan's and my own attacks upon the claims put forth by the upper degrees for very venerable antiquity. I presume Bro. Hughan is of a like opinion with myself. If we give facts, "S7-S3" must provide the brains to understand these facts and to follow out our reasonings. He will then know the good to be derived from our attacks.

Bro. H. B. White gravely enunciates the startling doctrine that Freemasonry is Christianity. Will Bro. White point out a single degree recognised by the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland that has anything to do with Christianity? I trust I am a Christian, but if Freemasonry is Christianity, I can no longer expect to meet brethren who are Unitarians, Musselmen, Hindoos, Jews, Chinese, &c., in a lodge, a circumstance at variance with what I have been taught.

I ask, "What is Freemasonry?"

Yours fraternally,

ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

PRIORITY OF THE LODGE OF GLASGOW ST. JOHN.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—The manly letter of Bro. Buchan in your *Magazine*, page 171, does him great

* Should the word not more likely be rendered "employed."

† I imagine that our Gilbert came in between the above Gilchrist and Murdoch, who lived in 1124.

credit, and I must congratulate you on having rendered a considerable service to Masonry. It was not Bro. Buchan's fault that he was imposed upon by a fraudulent translation of a charter, which must, so far as its application to Craft Masonry is concerned, prove to be a forgery. If it be a genuine charter, it can have nothing to do with Freemasonry. The moment Bro. Buchan, prompted by the criticisms in your magazine, discovered the fact by his own investigation, he published it.

Now, much more good is done by disposing of these impositions than harm can be done to Masonry by getting rid of false claims to antiquity. Our real claims to antiquity are of very small importance in comparison with the vital truth of the genuine principles of Freemasonry. In fact, we know in England, for instance, that our first date in Masonry is the union, when new formulas were consecrated, time-honoured customs were abolished, and recent innovations were adopted as integral features of the system. If we go back a century, we shall get to the same state of affairs; and so in the unrecorded past we may look for mutations, till at last the ancient evidences now remaining may be found to be new creations of their day, and yet there may be a continuity of history uniting Masonry in its present state to the remotest antiquity. Therefore we need have little fear or regard for antiquity in comparison with the real landmarks.

The immutable truthfulness of virtue possesses in itself the characteristics of antiquity, and therefore we can afford a holocaust of records; but when these records are forgeries, of such a class that they are reflections on the intelligence of Masons and impositions on the world at large, it is a serviceable act to annihilate them, and this Bro. Buchan has done for the Scotch translation of the charter. He likewise vindicates the Grand Lodge of Scotland, for he says that venerable body decidedly refused to acknowledge the old charter as being granted by Malcolm Canmore. The Court of Session can doubtless be as fully vindicated.

An ordinary Mason cannot be expected to distinguish between Malcolm III. and IV.; they are all one to him, and so they are to most scholars. The mischief committed is to represent as facts attested by Masonry—the science of a supposed learned body—what can under no circumstances be facts, because they are opposed to all history. The brethren asserting these things are exposed to ridicule, and many a man of intelligence is deterred from joining a body which can countenance such gross ignorance. Others after initiation, finding imposture countenanced and unbranded, leave a society which has belied their reputations. Such are the bitter fruits of falsehood.

What Bro. Buchan has next to do is to have the Latin charter examined by some competent chartologist or palæographer as to its external evidence; but the internal evidence will most likely settle the question.

The present is a suitable time for appealing to the learned committee, which presides over the pocket-book, and which has peculiar notions of chronology, history, and geography, to sacrifice only the first line or lie of its annals.

"St. Alban formed the first Grand Lodge in Britain, A.D. 287."

There is not only no evidence that St. Alban was ever guilty of anything of the kind, but not the least reason to believe it, or that St. Alban had anything to do with Masonry or Masons.

Other figments may follow by instalments.

If something is wanted to fill up, then insert:

"Romans landed in Britain, and introduced the system of trade corporations and guilds."

"Guilds formed by Anglo-Saxons, &c."

Scotland may also offer up a small sacrifice; nay, if she prefer it she may add to her annals. She may strike out—

"Freemasonry known to have existed in Scotland at the time of building the abbeys of Kelso, Melrose, and Kilwinning, 1128-36."

If preferred, she may enlarge her annals by the addition of the particle *not*.

"Freemasonry known *not* to have existed," &c.

Lying, fraud, and forgery are catching diseases, and the epidemic of them becomes more fatal in its course, and therefore the last of the three Masonic countries, Ireland, has the worst attack.

"Masonry supposed to have been introduced into Ireland for the first time by Heber and Heremen, sons of Milesius, B.C. 1264," or say 3,132 years ago, 1,551 years before the benighted English, and 2,392 before the boastful Scots!

Such things would have done very well in writing under Jeffrey of Monmouth, they were current myths in Milton's time, and would have raised little comment in the beginning of the last century; but this is not the day in which they should be seen in print.

Yours fraternally,

R. Y.

SOUTH HACKNEY DISTRICT.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I have consulted the Calendar with the view of finding a lodge working in, or near, this populous district (South Hackney), but unsuccessfully. I have recently removed from the country, and am desirous of joining a lodge meeting at a convenient distance from my residence. It appears strange that there should be no such facility; and it has occurred to me that if the question was mooted in your columns some movement might be made to supply the deficiency, in which case I shall be happy to join (and, if required, take office) in any lodge for which a warrant may be applied.

Yours fraternally,

VEVEY.

Victoria Park, March 9th, 1868.

It is a fact, which will not be questioned by anyone conversant with the subject, that the morality of the Church is identical with that of Masonry. It cannot be otherwise because both are derived from the same source, "The Word of God, in which we have eternal life."

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

SCOTLAND.—CENTENARY FESTIVAL OF THE ST. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 111), HAWICK.—The centenary festival of this lodge is, we understand, to be celebrated on the 25th inst. with a procession, dinner, and ball; the chair at the dinner to be occupied by the Rt. W. Bro. Henry Inglis, of Torsouce, Substitute Grand Master, and Prov. G.M. for Peebles and Selkirkshire, and who, it is anticipated, will be accompanied by a goodly deputation of Grand Lodge officials.

M.W. BRO. ROBERT MORRIS, and Bro. Thomson, we learn by letter just received, arrived at Smyrna on the 25th February, and a hasty reception was prepared by W. Bro. Captain Stab, P.D.G.W., and other brethren. They were much delighted with the compositions and recitations of Bro. Morris. About thirty brethren were mustered.

ON the 5th inst. our estimable Bro., Sir Pryse Pryse, was duly installed as Provincial Grand Master for South Wales, Western Division. The ceremony of installation was ably performed by Bro. Stedman Thomas.

GRAND LODGE.

In consequence of the great length to which the proceedings of the Grand Lodge extended, and the very important subjects discussed, we were unable last week, from want of space, to insert the whole of the report of the proceedings we had prepared, and which we now supply. The appeals sent here from New South Wales show a very unhappy state of difference between the governor and the governed in that country, and do not much redound to the credit of that province. Another and most important question discussed was the assistance to be given by Grand Lodge and other Masonic bodies to those who are now engaged in bringing to light some traces of the ancient city of Jerusalem, which for many centuries have been entirely obliterated from the face of the earth, and as was well described by Bro. Victor Williams, anything which can more fully and forcibly illustrate that spot which is so intimately bound up with the events recorded in the Sacred Volume was particularly deserving of their attention, and possessed to them, as Masons, a deep and absorbing interest. It is to be hoped that the labours of those now engaged in the work will be crowned with success, and that results even greater than those produced at Nineveh may reward those who are now seeking to unveil the ancient Jerusalem, and that they will receive from the Craft at large all the support that the enterprise so richly deserves.

APPEALS FROM SYDNEY.

The Grand Lodge then proceeded with appeals against the ruling and decision of the District G. Master of New South Wales. The first was from the W. Master of the Sydney Samaritan Lodge, No. 578, Sydney, New South Wales, against his suspension from his Masonic functions.

From a statement of the G. Registrar, it appeared that, on the 6th of June, 1867, Bro. Williams, the W.M. of the lodge, was about to initiate three gentlemen who had been elected, when a Bro. Smith arrived, who made some inquiries as to what was going on, and it turned out that these three persons had not been proposed at the previous lodge, according

to the Book of Constitution. Upon that the Master stopped the proceedings, when the Deputy District G. Master got up and said the thing was frequently done, and the Master was willing to give the candidates the benefit of the doubt, and they were admitted. Afterwards the W.M. called upon the District G. Master, and said that he was not well read in the law, and as he was told by another brother that he had seen the thing done over and over again, he had initiated these brethren, but if he had done anything wrong, he was very sorry for it. Bro. Williams also stated that the names of the brethren who had been proposed were inserted in the summons and sent round to all the brethren. The District G. Master, however, reprimanded Bro. Williams in very severe terms, and directed Bro. Williams to have that reprimand read in his lodge. Bro. Williams wrote to the D.G. Master, saying that he was sorry for what he had done, but that the same thing had been done by the D.D.G. Master. The District G. Master then summoned Bro. Williams to know why he had made such a charge against the Deputy District G. Master, and he said he made no charge against him; and all he said was, that if he had fallen into an error, that the Deputy District G. Master had done the same thing. He also apologised for having mentioned his name, but the District G. Master said it was a charge against him, and suspended Bro. Williams from his Masonic functions. He (the G. Registrar), did not think that Bro. Williams could have done more than what he did, that the District G. Master was without jurisdiction, and had done wrongly in suspending Bro. Williams. He moved that the appeal be allowed, and the suspension of Bro. Williams removed.

This was put and carried unanimously, thus reversing the decision of the District G. Master.

The G. MASTER said he regretted that the District G. Master of New South Wales should have acted in so improper a manner.

ANOTHER APPEAL FROM SYDNEY.

This was another appeal from a Past Master of the Australia Lodge (No. 390), Sydney, New South Wales, against the decision of the District G. Master in two cases, also against his suspension from his Masonic functions.

This was an appeal arising out of the previous case, and it appeared that Bro. Dagleish said the three brethren before referred to had been improperly initiated, that it was an illegal ceremony performed in the lodge, and that the Deputy District G. Master was present, and took part in it. Bro. Dagleish complained by letter of the Deputy District G. Master being present and allowing it to have been done, and he also wished the District G. Master to summon a lodge of emergency, to have the matter investigated. At the same time he used strong language not becoming Freemasonry, and when the District G. Master did not comply, he said it was only from a wish to screen his Deputy. Bro. Dagleish was summoned to go before the District G. Master, and he wanted to know who was his accuser. He at length admitted that he was the writer of the letter, but he did not complain to him, as his complaint would be made to the Grand Lodge of England. In a few days the District G. Master said he would hear from him, which was by receiving his suspension from his Masonic functions. Now the question was, was Bro. Dagleish properly suspended from Masonry. He (the G. Registrar), said the District G. Master was not the proper person to judge whether or not he was right, as his complaint was to the Grand Lodge of England, and therefore he moved that these appeals be allowed, and the suspension on Bro. Dagleish removed.

The G. MASTER said it appeared that Bro. Dagleish himself was not free from blame, but the District Grand Master had no

right to suspend a brother for making an appeal to the Grand Lodge of England, and he had no right to be suspended. The District Grand Master ought to have waited and allowed the Grand Lodge to consider the question without the prejudice of his threat before them.

The question was then put, and the appeals were allowed and the suspension removed.

Thus a second time the decision of the District Grand Master of New South Wales was reversed.

A THIRD APPEAL.

This was a third appeal from the W. Master of the Cambrian Lodge (No. 656), Sydney, New South Wales, against his suspension from his Masonic functions by the District Grand Master of New South Wales.

This was a squabble about the payment of 5s., whether it was properly paid or not, and on this point of the case the Grand Registrar said he should not ask the Grand Lodge to come to any decision, but as regarded the suspension of the W. Master from his Masonic functions, he moved that the ruling of the District Grand Master of New South Wales be reversed.

This was also put and agreed to unanimously.

APPEALS FROM WEST LANCASHIRE.

The following appeals stood next on the paper:—Sir Thomas Hesketh, Prov. G.M. West Lancashire, reporting the suspension of Bro. John McGlinchy, P.M. of the Starkie Lodge (No. 1,070), Fleetwood, for improper conduct in taking possession of the warrant, and removing it from the lodge premises; and an appeal of Bro. John McGlinchy, P.M. of the Starkie Lodge (No. 1,070), Fleetwood, against his suspension by the Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire.

Bro. McGlinchy was called, but not answering, the report of Bro. Sir Thomas Hesketh was proceeded with.

It appeared that Bro. McGlinchy was the Immediate Past Master of the Starkie Lodge, and the Master of the lodge being an eminent volunteer, was frequently at Hythe, and consequently during the time the lodge was under the direction of the Senior Warden. In the month of January when Bro. McGlinchy went to the lodge as Immediate Past Master, he took the chair. When the minutes of the previous lodge were read, they recorded that on that occasion the Senior Warden was in the chair. Bro. McGlinchy objected to the minutes being so recorded, and called upon the Secretary to amend them by stating that the Senior Warden occupied a place near the pedestal, but not as having occupied the Master's place in the chair, and where he had no right to be. The Secretary, however, refused to do so, took possession of the warrant, and said he would send it to the Provincial Grand Master. It seemed that it was locked up in an ante-room, but Bro. McGlinchy broke the glass and took away the warrant, and he said he did so for the purpose of getting the lodge closed. Now he had no right to take away the warrant, and he moved that the suspension of Bro. McGlinchy be continued until such time as he shall make proper submission to the Provincial Grand Master.

This motion was put and agreed to.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

Bro. Victor A. Williamson, P.G.W., moved the following resolution: "That a grant of one hundred guineas be made out of the Fund of General Purposes to the Palestine Exploration Fund; and this Grand Lodge recommends the same to the notice of Provincial and District Grand Lodges, and of private lodges, as worthy of the support of the Craft." In support of this motion he said he hoped to satisfy Grand Lodge that the object he had in view was of great interest to the Craft at large,

and was one that merited their confidence and esteem. He apprehended that anything that had for its object to give them a fuller illustration of that sacred volume which was their proudest boast, and on which they rested their whole system—anything by which they could more fully realise the events which concerned the country recorded in that volume—anything which could make them more thoroughly and deeply impressed with their importance—entitled themselves to their consideration and esteem, for they had a far greater claim upon them as Masons, inasmuch as they could trace their Masonic origin to those good men who, under King Solomon, reared that magnificent Temple at Jerusalem. History, the Sacred Volume, and Josephus informed them nothing as to its general features, and as to its architecture they were completely in the dark, and it only required to be properly investigated to relieve it from the obscurity which rested upon it. It was 1,800 years ago that it was prophesied that that temple should be destroyed, and not one stone should be left on another, and how fully had that prophecy been realised. It was said that its walls were the wonder of all beholders—that it was the wonder of the ancient world, who were accustomed to such gigantic structures. Although Jerusalem sustained itself against seventeen sieges, of the natural fortress and ancient city, which was so strongly and resolutely defended, no trace remained, for it was absolutely obliterated, and it would only be by digging in some places as much as 100ft. deep before any portion of the ancient city could be arrived at. The subject had attracted the attention of a society, but to them, as Masons, it had a very strong claim, for they could not repudiate those traditions preserved by them in the present, but bound up with the glories of the past. That brought him to the second part of his address, and that was to allude to those who were promoters of this work, and amongst the members were Lord Derby, Lord Russell, Mr. Gilbert Scott, and many other names of great eminence, and he might be allowed to mention the name of their Most Worshipful G. Master, who had liberally subscribed to and supported it, and by whose sanction he (Bro. Williams) then brought forward that motion. One of the persons who was engaged in this excavation was Lieutenant Warren, a P.M. of the Lodge of Friendship, who had had the good fortune of conciliating the good opinion of all classes, and overcoming the prejudices of the people in regard to the sanctity of the spot. Let them not forget that the present was a favourable moment, and if they allowed it to pass it might never occur again. The sum was not a large one, and since he had been in Grand Lodge he had been told that a larger amount should be proposed, but he preferred to adhere to the sum he had named, and would now leave the matter in the hands of Grand Lodge.

Bro. the Rev. E. Cox, P.G. Chap., seconded the motion, and said as the sacred volume was the basis and foundation of all the blessings they enjoyed, the support of this object would redound to their own honour and the support of their institution.

The G. Master, who said he heartily concurred in the proposed vote, put the motion, and it was unanimously agreed to.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The seventieth anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, was celebrated on Wednesday evening, March 11th, in the new hall, at the Freemason's Tavern, and was as usual very numerously attended. The festival was got up under the management of a long list of Stewards, contributed not only from the metropolitan but a large number from the

provinces. Bro. Gilbert Greenall, P.G.S.W., was president of the Board of Stewards, and Bro. John Udall, P.G.D., acted as Vice President. Bro. Sir Thomas George Fermor Hesketh, *Bart.* *M.P.*, Prov. G. Master for West Lancashire, presided, and amongst those near the chairman we observed Bros. Lord de Tabley, Prov. G.M. for Cheshire; Colonel Bowyer, Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire; G. K. W. Potter, P.G.D.; H. Empson, P.G.S.B.; Raynham, W.S., P.G.D. Essex, G. Treas.; Benj. Head, P.G.D.; W. Fern, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. Young, P.G.S.B.; George Cox, P.G.D.; A. U. Theselton, L. F. Turian, head Master of the Boys' School; the Rev. C. Woodward, P.G. Chap. for New South Wales, and Chaplain of the School; W. Farnfield, P.A.G. Sec., and Secretary to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B., and Secretary to the Girls' School; A. W. Beach, *M.P.*, P.G.W. for Hants; Captain Richard Cope, P.G.S.B.; G. Cornwall Legh, P.G.W.; J. S. Hopwood, P.G.D.; Algernon Perkins, P.G.W.; Peter Mathews, hon. surgeon, dentist to the School; W. Ough, A.G. Purst.; Thomas Meggy, W.M. (for the second time), Fitzroy Lodge; John Emmens, P.G. Purst.; R. W. Little, P.M.; Fendlebury, P.M., and about three hundred members of different Lodges, metropolitan and provincial.

The following report was issued by the committee:—

In reviewing the proceedings of the past year, the first subject which offers itself for congratulatory notice is the completion of the buildings at Wood Green, which now afford as perfect accommodation as can be found in any similar institution, and which have received unqualified praise from everyone who has visited them for the purpose of inspection. On this subject the committee refer with pride and pleasure to the visit paid by the M.W. Grand Master during the last summer, when his lordship most minutely examined the entire arrangements, expressed himself as in the highest degree satisfied with every detail, and gave his entire approval of the course adopted to accomplish the work.

Next in order, and, perhaps, more really important than any other topic of consideration, is the satisfactory first essay in connection with the University Local Middle-Class Examinations. In the Oxford examination in June last, the only two candidates sent up from this School were included in the first division—classed according to merit—comprising 57 only out of 1,032 junior candidates. In the Cambridge examination in December last, six candidates were entered, and it is hoped that a success proportionately equal may be announced at the Festival, on the 11th March next.

Again, the committee have, with gratitude, to congratulate themselves, the Craft at large, and those placed in charge of the establishment, on the continued good health enjoyed by the whole of the pupils, not a single serious case of indisposition having been reported during the past year.

Another source of gratification is derived from the continued support rendered to the Institution, as evidencing its importance in the estimation of the Craft. In the absence of any provincial organisation in its behalf, by which means considerable assistance has in former years been received—nay, even with that very organisation more largely used in behalf of the sister Institutions than has ever previously been known, from which there was reason to fear this Institution would suffer—the amount contributed has been upwards of £3,500 leaving a margin, after providing for the various branches of expenditure, and meeting burdens for the first time imposed upon it.

From the "Building Account" it will be seen how heavy has been the outlay, every item of which has been scrupulously watched, no expenditure having been sanctioned for any pur-

pose the benefit or necessity of which had not been readily recognised or satisfactorily proved.

The accounts are in course of being made up by Bro. S. B. Wilson, and it is hoped that a final settlement may be speedily arrived at, though what amount will be required for that purpose, it is at present impossible to state, owing to the numerous additions to the original design, and the heavy expenditure necessitated for drainage, and the reconstruction of the whole of the roads and pathways.

This naturally leads to the one source of deep regret—the mortgage of the property at Wood Green, for the sum of £10,000, entailing an annual liability of £500 in payment of interest. The funded stock having been sold, the income is solely derivable from voluntary contributions, with the exception of the annual grant of £150 from Grand Lodge, and £10 10s. from Grand Chapter. Under these circumstances it has been declared inexpedient to attempt to extend the benefits of the Institution, although there is ample accommodation in the building for thirty boys more than are now admitted; the claims for reception showing a largely increasing proportion, there being no less than forty-one candidates for election in April next, while the vacancies will be nine only.

Amongst the gratifying occurrences of the year are the permanent foundations of prizes for annual award. The names of the founders with the amounts contributed, a list of other presentations, and of donations of money and books for the library, will be found under their respective headings. The committee and executive desire thus publicly to testify their most grateful acknowledgments for the kindness and liberality displayed by the various individual brethren, many of whom are numbered amongst the most influential and munificent supporters of the Institution.

The committee regret the continued high prices of provisions, which—with the heavy impost of rates, and the further legitimate demands for improved educational means—have tended to defeat the efforts of the managers of the Institution to effect any considerable reduction in the ordinary expenditure; yet it will be seen that by the exercise of careful supervision, the cost per boy is £1 1s. less than during the preceding year, it being £46 15s. 1d. in 1867, as against £47 16s. 1d. in 1866. There is, moreover, this encouragement, that the School in all its arrangements was never more efficient, the results never so satisfactory, and it is hoped, and with confidence believed, that it is destined to a lengthened course of usefulness and prosperity.

The dinner took place in the new large hall, and on this occasion the tables were set out on a novel, but by no means improved manner. Instead of being longitudinal, they were placed across the hall, and thus the area was cut up into a number of small tables, which detracted from the general aspect which has hitherto formed a great feature in these gatherings. The Chairman's seat was also changed, for, instead of being at the extremity of the hall in the north, it was placed in the west, but not sufficiently elevated to be seen by those brethren who were distantly removed from him. Altogether it was considered the experiment was a failure, and it is to be hoped will never be repeated. The dinner was served in the best style of the Freemasons' Tavern Company, the fare was first rate, and the attendance was all that could be desired.

The cloth having been drawn, grace was sung by the professional singers.

The CHAIRMAN said, the first toast he had to propose was one that held the first place among all Englishmen, and amongst them there were none more loyal than Freemasons. He gave "The Queen, Patron of the Institution."

The National Anthem followed; the solo part by Madame Rudersdorff, and the quartette by Bros. G. Perren, Frank Elmore, Madame Rudersdorff, and Miss Fanny Holland.

The next toast was "The Prince and Princess of Wales," and the rest of "The Royal Family."

Quartette—"Dormi Pas" (Martha), Miss Fanny Holland, Madame Osborne Wilhans, Mdlle. Mela, and Bro. Ciabatta.

The CHAIRMAN said, the next toast I rise to propose to you is one dear to every Mason. It is "The health of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland." (Cheers.) This, brethren, is the twenty-fifth year of his holding the high office he now does in the Craft. During the long period that he has ruled over the Craft, I believe there is no brother who has not met the most courteous attention and real kindness in his dealings with our Most Worshipful Grand Master. I am very sorry he is not with us this day, and I believe that it was only from unforeseen circumstances that we are prevented from having his company this evening. I believe it is in contemplation to hold some commemorative festival in honour of his having ruled over the Craft for a quarter of a century; therefore, nothing that I can say will induce you to do more honour to his character than he deserves; and I beg to propose "The Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland."

The toast was most cordially responded to.

The CHAIRMAN said: Brethren, I rise now to propose to you "The Health of the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the Provincial Grand Masters, past and present." It is well known to every brother who is present, or who has had anything to do with Grand Lodge, the ability and urbanity with which our Deputy Grand Master fills the office of Grand Master in the absence of his chief, and the very able way in which he takes charge of those duties committed to his care. I believe also that he is most ably and willingly seconded by the Provincial Grand Masters and the officers of the Grand Lodge under him, and in this light I think those gentlemen have shown an unlimited confidence in the ability of our Deputy Grand Master. I say that is very creditable to both parties, and as long as it lasts we shall go on increasing in prosperity day by day. I beg to give you "The Health of the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Masters, past and present, and the rest of the Grand Officers." (The toast was very cordially received.)

Bro. Col. BOWYER, Prov. G. Master for Oxfordshire, said he rose in obedience to the call of the chairman, but he would not detain them long in returning thanks for the toast which had been so eloquently proposed by the chairman. It would be invidious on his part to speak of the great ability and kindness of the Deputy Grand Master, for in addition to his arduous labours in the Queen's service, he was always amongst them, and did all he could to promote the interests of Freemasonry and therefore it was with pleasure that he had to respond for the way in which the brethren had drunk his health. With regard to the Provincial Grand Masters, considering how few of them were present there that day, he had to speak with some modesty, but he would beg the brethren to consider that they had other avocations at home, and, though they were prevented from being present, their hearts were amongst them. He would also ask the brethren to consider the subscriptions received from the country, which showed to them that those Provincial Grand Masters were not wanting in the great feature of charity, which was their distinctive merit to those who might call upon them for their aid. With regard to the Past Provincial Grand Masters, he felt sure that they

deserved that response on their behalf, as they had never neglected their duties, but had done their best to promote the interests of Freemasonry. In conclusion, he returned thanks for the honour the brethren had conferred upon him in the way in which they had received the toast.

Song, Bro. Geo. Perren—"When thou wilt be my bride."

BRO. LORD DE TABLEY said: It was not the first time that he had had the honour to address an assembly met together on occasions similar to the present. He usually did so with considerable diffidence, but that time it was taken from him, when he remembered the toast he had to propose, which he felt sure would be acceptable wherever Freemasons were assembled together. The toast he had the honour to propose was the health of a brother in the Craft who did everything that he could, to do good to Freemasonry, and he exerted himself most ably in his office of Provincial Grand Master. He was there doing the arduous duty of that day, and he must say that he was most anxious to support their charities, for they were the brightest ornaments of the Craft, and the service he had rendered to them was the great inducement for him (Lord de Tabley) to come up from the country to be present on that occasion and to be amongst his supporters in the chair. Their excellent Chairman was highly esteemed in the Craft, and they had an evidence of it in the assembly he had the honour to address, for thirteen Stewards had come up from West Lancashire, whom he saw before him, to support their Chairman on that occasion. He proposed "The health of Sir Thomas Hesketh, Prov. Grand Master for West Lancashire." (The toast was cordially drank.)

The CHAIRMAN said—Brethren, I hardly know how to return thanks for the very kind manner in which you have received my health, and for the very flattering way in which my Bro. Lord De Tabley has brought it under the notice of the brethren present. You, brethren, have examined my merits through a magnifying glass, but, as regards my defects, you have looked at them through the other end of the telescope. I can only say that I will do my best for the advancement of our excellent charities, and all who are connected with them. Some months since Bro. Binckes, your Secretary, asked me to take the chair on this occasion, and then I told him that I would do my best, and I am much gratified to see such a number of brethren present here to-night; and if you will permit me to make a provincial allusion, I must say that I am particularly gratified in seeing present such a number of personal friends from West Lancashire. I hope this meeting to-night will be conducive to the augmentation of the funds, of which the institution stands so much in need, and of which you will hear more presently. I beg to thank you for the cordial way in which you have received my health.

After this the prizes were delivered, and the chairman addressed the meeting at considerable length in support of the institution, but, in consequence of the very crowded state of our columns, we must defer the rest of the report until next week.

The total amount of the subscriptions announced was £4,890, with six lists to come in.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 34).—This very ancient lodge called a meeting of its members on the 27th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Bro. C. R. Roberts, W.M. Lodge being opened in due form, Bro. Artus, P.M. and Sec., read the minutes of the last meeting, which received confirmation, after which a ballot was taken for the admission of Bro

Spriggs (a former member of the lodge) as a joining member. The ballot being unanimous in his favour, he was declared elected. The ballot box then went round for the admission of two gentlemen for initiation, well and worthily recommended—viz., Mr. George W. North and Mr. W. Addis. The result was, as in the former case, unanimous. Upon that the candidates were introduced, and received the benefits of the first step in Freemasonry. Bro. Butler having shown proficiency in the first degree was rewarded by being received as a F.C. Bro. Hamilton, proving himself an expert Craftsman, was raised to the superlative degree of a Master Mason. The ceremonies were admirably performed. Lodge being closed, the brethren retired to an excellent dinner. Several speeches and songs were interspersed among the toasts. Bros. Absolon and Judkins, P.M., made admirable responses to the toasts with which they were connected, and want of space only prevents our inserting them. Bro. Spriggs sang the good old song, "The monks of old," Bro. Varley "Good St. Anthony," and Bro. Hamilton a patriotic song, each receiving thanks and well-merited applause. Among the visitors were Bros. J. Smith, P.G.F., and Dallas, W.M. (No. 192).—It may be interesting to our Masonic readers to know something about Mount Moriah, from which Lodge 34 takes its name. Mount Moriah stands just without Jerusalem, and is now crowned with the mosque of Omar, whose entrance has long been forbidden to the Christian, and kept sacred to the followers of Mahommed. It stands where the rude altar of Abraham rose nearly 4,000 years ago. The proud city has risen and fallen; beside it the generations of men come and gone, and whole dynasties of kings disappeared one after another; yet there it stands, as it stood in the wilderness, when it was trodden only by the wild beasts of the forest. Years after the Temple of King Solomon threw its sunbeams upon it, and the children of Israel paid their vows there. But it is still more memorable to masons on account of H. A.'s tomb.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 188).—This numerous and influential lodge held the usual monthly meeting at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Monday, the 2nd inst., the W.M., Bro. Dippenheim, presiding, well supported by his officers and a large number of brethren. Lodge being opened in due form, and the minutes of previous meeting confirmed, a ballot was taken for the initiation of the following gentlemen, who were candidates for the honour of Freemasonry—viz., Messrs. W. H. Hebb, Jose Piodella, and J. C. Thwaites. All being declared eligible for the privileges sought, they were admitted and impressively inducted to the Order. The only other business of importance was the raising of Bro. Lowenstein to the sublime degree of M.M. The ceremonies were given in a manner to elicit warm encomiums from all present. Bro. Dippenheim, the W.M., is following in the wake of those who have preceded him, and he is evidently showing at this early stage of his Master-ship that the Lodge of Joppa will lose none of its prestige at his hands. Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, well served by Bro. Jennings, the worthy manager. The W.M., after grace, gave the "Queen and Craft," making some elegant allusions to that illustrious lady, commenting upon her virtues as a Queen, wife, and mother. The National Anthem was then sung in beautiful style. The usual Masonic toasts followed, that of "Success to the Benevolent Fund of Joppa Lodge" being responded to by Bro. B. W. Aron, P.M. and V.P., who made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the fund, showing the brethren by reference to the past what good had resulted from that association with their lodge, several brethren over whom a black cloud had suddenly fallen were saved probably from severe affliction. It behoved every brother to subscribe—however small the sum—to this fund; it was laying up against the evil day; it was a slight sacrifice of present indulgence in case of future misfortunes. Bro. Eskell, the I.P.M., returned thanks for the P.M.'s. The visitors were Bros. B. H. Birchell, P.G.S.B. for Herefordshire; Simpson, P.M. 180; D. G. Berri, 27; J. Lowenstein, Eagle Lodge, Frankfurt; and Stack, W.M. 554. It would be injustice to conclude this notice without adverting to the musical arrangements, which were under the direction of the highly talented organist of the lodge, Bro. P. E. Van Noorden, assisted by Madame Barrington, who sang charmingly; Bro. Sydney, a member of the Joppa Lodge; and Master F. Solomon, who, though only fourteen years of age, perfectly astonished the brethren by his artistic singing. He possesses a liquid soprano voice, and well merited the ovation he received. We understand he is a grandson of Bro. Solomon, of Covent Garden, an old member of the Joppa

Lodge, and son of Bro. Charles Solomon, a well-known musician, and a member of this lodge.

SOUTHERN STAR LODGE (No. 1,158).—An emergency meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on Tuesday, the 25th ult., at the Montpelier Tavern, Walworth, and the success which has attended it is somewhat extraordinary, for although it has been only nine months in existence, twenty-eight members have been initiated in it since its institution. Bro. Henry Thompson, W.M., presided; Bros. Pulford, S.W.; Margerison, J.W.; C. E. Thompson, Sec., and the other officers were present, besides several visitors. The lodge having been opened in due form, and with solemn prayer, the first business was to initiate Mr. J. Limeburn, Mr. John Harris, Mr. Alfred William Wright, Mr. Henry James Towers, and Mr. Charles Page, into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry, that important rite being very carefully performed by the W.M. The next business was to pass Bros. Tonerzey, Higgins, and Wise to the second degree. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bros. Herbert, Shepherd, Walklate, Farmer, and Butcher were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the W.M. rendering that important ceremony in his usual impressive manner, and also giving the too often neglected traditional history. At the conclusion of the ceremony the different recipients expressed the great delight they had experienced in obtaining this superior degree in Freemasonry, and several visitors congratulated the W.M. on the very efficient manner in which he had gone through the ceremony of the sublime degree. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a splendid banquet, provided by Bro. Allatt, which gave great satisfaction. After the cloth was drawn, the usual formal toasts were given, and that of their newly-initiated brethren was responded to seriatim, all of them expressing the delight they felt in being admitted to the ancient and honorable Order of Freemasons. The health of the W.M. was also proposed, and in responding to it he congratulated the members on the success at which the lodge had advanced, for although their first meeting was held at the latter end of May, and they were supposed to meet only on alternate months, yet in that short time they had made great progress, for with that evening he had initiated the twenty-eighth candidate into Freemasonry, which spoke volumes for the esteem in which the Southern Star Lodge was held, and the desire that was manifested to become members of it. Some other toasts were given, and the evening was passed in the true spirit of Freemasonry.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

TOTNES (*Pleiades Lodge*, No. 710).—The regular monthly meeting was held at the Masonic Rooms, on Thursday, March 5th. At a quarter past six the lodge was opened by Bro. John Heath, W.M., assisted by Bros. John Marks, acting as S.W.; Wm. Oldrey, J.W.; Dr. Hopkins acting as I.P.M.; R. H. Watson, P.M. and Sec.; Pridham, S.D.; W. Cuming, J.D.; Wherry acting as I.G. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot for a joining member was deferred for want of information respecting him, and as illness prevented his presence. Of the candidates for the 2nd and 3rd degrees only one presented himself, namely, Bro. J. Simmons, who, after examination, was entrusted and dismissed for preparation. The lodge having been opened in the 2nd degree, the candidate was readmitted and passed to the rank of F.C. by the W.M., at whose request Bro. Dr. Hopkins gave him the charge and the lecture explanatory of the tracing board. The lodge was closed in the 2nd degree. The acting I.P.M. introduced a resolution, of which due notice had been given, in order to define in the by-laws the manner of taking the ballot at the annual election of the W.M., and thus to prevent a difference of opinion such as arose on the last occasion: it was seconded, with a view to raise a discussion on the subject, by the J.W., and supported by Bro. the Rev. J. Powning, Chaplain; it was opposed by the W.M., J.W., and Sec., chiefly on the ground that it was not desirable to alter by-laws which had on the whole worked well. On being put to the vote, the motion was lost. No other business offering, the lodge was closed at half-past eight.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

MANCHESTER—(Affability Lodge, No. 317).—The St. John's Festival meeting, held on Jan. 2nd, was very well attended. Previous to the banquet the installation of the W.M., Bro. Sydney Henson, took place, and the following officers for the year were appointed, the ceremony of investiture being performed by Bro. Hine, P.M., assisted by Bro. Baldwin, P.M., 76, &c.: Bros. J. A. Eastwood, S.W.; J. Laxton, J.W.; J. B. Webb, Sec.; Samuel Titmas, Treas.; John Bladon, S.D.; S. S. Fox, J.D.; John Phillips, I.G.; A. T. Coop, Registrar; Walmsley, Dir. of Cers.; Collard, Organist. At the banquet the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and the evening was enlivened by the performances of an excellent glee party, under the direction of Bro. Dumville. The first meeting under the direction of the new W.M., Bro. Sydney Henson, was held on Feb. 6, when, in addition to the ordinary monthly business, Bro. A. J. Johnson, jun., P.M., presented the report of the Benevolent Fund Committee, wherein it was recommended that the lodge should establish a permanent benevolent fund for the use of brethren in distress, more particularly those brethren who may have been members of this lodge. The further consideration of the subject was postponed. The balance-sheet for the past year was presented, and received the sanction of the lodge. The second lodge meeting called upon the authority of Bro. Sydney Henson, W.M., was held on Thursday last, March 6. There was nothing of special interest to report beyond the fact that it is intended to hold a *soiree* after the ordinary business on the next lodge night in April; and that among the visitors who honoured the lodge with their company, the brethren of Affability had the pleasure of welcoming Bro. Smith, P.G. Steward of the Grand Lodge of England, and P.M. of several lodges. As an indication of the estimation in which Freemasonry is held in this district, I may mention that there were three new propositions for initiation.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—St. John's Lodge (No. 279).—This lodge held its regular monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 4th inst., under the presidency of Bro. W. Kelly, W.M., D. Prov. G.M., the following officers being present:—Bros. Leonard A. Clarke, I.P.M.; W. Weare, P.M. and Treas.; Edwin Gosling, S.W.; E. W. S. Stanley, J.W.; C. Stretton, Sec.; T. Thorpe, S.D.; O. Burton, I.G., and others. Visitors:—Bros. Brewin, P. Prov. S.G.W., P.M.; Toller, J.W.; Sculthorpe, Sec.; J. C. Clarke, S.D.; Bithrey and Partridge, John of Gaunt Lodge (No. 523). The lodge having been opened and the minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. Edwin John Crow, which was unanimous in his favour, and being in attendance he was initiated into the Order, after which the W.M. gave the lecture on the tracing board, and the charge. There being no further business the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.

GLASGOW.—Thistle and Rose Lodge (No. 73).—The 110th anniversary of this lodge was celebrated with great *éclat* in the Tomline Hotel, Glasgow, on the 27th ult. The chair was occupied by Bro. MacRobert, the respected R.W.M. of the lodge, supported by Bros. Lieut.-Col. Campbell, of Blythswood, Prov. G.M. for Renfrewshire East; Alexander Strathern, Sheriff-Substitute of Lanarkshire, senior member of the Thistle and Rose Lodge; and other eminent brethren in this and neighbouring provinces. After a plentiful repast the Chairman congratulated the brethren on the success of their present festival, and in being honoured by the presence of so many distinguished brethren, who, in the midst of their numerous engagements, were ever foremost in advancing the cause of Freemasonry in the west of Scotland. He concluded by proposing the toast of "The Queen and Craft," which was received in true Masonic style. The next toast was "The Three Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland," and was replied to by Bro. Lieut.-Col. Campbell. Bro. Sheriff Strathern, in proposing the next toast—"The Army, Navy, and Volunteers"—took occasion to remark that while the army and navy were ever ready at their posts to protect the interests and guard the honour of their

country, there was one branch of the service—a banding of some seven years' growth, which had now assumed the most gigantic proportions, and which, although as yet untried in the in the sterner realities of war, would, he was sure, whenever called upon, display those faculties which must ever be dominant in an educated body of men such as the volunteers. The toast was replied to by Bro. Lieut.-Col. Campbell. Other toasts followed, and were duly honoured; and an assembly kept up to an early hour, auspiciously terminated the festive proceedings.

[A melancholy interest is attached to this *réunion*, in consequence of the sudden death of Bro. Sheriff Strathern, on the afternoon of Sunday, the 1st inst., from a shock of apoplexy, with which he was seized on the 28th ult. (the day after the festival above referred to), and which so completely prostrated him that he gradually sank until he expired about half-past 3 on Sunday afternoon last. In the obituary notice on another page we give a sketch of the career of the esteemed and distinguished brother who has just been removed from amongst us, "without warning and without an hour to say farewell."—Ed., F.M.]

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

LODGE LA CESARRE (No. 590).

At the regular meeting, held in the Masonic Temple, on Dec. 26th, 1867, the lodge was opened in the 1st degree by Bro. John Durell, W.M., assisted by Bros. A. Viel, S.W.; G. Renouf, J.W.; A. Schmitt, P.M. and Sec.; J. T. Du Jardin, P.M.; H. L. Manuel, P.M.; Ph. Binet, P.M.; Le Goupillot, Treas.; J. Oatley Pasts, W. and I.G.; and about thirty other members.

After the confirmation of the minutes, Bro. Manuel laid before the meeting a statement in reference to the efforts to raise a sum of money, under the title of "The Exploration Fund of Palestine," which is under the patronage of her Majesty the Queen, its object being to supply means for researches among the Holy Places. This important task has been committed to Captain Warren, of the Engineers, who, by aid of the funds placed at his disposal, has already obtained important results at Jerusalem. However, it is to be feared, continued Bro. Manuel, that these works, which are especially interesting to Freemasons, may be interrupted for want of pecuniary means to carry them on. This skilful, talented, and devoted investigator has lately made an appeal to all generous hearts, earnestly entreating them to afford him help, in order that he may bring to a favourable result the laborious enterprise, which must in the highest degree interest the Christian world in general, but more particularly those who belong to the Masonic Institution, which has reason to be proud of its connection with the ancient brethren who assisted in the construction of the Temple of King Solomon. Consequently they have a legitimate and laudable desire to know whether discoveries can be made as to remains connected with the time-honoured Craft which may be covered beneath the ruins. Finally, Bro. Manuel proposed that a grant of three guineas be made from the funds of the lodge for the promotion of the object.

Bro. Du Jardin seconded the proposition, and adduced in its support numerous arguments as lucid in expression as they were serious in import.

The Secretary also spoke in its favour, clearly demonstrating, by solid proofs drawn from history, that the undertaking must in every point of view interest all who possess the least regard for archaeology, a science which is now daily receiving development and revealing to us mysteries which have lain revealed from periods the most remote.

The W.M. and other brethren expressed opinions in accordance with those of the proposer, urging the satisfaction which the members would derive, by the contribution of their mite, from having assisted the efforts of noble and enterprising men, whose object it is to add to the stock of human knowledge.

On being put to the vote, the resolution was carried unanimously.

No other business offered except the proposition of two gentlemen for initiation at the next meeting.

The first meeting of the new year was held on Jan. 30. The lodge was opened in the 1st degree by Bro. Durell, W.M. assisted by Bros. Viel, S.W.; G. Renouf, J.W.; A. Schmitt,

F.M. and Sec.; J. Oatley, I.G.; Ph. Binet, P.M.; J. T. Du Jardin, P.M.; J. Amy, Ph. Starck, F. E. de Veuille, Ph. Oulless, and about twenty other members. Among the visitors were Bros. J. F. Draper, P.M. 243; W. H. Long, W.M. 958; Ph. Blampied, &c.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for George Romeril, and afterwards for George Marie, jun., as candidates for initiation, which was in each case unanimously favourable, ample evidence having been afforded by many brethren as to their character and conduct. With the usual ceremonies they were therefore admitted to a participation in the privileges of the Order by the W.M., who also gave the usual charge, Bro. Oatley explaining the symbolism of the working tools of the degree. The labours were brought to a close at an early hour, no other business offering except the proposition of the son of an old member for initiation.

A special meeting was held at the Masonic Temple on Feb. 21st. The W.M., Bro. J. Durell, opened the proceedings in the customary form, in the presence of Bros. A. Viel, S.W.; G. Renouf, J.W.; A. Schmitt, P.M. and Sec.; N. Le Goupillot, Treas.; J. Oatley, I.G.; C. Le Sueur, P.M.; E. Le Geyt, J. T. Du Jardin, P.M.; F. Esnouf, J. Amy Ph. Oulless, and about fifteen others. Among the visitors were Bros. W. T. Pugsley, P.M. 245; J. F. Draper, P.M. 243; W. H. Long, W.M. 958; Capt. G. R. Chevalier, 87th Regt.; G. Rogers, 1,003, and many others.

A letter was read, to which were attached the names of Bros. A. Schmitt, P.M., and Sec. C. Le Sueur, P.M., and J. W. Buesnel, requesting the W.M. to call a special meeting in order to initiate two gentlemen residing in France, the one at St. Servan, the other at Rennes, giving a personal assurance of their eligibility in point of habits, character, and social position, and alleging the difficulty of their attendance at the regular meeting in the ensuing week in consequence of their foreign domicile, as a reason for holding an extraordinary meeting for the purpose.

The proposers, who were present, verbally endorsed all that they had expressed in writing in reference to the two gentlemen, and ample testimony in their favour was also given by many other members.

The W.M. proceeded to the ballot, and this being favourable, Messrs. Ph. G. Buesnel and E. R. Meward were duly admitted to the first degree in Freemasonry with the customary ceremonies by the W.M. Bro. Oatley explained the uses and application of the working tools. The two candidates expressed their intention to become subscribing members of the lodge.

At the request of the W.M., Bro. F. J. Amy delivered an admirable and eloquent address, full of instruction and generous ideas, which could not fail to penetrate the hearts of all his hearers. His words, expressive of sublime truths, descriptive of the excellences of our institution, and of its real tendency, were received with well-merited applause by the brethren present, affording good evidence of the impression produced by them, and this was supplemented by a unanimous vote on the proposition of Bro. Du Jardin, seconded by the Secretary, that a copy of the address be inserted in the minute-book.

The only other business transacted was in consequence of an announcement by the Secretary that an esteemed brother, J. T. Moss, had suffered a great calamity by the death of his wife. A deputation was appointed to wait upon him on behalf of the lodge, and to express deep sympathy with him and his family under their bereavement.

GUERNSEY.

DOYLE'S LODGE OF FELLOWSHIP (No. 84).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on the evening of Monday, the 24th ult., for the purpose of initiating Captain Brown and Mr. Carroll, both of the 66th, a detachment of which regiment is at present quartered in this island. The number of brethren present was unusually large. Amongst them were Bros. Gallienne, D. Prov. G.M.; W. H. Martin, W.M., in the chair; J. B. Gardner, S.W.; J. S. Glencross, J.W.; J. Millington, S.D.; J. Turton, J.D.; Parker, I.G.; Hutchinson, Treas.; Sarchet, Sec.; Mauger, Tyles; Stickland, P.M.; W. H. Mantz, Lucas, Clarke, Sparrow, P.M.; Cohen, Guilbert, I.P.M.; Nicolle, Smithard, P.M.; Willcocks, P.M.; and Garland. The following visitors amongst others were also present: Bros. Dawson, 243; Dudley, Battey, and Sheills, 66th Regt.; Porter, 243; and Smythson, P.M., 168. The lodge was opened at seven

o'clock punctually by the W.M., and the evening's work was at once commenced. Captain Brown was first, and after him Mr. Carroll was duly initiated into Freemasonry as Entered Apprentices. The ceremony of initiation was well worked by the W.M. and his officers, the charge being given to the two newly initiated brothers by Bro. Gallienne, P. Prov. D.G.M. Bro. Thomas Churchouse kindly presided at the harmonium, assisted by Bro. Churchouse, P.M. There being no further business the lodge was closed in solemn prayer, and the brethren retired for refreshment. During the evening, which was spent in a very pleasant and harmonious manner, a printed copy of the verses underneath was presented to every brother at the table by the author, Bro. Joseph A. Horner, 862, and afterwards well sung by Bro. Smythson, P.M. 168. The verses were written and dedicated to the brethren of Doyle's lodge, as a souvenir of a pleasant visit to Guernsey. Bro. Horner has sojourned in this island during the winter months, and has been a constant and most welcome visitor at Doyle's Lodge. He leaves now with a sincere wish on the part of every brother with whom he has become acquainted, that his trip to France may bring to him completely restored health, and for his future welfare in general.

DOYLE'S LODGE OF FELLOWSHIP.

Written and Dedicated to the Brethren, as a Souvenir of a Pleasant Visit to Guernsey,

BY BRO. JOSEPH A. HORNER.

First on roll of Masonry,
Province of La Belle Guernsey,
In the Craft the brethren toil—
Three cheers for the Lodge of Doyle!

Worthy Masons every one,
Faithfully the work is done;
None will e'er our banners soil—
Three cheers for the Lodge of Doyle!

Brave Sir John and great Napier,
Craftsmen good once laboured here,
Nor from duty did recoil—
Three cheers for the Lodge of Doyle!

Stand aside, all ye who dare
Slander Masonry so fair;
Brethren shall your falsehoods foil—
Three cheers for the Lodge of Doyle!

Happy bond of brotherhood,
Binding men of every blood;
Naught its beauty e'er shall spoil—
Three cheers for the Lodge of Doyle!

Still for aye its name shall be
Purest pledge of unity;
Ne'er shall angry passions boil—
Three cheers for the Lodge of Doyle!

Brighter yet in each decade,
Never shall its virtues fade;
Ever blest with priestly oil—
Three cheers for the Lodge of Doyle!

Round the earth the circle winds,
Linking firmly noble minds
By this telegraphic coil—
Three cheers for the Lodge of Doyle!

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

BELGRAVE CHAPTER (No. 749).—The regular convocation of this flourishing chapter was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 28th ult., at half-past five o'clock, present: Comps. W. Ough, Assist. G. Purst., M.E.Z.; H. Garrod, H.; C. Bond, J.; William Bourne, E.; George Pym, Acting N.; H. Johnson, M.D., P.S.; George William Porter, 1st Assist. Soj.; S. Homewood, 2nd Assist. Soj.; Thomas E. Edwards, M.D.; William Johnson, Edmund William Mackney, William Watson, G.S.L.; A. Lefeber, H. Finch, Charles Tuckett, Henry Watkinson, J. Zahensdorf, H. Hester, and many other Comps., including Comp. J. Smith, P.G.P. The minutes of the last convocation having been read and confirmed, and the two can-

didates for exaltation not being present, the chapter proceeded to the ballot for officers for the ensuing year, which proved unanimous in every candidate, as follows: H. Garrod, M.E.Z.; C. Bond, H.; Dr. Johnson, J.; William Bourne, Scribe E.; Geo. Pym, Scribe N.; George William Porter, P.S.; after which a jewel was unanimously voted to Comp. W. Ough, Assist. G. Purst., for the excellent manner in which he had gone through the duties of the chair during his year of office. This being all the business, the chapter was closed in due form, and the companions repaired to the banquet-room, when thirty-four sat down. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been disposed of, Comp. J. Smith, P.G.P., in replying to the toasts of the officers of the Grand Chapter, past and present, congratulated the Belgrave Chapter, for the unprecedented success that had attended it, at the close of the first year of its existence, he said it gave him great pleasure to be there that night to see such a company, as he had the honour of being present at the consecration, and could only say that it was due to the whole of the officers from their incessant exertions to congratulate them upon the successful results of their labours. Comp. Garrod then made an earnest appeal to the companions on behalf of their Janitor, who had that morning lost the loving companion of his life. It is needless to say that the companions showed their appreciation of his services to them, by most handsomely responding to the appeal. During the evening some excellent harmony from our talented Comp. E. W. Mackney, G. Pym, C. Bond, H. Hester, and several others, tended to make it an evening to be remembered by all present.

ROSE OF DENMARK CHAPTER (975).—The installation meeting of this young but distinguished chapter was held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, on Saturday, the 7th inst. Comp. Hubbard, M.E.Z., opened the chapter, assisted by several qualified companions, and after the confirmation of the minutes a conclave of installed First Principals was formed under the direction of Comp. R. W. Little, P.Z., who then installed Comp. Terry as M.E.Z., and inducted Comp. Pendlebury (Z. 1,036), into the chair of H. The new Z. then installed Comp. W. F. Smith as J., and on the re-admission of the companions the following were invested as officers for the year ensuing:—Comps. Little, E.; Powell, N.; Buss, Treas.; Turner, P.S.; Tanner, 1st A.S.; Price, 2nd A.S.; Dodd, Dir. of Cers.; and Gurney, W.S. The new officers then most efficiently exalted Bros. J. G. Marsh, P.M. 28. W.M. 192, and H. Lloyd, 228, into the mysterious degree of the H.R.A. A P.Z.'s jewel voted by the Chapter, was presented to Comp. Hubbard, the retiring Z., and the companions individually further contributed to confer upon that esteemed companion an additional token of regard, in the shape of a collar and silver jewel. The proceedings at the banquet which succeeded labour, were of a most harmonious character, and the new M.E.Z. proved himself a worthy successor of the able chiefs who had preceded him in the chair. Among other members present were Comps. Brett, P.Z., the father of the chapter, and now the foremost Royal Arch Mason in England; Quilty, Allman, Frickenhaus, Banks, Hartley, Walford, and Davis. Visitors:—Comps. W. C. Barlow, Z. 174; W. Ough, Assist. G. Purst., Z. 749; J. Cockburn, Z. 820, W. Watson, P.Z. 25; F. Walters, P.Z. 73; and G. S. States, P.Z. 742, all of whom expressed themselves highly pleased with the working, and with the hospitality afforded to them.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

HULL.—*Ancient York Conclave of Redemption*.—At a meeting of this encampment, held on Thursday, the 28th ult., there were present, Sir Knts. F. Jackson, E. Commander; J. F. Holden, 1st Capt.; J. Brooke, 2nd Capt.; W. Reynolds, Reg., G. Hardy, Expert; W. W. Batty, Herald; W. E. Dixon, Capt. of Lines; W. Johnson, Equerry; C. J. Bannister, P.G.C.; P.E.C.; G. Williamson, P.E.C.; A. E. Hargrove, J. Fowler, C. Pool, J. Ward, T. Lutz, H. Vise, W. H. Natto, Turner, Cooper, &c. The encampment having been opened in ancient form, the ballot box was prepared for Comp. Long, who was unanimously accepted as a candidate for the Order. Comps. Smith and Long being in attendance were then admitted and regularly installed, invested, and proclaimed Knights Templar, and members of this encampment. After which, hearty good wishes having been expressed, the encampment closed in ancient form. A priory of the Order of Knights of Malta was then opened by P.E.P. Sir Knt. Reynolds, five Sir Knights were admitted to the Order.

MARK MASONRY.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

HULL.—*Minerva Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 12).—At a meeting of this lodge held on Monday evening, the 2nd inst., in the Masonic Hall, Prince-street, there were present. Bros. J. F. Holden, W.M.; J. N. Scherling, S.W.; J. Walker, J.W.; W. Reynolds, P.M., Sec.; J. Thompson, M.O.; H. Haigh, S.O.; R. T. Vivian, J.O.; J. Linwood, S.D.; J. H. Eimes, J.D.; G. Hardy, Dir. of Cers.; J. W. Stephenson, Org.; J. Burn, Steward; W. Tessyman, I.G.; T. Sanderson and J. Faulkner, Tylers; B. Jacobs, M. C. Peck, and S. Moseley, P.M.'s; C. Pool, H. Vise, R. N. Harker, J. Norton, W. Johnson, B. S. Oates, W. Drury, W. E. Dixon, J. Brownridge, C. A. Dreyer, W. E. Woolf. Visitors:—Bros. T. Sissons, P.M.; J. D. Holmes, and J. C. Armitage. The lodge having been opened in due form the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot box was then prepared for thirteen candidates, all of whom were unanimously accepted. Bros. Dige, Weeke, Longstaff, Todd, Walliker, Stephenson, Sissons, Haberland, Cohen, and Haigh, being in attendance, were then admitted and regularly advanced to the honourable degree by the W.M., assisted by Bro. Peck, P.M., and the Dir. of Cers. One candidate was then proposed for ballot at the next meeting, when, hearty good wishes having been expressed, the lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment, and spent the remainder of the evening in harmony, parting at half-past ten o'clock.

RED CROSS KNIGHTS OF CONSTANTINE.

METROPOLITAN.

TRIENNIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GENERAL GRAND CONCLAVE. —The first triennial meeting of this body (since its revival) was held on the 6th inst., at the Freemasons' Tavern. The lines were formed at five o'clock, under the direction of Sir Knt. Dr. Vincent W. Bate, as acting Grand Marshall, assisted by Sir Knts. Dr. S. E. Clarke, G. Prefect, and G. R. Woodman, M.D., commanding divisions, and several evolutions peculiar to the Order were then performed under the able direction of the Marshall, who formerly held a high position in the Red Cross Order at New York. On the arrival of the Right Hon. the Lord Kenlis, M. Ill. G. Sovereign, being announced, the Knights formed the arch of steel, and his lordship entered in a procession, composed as follows:—Sir Knts. T. Wescombe, G. Herald, and J. Trickett, C.E., Inspector General for Kent, as Heralds; G. Powell, G. Sword Bearer; the Lord Kenlis, G.S.; J. G. Marsh, G. Architect; R. W. Little, G. Rec.; W. H. Hubbard, G. Treas.; E. Busher, G. Senior General; and the Rev. T. F. Ravenshaw, G. High Prelate. During this period Sir Knt. H. Parker, G.O., officiated with his usual ability at the harmonium. His lordship having inspected the lines, the conclave was formally opened by the acting Grand Marshal. The G. Recorder then read the report of the executive committee, in which the progress of the Order during the past three years was reviewed, and to which was appended a clear statement of the accounts, by which there appeared a balance to the credit of the general fund of £50 6s. 3d., exclusive of £7 16s. received for the G. Almshouse fund—the latter amount being small in consequence of several conclaves not having yet completed their first year of existence, when returns will doubtless be received to augment the amount stated. The thanks of the committee were specially conveyed in the report to those members, by whose untiring exertions the affairs of the Order had, in so short a period, been brought to such a satisfactory position—services which, to quote the words of the report, are "the more laudable inasmuch as none of these officers receive any salary or gratuity whatever for their onerous labours in the cause." Upon motion duly made and seconded, the report was unanimously received and adopted. The next business being the election of a Grand Sovereign for the ensuing three years, Sir Knt. Lord Kenlis retired, when it was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously that his lordship be re-elected to that high office for the period named. The G. Sovereign was then re-introduced, and Sir Knt. Ravenshaw, the Grand Prelate, having enquired if he accepted the office to which he had been re-elected, his lordship expressed his great pleasure in complying with the wishes of the Knights, and the G. Recorder then proceeded with the enthronement cere-

mour, after which the Herald proclaimed that "the Right Hon. Thomas Lord Kenlis, Her Majesty's High Sheriff for the County of Westmoreland, &c., is duly enthroned as Sovereign of the Order for the ensuing three years." The Knights then marched past the Sovereign's throne, with banners displayed and sword drawn, saluting as they passed—appropriate music being played during this period. The G. High Prelate then pronounced the blessing, and an anthem concluded the ceremony of enthronement. The election of three Past Sovereigns as members of the Almoner's Fund Committee, then took place, when Sir Knts. Hubbard, Walters, and Clarke were chosen. Sir Knt. E. Busher, G.S.G., then rose and said he thought it would be a graceful compliment to pay to Sir Knt. Little, their Recorder, to send him as Steward to the anniversary festival of the Freemasons' Girls' School in May next, at which their noble Sovereign, Lord Kenlis, was about to preside, and further to present Sir Knt. Little with a life governorship out of the funds of the Order, which they were all glad to learn were in such a flourishing condition. Every one present knew that Sir Knt. Little worked *con amore*, but he (Sir Knt. Busher) thought it would be an appropriate opportunity to mark in some degree their sense of the Recorder's services. It would also be a tribute of respect to support the noble lord in the chair, and, above all, it would be an earnest of their desire to promote the prosperity of one of those great Charities, of which English Freemasons had such good reason to be proud. Several members having risen to second the proposition, and Sir Knt. Walters, amongst others, giving it his hearty support as a step in the right direction. The G. Sovereign said Sir Knt. Busher's proposal seemed to commend itself so thoroughly to the full assembly he saw around him, that he (Lord Kenlis) need hardly ask in the usual way for assent or dissent. Sir Knt. Busher's resolution was then carried by acclamation, and Sir Knt. Little briefly expressed his high appreciation of the good feeling evinced towards him by the Knights. The grand conclave was then closed in due form, and his lordship the G. Sov. proceeded to the banquet hall, escorted by the festival Stewards, under whose direction the Knights were properly placed. The Board of Stewards comprised the following influential members:—M.E. Sir Knt. F. M. Williams, M.P.; G. Ensebius, President; W. H. Hubbard, Treas.; the Earl of Jersey, J.G.G. for the G. Council; G. Powell, G.S.B.; S. E. Clarke, G.P. for the Senate; D. G. Berri; J. Coutts, for the College of Viceroy; J. G. Marsh, G. Architect; J. S. Charlton, for the Premier Conclave; T. Wescombe, G.H.; T. Cubitt, for the Plantagenet (No. 2); R. Gurney, A. Thompson, for the Rose and Lily (No. 3); Capt. J. W. C. Whitbread, Inspector General for Suffolk, for the Rose of England (No. 4); Capt. H. Barber, for the Phoenix (No. 5); W. F. N. Quilty, M.P.S., and H. C. Levander, M.A., for the Roman Eagle (No. 6). In addition to the members of the Grand Council and the Stewards, the Premier Conclave was represented by Sir Knts. G. Powell, M.P.S.; J. Trickett, H.P.; E. Prince, W. P. Applebee, and G. Kenning; the Plantagenet by Sir Knt. J. Brett, P. Sov.; the Rose and Lily by Sir Knt. F. Walters, M.P.S.; Clarke, V.E.; C. A. Cottebrune, H.P.; G. T. Noyce, T. F. Giles, and J. McKiernan; the Roman Eagle by Sir Knts. G. R. Woodman, S.G.; Rev. W. B. Church, H.P.; H. Allman, S.B.; H. Geddes, Herald; J. Weaver, Org.; V. W. Bate, P. Sov.; H. Tanner, Treas.; S. Foxall, C. Haigh, J. Stone, A. Frickenhaus, W. Hurlstone, W. C. Barlow, W. A. Barrett, &c. Comp. J. Gilbert acted as Sentinel to the conclave. During the evening the noble chairman gave the following toasts, "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," "The Grand Ensebius and rest of the Council," "Success to the Order in general, and to each Conclave in particular," and "The Stewards." Sir Knt. Little proposed "The Health of Lord Kenlis," which was received with enthusiasm, and his lordship expressed his great gratification at the entire success of the meeting. The noble chairman left about ten o'clock, after which the chair was occupied by Sir Knt. Busher, G.S.G. The musical arrangements reflected the highest credit upon Sir Knt. Parker, G.O., and Sir Knt. Marsh also received great praise for his spirited rendering of the National Anthem, "Kathleen Mavourneen," and other appropriate songs.

ROMAN EAGLE CONCLAVE (No. 6).—The ceremony of inaugurating and dedicating this new and flourishing conclave was performed with great success on the 22nd ult., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, but owing to a misapprehension that one of the Knights present would report the proceeding no account has hitherto appeared. We may now briefly state that in addition

to twenty-seven members previously installed as founders, the following brethren were duly constituted Knights of the Order viz., Bros. H. Marks, Lodge of Antiquity (No. 20), Chatham; N. Lake, Mount Lebanon, 73; S. Foxall, Crystal Palace, 742 Sydenham; W. Battye, P.M. St. Thomas's, 142; A. Perrot United Pilgrims, 607; M. Ohren, J.W. Grand Masters, 1 and 33, &c.; C. Haigh, Rose of Denmark; and A. H. Morton, Whittington, 872. The installation ceremony was well worked by Sir Knt. Marsh, and Sir Knt. Little performed the solemn rite of inauguration, assisted by Sir Knt. Dr. Clarke, as Marshal, and J. Weaver as Organist; between thirty and forty Knights being present. The new officers are Sir Knts. Quilty, M.P.S.; H. C. Levander, M.A., V.E.; G. R. Woodman, M.D., S.G.; C. H. R. Harrison, M.D., J.G.; Rev. W. B. Church, M.A., H.P.; H. Tanner, Treas.; A. A. Pendlebury, Recorder; J. Read, Prefect; H. Allman, S.B.; H. Geddes, Herald; Gilbert, Sentinel; Weaver, Org.; Frickenhaus and Alment, Stewards; W. Battye, W. Hurlstone, and Allman, Permanent Council. Sir Knts. Little, Brett, and Weaver were elected honorary members. The visitors present were:—Sir Knts. H. G. Buss, G.H.A.; J. G. Marsh, G.A.; W. H. Hubbard, G.T.; S. E. Clarke, M.D., G. Prefect; T. Wescombe, G. Herald; and Cook, No. 2. Amongst the other members present we noticed Sir Knts. J. Brett, C. E. Thompson, Dr. W. C. Lucey, W. C. Barlow, J. Tunks, J. Stone, G. Smith, &c. A most enjoyable evening was spent under the presidency of M.P.S. Quilty, agreeably diversified by the musical talents of Sir Knts. Weaver, Perrot, Marsh, &c., and by speeches from Sir Knts. Buss, Little, Hubbard, and other prominent members of the Order.

CORNWALL.

TRURO.—Phoenix Conclave (No. 5).—The inauguration of this new conclave took place at the Masonic Rooms, High Cross, on Friday, the 6th inst. After the formal dedication Sir Knt. W. Tweedy, the M.P. Sov. (who had previously been duly enthroned at the Premier Conclave in London) took his place in the East, and assisted by Sir Knts. Capt. H. Barber, V.E.; W. J. Hughan, P. Sov.; W. A. Treloar, &c., very ably installed seven brethren as Knights of the Order. He then appointed or invested his officers as follows:—Sir Knts. Capt. H. Barber, V.E. (nominated in the charter); T. Chirgwin, S.G.; W. H. Jenkins, J.G.; S. Holloway, H.P.; T. Solomon (Mayor of Truro) Treas.; W. J. Hughan, P. Sov., Recorder; W. J. Johns, Prefect; W. A. Treloar, S.B.; E. H. Hawke, junr., Herald; and W. Rooks, Sentinel. Sir Knt. Hughan then proposed for ballot at the next assembly, Sir Knt. R. W. Little, G. Recorder, as a member *ad vitam*. The Red Cross Banner which waves so proudly in the East, is therefore now uplifted in the west of England, and under the auspices of Sir Knts. F. M. Williams, M.P., the distinguished G.V.E. and Inspector General for Cornwall; W. Tweedy, M.P.S.; H. Barber, V.E.; and W. J. Hughan, the talented Recorder of the Phoenix Conclave, the ancient standard of Christian chivalry, formerly upheld by the father and uncle of our gracious Queen, will long continue to be cherished by the leal and loyal men of Cornwall's ancient duchy. The Right Hon. the Lord Kenlis, M. Ill. Sov., has conferred the Grand Cross upon Sir Knt. Hughan, as a honorarium for that excellent brother's exertions for the extension of the Order, and in recognition of his labours generally in the cause of Freemasonry.

Obituary.

DEATH OF BRO. ALEXANDER STRATHERN, SENIOR SHERIFF SUBSTITUTE FOR LANARKSHIRE.

Again has the destroying angel been amongst our bright band! Another link has just been severed from the chain of eminent Scotchmen, who, as Freemasons, have reflected a lustre upon our ancient Order, by the sudden death, on the afternoon of the 1st inst., of Bro. Alexander Strathern, Senior Sheriff Substitute for Lanarkshire, and whom it will be remembered by our readers, unsuccessfully competed against Bro. Captain Speirs, M.P., in the recent contest for the Prov. G. Mastership of Glasgow.

To those who were in the habit of frequently meeting the lamented deceased,—whose whole appearance be-

tokened that of a man in the pride of life, and in possession of a remarkably robust constitution,—this sudden visitation will come forcibly to remind us “that in the midst of life we are in death;” moreover, it was only on the Thursday evening preceding his death that the lamented brother, apparently then in excellent health and spirits, was present, and took a prominent part at the annual festival of the lodge Thistle and Rose (his mother lodge), as reported in another page.

On Friday morning, the 28th ult., he attended his chambers as usual, and was engaged for three hours or so in taking a proof. About one o'clock he stopped, complaining of headache and sickness; and communicated with Bro. Sheriff Bell, who at once advised him to give up work for the day, and to go home and take medicine. Acting upon this advice, he got into a cab and was driven home; but on arriving at the house he was barely able to ascend the steps. Assisted by members of his family he managed, however, to make his way upstairs to a bedroom; and almost immediately after getting into bed he was seized with a severe shock of apoplexy, which completely prostrated him, the only signs of life being occasional movements of his limbs. Subsequently, however, paralysis of the whole system manifested itself, and he gradually sank, and expired about half-past three o'clock on Sunday afternoon, the 1st inst. Drs. Lyon and Fleming were in constant attendance from Friday, but from the first entertained slight hopes of the sufferer's recovery.

Bro. Strathern was born in the parish of Dunlop, Ayrshire, in April, 1816, and consequently had not quite completed his fifty-second year; he was a very old Master Mason; he was initiated in the Thistle and Rose Lodge, Glasgow, on the 12th May, 1834 (the lodge meetings were at that time held at 29, East Clyde-street, and the lodge number was 68, instead of as at present 73, on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland).

The lodge Thistle and Rose has not only the honour of being the mother lodge of our deceased brother, but the name of “Strathern” is particularly associated with it, as we find by the lodge records that the father of the deceased sheriff, Bro. Robert Strathern, filled for two years the office of Treasurer to the lodge, and a brother of the deceased sheriff, Bro. Fairley Brisbane Strathern, was admitted to the privileges of Freemasonry in the house of his father, Bro. Robert Strathern, on the 4th of February, 1835.

Bro. Sheriff Strathern never, however, held office in his mother lodge, which he appears to have left, and joined the Thistle Lodge, Glasgow (now No. 87, and of which Thomas Paton is the R.W.M.), of which he was affiliated as an honorary member on the 29th November, 1836, upon the occasion of a deputation from the Thistle Lodge, going to Edinburgh and attending the centenary festival of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, at which we believe our deceased brother was present. In the same month of November, 1836, we find the father and brother of the deceased also affiliated in the lodge Thistle. The records of the lodge show that our deceased brother was appointed Senior Warden of the Thistle Lodge on the 13th of December, 1836, and that he continued to be, for some time thereafter, a very active and useful member; we find his name frequently occurring as introducing and vouching for candidates holding a respectable position in society who were initiated or affiliated in the Thistle Lodge. The lamented deceased was also a Royal Arch Mason, and took an active part in establishing the Glasgow R.A. Chapter (No. 50).

Passing over the earlier portion of the loyal career of our deceased brother, we find him first officiating as a sheriff-substitute at Airdrie, from 1857 to 1859, and in the latter year he was removed to Glasgow, with the appointment of Junior Sheriff-Substitute, which he creditably filled up to the death last year of Bro. Sir Archibald Alison, *Bart.*, when Bro. Strathern was promoted to the position of Senior Sheriff-Substitute, pre-

viously held by Bro. Sheriff Bell, who now fills the office held by the late Sir Archibald Alison.

Our deceased brother, in spite of his heavy official duties, found opportunities for the indulgence of the literary tastes for which he was eminent; he was an ardent bibliographer, and possessed, we understand, a library, perhaps unequalled by any private library in the city, for rare editions and valuable works.

Bro. Strathern also rendered good service to the Glasgow Archaeological Society, of which he was a prominent member, manifesting as he did a keen relish for antiquarian research.

Bro. Strathern was twice married, first to Miss Crawford, who died in 1846; and second, in 1861, to Miss Miller, daughter of Mr. Robert Miller, of Belvidere. By his first wife he had five children, all of whom survive; and by second wife four, one of whom, however, has died.

We cannot perhaps more appropriately close this brief notice of the death of Bro. Alexander Strathern, than by quoting the words of Bro. Sheriff Bell when addressing his court upon the calamity that had just befallen them. Bro. Bell said: “His kindly affability was unfailing, whilst his admirable common sense and extensive legal attainment were the best guarantees for the soundness of his decisions. He held with extreme credit to himself, and with complete satisfaction to the community, the second position in this court; and ever since I have had the honour of holding the first, I have received from him an amount of cordial support and assistance which I can never forget. He needs no praise from me; for he had most worthily gained for himself universal respect and esteem. There is no inhabitant of the city who will not mourn his removal from the midst of us, and who will not feel the deepest sympathy with those more nearly and dearly connected with him, who stood by his death-bed and saw the inevitable blow.”

THE FUNERAL OF BRO. SHERIFF STRATHERN.

The mortal remains of our lamented deceased brother were consigned on Saturday afternoon, the 7th inst., to their last resting-place in the Glasgow Necropolis. As was to have been anticipated, the funeral partook of a public character. At the residence of the deceased in Kew Terrace there assembled the Lord Provost, several of the magistrates and leading civic functionaries; the Sheriff and Sheriff Clerk of the county, the Sheriff-Substitutes, and the principal officials connected with their administration; a deputation from the Faculty of Procurators, and a number of well known citizens who had enjoyed the late Sheriff's private friendship. A religious service was conducted by Dr. Macduff and Dr. Jamieson; after which the funeral procession was formed outside, and started for the place of interment shortly after two o'clock. First went the hearse, preceded by six ushers, drawn by four horses, and escorted by a posse of the city police. Three carriages followed, containing the relatives of the deceased, and after these a body of sheriff officers on foot. Next came Sheriff Bell's carriage, followed by that of the Lord Provost, and about twenty other vehicles conveying the company above referred to. A detachment of county constables brought up the rear.

The Masonic body who had mustered for the purpose of taking part in the funeral procession, assembled at the Burnbank Drill Hall, Great Western-road.

Bro. Robert Robb, Provincial Grand Mareschal, mounted, marshalled the procession in the following order:—

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow represented by the following R.W. brethren, viz.: Bros. James Steel, Prov. G.J.W., as acting Prov. G.M.; James Wallace, Prov. G.J.D., as acting Sub. Prov. G.M.; the Rev. G. S. Burns, Prov. G. Chap.; W. Smith, Prov. G. Sec.; James Leith, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; James Gillies, Prov. G.S.B.; J. Balfour, Prov. G.I.G.; and the following brethren as acting Prov. G. office-bearers, viz.: Bros. T. McRobert, R.W.M. 73, as Prov. G.S.W.; Thomas Paton, R.W.M. 87,

as Prov. G.J.W.; Forrest. R.W.M. 20 (Lesmahagow), as Prov. G.S.D.; Nimmo, Prov. G. Architect; Clugston, Prov. G. Steward; Robert Burns Thompson (a grandson of Scotia's Bard) Prov. G. Bible Bearer.

Representatives hailing from sister Grand Lodges: Bro. Stonier Leigh, P. Sec. 531, Hartlepool, &c., and Bro. James Stevenson, of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, London and Glasgow.

Deputations from daughter lodges of the Glasgow Province, No. 3 bis. St. John's; 4, Kilwinning; 27, St. Mungo; 73, Thistle and Rose (the deputation from this, the mother lodge of the deceased, was a very strong one); 102, St. Mark; 103, Union and Crown; 117, St. Mary, Partick; 128, St. John, Shettleston; 178, Scotia; 219, Star; 275, Shamrock and Thistle; 332, Union; 333, St. George; 354, Caledonian Railway; 362, St. Clair; 408, Clyde; 413, Athole; 419, Neptune; 437, Govandale; 440, Robert Burns, Baillieston; 441, Glasgow; 465, St. Andrew.

Deputations from lodges of sister provinces, as under Nos. 88, and 166, Airdrie; 135, Tarbolton; and 458, Busby.

Despite the heavy rain which fell up to the time of the starting of the procession there could not have been less than some four hundred brethren in the ranks, and it is due to the Airdrie brethren to say that they turned out in very respectable numbers, animated by a desire to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of the eminent deceased brother whom it will be remembered was upon his appointment as a Sheriff-Substitute first stationed at Airdrie,—where he is warmly remembered, not merely amongst the Craft, but by the inhabitants of the locality generally, as an earnest, industrious and painstaking local judge.

As the funeral cortege approached the Drill Hall, the Masonic body formed in the order above stated, marched out from the hall, and, wheeling round to the right, formed the van of the procession until reaching the north-eastern corner of the Necropolis, when the brethren formed open ranks, between which the funeral cortege passed. The pall-bearers were two sons and two brothers of the deceased; Mr. Penn, his brother-in-law, and Messrs. Crawford and Howatt.

DEATH OF BRO. JAMES THOMSON, OF KILBANK, LANARK.

The death of this brother, a Freemason of seventy-five years standing, on the 13th ult., in the ninety-seventh year of his age, severs one of the few remaining links between this and a bygone generation. Born in the old house of Kilbank, beside "Wallace's Tower," on the banks of the Clyde, a couple of miles below Lanark, a district rich in natural beauty and in historical associations, he lived there almost a century, and died in the more modern house within a few yards of the spot where he was born. He was the youngest and longest-lived of a family of nine children remarkable for longevity, their united ages amounting to 720 years, being an average of eighty years to each life.

An elder of the Parish church of Lesmahagow during the greater part of his lifetime, he was in his younger days a leading man in parochial and other local affairs, and as a sturdy Liberal in politics, when Liberalism was not so popular as it has since become, he was famous in some of the long bygone election contests. Retaining all his faculties to the last, his conversation was a great treat. A man of mature years during the stormy period of the French Revolution of 1789-93, a contemporary of Burns, and in his youth intimate with many themselves then of great age—his clear and vigorous memory recalled scenes and events of his own time, as well as those of still remoter days which he had from eye-witnesses, and which to the present and even to a previous generation are as a page of history.

As a Freemason of seventy-five years' standing, we should presume that through a wide district he must

have been the father of the Craft. He remembered having seen many surrounding estates sold for hundreds which he has since seen sold for as many thousands.

Up till quite recently Bro. Thompson, in good old patriarchal fashion, personally conducted the unflinching morning and evening devotions at which old and young of every degree within the bounds of his authority had to appear. Hospitable and charitable to a degree, it may be truly said of him, as of the "good old country gentleman,"

"That while he feasted all the great
Ho no'er forgot the small."

He was remarkable for his good nature, and for a serenity of temper which nothing could disturb. After an ailment of three days' duration, this good old man departed this life without a struggle, respected and beloved to the last by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Kilbank, the name of his estate, a name by which he was much better known than by his own, is now, it is understood, to be sold.

WILTSHIRE.

DEATH OF BRO. I. H. SHEPPARD, OF SWINDON.

This worthy and highly respected brother, one of the oldest inhabitants of Swindon—and probably the oldest Freemason in the province of Wilts,—died on the 18th ult., full of years and honour.

Bro. Sheppard was born in the year 1777, and was consequently in his ninety-first year. For the last fifty years he had been the leading man in the town, being associated with every undertaking of benefit to the inhabitants, whether public or private. He especially interested himself in the building of the new church, and was a staunch supporter of Swindon market.

Bro. Sheppard was initiated at Devizes on the third of May, 1817, becoming a member of the Devizes Lodge. He did not remain in the Devizes Lodge long, before he applied, in company with several other brethren, for a warrant to open a lodge at Swindon, which was consecrated on the first of May, 1818. The whole of those brethren who had applied for the warrant have passed away, and latterly the only remaining two were Bro. R. Withers, of Morden, and the deceased gentleman.

He was also one of those who accompanied the late Duke of Sussex, on his Royal Highness attending to consecrate the then new Masonic Hall, in the city of Bath, on the 23d of September, 1819. After filling several important offices in connection with the Craft, the brethren, as a mark of their high esteem for him, elected him on the 27th October, 1827, as Provincial Grand Treasurer for Wilts, which office he continued to hold till 1864, when increasing age and infirmities obliged him to relinquish it, and he was succeeded by the present Provincial Grand Treasurer, Bro. S. Wittey, of Devizes, P. Prov. S.G.W. for Wilts.

A numerous body of brethren followed the deceased to his last resting-place.

REVIEWS.

The Freemasons' Calendar for the Province of London—derry and Donegal for the year 1863. London, Bro. R. SPENCER, 26, Great Queen-street.

We have received from the compiler a copy of the above-named calendar, which the brethren of the two provinces—to which it specially refers—cannot fail to find exceedingly useful to them.

With the exception of three instances, all the officers of every lodge, chapter, and encampment, are given also place and time of meeting and address of Secretary. The fees to be paid for initiation, affiliation, and the amount of annual subscription are also stated.

A diary of lodge meetings, with blank page for memoranda against each month precedes the information referred to above. The compiler states that it is intended to continue this calendar annually.

The profits will be devoted to the Masonic institutions. We heartily wish it success.

MEETINGS OF THE LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 21st, 1868.

TUESDAY, 17th.—Institution of Civil Engineers, at 8.

WEDNESDAY, 18th.—Society of Arts, at 8.

METROPOLITAN LODGE MEETINGS, ETC., FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 21st, 1868.

MONDAY, March 16th.—Lodges:—Grand Masters, 1, Freemasons' Hall. British, 8, Freemasons' Hall. Emulation, 21, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Felicity, 58, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Tranquility, 185, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Panmure, 720, Balham Hotel, Balham. Whittington, 862, 14, Bedford row. Chapter:—Prudence, 12, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street.

TUESDAY, March 17th.—Board of General Purposes at 3. Lodges:—Mount Lebanon, 73, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. Eastern Star, 95, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street. Cadogan, 162, Freemasons' Hall. Salisbury, 435, 7, Dean-street, Soho. Camden, 704, Lamb Hotel, Metropolitan Cattle Market. St. Mark's, 857, Horns' Tavern, Kennington. Chapter:—Mount Sinai, 19, Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street.

WEDNESDAY, March 28th.—Lodge of Benevolence at 7. Lodges:—Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, 7, Freemasons' Hall. United Mariners, 30, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. St. George's, 140, Trafalgar Hotel, Greenwich. Sincerity, 174, Cheshire Cheese Tavern, Crutched Friars. Oak, 190, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Nelson, 700, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich. Maybury, 969, Freemasons' Hall. Marquis of Dalhousie, 1,159, Freemasons' Hall. Chapter:—Westminster and Keystone, 10, Freemasons' Hall.

THURSDAY, March 19th.—House Com. Female School at 4. Lodges:—Globe, 23, Freemasons' Hall. Constitutional, 55, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street. St. Mary's, 63, Freemasons' Hall. Temperance, White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford. Manchester, 179, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. South Norwood, 1,139, Goat-house Hotel, South Norwood.

FRIDAY, March 20th.—Lodges:—Friendship, 6, Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's. Middlesex, 143, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Jordan, 201, Freemasons' Hall. New Concord, 813, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton. Chapters:—St. George's, 5, Freemasons' Hall. Caveac, 176, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

SATURDAY, March 21st.—Lodge:—Panmure, 715, George Hotel, Aldermanbury.

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

On reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that the next meeting of the committee of the "May Testimonial Fund" will be held at Bro. Todd's, the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on Monday next, at four o'clock. Donations continue to be received by the Treasurer, Bro. Ledger, at the *Era* office; Bro. Beard, Hon. Sec., 10, Basinghall-street; and by the committee.

MASONIC LIFEBOAT FUND.

The following contributions have been promised:—Bro. Edwin Vaughan Morgan, of Unity Lodge, No. 69, £1 1s.; Bro. F. A. Rochussen, of Britannic Lodge, No. 33, £1 1s.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

MILES.—The P.E. Lodge ought to make good to you, now that you have obtained an English certificate, the position assigned to you in 1859, upon the payment of your subscription for the intervening years, and make a return of your name to Grand Lodge. This seems to be the most equitable way of dealing with the question at issue. As to the other question we do not understand to what you refer, when you state that a fresh warrant has been issued. Re-state the matter.

D.C.L.—You are evidently wrong upon your own showing. Your have no right or privileges. The W.M. has the sole power, authority, and control.

X.Y.Z.—The W.M. may, pursuant to the provisions contained in the "Book of Constitutions," remove the lodge from the present place of meeting to some other, without the consent or authority of the Prov. G. Lodge or the Prov. G.M. being first had or obtained. You are advised to read the "Book of Constitutions" on this subject.

P.—The lodge in question is not a provincial lodge, nor is it to be found amongst the Metropolitan or London lodges given in the Official Calendar for 1868, published by authority of Grand Lodge. It, and some other lodges, are in that respect like Mahomet's coffin, neither Metropolitan or Provincial, but suspended betwixt the two, without possessing the rights and privileges of either, and the members of those lodges rarely, if ever, received in Masonic preferment in Grand Lodge.

K.T.—We entirely agree with you as to the necessity for uniformity in the practice for mounting mourning in Masonic lodges. It certainly is the practice—and the practice has been sanctioned—for a member of a lodge to put on mourning; and it is most generally worn over the rosette, or level on the apron, and over the jewels and bullion of other parts of the Masonic attire.

L.L.D.—We are much obliged for your offer to bring the Masonic Lifeboat Fund before the lodges in your province. We believe that in Yorkshire West and Lancashire East, as also in one of the west of England provinces a similar movement is to be made. We agree with you that it is not creditable to English Freemasons that so deserving a movement should so long hang fire.

P., J. L., R. S.—We shall be obliged to you for the promised information at your earliest convenience.

Z., C.—There were several Masonic lodges under the English Constitution, formerly working on the Island of Sicily, and some years ago we saw some of the furniture of a Masonic lodge in Messina, and were then told, not further back than the year 1830, at least two lodges were working in Sicily; one in Messina, the other probably in Palermo or Catania.

R. Y.—It seems to be a hopeless effort to obtain replies to letters addressed to the Masonic body referred to by you. No doubt such conduct is discreditable, and likely to bring the heads of the existing body into disrepute, and so damage the Order.

T.J.S. (Croydon).—Many thanks for your contributions. They shall not be overlooked.

ERRATA.—In last No.—St. John's Lodge (No. 279), page 185, 2nd col., 11th line from bottom—for "Goodwin" read "Godwin."

A. W. (Carlisle).—Your correspondence will be inserted in our next.

T. M. C.—Your communication shall receive an early insertion.