

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1863.

CHIPS OF FOREIGN ASHLAR.

By J. A. H.

No. 7.—MASONIC AFFAIRS IN BERLIN.

Before we went to Berlin we were jocosely informed that we should find the Berliners "always on the spree," a statement which is literally true, as the city is built on the little river Spree.

For many years we had longed to see the famous street—the pride of Berlin and glory of Germany—*unter den Linden*, where our own Prince Consort loved to walk, where so many Germans of rank and of intellect have promenaded, and where but lately Count Von Bismarck very nearly fell a victim to the assassin. Imagine Regent-street somewhat lengthened, greatly widened, and at the same time adorned with a double avenue of beautiful lime trees and then you may have some idea of *unter den Linden*—a street of gorgeous shops, splendid equipages, and brilliant fashion, the crowning beauty of which is its cool walks and shady drives beneath the lime trees. A fitter metropolis for the great north German confederation could not be desired than Berlin. Its stately palaces and splendid streets are unsurpassed even in London or Paris. At the extremity of *unter den Linden* stands the famous Brandenburg Gate—the Marble Arch of Berlin—leading to the *Theirgarten*, or Prussian Hyde Park. Interesting above all to the Englishman is the Palace of the Crown Prince, presided over by the lovely and amiable Princess Royal of England. The Prince and Princess are exceedingly popular, and the ordinary remark about the latter is that "she is a good little woman," an affectionate appreciation even more priceless than the crown she will one day wear. By common consent a better husband than the Crown Prince does not exist in all Prussia. Sunday in Berlin is very different to Sunday in many other continental cities. There are certainly amusements in the evening but during the rest of the day the term Sabbath might be truly applied, and not even Scotsmen—to adopt the phraseology of Bro. W. P. Buchan—could be more resolute in the cessation of business and the dedication of the day to rest. This state of things is said to have been mainly brought about by the influence of the Crown Princess, who has not forgotten the

spiritual admonitions received at Windsor and Balmoral.

Probably in no other city is Freemasonry to be viewed under such peculiar conditions as in the capital of North Germany. There are three Masonic Temples, all fine structures, and three Grand Lodges, namely:—

1st. The National Grand Lodge of the Globes, originally established in 1744, and under the direct protection of the King and Crown Prince.

2nd. The Grand Lodge of Germany working the "Swedish Rite," of which the Crown Prince is Supreme Master, founded in 1770.

3. The Royal York Grand Lodge, originally formed in 1760, of which Prince Louis of Baden is the head.

It will be seen that each of these Grand Lodges can refer to considerable antiquity. In former times there has existed among them a spirit of contention and rivalry, but of later years fraternal feelings have been strongly developed among all parties, and the day is probably not far distant when there will be one Grand Lodge instead of three.

To an Englishman there is something decidedly home-like in meeting with the name "Royal York" in a foreign city, and it was this feeling that led us first of all to visit the Royal York Masonic Club. Here we spent a pleasant evening among the brethren although there was no lodge meeting. The club is excellently arranged for the comfort, convenience, and amusement of the members, the attractions of billiards, cards, chess, drafts, dominoes, &c., with refreshments of superior quality being included. Visiting this and other Masonic clubs on the continent one is led to enquire why there are no such institutions in England. There is no doubt that a Masonic club would answer in London if it were conducted on a proper scale, and under the direct control of the Grand Lodge—but not otherwise.

The Royal York Lodge was originally established as a private lodge under a charter from England, and its working is at the present day more English than those of either of the other Grand Lodges. The union of the Kingdom of Hanover with Prussia led to the amalgamation of the Grand Lodge of Hanover with the Royal York Grand Lodge, and has resulted in a large access of members and influence to the latter. The ex-King of Hanover is a very popular Mason, and his portrait in full Masonic costume is to be found

inevery Masonic Hall in Germany. His Majesty is said to contemplate the singular step of taking his seat in the English House of Lords as Duke of Cumberland, and there are more unlikely things than that he may some day become a prominent member of the Grand Lodge of England. Undoubtedly he would be better employed in Masonic labours than in repining at the past. However he may be personally esteemed it is clear that the independent existence of Hanover has terminated for ever, and England of all countries ought to sympathise with a free and united Germany.

At the Royal York Masonic club we made the acquaintance of our excellent Bro. Munter, who has resided for many years in the United States. Bro. Munter was initiated in the Clinton Lodge, Tennessee, and speaks very highly of the Craft in America.

1.—MASONIC DISCIPLINE.

By CRUX.

"Let him that standeth take heed lest he falleth."

This maxim, although originally intended to apply individually, holds, if possible, with still greater force, when it includes within its scope, not merely small communities and societies of men, but empires, kingdoms, and nations. All mankind, whether in an individual or collective capacity, bear within themselves the seeds of danger and death, and frequently no warning is vouchsafed to them of the dissolution at hand, no "coming events cast their shadows before" to premonish them of their impending destiny. The earth never looks fairer, nor the ocean calmer, than just previous to the advent of the racking tempest and the ruthless hurricane; the stately tree never appears stronger than when it bows its head before the first breath of the approaching storm, whose succeeding blasts will strew the ground with its shattered limbs. The patient, upon whose cheek consumption has set its ineffaceable seal, never seems to be better than when the hand of death is stretched forth to complete what the insidious malady has begun.

As with individuals, so with nations. The Romans never reached to so great a climax of power, despotism, wealth, and luxury as that which preceded the invasion of their foes, and they only awoke to the imminency of their danger when the barbarian was at their gates, and when the war-cry of the Goths was ringing in their

ears. The fall of Babylon, the decay of those mighty eastern cities, Palmyra, Balbec, Nineveh, and others, are matters of history; but of the many who read with interest the records of their decadence and destruction, few care to inquire into the propable reason of events so extraordinary, and still fewer care to apply the moral to themselves, or even to imagine that the same cause might produce the same effect under very different circumstances. In a word, the want of discipline, or rather the neglect of it, mainly contributed to the downfall of those ancient cities, whose very ruins rise up in gloomy solitude to witness to their pristine splendour. There is not a column, or a pillar, or a monument of these cities of the dead, that does not speak with a warning voice to their living brethren—that is not stamped with the indisputable inscription, "To desolation were we brought by the neglect of discipline."

Of all other communities, Freemasons have the strongest grounds for putting implicit faith in what discipline can accomplish. Without it, the Knights of St. John, the Hospitallers, and the Templars could never have existed, much less attained to the princely honours and possessions, openly obtained, and lawfully held by them. Although they have passed away for ever; their orders extinct, their titles erased, their escutcheon dishonoured, and their possessions confiscated, yet the higher degrees of Cross Masonry still hold in affectionate remembrance, the memory of the valiant defenders of Palestine, Rhodes, Cyprus, and Malta. Ah! what Mason can think without feelings of mingled pride and regret upon those heroic times, before the evil days fell upon those gallant Knights, when their goods were seized, their lands forfeited, their name disgraced, their bodies tortured, and crimes imputed to them which fiends themselves would blush to perpetrate. How changed from the time when they carried the banner of the Order, mid the thickest ranks of their eastern foes; when the mailed Templar met the infidel warrior in the shock of battle; when the war-cries of "Allah" and "Saint Esprit" were shouted forth by contending squadrons, and when the Grand Masters sat upon the throne of Solomon and David.* Or, who can peruse without emotion the history of the incessant, unequal, and, alas! unavailing contests waged in defence

* The Grand Masters of the Knights of St. John possessed the title of "King of Jerusalem."

of Rhodes and Malta? Hard pressed by the infidel hosts, the Knights gazed with anxious eyes over the blue waters, for the promised aid from Christendom. The aid never came, and still they prolonged their defence. It is recorded of that grand old Master d'Aubusson, that during the attack of Mahomet upon Rhodes, he never divested himself of his armour for seven days and seven nights. He removed his helmet only when kneeling before the altar, where, when not engaged hand to hand with the enemy, he was ever to be found, crying "unto the living God who rules the fate of war."

Passing on to the more immediate subject of our present articles, it will be universally conceded that, whatever relaxation may be indulged in, whatever licence permitted at certain periods, yet discipline, and strict discipline too, must be maintained in every body of men, who are bound together by voluntary obedience and fidelity, to acknowledged laws and regulations. In the church, the army, the navy, in every department of home and foreign service, the very existence of the members taken collectively, depends upon the maintenance of discipline. This is a subject that is dear to us, and, we do not doubt, dear also to our readers. At a time like the present, when Freemasonry is spreading over the whole habitable surface of the globe, when its principles of truth, equity, and justice are at length forcing themselves upon the notice of not merely its uninitiated friends, but of those who are its enemies, it behoves all true and lawful brethren to have a wary eye upon the future prospects of the Craft. To not many is it given to understand the hidden mysteries of the Craft; to comprehend what may be termed the *psychology* of Freemasonry, for much time and study are necessary to acquire this enviable knowledge. But, to conform in word and deed, to the admirable rules of our "Book of Constitutions," to rigidly obey the by-laws, to endeavour to promote that unanimity which should ever distinguish the Order, and to be a working, not a playing Mason, is within the compass of the attainments of every brother. However much it may be regretted, it is nevertheless unquestionably true, that many people whose intellects are of the narrow-minded class, whose abilities are limited, and whose hearts are contracted, entertain deeply-rooted feelings of prejudice and aversion towards our ancient and honourable institution. They regard a Mason, at

the best, as a suspicious kind of character; and blindly disbelieve, either wilfully or ignorantly, the undoubted truth of the assertion, "The better the Mason, the better the man." Wanting in energy, and indolent of ascertaining the truth for themselves by proper inquiries, they condemn the whole Fraternity as a secret association, in the most invidious and injurious sense of the term, upon no other grounds than because we will not admit strangers and outsiders within the door of our lodges. Can any argument be more shallow, more unjust, or logically more fallacious? We have just as much right to insist upon certain forms and ceremonies being complied with, previously to the admission of a candidate "into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry," as the Knights of St. George, St. Andrew, and St. Patrick have to adhere to the routine of their own installation ceremonies. Recently the installation of a Knight of St. Patrick was performed upon a magnificent scale of splendour at the newly-restored Cathedral in Dublin.

[In our next article we shall proceed to notice some points more intimately connected with the discipline of modern Freemasonry, if that term can be applied with propriety to an institution that has existed from time immemorial.]

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

By ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

(Continued from page 427).

BOOK IV.—CHAPTER IX.

The examination was resumed on the 30th March 1811, in the churches of St Martin's Ludgate, and St Botolph's Bishopsgate, before the Inquisitors, and the Bishops of London and Chichester. The unfortunate Templars had been in prison for nearly three years and a half, and the torture which they had endured during the past winter was horrible beyond description. Not only had they been loaded with the heaviest fetters, and kept in solitary confinement, without consolation and without hope, but they had been made to endure at the same time hunger, cold, and the pains of the torture. Still they kept true to their denial of the crimes alleged against their Order, although they were aware that the Pope had condemned them, and knew that by confessing they would be restored to liberty, and receive a reward. Enraged at their firmness, the Inquisitors sent

them back to their prisons, and sought for evidence against them from among their enemies. They soon obtained abundant *hearsay* evidence.

Henry Thanet, an Irishman, declared he had heard that a certain Preceptor, of the Chateau Pelerin, was in the habit of making all the aspirants deny Christ; and he had also heard that a certain Templar possessed a brazen head with two faces, which could answer any question put to it. John de Nassington had heard that the Templars, once a year, at a solemn festival, worshipped a calf. John de Eure, a Knight, and sheriff of the county of York, deponed, that he had once invited William de la Fenne, Preceptor of Wesdall, to dinner. After dinner the Preceptor took a book from his bosom, and handed it to the sheriff's wife to read, who found a piece of paper fastened in the book, on which were written certain heretical doctrines, such as that "Christ was not the Son of God, nor born of a virgin, but conceived of the seed of Joseph, the husband of Mary, after the manner of other men, and that the Saviour was not a true but a false prophet, and was not crucified for the redemption of mankind, but for his own sins;" and many other things contrary to the true faith. Upon this important statement, the Inquisitors summoned the Preceptor to their presence. He admitted having dined with the sheriff, and also having lent his wife a book to read; but he swore he was ignorant of the existence of the paper fastened in the book, and of its contents. Upon further examination, it appeared that the sheriff had kept this important information undivulged for the space of six years, nor had even challenged the Preceptor on discovering the paper.

William de la Forde, a priest, rector of the parish of Crofton, in the diocese of York, deponed to a very extraordinary circumstance. William de Eynabur, a priest of the Order of St Augustine, who was then dead, had told him that Patrick of Rippon, son of William of Gloucester, a Templar, and also dead, in the confessional, had stated, that, "at his reception he was led, clothed only in his shirt and trousers, through a long passage, to a secret chamber, and was there made to deny his God and his Saviour. He was then shewn a representation of the crucifixion, and told that, since he had previously honoured that emblem, he must now dishonour it, and spit upon it, and that he did so." Furthermore, "Item dictum fuit ei quod, depositis brachis, dorsum verteret ad cruci-

fixum;" and this he did, but weeping bitterly. A calf was then produced, and placed upon an altar, and he was told to kiss and worship the image, and he did so. After all this, they covered up his eyes, and led him about, kissing and being kissed by all the Brethren. It would then appear that the Augustine priest had been guilty of a crime scarcely inferior to those with which he had accused the Templars. He had revealed the secrets of the confessional, a crime which was, and is still, punished by the Church of Rome in the severest manner, and evidence obtained in such a manner was inadmissible. On being asked when he had been told these things, De la Forde replied, after the arrest of the Brethren by the King's orders.

The Minorites spoke as strongly against the Order. Robert of Oteringham, senior of the Minorites, deponed, that on one occasion he partook of the hospitality of the Templars at the Preceptory of Ribstane, in Yorkshire, and when grace had been said, after supper, the chaplain of the house reprimanded the Brethren, and said, "The devil will burn you. Afterwards hearing a bustle, he got up, and, as far as he recollects, saw one of the Templars, "*brachis depositis, tenentem faciem versus occidentem et posteriora versus altare!*" About twenty years previous to that, he was the guest of the Templars at the Preceptory of Wetherby, in Yorkshire, and when evening came, he heard that the Preceptor was not coming to supper, as he was arranging some relics which he had brought with him from the Holy Land. Afterwards, about midnight, he heard a confused noise in the chapel, and getting up, he looked through the keyhole, and saw a great light, either from a fire or from candles. On the morrow, he asked a Templar the name of the saint in whose honour they had celebrated the grand festival on the preceding evening, when the Brother turned aghast and pale, thinking he had seen what they had been doing, and answered, hastily,—"*Go thy way, and ask me not; and if you love me, or have any regard for your own life, say nothing of this before the superiors.*" So much for *peeping Tom*. John de Goderal, another Minorite, had lately heard in the country that a Templar, Robert de Baysat, was once seen running about a meadow, exclaiming,—"*Wo, wo is me! that ever I was born. I have been forced to deny my God, and sell myself to the devil.*" Another Minorite, Nicholas de Chinon, had heard that a Templar's son peeped through a chink in the door of the

chapter-room, and saw a person about to be professed slain, because he would not deny Christ. Afterwards, the boy was asked by his father to become a Templar, which he refused to do, telling him what he had seen; whereupon he was slain. These are but a few of the absurdities deposed to by the witnesses.

CHAPTER X.

Proceedings in England continued.—De Vaur exhibits two rack-extorted confessions taken in France.—Depositions of Le Mareschal.—De Berney.—De Gertia.—John Walby de Bust.—Gaspard de Nafferton.—Abandoned women heard as witnesses against the Order.—The depositions of witnesses read over to the Templars.—They demand copies.—Their answer.—The Inquisitors resort to more violent measures.—French Dominicans sent over to apply the torture.—Two Serving Brethren and a Chaplain alone confess.—Compromise between the Inquisitors and the Templars.—The Order suppressed.—A.D. 1310-1313.

Sicard de Vaur, perceiving that little credit would be given to the hearsay evidence of the enemies of the Order, to intimidate the Templars, and incline them to confess to the hideous charges, exhibited two rack-extorted confessions which had been obtained in France. The Templars whose names were attached to these were Robert de St. Just and Geoffrey de Goneville. St. Just had been received by Imbert de Peraut, the Grand Prior of England, but arrested in France, he had been tortured there. His confession runs, that upon his reception he denied Christ, and spat beside the Cross. De Goneville's confession will be found in chapter fifth of the present work. Both of these Knights had revoked their confessions, but this was carefully suppressed by the Inquisitor. The confessions, however, did not forward the views of De Vaur, and William de la More affirmed that the Templars who had made such lied.

Ferinsius le Mareschal, a secular Knight, being examined, deposed, that his grandfather entered the Order as active, healthy, and gay as a bird; but, on the third day from taking the vows, he died, as the witness "now suspects, because he refused to take part in the wickedness practised by the Templars." William de Berney, an Augustine monk, had heard a Templar say, in the presence of several respectable people, at the funeral of the parish priest of Duxworth, near Cambridge, that a man, after death, had no more soul than had a dog. John de Gertia, a Minorite, was told by a woman, named Cotacota, who had

heard it from Exvaethus, Preceptor of London, that one of the servants of the Templars entered the Temple Hall, where the chapter was held, and secreted himself. After the door had been shut and locked by the last Templar who entered, and the key carried by him to the superior, the assembled brethren went into another room, and took from a closet a certain black figure, with shining eyes, and a cross. They placed the cross before the Master, and the "*culum idoli vel figuræ*" they placed upon the cross, and carried it to the Master, who kissed the idol *in ano*, and all the others did the same after him. When they had finished kissing the idol, they all spat three times upon the cross, except one, who refused, saying, "I was a bad man in the world, and placed myself in this Order for the salvation of my soul. What could I do worse? I will not do it." Upon this the brethren said, "Take heed, and do as you see the Order do." But he declared that he would not; whereupon they placed him in a well, that stood in the midst of their house, which they covered up, and left him to perish there. Being asked as to the time when the woman heard this, De Gertia answered, that she had told him of it about fourteen years back, at London, where she kept a shop for her husband, Robert Cotacota. John Walby de Bust, also a Minorite, had heard John de Dingeston say, that he had heard that there was in a secret place of the house of the Templars at London, a gilded head, and that when one of the Masters was on his death-bed, he summoned to his presence several of the Preceptors, and told them that, if they wished for power, dominion, and honour they must worship that head.

The evidence of Gaspard de Nafferton, the parish priest of Ryde, is very important, as he deposed to having been at one time a chaplain of the Order. He was in the Order at the time of the reception of William de Pokelington. He recollected well that this person made his appearance at the Temple on Sunday evening, with the equipage and habit of a member of the Order, accompanied by William de la More, the Grand Prior of England, William de Grafton, Preceptor of Ribbestane and Fontebiggs, and other brethren. During the first watch of that same night, they assembled in chapel, and caused De Nafferton to be awakened to say mass. After he had celebrated mass, they made him and his clerk go out into the hall beyond the cloister, and then sent for De Pokelington. On his entry into the chapel,

one of the brethren closed all the doors opening into the cloister, so that no one within the chambers could get out, and thus they remained till daylight. What was done in the church the witness did not know; but the next day he saw De Pokelington clothed in the habit of a Templar, and looking very sorrowful. De Nafferton also declared, that he had threatened to peep through a secret door to see what was going on, but was warned that if he did so, it would be inevitable death to him. He added, that the next morning, on going into the chapel, he found the books and crosses all removed from the places in which he had left them, after saying mass. De Nafferton's evidence, while perhaps correct, is easily explained.

By his own testimony, he was in the temporary employment of the Order, and, not having taken the vows, was not admissible to the private business of the Chapter. The chaplains and the serving brethren were not only admitted to these, but in the election of the Grand Master himself, eight Knights, four serving brethren, and one priest, were the electors, so that the charge against the Knights, was equally good against the chaplains and serving brethren, and was held so in France.

The witnesses against the Order were not confined to Ecclesiastics and Knights; women of the most abandoned character, whose oaths were worthless in a civil cause, were examined by the Inquisitors, and their absurd testimony listened to by the most learned men of the age. A specimen of this evidence may not be uninteresting:—
"Agnes Lovecote dixit quod fratres aperuerunt quandam voltam et perduxerunt de illo loco monstrum quoddam ad formam seu imaginem diaboli, habens loco oculorum lapides rutilantes et illuminantes capitulum, cujus culum osculabantur omnes, primo Magister, et postea alii, et postea ponebant unam crucem nigram ad culum dicti monstri, et spuebant omnes in crucem . . . ! Deponit se audivisse à quâdam dominâ Agnete quæ dicebat se audivisse à sorore cujusdam Templarii, quod cum ipsa soror denudasset fratrem suum post mortem, credens invenire signa salutis, invenit in braccis dicti Templarii fratris sui crucem pendentem contra anum. . . . !"—*Concilia Magnæ Britanniae, Tom. II., pp. 350-364.*

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL, 7 DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, CITY.—The aggregate number of Patients relieved during the week ending Nov. 28th, was Medical 955, Surgical 653, Total 1608, of which 657 were new cases.

THE SIX DAYS' WORK OF CREATION IN HONOUR OF MASONRY.

(Continued from page 427.)

THE CREATION OF THE SUN MOON AND STARS, THE WORK OF GOD ON THE FOURTH DAY.

The sun and moon, their light shall both decay,
 And stars and planets will dissolve away;
 But God, the first great intellectual light,
 Still perfect, pure, eternal, will shine bright.
 The New Jerusalem, far beyond the sky,
 Its splendour hid from every mortal eye:
 That holy Temple, glorious to behold,
 Eternal light illumines the streets of gold.
 In that *Sanctum Sanctorum** nothing unclean is found;
 All pure within, the place is holy ground.
 When darkness far had wing'd its dreary way,
 The bounds He set between the night and day;
 To rule the day He made the greater light;
 The lesser light to rule the shades of night.
 Far distant stars he hung in boundless space;
 By him they were assigned their proper place.
 Around their spheres they all obey his will;
 And the grand purpose of his plans fulfil.
 First of the sun, that shining orb, we know,
 When days, and months, and seasons, come and go,
 The welcome spring, no sooner it appears,
 Than blooming smiles all languid nature cheers;
 While fragrant flowers bedeck the verdant fields,
 The earth again her fertile increase yields.
 Both man and beast the great Creator good,
 With liberal hand, supplies them still with food.
 Each flying fowl and bird that wings the air,
 He makes the object of his watchful care.
 Say what was earth when sable night prevail'd,
 Obscure in darkness every ray was vail'd.
 The earth would languish, and all nature mourn,
 If back to us the sun did not return;
 No summer months, or the returning spring
 Of smiling plenty, would glad tidings bring.
 View the bright sun pass round our northern clime,
 And constant keep exact the rules of time.
 In summer months the crimson roses bloom,
 And painted flowers diffuse a sweet perfume.
 Such is that orb, form'd round with light and heat,
 Makes Nature in her summer-dress complete.
 The year declines; then comes the harvest morn,
 And fields are clad with yellow waving corn;
 Spring, summer, autumn months, in number nine.
 The sun then passes far beyond the line,
 To other climates, where he sheds his rays,
 Around the globe conveys his Maker's praise:
 Each shining ray from that great orb of light
 Proclaims a God, and all His ways are right.
 While thus I sung of light divine above,
 Which shows the way to mansions of pure love,
 My soul was melted with the heavenly fire.—
 Oh, could my fingers touch the angelic lyre
 Or golden harps, the highest notes to raise,
 Heaven's lofty arch would echo with his praise!
 A voice I heard then whisper in mine ears,
 Blest is the man who his Creator fears;
 Thrice happy those who walk upright and just,
 In God alone put all their hope and trust.

* Revelations xxi.

Then in my view the heavenly vision stood,
 And said, Creation was all formed good.
 From the first Light the sun receiv'd his birth,
 To warm and nourish this our mother earth :
 This truth proclaim,—by chance he never came :
 A God there is, who rules o'er all supreme.
 He is the prop of each created thing,
 Of animation the first moving spring ;
 Infinite, happy in himself alone,
 Though all His works were into nothing gone.
 But of the wonders the Most High hath done,
 Ev'n the moon, the stars, and the revolving sun,
 With every planet, and this earthly ball,
 Of what he form'd, are part, but far from all.
 Could men or angels this great speed procure,
 To travel up ten thousand miles each hour ;
 And as they mount the high empyrean plain,
 Ten times ten thousand in their journey gain.
 Nor glorious angels, or deep-searching man,
 Could ever find where first his works began.
 Who can the works of the Creator trace
 From earth to heaven, and through all boundless
 space ?
 But to return : The rays of Sol still cheer,
 And add fresh beauties to the blooming year.
 When, rolling back, he to the centre flies ;
 With chilly cold all blooming nature dies :
 The moon and stars then send their borrowed light,
 Amid the gloom of winter's dreary night :
 The winter goes, and summer comes again ;
 Infinite wisdom nothing made in vain.

As the Supreme Original is infinite, the earth and
 all the planets are a very small part of His works.
 Who can tell how far the rays of light extended
 through the boundless immensity of space, when God
 said, "Let there be light; and there was light?"—
Gen. i., 10.

Thou First of beings, infinite Supreme,
 Who spoke the word, and worlds from nothing came !
 Light, light, and love, all holy thee I hail !
 To praise thy name a seraph's tongue would fail !
 Man is not the only being left to praise
 Thy sacred name, and the glad anthem raise :
 Millions of angels praise thee as their God,
 And thrones and powers obey thy sovereign nod,
 Proclaim thee First, I AM, Eternal King,
 And of thy light, thy love, and goodness sing.
 Thus I have sung how light at first did rise,
 And shining stars adorn'd the azure skies ;
 How worlds and suns were in their centres laid.
 Almighty *Fiat* all from nothing made.
 The first great Cause and source of vital breath :
 Whose hand sustains all life on earth beneath.
 Within the seas he form'd the pond'rous whale,
 The daring lion, and the crocodile ;
 Each living thing He gave its proper form,
 From th' elephant down to the crawling worm.
 All kinds of creatures, every fowl that flies,
 Live by His power, and at His pleasure dies.
 Great are the works of the First Cause divine,
 In harmony all beautiful they shine.
 But here I sing, more wonderful than all,
 Of creatures form'd upon this earthly ball ;
 The Sacred Three, when this great work began,
 A council held, and said, *Let us make man.*
 Adam was form'd of pure refined clay ;

And God in him His image did display.
 A shining light the sun did first appear ;
 The second light in Adam's soul was clear ;
 Nor mid-day sun one half so clear did shine
 As Adam's soul, all holy, pure, divine.
 The soul of man, a spark of heavenly fire,
 The breath of God, which never will expire,
 A clear bright lamp, to let him see the way,
 Through gloomy darkness not to go astray.
 Clear shining light, from darkness dark as night,
 God was and is the fountain of all light.
 The scriptures next to tread the path that's right.
 In splendour bright the sun at first began,
 And reason shines within the soul of man.

Adam was created lord of the creation, and the
 noble leading faculty of his soul was understanding.
 This jewel alone adorns the rational creature man.
 Behold with admiration and surprise the faculties of
 his soul ! He can convey his mind through the
 whole creation, and view the several creatures on
 earth ; consider the fabric, the use, and beauty of
 animals ; discern the signature of plants ; and pene-
 trating thereby into their nature and virtues, he is
 enabled to extract from them a healing balm for the
 human body. His mind also views the vast ocean,
 and soars in a moment from earth to heaven ; it
 describes the motion of the sun in the ecliptic ; cal-
 culates tables for the motion of the planets ; and fore-
 tells, at a great distance, the dismal eclipses of the
 sun and moon to the very digit ; and also to the por-
 tentous conjunctions of the planets to the very minute
 of their ingress. These are some of the grand em-
 ployments of the understanding. But the soul is also
 capable of exercising itself on a much nobler theme.
 It can contemplate the glorious mysteries of redemp-
 tion, and trace redeeming love through all the aston-
 ishing methods and manifold discoveries of it in the
 sacred scriptures.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

INSPECTORS-GENERAL.

There has been some discussion why members of
 the 33rd degree join the Order of the Red Cross, and
 why this flourishing order should confer the degrees
 of Prince Masons and create Inspectors-General. It
 has been surmised that the Inspectors-General are to
 form part of the Grand Imperial Council, but this is
 only in detraction of the Red Cross. Their Grand
 Imperial Council is not the same thing as the Supreme
 Council of England, but a superior body, as its name
 betokens, and to which all the Supreme Councils will
 be subordinate. Consequently, the 33rd degree and
 Inspectors-General are only very inferior officers of
 the Grand Imperial Council, though still of great im-
 portance. The fact is, the order has become so exten-
 sive and numerous that it is necessary to keep it in
 order ; there is also a fear that irregularities may be
 committed in working the numerous new and ancient
 rituals—as lately happened in Guernsey in installing
 a Noble Grand.

The order of Inspectors-General, appointed in
 remote antiquity, has therefore been put in vigour

and endowed with severe and mysterious powers, so as to keep all rebels and disturbers *in terrorem*. This was very happily hit off by Sir Knight Gallienne, who boldly announced to his twelve affrighted Knights and subjects in Guernsey that he had received from the Grand Imperial Council his diploma as Inspector-General of the Guernsey Division. "He hoped no circumstance would arise in which the harsher duties of his office would have to be exercised. Should, however, a needs-be arise [whatever that may be], it must be understood that (although, as far as possible, mercy would be tempered with justice) [and not justice with mercy], justice would ever be duly administered." It is conjectured that Sir Knight Gallienne, Inspector-General for the Guernsey Division, in order to insure that justice shall be duly administered to the twelve Sir Knights, will early appoint several Superintendents and Inspectors, one Turnkey, and one Common Executioner. The Sir Knights have got themselves into a precious pickle by putting themselves under the Grand Imperial jurisdiction of the Red Cross, and they may be assured they cannot evade it, for justice and the harsher duties of the Inspectors-General will follow them to the end of the earth. The long list of Inspectors-General is now being extended to the colonies and foreign parts, including Vancouvers Island, New Shetland, and the Lake Ngami.—CESAREA.

CENTENARIES IN 1869.

The number of centenary festivals in next year will be twelve, viz. :—

- 183, Unity.
- 185, Tranquility.
- 186, Industry.
- 188, Joppa.
- 189, Sincerity.
- 190, Oak.
- 192, Lion and Lamb.
- 193, Confidence.
- 194, St. Paul's.

Nine, therefore, will be held in London, and besides—

- 184, Royal Sussex, Bristol.
- 187, Sincerity, Plymouth.
- 191, St. John, Bury.

In 1873 there will be no centenary in London, and only one in England. 1769 was a great year seemingly of Masonic activity, and followed naturally by a collapse. In 1871 there will only be three London celebrations. The present year has been a great year in London, there being five centenaries; but next year will be remarkable in this respect.—NOTA.

THE BOOK OF JOB (pages 407—429).

I do not agree with "Chrononautonthologos" that a person cannot write sensibly regarding the Book of Job unless he knows Hebrew. We can leave the Hebrew scholars to give proper translations, and we can watch the *play* of the different actors in the reasons they give for their opinions, and we may judge how they make their ideas coincide with known historical data. "The onlooker sees most of the game," as when two swordsmen meet, the spectators easily perceive which is killed. Again, it is not the judge or the lawyers who deliver the verdict but the jury. The counsel for the prosecution swears

the thing is black; the counsel for the defence assert it is white, and practical experience shows that the best way to settle the business is to leave it to the jury.

What would be the use of all our traditions and commentaries if they did not greatly supply the want of a knowledge of the original?

We cannot all see Egypt, yet we may know a great deal about it, and feel it to be almost unnecessary after a number of first-class travellers have visited it, and brought home drawings, photographs, and descriptions of what they have seen.

I am not so bigotted as to consider that Renan is not worthy of high consideration, certainly he is on many points; but, under the circumstances, I demur to him being the only one thought worthy of consideration, and I also corrected certain mistakes made by "An American Freemason." Further, I do not dispose of Renan simply "on such ground that Renan is in opposition to Christianity;" for, Christian or no Christian, I deny the truth of the statements made in "An American Freemason's" letter at page 351, no matter where he took them from.

I consider that if Moses could step in amongst us *in propria persona* as he existed B.C. 1491, he would open our eyes a bit with the extent of his knowledge on many subjects. I could fancy him saying, "You have not advanced much since my time in this particular. There were men in those days even as now. "Chrononautonthologos" must be careful not to impute to me superstitious or nonsensical notions which I do not possess.—A SCOTTISH FREEMASON.

MYSTIC NUMBERS (page 431).

In reply to your correspondent, "S.W.'s" query as to the meaning of magic numbers—what are they, and why so called? let me inform him that they mean the mystical ages of Masonry, 3, 5, 7, 9, as well as the mystical numbers of the twelve grand names—3 with 3 letters, 3 with 5, 3 with 7, and 3 with 9. They are so called because they constitute the mystic numbers of the degree of perfection which your correspondent will attain when he is exalted to the sublime degree of a Royal Arch Mason. However, I venture to tell him that the same numbers composed the ancient Sanhedrim of Jerusalem with the two Grand Officers.—JAMES FREDERICK SPURR, P.Z.

"SCOTCH."

"W. P. B.'s" notions on the use of the words "Scotch" and "Scotchman" seem to have lost nothing of their eccentricity. In page 251 he tells us that "Scotch is a verb," and gives an example of its application in that capacity, and, ignoring the existence of the word both as an adjective and as a noun, condemns its use in designating anything as belonging to Scotland. At page 291 he re-exhibits the word as a verb, says "the expression ('Scotch and Scotchmen') is both vulgar and incorrect," and quotes Burns in support of his dogma that "Scots" is the proper word to be employed to denominate the nationality of the natives of Scotland.

At page 329 we ventured to challenge the soundness of W. P. B.'s dictum, submitted instances of Burns's use of "Scotch" both as an adjective and as a noun—showed how the Bard could ring the changes on Scots, Scotch and Scottish—and concluded by

saying that "Scot and Scotchmen are synonymous; the former may be more in favour with writers than the latter, but both are, we think, proper to be used, and that in the same sense objected to by W.P.B."

At page 406 our fastidious brother resumes the subject, and makes a somewhat ungraceful retreat from his position as condemning the use of Scotch in any other capacity than that of a verb. While now admitting that the word "may be used correctly enough in such phrases as 'guid braid Scotch'—that "when one is writing 'braid Scotch' he can use it as much as he pleases"—he inconsistently, we think, objects to its appearance in an "auld Scotch Sang,"—

The Scotch blood leaps in a' my veins.

and suggests as an improvement the substitution of "Scots," a noun in the possessive case, for the unfortunate adjective, Scotch. We prefer the song as the author wrote it, to any tinkered version such as that suggested by W.P.B.

That the Ploughman Bard, and other poets of lesser note, should have erred by their use of the word Scotch is not to be wondered at, when the works of Sir Walter Scott are, according to W.P.B.'s idea, marred by similar vulgarisms. "Waverley" abounds with the word, the use of which our brither Scot considers "to be bad;" and in more than one page of the same work will be found the dissyllable, the use of which he considers "far worse." In the novel in question the reader is brought in contact with "Scotch mists," "Scotch magistrates," "Scotch ideas," "Broad Scotch," etc.; the Chief of Glennaquoich is put down as being "a Frenchified Scotchman;" "the Scotch" are said to be "liberal in computing their land and liquors;" and we are informed that "the Scottish pint corresponds to two English quarts." The Messrs. Chambers do not seem to coincide with W.P.B. in his condemnation of the use of the word Scotch. In their "Information for the People," one will meet with such phrases as—"a body of Scotch, 7,000 strong, were nearly cut off;" "the Scotch were encouraged to persevere by the court of France;" "he attempted, in 1637, to introduce a new Book of Common Prayer into the Scotch churches;" "the Scotch terrier has short wiry hair;" "there are English, Irish, and Scotch country dances, and Scotch reels." In "Hogg's Instructor," the author of "Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers" is spoken of as a "Scotchman." Waddell, the accomplished editor of "Life and Works of Robert Burns," does not ignore "Scotch" nor "Scotchmen," neither does the learned editor of "Macmillan's Magazine." Cosmo Innes, too, in his Preface to the "Acts of the Scottish Parliaments," makes free use of the adjective Scotch—"Scotch charters . . . Scotch Parliament . . . Scotch names," etc. Passing to the newspaper press, the reports of the proceedings in both Houses of Parliament testify to the frequent use by our senators of the words to which W.P.B. displays such an antipathy. Gladstone, in his nomination speech the other day, said he thought "that the Scotch were pretty good judges of Protestantism;" and at the anniversary festival of the "Scottish Hospital," held at London on St. Andrew's Day, the Marquis of Bute was vulgar enough to call his fellow-countrymen "Scotchmen."

Lest, however, W.P.B. should decline to regard as authorities on the point at issue the names we have

mentioned, we beg to refer him to Walker's Dictionary of the English Language as an undoubted authority for correctness of expression. In his "Rules to be observed by the natives of Scotland," etc., the compiler invariably uses the nouns "Scotch" and "Scotchman." And from the same source we learn that "Scotch" means "belonging to Scotland." In Ash's Dictionary we have—"Scot, a native of Scotland;" "Scotchman, a native of Scotland;" "Scotchmen (s. plu. of Scotchman), more than one Scotchman;" Scottish (adj. from Scot), belonging to the Scots, belonging to Scotland." We beg also to refer W.P.B. to the English Grammar, where he will find "Scotch" classed among the proper adjectives: preceded by the article *the*, the word ranks as a noun.—D. MURRAY LYON.

DERIVATION OF FREEMASON.

I hope next week to send a further communication to Masonic Notes and Queries on this subject.—A. MASONIC STUDENT.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Will you kindly allow me to acknowledge through your columns the following subscriptions received by me since July 1st from Masonic lodges?

For the information of brethren interested in the work, I may mention that the latest letters bring in news that the wall of Ohel, first discovered by Bro. Lieut. Warren last year, the existence of which had been previously unsuspected, has been traced to a considerable extent along the slope of the hill. The wall in one part stood on rock scarped to the depth of 30 feet, and in another part must have been, says Bro. Lieut. Warren, at least 90 or 100 feet high. We wait for a full account of this important discovery. Plans of the work are in the office of the Fund, ready for any subscribers or friends who may wish to have them.

Yours fraternally,

W. BESANT,
SECRETARY TO THE FUND.

Churchill, 478, £3 3s.; Westminster and Keystone, £5; Grand Lodge Surrey, £5 5s.; St. Martin's, 510, £3; Union, York, £2 2s.; Yarborough, Jersey, £2 2s.; Eliot, 1,164, £2 6s. 6d.; Ancient Union, 203, £5; Royal Union, 246, £3 3s.; North Walsham, 192, £1 1s.; St. John's, 328, £1 1s.; Peace, 322, £1 1s.; Neptune, 22, £5 5s.; Gibraltar, 153, £2 2s.; Semper Fidelis, 529, £1 1s.; Prov. G. L. Warwickshire, £5 5s.; Faithful, 85, £1 1s.; Royal Brunswick, Sheffield, £5 5s.; Worcester, 280, £2 2s.; St. George's, 35, Liverpool, £5 5s.

As our life is short, so it is very miserable, and so it is well it is short. God, in pity to man, lest his nature should be an intolerable load, hath reduced our state of misery to an abbreviation for which we should in reason be glad—not merely thankful but glad—to be out of a place of sorrows and tears, of so great evils and of such constant calamity; and when God sends His angel with a scroll of death let us look on it as an act of mercy. For a man at least, gets this by death, that his calamities are not immortal.—*Holy Dying.*

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

THE UNIVERSAL MASONIC CALENDAR, DIARY, AND POCKET BOOK FOR 1869.—We are requested to remind the secretaries of Craft and Mark lodges, and Scribes of R.A. chapters, under the English, Irish, and Scotch jurisdictions, and the secretaries and other officers of other Masonic bodies at home, in the colonies, and abroad, that they should forward the fullest and latest information intended for publication in the next issue, with all convenient speed, to the editor of the Calendar; and all communications may be addressed to him at the office of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London or in Glasgow.

BRETHREN are reminded that the *Lodge Music* published a few weeks ago, in several issues of the MAGAZINE, has been republished in a convenient form for Lodge use, price 2s. 6d.

THE consecration of the Wentworth Lodge (No. 1,239), will take place on Monday next, the 7th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield. The ceremony will be performed by Bro. Bentley Shaw, the W.D. Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire. A large number is expected to be present.


BRO. THE EARL PERCY, 30th, recently elected M.P. for Northumberland, is about to lead to the altar the Lady Edith Campbell, eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll. The marriage is to take place shortly before Christmas.

BRO. SIR HEDWORTH WILLIAMSON, Bart., D. Prov. G.M. of Durham, and Bro. G. F. Elliot have been elected members of Parliament for North Durham.

THE EARL BECTIVE, father of Lord Kenlis, 18th, has been elected M.P. for Westmoreland.

THE installation of the Earl of Carnarvon, 30th, as Provincial Grand Master of Somerset is to take place at Bath in January next, when a very brilliant gathering is expected. It is suggested that a Masonic ball will form an appropriate termination to the festive proceedings of the day, and gratify many who, though friends to the mystic Craft, are prevented by their sex from joining in its labours.

WE have the pleasure to announce that the M.W. G. Master has, upon the nomination of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, selected our distinguished Bro. Colonel Fras. Burdett, P.M. 728, Dublin, for the important post of representative of the Irish Grand Lodge of England, *vice* Bro. the Earl of Mayo, who resigned a short time since upon his assuming the high station of Governor General of India.

WE are informed that the General Statutes of the Red  Order are now published, and that the fact will be duly advertised in our next impression.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The quarterly communication of the United Grand Lodge of England was held on Wednesday evening, Dec. 2, in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, and it was most numerously attended by some of the most distinguished members of the craft. The Right Hon Earl de Grey and Ripon presided as G. Master, Bro.

Lord de Tabley as D.G. Master; Bro. Algernon Perkins acted as G.S.W.; Bro. Le Gendre Starkie, G.J.W.; and there were also present Bros. Rev. Joseph Huyshe, Prov. G. Master for Devon; Henry Murray, Prov. G. Master for China; Samuel Rawson, P. Prov. G. Master for China; Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; Samuel Tomkins, G. Treas.; Aeneas J. McIntyre, G. Reg.; John Havers, P.G.S.W.; A. Woods, G. Dir. of Cers.; Potter, P.G.D.; Dr. Hogg, P.G.D.; the Rev. J. Simpson, G. Chap.; Lord Eliot, M.P., P.S.G.W.; John Savage, P.G.D.; Patten, P.G.S.B.; Browse, S.G.D.; John Emmens, P.G. Purst.; John Symonds, P.G.D.; W. Young, P.G.S.B.; H. Empson, P.G.S.B.; J. Fenn, Assist. Dir. of Cers.; E. Fraser, G.D.; T. A. Adams, P.G. Purst.; Udall, P.G.D.; Joseph Smith, P.G. Purst.; H. Grissell, S.G.D.; Benjamin Head, P.G.D.; Spiers, D.G.S.B. and Dep. P.G.M. for Oxfordshire; Gumbleton, P.G.S.D.; Bridges, P.G.S.B.; Bentley Shaw, S.G.D.; Latham, J.G.D.; Rev. C. R. Davy, P.G. Chap.; Dr. Sedgwick, P.G. Chap.; Rev. Sir J. Warren Hayes, Bart., P.G. Chap.; Rev. J. Ravenshaw, G. Chap.; Colonel Burdett, representative of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; E. S. Snell, P.G.D.; George Cox, P.G.D.; J. Mason, P.G.S.B.; Brackstone Baker, Wm. Smith, C.E.; H. G. Murray, J. R. Sheen, J. W. Halsey J. Nunn, Dr. Saunders, States, Watson, Eglesse, &c.

The meeting on this occasion was held in the old hall, which has been entirely improved and decorated, and it now presents a marked contrast to its condition a few months ago. The old chandeliers have been removed and the splendid apartment is now lighted by eight brilliant sun lights from the roof; the ladies' gallery has been removed, and some of the alcoves stopped up. The walls and pilasters have been enriched with Masonic emblems, and a splendid frieze illustrative of Arch Masonry runs round the entire upper part of the building. The ceiling is a splendid work of art in blue and gold, all in strict keeping with the purposes for which this hall is now exclusively intended, the centre being a large representation of "the sun the glory of the Lord," surrounded by a circle, on which are successively delineated the signs of the Zodiac, with a number of other interesting details, which it would take up too much space to enumerate, and the general harmony of the whole reflects the highest credit upon the committee, to whom the accomplishment of the work was entrusted. In the course of the evening Bro. Havers alluded to the two important matters which had been specially directed by Grand Lodge to be considered by the Building Committee, and they were those of acoustics and ventilation; and he stated that they had both been attended to, but what they were that night were only to be taken as an experiment, but still hoping that they would be found considerably improved. Now as far as we were able to judge we found no improvement in either; the voices of the speakers at a distance were just as indistinct as ever; and as to the ventilation, if a cold and piercing wind, which made some brethren pull up the collars of their coats, can be considered as ventilation, there was enough and to spare of that, and brought with it some unpleasant apprehensions. It is to be hoped, therefore, that on a future occasion this will be seen to, and relying on the ability the committee have hitherto displayed in other departments, there is no fear that in the end a successful result will be attained.

At eight o'clock precisely the Grand Director of Ceremonies, Bro. A. Woods, announced the approach of the Grand Officers, and a procession was formed in the usual manner. In the absence of the Right Hon. Bro. the Earl of Zetland, the throne was occupied by the Right Hon. Bro. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G. Master.

The Grand Lodge was then opened in due form and with solemn prayer, Bro. the Rev. R. J. F. Thomas, Senior Grand Chaplain, invoking a blessing upon the proceedings.

THE MINUTES OF THE LAST QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

Bro. G. Hervey, the G. Sec., read the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 2nd of September, which were confirmed.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN PERU.

The Acting Grand Master said: Brethren, it now becomes my duty, on behalf of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, whom I regret is not present with us on this occasion, to make to you a proposition which I am sure will command the assent of every brother in Grand Lodge, because we all know that the foremost principles of Masonry are that Masons will readily aid distressed humanity in whatever part of the world it may be found to be suffering. Our Most Worshipful G. Master has received a communication from the Grand Orient of Peru in reference to the disastrous earthquake which, as you all know, has taken place in that country. I need not recapitulate those events, for you have no doubt read them in the public journals, and I feel confident that there is no man so dull of imagination who does not feel it his duty to relieve those who have suffered from the horrors of that great catastrophe from which we in our happy clime have been preserved. The Grand Orient of Peru asks, as one Masonic body should ask another, to relieve the sufferings of the Peruvians, and I cannot doubt that, acting in accordance with precedents which I will not now recapitulate, that you will readily give them your aid in the hour of their distress. I, therefore, move that the sum of one hundred guineas be granted towards the relief of the sufferers by the earthquake of Peru, and that it be paid through the fund of which the Lord Mayor of London is the chairman.

Bro. Lord de Tabley, Prov. G. Master for Cheshire, said: I rise to second the motion which has been so eloquently proposed by the Deputy Grand Master. We are ready at all times to respond to the call of charity to suffering humanity in our own country, but there are great occasions upon which we do render assistance to some who to a certain extent may be deemed outside the pale. Our charity, however, is universal, and the calamity certainly cannot be overrated that has fallen upon this country, which has suffered so terribly by this earthquake. As Freemasons, then, it becomes our duty to devote some portion of our funds to that object. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Bro. Raynham Stewart, said he rose for the purpose of moving an amendment. They had voted £1,000 for the Crimean war and they had more recently voted £1,000 for the relief of the sufferers by the cotton famine in Lancashire, and therefore he did not think that one hundred guineas was sufficient for this object. He moved as an amendment that the sum be two hundred guineas.

The acting G. Master said according to the regulations, it was not competent for the brother to propose a larger sum than was recommended without notice, but at the same time he was sure that every brother would appreciate the motives he had in making the proposition.

The motion was then put and unanimously agreed to.

Bro. Tomkins, G. Treasurer, said he should feel extremely happy to pay the grant that Grand Lodge had made for these unhappy sufferers at once, without waiting for the confirmation of the minutes, and by so doing facilitate the wishes of the Grand Lodge.

THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW BUILDINGS AT FREEMASON'S HALL.

The acting G. Master said, I have now to make a communication from the M.W. the G. Master in reference to the inauguration of the new buildings of this Hall, which is a subject of great interest to all Masons. This is a matter which has necessarily engaged much of the attention of the G. Master, and he has decided that this inauguration shall take place on Wednesday, the 14th of April next. The G. Master is of opinion that it would not be convenient to hold the inauguration on the same day as the Grand Festival, or be made part of the proceedings of it. He thinks that the inauguration of the new buildings ought not to take place then, but that a special day should be appointed for the purpose. The M.W. the G. Master proposes to name a certain number of stewards, and he will invite the lodges generally to send others to carry out the arrangements. It is also the intention of the G. Master that a jewel should be struck commemorative of this occasion, and that all who serve as stewards shall be entitled to wear that jewel, all the details of which he will take care shall be made publicly known at the earliest possible period. I have also to inform Grand Lodge that the G. Master has nominated Bro. Fraser to be President of the Colonial Board; Bro. Bennoch to be Vice President, and Bro. Mason to fill up the vacancy caused by the death of Bro. Hopwood. I have also to inform Grand Lodge that a communication has been received from the Grand Lodge of Ireland appointing Colonel Burdett as its representative at this Grand Lodge, and I now request that Colonel Burdett may be formally introduced.

Bro. Colonel Burdett was then introduced by Bro. A. Woods, Dir. of Cers., and having received the congratulation of the Grand Master, took his seat on the dais.

NOMINATION OF GRAND MASTER.

Bro. Sharpe, D.C.L., said: I now beg to nominate the Earl of Zetland as Grand Master for the ensuing year.

THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The following Past Masters were appointed to serve on the Board of Benevolence for the year ensuing:—Bros. Adlard, 7; Brett, 19; Cottebrune, 732; Frost, 704; Gale, 19; Kirk 144; Lambert, 198; Nunn, 134; Sheen, 201; J. G. Thompson, 862; Tyrrell, 144; and F. Walters, 73.

The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter was presented, in which were recommendations for the following grants, viz.:—The widow of the late Bro. William H., of the Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19, London, £20; Bro. John L., of the Lodge of Industry, 186, London, £50; Bro. Dr. James T., of the Royal Sussex Lodge, 53, Bath, £50; Bro. James Josiah H., of the Lodge of Fidelity, 3, London, £50; the widow of Bro. John Price K., of the Beaufort Lodge, 103, Bristol, £50; Bro. Henry W., of the Lodge Truth, 944, Bombay, £30; Bro. John G., of the Caledonian Lodge, 134, London, £30.

In reference to the first of these recommendations, Bro. Savage moved by way of amendment—"That in consequence of Diana H., the widow of the late Bro. William H., of the Royal Athelstan Lodge (No. 19), being ineligible to be elected an annuitant on the Widows' Fund, or to receive one-half of her deceased husband's annuity for three years, although for ten years his wife, a grant of £40 be made to her from the Fund of Benevolence. This led to a long and tedious discussion, and there were two divisions upon it, but eventually the original recommendation of the Board was put and agreed to.

The other recommendations were agreed to without discussion.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The following report of the Board of General Purposes was presented.

"To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

"The Board beg to report that a memorial having been received from the Master and other brethren members of the Jordan Lodge, No. 201, submitting unconditionally to the judgement of the Board, and praying for the removal of the suspension of the lodge, and promising due obedience to the law for the future, and the lodge having paid the fine of five guineas imposed by order of the Board, the Board have, in exercise of the authority for this purpose given to them by Grand Lodge at the Quarterly Communication in June last, removed the suspension of the Jordan Lodge, No. 201, and ordered the said lodge to be restored to the full exercise and enjoyment of its Masonic functions, and have returned the warrant and books to the W. Master, ordering that the resolution of the Board be read in open lodge at the then next meeting, and recorded in the minutes.

"The Board of General Purposes also beg to submit a statement of the Grand Lodge Accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on Friday, the 13th day of November instant, shewing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £4,025 15s. 8d.; and in the hands of the Grand Secretary, for petty cash, £50. Of these sums, there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence £1,237 17s. 6d., to the Fund of General Purposes £2342 9s. 9d., and in the unappropriated accounts £465 8s. 5d.

"(Signed) J. LLEWELLYN EVANS,
President.

"Freemasons' Hall, 17th November, 1868."

The report was taken as read.

Bro. Llewellyn Evans, President, in moving that the report be received and entered on the minutes, congratulated the Grand Lodge on having so little to report, which showed the harmony which prevailed amongst the Craft.

The report was then received and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The following report of the Building Committee was presented.

"To the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England.

"The Building Committee beg to report that the repairs and re-decoration of the Great Hall are now completed.

"The greatest possible care has been taken in reference to the warming, ventilation, and the improvement of the acoustic properties of this magnificent room. The Committee trust that they have been successful, at the same time it must be borne in mind that some modifications in the admission or exclusion of air, &c. (all of which have been provided for), may be required, in order to make the Hall perfect in these respects, and that this can be tested by experience and actual practice only.

"By an oversight, when an application was made to Grand Lodge on the 4th March last, for authority to expend the sum of £3,012 in the repairs and re-decoration of the Great Hall, no power was asked for, or obtained, to raise the necessary money. It will be remembered that at the commencement of the new works, powers were given to the Committee to borrow from the Fund of Benevolence, on mortgage, a sum not exceeding £19,000; of this amount £17,500 had been drawn up to the last meeting of Grand Lodge, leaving only £1,500 over and above the cash in hand, to the credit of the Fund of General Purposes,

to meet the charge still outstanding for the building, and the new charge of £3,012 for the repairs of the Great Hall. The Committee understand that Grand Chapter has very liberally voted £2,000 towards the expenses of the new building, and they find that £3,000 in addition will probably cover all expenses.

"They do not propose, therefore, to ask for powers to raise more money, but they respectfully commend that they be authorised to draw upon the bankers of the Grand Treasurer for that amount, and they believe that they will be able to repay such sum in the early part of next year; they therefore submit to Grand Lodge the following resolution:—

"That the Building Committee be authorized to draw upon the bankers of the Grand Treasurer for a sum not exceeding £3,000."

"The decorations of the Great Hall being completed, it becomes now necessary to furnish it. The Committee have succeeded in finding the great chairs, which were used by a former Prince of Wales, the engravings of which are probably known to many of the brethren. These chairs have been repaired and re-gilded. The cost of carpet, chairs, forms, &c., the Committee estimate at about £400, they therefore submit the following resolution, viz.:—

"That the Building Committee be directed to furnish the Great Hall for the use of Grand Lodge, and that they be authorised to expend a sum not exceeding £400.

"The committee again call the attention of the brethren to the library and coffee-room. There was no point upon which the brethren or the Craft generally laid more stress, when the new buildings were proposed, than upon the necessity of a library and coffee-room, and yet it would seem now from the small number of subscribers to both, that their advantages are but little known. The committee beg to remind the brethren that the subscription to both these rooms is only one guinea per annum, and that to make the coffee-room available, and to make it worth while to the tenants of the tavern to provide for it handsomely, it must be patronised. The committee are confident, that if the brethren will take the trouble to ascertain the advantages offered to them in their own building, that the complaint which is now made of the paucity of subscribers will soon be at an end.

"The committee understand that some dissatisfaction has been expressed as to the amount of charge for the rent of lodge rooms. These rents were fixed after careful consideration, but the committee are quite ready to consider any further suggestions which may be made by Grand Lodge.

"The committee now approach a most satisfactory part of their work. With the exception of the furnishing of the Great Hall, the whole of the buildings are now completed and furnished, and the committee trust that every claim will be discharged by the end of February next. It will depend upon the Most Worshipful Grand Master to fix the time when the interesting ceremony of inauguration shall take place.

"Your committee will then have discharged all their duties, and it will only remain for them to hand over to the proper custody of the Board of General Purposes, the building which they were instructed to erect, and to resign into the hands of Grand Lodge the trust which it has been pleased to repose in them.

"(Signed) JOHN HAVERS,
Chairman."

"Freemasons' Hall,
17th November, 1868."

The report was taken as read.

Bro. Havers, in moving that it be received and entered on the minutes, said there were two resolutions upon which he should ask the opinion of the Grand Lodge, and in doing so on behalf

of the committee he should make one or two remarks. In the second paragraph of it they said,

"The greatest possible care has been taken in reference to the warming, ventilation, and the improvement of the acoustic properties of this magnificent room. The Committee trust that they have been successful, at the same time it must be borne in mind that some modifications in the admission or exclusion of air, &c. (all of which have been provided for), may be required, in order to make the Hall perfect in these respects, and that this can be tested by experience and actual practice only."

Now he apprehended that there were few who on looking round the walls of that hall would not say that it was truly magnificent. As regarded the acoustic properties a series of experiments had been resorted to, to meet the difficulty. As an instance he mentioned that they had suspended pieces of cloth from the roof, but they found that the echo was just as bad as it was before, and it was believed that the failure in acoustics was in some measure due to imperfect ventilation. This they had endeavoured to meet by trying experiments to admit a large or small quantity of air, for he might tell the brethren behind each of the pictures they saw on both sides of the hall was an air shaft by which air could be admitted, and he might say that there was no subject which had been so much handled by quacks and charlatans as that of ventilation; they had endeavoured to accomplish it by a series of valves which could be opened and shut, and so the amount of air admitted could be regulated. At the same time he said that as regarded some voices, place them where they would they could not hear them, and if they could hear them they could not understand what they said. He would then draw the attention of Grand Lodge to the next paragraph. After the committee had concluded their works in the new hall, they asked Grand Lodge for powers to restore the other hall to its pristine beauty, for they felt that the committee would not have properly discharged their duty unless they had restored that hall to a proper condition, but when they asked for permission to decorate the hall, which they estimated would cost £400, they forgot to ask for the money. At present they had not overdrawn the amount of £19,000, they were empowered to borrow from the Board of Benevolence, they having only borrowed £17,500, but they still required about £3,000 to complete what they required. He moved "That the Building Committee be authorised to draw upon the Bankers of the Grand Treasurer for a sum not exceeding £3,000."

This motion was put and unanimously agreed to.

Bro. Havers then had next to submit the necessity of properly furnishing the Grand Lodge, and alluded to the discovery of three curious chairs. Those who were in the habit of visiting the Grand Secretary's office would remember that there were three pictures of the Prince of Wales and the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, and they were represented as sitting in very peculiar chairs. Now, those very chairs had been dug out of the *débris*, and the Committee had had them restored, for there was no doubt that they had originally cost about £250 each, and would in future be used. He moved—"That the Building Committee be directed to furnish the Great Hall for the use of Grand Lodge, and that they be authorised to spend a sum not exceeding £400."

The Grand Master congratulated the Building Committee on the very successful manner in which they had conducted the restoration of that Hall, as it was worthy of the Craft. They had restored it to its pristine magnificence in a way of which none might be ashamed, and they were most fortunate in recovering those relics of the past, so that future Grand Masters

might have the pleasure of sitting in the chairs which had been so well occupied by their illustrious predecessors.

The motion was put and carried.

Bro. Havers then moved that the rest of the report be entered on the minutes.

Bro. Dawson wished to move a vote of thanks to the Building Committee, but—

The Acting Grand Master said that it would more properly come when the Committee had completed their work.

FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.

The following report was presented from the committee of the Fund of Benevolence:—

"To the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England.

"The committee appointed to consider Bro. Clabon's propositions as to dealing with part of the annual surplus of the Fund of Benevolence, with instructions to report to Grand Lodge in December, 1863, upon the proposed scheme, and generally as to the advisability of making any, and (if any) what alteration in the appropriation of the Fund of Benevolence, or in the mode of dealing therewith, beg to report as follows.

"At the time of confirmation by Grand Lodge of the minutes of the Quarterly Communication, at which the above reference was made, the members of the committee had begun to disperse for the vacation, and it was not deemed advisable to summon them until the middle of October. They have had several meetings, and have proceeded diligently to consider the matters referred to them.

"They have discussed and passed resolutions as to many matters connected with the appropriation of the Fund of Benevolence, and the mode of dealing therewith; and have considered and formed an opinion as to the scheme.

"Their report is in draft, and they determined at one time to *sit de die in diem*, in the hope of completing it before the meeting of the Board of Masters, on the 18th instant. But they found that many of their members could not have attended on account of the Elections, and it was thought best to present this intermediate report to Grand Lodge, and to beg that the time for presenting the principal report may be deferred until the Grand Lodge in March, 1864.

"(Signed) JOHN M. CLABON,

"Freemasons' Hall,

"Chairman."

"11th November, 1863."

Bro. Udall, P.G.D., moved the adoption of this report, which was agreed to.

APPEAL FROM TRINIDAD.

The next item on the agenda was an appeal of Bro. Antonio G. Julia, P.M. of the Royal Phoenix Lodge (No. 911), Trinidad, against his suspension from his Masonic functions by the District Grand Master of Trinidad.

The G. Registrar said they could not entertain an appeal unless notice had been previously given to the Masonic authority against whom the appeal was to be made. A letter had been received by the G. Sec. from the District G.M. of Trinidad, stating that he had not received any copy of this appeal, and expressing his regret that it was not made known when he was in England in July last, which would have saved much trouble, and he should have been able to give any explanation.

The consideration of this appeal was postponed until the necessary notice had been given.

SITTING OF GRAND LODGE.

Bro. Raynham W. Stewart, P.M., No. 108 and 453 moved:—

"That the business of the quarterly communication of Grand Lodge shall in future commence at Seven o'clock instead of

Eight o'clock, and that in Rule 10 in page 28 of the Book of Constitutions, after the word after 'Ten' shall be inserted instead of 'Eleven.'"

He urged in support of this motion that as many brethren lived out of town, it would be desirable to commence business at an earlier hour and close at an earlier hour, to enable them to catch trains on their return to their homes. As it was, often important business was disposed of by only a few brethren. He had received no communication from the G. Master as to whether it would be inconvenient to him to attend at seven instead of eight o'clock.

Bro. Udall seconded the motion. The present meetings of Grand Lodge were too late, and at the end the business was slurred over. He looked upon this as a great improvement and cordially supported the motion.

The acting G. Master said when this motion was brought forward by Bro. Stewart at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, he at once acceded to the suggestion that the discussion should be postponed until they obtained the views of the G. Master upon it. He (the acting G.M.) was then in possession of those views in a letter which he had received from the G. Master, in which he said he should offer no opinion himself, but should leave it to Grand Lodge to decide. The only objection that he could see that could be raised against it was, that as the House of Commons sit until six o'clock on Wednesdays in the months of March and June, Grand Lodge should meet at eight o'clock, and in the months of September and December at seven o'clock. No doubt this suggestion was a correct one, for if the House of Commons sat until six o'clock, it would be out of the power of members to attend Grand Lodge at seven.

Bro. Symonds said practically the business of the House of Commons on Wednesdays terminated at half-past five o'clock, and scarcely any member of the House of Commons attended Grand Lodge. Therefore when they saw how few of the members of the Lower House were members of Grand Lodge, he hoped that the motion would be agreed to, and that they should have the meetings of Grand Lodge at seven o'clock all the year round.

Bro. Savage supported the motion. Many members lived out of town, and time and trains waited for no man.

Bro. Warren said if the motion was passed it would exclude him from Grand Lodge for ever. He was a subscribing member to four lodges, and had been unable to attend any one of them for four years on account of his duties. The only Masonry he was able to attend to were the meetings of Grand Lodge, and if the motion was passed he should be deprived of that.

The motion was then put and carried.

PAYMENTS BY LODGES FOR ACCOMMODATION.

The next item on the paper was the following.—

By Bro. Henry Greene, P.M., 256:—

"Considering that the rents payable by lodges which meet at the Hall, press very heavily on those which have limited numbers, or whose subscriptions are not high.

"To move—

"That Grand Lodge order that the rates fixed by the Building Committee in their report, dated 20th February, 1867, and approved by Grand Lodge at the Quarterly Communication of the 4th December, 1867, for the use of—and so far as regards—the 'Dalhousie' and 'Moir' Rooms, be rescinded, and that they be henceforth £1 1s. per meeting, the same as the Preston Room, instead of £1 11s. 6d. as heretofore."

He urged that the charges were too high and ought to be modified.

The Grand Registrar suggested that this subject should be re-

ferred back to the Building Committee, and moved as an amendment that it be referred back to the Building Committee to consider if any and what charges should be made in the rates charged for lodge rooms.

Bro. Savage seconded the amendment.

Bro. Llewellyn Evans said the only object of the Committee was to give every accommodation with a fair return for the outlay.

Bro. Grissell, as a member of the Building Committee, said they felt that the rents of the rooms ought to recoup them for the building. The rents were now lower than the same accommodation could be provided for elsewhere, and if they were to be reduced it must be by the act of Grand Lodge and not the Building Committee.

Bro. Dr. Hogg said, if that was the view of the Committee, it was a most suicidal act, for lodges were turned away from their proper home on account of the high charges that were made.

Bro. Adlard, as a member of a lodge with 24 members, said they had to pay a guinea and a half for the use of a room. If they asked for a guinea room they were always told that it was engaged.

The amendment was put and carried.

THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

Bro. John Savage, P.G.D., moved:—"At page 97, Article 3, of the Book of Constitutions, to omit all the words from the word 'Three' in the fourteenth line, to the word 'place' in the twentieth line, and to substitute the following paragraph:—

"A President shall be annually appointed by the Grand Master at the Quarterly Communication in December. From amongst its members the Board shall, at its meeting in December, annually elect a Senior and a Junior Vice-President, who shall act as the Wardens. In the absence of the President, the Senior, and in the absence of both, the Junior Vice-President shall take the chair. Should all three be absent, the brother highest in rank and seniority shall preside."

Bro. Symonds hoped this subject would be referred to Bro. Clabon's Committee, to consider and report upon it.

Bro. Savage acceded to the suggestion, and the motion was put and agreed to.

This being the whole of the business, Grand Lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer, and adjourned at a quarter before eleven o'clock.

METROPOLITAN.

PROSPERITY LODGE (No. 65).—The regular monthly meeting of this old established lodge took place at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, on Thursday, 26th ult., Bro. R. W. Goddard in the chair of K.S. Lodge being duly opened the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, after which the W.M. proceeded to initiate Messrs. William Muggleton and George Huggett into the mysteries of Freemasonry; this ceremony being completed Bros. Leins, Simpson, and Sandham were raised, and Bros. Bowyer, Squire, and Goldstein passed to the second degree; all the work was well and ably performed. No other business being before the lodge it was duly closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquetting room, where a splendid supper was served which gave great satisfaction to all present. The usual toasts were given and responded to. Bro. Bellerby, P.M., the respected Secretary, gave the health of the W.M., in a capital speech. The toast of the visitors was duly acknowledged by Bro. West, P.M., of the Copper Lodge, and the officers of the lodge in a most able manner by Bros. J. L. Mather, S.W.; Cook, J.W.; and E. C. Mather, Treas. After spending a very enjoyable evening the brethren separated in peace, love, and harmony.

LODGE OF PRUDENT BRETHREN, (No. 145).—This distinguished lodge held a meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, on the

24th ult. The W.M. Bro. G. J. Sharpe presiding, supported by a large number of the brethren. Three gentlemen viz: Messrs. P. Greaves, Albert Hunt and Pitts were ballotted for successfully, and duly initiated into the order. Bros. Jones, Milligan and King were considered worthy of advancement, and accordingly entrusted with the second degree in Freemasonry. This was followed by the introduction of Bros. Smith, Chinnery and Thillery as candidates for the third degree, they proving good workmen were favoured with the degree of M.M. The whole of the ceremonies were impressively rendered. After this an election took place for a new W.M. to act for the next twelve months, which resulted in Bro. W. Phipps Allender, S.W. being declared W.M. elect, and who will be installed at the next meeting. Bro. Boyd P.M. was unanimously re-elected treasurer, who had for a long period held that onerous office to the great satisfaction of the lodge. Business ended the brethren adjourned to refreshment which was highly satisfactory. Among the visitors were Bros. Binckes, Sec., of the Boys' School, Arthur White, Dawson, Potter, Gibbon, &c.

UNIVERSAL LODGE (No. 181).—The usual monthly meeting took place on Friday, the 27th ult., at the Freemason's Hall, Bro. F. Eachus Wilkinson, M.D., in the chair of K.S. Lodge being opened in the usual manner the minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. The business of the evening commenced with the initiation of three candidates, the ballot proving unanimous in their favour, they were severally presented. The W.M. initiated George R. Freeling, Esq.; Bro. Beale, P.M., John C. Muller, Esq.; and Bro. Roberts, Henry D. Wood, Esq. These ceremonies were all admirably performed. The W.M. then raised Bro. Sack and passed Bro. Morris to the second degree. This being the night for the election of W.M., and the choice being unanimous in favour of Bro. the Rev. W. S. Jones, S.W., he was duly elected. No other matter of importance being before the lodge, it was duly closed, and the brethren retired to a splendid banquet. The chair was occupied by Bro. Beale, P.M., who gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts in a very able and efficient manner, eliciting the warmest encomiums of the brethren and visitors. At the toast of the visitors Bro. Pridcaux made an excellent speech. Some very excellent singing took place during the evening by Bros. Seymour Smith, Elmore, and Young, giving great satisfaction to all present. A very delightful evening was passed, and the brethren separated in harmony. Among the visitors we noticed Bros. Hyde Clarke, D.D., G.M. Turkey, 10; Rae, P.G.S. 2; Massey, 619; Pridcaux, P.M. 167; Major Maclean, D. Prov. G.M. Warwickshire; Dumas, 46; Leverson, 19; Godson, 1,097; White, 21; Charlton, P.M. 227; Williams, P.M. Calcutta; Sharp, P.M. 112; Palmer, 742; Hutton, 1219; and several others.

WILLIAM PRESTON LODGE (No. 766).

A very interesting and important meeting of this lodge was held at the Clarendon Hotel, Anerley, on Thursday, the 26th ult. This lodge had previously held its meetings at the Star and Garter Hotel, Putney, but owing to an unfortunate combination of untoward events the number of its members had dwindled down to so low an ebb that serious thoughts began to be entertained by the remaining members as to their being able to keep the lodge in existence. At this juncture, through the efforts of Bro. Newton, the W.M., and Bro. Kain, P.M. and Sec. of the lodge, negotiations were entered into with a number of brethren in the neighbourhood of Upper Norwood and Anerley; the result of which has been the transfer of the lodge from Putney to Anerley, and the immediate addition of a large number of young members.

The meeting on Thursday was the first that had taken place at Anerley, and may fairly be looked upon as the first move in the resuscitation of an expiring lodge. It is, therefore, with a great deal of pleasure that we find space for a report of the proceedings on such an auspicious occasion.

There was a good attendance of the old members of the lodge, and of the new joining members, also several visitors. Those present of the officers and members of the lodge, as now re-organised, were—Bros. Newton, W.M.; Dr. Wilkinson, S.W.; Curzon, J.W.; Roberts, S.D.; Miller, J.D.; Harper, I.G.; Hamilton, Dir. of Cers.; Abbott, P.M.; Dr. Whiteman, P.M.; Cox, P.M. 18; Mopekirk, P.M. 179; King, W. J. Newman, Jeffrey, G. Smith, Brann, Steizerwald, Gooderham, G. Newman. Among the visitors were—Bros. Anslow, P.M. 15 and 141; H. T. Thompson, P.M. and Sec. 742; and Oliver, P.M. 742.

In the absence of Bro. Rain, P.M. and Sec. (owing to a severe

domestic affliction), Bro. W. J. Newman undertook the duties of Secretary. The lodge having been opened in due form, the members resolved themselves in to a committee to revise the by-laws to suit the proposed alteration of times of meeting; it having been resolved to convert the lodge into a winter one. Several alterations were made, among others the insertion of a new by-law, which we cannot but wish not only formed a regulation in every lodge, but was in all cases strictly carried out, viz.:—"That no member should be eligible to be elected as W.M. until after he shall have passed a satisfactory examination before a Board of Installed Masters." This proves that the new members are determined to render their lodge thoroughly efficient, and we wish them every success in their laudable endeavours. Mr. G. Leman having been ballotted for and unanimously elected as a candidate for initiation, was regularly initiated as a Mason.

The lodge business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was capitally served by Bro. Leman, to whom very great credit is due for the excellent manner in which the viands were served, and elicited warm approbation from the whole of the members. It fully evidenced the great care that had been taken by the brethren in the selection of their new place of meeting, as the lodge room, the banquetting room, and the banquet were perfect, and left nothing to be desired.

Upon the removal of the cloth, the W.M. gave the usual loyal toasts, followed by that of the M.W.G.M. of Masons. The toast of the D.G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers was given, coupled with the name of Bro. Cox, who responded in suitable terms. The next toast was that of the initiate, Bro. Leman who, in his reply, said that he had for a long period earnestly desired to be admitted into the honourable Craft, and had joyfully embraced the opportunity afforded him by the location of the Preston Lodge in his neighbourhood; he trusted that he should become a worthy member of the lodge, and should avail himself of every opportunity of gaining instruction in the practical part of Freemasonry. He had always looked forward to that day with an earnest and reverent respect, and the impression made upon his mind by the ceremony he had just passed through was, he sincerely felt, a deep and lasting one.

In response to the toast of the visitors Bro. Anslow, P.M. 15 and 141 remarked, that on looking round him and perceiving among the members so many of those with whom he was personally acquainted as members of the Sydney Lodge of Instruction, in Upper Norwood; and the majority of whom he knew were thoroughly efficient to enter at once upon any office, even that of W.M., he must sincerely congratulate the Preston Lodge upon the proud position in which they stood that evening, and he could confidently anticipate for the lodge a great and glorious future.

Bro. Thompson, P.M. and Sec. 741 said, it gave him a great deal of pleasure to be a visitor that evening, not only as affording him the gratification of seeing the lodge provided with a most efficient staff of officers; but also as giving him the opportunity of assuring them on behalf of the W.M. and brethren of the Crystal Palace Lodge that the advent of the Preston Lodge in the immediate neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace, was hailed by them with great delight; and he could assure them on behalf of his own lodge, that the close proximity of the two lodges was considered as calculated to produce a most beneficial result.

Bro. Oliver, P.M. 742, said he could endorse all that had been stated as to the feelings of the Crystal Palace lodge, and he would take that opportunity of making a few remarks upon the necessity of all Masons attending lodges of instruction. In looking round him he could see many faces that he had met in lodges of instruction, and knew that many members then present, were thoroughly well versed in the practical working of Masonry. He knew that they had made such progress, under the able instruction of Bro. Anslow, as would enable them to perform the duties of any office in a most efficient manner, and it was most gratifying to know this was the case; as an old Mason, he had been in the habit of attending the working of many lodges, and nothing could be more distressing than to be present at a lodge where the officers were imperfectly acquainted with the duties. His advice to all the brethren was, that to acquire a knowledge of Masonry, they must frequent lodges of instruction; and thus render themselves capable of holding any office, or taking the duties of any officer in cases of absence or emergency.

"The Health of the Worshipful Master," was given by Bro. Abbott, P.M., who in a most eloquent and impressive speech

said that to the efforts of the W.M., assisted by Bro. Kain, Sec. (who was unavoidably absent), was due the proud position in which the Preston Lodge stood that evening. The lodge had passed through some strange vicissitudes, but, thanks be to the Great Architect of the Universe, had surmounted its difficulties so far; and he could but regard it at present as riding peacefully in a haven of rest; and Hope whispered within his bosom that their future progress would be a steady advance, until they had gained a proud and eminent position in the Craft.

The W. Master, in responding, said that he felt with the last brother that the step they had happily taken was the right one; and he could not but feel proud of the part he had taken in it, and grateful to the joining brethren for their prompt support.

In proposing the toast of "The Past Masters," the W.M. said that he considered the presence of the Past Masters in a lodge stamped it with a prestige and standing in the Craft. He trusted that the old Past Masters would not fail to be punctual in their attendance. It was more especially necessary in a lodge like the Preston—it being a banner lodge—that the Past Masters should be present; their respective banners serving not only to distinguish their presence but also to denote their absence.

Bro. Whiteman, as the Senior P.M., responded to the toast in appropriate terms.

The toast of "The Officers" was then given, and responded to by Bro. Roberts.

Several appropriate songs were sung by Bros. Hopekirk, Miller, Harper, and others; and the meeting finally broke up in the most satisfactory manner, after a most pleasant evening of good fellowship and brotherly love.

SOUTHERN STAR LODGE (No. 1158).—The usual meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening, 24th ult., at the Montpelier Tavern, Walworth. Bro. T. H. Pulsford, W.M., presided. Bros. Robert Clarke, S.W.; Huddleston, Acting J.W.; H. Thompson and H. Potter, P.M.'s; C. E. Thompson, Sec., and several visitors, amongst whom was Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G. Purst., and P.M. of the Domatic Lodge, 177, and several other lodges. The lodge having been opened in due form and with solemn prayer, the minutes of the preceding lodge were read and confirmed. Mr. Frederick Horne was a candidate, and being introduced was impressively initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The next business was to raise Bro. Prince to the sublime degree of M.M., the ceremony being admirably performed by the W. Master. The lodge was lowered to the second degree, and Bro. Hooker was passed to the degree of a F.C. Bro. Taylor, of the Domatic Lodge, 177, was balloted for and admitted as joining member of this lodge. Bro. H. Thompson, I.P.M., then brought under the notice of the brethren, the proposed commemoration in honour of the Earl of Zetland having served twenty-five years as G. Master, and the lodge unanimously agreed to contribute thereto. An alteration in the by-laws, on the motion of Bro. R. Clarke, S.W., was agreed to. Some propositions for the next meeting having been made, the lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. The brethren then adjourned for refreshment, and a very plentiful banquet was provided by Bro. Allatt, the host of the Montpelier Tavern, and it gave general satisfaction. On the cloth being withdrawn, the W.M. gave the usual formal toasts, which were cordially received, Bro. Joseph Smith responding on behalf of the Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers. The W.M. then in forcible terms gave the health of their newly-initiated brother, Bro. Horne, and expressed the pleasure he had in initiating him into the ancient Order of Freemasonry, and said from the great attention he had paid to the ceremony he had gone through, he felt assured he would become a good Mason and an honour to the Craft. Bro. Horne returned thanks, and expressed the pleasure he felt in being enrolled in the Order of Freemasonry, assuring them that he would do all in his power to do credit to the Order, and particularly to the lodge in which he had been initiated. The W.M. proposed the health of their brother visitors, and said it gave him great pleasure to welcome them to the Southern Star Lodge. He was pleased to see amongst them Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G. Purst., of the Grand Lodge of England, and although it was his first visit he hoped that it would not be his last. He was the esteemed Treasurer of the Domatic Lodge, to which he also belonged, and his presence amongst them was most gratifying to himself and to all who were also members of the same lodge. He gave "The Visitors," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Smith. Bro. Smith returned thanks and in very flattering terms alluded to Bro. Henry Thompson as the founder of the lodge, he also being a

P.M. of the Domatic Lodge, and congratulated the brethren on the state of prosperity at which the lodge had arrived. The other visiting brethren also severally returned thanks, and expressed the gratification they had experienced in witnessing the excellent working of the Southern Star Lodge. Bro. H. Thompson, I.P.M., having assumed the W.M.'s emblem of power, proposed the health of the W.M., and said it always gave him great pleasure to perform that task, inasmuch as he was indeed a pot of his own. He had the privilege of introducing him into Freemasonry, passing him through his different degrees, and finally installing him into the chair as W.M. of the Southern Star Lodge. Such being the case he felt a peculiar interest in their W.M. The brethren knew well how he discharged the duties of his office. As long as they had such a Master this lodge would continue to be a great and opening light in Freemasonry. He was a hard-working, pains-taking Mason, thoroughly conversant not only with the ceremonies, but the lectures in which those ceremonies were illustrated and explained. It was especially gratifying to find that the Southern Star Lodge was so well worked and with such a preceptor there was no fear that in future masters its high reputation would be fully maintained. He asked the brethren to fill a bumper and join with him in drinking the health of their W.M. It is almost needless to say that this request was immediately and cordially responded to. The W.M. in acknowledging the toast, said their Bro. Thompson in proposing his health had spoken of him in terms he did not deserve, (a general dissent followed this remark) but he had endeavoured to discharge his duty to the best of his ability and would continue to do so. He thanked the brethren for the very cordial way in which the toast of his health had been received, and he would do his best to merit their approbation. After a song by one of the brethren, the W.M. said the next toast he had to propose was "The Health of Bro. Thompson, I.P.M. and founder of the lodge," and at some length alluded to the services he had performed to the lodge. Bro. Thompson, I.P.M. and Treas. in reply said he hardly knew what terms to employ adequately to express his thanks to the brethren for the very kind way in which on all occasions he was received amongst them. Their W.M. had alluded to him as the founder of the lodge, but that was only in common with the W.M. and others, and he felt delighted to see the degree of prosperity which it had attained. Although he was at a loss in a suitable way to possess their good opinion, every time he received a renewal of it was to him most gratifying, and he could assure them that on all occasions he would do his utmost to promote the comfort and happiness of the brethren. "The health of the officers of the lodge" was given, for which Bros. Clarke and C. E. Thompson returned thanks. Some other toasts were given and the evening was spent in complete harmony.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

TOTNES.—*Pleiades Lodge* (No. 710).—This lodge met on the 26th ult., for the first time under Bro. George Heath, the new W.M., and his officers, who performed their work in a highly creditable manner, and on a uniform system, this being the result of a regular course of instruction which has been carried on for some months. The duties commenced soon after six o'clock. There were present, Bros. G. Heath, W.M.; J. Heath, I.P.M.; Dr. Hopkins, Marks, and Watson, P.M.'s; Pridham, S.W.; W. Cuning, J.W.; Adams, Sec.; Niner, S.D.; Stafford, J.D.; Stephens, I.G.; with many other brethren and visitors, among the latter being Bro. John Elliot, of the Topeka Lodge, United States of America. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, an announcement was made as recorded in the summons that there were two candidates for initiation, notice of which had been given in writing at seven days. Before a ballot was taken, the I.P.M. asked for information with respect to them, which was amply afforded by the W.M., S.W., and I.G. Bro. Dr. Hopkins reminded the W.M. of the caution given by circular by the M.W. the Grand Master against admitting to the privileges of Masonry persons residing in localities distant from that in which they sought them, and asked for the reason of the application to the Pleiades Lodge. This was given very fully by the proposers, to whom the candidates had applied from motives of private friendship and a desir

to be associated with them in Masonry. An assurance was given that no application had ever been made by them for admission into any other lodge, and that if non-residence at Totnes should be a ground of objection, they would abandon all idea of joining the Order. The ballot was then taken, and proved unanimous in their favour. Mr. James Northam was then introduced properly prepared, and was duly initiated, the early part of the ceremony being performed by the W.M., and the remainder by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M. Mr. J. R. Shepland was then admitted, and received the benefit of initiation at the hands of Bro. John Heath, I.P.M. As it was becoming late, and the newly-initiated brethren and others were obliged to leave by train for Exeter, it was found necessary to postpone the delivery of the charge and lecture on the tracing board, and a promise was made that they should be given on the next day of meeting before proceeding to other business. The W.M. called for the report of the audit committee, but the late Secretary explained that the accounts had not been fully examined, and that it would be necessary to postpone the consideration of it till the next meeting. The W.M. having directed that Bro. Stafford should be placed before the pedestal, presented to him a copy of the resolution passed at the last meeting and inscribed on vellum, expressive of the gratitude of the lodge for his handsome present of a column of the Corinthian Order. With the permission of the W.M., Bro. Dr. Hopkins remarked, that in carrying out the wishes of the lodge he had desired to make the document more useful and ornamental by adding a variety of Masonic emblems, but finding that the colours would not come out effectually on vellum, he had executed it in a simple form, and had made another copy on paper with the proposed additions, of which he requested his acceptance. Bro. Stafford briefly expressed his acknowledgments, and his desire in every possible way to promote the interests of the lodge. On the proposition of the W.M., seconded by the I.P.M., a vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Dr. Hopkins for the trouble he had taken, and the efficient manner in which he had carried out the wishes of the lodge. The S.W. gave notice of his intention to propose at the next meeting, the purchase of four copies of the lodge music recently published in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, and now issued in book form, in the arrangement of which Bro. Dr. Hopkins had taken an active part. The I.P.M. proposed Bro. Earle as a joining member to be balloted for at the next meeting. The lodge was closed soon after eight o'clock.

HAMPSHIRE.

PORTSMOUTH.—*Phoenix Lodge*, (No. 257).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 25th ult. This lodge, which was originally formed in the year 1785, now enjoys a deservedly high reputation in the province, both for its excellent working order, and its hospitality. The following brethren were present: Bros. Ford, W.M.; Banks, S.W.; Pearn, acting J.W.; Key, I.G.; Gain, Sec.; Bradley, Treas., and a large number of members. The ordinary business of the lodge having been brought to a conclusion the members proceeded to elect the W.M. for the ensuing year, which office fell, by almost unanimous consent, to Bro. C. Napier Pearn. Bros. Bradley and Gain were respectively accorded votes of thanks for their past services, and the former was unanimously re-elected treasurer. The lodge was then closed in due form. A banquet was afterwards served, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given, with those of special reference to the retiring W.M. and W.M. elect, the company separated in harmony at a suitable hour. The ceremony of installation will take place at the next celebration of the festival of St. John.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

MELTON MOWRAY.—*Rutland Lodge* (No. 1,130).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 26th ult., when there was a very large attendance of brethren. Bro. W. Kay Robinson, W.M., presided, and initiated into Masonry Messrs. James E. Wakefield Clark and Hardy, both under the age of twenty-one years, a dispensation having been procured from the Prov. G.M., Lord Howe. A discussion ensued upon the subject of a Masonic Hall, and it was ultimately decided that a committee of the lodge, composed of Bros. Johnson, East, Oldham, and Adeock, should confer with Bro. Selby, the host of the George Hotel, as to the kind of room wanted for the meetings of the lodge. One candidate was proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and the lodge was closed in harmony. As usual, the host provided an excellent supper.

NORFOLK.

FAKENHAM.—*Joppa Lodge* (No. 1114).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 25th ult., at the Corn Hall. The lodge was opened by Bro. B. Bircham, the W.M., and P.M. of the Royal Athelstan Lodge (No. 19). Bro. Arthur Palmer, S.W., having been previously elected W.M. for the ensuing year, was presented for installation by Bro. Bircham, W.M. Bro. Henry J. Mason, P.G. Dir. of Cers., the founder and first Master of the lodge being present, he was requested to perform the ceremony of installation. A Board of Installed Masters having been formed, Bro. A. Palmer was inducted into the chair of K.S. in ancient form. Having appointed and invested his officers, Bro. Henry J. Mason very ably gave the addresses to the W.M., officers, and brethren. Before the lodge was closed a vote of thanks was proposed and recorded on the minutes of the lodge to Bro. B. Bircham, the retiring W.M., and carried unanimously, for the great assistance he had rendered the lodge, and for the able manner he had carried out the duties of the chair. The lodge was then closed with solemn prayer. The brethren, with the newly-installed Master, then retired to the Crown Hotel, and sat down to an excellent banquet, at which peace and harmony prevailed.

SOMERSET.

GLASTONBURY.—*Pilgrims Lodge*, (No. 772).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place here on Tuesday, the 24th ult., when Bro. Bloxham, deputy-chief constable of the county of Somerset, was installed as W.M. There was an influential and numerous attendance of Brethren from Somerset and Dorset. The lodge having been opened by the W.M., Bro. Cornwall, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and after other business had been transacted a board of installed masters was formed and the W.M. elect having been presented was impressively installed by Bro. Capt. Bridges, the D.P.G.M. The proceedings having concluded with notices for the proposition of several gentlemen at the next lodge, it was closed and the brethren adjourned to the banquetting room, where Bro. Bailey, the highly-respected host of the George Hotel, had prepared one of his inimitable dinners. The repast being over, and grace having been said by Bro. the Rev. J. C. Pigot, B.D., the lodge was tiled, and the W.M. gave the usual Masonic toasts. It was stated that the installation of the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, as Grand Master of the Province of Somerset, will take place at Bath, in January next.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

SHEFFIELD.—*Britannia Lodge*, (No. 139).—An emergency meeting took place on Thursday, the 26th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, presided over by the W.M. Bro. Pratt, supported by Bro. Britain acting as S.W., in the absence of Bro. F. Simpson; Matthews, J.W.; J. H. Garnett, P.M.; Barris, Sec., and many others. Lodge being opened Bros. Beddow, Hibberd, Senr., and Dyson were introduced, and impressively raised to the third position in Craft Freemasonry, the ceremony being beautifully rendered by the W.M. This being the only business lodge was closed.

SCOTLAND.

GRAND LODGE.

CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL OF ST. ANDREW.

On Monday last, the 30th ult., in accordance with time-honoured custom the Festival of St. Andrew was celebrated in the Great Hall, George-street, Edinburgh, and the Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., G.C.B., &c., having been unanimously elected at the last quarterly communication, held on the 2nd Nov., as G.M.M. for the ensuing year, his lordship attended for the purpose of being re-obligated and installed, and afterwards of holding the election of the Grand Office Bearers for the ensuing year.

At 6 p.m. punctually the I.P.G.M., the R.W. Bro. John Whyte-Melville, of Bennoch, in company with the G. Officers, entered the upper hall, or general lodge room; and having taken

the chair as acting G.M., proceeded to open Grand Lodge. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed and other preliminary business got through, the acting G.M. requested the deputation to withdraw for the purpose of conducting the M.W. the G.M. elect into Grand Lodge. The Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, accompanied by the deputation having entered, was addressed by the R.W. Bro. Melville, and was by him re-obligated and installed, and he was then saluted by the brethren present.

A list of officers recommended by the Grand Committee for election was then read, and the names having been severally approved of, they were elected and called upon by the M.W. the G.M. to present themselves, and were addressed by him in suitable terms, and after being obligated, retired to their respective places in Grand Lodge. The following is the list of appointments made and which now constitutes the Grand Office-Bearers for 1868-9:—

Bros. J. Whyte-Melville, P.G. Master; the Right Honourable Earl Haddington, R.W. D.G. Master; Henry Inglis, R.W. Substitute Grand Master; Right Hon. Earl of Dunmore, S.G.W.; W. Mann, 65, J.G.W.; Samuel Hay, G. Treas.; W. A. Laurie, W.S., G. Sec.; A. J. Stewart, W.S., G. Clerk; David Arnot, D.D., and Rev. V. G. Faithful, M.A., joint V.W. Grand Chaps.; Col. A. Campbell, S.G.D.; Right Hon. Lord Erskine, J.G.D.; David Bryce, Architect to Grand Lodge; Alexander Hay, G. Jeweller; Daniel Robertson, G. Bible Bearer; Captain P. Deuchar, R.N., and Charles S. Law, G. Dirs. of Vets.; James Ballantine, G. Bard.; Col. Houstoun, G. Sword Bearer; C. W. M. Miller, G. Dir. of Music; R. Davidson, Org.; John Coghill, Chief Grand Mareschal; John Laurie, G. Mareschal; William Miller Bryce, Tyler; James Baikie, Outer Guard.

Other business having been transacted the Grand Lodge was closed by the Grand Master, and the brethren, in procession, adjourned to the banquet which was held at seven o'clock in the great hall, under the presidency of the Earl of Dalhousie, the M.W.G.M.; the Earl of Dunmore, S.W.; Bro. Mann, J.W. Upon the dais the G.M. was supported by the R.W. Bro. Whyte-Melville, P.G.M.; Henry Inglis, of Torsonce, R.W. Subs. G.M.; Capt. Speirs, P.G.W. of England, and Prov. G.M. for Glasgow; J. S. Oswald, of Dunnikeir, D. Prov. G.M. Fife; Rev. V. G. Faithful, M.A., V.W. G. Chap.; Col. Houstoun, G.S.B.; Dr. S. Somerville, Dr. McCowan; William Smith, C.E., P.G.S. England; W. A. Laurie, G. Sec.; A. J. Stewart, G. Clerk, and other brethren; and in the body of the hall, at tables arranged at right angles with the dais, many present and past Grand Officers and Prov. G. Officers, and representatives from all the Edinburgh lodges, and many of the private lodges throughout Scotland, as also several representatives of foreign lodges and other Masonic bodies.

After the banquet, Grand Lodge was again opened in the usual manner by the Grand Master, when the following toasts were consecutively put and responded to:—

1. "Holy Lodge of St. John," proposed by the Chair.

2. "The Queen," by the Chair.

National Anthem, with full accompaniment.

3. "The Prince Steward of Scotland, the Princess of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the rest of the Royal Family," by the Chair.

Organ Solo, by Bro. Davison, G. Org.

4. "The Navy, Army, Militia, and Volunteers," by the Chair.

5. "The Craft and Freemasonry over the World," by the Chair.

Song.

6. "The Grand Lodge of England and Earl of Zetland," by the Chair.

7. "The Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Duke of Leinster," by the Chair.

8. "The Grand Master," by the Past Grand Master.

Song, by Bro. T. Brown. (Written for the occasion by the G. Bard.)

9. "Past Grand Master."

Presentation of Bust, by the Chair.

10. "The Foreign Grand Lodges," by the Chair.

11. "The Depute Grand Master, the Earl of Haddington," by the Chair.

Song, by Bro. H. R. Kay.

12. "Substitute Grand Master, Bro. Henry Inglis, of Torsonce," by the Chair.

13. "The Deputations from Daughter Lodges," (as per list apart), by the Chair.

Song.

14. "The Provincial Grand Lodges of Scotland," by the Chair.

15. "The Grand Wardens," by the Chair.

16. "The Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, and other Office-bearers of Grand Lodge," by the Chair.

17. "Lady Catherine Whyte-Melville," by the Earl of Haddington.

Song.

18. "Countess of Haddington," by the Chair.

19. "The Memory of the deceased Grand Officers and Members during past year," by the Chair.

20. "The Memory of St. Clair of Rosslyn," by the Chair.

These last two toasts were drunk in silence.

The Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form.

As it will be observed, after the usual loyal toasts had been proposed the M.W.G. Master rose and said that he had a pleasing duty to perform—a duty which, he was sure, would commend itself to all present—namely, the presentation of a bust in marble to Bro. John Whyte-Melville, P.G.M.M. for Scotland. For a great many years Bro. Melville held the office of D.G.M., and by his zeal and integrity he had raised the dignity of the craft in Scotland; and the brethren throughout the kingdom wished to mark their appreciation of his services by presenting him with a marble bust, to be permanently placed in the Masonic Hall, and another bust to be given to Lady Catherine Whyte-Melville. The bust was thereafter uncovered amid great applause.

In acknowledging the presentation, Bro. John Whyte-Melville said that he could not express too highly what he felt for the honour that had just been paid him. The bust which was to be given to Lady Melville would be handed down to his heirs, not only as an excellent likeness, but as an admirable work of art, which reflected great credit on the sculptor, Bro. John Hutchison, R.S.A.

During the evening a song, composed for the occasion by the Grand Bard Bro. James Ballantine, was sung by Bro. T. Brown. The orchestra was filled by Bro. Hoffman's band, and the G. Org., Bro. Davidson, presided at the organ. The dinner was provided by Bro. Imrie, South Bridge.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

BELGRAVE CHAPTER (No. 749).—The regular convocation of this chapter was held on Friday, the 27th ult., at Auderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Present, Comps. W. Ough, P.Z., Assist. G. Purst.; H. Watkinson, A. Lefebvre, S. Homewood, Dr. T. E. Edwards, M.D., W. Johnson, C. Tuckett, J. Zahensdorf, &c. Comps. H. Garrod, M.E.Z.; C. Bond, H.; Dr. H. Johnson, M.D., J.; W. Bourne, Scribe E.; G. Pym, Scribe N.; G. W. Porter, Prin. Soj.; H. Finch, 1st Assist. Soj.; H. Crabtree, 2nd Assist. Soj. The chapter being declared open, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. After this a ballot was taken for Bros. E. Harper and W. E. Macrill, both of the Belgrave Lodge (No. 749), which proving unanimous in their favour, they were both introduced in due form and exalted into this high and supreme degree. Comp. Johnson gave the historical lecture; Comp. Ough, the prophetic; and the M.E.Z. the symbolical, in the style for which each companion is so noted. After the usual business the companions adjourned to the banquet room where twenty-eight companions sat down to a most sumptuous dinner, excellently well superintended by Comp. Smith. After the usual toasts, the M.E.Z. gave "The Health of the two newly-exalted Companions," congratulating them upon their admission into Royal Arch Masonry. Comps. Macrill and Harper thanked the companions for the honour they had conferred on them that day, and hoped to prove that their industry in Masonry would show that their confidence had not been misplaced. The next toast, that of "The Visitors," Comp. R. Johnson, Strict Benevolence (No. 97), of Sunderland, and Comp. Verry, Yarborough, 554, the M.E.Z. said was a most pleasing one to him and the chapter generally. They were fortunate in having two such celebrated Arch Masons as their two guests. Comps. Johnson and Verry both thanked the M.E.Z. for the kind way that he was pleased to speak of them, and trusted that the companions would visit them in return. The next toast, that of Past Principal, the M.E.Z. said that every companion present knew what Comp. Ough had done for the Belgrave Chapter in particular and Masonry in

general. The fact of his being a Grand Officer was in itself sufficient to meet with a good reception, but, added to that all his other good qualities and that of their first M.E.Z., must have a double influence with them. Comp. Ough, P.Z., Assist. G. Purst., thanked the companions for the kind manner in which they always received this toast, and he begged to assure them that he should always be willing to do all that he could for the prosperity of both the chapter and the lodge, and he hoped that he might be spared many years to do all that in him lay for the benefit of the companions at large, and while he was on his legs he should propose a toast that he was certain would meet with all their approval, that toast was "The M.E.Z." and every Mason in that room was deeply indebted to him for the indefatigable manner in which he performed the duties of his office, and for the assistance he was always ready to afford to others when ever he could be of service to them. Comp. Garrod, M.E.Z., said if he deserved all that had been said of him by the last companion he should become vain, but this he would say, that if ever he could do anything in his power to serve any companion of the chapter or brother of the lodge, he should always feel the greatest happiness in so doing, for he thought it was only his duty to do so for a return of their kindness to him on all occasions. The M.E.Z. then proposed "The Health of Scribes E. and N." and was pleased to eulogise their exertions in a most fluent manner. Comp. Bourne said that he should at all times be ready to give any assistance in his power to further the ends of the chapter. Comp. Pymm replied briefly; he said, that for any trouble the founders had been put to, they saw the reward of their labours before them in the goodly company in that room. "The Officers of the Chapter" was next on the list, and Comp. Garrod said that every companion that had been present that evening must have been forcibly impressed with the masterly manner in which Comp. Porter had gone through his duties. He assured the officers that it was their efficiency that gave him so much confidence, and without their assistance and cordial co-operation, the chapter might lose much of its beauty and effect, and he was in a position to say that the Prin. Soj. had excelled himself by his working that evening. Comp. Porter said that on behalf of the officers of the Belgrave Chapter he wished to say a few, a very few words. Having at the last meeting of the Belgrave Lodge received an invitation, he was surprised and delighted to see that every officer, without an exception, was perfect in his duties, and he trusted that the chapter was nearly as well officered, and nothing should be wanted on his part to try and equal the lodge if it was possible. He had only done his duty, and if the companions were pleased to approve of what he and his officers had done, the kind words and approbation of the M.E.Z. was a most ample compensation for their humble exertions. The Janitor's toast brought a most happy evening to a close. We must not forget to mention that Comp. E. W. Mackney came up from Liverpool that afternoon specially to be present, and by his great exertions, instrumentally and vocally, assisted by Comps. Garrod, Finch, Verry, Pymm, &c., brought a very happy afternoon to a close.

MARK MASONRY.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*Howe Lodge* (No. 21).—The regular quarterly meeting of this Mark lodge was held on the 24th ult. Present, Bros. Rev. W. Kay Robinson, D. Prov. G.M., W.M.; Rev. W. Langley, S.W.; H. Douglas, Prov. S.G.W., J.W., and the other officers of the lodge. Bro. Turville, Tyler of the Craft lodge was advanced to the degree of Mark Master, to act as a serving brother under a dispensation from the Prov. G.M. The ballot was then taken for Bro. Kelly, who being in attendance was advanced to this honourable degree. The lodge being closed the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—*Northumberland and Berwick upon Tweed Lodge of Mark Master Masons*.—On Wednesday the 25th ult., the members of this Ancient Mark Lodge held their annual installation at their lodge room, Newgate-street, Newcastle. After the lodge was opened by the W.M. Bro. Foulsham, and the minutes confirmed, the financial report was

read and adopted showing a balance in hand of £8. The W.M. then proceeded to instal his successor Bro. John Stokoe, S.W., which he performed in an able and impressive manner. The following is the list of officers invested by the new W.M., Bros. W. Foulsham, I.P.M.; A. Clapham, S.W.; T. Y. Strachan, J.W.; R. B. Reed, M.M.O.; R. F. Cook, S.O.; J. Ridsdale, J.O.; R. Lyle, Treas.; B. Hugill, Sec. and Reg.; R. Lyle, S.D.; W. J. Howard, J.D.; Holboll, I.G.; W. English, Steward; J. S. Trotter, Tyler. Bro. S. Dunn of Lodge No. 541 was proposed for advancement at the next regular meeting, and after the lodge was closed, the brethren adjourned to Bro. R. Brown's Turks Head Hotel, Grey-street, to hold their festival and sat down to a bountiful and excellent supper, placed before them in a style for which Bro. Brown is especially noted. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and cordially responded to. The W.M. in proposing the health of the present officers, stated his intention to conform to the ritual of Grand Mark Lodge in all respects, and expressed his belief that in the officers invested that day, he would find able and willing assistants in carrying out his views in that respect. A pleasant and harmonious evening was spent, and the brethren separated at a reasonable hour.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

WARWICKSHIRE.

On Friday evening, the 27th ult., a *soirée* was held at the Masonic Rooms, Birmingham, in connexion with the Fletcher Lodge, 1031. The lodge room was tastefully decorated with the Royal Arch and Templar banners. A dais was placed in the east for the singers. The company assembled about 8 p.m., and numbered about 60 ladies and gentlemen. Permission having been obtained from the D.Prov. G.M., the brethren appeared in Masonic clothing, and each degree from E.A. up to 32^d, was represented. The different dresses of the ladies and gentlemen had a pretty effect, and at the commencement of the musical entertainment the room had a very animated appearance. The following programme was then gone through: The singing of the brethren, the reading of Bro. Glydon, and the overture from "Zampa" by Bro. T. Belcher, all gave great delight to those who were fortunate enough to be present.

PROGRAMME.

1. Solo. Organ. Bro. T. Belcher, Music Bac. Oxon.
2. Glee. "With sighs sweet Rose." Callcott. Bros. Gaul, Bragg, Glydon, Pursall, and Davis.
3. Song. "Love's Request." Reichardt. Bro. Kennedy.
4. Glee. "The Soldier's Love." Kucken. Bros. Gaul, Bragg, Glydon, Pursall, and Davis.
5. Solo—Pianoforte. Bro. Gaul, Mus. Bac. Oxon.
6. Duet. "Love and War." Cooke. Bros. Glydon and Davis.
7. Song. "Alice, where art thou?" Ascher. Bro. Kennedy.
8. Reading. "Sergeant Buzfuz." Dickens. Bro. Glydon.
9. Glee. "Hungarian Serenade Polka." Bros. Gaul, Bragg, Glydon, Pursall, and Davis.
10. Song. "Kitty Tyrrell." Glover. Bro. Glydon.
11. Glee. "The young Recruit." Bros. Gaul, Bragg, Glydon, Pursall, and Davis.
12. Solo—Organ. Bro. Belcher.

At the conclusion of the concert, dancing began in the banquet-room, which had been prettily decorated for the occasion, and the floor was covered with a diaper cloth. Those who were fond of this amusement had every opportunity of enjoying themselves to their heart's content, and Bro. Fullam's excellent management as M.C. gave great satisfaction. This, one of the first meetings of the kind in Birmingham, proved a great success, and

will no doubt be continued annually. Many thanks are due to the committee of management for the excellent arrangements, and to Bros. Grinsell and Bourne for the beautiful works of art arranged on the centre table in the lodge room, also to Bro. Field for several scientific toys, etc. We understand that the dancing was kept up till 4 a.m., when the party separated, having spent a very pleasant and agreeable evening.

WEST INDIES.

ST. THOMAS.—The Harmonic Lodge (No. 356), celebrated on Monday evening, the 26th October, the fiftieth anniversary of its charter. Agreeably to invitations which had been issued, a large concourse of members of the Craft assembled at the appointed hour in the saloon of the Masonic Hall, to assist in the celebration of the jubilee. After the usual ceremony of opening the lodge, the brother visitors were admitted within the temple, and when all the brethren were together Bro. E. V. Lavergne, the W.M., asked Bro. M. N. Nathan to offer the customary prayer, and having declared the labours of the lodge suspended, he requested Bros. I. Fortunato and A. Leon, C.M., to introduce the ladies who had been invited to participate in the festivities of the day; soon after the doors of the temple were thrown open to admit them—their presence giving an additional lustre to the happy event which was being celebrated. Bro. Lavergne in kind and befitting terms welcomed the ladies within the precincts of the lodge, and assured them of the gratification which their presence afforded; he subsequently requested our worthy Bro. Di. Pretto, P.M., to accept the mallet from him and preside over the assembly. Bro. Pretto, in taking the chair, alluded in glowing style to the satisfaction which he felt in being spared to see this day. He then gave an historical sketch of the lodge; after this Bro. G. A. Philips addressed the assembly in his well known elegant style. He dwelt in lengthy terms on the beauties of our time-honoured institution, and amply demonstrated that Masonry was not such as slanderers represent it. Bro. D. Pretto next resumed the word, and delivered a Masonic oration, at the conclusion of which he resigned the W.M.'s seat which had been kindly given to him. Bro. M. R. A. Correa spoke next. He congratulated the lodge on the auspicious event, and beautifully alluded to the sublime teachings of the institution. He, as well as the other speakers, was vehemently applauded. Bro. W. R. Bull in the name of the lodge thanked the speakers, and he nicely profited of the opportunity to express the hope that what had been said might produce good effects on all assembled. He spoke of the Craft, and made a favourable impression on the audience.

The ladies having retired, after giving their mite towards the poor, the lodge was closed in ancient and due form. A sumptuous supper was prepared with which to close the entertainments of the night. The company being assembled around the table, the demolition of viands soon began, and wines of all kinds abundantly flowed.

With bumpers filled, Bro. Lavergne proposed "The Health of the Ladies," which was warmly accepted by all present. Bro. Philips proposed "The Health of Bro. Di. Pretto, P.M." Bro. Bull asked the company to join with him in drinking to the health of Bro. Lavergne, Master of the lodge, who in his turn thanked the assembly for their readiness to join in good wishes to him; he closed his speech by proposing "The continued Prosperity of the W.L. Cours Sinceres," to which Bro. Feron responded in a few and expressive words.

We had almost forgotten to mention that during the course of the evening, the sweet sounds of music executed by Bro. Levy and others, considerably contributed to the enjoyments of the occasion.

MEETINGS OF THE LEARNED SOCIETIES.

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

WEDNESDAY, December 9th.—Geological, at 8.

METROPOLITAN LODGE MEETINGS, ETC., FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 12TH, 1868.

MONDAY, December 7th.—Lodges: Robert Burns, 25, Freemasons' Hall. Unity, 69, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Royal Jubilee, 72, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. St. John's, 90, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. St. Luke's, 144, Pier Hotel, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea. Joppa, 188, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Unions, 256, Freemasons' Hall.

TUESDAY, December 8th.—Lodges: Burlington, 96, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Union, 166, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. St. James's Union, 180, Freemasons' Hall. Percy, 198, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street. St. Michael's, 211, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. United Strength, 228, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's-gate, Clerkenwell. Nine Muses, 235, Clarendon Hotel, Bond-street. Wellington, 548, White Swan Tavern, Deptford. Ranelagh, 834, Windsor Castle Hotel, Hammersmith. Doric, 933, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Chapter: Jerusalem, 185, Freemasons' Hall.

WEDNESDAY, December 9th.—Com. R. M. B. Inst., at 3. Lodges: Fidelity, 3, Freemasons' Hall. Enoch, 11, Freemasons' Hall. Union Waterloo, 13, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich: Kent, 15, Three Tuns Tavern, Southwark. Vitruvian, 87, White Hart Tavern, College-street, Lambeth. Justice, 147, White Swan, High-street, Deptford. Euphrates, 212, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. Pilgrim, 238, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street. Merchant Navy, 781, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Limehouse. Montefiore, 1,107, Freemasons' Hall.

THURSDAY, December 10th.—Lodges: Royal Athelstan, 19, City Teminus Hotel, Cannon-street. Bank of England, 263, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Polish National, 534, Freemasons' Hall. Canonbury, 657, Haxell's Hotel, West Strand. Lily of Richmond, 820, Greyhound, Richmond. Dalhousie, 860, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Copper, 1,076, Marine Hotel, Victoria Docks, West Ham. Chapter: Royal Jubilee, 72, Horns Tavern, Kennington.

FRIDAY, December 11th.—Lodges: Caledonian, 134, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street. Bedford, 157, Freemasons' Hall. Domatic, 177, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.

SATURDAY, December 12th.—Lodges: London, 108, Freemasons' Hall. Phoenix, 173, Freemasons' Hall.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

IN consequence of the length of Grand Lodge reports, several notices of meetings of Provincial Lodges must stand over until next week. The several brethren who have favoured us with such reports will thus understand the reason of their non-insertion.

WE must again call the attention of our numerous correspondents to the necessity of writing only on one side of the paper.